

26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

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POLICY LEADS REPORT

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report provides members with an update on key areas of activity for each Policy Lead Councillor. This aims to provide updates from all Policy Leads at each council meeting so that all members are informed, up-to-date and able to engage with current issues. The last update was provided to the council at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019; this report covers the period from that date until 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Please note that 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 consider 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 Capital Regeneration from June to September 2019.
- 3.2 **Financial Services:** Our newly re-designated Head of Financial Services inherited additional responsibilities following the summer restructure. However financial monitoring, treasury management, capital planning and revenue forecasting remain the mainstay of the portfolio.

Reports were presented to the Policy and Resources Committee in August that indicate that the HSCP's finances remain a critical element of the council's overall forecast outturn. In simple terms, the HSCP's social work

overspend becomes the council overspend. Although the social work budget has improved between Q1 and August, there is still a significant £1.9million overspend forecast, which the HSCP is trying to address through a financial recovery plan. Our own Section 95 officer will need to pay particular attention to the deliverability, confidence and risk inherent within the HSCP financial plans and the impact that may have on the council's finances and strategy.

### **3.3 Capital Regeneration:**

Helensburgh Waterfront Development: The project's development has been proceeding on the basis of the key milestones approved by members in June 2018 with the approval of the Stage 3 End Stage Report. We had launched the procurement exercise for the main works contract in February this year, with tenders due for return in July and contract award forecast for this month. However, in June, an inadvertent technical breach occurred in a communication that we received in respect of the Invitation to Tender. Advice was sought both internally and externally and indicated that continuing with procurement would expose the council to a significant level of risk that could not be mitigated. On 2nd July the decision was taken to formally abandon the procurement and restart again. The Contract Notice was published on OJEU on 27th July. We will work through the remainder of the key procurement and tender steps. Key dates are:

- Invitation to Tender Stage (ITT) tender documents issued to shortlisted suppliers 28th October 2019
- Deadline for ITT submissions 20th December 2019
- Conduct technical and commercial evaluation of submissions January and February 2020.
- Paper to March 2020 Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee (scheduled meeting) then to Policy and Resources Committee and council to consider Full Business Case and award contract.
- Contractors Mobilisation Period April 2020
- Site Works start May 2020

Rothesay Pavilion: This project is both complex and challenging due to the property location, design, age and unique characteristics of this Grade A listed building. This has involved alterations and more extensive repairs and improvements to some of the hidden structural elements of the building and the condition of the outer stone fabric.

The condition of the ceiling within the main auditorium, which contains asbestos materials, has required that we revise our planned scope of works, from a less intrusive localised repair proposal to a complete removal and re-instatement scenario. This means that we are now looking at an extended construction programme taking us through to the end of January 2020.

Along with the Chief Executive and the Head of Financial Services, I met with the new Chair of Rothesay Pavilion Charity (RPC), Janice Forsyth, and key officers in July to understand the charity's current financial position.

Subsequent to that meeting, council officers have worked very closely with them to assess and evaluate the latest iteration of the business model for the first five years of their operations. These discussions involve not only officers from the project delivery team, but also Strategic Finance and our partner organisation, Live Argyll, who have extensive experience and benchmark cost information for similar venues in Argyll and Bute.

Following an RPC Board meeting, they have subsequently written to the council to seek an advance on their first year's revenue grant (£150,000pa agreed for years 1-5), as consequence of the delayed construction, and for an additional revenue contribution for their first two years operation. That request is subject to a separate report for council's determination and is one that that will not only be considered on its own merits but also in light of the council's overall future financial challenges.

- 3.4 Depute Leader Update:** I continue to meet regularly with the Leader, the Chief Executive and other officers in terms of this role, covering a wide range of subjects. In addition to various council meetings, I am also a member of the HSCP's Integrated Joint Board and member of its Quality & Finance Board. Given the serious nature of the financial challenges facing it, the QFB now meet on a monthly basis.

