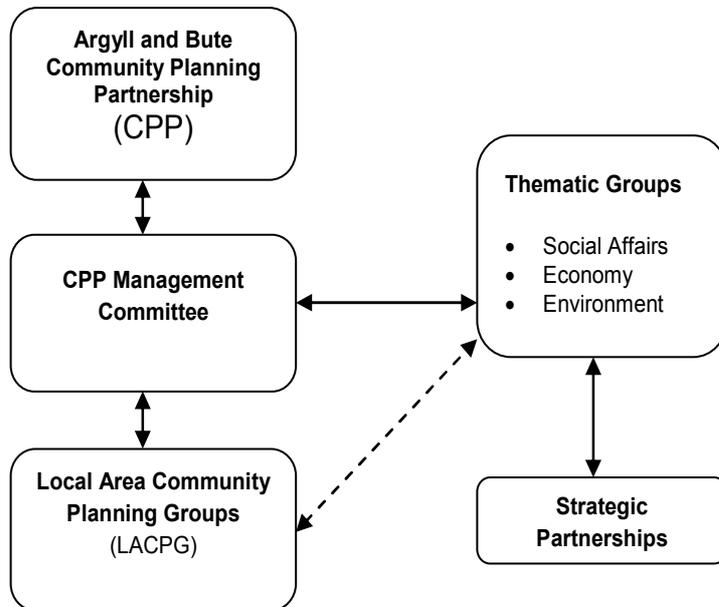




INTRODUCTION



In Argyll and Bute the **Community Planning Partnership** has developed strategic and local structures that enable it to monitor the delivery and effectiveness of the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and to enable communities to influence the decisions that are made by the partnership.

CPP Thematic Groups monitor the delivery of the Community Plan and SOA under three themes; **Social Affairs, Economy and Environment**. Each of these

Thematic Groups has an associated scorecard enabling partners to see progress made against agreed actions, address problems and mitigate risk.

Within the Argyll and Bute CPP area there are 4 **Local Area Community Planning Groups (LACPGs)**. LACPGs are made up of local representatives of Community Planning Partners and local communities. These groups are responsible for developing and maintaining Local Community Plans within Community Plan outcomes and supporting effective collaboration between community based organisations. These plans have associated performance scorecards that enable partners to see progress being made against agreed priorities in the local area. LACPGs are also responsible for giving effect to the Community Engagement Strategy at a local level.

The 3rd Sector is represented at CPP by the Third Sector Partnership through the **Third Sector Interface**. Through the Interface the Third Sector Partnership is responsible for building the third sector relationship with community planning. The TSP is represented at local and thematic levels.

Through the use of **Highlight and Exception** reporting **Strategic Partnerships**, are able to inform Thematic Groups of progress being made in achieving agreed outcomes that link to the Community Plan and SOA and also to address any arising issues or challenges.

Partnership Agreements are now in place at all levels of the CPP Framework.

OUR GOALS

Our community plan is committed to focusing on:

- Town centre and waterfront regeneration (CHORD)
- Improvement to the strategic transport network
- Vulnerable areas and South Kintyre in particular
- Modernising social and healthcare services
- Reducing alcohol and drugs related disorder and crime

CPP ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

The Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership agreed an action plan to coordinate the delivery of services and other activities in Argyll and Bute to improve the quality of life and physical environment for residents and visitors to the area. The purpose of the CPP Thematic Groups is to coordinate the activities of the Partnership to ensure that the action plan agreed by the Partnership is delivered.

Economy

The ambition of the Economy TG is to create employment and prosperity by developing competitive and successful businesses, sustainable economic assets and vibrant towns that are centres of economic activity.

Priorities

Highlights

- Publication of the renewable Energy Action Plan raising the profile of opportunities in the renewable sector.

Social Affairs

The ambition of the Social Affairs TG is to create safe, healthy, caring and diverse communities where services are planned and delivered based on local needs. Healthy and inclusive communities where people feel safe and secure and where diverse cultures are celebrated.

