



## **Argyll and Bute CPP Bulletin 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

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

**This regular 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://argyll-bute.gov.uk/note-of-interest-form)

### **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 \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://argyll-bute.gov.uk/note-of-interest-form)

### **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 \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://argyll-bute.gov.uk/note-of-interest-form)



## **New in This Bulletin:**

- [Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-34](#)
- [Outcome 1 – Transport Infrastructure](#)
  - [Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services \(CHFS3\) - consultation](#)
- [Outcome 2 - Housing](#)
  - [Social Housing Net Zero Standard in Scotland - consultation](#)
  - [Proposals for a Heat in Buildings Bill – consultation](#)
- [Outcome 3 – Community Wellbeing](#)
  - [Supporting Communities Fund open for applications soon](#)
  - [Public Health Scotland Learning Zone](#)
  - [Democracy Matters - consultation](#)
  - [Independent review of Community Learning and Development \(CLD\)](#)
- [Cross-cutting theme – Digital Inclusion](#)
  - [OFCOM mobile and broadband checker](#)
  - [Cyber Scotland Week 2024 – free webinar](#)
- [Cross-cutting theme – Financial Inclusion](#)
  - [Help During the Cost of Living Crisis](#)
  - [UK Poverty 2024 report](#)
- [Pippa's Podcast](#)

## **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](#)

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## **Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2034**

The Community Planning Partnership is preparing to publish its next Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, which will provide the focus for its work over the next ten years. Based on extensive community consultation, input from partners and a review of existing data, the top three priority themes that the plan will seek to improve are: (1) Transport Infrastructure; (2) Housing; (3) Community Wellbeing.

The Community Planning Partnership Bulletin will now seek to spotlight information relevant to each of these priority themes, as well as previously established cross-cutting themes that will continue to be a part of our work.

Further information about the launch of the Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2034 will follow. Watch this space!

## **Outcome 1: Transport Infrastructure**

### **Have your say: 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.

[Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services \(CHFS3\) consultation](#)

**Closes 8 March 2024**

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## **Outcome 2: Housing**

### **Have your say: 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.

[Social Housing Net Zero Standard in Scotland consultation](#)

**Closes 8 March 2024**

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### **Have your say: Proposals for a Heat in Buildings Bill**

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.

[Proposals for a Heat in Buildings Bill - Have your say](#)

**Closes 8 March 2024**




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## **Outcome 3: Community Wellbeing**

### **Supporting Communities Fund open for applications**

Argyll & Bute Council's Supporting Communities Fund (SCF) is now open for applications.

Not-for-profit community organisations, who have a constitution or a Scheme of Establishment are eligible to apply for up to £2,500 to support community projects based on the following themes:

- Fairer Communities – tackling poverty by sharing opportunities
- Resilient Communities – capacity building, as well as repairing and rebuilding from the pandemic
- Greener, Cleaner Communities – environmental action to support addressing climate change
- Creative Communities - creativity for health and wellbeing.



Application Forms are available on the [Argyll and Bute Council SCF webpage](#) until the deadline for applications on **18<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.

For further information or for requesting paper copies of the application form, please email [supportingcommunitiesfund@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:supportingcommunitiesfund@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or telephone 01436 658881.

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## **Public Health Scotland Learning Zone**

Expand your knowledge, skills and behaviours, and contribute to a Scotland where everybody thrives, by accessing a range of learning resources on the Public Health Scotland Learning Zone.

The portal contains a range of film clips, animations, face-to-face events, podcasts and more, enhancing your capability to tackle public health issues, and address health inequalities.

As time goes by, you will find new and engaging content, all designed to support your professional and personal growth.

Go to the [Public Health Scotland Learning Zone](#) to discover more.



## Have your say: 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 to the [Democracy Matters consultation](#).

Alternatively, you can send your views by email to [democracymatters@gov.scot](mailto: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**

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## Have your say: Independent review of Community Learning and Development (CLD)

An independent review of Community Learning and Development (CLD) is seeking views from Community Planning partners.

The Scottish Government is conducting a review of CLD and has appointed an independent reviewer to find out what is working well and what could be improved, with a focus on the learning element of CLD.

The review will include an online consultation and a number of engagement events which Community Planning partners are being encouraged to contribute to and participate in.

The [Consultation and Call for Evidence](#) is open from 22nd January to 3rd March and has been designed for responses from the learner or potential future learner perspective, with input from interested stakeholders also sought.

