
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

22 February 2022

Cabinet

Title:	Island Plans
Purpose:	To seek approval for the proposed 10-year socio-economic Island Plans and associated 2022/23 Annual Action Plans for Cumbrae and Arran to support an inclusive and green economic recovery and renewal of North Ayrshire's Island communities in line with their unique circumstances and opportunities.
Recommendation:	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Approves the proposed 10-year socio-economic Island Plans for Arran and Cumbrae (Appendix 1);b) Approves the proposed 2022/23 Annual Action Plans for Arran and Cumbrae (Appendix 2); andc) Notes the proposed next steps.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In October 2020, Cabinet approved the Council's participation in the Island Recovery and Renewal Pilot, jointly funded by the Council, Scottish Government (SG) and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). A key priority for the Pilot is to develop ten-year socio-economic Island Plans for both Arran and Cumbrae.
- 1.2 The proposed plans have been in development during the last nine months, ensuring that island communities, stakeholders and partners are fully engaged and involved in the draft development phase.
- 1.3 The final draft plans have been presented to the North Coast and Arran Locality Partnerships in December 2021 for consideration and open for public comment from 29th November 2021 to 4th January 2022. The plans are now finalised and are attached for Cabinet's consideration and approval. Endorsement and support for the Plans will also be sought from Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

2. Background

- 2.1 Aligned to the National Islands Plan, the Council is participating in an ambitious three-year Islands Recovery and Renewal Pilot in partnership with Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to support an inclusive and green

economic recovery and renewal of North Ayrshire's Island communities in line with their unique needs. A key part of the recovery and renewal is the development of ten-year socio-economic Island Plans for both Arran and Cumbrae.

- 2.2 To support the development of each Island Plan, the Council commissioned and published research from the Fraser of Allander Institute on the disproportionate economic impact of Covid-19 on the Arran economy in September 2020. In addition to this, the Council has recently undertaken an economic profiling exercise for the Cumbrae economy and both community and Elected Member engagement took place during the preparation of the profile. Both reports provide an outline socio-economic baseline for Arran and Cumbrae that will be updated and monitored moving forward to inform an evidence-based approach to policy development.
- 2.3 The socio-economic baseline for Arran and Cumbrae has been prepared reviewing the available economic data to inform the development of the Local Island Plans. There are challenges around obtaining accurate data for Cumbrae due to the relatively small size of the community which has not been separated from the mainland in statistics and the relatively complex makeup of its population (for example, second homeowners and or remote workers who do not currently feature in the statistics).
- 2.4 Both Arran and Cumbrae island stakeholders have expressed the importance to them in continuing to build on good quality data for each island, ensuring an accurate evidence base for future decision-making and the prioritisation of resources including financial investment. It is intended that the information contained within the Isle of Cumbrae Economic Baseline Report will be reviewed and developed as one of the first priorities in the 2022/23 Cumbrae Annual Action Plan.
- 2.5 The pilot has facilitated the development of the first Local Island Plans for Arran and Cumbrae which are aligned to the delivery of the National Islands Plan and Community Wealth Building principles to maximise the potential of North Ayrshire's islands. North Ayrshire Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Government will continue to support and work with the island communities and stakeholders as the plan is implemented, contributing to, or delivering actions that result in improved outcomes for the community, economy, and environmental wellbeing of Arran and Cumbrae.

Local Island Plans and 2022/23 Annual Action Plans

- 2.6 Appendix 1 to this report contains the proposed 10-year socio-economic Island Plans for Arran and Cumbrae. These Island Plans will be used to help drive the socio-economic development of Cumbrae and Arran between 2022 and 2032.
- 2.7 Appendix 2 to this report contains proposed 2022/23 Annual Action Plans for Arran and Cumbrae. These Annual Action Plans set out the steps and action to be progressed to deliver the vision for the future of each island. The Annual Action Plan will be a live document that will be monitored, reviewed, and updated as required.
- 2.8 Following a broad range of input and feedback from the communities on Arran and Cumbrae, Elected Members representing the Islands, Locality Planning Partners, island-based businesses and groups and island stakeholders, each Island Plan follows a similar structure with content specifically tailored to each of the islands:
 - Introduction
 - Profile of the Island
 - Strategic context of the Plan - national, regional, local and island

- Engagement and participation in developing the Plans
- Key findings from the engagement exercises
- Details of priorities and actions
- Vision for Island and Key Themes
 - Given the inclusive/wellbeing economy, Community Wealth Building, and net zero focus, the themes are focused on community, economic and environmental wellbeing
 - Examples of on-island projects
- Implementing the Plans - Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnerships
- Appendix - 2022/23 Annual Action Plans for Arran and Cumbrae

2.9 The Annual Action Plan structure includes alignment to each island's key themes and priorities, who will deliver the actions, timescales, alignment to the National Islands Plan, Community Wealth Building, and net zero. This includes actions already being delivered or planned by community organisations, the Council and or island stakeholders e.g., Scottish Government, Highlands, and Islands Enterprise.

2.10 Each action within the Annual Action Plan has been assigned a period of short term (1 to 3 years), medium term (4 to 5 years) or long term (5 years plus). Indicators to measure progress and success will be developed in year one of the Action Plan, with further actions developed or revised for each plan theme where necessary. Further, methods of measurement will be refined over the duration of the Plan to identify key data sources.

2.11 Success will depend on a broad participation of stakeholders from each of the islands who will be the driver of delivering and monitoring progress of the Plan, ensuring there is an all-inclusive opportunity for everyone to be involved.

2.12 A key area of focus for the Island Recovery and Renewal Pilot is to contribute to closer and more coordinated working between the island communities, partners and national and local government and agencies to ensure stronger island-focused partnership and to work collaboratively to unlock the knowledge, resources and support necessary to bring the Local Island Plans to life.

2.13 Participation in the development and influencing of the Plan is not, and will not, be limited to the early stages of the process. Participation will be necessary and widely encouraged throughout the delivery phase. Whilst it is important that governance of the Island Plan aligns to the Locality Partnership structure, there is also a need for thematic expertise and wider islander input. A draft governance model for further consideration and exploration is included within each Plan, with an appointment process to be established to ensure appropriate and inclusive representation.

2.14 The Local Island Plan Delivery Groups will be the central partnership driving delivery for the Island Plans. These groups should comprise public, private, third sector and community representation to bring knowledge and understanding of the priorities and to reflect the range of stakeholders with an interest in the islands. They will take primary responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the agreed actions throughout the life of the Plan, with the purpose of improving the outcomes for Cumbrae and Arran, with responsibility to include:

- Take lead responsibility for delivering specific identified actions;
- Provide expertise to inform how action can be delivered to maximise impact;

- Ensure the wide communication of actions and progress;
- Communicate with island stakeholders to ensure input to actions on an ongoing basis;
- Act as ambassadors and champion a place-based approach to delivering action for the benefit of the islands;
- Influence and inform the updating of annual action plans for each island;
- Monitor, review and report progress against the Local Island Plan and Action Plan to the Arran Locality Partnership and North Coast & Cumbraes Locality Partnership.

2.15 The engagement activity that took place through August-December 2021 identified many inspiring and innovative island projects which are being undertaken by the community as well as the third, private and public sector and examples of these are provided within the Plans. As part of the first year action plan, case studies will be produced to capture details of work going on and examples of best practice that support the island's community, economic and environmental wellbeing.

Next Steps

2.16 The timeline below outlines key next steps in progressing the Island Plans:

- Launch of Plans– 3 March 2022 (TBC)
- Support the creation and inception of Local Island Plan Delivery Groups – March 2022 – ongoing
- Regular update reports to North Coast and Arran Locality Partnerships
- Support the development and delivery of actions illustrated in Appendix 2 – March 2022 - ongoing
- Report to Cabinet on first year progress – March 2023

3. Proposals

3.1 That Cabinet:

- a) Approves the proposed 10-year socio-economic Island Plans for Arran and Cumbrae (Appendix 1);
- b) Approves the proposed 2022/23 Annual Action Plans for Arran and Cumbrae (Appendix 2) and;
- c) Notes the proposed next steps.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications associated with this report, the implementation of the plans will see the re-direction and amalgamation of existing resources, which will be supplemented by external funding bids, as appropriate.

Human Resources

4.2 None.

Legal

4.3 None.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 The proposed actions illustrated in the Annual Action Plans will assist in meeting the socio-economic duty as set out in the Fairer Scotland Duty by reducing economic, social, and physical decline and reducing socio-economic disadvantage in the identified areas. The actions will increase community cohesion and advance community empowerment in the identified areas.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 The proposed plans align with the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and Regeneration Delivery Plan and will deliver positive environmental and sustainability benefits through the environmental wellbeing actions included in the Island Plans.

Key Priorities

4.6 The Island Plans will contribute to achieving a wide range of the Council Plan outcomes. They will contribute to the ambitions of an inclusive, growing and enterprising economy; and active and strong communities; In particular, the proposals will: build stronger relationships between the council, communities, and partners; enable us to support our communities to maximise the use of community assets; we will support our local businesses to become more innovative and competitive and we will support communities to achieve what is important to them through strong local networks.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 Many of the proposed actions, as indicated in the table of actions in Appendix 2, will contribute to the delivery of one or more of the six Community Wealth Building pillars, objectives, and associated actions of the Community Wealth Building Strategy. The Island Annual Action Plans in forthcoming years will provide demonstrable outcomes and island case studies that explain these contributions.

5. Consultation

5.1 The Cabinet Member for Post-Covid Renewal and the Islands, Elected Members representing the Islands, officers from across the Council and Health and Social Care Partnership, Scottish Government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, island communities and island stakeholders have been engaged throughout in developing the proposed Island Plans and 2022/23 Annual Action Plans.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON
Executive Director (Place)

For further information please contact Sarah Baird, Senior Officer - Islands, on 07919 162039.

Background Papers

None

Attachments:

Appendix 1 - Proposed 10-year socio-economic Island Plans for Arran and Cumbrae

Appendix 2 - Proposed 2022/23 Annual Action Plans for Arran and Cumbrae

ISLE OF ARRAN

LOCAL ISLAND PLAN

ECONOMY | COMMUNITY | ENVIRONMENT

A ten-year plan with a long-term strategic focus
developed with and for the community.



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean



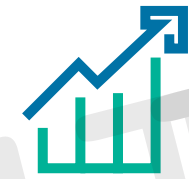
The Scottish
Government



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

INTRODUCTION

The Isle of Arran is a valuable and unique part of North Ayrshire. North Ayrshire Council and partners are dedicated to working together with island communities and businesses to support Arran and acknowledge the importance of providing specific and tailored focus and support for the island community, its vital economy, and its outstanding environment.



ECONOMY



COMMUNITY



ENVIRONMENT

THE ARRAN LOCAL ISLAND PLAN IS A TEN-YEAR PLAN WITH A LONG-TERM STRATEGIC FOCUS DEVELOPED WITH AND FOR THE COMMUNITY.

Recognising these differences, the Council identified an opportunity to work in an exciting new partnership with island communities, businesses, and wider stakeholders to develop and facilitate the creation of Local Island Plans to assist in maximising the potential of North Ayrshire's islands.

North Ayrshire Council are participating in an ambitious three-year 'Islands Recovery and Renewal' Pilot in partnership with the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to support an inclusive and green economic recovery and renewal of North Ayrshire's islands of Arran and Cumbrae in line with their unique needs. This pilot is aligned to the delivery of the strategic objectives of the National Islands Plan and Community Wealth Building (CWB) principles.

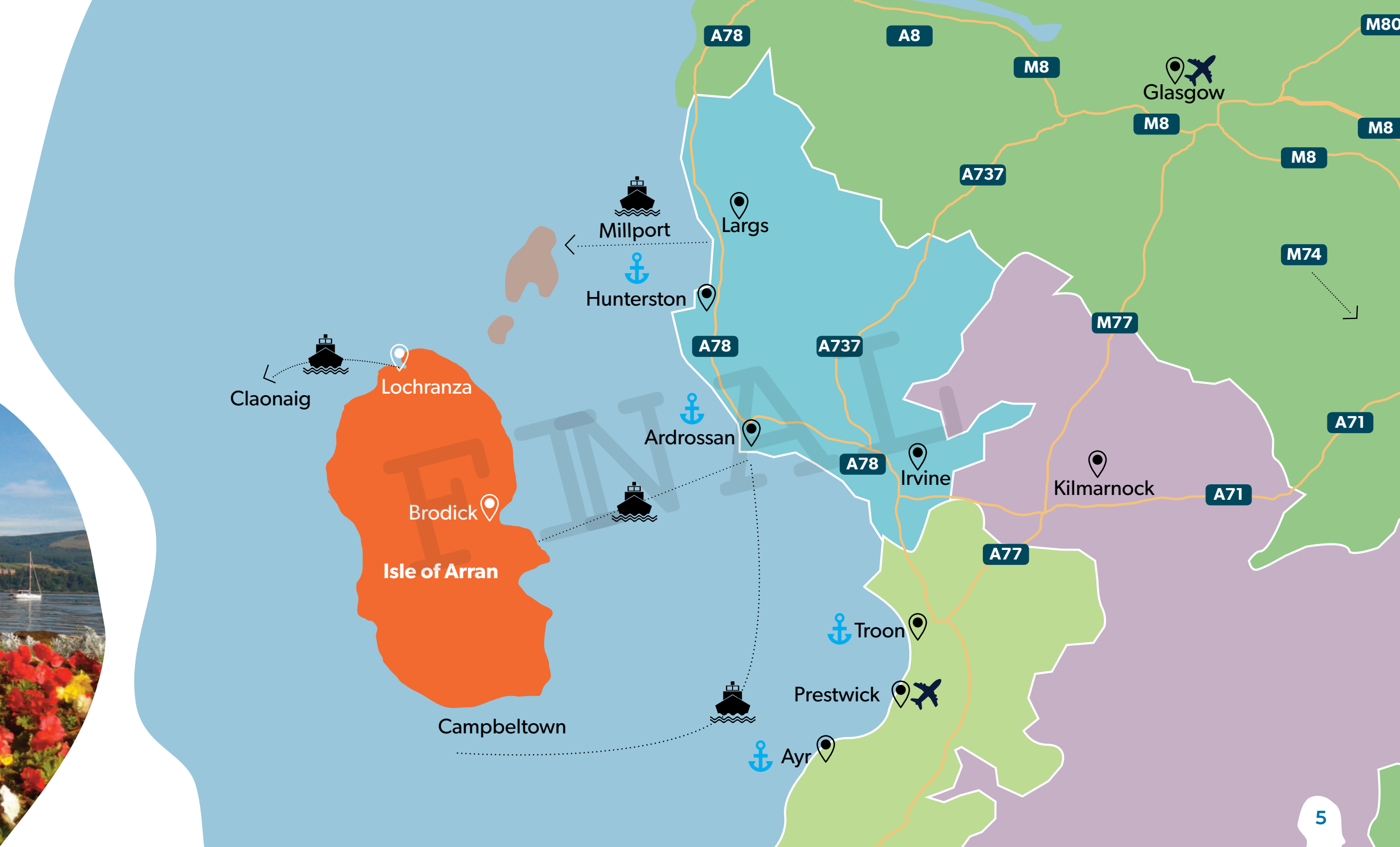
The pilot has facilitated the development of this first Arran Local Island Plan (LIP) and the partners will continue to support and work with the community and stakeholders as the plan is implemented, delivering actions and improving outcomes for the economic, community and environmental wellbeing of Arran.

The Arran Local Island Plan is a ten-year plan with a long-term strategic focus developed with and for the community, and whilst the aims and objectives of the Plan may remain for the duration of the plan, the associated actions will be reviewed annually and updated as required.

THE PROFILE OF ARRAN

The Isle of Arran is the seventh largest Scottish island with around 4537 residents and is the largest island in the Firth of Clyde with an area of 432 square kilometers, Arran is 19 miles long by 10 miles wide. It is the most southerly populated of the Scottish islands with Brodick, Lamlash and Whiting Bay on the east coast of the island being the main settlements.

Nestled between the Ayrshire coast and the Mull of Kintyre, Arran and is around an hour's ferry ride from mainland Scotland and is served by a ferry service between Ardrossan and Brodick, as well as from Lochranza on the north of the island to Claonaig in Argyll and Bute.






There is a wonderful array of successful food producers and award-winning produce to indulge in, from cheeses, chocolates, oatcakes and chutneys to delightful breweries, botanicals and distilleries producing beers and ales, gins and cassis and whisky galore, using the very best locally sourced ingredients and due to the incredible quality and popularity of the produce, Arran companies export widely to the Scottish mainland, nationally and internationally.

In 2020 the Council commissioned and published research from the Fraser of Allander Institute (FAI) on the disproportionate economic impact of Covid-19 on the Arran economy. The work also provided an outline socio-economic baseline for Arran to support the evidence of need to help understand the long-term challenges the island economy faces and provide tailored support to the island.





Arran is an exceptional island and owing to its industrial mix has made it particularly exposed to the Covid-19 pandemic. Many businesses on Arran depend upon so-called 'social spending' and its tourism industry along with tourism-facing industries have been disproportionately impacted by lockdown measures and subsequent capacity constraints in restaurants, bars and cafes.

Arran is reliant upon its ferry services to transport residents and visitors to and from the island and to access medical and social services, to visit family and friends and for leisure purposes. The Fraser of Allander Institute report 'The Impact of Covid 19 on the Arran Economy' estimated that, on average, each day, the ferries contribute just under £170,000 to the island's economy. With passenger numbers almost falling to zero, during lockdown restrictions, the impact of Covid-19 on the local island economy has been severe. This also demonstrates the social and economic lifeline that the ferry provides to the island communities and businesses.

**EACH DAY, THE
FERRIES CONTRIBUTE
JUST UNDER £170,000
TO THE ISLAND'S
ECONOMY**

As we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, the true impact on the economy, community and environment is becoming clear and the issues and priorities prior to COVID have become more urgent or magnified as a result.

No places are unaffected by the impact of climate change and in 2019 North Ayrshire Council declared a climate emergency. Small low-lying islands such as Arran are under threat from climate change and predicted sea-level rises and are therefore at risk of facing some of the most severe effects of climate change including increased instances of flooding and coastal erosion.

A joint approach with stakeholders and partners to local climate action, that reflects the island's circumstances and challenges and builds on their natural capital, will mean Arran is well placed to develop innovative solutions to ensure a just transition to net zero.

It is vital that stakeholders continue to build on good quality data for Arran that can provide an accurate evidence base for future decision-making and prioritisation of resources including financial investment. It is intended that the information contained within this plan will be monitored and updated throughout the life of the plan.



