

3 September 2013

Area Forum Events 2013

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report considers the decision by the Community Planning Partnership on 22nd August 2012 to hold four Area Forum events to enable consultation and feedback on the SOA 2013-23.
- 1.2 A steering group of Bute and Cowal CPG has met and drawn up initial proposals, to ensure feedback from the area on depopulation and regeneration issues.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Area CPG agrees to encourage participation in this consultation process as below.
- 2.2 The Area CPG steering group, established to consider and plan the Area Forum event, is delegated to further consider the format of the event(s) and appropriate questions for the area.
- 2.3 The Area CPG identifies partners to facilitate and record at workshop/discussion groups, and agrees dates.
- 2.4 The Area CPG agrees to consider ways of progressing ideas that come forward from the event to ensure people feel they have been able to actively contribute to community planning.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 The Third Sector and Communities CPP Strategic Group has made recommendations on the format of these events, which have been considered by steering groups in the CPG areas.
- 3.2 The theme and format agreed for the events is:
 - a) Title: “**Bute and Cowal - A Good Place to Live, Work, and Play?**”
 - b) Overarching question to be addressed: What needs to change to attract more people (especially young people and families) to live in Bute and Cowal?

This fits with the overarching outcome of the new SOA 2013-23, 'Argyll and Bute's economic success is built on a growing population'. Population levels in Argyll and Bute decreased by 3.4% and in Bute and Cowal the population decreased by 3.8% in the 10 years between 2001 and 2011.

It also ties in with the results of the survey undertaken across all four areas to identify priority topics, as 'community development and regeneration' was selected as a top priority in each area.

- c) Format of event: One day (morning and afternoon or afternoon and evening) consisting of a half-day with workshops/discussion groups, followed by voting on a short series of strategic and local questions using powerpoint voting. This would be followed by a public debate to consider the key questions (identified from the earlier session) followed by powerpoint voting.
- d) Questions to be asked: Some of the questions asked would be asked in all four areas to allow comparisons to be made across Argyll and Bute.- Other questions will relate specifically to the local areas and will be agreed by the CPG steering groups/CPGs as appropriate. The responses should be able to feed into the SOA's key outcome of addressing the problem of de-population in Argyll and Bute.

3.3 In addition to the one Area Forum event, it is proposed that:

- a. The powerpoint voting is used at other events in the area, particularly those areas which may be unable to be represented at the main event eg islanders. Results can be merged to make comparisons across Argyll and Bute, as well as be broken down within areas.
- b. An electronic survey is carried out to enable those who do not attend an event to respond to the same questions.

3.4 For Bute and Cowal, the CPG is asked to consider the above alongside proposals from the steering group:

- a. Three events are held: two workshop events (one in Rothesay, and one in Dunoon), and one main Area Forum event with a public debate in Dunoon, with video-conferencing from Bute.
- b. Dates proposed are Saturdays as follows to attract maximum numbers:
 - a. Saturday 26th
October, Dunoon Grammar School
 - b. Saturday 2nd
November, Rothesay Academy, and
 - c. Saturday 9th
November, Dunoon (Debate)

3.5 Questions to be posed relevant to Bute and Cowal area will be drafted by the steering group. Any proposals for topics or questions from CPG members would be very welcome for consideration.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Area Forums will seek views on the new SOA 2013/23, in particular in relation to the overarching issue of de-population and regeneration.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy: None
- 5.2 Financial: Within grant allocation from Education Scotland allocation.
- 5.3 Legal: None
- 5.4 HR: None
- 5.5 Equalities: None
- 5.6 Risk: Poor attendance or uptake of survey
- 5.7 Customer Service: None

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Draft programme

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6 August 2013

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Appendix 1

**Area Consultations
Draft programme
“(Area Name) – A good place to live, work and play?”**

1. Introductions
(approx. 15 minutes)
2. Workshops on local area topics
(e.g 3 x 20 minutes = 60 minutes)
3. Power Point Voting – *questions set beforehand on core topics by Third Sector and Communities CPP Group; and area topics chosen by steering group of CPG and approved by CPG*
(approx. 30 minutes)
- BREAK** with opportunity to view “Marketplace” – *Additional people can join for debate only*
(approx. 60 minutes)
4. Introduction to debate and introduction of panel
(approx. 20 minutes)
5. Debate in style of “Question Time” - *with panel of CPP partners chaired by a strategic CPP partners*
(60 minutes)
6. Power Point Voting – a selection of questions, including some focussing on the debate issues
(30 minutes)
7. Evaluation