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## NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

29 October 2019

### Cabinet

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	To determine applications by Locality Partnerships to allocate CIF funding to proposed projects.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Reviews the enclosed applications from the Irvine, Garnock Valley and Three Towns Locality Partnerships in line with CIF criteria;</li><li>b) Approves the CIF applications in relation to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Accessibility improvements at Irvine Newtown Men's Shed and</li><li>(ii) Garnock Valley 2020 Vision</li></ul></li><li>c) Defers the CIF applications in relation to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Garnock Valley Participatory Budgeting – Community Councils and</li><li>(ii) Participatory Budgeting, The Three Towns Locality Partnership pending the introduction of proposals to Cabinet for small-grant awarding Participatory Budgeting.</li></ul></li></ul>

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Within its budget for 2017-18, North Ayrshire Council provided a funding allocation for the creation of an innovative fund to enable communities to address the priorities they have identified through Locality Planning Partnerships and within the context of North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Fair for All strategy.
- 1.2 Locality Partnerships have subsequently continued to work on their local action plans and are refining proposals for expenditure in line with their locally identified needs. This is a challenging process, and it is a testament to the dedication of the Locality Partnerships and their community partners that proposals are now emerging to provide creative approaches to addressing local challenges.
- 1.3 This report brings forward proposals, which respond to the specific needs of the local community and which have been developed based on local circumstances and opportunities.

- 1.4 These proposals have been approved to be submitted to Cabinet through a process of collaboration and consensus by the Locality Partnerships.
- 1.5 It is recommended that two of the proposals are approved and two are deferred pending further work to create a small grant awarding fund for Participatory Budgeting (PB).

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Within its budget for 2017-18, North Ayrshire Council provided an allocation for the creation of an innovative fund to enable communities to address the priorities they have identified through Locality Planning Partnerships and within the context of North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Fair for All Strategy, to be distributed among Localities as follows:

<b>Locality</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Value</b>
Irvine	29%	£754,000
Kilwinning	11%	£286,000
3 Towns	23%	£598,000
Garnock Valley	15%	£390,000
North Coast	18%	£468,000
Arran	4%	£104,000

- 2.2 It was agreed that the CIF will support proposals and projects that connect with:

- The North Ayrshire Fair for All Strategy;
- The Community Planning Partnership and Locality priorities; and
- North Ayrshire Council's values, priorities and business objectives.
- Fulfil a compelling need and do not duplicate existing services or facilities;
- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible;
- Exhibit project and/or organisational innovation in their approaches to their work in their way of addressing community challenges and in their request to Locality Partnerships and the Council;
- Come from (an) organisation(s) that is financially viable (can provide financial statements upon request) and efficiently and effectively managed. This can include an organisation to be created to deliver the project;
- Include options or potential for NAC and CPP employee engagement and volunteering where possible; and
- Include measurable outcomes and can report to NAC on outcomes on a regular basis.

- 2.3 The proposal development and application process has been agreed as follows:

- Locality Partnerships should continue to engage with their communities and stimulate interest in the CIF. Each Locality Partnership will then strategically assess the applications, make links and look at the funding 'in the round.'
- If the partnership supports a bid then the group will be encouraged to submit a full application form, which they will decide upon before making a proposal to Cabinet for final approval.
- The finalised proposal will go to the next suitable Cabinet for final approval.

- 2.4 The enclosed applications have been developed by community partners and the North Ayrshire Council officers and are now recommended for approval by Cabinet. The proposals are as follows:

#### 2.4.1 The Irvine Locality Partnership

The allocation and funds committed to date are outlined in the table below.

<b>Irvine Locality Partnership Allocation</b>	<b>£754 000</b>
Digital Officer	£84 604
Vineburgh and Fullarton Community Enablers	£100 000
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£569 396</b>

#### **Accessibility improvements, Irvine Newtown Men's Shed** (Appendix 1)

Irvine Newtown Men's Shed was founded in November 2018 to provide recreational facilities and to support the social needs, health and wellbeing of men of all ages and backgrounds living in Irvine and its surrounds. It has 45 members and moved into new premises in August 2019 in Bourtreehill Village. The group is seeking funding to support the upgrading of the new premises, specifically to make it wheelchair accessible and to create a disabled toilet. The funding will also be used to paint the premises, partition the workshop area and provide a protected, seating area for recreation and an IT area for the safe use of donated computers. Funding will also be used to purchase equipment and machinery.

Funding of £10 000 is requested.

#### 2.4.2 The Three Towns Locality Partnership (Appendix 2)

The allocation and funds committed to date are outlined in the table below.

