
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

29 October 2019

Cabinet

Title: Community Investment Fund (CIF) Update

Purpose: To advise Cabinet of progress in relation to the Community Investment Fund.

Recommendation: That Cabinet:

- a) Notes progress to date in relation to the Community Investment Fund (CIF) themes and expenditure; and
- b) Remits officers to identify alternative sources of funding for small-grant awarding Participatory Budgeting approaches for Locality Partnerships for consideration at a future Cabinet.

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 Partnerships and within the context of North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Fair for All Strategy.
- 1.2 Locality Partnerships have subsequently worked with groups within our communities to develop proposals for expenditure from the Community Investment Fund (CIF) in line with their locally identified needs. In addition to applications already received there are a number of emerging bids.
- 1.3 This report provides an overview of the themes and expenditure to 31st August 2019 reflected in the CIF applications and expressions of interest.
- 1.4 It recommends that officers identify alternative funding sources for small-grant awarding participatory budgeting.
- 1.5 This report also outlines proposals for future reporting on the outcomes achieved through CIF funded initiatives.

2. Background

Funding and Process

- 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. This was set within the context of North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Fair for All Strategy and Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. It was allocated as follows:

Table 1: CIF Allocation and commitment to date

Locality	Population	Value of CIF	Committed Funds to date	Balance
Irvine	29%	£754,000	£184,604	£569,396
Kilwinning	11%	£286,000	£35,000	£251,000
Three Towns	23%	£598,000	£175,000	£423,000
Garnock Valley	15%	£390,000	£98,000	£292,000
North Coast	18%	£468,000	£267,892	£200,108
Arran	4%	£104,000	£0	£104,000
Total		£2,600,000	£760,496	£1,839,504

- 2.2 It was agreed that the CIF would 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. The 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 approval.
- The finalised proposal will be submitted to the next available Cabinet for final approval.

Approved CIF Applications

2.4 Appendix 1 describes the CIF applications which have been approved by the Locality Partnerships and Cabinet and the key impacts to date. In order to evaluate how the range of CIF applications is addressing key themes and, to identify any gaps, additional analysis has been carried out. Appendix 1 includes mapping of the applications against key themes, including Locality Partnership priorities, Fair for All themes, Local Outcome Improvement Plan priorities, Council Plan priorities and the pillars of Community Wealth Building. This shows that a wide range of initiatives have been approved to address key local issues. A summary of themes that they align to is summarised below, along with consideration of any gaps.

Approved CIF Applications and Relationship to Locality Partnership Priorities

2.5 It is encouraging that most Locality Partnerships have approved applications that cover two of their three priority areas. An application is now in preparation from Arran, following the strengthening of the approach on the island by bringing together the CPP and HSCP locality arrangements in a pilot and using the Chit Chat model in Arran communities.

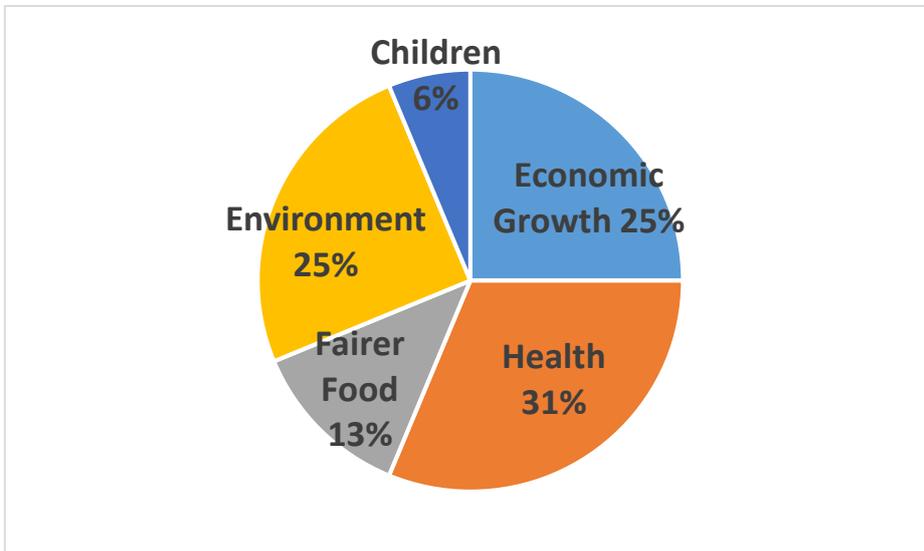
Table 2: Alignment to Locality Partnership Priorities

