

Projects and Renewables - Social Enterprise Team Annual Report 2015-16

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Social Enterprise Team (SET) is part of the Economic Development service within the Council and its remit is to 'harness the potential of the third sector and increase their capacity to deliver sustainable communities'.
- 1.2 In the past year the services provided by SET have assisted in accessing at least £198,200 for communities through Funding Alert alone, and in the previous year £373,200. In addition, direct project work, such as Hermitage Park, has brought funding into the area and will potentially bring in at least £4million in the next five years.
- 1.3 An annual report for 2015-16 has been produced to provide information on the work of SET, and this is attached to this report. This annual report demonstrates that SET is meeting its targets and provides feedback to customers and partners that we work with. It is primarily distributed through our webpage and at events.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee note the content of this report.
- 2.2 That the EDI Committee recognises the good work of the social enterprise team and the need to continue to promote the assistance the team can offer to Argyll based social enterprises.

Projects and Renewables - Social Enterprise Team Annual Report 2015-16

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report provides an overview of the achievements of the Social Enterprise Team (SET) over the period April 2015-March 2016.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee note the content of this report.

3.2. That the EDI Committee recognises the good work of the social enterprise team and the need to continue to promote the assistance the team can offer to Argyll based social enterprises.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Social Enterprise Team is part of the Transformation Projects and Regeneration Team in Economic Development Service. The remit of the team is to 'harness the potential of the third sector and increase their capacity to deliver sustainable communities'. This fits with our outcome to 'create opportunities for our partners and communities to fully engage in the way our services are delivered' (CO8).

4.2 The work of the SET is focused on the following areas:

4.2.1 Improving the way the council does business with the third sector

4.2.2 Developing new ways of delivering services in partnership with the third sector

4.2.3 Assisting delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement and Economic Development Action Plans (Strategic and Local)

4.2.4 Support areas for action as described in the Local Development Plan

4.3 The SET provides a range of services built on customer feedback. This includes the monthly Funding Alert; topic sheets with contacts and funders on a range of popular enquiries such as heritage, events and festivals; a searchable database of

fundings; support with the third sector asset transfer process and bespoke project support. Sixty eight percent of our customers reported that they used Funding Alert to identify funders and from those that provided a financial figure, this amounted to £198,200 in 2015-16 and £373,200 in 2014-15. A further £4,050,000 was successfully applied for by organisations in partnership with the council. Three hundred and seventy one funding searches were undertaken in 2015-16, and 166 enquiries were supported. SET also developed and maintains the community support webpages <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-support> which gives third sector organisations direct access to a range of toolkits, information and contacts within the council. The SET annual report is primarily distributed through our webpage and at events.

4.4 Third Sector Asset Transfer - Community Empowerment Bill.

SET supports the customer facing element of the Third Sector Asset Transfer Process for which we have had 39 requests since the first request in September 2012. We are assisting with the council's internal working group on The Community Empowerment Bill Part 5 Asset Transfer Requests and, with our colleagues in other council departments, are considering what changes are required to our own processes and how these can be made to ensure we fully comply with the bill.

4.5 Over the past year SET has assisted in developing a range of projects in partnership with communities and agencies including;

- 4.4.1 Hermitage Park, Helensburgh – circa £3.4m heritage-led regeneration
- 4.4.2 Inveraray Community Company – supported the group to establish a Community Company with a Social Enterprise ethic, provided advice on relevant funding strands and assisted with community consultation.
- 4.4.3 ACT (Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust) – support for the Trust's growth and development.
- 4.4.4 Argyll Coastal Waters – the development of a series of coastal access sites throughout Argyll and Bute's coastal communities. Paddle Argyll website <http://www.paddleargyll.org.uk/>.
- 4.4.5 Kilmahew/St Peter's – support links with tourism, business, communities and Hermitage Park, and to access £650K RCGF funds and monitor £250K Council funds as part of >£6.5m project

4.6 Details of these projects, the wider impacts of SET and the key targets for 2015-16 are in the attached annual report, or can be accessed via the link below. This demonstrates how SET is meeting its objectives and targets and provides feedback to customers and partners that we work with.

https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/set_annual_report_2015-16.pdf

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The Social Enterprise Team (SET) works with colleagues across the Council and a range of partners to deliver outcome CO8 'to create opportunities for our partners and communities to fully engage in the way our services are delivered'. The attached annual report for 2015-16 demonstrates how SET is meeting its objectives and targets together with the identification of our key targets for 2016-17.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

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| 6.1 | Policy | CO8 'to create opportunities for our partners and communities to fully engage in the way our services are delivered'. |
| 6.2 | Financial | Delivered within existing budgets. |
| 6.3 | Legal | None. |
| 6.4 | HR | Delivered through current staff resources. |
| 6.5 | Equalities | None in general but proposed improvements to access in some projects improve accessibility to sites eg. Hermitage Park and Argyll Sea Kayak Trail. |
| 6.6 | Risk | Individual projects have risk registers as appropriate. |
| 6.7 | Customer Services | Improved web access for customers. |

7. APPENDICES

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| 7.1 | Appendix One | Social Enterprise Team Annual Report 2015-16. |
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4th October 2016

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