
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**OBAN LORN AND THE ISLES AREA
COMMITTEE**

CUSTOMER SERVICES

10TH APRIL 2013

**MEMBERS ATTENDANCE AT AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
MEETINGS**

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report updates Members on recent changes which have been made to the attendance of elected Members at Oban Lorn and the Isles Community Planning Group meetings.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Members are asked to note this update on recent changes to Member's attendance at Community Planning Group meetings, and consider whether they wish these arrangements to continue.

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 at that time 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 had taken place to ensure that they are working well, and to allow any required amendments to those arrangements to be made.
- 3.3. At the Area Committee meeting held in October 2012 Members discussed the concerns which had been raised by the Short Life Working Group and agreed to elect Councillors MacDougall and MacDonald

along with Councillor Glen Lee as Lead Councillor to attend the next 2 Community Planning group meetings, with a review of attendance to be considered at the April 2013 Area Committee.

- 3.4. The meetings of the CPG held since this Member attendance was agreed have been lively and effective meetings, with discussion taking place on a variety of issues which have been of both a strategic and local nature. The December meeting took place in the evening and was very well attended with community representatives and Community Councillors and the March meeting was also well attended by Community Councillors. Councillor Glen Lee has chaired both meetings, and Councillors Hall and MacIntyre attended the March meeting.
- 3.5. As noted at 3.2 above, the Community Planning Group will be reviewing all of the new community engagement arrangements for the group after 4 meetings have taken place, i.e. at the meeting due to take place in December 2013. Members however asked to consider the matter of Members attendance at the CPG meetings in April 2013
- 3.6. The effectiveness of the Community Planning Group continues to improve, with much of the focus in the Oban Lorn and the Isles area now being on matters raised by Community Council and community representatives, and a fair amount of business also brought forward by the Council and other core partners. No analysis or discussion has taken place within the group as to the impact which reduced attendance by elected Members has had on the group.
- 3.7. To ensure that all elected Members are kept up to date with the issues which the Community Planning Group is discussing and considering the agenda for the meeting is included for consideration at the Area Committee business meeting immediately prior to the scheduled CPG, ie at the business meetings taking place in November , March, May and September. This appears to be working well, and enabled Councillors Hall and MacIntyre to decide to attend the March meeting.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The reduced attendance by elected Members at CPG meetings does not appear to have had any negative impact on the meetings, though this will not be formally discussed and considered by the group until December 2013. Members may wish to consider continuation of the current arrangements until that time in order to fully assess the arrangements in light of the overall changes which have been made by the group to improve community engagement in the OLI area.

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

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Date: 20th March 2013