

28th September 2017

POLICY LEADS REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides members with an update on key areas of activity for each Policy Lead Councillor. It is planned to have updates from all Policy Leads at each council meeting so that members are informed, up-to-date and able to engage with current issues.

The Economic Development portfolio sits with the council Leader and is included in the Leader's Report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

3. POLICY LEAD FOR STRATEGIC FINANCE AND CAPITAL REGENERATION PROJECTS – Councillor Gary Mulvaney

- 3.1 **Introduction:** This report provides members with an update on my activities as, Depute Leader, Policy Lead for Strategic Finance and Policy Lead for Capital Regeneration to date. I have held regular meetings and discussions with a range of officers across the policy briefs and I thank them for all their kind assistance in my new roles.

- 3.2 **Strategic Finance:** I have had regular meetings with Kirsty Flanagan, Head of Strategic Finance in terms of revenue and capital monitoring; budget outlook reporting and the preparatory work on the Medium to Long Term Financial Strategy for the Council, which will encompass the 2018/2019 budget to be agreed by council on 22 February 2018. That longer term work takes place against a backdrop that the likelihood is that the Scottish Government will announce just a one year settlement in December 2017.

An updated budget outlook will be presented to members in October and regularly thereafter.

3.3 Capital Regeneration Projects:

Oban Transit Berthing Facility – I attended the official opening on 31 August 2017 and saw the facility in operation, offering flexible short-stay accommodation for vessels of varying sizes, which will help to attract hundreds of visitors into Oban’s shops and restaurants. The council has invested £1.5 million in this project which is set to realise a projected benefit of some £25 million to the local economy over the next 20 years. The visitor experience will be further enhanced when the associated maritime centre, (which provides toilets, showers and lockers) opens in October.

Dunoon Queens Hall – A detailed update was provided to the Bute and Cowal Area Committee earlier this month, updating local members on the commercial position of the project, issues affected the build, and the impact of cost and timescales.

Rothsay Pavilion – Council approved additional funding for this project in terms of a £1m underwrite as further external grants were sought. Applications for additional ERDF and Historic Environment Scotland grants have been submitted. The Chair and Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund are due to visit the Pavilion prior to an important HLF Board meeting at the end of September. Officers have been working very hard in the background to ensure that as soon as possible after, the hopefully successful, HLF Board consideration of our additional funding application, we can move to contract close, get the contract awarded and look to have the contractor mobilising to site as quickly as possible.

Helensburgh Waterfront – The contract for cost consultancy was awarded to Robinson Low Francis LLP on 22 August. RLF were previously the cost consultants for the Helensburgh CHORD public realm works. Darnton B3 Architects in partnership with Patrick Parsons and Hirst landscape Architects, have been appointed to provide Multi-Disciplinary Design Support in relation to the Leisure Facilities Building. Topographical, bathymetric and transport surveys have been completed. Local members will receive regular updates to the Area committee.

3.4 Depute Leader: In this capacity, I have met regularly with the Leader, the Chief Executive and other officers. I will attend meetings of the Economic Forum and Convention of the Highlands and Islands (COHI) in the next few weeks.

4. POLICY LEAD FOR CORPORATE SERVICES – Councillor Rory Colville

4.1 Introduction: I have regular meetings with the Executive Director of Customer Services and the Heads of Service to discuss matters relating to my remit. The most recent meetings were held on 7th June, 25th July, and 5th September 2017. These meetings act as a useful forum to discuss any issues and to brief me on any Corporate Services-related matters.

4.2 Meeting with Customer Services Centre Manager, 16th June 2017: A visit to the Customer Service Centre (CSC) at Kintyre House on 16th June provided an insight into the full Customer experience and the different approaches taken by services to provide information, respond to queries and fulfil service requests. For example, the issue of avoidable contacts and how this could be addressed through further business process re-engineering by the back office service, improved handling of disruptions and intelligent use of proactive notification via the new “Outreach” facility, which issues bulk e-mail notifications to customers advising in advance of changes to service delivery. Also the ability to consult with customers on their experience using automated customer satisfaction tools.

Performance reporting is also much improved with the facility to develop dashboards specific to service needs, providing real time data as well as important information on channel shift achieved from expensive face to face transactions to fully transactional online contact.

It was beneficial to gain an insight into the new technology implemented within the new Omni channel Communications System with enhanced online and multimedia technology. It provided the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the functionality which could assist future planning that respective port folios need to embrace.