<b>The Three Towns Locality Partnership CIF allocation</b>	<b>£598 000</b>
Community Development Trust	£25 000
Three Towns Growers	£100 000
Training Station	£50 000
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£423 000</b>

#### **Participatory Budgeting - The Three Towns Locality Partnership**

The Locality Partnership wants to implement a small grant Participatory Budgeting process designed to enhance local decision making and reinforce a sense of civic responsibility. The community will be asked to apply for funding for with the award criteria aligned to Locality Partnership priorities. There will be public voting on the final award decisions. They will make use of online tools, and other means of engagement to involve residents of all ages in the process of resource allocation and will work with the Council's Funding Officer to maximise the levered spend to help build a "cocktail of funding".

Funding of £34 0000 is requested.

### 2.4.3 The Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

The allocation and funds committed to date are outlined in the table below.

<b>The Garnock Valley Locality Partnership CIF allocation</b>	<b>£390 000</b>
Mens Shed	£28 000
Travel Needs Analysis	£25 000
Geilsland Hall Volunteering and Employability	£45 000
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£322 000</b>

#### a) **Garnock Valley Participatory Budgeting – Community Councils** (Appendix 3)

The three Community Councils want to hold small grants Participatory Budgeting events in the Garnock Valley, with strong engagement with local communities. The communities will be asked to apply for funding with the award criteria aligned to Locality Partnership priorities. There will be public voting on the final award decisions. The community councils are showing strong, clear community leadership in taking forward this proposal and by working collaboratively, they are forging strong cross locality bonds and working relationships.

Funding of £39 000 is requested.

#### b) **Garnock Valley 2020 Vision** (Appendix 4)

The Facilities and Amenities Working Group, which is a subgroup of the Locality Partnership is seeking support for a project which will involve all the towns and villages of the Garnock Valley working together to change the narrative of the area by creating a positive mindset and perception within the community in which they live (as well as to those from out with the area). Funding is sought for costs to carry out an extensive community engagement exercise to shape the Garnock Valley 2020 vision. This will identify and collate the community assets and positives within each of the areas, create a baseline of current perceptions of the Garnock Valley and also identify what people like and are proud of. This would work towards helping to create a picture of what a positive Garnock Valley would look like and would develop a delivery route map and role profile for a Development Worker to develop the vision and activities aligned to it.

Funding of £15 000 is requested.

### 2.5 The agreed purpose of CIF is to develop projects which:

- Fulfil a compelling local need;
- Impact on reducing inequalities; and
- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible.

- 2.6 Related to this, CIF guidance highlights that awards between £5,000 and £100,000 will be available, with phasing and drawdown to be agreed dependent on individual projects. Where a proposal is assessed to be eligible for an award, but the value of that award is calculated to be less than £5,000, the organisation will be signposted to apply for support through the Nurturing Excellence in Communities, Common Good and NAVT Grants schemes instead. This is to ensure the required levels of monitoring and reporting are proportionate to the value of award.
- 2.7 Using a Participatory Budgeting approach to award small grants does not meet the purpose or criteria of CIF and recent research has indicated that small-grants do not create sustainability in organisations or projects. However, the value and importance of this approach to communities has been proven in North Ayrshire over a number of years and previous small grant awarding Participatory Budgeting events have proven popular and successful with local groups across North Ayrshire. Cabinet recognises the value of this approach in localities and has requested that officers bring forward proposals to identify funding for this purpose.
- 2.8 It is therefore proposed that the CIF applications detailed above at 2.4.2 (Participatory Budgeting - The Three Towns Locality Partnership) and at 2.4.3 (a) (Garnock Valley Participatory Budgeting – Community Councils) be deferred and considered within the context of the proposals to fund small-grant awarding Participatory Budgeting at 2.7 above.

### **3. Proposals**

#### **3.1 That Cabinet:**

- a) Reviews the enclosed applications from the Irvine, Garnock Valley and Three Towns Locality Partnerships in line with CIF criteria;
- b) Approves the CIF applications in relation to:
  - (i) Accessibility improvements at Irvine Newtown Men's Shed and
  - (ii) Garnock Valley 2020 Vision
- c) Defers the CIF applications in relation to:
  - (iii) Garnock Valley Participatory Budgeting – Community Councils and
  - (iv) Participatory Budgeting, The Three Towns Locality Partnership pending the introduction of proposals to Cabinet for small-grant awarding Participatory Budgeting.

### **4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty**

#### **Financial**

- 4.1 CIF funding is allocated within existing resources.

#### **Human Resources**

- 4.2 None.

#### **Legal**

- 4.3 None.

#### **Equality/Socio-economic**

4.4 The purpose of Locality Planning is to reduce inequalities, increase community cohesion and advance community empowerment. Each of the CIF proposals is tested against that purpose before being presented to Cabinet.

### **Environmental and Sustainability**

4.5 Environmental and sustainability issues are considered in relation to each CIF application.

### **Key Priorities**

4.6 The proposals contained within the report support the North Ayrshire Council Plan priorities:

- Active and strong communities
- Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy
- People enjoy good life-long health and wellbeing.

