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26 January 2026

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP** will be held **ON A HYBRID BASIS IN THE MARRIAGE SUITE, HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND CIVIC CENTRE, 38 EAST CLYDE STREET, HELENSBURGH AND BY MICROSOFT TEAMS** on **MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2026 at 10:00 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director

BUSINESS

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
3. **MINUTES OF THE HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP HELD ON TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025** (Pages 3 - 12)
4. **AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**
(Pages 13 - 24)
Report by Governance Officer, Argyll and Bute Council.
5. **COMMUNITY FOCUS**
Presentation on Banking Hubs by Regional Manager, Cash Access UK.
6. **ASPIRING PLACES** (Pages 25 - 32)
Presentation by Project Manager, Argyll and Bute Council.
7. **ARGYLL AND BUTE OUTCOMES AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN - PRIORITIES UPDATE**
Presentation by Community Planning Team, Argyll and Bute Council.

8. CRIMESTOPPERS AND COMMUNITY INTELLIGENCE

Presentation by Police Scotland.

9. PARTNER UPDATES

- (a) Police Scotland Update (Pages 33 - 38)
- (b) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Update (Pages 39 - 46)
- (c) Live Argyll Update (Pages 47 - 50)
- (d) Helensburgh Community Council Update (Pages 51 - 52)
- (e) Community Development Update (Pages 53 - 54)
- (f) Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau (Pages 55 - 58)
- (g) Transport Scotland Update (Pages 59 - 62)
- (h) Helensburgh Community Hub Update (Pages 63 - 66)
- (i) Opportunity for Verbal Updates

10. CLIMATE CHANGE

- (a) Argyll and Bute Climate Action: developing a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for Argyll and Bute (Pages 67 - 74)

Presentation by Climate Change Project Manager, Argyll & the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust

- (b) Opportunity for verbal updates on community based initiatives

11. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE (Pages 75 - 78)

Report By Partnerships Lead, Argyll and Bute Council.

12. HELENSBURGH TRANSPORT SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP

Update by Group Lead.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 May.

Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group

Gill Simpson (Chair)

Lindsey Young (Vice-Chair)

Contact: Joanne Gaughan, Committee and Member Support Assistant Tel: 01436 658812

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND AREA COMMUNITY
PLANNING GROUP HELD ON A HYBRID BASIS IN THE MARRIAGE SUITE, HELENSBURGH
AND LOMOND CIVIC CENTRE, 38 EAST CLYDE STREET, HELENSBURGH AND BY
MICROSOFT TEAMS
on TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2025**

Present:

Gill Simpson, Helensburgh Community Hub (Chair)
 Lindsey Young, Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network/Cardross
 Community Council (Vice Chair)
 Councillor Fiona Howard, Argyll and Bute Council
 Councillor Gemma Penfold, Argyll and Bute Council
 Jennifer Dryden, Health and Social Care Partnership
 Inspector Bart Simonis, Police Scotland
 Andrew McGregor, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
 John Binning, Srathclyde Passenger Transport
 Ian Woodcock, Transport Scotland
 Andy MacPherson, Argyll & the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust
 Caryl McLean, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface
 Caroline Whitson, Adult Learning, Live Argyll
 Thomas Guy-Conroy, Youth Work Lead, Live Argyll
 Fiona Baker, Destination Helensburgh/Rhu and Shandon CC
 Angela Anderson, Time for Change Argyll and Bute/Plastic Free
 Helensburgh
 Elizabeth Lambert, Helensburgh Community Council
 Sheelagh O'Reilly, Cove and Kilcreggan Community Council
 Commander Nick Stewart, Royal Navy
 Sophia McArdle, Royal Navy Families and People Service
 Jillian Barclay, Royal Navy Families and People Service
 Katrina Sayer, Jean's Bothy
 Jennifer Duthie, Department of Work and Pensions
 Louise Mathis, University of the Highlands and Islands

Attending:

Councillor Paul Kennedy, Argyll and Bute Council
 Stuart McLean, Governance Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
 David Hagerty, Community Development Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
 John McLuckie, Partnership Lead, Argyll and Bute Council
 Andrew Galloway, Local Democracy Reporter, Argyll and Bute

The Chair ruled, and the Area Community Planning Group agreed, to vary the order of business and consider Agenda Item 10b 'Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Update' after Agenda Item 3 (MINUTE) in order to facilitate the reporting Officers attendance at another meeting.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:

Becky Hothersall, Poverty Alliance;
Seonaid Cameron, Argyll Community Housing Association; and
Councillor Mark Irvine

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTE OF THE HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP HELD ON TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2025

The Minute of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group meeting held on Tuesday 19 August 2025 was approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Item 6 (a) - Transport Update

To replace 'He further noted the actions to establish a Helensburgh Transport Working Group and to consider a Community Active Travel Network' with 'He further noted the actions to establish a Transport Integration Working Group for the whole of Argyll and Bute and to consider a Community Active Travel Network'.

The Group considered the actions from the previous meeting and noted that the majority were completed or in the process of being completed.

4. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE UPDATE

The Group considered a report highlighting the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) FQ2 review of local performance across Helensburgh and Lomond for the period 2025-26. The report included statistics on the activity of the Service.

Andrew McGregor of Scottish Fire and Rescue highlighted good Partnership Working through engagement in schools and noted that there has been a delay in recommendations going to the Board regarding the Service Delivery Review which may impact Helensburgh Fire Station.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Scottish Fire and Rescue, submitted)

5. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

The Group gave consideration to a report providing information relating to the appointment of a Vice-Chair for the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group. The report also outlined the expected time commitment and information on the role.

Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network and Cardross Community Councils representative Lynsey Young confirmed that she would be happy to accept this position and with there being no other nominations, this became the decision of the Group.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group agreed that Lindsey Young of Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network and Cardross Community Council, be appointed as Vice-Chair.

(Reference: Report by Senior Committee Officer, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 12 November 2025 submitted)

6. COMMUNITY FOCUS

Fiona Baker of Destination Scotland delivered a presentation which highlighted the events being held from September 2025 to April 2026 to celebrate the centenary of John Logie Baird's first public demonstration of television, including Dorothy's Big Adventure and Sandwich Board Parade. Miss Baker directed Partners to the website jlbtv100.org for further information and advised that leaflets are available from Destination Helensburgh on Sinclair Street.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation from JLBTV100, submitted)

7. ARGYLL & BUTE YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL

Thomas Guy-Conroy delivered a presentation which introduced the Argyll and Bute Youth Action Councils (ABYACs) and highlighted their remit, principles and Terms of Reference. Mr Guy-Conroy encouraged Partners seeking to include a youth voice in their organisation to engage with the ABYACs.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the provided information.

Action – Governance to distribute the presentation and contact details to the Group.

(Reference: Presentation by Thomas Guy-Conroy, Youth Work Lead, Live Argyll, submitted)

8. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

(a) Transport Update

The Group gave consideration to a presentation which was delivered by the Partnerships Lead of the Community Planning Team. The presentation highlighted information on how the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) would seek to improve transport infrastructure taking into consideration the agreed objectives of the 2024-2034 Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan (ABOIP). The presentation also included information on the project mandates to be signed off by the CPP in relation to Transport Infrastructure.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation from Partnerships Lead - Community Planning, Argyll and Bute Council)

(b) Housing Update

The Group gave consideration to a presentation which was delivered by the Partnerships Lead of the Community Planning Team. The presentation highlighted information on how the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) would seek to improve housing taking into consideration the agreed objectives of the 2024-2034 Argyll and Bute Outcome Improvement Plan (ABOIP). The presentation also included information on the discussions held during the CPP Management Committee in September 2025 which focused on Housing; the Construction Skills Development Working Group and communicating financial interventions on homelessness.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation from Partnerships Lead - Community Planning, Argyll and Bute Council)

(c) Community Wellbeing - Introduction

Consideration was given to a presentation which was delivered by the Partnerships Lead of the Community Planning Team. The presentation outlined how the Community Planning Partnership would seek to improve Community Wellbeing, taking into consideration the agreed objectives of the 2024-2034 ABOIP. The presentation noted that Community Wellbeing was the second highest priority for Helensburgh and for the area overall. The presentation also provided information on the agreed actions to be developed and next steps.

Mr McLuckie outlined a series of questions which would be circulated to Partners by email following the meeting. He advised that as part of the ongoing conversation, the Community Planning Team would welcome any additional comments in response to the questions.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation from Partnerships Lead - Community Planning, Argyll and Bute Council)

**9. ARGYLL AND BUTE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP
PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM**

(a) Partner Update - Public Health

Consideration was given to a public health update from Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's Public Health Team on the ongoing wellbeing and prevention activities overseen and delivered by them in Argyll and Bute. The update provided information on the Stoptober campaign to encourage people to quit smoking; a Gypsy/Traveller community health event held in Ardrishaig in October; the Joint Strategic Plan for 2026 – 2031; the 'You Are Not Alone' drama performances for S2 pupils which took place in September across eight secondary schools in Argyll and Bute and the Planet Youth framework.

The update also provided information on the accessible and easy read version of the NHS Highland Equality Outcomes (2025–2029); the first Speakeasy 'taster' webinars which were held in September; the Public Health Scotland report on emergency hospital admissions and deaths as a result of unintentional injury and the Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Health Improvement Senior, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, dated November 2025, submitted)

(b) Working with Communities

The Group gave consideration to a presentation which was delivered by Jenny Dryden, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership. The presentation offered an overview of the Working with Communities initiative and a number of the projects associated with it such as Planet Youth, Public Living Rooms and Living Well Self-Management Strategy. Miss Dryden also spoke of the importance of communities working together and the activities being taken forward to develop and enhance skills for leadership across Argyll and Bute.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Health Improvement Senior, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, dated November 2025, submitted)

10. HELENSBURGH TRANSPORT SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP

Lindsey Young delivered a verbal update on the establishment of the Helensburgh Transport Short Life Working Group. Miss Young advised that she has contacted the Community Planning Partnership to confirm the level of involvement they would like to have with the Group; a number of Community Councils in the Helensburgh and Lomond Area have assigned a representative to the Group and that any additional nominations should be sent to her directly.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Verbal update from Helensburgh Transport Short Life Working Group Lead, submitted)

11. PARTNER UPDATES

(a) Police Scotland Update

The Group considered a report which provided information on Police Scotland's priorities in the Helensburgh and Lomond area. Inspector Bart Simonis of Police Scotland highlighted the local focus on the international 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence Campaign, noting the positive uptake of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Violence Scotland; Taxi Driver training to help identify vulnerable passengers, which is linked to their licence approval; the high visibility of patrols during the Winter Safety driving campaign and engagement with local farmers, providing DNA selector kits to mark agricultural equipment as a theft prevention measure.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Police Scotland, submitted)

(b) Live Argyll Update

Consideration was given to a report from Live Argyll Community Learning Services, which provided an update on adult learning provision in Helensburgh, including Adult Achievement Awards, Learning Café and Adult Literacy and Numeracy support. Caroline Whitson also highlighted the Mental Health First Aid Training which the team have delivered, and noted that Partners can book future training sessions with her team.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report from Live Argyll, submitted)

(c) Helensburgh Community Council Update

Consideration was given to a report from Helensburgh Community Council. Elizabeth Lambert highlighted the development of the Place Plan and noted that the Community Council are hosting an upcoming meeting of local businesses and Police Scotland to discuss issues around shoplifting.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report from Helensburgh Community Council, submitted)

(d) Community Development Update

Consideration was given to a report from Helensburgh and Lomond Community Development. David Hagerty highlighted the collaboration between Community Development, the NHS and Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to establish a quarterly Recovery Network in the Helensburgh area that will offer opportunities for agencies to come together to coordinate services to help in people's recovery from addiction.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report from Helensburgh Community Development, submitted)

(e) Argyll and Bute TSI Update

Consideration was given to a report from Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface. Third Sector Support Adviser for Helensburgh and Lomond. Caryl McLean, highlighted that the service is carrying out a Community Voices survey and encouraged Partners to share the link with their networks. Caryl advised that she is moving on from her post in December. The Chair, on behalf of the Group, thanked Caryl for her hard work and dedication and wished her well for the future.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report from Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface, submitted)

(f) Transport Scotland Update

Consideration was given to a report from Transport Scotland which provided information on a variety of different works recently completed and planned along the A83; the impact of Storm Amy; the work on the Rest and Be Thankful and the development of a scheme to cut back the vegetation at Crianlarich Bypass. Mr Woodcock advised that the decisions around the future of the Kilcreggan/Gourock/Dunoon ferry services are anticipated by the end of this year.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report from Transport Scotland, submitted)

(g) Helensburgh Community Hub Update

Consideration was given to a report from Helensburgh Community Hub. Gill

Simpson highlighted the Hub's financial contribution to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library which is in its third year and that this is supported by income generated via the Book Nook. Miss Simpson also advised that the last Repair Hub date for 2025 will be on Saturday November 29 from 10.30-12pm, she is working with Argyll and Bute Council's refugee support team and yoga teacher, Roni Ferguson, to offer wellbeing sessions for Afghan women refugees and is creating more social and support events and activities for LGBTQ+ groups.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report from Helensburgh Community Hub, submitted)

(h) Opportunity for Verbal Updates

Plastic Free Helensburgh

Angela Anderson highlighted that the group will attend a Stop Climate Chaos march in Glasgow Green and will continue to collect rubbish and talk to various groups round the town.

Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network

Lindsey Young advised that she had attended a well-attended Food For Thought event in Oban; Community Woodlands event at Cove Park; engagement with schools including that promoted a sustainable Christmas project and a Climate Event at Hermitage Academy.

Committee Manager

The Committee Manager highlighted that the Governance Arrangements of the Group would be considered at the next meeting, including the membership, advising that the Membership is drawn from public sector, third sector, private sector, community organisations and partnerships operating within the Helensburgh and Lomond area. Mr McLean encouraged partners to refer any individuals or groups who may be interested to contact him regarding their inclusion within the membership.