Locality Partnership	Locality Partnership Priority Addressed	Locality Partnership Priority Under Development
Irvine	Employment Mental Health	Influence and Sense of Control
Kilwinning	Environmental Issues Traffic and parking	Work and Local Economy
Three Towns	Community Regeneration Environment (including civic pride and community engagement) Economy and Tourism	
Garnock Valley	Facilities and Amenities Moving Around Work & Local Community	
North Coast and Cumbraes	Social Isolation (Older People) Stress and Anxiety (Younger People)	Financial Inclusion
Arran		Affordable Housing Transport Social Isolation Arran Ideas

Approved CIF Applications and Relationship to Fair for All Themes

2.6 The Fairer North Ayrshire themes, which are addressed by the CIF initiatives are outlined in the chart below.

Chart 1: Fair for All Themes Related to Applications

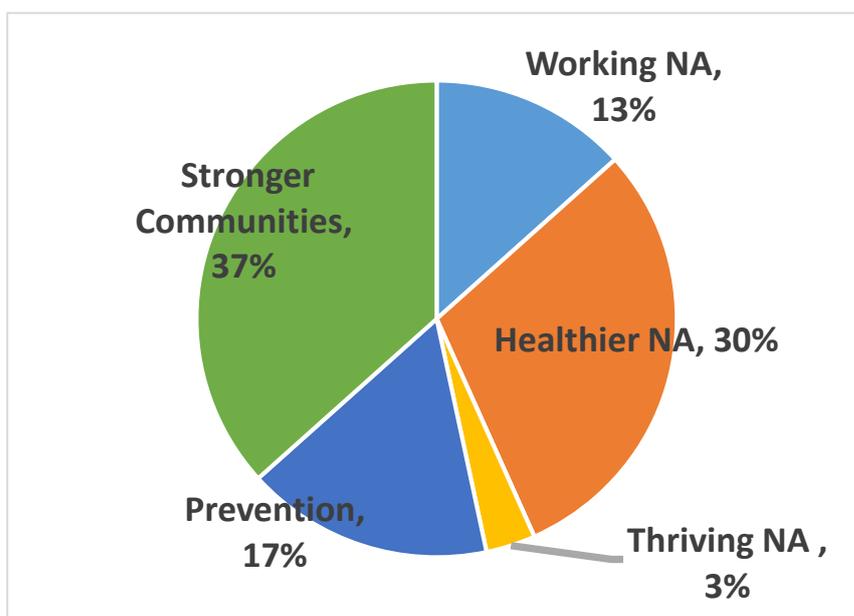


There has been a specific focus on children and young people in only one of the CIF initiatives. Planned increased participation in Locality Planning by schools will provide a greater focus on young people.

Approved CIF Applications by Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) Priority and Theme