A follow up meeting was held on 8th August 2017 with the Executive Director’s for Customer Services and Development and Infrastructure Services, and the Policy Lead for Roads and Amenity Services, to discuss matters around the members’ Casebook system and the CSC.

4.3 Scotland Excel (SXL) Joint Committee 30th June 2017: I attended the SXL Joint Committee on 30 June 2017, which is made up of one or more Councillors from each local authority. The Committee meets twice per year to scrutinise the performance and activities of SXL and is responsible for approving the annual budget and operating plan. Some points of note from this latest meeting are detailed below:-

- Contract portfolio value now approaching £1Billion with a huge potential growth in social care and affordable housing projected;

- SXL have funding from 28 councils and H&SCPs to continue support for older people's care services for a further 3 years;
- A new innovation is partnership with Crown Commercial Services – new framework contract for light and commercial vehicles starting June 2017;
- They are developing a membership offering for housing associations in 2017/18;
- Their vision is to be “*the shared services partner of choice for the local government sector*”;
- They now have a new team working on smaller value contracts;
- The operating plan for 2017-18 was approved;
- In 2016-17 they delivered 26 contracts with a value of £749m and associated saving of £17.6m p.a; and
- They are working on developing a 5 year strategy to 2022.

4.4 Good News items:

HROD shortlisted for top national award

The HROD redesign project has reached the final of the Personnel Today Awards 2017 in the Award for Excellence in Public Sector HR category. HROD has responded to the Service Choices savings challenge by completely redesigning the service, moving to a single manager, increasing automation and self-service, providing a professional HR, Payroll and Organisational Development Team that focusses on people, improvement and performance.

It is one of nearly 100 organisations and individuals who have made the shortlist for the annual awards, which recognise and reward excellence in employers.

COSLA Excellence Awards

Customer and Support Services have been successful in the long leet for the COSLA Excellence Awards in the following 2 categories:-

- Category 2 Achieving Better Outcomes – “Universal Services Delivered Locally”
- Category 5 Local Matters – “Over Lochs and Islands, Digitally Engaging Customers & Communities

Good luck to the short leeted applicants who were due to present their project to the judging panel at the time of writing this report.

5. POLICY LEAD FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE – Councillor Kieron Green

5.1 Introduction: Following the formation of the new council in May 2017 I have returned as Policy Lead for Health and Social Care. I now serve as Vice-Chair of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) of the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and also Vice-Chair of the Argyll and Bute Council Community Services Committee. In addition I am a member of the Clinical and Care Governance Committee and Audit Committees of the HSCP.

5.2 Visits:
An Argyll and Bute Care Summit was held on 22nd May. I was pleased to be there, along with a number of elected members and officers from the HSCP. We heard from a variety of speakers and worked on future planning for care in Argyll and Bute. Key outcomes of the day to date have been the establishment of local HSCP housing forums in the localities, progression with neighbourhood teams, and the reinvigoration of the dementia strategy and review of dementia services.

On 13th June I attended a feedback session in Oban where there was feedback from the 'Planning for the Future' Group which is looking at the services provided in the Lorn and Islands Hospital and ensuring that they remain sustainable. There was also a wide range of health and social care services showcased, both those provided in the hospital as well as in the community.

I visited Trust Housing complexes in Tobermory on 6th July and Strachur on 18th July. This was in response to requests from the community wishing to discuss the implementation of changes to Housing Support. HSCP officers have worked with Trust Housing to develop appropriate proposals for each of these complexes, along with the two others operated by the organisation on Islay.

The new Dunclutha Children's House in Dunoon is approaching completion and I was pleased to be able to see this on 24th July. I was impressed by the new building, which being purpose built with a large communal area will be a welcome improvement on the previous dated facilities.

Working with our communities is vital at this time of significant changes to many services. I was pleased to be able to visit Rothesay on 11th August to take part in an engagement event which included discussion around the Quality and Finance Plan. There was a very positive atmosphere and it was well attended by local people. Further resources are being put into communications and engagement by the partnership to support work in future.

I attended the COSLA Health and Social Care Board in Edinburgh on 8th September. Key items of discussion revolved around finances for health and social care, free personal care for under 65s - 'Franks Law' and the future organisation of public health.

- 5.3 Children and Families:** Alex Taylor was appointed to replace Louise Long in April 2017 when she left to become the Chief Officer of the Inverclyde HSCP. Louise has been instrumental in helping improve the quality of services across the area, she leaves a legacy we can all be proud of and I wish to thank her for all her efforts.