### **Community Wealth Building**

4.7 The applications support the following pillars of community wealth building: Advancing community enterprises;

- Advancing local ownership of underused land and buildings; and
- Supporting local business activities and increasing the variety of ownership models.

## **5. Consultation**

5.1 The proposals contained within this report have been developed by the Locality Partnerships, through consultation with local people, including young people.

Audrey Sutton  
Interim Executive Director of Communities

For further information please contact **Rhona Arthur, Interim Head of Connected Communities**, on **01294 324415**.

### **Background Papers**

Appendix 1: CIF Application: Irvine Newtown Men's Shed

Appendix 2: CIF Application: The Three Towns Locality Partnership

Appendix 3: CIF Application: Garnock Valley Participatory Budgeting – Community Councils

Appendix 4: CIF Application: Garnock Valley 2020 Vision



## Appendix 1 - Community Investment Fund: Proposal to Cabinet

<b>Organisation name</b>	<i>Irvine Newtown Men's Shed</i>
<b>Brief details of organisation</b>	<p>Irvine Newtown Men's Shed was founded in November 2018. They currently have 45 members and their committee consists of 7 members. Their initial meetings were held in Towerlands Community Centre, Bourtreehill. In January 2019 they moved to the Age Concern building within Bourtreehill village centre.</p> <p>In August 2019, they secured their own rented premises from North Ayrshire Council, again in Bourtreehill village centre. Irvine Newtown Men's Shed provides recreational facilities and advances the social needs, health and wellbeing of men of all ages and backgrounds living in Irvine and surrounding areas by creating, developing and maintaining a Men's Shed. They offer opportunities for men in the Irvine area to meet and undertake creative, physical purposeful and recreational activities of their choice. They aim to reduce social isolation of men in the area thus contributing to their physical and mental wellbeing. They also aim to develop the capacity of men in the Irvine area to share their knowledge and skills with others in the community.</p>
<b>Locality</b>	Irvine
<b>Amount requested</b>	£10,000
<b>Brief overview of proposal</b>	<p>The group is requesting funding to support the upgrading of the new premises. The premises urgently need to be made wheelchair accessible and to have fully accessible toilets installed. Funding will be used to update the premises by painting the walls and floor, sectioning off a work shop area and creating a safe area where there will be no machinery. This will make have a seating area for recreational activities and provide seating.</p> <p>A number of computers have been donated and the group will create an area specifically for IT, including desks and computer chairs. With donations, careful expenditure and using local networks the group plan to have some funding left-over which would be used to purchase additional equipment and machinery for use by the members of the Men's Shed.</p>
<b>Timescales</b>	Spring 2020
<b>Contact details</b>	Elaine Baxter, Locality Officer, Connected Communities







## Appendix 2 - Community Investment Fund: Proposal to Cabinet

<b>Organisation name</b>	<i>Three Towns Locality Planning Partnership</i>
<b>Brief details of organisation</b>	<p>The first Three Towns Locality Partnership event took place on 8 June 2016 and the priorities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Economy and Tourism</li> <li>2.Community Regeneration</li> <li>3.Environment (including civic pride and community engagement)</li> </ol> <p>The Locality Planning Partnership is part of the statutory Community Planning Partnership approach responsible for the delivery of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan as set out within the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act.</p> <p>The Three Towns Partnership seeks to identify and meet local needs and priorities which connect to national priorities, legislation and policy and they achieve that by actively engaging with residents across the Three Towns through a variety of means e.g. community engagement, consultation and information-sharing.</p> <p>The Chairs of the Community Councils are automatically appointed as Community representatives to the LPP as their statutory role is to ascertain, coordinate and express the views of the local community to the Council and its partners.</p>
<b>Locality</b>	The Three Towns
<b>Amount requested</b>	£34,000
<b>Brief overview of proposal</b>	<p><b><u>Participatory Budgeting in The Three Towns</u></b></p> <p>Participatory Budgeting directly involves local people in making funding decisions on the things that matter to them. The Partnership wants to involve as many people and their networks of contact as possible, within a range of themed participatory budgeting events to build and strengthen the link between the Partnership and their community. The themes will be determined by the Partnership, who are undertaking the process in accordance with their stated aim and to enhance public engagement and empowerment.</p>

	<p>Participatory budgeting will help attract additional funds into the Three Towns area by providing an effective means of distributing resources, that funders feel confident enough to engage with and support.</p> <p>The implementation of the Partnership has led to innovative projects receiving funding. Participatory budgeting was used by the community to decide the distribution of grounds maintenance budget, including decisions to plant vegetables and fruit to provide free food. It also helped the Three Towns Growers build their relationship with the wider community, which secured funding for an environmental education centre.</p> <p>Each participatory budgeting event builds upon the last and helps bring together like-minded individuals and groups to promote and enhance the local environmental agenda, the regeneration of the Three Towns and participatory budgeting builds the trust relationship between the Community, the Planning Partnership, the Council and their partners.</p>
<b><i>Timescales</i></b>	2020
<b><i>Contact details</i></b>	Shirley Morgan, Locality Officer, Connected Communities



