
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

2 November 2021

Cabinet

Title:	Proposal for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure
Purpose:	To determine an application by the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership to allocate CIF funding to a proposed project.
Recommendation:	That Cabinet: a) Reviews the enclosed application from the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership in line with CIF criteria; and b) Approves the CIF application in relation to Café Solace, Garnock Valley.

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 and the Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy. In June 2021, Cabinet approved a further £1m top-up for the funding, with consideration of a further £2m to follow in autumn 2021.
- 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 a proposal from the Garnock Valley which responds to the specific need of the local community, and which has been developed based on local circumstances and opportunities.
- 1.4 This proposal has been approved to be submitted to Cabinet through a process of collaboration and consensus by the Garnock Valley 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 and the Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy. The CIF proposals are developed in conjunction with Locality Partnerships through an expression of interest process. Applications are decided by the Locality Partnership before making a proposal to Cabinet for approval. The table below provides information on the CIF allocation per locality and the balances available. The allocations were made based on population distribution. In June 2021, Cabinet approved a further £1m top-up for the funding, with consideration of a further £2m to follow in autumn 2021.

Table 1: CIF Allocation and Balances

Locality	Value of CIF from first funding allocation (2017-18)	Balance remaining from first funding allocation	Value of CIF from second funding allocation (June 2021)	Potential additional funding allocation*	Potential total balance available*
Irvine	£754 000	£449 396	£290 000	£580 000	£1 319 396
Kilwinning	£286 000	£104 810	£120 000	£240 000	£464 810
Three Towns	£598 000	£261 768	£240 000	£480 000	£981 768
Garnock Valley	£390 000	£213 500	£150 000	£300 000	£663 500
North Coast	£468 000	£164 161	£170 000	£340 000	£674,161
Arran	£104 000	£58 774	£30 000	£60 000	£148 774
TOTAL	£2 600 000	£1 272 409	£1 000 000	£2 000 000	£4 272 409

*Subject to a projected balanced outturn position for 2021/22.

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;
 - North Ayrshire Council's values, priorities and business objectives;
 - The Community Wealth Building and Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategies;
- And also:
- 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 application has been developed by community partners and North Ayrshire Council officers and is now recommended for approval by Cabinet. The proposal is as follows:

2.4.1 The Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

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

The Garnock Valley Locality Partnership CIF allocation	£390 000
Men's Shed – Project Initiation	£28 000
Travel Needs Analysis	£25 000
Geilsland Hall Volunteering and Employability	£45 000
Beith Community Development Trust YOUTH Lead Project	£43,500
Garnock Valley 20:20 Vision	£15,000
Garnock Valley Men's Shed – Heating System Replacement	£20,000
Balance	£213,500

Proposal: Café Solace, Garnock Valley: £49,723.00 (Appendix 1)

Café Solace is a community group, in existence since 2017. The aim of Café Solace Kilbirnie is to engage with people in recovery, their families and friends and the wider community by providing resources and opportunities conducive to recovery in North Ayrshire. They also aim to be actively involved in community participation opportunities and education, and to provide skills development, training and volunteering opportunities for people in recovery and those with other challenges or barriers in their lives. This funding, together with the assistance of other funding partners, will contribute to Café Solace establishing a new post of a full-time Food Development Worker for a period of three years. The new Food Development Worker will provide learning and development opportunities in a range of contexts to help to

address food poverty and engage with a wide range of community members, volunteers, partners and customers. The project will be based in Kilbirnie but will serve the whole Garnock Valley locality, building on the foundations laid by the volunteers during the pandemic. The target audience are those experiencing food poverty in the Garnock Valley, the established customer base and the volunteers, many of whom are individuals for whom drugs and alcohol have had a negative effect on their life chances. The range of contexts will take a holistic approach to learning and development, which will focus on personal and family life, health, employability and budgeting. These learning opportunities will effectively help to tackle food poverty by building the capacity of learners to prepare affordable, nutritious meals on a budget, and by using a variety of approaches to address the root causes of food poverty, including education and employability. Existing partnerships with Health & Social Care will be utilised, and where possible, enhanced to enable effective targeting of vulnerable groups. This proposal reduces poverty and inequalities and the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership's priorities of Work and Local Community and Facilities and Amenities.

Key Outcomes include:

- Improved life chances for individuals for whom drugs and alcohol have had a negative effect;
- The development of a community food larder, leading to wider access to affordable food for the community; and
- Increased capacity for individuals and groups to access and prepare affordable, nutritious, and healthy meals.

3. Proposals

3.1 That Cabinet:

- a) Reviews the enclosed application from the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership in line with CIF criteria; and
- b) Approves the CIF application in relation to the Café Solace, Garnock Valley.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 CIF funding is allocated within existing resources. Potential external funding partners have been identified to address the funding gap.

