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28 January 2026

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP** will be held **ON A HYBRID BASIS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD AND BY MICROSOFT TEAMS** on **WEDNESDAY, 4 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. MINUTE OF THE MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2025**
(Pages 5 - 14)
- 4. AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**
(Pages 15 - 26)
Report by Committee and Democratic Services Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
- 5. COMMUNITY FOCUS**
 - (a) Mid Argyll Community Transport
Verbal update from Coordinator and Chair, Mid Argyll Community Transport

6. UPDATE ON ASPIRING PLACES; COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN ARGYLL AND BUTE (Pages 27 - 34)

Report by Corporate Support Manager, Argyll and Bute Council

7. CLIMATE CHANGE

(a) Argyll and Bute Climate Action: a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for Argyll and Bute (Pages 35 - 48)

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

(b) Opportunity for verbal updates on community based initiative

8. ARGYLL AND BUTE OUTCOMES AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN - PRIORITIES UPDATE

Presentation from Community Planning Team, Argyll and Bute Council

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (Pages 49 - 52)

Report by Partnerships Lead, Argyll and Bute Council

10. CRIMESTOPPERS AND COMMUNITY INTELLIGENCE

Verbal update from Detective Inspector Michael Lochrie, Police Scotland

11. PARTNER UPDATES

(a) Police Scotland (Pages 53 - 60)

(b) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (Pages 61 - 68)

(c) Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau (Pages 69 - 72)

(d) Live Argyll Community Learning Services - Kintyre Youth Work (Pages 73 - 76)

(e) Live Argyll Community Learning Services - Adult Learning (Pages 77 - 82)

(f) Transport Scotland (Pages 83 - 88)

(g) Forestry and Land Scotland (Pages 89 - 90)

(h) Opportunity for Verbal Updates

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 27 May 2026 at 10:30am on a hybrid basis in the Ground Floor room at the Templar Arts and Leisure Centre, Tarbert and by Microsoft Teams

Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group

Councillor Anne Horn (Chair)

Caitlin McNeill (Vice-Chair)

Contact: Julieann Small, Democratic Services Assistant - 01546 604043

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA
COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP HELD ON A HYBRID BASIS IN THE DAVAAR SUITE,
KINTYRE COMMUNITY CENTRE, CAMPBELTOWN AND BY MICROSOFT TEAMS
ON WEDNESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2025**

Present: Councillor Anne Horn (Chair)
Lynsey Innis, Committee and Democratic Services Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
John McLuckie, Partnerships Lead - Community Planning, Argyll and Bute Council
Antonia Baird, Community Development Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Caitlin McNeill, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface (TSI)
Robert Taylor, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Inspector Roddy MacNeill, Police Scotland
Linda Tough, Community Learning Services, Live Argyll
Jamie Titterton, Community Learning Services, Live Argyll
Councillor Garret Corner
Councillor John Armour
Moira MacLaren, UHI Argyll
Heather McAdam, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership
Maggie Clark, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership
Andy Macpherson, Argyll & the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT)
Valerie Nimmo, Campbeltown Community Council
Chris Abell, Islay Community Council
Sandy Taylor, Islay Community Council
Susan Paterson, Shopper-Aide
Susan MacRae, Skills Development Scotland
Emma Oates, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA)
Malcolm Sinclair, Lochgilphead Community Council

Attending: Iain MacInnes, Strategic Transportation Policy Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Susan Donnelly, Corporate Resilience Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Ashley Glen, Argyll and Bute Youth Action Council
Adelle McGeachy, Argyll and Bute Youth Action Council
Andrew Galloway, Local Democracy Reporter, Argyll and Bute

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:

Muriel MacKaveney, Culture Heritage & Arts Assembly (CHARTS), Argyll & Isles;
Jeni West, Forestry and Land Scotland;
Becky Hothersall, The Poverty Alliance;
Sarah Campbell, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA);
Caitlin Marini, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN); and
Paul Ives, Shopper-Aide.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. MINUTE OF THE MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST 2025

The Minute of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group meeting held on Wednesday 27 August 2025 was approved as a correct record.

The Committee and Democratic Services Officer advised that following an action at the last meeting to contact the Scottish Ambulance Service and extend an invitation to attend a future meeting of the Group, that she has contacted them but is currently awaiting a response. Lynsey further advised that she is currently working with Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership colleagues to get in touch with the Service.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR OF THE MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

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

Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface representative Caitlin McNeill 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group agreed that Caitlin McNeill, Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface, be appointed as Vice-Chair.

(Reference: Report by Committee and Democratic Service Officer, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 5 November 2025, submitted)

5. COMMUNITY FOCUS

(a) Youth Action Council Youth Voice Model

The Group gave consideration to a presentation on the Argyll and Bute Youth Action Council Youth Voice Model. The presentation highlighted that the purpose of the model was that it was to be led by young people to support the effective implementation of article 12 of the UNCRC by ensuring young people have a say and influence over issues that affect them at a local level. The presentation also provided feedback from young people in Kintyre and Bute Youth Action Groups; information on engagement with other organisations and representatives; the model remit and principles and how to get involved.

Information on the Argyll and Bute Youth Action Council was also provided.

The Group commended Jamie and the Youth Action Council members for the great work undertaken.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation from Community Learning Worker, Live Argyll, submitted)

6. PREVENTATIVE POLICING

The Group gave consideration to a presentation on Preventative Policing from Inspector Roddy MacNeill of Police Scotland. The presentation provided information on Argyll Road Safety Hubs, which, in partnership with the Institute of Advanced Motorists, the Camera Safety Partnership and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has delivered road safety inputs to a number of communities within Argyll and Bute and provide presentations to secondary schools pupils. Information on fraud awareness and the Herbert Protocol for missing persons as well as links to general safety advice and help was also provided within the presentation.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Presentation from Police Scotland, submitted)

7. CLIMATE CHANGE

(a) Argyll and Bute Climate Action: a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for Argyll and Bute

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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area 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

4. agreed to suggest opportunities for sharing learning and best practice following the meeting.

(Reference: Report by Climate Change Project Manager, Argyll & the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust, dated 22 October 2025, submitted)

(b) Opportunity for verbal updates on community based initiatives

There were no verbal updates provided under this item.

8. TELECARE AND DIGITAL RESILIENCE

Consideration was given to a report which provided information on the plans that the Telecare Service within Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership have in place to support its clients during occasions of long power cuts.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group:

1. noted the contents of the report; and
2. agreed to have conversations with family, friends, clients and community members who are Telecare users or who may be vulnerable in the event of a power cut to discuss their own personal communication plan in advance of an event occurring.

(Reference: Report by Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Lead, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, dated 5 November 2025, submitted)

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the contents of the report.

(Reference: Report by Partnerships Lead, Argyll and Bute Council, dated 27 August 2025, submitted)

10. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

(a) Transport and 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 transport infrastructure and 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 project mandates to be signed off by the CPP in relation to Transport Infrastructure; the CPP Management Committee in September which focused on Housing; the Construction Skills Development Working Group and communicating financial interventions on homelessness.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

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

(b) Community Wellbeing

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 the Islands in the MAKI area; third highest for the towns in the area and overall, the third highest priority across the whole area. The presentation also provided information on the agreed actions to be developed and next steps.

John 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

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

11. 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 (PHS) report on emergency hospital admissions and deaths as a result of unintentional injury and the Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP).

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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

Due to the technical difficulties experienced by the representative from the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, it was agreed that the presentation would be circulated after the meeting, and any questions could be addressed by email.

