
**Demonstration Project – Harnessing the Potential of the Third Sector to
Help Achieve Council Objectives**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates the CPP on the Demonstration Project which was established to look at strengthening support to the Third Sector in Argyll & Bute.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Note the situation and monitor progress of the Demonstration Project.
- 2.2 Note the initial consultation carried out with the Third Sector.
- 2.3 Consider the timescales and how the CPP Management Committee can influence the final report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Big Lottery Fund joined with partners from Argyll & Bute Community Planning Partnership to take forward a Demonstration Project aimed at building on existing and developing new practice to strengthen work with the third sector. Argyll & Bute Council is taking the lead in the project; Council Leader, Dick Walsh, chairs the Board overseeing the plans. The demonstration project has a short life, but there are short-term and long-term objectives and actions. The end product will be a report with recommendations on the way forward for developing existing good practice, as well as creating new procedures to increase the potential of the third sector in its work with the Council and other Community Planning partners.
- 3.2 The project is looking at four key areas:
Funding – ensuring that funding streams are appropriate and considering issues such as the impact of local community action plans and the removal of ring-fencing.
Assets - improving community sustainability through the Third Sector's ability to acquire assets;
Procurement – removing barriers and identifying training to enable

third sector bodies to successfully bid for contracts.

Social Enterprises – putting procedures in place to ensure existing and new social enterprises have access to training and information to allow them to develop and grow.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Initial means of consultation with the Third Sector were identified as follows:

a) focus groups; b) press release; and c) website survey

4.2 The timescale available gave time for only one focus group, which was the Third Sector Steering Group. Useful feedback was received on each of the four themes, and on the project as a whole.

4.3 The press release generated a number of telephone enquiries, which highlighted the need to use several different methods in order to reach a wider audience.

4.4 Details of the project is available on two third sector websites www.argyllcommunities.com and www.absen.com. A survey sheet and questionnaire was posted on the sites and all third sector organisations were invited to complete the questionnaire which could be returned electronically or by post to the CPP mail address. The timescale was short and very few returns have been received.

4.5 The results of this initial consultation will influence the final report, and will form the basis of future and wider consultation to determine how the long-term aims of the project can be addressed.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The final draft Demonstration Project Report will be presented for approval at the CPP Full Partnership meeting on 28 November. It is hoped that the CPP Management Committee will have an opportunity to make comment on an earlier draft of the report.

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