

Bute and Cowal Economic Development Action Plan

Bute and Cowal Area Committee
7th April 2015



Competitive Bute and Cowal Success Measures 2014/15

Businesses:

- Business Gateway has liaised with Dunoon BIDS during 2014/15 and opportunities for joint working will be taken forward as appropriate.
- Small Business Units on Bute:
business needs (demand and supply) on Bute - progressed during 2015.
Current provision through the gap site work and the Hanson Building Contractors development.

Competitive Bute and Cowal Success Measures 2014/15

Place:

- Rothesay THI.
- Rothesay Pavilion - £5.85m of external funding secured from Heritage Lottery Fund, Coastal Communities Fund, Regional Capital Grant Fund, Historic Scotland and HIE.
- Dunoon Wooden Pier – both contracts have been let.
- Queen's Hall, Dunoon – timescale of refurbishment now dictated by Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO).
- Team Town approach going forward.

ROTHESAY THI

Investment

THI Grant awarded to 68 property owners to:

Comprehensively repair 4 tenements

Make smaller scale repairs to a further 8 properties

Restore or replace 12 shop fronts

Redevelop 1 prominent gap site

Overall common fund: £2.6m

Council Contribution of £546,124

Owner contributions = £1.4M

Owner contributions critically include

Private Sector Housing Grant

Total eligible project cost = £4.05M

Job Creation

4 Bute based jobs – foreman, bricklayer, stonemason & labourer

2 Bute based apprentices

Argyll based contractors working on 17 projects

Glasgow based contractors working on 3 projects

Framework agreement with conservation accredited Glasgow based architects

Training and Events Programme

157 event days = 2095 active participants

20 training days = 192 active participants

6 courses targeted at local contractors = 50 up-skilled



Before



After

Rothesay Post Office

95% grant

Total eligible cost = £39k

Gap Site 15-19 Montague Street

Nearing Completion

Before



Council owned land sold to developer
£250k grant
Total project cost = £1.28M

Rothesay Pavilion

Restoring famous Art Deco pavilion

£8.8 million project to renovate this iconic building

Creating a hub for culture, tourism and sports

Work to include:

Full upgrade of the main hall



Creation of a second performance and community venue

A new café

Full mechanical and electrical upgrade

Full exterior repairs



Dunoon – Wooden Pier

Saving Dunoon’s iconic pier

Circa £2.8 million investment (Phase 1)

Probably the best remaining example of a wooden Victorian-era pier in Scotland.

Key piece of the Clyde’s maritime heritage.

Working with the community to save it in the short-term and to develop it in the longer term.

Phase 1A - major repairs to the substructure, expected to start spring 2015.

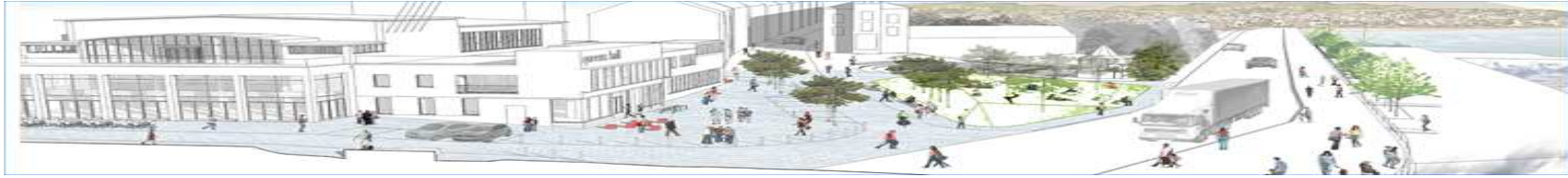
Phase 1B - work on the decking and buildings, expected to start autumn 2015.

Repairs to decayed timber piles and timber cross bracings.

Decking to be lifted, repaired and replaced.

Essential structural work on harbour master’s office and waiting room.





Dunoon – Queen’s Hall Dunoon’s waterfront gateway

Circa £9million investment

Creating a centre for skills and learning

Project will revitalise the Queen’s Hall, giving people exciting gathering places both inside and outside

New fitness and training suite

Refurbishment of the main hall

Soft play area & Library

Visit Scotland & Skills Development Scotland

New road layout

New paving and soft landscaping

Easier access to the town centre for ferry passengers



Competitive Bute and Cowal Success Measures 2014/15

Sustainable Economic Assets - Renewable Energy:

- Scottish Islands Federation conducted an Energy Audit on Bute as part of the SMILEGOV project. Bute work concluded at the March 2015.

