

Strengthening Communities Quarterly Progress Report

Organisation Name: Lorn Islands Partnership (LIP)

Reporting Period: July – end September 2017

Key Activities (as per original Investment Summary)	Details of progress to date	Outcomes achieved	What next?
<p>Post being funded Development Officer</p> <p>Delivery of a further 3 Lorn Island Gatherings, providing information, training and opportunity for consultation to wider communities of interest re LIP focus</p>	<p>(April to June) During, this period no Lorn Island Gatherings have taken place due to the Easter period and lambing season and the launch of the visitor season which makes attendance at events difficult, however Board Meetings have taken place monthly, enhanced by Zoom meetings to support discussion re key areas of activity in-between. Lorn Island Gathering content has been discussed and it has been agreed to consider offering information sessions re “right to buy”, housing needs analysis and consultation re additional carbon reduction measures and opportunity for input into a cross island Creative Scotland Programme. (July – September) The first LIP Gathering is to be held on the 11th of November. Sessions to be included are; Online Strategy, changes to Data Protection rules and impact for Charities/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ strengthened management and increased income generation from existing assets, <p>Work ongoing although Luing has secured 2 new Board members as has Lismore and Kerrera’s new Board members secured during Year 1. During the period Lismore has also secured 2 new Board Members and 2 new LIP Board members have been welcomed to meetings as alternates. The Project update attached evidences the</p>	<p>For Q3.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project with HIE to support Business development/ workshop space/ business expansion and job creation to be moved forward via Architect Feasibility and Business Planning during Q2. 2. Housing Needs Analysis to be completed during Q3 3. Funding Applications to support asset development and

<p>Complete the “asset enhancement” and future-proofing of individual island assets via conclusion of agreed funding targets/ projects</p>	<p>Trusts and Housing Needs Analysis. The second LIP Gathering is planned for the second week in February 18 focusing on AR in Heritage, potentially to support a cross-island Funding Application to promote LIP island heritage and culture.</p> <p>(April to June) There is a lot of work ongoing in relation to the achievement of this area of work. Please see attached the most recent Project update specifically related to asset development, acquisition and economic regeneration and enhancement. Building on groundwork done during Quarter 1 significant progress can be evidenced.</p> <p>(July – September) This continues to be an area of ongoing work and is slowly being knitted into what will result in a cross-island Visitor Strategy and Online Strategy. Please see the attached Project Update, highlighting work ongoing in relation to asset acquisition, development, maintenance and income generation projects vis capacity-building across all islands. Work with HIE on the development of new workshop units and business development will also link to the achievement if this goal.</p>	<p>increased number of assets coming into community ownership and links to future asset development and income generation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ progress in the development of new assets, both for community services and income generation to sustain the four Trusts, where appropriate <p>As above. Please see attached Project Activity Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ viable new projects identified from a long list including renewable energy; on-island transport; affordable housing; tourism provision; fast broadband; reliable 3G mobile phone signals; opportunities which may arise a result of 	<p>expansion - ongoing during Q3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Investigations to be undertaken across islands re derelict houses that could possibly be acquired as community resources or to support recruitment to tie in with Housing Needs Analysis. 5. Lismore Trust to undertake a learning visit to other islands with community housing/ social care solutions – info to be shared with LIP members and tie in with Housing Needs Analysis 6. Cross island youth Project to be discussed during Q3
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<p>Review and identify future LIP asset-development needs</p>	<p>(April to June) The need for a LIP website has been discussed extensively during Q1 with some costs already identified. It has been agreed that further work is required in relation to agreeing a cross-island online strategy tying in with the cross-island Tourism/ Visitor Strategy rather than a narrow focus on the development of a new LIP website. Kerrera has commenced work on a website upgrade and Lismore have identified work to be undertaken with their island website group. It is hoped work on each island to consider what their online presence should be, will provide learning prior to further development of a LIP online strategy and website. IT and financial literacy training scheduled for Lismore and Kerrera in Q2. (July – September) Via the CCF Project a first stage LIP website has been designed with a LIP logo. This will be developed further to become a fully interactive portal for LIP members contributing to LIP online Strategy and Visitor Strategy. It is hoped that individual island websites will be successfully upgraded to link to the LIP website should funding be secured.</p>	<p>the ‘participation requests’ in the Community Empowerment Act</p> <p>Significant learning achieved via CCF Project, Tourism Strategy, Online Strategy, Housing Needs Analysis are all progressing as cross-island themes. Please see Project Update attached.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ new economic activities identified, suited to residents and potential residents <p>Project with HIE re support of Business Development Units/ Entrepreneurial activity ongoing. (22 businesses seeking workshop space, 9 x expanding businesses and 13 x new businesses, potential for minimum 15 x FTE roles.</p>	<p>7. Carbon reduction / energy efficiency issues to be reviewed during Q3.</p> <p>8. Further LIP IT Training will be carried out with specific sessions on online strategy, mobile apps and AR in Heritage.</p>
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<p>Completion of LIP IT Support Needs Appraisal including website upgrade and co-ordination and use of social media</p>	<p>(April to June) Generation of the Lorn Island Trail leaflet was achieved in Q4 of last year. Distribution included various vehicles and it will be evaluated at the end of October after the main summer/ autumn season. Feedback from Visit Scotland has been very positive. Via the use of adopted phone boxes, Lismore and Kerrera are considering developing local information points which will also host the Lorn Island Trail leaflets alongside other essential information. Funding applications for these developments have been submitted.</p> <p>(July – September) As above a first stage LIP website has been developed during this quarter and IT Training has been delivered to LIP Board Members and individual Trust Directors. This is to be continued in Q3.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ increased community engagement and involvement <p>New Board members secured as detailed above. Extensive community consultation has taken place re LIP lead activities on all islands, asset purchase, Housing Needs etc.</p>	
<p>Launch of LIP Trail and Marketing/ Distribution/ Publicity Plan</p>	<p>(April – June) This has been a major area of work in Q1. Cross island needs have been identified which has highlighted a significant number of local business entrepreneurs and potential job creation which is currently limited by workshop space. HIE have come on board to support the process of design research and business planning for a cross island project to develop innovative and cost-effective workshop and storage units</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reduction in volunteer ‘burn-out’ ▪ skills development for volunteers and others in the communities, building on the range of skills that exist within the partners, but also identifying gaps and addressing these <p>Volunteer recruitment and support is ongoing. However, some evidence</p>	

