



## 1. SUMMARY

1.1 In 2010 the council held more comprehensive consultation on its budget than in previous years. This took the form of paper and web surveys and workshops at events held in each of the four administrative areas.

1.2 We worked with our Community Planning Partners to set out an overall budget context communicating the message that all partners were affected and also to consult harder to reach groups.

1.3 We recognise the need to provide a range of activities to ensure we reach all potential audiences and give everyone the opportunity to participate in the consultation.

1.4 We propose working with the CPP partners, using some of the CPP meetings already scheduled, to provide all partners with the opportunity to consult on their own budgetary activity.

## 2 DETAIL:

### Key messages:

- We are realising our potential together
- The financial resources available for public services are under ever increasing pressure. If we can't provide a service in the way that customers would like it to be delivered we will always explain clearly why not and be fully accountable to the communities we serve of our decisions.
- Public sector services in Argyll are improving and increasingly efficient. Achieving good value for money is a high priority and we will be creative and resourceful about working together to deliver good quality services cost effectively.
- We actively encourage local communities to get involved in the way our services are delivered.

## 3 CPP MEETINGS

- We propose using eight CPP meetings to allow all partners to hold presentations and facilitated budget discussions.
- With the agreement of the CPP partners will have the opportunity to tell everyone about their finances.

Questions will be invited in advance so representatives have the opportunity to prepare answers.

We will promote the activity via the council's web site and the media. Partners will also use their own communications channels to promote the events.

## 4. Timeframe:

The council's consultation will run for six weeks.

Results will be prepared in December.

The results will be available in early January and incorporated into its budget in February.

<b>CPP meeting</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Date</b>
Launch consultation six week period of consultation activity	Regional trade fairs News release Web Posters Display screens Exhibition boards	10 October
Possible CPP meetings (subject to approval from CPP)		24 Aug
Bute and Cowal LACPG		1 Nov
MAKI LACPG		2 Nov
CPP full partnership		2 Nov
Social affairs thematic group		7 Nov
Third sector and communities sub group		15 Nov
OLI LACPG		16 Nov
Environment thematic group		17 Nov
H&L LACPG		22 Nov
Economy thematic group		29 Nov
End of consultation		30 November
<b>Analyse consultation results</b>		
Consultation report to budget working group		Early January
Consultation report completed		Mid January
<b>Time for consultation responses to be considered and applied</b>		
Budget meeting		26 February

## 7. CONCLUSION

The CPP needs to reassure residents that public sector finances are well managed and suggestions from residents are listened to.

The CPP needs to manage the expectations of residents that even though there has already been a year of budget changes and cuts there will be more to follow.

A managed programme of budget consultation can help residents understand the reasons behind the decisions and help them feel part of the decision making process.

Residents who feel more informed about decisions are more likely to rate performance higher, so it is important we continue our efforts to inform them of our decisions and involve them in the process.

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