

ARGYLL AND BUTE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY REGENERATION: STATEMENT OF READINESS JUNE 2004

INTEGRATION OF ARGYLL AND BUTE SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP WITH ARGYLL AND BUTE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP.

Introduction

The Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and the Argyll and Bute Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) have prepared this Statement of Readiness in response to the guidance published by Communities Scotland for integration of Social Inclusion Partnerships with the Community Planning framework.

The two partnerships created a Community Regeneration Implementation Group to merge strategic priorities and structures. They view this as a clear commitment to close the opportunity gap for deprived communities and to integrate Social Inclusion Partnership structures and resources into the community planning framework.

The Community Planning Partnership is an effective and efficient Partnership. 22 Partners work together through 3 theme groups to tackle priorities identified through the partnership's Citizen's Panel. The three theme groups are:

- Theme 1: Promoting health and wellbeing
- Theme 2: Improving opportunities for learning, employment and skills development
- Theme 3: Sustaining our communities, culture and environment

This partnership framework has informed the Social Inclusion Partnership's work. The Social Inclusion Partnership has identified similar priorities through various needs analysis exercises in each of its five areas.

The Community Planning Partnership reviewed its structure, role and purpose in 2003 following changes arising from the Local Government Scotland Act and the 'Closing the Gap' statement. The Implementation Group was a key contributor to this process. Specifically, the partnership looked at a new structure to enhance community engagement and bring regeneration to the centre of its work.

The Community Planning Partnership's third theme group will develop a Community Regeneration Strategy because tackling disadvantage is an important facet of sustainable communities. This group will also have a major role in the monitoring of Regeneration Outcome Agreements agreed by partners.

The independent evaluation of the Social Inclusion Partnership highlights the commitment of funds and support in-kind by partners to tackle disadvantage through the Community Planning Partnership. The Social Inclusion Partnership structure is unusual with five small areas spread throughout Argyll and Bute:

Social Inclusion Partnership Area	Population
Dalintober (including Millknowe) in Campbeltown	1229
Ardenslate (including the Glebe and West Milton) in Dunoon	1830
Kirkmichael (including Craigendoran) in Helensburgh	1390
Soroba in Oban	914
Ballochgoy on Bute	471

The evaluation noted that these areas have the common problems of social exclusion – e.g. poor health, limited educational attainment and environmental problems. They also have additional problems specific to rural areas – e.g. distance from good job opportunities, poor public transport options and a lack of affordable housing close to job opportunities.

The evaluation highlighted that the Social Inclusion Partnership objectives have been redefined over time and are now consistent with the objectives of the Community Plan. There is also clear evidence that the Social Inclusion Partnership has provided good value for money with positive outcomes for individuals and a high leverage on project activity (78%).

The Community Planning Partnership is committed to work with all communities throughout Argyll and Bute and to facilitate regeneration of communities in need.

1. Strategic Approach – Focus on Disadvantage

The Implementation Group commissioned the Scottish Centre for Research on Social Justice to undertake a quantitative and qualitative study of poverty and disadvantage to improve the quality of information available for Argyll and Bute. The study was based on the Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). The study produced an authoritative account of deprivation and social exclusion that will inform internal decision making processes and assist in securing resources.

Argyll and Bute is not highly deprived compared to other local authority areas, but there are still significant numbers of people in deprivation (approx 11,400 income deprived and 12,200 employment deprived). The extent of disadvantage and deprivation in Argyll and Bute is illustrated below:

- Argyll & Bute is 15th on the National Deprivation Index, although there are no wards in the worst 10% in Scotland.
- 3 wards are in the worst 15% - they are located in Bute and Cowal, one of which, Ardenslate, is ranked as more deprived than Parkhead, Glasgow.
- Whilst the most deprived wards have much higher rates of deprivation, deprived individuals are found in all wards.
- Significantly, Argyll and Bute has the second highest access deprivation in Scotland. This access deprivation compounds rural poverty and there is insufficient attention paid to this in terms of resource allocation because of the low SIMD weighting (10%).
- Argyll and Bute has high levels of low paid and seasonal employment. This reinforces previous indications that rural deprivation has a lower profile than in urban areas because this pattern of employment can hide poverty and again is not sufficiently acknowledged in the SIMD.
- The current unemployment rate is 2.9% for Argyll and Bute, but ranges from 3.8% to 5.6% in the key wards in the Social Inclusion Partnership areas.
- There are an estimated 15,600 workless households in Argyll and Bute.
- Approximately 11% of pupils in Argyll and Bute receive free school meals, but this rises to 37% in the Social Inclusion Partnership areas.

