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**Partner Update – Argyll and Bute Council**

**Oban Strategic Development Framework: strategic transport and land use planning for Oban's growth**

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**Summary**

- 1.1 Oban is a Main Town that is experiencing population growth and lies within an area with significant potential for economic growth (Tobermory – Dalmally Growth Corridor). However, there are a number of factors that have the potential to inhibit this growth such as availability of development land and traffic management issues. A strategic approach to transport and land use planning is needed to ensure we deliver Oban's full potential. A method to manage this is through a Strategic Development Framework. This would allow us to have a common vision for Oban, gather information from all the key stakeholders, develop a framework within which we can work to deliver joint aims and against which we can monitor progress.
- 1.2 A number of actions are currently being progressed by different sections of the Council and its partners in this area to achieve growth but these are not necessarily happening in as co-ordinated manner as possible. Therefore, the opportunity to capitalize on synergies may be missed. There is also a risk factor in that the aims of one project may have a negative impact on the delivery of another. It was seen that a more co-ordinated approach was required.
- 1.3 The Main Issues Report (MIR) is the first formal consultation in the Local Development Plan 2 process. This made a proposal to prioritise development and implementation of an *Oban Strategic Development Framework*, which will consider the rationalisation of existing land uses, aim to deliver improved traffic management, and subsequently identify new development opportunities for housing and business.
- 1.4 The proposal gained strong support from the MIR consultation and also within the Council. [A Project Initiation Document](#) (under 14. Lorn Arc update) has been drawn up and agreed by the Argyll and Bute Policy and Resources Committee. It set out the scope, content, timeframe, resources, outputs and outcomes for the proposed Oban Strategic Development Framework. A Project Manager, (Kirsteen Macdonald) has been assigned with Economic Development leading the process. All partners will be undertaking strands of work that could feed into and inform the OSDF, for example the recent Oban Infrastructure Scoping Workshop.

## **Points for Consideration**

2.1 The Community Planning Partnership involvement in the development and delivery of this project will be important given the aims of the OSDF, which are to:-

- Establish a collaborative way forward to ensure the potential for sustainable economic and population growth, as identified in the Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan, is maximised and the potential for conflict between projects is minimized;
- Promote delivery through an action plan identifying actions, resources, partners and timeframe;
- Act as a catalyst for additional private sector led investment
- Ensure the strategic integration of projects such as the emerging Rural Deal;
- Support funding bids with a clear strategy and identified priorities.
- Provide a vehicle for joint working both internally and with our external partners such as Transport Scotland and HIE. The Community Planning Partnership would provide a useful forum.
- Perform the role of a pilot for long term vision and strategies for other towns and settlements.

## **Partnership Action**

3.1 Partnership support is sought in the preparation and delivery of the Oban Strategic Development Framework, in particular:-

- Advising the Project Manager of any studies or information that could inform the development of the OSDF
- Engaging in the OSDF process.

## **For further information please contact:**

Sybil Johnson

Senior Planning and Strategies Officer

Development Policy,

Planning and Regulatory Services

Argyll and Bute Council

**e-mail address: [Sybil.Johnson@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Sybil.Johnson@argyll-bute.gov.uk)**