

Arran Locality Partnership

Thursday 27 March 2025 at 5.00 p.m. on Microsoft Teams

BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Currie	•
2.	Action Note Review the action note and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 4	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	Is this an accurate record of the meeting. Have all actions been completed?
3.	Youth Engagement Receive update from Graeme Johnston.	-	Verbal	Graeme Johnston	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
4.	Rural Island Child Care Receive update on the work taking place around rural area childcare.		Verbal	Laura Potter	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
LOCA	LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES 5.30– 6.4				
5.	Islands Plan For discussion and direction on the work of the Arran Islands Plan.	Pg 11	Enclosed Verbal	Island Plan Leads	Discuss progress and how LP can further support this work.
6.	Health and Social Care Partnership Receive update from Ailsa Weir.	-	Verbal	Ailsa Weir	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
7.	KA Leisure For discussion and direction from the Locality Partnership on the work of KA Leisure.	-	Verbal	KA Leisure Rep	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities.
8.	Education Overview For discussion and direction from the Locality Partnership on the work taking place across education establishments on the Island linking in with Locality Priorities.	- Pg 13	Verbal Enclosed	S Foster R Dobson Active Schools	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.

9.	Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue - Wellbeing and Partnerships Officers to discuss with the Locality Partnership the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by SFRS and Police Scotland on Arran.	-	Verbal	Lisa Thomson/Martin Spence	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities
10.	Community Spaces Receive update from Carol Norton.	-	Verbal	Carol Norton	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
AOCI	В				6.45 – 7.00 pm
11.	Review of Locality Planning	-	Verbal	Cllr Currie Lesley Forsyth	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.

Elected Members

Community Representatives

Councillor Charles Currie (Chair)

Bill Calderwood, Arran Community Council Sheila Gilmore, Community Island Plan Lead Alastair Dobson, Business Island Plan Lead Simon Ross-Gill, Environment, Island Plan Lead

CPP/Council Representatives

Vicki Yuill, Senior Lead Officer Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer Ailsa Weir, NHS Ayrshire and Arran Lisa Thomson, Police Scotland Lesley Forsyth, North Ayrshire Council Anne-Marie Hunter, North Ayrshire Council Carol Norton, Arran CVS Martin Spence, Scottish Fire and Rescue

Arran Locality Partnership Priorities

Wellbeing	Environment	Communities
1		
	REDUCING INEQUALITIES	\

Arran Locality Partnership – Community Investment Fund			
The Arran Locality Partnership CIF allocation to date:	£194,000		
Funded Projects	Total Funding Awarded		
Arran Youth Foundation and Arran High Joint Bid - Young People's Mental Health	£45,226		
Arran Geo Park	£79, 853		
Remaining CIF Balance	£68,921		

Meet	ting:	Arran Locality Partnership			
Date	/Venue:	Thursday 5 December at 5.00 pm on Microsoft Teams			
Present: Councillor Charles Currie (Chair) Vicki Yuill, Chief Executive Officer, Arran CVS (Senio Lesley Forsyth, Senior Manager Information and Culti David Hammond, Executive Director (Communities & Bill Calderwood, Arran Community Council Alistair Dobson, Island Plan Lead for Economy David Cameron, Police Scotland Sarah Baird, Senior Officer (Islands) Seony Ross, Team Manager Strategic Planning & Eq Ross Dobson Active Schools Co-ordinator Susan Foster – Head Teacher		e (Lead Officer) ousing)			
In Attendance		Kathleen Dow, Regeneration Manager (Marine Tourism) Lorraine Hewie, Community Link Worker (Arran CVS) Jennifer McGee, Policy & Community Planning Officer (Notes)			
Apologies:		Ruth Betley, Senior Manager, Arran Services, NHS Ayrshire & Arran Anne Marie Hunter, Engagement and Participation Officer Kyle Lewis, KA Leisure Judi Worthington, Argyll College Sheila Gilmore, Islands Plan Lead for Community			
		ACTIONS			
No.	Action Walesman	legica/Declarations of lateurs	Responsible		
1.	The Chair welc	omed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made for absence were noted.			
2.	Action Note				
۷.	The action note was approved. L Forsyth highlicasked for clarity from Arran Dog with the group, creation of path to have better a dog park, this in After discussion group to reapp application and	ighted that at the September LP meeting the Partnership y was to be sought around the funding application made is L Forsyth advised that the that the funding team liaised and they confirmed that the £4000 would be used for the inside and the group feel it would be a huge benefit to them and more improved and accessible paths to get into the information was circulated to the Partnership by email. In the Partnership decided that it would be best for the lay to the fund in the Spring with a more concise funding that support could be provided from the Council's funding alternative funding options also.	L Forsyth/ R Ramsay		

