
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

27 August 2019

Cabinet

Title:	Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure
Purpose:	To determine applications by the North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership to allocate CIF funding to proposed projects.
Recommendation:	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Considers whether to agree the attached applications from the North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership which comply with CIF criteria and are recommended by the Partnership:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. £100,000 for Millport Town Hall; andii. £14,892.40 for Sing your Song;b) Provides guidance on the request from the North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership regarding proposing a CIF award to Millport Town Hall of £200,000, which exceeds the CIF criteria; andc) Notes future reports on the progress of the initiatives.

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 North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership.

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:

Locality	Population	Value
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 North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership: Millport Town Hall

North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership CIF allocation	£468,000
Cycling Without Age- Fairlie	£22,800
Clearer Minds	£30,200
Balance	£415,000

This proposal involves the conversion and refurbishment of Millport Town Hall, a disused venue owned by the Common Good, to form flexible community space to fulfil a unique community need. The aim of the project, led by Millport Town Hall, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), is to promote community regeneration and civic pride within local communities through the regeneration of a landmark, heritage building, developing local community-based facilities that meet community needs for a sizeable, indoor venue and contributing to the community's health and wellbeing. It will provide enhanced economic and social benefits across all demographics. This will deliver against all three of the Locality Partnership's priorities. Friends of Millport Town Hall, who initiated the regeneration project, have established themselves quickly within the existing network of community provision, formed a SCIO and allied Trading Subsidiary, secured funding for the feasibility study from the Architectural Heritage Fund, the Scottish Land Fund, Millport Common Good Fund and by community fundraising and are in advanced discussions with major funding partners. This commitment will provide leverage towards the funding package, likely to exceed £3m, to meet the needs of the project, with invited Stage Two applications to the Architectural Heritage Fund (discussions are continuing) and the Scotland Land Fund (application now submitted). An application to Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, to seek funding of £500,000, was approved by Cabinet in June 2019.

The funding requested in the application exceeds the £100,000 award maximum set out in the guidance. The Locality Partnership seeks approval for an award of £100,000 in this report and seeks advice on its proposal to agree to increasing the proposed CIF award to Millport Town Hall to £200,000 in order to present a more attractive proposition to the major funders. The CIF funding would only be released on condition that the complete funding package is achieved.

2.4.2 The North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership: Sing your Song, West Kilbride Community Initiative Limited (WKCIL)

WKCIL's Sing your Song application requests funding for a two-year community wellbeing project to foster community cohesion, combat stress, anxiety and social isolation through a programme of musical therapy. The group proposes to work with an experienced music therapist to form two choirs in the village, one for young people and another with a wider, adult membership. The benefits of singing and being part of a group are well documented, however more recently research provides greater understanding of the impact on mood, sense of inclusion, dementia and lung conditions such as COPD. The funding will support the organisation of 60 sessions over a two-year period, with a successful evaluation at the end of year one as the criteria for the release of further funding for year two. This will allow a network to be established, impact to be assessed and a sustainable self-funding programme to be developed. The funding request is £14,892.40 over two years.

3. Proposals

It is proposed that Cabinet:

- 3.1 Considers whether to agree the attached applications from the Locality Partnerships which comply with CIF criteria and are recommended by the relevant Partnership:
 - 3.2.1 £100,000 for Millport Town Hall; and
 - 3.2.2 £14,892.40 for Sing your Song.
- 3.2 Provides guidance on the request from the North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership regarding proposing a CIF award to Millport Town Hall of £200,000, which exceeds the CIF criteria;
- 3.3 Notes future reports on the progress of the initiatives.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 The CIF funding has been allocated proportionately across Localities. The attached applications are the next to be drawn down from the existing funds (see 2.1 above). North Ayrshire Council Finance officers will monitor the draw down and spend of the funds. The guidance in relation to CIF awards includes a recommended ceiling of £100,000 per project. The North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership seeks advice on proposing an award to the Friends of Millport Town Hall of £200,000 as detailed in the report. The CIF funding would only be released on condition that the complete funding package is achieved.

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 None

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 well-being.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 The Millport Town Hall application supports 4 of the 5 pillars of community wealth building - advancing community enterprises, advancing local ownership of underused land and buildings, supporting local business activities and increasing the variety of ownership models.

The proposal from WKCIL supports advancing community enterprise.

