

Item 10, Policy and Resources Committee – Addressing Our Population Challenges – Motion:

Following further clarification from HIE following the publication of this report it has been made apparent that there is a need to identify repopulation zones across Argyll and Bute to enable further research to be undertaken on the underlying causes of population decline. It is the intention that these zones will work alongside, but separately to the pan Argyll and Bute themed approach on Housing as noted within the report.

- a) Agree that a pilot project is taken forward based on taking a thematic approach to addressing our population challenges with a focus on addressing our overall housing needs across Argyll and Bute. This pilot project will be resourced with a settlement officer post for a period of year jointly funded by HIE and Argyll and Bute Council from existing resources identified within the Development and Economic Growth Service.
- b) Agree to advise COHI that the population zones identified for Argyll and Bute are:
 - Rosneath Peninsula (Helensburgh and Lomond)
 - Kintyre (Tarbert to Southend) (Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands)
 - Tiree and Coll –(Oban, Lorn and the Isles)
 - Bute (Bute and Cowal)
- c) Note that these population zones have been identified for research purposes looking at a full range of factors affecting population levels. No additional funding has been identified as yet by the Scottish Government in relation to these zones but their identification will allow the council to continue to take an active part in developing this area of work working alongside the Western Isles, Highland and North Ayrshire Council who have also identified zones within their own respective Local Authority areas.
- d) Highlight to COHI the urgent population issues across all of Argyll and Bute and not just in the population zones identified and look for more to be done at pace.