KEY FINDINGS

THE KEY FINDINGS OF THE FRASER OF ALLANDER REPORT ARE:

- 1 The current outlook for economic growth in Arran is dominated by the immediate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and whilst many of these economic shocks may be temporary, there is a risk that these shocks have longer-term implications
- 2 In 2018, the estimated GVA of Arran was £77.1million
- 3 Arran, like most island economies, is limited by its infrastructure and rurality and is highly dependent on its ferry service
- 4 The FAI report estimates that, on average, each day of ferry operation contributes just under £170,000 to the Arran economy
- 5 Due to its prevalent tourism industry, Arran has been disproportionality impacted by lockdown restrictions. The capacity constraints in bars, cafes and restaurants meant that whilst lockdown restrictions eased, businesses in the tourism industry are still reliant on government support

ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF ARRAN - DEMOGRAPHICS

- 1 In 2019, the total population of Arran was 4,537, this represents a 10% decline in the total population of Arran since 2001
- 2 55% (2,499) of the population is of working age, a 4-percentage point decline since 2001
- 3 8% of the population is aged 16-24 (a 1-percentage point increase since 2001), 47% are aged 24-64 (down 5-percentage points since 2001), and 33% is aged 65 and over (a 9-percentage points increase since 2001)
- 4 Improvement Service forecasting, using 2018 National Records of Scotland data, estimates that Arran's population will decrease by a further 2% between 2018 and 2030

SCOTTISH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (SIMD)

- 1 All but one of Arran's data zones¹ rank above the median (average) for the overall domain² ranking.
- 2 The access to services domain has some of the lowest domain ranks for Arran's data zones, with five out of seven data zones ranking below the median, and two of those among the bottom 10%
- 3 The housing domain also highlights some key challenges on Arran, with six out of the seven data zones ranking below the median

LABOUR MARKET

- 1 In 2019 the total employment count on Arran was approximately 2,070
- 2 Tourism related employment³ accounted for over one in three jobs in Arran, in 2019
- 3 Key employing sectors on Arran are: 'accommodation and food service activities' (645 employments; 31%), 'wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' (275 employments; 13%), and 'transportation and storage' (180 employments; 9%)
- 4 Public sector employment accounts for approximately 440 employments and human health and social work activities account for approximately 150 employments
- 5 As of July 2021, Arran's claimant count (estimate of people claiming unemployment related benefits) as a proportion of the working age is 3.2%, up 1.8-percentage points since February 2020⁴

ESTIMATES OF ECONOMIC OUTPUT (GVA) BY SECTOR

- 1 In 2018, the estimated GVA⁵ of Arran was £77.1million⁶
- 2 The top three performing sectors regarding economic output on Arran are: 'manufacturing' (£18.5 million; 24%⁷), 'wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' (£9.4 million; 12%), and 'accommodation and food service activities' (£8.1 million; 11%)

¹ Data zones are the key geography for the distribution of small area statistics in Scotland and are widely used across the public and private sector. Data zones are large enough that statistics can be presented accurately without fear of disclosure and yet small enough that they can be used to represent communities.

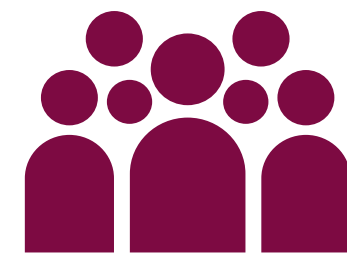
² SIMD looks at the extent to which an area is deprived across seven domains: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing.

³ Employment in 'accommodation and food service activities' and 'arts, entertainment and recreation'.

⁴ February 2020 is used as the pre-COVID-19 benchmark as it was the last full month before the effects of the lockdown were felt.

⁵ Fraser of Allander Institute (2020) | ⁶ 2016 prices. | ⁷ Percentage of Total GVA

TOURISM RELATED
EMPLOYMENT
ACCOUNTED FOR
OVER ONE IN
THREE JOBS IN
ARRAN, IN 2019



Population of Arran (2019):

4,537



Total Economic Output of Arran (2018):

£77.1m



Claimant Count Rate of Arran (July 2021):

3.2%



Total Employment on Arran (2019):

2,070

EXAMPLE EMPLOYING SECTORS ON ARRAN



ACCOMODATION AND
FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES

31%



WHOLESALE &
RETAIL TRADE

13%



TRANSPORTATION
& STORAGE

9%

SETTING THE SCENE

At a national level, the Arran Local Island Plan (LIP) is set within the context of The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 and the corresponding National Islands Plan.

At a local level, the LIP takes account of the Arran Locality Partnership priorities and details from the Arran Recovery Group final recovery plan, it is further supported through the work of the Island Recovery and Renewal Pilot, North Ayrshire Council's Economic Recovery and Renewal approach, Community Wealth Building Strategy and the island engagement activity.

Further details of the inter-dependencies of the LIP with existing policies, plans and strategies can be found on pages 24 and 25.



THE ISLANDS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2018

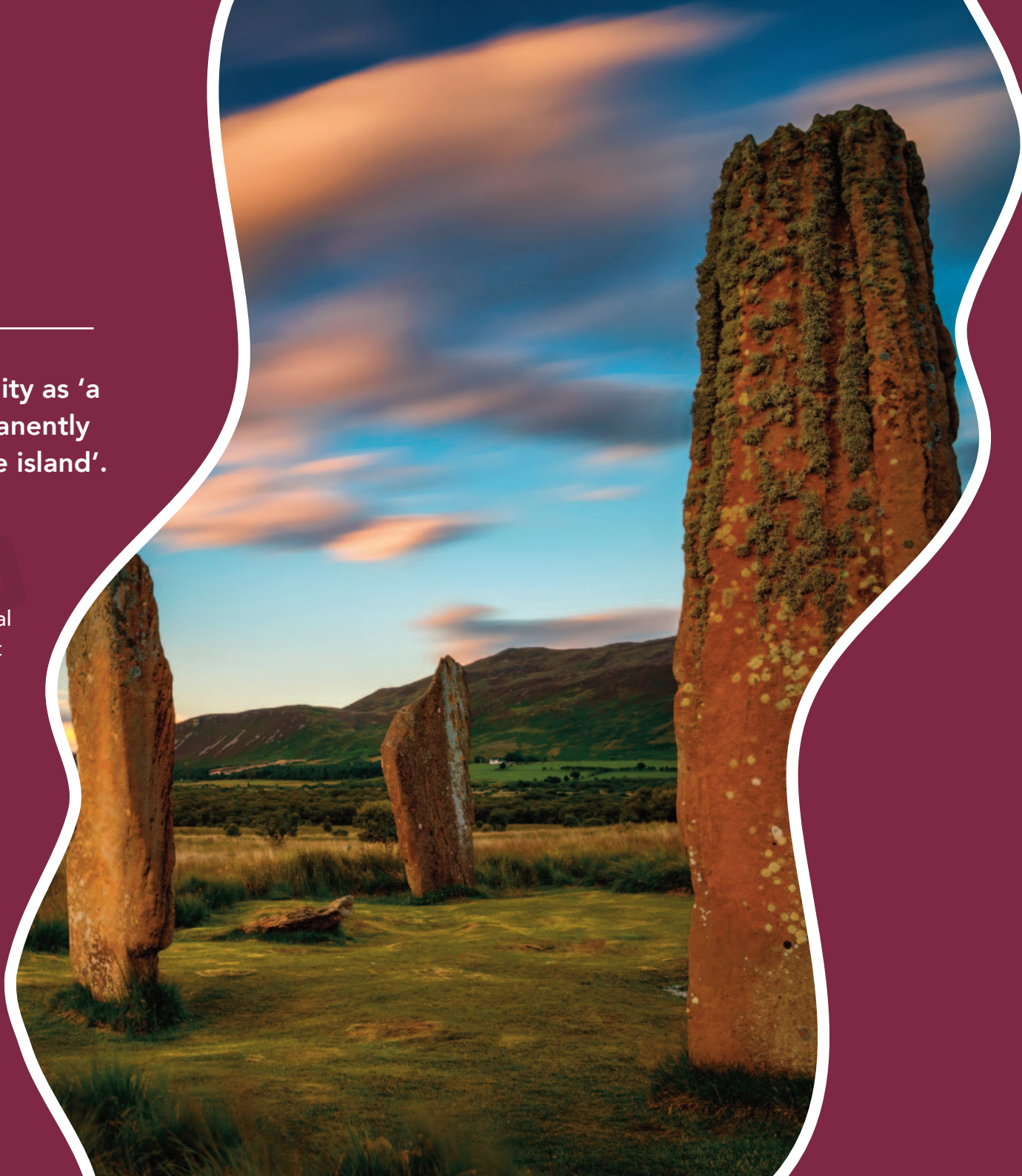
The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 defines an island community as ‘a community of two or more people, all of whom live permanently on the island with a common interest in the identity of the island’.

The Act was granted Royal Assent in July 2018 and introduces a range of measures to support and help meet the unique needs of Scotland's islands now and in the future. It will also seek to help create the right environment for sustainable economic development and empowered communities.

A provision within the Act requires the Scottish Ministers to develop a National Islands Plan (NIP). According to the Act, the purpose of the Plan is ‘to set out the main objectives and strategy of the Scottish Ministers in relation to improving outcomes for island communities that result from or are contributed to by the carrying out of functions of a public nature’.

The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 empowers communities to shape their individual and collective futures and to make it easier for islanders to develop their own economies, wellbeing and environments.

It also places duties on local public services to work together with communities to improve outcomes on themes that are priorities for the islanders.



THE NATIONAL ISLANDS PLAN

In December 2019, Scottish Ministers published the first ever National Islands Plan, which was created with the input from many islanders, including those on Arran. The Plan sets out 13 Strategic Objectives which are practical yet critical to improving the quality of life for island communities.

The 13 strategic objectives (SOs) set out in the National Islands Plan are as follows.

To address population decline and ensure a healthy, balanced population profile

To improve and promote sustainable economic development

To improve transport services

To improve housing

To reduce levels of fuel poverty

To improve digital connectivity

To improve and promote health, social care and wellbeing

To improve and promote environmental wellbeing and deal with biosecurity

To contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and promote clean, affordable and secure energy

To empower diverse communities and different places

To support arts, culture and language

To promote and improve education for all throughout life

To support effective implementation of the National Islands Plan

ARRAN LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

Locality planning was introduced in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, under Part 2: Community Planning and is about reducing inequalities and enabling communities to participate in decision making at a local level.

It is one of the ways local communities work together with public and third sector organisations to improve residents' lives and localities. In North Ayrshire, Locality Partnerships are how the Community Planning Partnership fulfill its duties under the Community Empowerment Act to have locality arrangements.

There are six Locality Partnerships in North Ayrshire which cover the whole local authority and Arran Locality Partnership is the partnership that covers the whole of the island of Arran. It is therefore important that the development of the Arran Island Plan aligns to the Arran Locality Partnership and the important and valued work the partnership undertakes.

Arran has a unique joint Locality Partnership approach, bringing together the Community Planning and Health and Social Care Partnership, which is the first such arrangement in Scotland and provides support for the island to help them do what is needed to tackle the issues that they have identified as priorities for their local area. It is important to note that the Arran Locality Partnership, at time of writing, is undertaking stakeholder engagement to refresh their local priorities.

Local priorities have been decided by each locality, based on national data, local statistics and the views of local people gathered through the North Ayrshire People's Panel survey, wider consultation and the Place Standard tool.

ARRAN RECOVERY GROUP (ARG)

Arran Recovery Group is a short-term voluntary local response group focused on tackling the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Arran and undertook work to establish a final recovery plan for the island including surveys and engagement.

The final plan of their work, titled 'Island in Balance', aims to balance three strands of island life: Community, Environment and Economy. The aim of the final recovery plan is not to give priority to specific agendas, but to better understand how they all connect and complement each other. Members of the Arran Recovery Group are individuals representing the following organisations: Health and Social Care Partnership, Arran Community Council, VisitArran, Auchrannie Hotel, A Taste of Arran, Arran EcoSavvy, Arran Development Trust, Arran High School, Arran Community and Voluntary Service, Arran Ferry Committee, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and Arran Economic Group members.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

North Ayrshire Council has shown economic leadership with the launch of Scotland's first Community Wealth Building strategy in May 2020 which sets out a bold new economic model focused on wellbeing and inclusion.

This strategy sets out how the Council will deliver this by focusing on their Community Wealth Building mission of 'Enhancing local wealth and the creation of fair jobs and maximising the potential of all our places through working in partnership with our communities and businesses'.

North Ayrshire Council has set out six objectives to deliver Community Wealth Building:



PROCUREMENT

Progressive procurement develops dense local supply chains of local enterprises, small and medium sized enterprises, employee-owned businesses, social enterprises, cooperatives and other forms of community owned enterprise.



FAIR EMPLOYMENT

Recruitment from lower income areas, commitment to paying the living wage and building progression routes for workers are all examples of the actions to stimulate the local economy and bring social improvements to local communities.



LAND AND ASSETS

Anchors are often major land holders and can support equitable land development and the development of under-utilised assets for community use.



FINANCIAL POWER

Community Wealth Building seeks to increase flows of investment within local economies by harnessing the wealth that exists locally.



PLURAL OWNERSHIP OF THE ECONOMY

Democratic Ownership of the Local Economy - Cooperatives, mutually owned businesses, small and medium sized enterprises, social and community enterprises and municipally owned companies enable the wealth generated in a community to stay in that local area.



ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RENEWAL APPROACH (GREEN NEW DEAL)

In response to the widespread economic and social impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, in September 2020 the Council launched its Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach (Green New Deal) to build back better, fairer and greener. The approach is based on the foundation of Community Wealth Building and sets out a Local Green New Deal for North Ayrshire.

The twin priorities of a North Ayrshire Green New Deal are:

1

To ensure an inclusive economic recovery by delivering our Community Wealth Building mission; and

2

To ensure a green economic recovery focused on achieving our net zero carbon ambitions through the creation of sustainable infrastructure and regeneration projects and creating fair jobs.

North Ayrshire Council's refreshed Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change strategy (2021-2023) sets out seven workstreams for how the Council will achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. These workstreams are intrinsically linked to economic recovery through their alignment to the Community Wealth Building approach and Green New Deal aspirations.

ISLAND RECOVERY & RENEWAL PILOT

The development of the Arran Local Island Plan complements the idea of testing new ways of working across local government, Scottish Government, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Community Planning Partners, island communities and businesses to deliver the ambitious objectives outlined in the National Islands Plan, as well as sharing this learning with other island areas.

As part of the three-year Island Recovery and Renewal Pilot, a new post of Senior Officer (Islands) has been created within North Ayrshire Council to contribute to the ongoing development and delivery of islands' policy, working in a more coordinated way across the public sector with island communities, businesses and with a range of external stakeholders to tackle long-standing place-based issues relating to island communities ensuring the understanding and representation of the unique needs of islands' communities in local and national policy development.

Further, the pilot will support the recovery and renewal of the islands from the social and economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic including the development of 'Island Plans' for Arran and Cumbrae aligned to the strategic objectives of the National Islands Plan and the principles of Community Wealth Building.

The Arran Local Island Plan sits within the broad context of local, regional and national setting and has a clear link with a range of local, regional and national plans, strategies and frameworks with further examples shown in illustration 4 on page 24.

ISLAND SPECIFIC

Arran Locality Partnership Priorities
Arran Community Council
Island in Balance – draft recovery plan
Arran’s Food Journey
ARRAN LOCAL ISLAND PLAN
Arran Community and
Voluntary Service (ACVS)

LOCAL

North Ayrshire Council Plan 2019-24
Economic Recovery & Renewal Approach
Community Wealth Building Strategy 2020-25
Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy 2021-23
Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
(LOIP) 2017-22 - New plan forthcoming
Strategic Plan for Community Learning & Development 2021-24
Let’s Deliver Care Together:
North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Strategic Plan 2018-21
Youth Participation & Citizenship Strategy
Youth Employment Strategy
Local Child Poverty Action Plan
MAKING Waves in North Ayrshire Tourism Action Plan
Ayrshire Shoreline Management Plan
Vacant and Derelict Land Strategy
Regeneration Plan
Local Development Plan 2
Local Housing Strategy
Local Transport Strategy
Visitor Management Strategy and Action Plan - forthcoming

REGIONAL

Ayrshire Growth Deal
Highlands & Islands Enterprise Strategy & Operating Plan
Regional Spatial Strategy - forthcoming
Regional Economic Strategy - forthcoming
Ayrshire Regional skills investment plan - forthcoming
Regional Visitor Economy Strategy - forthcoming

NATIONAL

National Performance Framework
National Island Plan
National Strategy for Economic
Transformation - forthcoming
Climate Change Plan 2018-32
Marine Tourism: Giant Strides 2025
Scotland Outlook 2030
Food Tourism Action Plan 2030
Programme for Government
Early Learning Provision
UN Sustainable Development Goals

LOCAL ISLAND PLAN ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

ISLAND ENGAGEMENT IN THE PLAN

In August 2021, SKS Scotland CIC were commissioned by North Ayrshire Council to conduct a short, focused exercise engaging with Arran to assess perceptions of how, and if, COVID-19 had changed the priorities for the island.

The exercise was to understand how things may have changed because of COVID-19 and what that could mean for Arran's priorities, building on the substantial evidence and insight from other evidence sources including those detailed in illustrations 3 and 5 and earlier engagement exercises including:

From April to July 2019, Scottish Government embarked on a participative and inclusive consultation to capture the dreams, aspirations and concerns of those who live on and those who have an interest in islands and their communities, as well as an on-line survey, an event was held in Arran following which a local event report was produced summarising the main points raised by participants.

North Ayrshire Council submitted a response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the National Islands Plan and Island Communities Impact in June 2019. The response was compiled with contributions from Council and community partners, including participation in the Scottish Government's community engagement events referred to above.

The 'National Islands Plan (NIP) through a Covid Lens Survey' was undertaken between 18 June and 10 July 2020 in recognition of the impact of COVID-19.

North Ayrshire Council and the other five main local authorities (LAs) with islands, provided responses to consider the impact of the (COVID-19) pandemic on the delivery of National Island Plan commitments and how these should be prioritised going forward.





The National Islands Plan Implementation Route Map has been created following Scottish Government consultation with island communities and local authority partners and was published in March 2021, marking a key milestone in the implementation of the National Islands Plan.

It provides a Route Map of how Scottish Government aim to deliver their priorities over the lifetime of the National Islands Plan and identifies the methods they will use to monitor progress towards achieving outcomes, setting out how they will deliver their work over the short, medium and long-term.

Further, the aim of the engagement was to allow communities to test, build on and develop existing issues, aspirations, actions in the current context.

From late August until mid-September the following activities took place:

1

Desk-based analysis and summary of previous island engagement and consultation

2

Launch of short-life engagement website

3

Contact with community organisations, business networks and other stakeholders to arrange discussions

4

Open short-term survey to allow people to have their say (with paper copies made available on key island locations)

5

One public online community conversation for Arran

6

A final public online discussion - where islanders came together to discuss the short, medium and longer-term priorities that will inform Arran's 10-year Island Plan



The engagement process was supported by the Island Plan Short Life Working Group with representation from each island (membership includes representatives from North Ayrshire Council, Arran Locality Partnership, Cumbrae Community Council and the Arran Recovery Group).

