

Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership, Outcome 1: The economy is diverse and thriving  
 Progress to date – January 2018

Project	Leader	Partners	Objectives
Finalise and agree a Rural Growth Deal for Argyll and Bute	Pippa Milne	ABC, HIE	<i>The Rural Growth Deal for Argyll and Bute looks to secure investment from the Scottish and UK Governments to tackle significant barriers to economic and population growth in Argyll and Bute.</i>
	Activity		Comments
Action 1	Develop single investment plan		Comments
Action 2	Agree governance model		Comments
Action 3	Steering group established and meets		Comments
Action 4	Secure Rural Growth Deal		Ongoing discussions with officers from both governments and working with Scottish Futures Trust to identify suitable projects.
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Accelerate the growth of the Tourism sector in Argyll and Bute	David Smart	Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC), HIE, ABC, VisitScotland, Forestry Commission, SNH, CalMac, DYW	<i>The Tourism sector in Argyll is thriving and growing year on year. Visitor spend in Argyll and Bute is projected to be over £300M in 2020. The most significant challenge to future success relates to availability of workforce.</i>
	Activity		Comments
Action 1	Appointment of new Development Team at AITC and agreement of project plan		The team will focus on development of three sub sectors – Adventure Tourism, Food and Drink and Events and Festivals
Action 2	Review of potential impacts of Brexit		Direct employment supported by Argyll and Bute's tourism industry in 2016 was 6,760 FTEs. The sector is projecting further growth - there will be a need for more staff. It is estimated that currently 20% to 25% of all staff are from outside of the UK – (1,200 and 1,500) individuals.
Action 3	Develop and implement plan to secure workforce for the coming five to seven years.		The objective of this work is to challenge perceptions and promote the Tourism industry as a career of choice. AITC are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• investigating the impact at a sub-regional level</li><li>• determining specific skills needs</li></ul> VS and DYW are working to promote the industry to P6/7 and S2/3 as part of Year of Young people Chair of AITC has engaged with Scottish government to secure support

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Create the conditions that allows private sector organisations involved in Food and Drink production to flourish and grow	Ishabel Bremner	ABC, Food from Argyll, Scotland Food and Drink, Argyll and the Islands Agricultural Forum, AITC	<p><i>The Food and Drink sector in Argyll and Bute is successful, diverse and dispersed. Opportunities include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Increasing the numbers of artisans and producers using local to differentiate their products.</i></li> <li><i>Increasing the amount of value add activity undertaken in the region</i></li> <li><i>Developing a recognised regional brand</i></li> <li><i>Ensuring that physical infrastructure can support future growth</i></li> <li><i>Quantifying future skills and workforce needs</i></li> </ul>
	Activity		Comments
Action 1	Quantify the value of the sector to the territory		The sector employs circa 3,900 staff with turnover of £336M per annum (2016). Milestones
Action 2	Investigate the feasibility of establishing a Food Hub (development and production) and Food Assembly (logistics)		Report and potential business model June 2018
Action 3	Promotion of Food and Drink produced in Argyll and Bute		Presence at BBC Good Food Show, House of Commons and year round attendance at major sporting and cultural events. Ongoing
Action 4	Establish the skills and workforce requirements for the coming decade		Brexit is likely to lead to changes in the industry. Scenarios need to be developed to allow contingency plans to be developed Dec 2018
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Establish clusters of technology led enterprises at the European Marine Science Park and Sandbank Industrial Estate	Morag Goodfellow	HIE, Scottish Association of Marine Sciences, Business Gateway, ABC	<i>To establish thriving, engaged, business communities focussed on exploiting opportunities identified through research and innovation and delivered using entrepreneurial skills from within the campus and the business park.</i>
	Activity		Comments
Action 1	Establish and implement a monthly schedule of events and engagement at EMSP to run to Dec 2018.		Commenced June 2017 - to include regular cluster meetings and networking Complete
Action 2	Publishing of quarterly newsletter for EMSP cluster members		Commenced January 2018 Complete
Action 3	Development and delivery of #hellodigital business engagement events at Sandbank Business Park		Events launched in September 2017 and scheduled to continue to March 2018 Complete
Action 4	Enabling activities for future phases of the European Marine Science Park		Revised Masterplan Dec 2017. HIE & ABC working in partnership on road infrastructure improvements March 2020

Project	Leader	Members	Objectives	
Develop and launch a customised marketing and promotion offer for Argyll and Bute as a place to live, work and invest.	Julie Millar/Alan Gibson	ABC, Police Scotland, TSI, ACHA, NHS, DWP, Fire Scotland, Scottish Ambulance	<i>To provide information and structured pathway to manage enquiries from potential residents and investors. The offer should be relevant to 'remainders, returners and re-locators'.</i>	
	Activity		Comments	Milestones
Action 1	Agree key messages		Environment, outdoors and adventures, freedom and safety, breadth of opportunities, chance to make a difference	Complete
Action 2	Clarify policy of housing for key workers		ACHA to review policy	June 2018
Action 3	Create a library of images and videos that can be used by employers		30 second talking head videos to be published with individuals describing why Argyll is the right choice for them	Aug 2018
Action 4	Develop a database of content that can be accessed by employers to support their recruitment activities		To include images, video, key messaging, information on housing education, leisure, re-location services, business support and jobs. This should be available to both the public and private service	Dec 2018