

**OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN, 2016/21 – UPDATE END OF MARCH 2017**

*It should be noted that the SMART actions outlined below will be undertaken by appropriate staff and teams of staff across the EDST Service.*

**INVESTMENT**

Investment in infrastructure (physical and digital), islands, key sectors, business support, communities and people will in turn attract further business investment, stimulate economic activity and deepen access to the labour market in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI) area.

<b>OLI: INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE - PHYSICAL/CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>				
<b>SOA Long Term Objectives (2023)</b>	<b>Outcome (by year 5)</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Milestones/Actions (in year)</b>	<b>Progress to Date (end Mar 2017)</b>
Rural growth is underpinned by a cohesive approach to regeneration. (Outcome 2)	Capital investment has successfully regenerated OLI in a manner that optimises sustainable economic growth.	Oban Maritime Quarter Maritime Visitor Facility (MVF) and Oban Transit Berthing Facility (TBF). Both projects will run at the same time off season January to May/June 2017.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full business cases and detailed designs due for completion September 2016.</li> <li>2. Tender dispatch forecasted to be October/ November 2016.</li> <li>3. Contract award November/December 2016. Construction start anticipated January 2017.</li> <li>4. Award Contract for Contamination surveys anticipated July 2016, Demolition between August and October dependent of survey findings (minor).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Revised FBC was approved by OLI AC on 12 October and P&amp;R on 27 October 2016.</li> <li>2. Tenders are due to be returned 10 December 2016. Complete.</li> <li>3. Both contracts have been let and construction is in progress on site. The TBF was let 30 January following a month of successful negotiations. Anticipated completion is July and will be operational in due course all being well with weather etc.</li> <li>4. The MVF was let 16 March and is due to complete 28 October 2017. It is anticipated that heavy vehicle movements and disruptive works will be completed mid summer. The delay in letting the contract was due to contract negotiations that secured the project within budget. Anticipated completion is October.</li> </ol>

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Rural growth is underpinned by a cohesive approach to regeneration. (Outcome 2)	Capital investment has successfully regenerated OLI in a manner that optimises sustainable economic growth.	Ongoing delivery of the Lorn Arc TIF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recruitment of Project Managers (2) and Programme Manager (1), successful candidates in post between June and October 2016.</li> <li>2. Oban North Pier extension - concept design completed.</li> <li>3. Oban Airport Business Park – utilities feasibility studies completed – August/September 2016.</li> <li>4. Oban Airport Business Park – submission/approval of Masterplan - September/October 2016.</li> <li>5. Oban Airport Business Park – procurement of site services following submission of above feasibility studies and obtaining required committee approvals, autumn 2016.</li> <li>6. Oban South – options for progressing with full business case (FBC) brought forward to committees for approval September/October 2016. Followed by with FBC sign off by Policy &amp; Resources Committee and Lorn Arc TIF Executive – January 2017.</li> <li>7. Halfway House Roundabout - continue to progress discussions with LINK, who are indicating Options Agreement will not be concluded with landowner until September 2017.</li> <li>8. Lorn Road/Kirk Road – Continue to progress discussions with HIE regarding their timescales for bringing forward additional office space at SAMS.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Programme team complete 17 Oct 2016</li> <li>2. Concept design overviews started, but require further research subject to Economic Impact Assessment being completed. -This is determinant on the completion of the two CHORD North Pier projects.</li> <li>3-5 Ryden’s development potential options report on Business Park due early June; masterplan currently being prepared.</li> <li>6. Scoping paper on-going exercise (new timescale).</li> <li>7. Meetings continue with Dunbeg Corridor Working Group. Dunbeg masterplan approved by PPSL Committee.</li> <li>8. Focus now on SG £50m Housing Infrastructure Fund for construction of Lorn/ Kirk road.</li> </ol>
Rural growth is underpinned by a cohesive approach to regeneration. (Outcome 2)	Capital investment has successfully regenerated OLI in a manner that optimises sustainable economic growth.	Oban as a University Town	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Map the key priorities and recommendations to take Oban forward as a University town. Led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).</li> <li>2. Examine the potential for Oban south (Lorn Arc TIF project) to be the location for student accommodation.</li> </ol>	<p>Oban as a University town road signs now in place on A85 and A816.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Imani has been contracted by HIE to map the required skills in the marine sector in Argyll and Bute.</li> <li>2. Awaiting for SAMS/UHI to respond with detailed information on the size and type of student accommodation.</li> </ol> <p>A private development is to take place near the Oban distillery with potential availability date of September 2017.</p>
		Oban identified as an Area for Action within the Local Development Plan (LDP) where a ‘planning for real’ Charrettes process will be undertaken.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Application for charrette funding submitted in conjunction with local community based groups.</li> <li>2. Charrette completed, subject to funding.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Application for funding submitted September 2016 but unsuccessful.</li> <li>2. Funding not successful. The Lorn Arc Programme team to run an Oban Planning session.</li> </ol>