The role of the group during the engagement process included: clarifying expectations of the engagement process and outputs; providing relevant knowledge, contacts and share any local sensitivities; monitoring and agreeing any amendments to the approved work programme; approving content for all project related communications and sharing communications with relevant networks.

The range of activities undertaken during a short period of time was well received and illustration 6 provides details of the responses received.

Illustration 6



551
reponses to the survey



471
unique website visits
(across both islands)



22
attended the first
online discussion

31

organisations invited
to contribute input



Island Elected Member
input sessions held

9

further individuals
directly contacted
SKS to input



Verbal update on island
plan engagement
provided to Arran
Locality Partnership



30
attended final
online discussion

KEY MESSAGES AND FEEDBACK FROM THE ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

The messages that participants provided demonstrate that priorities for Arran have not changed because of the Covid-19 pandemic but have been magnified, intensified and made more obvious and critical. In fact, it was common for participants to make no reference to the Covid-19 pandemic but simply to describe what they consider to be the priorities for Arran.

**“IT’S NOT SO
MUCH THAT THE
ISSUES HAVE
CHANGED. THE
ISSUES WERE
THERE BEFORE
COVID BUT HAVE
BEEN AMPLIFIED,
EXACERBATED
AND MADE MORE
VISIBLE AND
URGENT.”**

ARRAN ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE



WHAT CHANGED THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

The overall experience of COVID-19 has highlighted both the resilience and the challenges Arran has overcome during the pandemic and whilst island life has survived the challenges, the pandemic has exposed its fragility and tested the limits of the island through a combination of related factors including affordable housing, transport both on and off the island, labour shortages and risk to business, demographic changes and erosion of public and private sector services.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

During the engagement exercise, the responses received from participants indicated that national housing market conditions were resulting in a perceived high proportion of island housing being purchased as second homes or for holiday let and that house prices are being pushed up beyond the means of most working islanders, or of people who may wish to move to the island for employment.

Existing data reveals that the second home rates on Arran are 25% (Source: Council Tax Reg/HNDA20) and 65% of Arran houses are sold to people from off-island (source: LHS Data Pack from SG/HNDA20).

“Housing of working aged people. Covid has made a difficult situation worse as house prices are further inflated due to people fleeing urban areas.

There is a lack of reasonably priced houses for people looking to get on the property ladder. Financial incentives should be offered for local builders to build simple, smaller or apartment style homes. Alternatively, land could be designated for residential mobile homes/tiny houses with electricity hook ups etc.”

ARRAN ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

The private sector housing to let is in short supply as owners may generate a greater income from holiday lets and as a result rent in the private sector properties are being pushed higher through the effects of high demand and low supply.

“Cost of housing is impossible due to demand and closing dates. No private lets available as they're all holiday lets. I want to fight for rights of next generation on island for affordable housing and employment on island.”

ARRAN ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE





An undersupply of affordable housing means that it is difficult to attract people of working age to live or remain on the island as they are unable to obtain housing at an affordable cost, resulting in the island demographic having proportionately more older people and fewer people of working age.

People of working age are more likely to have children and families and therefore there are proportionately fewer families on Arran. Fewer families on the island results in the demand for public sector services, particularly schools and childcare may be lower, with a consequent perceived risk that these services will be withdrawn.

The Arran demographic means that there is likely to be a greater demand from older people for health and social care services while at the same time, there is a lower supply of younger people to meet this demand and may result in older people being unable to access care at home, or even care on the island, therefore having to move off-island to obtain health and social care, with a consequent further impact on island population.

Unreliable ferry transport to and from the mainland has a further impact on the quality of life for islanders, and the potential of the island to attract new residents.

An absence of professionals and tradespeople to live on the island means that these services must be imported from the mainland resulting in higher costs for goods and services i.e. island premium costs.

COVID-19 and the restrictions on travel highlighted the vulnerability of the island to the undersupply of essential goods which influences the capacity of local business to deliver services.

Throughout the COVID-19 period, there have been examples of businesses being forced to close or reduce working hours due to staff shortages and reduction in access to businesses and services/goods have an impact on the quality of life for residents and on the experience of visitors.

Higher costs of living on the island means that income is not as valuable as on the mainland, further reducing the attractiveness, particularly for people in lower income jobs.

Prior to COVID-19, each of these factors existed in an unstable state of balance and the stress placed on each factor exposed the dependencies and weaknesses in the 'system'.

“

We are in crisis. Things were always a challenge, but we managed it and even made progress.

COVID set us back. It exposed just how delicate the island economic ecosystem is, and if things were to get much worse... if, for example a key business were to choose to close, then the whole thing could collapse. Even if that doesn't happen, you need a certain density of population to make the island work. The demographic is a timebomb... We need more working families.”

ARRAN ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

MOBILITY

During periods when there were legal restrictions on the movement of people, getting on or off the island was monitored by CalMac and the ferry operator either did not sail, or required evidence that a journey was essential prior to allowing people to board. This experience is regarded as different to that of people on the mainland, who were subject to the same legal restrictions, but these restrictions were not as effectively enforced by a public transport provider with a control over an essential route.

TOURISM

During the lock-down period when there were more severe restrictions on the movement of people, the number of recreational visitors to the island reduced to an effective nil. This had a significant impact on the income of local business.

Many local businesses were able to access relief programmes and funding provided by government or government agencies to support them during the pandemic.

During the period when restrictions on travel within the UK were relaxed, but restrictions on travel outside the UK were retained, there was an increase in visitor numbers, in some cases beyond the capacity of the island infrastructure or the hospitality sector on the island, and consequently there was an increase in anti-social or disruptive behaviour.



DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

A number of young people who had been living, studying or working off-island returned to the family home on Arran. The trend in provision of online further and higher education tuition across the globe may make it more feasible and more attractive for young people to stay at home whilst studying in future.

LABOUR MARKET

Multiple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated existing challenges associated with attracting adequate numbers of people to fill vacant posts on the island particularly in the hospitality and care sectors.

THE CONSEQUENCE OF THESE UNFILLED VACANCIES INCLUDES LIMITATIONS TO OPENING HOURS OF RESTAURANTS AND BUSINESSES RESTRICTING ACCESS TO FACILITIES FOR THEIR OWN GUESTS, AFFECTING BUSINESS INCOME, VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND ON QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ISLANDERS

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

An exacerbated undersupply of care staff has reportedly led to an increased burden on family and other kinship carers, and a consequent impact on the economic activity and quality of life of those providing unpaid care.

The restrictions associated with COVID-19 led to an increase in the provision of online GP and other medical consultations. These are not universally regarded as being of a similar level of efficacy as face-to-face consultations and there is concern that, as the restrictions associated with COVID-19 are relaxed, there will not be a correlative return to face-to-face consultation. There is further concern that the greater availability of technology which more easily facilitates online consultation will contribute to a business case which mitigates against the location of health and social care services on the island.

Where people had medical appointments on the mainland, the increased unreliability and inaccessibility of the ferry service during COVID-19 regularly prevented people from attending these appointments. This was often at short notice, producing challenges for the patient in rescheduling the appointment and, presumably, for health providers in relation to the number of appointments which could not be re-allocated.

ISLAND BRAND

A combination of factors including the reliability of the ferry service and hospitality sector capacity limits may lead to a risk of a longer-term damage to the island brand, resulting on the impact on visitor numbers.

ISOLATION

The COVID-19 pandemic required people to isolate and limit movement which created a greater quality of life impact for islanders than on comparable areas of the mainland. This was partly related to the challenges of public transport on the island which limited the ability to visit people who were isolated in more remote locations.

At the time of the engagement exercise, there was, a high level of fear and susceptibility to rumour in relation to COVID-19 risk levels and as older people are more likely to isolate and to have fears about COVID-19 risk, one consequence of this is that there may be resistance to having visitors to the island as they are perceived as a risk.

TRANSPORT

The ferry service has been regarded as problematic prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the period in which COVID-19 restrictions were in force there were greater challenges and an increase in islander dissatisfaction with the service, including:

- Sailings being cancelled through ferry staff exposure to COVID-19
- Ferry capacity being reduced to accommodate social distancing restrictions
- Places being booked in advance by island visitors, preventing residents from travelling when ferries are at capacity
- Occasional staff shortages causing ferries to run in cargo mode, i.e. without passengers
- Perceived unreliability of older vessel
- Concern about drift of timescales for delivery of planned new infrastructure¹



Before COVID we had resilience issues with the ferry system. Through covid we struggled. As we leave COVID it seems like we are going back to old ways."

ARRAN ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE



THE FOLLOWING LIST IS NOT INTENDED TO BE COMPREHENSIVE BUT TO GIVE AN INSIGHT INTO THE SCALE AND VARIETY OF THE IMPACT OF AN UNRELIABLE FERRY SERVICE.

FERRY SERVICE IMPACT

- People choose not to move to the island, including hospitality staff and professionals in essential healthcare and education services. This means that staff either live off island, with the consequent risk to service delivery on-island, and there are fewer people of working age living on the island.
- People are unable to confidently plan for trips on and off island
- People are unable to make journeys at short notice
- Visitors may find themselves stranded at either terminal. This is exacerbated by the limited capacity in accommodation available on the island, meaning that people may be stranded overnight with nowhere to stay
- Suppliers of goods to the island apply an additional premium to compensate for the unreliability of the supply chain. This cost is passed on to the consumer, creating a higher cost of living on the island
- Producers and suppliers of goods from the island have to increase costs to compensate for the risk of additional cost if drivers / vehicles / goods have a longer than planned waiting time. This could place them at a competitive disadvantage to producers on the mainland

TENSION BETWEEN ISLAND INTERESTS

The economy of Arran relies, to a great extent, on tourism and the hospitality industry designed to serve those visitors and the Fraser of Allander Institute report provides greater detail on the place of tourism and hospitality in the economy of Arran.

However, there is a perception among some islanders that the place of tourism and the hospitality industry receives a disproportionate level of priority from the public sector and from community organisations to the detriment of the availability of resources for other services.

Tourists can create challenges to the capacity of infrastructure and services on the island and some residents feel that they can be inconvenienced and occasionally displaced by tourists. This creates some potential tension between sections of the community who have differing views on the importance of investment in tourism and the hospitality sector.

“

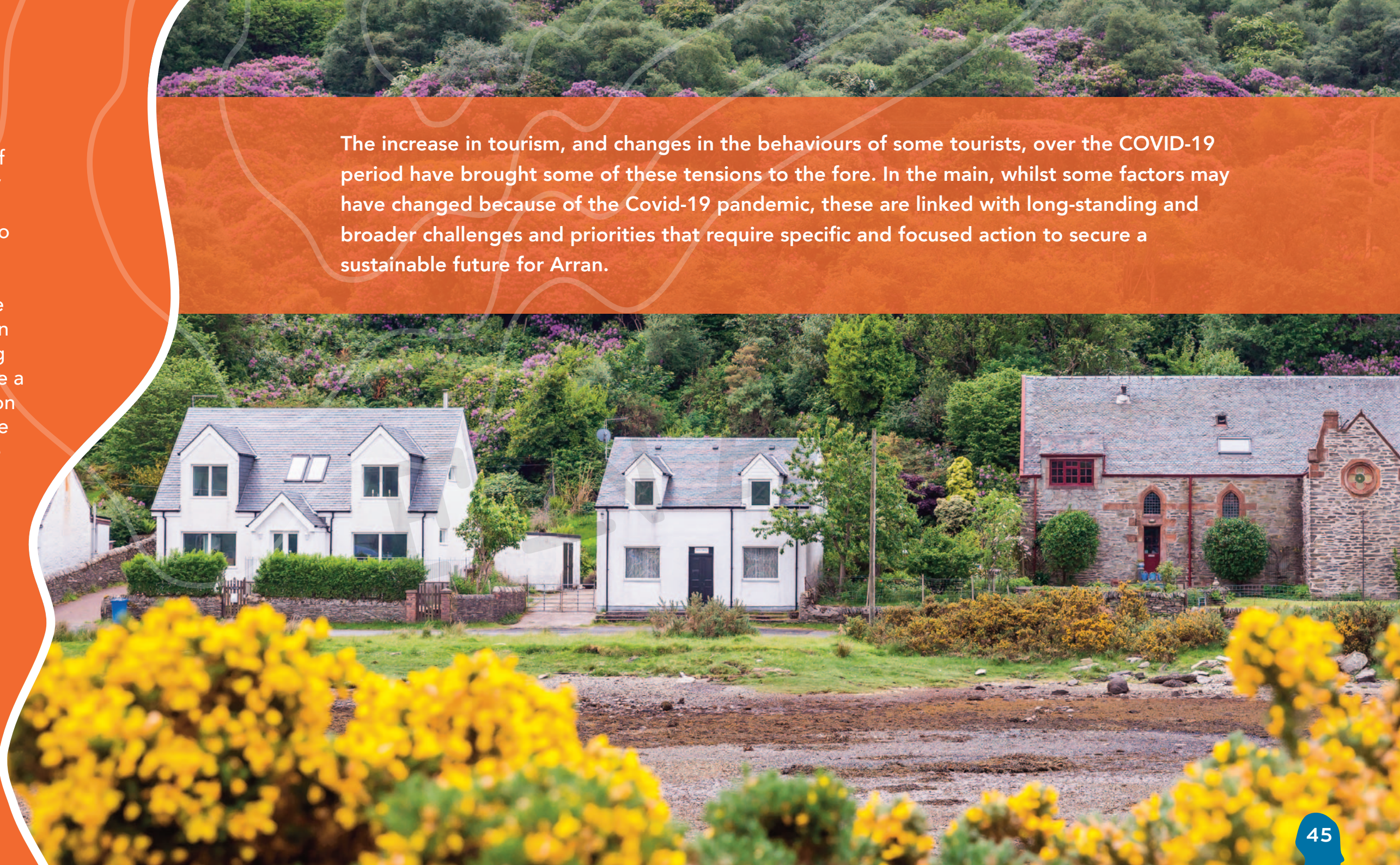
“The most difficult is the getting rid of the hundreds and hundreds of holiday lets, that are driving up house prices, causing houses that could be homes to sit empty.

Whilst absentee owners make massive profits, paying nothing to the Island. In turn causing homelessness and driving locals off the Island. There needs to be a changing of the 'we need an infestation of tourists to survive' mindset, that the 'haves' are driving, whilst ignoring the needs of the 'have nots'.

In truth, holiday lets, and hordes of tourists, are killing our communities, decimating our villages and widening the gap between the have and have nots. It is time for change.”

ARRAN ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

The increase in tourism, and changes in the behaviours of some tourists, over the COVID-19 period have brought some of these tensions to the fore. In the main, whilst some factors may have changed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, these are linked with long-standing and broader challenges and priorities that require specific and focused action to secure a sustainable future for Arran.



SURVEY PRIORITIES

The engagement survey asked people to rank a set of themes of concern which were identified from summaries of earlier work on the themes of concern for island life. The ranking below is drawn solely from the survey question on this topic and not assessed against the available evidence. Therefore, the ranking below should not be regarded as a final judgment on a hierarchy of importance.

Themes of Importance

Housing	Energy and energy costs
Education and skills and retention of young people	Community capacity and empowerment
Transport	Meeting the needs of older people
Health and social care	Island premium costs
Economic growth, investment and sustainability	Connectivity/digital
Protection of natural environment	Resilience
Recruitment and retention of employees	Preservation of heritage and cultural identity
Reliance on seasonal tourism and the need for diversification	Marine planning
Population and depopulation	Planning policy

ACTIONS

The engagement survey asked people to rank a set of actions which were identified from earlier reports from community engagement and planning exercises on Arran. The ranking below is drawn solely from the survey question on this topic and again not assessed against the available evidence. Therefore, the ranking below should not be regarded as a final judgment on a hierarchy of importance.

Alternative fleets that respond better to island community needs, for example smaller, faster ferries	Increase in availability of care options particularly home care
Create affordable housing to buy and rent	Ensure capacity in mental health services on the island
Improved roads and cycling infrastructure	Reduce island waste through recycling and repair
More joined up public transport	Greater choice of retail options, particularly in relation to food and other essentials
Action to address skills shortages in education, health, hospitality and social care	More environmentally friendly transport options (car share, bike hire, Electric Vehicle charging points, etc.)
Increase fuel economy of homes on the island to address fuel poverty	Establish an early years centre
Develop a housing policy that responds to the needs of the ageing population	Undertake carbon audit to set baseline for action to reduce carbon emissions
Increase availability of locally produced food	Create mobile home parking areas
Island uplift to salaries / wages to attract more people to work and relocate on the island	Programme of arts and cultural activities including festivals
Improved mobile internet and broadband availability across the island	Establish a dedicated arts hub / exhibition space

RESPONSES TO OPEN SURVEY QUESTIONS

Our survey also asked people to offer a narrative on what they thought were the most urgent, most effective and most difficult things that should be done to ensure Arran has a strong recovery from COVID-19.

MOST URGENT:

Ferries
Affordable housing
Early years provision
Health and social care
Attracting labour and economic diversification

MOST EFFECTIVE:

Ferries
Affordable housing
Access to labour
Health & social care
Public transport
Climate action & sustainability

MOST DIFFICULT:

Ferries
Affordable housing
Cycle paths
Attracting labour
Tourism management
Depopulation

PRIORITIES INTO ACTION

There is a general consensus across all feedback that the recovery of Arran and the longer-term sustainability of island life is dependent on 5 key themes.

None of the 5 key themes should or can be considered in isolation as any action or inaction to address one or more of these issues will have an impact on the others. Further it is important that there should be no 'hierarchy' of importance due to the co-dependency of the issues.

To address the challenges and priorities identified through the engagement process, a vision, mission, key themes and Action Plan have been developed to support the recovery and renewal of Arran.





2032 VISION OF ARRAN & KEY THEMES

VISION

It is 2032, Arran has responded to the diverse and unique challenges faced over the last decade, demonstrating resilience, passion and innovation in achieving a successful island in balance of economic, community and environmental wellbeing.

MISSION

Arran will be an inclusive and green island economy with a vibrant, engaged, ambitious and resourceful island community who are pioneering in the transition of Arran to net zero by 2030.

KEY PLAN THEMES

To realise Arran’s vision of becoming an island in balance, three key plan themes determine the Island Plan with a set of key priorities and related actions that build on the existing strengths of the island and minimize risk and further fragility to the economy, community and environmental wellbeing.



ECONOMY

a model of an inclusive and green island economy



COMMUNITY

a vibrant, engaged, ambitious and resourceful island community



ENVIRONMENT

pioneering in the transition of Arran to net zero by 2030

The Arran Island Plan 2022/23 Annual Action Plan is included in Appendix 1 to accompany the 10 year Island Plan. For each priority theme there are key actions, potential teams, groups, businesses, agencies or partners who may work together to ensure effective delivery, the required timescales, fit with National Islands Plan, how actions contribute to Community Wealth Building and Net Zero.