The deprivation study highlighted that 66% of all deprivation within Argyll and Bute exists within 5 of the major towns: Campbeltown, Dunoon, Rothesay, Oban and Helensburgh. However, there are areas of deprivation within each town that are not included within current Social Inclusion Partnership boundaries. The Community Planning Partnership decided in early 2004 to extend the boundaries to include other key areas of deprivation in the interest of equity and social justice.

- The Campbeltown area of Dalintober/Millknowe will extend to include other key areas of Campbeltown that are deprived.
- The Helensburgh area of Kirkmichael/Craigendoran will extend to include Rosneath and Garelochhead areas.
- The Dunoon area of Ardenslate, West Milton and the Glebe will extend to include other key output areas in central Dunoon.
- The Bute area of Ballochgoy will extend to cover other key areas of deprivation in Bute.
- The Oban area of Soroba will extend to tackle other key areas of deprivation in Oban.

2. Partnership Investment in Tackling Disadvantage

Each of the 5 Social Inclusion Partnership areas has an Area Development Group (ADG). These are the focus for coordinating partnership working to tackle deprivation. The Community Planning Partnership decided in March 2004 that the Area Development Groups will become the main partnership mechanism for tackling deprivation across the wider deprived areas identified by the deprivation study.

The Area Development Groups' business planning process in 2003 identified four key priorities for these communities that would also make the current Social Inclusion Partnership work more sustainable. They were:

- Health and wellbeing
- Employability
- Infrastructure and environment
- Community capacity building

The Area Development Groups regrouped these into three areas that are key priorities across the five Social Inclusion Partnership areas. The groupings are:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Employment and Lifelong Learning
- Infrastructure of Communities and the Environment

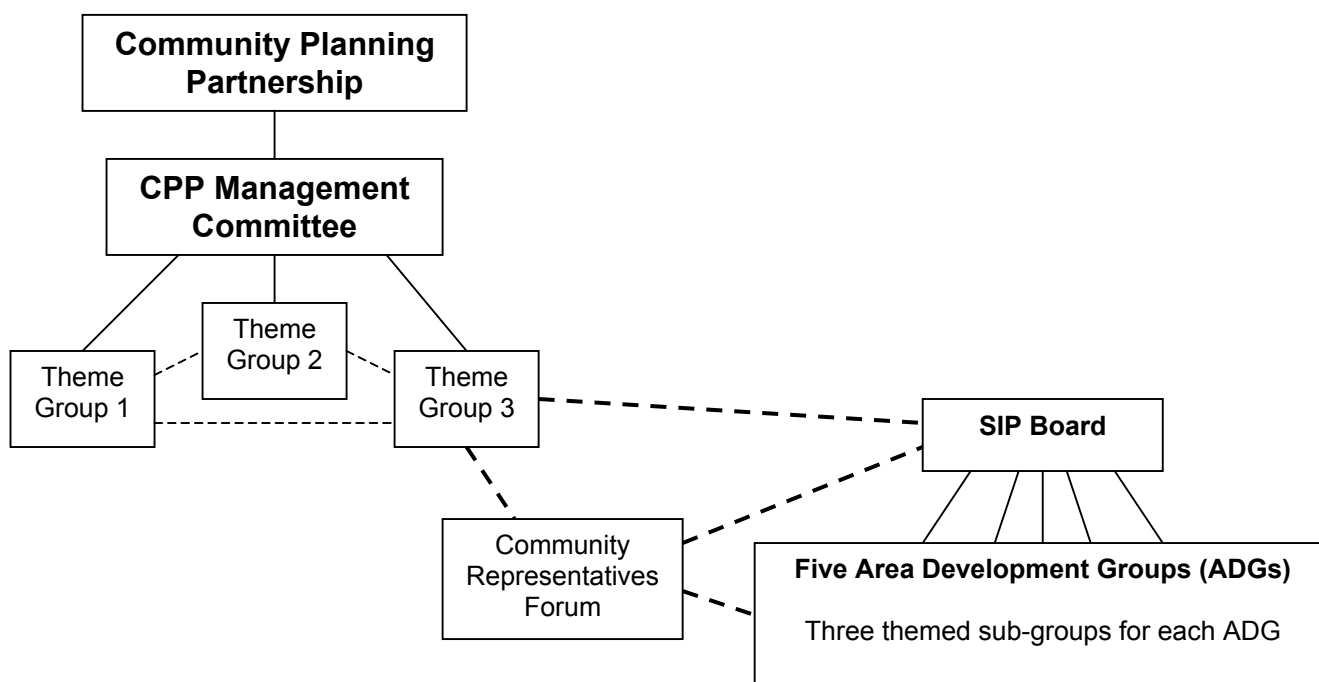
The three groups mirror the Community Planning Partnership priorities. The Area Development Groups have changed their structure to address these priorities. Each Area Development Group now has three sub-groups organised on a thematic base. The sub-groups will set the Regeneration Outcome Agreements for deprived communities and these will be monitored by the Area Development Group and the Community Planning Partnership (via the Community Planning Partnership's third theme group).

