

Agenda Item 6c COSLA Strategic Migration Partnership

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The population profile of Argyll and Bute is such that net migration into the area is required to stabilise the population or achieve growth.
- 1.2 The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) is currently evaluating their toolkit: The Strategic Migration Partnership Policy Toolkit with a view to producing new resources in 2015, to support community planning partners and local authority areas to develop strategic responses to migration.
- 1.3 COSLA is also running an EU project, Migration Matters Scotland, to inform the development of new supportive resources. This paper provides further information on these.

2 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee:

- 2.1
 - 1 Note the work on in-migration being undertaken by COSLA and the development of tools to support areas in Scotland to develop migration strategies.
 - 2 Comment on any further information it would like from COSLA on this matter at this time.

3 DETAIL

- 3.1 The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) is currently evaluating their toolkit for local authorities: COSLA Strategic Migration Partnership Policy Toolkit. The toolkit was developed in 2010 to help local authorities and community planning partners to develop strategic responses to migration. It provides advice and guidance to local authorities seeking to attract migrants to their area. The Community Planning Manager has fed back on the strengths and weaknesses of the toolkit for the review. Comments are shaping new resource that will be available in summer 2015.

- 3.2 The toolkit provides information on a range of issues relating to the attraction and support of migrant populations. It enables users to develop of an overall strategy towards migration and provides guidance to assist with refining policy options.
- 3.3 There is a feeling, that through speaking to the consultants undertaking the review that the toolkit has not been well used as a result of a lack of promoting its existence, and the support available.
- 3.4 The term 'migrant' within the toolkit is defined as 'any person who comes to Scotland from outside the UK' and so much of the information provided is focussed on foreign migrants for whom English is not a first language. This may also limit the use of the information where areas are not basing migration on this definition.
- 3.5 Further to the review of the toolkit COSLA is undertaking a European funded project, *Migration Matters Scotland* between December 2013 and June 2015. A key aim of the project is to provide local authorities and their community planning partners with a suite of well-informed policy tools to further aid the integration of migrants into their communities.
- 3.6 The project is working with 3-5 local authorities and will inform the development of the new Migration Toolkit. The participating councils are Dundee, Perth & Kinross, Fife, Shetland and the City of Edinburgh.
- 3.7 The first dissemination event for the project is February 26th, 2015, at which point there may be an indication of whether they will be applying for a further round of funding to increase the project and involve more local authorities.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Partnership note the work on in-migration being undertaken by COSLA and the development of tools to support areas in Scotland to develop migration strategies.
- 4.2 The Partnership is asked to comment on any further information it would like from COSLA on this matter at this time.

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