#### **4. POLICY LEAD FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE – Councillor Kieron Green**

- 4.1 Recruitment:** The appointment of Caroline Cherry and Julie Lusk as Heads of Adult Services brings more experience to the Health and Social Care Partnership Senior Leadership Team at this time of challenge with demand for services and financial resources available, and I look forward to working with both of them over the coming years. I would also like to thank Jim Littlejohn and Donald Watt for stepping up to these positions on an interim basis over the summer.
- 4.2 Meetings:** I have attended meeting of the Clinical and Care Governance Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> June, Senior Members Officers Group on 25<sup>th</sup> June and Audit Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

The COSLA Health and Social Care Board on 2<sup>nd</sup> August was focused around a draft framework for community services and impacts of the upcoming spending review including the national Medium Term Financial Strategy, while at the Children and Young People Board on 9<sup>th</sup> August

children's hospices, mental health and school food regulations were amongst the items on the agenda.

To help address issues around IJB governance raised recently and aid formulation of improved structures a development session was held on 5<sup>th</sup> August. Then, at the regular IJB meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> August, an update was given on actions being taken by NHS Highland following the Sturrock Report. However this still hasn't included confirmation as to what precisely the suggested review for Argyll and Bute will entail, which it is recognised must reflect the integrated management structure present. Also discussed were the Children and Young People's Service Plan, finances, and the review of the integration scheme.

Work to create national structures to support IJB Chairs and Vice-Chairs is ongoing and the IJB Chairs and Vice Chairs Executive considered this on 21<sup>st</sup> August prior to a meeting between the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport and COSLA Health and Social Care Spokesperson with the Chair and myself as Vice-Chair on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

- 4.3 Adult Services:** On 26<sup>th</sup> August Crossreach announced their intention to close Invereck Care Home near Dunoon. Officers are having ongoing conversations with those affected which will continue over the coming months to assess needs and establish appropriate placement options to provide care for individuals.

Staff co-location continues across Argyll and Bute, with the Kintyre Community Team, including health, social care, administration and finance now located in Campbeltown Hospital. In Oban staff are planned to be moved from Willowview to various sites within the locality. One of these is some of the space currently used by the Lorn Resource Centre and Lynnside. Officers are working with users of these services, staff and relatives to find positive solutions to address concerns raised around this without hindering the co-location process.

Agency staff use is remaining high within the Oban, Lorn and Isles Locality, due to a significant number of vacancies in social workers and nurses at the Lorn and Islands Hospital. This is under review but recruitment continues to be actively underway for these posts, as well as a fourth consultant physician at the hospital. However a new substantive consultant psychiatrist took up post within the locality on 1<sup>st</sup> July, replacing locum consultants who had been in place for the previous two years.

Mull and Iona Medical Practice contract has been awarded to Lorn Medical Centre. The proposed date for the commencement of the contract is June 2020 - however the practice is working with the HSCP to progress this sooner if possible.

Kintyre Medical Group practice is out to advert currently as an independent practice. There have been notifications of interest which will progress to interview following the closing date.

Knapdale Ward within the Mid Argyll Community Hospital and Integrated Care Centre recently received a positive inspection from the Mental Welfare Commission. Although it remains closed to admissions, due to an inability to recruit registered mental health nurses, a number of delayed discharge service users are continuing to be looked after on the ward. A review of dementia services across the HSCP is progressing with an options appraisal being progressed, taking account of national guidance and best practice for care of patients with dementia.

As part of the Scottish Government Mental Health Strategy increased funding of £35m for 800 posts across Scotland has been made available. Within Argyll and Bute this 'Action 15' resource will support an urgent/crisis care model for all localities. Posts are currently being advertised and when filled will support GP practices, A&E departments and police custody suites.

- 4.4 Children and Families:** A Core and Cluster model has now been introduced in Helensburgh to better facilitate provision of continuing care, throughcare and aftercare. This has received significant support from ACHA, who have provided a new and well-appointed tenancy property. Subject to assessment there is the potential, where appropriate for individuals to move to the property, freeing up capacity within the fostering service and children's houses. This will be evaluated and, if successful, extended to cover Oban and later Dunoon.

As part of the management and staffing review for this year a proposed structure has been presented to the Staff Liaison Group. By learning from recent case reviews and the Joint Inspection a consolidated realigned management and professional leadership will support improving outcomes for children and young people.

Inspections of Adoption and Fostering Services were published on 13<sup>th</sup> June, with both services graded Very Good (5) for Care and Support and Good (4) for Management and Leadership. Following this, improvement plans are being prepared. Staffing was not assessed at this point but was graded Very Good (5) at the last inspection in 2017.

