
**Argyll and Bute Community Planning
Partnership**

**Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands
Area Community Planning Group**

Tuesday 2nd December 2104

Agenda Item [for office use]



SOA Local Development Action Plan Phase 2 Update

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Area Community Planning Group members on progress relating to the development of the SOA Local: Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands

2. Recommendations

The Area Community Planning Group is requested to:

2.1 note the findings of the focus group

2.2 consider nominating members to participate in the working group which will take forward the development of the SOA Local: Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands

3. Background

3.1 Community Planning in Argyll and Bute needed to have a local focus. The Action Plan considered at the September Area CPG meeting set out the approach that is being taken to developing the SOA Local: Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands

3.2 The Action Plan is split into phases

- Phase 1 – preparation
- Phase 2 – mapping existing activity
- Phase 3 – development

4. Detail

4.1 A focus group was held in Kilmory Council Chambers by Lochgilphead on 5th November 2014. It was attended by 19 people in Lochgilphead, including representatives from the private sector, the third sector and the Local Authority. In addition there were 3 participants in

Campbeltown and one in Islay who linked in by video-conference. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, these participants were unable to take part in the discussions.

4.2 The purpose of the focus group was to:

- Review the priorities and overall conclusions in the local Argyll & Bute: A Good Place to Live, Work and Play Report.
- Review the mapping of actions in the SOA Delivery Plan against the topics highlighted and discussed during the Community consultation events carried out in January/February 2014
- Consider ways to ensure that local community initiatives can link into the SOA Local

4.3 Due to technical difficulties in attempting to include Islay and Campbeltown in the focus group discussion by video-conference, at the start of the session, the group in Lochgilphead did not have time to review the priorities and overall conclusions in the local Argyll & Bute: A Good Place to Live, Work and Play Report and a further opportunity to comment by email on the draft report was made available to participants.

4.4 Discussions included cross-cutting themes such as:

- the need to increase IT skills by business owners (eg online booking systems), and to prevent social and financial exclusion;
- preventing lack of transport from being a barrier, eg moving from school to after school care, accessing extra-curricular activity and learning opportunities, particularly for children and young people,
- making more of the assets we have. The link between our environment and health was made and included a desire to make more of the safer, parallel cycle routes on the forest and other estates, and to increase the profile of the highly accessible routes at the Crinan Canal, Blarbuie etc.
- The attendees are interested to get the most from the schools estate, and link many requirements to training, sports and social activity and care for smaller children to them.
- Localisation of several services was considered to be important, and included the Fire Service and the Tourist offices.

4.4 A summary of findings relating to each of the highlighted topics can be found in the attached supplementary information, which formed the basis of the discussions at the focus group.

4.3 The information gathered will be used to inform the development of the SOA Local: Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.

4.4 Due to the technical difficulties at the beginning of the session, there was not time to consider ways to ensure that local community initiatives can link into the SOA Local. This will be taken forward during phase 3

4.4 Phase 2 of the action plan is now complete.

4.5 Phase 3 will take place during January and February 2015. It will be taken forward by a working group which will meet on the 14th of January 2015 to review the draft SOA Local: Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands document and to further consider ways of including wider community initiatives into the SOA Local: Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands

5. Conclusions

5.1 The work of the focus group provided valuable information which will be incorporated into the development of the SOA Local: Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.

5.2 Phase 3 will take forward the development of the SOA Local: Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.

5.3 The technical difficulties at the start of the session highlighted the challenges faced by the Area CPG with regards to inclusion and equalities of access.

6.0 SOA Outcomes

The report relates to all 6 SOA Outcomes

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