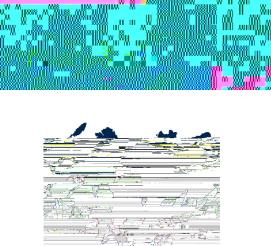
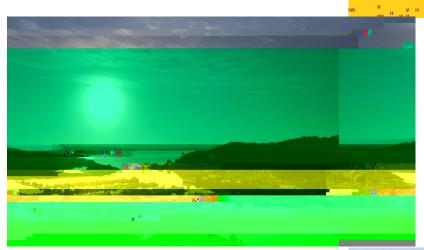
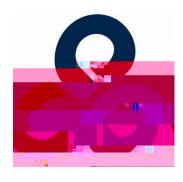
ArgyII and Bute Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-34

Support Document







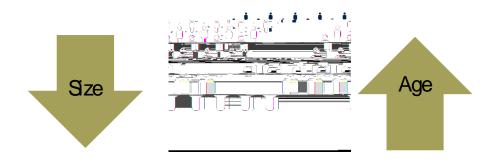
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Produced by the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership



Argyll and Bute: Context

Argyll and Bute is a region characterised by small coastal towns, inhabited islands and a low population density, with three quarters of the population living in rural or remote areas¹. Moreover, the average gross weekly pay for full-time workers and the percentage of residents who are economically active are both below the Scottish average².



continues to both decline and age.

Since the last Census in 2011, the population of the area has decreased by 2.4% to 86,000, with the proportion of those aged over 65 increasing within that period from 21.9% to 27.2%, the highest in Scotland.

Over the same period, the number of individual households in Argyll and Bute increased by 4.4%, indicative of older people being more likely to live alone or in smaller households³.

With the population of Argyll and Bute projected to decrease more rapidly over the ten-year period of this Outcomes Improvement Plan⁴, the implications for communities and community planning including provisioning of health and social care, housing and infastructure are significant and wide-ranging.

D , together with new strategic plans and research from partners, will continue to be published throughout the delivery and implementation period of this plan. We will use these to provide updated contextual narrative on the work of the Community Planning Partnership in addressing the priority themes in the Outcomes Improvement Plan.

Identifying community priorities

Preparatory work for the new Outcomes Improvement Plan commenced in late 2022 with an

strategic plans

and through recent community engagement exercises conducted during and immediately prior to the onset of the pandemic.

¹ Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification 2020 - (www.gov.scot)

² Labour Market Profile Nomis 2023 - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics - (nomisweb.co.uk)

³ Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates - (scotlandscensus.gov.uk)

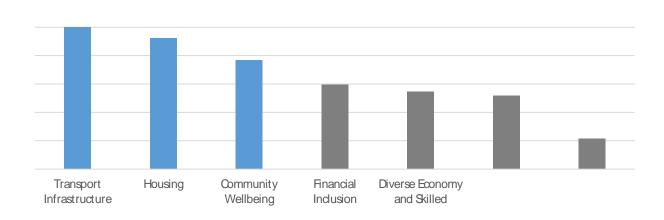
⁴ <u>Population projections for Scottish areas 2018-based - (www.nrscotland.gov.uk)</u>

This work identified eight broad priority areas, two of which were combined following discussion with strategic community planning partners and these seven areas became the focus of the extensive community consultation exercise which ran from December 2022 to March 2023. These seven priority areas were:

Climate Change; Community Wellbeing; Digital Inclusion; Diverse Economy and Skilled Workforce; Financial Inclusion; Housing; Transport Infrastructure.

A total of 1,978 responses were received through the online consultation and from dedicated face to face community engagement sessions, with ongoing data analysis and contextualised input from Community Planning partners providing insights to under-represented groups and communities requiring specific targeting.

The three highest priority themes identified through the consultation and engagement work across Argyll and Bute were Transport Infrastructure, Housing and Community Wellbeing.



The next step was to seek input from the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee. Community planning partners are experts in providing services to the communities of Argyll and Bute. As such, they have vital knowledge and experience arising from the ongoing work of their organisations and observations of the communities that they work with. We wanted to

three priority themes of Transport Infrastructure, Housing and Community Wellbeing.

To explore these issues, CPP Management Committee members came together at a Development Day in May 2023 giving partners the opportunity to have interesting and useful discussions about each of the co , identifying the areas of greatest opportunity to add value through partnership actions.

Transport Infrastructure

Background

The results of the extensive community consultation told us that Transport Infrastructure is the top priority for improvement in Argyll and Bute. This priority was particularly evident from the responses received from the Helensburgh & Lomond and Bute & Cowal areas. Transport Infrastructure was second to the theme of Housing in the Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI) and Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands (MAKI) areas.

To allow us to focus on the elements of transport infrastructure where it could have most impact on addressing community inequality, we looked at those elements of greatest concern to communities and how these were being addressed locally and nationally.

What needs to be improved?

The aspects of transport infrastructure in need of improvement, as indicated by our Improving Lives in Argyll and Bute Survey participants, and evidenced by our Community Planning Partners are:

Affordability The cost of using public transport particularly for those on low incomes and/or in island or rural mainland communities can be prohibitive, new low carbon transport solutions are unaffordable in areas where private transport is the only option for getting around.

