



Argyll and Bute CPP Bulletin 16th August 2024

Welcome to the final issue of the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership Bulletin in this format. We look forward to bringing you a new look bulletin for the next edition.

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 and news stories.

If you have items you would like to share through future bulletins, 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.

In This Bulletin:

Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-34

Outcome 1 – Transport Infrastructure

Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service improvements
Argyll and Bute Active Travel Apps

Outcome 2 - Housing

Scottish Housing Day 2024
Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency continues to be tackled

Outcome 3 – Community Wellbeing

2024 SURF Awards launched
Successful Water Safety Open Day

Ongoing partnership work

Climate Change

- **Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill becomes an Act**
- **Powering Communities to Net Zero Fund**

Community Wealth Building

- **Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute: A Framework for Action**
- **Models of Opportunity**

Digital Inclusion

- **OFCOM mobile and broadband checker**
- **Digital Switchover**

Financial Inclusion

- **School Uniform Scheme**
- **Help during the cost of living crisis**
- **UK Poverty 2024 report**

Other strategies and consultations

Highlands and Islands Enterprise Operating Plan 2024-25 launched

Previous Items You May Have Missed...

Police Scotland- Right to Ask
Transformation Programme Launches Leadership Practitioner Forum
Investment Scams - Police Scotland Warnings
Argyll and Bute Council – Advice and Assistance in the Cost of Living Crisis

Funding Links

Other bulletins and newsletters that may be of interest

Partner Websites

Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2034

The Community Planning Partnership has 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 seeks to spotlight information relevant to each of these outcomes, as well as previously established partnership work.

Outcome 1: Transport Infrastructure

Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service improvements



Following the public consultation on the next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract, a number of enhancements have been agreed for implementation across the network by Transport Scotland and CalMac, including:

- Increasing engagement with communities and community organisations
- Strengthening local decision-making
- Developing partnerships with transport partners to improve connectivity

[More information on the ferry consultation findings and improvements plan](#)

Argyll and Bute Active Travel Apps

A suite of eight interactive active travel apps is now available across the towns and islands of Argyll and Bute, providing fun and historical information framed around a series of self-guided trails.

The Council works with a range of communities and organisations, including Community Planning Partners to expand the network of active travel routes across the area with a number of projects currently under design or construction.

[Download the apps and find out about the current active travel projects](#)



Outcome 2: Housing

Scottish Housing Day 2024



Partners with an interest in housing are being invited to support Scottish Housing Day 2024 which takes place on **18th September**.

The theme for the day is Homes for Life, focussing on the role of housing in supporting people to live well later in life, and is delivered in partnership with organisations working across housing and the third sector.

An event with the Housing Minister is being planned at the University of Stirling, however partners are also encouraged to hold an event, start a local conversation and share good practice.

[More information on supporting Scottish Housing Day 2024](#)

Argyll and Bute Housing emergency continues to be tackled

The Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency Summit was held on 27 November 2023, bringing partners together to forge commitments aimed at tackling the housing shortage by maximising resources, pursuing innovation, coordinating planning and targeting delivery capacity.

The Summit Outcomes Report, published in February, details the outcomes of Summit activity including the shortlisting and appraisal of housing emergency responses and the collective partnership pledge to act on each response.

Further progress reports have since been published capturing the ongoing work of Argyll and Bute Council and its partners including developing key worker accommodation, repurposing empty homes back into use, developing new housing sites and engaging with national house builders.

[More information about the Argyll and Bute Housing Emergency and how it is being addressed](#)

Outcome 3: Community Wellbeing

2024 SURF Awards launched

Applications are now open to recognise national best practice in community regeneration.

Scotland's regeneration forum, SURF, launched the 2024 SURF Awards in June and applications are invited by **2nd September** in the following categories:

- Improving Scotland's Places
- Housing and Regeneration
- Removing Barriers to Employability
- Creative Regeneration
- Community Led Regeneration



Category winners will be announced at a formal awards dinner in Glasgow on 5th December.

[More details for the 2024 SURF Awards](#)

Successful Water Safety Open Day



A number of Community Planning Partners supported and took part in the 2024 Water Safety Open Day held at Loch Lomond Shores on 25th July.

Organised by Water Safety Scotland, the event was held in support of World Drowning Prevention Day and included a live simulated water rescue, spot the dangers tour, lifejacket challenge and basic first aid instruction.