The evaluation highlighted the significant input from voluntary organisations and community representatives. The evaluation also commented on the good balance between central and local structures together with improved partnership working.

The evaluation report summarised the financial commitment from partners as:

- In-kind funding from partners in 2002/03 was worth over £250,000 to the Social Inclusion Partnership.
- Additional, identifiable, cash expenditure by Social Inclusion Partnership partners in Social Inclusion Partnership areas amounted to over £300,000, over and above the Social Inclusion Partnership 'sown funding.
- The Kirkmichael/ Craighendran Area Development Group has secured European funding of almost £250,000 for social economy development activity in the area.

The structure for integrating the Social Inclusion Partnership into the overall Community Planning Partnership is illustrated below:



The Area Development Groups will produce the Regeneration Outcome Agreements for each area by March 2005. These will reflect local and Community Planning Partnership priorities.

Consultation is already taking place with the newly identified output areas for the extended Social Inclusion Partnership areas. These will be included in the Regeneration Outcome Agreements. The business planning priorities have been identified through baseline analysis and consultation. They will form part of each Regeneration Outcome Agreement and will enable the Community Planning Partnership to evaluate overall progress. The Regeneration Outcome Agreements will meet Social Justice targets.

3. Effective Community Engagement

The Community Planning Partnership's original structure did not address Community Regeneration and was poorly equipped to engage effectively with communities at the local level. The Partnership has adopted a new structure to localise community planning and widen community involvement by aiming for 50% community representation at each level of the new structure.

Community engagement is a real strength of the Social Inclusion Partnership. A key reason is that the Partnership has been underpinned by the Community Learning and Development Strategy from the outset. This will continue as the Social Inclusion Partnership moves into the wider community planning context.

The Community Planning Partnership wants to integrate and build on the real progress that has been made with community engagement in the current Social Inclusion Partnership areas. The Community Representatives Forum will continue within the new community planning structure, with enhanced links to key groups.

Social Inclusion Partnership

Each Area Development Group currently sends two community representatives to the Social Inclusion Partnership Board. This strategic board comprises 50% community representatives and 50% agencies.

Community Representatives Forum,

This forum is an independently constituted organisation that has attracted separate funding. The Community Representatives Forum will continue to exist under the Community Planning Partnership third theme group banner. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Representatives Forum will be members of the third theme group. The Community Planning Partnership believes this as an effective way to link the Community Planning Partnership, Social Inclusion Partnership and engage with the communities in the Area Development Group areas.