12. PARTNER UPDATES

(a) Police Scotland Update

The Group gave consideration to a verbal update from Inspector Roddy MacNeill who advised that they are trying to increase focus on victims of domestic violence, increasing advocacy service referrals and increase non harassment orders. Inspector MacNeill further advised that he is trying to get an officer from the safeguarding team into the area for a reasonable time to offer support to victims of domestic violence.

Inspector MacNeill highlighted that the custody division will be increasing referrals after arrests to refer as many people as possible into the appropriate services to try and break any cycles of reoffending. Inspector MacNeill added that they have around 160-170 officers trained in Distress Brief Intervention.

Inspector MacNeil highlighted that he has been successful in obtaining funding to purchase DNA marking kits to mark plant machinery, which will be a service offered free of charge and give extra protection to owners.

Lastly, Inspector MacNeill acknowledged the challenges in attending all Community Council meetings due to the volume of meetings and current

resourcing pressures. He advised that work was ongoing to ensure the report format complies with GDPR requirements and confirmed that attendance would be prioritised where specific items of business were to be discussed.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Verbal update from Police Scotland)

(b) **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Update**

The Group gave consideration to a report highlighting the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) FQ2 review of local performance across Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands for the period 2025-26. The report gave a breakdown of fires and special services incidents which occurred in the MAKI Area within that period and provided information on the Fire Skills course ran in Oban; station open days; road and water safety campaigns and the work of the Community Action Team.

The difficulty around the recruitment of retained and volunteer fire fighters was discussed and the Chair encouraged partners who may have employees interested in becoming a retained firefighter to get in touch with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service directly.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

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

(c) **Live Argyll Community Learning Services - Youth Learning Update**

Consideration was given to a report from the Live Argyll Community Learning Service, which provided an update on Youth Work in Kintyre. The report provided information on the work of the Kintyre Youth Action Group; the West Dunbartonshire Youth Voice Visit; the NSPCC Child Safety Online Project; the Kintyre and Bute Exchange Visit and Surfing and the Youth Voice Showcase event which is being held in Dunoon on 24 November where the new Youth Voice Ambassador will be introduced. Information on regular ongoing projects was also provided.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Live Argyll Community Learning Services, dated November 2025, submitted)

(d) Live Argyll Community Learning Services - Adult Learning Update

Consideration was given to an update from the Live Argyll Community Learning Service, which provided an update on Adult Learning in both Mid Argyll and Kintyre. The update included information on Skills for Life, Learning and Work; Digital Skill; Employability; Health and Wellbeing and a number of courses and projects that had taken place since the last meeting of the Group.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Live Argyll Community Learning Services, submitted)

(e) Shopper-Aide

Consideration was given to an update from Shopper-Aide which highlighted that following their survey report earlier in 2025, a Focus Group Listening Café was held on 1 September in Campbeltown. The session explored three key questions: What does independence mean for an older person?; What does Shopper-Aide do well and what more could they do? and What more can be done for older people in Kintyre?. Susan provided a comprehensive summary of discussions, highlighting both the strengths to build upon and the barriers currently impacting service delivery.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Shopper-Aide, submitted)

(f) Tarbert & Skipness Community Trust

The Group gave consideration to an update from Tarbert & Skipness Community Trust which highlighted that over £200,000 in grants had been distributed during 2024-2025, supporting 35 local organisations over the past 8 years. These included maintenance, sports, health and wellbeing, and events and festivals grants.

It was noted that a drop in event was held in August to update the Community Plan with housing identified as a key issue and that the Trust had purchased the old Fisherman's Co-op in 2024, which is currently being renovated and that community input is being sought to shape its future use. The building is expected to partially open in Spring 2026.

The Chair, Councillor Horn took the opportunity to highlight a recent meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund where a number of priority buildings were approved to be put back onto the market and potential funding for shop front improvement was discussed.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Tarbert & Skipness Community Trust, submitted)

(g) Transport Scotland Update

Consideration was given to an update 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; the implementation of the 20mph zones within a number of towns in the area and the development of a scheme to cut back the vegetation harder/further on the A83 which is to be implemented during autumn/winter.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.(Reference: Report by Transport Scotland, submitted)

(h) Forestry and Land Scotland Update November 2025

The Group gave consideration to a report which highlighted the ongoing workstreams of Forestry and Land Scotland within the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area. Information was provided in relation to local Land Management Plans and upcoming works in Carradale, Beinn Ghuilean and Kilmichael.

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Isles Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

(Reference: Report by Forestry and Land Scotland, dated November 2025, submitted)

(i) Opportunity for Verbal Updates

There were no verbal updates provided under this item.

(j) Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface (TSI)

The Group gave consideration to an update from Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface (TSI). The update provided information on the new Third Sector Network for MAKI; HR advice and building sustainable back-office services; Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund year 5 and 6; the Strategy review 2026-2031 and the work of the TSI Scotland Network.

Caitlin highlighted the Community Voices Survey which the TSI are conducting and encouraged partners to complete this. The survey can be found here: [Have Your Say: Help Shape Third Sector Support in Argyll and Bute - Argyll & Bute Third Sector Interface](#)

Decision

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group noted the information provided.

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

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Group noted that the next meeting of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group would take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 4 February 2026 on a hybrid basis in the Council Chambers, Kilmory, Lochgilphead and by Microsoft Teams.

**Argyll and Bute Community Planning
Partnership**

**Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area
Community Planning Group**

4 February 2025



Area Community Planning Group Governance Arrangements

Summary

The report asks the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands (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 halfway between the programmed meetings of the Community Planning Partnership Management Committees to enable effective and timely reporting of matters to that committee. Members are therefore asked to note that the meeting dates for the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area CPG for 2026/27 will be:-
 - Wednesday 27 May 2026
 - Wednesday 26 August 2026
 - Wednesday 4 November 2026
 - Wednesday 3 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. ABOIP Outcomes

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

For further information please contact:

Lynsey Innis, Committee and Democratic Services Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Tel 01546 604338

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference
Appendix 2 – Membership list

Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership

Terms of Reference: Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.

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 Empowerment Scotland 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group is to:

- Oversee the development and implementation of the Area Community Planning Action Plan for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.
- 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group has the authority to:

- Contribute to the development of an Area Community Planning Action Plan for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.
- Monitor progress of the Area Community Planning Action Plan for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.

- Provide the scrutiny role for the Community Planning Partnership within Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group must:

- Be approved at a meeting of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group; and in updates to the Management Committee
- Any changes to the above must be approved by the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group and recorded in the minute of the meeting.

Equal Opportunities and Fairer Scotland Duty

The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 all public sector, third sector, private sector, community organisations and partnerships operating within the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area.
- Membership is open to all organisations public sector, third sector, private sector, community organisations and partnerships operating within the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 the Argyll and Bute Council Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee and, one other Elected Member from an Argyll and Bute Council Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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

Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group members have the following responsibilities:

- To consistently attend the scheduled Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group meetings.
- To contribute to the development, ongoing monitoring and review of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Action Plan.
- To participate in short term working groups as required.

Meetings

Chair

- The Chair and Vice Chair of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 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 January 2024 to clarify language and terminology, and to update the default media for the CPP e-bulletin.

February 2025 no changes recorded.

