

**REFRESH OF ARGYLL AND BUTE ECONOMIC STRATEGY: 2019 – 2023: 2024 – 2029**

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## **1.0 HEADLINES**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide Committee with an update on the requirement to develop a new Argyll and Bute Council Economic Strategy from 2023.
- 1.2 A refreshed economic strategy must be ambitious for our area, focused on priority actions, inclusive and developed from a solid and defensible evidence base.
- 1.3 This paper provides detail on the relevant context, proposed governance arrangements, scope and process of work, including community and business engagement and consultation proposals, funding and associated timelines.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members of the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee:-

Note and consider the content of this paper; and

Provide commentary on the scope, process, including community and business engagement, associated with revising the current economic strategy.

## **3.0 DETAIL**

### **Background and Strategic Context**

- 3.1 A refreshed Argyll and Bute economic strategy must be ambitious for our area, focused on priority actions, inclusive and developed from a solid and defensible evidence base. Continued focus is required on the medium to longer-term (next five to ten years) economic and social recovery agenda for Argyll and Bute in response to the economic shocks of the last three years. In particular, the pandemic, EU Exit and the cost of living, including the cost of doing business, crises. The strategy should be forward looking, with a place-based and business/person centred approach, to secure a fair, inclusive, and a prosperous





members informed through Policy Lead and committee reports. Indeed, it is proposed that the final Argyll and Bute Council Economic Strategy will be signed off at the Environment, Development and Infrastructure (EDI) meeting in December 2023.

- 3.9 The OWG met for the first time on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, and is comprised of council officers (particularly from Development & Economic Growth and Community Development) and initially the HIE Area Manager, Argyll and the Islands. Colleagues who present various bodies and organisations who sit on the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership will also be kept informed of the progress of the development of the economic strategy and revised LOIP through formal meetings/consultation events.
- 3.10 It is proposed that the OWG reinvigorates the Argyll Economic Resilience Forum to become the Industry Advisory Forum, complete with additional industry contacts as appropriate, to complement the work of the OWG and help to shape and influence the strategy's direction and development.
- 3.11 The OWG has drawn up clear terms of reference for the development and delivery of a revised economic strategy for Argyll and Bute Council, which has been incorporated into Project Initiation Document (PID), see **Appendix 101.2 Tm[01.2 Tm[0**

### Indicative Timeline: Scope and Process

3.13 **Table 1** provides a staged, iterative and participatory approach that will be required from appropriate council officers, partners/stakeholders and communities.

Table 1: Economic Strategy and Action Plan Development Indicative Timeline											
2023	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Hols	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	

3.14 Particular focus will be given to the National Standards for Community Engagement<sup>1</sup>; the Wellbeing Economy Toolkit<sup>2</sup> and the EDAS Guide to Implementing Community Wealth Building.<sup>3</sup>

### **Proposed Funding and Delivery Capacity**

3.15 As referenced in **Table 1**, the OWG will bring in external expertise as appropriate.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy - current Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy, LOIP and National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET – 10 year duration).
- 5.2 Financial - funding consideration to be given to a budget for external consultancy work as appropriate, in liaison with the Community Development/CPP work on the revision of the LOIP. There is currently a focus on the joint funding model between the council, HIE and the Scottish Government for the continuation of the Settlement Project Support Officer post.
- 5.3 Legal - all appropriate legal implications have been taken into consideration.
- 5.4 HR - the Settlement Project Support Officer post will be extended until June 2024, utilising the funding agreed at the Policy and Resources Committee, December 2021.
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty - the Fairer Scotland Duty, Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010,

**For further information contact:**

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