- 4.5 People and Change and HROD:** As part of the 'Culture Fit for the Future' actions developed by NHS Highland following the Sturrock Report, NHS Highland Chief Executive Listening Roadshow events have been organised to take place locally between 26th Sept and 2nd October, in which HSCP officers will be participating. Development sessions for NHS Highland senior management and board members on how to implement recommendations

are continuing, with attendance from Argyll and Bute including the Chief Officer and Vice-Chair of the IJB. It is expected that the rollout and embedding of the CIRCLE values and practices framework will help develop workplace culture within the HSCP. Officers are awaiting full details of how best to support implementation of remaining key actions pending the additional review to be commissioned for Argyll and Bute.

A workshop was held on 30th August to help shape the themes and content required for the second HSCP Workforce Plan (2019-22). This is due to be brought to the IJB for approval in November 2019.

The proposal to integrate the HSCP People and Change staff with the HROD team in the Council has been agreed by the Trade Unions/Staff Side. This will bring an alignment to people support services, whilst still operating within the boundaries of the two employers.

The shared service for Human Resources (HR) and Organisational Development (OD), hosted by Argyll and Bute Council was established on Monday 9th September. Lochgilphead based NHS staff had previously moved to being co-located with council colleagues, with the HSCP leads for HR and OD now reporting to the Head of Customer Support Services within the council.

The council's ICT service and NHS Highland eHealth team have worked closely to develop and implement the migration of patient/client records to the CareFirst system. This is allowing shared access to records and represents an important simplification of processes within the HSCP, leading to more efficient integrated service delivery.

- 4.6 Finance:** As of the end of July there was a forecast outturn for the current year of a £2.137m overspend - £1.932m in Social Care and £0.205m on Health. The IJB agreed a Financial Recovery Plan in August with the aim of a balanced end of year position, which included £700k of new savings as well as other measures. However, in part due to delays in delivering savings, the financial situation has not improved significantly and further savings will now be required to avoid an end of year overspend. These are planned to be put before the Quality and Finance Board and IJB during September for approval to changes in policy for the delivery of social care.

On top of this a number of financial risks could potentially increase further any overspend situation, the most significant of which continues to be the Service Level Agreement with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde where £2.5m is being disputed. In light of the adverse financial outlook it has been agreed that the Quality and Finance Board should now be held monthly to provide greater accountability and reassurance to IJB members, as well as Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland.

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

**5.1 Introduction:** Since my last report in June 2019 I have continued my Policy Lead meetings with officers on a regular basis. I have attended COSLA meetings and chaired meetings of the Financial Inclusion and Advice Group which was set up by the Council and taking over from the Welfare Rights Group. In July officers and I paid a visit to Dumfries and Galloway Council to see how they approach poverty issues and social inclusion. This council won a COSLA Gold Award for their work and it was immensely interesting to find out what they do and how they do it. We have taken back a number of ideas that we hope to implement.

**5.2 Community Planning:** The Community Planning Partnership met on the 26<sup>th</sup> June. Paul Devlin, Local Senior Officer, for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has now been appointed to the role of Chair with John Paterson, new Chief Superintendent for Police Scotland in Argyll and West Dunbartonshire, taking on the role of Vice Chair. The meeting welcomed new members including two Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP).

The consultation on “How Good is your Place?” will inform the next iteration of the statutory local community planning action plans (a requirement under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act). The consultation has been live since May and will run until the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. There have currently been 716 responses across all areas of Argyll and Bute. A detailed breakdown of the demographic responses so far was presented to the Area Community Planning Groups in August, with partners and community groups asked to play their part in encouraging responses.

There is a commitment to ensure that the responses are publicly available for communities to use for their own community-led action plans or projects.

**5.3 Community Development:** The team have trained officers in two other council services in use of the PPvoting equipment which supports real-time participative engagement. The equipment has been used both internally within the council and with communities over the summer.

The Community Development Team have delivered a number of face to face sessions as part of the “How Good is Your Place” consultation. This has included visiting groups in remote communities and on a number of islands across the council area. Action has been taken to coordinate activity with other ongoing consultations and placed based work which has included linking with Helensburgh Community Council’s engagement for their Community Led Action Plan, with Lismore Community Development Trust and with the Dunoon Alliance.

