

Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme

# Dunoon Project Town

Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy  
Place and Wellbeing Assessment Report



# About the report

This is a report of a Place and Wellbeing Assessment held in October 2023 to look at the Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy. The Place and Wellbeing Assessment aims to build on the strengths of the Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy and produce recommendations that will support the strategy document to be developed to include strategic objectives and priority actions before a final draft is produced early 2024.

A Place and Wellbeing Assessment involves a workshop pulling together expertise and perspectives from a range of attendees to consider how a plan, policy or decision impacts on delivering a place that enables wellbeing and reduces inequality. To do this, attendees consider the impact on each of the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes and those who are experiencing inequality in that place. This paper is the output of one of these assessments.

Place and wellbeing outcomes



The [Place and Wellbeing Outcomes](#) are the evidenced features that every place needs to have for the places we live, work and relax in to positively enable health and wellbeing.

In Argyll and Bute the Project Town is Dunoon and insight from this town was used in the session to examine how a plan, strategy or policy might address inequalities and increase wellbeing. This insight is used alongside the expertise and perspectives of other participants in the session.

To get a better understanding about inequalities in the Project Towns, the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme gathered data with the support of the Public Health Scotland's Local Intelligence Support Team (LIST) and the Community Link Leads. This data has been used to highlight the people within each town who are being impacted most by poor health and wellbeing. The process for gathering data can be followed through [this guide](#).

The data for Dunoon, at the time of the assessment, highlighted four key areas of focus. These are:

- Poverty, specifically income inequality
- Mental health
- Addictions
- People living in the top 10% of SIMD areas

## Navigating the document

Read the [Background to the Strategy](#) (page 4)

Links to the [Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme](#) (Page 4-5)

Read the [Report Summary](#) (Page 6) for an overview of the key themes from the assessment.

Find the [Recommendations](#) (Page 7-8)

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Read [Appendix 1: Summary of Discussion by Place and Wellbeing Outcome](#) (Page 10 - 28) for further detail. It lists the key evidence and research and a summary of the discussion that took place.

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- **Spaces** – page 14 - 18
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[Appendix 2](#): lists the participants.

# Background to the Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy

The assessment will focus on an early contextual draft of the Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy, which has been prepared by the Head of Development and Economic Growth and the Economic Growth Manager further to discussion and commentary from the Economic Strategy Refresh Officers' Working Group. The Officers' Working Group comprises of council officers from Development & Economic Growth (inc. Rural Growth Deal Programme Manager) and Community Development, with representatives from Health & Social Care Partnership, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme.

Four strategic pillars have been identified by the working group which emerged from the baseline data report and a Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats analysis. A narrative has been developed to explain the pillars which are:

- People
- Place
- Planet
- Prosperity

The document will be developed to include strategic objectives and priority actions before a final draft is produced early 2024 for approval at the Council's Environment, Development and Infrastructure (EDI) Committee in February 2024. There will also be an action plan that sits underneath the Economic Strategy, which will go to the EDI Committee in May 2024, and could potentially include some of the recommendations.

## Links to Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme

The ambition of the [Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme](#) is to improve Scotland's wellbeing by reducing the significant inequality in the health of its people. The programme objective focusses on the evidenced impact that the places where we live, work and relax have on our health and wellbeing. This impact can be positive or negative and the programme aims to ensure these unintended consequences are fully considered when we make decisions about a place.

Our objective is to support delivery of the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes. A process used for doing so is a [Place and Wellbeing Assessment](#). This paper is the output of one of these assessments.

A 'How to Guide' for [Place and Wellbeing Assessments](#) has been designed to support others to undertake their own assessments.

There is high-level evidence and research that sits behind our Place and Wellbeing Outcomes and links to health and wellbeing. Full details on all of this evidence can be found on our Wiki page on the [Shaping Places for Wellbeing Knowledge Hub](#). You will find some of this evidence listed in the body of the report.

# Report Summary

The Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy contributes to delivering and supporting many of the aspects of a place that enable the wellbeing of those who live, work and relax in Dunoon. The review of the Argyll and Bute Economic Strategy draft contextual document is an opportunity to broaden the contribution of place to both overall wellbeing and to reduce inequality in some communities. The following broad themes were identified:

## Strategic alignment

It was noted that there is a complex landscape of strategies that overlap with the economic strategy and the challenge is not to duplicate and potentially dilute the economic strategy. It was suggested that the discussion needs to be elevated to look at how the different strategies are linked. Connected to this was highlighted to need to become smarter about how other sectors are brought in to support the strategy. Specific topics which were a focus of the discussion also align with the overarching themes of the draft Outcome Improvement Plan, which are transport, housing and community wellbeing.

## Strategic infrastructure – Transport and Housing

How people move around, and the importance of critical transport infrastructure, are highlighted in several places in the document as being vital to a thriving economy underpinned by a growing population. This could be further expanded on in relation to public transport and active travel to support sustainable tourism and connecting communities at a local level of interlinked settlements to enhance the accessibility of the economy.

The lack of available and affordable private housing is identified in the document as a key issue across all the strategic pillars. Further detail on how to align across related strategies and use partnerships with employers to identify need and the location and type of intervention was seen as enhancing the strategy.