5. Consultation

5.1 The proposals contained within this report have been developed and approved by the Locality Partnership, 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

Appendix 1: CIF Application – Millport Town Hall

Appendix 2: CIF Application – WKCIL



Appendix 1 - Community Investment Fund: Proposal to Cabinet

Organisation name	Millport Town Hall – SCIO 49279		
Brief details of organisation	<u>Mission Statement</u> To preserve a building of heritage significance and to create a community facility for the future which is sustainable and run by the community, for the community. To create a space capable of accommodating a variety of uses which is vibrant, facilitates community and social cohesion and spirit and enhances not only the economy of the Isle of Cumbrae but also enriches the lives of its residents and visitors. SCIO status has been granted and an associated trading arm set up to minimise risk and maximise tax efficiency.		
Locality	North Coast and Cumbraes		
Amount requested	£200,000 The amount requested exceeds the maximum under the guidance, so the Locality Partnership are seeking approval for £100,000 and Cabinet's advice regarding increasing the CIF award to Millport Town Hall to £200,000. MTH are orchestrating a cocktail of funding applications which are dictated by funding deadlines and decision dates. The economic landscape is challenging with shifting sands of funds closing and new ones opening with altered objectives. Match funding plays a huge part in demonstrating viability and with maximum financial backing from CIF the organisation can present a more attractive proposition to the major funders. Total cost as per Feasibility Study = £2,929,000 <u>Applications submitted and Expressions of Interest</u> NORTH AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND£200,00020.02.19 ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND£23,80029.07.19 SCOTTISH LAND FUND£54,01029.07.19		

	<p>SCOT GOV REGENERATION GRANT £750,000 10.06.19</p> <p>SYLVIA WADDILOVE FOUNDATION £25,000 24.07.19</p> <p>MILLPORT CARS SCHEME £25,000 EOI</p> <p>ROBERTSON TRUST £500,000 TALKS</p> <p>MAGNOX SOCIO-ECONOMIC/NDA £750,000 TALKS</p> <p>CLOTHWORKER'S FOUNDATION £100,000 EOI</p> <p>CUMBRAE LOTTERY £4,000 INCOME</p> <p>MILLPORT TOWN HALL RESERVES £1,000 N/A</p> <p>HUNTERSTON MICRO GRANT £500 9.19 20.07.19</p> <p>CREATIVE SCOTLAND TBA</p> <p>Other funds with a potential of £470,000 have been identified.</p> <p>The organisation's Scottish Land Fund mentor has indicated that if MTH are successful with their current application then they may be referred to HIE for consideration for their own funding streams.</p> <p><u>Crowdfunding</u> Scottish Community Enterprise have awarded 6 free training days to ensure maximum benefit from a crowdfunding campaign. Actor Bill Paterson is visiting Cumbrae in August to shoot a promotional video for this campaign.</p> <p>The CIF funding would only be released on condition that the complete funding package is achieved.</p>		
	<p>The proposal is the restoration and regeneration of a historic building, on the At Risk Register and within a Conservation Area. The proposed use is as a multi purpose building housing a <u>Heritage and Conservation Centre</u>, <u>Arts and Culture Centre</u> and <u>Community Centre</u>. Sustainable income will be achieved from ticketed events, three holiday let flats, exhibitions, Cumbrae Lottery and local fundraisers. Community lets will be charged at a rate commensurate with those of NAC. The Feasibility Report has shown this to be a viable proposition.</p> <p>Funding was obtained from the Architectural Heritage Fund, the Scottish Land Fund, Millport Common Good Fund and by community fundraising to cover the costs of the Feasibility Study.</p> <p>There have been three open consultation events over the past year, culminating in the end of Feasibility Report presentation on 30 March. The need and want for a large community venue, coupled with community suggestions, advised the end design. Social media interaction is growing with Twitter and Facebook accounts, supporters from across the world and</p>		
Brief overview of proposal			

	<p>nearly £10,000 raised by the 1400 strong community to date. There have been 130 offers of voluntary help following the last consultation.</p> <p>The three strands of priorities of the Locality Partnership will be addressed - the elderly, young people and poverty. Contributions will be made to the wider aims of the Community Planning Partnership for a Working, Healthier, Safer and Thriving North Ayrshire. The project will be fully inclusive, fair for all, the economy of the island will be boosted and the project will raise the Millport profile on the Tourist map. The community will be made stronger and more cohesive. There will be employment, skills, training and volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>There is a high skill level within the group and following National Lottery guidelines the 1503 hours that have been spent on the project so far equate to a value of £73,498.</p> <p>There are many further funders identified for once the project is underway; what is needed now is the “basket” to deliver the outcomes.</p> <p><u>Documents available on request:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feasibility Report 2. Associated appendices which incorporate the Business Plan and Core Cost Report 3. FMTH Notes to Core Cost Report 4. Income Projection 5. Expenditure Projection 6. Funding Table 7. Facility Income Ideas 8. Island Groups and LP priorities 9. Funding Strategy Statement 10. Facility Use Ideas 11. Skillset of Trustees/Directors 12. Consultation Reports 13. Friends of Millport Town Hall audited end Year One accounts 14. Community groups and how they will use and interact with facility
Timescales	<p>Application for the asset transfer was made on 29 May 2019.</p> <p>Next stage development funding applications have been submitted to Architectural Heritage Fund and Scottish Land Fund</p> <p>Expressions of interest and phone calls are taking place with other funders.</p> <p>The building is in poor repair and every storm adds to its decline. The community do not have a suitable and accessible large venue so time is of the essence.</p>
Contact details	Rhona Arthur, Interim Head of Service, Connected Communities