**5.4 Housing:** Positive progress is being made with the delivery of affordable housing in Argyll and Bute. We have an ambitious target of delivering over 150 affordable homes in 2019/20. 32 affordable homes were officially opened at Castle Wood in Helensburgh on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Work is currently underway on ten different sites across Argyll.

The Housing Minister Kevin Stewart attended the Dunbeg development on 23<sup>rd</sup> July to participate in a Place Making event and also to keep track on progress of the delivery of 300 affordable houses on the site.

The HEEPS:ABS budget for 2019/20 has been confirmed as £1,745,908 after a successful grant application to the Scottish Government. We have also been offered an additional £225,182 of HEEPS:ABS funding due to the level of grant approved work and the continual flow of new referrals to the scheme.

I continue to chair the Strategic Housing Forum which meets on a quarterly basis. Those meetings have a very full agenda which take up most of the day but are most productive and an excellent example of partnership working, producing positive outcomes.

Housing Services held their annual Housing Conference for staff in Whitegates at the end of August and I was, once again, delighted to attend. Main items discussed were the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, Housing beyond 2021 and the Local Housing Strategy Outcomes. I presented Bill Halliday with a Quaich as he retired that day after giving 31 years of dedicated service to the council.

**5.5 Culture, Heritage and Arts (CHArts):** I continue to represent the council at the CHArts meetings. Membership of the organisation continues to grow and as of 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019 there were 372 individuals and 71 organisations signed up to CHARTS.

The second CHARTS SCIO board meeting will take place in August including interviews for further board members and agreeing plans for the years following the end of the Creative Scotland and LEADER funded Place Partnership - the focus of work for almost two years.

The 'Wander Argyll' campaign is live, providing a culture, heritage and arts tourism offer along the long distance routes (National Cycle Route 75 from Dunoon to Portavadie, and National Cycle Route 78 from Tarbert to Appin with links to other routes in close proximity namely, The Cowal Way, Tainish Art Trail, The Kintyre Way and The Caledonian Way.

Highlights of the current campaign include features on Janice Forsyth BBC Scotland Radio Show, Scottish Field, print media, social media and printed cultural maps distributed across the area and available on line. <https://www.wildaboutargyll.co.uk/wander-argyll/>

For up to date information, elected members are encouraged to visit <https://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/>

**5.6 Gaelic:** The Council was successful in attaining three grants from Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Gaelic Language Implementation Fund (GLAIF).

£25,000 was awarded for 'Increasing the Use of Gaelic in Argyll and Bute' – supporting the recruitment of a temporary post to develop activities arising from the Gaelic Gathering and support the council's implementation of the Gaelic Language Plan.

'Supporting the Comunn na Gàidhlig Iomairtean Officers' was awarded £101,900 grant funding to support two officers based in Oban and on Mull for three years, complementing the other CnAG activities.

Finally, £6,000 was awarded to continue the employee Gaelic Language Classes being delivered by Skype from ICCI in Islay.

## **6. POLICY LEAD FOR EDUCATION – Councillor Yvonne McNeilly**

**6.1 Pupils have their say on school meals:** Encouragement is on the menu for pupils across Argyll and Bute, who will continue to have a say on their school meals.

By encouraging pupils to contribute, it helps them to feel valued and highlights the importance of having a healthy, balanced diet. Teaching staff, catering staff, NHS dieticians and parents also contribute.

We are also showing them that we respect their opinions. This in turn helps them to succeed in school because they feel respected and valued. By providing healthy teaching habits to our young people at an early age, it encourages them to continue to eat healthy throughout their lives.

By giving pupils an active role in choosing what foods are on the menu, it not only helps build their confidence but enables them to make their voices heard from a young age. We are committed to securing the best start for our children and young people, so it is vital they know the importance of making healthy choices and eating balanced, nutritious meals.

As we all know, our catering staff all do a tremendous job and I look forward to seeing what delicious meals on offer this session when I visit more of our schools.

**6.2 Education Annual Plan:** The council's Community Services Committee at their meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019, approved the Annual Education Plan which provides information on progress made by the Service in achieving set priorities. This plan sends an important message about the importance that Argyll and Bute Council places on the delivery of Education. The Education Vision and Strategy: *Our Children, Their Future*, contains six key objectives. These are our key drivers for raising educational attainment and achievement for all children and young people in Argyll and Bute.