## Partnership

Partnerships with employers across the private, third and statutory sector was discussed under all the outcomes to utilise the workplace as a way to support greater wellbeing, through active travel, identifying housing need and digital access.

The third sector was also identified as being a key partner for unlocking land and buildings for supporting local economies and building community resilience. This ties into the Community Wealth Building approach which is currently being explored in the Argyll and Bute context.

# Recommendations

For ease of reference, all the recommendations contained in this Report are listed below:

## Movement

1. Include references in the strategy to the need for rural flexibility on national standards in order to deliver more locally appropriate networks.
2. Expand on references to active travel in the strategy and highlight the potential for it to increase access to the economy and increase community resilience, particularly in connection with public transport.
3. Include references to partnerships with employers to increase active travel and the benefits of a healthier and more productive workforce.
4. Include references in the strategy to the leisure cycling economy and the potential for it to support sustainable tourism and deliver on reduced emissions for everyone.
5. Further highlight in the strategy the benefits of an affordable and accessible public transport system to increasing access to the economy and include reference to partnership working to enhance understanding of need to support local economies.
6. Include reference in the strategy to the prevention work by other partners including the Health and Social Care Partnership, and alignment with Community Planning, and the opportunities this could offer to support messaging about the long term benefits of reducing private car use.
7. Highlight in the strategy the need for a co-ordinated approach across different strategies to support a holistic approach to planning places and increasing accessibility by pedestrians.

## Spaces

8. In the strategy, highlight the need to have a co-ordinated approach to land ownership to unlock the potential for under used land and buildings for community benefit and expand on the role and challenges of the third sector in leveraging opportunities.
9. Strengthen references in the strategy to the importance of civic spaces to support local economies and links with other strategies to address the need.
10. Include further emphasis in the strategy for the potential of utilising natural assets for attracting people to live, work and play in Argyll and Bute.
11. Expand on references to climate mitigation to highlight the need for resilience to extreme weather events and a co-ordinated approach to protecting key infrastructure through targeted land development and protection. Include reference to the upcoming Climate Change Strategy and partnership opportunities it will identify to support resilience.
12. Include in the strategy or associated action plan further detail on the benefits and challenges to accessing the coastline for local economic benefit through community and business enterprise.

## Resources

13. Include in the strategy more detail of the potential benefits of digital connectivity to local economies, workplace hubs and community resilience.
14. In the strategy highlight the need for clarity on approach to digital infrastructure investment in co-ordination with other strategies to support increasing access to health, leisure and economic resources.
15. Include further references in the strategy to wellbeing outcomes that the strategy will seek to support and specific levers which in conjunction with other strategies it can enable.
16. Include more detail on Community Wealth Building through the strategy, utilising language of the upcoming report to highlight the benefits to communities and opportunities to building on existing work in Argyll and Bute.
17. Expand references to partnership working in the strategy to specifically include the potential of working with employers in the private sector, statutory anchor institutions and third sector to identify and address challenges of the housing emergency.
18. Include in the strategy references to alignment with the Housing Strategy and Local Development Plan to identify intervention required to address need for private sector housing that delivers on local living opportunities.

## Civic

19. Further highlight in the strategy opportunities for utilising local distinctiveness to attract and retain the population. Include references to cultural strategy, historic assets and the benefits to communities of resettlement programmes.
20. In the strategy highlight the benefits of a sense of belonging and the need to co-ordinate with other strategies, plans and programmes to ensure that all population groups can have opportunities to access employment opportunities.
21. Expand on references in the strategy to belonging and opportunities to participate to include the benefits to feelings of safety.

## Stewardship

22. Include in the strategy reference to the benefits of shared management of spaces through community involvement and highlight where this is part of other plans and strategies.
23. Further highlight partnerships as a cross-cutting theme in the strategy and include more detail on the purpose and benefits of the partnerships and mechanisms for enabling them.
24. In the associated action plan specific partnerships could be identified which would support involvement of communities in decision-making about priorities for economic investment.



## Next Steps

The recommendations in this report are reviewed by the key people involved in producing or reviewing the plan to see what can be incorporated into the next version of the plan, what needs further consideration and where collaboration is needed to take them forward. Not all recommendations will be suitable to take forward at that time due to time, capacity or other constraints.

# Appendix 1

## Summary of Discussion and Recommendations by Place and Wellbeing Outcome

### Movement

#### Active Travel

Everyone can:

- easily move around using good-quality, accessible, well-maintained and safe segregated wheeling, walking and cycling routes and access secure bike parking.
- wheel, walk and cycle through routes that connect homes, destinations and public transport, are segregated from, and prioritised above, motorised traffic and are part of a local green network.

