

8th September 2010

**RATIONALISATION OF ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL AND THIRD
SECTOR MEETINGS - UPDATE**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report updates the CPP management committee to the proposed rationalising of certain meetings between the Council and Third Sector. This rationalisation aims to bring together similar items of business on a regular basis to allow for pre-emptive discussions on items of interest to both Third Sector, Council and CPP partners, and to minimise officers and individuals time commitment and resource expenditure.

It fits with the agreed findings and recommendations of the *Harnessing the Potential of the Third Sector to Help Achieve Council Objectives Demonstration Project* (Demonstration Project) to bring together Council work with the Third Sector.

It also fits with the Council's commitment to improvement and is a stated objective of the Council's Public Sector Improvement Framework.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the management committee note progress made.
- 2.2** That the management committee agree to the Funding Hub being absorbed into the proposed structure.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1** There have been a raft of changes in the political arena. This has led to new developments within the Council's work with the Third Sector and subsequently affected the following partnerships or groupings;

- Argyll and Bute Social Economy Partnership (ABSEP)
- Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership Funding Hub (Funding Hub)
- Demonstration Project

3.2 ABSEP

At the ABSEP meeting of 17th August 2010 the membership agreed that there no longer needed to be a separate social enterprise partnership. The ABSEP was funded directly by Scottish Government but funds are now managed by the Argyll and Bute Third Sector Partnership by the Third Sector Interface. The role of the ABSEP was to provide an overall strategy for developing social enterprises and to allocate and monitor funding for these

activities. There remains a need to ensure that the benefits of having both those who procure services and those whom deliver them, being able to learn and develop together. This role will be taken up the proposed new structure.

3.3 Funding Hub

Some of the activities of the Funding Hub are being taken forward by other agencies such as;

- The Third Sector Partnership which co-ordinates support and advice across the Third Sector support agencies
- The recent ABSEN Dragon's Den which brings together funders and support agencies
- ABSEN area network meetings where shared training and learning takes place.

There still remains a need for shared learning between agencies involved in both capacity building and funding but it is proposed that this need can be met by the proposed new structure.

3.4 Demonstration Project

The Demonstration Project has completed its first phase of work and the Council has begun implementing the action plan. This work will be monitored within the Council through the performance management framework.

Integral to the successful implementation of the Demonstration Project action plan is a better way of working between agencies regarding the Third Sector agenda.

3.5 Fairer Argyll and Bute Partnership (The Partnership)

The Partnership focuses on addressing poverty, deprivation and health inequalities. It is being reviewed and is considering its future. As part of this some elements of its remit may fall under the proposed new structure.

3.6 Given the changing remit of the groups as described above, and to make better use of resources, it is proposed that one meeting day should be adopted. A programme of meetings should be set for each year in order to plan resources and to enable a proactive discussion.

3.7 This report is to inform CPP partners of the progress made and when the new structure is agreed we will report back to the management committee.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 There is some overlap between the membership and remits of the groups described and these warrant a programme of joint meeting days. In setting these up we must ensure that the scope and remit of the group fits with desired outcomes and has clear lines of accountability and reporting. These developments fit with PSIF requirements and the outcomes of the Demonstration Project.

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