



ECONOMIC GROWTH

KEY AREAS OF DELIVERY

2022/2023

Economic Growth Team comprises of an Economic Growth Manager who has oversight over four teams as follows:

Opportunities and Investment

UK and External Policy

Business Gateway

Employability

OPPORTUNITIES AND INVESTMENT

RURAL TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

£1,225,000 of funding supported **6** projects across Argyll & Bute

OPPORTUNITIES & INVESTMENT PROJECTS



Glenmorag Project

£100k

Food & Drink Strategy

£30k

Island Skills Fund

£50k



STAYCATION INTERVENTIONS

£600K
of funding supported
over **30**
staycation projects

Helped manage
the **9%** rise
motorcaravan use

6 seasonal waste
disposal tanks
supported

Secret Glen, Buessan, Mull,
Holy Loch, Tiree, FLS

Funding secured for
10 motor caravan
overnight parking
sites

77,220
litres of waste disposed
of correctly by
118,800
users in 2022

SETTLEMENT PROJECT



Understanding

- 20 community interviews.
- 4 community engagement visits.
- 350 resident responses.



Promoting



- Updated ABC myjobscotland.
- Recorded a graduate podcast.
- Supported the reorganisation of employability page.
- Actively promote #abplace2b

Supporting



- 1 resettlement flyer developed.
- 4 key community contact lists completed.
- Collaboration with settlement officers in Uist and Highland to support active relocation.

Encouraging

10 Resettlement Case Studies developed from those who have made the move to Argyll and Bute.



UK AND EXTERNAL POLICY

COMPLETION OF THE EUROPEAN MARITIME AND FISHERIES FUND

£985,184

of funding supported

6 projects across
Argyll & Bute

- Feasibility of Seaweed Farming
- Ulva Pier Improvement (Preparation for capital works)
- Commercial Fuel Berth Tobermory
- Ulva Pier Improvements
- Aird Fada Seaweed Farm
- Clyde Fisherman's Association Project Enabler - Fishing Communities



European Maritime
& Fisheries Fund



The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Argyll
&
Ayrshire



Fisheries Local Action Group

COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (CLLD)

Funding of **£697,143**
was distributed by the UK and External Policy team
to **18** projects approved by the
Argyll and the Islands CLLD Local Action Group

UK COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND

CO-ORDINATION OF BIDS & FINANCIAL MONITORING

- Curriculum development for STEM Hubs project
- Driving Economic Growth through a Bounce Back Curriculum for Argyll and Bute
- Feasibility MACC Hydrogen Futures viability study of seaweed farming
- Optimising carbon sequestration for community wealth building
- Recovery and regeneration of Tarbert
- The Dunoon Project Stage Two
- The Seaweed Academy
- West Coast UAV Innovation Logistics and Training Hub

£1,990,597 of funding supported **8** projects across Argyll & Bute

ARGYLL AND BUTE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND INVESTMENT PLAN, 2022-25

Communities and Place £1,154,012

Supporting Local Businesses £1,150,153

People and Skills £1,365,139

Multiply Adult numeracy projects £ 229,892

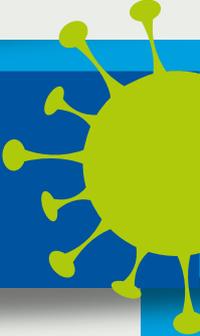


BUSINESS GATEWAY

SUPPORTING NEW & GROWING BUSINESSES

- 425** enquiries received locally from Argyll and Bute businesses
- 645** meetings with a business adviser
- 277** existing businesses supported
- 118** new start-up businesses supported

COVID RECOVERY SUPPORT



Business Gateway administered 2 grants under the Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery fund from Scottish Government

- 74** Small Business Development Grants awarded worth **£354k** in total
- 44** Business Start Up Grants awarded worth **£148k** in total

DIGITALBOOST

power up your business

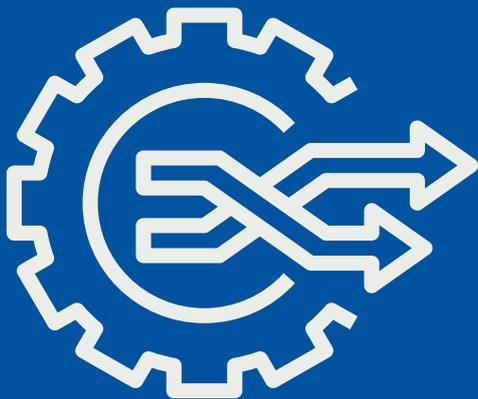
364 Argyll and Bute businesses attended webinars to boost their digital skills

77 1 hr digital surgeries with a digital expert

17 in depth digital support sessions with a digital expert (1 to 2 days)

£33k of support leveraged for Argyll and Bute businesses from Digital Scotland

INTENSIVE GROWTH PROGRAMME



Argyll and Bute Business Growth Programme

Make the Change

In 22/23 Business Gateway piloted an intensive online growth programme, designed specifically to help business owners deliver a step change in their approach and achieve growth.

It combined a range of tools and expert support with individual and group activities, tailored to create a practical & deliverable approach to driving growth.

13 businesses took part in the 12 week programme.

LOCAL GROWTH ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME



£855k programme of additional business support designed and administered by Business Gateway, leveraging in **£524k** of European Regional Development Fund money.