2.7 The LOIP priorities and themes which are addressed by the CIF initiatives are outlined in the chart below.

Chart 2: Fair for All Themes Related to Applications



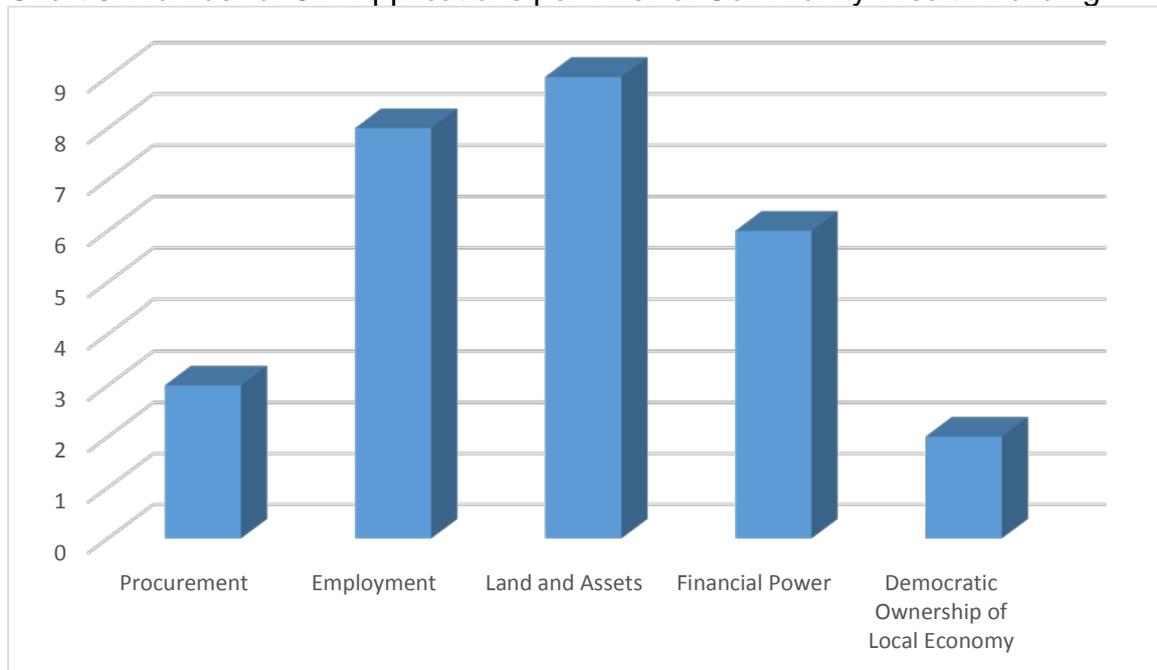
None of the initiatives relate to community safety, which is consistent with that theme not featuring within locality priorities.

Approved CIF Applications by Council Priority and Pillars of Community Wealth Building

2.8 The CIF funded initiatives have also been considered in terms of how they support the Council priorities in relation to Aspiring Communities and Inspiring Place. There is strongest alignment to “Active and strong communities,” “People enjoy good life-long health and well-being,” “Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy” and “Vibrant, welcoming and attractive places.”

2.9 CIF and the CIF initiatives are also well placed to support the Council’s ambitions in terms of Community Wealth Building. The 5 Pillars of Community Wealth Building which are addressed by the CIF initiatives are outlined in the chart below. The 5 Pillars are: Procurement; Employment; Land and Assets; Financial Power; and Democratic Ownership of the Local Economy

Chart 3: Number of CIF Applications per Pillar of Community Wealth Building



Impact of CIF Awards

2.10 Outline assessments of impact are included within Appendix 1. The formal process of monitoring the impact and outcomes of CIF awards is in progress as follows:

- Within 12 months the CIF recipient is asked to give feedback on the progress of the project and invited to share any reports/case studies with the Locality Partnership and on the Community Planning website.
- Locality Partnership members are asked to visit the project and discuss impact and consider how this work can be linked in further with the wider community/mainstreamed.

This reporting on impact will then be shared with Cabinet in future CIF updates.

2.11 Notable highlights to date include:

- £932,404 of external funding has been secured by CIF projects;
- A Digital Learning Officer has been employed in Irvine
- An Environmental Education Officer has been funded for the Three Towns Growers, to match Lottery and other investment in an educational facility;
- Deployment of community support in Vineburgh and Fullarton communities to address addictions and food insecurity;
- A Community Development Trust has been established for Ardrossan to maximise the assets of the community and align aspirations;
- The Clearer Minds Programme to support mental health in Largs is delivering positive outcomes;
- Support for a community regeneration project at Millport Town Hall has been provided by a commitment of £200,000 from CIF, with substantial external funding secured;
- CIF investment of £150,000 for the Training Station community hub in Saltcoats has attracted sufficient external funding to deliver a restoration of a community anchor building; and
- Community volunteering, employment, employability skills and social inclusion are being improved in the Garnock Valley through Beith Community Development Trust's work at Geilsland and by the Garnock Valley Men's Shed.

