

Economic Development and Strategic Transportation

The principal purpose of the Service is to:

To work in partnership to attract external investment that delivers key physical and digital infrastructure enhancements to grow our economy, to improve local skills, create and retain high quality jobs and build sustainable communities that will attract residents, businesses and visitors.

The Service employs 71 FTE

The Service faces the following significant challenges:

To ensure that the area's economic assets and our limited resources are allocated efficiently and effectively with regard to Argyll's economic development priorities, opportunities and growth ambitions.

Delivering a transformational Rural Growth Deal that recognises key strategic priorities and the scale of external investment required.

The result of the EU referendum has the potential to have far reaching implications for the Argyll economy given we are a net benefactor of EU funding, our need for free movement of labour and access to the single market.

Ensuring we have a sufficiently trained and skilled workforce to take advantage of our key economic opportunities.

A continued reduction in capital budgets that are necessary to attract external capital and revenue funding streams into Argyll & Bute.

To better communicate the many economic opportunities, successes and positive economic outcomes we have in Argyll & Bute.

To inspire, inform, connect and guide communities to realise their full economic potential.

The difference the Service makes:

The Service contributes to the following Business Outcomes:

Economic Development Success Measures

SM Code	Outcome success measures	Target	Timescale	Benchmark
BO15	Argyll and Bute is open for business			
ET15_01	Increase the number of air passengers carried at Oban airport.	5% uplift from 2017 baseline.	Quarterly FQ4 2018/19	Comparison with comparable rural HIAL airports.
ET15_02	Externally funded support sustains rural communities through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).	£980k committed investment.	Quarterly FQ4 2018/19	Other FLAG areas.
ET15_03	Increase the percentage of social media followers by using all available channels to post success stories emanating from economic development, in its broadest sense, within Argyll and Bute.	20% across all channels measured by followers/likes, reach and engagement resulting from EDST postings.	Quarterly FQ4 2018/19	Not applicable.
ET15_04	Number of new business start-ups supported.	100 per annum	Quarterly FQ4 2018/19	Data provided as part of the Business Gateway National Unit reporting programme.
ET15_05	Number of existing businesses supported (comprises of workshop attendees and /or advisory support).	200 per annum.	Quarterly FQ4 2018/19	Data provided as part of the Business Gateway National Unit reporting programme.
ET15_06	12 month survival rate of new businesses.	77%	Quarterly FQ4 2018/19	Data provided as part of the Business Gateway National Quality Assurance monitoring Programme. Reports are issued via the National Unit.

SM Code	Outcome success measures	Target	Timescale	Benchmark
BO23	Economic growth is supported			
ET23_01	Argyll and Bute's tourism sector has access to a workforce of highly skilled customer service professionals.	12 workshops delivered by Business Gateway to contribute towards 25% of businesses with world host training accreditation	Quarterly FQ2 2018/19	VisitScotland Regions comparison.
ET23_02	Deliver the Local Growth Accelerator Programme to support our entrepreneurs.	100% of funds committed.	FQ3 2018/19	Scottish Government Structural Funds spend targets.
ET23_03	External funding supports sustainable rural economic growth and regeneration across Argyll and Bute through the Argyll and the Islands LEADER programme.	£4.86 million committed investment by March 2019.	Quarterly FQ4 2018/19	Other 20 LAG areas across Scotland.
BO27	Infrastructure and assets are fit for purpose			
ET27_01	Identification and prioritisation of the key actions and infrastructure investments considered necessary to sustain economic growth in Argyll and Bute.	To reach a negotiated agreement with the UK and Scottish Governments on a rural growth deal. Milestones: - Establish Rural Deal Steering Board - Agree Rural Growth Deal projects - Sign off Rural Growth Deal project document	FQ4 2018/19	N/A
ET27_02	To influence the coverage of 4G mobile phone technology across Argyll and Bute.	90% of geographical area.	Annual FQ4 2018/19	Digital Scotland data
ET27_03	To influence increase in the percentage of Argyll and Bute premises covered by the digital network.	90% coverage of Argyll and Bute premises.	Annual FQ4 2018/19	Digital Scotland data.

Economic Development and Strategic Transportation Service Improvements

	Improvement Action	Completion date	Source of improvement	Source detail
BO15	Argyll and Bute is open for business To develop and implement a joint strategy for the communications, marketing and web teams.	FQ1 2018/19	Public Service Improvement Framework or other self-assessment	Feedback from studies indicate that there is a lack of awareness of where to find information on how to invest in Argyll and Bute and get access to common questions on job availability, access to housing, economic opportunities and quality of life issues. The creation of a dedicated web site to hold this information on a one stop site would greatly assist this and mirrors work that is done in other areas of the country facing similar population issues.
BO27	Infrastructure and assets are fit for purpose To create integrated project delivery teams on capital projects to ensure that the asset is fit for purpose and can be adopted by the relevant services. Develop Stage 3 Design and have internal sign-off prior to commencing Pre-Application Consultation Process in April 2018 and Planning Application in September 2018.	FQ4 2018/19	Other	In December 2016 the CHORD Programme Manager, at the behest of the SMT, came forward with proposals for a cross-Directorate/Service Project Team to deliver the Helensburgh Waterfront Development Project. Bringing together engineering, architectural, procurement, project management and property development professional from across the Council it will help ensure that the assets delivered meet the statutory and operational requirements of the various end users.

BO09	Improvement Action	Completion date	Source of improvement	Source detail
Our assets are safe, efficient and fit for purpose	Completion of physical redevelopment of Hermitage Park including redesign of the park and the pavilion.	FQ3 2018/19	Other	Ground-up development instigated by the Friends of Hermitage Park in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council. Heritage-led regeneration project funded in the main by HLF and includes both capital and revenue funding.
	Complete the Queens Hall Refurbishment and Public Realm Improvements Project.	FQ1 2018/2019	Other	CHORD Programme - Dunoon Waterfront Development, which included the refurbishment of the Wooden Pier (works completed FY15/16) and the refurbishment of the Queens Hall.

BO30	Improvement Action	Completion date	Source of improvement	Source detail
We engage with our customers, staff and partners	Creation of monthly updates on capital projects to local communities.	Ongoing	Other	<p>Feedback from the communities affected by the delivery of the capital regeneration projects is that they would benefit from having more up to date and regular updates on project delivery, especially when the projects move to the implementation phase. On the Dunoon Queens Hall project a monthly newsletter has been produced from the beginning of the construction works and which is made available by: being published on the A&BC Internet Page; Copies placed in the Public Library; and copies delivered to residential and businesses premises in the immediate area of the works. This approach will be rolled out across all subsequent projects.</p>