As the Annual Action Plan progresses, further actions will be developed or revised for each key theme. Methods of measurement will be refined over the duration of the Plan to identify key data sources.



ECONOMY

ECONOMY

ARRAN IS A MODEL OF AN INCLUSIVE AND GREEN ISLAND ECONOMY

- KEY PRIORITIES -

- BUSINESS RESILIENCE
- DIGITAL AND GREEN INNOVATION
- LOCAL SUPPLY CHAINS
- CIRCULAR ECONOMY
- SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
- RETENTION AND ATTRACTION OF WORKING AGE POPULATION
- DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY
- MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE
- ARRAN AS A DESTINATION
- TOURISM MANAGEMENT



COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

ARRAN IS A VIBRANT, ENGAGED AND RESOURCEFUL ISLAND COMMUNITY

- KEY PRIORITIES -

- FERRY PROVISION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO BUY & RENT
- TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY
- HEALTH AND WELLBEING
- COMMUNITY CAPACITY, EMPOWERMENT AND GOVERNANCE
- MAXIMISING LAND AND ASSETS
- COMMUNITY FACILITIES



ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENT

ARRAN IS PIONEERING IN THE TRANSITION OF THE ISLAND TO NET ZERO BY 2030

- KEY PRIORITIES -

- CLIMATE ACTION & SUSTAINABILITY
- NATURAL CAPITAL
- ENERGY PROVISION AND ENERGY COSTS
- MARINE PLANNING & PLANNING POLICY
- ACTIVE TRAVEL

DURING THE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY WE HEARD OF MANY INSPIRING AND INNOVATIVE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES THAT ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN ON ARRAN BY THE COMMUNITY AND THE THIRD, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR.

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF JUST A FEW FANTASTIC ACTIVITIES HAPPENING ON THE ISLAND AND THE DIFFERENCE THEY ARE MAKING.

THE ARRAN PIONEER PROJECT HAS BEEN WORKING TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY GROWING INITIATIVES IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS ACROSS THE ISLAND. THIS MAY HELP TO ADDRESS THE RISK OF VULNERABILITY TO SHORTAGES OF FOOD ITEMS.

THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP IS ENGAGED IN A REVIEW AND REDESIGN OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROVISION WHICH INCLUDES PROPOSALS FOR A CO-LOCATION OF SERVICES IN A SINGLE BUILDING, RESULTING IN STAFF EFFICIENCIES AND INCREASED AVAILABILITY OF CARE. IT ALSO INCLUDES A PROPOSAL FOR AN ISLAND COST OF LIVING PREMIUM TO OFFSET THE HIGHER COST OF LIVING ON THE ISLAND.

THE ARRAN DEVELOPMENT TRUST IS WORKING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVES. IMPLEMENTATION IS DESIGNED IN PHASES AND DEPENDENT ON SUCCESSFULLY ATTRACTING CAPITAL FUNDING.

IN ADDITION TO ONGOING BUSINESS SUPPORT TO BUSINESSES VIA COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING, DIGITAL BOOST, BUSINESS GATEWAY FUNDING AND THE NEW GREEN JOBS FUND, NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL IS ALSO WORKING WITH PROCUREMENT ON AN AWARENESS RAISING EVENT FOR A FORTHCOMING PMI ARRAN ALL TRADES TENDER.

ARRAN ECOSAVVY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A FUNDING APPLICATION TO SUPPORT THE COSTS OF A 'GREEN AUDIT' WHICH WILL PROVIDE A BASELINE FOR THE CARBON EMISSIONS OF THE ISLAND. THIS CAN THEN INFORM THE DESIGN OF A PLAN FOR THE ISLAND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS TARGETS.

1 CASE STUDY

Arran Mountain Bike Club

Active Schools support **Arran Mountain Bike Club** providing training, volunteers and funding to make sure the club goes from strength to strength.

Having supported the club with funding applications to wider organisations it has resulted in the club being recognised on a national platform.

The partnership has developed and has resulted in Scottish Cycling choosing the Arran Mountain Bike Club to be a national priority and will be used to highlight cycling across Scotland.

2 CASE STUDY

Arran Eco Savvy

Arran Eco Savvy have been Food Share partners with the Co-op for some time. The Food Share ran as a collect and distribute model from 2018-March 2020. Initially it was held in 2 locations on Arran twice a week.

Over time the volunteer network expanded to over 50 volunteers covering collections every day which were distributed in 7 island villages. Orange-label, short life food which would otherwise be binned was collected by the network of volunteers who then took it back to their villages and ran Food Share events, primarily in community halls, where the food would be distributed.

The scheme has multiple environmental benefits as when food is thrown away it is not only the food itself that is wasted but also all the resources that went into growing, processing, transporting, storing, packaging and displaying it. By keeping food from landfill methane emissions that are caused by decomposition are avoided.

As well as this the Food Share became a social event within the community. From March last year this scheme had to be adapted in line with COVID restrictions and the Food Share moved in-store to the Lamlash and Brodick Co-ops where the food is now put into Food Share fridges to be collected by the community from 8.15pm daily in both stores.

Arran Eco Savvy donated a freezer to the Brodick Co-op so that any food which wasn't collected and could be frozen can be accessed whenever the shop is open from the freezer. To date the Food Share has diverted 38 tons of food with a value of over £219,000 from landfill!

3 CASE STUDY

VisitArran

VisitScotland have been delighted to support the work of VisitArran through the pandemic.

They have provided Scottish Government funding, specialist digital marketing consultation and support to Arran's new See, Feel, Be Arran marketing campaign with a strategic focus to ensure that Arran is promoted in autumn and winter to spread visits across the year beyond core summer months.

Further, VisitScotland are partnering with industry and public partners in the delivery of a new visitor economy strategy for Ayrshire & Arran.

4 CASE STUDY

Arran Farmers Market

Arran Eco Savvy work with Bellevue Farm and Arrans Food Journey to revive the Arran Farmers market.

The first was held on September 2021 and the second on December 2021 with the intention to run them quarterly on an ongoing basis. There were over 900 visitors at the late summer market and more than 600 at the December one.

The market has obvious economic benefits to local producers as they attract visitors and locals alike. There are also environmental benefits associated by shortening supply chains and spending on locally produced products.

Post market surveys with attendees have indicated that they are more likely to support local producers having attended the markets. There are plans to run further markets on a quarterly basis during 2022.



5 CASE STUDY

Arran Community and Voluntary Service (ACVS)

Arran Community and Voluntary Service (ACVS) have been involved in ongoing conversations about social isolation and access to services and activities. To date actions have been around innovative solutions to improve outcomes for people affected by social isolation.

As social wellbeing has now become a focus for more community groups locally, the need to address that gap has lessened for the organisation allowing focus on planning and introduction of a Community Transport pilot. Its aim is to transport people affected by the barriers identified above to island medical appointments. Particularly those affected by a lack of viable public transport or the timing of that transport in more rural parts of the island.

The pilot will be running in partnership with Arran Medical Group and Arran War Memorial Hospital to identify those most in need of the service. Initially it will be rolled out to relevant identified partners for medical related transport and inclusion of socially isolated residents to appropriate events.

It is envisaged that this will positively impact on the quality of life and lead to increased social activity over time. Volunteer drivers currently use their own car for which they are reimbursed for mileage. Full health and safety training is given, PVG process and risk assessments carried out and PPE are supplied.

Ongoing recruitment of volunteer drivers will ensure availability of transport to fulfil island residents needs as well as succession planning as part of the process. Mapping and identifying which areas volunteers are needed or lacking in villages is vital to the success of the pilot.

Working with the Community Transport Association to exchange best practice with experienced community transport providers as well as other Scottish Island community transport schemes is ongoing. Understanding what is planned nationally and locally helps to measure the progress and success of the pilot.



DELIVERING THE PLAN

THE MAIN AIMS OF THE ARRAN LOCAL ISLAND PLAN:

- That islanders are at the heart of the plan
- Delivered across island communities, island businesses, third and public sector partners
- Inclusive and participatory
- Feasible and realistic
- Flexible and responsive
- Action focused
- Supports the delivery of the National Islands Plan
- Supports the principles of Community Wealth Building
- Supports the transition to Net Zero

The success of the Plan will depend on a broad participation of stakeholders from Arran who will be the driver of delivering and monitoring progress of the Plan, ensuring there is an all-inclusive opportunity for people to be involved in the ongoing review and successful implementation of the Plan.

A key area of focus for the Island Recovery and Renewal Pilot is to contribute to closer and more coordinated working between the island communities, partners and national and local government and agencies to ensure stronger island-focused partnership working and will work collaboratively to unlock the knowledge, resources and support necessary to bring the Arran Local Island Plan to life. What will be key to the implementation stage of the Arran Local Island Plan will be the governance model that will have responsibility either collectively or individually for the delivery of the actions

outlined in Appendix 1. Participation in the development and influencing of the Island Plan has not, and will not, be limited to the early stages of the process. Participation will be necessary and widely encouraged throughout the delivery phase.

Whilst it is important that governance of the Island Plan aligns to the Arran Locality Partnership structure, there is also a need for thematic expertise and wider islander input. A final governance model for further consideration and exploration is included within the Plan, with an appointment process to be established to ensure appropriate and inclusive representation.

This 'delivery group' approach has recently been taken by Scottish Government for the delivery of the National Islands Plan.

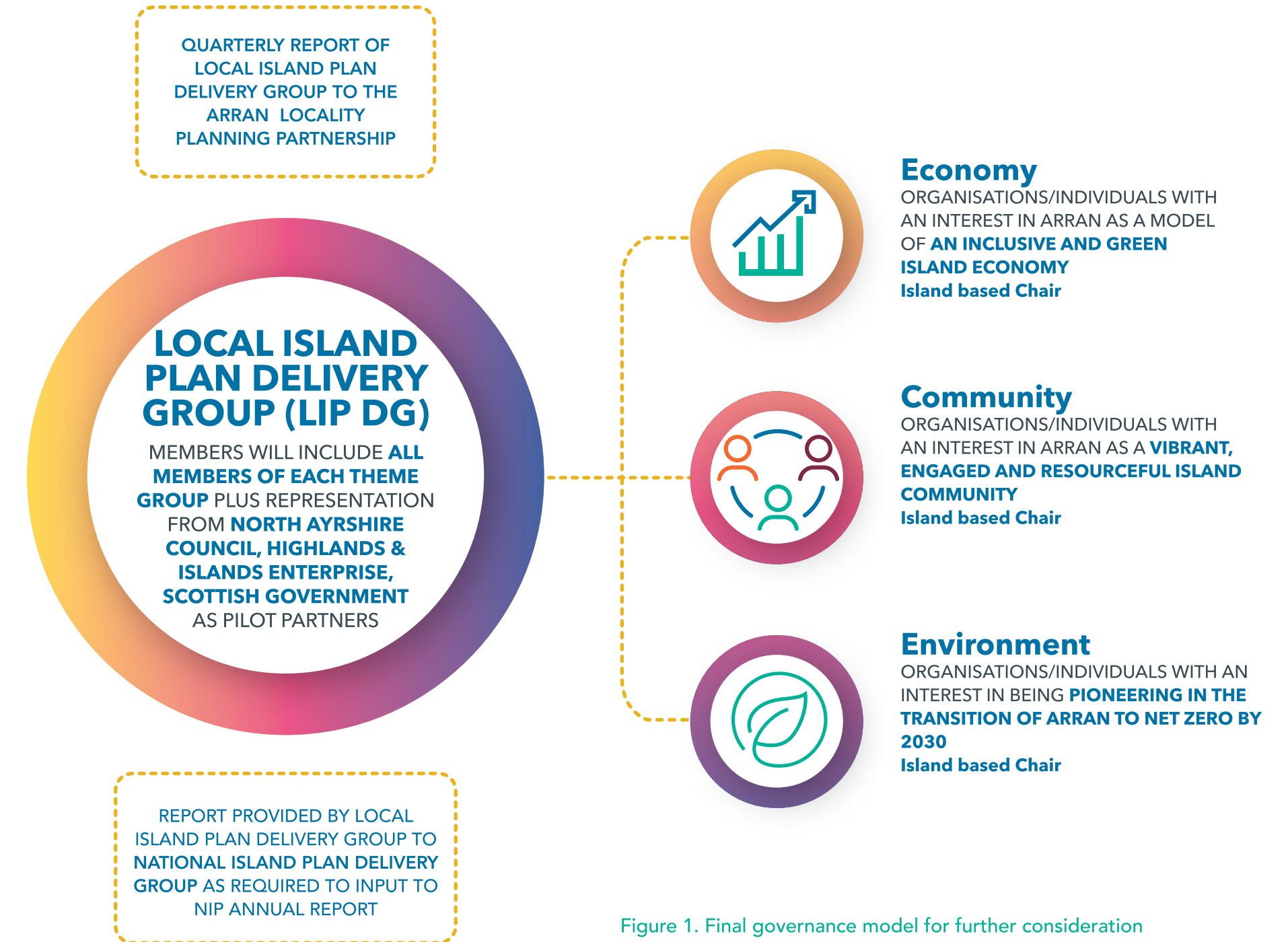


Figure 1. Final governance model for further consideration

The Local Island Plan Delivery Group would be the central partnership driving delivery for this Island Plan which is firmly grounded on the needs of the island community and address key economic, community and environmental wellbeing priorities.

The group should comprise public, private, third sector and community representation appointed to bring the knowledge and understanding of the priorities and to reflect the range of stakeholders with an interest in Arran.

They would take primary responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the agreed actions throughout the life of the Plan, with the purpose of improving the outcomes for Arran, with responsibility to include:

- Take lead responsibility for delivering specific identified actions
- Provide expertise to inform how action can be delivered to maximise impact
- Ensure the wide communication of actions and progress
- Communicating with Arran stakeholders to ensure input to actions on an ongoing basis
- Act as ambassadors for their thematic group and champion a place-based approach to delivering action for the benefit of Arran
- Monitor, review and report progress against the LIP and Action Plan to the Arran Locality Partnership

An open and transparent appointment process will be explored to ensure appropriate and inclusive representation is sought for the LIP Delivery group and thematic groups.

The LIP and Action Plan will be overseen by the Delivery Group and will, for the first two years be coordinated, monitored and supported by the Senior Officer (Islands) as part of the ongoing Island Recovery and Renewal Pilot.

It is anticipated that the vision, mission and key themes of the plan should remain for the life of the plan and to ensure the collective vision of the island remains an accurate reflection and takes account of any key changes locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally and the action plan will be reviewed annually as part of the process in preparing the annual report.

The Action Plan includes:

- Actions already being delivered or planned by island communities
- Actions already being delivered or planned by the Council
- Actions already being delivered or planned by partners for example Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise etc.

The Island Plan Delivery Group will measure progress and success towards delivering the actions identified.

IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO LEARN FROM AND COOPERATE WITH OTHER ISLANDS BEYOND NORTH AYRSHIRE INCLUDING EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES OF A SHARED 'CLYDE ISLANDS' APPROACH IN IMPLEMENTING RELEVANT ACTIONS, TRIALLING NEW IDEAS, AREA-BASED STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS AND NATIONAL POLICY RESPONSES.



**WE HOPE THAT YOU RECOGNISE
AND SHARE THE VISION,
PRIORITIES AND AMBITIONS IN
THE ARRAN ISLAND PLAN AND
2022/23 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
THAT HAVE BEEN PREPARED
WITH ISLAND STAKEHOLDERS.**

We would like to thank everyone who has provided input and comments in the preparation of this document and to ensure that the community of Arran will be at the heart of delivering this plan.

To find out more about how the plan is progressing please visit:

www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/islands

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Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean



The Scottish
Government



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

ISLE OF CUMBRAE

LOCAL ISLAND PLAN

COMMUNITY | ECONOMY | ENVIRONMENT

A ten-year plan with a long-term strategic focus
developed with and for the community.



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WHAT IS THE CUMBRAE ISLAND PLAN?

The Cumbrae Island Plan is a ten-year strategic plan developed with and for the community by North Ayrshire Council.

It articulates the community’s vision for the future of Cumbrae, identifying key issues and themes for development.

The Plan connects into local, regional and national policy that has been created to support closer and more coordinated working between island communities, partners, local and national government and agencies.

The Plan also compliments the three-year ‘Islands Recovery and Renewal’ Pilot, a partnership between North Ayrshire Council, the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, intended to support the inclusive and green economic recovery and renewal of Cumbrae and Arran following the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHAT WILL IT BE USED FOR?

The Island Plan will be used to help drive the development of Cumbrae between 2022 and 2032.

An Annual Action Plan will be progressed based on the Island Plan that will set out the steps that need to be taken to deliver the vision for the future of the island. The Action Plan will be a live document that will be monitored, reviewed and updated as required.

WHAT ARE THE FINDINGS OF THE PLAN?

The Plan began with an engagement exercise.

Feedback from the community was combined with desk based research. This information was analysed and a set of findings identified.

The Plan sets out a vision for 2032:

Cumbrae is a more sustainable and accessible island with improved infrastructure, transport and housing provision. The island is attracting a more balanced population who enjoy a wider range of employment opportunities and activities.

The Plan goes on to identify three key themes for development. Within each theme a number of priorities are



COMMUNITY

CUMBRAE IS A RESILIENT AND INNOVATIVE ISLAND COMMUNITY

- KEY PRIORITIES -

RELIABLE FERRY PROVISION
AFFORDABLE AND SOCIAL HOUSING
POPULATION - ATTRACT WORKING AGE FAMILIES
PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
ACCESS TO HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE
COMMUNITY FACILITIES



ECONOMY

CUMBRAE IS AN ACCESSIBLE, INCLUSIVE AND GREEN ISLAND ECONOMY

- KEY PRIORITIES -

IMPROVING RESILIENCE OF ISLAND BUSINESS BASE
DIVERSIFICATION OF ECONOMY & RELIANCE ON SEASONAL TOURISM
IMPROVED TOURISM & RETAIL OFFER
EDUCATION AND SKILLS AND RETENTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF EMPLOYEES
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



ENVIRONMENT

CUMBRAE IS SUPPORTING A JUST TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

- KEY PRIORITIES -

ADDRESS ENERGY COSTS
CLIMATE ACTION & SUSTAINABILITY
PROTECTION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
BUILT & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
TOURISM MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
FLOOD PROTECTION
MARINE/PIER INFRASTRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

The Isle of Cumbrae is a valuable and unique part of North Ayrshire. North Ayrshire Council and partners are dedicated to working in partnership with island communities and businesses to support Cumbrae and acknowledge the importance of providing specific and tailored focus and support for the island community, its vital economy and its outstanding environment.



**THE CUMBRAE
LOCAL ISLAND PLAN
IS A TEN-YEAR PLAN
WITH A LONG-TERM
STRATEGIC FOCUS
DEVELOPED WITH
AND FOR THE
COMMUNITY.**

North Ayrshire Council identified an opportunity to work in an exciting new partnership with island communities, businesses, and wider stakeholders to develop and facilitate the creation of Local Island Plans to assist in maximising the potential of North Ayrshire's islands.

