

10 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 (see draft programme in Appendix 1) to enable consultation and feedback on the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2013-23.
- 1.2 A steering group of Helensburgh and Lomond CPG has met and drawn up initial proposals to ensure feedback from the area on depopulation and community development issues.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Area CPG agrees to encourage participation in this consultation process as outlined below.
- 2.2 The Area CPG steering group, established to consider and plan the Area Forum event, is delegated to further develop the format of the event(s) and appropriate questions for the area.
- 2.3 The Area CPG identifies partners to facilitate and record feedback at workshop/discussion groups, and agrees a date(s) for these workshops/discussion groups.
- 2.4 The Area CPG agrees to consider ways of progressing ideas that arise from the event and workshops to ensure participants feel they have been worthwhile and provided them with a genuine opportunity 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. All four area CPGs are being asked to adopt a similar approach.
- 3.2 The theme and format agreed for the local area event is:
 - a) Local Title: **“Helensburgh and Lomond - A Good Place to Live, Work and Play?”**

The steering group has suggested adding the following sub title:
“So why are people leaving?”

- b) Key question to be addressed: What needs to change to attract and retain more people (especially young people and families) to live in Helensburgh and Lomond?

This fits with the overarching objective of the new SOA for 2013-23 that: *‘Argyll and Bute’s economic success is built on a growing population’*. Comparisons between the 2001 and 2011 Census figures show a decline in population levels in Argyll and Bute from 91,306 to 88,200 (a decrease of 3.4%).

Only four local authority areas recorded a decrease and Argyll and Bute’s reduction was, it appeared, the largest.

As detailed in the SOA, and according to the National Record for Scotland small area population estimates, Helensburgh & Lomond’s population decreased by 6.8% in the same period.

The impact of staffing levels at HM Naval Base Faslane on the figures is not clear, but what is not in doubt is the long-term reduction in population numbers in Helensburgh & Lomond at a time when Scotland as a whole has seen an increase in population size by approximately 5%.

The theme of population decline ties in with the results of the survey undertaken earlier this year to identify priority topics across all four CPG areas for these events. Community development and regeneration was an option 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, including voting on a short series of strategic and local questions using powerpoint voting. This would be followed by a public ‘BBC Question Time’ style event/consultation to consider the key questions (identified from the earlier workshop session and incorporating the results of an online questionnaire), followed by an opportunity to engage in powerpoint voting.

- d) Questions to be asked: Some of the questions asked would be posed in all four areas to allow comparisons to be made across Argyll and Bute. Other questions would relate specifically to the local areas and would be agreed by the CPG steering groups/CPGs as appropriate. The responses should be able to be fed into the SOA’s key outcome of addressing the issue of depopulation in Argyll and Bute.

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

- a. The powerpoint voting questionnaire is made available for use at other events/meetings in order to give groups who may be under-represented at the main event events another opportunity to participate. Results can be merged to make comparisons across Argyll and Bute, as well as be broken down within areas.
- b. An electronic online survey is carried out in advance to enable those who do not attend an event to respond to the same questions.

3.4

and Lomond, the CPG is asked to consider the
alongside the following proposals from the steering group:

For Helensburgh
above

Proposed venue: **Victoria Halls, Helensburgh**
Proposed date: **Monday 2 December (1st preference) or Friday 6 December**
Proposed times: **2pm-5.30pm for workshops/discussion groups/stalls and 7.30pm-9.45pm for Question Time style event/consultation.**
Proposed Panel: **Representatives from CPP partners and guests**

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The Area Forums will seek views on the new SOA 2013-23, in particular in relation to the overarching issues of depopulation and community development.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy: None
- 5.2 Financial: Within grant allocation from Education Scotland.
- 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

Margaret Fyfe
Community Development Manager
6 August 2013

For further information contact: Audrey Baird, Community Development Officer. Tel No 01436 658735

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

1. Welcome, Introductions & Background
(approx. 10-20 minutes)
2. Workshops on local area topics
(e.g 3 x 20 minutes/6 x 10 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)

LUNCH/DINNER BREAK with opportunity to view
“Marketplace” – *Additional people join audience for ‘Question Time’ event only*
(time tbc)

4. Introduction to event and introduction of panel
(approx. 10 minutes)
5. Debate in style of “BBC Question Time” - *with panel of CPP partners*
(60-90 minutes)
6. Power Point Voting – a selection of questions, including some focussing on the issues raised
(30 minutes)
7. Evaluation