#### Evidence and research:

- Active travel has been associated with reduced risk for all-cause mortality and improvements in mental health.<sup>1</sup>
- Motorised transport has the potential to reduce levels of physical activity and social interactions.<sup>2</sup>
- Active travel has the potential to provide benefits to local economies.<sup>3</sup>
- Active travel can help with cost of living increases.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Rissel C, Curac N, Greenaway M, et al. Physical Activity Associated with Public Transport Use - A Review and Modelling of Potential Benefits. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 2012 9: 2454-2478

<sup>2</sup> Mueller N, Rojas-Rueda D, Cole-Hunter T, et al. Health impact assessment of active transportation: A systematic review. *Preventative Medicine* 2015;76:103–114

<sup>3</sup> Pedestrian Pound, Living Streets <http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/media/3890/pedestrian-pound-2018.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Helping people through the cost of living crisis and growing our economy  
<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/media/11397/cost-of-living-report.pdf?ref=carbon>

## Summary of discussion:

It was agreed that there were opportunities to expand on the reference to active travel in the strategy, while recognising the specific challenges faced in delivering active travel infrastructure in a rural context. Connecting with the upcoming active travel strategy was seen as an opportunity to link active travel priorities with benefits to the economy and identify potential partnerships to lever in investment. Also highlighting the potential for Transport Scotland as a key stakeholder to help unlock challenges, such as land ownership, to developing active travel alongside the trunk road network.

It was suggested that the strategy should include more on connectivity between settlements linked to a service centre, with a focus on short, local journeys by active travel. It was highlighted that this would be beneficial to supporting local economies, reduce emissions and reduce car use which is currently unaffordable but unavoidable for some people. To facilitate longer journeys involving active travel, it was agreed there needed to be good connections into the public transport system.

Partnership with employers was seen as a key opportunity to increase investment in active travel through highlighting the health and wellbeing benefits to employees and increasing people's access to employment opportunities. It was also noted that relocating to a rural area is usually a lifestyle choice and greater opportunities for active travel could be part of promoting Argyll and Bute for a healthy life.

It was also identified that there are opportunities for increasing cycle tourism which would benefit the economy by increasing local spend and reduce vehicle traffic on the roads for everyone.

## Recommendations:

- Include references in the strategy to the need for rural flexibility on national standards in order to deliver more locally appropriate networks.
- Expand on references to active travel in the strategy and highlight the potential for it to increase access to the economy and increase community resilience, particularly in connection with public transport.
- Include references to partnerships with employers to increase active travel and the benefits of a healthier and more productive workforce.
- Include references in the strategy to the leisure cycling economy and the potential for it to support sustainable tourism and deliver on reduced emissions for everyone.

## Public Transport

Everyone has access to a sustainable, affordable, accessible, available, appropriate, and safe public transport service.

### Evidence and research:

- Rural and island areas often rely more on public transport because they have to travel further to access services and employment<sup>5</sup>
- Public transport has the potential to improve access to services and facilities and connect communities.<sup>6</sup>
- Certain groups in the population are disproportionately affected by the lack of available and affordable public transport.<sup>7</sup>
- Public transport has the potential to encourage active travel<sup>8</sup>

### Summary of discussion:

Similar to active travel it was suggested that there was potential for public transport to enable access to a greater range of employment opportunities. It was noted that there are currently barriers to accessing out of hours or night time economy work via public transport.

It was noted that providing good alternatives to private vehicle use was needed to support a culture shift, which is expanded on in the next section. This included a reliable public transport network.

It was suggested that the strategy could include stronger references to partnership working to develop more insight into what people needed from public transport to enable participation in the economy. This could include bringing in data held by the third sector and working with local transport forums.

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<sup>5</sup> Scottish Government. Building the evidence base on tackling poverty [www.gov.scot/publications/drivers-of-poverty/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/drivers-of-poverty/)

<sup>6</sup> Transport, health, and wellbeing: An evidence review for the Department for Transport [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/847884/Transport\\_health\\_and\\_wellbeing.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/847884/Transport_health_and_wellbeing.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Cooper E, Gates S, Grollman C, et al. Transport, health, and wellbeing: an evidence review for the Department for Transport. London: NatCen; 2019. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/847884/Transport\\_health\\_and\\_wellbeing.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/847884/Transport_health_and_wellbeing.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Davis A, Rye T, Pressl R, et al. Linking transport and health in SUMPs. How health supports SUMPs. Topic guide produced for European Platform on sustainable urban mobility plans (SUMPS). [www.eltis.org/mobility-plans/topic-guides-0](http://www.eltis.org/mobility-plans/topic-guides-0)

## Recommendations:

- Further highlight in the strategy the benefits of an affordable and accessible public transport system to increasing access to the economy and include reference to partnership working to enhance understanding of need to support local economies.

### Traffic and parking

Everyone can benefit from:

- reducing traffic and traffic speeds in the community.
- traffic management and design, where traffic and car parking do not dominate or prevent other uses of space and car parking is prioritised for those who don't have other options.

## Evidence and research:

- Motorised transport has the potential to increase air and noise pollution and greenhouse gases.<sup>9</sup>
- Parking should be prioritised for people who don't have other options.<sup>10</sup>
- Cars can help people to access services and communities.<sup>11</sup>
- The volume and speed of traffic and long commutes can be detrimental to health.<sup>12</sup>
- People with worst perceptions on traffic and impact on walking have lower wellbeing<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Transport Scotland. National Transport Strategy. Edinburgh; Transport Scotland; 2020.