Highlights

- Secondary education attainment results remain consistently above the national average for session 2009/10
- Increased proportion of looked after and accommodated children who are cared for in non-residential settings (through increased availability of foster care and kinship care placements) – currently 69%
- Improved performance in relation to changing the balance of care for older persons toward care in community settings – 64% by March 2010
- Achievement of 0 delayed discharge figures for 5 consecutive months to August 2010
- The Homecoming 2009 arts and culture programme exceeded all expectations - £7.6 million was generated for the local economy and over 37,000 visitors stayed in Argyll and Bute when attending events

Environment

The ambition of the Environment TG is to protect and enhance our built, natural, and managed environment whilst promoting our cultural, social and natural heritage. Also to use our environment to create employment and prosperity and to protect our unique area.

Highlights

- Over 89% of the natural features (plants, birds, habitats etc) on Argyll and Bute's protected areas are in favourable condition compared to a Scottish average of 78% (March 2010).
- During 2009-10 over £8m to more than 240 land managers has been awarded from the Scottish Rural Development Programme to help sustain the management of agricultural land which hosts Argyll and Bute's iconic species and habitats like corncrakes, butterflies and machair.
- The Argyll and Bute Design Forum encouraged high standards of built development by running a Sustainable Design Awards competition with the winning entries being selected by public vote. Awards were made to buildings entered under categories for small scale residential and new build non-residential.
- Community Planning Partners have worked together to produce new plans covering the management of freshwater systems, forestry and biodiversity within Argyll and Bute.

Community Engagement and Local Community Planning

The ambition of the Community Planning Partnership is to strengthen and extend community planning processes and to increase community involvement locally and on key topics. It is also to build capacity of organisations and communities, sharing experiences, knowledge, skills and resources.

Local Area Community Planning Groups first met in November 2009. The aim of this new structure is to improve the partnership's focus on understanding the needs of local communities and so challenge existing service provision. Partners are better able to look for opportunities to work together to achieve more efficient use of resources and creatively shape and steer how services are provided. This way we hope we will be able to deliver better targeted and co-ordinated services to our local communities. Local Area Community Planning Groups are strengthened by the involvement of local councillors and democratically elected members from Community Councils.

Highlights

- Four **Local Community Plans**, one for each administrative area, have been developed and endorsed by the Local Area Community Planning Groups. These provide a focus for action on local priorities.

- Four **Forward Together** community consultation events have been held, one in each administrative area,

Better Community Engagement

Argyll and Bute CPP is working with the Scottish Government Community Engagement Teams' Better Community Engagement Programme as one of ten Local Demonstration Projects. The Better Community Engagement framework is based on the National Standards for Community Engagement and is designed to enable the planning of learning in community engagement.

The first stage of the project has been to develop a community engagement route map based on the structures and expectations identified by those involved at all levels of the community planning framework. The focus is now to develop a training and learning resource targeted at Local Area Community Planning Groups. This resource will take the form of a community engagement toolkit designed to inform and support all LACPG stakeholders.

Consultation Diary

The gathering and recording of consultation and engagement activities was an action in the Community Engagement Strategy. A pro forma has been developed to begin the process of gathering information about any planned, current or recent consultations. The information will be gathered at a local level and collated to give an overall picture of consultation activity. Information will also be collated at an Argyll and Bute level and made available to all partners.

Principles of Representation at CPP

The CPP Partnership Agreement was adopted in May 2009. Under the new structure partner organisations are regularly required to represent each other at Management Committee, Thematic Partnerships, Local Community Planning level and at other strategic partnerships. In order for this to work partners must be confident that they are fully informed of any discussions taking place and are able to feed into any debate. It is essential that information flows in both directions. Clear lines of **accountability** allow representatives to speak with real authority. This does not mean that all decisions are subject to a consensus, at times a representative will have to present diverse, sometimes conflicting, views. Representatives should be prepared and able to explain decisions and actions. Partners in a representation role should put into place reporting mechanisms that support the flow of information without creating unnecessary burdens and make arrangements that enable all partners to participate as fully as possible. There should also be clarity about who is being represented and whether one partner has a clear mandate to represent another.