North Ayrshire Council is participating in an ambitious three-year 'Islands Recovery and Renewal' Pilot in partnership with the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to support an inclusive and green economic recovery and renewal of North Ayrshire's islands of Cumbrae and Arran, in line with their unique needs. This pilot is aligned to the delivery of the strategic objectives of the National Islands Plan and Community Wealth Building (CWB) principles.

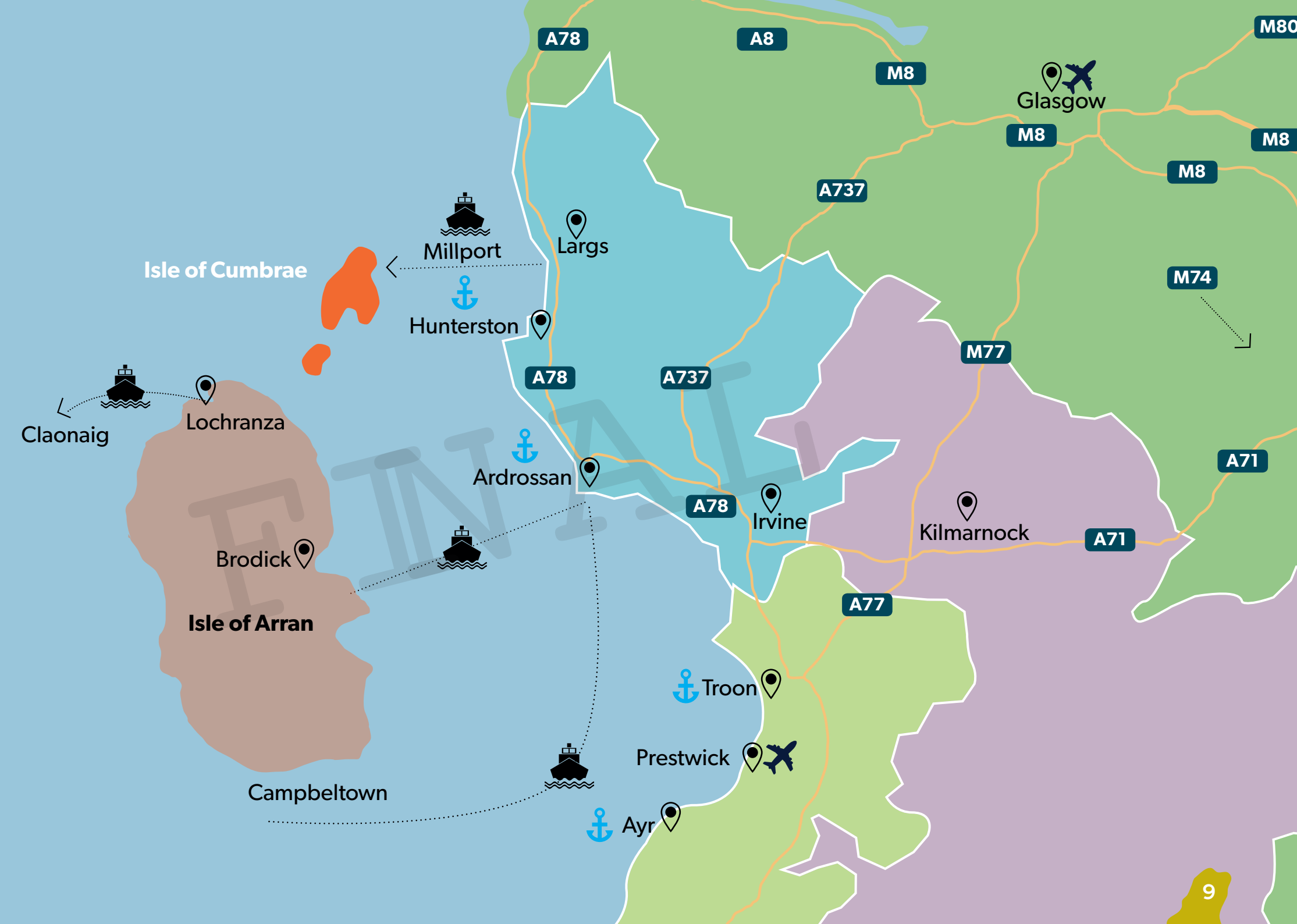
The pilot has facilitated the development of this first Cumbrae Local Island Plan and the partners will continue to support and work with the community and stakeholders as the plan is implemented, delivering actions and improving outcomes for the community, economy and environmental wellbeing of Cumbrae.

The Cumbrae Local Island Plan is a ten-year plan with a long-term strategic focus developed with and for the community, and while the overall vision and themes are expected to remain in place until 2032, the associated actions will be reviewed annually and updated as required.

ABOUT CUMBRAE

The Isle of Cumbrae, also known as Great Cumbrae, lies on the Ayrshire coast and is approximately four miles long and two miles wide.

An eight-minute ferry trip from Largs, Cumbrae is Scotland's most accessible populated island and as such the island represents an important and unique island economy in North Ayrshire.





Millport is the only settlement on Cumbrae, a picturesque seaside town with a Victorian promenade, curving around an attractive hilly bay on the south coast. Millport is home to Britain's smallest cathedral; the Cathedral of the Isles, and Garrison House, home to the Museum of the Cumbraes.

The island has an active and engaged community with a wide range of interest groups represented in the many clubs and associations on the island.





The island offers many leisure opportunities, including walking, wild swimming, golf, bowls and watersports. Nature-lovers and wildlife watchers enjoy the island's stunning land and coastline which is home to over 125 species of birds, seal colonies, porpoises, and basking sharks. Cumbrae also benefits from a range of food and drink venues, scenic gardens, geological sites of interest, safe beaches, and children's play areas.

**CUMBRAE IS HOME TO
OVER 125 SPECIES OF
BIRDS, SEAL COLONIES,
PORPOISES, AND
BASKING SHARKS.**

The island has a reputation as an attractive visitor destination and is famously popular among cyclists of all ages thanks to a safe 10-mile, mostly flat, circular loop around the island.

As we emerge from the pandemic, the true impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, island society and environment are becoming clear, and the issues and priorities which were evident prior to the pandemic have become more urgent or magnified as a result.

In mid-2021, North Ayrshire Council prepared an economic baseline report reviewing the available economic data for the Isle of Cumbrae to inform the development of a Cumbrae Local Island Plan. There were a number of challenges around obtaining accurate data for Cumbrae due to the relatively small size of the community which has not been separated from the mainland in statistics and the relatively complex makeup of its population (second homeowners and or remote workers who do not currently register in the statistics etc).

The Council and island stakeholders agree that it is vital to continue to build on good quality data for Cumbrae. This will provide an accurate evidence base for future decision-making and the prioritisation of resources including financial investment. It is anticipated that the information contained within the Isle of Cumbrae Economic Baseline Report will be developed as one of the first priorities in the annual Action Plan set for 2022.

KEY FINDINGS

THE 2021 CUMBRAE ECONOMIC BASELINE REPORT IS PROVIDED AS APPENDIX 2.
SOME OF THE KEY FINDINGS ARE:

- It is estimated that the 2018 economic output¹ of the Isle of Cumbrae was £10.2 million, of which 30% came from the health sector.
- Total employment² on the Isle of Cumbrae is estimated at 400, of which a third work in the health sector and a quarter work in tourism related sectors.
- The experimental claimant count (estimate of people claiming unemployment related benefits) as a proportion of the working age population for the Isle of Cumbrae increased by 1.5-percentage points to 6.6% between February 2020 and 2021.
- Due to its economic make-up, the Isle of Cumbrae is estimated to be acutely impacted by the pandemic. The effects of the pandemic and the lockdowns will have had a profound negative economic impact upon the Isle of Cumbrae's tourism-related sectors.

- The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic worsened the already difficult position regarding the level of income deprivation on the Isle of Cumbrae, the incidence of which is 29% higher than the Scottish average level.
- Despite its unique strengths, the Isle of Cumbrae faces significant demographic challenges. Between 2001 and 2019, the total population of the Isle of Cumbrae contracted by 10% – from 1,431 to 1,295.
- The percentage share of the total population of working age is 11-percentage points lower than the Scottish level (53% compared to 64%), and the percentage of the population that is aged 65 and over is double the Scottish rate (38% compared to 19%).

1. 2016 prices | 2. 2019 data



Population of Cumbrae (2019):

1295



Total Economic Output of Cumbrae (2018):

£10.2m



Claimant Count Rate of Cumbrae (May 2021):

6.6%



Total Employment on the Isle of Cumbrae (2019):

400



HEALTH

33%



EDUCATION

10%



TOURISM RELATED ACTIVITIES

25%

TOP EMPLOYING SECTORS ON CUMBRAE

Note: Data is sourced from the Office for National Statistics' 'The Business Register and Employment Survey' (BRES). The estimates provided only account for employment estimates by industry and does not look at full time versus part time. Employment estimates are based on the location of the enterprise.

illustration 5.

ISLAND SPECIFIC

- North Coast & Cumbraes Locality Partnership Priorities
- Cumbrae Community Council
- CUMBRAE LOCAL ISLAND PLAN

LOCAL

- North Ayrshire Council Plan 2019-24
- Economic Recovery & Renewal Approach
- Community Wealth Building Strategy 2020-25
- Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy 2021-23
- Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-22 - New plan forthcoming
- Strategic Plan for Community Learning and Development 2021-24
- Let's Deliver Care Together: North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Strategic Plan 2018-21
- Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy
- Local Child Poverty Action Plan
- MAKINGWaves in North Ayrshire Tourism Action Plan
- Ayrshire Shoreline Management Plan
- Vacant and Derelict Land Strategy
- Regeneration Plan
- Local Development Plan 2
- Local Housing Strategy
- Local Transport Strategy
- Visitor Management Strategy and Action Plan - forthcoming

REGIONAL

- Ayrshire Growth Deal
- Highlands & Islands Enterprise Strategy & Operating Plan
- Regional Spatial Strategy - forthcoming
- Regional Economic Strategy - forthcoming
- Ayrshire Regional skills investment plan - forthcoming
- Regional Visitor Economy Strategy - forthcoming

NATIONAL

- National Performance Framework
- National Island Plan
- National Strategy for Economic Transformation - forthcoming
- Climate Change Plan 2018-32
- Marine Tourism: Giant Strides 2025
- Scotland Outlook 2030
- Food Tourism Action Plan 2030
- Programme for Government and Early Learning Provision
- UN Sustainable Development Goals

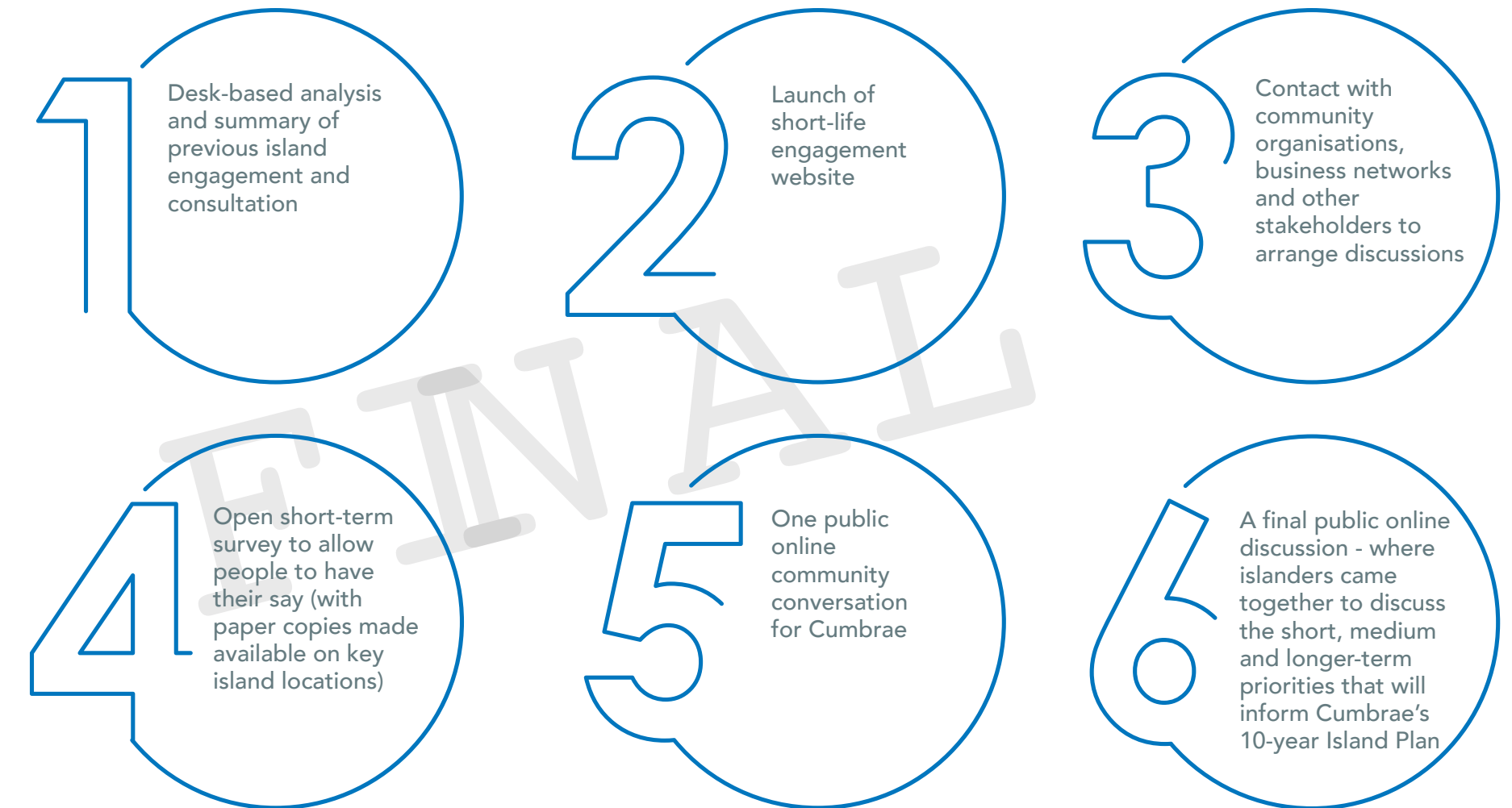
WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID

ISLAND ENGAGEMENT IN THE PLAN

In August 2021, North Ayrshire Council commissioned a short, focused exercise engaging with the community on Cumbrae to assess perceptions of how, and if, COVID-19 had changed the priorities for the island.

The exercise was to understand how things may have changed because of COVID-19 and what that could mean for Cumbrae's priorities, building on the substantial evidence and insight from earlier engagement exercises and from other evidence sources.

From late August until mid-September, the consultant SKS Scotland CIC, undertook the following activities:





The engagement process was supported by the Island Plan Short Life Working Group, with representation from each island (membership included representatives from Connected Communities, Communications, Cumbrae Community Council, North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership and the Arran Recovery Group).

The role of the group during the engagement process included: clarifying expectations of the engagement process and outputs; providing relevant knowledge, contacts and to share any local sensitivities; monitoring and agreeing any amendments to the approved work programme; approving content for all project related communications and sharing communications with relevant networks.

The range of activities undertaken during a short period of time was well received and illustration 6 provides details of the responses received.

illustration 6



325
responses to the survey



471
unique website visits
(across both islands)



12
attended the first
online discussion



24
organisations invited
to contribute input



Island Elected Member
input sessions held



9
further individuals
directly contacted
SKS to input
(across both islands)



Verbal update on island
plan engagement provided
to North Coast & Cumbrae
Locality Partnership



24
attended final
online discussion

KEY FEEDBACK FROM THE ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CUMBRAE

The impact of the pandemic was not always immediately apparent in the engagement feedback, and it was common for respondents, particularly in the survey, to make no explicit mention of the effect of the pandemic, but to simply describe their view of the priorities for Cumbrae.

There was also some rejection of the idea that there had been a real and substantial impact from COVID-19.

Although some factors may have changed, these are mostly inextricably linked with broader, and longer standing action required for sustainability of island life on Cumbrae. Many priorities and actions pre-date the pandemic and are still at least as great, if not, a greater priority.

However, there is evidence of how some things changed because of the pandemic, and that the experience, real and perceived, has created a new sense of community strength and urgency for action on Cumbrae.

“ You saw people more often and had more time to stop and talk to them. And people helped each other. A lot of that was through organised groups, but a lot of it was just people helping each other. I felt more like the island was a community than before.”

CUMBRAE ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE



WHAT CHANGED THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

The overall experience of COVID-19 has highlighted both the resilience and the challenges Cumbrae has overcome during the pandemic and while island life has survived the challenges, the pandemic has exposed its fragility and tested the limits of the island through a combination of related factors including island accessibility, tourism tension, population profile, community resources and economic diversification.

None of these factors should or can be considered in isolation as any action or inaction to address one or more of these issues will have an impact on the others. Further it is important that there should be no 'hierarchy' of importance due to the co-dependency of the issues.



“

All of these things are interlinked. If more people are living here, there will be more opportunities and more economy which will create jobs and apprenticeships, more clubs and things to do – it creates a market for it. There's nowhere to go after 5pm, but that's due to the demographic of people who live here and day trips.”

CUMBRAE ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

ISLAND ACCESSIBILITY

The ferry service has been regarded as problematic before the pandemic, however it has exacerbated the challenges for islanders through

- Sailings being cancelled through ferry staff exposure to COVID-19.
- Ferry capacity being reduced to accommodate social distancing restrictions.
- Journey times, waiting times and frequency of ferries being reduced to accommodate a cleaning regime.



THERE ARE MULTIPLE IMPACTS OF THE UNRELIABILITY AND CAPACITY OF THE FERRY SERVICE

- Residents who use this mode of transport as a life line service are unable to confidently plan for trips on and off Cumbrae.
- Potential future residents may choose not to move to the island, including working age families and professionals in essential health, care and education services. This means that the population profile is skewed towards older people. It also means that essential services staff tend to live off island, with the consequent risk to service delivery on-island, and there are fewer people of working age living on the island.
- Suppliers of goods to the island may apply an additional premium to compensate for the unreliability of the ferries. This cost is passed on to the consumer, creating a higher cost of living on the island.
- Residents are unable to make journeys at short notice.
- All users spend excessive amounts of time in queues at Largs or Cumbrae.
- Residents may find themselves stranded on the mainland.

The above list is not intended to be comprehensive but to give an insight into the scale and variety of the impact of an unreliable ferry service.

TOURISM TENSION

A tension between the economic benefits of visitors to the island and the impact of those visitors on the quality of life of residents was a long-standing feature of Cumbrae life before the pandemic

“Also, with the rise in staycations, tourist business has possibly never been so good. It’s been limited mainly by ferry capacity. That may not last though.”

