
Title: Community Planning Partnership Economic Audit 2011

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** Audit Scotland announced early this year that there will be an audit of Community Planning Partnerships focussing on the role of the partnership in supporting sustainable economic growth.
- 1.2** Argyll and Bute CPP was not one of the 6 CPP's selected for detailed Audit however we have been asked to provide detailed information and documentation relating to supporting economic growth. We have also been asked to complete a short survey to enable Audit Scotland to gather information about all 32 partnerships. Part one of the survey relates to the Community Planning Partnership in general terms and part two is specifically relating to the Economic Theme Group.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Management Committee notes the contents of this report and notes that the Council will coordinate the response to Audit Scotland in consultation with partners.

3. DETAIL

3.1 Single Outcome Agreement

From 2009/10 onwards CPPs have been required to be fully involved in developing and agreeing SOAs. This move reinforces the role of CPPs as the main vehicle for delivering outcomes for communities.

This Audit will use a single outcome area to examine the impact of CPPs on their local communities and businesses.

3.2 National Performance Framework

The economic national outcome that this Audit will consider is *'We will realise our full potential with more and better employment opportunities for people'* The importance of aligning public sector activity to accelerate economic growth is emphasised in *The Government Economic Strategy (2007)* and the *Scottish Economic Recovery Plan (2009)*.

3.3 Project scope, aims and objectives

The overall aim of the audit is to assess whether CPPs have made a difference to local communities. The Audit will consider the impact CPPs have made on local communities and businesses by assessing the contribution they are making to increasing sustainable economic growth.

3.4 Objectives

- Review the governance and accountability arrangements put in place by CPPs.
- Evaluate the governance and accountability arrangements put in place to support CPPs local economic development activity.
- Assess how well the CPPs planning activity supports the delivery of their agreed economic outcomes.
- Review how well CPPs manage resources to achieve their agreed economic outcomes.
- Assess the contribution CPPs are making to increase sustainable local economic growth.

3.5 Outputs and timetable

- Fieldwork and analysis: January – April 2011
- Report drafting, and clearance: May - August 2011
- Publication: September 2011

3.6 Responsibilities of partners

A number of partners are involved in economic development in Argyll and Bute. Argyll and Bute Council have the main responsibilities in terms of local economic development and regeneration including Business Gateway activity. HIE and Scottish Enterprise have the main role in terms of regional and national economic development, supporting high growth businesses in the Highlands and Islands and growth amongst Scotland's most ambitious companies.

Other public sector partners such as NHS Highland and the voluntary sector (including social enterprise) also participate in economic development as employers and purchasers of goods and services.

- 3.7** Argyll and Bute Council as the lead partner for Community Planning will lead on liaison with Audit Scotland and will liaise closely and fully with partners. The CPP through the Economy Thematic Group will be kept informed of progress.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** The Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership has an important role to play in delivering better outcomes for communities. Although we have not been selected for detailed audit, the findings will address how reductions in public sector

budgets are managed and the effectiveness of partnership working across Scotland, drawing wider conclusions and identifying broader messages for all CPPs.

For further information contact: Eileen Wilson
Community Planning Manager
Eileen.wilson@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Telephone 01436 658726