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Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group Membership

Partner Organisation	Contact Name
Argyll and Bute Council	Cllr John Armour, Cllr Garret Corner & Cllr Anne Horn
Community Councils	Southend, The Laggan, Campbeltown, West Kintyre, East Kintyre, Tarbert & Skipness, Gigha, Islay, Jura, Colonsay, South Knapdale, North Knapdale, Ardrishaig, Lochgilphead, West Lochfyne, Furnace, Inveraray, Dunadd, Craignish
Police Scotland	Inspector Matthew Shaw
Scottish Fire and Rescue	Anthony McGloin, Brian Torrance
Health and Social Care Partnership	Heather McAdam, Jennifer Dryden
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	Morag Goodfellow
Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface (TSI)	Kirsten Johnston, Margaret Wallace, Petra Pearce, Caitlin McNeill
Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA)	Michelle Mundie, Sarah Campbell
Fyne Homes	Yvonne Angus
West Highland Housing Association	
Citizens Advice Bureau	Jen Broadhurst
Clyde Fisherman's Association	Kenny McNab
National Farmers Union Scotland	Lucy Sumsion
Skills Development Scotland	Susan MacRae
Caledonian MacBrayne	Victoria Shaw, Tommy Gore
Department for Work and Pensions	Elizabeth MacBrayne, Kevin Allibone, May Cross
Live Argyll	Robert Judge
Live Argyll – Community Learning Service	Dawn Park, Jamie Titterton, Rhona Grant, Wendy Reid, Linda Tough
Kintyre Youth Action Group	Jamie Titterton
Transport Scotland	Ian Woodcock
UHI Argyll	Moira MacLaren
South Islay Development Trust	Alyson McGillivray
South Kintyre Development Trust	Eric Spence
Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust	Jane Cowen
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN)	Caitlin Marini
Time for Change Argyll and Bute	Cathy Cameron

Architecture and Design Scotland	Mark Dowey
Forestry and Land Scotland	Donald McNeill, Jeni West
Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-Operative (Wild About Argyll)	Emma Clark, Heather Thomas-Smith
Culture Heritage and Arts (CHArts) Argyll and Isles	Kathleen O'Neill, Muriel MacKaveney
Mid Argyll Chamber of Commerce	Jane MacLeod
We Are With You	Yvonne McLeod
Carr Gomm	Becs Barker
Climate Action Town (SKDT)	Sharyn Lock
The Poverty Alliance	Becky Hothersall
Kintyre Link Club	Liam Coyle
ALI Energy	Lynda Mitchell
Scottish Canals	Laurie Piper
Argyll & the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT)	Andy MacPherson
Shopper-Aide	Susan Paterson, Paul Ives
Argyll and Bute Council's Community Justice Team	Mary Holt

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUPS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UNIT

FEBRUARY 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:
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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 administrating 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:

- Community groups receive capital benefits towards projects (whilst noting that many bids can be unsuccessful).
- Government (both UK and SG) receive policy benefits (i.e. demonstrable efforts in use of funds to address policy issues).
- 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.

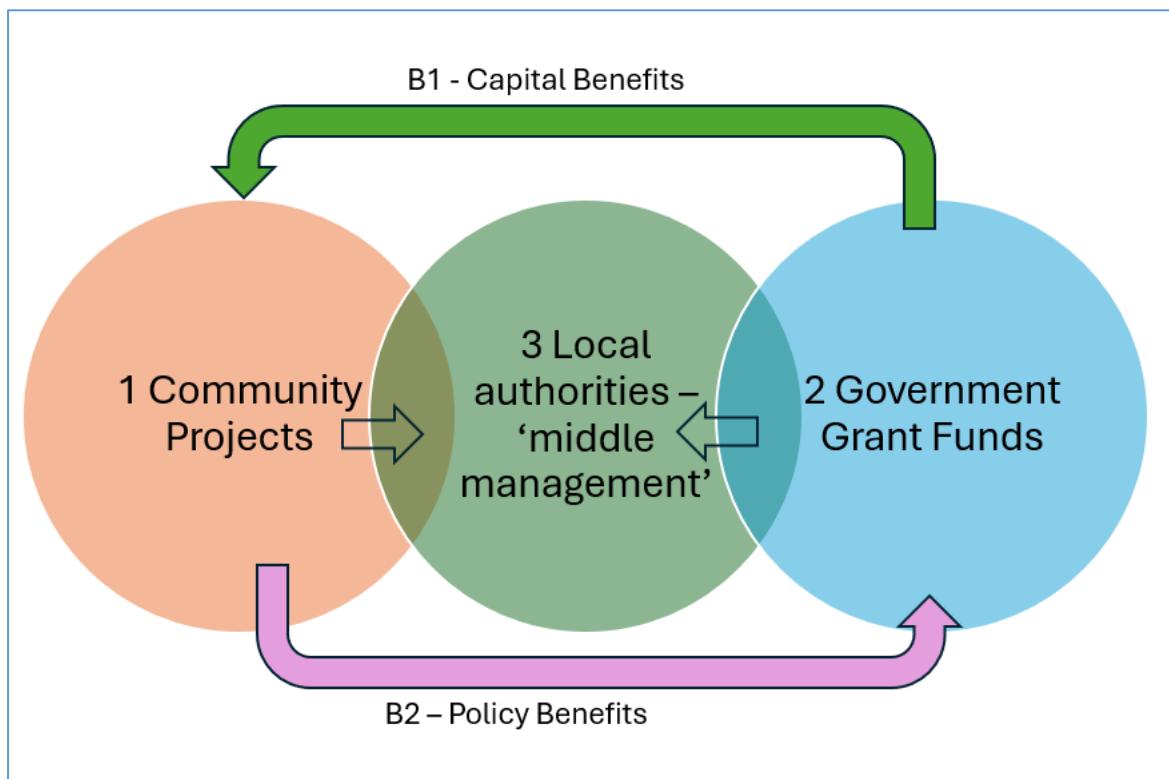


Diagram: illustration of the practice of how governments connect grants with community projects.

3.18 There is now much reduced certainty on the following:

- What funds are coming forward.
- When they will come forward.
- What is the qualifying criteria?
- What are the administrative arrangements?
- 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

Date: 20 January 2026



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

Update to MAKI 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 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;
- engaged with Ardrishaig, Campbeltown/S.Kintyre;
- written to all other current community councils in MAKI except where Council is already in contact

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 & Bute Climate Action

February 2026 update

- Ongoing work (currently funded until July):
 - Finalise and approve Action Plan (attached in meeting papers)
 - Develop Climate Ready Region business case (ScotGov funding)
 - Support community resilience/ emergency planning
- Requests to ACPG
 - feedback on draft climate Action Plan, by 20 February
 - feedback on pending Climate Ready Region business case 20 Feb
 - any input on emergency plans incl where no community capacity

Contact: Andy Macpherson, ACT climate project manager
andy@act-now.org.uk

Tasks 2026

NEW DELIVERABLES 2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
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							

Resilience – MAKI

- Approx. 20 days per Area until July for resilience plans aka emergency plans
- Engaged with Ardrishaig, Campbeltown/S.Kintyre
- Written to all other MAKI Community Councils except where Council already in contact
- What about where no Community Council/no reply?
- Community resilience of strong interest to Scottish Govt for Climate Ready Region
- Working in collaboration with Local Resilience Partnership and A&BC Emergency Planning
emergencyplanning@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Community Resilience

“communities and individuals harnessing resources and expertise to help themselves prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies, in a way that complements the work of the emergency responders” (ScotGov)

- not in any way a method by which a local authority or an emergency service may reduce its response or service to the community
- you should never do anything which puts you or anyone else in your community at risk
- achieving any of these things will help make your community more resilient:

Community emergency plan – steps

- Prepare your own household/family emergency plan
- Distribution list
- Identify local risks
- Local skills and resources
- Key locations
- Emergency contact list
- List of community organisations who may be able to help
- How to trigger the plan
- First steps after plan is triggered
- Consider temporary premises where displaced people could go until formal arrangements can be made by the Local Authority.
- Alternatives if usual communications disrupted

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/my-community/how-make-community-emergency-plan>

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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

Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Community Planning Group

4 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 I'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 I'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}](#)

Area Planning Group Report for Oban, Lorn, Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands

February 2026



Local Policing Priority	What does this mean for your area?	How can you help?
 <p>SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME</p> <p>You identified drug dealing / drug misuse as a priority</p> <p>We identified human trafficking as a priority</p>	<p>Serious & Organised Crime involves structured groups working together to commit serious offences for profit. It is difficult for police to tackle because these groups are adaptable, often operate across borders and use sophisticated methods to hide their activities.</p> <p>In Argyll, SOC disruption is largely focused on the supply of illegal drugs. Local officers together with CID colleagues and wider national teams continue to work together to identify and target those involved at all levels of drugs supply across the OLI and MAKI areas.</p> <p>In October, we were successful in executing a drugs warrant in Campbeltown which resulted in a significant quantity of cocaine and cash being seized. A 22-year-old man was arrested and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.</p> <p>In November, a drugs warrant in Ardrishaig also resulted in the recovery of a large quantity of cocaine and cash being seized. A 49-year-old woman was arrested and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.</p> <p>In total there were 62 offences of drugs possession recorded during the last three months whereby individuals were charged by police.</p>	<p>There are plans in place in 2026 for work with Crimestoppers to increase awareness of anonymous reporting mechanisms in relation to drugs supply and Serious & Organised Crime.</p> <p>You will see increased publicity about Crimestoppers as a direct result of this intensified campaign.</p> <p>It's part of our continued efforts to ensure all our communities are aware of how they can share information with us either in person or anonymously via 101 or via Crimestoppers online:</p> <p>Crimestoppers in Scotland Crimestoppers (crimestoppers-uk.org) 0800 555 111</p> <p>Communities are our eyes and ears and your intelligence is essential. Please, if you see, hear or suspect something, link with us directly or use the above information to voice your concerns. As you can see, your input helps us to act.</p>

 ACQUISITIVE CRIME You identified homes being broken into as a priority We have also identified fraud as a priority	<p>Acquisitive Crime encompasses all Theft type crimes, including Housebreaking and Frauds.</p> <p>So far this year (April 2025 – January 2026) there have been 10 housebreakings in our area, which is six fewer than this time last year. Our figures have been particularly impacted by a series of break-ins at commercial premises in Oban between September and November 2025. A 29-year-old man has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal connected with six offences.</p> <p>Meanwhile, thefts this year, which include offences such as shoplifting, currently total 60, with persons charged in relation to 38 of those incidents. One theft in particular was notable in that clothing worth almost £3,000 was taken from a high-street store in Oban. A 41-year-old man has been charged.</p> <p>Detection rates for the period August 2025 – January 2026 sit at 43 per cent which is an increase of two per cent from the previous report. At present there are 51 fewer reported crimes from the 24/25 period and there are five more detections up to 116 from 111.</p> <p>Frauds continue to be the main financial loss for our residents, which is a trend consistent with the whole of our policing division (encompassing Argyll and Bute as well as West Dunbartonshire councils). Some of these frauds are into the tens of thousands of pounds. In direct response to these being reported, our Partnerships Team continually put out advice on our social media platforms regarding keeping people safe online.</p> <p>Recently there has been one report of counterfeit currency within Argyll and Bute, which is replicated in the increase of</p>	<p>Your local police want members of the APGs to help us by following us on our social media channels to help us spread crime prevention advice and guidance.</p> <p>Fraud seminars can be provided by the Community Engagement Team should you wish. Contact PS Alison who will pass your details on to the relevant team.</p> <p>Read tips on Argyll & Bute's Trading Standards Website on practice to protect yourself from the activity of rogue traders.</p>
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	<p>reporting through the whole of the West Command of Police Scotland. We have increased our Social Media output to make people aware of the heightened risk.</p>	
 <p>ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD CRIME</p> <p>You identified road safety as a priority</p> <p>We identified drink / drug driving and reducing road casualties as priorities</p>	<p>There are many strands to understanding road safety, from the number of crimes committed and recorded, to the number of accidents and injuries that occur upon our road network. Police Scotland is one of many partner agencies that contribute to trying to improve the safety of our roads.</p> <p>Police efforts to drive down the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads focus on enforcement of the law; prevention through education and early intervention; and proactive, visible deterrents. Meanwhile, our partner agencies are responsible for influencing driver behaviour through the design, layout and overall infrastructure of the county's roads.</p> <p>Our annual festive drink drive campaign resulted in almost 500 vehicles being stopped during the Christmas and New Year period in OLI and MAKI.</p> <p>Out of those 500 motorists stopped, eight tested positive for alcohol or drugs and were dealt with accordingly. It is of course reassuring that most road users are clearly behaving responsibly, but the results nevertheless highlight that a significant minority of individuals put the lives of others at risk through their own selfish decisions.</p>	<p>You can help your local Police by reporting anyone who is suspected of drink or drug driving within your community either in person, via 101 or via crime stoppers online:</p> <p>Crimestoppers in Scotland Crimestoppers (crimestoppers-uk.org) 0800 555 111</p> <p>It is important that police are called at the time of the offending so we can catch the behaviour taking place. This helps us provide key evidence to act and prosecute offending.</p> <p>Our Partnerships and Prevention Team in conjunction with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and the Institute for Advance Motorists (IAM) have reintroduced our highly successful Road Safety Hubs for 2026.</p> <p>These sessions provide drivers with the opportunities to learn and understand how an advanced driver views the road space around them – and you are encouraged to get involved. Visit or social media pages for more information.</p>