[www.transport.gov.scot/our-approach/national-transport-strategy/](https://www.transport.gov.scot/our-approach/national-transport-strategy/)

<sup>10</sup> Transport use, health and health inequalities: The impact of measures to reduce the spread of COVID19. <https://publichealthscotland.scot/downloads/transport-use-health-and-health-inequalities-the-impact-of-measures-to-reduce-the-spread-of-covid-19/>

<sup>11</sup> Transport, health, and wellbeing: an evidence review for the Department for

Transport [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/847884/Transport\\_health\\_and\\_wellbeing.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/847884/Transport_health_and_wellbeing.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> INHERIT: exploring triple-win solutions for living, moving and consuming that encourage behavioural change, protect the environment, promote health and health equity [www.inherit.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/INHERIT-Report-A4-Low-res\\_s.pdf](http://www.inherit.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/INHERIT-Report-A4-Low-res_s.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Perceptions of road traffic conditions along with their reported impacts on walking are associated with wellbeing. 2019 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214367X17301588>

## Summary of discussion:

There was a discussion about shifting the culture away from a focus on designing places around car use and potential links in with the prevention strategy in the Health and Social Care Partnership to raise awareness of health benefits of reducing journeys by car and benefits to productivity of a healthier population. It was noted that accommodating private vehicles will continue to be a feature of movement, given the nature of the spread of settlements in Argyll and Bute and that people will continue to need or choose to visit larger urban centres in other areas to access choice and lower prices of goods. It was highlighted though that within settlements people are often choosing to use a car instead of walking short distances, and there is an opportunity to promote active travel in this context as an alternative.

It was suggested there were opportunities to link with the Planning Service and take a more holistic view of places and rationalise parking and reorientate buildings towards pedestrian use. Also, consideration of the infrastructure needed to support more sustainable private vehicle use such as EV charging points and car sharing.

## Recommendations:

- Include reference in the strategy to the prevention work by other partners including the Health and Social Care Partnership, and alignment with Community Planning, and the opportunities this could offer to support messaging about the long term benefits of reducing private car use.
- Highlight in the strategy the need for a co-ordinated approach across different strategies to support a holistic approach to planning places and increasing accessibility by pedestrians.

## Space

### Streets and spaces

Everyone can access:

- buildings, streets and public spaces that create an attractive place to use, enjoy and interact with others.
- streets and spaces that are well-connected, well-designed and maintained, providing multiple functions and amenities to meet the varying needs of different population groups.

## Evidence and research:

- Navigable streets and spaces allow people to move around easily, safely and access facilities and services.<sup>14</sup>
- Inadequate or poor spaces can lead to reduced social interactions.<sup>15</sup>
- Intergenerational connection and sharing of resources to support health, including the sharing of community assets, can strengthen communities.<sup>16</sup>
- Partnerships in place-keeping which involve communities can bring benefits that individual partners cannot achieve alone.<sup>17</sup>

## Summary of discussion:

While there isn't a lot of detail about the role of public spaces in the document, it was noted that there are other strategies and plans that could be referenced. It was agreed that spaces for markets and events where people to come together provided multiple benefits, including improved health and wellbeing, engaging communities and supporting local business. It was noted that successful spaces are often active and intergenerational.

The role of the third sector in unlocking the benefits was highlighted and it was suggested that there was potential for the strategy to identify ways of leveraging under used land and at-risk heritage assets for communities to develop as social enterprise. It was noted that a social enterprise survey report for Argyll and Bute was due to be published soon and would offer useful insight on the challenges and needs in terms of support and skills development.

It was noted that the development of an Open Space Strategy for Argyll and Bute could be an opportunity to further consider how the needs of community and business could be aligned with the economic strategy.

## Recommendations:

- In the strategy, highlight the need to have a co-ordinated approach to land ownership to unlock the potential for under used land and buildings for community benefit and expand on the role and challenges of the third sector in leveraging opportunities.
- Strengthen references in the strategy to the importance of civic spaces to support local economies and links with other strategies to address the need.

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<sup>14</sup> Quality of Life Foundation. Quality of life literature review; 2019. [www.golf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Literature-Review-of-Quality-of-Life-in-the-Built-Environment-Publica-4-1.pdf](http://www.golf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Literature-Review-of-Quality-of-Life-in-the-Built-Environment-Publica-4-1.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Public Health England. Local action on health inequalities: reducing social isolation. 2015 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-action-on-health-inequalities-reducing-social-isolation>

<sup>16</sup> Public Health England. Local action on health inequalities: reducing social isolation. 2015

<sup>17</sup> Place-keeping in action: Evaluating the capacity of green space partnerships in England, 2015 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2015.03.004>

## Natural Space

Everyone can:

- access good-quality natural spaces that support biodiversity and are well-connected, well-designed, safe, and maintained, providing multiple functions and amenities to meet the varying needs of different population groups.
- be protected from environmental hazards including air/water/soil pollution or the risk of flooding.
- access community food growing opportunities and prime quality agricultural land is protected.

### Evidence and research:

- Natural spaces can encourage social interactions and the development of stronger or more cohesive communities and can provide a sense of community and belonging.<sup>18</sup>
- Exercise, in natural/greenspaces may have greater health benefits, for example improved mental health outcomes, than the same activity in other settings.<sup>19</sup>
- The availability and accessibility of natural spaces vary across different income groups.<sup>20</sup>
- There are wider environmental benefits to increasing natural space which can protect population health.<sup>21</sup>

### Summary of discussion:

The natural assets of Argyll and Bute are mentioned frequently in the document and it was felt that there could be further weight in the strategy on how making use of those assets could support economic prosperity. It was noted that natural spaces in Argyll and Bute are a leisure resource for the Central Belt and more could be done to promote this, while ensuring that residents also retained access.