Jean's Bothy

Katrina Sayer highlighted activity undertaken during the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival and sought input from Partners for collaborative working around sourcing funding and establishing a Mental Health Forum.

Councillor Fiona Howard

Councillor Fiona Howard advised that the Council are committed to supporting Live Argyll during the closure of the Helensburgh Leisure Centre and that the repairs continue with the temporary roof solution to be installed before the end of November to allow internal work to be undertaken. Councillor Howard confirmed

that the Leisure Centre is scheduled to reopen by April 2026.

Rhu and Shandon Community Council

Fiona Baker highlighted the ongoing work of the Community Council on the Place Plan and addressing the issue of flooding at Shandon. Miss Baker noted the ongoing work of Rhu and Shandon Community Trust to secure the Ardenconnell Wood purchase and advised that funding had been secured to repair the Lovers Lane walkway in Rhu.

Destination Helensburgh

Fiona Baker highlighted the current repair work being undertaken on their building as part of the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme; the Winter Events schedule and funding that had been secured to produce paper versions of the Helensburgh Walking Trail.

Cove and Kilcreggan Community Council

Sheelagh O'Reilly highlighted that the Community Council have agreed to join a Transformative Action for Resilient Coastal Communities Community network that is being managed by the University of Glasgow and noted the intention of the Community Council to install a memorial bench to honour the late Alistair MacIntyre.

12. CLIMATE CHANGE

(a) Climate Change Update

Consideration was given to a report and presentation which provided an update on the overall progress of the climate change strategy; progress with developing a legacy proposal, shaped by the Scottish Government's aspirations; funding support for Argyll as Climate Ready Region and initial findings from the review of existing community resilience and emergency plans through engagement with community councils.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Community Planning Group

1. Noted the overall progress since the August update, with some work on community resilience and legacy/ongoing partnership proposals brought forward and pushing back some work on the Action Plan, and a timeline to July 2026.
2. Noted the significance of the Scottish Government's aspirations and support for developing an Argyll and Bute Climate Ready Region
3. Noted the initial findings from review and engagement to date on community resilience/emergency plans, and agreed to feedback opportunities for sharing learning and best practice to the Climate Change Project Manager (andy@act-now.org.uk).

(Reference: Report by Climate Change Project Manager, Argyll & the Isles Coast

and Countryside Trust, dated 29 October 2025,, submitted)

(b) **Opportunity for verbal updates on community based initiatives**

Rhu and Shandon Community Council

Fiona Baker noted that a Resilience Expert had been co-opted to the Community Council.

Cardross Community Council

Lynsey Young advised that members of the Community Council would soon be undertaking resilience training.

13. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Group gave consideration to a report which outlined matters discussed during the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee meeting held on 19 September 2025. The report provided information on the CPP Improvement Plan; Fair Funding Guidance; Climate Change and the Community Wealth Building Charter. The report also provided information on the updates from each of the Area Community Planning Groups, which took place in August 2025 and progress within each of the Priority Outcomes.

Decision

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group noted the contents of the report.

(Reference: Report by Partnerships Lead, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 11 November, submitted)

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Group noted that the next meeting of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group would take place on Tuesday 10 February 2026.

Sheelagh O'Reilly raised concerns around the clarity of some of the PowerPoint presentations delivered during the meeting, particularly when projected onto the large screen. Miss O'Reilly encouraged Partners to consider the needs of visually impaired attendees when preparing slides advising that light coloured text is less visible under strong lighting.

**Argyll and Bute Community Planning
Partnership****Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community
Planning Group****02 February 2026**

Area Community Planning Group Governance Arrangements

Summary

The report asks the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group to review the current Terms of Reference, the membership of the Group and also asks members to note the dates for meetings up until February 2027.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to confirm the governance arrangements of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group (Area CPG) specifically the Terms of Reference, membership and note future meeting dates.

2. Recommendations**2.1 Area CPG members are requested to:**

- Consider and adopt the Terms of Reference submitted in this report (Appendix 1) and to agree that these be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure their ongoing currency and appropriateness for the work of the Area CPG as it develops over time.
- Consider and agree the membership of the group as attached (Appendix 2) and to agree that the membership of the group be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency and appropriateness for the work of the group as it develops over time.
- To note the future meeting dates submitted in this report.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Area CPG Terms of Reference were last reviewed and agreed in February 2025, these are attached at Appendix 1. Please note that no changes or amendments are proposed for the Terms of Reference.
- 3.2 The membership of the Area CPG was last reviewed in February 2025. The Area CPG are asked to consider whether any changes should be made to the membership, details of which are attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.3 The membership will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure currency and appropriateness for the work of the group as it develops over time, however there is provision for additional organisations to join the group at any stage to accommodate local circumstances.
- 3.4 Historically meeting dates for Area Community Planning Groups are scheduled approximately half way between the programmed meetings of the Community Planning Partnership Management Committees to enable effective and timeous reporting of matters to that committee. Members are therefore asked to note that the meeting dates for the Helensburgh and Lomond Area CPG for 2026/27 will be:-
 - Tuesday 12 May 2026
 - Tuesday 18 August 2026
 - Tuesday 10 November 2026
 - Monday 01 February 2027

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Area Community Planning Group is asked to review and agree the attached Terms of Reference and the current membership.

5. SOA Outcomes

Not applicable. The report relates to the administration of the Area CPG.

For further information please contact:

Hazel MacInnes, Senior Committee Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Tel 01546 604269

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference
Appendix 2 – Membership list

Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

Terms of Reference: Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group is a sub group, and reports to, the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership's Management Committee.

It is an unincorporated partnership of agencies and organisations with membership drawn from the public sector, third sector, private sector, community organisations and partnerships that have an interest in Helensburgh and Lomond.

Purpose

Argyll and Bute is a large and diverse area. Communities inevitably have different issues even within the overall umbrella of a community plan for the whole area.

Area Community Planning Groups are the vehicle to ensure that there is effective community planning delivery, as set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, at a local level by:

- Contributing to the oversight role of the whole partnership by highlighting issues of a partnership nature that cannot be resolved locally through the Area Community Planning Group, to the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee.
- Acting on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership via its Management Committee to oversee the implementation of Area Community Planning Action Plans (known as 'locality plans' within the Community Scotland Empowerment Act 2015)
- Acting on behalf of the community to ensure that local concerns and priorities are highlighted to the Community Planning Partnership's Management Committee.

Role

The role of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group is to:

- Oversee the development and implementation of the Area Community Planning Action Plan for Helensburgh and Lomond.
- Encourage effective working across community planning partners at an area level.
- Act as a conduit to ensure that local priorities are met and local issues addressed through partnership working.

Remit

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group has the authority to:

- Contribute to the development of an Area Community Planning Action Plan for Helensburgh and Lomond.
- Monitor progress of the Area Community Planning Action Plan for Helensburgh and Lomond.

- Provide the scrutiny role for the Community Planning Partnership within Helensburgh and Lomond considering regular performance monitoring reports and providing information to the Management Committee by submitting written reports on challenges that cannot be resolved locally; where these challenges relate to partnership working and not single agencies. A representative of a community group or statutory body or business that is not a member of the group may also attend a meeting, with prior agreement from the Chair, to provide additional information should a specific issue of concern to the group be scheduled as an agenda item.
- Form short term working groups to undertake defined pieces of work as required by the group.
- Engage with communities within Helensburgh and Lomond to understand their needs.
- Inform and consult on issues relating to Community Planning at an area level.
- Contribute to a Community Planning Annual Report for Argyll and Bute on progress on the agreed outcomes and best practice in partnership working.

Short Term Working Groups

Short Term Working Groups initiated by the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group must:

- Be approved at a meeting of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group and its purpose recorded in the minute of the meeting, with clarity on the objective and output of the group and the start and end date of the work.
- Have a named member of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group acting as lead officer for the group.
- Have a list of members of the group agreed at inception.
- Have an appropriate source of administrative support identified and agreed at inception
- Where relevant, have an appropriate funding package identified at inception and a named member of the short term working group undertaking financial responsibility for the initiative.
- Provide regular reports of activity and progress to the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group; and in updates to the Management Committee
- Any changes to the above must be approved by the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group and recorded in the minute of the meeting

Equal Opportunities and Fairer Scotland Duty

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group will ensure that equal opportunities are considered in each of their remitted activities, any expected negative impacts are mitigated and that promotion of equal opportunities is central to its ongoing activities.

In doing so the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group will consider the responsibilities placed on it by The Fairer Scotland Duty. This duty places a legal responsibility on particular public bodies in Scotland to pay due regard to (actively consider) how they can reduce inequalities of outcome, caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions.

Criteria for Membership

- Membership is drawn from public sector, third sector, private sector, community organisations and partnerships operating within the Helensburgh and Lomond area.
- Membership is open to all public sector, third sector, private sector, community organisations and partnerships operating within the Helensburgh and Lomond area with an interest in at least one of the outcomes identified in the Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan.
- Organisations can self-nominate, be invited to join or have a statutory obligation to participate.
- In order to ensure democratic accountability, the Chair and Vice Chair from Argyll and Bute Council Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee and, one other Elected Member from an Argyll and Bute Council Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee Ward not already represented by the Chair or Vice Chair will sit as members of the group.
- In order to ensure democratic accountability, community councils situated within the Helensburgh and Lomond area will sit as a member of the group. Subject to local needs, this may be individual community councils, or by way of a caucus arrangement agreed by the community councils situated within the Helensburgh and Lomond area, or alternatively one community council representing all of the community councils on a rotational basis. The community council undertaking this role will be nominated by the other community councils within the area on an annual basis or more frequently if agreed locally.
- In order to comply with legislation which governs community planning in Scotland, some organisations have a statutory obligation to participate in community planning. The organisation will nominate the most appropriate person within their organisation to sit as a member of the group where relevant
- In order to reflect the needs of the community and range of activities covered by the Area Community Planning Action Plan, other organisations and partnerships operating within the local area are also able to sit as members of the group.
- In order to obtain a balanced representation of the above and to ensure a community focussed approach, a ratio of no more than 50% public sector membership should be maintained throughout the lifetime of the group.
- The representatives ought to be able to speak on behalf of their organisation and where appropriate commit funding and other resources to local partnership activity.
- Membership should reflect the needs of the community and can therefore change subject to approval by a simple majority vote of the other members of the group.

Role of Members

Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group members have the following responsibilities:

- To consistently attend the scheduled Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group meetings. (Consistency in attendance by members is necessary to build momentum and progress the activities of the group).
- Appoint a substitute to attend meetings on their behalf if they are unable to attend.

- To communicate information relating to the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group with other members and officers within their own organisation and other organisations operating within the area of activity they represent.
- To communicate information relating to their organisations area of activity to other members of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group at meetings.
- To raise community planning related issues (that is issues related to Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan) on behalf of the community at Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group meetings.
- To contribute to the development, ongoing monitoring and review of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Action Plan.
- To participate in short term working groups as required.

Meetings

Chair

- The Chair and Vice Chair of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group will be elected by the members of the group and will be appointed for a period of two years.
- The outgoing Chair and Vice Chair can stand for re-election at the end of the two year period.
- However, no one person can serve in the role of Chair or Vice Chair for more than two consecutive two year periods.
- Should either the Chair or Vice Chair resign their position during their term of office, the office bearer must either notify the group in person at a scheduled Area Community Planning Group meeting or contact the Chair in writing advising formally of their intention to stand down. Members will be advised of the resignation timeously and an election to fill the vacant post will be conducted at the next scheduled Area Community Planning Group meeting.
- Nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair positions will be proposed and seconded by Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group members. Each member will have one vote and a simple majority vote will determine the outcome of the election process.
- The elected Chair, or in their absence, the Vice-Chair shall preside over the meeting. If both are absent, partners will choose a member from the floor to preside.
- Members should respect the authority of the Chair who will decide matters of order, competency, relevancy and urgency.

Quorum

- The quorum for a meeting will be 5.
- If a quorum is not present within 10 minutes of the scheduled start of a meeting or if at any point after a meeting has commenced attendance falls below the quorum the meeting will be declared inquorate.
- If a quorum is not present, at the Chairperson's / Vice-Chairperson's discretion, the meeting shall proceed and any decisions taken will be homologated at the next meeting.
- For purposes of the quorum, participation of partners by video-conferencing or telephone conference links will be considered as present.

Frequency of Meetings

- The Area Community Planning Groups of the CPP will normally meet once each quarter (4 times each year).
- These meetings will normally be held in February, May, August and November.
- Where business requires, further meetings can be called with agreement of the Chair subject to the required notice being given.

Conduct of Meetings

- Meetings of the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group will be held in public.
- Observers can only participate in discussion with the agreement of Chair.
- Members must declare any conflict of interests at the start of a meeting and take no part in the consideration of the relevant item.
- Observers wishing to participate in discussion must declare any interest in the subject under discussion.
- All meetings will be minuted and a minute made available through the Council's website and available from a link through the Community Planning Partnership website.
- Meetings of the Area Community Planning Groups will be conducted in accordance with the lead partner's (Argyll and Bute Council) standing orders for meetings subject to any necessary changes as set out above (mutatis mutandis)

Decision making

- All members of the group have equal status.
- Each member has one vote.
- The Chair retains the casting vote.
- All decisions must be clearly minuted with a brief summary of the discussion and reason for decision recorded as well as the outcome.
- The minutes should clearly record who or whatever organisation is responsible for action.
- Observers and persons attending the meeting in an advisory capacity may provide information but are not part of the decision making process and are not able to participate in a vote.

Accountability

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group is an integral part of community planning in Argyll and Bute and is accountable to the following bodies:

- Full Community Planning Partnership via the Management Committee.
- Community within its local area.