 <p>VIOLENT CRIME</p> <p>You identified violent crime as a priority</p> <p>We have also identified domestic abuse as a priority</p>	<p>Violent Crime covers a range of offences including Stalking, Assault (Common and Serious) and Domestic Abuse through to the worst offence of Murder.</p> <p>So far this year there have been 11 serious assaults in our area, compared to 16 this time last year and 18 the year before. Seven of those have resulted in persons being charged. Common assaults remain at a consistent level, with many of them connected to the key area of domestic abuse, which remains a very real focus for us. Domestic abuse figures continue to rise, which we attribute to greater confidence of victim-survivors to report, and our staff being better trained and equipped to respond to such incidents.</p> <p>Sometimes, violence is connected to other crime types such as drugs supply and organised crime. However, it is often also associated with the consumption of alcohol and can frequently occur around our nighttime economy hotspots. We ensure patrols are in place around any premises causing particular concern and work closely with our licensing colleagues to ensure all venues are operating responsibly.</p>	<p>Please help us tackle Violent Crime by reporting any anti-social behaviour or community concerns either in person via 101 or via crime stoppers online:</p> <p>Crimestoppers in Scotland Crimestoppers (crimestoppers-uk.org) 0800 555 111</p> <p>As APG members, if you have identified problem areas, ASB hotspots, or licensees that are not acting in a responsible way, please link with us to advise of the problem. We can set up bespoke patrols and use our powers under licensing laws to ensure responsible practice.</p> <p>The sooner we are informed about a problem the less chance there is that it grows into an enduring community issue.</p>
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 <p>PUBLIC PROTECTION</p> <p>You identified protecting children and adults at risk of harm as a priority</p> <p>We identified missing persons, sexual crime and the management of registered sex offenders as priorities</p>	<p>This area of Public Protection spans several traditional crime types, including Child Protection, Adult Protection and various crimes under Sexual Offences legislation.</p> <p>There is a growing issue, reflected nationally, of children sharing indecent images online and becoming vulnerable to sextortion, where offenders threaten to share the images to demand money or more content from victims. We are tackling this through awareness campaigns, early intervention and working with schools, to prevent this from happening and to support victims and identify offenders when incidents occur.</p> <p>Missing persons are also a key area of focus for us and whenever a person goes missing, we always explore what measures can be taken to prevent the missing episode from recurring. We do this by understanding the reasons for the person going missing and then working with partners to signpost to appropriate support mechanisms.</p>	<p>Members of the APG can help us by reporting any concerns you may have regarding vulnerable persons – particularly any potential victims of Domestic Abuse – or anyone who may be being exploited or even who may just need additional crime prevention support.</p> <p>In relation to online harm and vulnerability to sextortion, there are lots of resources available on our website, which we would encourage you to read and share with parents.</p> <p>Sextortion - Police Scotland</p>
<p>Agricultural Crime</p>	<p>This section was added following feedback in a 2025 Area Planning Group, around crime types specific to the farming community.</p> <p>Thankfully there have been few offences since the last reporting period although of note, there was an attempt theft of a tractor in Campbeltown earlier in January, with enquiries ongoing.</p> <p>Rural Argyll does always remain vulnerable to organised criminals who sometimes target isolated rural locations for high value plant or machinery equipment or target remote infrastructure for high value components or metals. While</p>	<p>Members of the APG can help us by sharing these messages around rural vigilance and encourage the reporting of suspicious activity to the police in real time.</p> <p>We would much rather be called to a concern that turns out to be nothing to worry about, than not be called at all, only to discover a theft has occurred weeks, or sometimes months, later.</p>

	these offences are very rare, we do welcome the vigilance of our communities and encourage the reporting of any suspicious activity during the night that seems unusual or out of the ordinary.	
Other relevant news from your local policing teams	<p>New permanent Area Inspector for OLI and MAKI – PI Alasdair Maclaren</p> <p>From the 23rd February 2026 the new Area Inspector for OLI and MAKI will be Inspector Alasdair MacLaren.</p> <p>PI Maclaren has 26 years' policing experience, all of which has been based in Campbeltown. His career began as a probationer posted to Campbeltown in June 2000 where he remained on the response shift for seven years. He then moved to Roads Policing Department covering the whole of the road network in Argyll. In 2010, he returned to Response Policing in Campbeltown where he was promoted to Sergeant, having responsibility for the whole of OLI and MAKI. In 2022, Alasdair was promoted to Inspector on Response Policing covering the whole of Argyll and Bute.</p> <p>PI Maclaren will work alongside the Area Commander, Chief Inspector Lee Page, to oversee community policing across the OLI and MAKI areas, supported by Sergeant Keith Alison. We would like to thank T/PI Matt Shaw for his work in the Area Inspector role over the last year. Matt will now be working on a short-term project to strengthen our policing model on the Southern Hebridean islands.</p>	

In analysing the demand within our policing area it has been determined that a large number of calls stem from residents not knowing which agency they should contact, resulting in linking with the Police as the agency of last resort. The below links are to help channel enquiries to the correct agencies:

Useful Links/Contacts:

- **Argyll and Bute Community Directory** - <https://abcd.scot/> - this excellent site signposts you to all available services in your area, be it advocacy, counselling, debt advice or animal welfare;
- **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 \(womensaid.org.uk\)](https://www.womensaid.org.uk)

- **Citizens Advice** – 0808 164 6000 & <https://www.abcab.org.uk/> - Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau is a local, independent charity which provides free, impartial and confidential advice and information to give you the tools you need to sort out any issues or problems;
- **Argyll and Bute Council Trading Standards** – 01546 605 519
- **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/>
- **Scam Share Bulletin** [Trading Standards Scotland Bulletin 6 June \(mailchi.mp\)](#)
- **Age Scotland- Demetia Information and help-** <https://www.agescotland.org.uk/>
- **Neighbourhood Watch** - sign up to to receive local alerts and bulletins for your community area - <https://neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/#0>
- **Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)** - <https://www.sepa.org.uk/> - for pollution, environmental safety, flooding, waste disposal/carrying enquiries

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 ArgWestDumb

Report completed by	PI Matt Shaw, PI Alasdair Maclare and CI Lee Page
Email address for additional queries	alasdair.maclare@scotland.police.uk

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**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Working together for a safer Scotland

Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands CPG Briefing Report

Q3 2025/26

Performance & Activity Report

From:	1st October 2025	To:	31st 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.

Mid Argyll Q3 2025-26



28

Total Incidents

i



7

Incomplete Incident Records

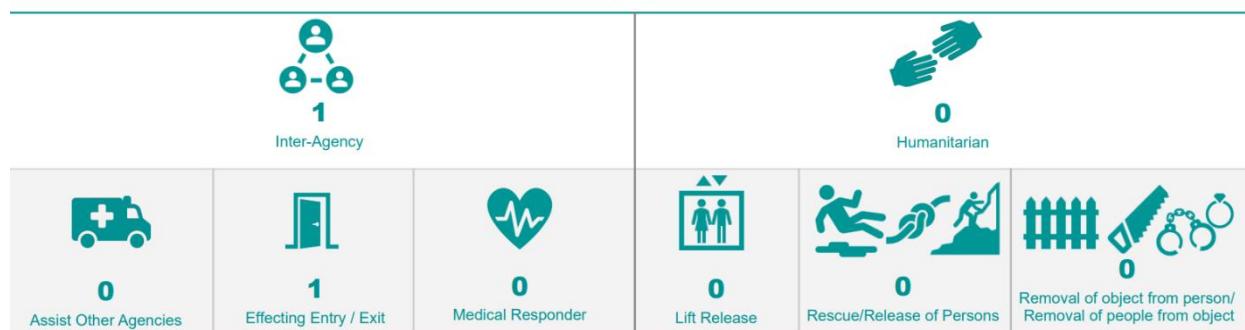
Click to go to
Incomplete
Incidents
dashboard

