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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

COMMUNITY PLANNING  
PARTNERSHIP  
20 MAY 2009

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## **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ARGYLL AND BUTE SOCIAL ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP**

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### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This paper gives an update on the work of the Social Economy Partnership.

### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Community Planning Partnership is asked to note the contents of the report.

### **3. Detail**

- 3.1 The Social Economy Partnership which was led by Communities Scotland is now led by the Council. It is made up of key partners such as HIE, NHS Highland and a number of representatives of the social enterprise sector.
- 3.2 The purpose of the partnership is to promote the growth of the social enterprise sector.
- 3.3 A package of funding was negotiated in the Summer of 2008 to support activity until September 2009.
- 3.4 The purpose of the funding was to implement the Action Plan of the Partnership which had eight main objectives:
- \* Promote procurement opportunities
  - \* Strengthen links to key national agencies and with local stakeholders
  - \* Make strategic links with the Community Planning Partnership
  - \* Consolidate the work of the Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network
  - \* Improve the dissemination of information within the social enterprise sector in Argyll and Bute
  - \* Build the capacity of the sector through training and development opportunities
  - \* Raise the profile of social enterprise within Argyll and Bute by organising a range of promotional events
  - \* Commission research to identify new opportunities and also provide opportunities for skills development within the sector

3.5 The funding package was as follows:

LEADER	-	£42,250
Argyll & Bute Council	-	£ 9,060
Highlands & Islands Enterprise	-	£ 9,050
Scottish Government	-	<u>£23,000</u>
		£83,360

- 3.6 This is an interim funding arrangement. The Scottish Government wishes to see the creation of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Interface bringing together Councils for Voluntary Service, Volunteer Centres and Social Economy Partnerships. This process is currently underway and longer term funding arrangements will become clearer when the interface is established.
- 3.7 In the interim a Service Level Agreement has been established with the Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network to the value of £25,500. This will provide stable funding for the network for this year, which in return will, organise a number of profile raising events, provide a regular newsletter to member organisations, set up and support a federal structure for the network, create a social enterprise data base which will allow for accurate measurement of current activity, support requirements and growth. A website will be created and the target will be to achieve 10% growth in membership of the network annually.
- 3.8 Other aspects of the Action Plan were put out to competitive tender. The value of the tender was £33,600. This was won by the Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network and was mainly to do with delivering training and development opportunities to meet the objective of building the capacity of the sector and events and activities aimed at raising the profile of the sector.
- 3.9 The balance of the funding was retained by the Social Economy Partnership to provide expenses for attendance at events and also bursaries to allow organisations to attend key social enterprise events.
- 3.10 This extensive programme of work is now underway. Negotiations have also begun on a funding package for the next year of activity from September 2009. That is also likely to be a short term arrangement due to the development of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Interface mentioned above. Once that is established future funding arrangements should be more stable.

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