

TITLE OF PAPER: Argyll and Bute TSEC Reportt ACPG Report April 2024

Internal TSI matters, contracts sector support and strategic action plan delivery

1. Sector funding 2024/2025, TSI funding and reporting and Funders Fayre 2024

The impact of the national budget first received in December 2023 is continuing to make its way through the funding and commissioning systems of the Scottish Government. We know that the NHS and Councils are under real financial pressure and many major projects have been delayed in favour of preserving jobs and frontline services. However, where protections have not been specified in law or funding bodies have been given discretion over the use of funding pots then we have seen grants and commissioning budgets, hitherto used to fund third sector services, come under increased pressure.

TSI funding has been agreed for one year only despite ministerial support for a longer settlement over two years but we as a group of CEOs are committed to campaigning for a fairer funding settlement and regularly meet with ministers to demonstrate impact collectively. Whilst we received a 4 per cent uplift in 2024 that was the first uplift in twelve years. It is worth noting that Scottish Government have reiterated their support of

work driven by local need, outcomes and not baseline KPIs. In line with other funders, they have continued the trend of removing bureaucratic encumbrances and they have confirmed that the six month reporting requirement has been scrapped in favour of annual business plan (due end April each year) and an annual review (due end June each year) with a focus on case studies and qualitative outcomes.

The TSI Funders Fayre held in Oban on 20th March 2024 was a great success with 8 funders in attendance and over 70 participants. Feedback has been positive, and we will look to repeat the event with different, but hopefully equally nationally significant funders, in six months. The message that we need to work together to

and visit <https://www.argylltsi.org/aboutus/our-board-2/> to view the role description which is at the foot of the page

4. TSI at the Rockfield Centre

With the success of the TSI Hub at Inveraray the TSI is beginning to test new models of co location.

The TSI has taken flexible office space at the Rockfield Centre and they have started to be used by two new TSI member groups: an autism support group and a heritage group. We will embark on a more detailed research and consultation exercise with local social enterprises and entrepreneurs to ascertain the appetite for hot desk working space. This follows a positive informal consultation on Information Oban which found that there may well be a market for such facilities. If we find an appetite for such a space we will then open negotiations with statutory partners and the Rockfield Centre to invest in these facilities

5. Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network (ABCAN)

The work of the TSI supporting Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network (ABCAN) is now fully under way led under the auspices of Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT). The TSI is playing its role and has just completed the disbursement of three rounds of seed and micro grant funding. We are now moving onto the next phase and will provide P } À Œ v v • μ %o %o } Œ š () Œ š Z • š o] • Z u v š } (verment • š Œ] v P funding has been approved for the next year of activity however seed capital funding for this coming year will be less than the £40k available for the year gone but we may collectively fundraise to increase this total.

6. Sustainable Food Partnership online event 26th February 2024

In late February we co-hosted an [online discussion](#) of setting up a [Sustainable Food Partnership](#) (SFP) in Argyll and Bute. There is an existing network of 85+ SFPs across the UK which are working collaboratively to support and encourage a transition to a healthy, sustainable and more equitable food system. The event was a great success with over 40 mainly new groups to the TSI in attendance. Next steps are currently being considered but it is possible that we will host the network as part of our capacity building approach and duties.

By forming an inclusive, cross-sector food partnership, public agencies, community organisations, businesses, and academics can collaborate to create lasting change by agreeing on priorities and action for the local area. The SFP network shows that a local partnership can help drive a fundamental shift in its local food system and become a hub for a rapidly growing good food movement of active and engaged citizens. It can also help tackle climate change, empower communities, build resilience and prevent food poverty.

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