Support

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group will be supported by:

- A Lead Officer to facilitate and promote the smooth operation of the group and work closely with group members to ensure a supportive structure, which responds to the needs of the members in addressing issues.

- Administrative support, organising meetings, taking minutes and associated administrative support will be provided by Argyll and Bute Council, Legal and Regulatory Support.
- A Local Community Development Officer will have a key role, working in partnership with organisations in the support of community groups, organisations and individuals, particularly those who do not traditionally engage in community issues, to participate in local community planning.

Issue of Papers

- The agenda and papers for the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group will normally be issued 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- The Chair can agree to accept late papers.
- The draft agenda detail will normally be circulated four weeks in advance to allow members to propose items for inclusion.
- The agenda and papers will be available via the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership website and will be published on the Argyll and Bute Council website.

Communications

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group is encouraged to share any best practice in partnership working locally with the wider Community Planning Partnership. Case studies and examples of partnership working making a difference can be sent to cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk to be shared and promoted. For example this may be through the regular CPP e-Bulletin. The CPP e-Bulletin is available to members of the Area Community Planning Groups and sign up is via cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk. Paper copies can be made available and are downloadable from the webpage.

Winding Up

The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group is a sub group of the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership.

- If the Argyll and Bute Community Partnership is dissolved, the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group will cease to exist by default.
- If a review of Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership delivery structure should recommend that Area Community Planning Groups should be dissolved to facilitate a new delivery structure, the decision whether or not to wind up the group will be made by the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership following consultation with the Area Community Planning Groups and Argyll and Bute Council as lead partner for community planning within the area.
- Area Community Planning Group members may initiate a proposed wind up of the group by submitting a report outlining the reasons why it was felt the group was no longer required to the Management Committee in the first instance. The decision whether or not to wind up the group will be made by the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership following consultation with Argyll and Bute Council as lead partner for community planning within the area.

Approved and adopted at the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group meeting held on 4th March 2015.

Amended March 2015 to reflect a change in the meeting cycle.

Amended March 2016 to clarify procedure if either the Chair or Vice Chair resigns during their term of office and change to number of days meeting papers are to be circulated prior to meeting date in line with current practice.

Amended February 2017 to clarify procedure if outgoing office bearer wishes to stand for re-election.

Amended February 2019 to clarify terms in respect of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan/ Area Community Planning Action Plan.

Amended February 2020 to reflect changes in language.

Amended February 2021 to clarify language and terminology and to include reference to Fairer Scotland Duty.

Amended February 2022 to clarify language and terminology.

Amended February 2023 to clarify language and terminology.

Amended February 2024 to clarify language and terminology, and to update the default media for the CPP e-bulletin.

February 2025 no changes recorded.

February 2026 no changes recorded.

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Appendix 2

Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group Membership (incorporating changes in local communities since February 2025).

Partner Organisation	Contact Name
Argyll and Bute Council	Councillor Mark Irvine, Councillor Fiona Howard & Councillor Gemma Penfold
Community Councils	Arrochar, Cardross, Cove and Kilcreggan, Garelochhead, Helensburgh, Luss and Arden, Rhu and Shandon, Rosneath and Clynder
Police Scotland	Chief Inspector James McArthur, Inspector Bart Simonis, Sergeant Sophie Marshall
Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust	Duncan MacLachlan
Scottish Fire and Rescue	Adrian Rice, Anthony Mallon, Anthony McGloin , Christopher Spence
Health and Social Care Partnership	central admin email, Victoria Bola-Okerinde
Argyll and Bute TSI	Kirsten Johnston, Lucy Taylor-Bloom
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	John Binnings
Live Argyll	Rhona Grant, Caroline Whitson, Thomas Guy-Conroy
Grey Matters Active Aging	Alison Gildea
Garelochhead Station Trust	Morevain Martin
Visiting Friends	Jayne Burnett
Department for Work and Pensions	Jennifer Duthie, Kevin Allibone (Cust Serv Leader/4 areas)
Transport Scotland	Ian Woodcock
Ministry of Defence Police	PC Drew Omand
Skills Development Scotland	Susan MacRae
Climate Change Project Manager	Andy MacPherson
Citizens Advice Bureau	Jen Broadhurst
Helensburgh Gaelic Group	Alasdair MacCuish
Plastic Free Helensburgh	Angela Anderson
Destination Helensburgh	Fiona Baker
Helensburgh Community Hub	Gill Simpson
Kilcreggan Youth Café	
Fun First	

UHI Argyll	Louise Mathis
We Are With You	Yvonne McLeod, Angela Robertson
Carr Gomm	Becs Barker
Jean's Bothy	Katrina Sayer
Naval Families Federation	Vicky Brindley
Home Start Lomond	Laura Eales
Helensburgh and Lomond Foodbank	Celia Scanlan
The Submarine Family/Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity	Natalie Lewis
Royal Navy Families and People Support	Sophia McArdle, Jillian Barclay
Friends of Hermitage Park	Alan Morris
Time for Change Argyll and Bute	Angela Anderson
Poverty Alliance	Becky Hothersall
Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network (ABCAN)	Lindsey Young
Cycling UK	Kirsten Gibson
Street League	Kate Thomson
ACHA	Paul Monaghan, Seonaid Cameron
Helensburgh Young Carers	Sharon Richardson
Helensburgh Adult Carers	Leeanne Devenny
His Majesty's Naval Base, Clyde	Commander Nick Stewart
National Farmers Union Scotland	Lucy Sumsion
Centre 81	Katie Mackay

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUPS****CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UNIT****FEBURUARY 2026**

Update on Aspiring Places; Community Projects in Argyll and Bute

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Further to the launch of the Aspiring Place initiative, an evaluation has been completed, and key findings are set out in this report including levels of participation, user satisfaction and challenges.
- 1.2 An unexpected and critical finding also emerged is that grants and external funding has become a significantly larger area of Council and community work and is not only growing in scale but also in complexity and fragmentation. It is therefore argued that a review is now required to build on our understanding to date and develop sustainable solutions to managing grant funding.
- 1.3 For this reason the Council's Policy and Resources Committee agreed 04 December 2025 to request that the Chief Executive undertake a formal review of current practice with regards to grant funds with a view to recommending improvements.
- 1.4 This activity provides the opportunity to ensure that the Council develops a sufficient understanding of the complex and inter-related problems to support good decisions based on evidence and data, and better inform future decisions about Aspiring Places.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members of the Area Community Planning Groups are asked to note:
 - a) The successful launch of the Aspiring Places platform and that it remains a live site for the benefit of communities, funders and the Council.
 - b) The key findings from the evaluation of the scheme as set out in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.10 below.

- c) An emerging need to develop a more sustainable approach to managing grant funds in an equitable manner for the Council and our communities alike and therefore the Council is undertaking a review of our internal approach and practices in the management of grant funding.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 Members of Area Community Planning Groups will recall from a decision of the Council in September 2024 to the creation and launch of Aspiring Places - Community Projects in Argyll and Bute.
- 3.2 The vision of the initiative was 'to create in one place, a comprehensive picture of all community projects to increase the likelihood of collaboration, securing external funding and implementation of projects in a planned approach to place'.
- 3.3 Further to testing with a panel of community groups, Aspiring Places was launched as a digital platform in March 2025 and supported by the following:
- In collaboration with other services and organisations, participated in a promotional 'Funding Connections Roadshow' taking in Bute, Dunoon, Islay, Jura, Lochgilphead, Mull and Oban. Officers attended a separate and larger community event in Helensburgh at the time of the launch.
 - In addition to online guidance, project officers were available to directly support community organisations in tutorials on the platform and responded to all enquiries and requests for assistance.

3.4 Set out in the table below is the number of registrations and projects published on the platform as of 30 June 2025, broken down by administrative area.

Administrative Area	No. of Registrations	No. of Projects Published
Argyll & Bute-wide	11	3
Bute & Cowal	31	13
Helensburgh & Lomond	27	9
Mid Argyll, Kintyre & the Islands	49	40
Oban, Lorn & the Isles	39	38
Unknown	1	0
Outwith Argyll & Bute	2	2
Total	159	104

- 3.5 Once a community group had published a project proposal on the platform, it could be connected with relevant funding opportunities and during the pilot period, three calls for 'expressions of interest' for the following government funds were issued by council officers through the Aspiring Places platform:

- a) Carbon Neutral Islands Fund
- b) Regeneration Capital Grant Fund
- c) Community Led Local Development Fund

- 3.6 An important observation is the notable increase in the registration of community groups and projects in direct correlation with the announcement of request for expressions of interest for government funds.

Evaluation

- 3.7 An evaluation was undertaken and the table below provides an overview of the approach and participants.

Table: Numbers of evaluation participants by stakeholder group

Evaluation Method		Community group staff or volunteer	Council Officers	Elected Members	Community Planning Partners	Individuals in the Community
1	Baseline Survey	109	17	4	8	112
2	'Funding Connections' Feedback Survey	n/a	7	n/a	n/a	n/a
3	Semi-structured interviews	n/a	8	n/a	n/a	n/a
4	Follow-up Survey	60	9	7	6	308

- 3.8 The key findings of the evaluation are set out below:

- a) Engagement - over 150 community group members registered, and 104 project proposals were published during the pilot phase.
- b) Level of participation - 83% of publishing groups submitted Expressions of Interest for funding.
- c) Correlation between funds and registrations - project proposals submitted by community groups appeared to be driven by the Council's request for Expressions of Interest for the 3 government funds that had to be submitted via the Aspiring Places platform if to be considered.
- d) User satisfaction:
 - i. 85% of users who published a project were satisfied with the submission process.
 - ii. 80% of project-uploading groups found the platform valuable.
- e) Internal collaboration - the pilot strengthened cross-departmental collaboration, particularly between Community Development and Economic Growth teams, supporting the Council's "One Council One Place" transformation principle.

3.9 Key challenges were identified as follows:

- a) Participation barriers:
 - i. A small percentage of users faced difficulties with the platform.
 - ii. Examples of participants with low confidence in accessing digital platforms.
 - iii. A perception that the platform was not relevant to smaller or early-stage projects.
- b) Geographic disparities - uptake varied across the region.
- c) Cross-service dependencies: user satisfaction and value was (partially) dependent on successful collaboration between internal council teams.
- d) Sustainability - concerns were raised about the resources required to maintain and develop the platform beyond a pilot phase and a need for an efficient method of administering grant funds.

3.10 Initial key recommendations from the evaluation were as follows:

- a) Strategic development: consideration to further developing a digital platform that supports delivery of the empowered and resilient communities theme in the Council's Corporate Plan.
- b) Value: seek to ensure value for all participating, including those not seeking external funding.
- c) Funding: explain what funding will be promoted and how decisions will be made.
- d) Community engagement: target under-represented areas.
- e) Promotion: use a multi-channel approach.
- f) Data and evidence: consider how data gathered can be used to support outcomes.

Reassessing the problems we seek to address.

3.11 A particular challenge with this initiative has been to understand our future needs. As set out in the vision (to create in one place, a comprehensive picture of all community projects to increase the likelihood of collaboration, securing external funding and implementation of projects in a planned approach to place), Aspiring Places started out as a dynamic platform to address two problems defined as follows:

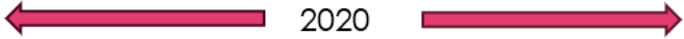
- a) Capture a comprehensive picture of all community projects.
- b) Due to the increasing critical importance of government grants to fund community projects, seek to increase our share.

3.12 Whilst the Aspiring Places platform has been contributed towards addressing the first problem defined above, as concluded in the evaluation, project proposals submitted by community groups was partly driven by the Council's request for Expressions of

Interest for the 3 government funds and had to be submitted via the Aspiring Places platform.

- 3.13 A counterfactual question has emerged that asks if the request for Expressions of Interest for funds were not launched via the Aspiring Places platform, what would the actual number of community project submissions be? Whilst we don't know the answer, it is safe to assume that it would be less than the 104 received from 159 groups during the pilot period.
- 3.14 This in turn led to the project manager seeking an understanding of the current grant funding environment and its relationship with the problems defined above and concluded that there is anecdotal evidence that 2020 onwards (in a post European Union environment), has witnessed a rapidly evolving landscape of (government) grant funding becoming increasingly fragmented that can be illustrated across four key characteristics as set out in the table below.

Compare and contrast funding pre and post 2020.



Characteristics	Coordinated (EU)	Ad-hoc (Post EU)
Quantum	✓	?
Time	✓	?
Criteria	✓	?
Administration	✓	?

- 3.15 The structures and administration during the period of funding within the EU (i.e. the Leader and ERDF schemes) which whilst was considered bureaucratic with long lead in times to the establishment of schemes (due to protracted negotiations across member states), resulted in certainty and consistency on quantum of funding, when it would be forthcoming, the qualifying criteria and the administration process which in addition was resourced.
- 3.16 It is suggested that since the UK exited the EU we have witnessed a more ad-hoc approach from governments in the use of public funds in the form of grants for either or both local government and communities that has unwittingly resulted in complex and systemic issues that:
- Places enormous and growing pressure on 'local systems' (i.e. local authorities and community groups).
 - Created a hidden and growing cost to local government (and taxpayers).

3.17 Set out below is an abstract diagram that seeks to illustrate the modern practice of how governments connect grants with community projects based on an understanding of the following characteristics:

- a) Community groups receive capital benefits towards projects (whilst noting that many bids can be unsuccessful).
- b) Government (both UK and SG) receive policy benefits (i.e. demonstrable efforts in use of funds to address policy issues).
- c) Local authorities are de-facto 'middle management' and often with either no benefits (i.e. service is *gratis*) or benefits in the form of 'capacity payments' that are projected to reduce in value in proportion to the level of 'management' required.

