



Argyll and Bute CPP Bulletin 10th November 2023

Welcome to the latest issue of the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership Bulletin.

This fortnightly bulletin is a place for sharing items of interest between community planning partners and our wider network of readers who are interested in the work of the Community Planning Partnership. These include links to strategies, consultations, reports, training, conferences & news stories.

If you have items you would like to share through this bulletin, please send links with up to 200 words of introductory text to: cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk

We make every effort to ensure that any hyperlinks in the Bulletin work – some of them may take longer to load. If you require printed copies of any of the documents attached in the Bulletin please contact: cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Argyll and Bute Council also send out other bulletins regularly that may be of interest:

Communities Bulletin

Every three weeks, containing links to resources and information for people in communities, community groups and the third sector in Argyll and Bute.

Sign up here: [Note of Interest Form \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)



Cuairt-litir Gàidhlig Earra-Ghàidheal is Bhòid - Argyll and Bute Gaelic Newsletter

Up to twelve issues per year, sharing and promoting Gaelic news, events and other opportunities for everyone in Argyll and Bute.

Sign up here: [Note of Interest Form \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

Monthly Funding Alert

A wide range of current funding opportunities gathered from a range of sources and collated in a monthly bulletin highlighting deadlines and links for more details.

Sign up here: [Note of Interest Form \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

New in This Bulletin:

- [Find the Latest Updates on Roads & Travel](#)
- [Sailing to school](#)
- [Funding Award will help Reduce Waste and Increase Recycling](#)
- [Ask the Police Scotland](#)
- [Marina to Slash Energy Costs with Net Zero Upgrade](#)
- [Islay Brewery set to Expand and Create Jobs](#)
- [Spatial Hub gives Access to Planning & Building Control Data](#)

- [Consultations and Surveys](#)

- [Dates for your Diary – Events & Workshops...](#)

- [Podcasts](#)
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- [Previous Items You May Have Missed...](#)

- [Argyll and Bute Council – Advice and Assistance in the Cost of Living Crisis](#)

- [Argyll and Bute Council Weekly News Round Up](#)

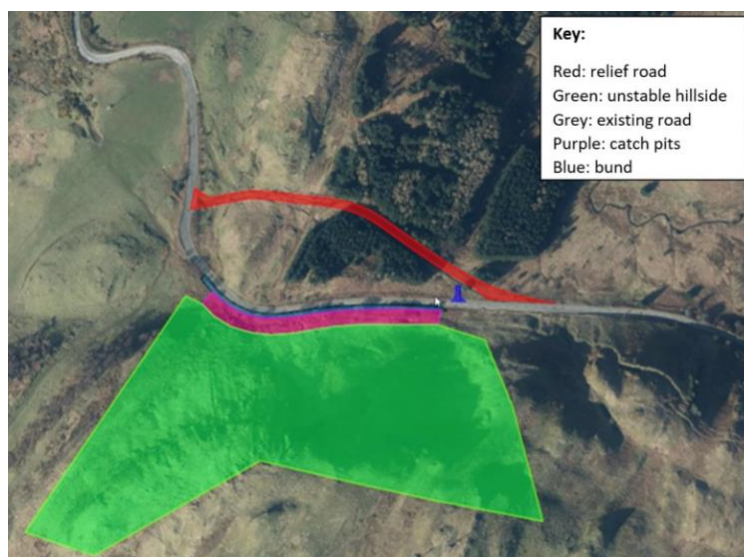
- [Funding Links](#)

- [COVID-19 Advice from NHS Inform](#)

Find the Latest Updates on Roads & Travel

Find the latest updates on roads and travel following the disruption of the recent extreme weather [here](#)

Showing the A816 to Ardfarn where work is ongoing to clear the landslip



Sailing to school



Thanks to the Argyll and Bute Council School Transport team, pupils in the Ardfarn area are able to continue their education and commute to Lochgilphead Joint Campus in style, by boat.

The team arranged the boat as work continues to re-open the A816 at Ardfarn, following the landslip.

One of the pupils using the service has admitted he'll be sad when he has to take the bus again!



Funding Award will help Reduce Waste and Increase Recycling

Argyll and Bute Council has been successful in its bid for £891,945 from Net Zero Scotland's Recycling Improvement Fund to make it easier for people to reduce waste and recycle more.

The funding will enable improvements to be made to recycling facilities at Argyll and Bute's six council-run Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC), therefore increasing the quality and quantity of recyclable material, and providing further re-use opportunities for items deposited at these sites.