Emerging CIF Proposals

2.12 There are a number of emerging CIF proposals, which were discussed by the Locality Partnerships at their June and September meetings. Some of these are currently the subject of reports to Cabinet.

2.13 Analysis shows that these emerging proposals continue to address locality priorities.

2.14 Two current applications request funds for small-grant awarding participatory budgeting in localities. The agreed purpose of CIF is to develop projects which:

- Fulfil a compelling local need;
- Impact on reducing inequalities; and
- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible.

2.15 Related to this, CIF guidance highlights that awards between £5,000 and £100,000 will be available, with phasing and drawdown to be agreed dependent on individual projects. Where a proposal is assessed to be eligible for an award, but the value of that award is calculated to be less than £5,000, the organisation will be signposted to apply for support through the Nurturing Excellence in Communities, Common Good and NAVT Grants schemes instead. This is to ensure the required levels of monitoring and reporting are proportionate to the value of award.

2.16 Using a participatory budgeting approach to award small-grants does not meet the purpose or criteria of CIF as described at 2.14 above, in relation to making a significant impact on reducing inequalities or in providing long-term sustainable positive results for the greatest number of people possible. Evaluations of Participatory Budgeting have consistently shown that the value of small-grant awarding initiatives is in relation to community cohesion and building networks, rather than in effecting long-term change. The value and importance of this approach has been proven in North Ayrshire over a number of years. Previous small-grant awarding participatory budgeting events have proven popular and successful with local groups across North Ayrshire and Locality Partnerships are enthusiastic about the potential of participatory budgeting to improve community relationships and empower local people to distribute small awards.

2.17 It is therefore proposed that officers should be remitted to identify alternative sources of funding for small-grant awarding Participatory Budgeting approaches for Locality Partnerships and bring back proposals to a future Cabinet.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet

- a) Notes progress to date in relation to the Community Investment Fund (CIF) themes and expenditure; and
- b) Remits officers to identify alternative sources of funding for small-grant awarding Participatory Budgeting approaches for Locality Partnerships for consideration at a future Cabinet.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 CIF funding is allocated within existing resources. £932,404 of external funding has been secured by CIF projects, more than doubling the investment from the Council.

Human Resources

4.2 Funding has been provided to employ a Digital Officer for Irvine Locality Partnership with Irvine's CIF funding. Employment opportunities hosted by external organisations have also been provided as detailed in Appendix 1.

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

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;
- 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.

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

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Community Investment Fund Applications Approved by Locality Partnerships and Cabinet to 10.09.19 by theme, expenditure and impact.

Appendix 1

Community Investment Fund Applications Approved by Locality Partnerships and Cabinet to 10.09.19

KEY: Locality Partnership priorities (LP) Fair for All themes (FFA), Local Outcome Improvement Plan priorities (LOIP), Council Plan priorities (CP), Community Wealth Building (CWB)