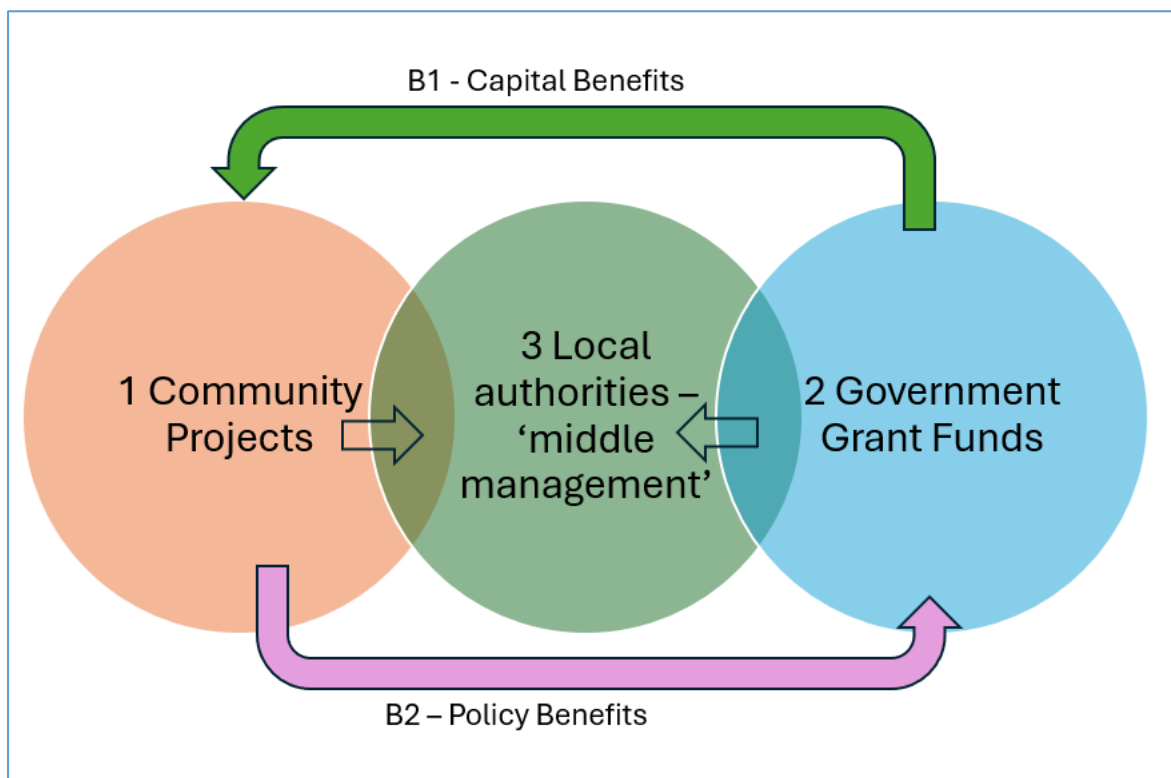


Diagram: illustration of the practice of how governments connect grants with community projects.

3.18 There is now much reduced certainty on the following:

- a) What funds are coming forward.
- b) When they will come forward.
- c) What is the qualifying criteria?
- d) What are the administrative arrangements?
- e) How are administrative arrangements resourced?

3.19 It is perceived at a time when government funds are now critically important for the delivery of both community and local government initiatives that funds are increasingly competitive, all applicants are working harder with decreasing

opportunity of success and reduced opportunity to improve proposals for a further round of the fund.

- 3.20 The time period between the open and close of invitation to bid for government funds has in many cases reduced significantly and where it is unexpected, can result in Council Officers undertaking unplanned activity to create administrative systems, promote to and advise community groups, identify and score community projects and seek Committee approval for returns to government who ultimately decide on awards; and in some instances with no reimbursement on costs for local authorities.
- 3.21 Recent information suggests that this issue is likely to deteriorate, and it is proposed that this defines a third problem (in addition to the two defined above) as follows:
- a) A need to develop more sustainable solutions to managing government grant funds in an equitable manner for the Council and our communities alike.

A Review of Our Practices in Managing Grant Funding

- 3.22 Whilst we cannot change how government issues grant funds, in response to the evolving landscape and embodying a spirit of continuous improvement, we must change how we work to meet these challenges and the Council's Policy and Resources Committee agreed 04 December 2025 to request that the Chief Executive undertake a strategic review of grants activity. As well as gathering evidence and producing recommendations for change, the review will seek to trial and evaluate new ways of working. Ultimately, this will help us understand the practical steps the council can take to manage change effectively and navigate the complex, shifting funding landscape we are operating in.
- 3.23 It is possible that due to the unpredictable future of public sector policy and funding arrangements, the Aspiring Places platform may not be suitable for our longer term future needs. Therefore it has been agreed that new activity is required to build on our understanding to date and develop more sustainable solutions for the benefit of our organisation and our communities alike before making further decisions with regards to Aspiring Places. In the interim, Aspiring Places site remains live and a resource of information about community projects across Argyll and Bute.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Aspiring Places initiative emerged from an idea to have a clear picture of community projects in order to be better placed to increase our share of government grant funds.
- 4.2 The initiative has been shaped by wider engagement with a range of stakeholders including communities and colleagues from which it has emerged that government

grants are proving to be an increasingly complex issue that is increasing costs with diminishing benefits to local authorities (and taxpayers).

- 4.3 It is argued that a wider and deeper piece of work is now required to build on our understanding to date to better inform decisions about the future of Aspiring Places to ensure we have sustainable solutions for the benefit of our organisation and our communities alike.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy; delivery of a priority within the Council's Corporate Plan 2025 – 2027 to enhance and deepen our understanding of local issues and improve collaboration including launch of Aspiring Places: Community Projects in Argyll and Bute.
- 5.2 Financial; none, the review will be met from existing resources.
- 5.3 Legal; none.
- 5.4 HR; none.
- 5.5 Customer Service; none.
- 5.6 Risk; none.
- 5.7 Climate Change; none.
- 5.8 Fairer Scotland Duty: none
- 5.9 Equalities - protected characteristics; none.
- 5.10 Consumer Duty; none.
- 5.11 Island Communities; none.
- 5.12 Children's Rights and Wellbeing; none.

Stuart Green

Chief Executives Unit

07 January 2026

For further information contact: Stuart Green, Corporate Support Manager, Chief Executives Unit. stuart.green@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Argyll & West Dunbartonshire Division

Helensburgh and Lomond Planning Group

January 2026

COWAL, BUTE & HELENSBURGH PRIORITIES 2023-2026

The priorities for your area are decided by data from our strategic assessment which details threats and risks, and also from feedback from local authorities, partners, and residents in the [Local Policing Survey](#). The current priorities are:

- Serious and organised crime
- Crimes of theft and dishonesty (acquisitive crime)
- Road safety and road crime
- ASB & Violent crime
- Public protection.

Acquisitive Crime

Acquisitive crime remains a local priority. Over the festive period we had dedicated high visibility patrols within the community supporting local business. Our officers were carried out targeted stop searches on individuals known to be involved with acquisitive crime.

During the reporting period we had 12 reports of shoplifting across our area. We have also had 7 Fraud related reports which are a mixture of online fraudulent activity and cold callers via telephone calls from individuals impersonating various finance and banking organisations.

Look a head and planning

- To keep our visible presence in the community and work with business to reduce acquisitive crime
- Share information and work closely with British Transport Police targeting those using our rail network to commit theft in our community.
- To increase our online crime prevention footprint to provide information and support to local communities

Please note that all data included in this report are management information and not official statistics. All data are sourced from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as of date of publication. Unless stated otherwise numerical comparisons are against the previous year to date and the previous five-year average for the same data period specified.

- To identify and support vulnerable individuals who may be more at risk to fraud

Road Safety

Our traffic detections continue to increase which is testament to the proactive work by our specialist officers and our local policing teams. We continue to target those drivers putting people's safety at risk as a result of their poor driving standards, decision making or condition of the vehicles being driven on the roads.

The circumstances of any fatal road crash are investigated thoroughly by national specialist crash investigation teams. The expertise and understanding of road traffic legislation is shared locally to our local officers to ensure we are upskilling our own officers patrolling our communities.

We have been supporting our national winter safety campaign targeting those who put others at risk on our roads network and across our communities.

- Over the festive period 10 road users have been charged with driving carelessly and without due consideration for other road users.
- 10 road users have been issued with fixed penalty notices for excessive speed
- 8 persons have been charged with driving whilst unfit through drink or drugs
- A male has been charged and his illegal e-bike seized sized which was found to have been adapted.

Look ahead and planning

- Loose the blinkers initiative with specialist mounted officers, road traffic officers and local policing to raise awareness of driving near to or passing horses on the road.
- Inputs and education to local officers from British Horse Society.
- Road Safety Hubs will be returning to Helensburgh and an invite to improve your driving and understanding by speaking and learning from the experts.

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ASB/Violence

All operational officers are briefed daily prior to deployment to furnish them with the intelligence and information required to be able to identify those involved in violence and ASB.

Over the Festive period our officers were out supporting the local nighttime economy and looking to proactively reduce ASB/Violence. We made 33 visits to licensed premises over the festive period with positive engagement with local business.

We had positive engagement with colleagues at the Royal Navy Police and Ministry of Defence providing greatly visibility across our community.

We have recorded 10 'common' assaults and 0 'serious assaults. Serious assaults are those assaults which result in permanent disfigurement following medical treatment.

Our officers, whilst on high visibility patrols have charged 19 individuals found to be in possession of drugs, following proactive drug searches. We have also seized in excess of £20,000 under the proceeds of crime legislation. This great work demonstrates that we are determined to deter those involved with serious and organised crime.

We have been engaging with Crimestoppers Scotland to see how we can promote their vital role within our rural communities. It is vital that we continue to encourage and empower our communities to speak up about crime within their villages and towns. Crimestoppers is a unique anonymous service and more than ever our communities need Crimestoppers unique guarantee of anonymity to report concerns. Serious and Organised crime often harms the most vulnerable in our communities, from drug dealing to exploitation via County Lines. It is vital that our we encourage people to report anonymously and help them on what to do; from spotting the key signs of crimes to being an active bystander

Look ahead and planning

- To identify and target ASB concerns
- To adopt a proactive policing response to the misuse of drugs and alcohol
- To work with education to support young persons and to influence decision making and choices.
- To work with other partners to make Helensburgh & Lomond a safe place to live and visit.

Public Protection

We continue to support individuals through a victim centred approach. Our officers receive regular training and guidance to ensure that we are supporting those affected with a professionalism and empathy.

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OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

Public protection is often complex. Policing on its own is not the solution. By working in partnership, taking a multi-agency approach, increasing public confidence and raising public awareness, we are better placed to identify threat, manage risk and prevent harm

Look ahead and planning

- To ensure we have effective safeguarding plans in place for victims.
- To target domestic offenders ensuring that bail conditions are being followed.
- To support frontline officers by upskilling and developing understanding.

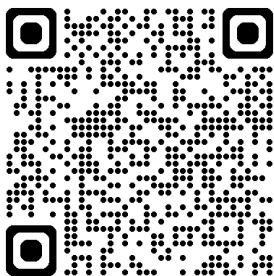
Local News

Our officers are always willing to advise on crime prevention matters and we would encourage those of you who feel they could benefit from advice to get in touch

If you attend at Helensburgh Police Station and we have no police support staff on duty.

- Always dial 999 in an emergency
- 101 for non-emergencies
- Text Relay - 18001101 for deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or speech-impaired callers

If we are experiencing high call demand and you find that your wait time on 101 is longer than you would like. You can contact us by completing an online form. To access this form, use the QR code below.



Useful Links/Contacts

- Argyll and Bute Community Directory - <https://abcd.scot/> including warm spaces information
- Crimestoppers – [Crimestoppers in Scotland | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/) 0800 555 111
- Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime – www.scottishparc.co.uk
- Women's Aid - [Home - Women's Aid \(womensaid.org.uk\)](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)
- Citizens Advice – 0808 164 6000
- Argyll and Bute Council Trading Standards – 01546 605 519

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OFFICIAL: POLICE AND PARTNERS

- **Argyll and Bute Council** – <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/my-council/how-contact-us>
- **Transport Scotland** – road related incidents and road closures - <https://www.traffic.gov.scot/traffic-information/incidents>
- **Scottish Water** - <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/Help-and-Resources/Contact-Us> 0800 0778 778
- **NHS24 (including mental health support)** – 111 or <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>

Follow us on Social Media and help share local appeals and education messages

- Facebook - Police Scotland Argyll and West Dunbartonshire
- X (formerly Twitter) – PSOSArgyllBute and PSOS ArgWestDunb

Sign up to Neighbourhood Watch to receive local alerts and bulletins for your community area - <https://neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/#0>

Have your say on your local policing priorities - [Your Police 2024-2025 - Police Scotland - Citizen Space](#)

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SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Helensburgh & Lomond CPG Briefing Report

Q3 2025/26

Performance & Activity Report

From:	1 st October 2025	To:	31 st December 2025
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Introduction

Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Community Board Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to Community Board based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Whilst using historic statistical benchmarking data, consideration must be taken of the random nature of fire related incidents and events, and how this can pose difficulties in interpreting emerging patterns and trends. This is of specific relevance where Community Board level data is analysed due to the relatively small number of actual incidents/events that occur in Community Board areas.

However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

About the statistics within this report

The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review.

Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference in the period totals quoted in our reports after local publication which result from revisions or additions to the data in our systems.