CUMBRAE ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

During COVID-19, the contrast between the reduction in visitor numbers seen during the earlier lockdown when travel within the UK was restricted, and the increase in visitor numbers seen when the restrictions on UK travel were lifted but travel outside the UK was still regulated, highlighted for many residents, the inconveniences and impacts of high visitor numbers.

There was a sharp increase in visitor numbers to Cumbrae, in a number of instances beyond the capacity of the island infrastructure or the hospitality venues on the island. On a number of occasions CalMac refused to carry more day trippers across to Cumbrae due to the volume of visitors on the island who would need to return.

There was an increase in the number of visitors who engaged in anti-social behaviour or failed to observe VisitScotland’s #RespectProtectEnjoy guidance or the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

There was an increase in the number of visitors using mobile home vehicles, and problems caused by inconsiderate parking. There was concern that visitors using mobile home vehicles may contribute less to the local economy and create more inconvenience to local people as well as environmental damage. The new motorhome facilities at Garrison House may resolve the motorhome problem to some extent.

During the pandemic there was an increase in the frequency of wild camping and of spoiling of locations with waste, fires, damage to the environment etc.

The impact of spikes in visitor numbers on the local infrastructure and on transport provision and hospitality sector capacity, on occasion, may have led to both residents and visitors potentially having a poorer quality experience on Cumbrae.

There is a reputational risk that this will cause long-term damage to the island brand, with a consequent impact on the island’s reputation as a desirable place to live as well as on visitor numbers.

“Wild camping. This privilege is being abused by many visitors.

Despite the introduction of the motorhome site on the grounds of the Garrison many motorhome owners are still parking on the town streets, outside people's homes or blocking access points for the public to the beaches on the west side of the island.

A motorhome parking on the street is NOT wild camping.”

CUMBRAE ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

POPULATION PROFILE

The fact that Cumbrae has an older population profile has meant that, in relation to the pandemic, the impact of isolation and limited access to on-island health and care service was a greater concern than in pre-pandemic times.

“We are serving the needs of a largely retired community needing pastoral care. Most of the islands calls for progress largely forgets this”

CUMBRAE ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE



Where people had medical appointments on the mainland, the increased unreliability and inaccessibility of the ferry service during the pandemic regularly prevented people from attending these appointments. This was often at short notice, producing challenges for the patient in rescheduling the appointment and, presumably, for health providers in relation to the number of appointments which could not be re-allocated.

“The crisis also introduced new and potentially beneficial ways of working in particular the delivery of medical services, with virtual consultations by GPs and consultants. The Health Board is already starting to implement telephone or video consultations in patient’s homes.

A private space in the Town Hall could be set up for those with no digital facilities at home, with technical support as necessary. Community members would benefit by avoiding long journeys from the island for what are often very short face-to-face professional consultations and the NHS would save on the expensive Patient Transport Service.”

CUMBRAE ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

There is strong demand on the island for an increase in the quality and variety of community facilities, resources and services. The experience of being effectively island-bound during periods of restriction on movement highlighted, for many islanders, the value of the available resources and the absence of those that are unavailable or in short supply.

“Availability of private sector services (retail, hospitality) is poor. Nowhere to go after 4pm. Shops close at 6pm / 8pm.

Not possible to maintain a household's grocery needs from local shop offer. Local shops geared to tourists.”

CUMBRAE ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

The move to online health service consultations is regarded as a risk to the availability of health services and health professionals located on the island.

Islanders fear that the online consultations introduced during the pandemic will be part of the 'new normal' and there will be no return to earlier models of face-to-face health provision.

“Care for elderly at end of life... heartbreaking to see people who have lived here all their lives have to leave at the end of their lives. We have a hospital here, seems unused... could put 4 beds in it...”

CUMBRAE ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

In addition to community resources, there is a demand for more, and more varied, facilities for tourists and an improvement to the tourism offer. Better and more public toilets is a common demand, but there is also a desire for more recreational facilities and entertainment to attract and retain tourists, particularly overnight provision.

There are calls for the establishment of a passenger ferry facility between the town of Millport and the mainland.

There is substantial interest in the establishment of a marina and other waterfront infrastructure. This is seen as improving the tourist offer at the same time as contributing to new employment and enterprise on the island.



ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

The experience of the pandemic and the effects of restrictions and of the relaxation of restrictions, increased islanders' awareness of the dependence of the island economy on tourism, and the risk that an economy with this level of dependence presents to the sustainability of island life.

“Employment is really difficult, if someone has COVID, then there is a very limited pool of alternate / emergency cover. Sometime none, leading to business closure.”

CUMBRAE ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

There is a recognition that many of the private sector businesses which islanders need may only be financially viable with the additional income from tourists. Equally however, there is a perception that, because of the restrictions on movement and a local desire to support local business, some retailers may have enjoyed a greater than usual level of trade.

Nonetheless, a key COVID-related insight for many residents has been the overall dependence on tourism, and the need to create a more diverse economic base for the island.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

With an eight-minute ferry journey to the mainland, Cumbrae is unique in its proximity to major Scottish conurbations. This closeness shapes the island's resilience as well as causing its fragility, and further data needs to be sought to better understand the impacts and consequences of location on the effective functioning of Cumbrae.

The overall experience of COVID-19 has highlighted both the resilience of Cumbrae in that island life has survived the challenges, and the fragility of the island in exposing and testing the limits of island resilience which are threatened by a combination of interrelated issues.

Dependence on a limited number of industries to support both employment and the availability of services for islanders, with limited employment opportunities for islanders and for people of working age to consider moving to the island, and a mismatch between the current ferry service and the needs of islanders.

As a result, the population profile has more older people and fewer younger people, meaning there is a greater demand for care services from older people, but a lower supply of people to provide these services, and challenges in attracting skilled care staff to the island. Older people may be unable to access care at home, or even care on the island and may have to move off-island to obtain health and social care, with a consequent further impact on island population.

There are fewer business start-ups, fewer opportunities for start-ups to contribute to diversifying the economy and fewer and less diverse employment opportunities for islanders which leads to young people leaving the island to seek employment elsewhere, further exaggerating the population profile imbalance.

An undersupply of good quality housing, high numbers of second and holiday homes and demand for more social housing also affects the ability of Cumbrae to attract people of working age. Combined with the limited options for energy supply results in a higher proportion of household income being spent on fuel, again with an impact on the disposable income of existing residents and their ability to spend in local businesses, further increasing local business reliance on the tourist trade.

“Something needs to be done about the energy costs in the island. With no access to gas, our electricity prices are astronomical compared to the mainland. As a family with young kids this is something that would make us leave the island. I have already contacted MSPs to take this forward and not got any further.”

CUMBRAE ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

Fewer people of working age results in fewer families with children, resulting in less demand or need for education and children's services, therefore a risk that there is insufficient demand to support private sector suppliers, and a perceived risk to the business case for public sector provision. Erosion of private and public sector services and resources makes the island even less attractive as a location for people of working age, particularly those with families.

The additional costs of haulage for goods to the island creates higher prices for everyday groceries than on the mainland, further aggravating the imbalance between low income and high cost of living further reduces the attractiveness of the island, particularly for people in lower income jobs.

Prior to the pandemic, each of these factors existed in an unstable state of balance, with COVID exposing the dependencies and weaknesses in the system.

Despite all these factors, Cumbrae persevered through the pandemic, local people formed groups, delivered services, checked in on and helped neighbours and made things work. There is evidence that the capacity created and networks strengthened through this period will remain in place and will help ensure that Cumbrae has the resilience to navigate to recovery.

SURVEY PRIORITIES

The engagement survey asked people to rank a set of themes of concern which were identified from summaries of earlier work on the themes of concern for island life.

Economic growth, investment and sustainability	Community capacity and empowerment
Education and skills and retention of young people	Preservation of heritage and cultural identity
Health and social care	Housing
Transport	Marine planning
Reliance on seasonal tourism and the need for diversification	Island premium costs
Protection of natural environment	Population and depopulation
Recruitment and retention of employees	Resilience
Meeting the needs of older people	Planning policy
Energy and energy costs	Connectivity/digital

ACTIONS

The engagement survey asked people to rank a set of actions which were identified from earlier reports from community engagement and planning.

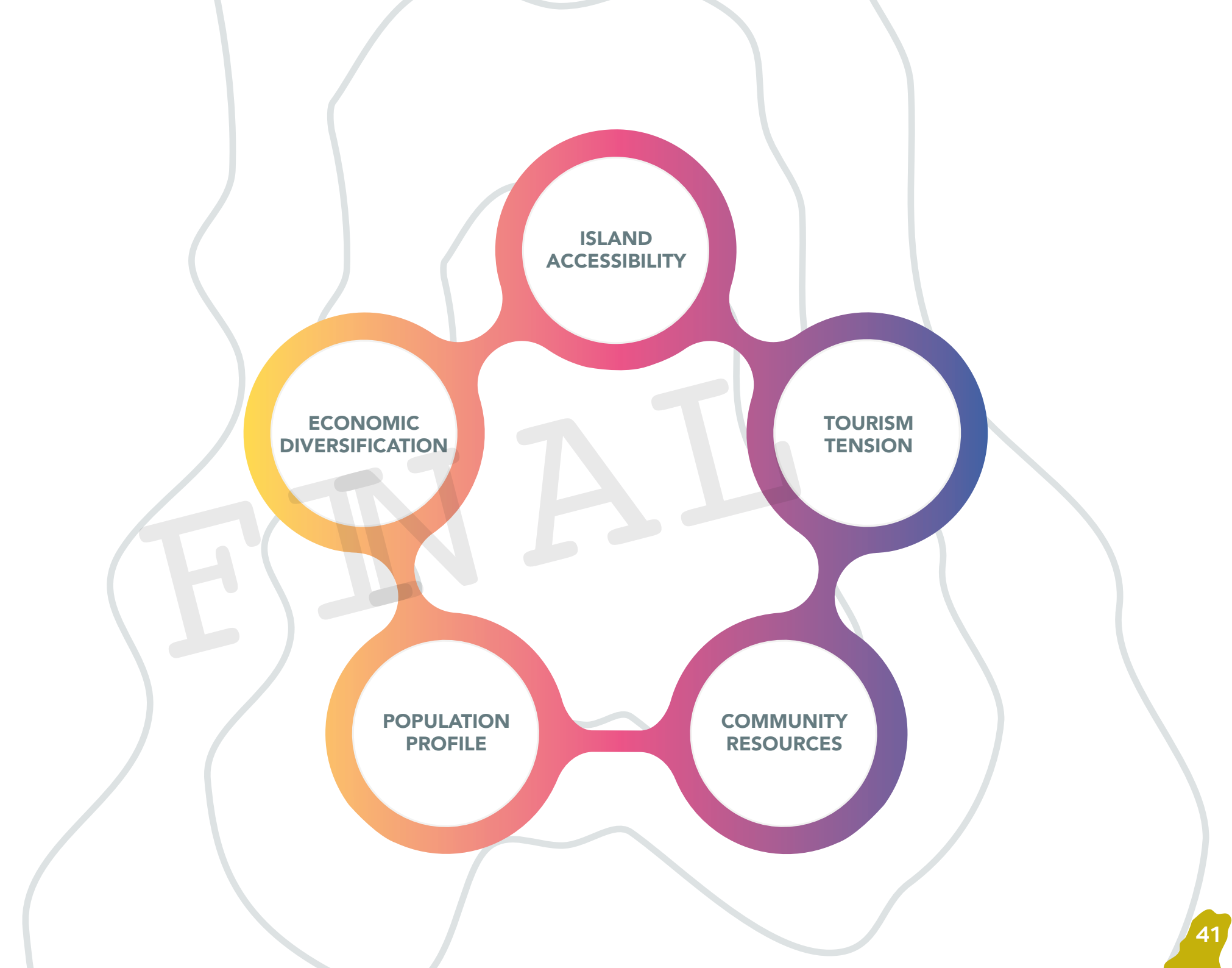
Pier Modifications / Pier Upgrading / Old Pier Upgrading	Safe cycle / active travel routes
On-island waste / recycling facilities	Improved play and recreation facilities
Upgrade / maintenance of road surfaces and pavements	Investment in public realm (benches, bandstands, etc)
Improving visitor facilities (including toilets)	More appropriate housing options
Managing visitor car numbers	Other marine hospitality and leisure
Millport marina development with shoreside facilities	Business park / units / support for new local enterprise
Car parking at rear of town	Improved on-Island public transport
Waverley / passenger ferry services into Millport	Festivals
Good community facilities in 'fit for purpose buildings'	Built and natural heritage interpretation features
Supporting Millport as a location for small business	Public wireless internet connectivity (Wi-Fi)

PRIORITIES INTO ACTION

There is a general consensus across all feedback that the recovery of Cumbrae and the longer-term sustainability of island life is dependent on 5 key strands.

None of the key strands should or can be considered in isolation as any action or inaction to address one or more of these issues will have an impact on the others. Further it is important that there should be no 'hierarchy' of importance due to the co-dependency of the issues.

To address the challenges and priorities identified through the engagement process, a vision, key themes and action plan have been developed to support the recovery and renewal of Cumbrae.



THE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY
IDENTIFIED MANY INSPIRING AND
INNOVATIVE CUMBRAE PROJECTS
WHICH ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY
THE COMMUNITY AS WELL AS THE
THIRD, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR.

MILLPORT COASTAL
FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

ONGOING BUSINESS SUPPORT TO
BUSINESSES VIA COMMUNITY WEALTH
BUILDING, DIGITAL BOOST, BUSINESS
GATEWAY FUNDING AND THE NEW GREEN
JOBS FUND

DEVELOPMENT OF A MARINA /
MARINE FACILITIES AT MILLPORT

REFURBISHMENT OF THE
MASONRY PIER AT MILLPORT
HARBOUR IN 2019

CUMBRAE COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (CCDC)
HAVE CREATED A NEW
MOTORHOME PARK WITHIN THE
GROUNDS OF GARRISON HOUSE

1

CASE STUDY

The Millport Support Group

During COVID, the main community groups on Cumbrae worked together to ensure the response on the island was well-co-ordinated. **The Millport Support Group (MSG)** was formed at the start of the pandemic, bringing together volunteers from the main island community groups to organise local support.



Logo by Natasha • Age 8

Representatives from **Churches Together**, the **Boy's Brigade**, **Cumbrae Community Council**, the **Cumbrae Forum**, **North Ayrshire Locality Partnership** and **local businesses** co-ordinated a fantastic team of over 40 local volunteers who did everything from manning a helpline, to delivering and exchanging books from the Forum shop, to supplying needles and wool for knitting lockdown rainbow blankets and running 'Zoom' coffee afternoons.

Volunteers helped with shelf-stacking and grocery deliveries during the first lockdown as local retailers stepped up to cater for the sudden massive increase in demand while the 'stay at home' advice was in place. They delivered 'helping hand' food parcels as **Cumbrae Parish Church** became a distribution centre for donations from **Morrisons** and the **Cumbrae Food Bank** and the Group successfully appealed to **North Ayrshire Council** to give funding rather than supplies for support including school meals, so that it would be spent locally in island businesses.

The Group applied for, distributed and set up digital devices so that more vulnerable community members could stay in touch with family and local groups as well as making sure a local diabetic dog got her insulin supplies from the vet in Largs.

A community newsletter, the **CROC** (Covid Response on Cumbrae) Talk, was started up with funding from **Highlands & Islands Enterprise** and delivered by volunteers to every household on the island to keep everyone up to date on the support available to them. Two years on, the helpline remains open, Millport Support Group now co-ordinates community resilience and continues to publish and deliver the **Croc Talk** as a community newsletter.

The 3 island churches – **The Cathedral of the Isles**, **The Parish Church** and **Our Lady of the Isles** provided a network of pastoral care and provided knowledge of the elderly and infirm in their congregations in order to identify needing special or urgent needs in the initial stages of the pandemic whilst the Millport Support Group was setting up and this specialist knowledge of local residents was invaluable in getting relevant support to where it was needed.

2 CASE STUDY

Plant to Plate Garden

The **Plant to Plate Garden** is a project set up by **Cumbræ Primary School**, **Cumbræ Parish Church** and **Cumbræ Community Garden** to engage local children in growing and using vegetables.

The garden is in the grounds of Cumbræ Parish Church and has a seating area open to the community to enjoy. Another community group, the Cumbræ Forum, recently secured grant funding from **Foundation Scotland** to install an irrigation system at the garden, making life easier for the group of volunteers who maintain the garden during the school holidays.

The whole project is a great example of island community groups working together and will continue to progress new projects that further develop and enhance this wonderful initiative through securing **Healthy Islands** funding through **Scottish Government's Islands Programme**.

3 CASE STUDY

The Millport Support Group Resilience Team

Millport Support Group Resilience Team is a group of volunteers, drawn from all sections of the local community and members have a wide range of backgrounds and skill sets but each team member shares a common purpose - to assist the community if called upon in times of need.

Community Resilience is a measure of the ability of Cumbræ to use its available resources, local knowledge and assets to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations, whatever they may be. Their main role is to support the Local Authority & Emergency Services in their response to emergencies and major incidents.

In a serious situation they may be asked to do just about anything, from helping to open a rest centre for vulnerable residents, providing welfare facilities for emergency service personnel in the event of a serious incident on the island, right through to helping the local police and Coastguard to search for a missing or vulnerable person.

Community is a big part of what the team do and can be asked to get involved in other beneficial projects such as cleaning up after floods, heavy snowfall, storms or attending community events, etc in an emergency such as a fire, flood, storm or snow and they work with other local groups and North Ayrshire Council services to identify people who may become vulnerable during such events and put systems in place to help those in the Cumbræ community who are most in need.

4 CASE STUDY

Millport Town Hall

Millport Town Hall is a historic building on the At Risk register within a Conservation Area. Dating from 1878, it is a key building for the community and has played an important part in the history of the island and its residents over the past 140 years.

Moves are afoot by the community to preserve this building and bring it back into sustainable use for many years to come.

Working with individuals, groups, North Ayrshire Council and many other organisations to make sure that the building offers what the community would like and need and with the project having faced increasing challenges in 2021 due to the complexity of funding, the pandemic and the resultant increase in material prices, they are demonstrating true resilience, passion and placing the heart of the community in what they are accomplishing on a week by week basis.

5 CASE STUDY

Active Schools

After consulting with young people and their families on Cumbrae, Active Schools delivered a summer programme of activities on dates, times and venues that they identified.

Sessions were full and meant young people did not need to leave the island to take part in sport and physical activity opportunities over the summer period resulting in saving time and money and ensuring access to local opportunities.





WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE...

VISION FOR 2032

Cumbræ is a more sustainable and accessible island with improved infrastructure, transport and housing provision. The island is attracting a more balanced population who enjoy a wider range of employment opportunities and activities.