The registered services of Adoption and Fostering saw improvements in their grades this year.

The first meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board took place on 7th September with elected member representation on it from our Children's Champions.

Earlier this year the Argyll and Bute Violence against Women (VAW) Group joined with the West Dunbartonshire VAW Group to establish the West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute VAW Group. Central to the work of the group is the production of an Equally Safe Action Plan which addresses the 4 Priorities within Equally Safe - *Scotland's Strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls (2016)*.

The new Child Protection Committee (CPC) improvement plan for 2017/18 was presented to the CPC on 11th May. An inspector has been identified by the Care Inspectorate who it is hoped will be able to support the multi-agency audit currently being planned

- 5.4 Adult Services:** Allen Stevenson left the post of Head of Adult Services (East) in September 2017 to move to Inverclyde. Jim Littlejohn is replacing him in an acting capacity at present. Over the last year I have deeply appreciated Allen's ability to handle a number of challenges calmly and efficiently and my thanks to him for all of his work.

On Bute the Thomson Court redesign service specification is now complete. Work continues with community support to turn a building based isolated service into a community hub. All sectors are gathering around this resource to provide a more joined up approach to serving the needs of our most vulnerable elderly population.

In Dunoon the Struan Lodge project group is up and running, with representation from all stakeholders including staff and the Struan Lodge Action Group.

Homecare provision remains an issue in particular the sustainability of external providers and local managers are working with the commissioning team to support service delivery. In Helensburgh M and J Care provider was liquidated in August with new providers identified and team working which ensured a smooth transition of staff and packages. Elsewhere work is being progressed to look at stabilising the service through establishing homecare as part of the internal team.

Work on development of neighbourhood teams is continuing in Oban, Lorn and the Isles, Islay and Kintyre. Generic support workers in these will be able to carry out a range of health and social care tasks.

Following the decision of Crossreach to close Auchinlee Care Home in Campbeltown by April 2018 the work to develop a progressive care environment within Lorn Campbell Court continues. The next stage is for some minor adaptations to be carried out to the building. Appropriate continuity of care for the remaining residents of Auchinlee is being ensured for through ongoing assessments.

Certain recruitment issues, along with increases in demand have the potential for increasing in pressure on patient services and waiting times. The planning team is working on proposals to address issues relating to services within Argyll and Bute, and for those provided by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde negotiations continue to ensure the services received are in line with the Service Level Agreement.

The mental health in-patient unit has now relocated from the old Argyll and Bute Hospital to the upgraded lower ground floor of Mid Argyll Community Hospital and Integrated Care Centre. Staff and patients transferred at the end of July and are settling into the new environment, with very positive reports. An official opening is being planned for the beginning of October.

1000 Voices 1000 Voices is the name for the Community Resilience work supported by the HSCP and 50% match funded by Big Lottery Scotland. Over time this has grown and developed to combat loneliness and isolation in our towns and our rural areas providing social connections, enabling independence, offering support and improving the quality of people's lives.

Over the last 12 months the reach has extended, thanks to Lottery support, and groups have been established in the most rural areas of Argyll. In total, around 3,000 people are supported and networks have grown considerably. None of this would have been possible without the early support of the HSCP and the shared commitment to maintaining people's independence and quality of life.

- 5.5 Performance:** The performance team provides responses to Freedom of Information requests, formal reports and information for Adult and Child protection committee, national returns and surveys including A&E weekly performance targets, delayed discharges, inspection reports and activity analysis.

The team is in the last stage of its redesign and reorganisation of the 16 staff within separate NHS and Social Work teams to establish a single point of contact and service.

Training and support for operational managers to use Pyramid, the new the system for all information and performance management sources across the HSCP is ongoing with implementation by December 2017.

- 5.6 Planning:** Work is continuing to address delayed discharges from hospitals and reduce the lengths of stay of unscheduled care. This will free up resources to support enhancements in community services.

The Scottish Government is adopting a regional planning approach for health acute services. Argyll and Bute HSCP is within the West of Scotland region and is participating and influencing the development of proposals to inform operation of services and analyse gaps in provision. This is planned to lead to the identification and agreement of future tiered care models.

The HSCP is supporting Locality Planning Groups by undertaking a skills audit of members to identify development and training needs. Arrangements are also being strengthened by reviewing and refocusing locality action plans.