Examples of good practice

- **Strathclyde Police** - have Information Sharing Protocols in place, for the sharing of information between Strathclyde Police and partner organisations

with regards to the following: Anti Social Behaviour with Argyll and Bute Council, ACHA, Fyne Homes and Homeless Services: Noise Nuisance with Argyll and Bute Council Environmental Services: Serious and Organised Crime Groups with Argyll and Bute Council (Due to be signed on 19/10/2010). Regular updates are also given on attendance at CPP Executive meetings, CPP Management Committee Meetings, Community Safety Partnership meetings as well as at Local Area Community Planning Group meetings for MAKI, Bute and Cowal, Oban Lorn and The Isles, Helensburgh and Lomond. Regular Community Engagement meetings are also held, which gives the public the opportunity to attend and speak directly to members of their Community Policing team regarding local issues. Community newsletters are regularly distributed.

- **Strathclyde Fire and Rescue** – have processes in place including an internal meeting reporting system, a clear schematic of representation by SFR personnel through the CPP structure. There is also a Community Event Initiative form. This Community Event Initiative process is used to provide relevant information to evaluate whether or not they can support individual initiatives.
- **The Third Sector Partnership** – engage with the wider sector to gather information, seeking clarification from partners on local issues. The third Sector Partnership (TSP) acts as the representative for the sector following the principles of representation as laid out in their partnership agreement. The TSP act as representatives of the sector at agreed calendar of meetings taking notes for circulation and feedback to the wider sector. Short meeting reports are prepared and notes uploaded to the TSP Website. The TSP also circulates consultation documents to partner mailing list and through web portal.
- **Highlands and Island Enterprise** – takes responsibility for the information flow with Scottish Enterprise but as they cover only a small part of the CPP area the relevance to their current remit is limited and the amount of feedback needs to be filtered to reflect this. HIE's Community Account Management (CAM) process which supports communities to create and deliver their own individual community plans assisted by a funded Local Development Officer post fits well with the aims of Community Planning. The CPP is advised in advance as a community is brought into CAM enabling all partners to identify opportunities which this increased community cohesion may bring to fit with their own work. HIE takes a lead role in the Economy Thematic Group and participates in a small number of partnership groups which fit closely with our remit such as the Area Tourism Partnership and the Demonstration Project
- **Budget consultation** – the partnership have started early consultation on future budget challenges through the community planning partnership Forward Together events. This enables community members to hear directly about the budget situation in the public sector and to engage in and contribute to the discussion and debate on identifying priorities for future service delivery.

CONCLUSION

Community planning in Argyll and Bute has progressed well throughout 2009/10, with the changed structure now operational. The partnership will continue to review and update its approach as the process of engagement improves and deepens.

CPP ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET 2009/10

The Community Planning Partnership members contribute to the management and administration of the partnership. The partner contributions and expenditure in 2009/10 are detailed below.

Argyll and Bute Council - Community Planning Administrative Budget 2009/10

INCOME

CPP budget surplus/deficient from previous year	18616
Core Funding Contributions From Partners	
HIE	14132
NHS Highland	12560
Strathclyde Police	3278
Strathclyde Fire and Rescue	3371
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	2000
Additional funding from Strathclyde Police	1000
Argyll and Bute Council	28000
Fairer Scotland Fund	
Total Income	82957

EXPENDITURE

Direct/Indirect Employment Costs

Staff Costs (Includes NI/Pension)	39262
Car allowance/Travel & Subsistence)	3414
Conference Fees	

General Costs

Furniture	24
Photo-copying, Printing, Stationery and publicity	3077
Postage	
Telephone	116
Computer Software	157
Computer Hardware	33
IT Consumables	
Meeting Expenses	681
Hire of Facilities	60
Third Party Travel and Subsistence	

Consultants

Hexagon	9400
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Total Expenditure	56224
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Budget Position at Year End	26733
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