



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

Tuesday 15 September 2020 at 7.00 pm via Microsoft Teams

Business

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Timings
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest. Special Thanks to Theresa Potter and Ian Shaw.			Cllr Bell	7.00 – 7.05
2.	Action Note Review the action note and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 3	Enclosed	Elaine Young	7.05 – 7.10
3	National Cycle Network – Dalry to Kilbirnie Receive report from Claire Fitzsimmons, Manager, Regeneration.	Pg 10	Enclosed	Claire Fitzsimmons	7.10 – 7.20
4.	Garnock Valley Young People Receive update on recent work.	-	Verbal	Garry Tait	7.20 – 7.25
5.	CIF - Full Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of Interest • Radio City Association 	Pg 16 Pg 18	Enclosed	Christina Pieraccini	7.25 – 7.50
6.	Community Hubs and Next Steps Receive presentation from Angela Morell.	Pg 64	Enclosed	Angela Morrell	7.50 – 8.25
STANDING AGENDA ITEMS					
7.	Locality Officer Update Receive update from Christina Pieraccini	Pg 70	Enclosed	Christina Pieraccini	8.25 – 8.30
8.	HSCP Locality Forum Update Receive update on progress.	-	Verbal	Dr Janet McKay	8.30 – 8.40
9.	Locality Plan Progress Receive feedback from sub-groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving Around • Facilities and Amenities • Work and the Local Community 	-	Verbal	Christina Pieraccini Community Reps	8.40 – 8.50
OTHER BUSINESS – TO INFORM LOCALITY PLANNING					
10.	Lochshore Receive update from Angela Morrell.	-	Verbal		8.50 – 8.55
12.	AOCB	-	Verbal	Cllr Bell	8.55 – 9.00

Distribution

Elected Members

Councillor John Bell **(Chair)**
Councillor Robert Barr
Councillor Anthea Dickson
Councillor Joy Brahim
Councillor Todd Ferguson
Councillor Donald L Reid

Community Representatives

Catherine Wigzell, Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council
Sheena Woodside, Dalry Community Council
James Waite, Beith Community Council
Audrey Mason, Community Representative
Trish Wallace, Community Representative

CPP/Council Representatives

Dr Janet McKay, North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership **(Vice Chair)**
Kaileigh Brown, Third Sector Interface
Andy Dolan, Police Scotland
Craig McFie, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Rosemary Fotheringham, Funding Officer, North Ayrshire Council
Angela Morrell, Lead Officer, North Ayrshire Council
Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer
Elaine Young, Senior Lead Officer (NHS Ayrshire & Arran)

Meeting:	Garnock Valley Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	23 January 2020 - Garnock Campus
Present:	Councillor John Bell (Chair); Councillor Robert Barr ; Councillor Joy Brahim ; Councillor Anthea Dickson ; Councillor Todd Ferguson ; Councillor Donald L. Reid ; Dr Janet McKay , NAHSCP (Vice-Chair) Elaine Young , NHS Ayrshire and Arran (Senior Lead Officer); Angela Morrell , Lead Officer, NAC; Christina Pieraccini , Locality Officer, NAC; James Waite , Beith and District Community Council; Sheena Woodside , Dalry Community Council Audrey Mason , Community Representative; Ian Shaw , Community Representative; Kate Cuthbert , Active Travel Hub Officer, NAC; Caitriona McAuley , Head Economic Development & Regeneration, NAC; Jim Miller , Senior Manager (Planning), NAC; Theresa Potter , Partnership Engagement Officer, NAHSCP Garry Tait , Community Development Worker, NAC; Euan Gray , Committee Services Officer, NAC
Apologies:	Kaileigh Brown , TSI; Andy Dolan , Police Scotland; Catherine Wigzell , Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Council;

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	Welcome and Apologies The Chair welcomed everyone to the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership meeting and apologies for absence were noted.	
2.	Action Note The action note from the meeting held 5 September 2019 was approved subject to a change relating the expression of interest for CIF funding from the Facilities and Amenities working group. The decision should have read: <i>"Following guidance from the Locality Partnership, this project was split in to 2 stages. The application for Stage 1 of the project was approved by the Partnership and will now progress to Cabinet for ratification."</i> The following points were raised as matters arising from the action note:	E. Gray/ J. McGee

