
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

8 March 2022

Cabinet

Title:	Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure
Purpose:	To determine applications by Locality Partnerships to allocate CIF funding to proposed projects.
Recommendation:	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Reviews the enclosed applications from the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership and the North Coast and Cumbrae Locality Partnership in line with CIF criteria;b) Approves the CIF application in relation to Beith Community Development Trust; andc) Approves the CIF application in relation to West Kilbride Community Initiative Limited.

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 a further £2m added in November 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 difficult 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 need 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 respective Locality Partnerships.

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. A further £3m was added to the funding in 2021, to be distributed among Localities as follows:

Locality	Value of CIF from first funding allocation (2017-18)	Expenditure to date	Value of CIF from second funding allocation (June 2021)	Value of CIF from third funding allocation (Nov 2021)	Total balance available
Irvine	£754 000	£333 927	£290 000	£580 000	£1 292 073
Kilwinning	£286 000	£226 190	£120 000	£240 000	£419 810
Three Towns	£598 000	£567 620	£240 000	£480 000	£750 380
Garnock Valley	£390 000	£226 223	£150 000	£300 000	£561 777
North Coast	£468 000	£303 840	£170 000	£340 000	£674 160
Arran	£104 000	£58 774	£30 000	£60 000	£148 774
TOTAL	£2 600 000	£1 716 574	£1 000 000	£2 000 000	£3 883 426

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 will also:
- Fulfil a compelling need and 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 proposal will go to the next suitable Cabinet for final approval.

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

2.4.1 The Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

The Garnock Valley Locality Partnership CIF allocation	£690 000
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
Café Solace, Garnock Valley	£49 723
Balance	£561 777

**Proposal: Beith Trust, Garnock Valley – Geilsland Courtyard Feasibility Study:
£15 582 (Appendix 1)**

The proposal is to carry out a feasibility study as the next stage of development on the Geilsland Site and would develop plans for the replacement of the existing 'packing shed' building. The Geilsland Site has been developed and currently supports a wide range of community activities including training, volunteering, leadership, employment and enterprise. The existing Courtyard building is inefficient and unsightly and does not lend itself well to re-purposing or renovation. Beith Trust want to create an attractive, welcoming and efficient building which provides additional site amenity, workshops, offices and storage spaces which can accommodate the needs of the local community, community projects and enterprise and better serves the operational requirements of the Geilsland Estate site. A waiting list individuals / community projects and small enterprises provide evidence of the need for spaces and many of the projects based at Geilsland have already outgrown the rooms and spaces that they occupy. The feasibility study will be conducted by professionals and coordinated by a lead architect, as this will equip Beith Trust with the information and costs required to secure capital funding and take the project to the next stage.

The completed Geilsland Courtyard will be an all-electric building, energy will be produced by solar panels on the building which will work in conjunction with the 50kwh system on Geilsland Hall roof. The completed facility will offer alternatives to commuting by car by providing more remote workspaces including short term desk hire, workshop, production unit, office and room hire. The completed project, in conjunction with the other Geilsland enterprises will encourage walking & cycling between Beith and local satellite villages via attractive rural back roads.

2.4.2 The North Coast and Cumbrae Locality Partnership

The North Coast and Cumbrae Locality Partnership CIF allocation	£978 000
Cycling Without Age- Fairlie	£22 800
Clearer Minds	£30,200
Millport Town Hall	£200,000
Sing Your Sing	£14, 892
Locality Priorities Worker	£35, 948
Balance	£674,160

Proposal: West Kilbride Community Initiative Limited - Technical and Creative Training Programme and AV service: £76,605 over 3 years (Appendix 2)

This is a new employability and skills project offering technical and creative training and an AV service. The project will be based around training in audio visual skills and activities and will offer practical and creative ways of making, recording, editing and lighting individual work and an opportunity to train in more managed events such as presentations, performances and events. WKCIL are in discussions about using the first floor of the existing library building, which Council prioritised for wider community use in 2021. In keeping with the Arts, Craft and Culture roots of WKCIL, creativity will be high priority. Alongside this training WCKIL will offer a share and repair café service where participants may pool their knowledge and expert advice may be offered. The aims are to: -

- Provide a community resource covering all aspects of AV requirements;
- Provide technical training across a wide range of AV devices and share pathways for possible employment opportunities;
- Offer a share and repair café offering advice and knowledge;
- Explore the different AV needs of various organisations and create checklists;
- Encourage participants to employ a problem-solving approach to any AV challenges;
- Develop opportunities and ideas for a range of creative projects and to link participants to people with projects being developed elsewhere; and
- Engage with a wide range of residents in West Kilbride and North Ayrshire with a particular focus on younger and older people.

