

**BUTE AND COWAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN 2014/15**

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**1. SUMMARY OF ISSUES**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper and accompanying presentation is for the Bute and Cowal Area Committee to note the feedback on the delivery of the actions and in-year success measures within the Bute and Cowal Economic Development Action Plan (EDAP) 2014/15, which was approved by the Area Committee in April 2014.
- 1.2 The content of the Bute and Cowal EDAP aligns with the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) Delivery Plans developed by the Community Planning Partnership.
- 1.3 It is important to note that the Bute and Cowal EDAP is a working document so that economic opportunities can be captured and addressed as they arise over the next three financial years inclusive to 2017/18. Therefore the actions and in-year success measures contained within the Bute and Cowal EDAP for 2015/16 will need to be agreed by the Area Committee and taken forward.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Bute and Cowal Area Committee notes the content of the presentation on the delivery of the actions and in-year success measures for 2014/15.
- 2.2 The Bute and Cowal Area Committee agrees to undertake a separate workshop session (late April/early May) with officers from the Economic Development Service to input to the content of the area-based EDAP for 2015/16. Mirroring the process for the preparation of the 2014/15 plan, the Area Committee also agrees that a similar workshop session is taken forward with the Bute and Cowal Community Planning Group.
- 2.3 The Bute and Cowal Area EDAP for 2015/16 will then need to be approved by the Area Committee in June 2015.

**3. DEVELOPMENT AND PREPARATION OF THE BUTE AND COWAL EDAP**

- 3.1 The Bute and Cowal EDAP sets out the growth agenda for the economy of Bute and Cowal, with a key focus on partnership delivery. The area EDAP provides a framework for sustainable economic development centred round four 'C's':
  - **Competitive** Bute and Cowal – businesses, places and sustainable economic assets;
  - **Connected** Bute and Cowal – transport, infrastructure, digital connectivity and grid;
  - **Collaborative** Bute and Cowal – national and European policy and funding, employability and skills development, and the need to harness the potential of the third sector; and
  - **Compelling** Bute and Cowal – increase the profile of the area to attract economically active new residents (individuals and families), inward investors and visitors.

**4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Bute and Cowal Area Committee notes the content of the presentation on the delivery of the actions and in-year success measures for 2014/15 and agrees to the proposed workshop sessions for the preparation of the 2015/16 area-based EDAP.

## 5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The implications for the Bute and Cowal Area Committee are as outlined in **Table 5.1** below.

<b>Table 5.1: Implications for the Bute and Cowal Area Committee</b>	
<b>Policy</b>	The Bute and Cowal EDAP 2014/15 (and subsequent in-year plans) aligns and adheres, as appropriate, to the overarching EDAP, 2013-2018, Local Development Plan and the SOA Delivery Plans.
<b>Financial</b>	The Bute and Cowal EDAP will ensure that the area's resources are allocated efficiently and effectively with regard to the economic development priorities and ambitions for Bute and Cowal. There will need to be annual consideration of best alignment between resources and priorities.
<b>Legal</b>	All legal implications at project level will be taken into consideration.
<b>HR</b>	The Bute and Cowal EDAP priorities will be resourced in terms of staff time in the context of the Council's annual service planning process and through shared staff resource discussions with Community Planning Partners.
<b>Equalities</b>	The Bute and Cowal EDAP will comply with all Equal Opportunities policies and obligations.
<b>Risk</b>	If the Bute and Cowal EDAP for subsequent financial years (2015/16 onwards) is not approved, then there will be no clear focus on or understanding of the economic development activities, and the associated resources, that will have the greatest beneficial economic impact for the area over the next three financial years.
<b>Customer Service</b>	The Bute and Cowal EDAP will provide internal and external customers with a clear articulation of the key priorities for developing the Bute and Cowal economy, thereby facilitating focus, effective resource planning and partnership working at the local level.

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