ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH SERVICE

03 MARCH 2022

ARGYLL AND BUTE COVID 19 RECOVERY
RESTART, RECOVER AND RENEW:
DELIVERING AND RESETTING OUR RECOVERY STRATEGY AND ACTION
PLAN

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.2 This document provides an overview of progress with the Argyll and Bute Recovery Strategy and Action Plan, our achievements and our current priorities. This work focussing on *restart, recover and renew*, recognises the importance of restarting public servic

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In response to the Covid pandemic, the Council agreed a Recovery Strategy a) åÁØtæ{ ^, [:\ ÆÆt Á*]] [:\ ÆÆ Á* A&t Ç^: ^ Át Áæ Æ* A, [:\ ÆÆ Æ* A, [:\ ÆÆ Æ* A, E :\ Æ* Æ* A&t Coordinated through the well-established Recovery Working Group and the specific thematic working groups.
- 2.2 This attached document (Appendix 1) provides an overview of progress with the Argyll and Bute Recovery Strategy and Action Plan, our achievements and our current priorities. This work, focusing on *restart, recover and renew*, recognises the importance of restarting public services and adapting our continued response to tackling the impacts, both positive and negative, of the COVID pandemic to our local communities, our services, the economy and to public health.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee consider this update report, along with the attached appendix.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The attached report, %RESTART, RECOVER AND RENEW" details the a&@^ç^{ ^} œ^{ ^} æ^{ ^} & & (ç^!^+L medium term priorities and the intention that the longer term issues are embedded within the strategic and corporate plans for key agencies and partners.
- 4.2 There are a number of medium term projects that target key areas for recovery over a 1-2 year delivery period. These address a range of issues including the challenging economic outlook of Argyll and Bute where the number of people claiming unemployment benefits, is higher than that prepandemic and optimising the opportunities through the Economic Strategy and other means, including the Councilos Staycation Programme. These critical issues include:-

- 6.7 Risk Strategy minimises risks.
- 6.8 Customer Service Embedded into Recovering Council activities.

Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth

Date 12/01/2022

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Appendix 1:

ARGYLL AND BUTE COVID 19 RECOVERY RESTART, RECOVER AND RENEW: DELIVERING AND RESETTING OUR RECOVERY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

fluid and changing circumstances, the Overarching Recovery Working Group, together with its sub groups, has been instrumental in implementing and delivering this strategy together with its associated action plan.

2.2 This document details our achievements to date, medium priorities and proposes an approach to embed recovery and renew into the strategic and operating plans for the Council, partner agencies and community partners. The adequacy of the Recovery Strategy was also been considered.

3. ARGYLL AND BUTE RECOVERY STRATEGY AND FRAMEWORK

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Committee on 10th December, outlined the specific actions and priorities for
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Objectives:

Reinstatement of normality in terms of Council and HSCP services, including a new approach to our buildings with a focus on hybrid

necessary.

4.2 Whilst progress has been hindered by the cyclical nature of the pandemic including the introduction of new variants that have given rise to increasing numbers of cases and further Covid restrictions, good progress has been made in recovery. It is important to recognise these achievements, as the priority, quite rightly, has focused on the incidence rate of Covid 19 rather than recovery. The key achievements of the Overarching Group, chaired by the Head of Development and Economic Growth, and also the thematic sub groups are listed below:-

(i) Overarching group.

Purpose: The Group has an overview of the recovery process and responsibility to deliver the Recovery Strategy, consider and identify specific issues and develop a range of specific actions to aid restart, recovery or renew.

Achievements:

Recovery Strategy and Framework has been revised and no changes are proposed;

Recovery Working Group and Framework is established with excellent engagement form key partners and agencies; Agreed Terms of Reference for the Recovery Working Group and the Thematic Groups;

Governance arrangements have been agreed at strategic, political and partnership level;

Reporting mechanism in place with regular Highlight Reports; Ensuring our Recovery Strategy is consistent with Scottish $\tilde{O}[\varsigma^{+}] \{ ^{\alpha} \tilde{A} \tilde{U}[^{\alpha} \tilde{$

Signposting to services for the vulnerable to receive appropriate support;

winter. The key issues the HSCP is looking to address:

Management Committee. Through this, it has been suggested that it is a strategic theme to be considered within the revision of the LOIP due from March 2023.

HSCP

HSCP is updating its 3 year Strategic plan to reflect impact of the pandemic and its plans to remobilise service to 2019/20 levels. This includes continuing to redesign services to focus on prevention, re-enablement, maintaining

7 REVIEWING THE STRATEGY

- 7.1 A review of the Recovery Strategy confirmed that no changes are required to the framework or objectives. The role of the Community Planning Partnership has been included.
- 7.2 Progress in delivering actions identified in the Recovery Action Plan has been delayed due to the implementation of further lockdown restrictions and resourcing capacity. To aid the recovery and support the longer-term themes of economic and social recovery and building back stronger communities, Argyll and Bute Council are funding two temporary Project Officers to accelerate work in these critical areas and work with partners and communities in delivering this Plan.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The Argyll and Bute Recovery Strategy and associated Action Plan focuses on renewal, a desire to transform service delivery to support the long-term future of Argyll and Bute and its people, to take the lessons from the Covid pandemic to ensure our ongoing readiness and enhance our economic and community resilience. The plan will identify what transformational and organisational change is required to deliver a long-term vison for Argyll and Bute post Covid. It recognises the importance of economic factors in driving our recovery. A thriving local economy will underpin renewal, providing opportunities for local people although population decline will continue to be a major factor in our capacity for recovery and renewal.

References:

Argyll and Bute Covid Recovery Strategy and Framework (<u>Argyll and Bute Recovery Action Plan Appendix.pdf (argyll-bute.gov.uk)</u>)

Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy 2019-2023 (<u>Economic Strategy (argyll-bute.gov.uk)</u>)