

Argyll and Bute Council

FLEXIBLE FOOD FUND –

SUPPORTING OUR
COMMUNITIES



Quick Facts

Second largest local authority in Scotland

690,899 hectares – 9% of Scotland

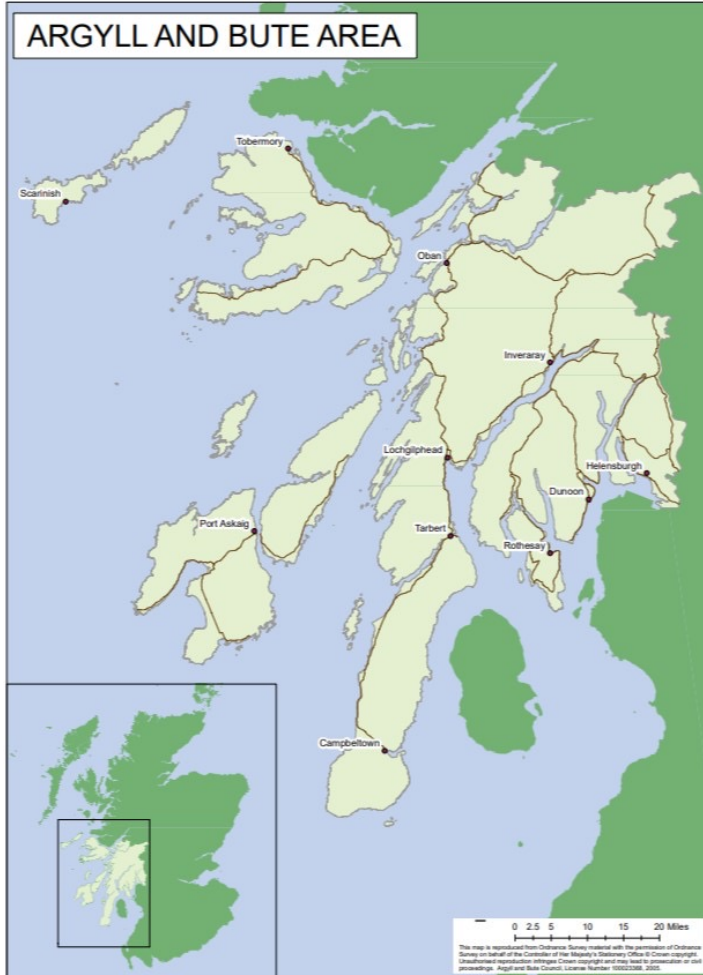
Population – 86,810

Average population density 13 persons per square km Scottish average 69

23 inhabited islands

55% live in remote rural areas

Argyll and Bute – The Area



Changing Landscape



Argyll and Bute Context



Predominance
of low pay
sectors like
agriculture,
forestry and
tourism

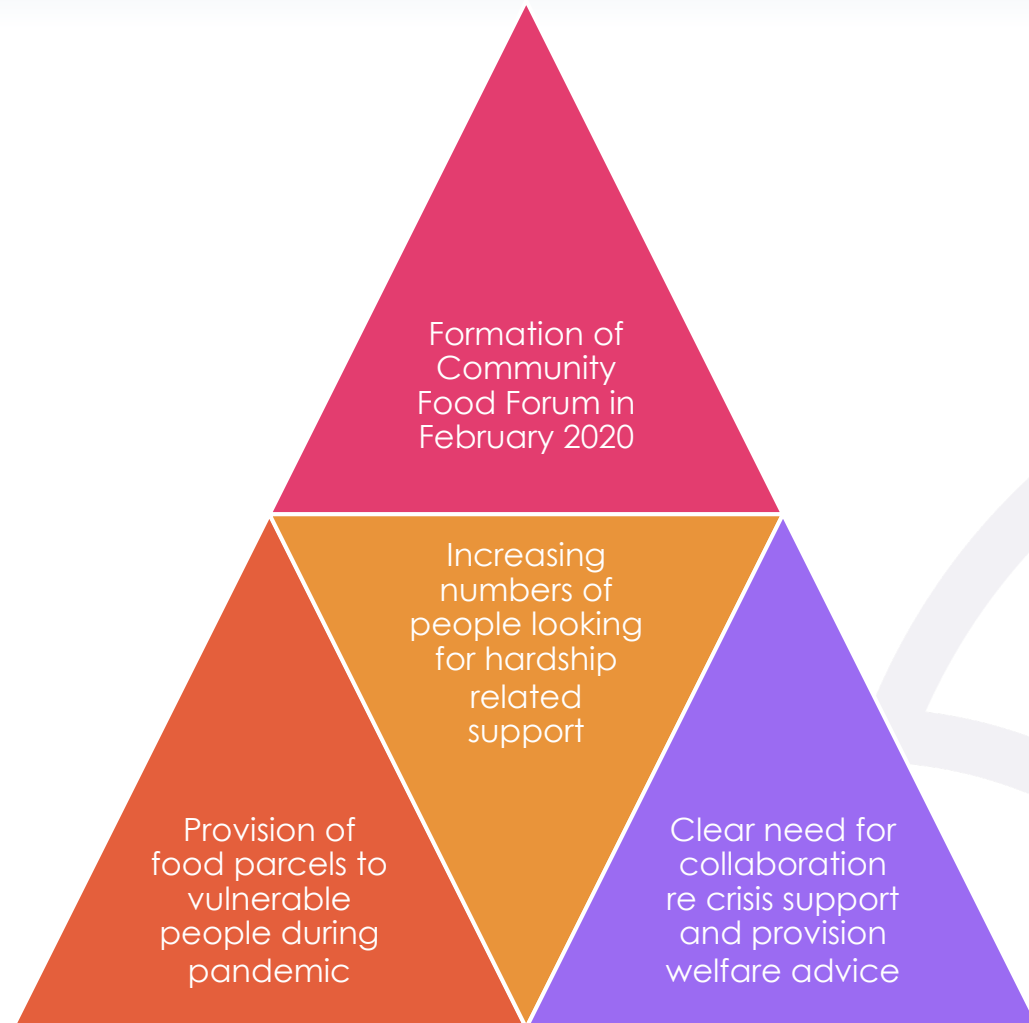
High level of
fuel poverty
compared to
the rest of
Scotland