Appendix 2 - Community Investment Fund: Proposal to Cabinet

Organisation name	<i>West Kilbride Community Initiative Limited WKCIL</i>
Brief details of organisation	<p>WKCIL is a charity registered with OSCR and is a company limited by guarantee, established in 1998.</p> <p>The organisation is best known for its two main projects, the Craft Town Scotland (and the management of 9 arts and crafts studios in the town and with Barony Centre); and the West Kilbride Environmental Group (which advances environmental protection or improvement including through the creation or improvement of public parks, public streets, pavements and walkways).</p> <p>WKCIL is also keen to organise recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for residents within the community. This health and wellbeing focus fits well with the North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership's priorities of reducing social isolation in older people and reducing stress and anxiety in younger people.</p>
Locality	North Coast and Cumbraes
Amount requested	£14,892.40 over two years
Brief overview of proposal	<p>Sing your Song plans to establish two choirs each of which will focus on improving the quality of people's lives. The interest in art, craft, music and film was established in a community consultation towards the end of 2017 and has been developed to offer specialised work for specific groups</p> <p>They will offer a series of 60 separate workshops over two years focusing on older people experiencing breathing difficulties including long term lung conditions (asthma, COPD, IPF, Bronchiectasis) and their carers and young people experiencing stress and anxiety.</p> <p>The initiatives will start with 4 taster days and will end with a finale concert.</p> <p>The Sing your Song project will be advertised in all areas of North Coast, North Ayrshire and will be supported by HSCP Community</p>

Link Workers. In order to attract participants, they will also contact the health service, local churches, community centres and schools. WKCIL has a strong social media presence and a website where the choirs will also be promoted. The sessions will be free to all and they will actively encourage male and female participation.

Singing for COPD

Singing uses the lungs to provide airflow to produce musical words or sounds with the voice. Singing can require a lot of effort for muscle contraction and co-ordination. This may benefit people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in a manner similar to that of breathing exercises. (NICE)

British Psychological Society

Research has found that group singing can improve physical and mental health. British Psychological Society's study investigated whether singing with colleagues in a workplace choir can reduce workplace stress and enhance feelings of support. They found that:

".. participants felt less stressed about their work and more socially connected after singing. In fact, they gained more support from the choir than from other social interactions at work."

Social Isolation – Older People

Asthma, COPD, IPF, and bronchiectasis are all illnesses which can cause social isolation especially amongst older people. The choir will offer social contact as well as an enjoyable way to improve breathing and lung functions.

Stress and Anxiety – Younger People

Studies show that choral singing improves mood, with a decrease in stress, depression and anxiety. These effects are often attributed to the deeper breathing associated with singing and is also used in meditation. These benefits are enhanced in a group setting, compared to singing alone.

Sing your Song sessions will be led by Rachael Hynes an experienced Soprano and Vocal Facilitator who has experience in working in both of these fields. A former Company Principal with Scottish Opera and an extensive career in opera, Rachel has now built a portfolio as a community musician. She has worked on Dementia Projects with Scottish Opera/Alzheimer's Scotland. Rachel runs a Singing for Lung Health group through Voluntary Action South Ayrshire, called Ayrways, and, after training as a Singing Leader with the British Lung Foundation, is setting up another such group with New Rhythms Glasgow in North Lanarkshire. She is also currently working on a 6 week Singing project with the Culture Café at Platform in Easterhouse. Rachel has also taken projects into prisons, libraries, and worked with youth groups and refugees.

	<p>The sessions will be held in the upstairs studios in the Barony Centre in West Kilbride. Access is available by stairs or lift. A piano was recently funded by NAC's Nurturing Excellence fund.</p> <p><u>Annual Breakdown of Costs</u></p> <table> <tr> <th>ACTIVITY</th><th>COST</th></tr> <tr> <td>4 taster sessions @£80</td><td>£320</td></tr> <tr> <td>30 sessions together at £160</td><td>£4800</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rent for 2 taster sessions each 4 hours @ £14.40 incl VAT</td><td>£115.20</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rent for 30 Sessions = 30 x 4 hours x £14.40 incl VAT</td><td>£1728</td></tr> <tr> <td>Marketing plus travel</td><td>£200</td></tr> <tr> <td>Concert fees</td><td>£240</td></tr> <tr> <td>Concert rent 3 hours @ £14.40 incl VAT</td><td>£43.20</td></tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td><td>£7446.20</td></tr> </table> <p>Following the completion of Year 1 evaluations will be shared with the Locality Partnership before commencing Year 2. If satisfactory, then a further £7446.20 will be released.</p>	ACTIVITY	COST	4 taster sessions @£80	£320	30 sessions together at £160	£4800	Rent for 2 taster sessions each 4 hours @ £14.40 incl VAT	£115.20	Rent for 30 Sessions = 30 x 4 hours x £14.40 incl VAT	£1728	Marketing plus travel	£200	Concert fees	£240	Concert rent 3 hours @ £14.40 incl VAT	£43.20	TOTAL	£7446.20
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<i>Contact details</i>	Rhona Arthur, Interim Head of Service, Connected Communities																		