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<sup>18</sup> Hartig T, Mitchell R, de Vries S, et al. Nature and health. Annual Review of Public Health 2014;35:207–228

<sup>19</sup> Staatsen B et al. INHERIT: exploring triple-win solutions for living, moving and consuming that encourage behavioural change, protect the environment, promote health and health equity. Brussels: EuroHealthNet; 2017. [www.inherit.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/INHERIT-Report-A4-Low-res\\_s.pdf](http://www.inherit.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/INHERIT-Report-A4-Low-res_s.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> Public Health England. Improving access to greenspace. A new review for 2020. London: Public Health England; 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/904439/Improving\\_access\\_to\\_greenspace\\_2020\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/Improving_access_to_greenspace_2020_review.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> INHERIT: exploring triple-win solutions for living, moving and consuming that encourage behavioural change, protect the environment, promote health and health equity



Argyll and Bute has an extensive coastline but a lot of it is not accessible and it was raised that there is a lot of potential for the blue economy. The strategy could highlight this and identify levers for enabling greater access for businesses and community enterprise.

Protection from natural hazards and the economic impact of severe weather events and particularly flooding, was highlighted. It was suggested that further consideration could be made in the strategy for what is needed to support movement of people and goods and community resilience in the event of impact on key infrastructure. Also raised was a potential link with forestry expansion and connecting it with areas at risk of landslips.

It was noted that there is an upcoming Climate Change Plan being developed by the Community Planning Partnership which the strategy should make reference to. It was also suggested that links to the strategy with community resilience plans could be explored.

### **Recommendations:**

- Include further emphasis in the strategy for the potential of utilising natural assets for attracting people to live, work and play in Argyll and Bute.
- Expand on references to climate mitigation to highlight the need for resilience to extreme weather events and a co-ordinated approach to protecting key infrastructure through targeted land development and protection. Include reference to the upcoming Climate Change Strategy and partnership opportunities it will identify to support resilience.
- Include in the strategy or associated action plan further detail on the benefits and challenges to accessing the coastline for local economic benefit through community and business enterprise.

## Play and recreation

Everyone can access a range of high quality, safe, well-maintained, accessible places with opportunities for play and recreation to meet the varying needs of different population groups and the community itself.

### Evidence and research:

- Play and recreation is beneficial for the health of both adults and children through the encouragement of physical activity and social interactions.<sup>22</sup>
- There are health benefits of undertaking play and recreation in outdoor environments, in particular natural spaces.<sup>23</sup>

### Summary of discussion:

This outcome was not discussed in any detail beyond the consideration of spaces for people to come together.

### Recommendations:

There were no recommendations under this outcome

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<sup>22</sup> Local action on health inequalities: reducing social isolation. 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-action-on-health-inequalities-reducing-social-isolation>;

<sup>23</sup> Play Scotland. Getting it right for play power of play: an evidence base. [www.playscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/Power-of-Play-an-evidence-base.pdf](http://www.playscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/Power-of-Play-an-evidence-base.pdf)

# Resources

## Services and support

Everyone can access:

- health enhancing, accessible, affordable and well-maintained services, facilities and amenities. These are informed by community engagement, responsive to the needs and priorities of all local people.
- a range of spaces and opportunities for communities to meet indoors and outdoors.
- information and resources necessary for an included life in a range of digital and non-digital formats.

## Evidence and research:

- People need local facilities and services to live and enjoy healthy independent lives.<sup>24</sup>
- Accessibility to services can be exacerbated by poor transport links and safety of wider environment.<sup>25</sup>
- Access to facilities, services and communities can also help to increase social interactions and the inaccessibility can affect certain groups disproportionately.<sup>26</sup>
- Rural social enterprises provide services that generate opportunities to gain social support and form social relationships.<sup>27</sup>
- Poor health reduces productivity and hampers economic growth<sup>28</sup>.

## Summary of discussion:

The role of digital connectivity was a key feature of this discussion and while it is referenced strongly in the document, it was felt that the strategy could include more detail on the benefits and strategic approach. There was a range of benefits highlighted, particularly for remote and rural communities, including learning, social connection, accessing health services and community resilience. Digital should be considered as part of a hub model of

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<sup>24</sup> Compact, Walkable, Diverse Neighbourhoods: Assessing Effects on Residents. 2014 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10511482.2014.900102>; Spatial Planning and Health (NICE). 2012 <https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/spatial-planning-and-health-nice>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.transport.gov.scot/our-approach/national-transport-strategy/>

<sup>26</sup> Scottish Government. Building the evidence base on tackling poverty paper 1 – a discussion paper on the drivers of poverty. Edinburgh: Scottish Government; 2017. [www.gov.scot/publications/drivers-of-poverty/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/drivers-of-poverty/)

<sup>27</sup> Filling a void? The role of social enterprise in addressing social isolation and loneliness in rural communities <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0743016718315122>

<sup>28</sup> Nobody left behind Maximising the health benefits of an inclusive local economy [https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.15%20inclusive%20growth\\_04.1.pdf](https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.15%20inclusive%20growth_04.1.pdf)

providing services and supporting the development of modern workspaces. It was suggested this infrastructure support could also be extended to social enterprises to enable participation in the changing nature of the workplace. Also to support an aging population to access the digital sphere.