The HSCP has begun working with Registered Social Landlords and the Council Housing Service to help plan for specialist housing and support within the over future housing needs of Argyll and Bute as set out in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan.

Catering services within HSCP hospitals are being reviewed and benchmarked. The aim of this is to improve the quality and enhance sustainability of the service, support staff retention and career development and produce improvements in efficiency and deliver savings. The project will also allow for opportunities to align and link up catering services and procurement across both health and council services including the care sector.

- 5.7 Human Resources:** Recruitment is challenging for a number of positions in health and social care across the area ranging from care assistants through to GPs and consultants. Where cover or locums are required this can place a substantial burden on budgets.

To help address this a workforce plan is being developed with support from Healthcare Improvement Scotland through their service iHub (<http://ihub.scot/about/>) as part of a national pilot scheme and will be completed by March 2018.

Alongside this systems modelling tool is being developed and applied to assess current baseline of resource and inform projections for the next 3-5 years. It has already been piloted in Oban and will be rolled out to the other localities over the autumn and winter.

Staff Partnership Liaison arrangements have been set up to bring together staff, trade unions and management from health and social care. Support for staff is being reviewed by using the NHS Scotland iMatter continuous improvement tool.

- 5.8 E-Health and IT services:** Argyll and Bute HSCP Facebook page has been launched (www.facebook.com/abhscpl/) and is now regularly reporting 2000 interactions from its followers.

Co-location of health and social staff and teams has been identified as a priority for the HSCP to support integrated working. The HSCP has agreed with the council to utilise the councils Skype for Business systems by expanding it to cover NHS sites. This will allow health and care teams to be on a single system. A project group are progressing this with the first phase covering Lochgilphead and Helensburgh.

In May 2017 there was a cyber attack on a number of health systems across the UK using the WannaCry ransomware worm. Locally no Council or NHS Highland systems were affected however 3 PCs in GP practices were infected. Since then the HSCP has ensured that all systems are fully updated with NHS Highland assessing future action to take.

Carefirst system is the primary system to record and store all social work/care records. The HSCP has made the decision to move its community care nursing and Allied Health Professional records onto the care first system and a project group has now been established to achieve this ideally before March 2018.

The Technology Enabled Care (TEC) team continue to enhance the scale and accessibility of both telecare and telehealth services delivered to the residents of Argyll. The development of the community responder services has been supported by roll out of telecare. The use of text reminder services (Florence or Flo) provides significant support for people with conditions such as diabetes and COPD including medication reminders and feedback on conditions.

The team is commencing an “attend anywhere” remote consultation service in Midwifery and Obstetrics from Oban to Tiree with the visiting consultant and midwife. A similar service supporting cancer patients from Inverclyde hospital to Bute and Cowal is in the final design and agreement phase for a pilot. These services will prevent travel for patients and make best use of specialist consultant and nursing/midwife time and resource.

The HSCP launched a new online information and support service in Campbeltown Grammar School in June. The online service is called Cool2talk, (www.cool2talk.org) and is a responsive, safe space for young people across Argyll and Bute to get their questions answered in the knowledge that they will be responded to promptly by a trained, knowledgeable person who won't judge, but will offer information and guidance.

6. POLICY LEAD FOR ROADS AND AMENITY SERVICES – Councillor Roddy McCuish

- 6.1 Piers and Harbours:** At the Harbour Board meeting (7 September) reports on both the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) and the 10 year Marine Asset Management Plan were discussed by Members and the recommendations therein approved. In terms of the PMSC, Members were advised that work is progressing on the Safety Management System (SMS) document appendices. The Council's Piers and Harbours website has, just recently, been updated to make it more user-friendly. The next round of user-group meetings is being planned, with the very first meeting for Port Askaig taking place next week. Marine and Legal Services are working with Transport Scotland in the making of a Consolidation Order for all of the Council's piers and harbours which will include powers to make harbour directions. The updated Marine Safety Plan was also approved.

Members were also advised of works being undertaken by consultants – the schemes below, and their status, were highlighted as being worthy of particular note:-

- Craignure Pier – The consultant AECOM has produced a draft document which considers the feasibility of opening up the 'south berth' at the pier for over-night use by the Isle of Mull ferry. This report is awaiting the outcome of a detailed inspection report before it can be completed. As well as the option to open up the south berth, this report will also consider the future viability of Craignure Pier and the likely works required to extend the pier to facilitate usage by larger ferry vessels.
- Port Askaig Pier – Brief issued to Arch Henderson – to consider the feasibility of extending the pier to facilitate berthing of new 105 m vessels. Work by the consultant is ongoing with a draft report expected to be available in August of this year.