Affordable
housing
challenges

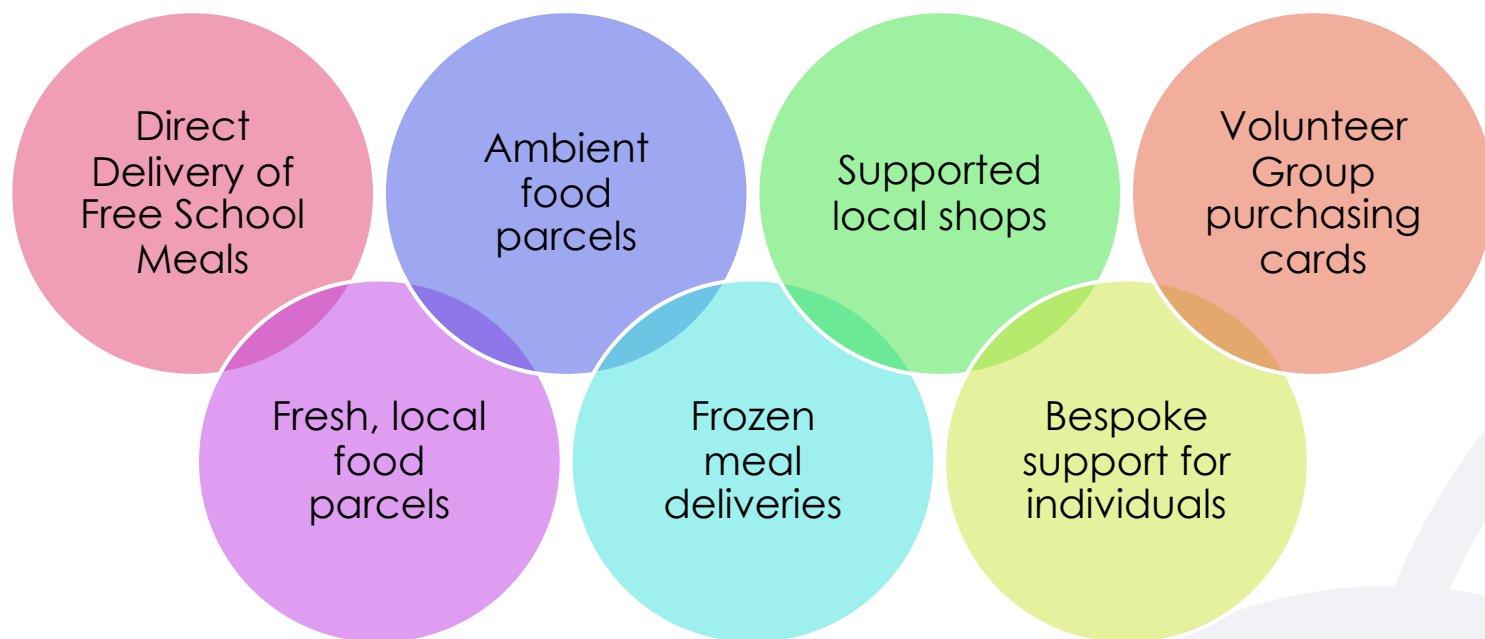


#abplace2b

Driver for Innovation