Access Limited range and frequency of public transport options for people accessing work, services and medical appointments within and outwith Argyll and Bute, a lack of parking provi

Impacts Lack of effective mitigation against effects of dimate change creates reliability issues for the road infrastructure particularly on the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful

Argyll and Bute context:

In Argyll and Bute there are two Regional Transport Partnerships, statutory Community Planning partners that work with CPPs to deliver local and national outcomes through their regional transport strategies^{5 6}. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) covers Helensburgh & Lomond, and Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) covers all other parts of Argyll and Bute.

Many of the issues raised through our consultation process for the new Outcomes Improvement Plan are not new, having been raised through <u>research on transport and the economy conducted</u> by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Argyll and Bute Council in 2016. While some of the data may be a few years old, much of it is still relevant and there are several salient points which link to consultation responses around resilience, timetabling, public transport and specifically the A83 trunk road.

The CPP will also consider a range of existing and new strategies and plans

Housing

Background

Argyll and Bute communities have told us that improvements to housing should be a top priority for the Community Planning Partnership to focus on during 2024-2034. We needed to understand which aspects of housing were most in need of improvem

Second Homes and short-term holiday lets there is a high number of second homes and short-term holiday lets in Argyll and Bute, impacting on the availability and therefore price of homes for sale and private rent for year-round residents. At the same time, tourism is a key industry

considering how the concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods could apply in rural and island communities

improving the condition and quality of existing properties through the new Housing Standard ensuring a place-

Community Wellbeing

Background

Community Wellbeing can have a wide meaning. It is important that we are clear, as a Community Planning Partnership, what we mean when we say this.

What Community Wellbeing is, is summed up nicely by an organisation called What Works Scotland: Community wellbeing is the combination of social, economic, environmental, cultural, and political conditions identified by individuals and their communities as essential for them to flourish and fulfil

rmal support and places providing opportunities for: emotional and cultural attachment; leisure and work; skills development and travel; shops and facilities. It is also about the power that people have to participate in having a say in what happens in their community.

What needs to be improved?

In our consultation, when people chose Community Wellbeing as one of their top three priorities, they mentioned things such as improving:



Which communities are most in need?

A recent study by <u>Carnegie UK (Life in UK: Scotland)</u> found that certain groups face greater risk of lower levels of wellbeing. These include:

People with a disability People on lower incomes Those living in social housing or private rented accommodation Younger people

What work is already being done?

When we looked across Scotland

, tools

and approaches that all mentioned community wellbeing. We also found that in Argyll and Bute people have been involved in talking about what wellbeing means to them through surveys run by community groups and organisations working in the area.

National context:

Community Empowerment Act Local Governance Review and Democracy Matters National Outcomes Wellbeing Economy Shaping Places for Wellbeing Place Standard Tool Community Wealth Building

Argyll and Bute context:

Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament, Argyll and Bute engagement 2022 Health and Wellbeing in Argyll and Bute survey 2023 Community-led wellbeing research Consultations such as Active Travel, Economy, Tourism Shaping Places for Wellbeing pilot project, Dunoon The Living Well Strategy 2019 2024 strategy to support people to live well with long term health conditions - Living Well Strategy Living Well (ablivingwell.org). The strategy also recognises that it is possible to prevent ill-health, for example, strong and vibrant communities enable people to live good lives and to have better health and wellbeing outcomes. The Living Well Strategy was developed following extensive engagement and consultation with communities in Argyll and Bute. This included multiple focus groups, online Facebook discussions and questionnaires for members of the public, third sector organisations and Argyll and Bute HSOP staff. This engagement resulted in a Living Well Implementation Plan which was aligned to Argyll and Bute HSOP strategic intentions under four themes:

- People People living in Argyll and Bute have the tools and support they need to support them to Live Well
- o Community There are a wide range of local services to support people to Live Well
- o Workforce Staff are able and motivated to support the people they see to Live Well
- o Leadership Effective Leadership is in place to support the delivery of the Living Well Strategy

There are a wide range of actions included under each of the four themes and the full strategy, engagement report, implementation plan and mid-strategy review can be accessed on the <u>Living Well</u> <u>website</u>.

Over 2022 to 2023, the Living Well Strategy group merged with the Prevention Programme Board and is now known as the Living Well Programme Board. This refresh has enabled a refocus on activity at two levels:

- 1. Community rehabilitation and wellbeing programme.
- 2. Person centred social support to connect people to community-based activities. This action includes developing and sustaining community-based support, for example using community development and co-production approaches.

Related research and studies

Age Scotland Big Survey [2021] Being Well Together: Individual Subjective and Community Wellbeing [2019] Carnegie Trust - Life in the UK: Scotland report [2023] Carnegie Trust Wellbeing round-table [2023] Systematic review of community infrastructure (place and space) to boost social relations and community wellbeing: Five year refresh [2023] The Zubairi Report - The Lived Experience of Loneliness and Social Isolation in Scotland [2018]