- Fionnphort / Iona Ferry Slips – A brief has been issued to the consultants, Byrne Looby, to carry out a feasibility study, including site investigation works, in order to identify the most practicable engineering solutions at both Fionnphort and Iona. Completion of related work is expected by the end of the calendar year. Ground investigation works will be commencing shortly.
- Gigha and Tayinloan Ferry Slips – Brief issued imminently to consider options for over-night berth at Gigha – to include ground investigation works.
- Lismore Point / Port Appin – A tender for structural concrete works was issued in late July by Design Services. Start on site is expected by September. The local community council is being kept updated on developments as some disruption of the ferry service is expected whilst the works are ongoing.
- Rothesay Harbour – The consultant, AECOM, has been employed to investigate settlement issues at Rothesay. Site investigation works have been carried out and plans are being drawn up for the installation of a ‘wave wall’ at the berthing face of the pier. Once drawings have been produced, this work will be issued for tender.
- Campbeltown Old Quay – Once the principal inspection report has been made available, tender documents will be issued later this year to carry out works to the sheet piling at the Old Quay wall.

6.2 Bridges: Knock Bridge on Mull – strengthened by June and reopened. Kilbridemore Bridge in West Glendaruel – diversion track through caravan park upgraded and in use for vehicles over 7.5 tonnes. Permanent repair to bridge awaiting land clearance.

A814 Clyde Street East bridge in Helensburgh – defects found in footway (suspected public utilities have caused damage). New reinforced concrete deck being designed.

6.3 Roads: Kirk Road Upgrade, Dunbeg – tenders returned and awaiting financial backing from Scottish Government prior to formal contract award.

Isle of Kerrera Link Road – initial designs completed and meeting with island representatives on 11 September for feedback prior to taking to detailed design stage.

6.4 Flooding: Study work on a range of locations across the area – including Oban, Tarbert, Lochgilphead, Kilcreggan and Helensburgh – is planned in order to present cases to SEPA by 2019 for future flood risk reduction investment. The output from the studies will provide a cost benefit analysis for each of the areas that will be considered within the national prioritisation process leading up to the second cycle of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan starting 2022.

At the moment we are working with Aecom to draft a Surface Water Management Plan for flood alleviation in Campbeltown. Aecom, on the Council's behalf, will host a drop in event and school event in the town on 5th and 6th October to gather local information on flooding in the town. Feedback received will help inform options for reducing flood risk.

- 6.5 Astro pitches:** We are on site at six locations this year upgrading astro pitches. The six pitches being upgraded this year are:

Bute and Cowal: Innellan Primary School; The Cages, Black Park, Dunoon Helensburgh and Lomond: Bendarroch Park, Garelochhead; Kirkmichael Park, Helensburgh
Oban, Lorn and the Isles: Lochnell Primary School, Benderloch; Tobermory High School, Isle of Mull.

- 6.6 Three Weekly Refuse Collection:** The three weekly collections affect every household within Argyll and Bute Council area, the collections are working well in the majority of areas, we will have to change the uplift routes in Lorn, the new routes will commence on Monday 30th October. A communications plan is currently being finalised to keep residents up to date.

New collection calendars will start arriving from mid-September, everyone will have the new calendars before their old one runs out. Calendars will also be available online on the council's website.

It is too early yet to determine tonnages to landfill compared with recycling tonnages due to sessional variations and a lag in data reporting. We will need a full year of data to build a picture of what is happening to these tonnages.

There has been an increase in civic amenity site usage which is what we expected to happen; we encouraged residents to take excess waste to these sites.

- 6.7 Transit Berth Marina, Oban:** The official opening of the transit berth facility took place on 31st August. The facility was opened by the Provost with speeches from the Area Committee Chair and Members of the Oban Bay Marina Group. The Oban High School pipe band played at the event. The marina is now fully opened and is being enjoyed by a variety of vessels visiting Oban which will be beneficial to the economy.

- 6.8 LED Project:** The LED Project has now delivered just over 50% of luminaire replacements (4411 in Lomond and 2731 in Bute and Cowal). The bulk of the design work has been completed on the remainder of the mainland and

islands. The luminaire replacement is on track for completion by the end of May 2018 with a programme of column replacements to follow. The Council is now enjoying reduced energy bills in line with the project business case.

