
Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group

19 April 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 16th March 2022. The briefing is for noting and relevant discussion.

Summary

The CPP Management Committee met on the 16th March 2022 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 February 2022. The meetings had been well attended with a variety of interesting presentations given.
- The Management Committee noted the current situation in regard to office bearer positions, noting that David Moore (SFRS) had been appointed as Chair of the Helensburgh Lomond Group with Sephton MacQuire (Dunbritton Housing Association) appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Group. The Chair encouraged all partners to promote the remaining positions (Bute and Cowal and MAKI Vice-Chair positions) within their respective organisations.
- The Chair paid tribute to Willie Lynch who had resigned from his position on the Bute and Cowal Group. He thanked Willie on behalf of the CPP for his dedication and support during the past 7 years.

Introduction to New Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs)

The Chair introduced Chloe Meikle from Helensburgh & Lomond Youth Forum, Ryan MacIntyre from Dunoon Grammar and Baileigh McIntyre from Rothesay Academy to the Management Committee as the new Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament representing Argyll and Bute. Each of the MSYPs provided some information on their own interests and passions with it being noted that all three will be involved with the various Parliamentary Committees. It was agreed that the MSYPs would be invited to future meetings of the Area Community Planning Groups with August being the first meeting due to the upcoming examinations.

Cross Cutting Themes

Climate Change

The Chair of the Climate Change Working Group, Stan Philips provided the Committee with an update and referred to the recently published [Intergovernmental Report on Climate Change](#) which noted the need to go much further and faster on measures to mitigate climate change. The Group is working with a number of groups to see what is happening in other council areas. The Working Group have identified that it would be beneficial to engage a project officer to work up plans for adaptation, mitigation and engagement in relation to climate change and Stan highlighted the need for funding from across the CPP. It was agreed that all partners would work to identify possible funding sources which could assist in resourcing this post. It was noted that climate change affects everyone with a couple of recent examples of the impact being the issues on the Rest and be Thankful and a road washout on Bute. Partners were encouraged to look at the existing examples of work and good practice which can be found on the [CPP Climate Change website](#).

Child Poverty

Fiona Davies provided the Committee with an update on the work of the Child Poverty Working Group and advised that they now have a part time project assistant who will concentrate on data and engagement. Updates were also provided on The Argyll and Bute Flexible Food Fund, Poverty Awareness Training, Money Matters Training and Leaflet and the activity around the implementation of school clothing banks across the Council.

Financial Inclusion

Lorna Byrne provided some information around the Scottish Welfare Fund with it being noted that applications were still at high levels. It was noted that AliEnergy have supported 927 households in the most recent period to the end of January 2022 with a total client gain of £1.15m.

Community Wealth Building

Takki Sulaiman from the TSI gave a brief update and explained the aim of Community Wealth Building is to make local financial power work for localities, keeping the wealth generated locally in the area. Work is ongoing in relation to the next steps in relation to this, with discussions around how the Building Back Better post can help in providing baseline data to support this.

Digital

Nicola Hackett and Iain MacInnes provided an update on the work of the Digital Communities Group which includes representatives from Live Argyll, the Community Development Team, the Education Service, Health Improvement Team, HSCP, Argyll College, University of Highlands and Islands and the 3rd Sector. Draft Terms of Reference had been developed and would be shared with the CPP once approved. The main focus of the Group is to look at are accessibility to digital devices, supporting learners in communities to utilise devices effectively and work around digital infrastructure.

Information was also provided on some of the projects which are ongoing to provide internet access in rural areas with programmes such as the UK Gigahub programme being highlighted. The reuse of digital devices was also discussed with it being noted that there were some projects which would repurpose devices for distribution to those in need.

Building Back Better (Communities)

Rona Gold updated on the work of the Building Back Better (Communities) Group with it being noted that the Building Back Better worker would commence in post in April 2022 (2 days a week for 18 months). The new post will look at creating guidance for community groups, build on community contacts and engage with and support communities.

Laura Evans (Police Scotland) provided information on the Scam and Fraud Prevention Project with it being noted that instances of fraud had increased dramatically during the Pandemic. It was noted that the CPP had supported funding to purchase 150 call blocking devices with 129 of these already installed for vulnerable residents,

Outcome 1

Argyll and Bute Employability Partnership

Ishabel Bremner provided an update on the progress with the Argyll and Bute Employability Partnership (ABEP) noting that work is ongoing and that the delivery plan will come to the next meeting of the Management Committee. Delegation for endorsement on the plan was given to allow for the timescales to be met. The delivery plan includes aspects such as interventions from the Scottish Government such as the Young Persons Guarantee and recruitment incentives.

Recruitment and Retention Working Group update

Morag Goodfellow advised that the group had not met since December 2021, however they have commenced a project to look at mapping existing activities around recruitment and sharing best practice which will hopefully be reported to the Management Committee in June. The Settlement Project Support Officer (funded by HIE) is in post and will start work on 4th April 2022 as part of the Council's Economic Growth Team.

Strategic Transportation Projects Review 2 (STPR 2)

Fergus Murray provided an update on this project which will determine transport investment decisions in Scotland for the next 20 years. Specific targets for STPR2 for Argyll and Bute at the moment include a fixed link to Mull from Oban and the Rest and Be Thankful upgrade. Fergus noted that there were a number of issues which had been highlighted to the Government through the consultation response, which included:-

- (i) How the rural economy provides a great deal to the national economy via tourism, capital value, whisky, aquaculture etc. STPR focuses on population size rather than economic value;
- (ii) How Argyll and Bute connects to the central belt which could accelerate population drift to urban areas;
- (iii) Adaptations for climate change impacts;
- (iv) The impact of car reduction in rural communities when that is often the only option available; and
- (v) How Local Authorities can deliver on the STPR agenda without government support.

Outcome 4

Corporate Parenting Board

David Gibson provided an update on the Corporate Parenting Board, noting that the current Chair Councillor Mary-Jean Devon was standing down. He recognised the service of Councillor Devon and thanked her for her contributions and wished her well for the future. It was noted that a new Chair would need to be identified by May 2022 with it being agreed that the Children's Strategic Group would look at the appointment of a replacement Chair and would report back to the Management Committee once confirmed.

AOCB

(a) Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme

Rona Gold noted that Dunoon has been selected as one of four case study areas for the [Shaping Places for Wellbeing](#). The case study will trial an approach over the next 3 years linking with Improvement Service in Scotland and Public Health Scotland. Most of the reporting from the steering group will go to ACPGs locally and will look at how to reduce health inequalities in Dunoon.

(b) Ukraine

Kevin Champion asked what is being done from a strategic perspective on providing refuge for those fleeing Ukraine. It was noted that this was a fast moving and emerging situation but that the Council was liaising with the Scottish Government and CoSLA on how this can be supported. Morag Brown, who led on the Syrian and Afghan Refugee relocations is working towards updating information on the Council website and collating offers of accommodation.

For further information, please contact:

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