3. Island Plan

S Baird provided the Partnership up an update on the work of the Arran Islands Plan:

A cohort of 12 Arran businesses and 3 Cumbrae businesses has commenced participation in an exciting pilot programme. This initiative, in partnership with Business Gateway Scotland and the Council business support, focusing on:

- Circular economy awareness and implementation
- · Climate action and sustainability
- Local supply chains
- Skills development
- Energy provision and cost reduction
- Improving resilience

A new regional economic strategy has been developed by the Highlands and Islands Regional Economic Partnership. This collaborative approach aims to transform economic development in the region, including Arran and Cumbrae.

The next meeting of the cross-party Islands Group will take place online on December 11th.

The North Ayrshire Islands Programme was a finalist in the COSLA Excellence Awards for strengthening communities and local democracy. S Baird highlighted that the submission video can be viewed on YouTube: - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_00nmyP7qnl

A new National Islands Plan for Scotland is being developed, expected to be published in 2025.

A Dobson expressed appreciation for the ongoing efforts behind the scenes. He highlighted the active implementation of the Island Plan, noting progress across multiple initiatives including the Net Zero approach, upcoming food waste workshops, and continued work by the Locality Partnership and Arran Island Plan Delivery Group. A Dobson highlighted that as Chair of the Ayrshire Regional Group, he aims to increase involvement with Highland and Islands regional strategy and emphasised the importance of maintaining consistent plan delivery.

The Chair thanks S Baird and A Dobson for their input.

Noted

4. Arran Geo-Park – CIF Project Update

M Wilkson provided the Partnership with an update on the impact CIF funding has made to the Geo Park's project of obtaining UNESCO status. M Wilkinson highlighted that:

 The project has made significant progress towards its outcomes and has had a positive impact on the island. A comprehensive application was submitted to UNESCO in November 2023, followed by a successful evaluation visit in June 2024. The outcome is expected to be officially announced in April 2025, with Arran's application already approved by the Global Geoparks Council in September - making it the first UK Geopark to be accepted without deferral.

- An unexpected and exciting outcome of the project is Arran has been selected to host the 2025 UK Geoparks Conference, which will welcome about 40 delegates from around the world.
- Additional funding has been secured as a direct result of this initiative, including funding from the Scottish Government Islands Heritage and Culture Fund, NatureScot and Auchrannie Charitable Trust.
- The Geopark has strengthened its governance by expanding its board to include representatives from Arran Theatre and Arts Trust, Forestry and Land Scotland, NFU Scotland, and UHI Argyll. This broader representation enhances the project's connection with various sectors of the island community.
- Looking ahead, the Geopark team is preparing for the official announcement in April, focusing on comms messaging and signage. They are collaborating with various organisations, including North Ayrshire Council and VisitScotland, to maximise the impact of the UNESCO status. Additionally, the team is working on developing educational resources aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

A Dobson conveyed his congratulations, noting that Arran's UNESCO status elevates the Island to a new level He also expressed his enthusiasm for being involved with the upcoming conference and highlighted that the Arran Island Plan aligns with the UNESCO sustainability goals.

The Chair also conveyed his congratulations and thanks M Wilkinson for his input.

Noted

5. Ayrshire Growth Deal Marine Tourism Programme – Arran Project

K Dow provided the Partnership with presentation on the progress of the Ayrshire Growth Deal, Marine Tourism Programme and Arran Project and to outline the next steps for the project development.

K Dow highlighted that he Ayrshire Growth Deal Marine Tourism Programme aims to develop step-ashore marine infrastructure facilities, enabling boat users and vessels to transition from sea to land.

This initiative is designed to support business growth, enhance employment opportunities, and stimulate economic development in coastal communities.

For Arran specifically, the programme has allocated £2m and a working group has been established with local boating interests to guide the project's development. While several potential sites have been evaluated, the estimated costs have significantly exceeded the initial budget, ranging from £8-9 million. As a result, alternative, smaller-scale options are being explored to align with budget constraints.

To ensure community involvement and gather valuable feedback, a public consultation is planned for spring 2025, allowing local residents to contribute their thoughts and ideas to shape the future of marine tourism on the island.

