

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

1. SUMMARY

This report invites partners to consider the future shape and form of the group and also seeks guidance from the partners as to whether they would consider reviewing the terms of reference (TOR) for the group, as well as considering its place within the Community Planning structures in place in Argyll and in Scotland as a whole.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Group:

- 2.1 Review the Terms of reference below and adopt them subject to any amendments which the group requires;
- 2.2 Notes that the Council has recently undergone changes in its Political Management Arrangements (PMA) Consequently there may be a requirement to make further minor revisions to the groups TOR at future meetings and;
- 2.3 In light of 2.2, the group consider whether they wish to have further discussion regarding the recommendation of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) requesting that the group appoint a specific representative to the MAKI area CPG.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 The MAP was originally formed to further the economic development and sustainability of the local economy in Mid Argyll and the group has developed and changed significantly over the years and is working well.

The group is held in high regard locally and is viewed as being an appropriate forum to take forward local area community planning. This is considerably broader than the groups' original focus and its membership and focus is evolving to take account of this broadening of focus.

The funding opportunities emanating from the council are today considerably smaller than in past years. However, Community groups and Community Councils now have access to a number of funding streams which are not accessible to the Council.

Clearly, It is essential that these groups feed into the Community planning process, and they are strongly encouraged to participate as partners; however since their funding does not come from the council : the Council has no locus to require attendance at meetings, and must both make

participation is groups such as MAP visibly beneficial to such groups in real terms and ensure that it is perceived as such.

It was originally intended that M.A.P. itself would initiate specific projects and make applications for funding for these projects; however in practice this is now done by either individual partners, third sector organisation or project specific groups. The M.A.P. operates as a reporting forum, as a source of advice and expertise and as a place where progress can effectively be communicated to both partners and the wider community

3.2 The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) has indicated (following its self-assessment process), that they remain of the view that the area CPG should continue to operate as the strategic group for the MAKI area. In recognition of the valued work of the M.A.P., the CPP proposal was that the group continue to operate but that a representative of the group should become a core member of the CPG to ensure effective linkages. Consideration therefore should to be given as to whether the MAP wishes to further discuss this at this meeting

3.3 The Terms of Reference below were originally drafted for the MAP Group in accordance with the vision of the founding partners of that group. It is clear that the group today has found its niche as a partnership working group aiming to improve communications between the Council and local community, while highlighting issues and contributing towards improving local service delivery.

In this regard, it is appropriate to that the group consider amending its TOR to reflect its expanded role and remit

3.4

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Consideration of the expansion of the TOR for the group is a logical development given the current status of the group and will help to ensure its long term involvement and active participation in the community planning process

5. IMPLICATIONS

Policy -	None. The recommendations do not deviate from the structure outlined by the CPP or Council's current PMA
Financial –	None. The report seeks to rectify issue regarding there being no budgetary provision to support the group
Legal -	None
Personnel -	None. The administration of meeting will continue to be supported by Governance and Law
Equal Opportunities -	None

Executive Director of Customer Services
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Appendix 1

Mid Argyll Partnership

Remit and Guidelines

Purposes

1. The main purpose of the group will be to provide a vehicle for maintaining good communications between the Council and local community organisations and to foster a partnership approach in responding to the needs of local communities.
2. The group will identify and priorities local needs and contribute to the development of local plans and initiatives
3. The group will be entitled to comment on the quality of local services, highlighting any problems or deficiencies
4. The group will provide an opportunity for joint working between the Council and community and voluntary organisation at a local level

Membership

1. Councillors from Wards 2 and 3
2. One representative from each community council within these wards. The representative will be a named person, but any member of the community council can attend as a substitute, in the event of the named representative being unavailable. (This could easily be representatives from a caucus)
3. Representative of voluntary organisation community with no more than one representative on behalf of an organisation or group of organisations as agreed by the group which represent a single interest.
4. Business organisations will be represented as agreed by the group.(Major Employers as well as MAC and the public sector organisation)
5. Statutory Bodies with a presence in the area will be represented as agreed by the group.

Working Arrangements

1. The group shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from their number on a bi-annual basis. The chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be eligible for re-election for no more than five years.
2. There will be 4 meetings per year of the full membership. Additional meetings can be called by the Chairperson if there are items of urgency to be dealt with. The group may appoint such special sub-groups as may be considered appropriate.
3. The meetings will be open to the public
4. Meetings will be advertised at least 7 days in advance
5. Decisions will be taken by consensus, indicated by a show of hands if necessary. Different views may be reflected in the minutes if consensus is not reached.
6. The Area Governance Manager, Argyll and Bute Council will be responsible for the administrative arrangements of the group.
7. Appropriate staff of Argyll and Bute Council will attend meetings.

8. Members will have the opportunity to include issues of local concern on the agenda by advising the Area Governance Manager 7 days in advance of the meeting.