**6.3 Argyll and Bute Exam Results:** In August, pupils across Argyll and Bute received their exam results. The performance of Argyll and Bute Schools in 2019 is above the current national performance in Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations in two of the four national measures; National 4 and National 5. Performance at Higher and Advanced Higher is below the national average.

There are many ways that our young people can make positive progress and access appropriate pathways into work, even if they did not receive the results they were hoping for - Schools continue to offer support and advice to pupils.

We work very closely with our partners at Skills Development Scotland and the Job Centre to promote enterprise and entrepreneurship, and to help our young people raise their ambitions so that they can develop and succeed. The council has also developed its own award-winning modern apprenticeship scheme.

In summary: -

- All 10 secondary schools maintained their 100% pass rate for National 4 outperforming the national average.
- Six of our secondary schools were above the national average with 5 outperforming the authority average for National 5.
- Three of our secondary schools outperformed both the national and authority average for Higher.
- Four of our secondary schools were above the national average with 6 outperforming the authority average for Advanced Higher. It should be noted that statistical variance at Advanced Higher level must be carefully interpreted. For example, 100% pass rate can be as a result of one subject presentation resulting in a pass.

The Education Service prepared an initial report for the Community Services Committee which took place on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019, and presented an initial analysis of the 2019 SQA examination results. A further report will be prepared for the Community Services Committee later in the

year once the Service have analysed and considered further statistical school and national information.

There is always room for improvement no matter what it is we do, and our pupils will continue to keep moving forward and open new doors. Pupils and teachers should be proud of their efforts and I would like to congratulate them all for their hard work. We are determined to do everything we can to ensure that our children and young people are given every opportunity to achieve success in their lives and to move onto positive destinations. Our young people go to school to enable them to build successful lives, and while qualification success may change from year to year, we can see from the recently published report on Annual Participation Measures, that young people leave Argyll and Bute's education service better equipped to build their lives than most other areas in Scotland.

**6.4 1140 Hours Childcare Progress:** Significant changes have taken place in schools and nurseries across Argyll and Bute over the summer holidays, as the council prepared to roll out 1140 hours fully funded childcare provision to more areas.

The expansion in childcare, from 600 hours to 1140 hours, is part of a Scottish Government initiative aimed at providing young people with a high quality experience that can make a significant contribution to their development, and help close the poverty related attainment gap.

To accommodate the increased hours, new early years rooms have been created at both Sandbank Primary near Dunoon, and Cardross Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) unit near Helensburgh. Pictures below of the new nursery in Helensburgh, which is in a refurbished area of the school and will be managed as part of the school. Nursery and school staff are working well together planning the early years curriculum. Thanks must go to our previous partner Cardross Playgroup, who made the difficult decision to close their service but are transferring their surplus to invest in a fabulous new outdoor area at the new nursery. The school and nursery community offer their heartfelt thanks.



Significant building work also took place to alter the existing ELC units at Carradale, Dalmally, Drumlembie, Tarbert, Tighnabruaich and St Joseph Primary Schools. Campbeltown Nursery Centre has opened an additional unit at Aqualibrium to ensure capacity to deliver 1140 hours – pictures below of the new refurbished Centre which our young people and staff are settling into.



Our Early Years staff have worked extremely hard to meet tight deadlines and ensure that quality provision is in place for our young people. They have worked tirelessly with their colleagues in catering, property services, environmental health and members of the Care Inspectorate, to make this happen. Staff have taken part in a range of outdoor learning training too. This is really important as 50% of learning within nurseries will be done outdoors by August 2020.

#### **6.5 Positive news from our schools:**

DUNOON PUPILS ENJOY 31<sup>ST</sup> GERMAN EXCHANGE - Thirty-five pupils returned to Dunoon Grammar School from a 10-day trip to Germany. Their trip was the 31st year of the Dunoon-Hardenberg exchange and marked the final German exchange for three staff from Dunoon Grammar - Mrs Clark, Miss McKillop and Mr Campbell.

During the trip, the Dunoon pupils were fully immersed in Bavarian life and culture, taking part in a diverse mix of rich learning experiences, including an outdoor education high ropes course; a visit to the largest museum of cultural history in Germany; a walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site on the banks of the Danube river; and arts and craft workshops.

