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## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATE**

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### **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** The Community Engagement Strategy provides CPP partners with a strategic approach to engaging communities of place and interest, in Argyll and Bute.
- 1.2** As the Council has restructured and Community Learning and Regeneration has undergone changes as a result of the Best Value Review the Action Plan for delivering on the Community Engagement Strategy has been reviewed and updated.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** It is recommended that:
- The LACPG notes the contents of this report.
  - The LACPG acknowledges the progress made in delivering the Community Engagement Strategy.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1** The Community Engagement Strategy provides a framework to support communities to participate in shaping the services they use, and so contribute to better service provision and improved quality of life. It moves consultation to involvement. The objectives which flow from this include -:
- Developing systems and processes which allow communities to engage
  - Creating and communicating opportunities to engage
  - Maintaining structures and information to support engagement
  - Providing appropriate support to local people involved in the process
  - Establishing systems to review the quality of outcomes from engagement
- 3.2** The Community Engagement Strategy was agreed and adopted by CPP in May 2009.

**3.3** Community Engagement is the responsibility of all partners at both Thematic and Local Community Planning levels.

#### **4. UPDATE**

##### **4.1 CPP-CE01 Community Planning structures and mechanisms are strengthened**

Thematic and Local Area Community Planning Groups have been established. Core partners and local representatives participate at the appropriate level.

##### **CPP-CE02 Communities are involved at a local level**

Community consultation events have been held in all four administrative areas. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector represented through Third Sector Partnership representative and links to local 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Forums. Further events are being planned for late autumn to be followed by an Argyll and Bute wide event in November.

Community Development Workers will support community engagement activities at Local Area Community Planning Groups. Two are already in post and two more will be joining the team in early August.

As part of our involvement with the Scottish Governments' Better Community Engagement Project we are developing a learning programme to support and improve practice. The aim of the project is to build the capacity of practitioners, develop effective learning models and provide a firm evidence base for future development.

##### **CPP-CE03 Individuals and groups have the capacity to engage in Community Planning**

The CPP has established an Equality and Diversity sub-group which will review and develop, where appropriate, mechanisms for the engagement of specific equalities groups. Local Area Community Planning Groups also have a responsibility to engage hard to reach groups. Accessible resources are available through the Council and Argyll Communities websites.

Joint training opportunities are being developed and materials are being developed in partnership with the Better Community Engagement Project.

Support for community groups is available through Third Sector Partnership and local Community Development workers linked to Local Area Community Planning Groups.

##### **CPP-CE04 Experience, knowledge, skills, resources and funding is coordinated**

Community engagement activities are being mapped, recorded and evaluated. Consultation toolkits including guidance are available and we are in the process of developing a CPP consultation diary. Through the Demonstration Project (Harnessing the Potential of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector to Deliver Council Priorities) recommendations have been taken forward to coordinate funding and skills training. We continue to recognise value and celebrate volunteering through the annual Volunteer awards.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1** The CPP, at all levels, continues to be committed to engaging and involving communities and enabling communities to influence the decisions that are made.

For further information contact:

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