KEY THEMES

To realise Cumbrae’s vision of becoming a sustainable and accessible island, three plan themes determine the Island Plan with a set of key priorities and related actions that build on the existing strengths of the island and minimize risk and further fragility to the community, economy and environmental wellbeing of Cumbrae.



COMMUNITY

A thriving community where people’s needs are understood and supported.



ECONOMY

A resilient economy which meets the aspirations of residents, businesses



ENVIRONMENT

A sustainable infrastructure which protects the Victorian heritage and unique environment.

An Annual Action Plan 2022/23 is included in Appendix 1 to accompany the Local Island Plan. For each priority theme there are key actions, potential teams, groups, businesses, agencies or partners who may work together to ensure effective delivery, the required timescales, fit with National Islands Plan, how actions contribute to Community Wealth Building and Net Zero and indicators to measure progress.

As the Annual Action Plan progresses, further actions will be developed or revised for each key theme. Methods of measurement will also be refined over the duration of the Plan to identify key data sources.



COMMUNITY

CUMBRAE IS A IS A RESILIENT AND INNOVATIVE ISLAND COMMUNITY

- KEY PRIORITIES -

- RELIABLE FERRY PROVISION
- AFFORDABLE AND SOCIAL HOUSING
- POPULATION - ATTRACT WORKING AGE FAMILIES
- PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- ACCESS TO HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
- EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE
- COMMUNITY FACILITIES



ECONOMY

CUMBRAE IS AN ACCESSIBLE, INCLUSIVE AND GREEN ISLAND ECONOMY

- KEY PRIORITIES -

- IMPROVING RESILIENCE OF ISLAND BUSINESS BASE
- DIVERSIFICATION OF ECONOMY & RELIANCE ON SEASONAL TOURISM
- IMPROVED TOURISM & RETAIL OFFER
- EDUCATION AND SKILLS AND RETENTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE
- RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF EMPLOYEES
- EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



ENVIRONMENT

CUMBRAE IS SUPPORTING A JUST TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

- KEY PRIORITIES -

- ADDRESS ENERGY COSTS
- CLIMATE ACTION & SUSTAINABILITY
- PROTECTION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
- BUILT & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
- TOURISM MANAGEMENT
- PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- FLOOD PROTECTION
- MARINE/PIER INFRASTRUCTURE



HOW THE ACTION PLAN WILL BE DELIVERED

SUCCESSFUL DELIVERY OF THE CUMBRAE LOCAL ISLAND PLAN REQUIRES IT TO BE:

- Developed by and with the Cumbrae community
- Adopted and delivered by the community, island businesses, and third and public sector partners
- Inclusive and participatory
- Feasible and realistic
- Flexible and responsive
- Action focused
- In line with the delivery of the National Islands Plan
- In line with the principles of Community Wealth Building
- In line with the transition to Net Zero

Success will depend on a broad participation of stakeholders from Cumbrae who will be the driver of delivering and monitoring progress of the Plan, ensuring there is an all-inclusive opportunity for everyone to be involved.

A key area of focus for the Island Recovery and Renewal Pilot is to contribute to closer and more coordinated working between the island communities, partners and national and local government and agencies to ensure stronger island-focused partnership and to work collaboratively to unlock the knowledge, resources and support necessary to bring the Cumbrae Local Island Plan to life.

Key to the implementation stage of the Plan will be the governance model with responsibility either collectively or individually for the delivery of the actions outlined in Appendix 1.

Participation in the development and influencing of the Plan has not, and will not, be limited to the early stages of the process. Participation will be necessary and widely encouraged throughout the delivery phase.

Whilst it is important that governance of the Island Plan aligns to the North Coast & Cumbraes Locality Partnership structure, there is also a need for thematic expertise and wider islander input.

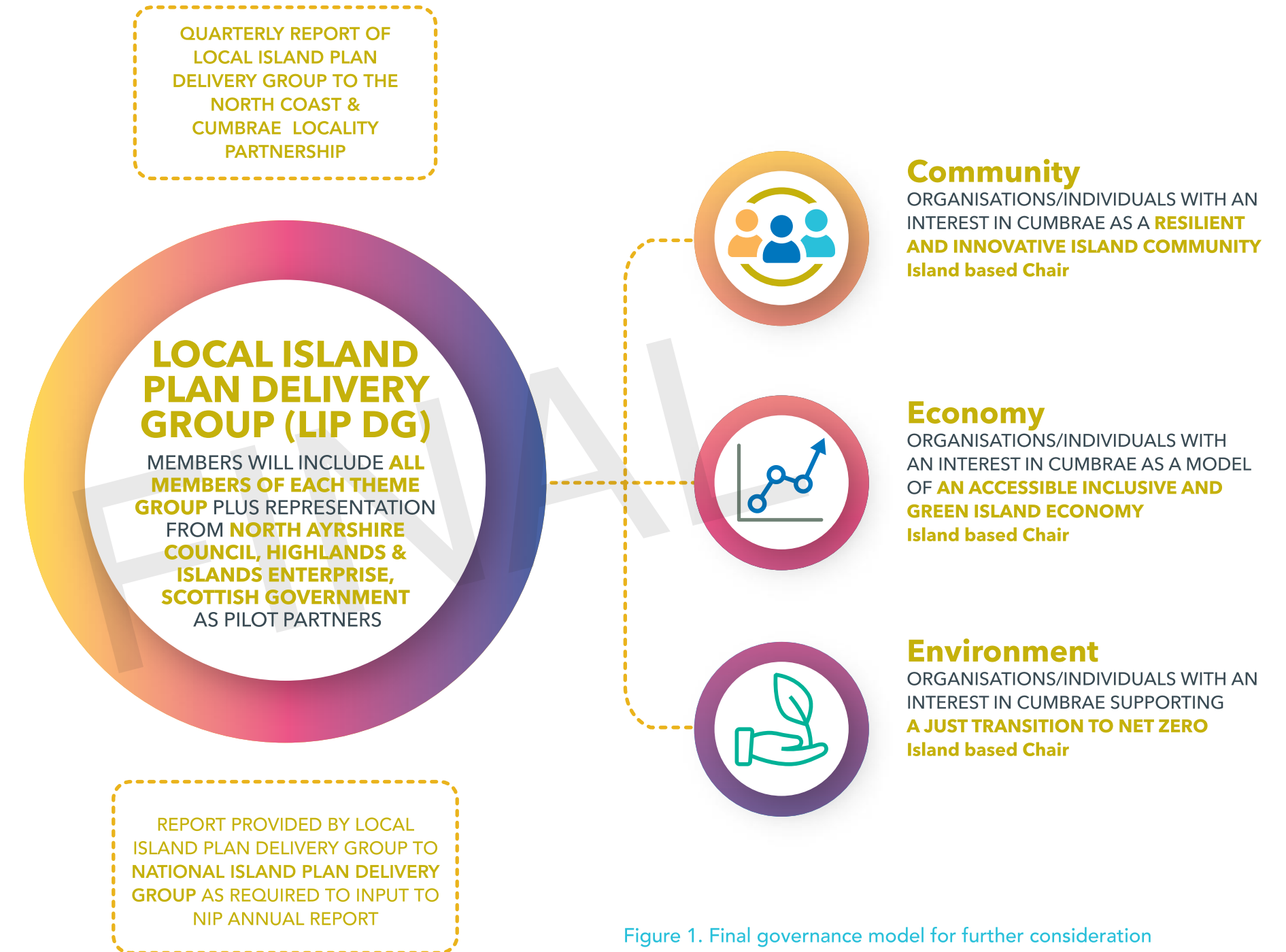


Figure 1. Final governance model for further consideration

The Local Island Plan Delivery Group could be the central partnership driving delivery for this Island Plan.

The group may comprise public, private, third sector and community representation to bring knowledge and understanding of the priorities and to reflect the range of stakeholders with an interest in Cumbrae.

They may take primary responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the agreed actions throughout the life of the Plan, with the purpose of improving the outcomes for Cumbrae, with responsibility to include:

- Take lead responsibility for delivering specific identified actions
- Provide expertise to inform how action can be delivered to maximise impact
- Ensure the wide communication of actions and progress
- Communicate with Cumbrae stakeholders to ensure input to actions on an ongoing basis
- Act as ambassadors and champion a place-based approach to delivering action for the benefit of Cumbrae
- Monitor, review and report progress against the Local Island Plan and Action Plan to the North Coast & Cumbraes Locality Partnership



HOW THE LOCAL ISLAND PLAN FITS INTO LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL POLICY

At a national level the Cumbrae Local Island Plan is set within the context of The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 and the corresponding National Islands Plan. At a local level, the Local Island Plan takes account of the North Coast & Cumbraes Locality Partnership priorities and is further supported through the work of the Island Recovery and Renewal Pilot, North Ayrshire Council's Economic Recovery and Renewal approach, Community Wealth Building Strategy and the island engagement activity.



THE ISLANDS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2018

The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 defines an island community as ‘a community of two or more people, all of whom live permanently on the island with a common interest in the identity of the island’.

The Act was granted Royal Assent in July 2018 and introduces a range of measures to support and help meet the unique needs of Scotland's islands now and in the future. It will also seek to help create the right environment for sustainable growth and empowered communities.

A provision within the Act requires the Scottish Ministers to develop a National Islands Plan (NIP). According to the Act, the purpose of the Plan is ‘to set out the main objectives and strategy of the Scottish Ministers in relation to improving outcomes for island communities that result from or are contributed to by the carrying out of functions of a public nature’.

The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 empowers communities to shape their individual and collective futures and to make it easier for islanders to develop their own economies, wellbeing and environments.

It also places duties on local public services to work together with communities to improve outcomes on themes that are priorities for the islanders.



THE NATIONAL ISLANDS PLAN

In December 2019, Scottish Ministers published the first ever National Islands Plan, which was created with the input from many islanders, including those on Cumbrae. The Plan sets out 13 Strategic Objectives which are practical yet critical to improving the quality of life for island communities.

The 13 strategic objectives (SOs) set out in the National Islands Plan are as follows.

To address population decline and ensure a healthy, balanced population profile

To improve and promote sustainable economic development

To improve transport services

To improve housing

To reduce levels of fuel poverty

To improve digital connectivity

To improve and promote health, social care and wellbeing

To improve and promote environmental wellbeing and deal with biosecurity

To contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and promote clean, affordable and secure energy

To empower diverse communities and different places

To support arts, culture and language

To promote and improve education for all throughout life

To support effective implementation of the National Islands Plan

NORTH COAST & CUMBRAES LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

Locality planning was introduced in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, under Part 2: Community Planning and is about reducing inequalities and enabling communities to participate in decision making at a local level.

It is one of the ways local communities work together with public and third sector organisations to improve residents' lives and localities. In North Ayrshire, Locality Partnerships are how the Community Planning Partnership fulfill its duties under the Community Empowerment Act to have locality arrangements. There are six Locality Partnerships in North Ayrshire which cover the whole local authority and North Coast & Cumbraes Locality Partnership is the partnership that covers the island of Cumbrae.

It is desirable that the development of the Cumbrae Island Plan aligns to the North Coast & Cumbraes Locality Partnership and the important and valued work the partnership undertakes.

Local priorities have been decided by each locality, based on national data, local statistics and the views of local people gathered through the North Ayrshire People's Panel survey and the Place Standard tool.

The North Coast & Cumbraes Partnership priorities currently are:

-  Improving access to financial services
-  Increasing social inclusion
-  Improving mental wellbeing
-  Supporting skills and work opportunities



CUMBRAE GROUPS

The island has a broad range of active and engaged community groups including Cumbrae Community Council, Cumbrae Community Development Company and Millport Town Hall who worked collaboratively with the Council during the preparation of the Cumbrae Economic Baseline report and supporting sharing of information during the development of the Cumbrae Local Island Plan to improve outcomes for Cumbrae over the next ten years.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RENEWAL APPROACH (GREEN NEW DEAL)

In response to the widespread economic and social impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, in September 2020 the Council launched its Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach (Green New Deal) to build back better, fairer and greener. The approach is based on the foundation of Community Wealth Building and sets out a Local Green New Deal for North Ayrshire.

The twin priorities of a North Ayrshire Green New Deal are:

1

To ensure an inclusive economic recovery by delivering our Community Wealth Building mission; and

2

To ensure a green economic recovery focused on achieving our net zero carbon ambitions through the creation of sustainable infrastructure and regeneration projects and creating fair jobs.

North Ayrshire Council's refreshed Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change strategy (2021-2023) sets out seven workstreams for how the Council will achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. These workstreams are intrinsically linked to economic recovery through their alignment to the Community Wealth Building approach and Green New Deal aspirations.



ISLAND RECOVERY & RENEWAL PILOT

The development of the Cumbrae Local Island Plan complements the idea of testing new ways of working across local government, Scottish Government, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Community Planning Partners, island communities and businesses to deliver the ambitious objectives outlined in the National Islands Plan, as well as sharing this learning with other island areas.

As part of the three-year Island Recovery and Renewal Pilot, a new post of Senior Officer (Islands) has been created within North Ayrshire Council to contribute to the ongoing development and delivery of islands' policy, working in a more coordinated way across the public sector with island communities, businesses and with a range of external stakeholders to tackle long-standing place-based issues relating to island communities ensuring the understanding and representation of the unique needs of islands' communities in local and national policy development.

Further, the pilot will support the recovery and renewal of the islands from the social and economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic including the development of 'Island Plans' for Cumbrae and Arran aligned to the strategic objectives of the National Islands Plan and the principles of Community Wealth Building.

The Cumbrae Local Island Plan sits within the broad context of local, regional and national setting and has a clear link with a range of local, regional and national plans, strategies and frameworks with further examples shown in illustration 5.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

North Ayrshire Council has shown economic leadership with the launch of Scotland's first Community Wealth Building strategy in May 2020 which sets out a bold new economic model focused on wellbeing and inclusion.

This strategy sets out how the Council will deliver this by focusing on their Community Wealth Building mission of 'Enhancing local wealth and the creation of fair jobs and maximising the potential of all our places through working in partnership with our communities and businesses'.

North Ayrshire Council has set out six objectives to deliver Community Wealth Building:



PROCUREMENT

Progressive procurement develops dense local supply chains of local enterprises, small and medium sized enterprises, employee-owned businesses, social enterprises, cooperatives and other forms of community owned enterprise.



FAIR EMPLOYMENT

Recruitment from lower income areas, commitment to paying the living wage and building progression routes for workers are all examples of the actions to stimulate the local economy and bring social improvements to local communities.



LAND AND ASSETS

Anchors are often major land holders and can support equitable land development and the development of under-utilised assets for community use.



FINANCIAL POWER

Community Wealth Building seeks to increase flows of investment within local economies by harnessing the wealth that exists locally.



PLURAL OWNERSHIP OF THE ECONOMY

Democratic Ownership of the Local Economy - Cooperatives, mutually owned businesses, small and medium sized enterprises, social and community enterprises and municipally owned companies enable the wealth generated in a community to stay in that local area.





**WE HOPE THAT YOU RECOGNISE
AND SHARE THE VISION,
PRIORITIES AND AMBITIONS IN
THE CUMBRAE ISLAND PLAN AND
2022/23 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
THAT HAVE BEEN PREPARED
WITH ISLAND STAKEHOLDERS.**

We would like to thank everyone who has provided input and comments in the preparation of this document and to ensure that the community of Cumbrae will be at the heart of delivering this plan.

To find out more about how the plan is progressing please visit:

www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/islands

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FINAL

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Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean



The Scottish
Government



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

ISLE OF ARRAN

ARRAN 2022/23 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

ECONOMY | COMMUNITY | ENVIRONMENT



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean



The Scottish
Government



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath



For each theme there are key actions, who needs to be involved and collaborate to ensure effective delivery, timescales, fit with National Islands Plan and how actions may contribute to Community Wealth Building and Net Zero.

Indicators to measure progress and success will be developed in Year 1 of the Action Plan and further actions will be developed or revised for each plan theme. Methods of measurement will be refined over the duration of the Plan to identify key data sources.



ECONOMY

WELLBEING

ARRAN THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
Business Resilience Improve the Tourism and Retail Offer Support Recruitment & Retention of Employees Improve Employment Opportunities Skills Development Local supply chains Circular economy	Deliver a unique Island Business Support Fund to build resilience of new and existing Arran businesses through targeted support from Locality Business Advisers and partners	Local businesses, social enterprises, North Ayrshire Council, UK Government Community Renewal Fund (CRF), Highlands & Islands Enterprise	Short	Sustainable Economic Development Digital Connectivity	Y	Y
Business Resilience	Support island applications to the Repurposing Property Grant Fund	North Ayrshire Council, landowners and community organisations, Arran Community and Voluntary Service	Short	Sustainable Economic Development Environmental Wellbeing and Biosecurity	Y	Y

ARRAN THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
Digital And Green Innovation Skills Development Local Supply Chains Circular Economy Business Resilience	Promote digital and green opportunities to Arran businesses to help facilitate diversification	Local businesses, North Ayrshire Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Scottish Government	Short	Sustainable Economic Development Digital Connectivity	Y	Y
Business Resilience Improve Employment Opportunities	Building resilience within Arran businesses through the targeted support from Locality Business Advisers and partners Development of proposals that will enhance the current tools available and take advantage of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund when launched	Local businesses, North Ayrshire Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise National Support Partners	Medium	Sustainable Economic Development	Y	Y

ARRAN THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
Business Resilience Improve the Tourism and Retail Offer Improve Employment Opportunities	Continue to develop the Arran Ayrshire Growth Deal Marine tourism infrastructure projects, including community engagement to explore community operated models	North Ayrshire Council, local communities	Medium	Sustainable Economic Development Transport Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnerships	Y	Y
Improve the Tourism and Retail Offer	Implement a coordinated visitor management approach to increased domestic tourism to maximise visitor experience and minimise place and infrastructure impact of visitors	North Ayrshire Council, industry, VisitScotland, VisitArran	Short	Sustainable Economic Development Transport Environmental Wellbeing & Biosecurity Education	Y	Y



ARRAN THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
Community Facilities	Develop a programme of place-based frameworks to direct future investment through the Investment Fund and external funding	North Ayrshire Council, Scottish Government, communities, businesses, agencies, locality partnerships, Arran Community and Voluntary Service, island groups and voluntary organisations	Short	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership	Y	Y
Transport Connectivity	Develop and deliver proposals under the Scottish Government's Islands Infrastructure Fund as identified by the Islands Connectivity Project and Local Transport Strategy	North Ayrshire Council, Scottish Government and local stakeholders	Short	Transport	Y	Y
Ferry Provision and Infrastructure Transport Connectivity	Confirm details of two boat service all year on Ardrossan route and timescales – Following introduction of MV Glen Sannox and return to Ardrossan	Transport Scotland, CalMac, CMAL, North Ayrshire Council, Arran Ferry Committee	Medium	Transport Sustainable Economic Development	Y	N/A