Human Resources

- 4.2 The funding will support the wages of a full time Food Development Worker for three years. There are approximately 9 local volunteering opportunities, depending on membership.

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. The Café Solace, Garnock Valley application provides opportunities for skills development, community cohesion, addressing food poverty and improved nutrition, health and wellbeing. The proposal addresses inequalities by better meeting the needs of men in rural communities, combating social isolation and meeting mental wellbeing needs.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 Environmental and sustainability issues are considered in relation to each CIF application. The new Food Development Worker will consider how to minimise energy use in food preparation, reduce food waste and contribute towards the response to the Council's Climate Emergency.

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:

- Creating volunteering and skills development opportunities; and
- Advancing community enterprises.

5. Consultation

5.1 The proposal contained within this report has been developed by the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership, through consultation with Café Solace volunteers and partners and local people who use the Café.

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

Background Papers

Appendix 1: CIF Application: Café Solace, Garnock Valley



Appendix 1 - Community Investment Fund: Proposal to Cabinet

Organisation name	<i>Café Solace, Garnock Valley</i>
Brief details of organisation	Café Solace are a community group, in existence since 2017. The aim of Café Solace Kilbirnie are to engage with people in recovery, their families and friends and the wider community by providing resources and opportunities conducive to recovery. They also aim to be actively involved in community participation opportunities and education, and to provide skills development, training and volunteering opportunities for people in recovery and those with other challenges or barriers in their lives. Café Solace work alongside other groups that promote the wellbeing of the wider North Ayrshire communities and have been key partners throughout the pandemic at the Garnock Valley Hub at Bridgend Community Centre.
Locality	Garnock Valley
Amount requested	£49,723
Brief overview of proposal	<p>Funding will contribute to Café Solace establishing a new post of a full-time Food Development Worker for a period of 3 years, together with the assistance of other funding partners. The new Food Development Worker will provide learning and development opportunities in a range of contexts that will help to address food poverty and engage with a wide range of community members, volunteers, partners and customers. The project will be based in Kilbirnie and serve the whole Garnock Valley, building on the work of the volunteers during the pandemic. The target audience are those experiencing food poverty, the established customer base and the volunteers, many of whom are individuals for whom drugs and alcohol have had a negative effect on their life chances. The range of contexts will take a holistic approach to learning and development, which will focus on personal and family life, health, employability and budgeting. These learning opportunities will effectively help to tackle food poverty by building the capacity of learners to prepare affordable, nutritious meals on a budget, and by using a variety of approaches to address the root causes of food poverty, including education and employability. Existing partnerships with Health & Social Care will be utilised, and where possible, enhanced to enable effective targeting of vulnerable groups. This proposal reduces poverty and inequalities and the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership's priorities of Work and Local Community and Facilities and Amenities.</p> <p>Key Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved life chances for individuals for whom drugs and alcohol have had a negative effect;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a community food larder, leading to wider access to affordable food for the community; • Increased capacity for individuals and groups to access and prepare affordable, nutritious, and healthy meals; • Improved physical and mental health amongst participants; • Reduction in loneliness and social isolation; • Increased social capital for individuals and groups; and • Enhanced employability prospects amongst participants. <p>Reducing inequality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted work amongst the most vulnerable, hard to reach and socially excluded groups and individuals; • Utilising existing partnerships and building new partnerships to ensure effective targeting of the most vulnerable groups and individuals; • Addressing inequalities in education through provision of learning and development opportunities that will build and enhance the skills, knowledge and experience of participants; and • Targeted provision aimed at addressing how those experiencing financial hardship and debt can access more affordable food – cooking on a budget sessions. <p>Work and Local Community – by ensuring that there is a more cohesive and developmental approach to community-based food provision in the Garnock Valley. The project will establish a food hub that will address the provision of affordable food and the root causes of food poverty through provision of learning and development opportunities. This will, in turn, enhance the employability of participants to ensure they will be more work-ready. Larder maintenance, food hygiene and environmental health form a key part of service preparation and delivery.</p> <p>Facilities and Amenities – the project will enhance existing provision at Bridgend Community Centre through the creation of a food hub that is at the heart of the local community, engages with new and existing user groups, and provides opportunities for targeted work that will build the skills, knowledge and experience of groups and individuals to effectively tackle food poverty and disadvantage. Correspondingly, the post will provide the opportunity to widen the reach of the project to include Beith, Dalry, Gateside and Barmill, with outreach workshops across the area.</p> <p>All café users and volunteers have been consulted. Café Solace are also part of the Garnock Valley Food Network, working with organisations across the Garnock Valley to help alleviate food insecurity and reducing food waste.</p> <p>Full funding, an additional £50,000, is still to be confirmed.</p>
Timescales	Autumn 2021
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