7. POLICY LEAD FOR COMMUNITIES, HOUSING, GAELIC AND ISLANDS – Councillor Robin Currie

- 7.1 Housing:** Housing Services Structure will change on 2nd October. The new Head of Service will be Angus Gilmour in a service called Planning, Housing and Regulatory Services, as outlined in the recent briefing for members. The present structure will remain as is and staff will not see any difference. The only difference will be that the Housing Strategy Team under Douglas Whyte will be line-managed by Matt Mulderrig, the Housing Operations Team by Martin Mathieson and the Welfare Rights Team by Allan Morrison.

Housing Services are liaising closely with the MOD/HMNB Clyde in support of their Future Accommodation Model initiative. This initiative will include joint working between Housing Services, the Health and Social Care Partnership along with HMNB Clyde to carry out a detailed Market Study of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area. This work aims to provide a robust and credible assessment of need for different models and tenures of housing at a sub-market area level, and will aim to assess the impact of the anticipated growth of the naval base in coming years.

It was a great pleasure for me to officially open five houses in Luss last month and this month, I officially opened 18 houses on Islay and in October I will open a further two houses on the Isle of Coll.

During Qtr 1 of 2017/18, 148 homeless applications were recorded which is an increase of 30 applications based on the same period in the previous year. There were 237 households across Argyll and Bute in receipt of housing support. 878 housing options self-assessments were completed in the quarter, 186 of these assessments were completed by households outwith Argyll and Bute. The Welfare Rights team have generated £723k for residents of Argyll and Bute in Qtr 1 through their income maximisation work.

Through a competitive tendering process, BCA Insulation has been awarded the contract for the Home Energy Programmes for Scotland: Area Based Scheme (HEEPS: ABS). As of 8th September, there are currently 144 referrals spread across Argyll and Bute to be actioned by the appointed contractor for insulation measures.

- 7.2 Islands:** Deputising for the Leader I recently attended the Islands Transport Forum which is chaired by the Minister for Transport and the Islands and papers on this are available from myself if anybody wishes to see what was discussed.

I also deputised for the Leader at the Islands Strategic Group which was held in Stornoway and chaired by the Minister for Transport and the Islands. The Chief Executive also attended. At that meeting I invited the Scottish Government to make a presentation to this Council on the Islands Bill and this took place at the first meeting of the Argyll Islands Strategic Group last month. Since that first meeting I have consulted by VC and phone with 15 of our islands regarding the Islands Bill. Their views that will help us make an informed response to the consultation. This Council has also been asked to give evidence, on the Islands Bill, to a Committee in the Scottish Parliament on 30th September.

- 7.3 Gaelic:** I recently met with Bord na Gaidhlig in Oban along with Duncan Macneill from Furan to review the Council's Gaelic Plan and Bord na Gaidhlig have now issued their written monitoring report. This will be reported to committee in December when Members will also consider a new draft plan for Gaelic in Argyll and Bute to go out to consultation and hopefully approved by the Council in the spring.

7.4 Community Development and Community Planning

In conjunction with the Scottish Community Development Centre, we offered free training sessions for community groups on our newly launched Community-led Action Planning Toolkit. This web based toolkit is easy to navigate, takes groups through each step of the process, and has downloadable templates and materials to support community groups to undertake their own community led action plans. Sessions in Bute and Cowal, MAKI and OLI took place during September – the Helensburgh and Lomond event is on Friday 6th October, 10am to 12.30pm in the Civic Centre.

The toolkit can be found here: <https://www.communitytoolkit.net/>

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires Community Planning Partnerships to produce Local Action Plans to reduce inequalities within an area. The four administrative Area Community Planning Action Plans were out to consultation in August. At the time of writing they were due to be considered by CPP Management Committee on the 20th September, and signed off by Area Community Planning Groups in October 2017.

The Community Planning and Community Development Team will be moving to the Chief Executive's Unit from 2nd October.

8. POLICY LEAD FOR EDUCATION – Councillor Yvonne McNeilly

8.1 Introduction: Since my appointment in May I have been working closely with our Education Service in their drive to secure improvement for all learners in Argyll and Bute.

Starting immediately from appointment, a key focus for me has been engaging with the ongoing Education Scotland inspection process, with significant meetings in Inveraray on 20th June. Everyone in the service is aware that education is a top priority for this council and I am confident in the action plan that the service are working through in order to drive forward improvement and excellence.

I have also started a programme of school visits and am looking forward to seeing more of our learners, staff and schools across the area over the coming months.