It will also help to divert an estimated additional 416-565 tonnes of waste from landfill to reuse and recycling, and will go a long way towards the Council's goals of becoming a net zero organisation by 2045.

For more information, click [here](#)



Ask the Police Scotland

Ask the Police Scotland is the official police resource for Scotland. Find advice & support for any situation you might be facing – you can search by topic or ask a question

Click [here](#) for more information.

Search by topic or ask a question e.g. parking on street

Search

Explore popular topics

View all topics A-Z →



Road Traffic



Loud Noise



Court Proceedings



Vandalism



Marina to Slash Energy Costs with Net Zero Upgrade



Port Bannatyne marina on the Isle of Bute is expecting to save up to 90% of it's electricity costs while cutting carbon emissions by 25% in a year.

Port Bannatyne Marina Limited has secured £29,350 investment from Highlands and Island Enterprise (HIE).

The funding will be used to buy batteries to support the installation of a solar powered energy generation and storage system that will power toilet, shower and office facilities at the marina.

As well as cutting carbon and helping the region's transition to net zero, the project is forecast to help the business reduce its overheads, which will contribute towards ongoing profitability.

For more information click [here](#)

Islay Brewery set to Expand and Create Jobs

A £280,000 project is under way on the west coast island of Islay to upgrade the island's only brewery.

Islay Ales Co Ltd has secured up to £54,000 investment from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) towards the project, which will create the equivalent of 2.5 full time jobs and help retain an existing post.

Founded in 2004, the brewery is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Islay Boys Ltd. It has outgrown its current premises in Islay House Square; a listed building previously used as a carriage house, where they use small, old fashioned brewing equipment.

Islay Ales has now acquired land near the island's airport and secured planning consent for a bespoke brewery and small visitor centre.

The HIE funding will contribute towards the costs of equipment for the new premises. The equipment uses technology to be more efficient in energy use, while brewing world-class beers.

For more information click [here](#)

Spatial Hub gives Access to Planning & Building Control Data



The Improvement Service has teamed up with [LANDCLAN](#) to help bring its [Spatial Hub](#) data to the commercial market. The Improvement Service's collaboration with LANDCLAN means that anyone with an interest in planning and building control data can now get access to Scottish local government information.

The partnership with LANDCLAN will help to ensure that this valuable data from local authorities is made available as widely as possible and will focus on a number of added value datasets that will be of assistance to the planning and building control sectors among others, including Planning Applications, Local Development Plans, Housing Land Supply and Street Furniture. Customers will now be able to access this information through LANDCLAN's existing commercial channels.

For more information, click [here](#)



Consultations and Surveys

Business Gateway - Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute Council is looking to gather information from local businesses that have been negatively impacted by the significant damage to the road network in Argyll and Bute, following the extreme rainfall we experienced. This information will help the council engage with potential funders.

Business Gateway Argyll and Bute has created a survey to gather this information.

Whether you are:

-  a business based in or operating in Argyll that has been impacted or
-  an individual employed in Argyll and Bute whose regular travel to work has been impacted

Please complete the survey which can be found: [here](#)



Please respond by 5pm on Monday 13th November.

Tackling the Nature Emergency: Consultation on Scotland's Strategic Framework for Biodiversity

The Scottish Government is seeking views on a range of topics and proposals related to biodiversity and tackling the nature emergency in Scotland.



It covers three parts of the Biodiversity Strategic Framework:

1. The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy which sets out our vision to halt and reverse biodiversity loss;
2. The first five-year Delivery Plan which contains the actions to deliver the vision; and
3. The proposed Natural Environment Bill which will provide a framework for establishing statutory nature targets to drive delivery and the required transformational change.



Participate in the consultation [here](#)

Closes 14 December 2023

Building standards enforcement and sanctions: consultation

In Scotland, a Ministerial Working Group was set up following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower in 2017, to review building and fire safety regulatory frameworks. The Group identified the need for improving aspects of the building standards system.

The Scottish Government is now seeking views on proposals that aim to strengthen existing enforcement powers used by local authorities (LAs), and increase existing penalties for offences to act as a deterrent to persons who commit offences under the Building (Scotland) Act 2003.

[Read the consultation paper](#). The consultation paper contains full background information for this consultation. You may find it useful to read or refer to while responding.

