
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES
AREA COMMITTEE**

10 October 2012

MEMBERS ATTENDANCE AT AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP MEETINGS.

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report updates Members on the decisions made at the recent Oban Lorn and the Isles Community Planning Group meeting and asks Members to consider a process for agreement on how many, and which, members should attend future meetings of that group.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Members are asked to note the discussion held at the Community Planning Group meeting held in September 2012 and consider how many, and which, elected members should attend future meetings.

3.0 DETAIL

3.1 In response to a desire to increase community participation in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Planning Group a Short Life Working Group was set up to discuss ways of taking this forward. The SLWG reported to the September meeting of the CPG, and made a number of suggestions for agreement and implementation.

3.2 One of the suggestions made was that the group currently felt "councillor heavy", and it was discussed that this should be addressed by the Area Committee discussing and agreeing a process for representation at future meetings, to take effect at the meeting scheduled for 12th December 2012. It was further agreed that all of the new community engagement arrangements would be reviewed after 4 meetings have taken place to ensure that they are working well, and to allow any required amendments to those arrangements to be made.

3.3. In order to address the perception of the CPG being “ councillor heavy”, Members may wish to restrict attendance of elected members to a maximum of three, and may wish that attendance to be rotational. In other Areas attendance by members comprises the Lead Councillor for the Area, plus one elected member for each electoral Ward. The Ward representation is rotated amongst the specific councillors concerned and agreed once the CPG meeting agenda is drafted, at the business meeting held before the CPG is scheduled to take place, in order that members know the items included on the agenda and can agree the most appropriate attendance based on that information. For this process to be effective it would involve the CPG agenda being a standard item for consideration at the business meetings in November, March, May and September.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS.

4.1 In response to concerns raised about improving the effectiveness of the community engagement aspect of the OLI Community Planning Group, Members are asked to consider agreeing to a maximum attendance of three elected members at future CPG meetings, that attendance to comprise the Area Lead Councillor plus one member from Ward 4 and one from Ward 5, that Ward attendance to be rotational and to be agreed prior to each CPG meeting once members are aware of the agenda items due for consideration.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy:	None
5.2 Financial:	None
5.3 Legal	None
5.4 HR	None
5.5 Equalities	None
5.6 Risk	None
5.7 Customer Service	None

For further information contact: Shirley MacLeod, Area Governance Manager 01369 707134

Date: 1st October 2012