The Scottish Government publishes official statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Helensburgh Central Q3 2025-26


























40
Total Incidents





2
Incomplete Incident Records








Click to go to
Incomplete
Incidents
dashboard

 <div>7 Accidental Fires</div>		 <div>7 Total Fires</div>		 <div>0 Deliberate Fires</div>									
 <div>0 Outdoor Fires</div>		 <div>7 Building Fires</div>			 <div>0 Vehicle Fires</div>								
 <div>0 Large Outdoor / Wildfires</div>		 <div>5 Dwelling</div>		 <div>1 Other Residential</div>		 <div>0 Non Residential</div>		 <div>0 Road Vehicle</div>					
 <div>0 Refuse</div>		 <div>5 ADF</div>		 <div>1 Chimney Fires</div>		 <div>1 Enforceable Premise / Non Domestic</div>		 <div>0 Other Vehicle</div>					
 <div>0 Fatalities</div>		 <div>0 Fire fatalities</div>		 <div>0 Hospitalised Casualties</div>		 <div>0 First Aid Casualties</div>		 <div>0 Precautionary Check Casualties</div>		 <div>0 Rescued</div>			
Special Services													

Special Services



11
Special Services Total

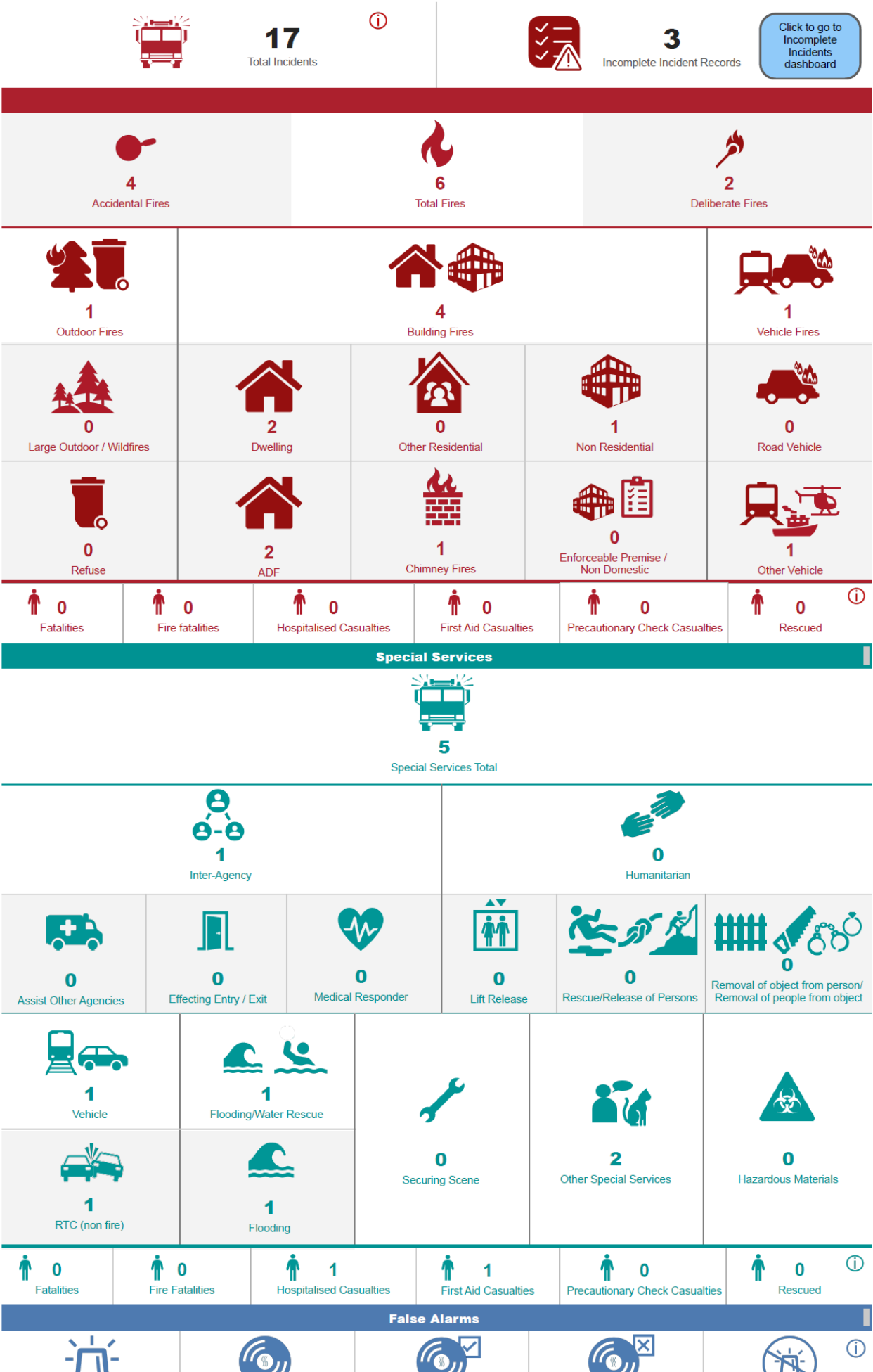
 <div>2 Inter-Agency</div>			 <div>4 Humanitarian</div>		
 <div>0 Assist Other Agencies</div>	 <div>1 Effecting Entry / Exit</div>	 <div>0 Medical Responder</div>	 <div>2 Lift Release</div>	 <div>1 Rescue/Release of Persons</div>	 <div>1 Removal of object from person/ Removal of people from object</div>
 <div>0 Vehicle</div>	 <div>2 Flooding/Water Rescue</div>	 <div>1 Securing Scene</div>		 <div>2 Other Special Services</div>	 <div>0 Hazardous Materials</div>
 <div>0 RTC (non fire)</div>	 <div>2 Flooding</div>				
 <div>0 Fatalities</div>	 <div>0 Fire Fatalities</div>	 <div>0 Hospitalised Casualties</div>	 <div>0 First Aid Casualties</div>	 <div>0 Precautionary Check Casualties</div>	 <div>2 Rescued</div> 

False Alarms

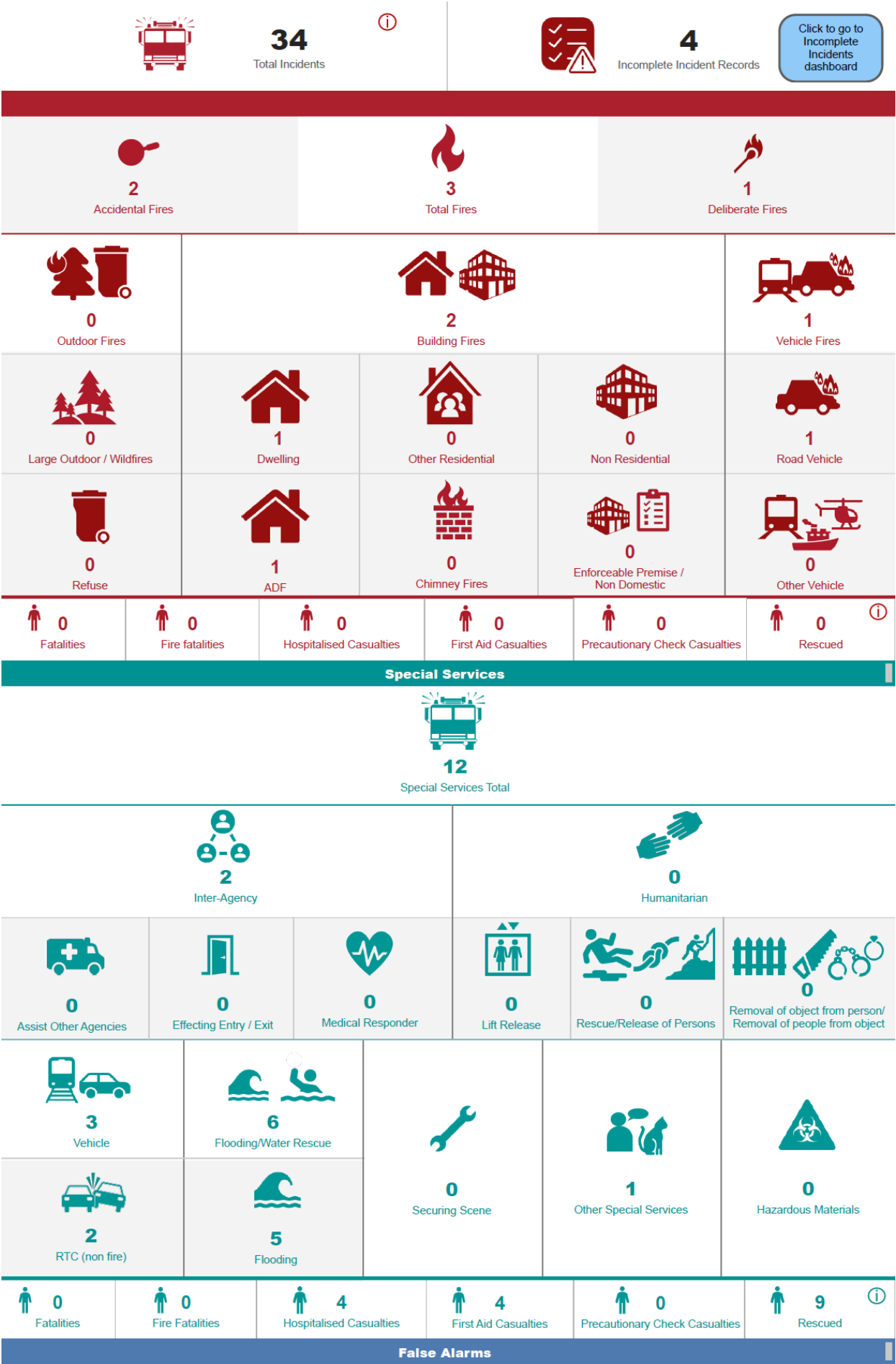




Helensburgh & Lomond South Q3 2025-26



Lomond North Q3 2025-26



Community Safety & Engagement

Community Safety Campaigns/ Safety Messaging

In the lead up to 5 November, our Community Action Team and operational crews delivered bonfire safety presentations in all Argyll and Bute secondary schools. The sessions covered the risks linked to bonfires and fireworks and highlighted how young people can stay safe during this busy period.

Pupils engaged well and asked useful questions, and staff welcomed the support in reinforcing key safety messages ahead of Bonfire Night.

Thank you to everyone involved for helping promote safer choices in our communities.



On-Call Firefighter Training

On-Call Firefighters across Argyll & Bute continue to demonstrate outstanding commitment to their communities, balancing their on-call duties with personal and work responsibilities. Crews have worked hard to maintain and develop their operational skills, completing essential refresher training in key disciplines such as Breathing Apparatus procedures and Road Traffic Collision (RTC) extrication techniques. Their dedication ensures a high standard of preparedness and professionalism, helping to keep local communities safe and resilient.



Christmas Gift Appeal

The SFRS Christmas Gift Appeal, delivered in partnership with Home Start, was a tremendous success this year. Thanks to the generosity of the public, an outstanding number of toys and gifts were collected, ensuring that local children and families received much-needed support over the festive period.

CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the Oban Lorn and Isles area is working in partnership with Home Start Lorn in Oban to deliver Christmas gifts to children in your area up to the age of 15 years old.

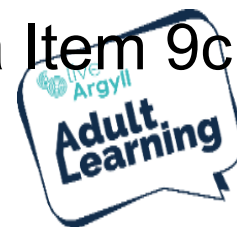
Gifts should be new, unwrapped, and dropped off at Oban Fire Station or Salen Hotel on Mull by the 3rd of December to allow for distribution in time for Christmas.



Community Action Team

- Our Community Action Team are engaging with local partners including ACHA, to highlight the associated risks of domestic open fires. This safety information is available on the SFRS website and will continue to be shared on our social media platforms.
- Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR) following every domestic incident: Offers homeowners a free safety check and installation of alarms where applicable.
- Representation on Multi Agency Risk Assessment (MARAC) for those affected by domestic violence.
- Continue to support 'Make the Call' campaign and On Call recruitment drive for retained and volunteer stations within Argyll and Bute
- Engaging with communities utilising Summer/Autumn Thematic Action Plans TAP (Thematic Action Plan)

- Establishing “Referral Pathways” with our partnership agencies. Empowering new referral groups to help us arrange Home Fire Safety Visits for some of our most vulnerable groups in our communities.



Community Learning Services update February 2026



As part of Argyll and Bute Council's budget-setting process, liveArgyll has been asked to carry out a consultation on their services to understand how potential changes may affect adult learning and youth work programmes and learners.

This process looks at equality, accessibility and wellbeing, and considers different ways services could be delivered in the future.

Your views matters. Tell us what Adult Learning and Youth Work means to you and share ideas for the future. Have your say here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BQJB7LL>

Paper copies are available at liveArgyll facilities and libraries if you would prefer to respond that way. All responses are anonymous.



Adult Learning Provision Helensburgh

We are currently delivering the majority of our Adult Learning Provision from the Live Argyll building at 59 West King Street. Please contact Caroline Whitson or Eileen Kay with any enquiries.

Adult Achievement Awards – We are an accredited centre for the delivery of Adult Achievement Awards. These awards are SQA accredited and are flexible to reflect almost any learning undertaken by participants. Available to adults aged 16+, in award levels 2 to 6, with no entry level requirements. Please contact Caroline or Eileen for further information. [Adult Achievement Awards - Newbattle Abbey College](#)

Learning Café – Learning and employability drop-in service every Wednesday afternoon at Live Argyll, 59 West King Street, Helensburgh. 1 -2.30. Suitable for all adults. Tea/coffee/ soup/biscuits.

National Databank – Vodafone and O2 sim cards available with free calls, texts and data for up to 6 months. Available by arrangement with Caroline Whitson.

Digital Device Lending Service – Now available - Chromebook devices are available, with or without mobile data, for adults aged 18 and over who have been referred by a partner agency. Lending period will be between 3 and 6 months. Regular attendance at The Learning Café is required as part of the lending agreement, as is registering with Learn My Way online learning. Referrals can be made directly to Caroline Whitson.