To take part in the consultation click [here](#)

Closes 15th Jan 2024

Dates for your Diary – Events & Workshops...

Introduction to Community-led Planning

Community-led plans make things happen and improve local places. Are you considering making one? Would you like to know how? Would an Action Plan be better than a Local Place Plan and what's the advantage of each?

If you want to find out how to make a great plan and accelerate activity in your area, this 1.5-2 hour online and interactive webinar will give you a strong overview and lots of useful pointers.

Led by Argyll and Bute Council's Community Development team there will be time for questions and ideas.

Sign up on Eventbrite for the evening of **Thursday 30th November 6pm** at [this link](#) (1.5 hour session)



Or sign up for a day time session on **Wednesday 6th December 2pm** at [this link](#): (2 hour session)

The evening session is shorter to protect your personal time and the daytime session allows you to have more input.

For more information contact: antonia.baird@argyll-bute.gov.uk 01546 604270 /07880 051520

UNLOCK YOUR BUSINESS POTENTIAL! THRIVE AND TRANSFORM

Join Highlands and Islands Enterprise to:

- Discover the grants, advice, and support available to you
- Connect with us and like-minded businesses
- Gain insights from industry experts

There are limited places available. Don't miss this opportunity, book now!



Each event starts with an informal buffet lunch, providing the perfect opportunity for you to network, exchange ideas, and form valuable connections with industry peers and experts.

Next, short presentations will be delivered by Business Gateway and HIE, highlighting the different types of support we each offer to businesses in Argyll and Bute, including the latest grants and specialist advice funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

You can also meet experts from a range of partner organisations, with a focus on innovation, efficiency and net zero. These partners can identify practical strategies to reduce costs, minimise waste, and optimise operational efficiencies, leading to significant savings for your business.

We wrap up with an interactive Q&A session, so you can engage directly with the partner organisations to address any uncertainties and gain a clear understanding of how your business could benefit.

See Dates and locations below:

Date: 29/11/2023

Location: Town Hall, Campbeltown, PA28 6AB

Time: 12:30 - 14:00

Cost: Free

To book your place, click [here](#)

Date: 24/01/2024

Location: Online

Time: 09:00 - 10:00

Cost: Free

To book your place, click [here](#)

Podcasts



Pippa's Podcast

Pippa Milne, Chief Executive of Argyll and Bute Council, shares interesting conversations that she has with a variety of people working to make a difference across Argyll and Bute.



Decarbonising our footprint - Pippa explores the key role that the Council is playing to decarbonise our footprint in an engaging conversation with Ross McLaughlin.

You are welcome to [listen in here](#).

You can find more episodes of **Pippa's Podcast** [here](#).

Previous Items You May Have Missed...

Council Leader pays tribute to everyone involved in adverse weather response

The Leader of Argyll and Bute Council, Councillor Robin Currie, has paid tribute to all those involved in responding to the unprecedented weather that the area experienced during Saturday 7th October.

Before starting the 12th October Policy and Resources Committee Councillor Currie said:

“I would like to acknowledge all those who have been involved in responding to the unprecedented severe weather that Argyll and Bute has faced over the last few days.

Along with many others, I cannot remember any previous time when we have experienced weather and disruption of this scale, with some sources quoting the equivalent of one month's rainfall in one day.

The impact of this is well documented and there are few areas across Argyll and Bute, which have not experienced floods or landslides.

However, what we have also

seen, in equal measure to the scale of the impact, is the determination, the will, the spirit to rise up to these challenges, to respond, to resolve, and ultimately to recover.

Since the rain first hit, officers from many different services and council teams have been working round the clock in partnership with other agencies, including the HSCP, Transport Scotland, BEAR, Police Scotland and many others, to take all the actions needed in circumstances like these.

Some of them are on the front line, quite literally knee-deep in mud or water in many cases. Some of them are helping partner agencies manage road closures and diversions. Keeping people safe first and foremost, and helping them to move forward when and where possible. Some of them are finding ways to ensure that vulnerable people still get the services they need, overcoming the very considerable obstacles that have been put in their way and often at significant personal cost. Some of them are providing support in the background, finding and sharing information, directing queries, and assisting those on the frontline wherever possible. All of them are doing this in a very difficult, rapidly changing environment indeed.

Close on the heels of the weekend's amber weather alert and impact came yet more rainfall and weather warnings on Tuesday of this week, adding more strain, and more need to a desperate situation. But again – all of those agencies have continued to rise to the challenge, despite the pressure. Alongside the dedication and commitment of the teams involved on the ground sits the equally tremendous, heart-warming response of our communities.