A Dobson commented that strategic papers over the years have consistently identified the need for a marina development on Arran. The current £2 million investment falls significantly short of requirements and the Island's Marine Group are exploring innovative approaches to attract additional private and public sector funding. A Dobson also commented that the project's importance extends beyond Arran, potentially benefiting North Ayrshire's broader economic development.

The Chair thanked K Dow for her input.

Noted

6. Health and Social Care Partnership Locality Planning

S Ross presented an overview report regarding the changes to the HSCP locality planning process in the other localities and proposals on how to ensure the Arran Locality Partnership is considered in HSCP strategic planning processes.

The report highlighted:

- Arran Locality Partnership's approach to the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) locality planning process, emphasising its unique structure compared to other localities in North Ayrshire
- Arran will continue with an integrated planning process, avoiding the need for a separate Locality Planning Review Group.
- The HSCP locality plan for Arran will align with existing priorities and ongoing community engagement efforts.
- That Arran's needs must be reflected in the HSCP Strategic Plan.
- Community engagement from January 2023 to December 2024 will inform the development of the strategic plan.
- A working group will compile a Locality Information Pack for Arran, summarising community engagement results and available data.
 The working group will meet biannually to discuss progress and ensure accountability to the Arran Locality Planning Partnership.

S Ross asked the Partnership around the best steer for governance, should it be just the LP or also the Community strand of the Island Plan Working Groups?

L Forsyth thanked S Ross for coming along and highlighting Arran's different dynamic to Locality Planning. L Forsyth stressed the importance of this work coming back to the Partnership, having that representation as health and wellbeing is part of all the work taking place on the island.

S Ross

S Baird commented that action plan for the Island Plan will be refreshed soon and would value the HSCP input to ensure there is no duplication. Looking to develop National Island Plan input would be keen to work

	together to get that information pulled together also. S Baird will extend an invite to a future steering group meeting.	S Baird
	The Chair thanked S Ross for her input.	Noted
7.	Arran Community Link Worker	
	V Yuill and L Hewie provided the Partnership with an overview of the work of the Community Link Worker service on Arran.	
	V Yuill highlighted that the Arran Community Link Worker service on Arran is an island-specific program that has been operating for over 9 years. This tailored service addresses the distinct needs of Arran's residents, offering a comprehensive approach to health and wellbeing.	
	The Community Link Worker, L Hewie, operates between Arran Medical Practice and Arran CVS collaborating with a multidisciplinary team including GPs, nurses, occupational therapists, and physiotherapists. This collaborative model aims to provide holistic, person-centred care.	
	L Hewie supports residents by signposting to various community well-being activities and offers supported self-management and information on multiple issues, such as stress management, employment, healthy living, and managing health conditions.	
	The service also faces unique island-specific challenges, including ferry disruptions that affect travel and training, limited opportunities for inperson collaboration with mainland teams, complex scheduling necessitated by the diverse range of services offered, and geographical constraints. Despite these obstacles, the service has achieved remarkable success, it maintains a strong focus on early intervention, has fostered robust community connections, and provides flexible, tailored support to residents. These efforts have led to improved health outcomes for many participants, particularly in areas such as weight management and reduced medication dependence, demonstrating the service's ability to adapt and thrive in the face of island-specific challenges.	
	The service demonstrates the value of a tailored, community-based approach to healthcare, particularly in addressing the unique needs of island communities. It effectively bridges the gap between medical and social care, providing essential support and improving the overall health and wellbeing of Arran's residents.	
	The Chair thanked V Yuill and L Hewie for their input.	Noted
8.	Education Overview	
	S Foster provided an update in relation to the education establishment on the Island: • Staffing continues to be a challenge on the Island. New IT Technician has been recruited who will start in the post in January 2025.	

 Primary school pupils are going to screen machine mobile cinema to watch a Christmas movie next week. S Foster also highlighted that funding for the screen machine is at risk

Noted

Active Schools

R Dobson provided the Partnership with an updater on the work Active Schools on the Island:

- SportsHall athletics event held in the Auchrannie with over 80 in attendance.
- Hosted netball fixture also at the Auchrannie
- Day of Dance event welcomed over 120 participants from P1 to P7
- The Island's sports athletics team finished 3rd overall in the North Ayrshire sports athletics event.
- Over the October break lots of activities took place including an Active Schools camp, gymnastics club, and KA Leisure activities.
- A notable initiative is the Active Girls program, designed to increase girls' sports participation, which has already shown positive results in club engagement.
- Launching a small school virtual challenge to overcome travel barriers, and host a Christmas activity day targeting potentially disengaged students.
- A standout feature is the Arran High Mountain bike club which is supported by 3 community volunteers, offering weekly sessions with 14 available bikes and demonstrating a commitment to youth skill development and community engagement.

