

11 September 2013

Area Forum Events 2013

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report considers the decision by the Community Planning Partnership on 22 August 2012 to hold four Area Forum events to enable consultation and feedback on the SOA 2013-23.
- 1.2 A steering group of Oban, Lorn and the Isles 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 in the other three CPG areas is:

- a) Title: “Oban, Lorn and the Isles - A Good Place to Live, Work, and Play?”
- b) Overarching question to be addressed: What needs to change to attract and retain more people (especially young people and families) to live in Oban, Lorn and the Isles?
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% whereas in Oban, Lorn and the Isles the population increased by 6.8% in the 10 years between 2001-11. The demographics have however changed in this area and the increase has not been consistent across all parts.
- c) Format of event: One day (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 events 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 Oban, Lorn and Isles, the CPG is asked to consider the above, alongside proposals from the steering group:
 - a. Consider a date week beginning 28 October for the main consultation and debate event in Oban. Proposed venue is Corran Halls.
 - b. Outreach activity to engage with people through the Winter Festival
 - c. Seek agreement from partners to set up a half day event, or ‘piggy-back’ onto an existing event, on Mull, Coll and Tiree at which the same questions may be posed; or host an inter-island discussion.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Area Forums will seek views on the new SOA 2012-23, 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.
- 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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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