SQA – We offer a wide range of SQA accredited qualifications including Employability, Wellbeing, Volunteering, Communication and Leadership. Please contact Eileen Kay for more information.

Managing Your Money – New budgeting short course. New sessions will run regularly throughout the year in various locations. Please contact Caroline Whitson if you would like a course to run in your own premises.

Adult Literacy and Numeracy support – A range of support for adults requiring help with reading, writing or numbers, including the innovative Citizen Literacy website.

Jean's Bothy – Digital Drop-in Service – for existing and new Bothy members. First Thursday of every month in Jean's Bothy 2.30 -4.30.

Digital Boost – Advanced IT Support group for learners who have previously attended Get IT Started. First Wednesday of each month in Live Argyll, 59 West King Street, Helensburgh.

Scottish Mental Health First Aid – We are delighted to be able to offer this exciting and beneficial course. Scottish Mental Health First Aid (SMHFA) is a nationally recognised course designed to give participants the knowledge, skills and confidence to support someone experiencing a mental health challenge. Grounded in Scotland's Mental Health First Aid framework, the course takes a practical, stigma-reducing approach that empowers individuals to recognise early signs of distress, respond appropriately and signpost to the right support. This course is run over 2 days and can be organised either in our premises or in a venue of your choosing. This course is particularly suitable for anyone working or volunteering with their local community. Please contact Caroline Whitson for further information and to book a course.

Health Issues in the Community (HIIC) –Health Issues in the Community (HIIC) is a course that helps people understand what affects their health and the health of their communities.

Run by tutors across Scotland, HIIC supports people of all ages to develop the skills and knowledge to address health issues using community development approaches. Short courses are available as well as the full SQA accredited course. [HIIC](#)

Please contact Caroline Whitson with any enquiries.

Contact:

Caroline Whitson Caroline.Whitson@liveargyll.co.uk tel: 01436658707

Eileen Kay Eileen.Kay@liveargyll.co.uk tel: 01436658743



Update for Youth Work in H&L

liveArgyll Youth Showcase Event: A really good event ran by liveArgyll Youthwork Staff and Young People, although it was disappointing that attendance was low from invitees that had accepted the original invite. Helensburgh and Lomond had only one partner attend (Katrina Sayer – Jeans Bothy). Due to this low attendance of invitees, we will be holding a local Youth Voice Showcase Event in the very near future.

Helensburgh and Lomond Youth Council: Youth Action Council now up and running with next meeting with Invited participants scheduled for end of February, Young People will be sending out invites in the next couple of weeks to councillors. We have 2 new Ambassadors for Youth Voice for Helensburgh and Lomond (Elena and James), these young people are part of a wider network of Ambassadors around Argyll and Bute. They will be involved in bringing together ideas and issues that relate to young people from their own geographical areas and will work together on raise these ideas or issues. Elena and James will also be the lead contacts for the Youth Council, so all correspondence to the Youth Council should first go through Thomas (Lead Youth Worker) and then will be passed onto Ambassadors for reply or actioning.

Youth Action Council are continuing with their Consultation and have set date of returning findings by next meeting at end of February.

Planning for Easter GIVE program now being planned and will be planned accordingly to results of consultation. Initial ideas are to have small day testers of activities that young people can be

involved in after school such as drama workshop, art, First Aid and More. This program will be free and young people attending will gain accreditation from taking part in the program.

Hermitage Academy: Programmes back up and running after Prelim break. We have just started our new Health and wellbeing Group which will have a group of young people from Hermitage Academy attend the liveArgyll Gym and work through a SQA Level 4 award whilst also having access to the gym to improve Physical and Mental HWB. We are also in the process of developing a new pilot program for Non School Attenders called LOEP (liveArgyll Outdoor Employability Program). Pupils are currently being identified and are hoping to have this group starting sometime in February.

Contact –

Thomas Guy-Conroy

Thomas.Guy-Conroy@liveargyll.co.uk (01436658817)



Secretary Report Helensburgh Community Council January 2025**Issues raised by public**

Sept – Lack of markings for Parking Bays in Lower Colquhoun street no signs or road markings indicating no parking - ongoing

Sept – Complaint no cleaning of bus stop East Princes Street for three years - ongoing

Oct – Lack of markings or signs indicating parking regulations Pier slipway area ongoing

Oct - Complaint about shop not adhering to the planning regulations – under review by council.

Jan – Query whether Helensburgh should submit an entry as Town of Culture.

Current Consultations

Service Points opening hours at Civic Centre changing to appointment only.

Town Improvement Update January 2026**Town Improvement**

- Cameron Foy continues to work with Cllr Fiona Howard on the issue of bus parking being allocated for visiting coaches.
- Elizabeth Lambert Is supporting the community around parking Issues especially within the town centre area. There is a lack of clarity with signs and markings indicating legitimate parking areas or parking restrictions.
- The broken benches in Colquhoun Square have been repaired however we are concerned about the life span of these benches and would be keen to meet with Mark Calder to discuss this and other matters relating to Colquhoun Square as he offered at the last local area meeting. Awaiting a meeting date TBA.
- The restoration of the stepping stone path along the waterfront grassed area as well as restoration of the grass and paved areas is ongoing. The Waterfront Esplanade has been left in a poor state following repairs to burst sewage pipes this year and last.
- The issue of the bus shelter in East Princes Street - ongoing.(scheduled for March/April)
- We are thankful for Hugh O'Neil's work on the playpark equipment tenders and await successful completion.
- We look forward to information about the Project 20 reducing the speed limit for some roads in Helensburgh.
- Supporting Kirkmichael Community Development Group in their efforts to improve the play park area at Kirkmicheal
- Discussing waymarking with CARS Project Officer.

Community events

Kirkmichael Community Development Group Open Day Saturday 17th January 10am-12noon

This event was very successful with all ages attending. People were keen on the idea of a Mens shed, and making the changing rooms into a community meeting room.

Future Dates

Community Planning Partnership Meeting Mon 2nd Feb 10am Civic Centre.

HCC Meeting Thursday 26th February 7pm Civic Centre.

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Community Development Update**Helensburgh & Lomond Area Community Planning Group - February 2026**

The H&L Recovery Network met on the 29th January at the HLCC. The network members come from local voluntary organisations, community groups, and the public service with a view of increasing joint working to assist individuals experiencing issues with drugs and alcohol. The network is focussed on the National Standards for Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT Standard 8 - [Standard 8 Independent Advocacy and Social Support - Medication Assisted Treatment \(MAT\) standards: access, choice, support - gov.scot](#)) which states the right to independent advocacy and support to access housing, welfare, and income needs for those experiencing drug and alcohol issues.

The Network meeting included a presentation from **Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service** www.laas.org.uk who provide a voice for people locally when engaging with local services. The launch of the network is a joint project between Community Development and the ADP.

Kirkmichael Community Development Group, and the **Scottish Men's Shed Association** held a joint open day at UHI Argyll in Kirkmichael on Saturday 17th January, 10-12 noon to gauge interest in a number of proposals for the local area. This was attended by round 30-40 community members with **Cove Park** delivering a community workshop for children and adults on the morning. The event also resulted in new volunteers joining a working group for both the KCDG and Men's shed association. The event was also supported by **Helensburgh Community Council** who provided refreshments.

One of the main proposals at present is the creation of a Men's / Community Shed in the former changing rooms beside the college. This will involve the group engaging with the council to discuss the potential of a lease of the site. It would be anticipated that a shed would have wide ranging benefits for health, by increasing activities available locally, informal social support, and as a focus for further projects in partnership with the KCDG.

The **Princess Louise Hall Committee** is being supported and currently working with Property on the ongoing works to the Howie pavilion. Community Development are supporting the group to access further funds and to consider smaller community events and activities to mark the reopening of this part of the hall – while wider renovations take place.

UHI Argyll have started an accredited gardening course at **Hermitage Park** in January, for volunteers who face multiple barriers to employment. The sessions have been offered and created in partnership with A&B Council and the Friends of Hermitage Park.

Locally the CDO continues to provide a range of funding advice and governance support to groups including Centre 81, Helensburgh Foodbank and FoHP.

The wider Community Development team are continuing to support groups with Local Place Plans, Asset Transfers and refine our Supporting Communities Fund with our colleagues in IT.

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Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau

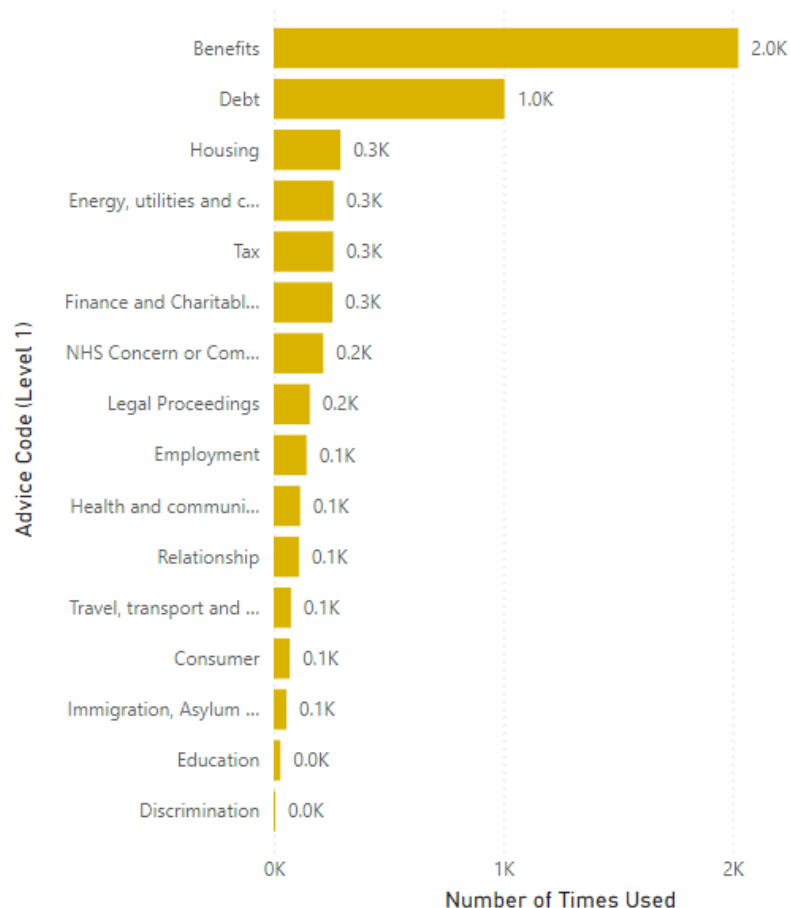
Community Planning Partnerships Update

January 2026

Between January 2025 and December 2025, Argyll & Bute CAB supported over 2000 clients, with 65% being new to the service.

The Vast Majority of our cases are Welfare rights and Benefits enquiries which accounted for 39% of overall advice provision, with 2026 single pieces of advice recorded.

Number of Times Used by Advice Code (Level 1)



Client Financial Gain over the same period was just over £1.2m, with 80% made of benefits entitlements and another 13% realised from our free debt advice.

Volunteer recruitment

While we currently have 17 trained adviser volunteers across the region, we are reopening our recruitment drive for April 2026 commencement on our SCQF Level 6 training programme.

To request an application pack, please email info@abccab.org.uk – we require a commitment of 6 hours per week under Scottish National Standards, of which we are an accredited advice provider.



We are also continuing to look for relevantly experienced Trustees, and non-advice related volunteers. There is no minimum hour requirement for our IT, social media or maintenance volunteers.

New Services

Energy Debt Advice –

Our Adviser Mark is a City & Guilds qualified energy adviser, supporting clients to negotiate with Suppliers, seek debt reduction, change tariffs, submit complaints to suppliers and Ombudsman. If individuals would like to look at some resources to support them while awaiting an appointment. This can be found on our site here <https://www.moneytalkteam.org.uk/>

Homelessness Prevention Pilot

Home Secure Argyll is our new project working in collaboration with Carr Gomm, Argyll & Bute Council, ACHA, West Highland HA and Hope Kitchen and Dunoon Foodbank within the scope of the Ask and Act legislation supporting statutory bodies and other organisations to prevent homelessness. This launches publicly in March and we look forward to supporting colleagues with the training program and recruiting lived experience individuals to the advisory board for the project. If you know of someone who may wish to join the advisory board, expenses are payable, as are travel and child costs; please contact laura.mcleod@abccab.org.uk or sarah.nixon@abccab.org.uk

Existing Services with the Bureau

Welfare Rights – support with completing applications, submitting mandatory reconsideration requests and representation at tribunal/appeals.

Housing Debt – support for people in housing arrears or facing debts that threaten tenure retention. FCA regulated support to address debts and seek free solutions includes court representation where required.

Council Tax Debt Partnership – working with the LA to support vulnerable households to realise eligible reduction, and discounts and affordable repayments, with a view to also increasing awareness of what CT pays for and support in our communities.

About Turn Argyll, provides targeted support to serving and former military personnel and their dependents. Our Adviser Phil is ex-forces and can support anyone connected to the armed services with a wide range of issues including employment, housing, relationship breakdown and debt.

Patient Advice Support Service – advice on patient rights, complaints to GP's, HSCP, and SPSO.

Money Talks – Income maximisation project looking to reduce costs, increase income through benefits entitlements and address low persistent debt.

Unpaid Carers Advice Project. – Provision of targeted advice to carers across Argyll & Bute. Support to access care, raise issues, complete applications for Power of Attorney etc, address financial supports and access benefits.

Generalist advice on Housing, Employment relationship, court processes, parking charge notices and neighbour disputes.

