
Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

Bute & Cowal Area Community Planning Group



1 February 2022

Community Planning Partnership Management Committee Update

This briefing relates to the meeting of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee which was held on 8 December 2021. The briefing is for noting and relevant discussion.

Summary

The CPP Management Committee met on the 8th December 2021 with the meeting being held virtually given the current restrictions in place and in line with the Council's current approach.

This update provides an overview of the discussion which took place.

Reports which were discussed at the meeting can be found here [Browse meetings - Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership - Management Committee - Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

Highlights

Matters Arising from Area Community Planning Groups

- An update was provided on the discussions which had taken place at all 4 Area Community Planning Groups which had been held in November 2021. The meetings had been well attended and there had been a variety of interesting presentations given.
- The Management Committee noted the current situation in regard to office bearer positions with a number of vacancies. The Chair encouraged partners to get involved in the ACPGs possibly with a view to taking on one of the positions.
- It was also agreed that officers would work towards creating a short video which can be shared which would highlight the benefits of taking on an office bearer position.
- There was some discussion around future arrangements for ACPGs with it being noted that the council is currently undertaking a review of Political Management Arrangements which may involve looking at the ACPG and the possibilities for future operation.

Cross Cutting Themes

Climate Change

Stan advised that the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) had met twice since the last Management Committee and held a wider Short Life Working Group to develop a climate change strategy and plans to get to net zero in Argyll and Bute. There is now a vision for the “what” for adaptation, mitigation and engagement plans, focus now turns to how to write the plans and strategies. They are working with external practitioners to look at best way to do that and the required fundraising. Alison McGrory and Becky Hothersall are leading on developing an initial engagement plan to inform and engage on the journey we are taking to meet net zero to the wider Argyll and Bute population.

Community Wealth Building

Takki Sulaiman from the TSI gave a presentation on Community Wealth Building and work being taken forward on behalf of the CPP. Community Wealth Building looks at how the concentration of wealth away from individuals to corporations creates inequality. The aim is that wealth should be generated and kept locally. The pillars of Community Wealth Building cut across a number of existing strategies and the team are looking at policy planning and mapping to pull together information on how existing strategies can be adapted or amended to take advantage of, and identify where we are already delivering aspects of Community Wealth Building.

Child Poverty

The Child Poverty Working Group (CPWG) has met and discussed the roll out of free school meals for P5 taking effect from January (so P1 to P5 will be entitled to a free lunch). It was noted that a project officer is now in place for the work around period products and ensuring that communities are being engaged around how we meet the requirements on that Act, extending the support from schools to communities. It was noted that it is everyone’s responsibility to deal with poverty issues and fuel poverty was highlighted as a significant concern. The CPWG will be taking the poverty agenda forward with support from partners.

Financial Inclusion

Fergus Walker provided an update on some of the work being undertaken by his team in regards to financial inclusion. This includes the Flexible Food Fund which is operated in conjunction with AliEnergy and the Community Food Forum and has recently been highly commended for the work being carried out.

Fergus also advised on the project to provide school clothing banks across Argyll and Bute. It is proposed to have banks in Rothesay, Islay and Dunoon which will be set up by June 2022 in time for the new school term. It is thereafter proposed to introduce a scheme in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area later in 2022.

Digital

Iain Macinnes was in attendance and provided a very detailed and informative presentation on the existing and planned connectivity of fibre digital infrastructure across Argyll and Bute. It was noted that the Scottish Government has committed to providing full fibre access to 100% of properties which will be delivered using a variety of means.

Building Back Better (Communities)

Rona Gold updated on the work of the Building Back Better (Communities) group with it being noted that recruitment for the Building Back Better worker has been completed and that another post has been agreed which will oversee and lead on work to support community groups, lead on Test and Protect, support volunteers, transport and vaccination support.

2022 and working towards a revision of the Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan (ABOIP)

The existing ABOIP runs until 2023, it was noted that this would be the first refresh of the plan in 10 years. Plans for the refresh were outlined with the next year being used to look at ideas for the new plan which will be followed by engagement with communities on the outcomes. The ABOIP is the overarching plan of shared priorities for the area and should align with the Council's Corporate Plan which will be refreshed following the elections in May to reflect the new Council's priorities. A further update will be brought to the Management Committee meeting in March.

Outcome 6

(a) Rural Crime and Community Planning

Police Scotland have instigated a renewed look at a partnership approach to rural crime. Rural crime has an impact on our communities and the need to keep communities informed was highlighted. It is important to get information from communities when there is incidence of rural crime, particularly when it involves those who are not from the local area. It was noted that there had been some recent

arrests of a number of offenders, who had travelled a considerable distance into a community to commit crime at 3am.

Outcome 1 – Recruitment and Retention SLWG update

Anthony Standing provided a detailed presentation which highlighted the complex issues being looked at by the Short Life Working Group (SLWG) across this cross cutting theme on investment in recruitment, population size and retention of staff. The SLWG contains representatives from Highland and Islands Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council, NHS Highland and Police Scotland. The group have looked at what is currently being done on this at a National, Highlands and Islands and Argyll and Bute area level to identify priority gaps and challenges. Multiple factors affect this including demographic trends, Brexit, unprecedented change to labour market from AI and automation etc. transition to net zero, nature of available work and Covid. There are labour market shortages in Hospitality and Tourism, food and drink, road haulage, construction and “Other” (Health social care digital economy).

In Argyll and Bute from 2021 - 2024 there is expected be approximately 3900 job opportunities with 44% of those requiring higher/degree level qualifications. It was noted that housing remains a key issue in attracting people to the area.

AOCB

(a) Newly elected Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Argyll and Bute

It was noted that Chloe Meikle - Helensburgh and Lomond Youth Forum, Ryan Macintyre - Dunoon Grammar School and Baileigh McIntyre - Rothesay Academy have been elected to the Scottish Youth Parliament and would be invited as formal members of the CPP Management Committee at the March 2022 meeting.

For further information, please contact:

Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council (01436) 657605
Shona.barton@argyll-bute.gov.uk