It was noted that there isn't currently an investment strategy for digital infrastructure in Argyll and Bute but there has been a recent digital audit which could be pointed to in the strategy.

### Recommendations:

- Include in the strategy more detail of the potential benefits of digital connectivity to local economies, workplace hubs and community resilience.
- In the strategy highlight the need for clarity on approach to digital infrastructure investment in co-ordination with other strategies to support increasing access to health, leisure and economic resources.

### Work and economy

Everyone benefits equally from a local economy that provides:

- essential goods & services produced or procured locally
- good quality paid and unpaid work
- access to assets such as wealth & capital and the resources that enable people to participate in the economy such as good health and education
- a balanced value ascribed across sectors such as female dominated sectors and the non-monetary economy
- the resources that enable people to participate in the economy such as good health and education.

### Evidence and research:

- Work is beneficial for health if it is 'good' work. 'Good' work is defined as work which improves income, job security, does not increase employee's risk of illness or injury, or does not negatively impact mental health.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Local Government Association. Nobody left behind: maximising the health benefits of an inclusive local economy. London: Local Government Association; 2019.  
[http://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.15%20inclusive%20growth\\_04.1.pdf](http://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.15%20inclusive%20growth_04.1.pdf)

- Unemployment can be harmful to health and the longer unemployed the worse the health outcomes.<sup>30</sup>
- If a place is lively and vibrant it can provide work opportunities and will encourage people to visit the area, use it and invest in it.<sup>31</sup>

### Summary of discussion:

It was suggested that there could be more explicit references to fairness in the economy, including mention of fair work and further exploration of what outcomes are desired for the population from economic activity. Promotion of inclusive ownership models was noted as a potential mechanism for this and the opportunity that the strategy might give to be a lever for that. Community development trusts were mentioned specifically as having the potential to act as partners and lever in resources.

A challenge highlighted was that the cost of doing business in Argyll and Bute is much higher than some other part of Scotland and this can limit expansion and make wage increases harder to achieve.

It was noted that there is a report on Community Wealth Building which is due to be completed soon and could provide an opportunity for the strategy to draw on some of the language used around community benefit and co-production. It was suggested that there is a high level of skill in Argyll and Bute which could be utilised.

The concept of a wellbeing economy was also raised and queried how it could inform the strategy.

### Recommendations:

- Include further references in the strategy to wellbeing outcomes that the strategy will seek to support and specific levers which in conjunction with other strategies it can enable.
- Include more detail on Community Wealth Building through the strategy, utilising language of the upcoming report to highlight the benefits to communities and opportunities to building on existing work in Argyll and Bute.

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<sup>30</sup> Tinson, A. What the quality of work means for our health The Health Foundation (2020) <https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/Health%20Foundation%20What%20the%20quality%20of%20work%20means%20for%20our%20health.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> Happy city wellbeing principles for British land. London: British Land; 2015 [www.britishland.com/search-result?q=Happy+city+wellbeing+principles](http://www.britishland.com/search-result?q=Happy+city+wellbeing+principles)

## Housing and community

Everyone has access to:

- a home that is affordable, energy efficient, high quality and provides access to private outdoor space.
- a variety of housing types, sizes and tenancies to meet the needs of the community. And of a sufficient density to sustain existing or future local facilities, services and amenities.
- a home that is designed and built to meet need and demand, is adaptable to changing needs and includes accessible/wheelchair standard housing.
- new homes that are located and designed to provide high levels of climate resilience and use sustainable materials and construction methods.
- homes that are designed to promote community cohesion.

### Evidence and research:

- Provision of good quality affordable housing is associated with improved physical and mental health outcomes including quality of life.<sup>32</sup>
- Certain groups of the population can sometimes find it difficult to access good quality affordable housing, which meets their needs.<sup>33</sup>
- Housing should be located close enough to enable residents to easily access facilities and services including employment, social networks and transport.<sup>34</sup>

### Summary of discussion:

Argyll and Bute has recently declared a housing emergency. The challenges of providing housing to support the vision for a growing population were a focus of this discussion, particularly in the private sector. The challenges include procurement, accommodation for construction workers and shortage of skills locally, as well as understanding of what is needed to address market failure.