The council's Our Children, Their Future strategy has six key objectives and I have highlighted below some of the activity relating to each one.

8.2 Raising education attainment and achievement for all: Various training resources focusing on the key skills of numeracy and literacy are being used by our teaching staff and in our schools. This includes the Number Talks programme, Numicon and the interactive resource Sumdog which, as well as increasing proficiency, also contributes to boosting learner enthusiasm and motivation.

Literacy roadshows have been held across the area and include a range of support resources, including identification of and supporting difficulties such as dyslexia and assessment/support for adult learners. A literacy website – ABLE2 – has been set up to give advice and resources for parents, learners and staff.

Other initiatives like Fresh Start Reading are being trialled in some of our secondary and primary schools, with other schools working towards embedding the programme in their structure.

In line with Scottish Government priorities we have ensured that all our schools have at least one Assessment and Moderation Facilitator on site, and evaluations show that practitioners have more confidence and understanding of assessment and moderation in their schools.

There are lots of exciting examples of innovation in schools across Argyll and Bute, too many to list individually, but a few worth highlighting are:

- Creative music lessons delivered to all primary schools on Mull
- Two schools achieving the Gold Sportscotland Award for innovation and achievement in physical education
- The Digital Hub in Dunoon which provides exciting technology learning opportunities
- Dunoon Primary School pupils have created an app for Our Children, Our Future
- The GIVE summer programme focusing on opportunities for young people to get involved and volunteer in their local communities

8.3 Using performance information to secure improvement for children and young people: Our Education Service have taken a number of actions to secure improvement for all children and young people in Argyll and Bute, including:

- Participating in the National Teacher Judgement Survey – statistics are due to be published in December
- Refining approaches to self evaluation and planning for improvement through standards and quality reporting
- Increasing support to schools in the use of data to benchmark progress and secure further improvement through effective and timely interventions
- Our Annual Education Plan has been prepared in response to the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act which brings new statutory duties into force. It draws together a range of information for pupils, staff, parents, carers and communities, and aims to ensure provision of the best possible education experience where people are fully supported to reach their full potential.
- Using the national standardised assessment tool in schools and reporting on the National Improvement Framework – including the impact of pupil equity funding (PEF) on closing the poverty-related attainment gap
- Expansion of early learning and childcare entitlement, changes to National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications, and improving use of assessment data in schools to drive forward improved learner outcomes

8.4 Ensuring children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
Our Early Years team have developed training sessions on learning and development, literacy and numeracy for practitioners, and are also working on guidance for transition from early learning/childcare (ELC) to primary education – making the most of opportunities for sharing information and practice to provide the best support for children entering Primary 1.

78% of children in their final year of ELC have achieved all of their developmental milestones by June 2017, with improvements in the social, emotional and behavioural and speech/language milestones as a result of targeted interventions. Overall there is a 4% increase in the percentage of

children achieving all their expected milestones compared with June 2016 figures.

The team are also participating in the Improvement Science in Action programme and are building up an early literacy project for ELC children across Argyll and Bute.

Through the Argyll and Bute Family Pathway, collaborative work continues on reducing the poverty related attainment gap and strive for social justice – this includes liaising with health visitors and midwives, providing money advise, working on toilet training with parents and raising awareness of early child development.

Work continues on ensuring everything is in place for delivery of 1,140 hours of funded ELC from August 2020 for eligible 2-year-olds and all 3 and 4-year-olds. Following the award of funding from the Scottish Government, we are running trials on Tiree and Mull, providing 1,140 hours during term time. This has been useful in highlighting to the Scottish Government the challenges and opportunities faced with the expansion of ELC in Argyll and Bute.

We are promoting childcare as a career along with providing support and guidance on registration, working with the Scottish Childminding Association.

8.5 Equipping young people to sustain positive destinations and achieve success in life

The Developing Young Workforce Argyll Regional Group launched earlier this year and has now appointed two development officers to ensure our young people are equipped to secure and sustain positive destinations and achieve success in life. The group's work with employers, schools and colleges is supported by a £422,213 award from the Scottish Government over the next three years. Activities are focused on ensuring young people are aware of the opportunities available to them locally to encourage them to remain in Argyll and Bute when they leave school.

8.6 Strengthening partnership working and community engagement

Argyll and Bute Youth Forum have designed and delivered training sessions aimed at improving communication between young people and community councillors. These sessions were led and delivered by young people in various locations and, as well as exploring ways of increasing young people's ability to engage and get involved, were also fun, practical and interactive!