Ongoing Partnership work

Climate Change

Circular Economy (Scotland) Bill becomes an Act

The Circular Economy Bill introduced to the Scottish Parliament in June 2023 has gained royal assent and became the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 on 8th August. A public consultation in January demonstrated widespread backing with around three quarters of respondents expressing support for the proposals.

The Act requires measures to be introduced including the publication of a circular economy strategy, increasing littering penalties, improving waste monitoring and waste reduction, with local authorities being given extra enforcement powers in areas such as flytipping and littering from cars.



[View the Circular Economy \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#)

Powering Communities to Net Zero Fund

A new fund aimed at enabling resilient communities and encouraging the take-up of low-carbon technologies has been launched by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN).

The Powering Communities to Net Zero Fund, which replaces the former Resilient Communities Fund, has a value of £3m and applications will be made on an annual basis over the next 3 years with the first deadline at **5pm on 31st August**.

Half of the fund value will be allocated through the “community-led physical and environmental resilience” category, which supports community resilience during periods of severe weather, with the other half supporting the adoption of new low-carbon technologies by non-profit organisations through the “Low Carbon Technology (LCTs)” category.



[Further information on the Powering Communities to Net Zero fund](#)

Community Wealth Building

Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute: A Framework for Action

In March 2023, the CPP approved the commissioning of a piece of work to map Community Wealth Building case studies within and outwith Argyll and Bute and to develop a set of recommendations for local action with the framework of the five pillars of CWB.

With input from stakeholders and individuals in the community and overseen by a steering group of community planning partners, the final report on Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute was received by the CPP Management Committee and presented to the four Area Community Planning Groups in early 2024 with discussions ongoing on taking forward the report's recommendations.

[Read the report - Community Wealth Building in Argyll and Bute: A Framework for Action](#)

Models of Opportunity

Through the citizen-led workshops conducted as part of the Community Wealth Building commission, two 'Models of Opportunity' have been identified which provide specific examples of how CWB could be implemented in Argyll and Bute.

The two models of opportunity are:

Building greater employee ownership in Argyll and Bute

Building community and shared ownership of the energy transition

[Read more about the Models of Opportunity](#)

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](#)



Digital switchover



BT group has refined its switchover programme from the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to digital landlines, following the introduction of measures to better protect more vulnerable customers and those with additional requirements including telecare users.

It is anticipated that other Internet Service Providers will be taking a similar position.

[Read the BT article on its digital switchover programme](#)

Financial Inclusion

School Uniform Scheme

Argyll and Bute Council is working in partnership with schools, parent councils, community groups and volunteers to deliver an innovative scheme to reuse or recycle school uniforms.

The scheme will allow every child and young person in the area access to a uniform while contributing to lowering emissions by reducing the requirement for further uniform manufacturing.

More information on this project, the community partners and schools already participating and how to donate and order can be found on the dedicated [School Uniform Scheme website](#).

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](#)

Other strategies and consultations

Highlands and Islands Enterprise Operating Plan 2024-25 launched

HIE's Operating Plan for 2024-25 focusses on priority workstreams which support the delivery of the organisation's five-year strategy.

Many of the objectives under the pillars of People, Place, Planet and Prosperity, together with those under the cross-cutting themes, will help support the work of the Community Planning Partnership as work to implement the new Outcomes Improvement Plan continues.

[Read the HIE Operating Plan 2024/25](#)

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](#)



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](#)

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](#)



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

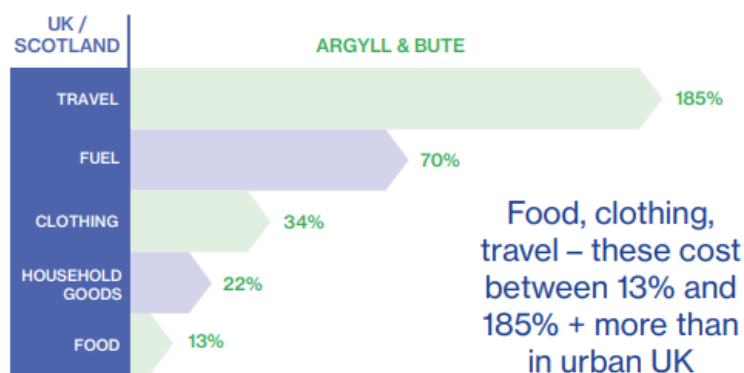


The council and partners are working to support people and businesses affected by the cost of living crisis in Argyll and Bute.

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/warm-spaces/>

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 ALI Energy, 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 ALI Energy, 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

Community Development Bulletin

Circulated monthly and 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 \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

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.

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](#)