Locality	Name	Summary	Key achievements to date	Amount	Theme
Irvine	Digital Officer	Appointment of a "Digital Irvine" Project Officer to inspire and connect community, educational and business initiatives in Irvine to promote digital inclusion, participation and skills development	Appointment of Digital Officer Mapping of local digital access Prototype of Community Book	£84 604	LP– Employment FFA – Economic Growth LOIP – A Working North Ayrshire, building stronger communities CP – Digital connectivity, inclusive local economy, active and strong communities CWB – Employment, assets
Irvine	Vineburgh and Fullarton Community Enablers	Community Enablers who will engage with the community to find opportunities to tackle issues such as the provision of dignified food, isolation, alcohol and drug addictions and to support lifestyle changes, build confidence and develop support networks.	Funding just released	£100 000	LP – Mental Health FFA – Health, Fairer Food LOIP – Healthier North Ayrshire, building stronger communities, prevention CP – Active and strong communities, good life-long health and well-being CWB -Employment, assets
Kilwinning	McGavin Park	Transforming the former tennis court area at Kilwinning's McGavin Park into a community play park and outdoor gym to encourage health and wellbeing.	Additional funding secured: £34,000, other funding applications still outstanding. Project layout and design agreed. Procurement and Streetscene supporting.	£35 000	LP – Environmental issues FFA – Health, Environment LOIP – Healthier North Ayrshire, prevention CP – Good life-long health and well-being, Children and young people experience the best start

Locality	Name	Summary	Key achievements to date	Amount	Theme
			Over 1000 involved in consultations. Environment a key theme continuing in results of the Kilwinning Charrette.		in life, Vibrant, welcoming and attractive places CWB -Employment, land and assets, financial power
Three Towns	Community Development Trust	Match funding for a feasibility study to develop a community development trust in Ardrossan to capitalise on and progress the work done by a number of local organisations and initiatives to date.	Ardrossan Community Development Trust established. Additional funding secured: £5,000 Cunninghame Housing Association £10,000 Our Place (Lottery)	£25 000	LP – Community regeneration FFA – Economic Growth LOIP – Working North Ayrshire, building stronger communities CP - Inclusive, growing and enterprising local Economy, Vibrant, welcoming and attractive places, active and strong communities CWB - Land and assets, financial power, democratic ownership of the local economy
Three Towns	Three Towns Growers	Environmental Worker who will offer learning opportunities for local people involved in growing and wider environmental learning and make the Three Towns a “centre of environmental excellence.”	Additional funding secured: £350,000 Our Place funding for an environmental educational hub. Proposals developed for how the CIF funded 3 year development worker will support the hub.	£100 000	LP - Environment FFA -Environment, Fairer Food LOIP – Healthier North Ayrshire, building stronger communities CP – Sustainable environment, inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy CWB -Procurement, employment, land and assets, financial power
Three Towns	Training Station	Promote community regeneration and civic pride within local communities through the re-purposing of a	Additional funding secured: Regeneration Capital Grant Fund £150,000, sportsscotland £76,150,	£50 000	LP – Community regeneration LOIP – Healthier North Ayrshire, building stronger communities, prevention

Locality	Name	Summary	Key achievements to date	Amount	Theme
		category B listed building, developing local community-based facilities that meet community needs and contributing to the community's health and wellbeing.	Railway Heritage £125,000. Scot Rail £165,000		FFA – Environment CP – Active and strong communities, Vibrant, welcoming and attractive places CWB -Procurement, employment, land and assets, financial power
Garnock Valley	Men's Shed	Creation of a Men's Shed to address social isolation and to provide opportunities for community involvement, health and well-being and employment.	<p>Additional funding secured: £5,400 from Barr Environmental, £5,000 from Screwfix, £4,000 from Jewson £1,000 from Tesco, £854 from Co-op, £1,000 from Nurturing Excellence in Communities</p> <p>75 members – high number working age so liaising with employability services.</p> <p>Strong evidence of community benefit such as food provision through 'Park Lives' and work with ADP/ Café Solace.</p> <p>Recent renovations within the shed have included re-wiring, re-flooring and new lights and sockets. A fitted kitchen within a social area has been fitted. A music room and a bespoke scale-modelling room, with six work stations, have been built. An office facility with access to CCTV</p>	£28 000	<p>LP – Facilities and Amenities</p> <p>FFA – Health</p> <p>LOIP – Healthier North Ayrshire, building stronger communities, prevention</p> <p>CP – Active and strong communities, good life-long health and well-being</p> <p>CWB -Employment, land and assets, financial power</p>