To help stranded travellers, they have opened village halls and even their own homes. They have gathered together spare blankets and sleeping bags. They have shared hot drinks and food. They have taken pains to look out for their neighbours, for the sick and elderly in their communities. They have helped to clear mud and debris where floods have caused damage and disruption. The community spirit that Argyll and Bute has shown in the face of challenge is, yet again, beyond compare.



To all of you – I say a heartfelt thank you. This situation would have been far, far worse without your incredible efforts. We recognise that there has been a very considerable impact on both those who live and who visit our communities, and for the local businesses who are the backbone of the Argyll and Bute economy. Despite that, the determination to roll up sleeves and do what needs to be done has prevailed. Thank you.'

Full details of Councillor Currie's speech can be found [here](#)

For the latest info on roads and travel in Argyll click [here](#)

The Great Scottish Squirrel Survey Results Are In!



Members of the public were invited to take part in the Great Scottish Squirrel Survey during Red Squirrel Week: 2-8 October, to provide a snapshot of the squirrel population.

A total of 13,713 sightings were reported, with red squirrels making up 65% of sightings.

For more information about the Great Scottish Squirrel Survey, click [here](#)



Find out how Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is working in partnership with [The Scottish Wildlife Trust](#) on the [Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels](#) project, aimed at working to ensure red squirrels continue to be part of Scotland's native wildlife. 75% of the UK's remaining red squirrels are found here, but their numbers have fallen drastically in recent decades due to the spread of the invasive non-native grey squirrel.

For more information, read this interview with the Conservation Officer for Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels, click [here](#) (link may be slow to load)

Police Scotland- Right to Ask

You have the [#RightToAsk](#)

If you're concerned for your own safety, or someone else's, you can ask confidentially about a partner's history. Where we have information that a person may be at risk of harm of domestic abuse by their partner, we have the power to tell them.

Reporting domestic abuse could save a life.

To read more on the DSDAS Scheme and access the application form, visit: [here](#)



The Caring Penalty

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation recently [published research on the financial penalty faced by unpaid carers](#). Unpaid carers provide an invaluable service to society, but they shoulder a financial penalty in doing so. This report looks at the financial impact of unpaid care, and how policies can help mitigate it. Using data from Understanding Society, this report looks at the magnitude, causes, and distribution of the carer pay penalty, as well as its evolution over time.

To download the full report click [here](#)

Transformation Programme Launches Leadership Practitioner Forum



A new Leadership Practitioner Forum is being launched as part of the current Improvement Service and Solace Scotland transformation work, looking at proposals for a future operating model for councils and options for the future delivery of council services.

The Forum will be a network for aspiring Chief Executives, Directors and Heads of Service, led and supported by the Improvement Service with current local authority Chief Executives. Members of the Leadership Practitioner Forum will attend a series of events that focus on [the anchors and associated workstreams of the transformation programme](#), bringing colleagues together to explore topics and challenges.

These events and the wider Forum will also provide an opportunity for members to contribute to the development of the six anchors and answer key questions about the direction of the transformation programme and how it can progress.

Getting involved with the Leadership Practitioner Forum is a great way to ensure that this radical transformation programme aligns with the priorities of your local council or Community Planning Partnership (CPP). **For more information, click [here](#)**

Investment Scams - Police Scotland Warnings

Police in Argyll and Bute have identified an increase in victims of fraud in our communities, who have been scammed through Investment Scams.

An investment scam is where you are convinced to move your money into a fictitious fund or pay for a fake investment which promised a high return.



People may be targeted by cold callers or presented with fake investment opportunities promoted on search engines and social media pressuring you to act quickly.

Click [here](#) for more information from Police Scotland to help protect yourself and others from becoming victims of fraud.



A Minimum Income Standard for the United Kingdom in 2023

The Minimum Income Standard (MIS) provides a vision of the living standards that we as a society agree everyone in the UK should be able to achieve. This latest update sets out what households need to reach the MIS benchmark in 2023.

There continues to be a big gap between what people have and what they need for a decent standard of living. Millions of people in the UK risk falling well short of a minimum living standard.

This report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation looks at how the adequacy of disposable income (income after paying taxes, housing and any childcare costs) varies across different household types. It highlights the continued – and growing – inadequacy of out-of-work benefits, as well as incomes for working households failing to meet MIS.

