

Argyll and Bute Council news round-up - 31 August 2018

Welcome to Argyll and Bute Council's weekly news round-up.

Thank you for reading it. If you have ideas on how we could make it more useful for you, we'd love to hear them. Please let us know by emailing press@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Focus on: More backing for Argyll and Bute's Rural Growth Deal

The case for Argyll and Bute's Rural Growth Deal has had a further boost following the latest 'very positive' discussions with the UK Government.

Argyll and Bute Council leader, Councillor Aileen Morton, met with David Mundell, Secretary of State for Scotland, in Lochgilphead on Tuesday, August 28.

Mr Mundell had travelled to Argyll and Bute for the latest in the council's series of high-level meetings with both the Scottish and UK governments, making the case for additional investment in the area. Along with key partners, the council has been working to refine its Rural Growth Deal proposals over the past several months, ahead of a formal pitch to both governments

Speaking after her meeting with Mr Mundell, Councillor Morton said: "We're clear that Argyll is the natural choice for a growth deal – it's absolutely full of opportunities for economic success and prosperity. All of this potential can be unleashed through investment in Argyll and Bute's key strengths like tourism and business innovation, while also overcoming barriers to growth like housing supply and digital connectivity.

"I was delighted to welcome Mr Mundell to Argyll and Bute to outline our progress over the past few months, and to let him know that local people overwhelmingly back a deal for their communities. It was really encouraging to hear that the UK Government is looking forward to receiving our proposals and seeing them go through the process over the coming months."

Councillor Morton added: "Our next steps are further meetings with the Scottish Government at both ministerial and MSP level, scheduled to take place in September. It's great to be going into these meetings with significant support from local people as well as the positive feedback we heard today. More and more people are convinced that Argyll is the natural choice for a Rural Growth Deal, and we are determined to make it happen."

Did you know?

Did you know that 4.5% of cars bought in Argyll and Bute are electric or hybrid vehicles? That's the second highest rate in the country.

News

[Head of Education puts Argyll and Bute on the map](#): Argyll and Bute was represented at an international conference in America earlier this month, when the Council's Head of Education for Lifelong Learning and Support/Chief Education Officer self-funded a trip to Montana to attend the International Symposium for Innovation in Rural Education (ISFIRE).

[Liaison Partners to shine light on islands' challenges and opportunities](#): The council's Argyll Islands Strategic Group has welcomed a pilot initiative that will see five Scottish Government employees volunteering as 'Island Liaison Partners' to improve the Scottish Government's understanding of the specific challenges facing Argyll and Bute's islands.

[The Big Listen](#): In response to the Scottish Government's consultation 'Democracy Matters', Argyll and Bute Council Chief Executive Cleland Sneddon visited many of our communities to hear their thoughts on the future of public services. Read the report [here](#).

[Sad Winds of Islay](#): A Scottish expat has written and recorded a song to commemorate the centenary of the sinking of SS Tuscania and HMS Otranto, which took place off the shores of Islay during the World War One.

Work with us

Argyll and Bute is a great place to live and work, and the council is looking to recruit for a number of roles across a range of locations. Among the posts available are: Leisure Centre Receptionist in Campbeltown; Social Care Worker in Oban; Customer Liaison Officer in Lochgilphead; and Head Teacher on Bute. Find out about these posts, and more, at [My Job Scotland](#).

Consultations

[Carers Strategy and Action Plan](#): **We are looking for your views on our new draft strategy “Caring Together – Argyll and Bute Carers' Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2023.**

[Draft Procurement and Commissioning Strategy](#): **We want to know what you think about the draft Procurement and Commissioning Strategy and Sustainable Procurement Policy for 2019/20.**

[British Sign Language](#): We would like to know what your thoughts on the first Draft Joint Local British Sign Language Plan for Argyll and Bute 2018 – 2024.

Next edition

We will issue our next news round-up on Friday 7 September 2018.