

Outcome 1: The economy is diverse and thriving

This outcome focuses on business growth, sustainability and start up. Tourism, marine science, renewables, digital economy and food and drink are the key sectors which will be developed through this outcome

The key strategies and plans supporting the delivery of this outcome at an Argyll & Bute level include: Argyll and Bute Local Housing Strategy; Argyll and Bute Skills Pipeline Argyll and Bute Youth Employment Activity Plan; Argyll Voluntary Action Strategic Plan; CHORD / CARS programme; TIF programme; Economic Development Action Plan; Scottish Government Economic Strategy; Highlands and Islands Enterprise Operating Plan; Local Development Plan; Opportunities for All Development Plan; Renewable Energy Action Plan; Roads Asset Management and Maintenance Strategy; Scottish Enterprise Operating Plan; Scottish Ferries Plan; Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2013-18; Strategic Infrastructure Plan (proposed)

The following strategic partnerships are supporting the delivery of this outcome: Argyll and Bute Renewables Alliance; Argyll and the Isles Strategic Tourism Partnership; Argyll and Bute Employability Partnership; Third Sector and Communities Strategic Partnership.

Main areas of focus for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands included within this outcome:

- To achieve business growth and additional employment opportunities
- To ensure our towns, villages and rural communities are economically dynamic, sustainable and connected building on their distinct opportunities
- To create the right environment where more people choose to live, work, visit and invest in Argyll and Bute
- To ensure we have a thriving, sustainable renewable energy sector with well-developed local supply chains and community benefits
- To ensure we have a robust tourism sector with an extended season, a higher value proposition and increased turnover
- To create an environment where levels of entrepreneurship are increased

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SOA Code	SOA Delivery Plan Action	Activity on the Ground	Timescale
1.1.2	Support an increase in international trade through more businesses trading internationally and businesses increasing international turnover	£1.3M pa estimated increase in International Sales across Argyll & Bute as a result of approvals this year.	Ongoing
1.1.4	Support Business Growth (including social enterprise) through HIE / SE account management and Business Gateway (BG)	64 organisations account managed across Argyll & Bute, 6 of which were referrals from BG	Ongoing
1.1.7	Ensure businesses are ready to take advantage of the opportunities offered by improved Broadband speeds	New courses to be run by Business Gateway and/or Highlands & Islands Enterprise in a number of areas across Argyll and Bute	On-going support throughout 2015 - 2017
1.2.4	Prepare a plan to leverage inward investment opportunities at Machrihanish and Campbeltown	A masterplan has been completed and 2 proposition documents for potential investments have also been prepared.	Ongoing
1.2.6	Deliver Community Account Management model to support sustainable growth and community empowerment	6 CAM Action Plans in place across Argyll & Bute.	Ongoing
1.4.1	Increase awareness of marine employment, education and business opportunities through engagement with SAMS and all local stakeholders	A number of leads are still being pursued following attendance at Aquaculture UK. A report on the Argyll marine economy is to be commissioned.	Ongoing
1.5.2	Influence delivery of Islay Tidal Array through infrastructure, inward investment, supply chain, employment and training	HIE staff facilitated a visit to key Argyll sites and introductions to potential marine contractors with the Developer	Ongoing
1.5.3	Support the development of the local energy supply chain	3 events have been attended to increase the profile of Argyll & Bute and provide	Ongoing

		opportunities to local suppliers.	
1.6.1	Secure and maintain ongoing sustainability of the Argyll and Isles Tourism Co-Operatove Ltd (AITC) to further develop the tourism value chain linked to the area's unique heritage, provenance and authenticity	Local destination management groups have received support to engage support staff.	Ongoing
1.6.2	Create partnership structures with the capacity and desire to develop the culture and heritage sector to maximise the unique opportunities provided by the unique culture and heritage of the area.	<i>No information at February 2015</i>	
1.6.3	Support the delivery of high quality tourism experiences across Argyll and Bute	14 account managed tourism sector organisations across Argyll & Bute.	Ongoing
1.6.4	Build upon the local food and drink offering	15 account managed Food & Drink sector organisations across Argyll & Bute.	Ongoing
1.7.1	To provide support business starts in each of the four council administrative areas.	Business Gateway Advisors will provide support and advice to business starts ups within the area	On-going Business Gateway support throughout 2015 - 2017
1.8.3	To optimise public sector employment and training opportunities including work experience, apprenticeships, graduate placements, research etc	10 current Graduate Placements across Argyll & Bute.	Ongoing
		A study is being commissioned to identify increased opportunities for public sector employment. This is a direct SOA action	March 2015
1.8.4	Optimise local benefits through public sector procurement process through continued usage of supplier development programme, utilising community benefit clauses where appropriate	Campbeltown Old Quay Wall Replacement: BAM Nuttall confirmed that they have engaged local suppliers and employed local workforce (60% of contract workforce) and provided a	Ongoing

		<p>school talk in Castlehill Primary School on 23/24th June, all in line with their submission. In addition they have registered the site with Considerate Construction.</p>	
		<p>PV Panel Installation Education Properties (Non-NPDO): Contractor-led presentations within the relevant schools after completion of the works involved in this contract, to raise awareness of the benefits of Solar PV Panels</p>	<p>TBA – Presentations to start from January 2015</p>
		<p>Provision of Addiction Recovery Services: the Council would wish to see the contractor(s) for the Provision of Addiction Recovery Services, provide where appropriate, young person engagement. Under this contract, the Council would expect to work with the successful contractor(s) to organise contractor-led presentations within the Argyll and Bute schools to raise awareness of addiction to alcohol and drugs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
		<p>Supply and Delivery of Fresh Meat: We recently worked with a local school to highlight the skills and techniques needed to be a local butcher, showing them the different jobs available to them in their own community. They were invited to come and have a guided tour in the shop and Whinpark, providing them with literature of the process of farm to plate. We regularly run competitions through the schools and nurseries to encourage children to come into the shop and talk to the staff. We have advertised through the local high school for workplace experiences and job</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

		opportunities that might be arising in the establishment. Having a good relationship with the careers adviser helped with the apprentice position that has just been secured.	
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