
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

8 September 2020

Cabinet

Title: Community Investment Fund

Purpose: To seek Cabinet approval to apply flexibility to Community Investment Fund projects and timescales due to restrictions imposed on current activities by Covid-19.

Recommendation: That Cabinet:

- Notes the current awards;
 - Agrees to extend the deadline of the conditional award to Millport Town Hall until August 2021; and
 - Remits Locality Officers to work with organisations in receipt of CIF funding to agree revised timescales and delivery models, with updates provided to Locality Partnerships and to Cabinet.
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Locality Partnerships have been considering applications to the Community Investment Fund since 2018, with a total of 21 awards being made after approval by Cabinet.
- 1.2 A number of the initiatives have been able to use their allocation as planned but others have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This report provides a brief update on progress of funding use.

2. Background

- 2.1 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. The funding was allocated to each of the Locality Partnerships on a population basis and a number of awards have been approved by Cabinet.
- 2.2 The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on project delivery. High level impacts are outlined below.

Locality	Date agreed	Initiative	Amount	Update
Irvine	04.09.18	Digital Officer	£84 604	Partial spend to date. Funding being used to employ member of staff. Face to face delivery on hold due to Covid-19. Innovative online developments being progressed.
Irvine	14.05.19	Vineburgh & Fullarton Com Enablers	£100 000	Fullarton Enabler in post since October 2019, spend on track. Delay in recruitment of Vineburgh postholder due to Covid-19.
Irvine	29.10.19	Irvine Newtown Men's Shed	£10 000	Progress delayed due to due to Covid-19.
Irvine	21.01.20	Harbourside Men's Shed	£10 000	Progress delayed due to due to Covid-19.
Kilwinning	02.10.18	Kilwinning McGavin Park	£35 000	Procurement has taken place for the equipment. Installation delayed due to Covid-19.
Kilwinning	18.02.20	Kilwinning Rangers Juniors and Kilwinning Rangers Youth Club	£41 190	Building work commenced, some delays in sourcing materials due to Covid-19.
Three Towns	04.09.18	Ardrossan Community Development Trust	£25 000	Undertaking community consultation. Associated regeneration work on hold due to Covid-19.
Three Towns	01.04.19	Three Towns Growers	£100 000	Deed of dedication agreed, can be progressed after lockdown. Delayed 1 year
Three Towns	11.06.19	Training Station	£50 000	Contractor has been awarded tender. Waiting to start construction.
Three Towns	17.03.20	Raise Your Voice for Ardeer	£100 000	Recently awarded CIF funding. Currently applying for match funding, including RCGF.
Three Towns	18.02.20	Ardrossan Castle	£17 912	Delayed due to Covid-19.
Garnock Valley	04.09.18	Men's Shed	£28 000	Majority of funding spent. Any further spend on hold due to Covid-19.
Garnock Valley	01.12.19	Travel Needs Analysis	£25 000	Analysis on hold until after lockdown.
Garnock Valley	14.05.19	Beith CDT - Geilsland Hall Volunteering	£45k over 3 years	Partial spend, on track. Funding an employee.

Locality	Date agreed	Initiative	Amount	Update
		& Employability Project		
Garnock Valley	29.10.19	Garnock Valley 2020 Vision	£15 000	Developmental work delayed due to Covid-19.
Garnock Valley	18.02.20	Beith Community Development Trust - YOUTH Lead	£43.5k over 3 years	Only recently funded. Beyond self-funded pilot, no further progress has been made due to Covid-19.
North Coast	02.10.18	Organic Growers of Fairlie – Cycle Without Age	£22 800	Bikes purchased and were in operation last summer. Project was going well. Use currently on hold due to Covid-19.
North Coast	01.02.19	Clearer Minds – Largs Academy	£30 200	Funding fully used to support delivery. Money spent procuring Headstrong to deliver sessions. Further funding being explored.
North Coast	27.08.19	Millport Town Hall	£200 000	Award previously set aside for 12 months with £30k released to date. Progress in securing matched funding delayed.
North Coast	27.08.19	Sing Your Song (West Kilbride)	£14 892 over 2 years	Spend underway with delivery model changed to on-line provision due to Covid-19.
North Coast	18.02.20	Community Development Worker	£35 947	Recruitment process delayed due to Covid-19.

- 2.3 There is a significantly changed context in which funded initiatives are operating. As can be seen in the table above many are experiencing delays in relation to areas such as sourcing materials/contractors or recruitment. Others are no longer able to interact directly with their client group or public.
- 2.4 In order to achieve the anticipated outcomes of the initiatives there requires to be flexibility in terms of timescales and methods of delivery. This approach is consistent with other funders, such as Ayrshire Leader.
- 2.5 It is recommended that Locality Officers continue to work with these organisations, discuss any delays or issues with them, and take a flexible approach. When the Locality Partnerships meet again in September an update report can be provided.
- 2.6 The Millport Town Hall CIF Award of £200,000 was previously set aside for 12 months with £30k released to date. The date for review is August 2020 and progress in securing matched funding has been delayed. The realistic timescale for securing the project funding is August 2021. This is an ambitious Community Wealth Building project and

the CIF Award is an important element for attracting other funding. An extension of CIF funding availability is therefore requested.

3. Proposals

3.1 That Cabinet:

- Notes the current awards;
- Agrees to extend the deadline of the conditional award to Millport Town Hall until August 2021; and
- Remits Locality Officers to work with organisations in receipt of CIF funding to agree revised timescales and delivery models, with updates provided to Locality Partnerships and to Cabinet.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 CIF funding is allocated within existing resources totalling £2.6m. £1 034 045 has been awarded and, to date, £932,404 of external funding has been secured by CIF projects.

Human Resources

- 4.2 Employment updates are detailed in para. 2.2. The work of the Digital Officer for Irvine Locality Partnership with Irvine's CIF funding has been adapted, as is that of the Sing Your Song project tutor in West Kilbride. The recruitment to posts at Irvine Fullarton and Vineburgh, the Three Towns Growers, and the North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership have been delayed.

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 Improving the Environment is a key theme in the Three Town's Growers' CIF-funded Environmental Worker and Kilwinning Locality Partnership's McGavin Park CIF project. The Training Station in the Three Towns and the North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership's Millport Town Hall regeneration provide opportunities to improve the built environment and ensure that buildings adhere to modern sustainability requirements. The Travel Needs Analysis for the Garnock Valley is intended to lead to environmental and sustainability benefits.

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;
- Increasing employment and supporting skills development;
- 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 and approved by the Locality Partnerships, through consultation with local people, including young people.

Audrey Sutton
Interim Executive Director (Communities)

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

Background Papers

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