The Chair thanked S Foster and R Dobson for their inputs.

Noted

8. Police Scotland

D Cameron provided the Partnership with an update in relation to work of Police Scotland.

D Cameron highlighted that:

- A new Area Commander for North Ayrshire, Chief Supt Suzanne Chow
- Preparations for next year's summer secondees is underway
- Educational initiatives will be planned for next year and will be bespoke for young people on Arran.
- Recent incidents on the island have led to increased police presence and support for affected families and staff.
- Community engagement activities are planned, including participation in a multi-agency exercise and collaborations with local schools on road safety.
- Multi-agency training exercise will be taking place on the Island next week.

	There is a focus on early intervention strategies to address issues before they escalate, involving various stakeholders across North Ayrshire. The Chair thanked D Cameron for his input.	Noted
10.	AOCB	
10.	L Forsyth advised the Partnership that new Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan 2024 to 2027 was recently launched. Adult learning, youth work and capacity building are the foundation of the plan – which has health and well-being, Community Wealth Building and workforce development at its core. Tackling inequalities and the need to target resources are also covered. The plan offers a framework that helps to empower people of all ages, individually and collectively, to make positive changes in their lives and in their communities. L Forsyth highlighted that a copy of the plan would be shared with the	J McGee
	action note from this meeting. The Chair conveyed his thanks to everyone for attending and his best wishes for the festive season.	Noted
11.	Reports for Information	
	The Chair highlighted the report attached to the agenda for information.	Noted

Update to Arran Locality Partnership March 2025

1. North Ayrshire Council, in partnership with Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) is delivering a pilot programme to support businesses on the Isle of Arran and Cumbrae in their journey towards circularity and net zero. This unique initiative began in Autumn 2024 and will conclude in Autumn 2025. The Net Zero Nation initiative is a 12-month programme designed to help 15 small and medium-sized island enterprises (SMEs) develop and implement net zero strategies, this island pilot programme has a focus on circular economy practices.

The Net Zero Nation Circular Islands pilot on Arran and Cumbrae is addressing the unique challenges faced by island businesses, including higher operational costs and economic resilience. Delivery is a blend of in person and online workshops and activities and a combination of Net Zero Nation sessions and North Ayrshire Council educational workshops (educational workshops based on the profile of the businesses that have signed up to join the cohort). Businesses are receiving access to carbon accountancy software, expert advice, and training in sustainability and circular economy practices through a bespoke, structured programme.

The participating businesses are: The Auchrannie, Arran Dairies / Taste of Arran, Arran Brewery, Bellevue Farm Tours & Cottages, Arran Active, Armitage Groundworks, The Lochranza Outdoor Education Centre, Dougarie Estate, Old Byre Showroom & Visitor Centre, ADT/ Arran Community Homes, Arran Distillers, Slav Building Services, Jacks Alt Stays, Cumbrae Community Development (Garrison House) and Millport Motors.

The programme has strong focus on circular economy awareness building and implementation and is closely aligned to Arran Island Plan priorities of climate action and sustainability, local supply chains, business resilience, skills development, energy provision and addressing energy costs. It aims to deliver on improving the resilience of the island business base, and climate action & sustainability as defined as a priority in the Arran Island Plan.

For further information on the Net Zero Nation Circular Islands pilot, please contact Wendy McFarland, Programme Manager, Business Recovery & Sustainability, Business Support & Development Service wendymcfarland@north-ayrshire.gov.uk or Sarah Baird, Senior Officer (Islands), Economic Policy sarahbaird@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

2. A new Highlands and Islands Regional Economic Strategy (HIRES) has recently been developed by Highlands and Islands Regional Economic Partnership (HIREP) and outlines a collaborative approach to transformational economic development for the Highlands and Islands region, including the islands of Arran and Cumbrae. A final draft of the HIRES has been produced and once the new strategy is approved and published, the Arran Island Plan