Special Services



3

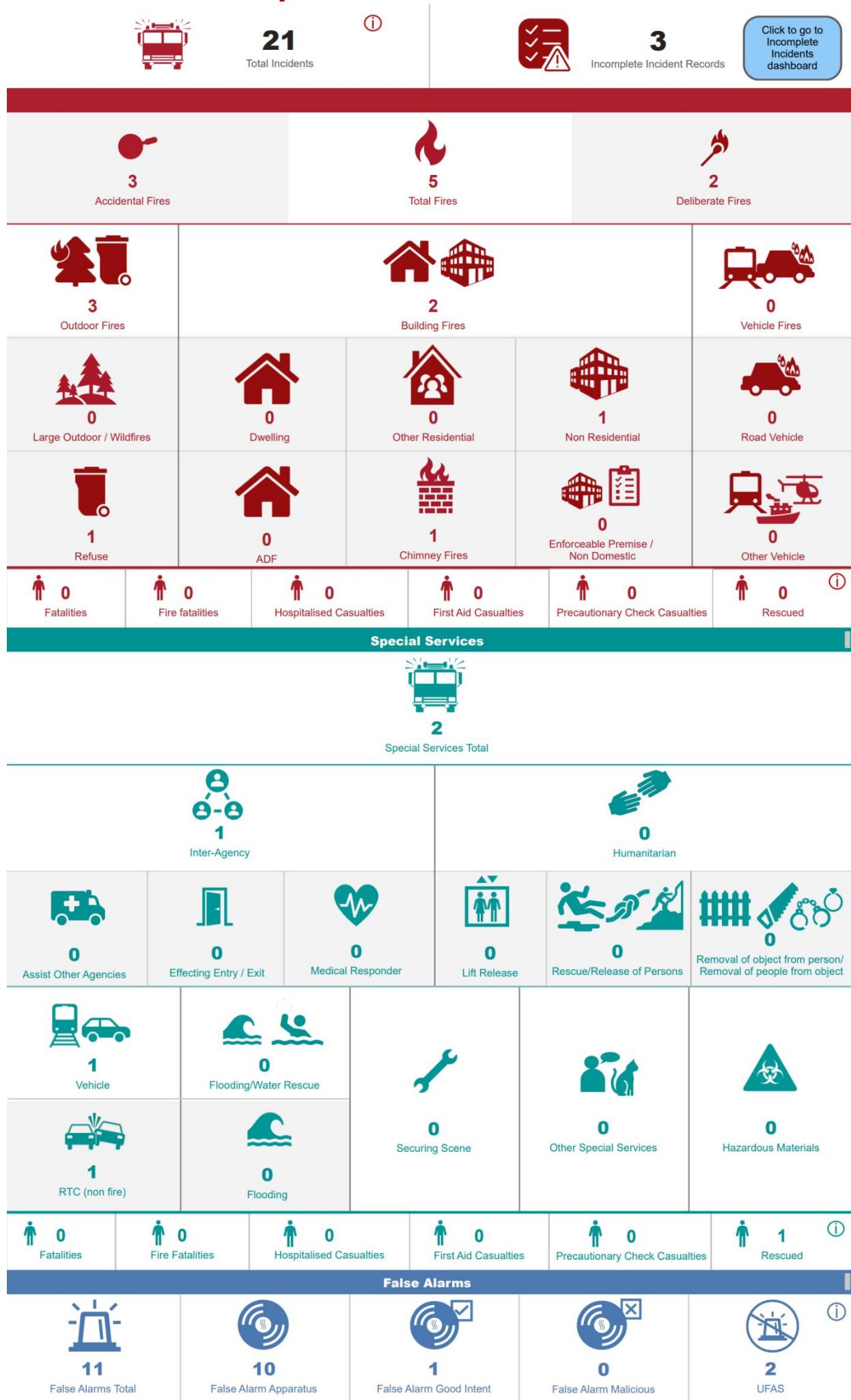
Special Services Total



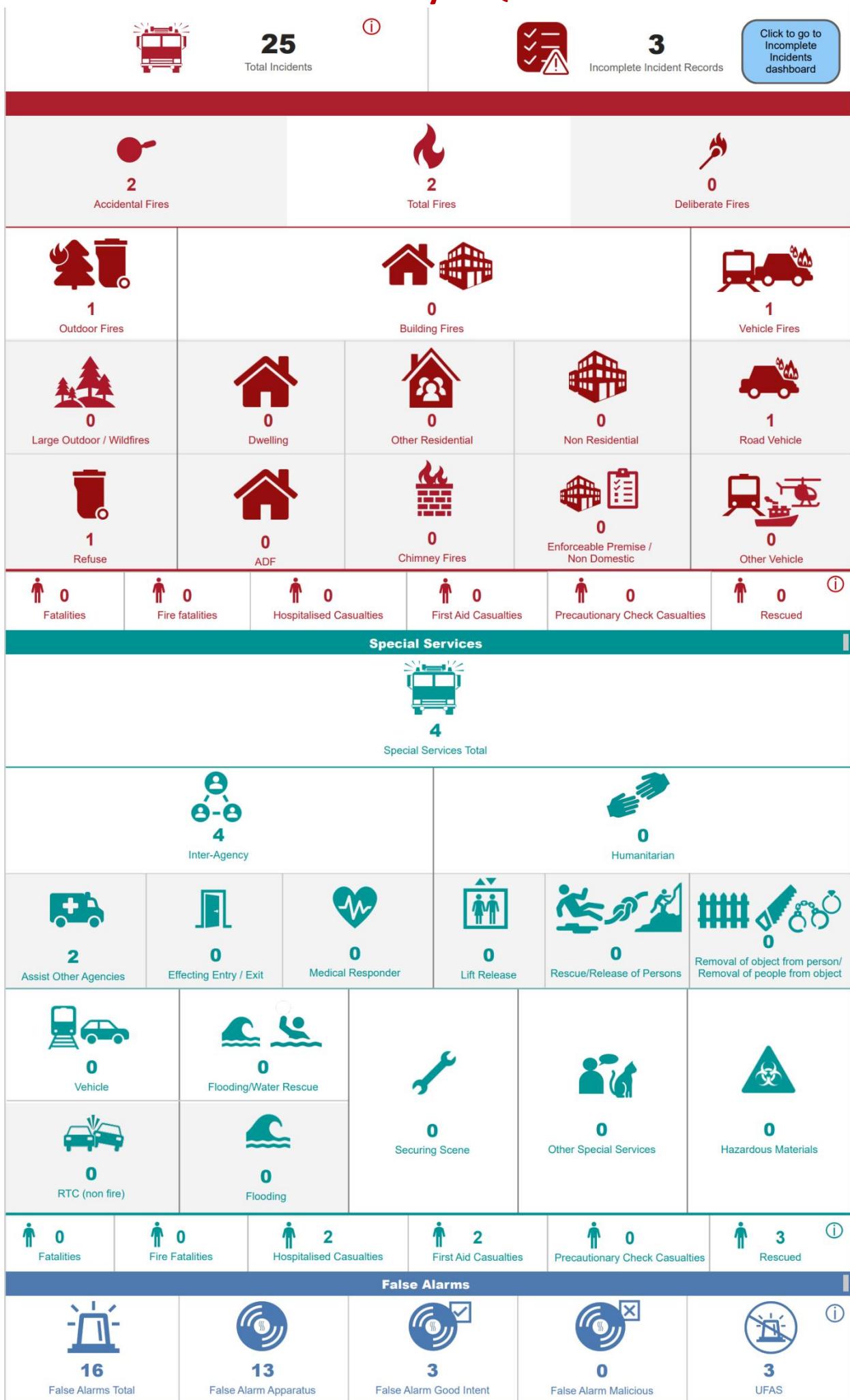
False Alarms



Kintyre & the Islands Q3 2025-26



South Kintyre 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.