ARRAN THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
Community Facilities	Identify and implement potential projects under the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) and other national programmes working collaboratively with local communities, business, third and public sectors	North Ayrshire Council, communities, businesses, locality partnerships, Arran Community & Voluntary Service, island groups and voluntary organisations	Short	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership	Y	Y
Ferry Provision and infrastructure Transport Connectivity	Contribute to the development of Transport Scotland's Islands Connectivity Plan as a replacement for the Ferries Plan and Vessel Replacement and Deployment Plan- including the long-term programme of investment in vessels and ports	Transport Scotland, CalMac, CMAL, North Ayrshire Council, Arran Ferry Committee	Long	Transport Sustainable Economic Development	N/A	N/A
Health & Wellbeing Community Facilities	Enhance all sporting opportunities on the island ensuring an inclusive approach and strengthen working partnerships with community clubs, supporting training needs and continued focus on extra-curricular, events, volunteers and clubs for the island	Active Schools North Ayrshire Council, local schools, local clubs and volunteers, young people, parents/carers, Youth Services, Arran Youth Foundation, KA Leisure, Arran Mountain biking club	Short	Health & Social Care & Wellbeing Education	N/A	N/A

ARRAN THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
Health And Wellbeing Community Facilities Community Capacity, Empowerment & governance	Create an Integrated Hub – all services co-located: involving citizens, community and staff in planning and delivering care in the most appropriate setting	North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership, North Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Arran Community	Medium	Health & Social Care & Wellbeing Population Levels	Y	N/A
All	Inception of Island Plan Delivery Group	Island Plan Delivery Group	Short	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership	N/A	N/A
Transport Connectivity Health & Wellbeing Community Facilities	Community Link Worker aligned to GP practice and working across the Community to promote wellbeing and signpost to services, CLWs are non-clinical social practitioners who provide support for issues that go beyond medical treatment, they support individuals with a range of issues that affect health and wellbeing - including money worries, debt, unemployment, social isolation, bereavement supports, alcohol and drug use, managing stress and living a healthier lifestyle	North Ayrshire Council, Transport Scotland, island community	Short	Transport Population levels Climate Change & Energy	Y	Y

ARRAN THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
Health & Wellbeing Community Facilities	Build on the existing creativity and energy of Arran Develop a shared vision for arts and culture across the two islands of Arran and Cumbrae Work with local groups and encourage participation in a wide range of art forms, working towards recovery from the impact of the pandemic Ensure community partners are engaged with the development of new projects and initiatives and that creative activity prioritises community engagement and development Identify professional development opportunities within the creative community and develop initiatives to deliver them Develop creative projects that maximise opportunities for local residents	Library Service North Ayrshire Council, Creative Scotland, Arran Theatre and Arts Trust & Millport Town Hall, Cumbrae Development Company, Millport Support Group	Short	Arts. Culture & Language Health & Social Care & Wellbeing	Y	N/A
Transport connectivity Health & Wellbeing Community Facilities	Progress a flexible transport service delivered by volunteer drivers	Arran Community and Voluntary Service, North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Medium	Health & Social Care & Wellbeing Transport	Y	N/A

ARRAN THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
Transport Connectivity	Investigate potential to expand “school bus” discounted travel to include all transport modes Please note all under 22s receive free bus travel already under the new 2022 scheme	Transport Scotland, CalMac, North Ayrshire Council, Arran Ferry Committee	Medium	Transport	N/A	N/A
Transport Connectivity Business Resilience	Investigate the potential to improve public transport connectivity beyond current timetables to reduce residential and visitor dependence on private cars	North Ayrshire Council, Transport Scotland, island community, service operators, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	Medium	Transport Population Levels Climate Change & Energy	Y	Y
Transport Connectivity Health & wellbeing Community Facilities	Identify potential opportunities for public transport methods recognising the changes in demographics e.g. community transport or demand responsive transport	North Ayrshire Council, Transport Scotland, island community	Short	Transport Population Levels Climate Change & Energy	Y	Y
All	Review of 2022/23 Action Plan to review and deploy measures to achieve priorities and improve outcomes for the island. Following which the 2023/24 Plan will be prepared in conjunction with islanders through ongoing dialogue and intelligence gathering	Local Island Plan Delivery Group	Short	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership	Y	Y

ARRAN THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
Transport connectivity Health & wellbeing Community Facilities	Improved on-island transport including timetabling to access amenities and electric buses, mini buses	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Arran Community Council, Arran Community and Voluntary Service, VisitArran, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Arran Community Council, Arran Eco Savvy	Medium	Transport Climate Change & Energy	Y	Y
Health & Wellbeing Community Facilities Maximising Land and Assets	Development of 7 existing community gardens including infrastructure that provide people with the opportunity to be active and planting of fruit trees and bushes	The Arran Pioneer Project Community Interest Company	Short	Environmental Wellbeing & Biosecurity Health & Social Care & Wellbeing	Y	Y
Health & Wellbeing	Social Isolation was identified by the Health and Social Care Locality Planning group as one of its three priorities. The Befriending service on Arran was established by ACVS to offer support to those on Arran who are socially isolated	Arran Community and Voluntary Service	Short	Health & Social Care & Wellbeing Population Levels	Y	N/A

ARRAN THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
All	Engage with Arran and wider island stakeholders in the preparation of Local Development Plan 3	North Ayrshire Council Planning Service, Local Island Plan Delivery Group, Island Community Bodies, other stakeholders and island residents	Medium	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership Population Sustainable Economic Development	N/A	N/A
All	Potential for Local Place Plans - The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduces a new right for communities to produce Local Place Plans (LPPs). The aim of Local Place Plans is to enhance engagement in development planning by empowering community bodies to play a proactive role in defining the future of their places by setting out their proposals for the use and development of land. Should there be interest in preparing a Local Place Plan for Arran, the Plan should seek to align with the Local Island Plan	Island community, Planning Service North Ayrshire Council	Long	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership Population Sustainable Economic Development	Y	Y

ARRAN THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
Health & Wellbeing Community Facilities	Homefirst approach - promoting prevention; early intervention and supported selfcare. Supported by fully integrated multi-disciplinary teams and digital solutions where appropriate for all citizens on Arran. Including enhancing community supports to support individuals to remain at home and on island for care and support	North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Arran Community	Medium	Health & Social Care & Wellbeing Population levels	Y	N/A
Health & Wellbeing	Transforming model of health and social care provision for urgent and complex care, including Single Point of contact for all health and social care provision	North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Arran Community	Medium	Health & Social Care & Wellbeing	Y	N/A
Health & Wellbeing Community Facilities Maximising Land and Assets	Integrated Hub – all services co-located: involving citizens, community and staff in planning and delivering care in the most appropriate setting. Creating a sustainable fully integrated health and social care model fit for the future	North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, North Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Arran Community	Medium	Health & Social Care & Wellbeing Population Levels	Y	N/A



ENVIRONMENT
WELLBEING

ARRAN THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
Climate Action & Sustainability	Implementation of a marine research and education vessel in 2022	Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST), Island Communities Fund	Short	Environmental Wellbeing & Biosecurity	N/A	Y
Natural Capital Marine Planning & Planning Policy	Continue with Marine Recovery associated with the islander-driven Marine Protected Area (MPA)	Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST), Island Communities	Long	Environmental Wellbeing & Biosecurity Climate Change & Energy	N	Y
Community Facilities Maximising Land & Assets Community Capacity, Empowerment &Governance	Redevelopment of COAST facilities in Lamlash to improve site and increase local employment opportunities	Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST), Arran Outdoor Education Centre, local community, external funders	Medium	Environmental Wellbeing & Biosecurity Climate Change & Energy Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnerships	Y	Y

ARRAN THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
Climate Action & Sustainability	Development of a community composting facility for garden waste on Arran, through a ‘pilot’ Public Social Partnership (PSP) social enterprise model with the third sector	Island communities, relevant partners, and North Ayrshire Council	Short	Environmental Wellbeing & Biosecurity Climate Change & Energy Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnerships	Y	Y
Active Travel Climate Action & Sustainability	Identify priorities for and implement new and improved active travel route infrastructure from updated Local Transport Strategy across the islands	North Ayrshire Council, communities, businesses, agencies, transport providers, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, locality partnerships, The Ayrshire Community Trust, island groups and voluntary organisations	Short	Transport	Y	Y
Active travel Climate Action & Sustainability	Develop and deliver the UK Government Community Renewal Fund (CRF) funded Islands Connectivity Programme	North Ayrshire Council, communities, businesses, agencies, transport providers, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, locality partnerships, The Ayrshire Community Trust, island groups and voluntary organisations	Short	Transport	Y	Y

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WITH ISLAND STAKEHOLDERS.**

We would like to thank everyone who has provided input and comments in the preparation of this document and to ensure that the community of Arran will be at the heart of delivering this plan. The actions within this plan will be reviewed annually and updated as required.

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Highlands and Islands Enterprise
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The Scottish
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North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

ISLE OF CUMBRAE

2022/23 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

COMMUNITY | ECONOMY | ENVIRONMENT



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For each theme there are key actions, who needs to be involved and collaborate to ensure effective delivery, timescales, fit with National Islands Plan and how actions may contribute to Community Wealth Building and Net Zero.

Indicators to measure progress and success will be developed in Year 1 of the Action Plan and further actions will be developed or revised for each plan theme. Methods of measurement will be refined over the duration of the Plan to identify key data sources.



COMMUNITY
WELLBEING

CUMBRAE THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
All	Consideration and agreement of Island Plan delivery approach	Island community with support from North Ayrshire Council and relevant partners	Medium	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnerships	N/A	N/A
All	Review and develop the information contained within the Isle of Cumbrae Economic Baseline report and identify ways to obtain accurate data to provide an accurate evidence base for future action	Island community with support from North Ayrshire Council and relevant partners	Short	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership	N/A	N/A
All	Review of 2022/23 Action Plan to review and deploy measures to achieve priorities and improve outcomes for the island. Following which the 2023/24 Plan will be prepared in conjunction with islanders through ongoing dialogue and intelligence gathering	Island community with support from North Ayrshire Council and relevant partners	Short	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership	Y	Y
All	Engage will Cumbrae and wider island stakeholders in the preparation of Local Development Plan 3	North Ayrshire Council Planning Service, Local Island Plan Delivery Group, Island Community Bodies, other stakeholders and island residents	Medium	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership Population Sustainable Economic Development	N/A	N/A

CUMBRAE THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
All	Potential for Local Place Plans - The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduces a new right for communities to produce Local Place Plans (LPPs). The aim of Local Place Plans is to enhance engagement in development planning by empowering community bodies to play a proactive role in defining the future of their places by setting out their proposals for the use and development of land. Should there be interest in preparing a Local Place Plan for Cumbrae, the Plan should seek to align with the Local Island Plan	Island community, Planning Service North Ayrshire Council	Long	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership Population Sustainable Economic Development	Y	Y
Diversify The Economy To Address Reliance On Seasonal Tourism and Retail Offer	Development of the Cumbrae WAVE project	Community Development Team, Cumbrae WAVE Group, local elected members	medium	Sustainable Economic Development Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership	Y	Y

CUMBRAE THEMATIC PRIORITY	ACTION	WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED	TIMESCALE SHORT – 1-3 YRS MEDIUM – 4-5 YRS LONG - 5 YRS+	CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL ISLAND PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING	TRANSITION TO NET ZERO
Improve Resilience Of The Island Business Base	Build on the existing creativity and energy of Cumbrae	Cumbrae Development Company, Millport Support Group, Cumbrae Forum, Library Service North Ayrshire Council, Creative Scotland, Arran Theatre and Arts Trust & Millport Town Hall	Medium	Arts, Culture & Language	Y	N/A
ImproveTthe Tourism And Retail Offer	Develop a shared vision for arts and culture across the two islands of Cumbrae and Arran			Education		
Improve Education And Skills And The Retention Of Young People	Work with local groups and encourage participation in a wide range of art forms, working towards recovery from the impact of the pandemic					
	Ensure community partners are engaged with the development of new projects and initiatives and that creative activity prioritises community engagement and development					
	Identify professional development opportunities within the creative community and develop initiatives to deliver them					
	Develop creative projects that maximise opportunities for local residents					
Improve Access To Health And Social Services	Continue to provide Gold standard Food For Life school meals at school in Cumbrae, serving freshly prepared food, following good animal practices, and use locally sourced food as much as possible	Local community and North Ayrshire Council	Medium	Health, Social Care and Well- Being	Y	Y
Improve Resilience Of The Island Business Base				Sustainable Economic Development		

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Protect Natural And Built Environment	Explore opportunities derived from the findings of the town centre health check of Millport and the Open Space Audit	Planning North Ayrshire Council, local community	Medium	Environmental Wellbeing And Biosecurity	Y	Y
Protect Natural And Built Environment	Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme	North Ayrshire CouncilRoads Service, community groups	Short	Environmental Wellbeing and Biosecurity	Y	N/A
Protect Natural And Built Environment	Mill Burn Flood Protection Scheme	North Ayrshire Council Roads Service, community	Short	Environmental Wellbeing and Biosecurity	Y	N/A
Enhanced Community Facilities	Cumbrae Primary School will undertake Plant to Plate Growing Hub to include outdoor shelter, all-year round community cooking facilities and opportunities for training and accreditation	Cumbrae Primary School, Healthy Islands Fund	Short	Environmental Wellbeing And Biosecurity	N/A	Y
Improve Education & Skills And The Retention Of Young People				Climate Change And Energy		
Support Climate Action And Sustainability				Education		
Community Facilities						
Community Facilities	Support the delivery of the regeneration of Millport Town Hall	Millport Town Hall Trust, North Ayrshire Council, Scottish Government, Crown Estates and communities	Short	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership	Y	Y
				Sustainable Economic Development		

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Enhance Community Facilities	Continue to work in partnership with Connected Communities to support new community project development, physical regeneration projects, funding applications and asset transfer processes on the islands	North Ayrshire Council, communities, Locality Partnerships, The Ayrshire Community Trust, island groups and voluntary organisations	Short	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership Sustainable Economic Development	Y	Y
Enhance Community Facilities	Develop a Programme of place-based frameworks to direct future investment through the Investment Fund and external funding	North Ayrshire Council, Scottish Government, communities, businesses, agencies, locality partnerships, The Ayrshire Community Trust, island groups and voluntary organisations	Short	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership	Y	Y
Enhance Community Facilities	Identify and implement potential projects under the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) and other national programmes working collaboratively with local communities, business, third and public sectors	North Ayrshire Council, communities, businesses, Locality Partnerships, The Ayrshire Community Trust, island groups and voluntary organisations	Short	Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership	Y	Y

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Public Transport & Infrastructure	Develop the Local Transport Strategy for 2021-26 including identification of and implementation of island specific actions	North Ayrshire Council, communities, businesses, agencies, transport providers, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, locality partnerships, The Ayrshire Community Trust, island groups and voluntary organisations	Short	Transport	N/A	Y
Public Transport & Infrastructure	Develop and deliver proposals under the Scottish Government's Islands Infrastructure Fund as identified by the Islands Connectivity Project and Local Transport Strategy	North Ayrshire Council, Scottish Government and local stakeholders	Short	Sustainable Economic Development Digital Connectivity	Y	Y
Public Transport & Infrastructure	Implement the Largs and Cumbrae Ferry queuing and marshalling improvements	North Ayrshire Council, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, CMAL and CalMac	Short	Transport	N/A	Y



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Business Resilience Improve The Tourism And Retail Offer Support Recruitment & Retention Of Employees Improve Employment Opportunities	Deliver a unique Island Business Support Fund to build resilience of new and existing Cumbrae businesses through targeted support from Locality Business Advisers and partners	Local businesses, social enterprises, North Ayrshire Council, UK Government Community Renewal Fund (CRF)	Short	Sustainable Economic Development Digital Connectivity	Y	Y
Diversify The Economy To Address Reliance On Seasonal Tourism Improve The Tourism And Retail Offer Improve Employment Opportunities	Promote digital and green opportunities to Cumbrae businesses to help facilitate diversification	Local businesses, North Ayrshire Council, Business Gateway and Scottish Government	Short	Sustainable Economic Development Digital Connectivity	Y	Y

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Business Resilience Improve Employment Opportunities	Building resilience within Cumbrae businesses through the targeted support from Locality Business Advisers and partners Development of proposals that will enhance the current tools available and take advantage of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund when launched	Local businesses, North Ayrshire Council, Highlands & Islands Enterpsise National Support Partners	Medium	Sustainable Economic Development	N/A	Y
Improve The Tourism And Retail Offer	Continued implementation of Millport Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme until 2022 funded by Historic Environment Scotland and North Ayrshire Council	North Ayrshire Council, Historic Environment Scotland, businesses and communities	Short	Sustainable Economic Development	Y	Y
Business Resilience Improve The Tourism And Retail Offer	Support island applications to the Repurposing Property Grant Fund	North Ayrshire Council, landowners and community organisations, and The Ayrshire Community Trust	Short	Sustainable Economic Development Environmental Wellbeing and Biosecurity	Y	Y

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Business Resilience Improve The Tourism And Retail Offer Improve Employment Opportunities	Continue to develop the Cumbrae Ayrshire Growth Deal Marine tourism infrastructure projects, including community engagement to explore community operated models	North Ayrshire Council, local communities	Medium	Sustainable Economic Development Transport	Y	Y
Improve The Tourism And Retail Offer	Implement a coordinated visitor management approach to increased domestic tourism to maximise visitor experience and minimise place and infrastructure impact of visitors	North Ayrshire Council, industry, VisitScotland	Short	Sustainable Economic Development Transport Environmental Wellbeing & Biosecurity Education Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnerships	Y	Y



ENVIRONMENT
WELLBEING

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Support Climate Action & Sustainability	Accelerate the path to net zero through carbon audit and mapping of Cumbrae to set first emissions baseline for the island	Island communities, relevant partners and North Ayrshire Council	Short	Climate change & energy Environmental wellbeing and biosecurity Empowered Island Communities & Strong Local Partnership	Y	Y
Built and natural environment	Investigate the feasibility of a public realm project for Millport	North Ayrshire Council, communities, businesses, agencies, transport providers, Scottish Passenger Transport, locality partnerships, The Ayrshire Community Trust, island groups and voluntary organisations	Short	Sustainable Economic Development Environmental wellbeing and biosecurity	Y	Y

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Public transport and infrastructure Climate action & sustainability	Identify priorities for and implement new and improved active travel route infrastructure from updated Local Transport Strategy across the islands	North Ayrshire Council, communities, businesses, agencies, transport providers, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, locality partnerships, The Ayrshire Community Trust, island groups and voluntary organisations	Short	Transport	Y	Y
Public transport and infrastructure Climate action & sustainability	Develop and deliver the UK Government Community Renewal Fund (CRF) funded Islands Connectivity Programme	North Ayrshire Council, communities, businesses, agencies, transport providers, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, locality partnerships, The Ayrshire Community Trust, island groups and voluntary organisations island groups and voluntary organisations	Short	Transport	Y	Y

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