

## Management Committee

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015



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## Outcome 2: We have infrastructure that supports sustainable growth progress report

### 1. Discussion Points

- Is there anything that the Management Committee can do collectively to address the number of “not spots” (areas where there is no mobile coverage) given the issues detailed below?
- The Strategic Infrastructure Plan is being formulated, what is the best way to engage with partners regarding this to take into account the strategic priorities of the partnership
- Are long term plans in place with partners to ensure their own infrastructure has the capacity to manage the results of improved infrastructure throughout Argyll and Bute?

### 2. Successes and key achievements to date for Outcome 2

The council played a central role in delivering the Argyll and Bute Sustainable Economic Summit which attracted over 200 delegates and brought together local and national politicians, businesses and partner agencies. Consensus and commitment was given to growing the population and local economy with partners committing resources to deliver this. The Argyll and Bute Economic Forum met for the first time on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and is chaired by Nicholas Ferguson CBE, Chairman of Sky plc.

Good progress has been made with Cardross becoming the first settlement with the “Rest of Scotland” project to receive superfast broadband. Superfast broadband was also made available in Oban as part of their commercial rollout in partnership with Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Community Broadband Scotland supported GigaPlus Argyll through the initial stage of procurement as part of their Argyll Isles project, Helensburgh town centre Wi-Fi project went to procurement, and the Vodafone Rural scheme promoted to community groups provided equipment to 3 successful communities which currently experience poor mobile reception. Leaflets

promoting high speed broadband are scheduled to be distributed to all households imminently as part of the Council Tax mailing.

Economic opportunities continue to be explored between Glasgow and Oban airport with discussions ongoing over a new route between Glasgow, Oban and possibly beyond to the Isles. Complimenting Oban's Business Development Plan, this exciting opportunity builds upon the continued service improvements and performance of Oban airport, where passenger numbers grew 12.8% with 3516 passengers carried during 2014, compared to 3334 during 2013.

Dangerous roads defects continue to decline and emergency road repairs have more than halved on the previous year. This year's roads capital reconstruction programme stands at 96% complete and remains on track to deliver £6.9m of roads improvements as part of a combined 3 year programme worth £22.4m.

The Local Development Plan now moves forward for adoption following approval by the Council. The Scottish Government reporter found it is a strategy for sustainable economic growth that is backed by effective allocations and an action programme for delivery. To deliver this vision the Local Development Plan:

- Identifies a very generous housing land supply which was considered recently by Scottish Government DPEA reporters to be both appropriate and sufficient to ensure that the assessed housing needs and demands within Argyll and Bute can be met.
- Identifies developable allocations for 4,500 housing units contributing to an overall established housing land supply of 8440 housing units
- Delivered in partnership with the SHIP 231 affordable houses during 2014/15 and should deliver upwards of 270 during 2015/18.
- Identifies 90 hectares of new industrial and business land, including significant new releases providing a flexible approach to sustainable economic growth in our fragile areas.
- Identifies and is actively pursuing development and promotion of a range of Strategic Business Sites distributed around Argyll and Bute's coast line which will tie in with a forthcoming Coastal Development Strategy to support Marine and Aquaculture industries.
- Makes land releases within Helensburgh Green Belt for the first time in over 15 years.
- Is actively preserving the Built Heritage and promoting regeneration activity which has a direct effect on the local building and construction industry and a wider stimulating trickle-down effect throughout the economy.
- Takes a proactive and innovative approach to Climate Change and Renewables, particularly through the agreement of the Renewable Energy Action Plan and ALIENERGY (Argyll, Lomond and the Islands Energy

Agency) which are facilitating wider community benefits from renewables developments.

- Identifies 183 Potential Development Areas which are adding significant additional development flexibility, and 38 Areas for Action and 12 Strategic Masterplans

277 houses have been completed this financial year which is on course to exceed the annual target of 300.

The quality of drinking water from private water supplies serving commercial premises (category A supplies) continues to improve. Progress is depending on the cooperation of users, which in some cases is difficult, and is further complicated as quality can be affected by a range of other factors, including weather conditions, or failure in maintaining systems. In the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015, we awarded £48764 towards improvements to supplies and there is a further £156,665.18 of committed expenditure for private supplies, pending completion of improvement works.

### **3. Risks**

Indicator 2.2.2b – provide coverage to 7 not spots by 2016, this is currently showing as red. An update was provided in October 2014 by Arqiva, who are delivering the Mobile Infrastructure Project (MIP) on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport which included revised sites due to new data being made available from the mobile operators. The number of candidate sites within Argyll and Bute has been reduced from 14 to 10 and technical constraints mean that it will be extremely difficult for any of these sites to be delivered. More information will be available once the initial site searches have been completed and the technical issues have been resolved. There is no defined timescale for this work although the project is due to be completed by the end of March 2016. To date no sites have been delivered across Scotland through the MIP, we are advised that the landscape is making it very challenging to connect proposed sites into the current mobile operators' networks. The Vodafone Rural Scheme may provide coverage to some of these not spot areas and 7 communities in Argyll and Bute have been identified as successful in this competition (surveys to be undertaken March 2015).