Sustainable Economic Assets – Tourism:

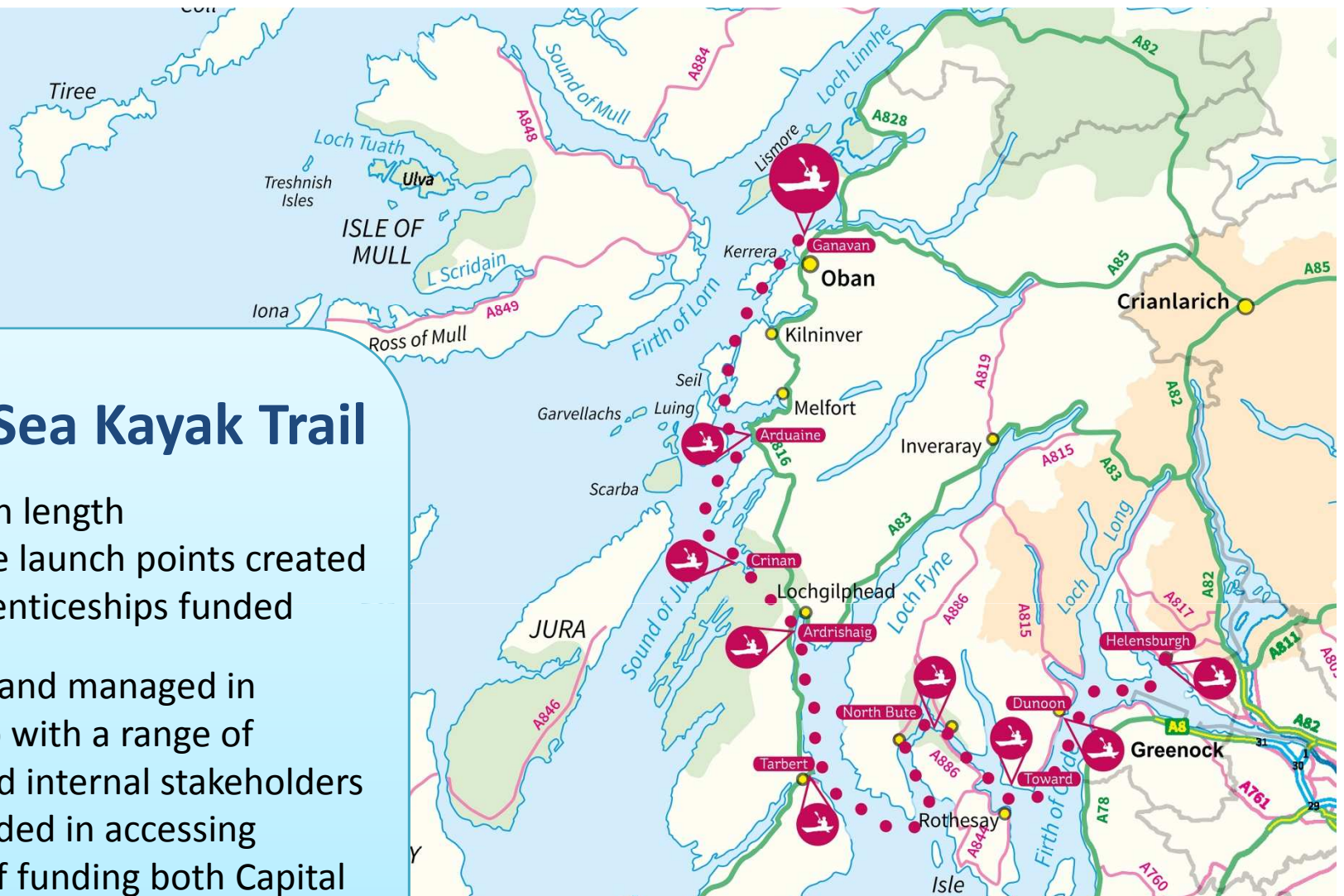
- AITC - appointment of freelance Development Agent to work with Kyles Marketing Group, Cowal Marketing Group and VisitBute to build capacity and grow membership.
- Bute Berthing – keen to expand the shower and laundry facilities and extend the opening times of the toilets.
- Attendance at cruise ship conference in Barcelona in October 2014 provided a marketing focus for the whole of Argyll and Bute.
- Hebridean Princess visited Rothesay during 2014/15 – 36 passengers disembarked. Saga Pearl due to visit Rothesay in September 2015.
- Argyll Sea Kayak Trail completed (North Bute, Toward and Dunoon 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.



Connected Bute and Cowal Success Measures 2014/15

Digital Connectivity/Utilities:

- Superfast broadband - Dunoon and Rothesay brought forward to the summer 2015.
- Community Broadband Scotland supporting communities at initial stages of superfast broadband development.
- Mobile phone signal - initial indication that some masts will be upgraded to 4G.
- Grid improvements – Argyll and Bute wide study between forestry (timber industry) and SSE to be completed during 2015/16.

Sustainable Transportation:

- Argyll and Bute Council continues to input to Dunoon-Gourock Ferry Action Group to influence journey times.

Connected Bute and Cowal Success Measures 2014/15

Sustainable Transportation (continued):

- HIE to undertake a study in relation to transport connectivity and the economy in Argyll and Bute with a particular focus on the southern part of the area, including Bute and Cowal. Key objectives:
 - assess the extent to which transport connectivity between Dunoon and Rothesay 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)
- Slight decrease in usage of the cycle network (hands up survey data).
- Bute and Cowal iCycle training during 2014/15: 17 trainers trained and 72 children trained.

Collaborative and Compelling Bute and Cowal 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 Bute and Cowal 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 a discrete half day workshops with the Area Committee and Area Community Planning Group to discuss actions to be included in the 2015/16 B&C EDAP.
- Area Committee to approve 2015/16 B&C EDAP.