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<sup>32</sup> Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On [www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on](http://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on)

<sup>33</sup> Jones R. The built environment and health: an evidence review; 2013. [https://www.gcph.co.uk/publications/472\\_concepts\\_series\\_11the\\_built\\_environment\\_and\\_health\\_an\\_evidence\\_review?date\\_from%5Bmonth%20%5D=1&date\\_from%5Byear%5D=2013&date\\_to%5Bmonth%5D=12&date\\_to%5Byear%5D=2013](https://www.gcph.co.uk/publications/472_concepts_series_11the_built_environment_and_health_an_evidence_review?date_from%5Bmonth%20%5D=1&date_from%5Byear%5D=2013&date_to%5Bmonth%5D=12&date_to%5Byear%5D=2013)

<sup>34</sup> Higgins M, Cain T, Lowther M, et al. 50,000 affordable homes: A health impact assessment. Edinburgh: Scottish Health and Inequalities Impact Assessment Network and Scottish Public Health Network (ScotPHN); 2017. [https://www.scotphn.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/2017\\_06\\_27-FINAL-SHIAN-50-000-New-Homes-HIA-Report-ES.pdf](https://www.scotphn.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/2017_06_27-FINAL-SHIAN-50-000-New-Homes-HIA-Report-ES.pdf)

A potential lever for stimulating house building was identified as partnerships with large scale employers and anchor institutions. It was noted that while seeking to attract large scale energy infrastructure investment, it was challenging to manage the influx of people to support that investment.

Alignment of third sector, private sector and statutory sector was identified as helping to better support and manage demand, particularly around the locations identified in the Local Development Plan. It was noted that there is currently a workforce survey of businesses and organisations to better understand their needs, which will be a really useful source of data to support this work.

It was suggested that better links between the housing strategy and Local Development Plan and economic strategy could align locations for investment in business, housing and support local living through building around existing settlements.

### **Recommendations:**

- Expand references to partnership working in the strategy to specifically include the potential of working with employers in the private sector, statutory anchor institutions and third sector to identify and address challenges of the housing emergency.
- Include in the strategy references to alignment with the Housing Strategy and Local Development Plan to identify intervention required to address need for private sector housing that delivers on local living opportunities.

# Civic

## Identity and belonging

Everyone can benefit from a place that has a positive identity, culture and history, where people feel like they belong and are able to participate and interact positively with others.

### Evidence and research:

- Landmarks or something distinctive about the neighbourhood can also help to create a sense of place and belonging, which is beneficial for health.<sup>35</sup>
- A sense or feeling of belonging to a community is associated positively with mental health, and an improved quality of life.<sup>36</sup>
- If people are involved in helping to design and maintain the places they live in this can build a sense of ownership, belonging and attachment.<sup>37</sup>

### Summary of discussion:

The distinctiveness of places in Argyll and Bute is included in the document and it was felt this could be further strengthened, particularly given the important link with attracting and retaining the population. Culture and heritage in particular were noted as levers to economic development and suggested there could be a stronger link with the CHArts strategy in the economic strategy. Also linking back to work and economy supporting creative practitioners through hub models.

The successful resettlement work by the Council of migrant populations from Syria and Ukraine in particular was noted as positively impacting local economies and creating multi-lingual communities. The changing nature of communities should be highlighted in the strategy as well as the historic and traditional distinctiveness, and how this creates very different types of workforces in each area.

It was noted that not every part of the population will feel the same sense of belonging and it should be recognised that there are barriers to economic participation. Particular groups mentioned were people who are substance users, care experienced, have learning

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<sup>35</sup> Design for social sustainability – a framework for creating thriving new communities. <https://youngfoundation.org/publications/design-for-social-sustainability/>

<sup>36</sup> Quality of life literature review [www.golf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Literature-Review-of-Quality-of-Life-in-the-Built-Environment-Publica-4-1.pdf](http://www.golf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Literature-Review-of-Quality-of-Life-in-the-Built-Environment-Publica-4-1.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> 6 Durcan D, Bell R. Reducing social isolation across the life course. London: Public Health England; 2015. [www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-action-on-health-inequalities-reducing-socialisolation](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-action-on-health-inequalities-reducing-socialisolation)



disabilities, are single parents and trans people. Some of this work to develop skills and reduce barriers is already being driven forward through the Community Justice Partnership, Employability Partnership delivery plan and the Rural Skills Accelerator Programme.

## Recommendations:

- Further highlight in the strategy opportunities for utilising local distinctiveness to attract and retain the population. Include references to cultural strategy, historic assets and the benefits to communities of resettlement programmes.
- In the strategy highlight the benefits of a sense of belonging and the need to coordinate with other strategies, plans and programmes to ensure that all population groups can have opportunities to access employment opportunities.

### Feeling safe

Everyone feels safe and secure in their own home and their local community taking account of the experience of different population groups.

## Evidence and research:

- Perceptions of place feeling unsafe can lead to negative impacts on health, for example mental wellbeing and can reduce outdoor activities.<sup>38</sup>
- Some groups within the population can have limited access to safe and well-maintained environments.<sup>39</sup>
- Perceptions of safety can influence a sense of powerlessness.<sup>40</sup>

## Summary of discussion:

This outcome was not discussed in detail but referenced in the discussion above on sense of belonging.

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<sup>38</sup> Lorenc T, Clayton S, Neary D, et al. Crime, fear of crime, environment, and mental health and wellbeing: mapping review of theories and causal pathways. *Health Place* 2012;18:757–765.

<sup>39</sup> INHERIT: exploring triple-win solutions for living, moving and consuming that encourage behavioural change, protect the environment, promote health and health equity. [www.inherit.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/INHERIT-Report-A4-Low-res\\_s.pdf](http://www.inherit.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/INHERIT-Report-A4-Low-res_s.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> Evidence Behind the Place Standard Tool and the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes <https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/14808/evidence-behind-the-place-standard-tool-and-the-place-and-wellbeing-outcomes-full-report.pdf>

## Recommendations:

- Expand on references in the strategy to belonging and opportunities to participate to include the benefits to feelings of safety.