VIP TOUR FOR COWAL PUPILS – A group of young people were treated to a VIP tour of Dunoon Primary School's new East Wing, after winning a

hard-fought competition. Primary seven pupils from schools across Cowal, recently attended Dunoon Grammar School for their induction into the secondary school.

As part of this, the children took part in a STEM showcase event (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). The event was organised by Council staff, in partnership with Morrison Construction and hubNorth Scotland, and saw pupils battling it out in teams to construct a variety of items using simple, everyday items. These included a bridge made out of straws and a chair made out of cardboard.

I had the privilege of attending what was a great event. Not only did it enable pupils to have a real hands on experience of the construction industry, it showed them how STEM subjects are an important part of our everyday lives.

Science is all around us; technology is continuing to expand rapidly; engineering is in the design of our roads network and our bridges; and maths is in almost every activity we do. By working in teams with industry professionals, the children have not only had fun, they have learned the importance of STEM subjects, they have considered each other's ideas, and have learned to problem solve as part of a team.

This really was a great session and congratulations are due to all involved.

## **7. POLICY LEAD FOR PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES – Councillor David Kinniburgh**

- 7.1 Planning:** Our Planning Performance Framework (PPF) document for 2018/19, which is the principal performance measure for Development Management and Development Policy within Planning and Regulatory Services, was submitted to the Scottish Government in July 2019.

The document once again reports on outcomes that demonstrate that our Planning Services are 'open for business' by supporting economic growth and delivering high quality development outcomes on the ground, it also demonstrates that there are sustainable management and service delivery structures in place.

We now await feedback from the Scottish Government on this year's document and this will be reported to the PPSL Committee when it has been received.

- 7.2 Reform of Planning Legislation:** Stage 3 of the Parliamentary debate on the Planning Scotland Bill was completed by the Scottish Government ahead of the summer recess and the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 was passed in the Parliament on 20th June 2019 thereafter receiving Royal Assent on 25th July 2019.

The Chief Planner for the Scottish Government has stated that much of the act will require regulations before it can be implemented and at the time of writing this report it is understood that a timetable is being prepared by the Scottish Government that will be presented in September to achieve this although the Chief Planner has stated that this could take two years.

Officers are currently reviewing the Act to identify where changes will have direct implications for the Council and Members will be kept updated through PPSL training sessions or update papers.

The Act as enacted can be viewed using the following link:  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2019/13/section/1/enacted>

- 7.3 Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2):** Although the timeline for the delivery of LDP2 is showing some slippage from the Development Plan Scheme which tracks the delivery of LDP2 the proposed LDP2 will be presented to this meeting of the Council for approval. If approved it will then become the 'settled view' of the council and will then be subject to an eight-week consultation period commencing in October where interested parties will be able to participate as described in the report before us today.

- 7.4 Conservation Area Appraisals:** In my last report I advised that reports in relation to Conservation Area Appraisals were being prepared for the August meeting of the PPSL Committee however due prioritisation of work preparing LDP2 these reports have been delayed and at the time of writing it is anticipated that the reports will be considered by the Committee in September or October.

Our Conservation Area Officer has continued to carry out work for the National Park on a temporary basis one day a week assisting with commercialisation within the service.

- 7.5 Building Standards:** Commercialisation work within Building Standards providing verifier services and processing Building Warrant applications for other local authorities continues and in view of this the service remains on budget for this financial year.

The service has been approached once again by East Lothian Council requesting assistance as well as being approached for the first time by East and West Dunbartonshire Councils looking for assistance as well as continuing to provide services to Inverclyde and Falkirk Councils. It does however remain a finely balanced operation ensuring their own stakeholders are not disadvantaged.

Building Standards' performance on vetting Building Warrant applications continues to remain well above their charter promise and their customer satisfaction rating remains constant at 100%.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1** This report provides members with an update on each of the Policy Lead portfolios. Policy Lead Councillors will be happy to discuss any particular issues with colleagues as required.

**Argyll and Bute Council – Policy Lead Councillors Report – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**For further information please contact Aileen McNicol, Leadership Support and Member Services Manager, telephone 01546 604014 or email [aileen.mcnicol@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:aileen.mcnicol@argyll-bute.gov.uk)**