

Action Note

Meeting:	Arran Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	Thursday 25 September 2025 at 1pm, Ormidale Pavilion
Present:	Cllr Charles Currie, Chair Vicki Yuill, Chief Executive Officer, Arran CVS (Senior Lead Officer) Lesley Forsyth, Senior Manager, North Ayrshire Council (Lead Officer) Sarah Baird, Senior Officer (Islands) Grace Hutcheson, Policy Officer Sgt Clare Neilson, Police Scotland Bill Calderwood, Arran Community Council Alastair Dobson, Island Plan Lead for Economy (Joined Remotely) Ross Dobson, Active Schools Co-ordinator Carol Norton, Operations Manager, Arran CVS
In Attendance	Malcolm Wilkinson, Arran Geopark Jennifer McGee, Policy & Community Planning Officer (Notes)
Apologies:	Ailsa Weir, NHS Ayrshire & Arran Sheila Gilmore, Island Plan Lead for Communities Vicki Lockhart, Head Teacher

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted. B Calderwood and V Yuill declared an interest in the Grants Report.	Noted
2.	Action Note The action note arising from the meeting held on 19 June 2025 was approved.	Noted
3.	Arran Geo-Park – CIF Project Update M Wilkinson highlighted that Arran has successfully achieved becoming a UNESCO Global Geopark in April 2025, securing status for the next four years. The revalidation process takes place every four years, and M Wilkinson conveyed thanks all those involved for their dedication and hard work. The UNESCO assessors highlighted the strong sense of community support they felt during their four-day visit to the island and commended the Geopark's emphasis on community engagement. Key achievements to date include: Over 240 hours of volunteer work already contributed by a small but dedicated team.	

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	• Around 200kg of beach waste removed through clean-up activity. • Initial progress on recommendations from the peer review held in summer 2025. • The final CIF payment will go towards maintaining and extending this commitment. • Access improvements underway at Corrie and Lochranza. • Plans to increase visibility of the UNESCO status at Brodick, including potential installation of information points on ferry routes. • Development of a climate change adaptation plan. • Work progressing on a new international twinning arrangement with New Brunswick, recognising similarities and opportunities for exchange. B Calderwood congratulated the team and suggested liaising directly with CalMac to explore opportunities to feature the Geopark on ferry webpages. M Wilkinson undertook to look into this. The Chair asked about the Geopark's role in attracting new visitors, noting the Guardian feature as an example of growing recognition. CC highlighted the importance of communicating clearly what a Geopark is. The Partnership then discussed how the team could make information on the Geopark more accessible, including potential presence on the North Ayrshire Council website. L Forsyth undertook to meet M Wilkinson to discuss further. The Chair thanked M Wilkinson for his input.	L Forsyth Noted
4.	Grants The Partnership considered an application made to the Elderly Grant fund for £2,841 from Arran CVS for distribution to Arran groups for outings, meals and activities. The activities planned will be aimed at enabling elderly people to engage in activities outside their own homes & reduce social isolation. The main the groups choose to host a Christmas party or meal, or other events that bring people together, for the older people in their communities. The Partnership approved this application. C Norton provided the Partnership with an update on how the funding was used last year. She advised that money was distributed to 5 groups last year each getting £568.20.	S Fleming Noted
5.	Island Plan S Baird provided the Partnership with the following updates: • Scottish Government Islands Programme 2025/26, noting a total programme budget of £5.3m for critical island infrastructure projects. North Ayrshire Council has submitted seven projects	