Indicator 2.5.1- There is a potential that the target will not be achieved due to lack of cooperation or agreement from users. We are embarking on formal enforcement action in supplies where no progress has been made, in order to secure treatment systems and protect public health of all users.

#### 4. Opportunities

Are there opportunities for further partnership working, sharing of assets or the joining of resources?

#### Background

Consultations	Performance information for the council's Development and Infrastructure Service is scrutinised at the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee.
Resources	None arising directly from this report
Prevention	None arising directly from this report
Equalities	None arising directly from this report

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Appendix 1 – Outcome 2 Performance

## Appendix 1 – Outcome 2 Performance – up to December 2014

Argyll and Bute SOA Outcome 2: We have infrastructure that supports sustainable growth				
"Red" Performance				
Element	Target	Actual	Data Provider	Comment from system
2.2.2b Provide coverage to 7 not spots by 2016	FQ3 14/15 On track	FQ3 14/15 Not on track	Anna Watkiss	An update on the MIP was provided in October 2014, this included revised sites due to new data being made available from the mobile operators. The number of candidate sites within Argyll and Bute has been reduced from 14 to 10 and technical constraints mean that it will be extremely difficult for any of these sites to be delivered. More information will be available once the initial site searches have been completed. The Vodafone Rural Scheme may provide coverage to some of these not spot areas.

Argyll and Bute SOA Outcome 2: We have infrastructure that supports sustainable growth					
Information not yet required					
Element	Target	Actual	Responsible Post	Comment from Community Planning team	
2.4.1b Number of housing units upgraded to a tolerable standard	50 per annum	FQ3 14/15	Moira MacVicar	Information is annual and will be available in the Summer of 2015	
2.8.2 % of opportunities for co-location considered at business case stage	100% compliance	FQ3 14/15	Malcolm MacFadyen	Information will be annual, provided in Q4	

**Argyll and Bute SOA Outcome 2: We have infrastructure that supports sustainable growth**

**"Green" Performance**

Element	Target	Actual	Data Provider
2.1.1b Year on year increase in investment on A82, A83 and A85	Year on year increase in investment	FQ3 14/15 £900K	Jim Smith
2.1.2 Completion of Local Development Plan Action Programme	FQ3 14/15 On track	FQ3 14/15 On track	Sybil Johnson
2.1.3 To achieve a new service of a regular commercial air link between Oban and Glasgow/ Oban to Barra.	Achievement of link	FQ3 14/15 On track	Moya Ingram
2.1.4 Establish Green Networks in each of our main towns	FQ3 14/15 On track	FQ3 14/15 On track	Matt Muldrerrig
2.2.2a % of premises in Argyll and Bute with access to 3G phone signal	FQ3 14/15 24 %	FQ3 14/15 28 %	Anna Watkiss
2.3.1 Capacity in our grid network to allow additional renewable energy connections	Physical investment in the Grid network to increase capacity and allow new projects to connect	FQ3 14/15 On track	Audrey Martin
2.4.1a Affordable social sector new builds	FQ3 14/15 0	FQ3 14/15 67	Moira MacVicar
2.4.3 No of new housing sites identified within the Local Development Plan	FQ3 14/15 20	FQ3 14/15 75	Matt Muldrerrig
2.4.4 % of Planning Applications Approved	FQ3 14/15 95.0 %	FQ3 14/15 95.1 %	Ross McLaughlin
2.5.1 % of all category A water supplies to be improved to EC standards	FQ3 14/15 94.8 %	FQ3 14/15 94.9 %	Alan Morrison
2.6.1 Number of town centres with an agreed Action Plan	6 completed by April 2017	FQ3 14/15 1	Audrey Martin

2.7.2 Develop a policy framework for the holistic management of land and buildings	FQ3 14/15 On track	FQ3 14/15 On track	Lynda Robertson
2.7.3 Agree a Built Heritage Strategy for Argyll and Bute	FQ3 14/15 On track	FQ3 14/15 On track	Matt Muldrerrig
2.7.4 Produce a short term development plan for key ports	Plan produced	FQ3 14/15 On track	Martin Gorringe
2.7.5 Agree strategy for co-location	FQ3 14/15 On track	FQ3 14/15 On track	Malcolm MacFadyen
2.8.1 Develop marketing strategy to dispose of public sector surplus property/land	FQ3 14/15 On track	FQ3 14/15 On track	Malcolm MacFadyen
2.8.3 Availability of business land	FQ3 14/15 Ha 64	FQ3 14/15 Ha 90	Matt Muldrerrig