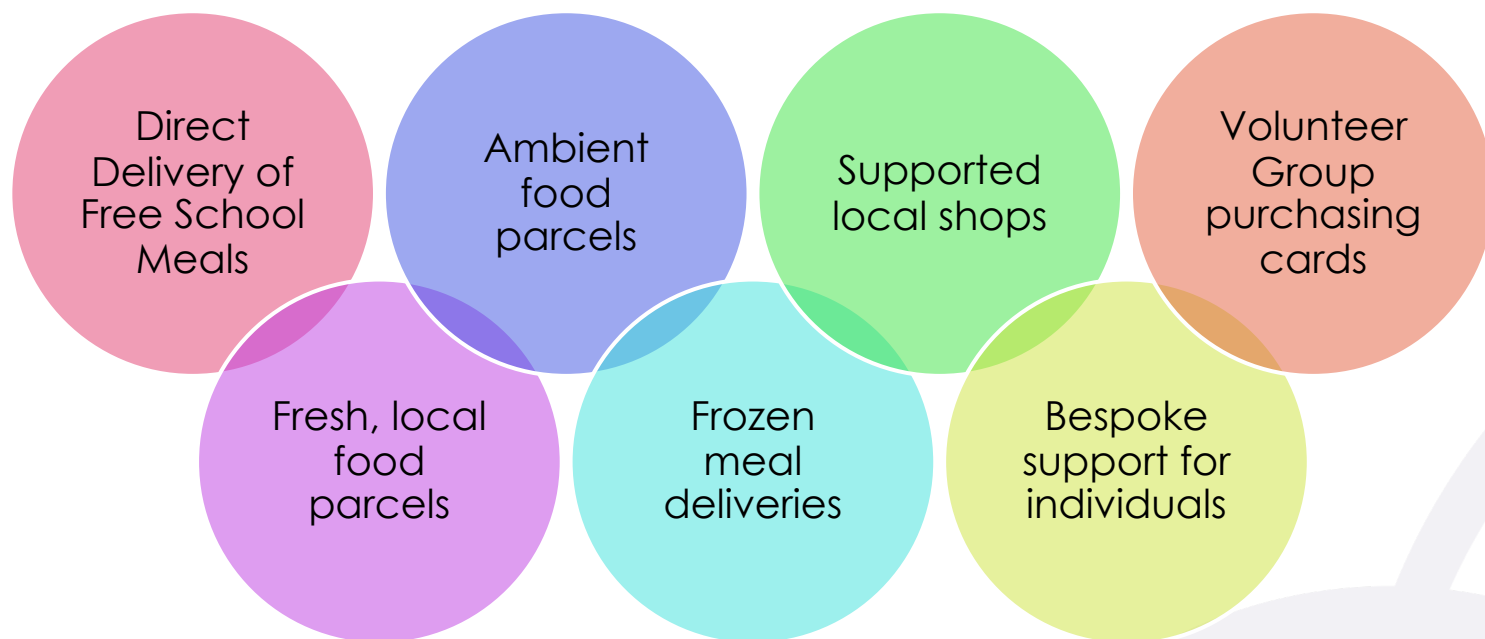
Initial Response - Lockdown







Initial Response - Lockdown



To the staff at Kilmory.