Outreach Locations

Dunoon [Food bank, Crossroads Carers and JC+]

Oban [Hope Kitchen, NA Carers Centre, Toy Library and JC+]

Campbeltown JC+

Helensburgh Carers Centre

Research areas

Our Voices Matter - Working with the Poverty Alliance, and TSI to push for better lay representation on HSCP IJB and demonstrating budgetary reduction impacts on the communities across Argyll & Bute

Stakeholder Survey

As we move forward into 2026, please complete our stakeholder survey – we use this to form new areas of work and partnership opportunities.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ABCABCommunityPartnerSurvey2026/>

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Helensburgh and Lomond CPG – Transport Scotland Update

We are currently within the Winter Maintenance regime, noting that the general cyclic maintenance works are all now complete, although, weekly road & bridge inspections are still ongoing;

TS/BEAR Scotland have recently completed works;

- The implementation of the 20mph zones within a number of towns within the Kintyre peninsula are being progressed and all locations should be fully installed throughout Argyle & Bute by the end of 2025
- A82 Lay-by improvement scheme between Stonymollen and Tarbet has now been completed and appears to provide a significant improvement
- Crianlarich Bypass Vegetation Management scheme completed
- Extensive activities for the clear up of vegetation after the recent storms is also now complete

RaBT;

- From 19th January, generally carrying out ongoing maintenance works such as barrier repairs to various sections, some barrier snagging works with lower slopes commencing after that time. Other works to follow include catchpit baffle wall & barrier emptying, rock slope remedials at northern bends, Kinglas Ditch works & Loch Restil cutting failure
- The hillside is being monitored continuously by our dedicated team as per our Landslide Management Plan, noting that there is an amendment within the Management Plan regarding alert levels – to be discussed at the meeting
- At Cairndow, we are still awaiting SSE to confirm the electrical connection required to enable the new signage
- Find attached high level programme for upcoming works at the Rest and Be Thankful provided by BEAR Scotland, though the summer of 2026. This programme is indicative and may be subject to change, for example due to unpredictable hillside movements, adverse weather conditions, assessment findings for remedial works of landslip events.

Wider A82;

- North of Arden Roundabout filter drain renewal using temporary traffic signals is still ongoing. The project involves using a recycling technique that cleans and reuses existing stone within the drainage system. This method eliminates the need for excavation and replacement with new materials, significantly reducing waste, conserving resources, and lowering the overall carbon footprint of the scheme
- Loch Lomond Lay-bys and Rest Area signing strategy design is still ongoing following on from a meeting held between BEAR and LLTNP
- Loch Lomond Junctions Improvement scheme with BEAR progressing designs for introduction of VAS signs at key junctions such as Duck Bay, Cameron House, Luss junctions. A number of surveys are required/planned for Q3/4 2025 with queue length surveys along the A82 Loch Lomond and Stonymollan Roundabout
- VRS upgrades being progressed at Glen Falloch, to upgrade existing bridge parapet and approach terminals along with entire stretch of A82 Loch Lomond VRS with the scheme investigation now underway

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Periods	Activity	Duration	Traffic Management
Now – Pre Christmas	Hillside protection barriers repairs Roadside crash cushion repairs on A83 Drainage emergency repairs	1 week	Temporary Traffic Signals on A83
Christmas – New Year	No site works	2 weeks	Traffic management removed
First week after the Christmas and New Year break	Hillside protection barriers repairs	1 week	Traffic management removed
January – March 2026	Hillside protection barriers repairs Slope remedial works Routine barriers and drainage maintenance works Hillside boulder removal Remedial works at A83 RaBT following landslide on 1 st Sep 2025	3 months	Temporary Traffic Signals on A83
April – June 2026	Slope remedial works Routine drainage maintenance works Remedial works at Butterbridge and Glen Kinglas following landslide on 1 st Sep 2025	3 months	Temporary Traffic Signals on A83
July – September 2026	Works at Loch Restil (Easn Dubh).	Exact period to be defined	Temporary Traffic Signals on A83

Note: This is an indicative programme and is subject to revision, for example due to unpredictable hillside movements, adverse weather conditions, assessment findings for remedial works of landslide events.

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Helensburgh Community Hub – CPG update Nov 2025

Connection and Community

Helensburgh Community Hub is first and foremost is a place that supports connection and community, and this year as part of our new business plan we will be strengthening our focus on health and wellbeing as a route to creating connection and community. We welcome any ideas and discussions for collaborative and partnership working on the theme of health and wellbeing. Please contact Development Manager Gill Simpson if you are interested in working with us.

Meanwhile we would be grateful if partners can share information about our regular weekly and monthly community activities below (Facebook post/jpeg and print versions are available).



Helensburgh Community Hub

116 East Princes Street

Regular weekly and monthly activities
(open to the community and no booking required)

<p>Monday</p> <p>2-5pm Book Nook open (tea/coffee available)</p> <p>10am-12pm Foodbank</p> <p>5.30-6.30pm Qigong gentle movement (donation based)</p> <p>8-9pm AA support group</p>	<p>Thursday</p> <p>3-7pm Foodbank</p> <p>Last Thursday of the month 7-9pm Time To Talk men's group</p>
<p>Tuesday</p> <p>10am-2pm Book Nook open (tea/coffee available)</p> <p>5-6.15pm yoga (donation based)</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>11.15am-1.15pm It's a Design Feature craft group *</p> <p>* Please contact the Hub for more information on 01436 678088</p>
<p>Wednesday</p> <p>10am-4pm Book Nook open (tea/coffee available)</p> <p>5.30-6.30pm Easy Dance fitness (£5 per session)</p> <p>Last Wednesday of the month 7-9pm Menopause Cafe</p>	<p>Saturday</p> <p>10am-1pm Book Nook open (tea/coffee available)</p> <p>6-7pm CA support group</p> <p>Last Saturday of the month 10.30am-12pm Helensburgh Repair Hub</p>

We also support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library free book gifting programme for all children aged 0-5 who live in Helensburgh.

For information about the Imagination Library, ad hoc Hub events, and other organisations and groups that use the Hub please contact:

- 01436 678088
- manager@helensburghcommunityhub.org.uk
- check out our Facebook page 



Helensburgh Book Festival

We are excited to launch the 4th Helensburgh Book Festival will take place on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 March in various venues around Helensburgh. What began as a collaboration between book lovers from three community organisations (Helensburgh Community Hub, Jean's Bothy and Helensburgh and Lomond Carers Centre) to promote the wellbeing and creative benefits of reading for pleasure for all ages has now become a highly successful annual event featuring big name authors talks, school events, creative workshops and opportunities for emerging writers.

Thanks to support from Argyll and Bute Council Supporting Communities Fund as Scottish Book Trust we are able to offer many free and low cost events as part of the festival programme. The programme and booking link will be forwarded to partners as soon as possible and we would be grateful if you can share the information with your stakeholders.

Helensburgh Repair Hub (collaboration between Helensburgh Community Hub, Jean's Bothy and ABCAN).

Supported by a second round of funding from ABCAN, Helensburgh Repair Hub will be expanding in 2026 to include pop-up events in Cove and Arrochar.

We have also been invited to share our journey to establishing Helensburgh Repair Hub at this year's Share and Repair network conference in Stirling in March.

Dates for the regular monthly Repair Hubs at Helensburgh Community Hub are below and can be widely shared. New volunteers are always welcome.



HELENSBURGH REPAIR HUB
LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
10.30AM-12PM
2026 DATES:

31 JAN	25 JULY
28 FEB	29 AUG
25 APRIL	26 SEP
30 MAY	31 OCT
27 JUNE	28 NOV

Bring small household items
 - mechanical and electrical, textiles and accessories
 Enjoy a cuppa while you wait

AT HELENSBURGH COMMUNITY HUB 116 EAST PRINCES STREET

No Repair Hub in March and December but watch out for pop-up dates in Cove and Arrochar

Saving items from landfill Skill sharing Creating community

For more information:
 Helensburgh Community Hub
 01436 678088
 Jean's Bothy
 01436 679218
 ABCAN
 07396 800145

Dates for 2026:

18 April: East Bay beach clean and coffee morning

27-28 March: Helensburgh Book Festival (in partnership with Jean's Bothy, H&L Carers Centre, Hill House)

20 June: East Bay beach clean and coffee morning

June tbc: Helensburgh Community Hub AGM

June tbc: Helensburgh and Lomond Volunteer Celebration Lunch (in partnership with Visiting Friends)

19 Sep: East Bay beach clean and coffee morning

For more information contact:

Development Manager Gill Simpson 01436 678088 / 07498 528747

manager@helensburghcommunityhub.org.uk

Registered Company SC645409

Registered Charity SC05045.



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Date: 20 January 2026



Argyll and Bute Climate Action: a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for Argyll and Bute.

Update to Helensburgh and Lomond Area Community Planning Group

1.0 Purpose

This report provides an update on progress with the climate change strategy, in particular on three points:

- Overall progress and timeline;
- Ongoing partnership work: developing a business case and governance options for a Climate Ready Region for Argyll and Bute;
- Community resilience/emergency plans: initial findings from review of existing plans and engagement with community councils.

2.0 Recommendations

The ACPG is asked to note overall progress since the October update, and in particular to

- Return any feedback on the draft climate Action Plan attached as submitted to the CPP Management Committee in December, by 20 February to Andy Macpherson, CPP Climate Change Manager andy@act-now.org.uk;
- Note progress on developing an Argyll and Bute Climate Ready Region, and to provide any feedback on the forthcoming business case and governance model funding options by 20 February to the same contact;
- Note progress on review and engagement to date on community resilience/emergency plans, with any further input welcomed. If groups are struggling with capacity or there is no community council, the ACPG may wish to advise on how best to prioritise support.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Overall progress since August ACPG meeting

The funded period was originally due to end at the end of October 2025 but the CPP Management Committee agreed to reallocate elements of the budget in order to

keep the project manager in post until July 2026 in order to support work on developing legacy proposals and support community councils developing resilience plans. These new deliverables over the extended period are within the same original budget, although the project has subsequently secured further external (Scottish Government) funding to support specifics relating to the Climate Ready Region.

The revised timeline and extra deliverables are:

DELIVERABLES 2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Updates to ACPGs												
Outline Action Plan to CCWG												
Strategy to CPP Management Committee												
Updated Action Plan to Steering Group												
Updates to ACPGs												
Action Plan and Legacy update to Steering Group												
Action Plan and Legacy update to CPP Mgt Cttee												
Steering Group, Ongoing Action Plan and Risk Assessment												
Updates to ACPGs												
Steering Group - overall review												
RAP/Climate Ready Region (CRR) initial comms												
Establish Climate Ready Region Short Life Working Group												
Action Plan to Steering Group												
Action Plan to CPP Mgt Cttee for scrutiny												
NEW DELIVERABLES 2025 - 26	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul		
CRR scope, governance, business case commission												
Updates to ACPGs												
CRR stakeholder interviews												
Community Resilience review												
CRR interim review to Steering Group												
Action Plan Scrutiny by CPP Mgt Cttee												
Updates to ACPGs and CCWG												
Action Plan feedback to CPP Management Committee												
RAP scope, governance framework, business case to CPP MC												
Community Resilience review to Steering Group												
Updates to ACPGs												
Monitoring & final report to CPP Management Committee												
Handover and close												

3.2 Ongoing Partnership Work: A Climate Ready Region for Argyll and Bute

The Scottish Government has provided some funding in the current financial year to support development of a Climate Ready Region for Argyll and Bute (previously referred to as Regional Adaptation Partnership). The support is for:

- Climate literacy and resilience training (currently being delivered by Argyll & Bute Climate Action Network ABCAN)
- Consultant support for governance and business case development
- Associated officer time and engagement (ABCAN and CPP Climate Change Manager)
- Plus in kind support from Verture/Adaptation Scotland

Following an invitation to quote on Public Contracts Scotland, Waterman Group has been appointed to undertake the governance and business case work, and they have recently completed a round of stakeholder focus group sessions, including from ACPGs, in addition to a literature review with the draft report due on 10 February,

comments on the draft and scrutiny by a CPP Management Committee sub group by 24 February, and the final report due in mid March in time for the CPP Management Committee's March meeting.

Community resilience is likely to be of particular interest to the Scottish Government for the Argyll & Bute Climate Ready Region

3.3 Community resilience/emergency plans

The CPP Management Committee agreed that resilience and carbon literacy training should be foremost among the six priority areas for action in the climate change strategy and that a priority action for the climate change project manager should be to make use of available budget (the extended time in post) to support communities on climate change risk aspects of resilience plans. This corresponds to roughly 20 days per Area.

The emphasis on resilience and carbon literacy is also of interest to the Scottish Government and this is reflected in the extra funding in the current financial year to support development of a Climate Ready Region.

The climate change project manager has

- reviewed existing resilience/emergency plans (the terms are frequently used interchangeably) where these are available;
- met community councils or representatives thereof on a sample basis across the Argyll and Bute administrative Areas;
- written to all current community councils in Helensburgh and Lomond Area;
- started or imminently due to start working with Cardross, Cove and Kilcreggan Helensburgh, Rhu and Shandon.

Capacity in community groups is a known issue throughout Argyll and Bute, and while some groups envisage six months or less to develop a plan, other groups will certainly take longer or may struggle to start. The ACPG may wish to advise on how to prioritise support to groups if this arises, and likewise where there is no active community council.

Where there are recurrent issues across Areas the project manager may escalate these to the CPP Management Committee.

Andy Macpherson, Climate Change Project Manager

For more information, please contact: Andy Macpherson andy@act-now.org.uk

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Argyll and Bute Climate Action: A Climate Change Strategy for Argyll and Bute

Action Plan Summary draft v2.2 26 November 2025

The CPP Management Committee approved the Argyll and Bute climate change strategy in spring 2025 and agreed that the action plan should

- reflect the strategy's 6 priority areas, with resilience foremost among these
 - Resilience/Carbon Literacy
 - Risk Assessment
 - Skills, Procurement and Supply Chain
 - Policy Influence
 - Transport and Infrastructure
 - Crosscutting/Other
- reflect the CPP's three Outcomes: Transport Infrastructure, Housing and Community Wellbeing
- emphasise action within the CPP's scope to control or influence: the group of organisations and community representatives working together to achieve improvements across Argyll and Bute in ways which promote prevention, reduce inequalities and build community capacity
- support just transition: as we prepare for the impacts of the changing climate we do so in ways that are fair and tackle inequality.