	<p><u>Action Note</u> Findings from the “What Matters to You Day” were circulated and the proposals to extend the event to a week to help increase engagement in 2020 were discussed, along with agreement to involve CPP LP colleagues in next year’s activities.</p> <p><u>Locality Officer Update</u> A monthly document will be issued to the Locality Officer detailing the Community Benefit Funds, arising from clauses in procurement contracts, which are available to local groups. Groups were encouraged to bring ideas for projects to the Garnock Valley Community Development Team.</p> <p>Councillor Barr requested an update on the GV Mens Sheds Asset Transfer as this had funding implications. Christina reported that the Men’s Shed was currently working on their business plan as part of progressing with their asset transfer however will request a further update - an update will be circulated.</p> <p><u>Lochshore</u> The group have met twice since the last update and agreed their Terms of Reference and Action Plan. Their funding application advanced to stage two on 11 October 2019 and feedback is expected in January 2020. The group’s next meeting will be held on 20 February 2020. An open day will also be held on 23 May 2020.</p> <p><u>Grant Funding</u> Councillor Barr highlighted that the time taken between grants being awarded and the funds being transferred to the applicant is causing issues for some groups. Angela Morrell agreed to look into this.</p>	<p><i>C. Pieraccini</i></p> <p><i>A. Morrell</i></p>
3.	<p>Active Travel</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from Kate Cuthbert, Active Travel Hub Officer, on the Active Travel Hub which has opened in the Trinity Church, Irvine in 2019 and a number of active travel initiatives in the Garnock Valley and across North Ayrshire including Nordic walking, health walks, bike maintenance classes and the closed cycle loop in Irvine. Members were advised to visit thetrinity.org.uk for more information.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
4.	<p>Local Development Plan Update</p> <p>The Partnership received a presentation from Jim Miller, Senior Manager (Planning) on the Council’s Local Development Plan.</p> <p>The presentation provided information on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Timeline for the Local Development Plan 2, which commenced in 2016 and following engagement, consultation and examination was adopted in 2019; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the shared vision of the plan that every person in North Ayrshire is valued and should have the best opportunities to live their life to their full potential; • four strategic policies - Spatial Strategy, Placemaking, Strategic Development Areas and Delivery on Community Priorities; • four detailed policies - Successful, Sustainable North Ayrshire, Natural, resilient North Ayrshire, A More Connected Place and A Low Carbon North Ayrshire; • new Housing allocations – a 10 Year Plan for the delivery of more homes in North Ayrshire; and • the next steps that will include an Action Programme, followed by the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial Strategy, Monitoring, New Local Development Plan (incorporating ongoing engagement with Locality Planning Partnerships and communities) and Local Place Plans. <p>Members asked questions and were provided further information on the National Planning Framework and how the Regional Spatial Strategies can influence the content of this in terms of links to community planning and public health.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
5.	<p>Community Wealth Building</p> <p>The Partnership received a presentation from Caitriona McAuley, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, on community wealth building.</p> <p>The presentation provided information on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community wealth building as a transformative approach to local economic development, developing wealth with local roots and ownership; • the 5 pillars of community wealth building – procurement, employment, land and assets, financial power and democratic ownership of the local economy; • examples of procurement expenditure in Preston; • developing Scotland's first Community Wealth Building Strategy; • securing £3 million Ayrshire Growth Deal CWB Fund: a regional approach to CWB; • work with our local and regional anchors via the CWB Commission to deliver bold ambitions; • the Garnock Valley priority Work and the Local Community with 37 new business start-ups in 2018/19 and 40 growth companies account managed by NAC Business Development; • a number of discussion points to gather feedback which will help shape community wealth building in North Ayrshire. 	

