



Argyll and Bute CPP Bulletin 15th March 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

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.

New in This Bulletin:

Now Published - Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-34

Outcome 1 – Transport Infrastructure

- [Have your say: A83 Rest and Be Thankful Updates](#)
- [Survey: Improving Transport Infrastructure to Enhance the Accessibility of Healthcare in the Highlands and Islands](#)

Outcome 2 - Housing

- [Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency Summit Report](#)
- [Research Report: Experiences and Understanding of Housing Affordability](#)

Outcome 3 – Community Wellbeing

- [Supporting Communities Fund open for applications](#)
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Ongoing partnership work

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 - o [Have Your Say: National Adaptation Plan 2024 to 2029](#)
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- [Investment Scams - Police Scotland Warnings](#)
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Funding Links

Other bulletins and newsletters that may be of interest

Partner Websites

Now Published - Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2034

The Community Planning Partnership has now published [the Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2034](#), which will provide the focus for its work over the next ten years.

The Outcomes Improvement Plan for 2024-2034 will focus on improving:

Outcome 1: Transport Infrastructure

Outcome 2: Housing

Outcome 3: Community Wellbeing



The Community Planning Partnership Bulletin will now seek to spotlight information relevant to each of these outcomes, as well as previously established partnership work.

Outcome 1: Transport Infrastructure

Have your say: A83 Rest and Be Thankful Updates

Public engagement events on the long-term solution at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful are being held from **18 to 21 March 2024** at four venues across Argyll and Bute. The engagement events will provide local communities and road users with the opportunity to meet the designers, as well as view and comment on the design development and the progress towards delivering the medium-term improvements along the Old Military Road.

A83 Rest and Be Thankful



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Medium and long term solutions



Public engagement events are being held from 18 to 21 March 2024.

These events will provide local communities and road users the opportunity to see and comment on the design development for the long-term solution and on the progress towards delivering the medium-term solutions.

Transport Scotland staff and their technical advisors will be available to answer questions on the proposed scheme and answer any queries.

To view the virtual exhibition visit: [www.argyllandbute.co.uk/a83restandbethankful](#)

or email: a83@argyllandbute.co.uk

or visit: [www.argyllandbute.co.uk/a83restandbethankful](#)

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[More information about the A83 Rest and Be Thankful public engagement events.](#)

[A virtual exhibition for anyone unable to attend in person](#) will be available from 18 March 2024.

Survey: Improving Transport Infrastructure to Enhance the Accessibility of Healthcare in the Highlands and Islands

This survey is being conducted by Kelly Harwood as part of an MSc in Transport Planning and Engineering at Edinburgh Napier University. It aims to gain a better understanding of how existing transport infrastructure is used by residents and healthcare workers to access and provide healthcare, look for trends in these movements and recommend measures for enhancing efficiency whilst remaining mindful of Scotland's overarching net zero targets.

This survey is for Highlands and Islands residents and workers who travel in the Highlands and Islands to deliver healthcare. Please share widely among any relevant networks.

[Find more information and take part in the survey.](#)

If you have any questions, please email Kelly Harwood directly: Kelly.Harwood@hient.co.uk

Closing Date: 1 April 2024

Outcome 2: Housing

Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency Summit Report

The Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency Summit was held on 27 November 2023, bringing partners together to forge commitments aimed at tackling housing shortage by maximising resources, pursuing innovation, coordinating planning and targeting delivery capacity. The Housing Emergency Summit was designed to focus partnership activity on prioritising and programming emergency responses to enabling the delivery of more market homes, affordable home and homes for the workforce along with making the best use of existing homes.

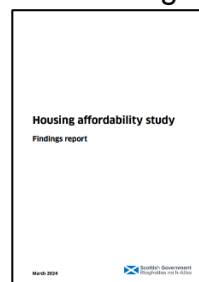
A report has now been published detailing the outcomes of Summit activity including the shortlisting and appraisal of housing emergency responses and the collective partnership pledge to act on each response.

