
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

31 August 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:	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Reviews the enclosed application from the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership in line with CIF criteria; andb) Approves the CIF application in relation to the Garnock Valley Men's Shed.

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, 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

The 2021 top-up funding is not yet included in the above table.

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;
- 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 the table below.

The Garnock Valley Locality Partnership CIF allocation	£390 000
Men's Shed	£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
Balance	£233,500

Proposal: Garnock Valley Men's Shed – Heating System Replacement: £20,000 (Appendix 1)

The proposal is to further develop the Garnock Valley Men's Shed (GVMS) through the replacement of an obsolete oil heating system which is no longer operation and has been removed. Sheddars have been temporarily heating the building using portable electric heaters, moving them from room to room when required. The cost this will incur in the longer term is unsustainable. Furthermore, the lack of insulation in the building makes it extremely difficult to heat, meaning that these electric heaters are ineffective, as heat is lost quickly. Following the successful transformation of a formerly derelict building, agreement of a lease with the Council and investment to develop a vibrant hub the GVMS which encourages community cohesion, skills development, social inclusion, health and wellbeing and 30 volunteering opportunities. Currently there is a core attendance of 30 and the feedback indicates that improving the facilities is needed to retain and grow the group. Membership is open to all men aged 18+ across the Garnock Valley locality and opportunities on offer are machine and lathe training, scale model building, music groups, woodworking initiatives and bespoke community projects. GVMS are members of the national Men's Shed Association and previously received £28,000 in 2018 for the initial renovations to bring the building back in to use for an organisation that has an excellent track record of engaging with socially isolated men. The Trustees have recently commissioned an analysis for a new heating system and insulation and have decided to install a FAR Infrared system that is electronically controlled, with Genius Hub room sensors and controls. This is a zoned heating system that will enable individual rooms to be remotely controlled, ensuring that rooms are heated as and when required and not any more than is necessary. This will significantly increase energy efficiency, in line with the Council's Climate Change priority and advice and support will continue to be provided to the Sheddars as they reduce their energy consumption.

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 Garnock Valley Men's Shed.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 CIF funding is allocated within existing resources.

Human Resources

- 4.2 There are approximately 30 local volunteering opportunities, varying 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 GVMS application provides opportunities for skills development, community cohesion, health, physical activity 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 system will meet environmental standards, reduce emissions 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;
 - Advancing community enterprises;
 - Advancing local ownership of underused land and buildings; and
 - Supporting local business through the replacement of the heating system.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The proposal contained within this report has been developed by the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership, through consultation with local people and the GVMS members and Trustees.

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: Garnock Valley Men's Shed – Heating System Replacement



Appendix 1 - Community Investment Fund: Proposal to Cabinet

Organisation name	<i>Garnock Valley Men's Shed</i>
Brief details of organisation	<p>The purpose of Garnock Valley Men's Shed is to provide recreational facilities and advance the social needs, health and wellbeing of men of all ages and backgrounds living in Garnock Valley and surrounding areas. They are part of the national network of "Men's Sheds".</p> <p>The men attending experience a sense of purpose and meaning to life. Outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased self-worth/empowerment; • increased confidence/self-esteem; • increased sense of independence/control; • decreased depression/suicidal thoughts; • increased sense of pride/achievement; • increased happiness/contentment; and • decreased stress/anger. <p>Securing a long lease from the Council through the Community Asset Transfer process in November 2020 GVMS has made significant renovations/upgrades to the facility, including: complete renovation and fitting of a new kitchen/social area; electrical rewiring and installation of a new lighting system; installation of a fully equipped wood/metal craft workshop; re-connection of the building's water supply; installation of CCTV; and construction of a bespoke scale-modelling room. Most of this work has been undertaken by the members themselves, building their confidence and resilience, whilst ensuring 'buy-in' and ownership of the building.</p> <p>As a result of tasks undertaken by GVMS for community benefit, members are held in high esteem by a variety of community groups and organisations. Members have built benches for the local football club, the local allotments and assisted with the maintenance of the local community garden. Additionally, members have been heavily involved in volunteering at ParkLives in Kilbirnie, where families attend in large numbers to access free food and sports activities.</p>
Locality	Garnock Valley
Amount requested	£20,000

Brief overview of proposal	<p>The proposal is to further develop the Garnock Valley Men's Shed (GVMS) through the replacement of an obsolete oil heating system which is no longer operation and has been removed. Shedders have been temporarily heating the building using portable electric heaters, moving them from room to room when required. The cost this will incur in the longer term is unsustainable. Furthermore, the lack of insulation in the building makes it extremely difficult to heat, meaning that these electric heaters are ineffective, as heat is lost quickly. The Trustees have recently commissioned an analysis for a new heating system and insulation and have decided to install a FAR Infrared system that is electronically controlled, with Genius Hub room sensors and controls. This is a zoned heating system that will enable individual rooms to be remotely controlled, ensuring that rooms are heated as and when required and not any more than is necessary. The new system will meet environmental standards.</p> <p>As a result of this funding, GVMS will be able to deliver a range of projects in a safe, warm and comfortable environment that will attract shedders of all ages to use the facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training courses on lathe/machinery operation; • Scale model building group; • Music group & custom guitar project; • Volunteering opportunities for all shedders; • Wooden bench construction; • Wooden shed construction; and • Bespoke community projects. <p>Improvements to heating will enable GVMS to fully utilise the building as community asset to address loneliness and social isolation amongst men in the Garnock Valley. The replacement heating is the next step to the re-launch and progressing to a fully operational men's mental health facility.</p> <p>The benefits include a redeveloped asset which will have a significant impact on raising male life expectancy, improving quality of life and connecting men with services and facilities in the wider community.</p>
Timescales	Autumn 2021
Contact details	Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer, Connected Communities cpieraccini@north-ayrshire.gov.uk