<p>Development of a cross-island Enterprise Forum</p>	<p>to support business creation and expansion. As Luing, Lismore and Easdale are involved in this Project, the development of an Enterprise Forum will naturally be supported as the project develops.</p> <p>(July – September) As above this work is broad-based and ongoing. A second run of LIP leaflets has been re-designed and printed – distribution is ongoing. Marketing and Publicity planning will progress following sessions planned this month on online strategy, which combined with Visitor Strategy will be a key focus for the remainder of this funding period.</p> <p>(April – June) At this stage, no new social enterprise development is underway but will be revisited in Q2 for further discussion however there was significant awareness raising activity undertaken in relation to this in the previous year.</p> <p>(July – September) Development of the HIE Project promoting business development and enterprise activity is ongoing with a committed network identified of 22 businesses (9 expanding business and 13 new businesses). In addition, it is possible that some social</p>	<p>of new and returning volunteers on all islands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ early indications that population decline is being stemmed, and even reversed, with signs that more balanced age profiles of the populations may be achievable <p>Too early to report on this however measures are being supported to support the achievement of this aim – improved infrastructure, community experience and cohesion and some involvement of young people in Business development work evidencing their hopes to be able to stay and develop their businesses on islands. It is hoped that strategy that follows the results of the Housing Needs Analysis will influence this goal.</p>	
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<p>Establishment of Social Enterprise Activity</p> <p>Development of a cross-island business start-up/ development/ mentoring Forum</p>	<p>enterprise activity may be explored during Q3/4 in relation to care provision, and other areas such as recycling and waste removal where Local Authority cuts are already resulting in cuts in island service delivery.</p> <p>This has been a major area of work in Q1. Cross island needs have been identified which has highlighted a significant number of local business entrepreneurs and potential job creation which is currently limited by workshop space. HIE have come on board to support the process of design research and business planning for a cross island project to develop innovative and cost-effective workshop and storage units to support business creation and expansion.</p> <p>(July – September)</p> <p>Development of the HIE Project promoting business development and enterprise activity is ongoing with a committed network identified of 22 businesses (9 expanding business and 13 new businesses). In addition, it is possible that some social enterprise activity may be explored during Q3/4 in relation to care provision, and other areas such as recycling and waste removal where Local Authority cuts are already resulting in cuts in island service delivery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a record of community consultations that have clearly informed the above outcomes <p>This is ongoing with more consultations planned in relation to Housing Needs Analysis. Individual Consultations re Asset Purchase and Development have also taken place on Easdale in this Quarter with high percentage responses.</p> <p><u>New Outcomes for 17/18</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of Partnership as a local lobbying, economic development and co-ordinated tourism body <p>Work ongoing.</p>	
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<p>Development of cross-island “craft collective” and marketing of same, supporting increased income from cottage industry</p>	<p>All islands are interested in this area of work and it is planned that this will be revisited in Q3. It is also hoped that work via the business space/ community workshop units will also offer space to support this development however other activities supported via LIP will also support this including lease of the school house on Lismore as a community resource and acquisition and re-development of the school house on Kerrera as a community resource and provision of all year-round heating in Easdale’s hall will all offer additional space to support this development. Again, all these activities link to LIP online strategy which has been agreed as a priority of Q2 and 3. (July – September) It is hoped that all funding necessary and leases will have been secured by the end of Q3, giving Easdale an enhanced hall, infrastructure to support increased use, Lismore a Community Resource Centre in the old school house and in Kerrera a Community Hub in the old School. CCF funding has supported recycling of materials and enhanced sewing skills via the purchase of sewing machines which can be used on all islands.</p>	<p>2. Co-ordinated approach to on/off island transport and costs</p> <p>To be considered during Q3</p> <p>3. Co-ordinated approach to provision of energy across partner islands</p> <p>To be considered during Q3</p> <p>4. Articulation of housing needs assessment and provision of “gateway housing”</p> <p>Process ongoing with Rural Housing Scotland.</p>	
<p>Development of a cross-island Arts and Entertainment Programme</p>	<p>Work has been undertaken during Q1 to support the first cross island entertainment</p>		