Transitional Pilot

The Community Planning Partnership is currently planning a pilot to localise community planning within Argyll and Bute. This will test the effectiveness of a local area based structure to deliver a comprehensive range of partner services to local communities. The pilot will comprise a two-tier structure:

- A number of neighbourhood (level 1) community forums. These forums will be a major focus for encouraging communities to articulate their needs. Two Area Development Groups lie within the pilot area.
- Community needs and aspirations will feed into an area (level 2) structure. Representatives from the community and public agencies will translate local proposals into a realistic and comprehensive area strategy supported by appropriate investment plans and outcome agreements.

Capacity building and developmental support to the two Levels within the transitional structure are crucial. The precise nature of this support has still to be confirmed, but is likely to be provided by the following organisations:

Cowal and Bute – Community Planning Partnership Pilot

Level 2 Coordination by Argyll & Bute Council (via the Area Corporate Services Manager)					
Level 1 Area	East and West Cowal		Dunoon	Bute	Children and Young Person Group
	(Area outside the National Park)	(National Park Area)			
Coordination and Support	Argyll CVS	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park	The local Area Development Group	The local Area Development Group	Community Regeneration and Dialogue Youth

The implementation of the pilot is a developmental process for all partners involved. The Community Planning Partnership recognises the importance of establishing effective information sharing and reporting mechanisms.

Funding has already been obtained from Communities Scotland for one part-time worker to support one of the level one groups (via Argyll CVS). The pilot will run over a two-year period. If successful, the structure will be introduced in the remaining areas of Argyll and Bute.

Community Learning and Development

The community capacity building and engagement of Social Inclusion Partnership projects has always been delivered in partnership with Community Learning. This process has worked well and will continue when the Social Inclusion Partnership is integrated into the Community Planning Partnership. The revised Community Learning Strategy will highlight how community capacity building underpins effective community engagement through the Area Development Groups. The strategy will address the following:

- Implementation of priorities for adult learning and for young people identified through the Regeneration Outcome Agreements.
- Implementation of priorities for adult learning and for young people identified through the Social Inclusion Partnership Business Plans.
- Building community capacity to implement the Community Planning Pilot in Cowal and Bute
- Building community capacity to support the extension of the Social Inclusion Partnership Areas and the Regeneration Outcome Agreements.
- Consideration of geographical targeting in light of the deprivation study commissioned by the Community Planning Partnership.

Social Economy and the Voluntary Sector

A new Voluntary Sector policy is being developed by a joint working group of council officers and Voluntary sector representatives. This will reinforce the sector's role within the Community Planning process in Argyll and Bute. The Community Planning Partnership is committed to support and raise the profile of the social economy.

Argyll and Bute has the second highest level of volunteering in Scotland. A recent study by Argyll CVS estimated that this sector contributed £28 million to the economy of Argyll and Bute, creating 600 jobs. Much of this work is targeted at disadvantage.

Housing and Neighbourhoods

Tenants and owners representatives play an important role in improving their environment and encouraging agencies to improve or expand service delivery within the existing Social Inclusion Partnership areas.

The Social Inclusion Partnership evaluation found that neighbourhood satisfaction rose from 68% in 2001 to 79% in 2003 and the proportion of people afraid to go out at night reduced from 36% to 30%. Community representatives are bringing the concerns of their communities to the Area Development Groups for action across Argyll and Bute.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Community Planning Partnership Management Committee monitors and evaluates the strategic objectives of the Community Planning Partnership. Future monitoring of the Social Inclusion Partnership areas will be based on the Regeneration Outcome Agreements and business plans for the Area Development Group areas. The Community Planning Partnership's third theme group will monitor the Social Inclusion Partnership process as part of its remit for sustaining communities. The other Community Planning Partnership theme groups or Management Committee will be involved in the process as needs demand.

At a local level Area Development Groups will have a responsibility for monitoring Regeneration Outcome Agreements on a 3-monthly basis and feed this into the appropriate strategic theme group who will then report to the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee.