Locality	Name	Summary	Key achievements to date	Amount	Theme
			and IT facilities has been renovated.		
Garnock Valley	Travel Needs Analysis	Travel Needs Analysis to investigate what can be done to improve accessibility to employment, education, social and leisure activities and health services.	Working group is progressing with assistance from Stagecoach and SPT.	£25 000	LP – Moving Around FFA – Economic Growth LOIP – Working North Ayrshire, building stronger communities CP - Inclusive, growing and enterprising local Economy, Effective infrastructure CWB - Land and assets
Garnock Valley	Geilsland Hall	Part of a wider package of funding support to support the role of the development manager whose remit is to continue to develop both Geilsland Hall as an important community asset and a volunteering, learning and employability project aimed at supporting learning and skills development.	Over June – September volunteer hours have totalled 2384 with 99 volunteers involved. 32 young people (16 - 25) are engaged on an ongoing basis. Employment - the project has recruited a Modern Apprentice to a Project Assistant role.	£45 000	LP – Facilities and Amenities FFA – Economic Growth LOIP – Working North Ayrshire CP – Active and strong communities CWB - Employment
North Coast and Cumbraes	Cycling Without Age	Cycling Without Age to help the elderly get back on their bicycles, using trishaws and intergenerational volunteering.	3 Trishaws in use with 32 volunteers. Group have been involved in a variety of events from the Haylie House fun run, a consultation in Eglinton Park, the Millport Heritage Cycle, Fairlie Gala day and the UK Summit in Falkirk with the long ride of 20 trishaws from Falkirk Stadium	£22, 800	LP – Social isolation (older people) FFA – Health LOIP – Healthier North Ayrshire, building stronger communities CP – Active and strong communities, good life-long health and well-being

Locality	Name	Summary	Key achievements to date	Amount	Theme
			to the Kelpies and out to the Falkirk Wheel. Their young people joined Cycling without Age junior ambassador Scotland and youth and senior ambassadors during a weekend summit.		
North Coast and Cumbraes	Clearer Minds	The group is working with mental health specialists, HeadStrong to deliver a new programme to support Largs Academy pupils to improve resilience, build coping strategies, speak out, value each other and ensure change, hope and positive mental health.	<p>Programme being delivered with positive feedback.</p> <p>All year groups within Largs Academy have had focused sessions.</p> <p>Teachers have attended a presentation at In Service Day, which was repeated for parents/carers.</p> <p>There are now 32 Young Mental Health Ambassadors at Largs Campus.</p> <p>Work being tied in with Largs Wellness Model.</p>	£30 200	<p>LP – Stress and anxiety (younger people)</p> <p>FFA – Health, Children</p> <p>LOIP – Healthier North Ayrshire, Thriving North Ayrshire, building stronger communities, prevention</p> <p>CP - Children and young people experience the best start in life</p>
North Coast and Cumbraes	Millport Town Hall	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,	<p>Feasibility Study and Business Plan completed.</p> <p>Regeneration Capital Grant Fund application Stage 2 and Community Asset Transfer in progress.</p> <p>Website launched</p>	£200 000	<p>LP – Social isolation (older people)</p> <p>FFA - Environment</p> <p>LOIP – Healthier North Ayrshire, building stronger communities</p> <p>CP – Active and strong communities, good life-long</p>

Locality	Name	Summary	Key achievements to date	Amount	Theme
		indoor venue and contributing to the community's health and wellbeing.			health and well-being, Vibrant, welcoming and attractive places CWB -Procurement, employment, land and assets, financial power, democratic ownership of the local economy
North Coast and Cumbraes	Sing Your Song	Community wellbeing project to foster community cohesion, combat stress, anxiety and social isolation through a programme of musical therapy.	Funding just released.	£14,892	LP – Social isolation (older people) FFA – Health LOIP – Healthier North Ayrshire, building stronger communities, prevention CP – Active and strong communities, good life-long health and well-being