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## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** This report provides an update on the progress with the Local Development Plan process.

The Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan: Main Issues Report (MIR) was been published for consultation for a nine week period that ended on the 18<sup>th</sup> July. In total 699 representations were received and work is underway to analyse their content with a view to reporting back the main findings to respective Area Committees prior to preparing the proposed Local Development Plan. This will then go out for a three month consultation period.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Social Affairs Thematic Group;  
i) note the content of this report detailing progress with the Local Development Plan Main Issues Report.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1** 3.1 The consultation period on the Main Issues Report lasted for nine weeks.
- 3.2** The consultation involved 2 press releases issued to 51 media outlets, a statutory advert in five local papers, 9 public events across Argyll and Bute, Council website (banner on home page, special link, on line forms etc), statutory consultation, over 700 e-mails to interested parties, deposit of documents at libraries, selected Council offices and post offices throughout Argyll and Bute and a number of specific meetings with key agencies and other organisations.
- 3.3** In total 699 representations were received that included a significant amount of information that is currently being analysed with a view to reporting back the findings to respective Area Committees in December.
- 3.4** Initial findings indicate that there was significant support for the preferred options as set out in the Main Issues Report. This included a broad welcome for the approach taken in the MIR from the Key Agencies (such as SNH, SEPA, and Scottish Water),

community organisations such as community councils, other organisations, developers, land owners and private individuals. This welcome included for example, the concept of green networks, placing higher densities on appropriate sites, taking a more flexible and pro active approach to the need for sustainable economic development particularly in our more fragile areas, adjusting the affordable housing policy to better meet local needs, the proposed settlement strategy, the concept of strategic business sites and renaissance settlements, the coastal development strategy, the landscape capacity study for renewables, reducing policies in the plan and placing more detail in statutory Supplementary Guidance.

- 3.5** That said a number of alternative suggestions, concerns and ideas were also put forward that will need to be discussed further with interested parties. This is likely to require some suggested policy options having to be changed in light of these. This includes the suggested policy response to crofting and the option to require additional energy saving measures in remoter communities for example.
- 3.6** In addition, a number of the spatial sites identified for additional housing and retail opportunities attracted objections from local communities and further discussion will be required before a recommendation on their future inclusion in the Local Development Plan can be made.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1** The Main Issues Report consultation has ended with 699 representations received. Work is underway to analyse the comments received with a view to preparing reports for each Area committee to initially consider prior to producing the proposed Local Development Plan for approval by the Council. While generally welcoming the approach taken in the Main Issues Report the comments received are likely to require some changes to the preferred policy options presented in the MIR. This will require further discussions with interested parties prior to being presented to committee.
- 4.2** The Local Development Plan process is currently proceeding as per the timetable set out in the Development Plan Scheme as approved by the Executive Committee in January.

#### **5 IMPLICATIONS**

Policy	The Main Issues Report proposed land use policy options for consultation
Financial	Consultation is being met from Development Policy budget
Legal	All statutory regulations have been followed and exceeded where budget permits.
Personnel	Development Policy staff are responsible for delivering

**Equal  
Opportunities**

the Local Development Plan.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and will be updated for each phase of the Local Development Plan process to ensure that the policies are assessed in terms of their impacts.

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