4. Detail

Some relevant updates are provided below -

The Motorhome and Informal Camping Survey went live at the beginning of February 2021. This was promoted through Argyll and Bute Council's communication channels and by partners. Over 150 responses from throughout Argyll and Bute were received. There were a range of views and locations shared across the Argyll and Bute Council region, with varying experiences. Feedback came from local community organisations, representatives, landowners, as well as local companies that fit out motorhomes. Although the survey was focused on communities within Argyll and Bute we received feedback from out with the area too. A link to the survey can be found here Motorhome and Informal Camping Survey (argyll-bute.gov.uk). The survey data will have some operational value and will also help in future project work.

At the recent council budget, resource was committed towards four seasonal warden positions for the 2021 season (one per administrative area) within Roads and Infrastructure Services. These positions will focus on positive and proactive engagement with visitors, encouraging responsible behaviour. Another temporary position is being created within Development and Economic Growth to help progress Staycation project work.

At the recent council budget, resource was committed towards public conveniences (PCs), to support the reopening of those PCs which remained closed last year as the resource wasn't available to re-open them under the enhanced cleaning regime required.

Progress is being made on developing clearer guidance for businesses/landowners/community organisations on the regulatory aspects and what might be required if they are interested in providing greater facilities to accommodate visitors. Most sorts of development, even small scale, will require planning permission and a caravan site licence. Assistance is being provided where possible to assist those interested in developing facilities. The national Visitor Management Plan and Strategy was published by VisitScotland on the 19th of March 2021 and full information on this can be found here - <u>Visitor Management:</u> <u>Scotland's Plan & Objectives | VisitScotland.org</u>

NatureScot launched the Better Places Green Recovery Fund on the 19th of March, applications can be from constituted organisations, registered charities, trusts, local authorities and community groups. Where applications are received from <u>Visitor Management - News | VisitScotland.org</u> A communications approach will be adopted consistent with national messaging.

The national guidance for Managing Camping with tents was recently updated - <u>Managing camping with tents in Scotland |</u> <u>Scottish Outdoor Access Code (outdooraccess-scotland.scot)</u>

5. Conclusions

Argyll and Bute Council continues to work with partners to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented, seeking solutions that will benefit our communities and reduce negative impacts where possible.

6. SOA Outcomes

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