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Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau

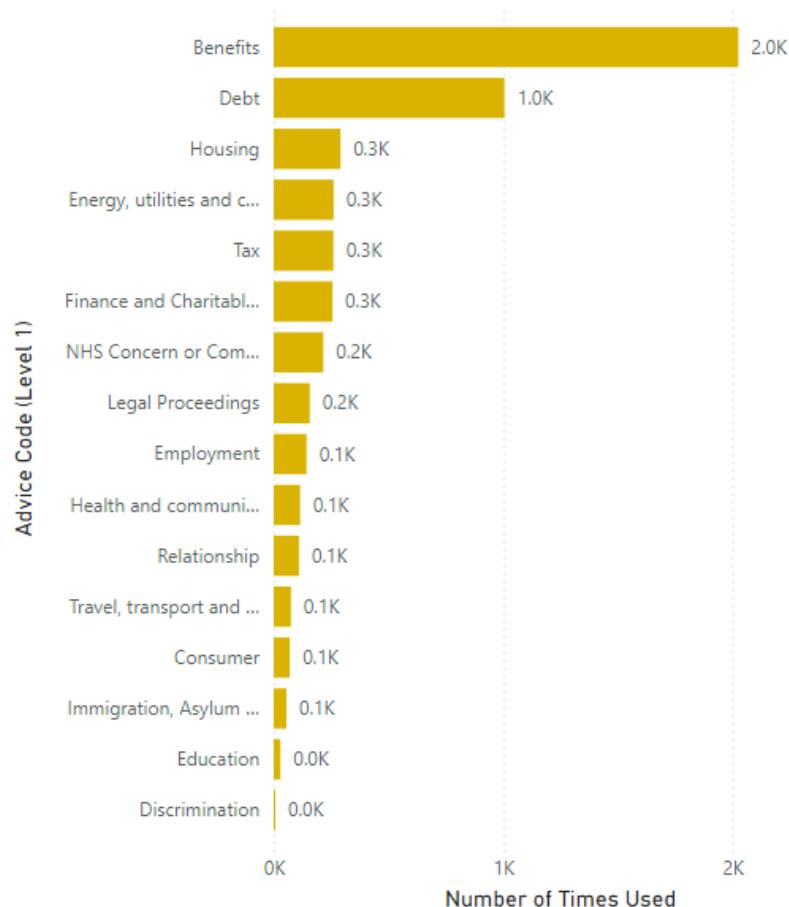
Community Planning Partnerships Update

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@abcab.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@abcab.org.uk or sarah.nixon@abcab.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.

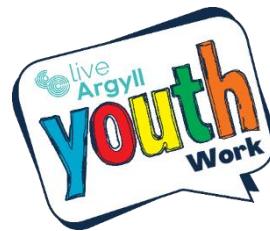
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ABCABCommunityPartnerSurvey2026/>

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liveArgyll Community Learning Team

Kintyre Youth Work Update

February 2026



Youth Voice Showcase – Queen's Hall Dunoon, November 2025

At the end of November, we hosted a youth voice showcase event in the Queen's Hall in Dunoon. This event was an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the work of young people involved with liveArgyll Youth Work and to officially launch the new entirely youth led youth voice initiative ABYAC, or Argyll and Bute Youth Action Council.

The event primarily focussed on presentations and speeches from young people and youth workers on their engagement with youth work and their development of the ABYAC model, which is now officially Argyll and Bute wide. There were also activities and an opportunity for services and decision makers to engage directly with the young people who created ABYAC to find out why its important and how they can support it moving forward. A large number of services and decision makers also signed the ABYAC pledge to ensure the young people are properly listened to and supported to ensure their views are taken seriously and implemented where possible in decisions moving forward. As such, a fantastic time was had by all, and this marks the next step in establishing ABYAC as a model for real positive change for Argyll and Bute's young people.

Thank you to all the services and decision maker who came along to provide support and make it a real positive engagement experience for the ABYAC members.

You can find out more about ABYAC across Argyll and Bute here:
<https://sites.google.com/ab.glow.scot/abyouthactioncouncil/home>





Kintyre Youth Action Council – Youth Voice Ambassadors

During the event, our new ABYAC Youth Voice Ambassadors were announced and introduced. These are young people who will take a lead role in supporting youth voice within ABYAC across Argyll and Bute and will be primary contacts for their local area groups. Huge congratulations to Adelle McGeachy and Ashley Glen whose contributions to youth voice were recognised by their peers and were subsequently voted in as Youth Voice Ambassadors for Kintyre.



Kintyre Youth Action Council – First Sitting of 2026

Kintyre Youth Action Council will be hosting their first sitting of 2026 throughout February and are looking forward to discussing relevant youth issues and sharing these with decision makers once again. There will also be a mini showcase event during their meeting with decision makers this time around to share their work with local decision makers who weren't able to attend the event in Dunoon. More information about this will be sent out in due course.

Regular Ongoing Projects

- Campbeltown and Tarbert Youth Action Groups
- Wider Achievement Accredited Awards in Campbeltown Grammar School, Tarbert Academy, and Islay High School
- Music/Creative Arts Group
- Writing Group
- Youth Inclusion Group

Please contact Jamie.titterton@liveargyll.co.uk for any questions, comments, networking, or partnership working suggestions.

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Adult Learning

Adult Learning continue to work with a wide range of partners to provide support to adults within the community to reduce promote lifelong learning, reduce unemployment and improve well-being.

Adult Learning in Mid Argyll

Skills for Life, Learning and Work:

Mid Argyll Community Learning & Employability Hub- continues to run every Tuesday 10am-12pm, MAYDS building, Lochgilphead. The hub is led by Adult Learning with partners attending weekly including Job Centre Plus/DWP and Carr Gomm. Together partners provide information, learning, support, advice, and signposting related to employability, digital skills, further education, and various life challenges. The Hub can have up to twenty-plus people attending at one time who need assistance and learning in relation to building their core life and employability skills. Importantly, the hub is a place for people to connect and helps to reduce social isolation alongside building social skills, confidence, and self-esteem.

Advocacy Services are currently attending weekly to provide advice and support and other partners including ACHA, Occupational Health, Welfare Rights and Community Development link in and attend the service when appropriate or if a need is identified.

Local Councillor, Jan Brown is also joining the Hub regularly to listen to community views, opinions and concerns.

Digital Skills:

Mid Argyll Digital Skills for Life- continues 10am-12pm every Monday at Lochgilphead Community Centre. Those attending are improving their digital skills for life and work as they engage in learning programmes tailored to suit their individual need. The learners enjoy the relaxed, friendly environment that in turn allows them to develop their communication and social skills as they interact and support each other on their learning journey. Learners attending have completed their **Learn My Way Digital Skills Certificate** and some members of the group have felt confident enough to move forward and are undertaking a **SQA in Information Communication Technology 4**.

Out and About Digital Skills – Adult Learning and our Digital Skills Volunteer continue to offer support to individuals and groups in the community and plans are underway to return to the MS Argyll Snowdrop Centre to support attendees to develop their digital skills for life.

Health and Wellbeing:

Mid Argyll Let's Grow Group continue to meet every Thursday 10am at the Lochgilphead Community Centre. Learner's attending are adults 18 – 65+ who are all disadvantaged in some way, in relation to their health and wellbeing. The group are continuing to collaborate on the centre garden project and are working to make it a vibrant space for our community. They continue to work hard as a team to improve and maintain the space and to grow produce in the garden as they improve their skills and wellbeing through group participation in the outdoors. The group are looking forward to welcoming new attendees this year and to making new plans for activities to improve their wellbeing and develop their learning as they connect with nature.

Mid Argyll Women Coming Together continue to meet every Wednesday 10-12pm at Lochgilphead Community Centre. The group is aimed at women in our rural setting who are socially isolated, face health and wellbeing challenges, and who want to connect with other women in Mid Argyll. The group have engaged in various activities supporting them to improve their wellbeing, learning, and development alongside engaging in peer support and shared life experiences. The group were recently successful in raising money for Mid Argyll Youth Development Services through their Festive Fundraising evening and online shop. This was their first community group project and a great achievement for all involved. Currently the group are taking part in a six-week British Sign Language beginners practice group with Adult Learning alongside planning their activities and projects for the coming year.

Please contact Linda.Tough@liveargyll.co.uk for any questions, comments, networking, or partnership working suggestions.