You can use the JRF updated [Minimum Income Calculator](#) to work out whether you earn enough for an acceptable standard of living.

School Uniform Initiative



Argyll and Bute Council has been working with its schools and third sector partners to roll out a new, innovative scheme that will see school uniforms that children have outgrown, either reused or recycled - saving peoples' purse and the planet. Partners include schools, parent councils, volunteers, Kintyre Recycling Limited, Oban Baptist Church, Helensburgh Parish Church, and Dunoon Community Hub.

Click [here](#) for more information.

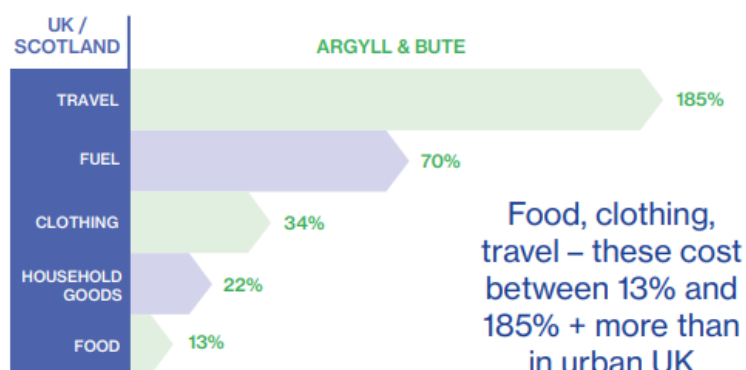
Argyll and Bute Council – Advice and Assistance in the Cost of Living Crisis



The council and partners are working to support people and businesses affected by the cost of living crisis in Argyll and Bute. Please find here a summary of that work, the sources of help and advice that are available and please feel free to share this with third parties and other organisations.

DETAILS:

Argyll and Bute's island, rural and mainland geography brings additional cost to our citizens' day to day lives (as highlighted in a report to Council on 29th September). For fuel costs alone this means that 70% of our households are at risk of fuel poverty or extreme fuel poverty; impact on additional key areas of living are outlined in the graphic below and at the end of this information note.



Working with partners to support people and businesses:

The council's FIAG group (Financial Inclusion and Advice Group) brings together council services and support agencies. To make it as easy as possible for people to get support when they need it the council provides a 'one-stop-shop' of information on our website to provide key information and also help and information on money saving initiatives such as cheaper deals for internet connection and the availability of warm spaces provide by other organisations: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/advice-services

We summarise below some of the help available:

Fuel

FIAG brings together different sources of support specifically with fuel costs on our website: [Heat your home - managing rising costs \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). This includes information about warm spaces – (link may be slow to load) <https://www.argylltsi.org/warmspaces.html>

Money

Bute Advice Centre and Allenergy produced a [booklet highlighting financial support services available across Argyll and Bute](#). This includes for example maximising income, foodbanks, energy and budgeting advice. It has been widely circulated to Elected members, across the NHS, Schools, support agencies and is available on the [Bute Advice Centre website](#).

Argyll and Bute Scotland Loves Local Gift Cards The Council is rolling out an initiative to provide £120 gift cards to around 6,650 Council Tax Reduction recipients. This will support households on low incomes and the local businesses registered for the card.

The Council is looking at a proposal to develop Welfare Rights & Health Partnerships in Argyll & Bute. The pilot is looking at 5 practices within Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay where the Council would embed Local Authority welfare advice specialists within the practice's healthcare setting for an average of one day per week per practice.

Data mining to identify benefits eligibility and maximise household income The Council's Data Advisory Group is working on matching data from relevant council systems to identify unmet benefit eligibility so we can support eligible households to maximize their income.

Food

[Flexible Food Fund](#): The Fund provides a one-off cash payment to families on low incomes to help with food and fuel. The size of the payment is based on their household composition. Claimants are offered a second cash payment if they have engaged with support agencies, the Bute Advice Centre and AllEnergy, in financial management. The project achieved national acclaim in October 2021 for Excellence in Innovation from the Institute of Revenue Rating and Valuation. Over 96% of people receiving the first grant payment engage, get the support they need and get a second payment; applicants, through different routes, have received a total of £2 million they could otherwise have missed out on.