Hi folks,

A great big thank you to all the staff and the lovely volunteers for the "goodie bags" so cheerfully delivered each week. I was very grateful for the fresh produce and can assure you that nothing was wasted.

I hope you are all able to stay safe and don't have too much anxiety.

Thanking you all once again

Keep up the good work

Yours

A lady from Garelochhead has phoned in to say a "Huge thank you" for food parcel that she has received.

Her husband has recently recovered from being seriously ill from Covid-19 and only just got home. She said the yoghurt that he ate was the first proper thing she has seen him enjoy.

I sobbed for 5 minutes after this call.

Thank-you for keeping
us safe during these
hard times

J.W.

Hand made card by
Jad

I wanted to say how grateful I am for the food you left for me this afternoon

It is perfect and makes me feel there are people who care
Tonight I am looking forward to my new potatoes with Graham's butter, salad of peppers and carrot and cheese with a toffee yoghurt chasers!

I am most grateful

Thank you very, very much

Best

(clapping)



We have received a second food parcel today via the Coastguards and I just wanted to say how impressed we are with the produce. I didn't even know Flora vegan spread existed and it is impossible to obtain vegan cheese in Mull. I have created my first vegan pizza, something I have longed to try because I just couldn't tolerate the ingredients in standard pizza.

So - I just wanted to let everyone involved in choosing the products and getting the parcels to us that all your hard work and efforts are very much appreciated.

Thank you!

Flexible Food Fund - Principles



Eligibility Criteria



Over 16 and resident in Argyll and Bute

Experiencing Financial Hardship

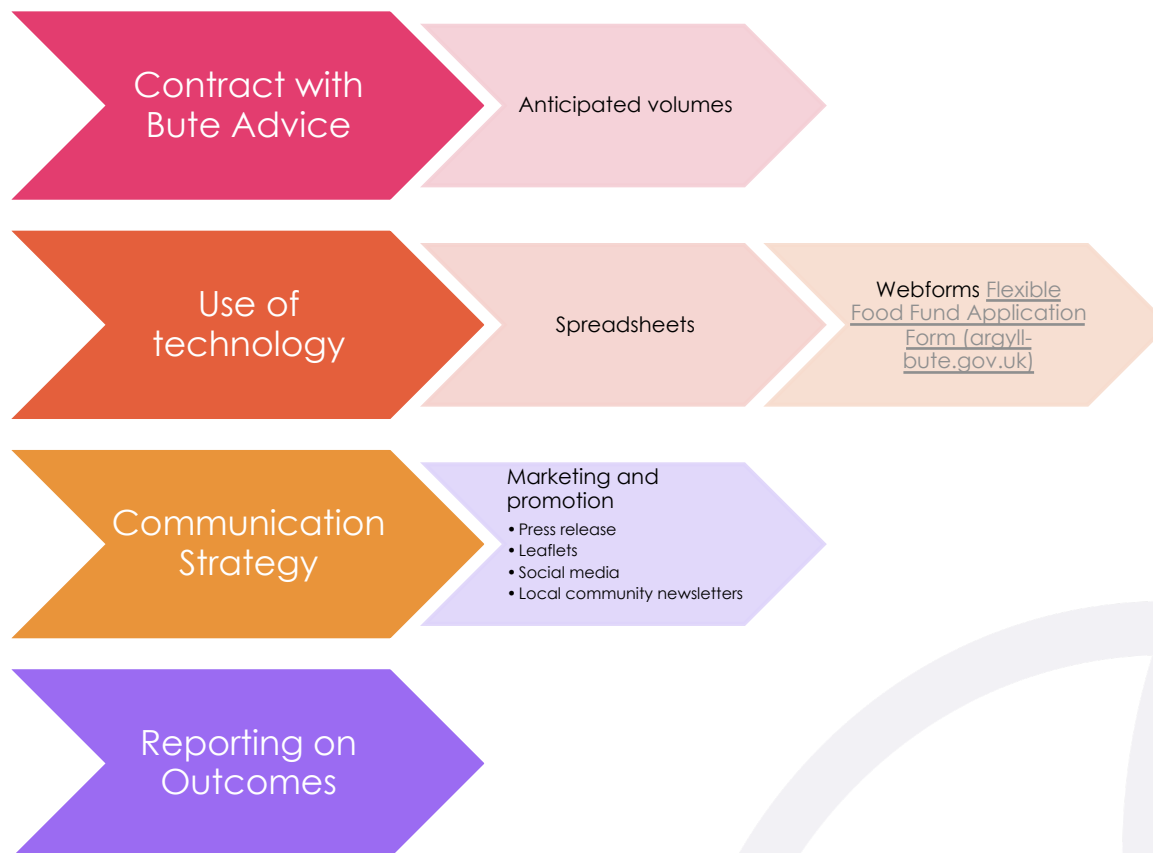
In receipt of qualifying benefit or be on an equivalent low income