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	totalling £1.98m, including Arran Youth Foundations, Lochranza Marine Tourism Improvements), and Brodick Hall Island Hub with works on windows, roof repairs, energy-efficient lighting and accessibility. Other elements include plug-in generation for outages. Decisions are expected imminently, and further updates will follow. • The North Ayrshire Wee Grants for Islands will launch in October, with further information to be circulated. • In terms of the depopulation pathfinder funding, the Policy Officer and Economist are working with consultants and across services on childcare co-operative models in Garnock Valley and Arran to identify what would best suit localities. A Local Authority depopulation knowledge exchange event will take place next week. • A new National Island Plan is being developed, due for publication later this year, and will feature several case studies from North Ayrshire. • Cllr Hill recently appointed as Chair of the Highland and Islands Group which is positive for both Arran and Cumbrae. S Baird and E McMullen will also co-chair the officer group. • The Convention of the Highlands and Islands will be hosted in Brodick Hall on Monday 3 November, with two substantive agenda items on Community Wealth Building and HSCP staffing. The meeting will be chaired by the Deputy First Minister with portfolio holders in attendance. B Calderwood asked if current pathfinder funding could support Montrose House. S Baird advised not possible this round. B Calderwood noted concern about lack of consultation on Montrose House's future use. A Dobson highlighted that the Partnership is the right spaces for the initial discussions and governance need to be strengthened with decision makers. A Dobson provided the Partnership with an update on the work relating to the Economy strand of the Island Plan: Work is underway through the Island Plan group on a big data project, in partnership with research institutes and the geopark, which aims to deliver a comprehensive dataset to support strategic decision-making. This will help ensure Arran's needs are properly reflected within the Ayrshire Economic Partnership (AEP) and linked to the Plan's three themes, which again closely align with the AEP strategy. Business resilience also remains a concern. While Arran received the highest Business Resilience Fund award of £35k, participants described it as a small sum compared to local needs, though welcome in advance of the winter season. There was agreement that more must be done to engage stakeholders and help retain people and businesses on the island. The Chair thanked S Baird and A Dobson for their updates and offered his congratulations to Cllr Hill on his appointment.	
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6.	Partner updates Police Scotland C. Neilson provided the Partnership with an update: • Over the summer two road policing initiatives were undertaken, resulting in 34 offences, including nine drug-driving cases. Officers are now being trained in the use of drug swipes. • A new Licensing Standards Officer is now in post and will begin joint work with them next week. • Road safety work is ongoing, with plans for a joint “Fit to Drive” event involving RoSPA and the Fire Service. • Over the summer, island-based officers delivered school inputs on emergency planning and provided work experience for six pupils. In addition, a three-day work experience programme was delivered in South Ayrshire. Active Schools R Dobson provided the Partnership with an update • 17 NASA pupils on Arran (150 across NA); Phase 1 training complete, delivery in primary schools starts Term 2. • KA Sports Hall athletics event next week – first of seven island events. • Commonwealth Games “Playground to Podium” campaign underway: volunteering for 16+, baton art competition • Whiting Bay PS and Arran High awarded Sportscotland Gold. • Tennis courts resurfaced, due to be lined. 14 Level 1 coaches in place; taster sessions ongoing. • P6 Outdoor Partnership begins after October break with 12 in leadership group. • COAST snorkelling sessions for disengaged pupils. • Active Girls Day taking place on 3 October, linking in with community clubs. • October holiday provision confirmed with KA Leisure. • 2 NASA pupils now employed by KA Leisure. • Meeting planned regarding Talented Athlete Programme. The Chair thanked C Neilson and R Dobson for their updates.	
7.	Meeting Forward Planning The Partnership discussed the ongoing review of Locality Planning across North Ayrshire and agreed on the need to change the dynamics by making discussions more conversational and allowing additional time to explore how the work of the Partnership and Island Plan can be more closely aligned. It was further agreed that incorporating thematic and joint sessions will help strengthen engagement and lead to more effective outcomes. The	

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	December meeting will be held as a joint session, with each of the Island Plan themes becoming the focus of future meetings.	<i>J McGee/L Forsyth</i>
8.	AOCB Island Cost of Living Fund – it was agreed that information relating to the Island Cost of Living Fund would be circulated by email.	<i>L Forsyth/C Norton</i>

The meeting ended at: 2.55 pm