Adult Learning in Kintyre

Well-being

Crafty Tuesday continues weekly from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Kintyre Community Centre. The group offers a crucial support network for people living with dementia and Alzheimer's, as well as their families and caregivers. This project creates a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive environment where participants can participate in meaningful activities, enjoy companionship, and feel a sense of community and belonging.

Each week, participants engage in a variety of creative and social activities. These activities help stimulate memory and creativity, encourage social interaction, and enhance emotional well-being for everyone involved.

Crafty Tuesday consistently provides comfort, connection, and joy to participants. It offers carers and family members valuable social support and gives those living with dementia opportunities to express themselves and connect positively with others in a relaxed, friendly environment.

Forget Me Not Choir Project

As part of my ongoing involvement with community wellbeing initiatives, I continue to work alongside The Forget Me Not Choir to deliver a collaborative project aimed at supporting adults living with Alzheimer's and dementia. The Forget Me Not Choir was established in response to the increasing need for meaningful social and cognitive support for individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia within our community. Research and experience have demonstrated that music can play a powerful role in stimulating memory, lifting mood, and enhancing communication — even when other forms of engagement become more difficult. Recognising this, the project was created to combine the therapeutic

benefits of music with opportunities for social connection, gentle learning, and community inclusion. The Kintyre Choir started in September and meets every Thursday at the Kintyre Community Centre from 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm.

Skills for Life Learning and Work

SQA Awards

As part of Adult Learning's commitment to personal development and lifelong learning, I continue to deliver SQA Awards in Wellbeing and Working with Others. These programmes aim to build confidence, resilience, and teamwork skills among participants through practical, learner-centred activities. The awards are delivered through a blended learning approach, combining group discussions, practical tasks, and reflective exercises. Learners are encouraged to explore and understand the importance of personal well-being, including emotional, social, and physical health. Develop effective communication and collaboration skills through shared projects and problem-solving activities.

Learners have shown high levels of engagement and enthusiasm throughout the delivery. The inclusive and supportive environment has helped individuals to build confidence, express themselves, and work effectively as part of a team.

The delivery of the Wellbeing and Working with Other award has a positive impact on participants' self-awareness, motivation, and interpersonal skills.

Employability

The Kintyre Workshop / Hub runs every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Kintyre Community Centre. With support from Job Centre Plus, the workshop helps people looking for work or wanting to build skills.

We offer practical help, including writing CVs and job applications, preparing for interviews, and sharing information about local jobs. Learners gain skills, confidence, and motivation. They also meet others, share experiences, and feel more positive about their future. The workshop helps people take steps towards work or personal development in a supportive environment. We also focus on wellbeing, giving participants a friendly, safe space where they feel supported, listened to, and respected.

Digital Skills

The Digital Skills Group is continuing and runs every Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Currently, 6 learners attend the sessions. The group provides a friendly and supportive space for adults to improve their confidence and ability in using digital technology.

The group focuses on practical digital skills, including:

- Online safety, such as recognising scams and keeping personal information secure
- Basic computing, including creating, saving, and organising documents
- Using apps and online services, such as online shopping, email, and video calls
- Exploring the internet safely for information and everyday tasks

Sessions are hands-on and interactive, allowing learners to practice skills in real time with guidance and support. Activities are tailored to the needs of the earners, ensuring everyone progresses at their own pace. The learners are enthusiastic and engaged, supporting each other and sharing tips, creating a collaborative and encouraging atmosphere.

Please contact Dawn.Park@liveargyll.co.uk for any questions, comments, networking, or partnership working suggestions.

Adult Learning supports skills, confidence and lifelong learning opportunities across Argyll and Bute. 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 programmes and learners.

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

Your views matter. Tell us what Adult Learning 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.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF LIVEARGYLL SERVICES

We're carrying out a consultation on liveArgyll services, as part of Argyll and Bute Council's budget-setting process.



Your feedback will help us understand what matters most to our communities and inform future decisions.

Scan the QR code to complete the survey online or pick up a paper copy from reception.



 SCAN FOR SURVEY

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Transport Scotland

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.

As a result of the recent fire of the premises adjacent Lochnell Street, Lochgilphead there are currently temporary traffic signals in operation to control the traffic and due to the external propping of the building. We are currently reviewing solutions to implement a two system, to consider if any are feasible to maintain a safe passage of traffic and pedestrians around the site.

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 Argyll & Bute by the end of 2025
- Re-surfacing works at Low Ballevain, Drum, Glaschoine House & Bellochantuy
- VRS improvement/replacement works at Clachan
- Route road markings & studs replacement including the use of milled-in studs
- Kilmory RAB safety improvements
- Strone Point Netting Replacement
- Bend signing improvements between Minard & Lochgilphead
- Drainage works at Dun-Aluinn

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 A83T;

- In addition to the recent visit on the A83 with our landscape team, BEAR are currently developing a more extensive scheme to cut back the vegetation harder/further on the A83T, to be implemented during Q4 of this financial year
- Resurfacing works are planned for Kennacraig & Tangy
- VRS works at Westport now planned for starting January 2026
- Active Travel scheme with Campbeltown is still being planned to complete the crossing facilities this financial year with power connections being taken forward at this time
- Tarbet to Campbeltown drainage ditching works are ongoing
- Drainage works planned for Campbeltown Road & Argyll Hotel in Tarbert, Honeymoon Bridge, Dunderave & Kinloch Road in Campbeltown

Other Points of Interest;

- Erines widening scheme design, although within it's early stages, is continuing to be developed
- Westport link footway design will commence this financial year
- West Loch Tarbert, Loch Gilp (Ardrishaig) & North of Aray Bridge locations are currently being considered for an automated flood warning system, however, this would follow a successful trial elsewhere on the network and further risk assessments at each location
- Inveraray Seawall GPR Survey with a target to deliver these works in Q4 2025

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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 landslip 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 landslip 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 landslip events.

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Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) update February 2026

Land Management Plans (LMPs)

Lussa

- Proposals being designed for LMP revision.

South Knapdale

- Proposals being designed and consultation planned spring 2026.
- Felling permission application submitted to Scottish Forestry to fell in Meall Mhor from April 2026.

East Loch Awe

- LMP drop-in consultation events held in Furnace (21-1-2026) and Ford (22-1-2026).
- Felling and restocking designs being confirmed before stakeholder consultation on proposals.
- Aiming for submission to Scottish Forestry late spring/early summer 2026.

Kilmichael

- Mid-term review underway.

Ormaig & Salachry

- LMP with Scottish Forestry for signing and issuing approval documentation.

Other information

Carradale

Felling continuing in Deer Hill forest block.

Community Asset Transfer options.

Beinn Ghuilean

Pre-commencement meeting scheduled end January 2026, felling to then commence asap.



Kilmichael

Felling underway in Succoth, Kilmichael Glen, with extraction on public road. Area needs to be re-assessed to ensure sustainable volume removed.

Extensive project with operations for the Balfour Beatty/SSE substation works ongoing, disruptions to the Achnabreac Firetower trail. Updates/changes will be made on FLS website.

Dunard, Knapdale

Planning conditions met for civils works and work commenced.

Exact timescale of felling still to be confirmed.

Arichonan, Knapdale

Large felling coupe adjacent to public road/Loch Coillie-Bharr currently paused due to timber haulage issues.

Inverinan, West Loch Awe

Felling operations underway on stretch of public road between Dalavich and Loch Avich.

Inverliever, West Loch Awe

Felling underway at Kilmaha, above public road.

New forest road constructed in Inverliever Glen to provide access to felling coupes situated to east of Inverliever Lodge.

Storm damage- areas surveyed following latest storm, works prioritized and ongoing.