Ready reckoner guide but discretion key

Flexible Food Fund Grant Awards

Household Composition	Monthly Payment (£)
Single adult (no children)	£80
Single parent + 1 child	£185
Single parent + 2 children	£255
Single parent + 3 children	£320
Single parent + 4 children	£390
Single parent + 5 children	£460
Couple (no children)	£150
Couple + 1 child	£250
Couple + 2 children	£320
Couple + 3 children	£390
Couple + 4 children	£460
Couple + 5 children	£530

Project initiation



Key Successes

Total at
July 21

households
supported – 549

persons
supported– 1,006

children in
supported
households – 457

96.5% of customers
engage in
support, receive 2
pays

Household size	No. of Claims			Claim % by Household Type
	Grant Paid	Grant Rejected	Total Claims Supported	
Single adult (no children)	203	70	273	49.73%
Single parent + 1 child	58	20	78	14.21%
Single parent + 2 children	31	13	44	8.01%
Single parent + 3 children	21	10	31	5.65%
Single parent + 4 children	5	0	5	0.91%
Single parent + 5 children	4	0	4	0.73%
Couple (no children)	19	12	31	5.65%
Couple + 1 child	20	15	35	6.38%
Couple + 2 children	18	13	31	5.65%
Couple + 3 children	8	2	10	1.82%
Couple + 4 children	1	3	4	0.73%
Couple + 5 children	2	1	3	0.55%
TOTAL	390	159	549	1

Impact on Foodbanks

Level of demand for HLF reducing for certain client groups, single parents

In the 2020/2021 financial year HLF:

- Issued 2,389 bags of food
- Supported 2,938 adults and 1,035 children with one weeks supply of food