[More information about the Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency and link to the Summit Report.](#)

Research Report: Experiences and Understanding of Housing Affordability

The Scottish Government has published the results of a qualitative research study exploring experiences and understanding of housing affordability among social housing and private rental tenants in Scotland. Participants in the study advised that a measure or definition of housing affordability must:

- Be clear, specific and relative to tenants' everyday lives and finance.
- Reflect the realities of the rental market.
- Emphasise fairness and dignity for tenants.
- Consider what is realistic, affordable and allows for 'future-proofing'.



[Read the full Housing Affordability Research Report.](#)

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 **18th March 2024**.

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

Have your say: Good Food Nation Plan

What kind of food system would you like to see in Scotland?

The Good Food Nation Plan will set out the Scottish Government's goals for food policy and how it intends to achieve them. The plan contains six outcomes that represent what the Scottish Government would like a sustainable food system to look like in Scotland. It also describes indicators and targets that would be used to measure progress towards achieving these outcomes. This consultation covers the content of the first national Good Food Nation Plan and asks your views on the national Good Food Nation Outcomes; ways of measuring progress; and how different groups envision life in a Good Food Nation.

[Find more information and take part in the National Good Food Nation Plan consultation.](#)

Closing date: 22 April 2024

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.



Ongoing Partnership work

Climate Change

- Have your say: National Adaptation Plan 2024 to 2029

The effects of climate change are already being experienced in Argyll and Bute including coastal erosion, storms, flooding, landslides and wildfires. What steps need to be taken to adapt to these and other effects?

A public consultation is running on a draft Scottish Government plan for climate change adaptation, asking for your views around the themes of: nature connects; communities; public services and infrastructure; economy, industry and business; international action.

[Read more about the draft adaptation plan and take part in the consultation here](#)

Closing date: 24 April 2024



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](#).



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](#)

Previous Items You May Have Missed

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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](#)

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](#)

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](#)



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
POILEAS ALBA

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

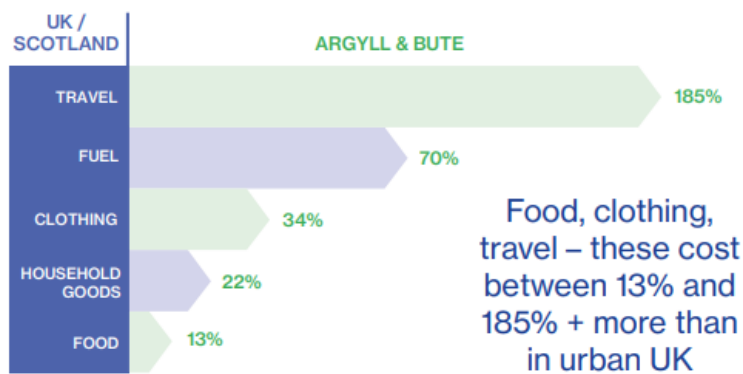


The council and partners are working to support people and businesses affected by the cost of living crisis in Argyll and Bute.

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-managing-rising-costs). 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

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

Funding Links

Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface Funding Information

[TSI funding and grants](#)

Funding for Communities

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

Sign up to Funding Alert

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

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.

Funding help available for businesses

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

COVID-19 Advice from NHS Inform

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



Other bulletins and newsletters 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)

Argyll and Bute Council Weekly News Round Up

You can sign up to receive the [Argyll and Bute Weekly News Round Up](https://argyll-bute.gov.uk/argyll-and-bute-weekly-news-round-up), which is full of useful information, guidance, surveys and vacancies.

Partner Websites

[Argyll & Bute Council](#)

[Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership](#)

[Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface \(TSI\)](#)

[Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust \(ACT\)](#)

[Bòrd Na Gàidhlig](#)

[Department for Work and Pensions \(DWP\)](#)

[Highlands and Islands Enterprise](#)

[Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership \(HITRANS\)](#)

[Historic Environment Scotland](#)

[LiveArgyll](#)

[Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park](#)

[Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament \(MSYPs\)](#)

[NatureScot](#)

[NHS Highland](#)

[Police Scotland](#)

[Scottish Ambulance Service](#)

[Scottish Enterprise](#)

[Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#)

[Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)

[Skills Development Scotland \(SDS\)](#)

[sportscotland](#)

[Strathclyde Partnership for Transport \(SPT\)](#)

[UHI Argyll](#)

[visitscotland](#)