Three regional engagement events will also be held across Scotland which will consist of meetings with invitees including CPP members and visits to see CLD in action, and these will be complemented by three online engagement events with one session to be held exclusively for CLD practitioners and CPP members in the Highlands and Islands.

Further details of the review, consultation and engagement events will be shared on the [dedicated Independent Review web page](#).

The review will culminate in a series of recommendations to be presented to the Minister for Higher Education, Further Education and Skills before the end of June.

[Independent Review of Community Learning and Development - Terms of Reference](#).

**Closes 3 March 2024**



## **Cross-Cutting Themes: Digital Inclusion**

### **OFCOM mobile and broadband checker**

OFCOM's mobile and broadband checker allows people to find out the predicted mobile and broadband coverage for their location based on information from the four major mobile network providers and major broadband providers.

[OFCOM mobile and broadband checker dashboard](#).



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## **Cyber Scotland Week 2024 - free webinar**

As part of Cyber Scotland Week, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland are hosting a free webinar in conjunction with Police Scotland.

In today's digital age, it is crucial to stay safe and secure while navigating the online world. This event aims to educate and empower individuals of all ages with the necessary knowledge and skills to protect themselves online.

During this event, various topics will be covered such as update and privacy settings, password management, public wi-fi and challenges & risks faced by children and young people.

Expert speakers will share practical tips and strategies to enhance your online safety. Whether you are a parent, student, or professional, this event is for everyone! Gain invaluable insights, ask questions, and connect with like-minded individuals who share the same concerns about online safety.

**Date:** 27/02/2024

**Location:** Online

**Time:** 18:00 - 19:00

**Cost:** Free



[Register for the Cyber Scotland Week 2024 webinar](#)

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## **Cross Cutting Themes: Financial Inclusion**

### **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  
[Cost of living crisis website](#)

## UK Poverty 2024 report

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has published a report on the current poverty picture across the UK as a whole and for different demographics and geographies. Poverty has returned to close to pre-pandemic levels with children and working-age adults with children experiencing the highest rates of poverty. Minority ethnic groups and people with a disability also face high levels of poverty.

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation UK Poverty 2024 report](#)



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## 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.



[Access all episodes of Pippa's Podcast](#)

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## 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.

[Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland](#)



**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).

[Improvement Service - Leadership Practitioner Forum launched](#)

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## 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.

[Police Scotland information to help protect yourself and others from becoming victims of fraud](#)



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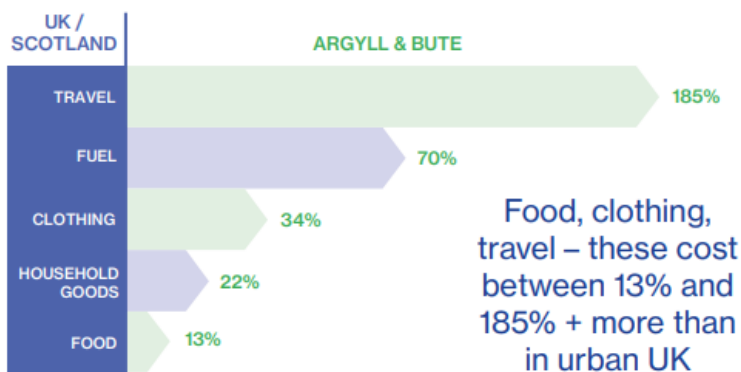
# **Argyll and Bute Council – Advice and Assistance in the Cost of Living Crisis**



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](http://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 ALIenergy, 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 planning for schemes for Dunoon, Rothesay, Oban and Lochgilphead, Tarbert, Islay and Mull. [School uniform scheme information](#)

## **Support**

*Additional funding for advice agencies*. The Council has provided £40,000 in funding to ALIenergy, 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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/advice-services)

[Heat your home - managing rising costs \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#).

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## **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.



## **Funding Links**

### **Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Funding Update**

[TSI's latest funding update](#) (This hyperlink may be slow to load)

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### **Funding for Communities**

[Funds to support communities at this time](#)

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### **Sign up to Funding Alert**

[Sign up to receive the Argyll and Bute Council monthly Funding Alert](#)

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### **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**

[Access the GRANTnet home page](#)

When using the system for the first time, [go to the 'Log in / Register' page](#) 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.

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### **Funding help available for businesses**

[Funding to support businesses at this time](#)

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### **COVID-19 Advice from NHS Inform**

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



## **Other Partners General Information**

Here is our partner websites with other useful information:-

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

[Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#) - Latest news and details.

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

[NatureScot](#) – 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](#) – 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](mailto:cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk)



[cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk) 01631 567960