
**Title: Update Report on Bute and Cowal Local Community Planning
Group**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report summarises progress which the Bute and Cowal Local Community Planning Group has made in progressing the development of an action plan and the effective scrutiny of delivery of outcomes.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Management Committee note the progress which the Bute and Cowal Local Community Planning Group has made in developing the group as an effective partnership group which is focussed on delivering agreed outcomes for the Bute and Cowal area.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** Previous reports to the Management Committee have noted that the Bute and Cowal LACPG has established a regular meeting cycle, and that meetings are being attended by most core partners, and by Community Councils and community groups. Most core partners are now attending on a regular basis, and the Third Sector Partnership is effectively represented at the group.
- 3.2** Outcomes from the first Community Seminar held in March have been progressed, and incorporated where possible into the Area Community Plan, which was adopted by the group at their meeting on 13th May 2010. Where issues have not been able to be built into the plan these will remain on the agenda for the next seminar, in order that participants can be offered explanation for their omission.
- 3.3** A Performance Scorecard is now being developed to enable effective scrutiny of progress in delivery of outcomes to be undertaken by the LACPG. Reporting on progress will take place at all future meetings of the LACPG, and will be made to future Community Seminars. The draft Scorecard currently comprises outcomes from the agreed Area Community Plan, and at the

meeting of the group held on 26th August consideration was given as to which Key Performance Indicators should be incorporated into the developing scorecard, with partners around the table agreeing to consider this for further discussion at the next meeting. It is therefore anticipated that the Scorecard will be significantly developed over the next few meeting cycles.

- 3.4** At the August meeting a draft Partnership Agreement for the group was considered, which outlines key aims and responsibilities for partners; after discussion of this item it was agreed that comment would be fed back to the Community Planning Manager for inclusion in the draft document, and that the finalised Agreement would be submitted to the November meeting for adoption.
- 3.5** The group also considered items relating to their role in progressing effective community engagement within Bute and Cowal, and agreed to adopt the suggested Consultation Diary as one method of taking forward this work.
- 3.7** A number of informative presentations were made to the group, including the partnership project being taken forward at Benmore Gardens, and the consultation which is currently taking place on Adult Learning Disability Services. The group noted these items with interest, and agreed that the Local Community Planning Group is a key mechanism for consultation and engagement on such topics.
- 3.8** The group considered a report outlining the potential for young people to be more involved in local community planning, and agreed that this work should be progressed. Bute and Cowal Local Community Planning Group will therefore pilot a process for young people to entirely plan, lead and facilitate one of its meetings, which will be the meeting scheduled to take place in January 2012. The Council's Youth Services Manager will be the lead officer in this, and the process will be evaluated with a view to having such a meeting on an annual basis, and in each of the LACPG areas.
- 3.9** A significant part of the meeting held on 26th August was devoted to a presentation and consultation on the Council's current financial position and how the budget deficit can be dealt with. Input from the Council's Strategic Management Team progressed into a facilitated workshop in which partners were asked to identify key services in the budget which could be reduced, and those which must be protected or indeed enhanced. The workshop outcomes will be fed back into the Council's budget setting process. This item generated a large amount of interest and opinion, and the general

feeling was that while it was very worthwhile, not enough time had been available for the amount of discussion required. As a result, the group have agreed that a large part of the forthcoming Community Seminar, due to be held in Rothesay on Saturday 23rd October 2010, should be dedicated to consideration of the Council's budget situation. This item will be progressed as part of the work of the partnership group which is planning the seminar, and will be replicated across all LACPG's as they take forward their seminar plans.

The group also noted information proved by core partners in terms of budget difficulties within partner organisations, and noted that similar processes are likely to be taken forward by key partners over the coming months.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** The Bute and Cowal Local Community Planning Group have made good progress in establishing membership of the group, and agreeing an Area Action Plan. The performance Scorecard for the group is at an early stage of development, but will progress over the next few meeting cycles. The group are progressing their key community engagement role, and look forward to piloting different community engagement methods over the coming months. The second Community Seminar will take place on 23rd October 2010, and will include feedback from the previous event, consideration of the agreed plan and Scorecard, and will provide an effective engagement method for consideration of the Council's budget situation.

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