

Proposed Development Plan Scheme Revision

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council has produced a Development Plan Scheme and associated Participation Statement as required by the Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. This Development Plan Scheme was first published and submitted to the Scottish Government in March 2010. Current Government guidance requires that the Development Plan Scheme should be updated at least annually. This current report provides the third annual update.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council amends as appropriate and approves the Development Plan Scheme (DPS) attached in **Appendix A** of this report for publication and submission to the Scottish Government.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As Members are aware the Planning System has been subject to considerable change in an effort to make the process more efficient and transparent. As part of this the Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 requires each Planning Authority to prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP is an updated and combined version of the Structure Plan and Local Plan. The Act also amends the preparation process and procedures associated with the production of the Plan.
- 3.2 One such change is that Section 20B of the Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 requires each Planning Authority to prepare a Development Plan Scheme (DPS) at least annually. The exact requirements for the content and process of the LDP and associated DPS are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning)(Scotland) Regulations 2008 which came into force on 28th February 2009.
- 3.3 The DPS must set out the Council's programme for preparing and reviewing the LDP and what is likely to be involved at each stage. The DPS must include a Participation Statement which details when, how and with whom consultation on the LDP will take place, and the Council's proposals for public involvement in the plan preparation process.

- 3.4 Members previously approved the DPS for publication and submission to the Scottish Government in March 2010 and the annual review in March 2011. This annual report amends and refines both the delivery timetable and the consultation strategy details contained within the DPS.
- 3.5 Once this revised DPS has been approved by Members it is required to be published and copies placed in all public libraries along with being submitted to the Scottish Government. There is no requirement to consult on the content of the DPS.
- 3.6 As part of the DPS commitment on public consultation, there has been a major consultation exercise associated with the Main Issues Report (MIR) since the last DPS was issued. The Main Issues Report represents the first formal stage of the new Local Development Plan (LDP) that will eventually replace the current Development Plan. The MIR is a genuine public engagement document as it poses a series of questions throughout the document that will help guide future Council policy with regard to land use planning. The consultation exercise associated with the MIR took the form of public meetings, stakeholder meetings and the production of a questionnaire and involved statutory consultees, public and private agencies, landowners and potential developers along with the general public. Over 700 questionnaires / representations were received and these will inform the Proposed LDP.
- 3.7 In addition, the Council's policy service has continued to meet with various community groups and potential developers throughout Argyll and Bute to help explain the purpose of the new LDP and how they can get involved in future stages.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Engagement in the preparation of the LDP is a vital component in the new Planning Act. The revised DPS sets out a clear agenda for the LDP process and the associated public consultation as it progresses. The Council's Development Policy Service has undertaken extensive work over the last year gathering evidence, meeting and seeking the views of local communities and other stakeholders of the plan and assembling information to inform the content of the proposed LDP that is intended to be published in September 2012 for a twelve week public engagement period following approval by the Council's Executive Committee.

5 IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The Development Plan Scheme sets out the timetable and consultation process for the production of the new Local Development Plan that will replace the current Development Plan (Structure and Local Plan) in due course.

Financial: None.

Personnel: None.

Community: The Development Plan Scheme sets out the timetable and the details and extent of the public consultation process for the production of the Local Development Plan.

For further information contact: Fergus Murray

Telephone: 01546 604293

Appendix A – Development Plan Scheme (see attachment)