[Food banks](#): there is a list of food banks on the council's website

Clothing

Preloved School Clothing Project. The Council and its schools are working with community groups to give every child in Argyll and Bute access to a school uniform, by developing a uniform re-use scheme. There is a reused school uniform hub in Helensburgh, one nearing completion in Campbeltown, and work in in planning for schemes for Dunoon, Rothesay, Oban and Lochgilphead, Tarbert, Islay and Mull.

Support

Additional funding for advice agencies. The Council has provided £40,000 in funding to Allenergy, Bute Advice Centre and the Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau to help them meet increasing demands from the public between 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Anti-poverty training. The Poverty Alliance has delivered training across the Council and Community Planning Partners on anti-poverty actions and this will be extended to elected members on 30 November.

Promoting information

The Council's Communications Team is already using social media and also statements provided to local press in the area to reach groups and individuals who perhaps don't use social media to make people who need it, aware of support available, using for example digital and traditional media channels, and word of mouth, inviting the help of Councillors, council employees, partner agencies and the public in passing information on, via whatever channels they have, to people who need it.

Please use the information and links above and pass to those who need it.

Remember key information and links to other advice and assistance can be found at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/advice-services

[Heat your home - managing rising costs \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\).](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/advice-services)

Argyll and Bute Council Weekly News Round Up

You can sign up to receive the Argyll and Bute Weekly News Round Up which is full of useful information, guidance, surveys and vacancies [here](#).



Funding Links

Argyll and Bute Flexible Food Fund

The Flexible Food Fund is having a really positive impact in communities across Argyll & Bute, putting cash in the pockets of those with no financial buffer. Bute Advice and Allenergy have worked successfully to provide welfare rights, money and energy advice to over 200 households across Argyll and Bute. This holistic approach is supporting households to become financially stable and helps bring peace of mind to families across Argyll and Bute.

Applications to the fund can be made via the [online claim form](#) available on the council's website. If you need help or support to complete the form please call us on 01700 502784 and ask about the Argyll and Bute Flexible Food Fund.



Benefits Money and Energy Advice Leaflet – New Updated



A new Money Worries guide has been created by Bute Advice Centre and Allenergy in partnership with the Argyll and Bute Community Food Forum, with the aim of providing basic information to help households maximise their income where possible, reduce outgoings and make the most of existing budgets. In addition, it will provide contact details of support services available throughout the region. The

Leaflet can be found on Bute Advice Centre's website, [here](#)

Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Funding Update

The TSI's latest Funding Update can be found [here](#). (this hyperlink may be slow to load)

Funding for Communities

Funds to support communities at this time can be found [here](#).

Sign up to Funding Alert

You can sign up to receive the Argyll and Bute Council monthly Funding Alert [here](#).

Grantnet – Funding Search Tool

GRANTnet is a straightforward free to use service which can help you identify suitable funding for your activity or project across a wide range of funding sources.

What is GRANTnet?

- Up-to-date information on over 7,000 grants and other incentives,
- Rapid identification of funding sources specific to need,
- Data sourced from EC and UK Government sources, including Government departments, local authorities, charitable trusts and corporate sponsors.

How to access GRANTnet

You can access the Grantnet home page [here](#).

When using the system for the first time, go to the '**Log in / Register**' page [here](#) and enter your details including your e-mail address (this will become the username), name, organisation, postal address and telephone number. Clicking on the 'Register' button will generate an e-mail providing a password.

Using GRANTnet - When you log into the system you must answer some questions about your organisation and the project which you wish to undertake. GRANTnet will then provide an overview of all the funds available.

Funding help available for businesses

Funds to support businesses at this time can be found at [here](#).

COVID-19 Advice from NHS Inform

Covid 19 is still around – for the latest updated advice, visit the NHS Inform website by clicking: [here](#)



Other Partners General Information

Here is our partner websites with other useful information :-

[Police Scotland](#) - Information on Police Scotland.

[Fire Scotland](#) - Latest news and details.

[Highlands and Islands Enterprise](#) – Advice for businesses, communities and third sector organisations.

[Scottish Natural Heritage](#) – Tips to support and enjoy local wildlife.

[Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park](#) – Details of facilities and helpful advice for visitors and businesses.

[UHI Argyll College](#)– Student support and advice.

[Argyll & Bute Council](#) – Help and advice for residents, businesses, communities on council services.

[Scottish Enterprise](#) – Business continuity advice.

If you have information that you wish to share from your organisation please send this to cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Argyll and Bute's economic success is built on a growing population

cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk 01546 604464