

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** Argyll and Bute Council began consultation on its 2011/12 budget in August 2010. The council is facing a projected budget shortfall of between £9m and £13m. A presentation on the budget has been made to community planning partners and communities at community planning events. This paper informs partners on the council's more detailed proposals for budget savings.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** Partners note the council's detailed proposals for budget cuts in 2011/12.
- 2.2** Partners engage with the council on the proposals, highlighting areas of potential impact
- 2.3** Partners who are in a position to cascade and communicate information to associated partnerships and communities on the budget proposals support the council in this consultation exercise by informing and directing people to appropriate channels for feedback.

## **3. DETAIL**

- 3.1** The council has been gathering views on the general budget consultation since August. This has included a number of public presentations, press releases and community planning meetings. The views gathered during this process will be collated and presented to the public and partners as part of the consultation process.
- 3.2** During the summer, the council has been undertaking reviews on 9 service areas. This is in addition to the schools estate, older peoples' services and learning disability service consultation. The service areas being reviewed are:
- Children and Families
  - Leisure services
  - Catering, Cleaning and Janitorial
  - School and public transport
  - Economic development
  - Governance and Law
  - Roads Operations
  - Waste Management

- Regulatory services

- 3.3** The service reviews have looked at alternative methods of delivery, reorganisation of services and proposals to reduce expenditure by 15%. Information on the proposals is contained in Appendix 1.
- 3.4** Services have carried out consultation on the proposals with stakeholders during the review period. Some service reviews do not have external customers and their stakeholders are internal to the council. These are therefore not included in the public consultation process
- 3.5** Information will be made available to the public through adverts in the press, on the council's website, in libraries and public buildings. The council would welcome support from partners who have networks that can cascade the consultation information to communities. The council appreciates that there is a short timescale to carry out this last phase of budget consultation, but there is a tight window between an indication of the budget from Scottish Government and council's funding proposals being presented for elected members' consideration. However, the more communities and groups that are aware of the consultation, the better informed the council will be when it makes decisions on the budget in February.

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