



Argyll and Bute CPP Bulletin 12th January 2024

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:

- [Crude Oil Leak at Finnart](#)
- [Dunoon Shaping Places for Wellbeing: Impact of Local Policing Work](#)
- [Help During the Cost of Living Crisis](#)
- [Argyll and Bute Leads the Way in Employment and Training](#)
- [Artificial Intelligence for Public Good](#)
- [First Time Volunteers in 2024](#)
- [Still Time! Apply Now for UHI Courses Starting in January](#)

- [Consultations and Surveys](#)

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- [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](#)

Crude Oil Leak at Finnart



Argyll and Bute Council is coordinating a multi-agency response following a small quantity of light crude oil surfacing from an underground pipeline in the area local to Finnart Ocean Terminal, Argyll and Bute.

Petroineos, who own and operate the site have deployed specialists in spill containment and recovery to the area in Glen Fruin where they remain on site. The leak is located in a small area and all residents living in close proximity of

the site are aware. SEPA is supporting the response and is on site to ensure all necessary clean up measures are taken.

Investigations are ongoing but there is currently a very low risk to the wider public. A cordon is in place to prevent access to the site. NHS Highland's Health Protection Team (HPT) is working closely with the council's Environmental Health Team to assess any implications for a small number of private water drinking supplies. The Public Health Protection Team will continue to work with the multi-agency group to assess any implications for health as investigations continue. Partners include, Police Scotland, SEPA, NHS Highland Public Health, Scottish Water and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority.

Read the latest SEPA update on the oil leak [here](#)

Dunoon Shaping Places for Wellbeing: Impact of Local Policing Work

The Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme is a delivery partnership between the Improvement Service and Public Health Scotland (PHS), funded and supported by The Health Foundation and Scottish Government with support from COSLA. It is a three year programme, running until March 2024.

The programme supports local authorities, health boards, and their partners to consider 'place' in a comprehensive and consistent way, whilst delivering on interventions and a range of national ambitions and key government policy aspirations including 20-minute neighbourhoods, the review of Scotland's Town Centre Action Plan and Scotland's Public Health Priorities. For more information about the programme, download the [programme summary](#).

The positive engagement between the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme and Police Scotland has opened up space for discussion about the contribution of local policing work to a place and the role of partnership working by the police in the prevention of ill health.

In the Dunoon Project Town the activities have included:

- Participation in the Dunoon Shaping Places for Wellbeing Steering Group
- Sharing of data insights
- Doing a Place and Wellbeing Assessment of the Local Policing Plan

The work was seen as a test for considering how to bring local insight and a place approach into the planning work of Police Scotland. The learning is now being shared across project towns and through the partnership at a national level.

For more information, click [here](#)

Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme has also been the subject of a Pippa podcast – listen [here](#)

Help During the Cost of Living Crisis

The Scottish Government has put together a website which signposts available help to mitigate the cost of living crisis, this includes:

- Urgent help with food or fuel
- Help with debt and money
- Energy and household bills
- Benefits and income
- Children and families
- Health and wellbeing
- Older or disabled



Support for businesses is also signposted

For more information, click [here](#)

Argyll and Bute Leads the Way in Employment and Training

New figures just released show that 95.6% of 16-19 year olds in Argyll and Bute are currently in education, training or employment, an increase of 1.7% on 2022 and 1.3% above the national figure of 94.3%.

The Annual Participation Measure (APM) gauges the Scottish Government's progress in meeting its commitment to offer a place in learning or training to every 16-19 year old in Scotland.

In 2022-23, the number of young people in employment in Argyll and Bute increased to 29.9% from 24.2% in 2021-22. Across Scotland, 21.4% of young people are in employment, which is a rise of 3.9% nationally from 2021-22.



Artificial Intelligence for Public Good

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) launches a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) project. Bringing together a wide range of perspectives, from tech experts and public sector actors to not-for-profit organisations and grassroots groups, the project will examine ideas on the development and implementation of AI that creates public good.

'Public good', refers to impacts or outcomes from AI that benefit the general public and are fairly distributed across society. The aim with the project is to broaden and deepen existing AI debates - cutting through the hype of current mainstream narratives and legitimising and involving the voices of non-tech experts.

For more information, click [here](#)



First Time Volunteers in 2024



Some 14% of UK adults plan to volunteer for the **first time** in 2024, according to a survey by [The National Lottery Community Fund](#).

Half of respondents said they intended to take part in formal or informal local volunteering activities this year. Seven in ten (72%) say it's important to them to feel part of their local community, and six in ten (59%) say community spirit is strong where they live.

The benefits of a strong community were seen to be: feeling safer (59%), having more awareness of what is happening (58%) and a greater sense of belonging (55%) in their local area with 45% saying that having an opportunity to meet people is a benefit of being part of their community.

Still Time! Apply Now for UHI Courses Starting in January

Apply now and start learning something new in January 2024. UHI short courses can help job seekers to improve their CVs and provide subject tasters to help decide whether to progress further. Full time courses are free for Scottish residents and those on low incomes will receive a bursary for living costs. Part time courses can fit around work, or job-seeking so that benefits stay unaffected.