<p>Provision of an enhanced and shared island “youth offer”</p> <p>Completion of a LIP Housing Needs Assessment</p>	<p>tour via Orkestra Del Sol which will also produce a LIP Promotional Video. Due to take place in October 17. (July – September) Unfortunately, this Funding Application to Creative Scotland was unsuccessful. This area of work will be revisited to support a cross-island Arts Programme during Q3.</p> <p>(April – June) While this has been agreed as a key priority for Year 2, work will commence during Q2. Ongoing work with Rural Housing Scotland has resulted in the LIP Board agreeing to move forward with a cross-island Housing Needs Analysis undertaken by Rural Housing Scotland, Funding has been sourced and work will take place in August 17. (July – September) In partnership with Rural Housing Scotland, full community consultation and research is being undertaken on all islands in relation to current and anticipated, future Housing Needs.</p> <p>(April – June)</p>	<p>5. Delivery of cross-island “youth offer” and volunteer/ community contribution</p> <p>Targeted for activity during Q2/3. Lismore and Easdale both have small Projects to be pursued targeting children and young people.</p>	
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<p>Development of LIP wide Energy Forum</p>	<p>This has been in some way partly achieved via the CCF Project where a sub-group made up of representatives of LIP Communities have come together to form a Steering Group for the Project. (July – September) As above. Further work on this is planned for Q3.</p>		
<p>Delivery of a co-ordinated LIP needs lobbying plan to key stakeholders Support ongoing Community Consultation</p>	<p>During Q1 no tangible work has been undertaken specifically to support this area of work however the LIP Board have agreed to become a member of the Scottish Islands Federation. (July – September) As above. Further work on this is planned for Q3</p>		
<p>Identification of appropriate onward funding models and possibilities</p>	<p>As detailed in the Project Update attached all areas of work undertaken have potential funders attached. Discussion during Q1 with the Robertson Trust and LEADER has highlighted potential follow-op options for the LIP Project should SCP not be available during Year 3. (July – September) As above, significant work has taken place on this during Q2, with draft costings circulated for discussion – decision needed on these to progress potential Applications.</p>		

<p>Evaluation of progress in relation to the above</p>	<p>Input needed from DTAS on the likelihood of year 3 funding.</p> <p>(April – June) A full Programme Evaluation was completed and assessed following the end of Year 1. The results if this have informed the priorities for Q1 of Year 2 and ongoing. Project progress is fully discussed at each Board Meeting and as previously stated additional meetings are undertaken as needs arise to support the Project.</p> <p>(July – September) As above.</p> <p>In summary cross-island themes are progressing in relation to Housing and Business Development/ Enterprise activity and online strategy, with sub areas of work including website, co-ordinated Visitor offer, also progressing.</p> <p>Asset maximisation and infrastructure development funding applications are now coming to fruition enabling local island activity and development plan implementation.</p>		
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Please describe any challenges or issues faced during this past quarter. In particular, please identify any areas or issues where assistance from the Strengthening Communities programme may be useful

Please describe anything unexpected that has happened over the past 3 months that has added to what you have been able to accomplish this quarter

The summer season as ever is busy and impacts on ability to attend meetings for LIP and Trust and also to facilitate Community Consultations. Despite this Board commitment to meet via ZOOM, use evening meetings or weekend meetings has been successful.