Financial Management

The Community Planning Partnership recognises the vital importance of robust financial management and monitoring arrangements. Argyll and Bute Council has provided the role of grant recipient on behalf of SIPs. In doing so the Council has ensured that systems are in place at both programme and project levels to provide appropriate safeguards of Governance arrangements and use of public funds. Consequently, we have in place:

- Annual SIP budget and project financial estimates
- Four-weekly budget monitoring
- Quarterly reviews of project funding
- Quarterly grant claims
- Annual reports and monitoring statements

These systems are capable of being adapted as necessary to maintain an efficient and effective stewardship of SIP funds on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership.

Outcome Agreements

The SIPs are currently developing their local Regeneration Outcome Agreements, which will feed into the overarching Regeneration Outcome Agreement. Communities are involved in developing these through the ADGs and the Community Representative Fora to ensure the targets and outcomes mirror the needs of the community.

Baseline information is in place in the SIP areas as a result of regular local surveys and Citizen Panel surveys conducted by the Community Planning Partnership. This information is an important component of future monitoring of progress towards agreed targets.

The full Community Planning Partnership will monitor Regeneration Outcome Agreements annually as part of its normal review and planning processes.

Conclusion

The Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership has been working towards the integration of the Social Inclusion Partnership since the publication of the 'Closing the Gap' Statement. Significant progress has been made to:

- Clarify and target areas of deprivation that require resource allocation
- Broaden current Social Inclusion Partnership structures to secure additional partnership involvement
- Expand and continue good community engagement using the Community Learning and Development Strategy to underpin this process
- Develop a new Pilot structure to localise community planning and secure effective community engagement across Argyll and Bute
- Set up mechanisms and structures to monitor and evaluate Regeneration Outcome Agreements

Having completed this work the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership is in a strong position to take forward the integration of the Social Inclusion Partnership by March 2005.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Community Planning Partners

The Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership was launched on 2 April 2001 and includes the following organisations:

- Argyll and Bute Council
- Argyll and the Islands Enterprise
- Argyll CVS
- Association of Community Councils
- Bute Community Links
- Caledonian MacBrayne
- Careers Scotland
- Communities Scotland
- Jobcentre Plus
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Housing Associations
- Islay and Jura CVS
- Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park
- Ministry of Defence
- NHS Argyll & Clyde
- Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Water
- Strathclyde Fire Brigade
- Strathclyde Police
- Tourist Board

Community Regeneration Implementation Group

The Community Regeneration Implementation Group was set up to develop a new Community Planning framework to facilitate integration of the Social Inclusion Partnership and deliver the principles behind the Scottish Executive's Regeneration Statement and Local Government in Scotland Act.

The Community Regeneration Implementation Group comprises the following organisations/ representatives:

- Argyll & Bute Council
- Argyll & the Islands Enterprise
- NHS Argyll & Clyde
- Argyll CVS
- Communities Scotland
- Social Inclusion Partnership
- Community Learning Partnership
- Dialogue Youth/Young Scot
- Community Representatives

Progress to date includes the organisation of the Community Planning Review Day, the development of an outline Community Planning Partnership structure and the commissioning of research to develop a Deprivation Index for Argyll and Bute.

Citizens' Panel

The Partnership has a duty to promote greater public consultation and involvement in the decision-making processes of the various public agencies and, to this end, established a Citizens' Panel of 1000 local people in 2001.

Details of Questionnaires Issued

No.	Date Issued	Topic	Response Rate
1	June 2001	Satisfaction with public services in Argyll and Bute, what issues are important for Argyll and Bute and also what the Community Planning Partnership's priorities for action should be	69%
2	October 2001	Road maintenance, road safety and transport related issues	66%
3	June 2002	Environmental issues, waste management, renewable energy and Community Councils	68%
4	October 2002	Education, training and skills development, Library services and Council services	63%
5	January 2003	Improved Access to public services	63%
6	May 2003	Health related issues	68%
7	February 2004	Revisited 1 st questionnaire and also included a section on the draft Local Housing Strategy and Community Safety issues	68%