

**Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands  
Economic Development Action Plan**

Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee  
8<sup>th</sup> April 2015



**Competitive Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands  
Success Measures 2014/15**

**Businesses:**

- Business Gateway Adviser regularly attends the Kintyre Initiative Partnership – point of contact for any potential BIDS groups and opportunities for joint working.
- Senior Development Officer, Business Gateway – member of the Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce.
- Input to the Mid Argyll Regeneration Study.

**Competitive Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands  
Success Measures 2014/15**

**Place:**

- Old Quay Campbeltown progressed using European Regional Development Fund underspend from New Quay works.
- Campbeltown THI and CARs completed.

**Campbeltown  
THI / CARs**

**Investment**

- THI Grant awarded to 77 property owners
- Over 40 town centre buildings refurbished including 7 target buildings
- 3000 square metres of vacant historic floorspace brought back into use
- Transfer of Council Town Hall building to third sector organisation – currently on site
- Restore or replace 17 shop fronts
- 140 original windows refurbished
- Total THI/CARS grants offered £1.6M
- Initial Council contribution of £600,000
- Total spend on buildings including owners contributions and other funding is over £7M
- Secured transfer of privately owned derelict tenements to developer - Cross St / Main St

**Job Creation**

- 22 jobs created permanent
- 4 apprentices
- Over 40 local contractors involved in delivering the building works

**Training and Events  
Programme**

- 36 training courses and community events
- 300 participants
- 14 courses targeted at local contractors
- Over 1000 people engaged
- Heritage Trail formed in 2010
- Town Centre Handyperson employed

**13-15 Kirk Street  
Completed 2013 = Partnership Working & APAG**



THI £176,000  
Housing Grant £40,000  
Owner £119,000  
Total Project Cost £335,000

Vacant over 20 years  
Purchased from the Crown  
Local property owner

All 4 flats now occupied  
by local people.



## Town Hall (B listed)

Work started 1st December 2014



- Saved from mothballing in 2009
- 4 year project to secure funding etc.
- Ownership recently transferred to SKDT
- Community project for benefit of locals
- SKDT secured funding of £1.9 million from:

Big Lottery Fund £1m  
THI £387,000  
Council CHORD £300,000  
Historic Scotland £224,800

Other funding plus donations and local fundraising.  
Extensive repairs and refurbishment internally and externally.  
Commercial space, meeting rooms and the main hall.

## Competitive Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Success Measures 2014/15

Place (continued):

- Campbeltown berthing facility works on-site; estimated to be completed by end of April 2015.
- MACC Limited Masterplan approved, February 2015.
- Inveraray CARs on-site – project runs to March 2018 with investment circa £2m.
- Kilmory Industrial Estate Feasibility Masterplan underway.
- Phase 1 of Bowmore Regeneration Masterplan on-site.
- Regeneration of the Crinan Canal and Ardrishaig – collaborative agreement being advanced with the Council and Scottish Canals.

## Competitive Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Success Measures 2014/15

### Sustainable Economic Assets - Renewable Energy:

- Community renewable energy, total of 2.08 MW (Gigha: 0.7 MW; MAC Pool: 0.2 MW; Allt Dearg: 0.85 MW; Islay Energy Trust: 0.33 MW).
- Scottish Islands Federation conducted an Energy Audit on Gigha as part of the SMILEGOV project. Gigha work concluded at the March 2015.

### Sustainable Economic Assets – Tourism:

- AITC - appointment of 3 freelance Development Agents to support local marketing groups.
- Kilmartin House – resubmission of bid to Argyll and Bute Council
- Attendance at cruise ship conference in Barcelona in October 2014 provided a marketing focus for the whole of Argyll and Bute.
- Argyll Sea Kayak Trail completed (Tarbert, Ardrishaig and Crinan launch points). Marketing materials produced.

**Argyll Sea Kayak Trail**

- 130km in length
- nine safe launch points created
- 10 apprenticeships funded

Developed and managed in partnership with a range of external and internal stakeholders and succeeded in accessing £500,000 of funding both Capital and Revenue, from coastal community fund and LEADER. The project continues until May 2015 and a further stage of development is planned.

## Competitive Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Success Measures 2014/15

### Quality Food and Drink:

- Argyll Hill Lamb now distributed by Campbell Bros, wholesale butcher. Secured outlets for product across Argyll and in Edinburgh where distributed UK wide.
- Scottish Abattoir Programme, 2013-2015 – business mentoring, planning advice and capital support is progressing with a particular focus on the incinerator project on Islay. Support due to be concluded by end of May 2015.

## Connected Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Success Measures 2014/15

### Digital Connectivity/Utilities:

- Superfast broadband - Campbeltown and Lochgilphead summer 2015.
- Community Broadband Scotland – progressing Giga+ Argyll: Colonsay, Islay, Jura and Craignish.
- Mobile phone signal – progressing Vodafone Rural: Ormsary and Ardfern.
- Grid improvements:
  - Crossalg - Hunterston subsea cable (double circuit 220kV, 240MW) in construction – completion 2015.
  - Crossalg - Carradale 132kV overhead line rebuild in construction – completion 2015.

**Connected Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands  
Success Measures 2014/15**

**Transport Infrastructure:**

- MAKI Capital Roads Reconstruction Programme, 2014/15 presented to the Area Committee and the Roads Annual Status and Options Report presented to the ED&I Committee both align with the Roads Asset Management and Maintenance Strategy.
- Trunk Road Liaison meetings and meetings of the Argyll Timber Transport Group (ATTG) are attended regularly by Council officers.
- Transfer of responsibility of Council operated ferry services ongoing.
- Campbeltown to Ardrrossan ferry link – increased passenger numbers 2013-2014 by just under 360, circa 6%.

**Connected Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands  
Success Measures 2014/15**

**Transport Infrastructure (continued):**

- HIE to undertake a study in relation to transport connectivity and the economy in Argyll and Bute. Key objectives:
  - assess the extent to which transport connectivity between Campbeltown and Lochgilphead and to these from the Glasgow/Inverclyde area, has a real impact on businesses, service providers, and the potential for future economic growth. (Identifying problems)
  - consider the scope for major transformative investments in transport infrastructure to produce transformative economic impacts. (Identifying opportunities)

**Connected Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands  
Success Measures 2014/15**

**Transport Infrastructure (continued):**

- Slight decrease in the usage of the cycle network.
- Canal bank cycle route resurfaced between Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig.
- Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands iCycle training during 2014/15: 52 trainers trained and 173 children trained.

**Collaborative and Compelling Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands  
Success Measures 2014/15**

**Compelling Argyll and Bute Administrative Areas Study:**

- Detailed study underway which has two overarching objectives:
  1. To undertake a detailed economic profiling and analysis of Argyll and Bute and each of the four sub-areas, with a particular focus on **skills development** issues.
  2. To develop 'compelling' propositions/promotional action plans for Argyll and Bute and Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands in order to attract the economically active through the collation of the findings from desk-based research and primary research (to include input from local communities and employers).
- Study timescale extended to end of April 2015 to cover a focus on public sector employment as per outcome 1.8.2 of the SOA.

**Next Steps**

- Report back to the Area Committee on key issues such as the Compelling Argyll and Bute Administrative Area study.
- Organise discrete half day workshops with the Area Committee and Area Community Planning Group to discuss actions to be included in the 2015/16 MAKI EDAP.
- Area Committee to approve 2015/16 MAKI EDAP.