## Stewardship

### Care and maintenance

Everyone has access to:

- buildings, spaces and routes that are well cared for in a way that is responsive to the needs and priorities of local communities.
- good facilities for recycling and well organised refuse storage and collection.

## Evidence and research:

- If neighbourhoods are attractive this can improve mental wellbeing.<sup>41</sup>
- If people perceive their neighbourhoods as being poorly maintained with high levels of environmental incivilities they are likely to experience worse health outcomes such as lower levels of mental wellbeing<sup>42</sup>
- Vacant and derelict land can negatively impact on health.<sup>43</sup>

## Summary of discussion:

Care of places was discussed as being important to involve communities in and was also raised in terms of sharing the maintenance burden which can be a challenge of introducing new infrastructure. It was suggested that shared management of spaces is already included in other strategies and this could be highlighted in the economic strategy.

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<sup>41</sup> Bond L, Kearns A, Mason P, et al. Exploring the relationships between housing, neighbourhoods and mental wellbeing for residents of deprived areas. BMC Public Health 2012;12:48.

<sup>42</sup> [https://www.gcph.co.uk/assets/0000/4174/BP\\_11 - Built environment and health - updated.pdf](https://www.gcph.co.uk/assets/0000/4174/BP_11_-_Built_environment_and_health_-_updated.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> Maantay J. Derelict land, deprivation and health inequality in Glasgow, Scotland: The collapse of place. New York; 2013

## Recommendations:

- Include in the strategy reference to the benefits of shared management of spaces through community involvement and highlight where this is part of other plans and strategies.

### Influence and sense of control

Everyone is empowered to be involved a place in which:

- Local outcomes are improved by effective collaborations between communities, community organisations and public bodies.
- Decision making processes are designed to involve communities as equal partners.
- Community organisations co-produce local solutions to issues.
- Communities have increased influence over decisions.
- Democratic processes are developed to be accessible to all citizens.

## Evidence and research:

- Sense of control can be beneficial for mental health and quality of life.<sup>44</sup>
- Empowerment can help to reduce isolation and can be beneficial for mental health and wellbeing.<sup>45</sup>
- People living in more socio-economic deprived areas felt less confident about being involved in decision-making compared to less deprived areas.<sup>46</sup>
- Those with a long-term health condition or disability can feel less empowered in decisions about their neighbourhood.<sup>47</sup>
- Importance of community-led organisations in creating and maintaining vital social infrastructure for populations facing social and spatial disadvantage.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> <https://vhscotland.org.uk/the-zubairi-report/>

<sup>45</sup> What works to boost social relations. What Works Centre for Wellbeing; 2015. <https://whatworkswellbeing.org/blog/what-works-to-boost-social-relations/>

<sup>46</sup> Scottish Household Survey 2018. Edinburgh: Scottish Government; 2019. [www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-people-annual-report-results-2018-scottish-household-survey/documents/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-people-annual-report-results-2018-scottish-household-survey/documents/)

<sup>47</sup> Evidence Behind the Place Standard Tool and the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes <https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/14808/evidence-behind-the-place-standard-tool-and-the-place-and-wellbeing-outcomes-full-report.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> The role of community-led organisations in creating social infrastructure for the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged populations: a qualitative study [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(22\)02217-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(22)02217-6/fulltext)

## Summary of discussion:

Partnership with third sector organisations and businesses is mentioned throughout the document and was part of the discussion on most outcomes. It was suggested that this could be made more explicit as a theme and expanded on further.

Involving communities is mentioned throughout the document and in relation to community wealth building it was noted that co-production could be further explored as a way of communities feeding into priorities for investment in economic development.

The potential for inclusive ownership models has been highlighted under other themes and it was suggested that strategies on asset transfer which supported this could be further expanded on in the economic strategy.

## Recommendations:

- Further highlight partnerships as a cross-cutting theme in the strategy and include more detail on the purpose and benefits of the partnerships and mechanisms for enabling them.
- In the associated action plan specific partnerships could be identified which would support involvement of communities in decision-making about priorities for economic investment.

## Appendix 2: Participants

Ishabel Bremner	Economic Growth Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Audrey Martin	Transformational Projects and Regeneration Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
James Patterson	Senior Economic Growth Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Jonathan Welch	Rural Growth Deal Programme Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Matt Mulderrig	Development Policy and Housing Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Rona Gold	Communities and Partnership Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Colin Young	Strategic Transportation Delivery Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Charlotte Craig	Business Improvement Manager, Health and Social Care Partnership
Takki Sulaiman	CEO, Third Sector Interface
Susan McRae	Planning Lead, Skills Development Scotland
Alex Wilde	Shaping Places for Wellbeing (Project Lead Dunoon)
Becky Hothersall	Shaping Places for Wellbeing (Community Link Lead Dunoon)
Irene Beautyman	Shaping Places for Wellbeing (Programme Lead)
Laura Stewart	Shaping Places for Wellbeing (Chair)
Eilidh Mackintosh	Shaping Places for Wellbeing (Note taker)