The proposal will provide funding for start-up costs and 2 part time posts, and further funding will be sought for the equipment. Full business modelling to create a sustainable future is currently taking place. The project fits well with all of the North Coast and Cumbrae Priorities, in particular Work and Skills. WCKIL has been developing the project since November 2021 to seek views on the viability of this project and also to ensure integration with what is already happening in North Ayrshire. More networking

is planned with the Cally Centre, further colleges, North Ayrshire Council, tutors involved in supporting school leavers and community members who are involved in music and theatre.

3. Proposals

3.1 That Cabinet:

- a) Reviews the enclosed applications from the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership and the North Coast and Cumbrae Locality Partnership in line with CIF criteria;
- b) Approves the CIF application in relation to Beith Community Development Trust; and;
- c) Approves the CIF application in relation to West Kilbride Community Initiative Limited.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 CIF funding is allocated within existing resources.

Human Resources

- 4.2 The Technical and Creative Training Programme and AV service will provide 2 part-time posts for 2 years, paying in excess of the Real Living Wage, and providing skills and opportunities for qualifications. The longer-term outcome of the Geilsland Courtyard is to provide workshops, offices, and opportunities to develop skills and to volunteer in the Garnock Valley.

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. Both applications provide opportunities for skills development, community cohesion and wellbeing.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 4.5 Environmental and sustainability issues are considered in relation to each CIF application. The Geilsland Courtyard project identifies early plans to improve the environmental sustainability of the existing building as outlined at 2.4.1. The Technical and Creative Training Programme and AV service has the potential to offer a new community purpose for the West Kilbride Library's first floor.

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;
- Advancing community enterprises;
- Advancing local ownership of underused land and buildings; and
- Supporting local businesses.

5. Consultation

5.1 The proposals contained within this report have been developed and approved by the Locality Partnership, through consultation with partners in employability and skills and local people, including young people.

Audrey Sutton
Executive Director of Communities and Education

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

Background Papers

Appendix 1: CIF Application: Beith Trust

Appendix 2: CIF Application: West Kilbride Community Initiative Limited



Appendix 1 - Community Investment Fund: Proposal to Cabinet

Organisation name	<i>Beith Trust</i>
Brief details of organisation	<p>Beith Trust is a registered Scottish Charity and company limited by guarantee based in Beith, North Ayrshire, which was established in 2012 as a mechanism to drive forward a community led, asset-based approach to the regeneration of the community.</p> <p>They aim to improve the present condition and the future prospects of the community by advocating for the community and facilitating opportunities for change, growth, and development of the inherent potential of people and places.</p> <p>Beith Trust facilitate a diverse programme of activity and services in and around the Garnock Valley, mainly focused around their facilities at Beith Astro and Geilsland but also in the wider communities of the Garnock Valley, they work in partnership with a number of public, private and third sector groups, clubs and agencies. They manage and operate a number of facilities which generate opportunities for training, volunteering and employment, profits are reinvested in enterprise development or community services.</p>
Locality	Garnock Valley
Amount requested	£15 582
Brief overview of proposal	<p>The proposal is to carry out a feasibility study as the next stage of development on the Geilsland Site and would develop plans for the replacement of the existing 'packing shed' building. The Geilsland Site has been developed and currently supports a wide range of community activities including training, volunteering, leadership, employment, and enterprise.</p> <p>The 'Courtyard Project' is not a new project, rather, it is the next stage of development within the wider Geilsland Project, which in itself has been tested and piloted over the last 5 years. As the activity within the wider Geilsland Project accelerates, it is creating increased demand for appropriate space and amenity to accommodate and support the growth and expansion of existing services as well meeting the needs of new customers and enterprise.</p>

The existing Courtyard building is inefficient and unsightly and does not lend itself well to re-purposing or renovation. Beith Trust want to create an attractive, welcoming, and efficient building which provides additional site amenity, workshops, offices, and storage spaces which can accommodate the needs of the local community, community projects and enterprise and better serves the operational requirements of the Geilsland Estate site. A waiting list individuals / community projects and small enterprises provide evidence of the need for spaces and many of the projects based at Geilsland have already outgrown the rooms and spaces that they occupy.

The feasibility study will be conducted by professionals and coordinated by a lead architect, as this will equip Beith Trust with the information and costs required to secure capital funding and take the project to the next stage.

The work will be conducted within Geilsland Estate and the outputs will inform the decision-making of the board or trustees of Beith Trust and contribute to future funding requests for project development. The successful project will benefit -

- The communities of the Garnock Valley
- Visitor to the area
- Consumers and customers of the various enterprises and projects based (or will be based in and around Geilsland Estate)
- Clubs, groups, and organisations (currently established and future)
- Private, public and third sector services

Current partners and interested parties include Garnock Valley Helping Hands, Beith Trust Lend and Ear Service, Barrmill Conservation Group, Scottish Arts and Crafts Fair, North Ayrshire Music School and Luna Belle Wellness.