In 22/23 we awarded **£111k** across **33** grants and **£20k** for **17** specialist advice sessions to Argyll and Bute businesses for growth or recovery support.

£851k has been awarded in total, across **192** grants and **66** in-depth specialist advice sessions

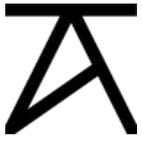
Monitoring of the **119** unique recipients followed up so far shows a positive impact with:

- ▶ an increase of **145** FTEs (+40%)
- ▶ and **£11.1m** turnover (+53%)

THE PROGRAMME CLOSES IN 2023

"We would never have been able to achieve what we've done without the support of our adviser, the Business Gateway team and the Local Growth Accelerator Programme."

Fynewood Ltd



Aosdàna

Based on the Isle of Iona, Aosdàna designs and manufactures contemporary jewellery with a Celtic influence.

Business owner, Mhairi Killin, founded Aosdàna in 2003, and regularly collaborates with a range of external designers, creatives, and institutes on a variety of projects which often involve new techniques and innovations.

Having operated successfully for almost two decades, most of Aosdàna's sales were generated from its gallery on the island, where some of the jewellery ranges are also designed and made. However, like many other small businesses, pandemic closures and subsequent travel restrictions meant the main source of income for Mhairi dwindled.

During this time, however, Mhairi, together with award-winning jewellery designer Maeve Gillies, won an Innovate UK award to develop a range of jewellery based on the heritage of original Iona silversmiths, the Ritchies. The Ritchies were a husband and wife team who founded the tradition of crafting Celtic jewellery and silversmithing on the island.

Mhairi approached Business Gateway for support and guidance on how to reach a wider audience and generate global sales for the new range, the Kist o' Ritchies. She received 1:1 support from a dedicated business adviser, as well as advice on funding, a strategic review of her business, and signposting to a wider network.

"Support from Business Gateway has been so beneficial. Not only has their assistance helped me re-evaluate my business strategy, but it has also allowed me to invest in strong product photography for my website, which will help me greatly when launching into international markets later this year. I can't thank Business Gateway enough for their ongoing support."

The Kist o' Ritchies collection utilises the latest manufacturing technology to navigate the lack of metalworking skills on the island. Featuring 3D scanning, CAD and 3D printed prototyping to help preserve the key historical designs from the 19th and 20th centuries. The modern jewellery range will launch in Spring 2023 and is expected to attract international markets including the USA and Canada.



EMPLOYABILITY

During 2022/23 a total of 289 vulnerable individuals have been supported by the council and strategic partners into employment across Argyll and Bute.

The following outcomes are those achieved by the Council's Employability Team in 2022/23.

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

25+ EMPLOYER RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE (ERI)

- 8** participants supported
- 7** continue to be supported and
- 1** leaver has moved into work with another employer

6
employers
accessed
the funding

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

ARGYLL AND BUTE EMPLOYER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING INCENTIVE (ABERTI)

11
employers
accessed
the funding

- 11** participants in subsidised employment, with
- 10** retained in permanent contracts by employer post funding

YOUNG PERSON'S GUARANTEE

EMPLOYER RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE

52 participants commenced subsidised employment

- 10** early leavers
 - 1** in an apprenticeship with another employer
 - 1** returned to school
 - 8** whereabouts unknown

44
employers
accessed
the funding

PARENTAL EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT FUND (PESF)

18 parents commenced support
(15 unemployed/3 low income employed)

- 3** have ceased support due to health issues/moving from area.
- 3** have increased their household income
- 1** is in full time education
- 10** are currently undertaking training
- 1** has entered employment

During 2022/23 the Employability Team introduced a Parental Transition Fund to help cover transition to work costs. This was aimed at parents receiving support through the PESF who successfully secure employment.

83 participants commenced support

26 moved into work and in work support delivered

26 exited the service early

31 are continuing to receive pre-work support

"I am learning every day and now getting the chance to use the skills I have learnt from college and helping experienced trades people. I also have a few quid to be able to go out and socialise with my friends which I couldn't really afford to do before"

YOUNG PERSON'S GUARANTEE

EMPLOYER RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE

"My family and I have received a lot of support since coming to Scotland. I received a bike and a laptop which has helped me work more hours and I am able to study in my free time. I hope to start up my own business in the future. The continued support I receive from my PESF worker is very much appreciated"

PARENTAL EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT FUND

"I'm extremely grateful for the support provided by ABERTI, this gave my employer the incentive to appoint me as an adult apprentice particularly given the additional costs associated due to my age"

ARGYLL AND BUTE EMPLOYER RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE

ECONOMIC GROWTH MANAGER UPDATE

RURAL SKILLS ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME (RSAP)

Led by the Economic Growth Manager, where good progress has been made during 2022/23 to develop outline business cases for the overarching RSAP and its component parts:



STEM Hub



Business Skills

UHI Argyll built environment in Dunoon



with **£807k** of match funding, mainly from external sources, taking forward the creation of a Dunoon Community STEM Hub.

COUNCIL'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY REFRESH

This commenced in the latter part of 2022/23 to be project managed by the Economic Growth Manager, with key alignment to the work underway to revise the Argyll and Bute CPP Local Outcome Improvement Plan.