- Steering Group will consider the details, and a copy will be added to the ArranPlan.org website.
- 3. A new National Islands Plan for Scotland, as required by the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 is currently in development, Scottish Government Islands representative joined an Arran Island Plan meeting and then an initial stakeholder meeting, to provide the headlines on the development of the Plan and get local feedback and input. A number of online events have also recently been held, registration details to attend were circulated through the Locality Partnership. I will keep the Locality Partnership updated and where there are further opportunities to input as development progresses.
- 4. Alastair Dobson (Economy Lead), Sheridan Waldon (Arran Skills Coordinator) and Grace Hutchison, Economic Policy officer with North Ayrshire Council participated in an online Skills Development Scotland (SDS) webinar showcasing the islands skills work on Arran. This was a great opportunity to highlight the work of the NA Islands Programme, the works of the Arran Skills Group and hold an 'in conversation' with Alastair to understand the challenges employers on Arran face in recruiting, retaining and upskilling staff. The webinar was recorded and will be on YouTube in due course.
- 5. An Island Economy Showcase Event, hosted by the <u>Cross Party Group on Islands</u>, in partnership with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the six local authorities with islands will be held at The Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 2nd April. This inaugural Islands Economy Showcase will celebrate the strength and national contribution of the islands' economy, providing an opportunity for island enterprises to share their views with MSPs and strategic stakeholders on future directions for policy and investment. A private Members debate on island economies will take place followed by an evening reception. Arran Dairies, Auchrannie Resort, VisitArran and Cumbrae Community Development Trust (inc. Carbon Neutral Cumbrae initiative) will be participating. Look out for social media updates pre, during and post event and I will bring a summary back to the next Locality Partnership. This is valuable opportunity for North Ayrshire island businesses to have their challenges, opportunities and asks heard at a national level.
- 6. The North Ayrshire Islands Programme continues to support and promote the islands through the strategic Local Island Plans and identify new and enhanced opportunities for Arran and Cumbrae to achieve the delivery of their island priorities as defined in the strategic Local Island Plans, in order to thrive economically, socially and environmentally.
- 7. Progress reports will continue to be brough to the Arran Locality Partnership during 2025.

For further information on this report, please contact Sarah Baird, Senior Officer (Islands), Economic Policy sarahbaird@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



Events

Active Schools Locality Partnership Meeting -

Arran Locality



Priority 1Community

COIIII

- Arran Primary Netball Tournament, P4-7
- · Largs Academy vs Arran High School Football, S1-S5
- North Ayrshire Schools Cross Country, P5-S3
- · Primary Shinty Competition Cowdenbeath, Brodick P7s
- Sports Hall Athletics Pan Ayrshire Event, P6-7
- · Arran Primary Swimming Gala, P1-7
- · Ardrossan Accies Rugby Club Provision Primary Festival

Extra-Curricular Club Provision

- 18 Active Schools clubs available to secondary schools (free of charge) - with links to community clubs throughout
- AHS achieved a 70% participation rate for terms 1/2, the highest among secondary schools in Scotland, with Ardnamurchan next at 58%
- 7 KA Leisure weekly sessions Tues, Wed, Thurs
- The Active Schools programme engaged with 367 out of 472 (78%) primary and secondary pupils in terms 1/2
- KA Leisure Free Kit Scheme (input from Area Inclusion Worker)

Easter Holiday Provision

- Multi-Sports/Football Camp (7th-10th) KA Leisure
- Gymnastics Camp (14th-15th) Newtown Gymnastics
- · Dance Camp (16th-17th) KA Leisure
- · Free spaces for care-experienced/low-income households

North Ayrshire Sports Academy

- Senior pupils delivering activities in all island primary schools (free of charge) throughout the academic year
- SQA Leadership Award

Active Girls Committee

- 'Come and Try' session 60 P1-7 girls involved. 3 community clubs delivering
- Primary Move and Improve Leaders (P5-7 pupils)
 - Deployed in all 7 island primary schools

Small School Virtual Challenge

- All 7 Arran primary schools participated out of 17 North Ayrshirewide
- Brodick, Shiskine, W/Bay, Blacklands, and Cumbrae top 5 (as of 19/03)



Priority 3 Environment

Orienteering Club - Lamlash Primary School

- Active Outdoors Leadership student delivering a block of orienteering sessions at Lamlash Primary School
- Looking to expand delivery to more schools after the Easter holidays

Arran High School Mountain Bike Club

- 4 community volunteers leading weekly MTB sessions for all AHS students (beginners, intermediates, and girls-only sessions) free of charge, often utilizing the new Dyemill facility
- A range of mountain bikes available for students to borrow from the garage at Arran High School
- AHS MTB Club offered a session for 20 students as part of a rewards day for students at Arran High School
- Health and Wellbeing Week Offering (May). Involves an overnight stay at North Glen Sannox campsite

Outdoor Adventure Programme

- A block of after-school provision for Arran primary students, in partnership with Arran Outdoor Education Centre, Active Schools, and Vincent from The Outdoor Partnership
- August-October 2025