Circa 460 bags of food quarter from 1 March to 31 May 2019

Circa 600 bags of food in same quarter in 2020

Circa 510 bags of food in 2021 for same period

Roadshows

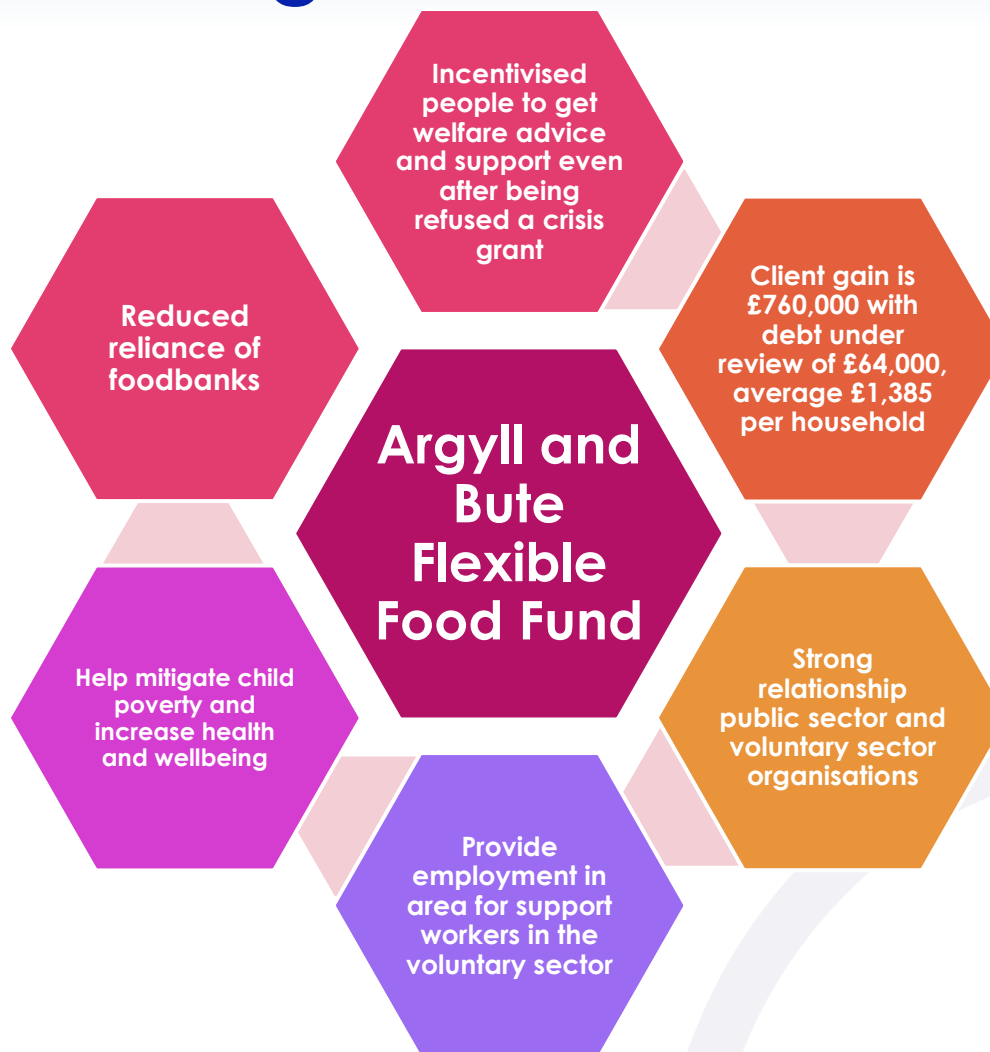
Stats show that the majority of success has been in Bute and Cowal

- SIMD main areas of multiple deprivation
- Bute Advice and Allenergy already have a good network of contacts in these areas.

Roadshows being delivered across the region

- To increase take-up of support, activate referrals in areas where take-up is low
- Improve network of contacts in other areas, NHS, Council and other support agencies
- Promote the support on offer and encourage engagement
- Promote health and wellbeing outcomes

Initial Findings



Case Studies

“Mrs Smith was feeling extremely depressed and unable to cope. As part of a couple with a young family she had repeatedly failed to engage with support services. Although her partner was working, the family income was very low and support through benefit top ups was critical. Through the concerted efforts made by the Flexible Food Fund project in conjunction with her Health Visitor she was supported to a successful conclusion regarding her FFF claim, she was also supported to claim the Best Start grants and Scottish Child payments that she had been unaware of. Having had such a positive experience, she now feels better able to access support should she need it in the future. Her fears of being able to cope financially over the summer were removed, greatly improving her mental health. This has since led to her working towards resolving their rent arrears with ACHA housing association. The family also benefited from energy vouchers from Allenergy”.

Key Successes

“Realising our potential together”

Effective engagement with our internal and external partners.

Keeping it simple

Setting clear aims and objectives, common to all organisations

Raising awareness of services available

Building and expanding working relationships, Sharing best practice, IRRV, NHS, Scottish Government, Money Advice Agencies and the Big Lottery Fund

Key Achievements

July 2021

549 households helped
£760,000 of client gain, £1,385 per household supported

Evidence that footfall is reducing in foodbanks

Evidence that Crisis grant claim numbers reducing

Excellent working relationships developed

Roadshows, get to every community

Supporting employment in our communities