Education Services have been working closely with Royal Navy personnel and University of the Highlands and Islands to support families leaving the service to access teacher training. They are keen to build links with Argyll and Bute as a number of families are expected to arrive over the coming years with the expansion of Faslane.

Our MOD teacher and Service Pupil Advisor continue to provide support to young people affected by mobility, deployment and interrupted learning.

8.7 Strengthening leadership at all levels

Several of our teaching staff have successfully completed the Into Headship programme for aspiring Head Teachers with a number of colleagues participating in the course during the current year. We also have eight Head Teachers undertaking the Excellence in Headship programme, designed to offer quality professional learning opportunities.

In partnership with East Dunbartonshire we held a third middle leaders collaborative session earlier this year.

Addressing mental health issues in the school community needs skills and confidence and we are setting up a short life working group to consider current practice, explore interventions and ensure that young people themselves have a say in determining how we address key issues. Our secondary school leaders have all expressed commitment to enhancing skills and confidence in dealing with mental health issues and over the past year a very good range of interventions have been put in place to support young people and those who support them.

9. POLICY LEAD FOR PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES – Councillor David Kinniburgh

9.1 This report covers the period from 18th May to 18th September 2017.

Planning

Planning Performance Framework 2016/17

Our Planning Performance Framework (PPF) document for 2016/17, which is the principal performance measure for Development Management and Development Policy within Planning and Regulatory Services, was reported to a recent meeting of the Planning, Protective Services & Licensing (PPSL) committee and submitted to the Scottish Government. Of the 15 Key Performance Markers used by the Scottish Government to assess the performance of an authority Argyll & Bute are scored on 13 of the markers and last year 2015/16 our score was Red = 0, Amber = 3 and Green = 10. This is the 6th Annual PPF which our Planning Service has had to submit and in previous years the feedback from the Scottish Government has been positive. We await the feedback from the Scottish Government on the

2016/17 PPF which will be reported to a future meeting of the PPSL committee and I will cover in a future report.

Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) update

The council has a statutory duty to replace the current Local Development Plan, which was adopted in March 2015, by March 2020 and as such the Development Plan Scheme (DPS) sets out the programme for key milestones in the process.

The delivery of LDP2 remains on track with the DPS with the next stage of the process being the approval of the Main Issues Report (MIR) and a recommendation that the MIR be issued for public consultation. This item appears later on in today's agenda and if approved will be the first formal stage of producing LDP2.

Details of the Development Plan Scheme and LDP2 process can be found at: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/ldp2>

Training Development

Over the life of the last council the PPSL committee held training sessions before each monthly meeting of the PPSL committee. The training sessions are generally 'bite-sized' in nature and have proved invaluable in the training development of elected members covering a wide range of topics associated with the planning system in Scotland. At the first meeting of the new PPSL committee a programme of training for the coming year was approved which will follow the same format as before. The training sessions are open to all elected members and VC facilities can be accommodated for elected members who are not on the PPSL committee.

One of the training sessions which falls out-with the short bite-sized sessions is a half day workshop on planning and flooding which is programmed for January 2018. This workshop has been arranged following a successful grant funding bid to the Scottish Government and will be delivered by JBA Consulting who currently act as the Council's flooding consultants.

9.2 Regulatory Services

National Issues

There are a number of issues within regulatory services which are being looked at nationally at the moment and we await further information on before they can be progressed further these include discussions with Food Standards Scotland and other local authorities concerning new arrangements around feed enforcement, review of Scientific Services in Scotland, strategic review of Trading Standards and new legislation on Civic Standards Licensing Officers.

Shellfish Monitoring Contract

Regulatory Services have formally submitted a tender to CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) to deliver a shellfish monitoring programme for 2018/21. A decision is due to be made by CEFAS in December as to the successful provider and we await that decision.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 This report provides members with an update on each of the Policy Lead portfolios. Policy Lead Councillors will be happy to provide more detail or discuss any particular issues with colleagues as required.

11. IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Policy - None

11.2 Financial – None

11.3 Legal – None

11.4 HR – None

11.5 Equalities – None

11.6 Risk – None

11.7 Customer Service – None

**Argyll and Bute Council – Policy Lead Councillors Report
14th September 2017**

For further information please contact Aileen McNicol, Leadership Support and Member Services Manager, telephone 01546 604014 or email ailen.mcnicol@argyll-bute.gov.uk