Each course lasts 17 weeks ending by June.

For more information, click [here](#)



Consultations and Surveys

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 22nd Jan 2024

Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill

The Scottish Government is gathering views to help inform the scope of any legislation for a proposed Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill.

The Bill aims to further improve decision making and the implementation of the National Performance Framework to ensure that all policy and delivery is focused on increasing the wellbeing of people living in Scotland, both now and in the future. This consultation also explores scope for further improving accountability and scrutiny of the National Outcomes including the case for a Future Generations Commissioner.

For more information, click [here](#)

Closes 14 Feb 2024

Democracy Matters

Help shape future local democratic systems and processes. This consultation is part of the wider [Local Governance Review](#) which is looking across all of Scotland's vital public services to consider how power and resources should be shared between national and local government. This consultation provides another opportunity for as many voices as possible to be heard to help shape future local democratic systems and processes.

You can respond as an individual, an organisation or you can hold a conversation and respond as a community. You can send your response by clicking [this link](#).

Alternatively, you can send your views by email to democracymatters@gov.scot or by post to **Area 3F, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ**.

Please ensure that you send a completed [Respondent Information Form](#) with any email or postal response.

If you feel your community would benefit from financial support to hold Democracy Matters conversation, grants of up to **£300** are available to help with anything that would be required to get

a conversation going. For example, hiring a venue, printing costs, facilitation or to help with costs of those with additional needs to participate. To [Find out more and apply for a grant](#)

Closes 28 Feb 2024

Social Housing Net Zero Standard in Scotland

The Scottish Government wants all of our homes to be warmer, greener and more efficient, and is committed to ensuring that everyone in Scotland, no matter their financial situation, has access to good quality housing that they can afford to heat.

The social housing sector has led the way on energy efficiency in recent years and is well placed to build on this further while building in longer term ambition to transition to clean heating. These actions will see the sector make a vital contribution to achieving our ambitious climate change emissions reductions targets.

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

Closes 8 March 2024

Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services (CHFS3)

The Clyde & Hebrides Ferry Services play a crucial role in our transport system, providing vital links for residents, businesses, and tourists across the west coast of Scotland.

The Scottish Government are currently developing the new Clyde & Hebrides Ferry Services contract (CHFS3) and would welcome the views of communities and service users on their expectations for the service.

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

Closes 8 March 2024

Proposals for a Heat in Buildings Bill: Consultation

Like many other countries, Scotland has a legal target to reach 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions. The way we heat our homes, workplaces and other buildings is the third-largest cause of greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland.

Scotland cannot meet our legal obligation to reach 'net zero' without changing the heating systems in the vast majority of our buildings.

The purpose of this consultation is to make you aware of proposals to make new laws around the heating systems that can be used in homes and places of work, and to invite your views on those proposals.

The Scottish Government plans to:

- reconfirm that the use of polluting heating systems will be prohibited after 2045; and

- as a pathway to 2045, require those purchasing a home or business premises to end their use of polluting heating systems within a fixed period following completion of the sale
- introduce a new law that will require homeowners to make sure that their homes meet a reasonable minimum energy efficiency standard by 2033
- require private landlords to meet this minimum energy efficiency standard by 2028

The consultation describes proposals for how home owners and landlords can meet this standard – either through installing a number of simple insulation and draught-proofing measures, where those are possible, or by meeting a certain level of heat demand.

For more information, click [here](#)

Closes 8 March 2024



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Dates for your Diary – Events & Workshops...

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. Events 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.

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.



Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme

In her latest podcast, Pippa invites you to [listen in to her conversation](#) with Irene Beautyman, Place and Wellbeing Partnership Lead at the Improvement Service and Public Health Scotland who discusses with Pippa an approach to understanding community wellbeing in Dunoon.

If you or anyone you care about is affected by gender-based violence, support is available from the charity's helpline on 0800 121 4685 or via email support@ab-rc.org.uk

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

Previous Items You May Have Missed...

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](#)



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
POILEAS ALBA

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.



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

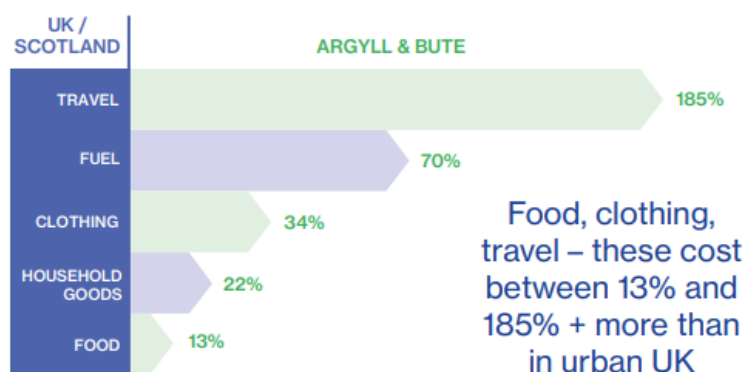


The council and partners are working to support people and businesses affected by the cost of living crisis in Argyll and Bute.

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/heat-your-home). 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. Click [here](#) for more information.

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 \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\).](#)

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 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