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Areas within Argyll and Bute realise their potential through partnership working. (Outcome 1)	Integrated sustainable transport networks.	Increase use of Oban and the Isles Airport	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marketing of the airports and subsidised PSO air services.</li> <li>Lobby to attract commercial air lines to operate commercial air services to Glasgow/Edinburgh.</li> </ol>	1&2 This will be included in the Single Investment Plan (SIP) with a view to securing future funding from the Scottish / UK Governments to expand routes and services between Oban and the Isles Airports.
		Sound of Iona Infrastructure	Trial works carried out at Iona slip on steel channel sections / site meeting has taken place with designer and contractor. Consideration of long-term works for Fionnphort and Iona slips. Engaged with Sound of Iona Harbours Working Group to advise on future plans.	Marine Asset Management Plan has been revised to reflect forthcoming works at Fionnphort slip and feasibility study for new breakwater at Iona slip – funding still to be approved.
<b>OLI: INVESTMENT IN KEY SECTORS AND BUSINESS SUPPORT</b>				
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Argyll and Bute has a thriving economy especially within the key sectors of tourism, maritime, food and drink. (Outcome 1)	A sustainable food and drink industry supply chain that adds value across all its key components (primary producers to processors) in order to generate economic growth, improved provenance and profile for OLI.	Investment in the branding of Oban.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scope out the actions required and stakeholder involvement to integrate Oban's branding of 'Seafood Capital of Scotland', 'Gateway to the Isles' and 'University Town' into a consistent brand that highlights its excellent food and drink offering by end of March 2017.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing, working with HIE, Food from Argyll and SAMS</li> </ol>

<b>OLI: INVESTMENT IN KEY SECTORS AND BUSINESS SUPPORT (continued)</b>				
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Argyll and Bute has a thriving economy especially within the key sectors of tourism, maritime, food and drink. (Outcome 1)	A sustainable food and drink industry supply chain that adds value across all its key components (primary producers to processors) in order to generate economic growth, improved provenance and profile for OLI.	Potential of seaweed farming and processing in the OLI area.	1. Explore the present and future market demand for seaweed farming and processing and the potential for Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) to act as a centre of 'know-how' for seaweed farming by the end of 2018.	1. Initial contact has been made with the main Argyll and Bute stakeholders. The Council was also represented at the first Scottish Seaweed Industry Association Conference in Oban. Intelligence was gathered on short and long term market opportunities.  Working with South West Mull and Iona Development Trust towards a feasibility study for seaweed farming
Entrepreneurship is at the heart of all we do. (Outcome 1)	Sustainable and growing businesses in OLI.	Roadshow across the OLI business community to promote available business support with a focus on the EDF funded Local Growth Accelerator Programme, the LEADER Enterprise funding and the LEADER Farm Diversification funding.	1. The Head of Economic Development & Strategic Transportation accompanied by Business Gateway staff will repeat Business Breakfast event held late 2015 in Oban in the autumn 2016.	ERDF funded Local Growth Accelerator Programme was launched 31/10/16 and included in the funding seminar as part of Argyll Enterprise Week (as was LEADER). First application for BG LGAP support already received from OLI area.  1. Business Lunch proposed for 22/11/16 will be rescheduled, due to only 2 bookings
<b>OLI: INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITIES</b>				
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Areas within Argyll and Bute realise their unique potential through partnership working. (Outcome 1)	Thriving, sustainable and successful OLI Communities and the Third Sector.	Bespoke support to communities and third sector organisations to access funding information.	1. Assist with the potential Third Sector Asset Transfer to Council owned Dervaig site on Mull.	1. Transfer agreed at Full Council on 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2017.

## INNOVATION

OLI must foster a culture of innovation alongside specific initiatives.

<b>OLI: INNOVATION - ENTREPRENEURSHIP</b>				
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Entrepreneurship is at the heart of all we do. (Outcome 1)	Argyll and Bute is recognised as a key location for enterprise and entrepreneurial activity.	Increase the level of entrepreneurship throughout OLI.	1. Delivery of Enterprise Week in Oban, 31 <sup>st</sup> October to 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2016, in partnership with HIE.	Delivered and a report was presented to the Council's Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee on 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2017, see agenda item 8: <a href="https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=546&amp;MId=7434&amp;Ver=4">https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=546&amp;MId=7434&amp;Ver=4</a> . This paper also outlined a proposed approach to Argyll Enterprise Week for 2017 to be delivered in various locations across Argyll and Bute during the week commencing Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2017.

## INTERNATIONALISATION

Enable OLI to take advantage of international opportunities by rethinking its role in an evolving global context.

<b>INTERNATIONALISATION – PROMOTION AND MARKETING OF OLI</b>				
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Argyll and Bute has a positively promoted image within and outwith its area boundary. (Outcome 1)	OLI is a destination of choice for families, individuals and businesses to relocate, live and work.	Delivery of the Marketing Action Plan.	1. Promotion of success of major capital regeneration projects and venue marketing, such as Oban Public Realm Works, Stafford Street.  2. Joined up marketing of local events e.g. Highland Games, Mull Rally, half marathons/10k, National Mod, music festivals e.g. Tiree Music Festival – attractive for visitors and also for people who may decide to move there.	1. Major Capital regeneration projects highlighted in the autumn edition of the new Transformation magazine produced by the Council's Marketing and Promotions Officer. A new display stand has been produced to promote regeneration in Oban.  2. Ongoing. Enterprise Week in Oban was promoted in Business Magazine, for Chambers of Commerce throughout Scotland and in Transformation.