A summary of some of the suggested priority actions from the Action Plan for consideration by the CPP Management Committee's Steering Group is provided below.

Action	Description	Lead/ Proposer	Measurement/ Indicator	CPP Outcome	Just Transition
Area for action: Resilience/Carbon Literacy					
Work with community councils to develop emergency plans including lessons from previous events	This is a major area of opportunity for CPP influence and agency.	A&BC, CPP Climate Change Manager	Resilience plans developed	Community Wellbeing	Enhance ability of communities including to cope during emergencies
Develop and deliver climate literacy and resilience training appropriate to key groups	Ensuring accredited training relevant to roles and to Argyll's climate and needs.	ACT/ABCAN with CPP member organisations	Training modules developed	Community Wellbeing	Enhanced capacity to support just transition
Consider establishment of a Argyll and Bute resilience forum/community of practice	Build upon informal networks sharing good practice	Feedback from groups working on resilience plans	Establishment of forum	Community Wellbeing	Affordable approaches to enhancing resilience
Develop register of resilience resources and needs	Identify recurrent needs and gaps. Lack of capacity in communities a critical issue.	CPP Climate Change Manager	Register/report of findings	Community Wellbeing	Move towards "none left behind"
Carbon Literacy and Adaptation/Resilience for communities	Support informed choices on low carbon and climate readiness	ACT/ABCAN	Uptake of training	Community Wellbeing	Greater support for including vulnerable
Area for action: Risk Assessment					
Review and share CPP partner risk assessments	Make use of existing resource across all partners	CPP partner bodies	Assessments shared	Community Wellbeing	Identifying quick wins and most vulnerable
Coastal Risk Assessment	To identify key vulnerabilities and inform Coastal Change Adaptation Plan.	A&BC, SEPA?	Via statutory public body reporting	Housing Infrastructure	Communities depend on vulnerable infrastructure
Community-oriented risk assessment: Support communities, collate into regional report	Bring lived experience to scientific evidence. Extend ownership of lessons identified	CPP Climate Manager	Register/report of findings	Community Wellbeing	Lived experience represented, incl young/disadvantaged
Area for action: Skills, Procurement and Supply Chain					
Identify groups best place to lead on skills development	Establish clarity among large number of stakeholders	Skills Partnership, SDS		Community Wellbeing	

Action	Description	Lead/ Proposer	Measurement/ Indicator	CPP Outcome	Just Transition
Climate Education: Future Learning Pathways	Training and qualification to enable young people to live and work in Argyll	FLP partners	Gaps identified and mitigations proposed	Community Wellbeing	Building block of just transition
Identify opportunities to reduce transport mileage associated with procurement	Develop local supply and value chains, enhance resilience, reduce emissions	Community feedback	Mobile abattoir feasibility?		Community wealth building and circular economy
Establish a construction skills development working group	Need for range of skills incl new technology; training pathways; maintenance.	A&BC Housing		Housing	
Area for action: Policy Influence					
No policy-only action proposed in prioritised summary list	Multiple policy components under other Priority Areas eg grid, comms infrastructure				
Area for Action: Transport and Infrastructure					
Formation of a Transport Integration Working Group	Priority routes, shared transport options, integrate active travel, concessions	CPP Management Committee	Formation of group and reporting to CPP	Transport Infrastructure	Supporting accessible and affordable transport
Establishment of a community Active Travel Network	Understand infrastructure, priority routes, need, accessibility, skills	CPP Management Committee	Formation of group and reporting to CPP	Transport Infrastructure	Supporting accessible and affordable transport
Research to understand areas of greatest transport-related inequalities	Commission research to identify key transport inequalities in the area.	CPP Management Committee	Commission and report	Transport Infrastructure	Build capacity to address inequalities
Improve Electric Vehicle capability in Argyll and Bute	Accessible, affordable, fast charging; supply chain; signage, mapping, tourism	CPP Management Committee Transport session	A&BC EVIF Strategy & Expansion Plan?	Transport Infrastructure	Enhance affordability and accessibility
Incorporate housing energy efficiency, affordability and climate readiness within the CPP climate change strategy	Develop appropriate local actions and signposting, utilising pooled CPP knowledge	CPP Housing session/CPP Climate Change Manager	Tracking of progress in CPP annual reporting	Housing	Increase in affordable, lower carbon and climate ready housing
Partner working group to identify public sector assets which could provide housing	Need to link SEPA in to take account of flood risk mapping.	CPP Housing session	Group established, assets identified	Housing	Affordability of housing and flood risk

Action	Description	Lead/ Proposer	Measurement/ Indicator	CPP Outcome	Just Transition
Divert and reuse furniture and other household objects before reaching waste stream	Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative also potential Dunoon, Helensburgh	Community feedback	Further reuse hubs	Transport Infrastructure	Affordable goods for disadvantaged, skills and jobs/volunteering
Bring school and other CPP partners recycling in line with level of recycling in community	Lack of recycling facilities particularly in secondary schools. Also recycling facilities at eg Live Argyll	Community feedback	Recycling increase, litter decrease	Transport Infrastructure	Pupils able to recycle and sustain recycling habits
Explore opportunities for food waste reduction: community composting	Explore opportunities for community composting, particularly on islands.	Community feedback	Tonnage of waste and ferry spaces saved	Transport Infrastructure	less council tax spend on waste transport
Explore options to reduce risk of wildfire and flooding – invasive species and deer management	Two major supporting measures are management of invasive species and herbivores.	Community feedback	INNS and deer management plans	Transport Infrastructure	Wildfire, flood risk, biodiversity. Community wealth building, skills
Coastal Erosion: nature based approaches	Assess potential for nature based approaches to complement hard engineering approaches.	Community feedback. SAMS?	Pilots trialled	Transport and Infrastructure	Reduced threat from coastal erosion, community wealth building
Identify alternatives to routes threatened by coastal erosion: 200km of road within 25m of the sea at high tide.	Potential alternatives such as forest tracks although standards, gradient, ownership etc issues	Engage with Strategic Timber Transport Group?	Km road identified	Transport Infrastructure	Reducing impacts of unavoidable climate change
Rainforest and peatland restoration	Add scale and connect with landscape scale projects	LL&TNP, ACT, NS	Area of restoration potential/delivered	Transport Infrastructure	Wildfire, flood risk, biodiversity
Area for Action: Crosscutting/Other					
Argyll and Bute Climate Ready Region	Work with CPP and wider community to work up business case	CPP Management Committee	Business case and governance models developed	Community Wellbeing	Emphasis on including voice of community
Community Benefit/Shared Ownership of Renewables	Development of revenue streams	Community feedback	Increase in shared ownership	Community Wellbeing	Local empowerment and regeneration

Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

**Helensburgh and Lomond Area
Community Planning Group**

2 February 2026



Community Planning Partnership Management Committee

Meeting Highlights

This briefing is for noting and relevant discussion.

Summary

The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee met on 5th December 2025 in the 3 Villages Hall, Arrochar. The highlights from this meeting are here for the interest of members of the Area Community Planning Group.

Access to the reports and full agenda is found by following this link –
[Agenda for Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership - Management Committee on Friday, 5 December 2025, 10:00 am - Argyll and Bute Council](#)

Highlights

CPP Management Committee Chair

Pippa Milne, who had been acting as interim Chair since Joe McKay stood down, nominated Gary l'Anson, Police Scotland, as new Chair of the CPP Management Committee and this was approved by the partners in attendance.

CPP Improvement Plan

Rona Gold provided an update on the progress of CPP Improvement Plan actions, agreed in March 2025 as part of a self-evaluation exercise with the Improvement Service, including the first meeting of the partner Engagement Group on 1st December, the accessible web version of the [Welcome Pack](#) and the monthly [Community Planning podcast](#).

Fair Funding Guidance and Community Wealth Building (CWB) Charter

Rona provided an update on the Fair Funding Guidance for the Voluntary Sector, which was created by the Community Planning Improvement Board, and the CWB

Charter, which was created by the CPP CWB Steering Group. Community Planning Partners have been asked to consider signing up to both the guidance and the charter and a number of individual partners have already done so, however as not all partners were in attendance, it was agreed that separate sessions would be set up with partners to obtain sign up or agree the state of play prior to the March 2026 CPP meeting.

Climate Change

Andy Macpherson updated the CPP Management Committee on the draft climate change action plan, adding it was important for partners to identify which actions are achievable. It was agreed that Andy and Rona would discuss if a sub-group was needed to consider which actions the CPP partners can pick up.

Andy also highlighted the positive reception to the ongoing climate change resilience work, considerations on how to combine carbon literacy and resilience training, and he also encouraged partner engagement in the focus groups being set up by the consultants looking at the Climate Ready Region business case.

Area Community Planning Group (ACPG) Updates

Gary l'Anson noted the paper reporting on the ACPG meetings held in November 2025, with partners asked to consider nominations for the vacant position of Vice Chair of the Bute and Cowal Area Community Planning Group.

Priority Outcome – Housing

Rona provided a summary of the CPP Management Committee Housing session in September which was also attended by representatives from the housing sector. The outcomes from the session, which included discussion on actions to help deliver the long-term housing objectives agreed by the CPP, will be circulated to all attendees.

Partners will be invited to raise any concerns on content, with a follow-up session scheduled to provide an opportunity for final content amendment, following which a governance structure will be created to deliver the agreed actions. Partners were reminded that the actions had been created from discussions with partners and the wider community, looking at what was already being done and what the CPP can add value to.

Argyll and Bute Employability Partnership (ABEP) and Economic Strategy

Ishabel Bremner gave a presentation on the ABEP Action Delivery Plan, which provides a platform for partners and stakeholders delivering employability services across Argyll and Bute to work together to identify opportunities and add value to every engagement with supported individuals. This was endorsed by the CPP Partners. A [video](#) showcasing the work of the ABEP during 2024-25 was shared with partners.

Ishabel also advised that the Annual Investment Plan has been approved by the Scottish Government. The plan provides a summary of delivery priorities across 424 participants with a total funding package of £1,568,587. A video highlighting recent projects undertaken across Argyll and Bute, which is available through the [Invest in Argyll website](#), was shared with the group.

Priority Outcome – Community Wellbeing

Rona provided an overview of the Community Wellbeing priority outcome, noting the six actions agreed by the CPP following consideration of the results and data obtained from the Argyll and Bute Outcomes Improvement Plan consultation. Five of these actions would be looked at during the breakout areas to see where CPP partners could add value collectively to existing or new areas of work around the Community Wellbeing actions, with the action to “Consider a CPP engagement group to support joined up approaches to engagement” already underway.

Rona thanked members of the Area Community Planning Groups for their input to the discussion on the Community Wellbeing actions at the November ACPG meetings and said that feedback from the CPP discussions would be taken back to the ACPGs in the new year.

Community Wellbeing Actions in the Pipeline

Presentations were delivered under the heading of ‘Community Wellbeing actions in the Pipeline’ by Sam Campbell, Health Improvement Principal for NHS Highland/Argyll and Bute HSCP; and Mahailia Kateryna, Wellbeing Development Manager for Argyll and Bute TSI. Papers were also submitted under this item on Community Benefit by Ashley Mackay, Contract and Demand Management Officer at Argyll and Bute Council; and on Community Justice by Mary Holt, Community Justice Coordinator for Argyll and Bute Council.

Breakout sessions to discuss agreed actions

Attendees participated in breakout groups for the majority of the day, focused on shaping five CPP Community Wellbeing actions:

1. Providing the community wellbeing pipeline – no wrong door approach - Look at funding mechanisms such as community benefit.
2. Consider options for ways of working that enable collaborative working on assets and services within a place.
3. Consider a CPP data group to support data sharing between partners and with the community.
4. Explore to what extent the Living Well programme maps community, social and volunteering opportunities, identify any gaps, and create partnership solutions to address these.

5. Engage with the community to better understand how communities achieve a sense of connection and belonging and identify actions to support this where there are gaps in support.

Pippa thanked everyone for their contributions to the discussions on Community Wellbeing. The CPP team will share the outputs from these discussions and will contact partners for commitment of resources to help deliver the actions.

Single Authority Model (SAM)

Laura Blackwood and Graeme McMillan, Argyll and Bute Council, delivered a presentation on the work they are taking forward on the SAM as part of public sector reform.

Laura gave an overview of the background and drivers behind the potential benefits of alternative service delivery and governance arrangements, noting there has been a push at a national level in the last year to take work forward looking at SAMs. Laura said SAM offers opportunity for greater coordination, integration and collaboration across Council, Health and Social Care and the wider public service to deliver better outcomes for the people of Argyll and Bute.

Graeme indicated that following a submission to be made to the Scottish Government by the end of December, there will be a formal consideration of the options at a special Council meeting on 29th January 2026 and at the Health Board on 27th January 2026. By the end of March 2026, the Scottish Parliament wishes to report on the potential SAM for each locality, with further consultations taking place during 2026.

CPP partners were then asked to give their feedback on SAM so this can be incorporated into the submission to the Scottish Government.

Close

Pippa thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions to the topic of Community Wellbeing, noting it had been an excellent opportunity to meet and build relationships for the work that the CPP needs to take forward in 2026, which will be a year of action. Pippa thanked Gary for taking over the role of Chair, and also thanked Joe for his work during his tenure as Chair.

For More Information:

John McLuckie, Partnerships Lead, john.mcluckie@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Full minutes of CPP Management Committee meetings are found here: [Browse meetings - Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership - Management Committee - Argyll and Bute Council](#)