
Establishment of Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (AICCT)

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members about progress with the Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust. The initial Board, Steering group and Development Officer (Julie Young) is in post and the governance, structure and business plan are currently being taken forward. The AICCT is a partnership organisation that is intended to support the main themes of the Single Outcome Agreement in terms of improving our economy, attracting more people to live and visit Argyll and Bute, and working together with local communities to deliver services in a different way. The AICCT intends to be ready for an official launch in spring 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Community Planning Partnership notes the contents of this report.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 Following a feasibility study in 2012 (<http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/argyll-and-isles-coast-and-countryside-trust>) Argyll and Bute Council in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland and NHS Highland agreed to fund the establishment of the Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust as an independent body for a three year period subject to meeting performance targets.
- 3.2 The remit of the trust is to progress a programme of non-statutory works primarily relating to the natural and built environment with the central aim being– **to sustainably maintain, enhance and promote the coast and countryside of Argyll and the Isles for the benefit of communities, local businesses and visitors.**
- 3.3 There are eight key objectives for AICCT:

Objective 1: Maintain, manage, promote and enhance our biodiversity and historic environment,

Objective 2: Encourage, facilitate and promote responsible access to our coast and countryside for our enjoyment and to contribute towards our overall health and well-being,

Objective 3: Maximise external funding opportunities for the benefit of the natural, historic and social environment,

Objective 4: Encourage participation and partnership working of existing groups and sharing of best practice with local communities and partners on all matters relating to access, biodiversity, marine and coastal, health and wellbeing and the built environment,

Objective 5: Seek to create an economically sustainable business with social and environmental benefits for delivery of the Coast and Countryside Trust objectives,

Objective 6: Create demonstrable social benefits such as opportunities for employment, training, volunteering and improving health and wellbeing,

Objective 7: Deliver a co-ordinated advisory service and education for the benefit of all existing community trusts and other organisations with an interest in the environment.

Objective 8: The Trust may work with transnational partners.

- 3.4 The Trust will be established as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, have 8 board members (one from each core funder and 4 from the community; each representing one of the geographical areas of Argyll and Bute, and a cross section of business and community interests/skills).
- 3.5 The AICCT will seek external project funding and develop business opportunities to meet running costs and to initiate future projects. The intention is to establish a sustainable multi layered business model with income being sourced from a combination of grants, donations, membership fees, project funding and enterprise opportunities.
- 3.6 Other Trusts and their structures have been researched throughout the development of AICCT, including West Dunbartonshire Environment Trust which receives direct funding support from their area Community Planning Partnership to help achieve their key outcomes.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Argyll and Isles Coast and Countryside Trust will be formally launched in spring 2014 and will bring benefits for the environment, business and communities in Argyll and Bute. The AICCT will cover the full geographic area of Argyll and Bute working together with the Loch

Lomond and Trossachs National Park Trust that has also just been established.

- 4.2 The AICCT supports the main themes of the Single Outcome Agreement and would welcome support and project ideas from the Community Planning Partnership as the AICCT establishes itself over the coming months.

5. IMPLICATIONS

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| 5.1 | Policy | The work of the AICCT supports the main themes of the Single Outcome Agreement |
| 5.2 | Financial | None associated with this report |
| 5.3 | Personnel | None |
| 5.4 | Equalities Impact Assessment | None. |
| 5.5 | Legal | None |

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