There will be no immediate volunteering or employment opportunities relating to the investment, however in the medium term we would anticipate that a significant number of volunteering, employment and enterprises would be created and established as a result of the project.

The completed Geilsland Courtyard will be an all-electric building, energy will be produced by solar panels on the building which will work in conjunction with the 50kwh system on Geilsland Hall roof. The completed facility will offer alternatives to commuting by car by providing more remote workspaces including short term desk hire, workshop, production unit, office and room hire. The completed project, in conjunction with the other Geilsland enterprises will encourage walking & cycling between Beith and local satellite villages via attractive rural back roads.

Beith Trust has a policy of ongoing engagement and consultation, and also make use of research, consultations and desk research and encourage feedback and test and trial our ideas, projects, and assumptions in small project delivery in this way we ensure that projects

	reflect what people are asking for. Much of this is documented in a series of reports that are available on request.
<i>Timescales</i>	Spring 2022
<i>Contact details</i>	Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer, Connected Communities cpieraccini@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



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	£76,605 over 3 years
Brief overview of proposal	<p>This is a new employability and skills project offering technical and creative training and an AV service. The project will be based around training in audio visual skills and activities and will offer practical and creative ways of making, recording, editing and lighting individual work and an opportunity to train in more managed events such as presentations, performances and events.</p> <p>WKCIL are in discussions about using the first floor of the existing library building, which Council prioritised for wider community use in 2021. In keeping with the Arts, Craft and Culture roots of WKCIL, creativity will be high priority. Alongside this training WCKIL will offer a share and repair café service where participants may pool their knowledge and expert advice may be offered.</p> <p>The aims are to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a community resource covering all aspects of AV requirements;

- Provide technical training across a wide range of AV devices and share pathways for possible employment opportunities;
- Offer a share and repair café offering advice and knowledge;
- Explore the different AV needs of various organisations and create checklists;
- Encourage participants to employ a problem-solving approach to any AV challenges;
- Develop opportunities and ideas for a range of creative projects and to link participants to people with projects being developed elsewhere; and
- Engage with a wide range of residents in West Kilbride and North Ayrshire with a particular focus on younger and older people.

The proposal will provide funding for start-up costs and 2 part time posts, and further funding will be sought for the equipment. Full business modelling to create a sustainable future is currently taking place. The project fits well with all of the North Coast and Cumbraes Priorities, in particular Work and Skills.

The project is designed to deliver hands on experience for anyone interested in video and sound production. This area of creativity appeals to a wide range of age groups and also introduces participants to the world of sound and film related employment.

West Kilbride offers a range of paid and free workshops as well as many opportunities in volunteering and these would be advertised for visitors to the creative centre.

The new project provides a hub where creativity could be offered to anyone with a mobile phone and then extended by introducing a variety of AV equipment. AV technology is valued by many age groups and offering experience and skills in this area can help to build an individual's motivation and confidence

NORTH COAST Priorities:

1. Work and Skills – this project offers a wide range of training in AV skills and opens up opportunities for employment. WKCIL will work with North Ayrshire's Employability Team to identify opportunities for participants and also bring a wide range of contacts from local experience in this field.
2. Social Isolation – Older People – the hub offers a base for social contact and the Share and Repair café mirrors the model offered by Men's Sheds and would be complementary to local developments in the North Coast. The WK Environmental Group also offers social contact for older people and many and varied projects have been developed by the team. The café would also appeal to the current membership which has

	<p>increased over the years and includes many isolated women as well as well as men.</p> <p>3. Stress and Anxiety – Younger People – the area of AV development appeals to a younger audience with music and videos playing a significant part in their everyday lives. The activities will offer participants the chance to be creative and productive both of which contribute to a sense of achievement.</p> <p>4. Financial Inclusion - participants will have working opportunities and support within WKCIL's membership to maximise their creative development and to be entrepreneurial. There are good links with the Community Wealth Building strategy and support from Council teams to help grow this initiative.</p> <p>WCKIL has been developing the project since November 2021 to seek views on the viability of this project and also to ensure integration with what is already happening in North Ayrshire. More networking is planned with the Cally Centre, further colleges, North Ayrshire Council, tutors involved in supporting school leavers and community members who are involved in music and theatre.</p>
<i>Timescales</i>	The project will commence with the release of the funding in summer 2022.
<i>Contact details</i>	Louise Riddex, Locality Officer, Connected Communities lriddex@north-ayrshire.gov.uk