### Appendix 3 - Community Investment Fund: Proposal to Cabinet

<b>Organisation name</b>	Beith and District Community Council											
<b>Brief details of organisation</b>	<b><u>Mission Statement</u></b>  Beith and District Community Council are the lead organisation for this application. They re-formed in November 2017 and are working alongside Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Council and Dalry Community Council. A Community Council is a voluntary organisation supported by the Local Authority with the objectives being (a) to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to local and public authorities and others the views of the community of Beith and District and (b) to take such action in the interests of the community as appears to the Community Council to be expedient and practicable.											
<b>Locality</b>	Garnock Valley											
<b>Amount requested</b>	<b>£39,000</b>  <table><tr><td>Bus Hires</td><td>£400</td></tr><tr><td>Hall Hire</td><td>£700</td></tr><tr><td>Catering</td><td>£900</td></tr><tr><td>Marketing</td><td>£1000</td></tr><tr><td>Participatory Budgeting Money for each CC Area (£12,000)</td><td>£36,000</td></tr></table>		Bus Hires	£400	Hall Hire	£700	Catering	£900	Marketing	£1000	Participatory Budgeting Money for each CC Area (£12,000)	£36,000
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Participatory Budgeting Money for each CC Area (£12,000)	£36,000											
<b>Brief overview of proposal</b>	<b><u>Valley Voices for Valley Money</u></b> The proposal will provide the opportunity for the three community councils to work together on a joint initiative to support their local priorities, building on the success of participatory budgeting events. There has been a capacity building approach to participatory budgeting processes. This has enabled the community councils to develop the skills and understanding to take full ownership of the process themselves.  The award of this CIF application will build on and strengthen the desirable outcome of the community councils working closely together in a locality approach. Local participatory budgeting will support the development of Locality Partnerships and encourage community leadership. Each community council will develop and hold their own event and provide funding for locally developed ideas, with the funding decisions agreed by local people.											

<b><i>Timescales</i></b>	From start to finish it will take 12-18 months with a mid-point evaluation of Projects that have been awarded funding.
<b><i>Contact details</i></b>	Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Connected Communities



## Appendix 4 - Community Investment Fund: Proposal to Cabinet

<b>Organisation name</b>	<i>Garnock Valley Locality Partnership Facilities and Amenities Working Group</i>
<b>Brief details of organisation</b>	<p>The Facilities &amp; Amenities working group is a sub group of the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership. The Working Group was set up in February 2018 to work collaboratively to take forward actions identified by the community, which are captured in the Garnock Valley Locality Action Plan.</p> <p>The group is chaired by the Chair of Kilbirnie &amp; Glengarnock Community Council. Other members of the working group include representatives from: Dalry Community Council, Beith Community Development Trust and Project Kilbirnie.</p> <p>The group meet monthly and have worked hard since coming together to refine the Locality Action Plan and have identified the first areas to take forward using a coproduction model of working. They aim to work together to co-design and co-deliver solutions to the priorities defined in the Locality Action Plan, as well as drive and support other locality activities.</p>
<b>Locality</b>	Garnock Valley
<b>Amount requested</b>	£15,000
<b>Brief overview of proposal</b>	<p><b><u>Garnock Valley 2020 Vision</u></b></p> <p>The Garnock Valley has a rich and fascinating social, industrial and cultural history and heritage. Despite this richness of assets, there is a general perception of a downward trend of declining town centres, feeling of fragmentation and outward migration. The Locality Working Group have identified there is a need to improve perceptions of the Garnock Valley, from the consumer, visitor and the community perspective.</p> <p>The aim of this project is for all the towns and villages of the Garnock Valley to work together to change the narrative of the area by creating a positive mindset and perception within the community of the area in which they live.</p> <p>The project will be made up of three parts. This initial funding application is for £15,000 to appoint a suitably qualified organisation to carry out an extensive community engagement exercise to shape the GV 2020 vision for going forward to identify and collate the community assets and positives within each of the areas, create a baseline of current perceptions of the</p>

	Garnock valley but also to identify what people like and are proud of. This would work towards helping to create a picture of what a positive Garnock Valley would look like and would develop a delivery route map and role profile for a Development Worker, creating a clear identified course of action to promote and achieve these positives within the community. This sum, while estimated, is based on other similar community engagement projects carried out in North Ayrshire.
<b><i>Timescales</i></b>	2020
<b><i>Contact details</i></b>	Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer, Connected Communities