	<p>Members asked questions and were provided with further information on the assistance that can be given to local businesses to ensure they are competitive when bidding for public contracts and the Council's Quick Quotes process for contracts for supplies and services between £10,000 and £50,000 and for works between £10,000 and £100,000.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed (a) that the discussion points raised in the presentation would be considered by the Work and Local Communities working group at their next meeting; and (b) noted the contents of the report.</p>	C. Pieraccini
6.	<p>Community Investment Fund</p> <p>The Partnership were asked to consider one full application for CIF funding and one expression of interest from the Beith Community Development Trust and Radio City Association respectively. Prior to consideration, Angela circulated a CIF diagram which details the process. Councillor Anthea Dickson requested that pre agenda be added to the diagram.</p> <p><u>Beith Community Development Trust</u></p> <p>The Partnership considered an application for £43,500 of CIF funding for their YOUth Lead project which aims to provide skills development, leadership training and volunteering opportunities in the local community to young people.</p> <p>Members asked questions of the applicant and were provided with further information in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the feedback received during the project pilot and other projects which the organisation has organised in the past; • additional benefits the community would receive from the investment; • the scope to spread out volunteering opportunities across the Garnock Valley to minimise the need for young people to travel; and • recent problems with antisocial behaviour in the Garnock Valley and how the project could help address these issues. <p>The Partnership unanimously agreed to support the application and recommended that the North Ayrshire Council Cabinet approve the application.</p> <p><u>Radio City Association</u></p> <p>The partnership considered an expression of interest for £60,000 of CIF funding to fund two project manager posts to deliver two projects, a hydro scheme and single wind turbine, from the current prototype phase to full development.</p>	<p>A. Morrell</p> <p>R. Arthur</p>

	<p>Councillor John Bell advised that, while he used to be a board member of Radio City some years ago, he now had no connection to the organisation and had no interest to declare.</p> <p>Similarly, Councillor Donald L Reid advised that he also was a member of Radio City many years ago but now had no connection to the organisation and had no interest to declare.</p> <p>Members asked questions of the applicant and were provided with further information in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the reinvestment of the revenue generated from the projects, how these funds would be distributed and who would manage the distribution; • the figures which have been provided in terms of the expected revenue, how these figures were arrived at, why this was not included on the expression of interest and the format of the expression of interest form which does not lend itself to providing a detailed analysis; • links between the project and community wealth building; and • the site of the projects and their current uses and whether it would be possible, if the application advanced to the next stage, to provide images of the site to members. <p>Members debated whether the applicant should be asked to resubmit their expression of interest with more detail or if a full application should be submitted for consideration.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed to request that the applicant submit a full application for CIF funding which would be considered at the meeting on 17 March 2020.</p> <p>James Waite requested that his objection to the decision be recorded.</p>	<p>A. Morrell</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Locality Officer Update</p> <p>Christina Pieraccini made reference to her update on work which has been undertaken in the locality, noting that it had been circulated with the papers, and highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Community Development Team and HSCP worked together to run a free Christmas lunch event at Montgomery Court which was attended by 42 people; • the Dalry Street Work Initiative which was developed in partnership with Police Scotland as a result of an increase in reports of youth disorder in Dalry and will engage with young people in the area to build relationships and to offer an alternative to anti-social behaviour; and • Police Scotland recently confirmed at a Beith and District Community Council meeting that work to upgrade the CCTV system would be taking place. 	

	<p>The Partnership took this opportunity to thank Sergeant Joe Murdoch for his work with the Locality Partnership and local community councils and to wish him luck in his new role. Angela Morrell confirmed that a letter of thanks would be sent on behalf of the Partnership.</p>	A. Morrell
8.	<p>HSCP Locality Forum Update</p> <p>The Partnership received an update from Theresa Potter on the work undertaken by the HSCP Locality Forum which included information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addressing social isolation and loneliness as an issue not only faced by the elderly but also younger generations; • a 2020 events calendar which will make it easier for members of the public to find out what is going on in their area; • a free Christmas lunch event held at Montgomery Court which included a number of activities such as arts and crafts, bingo and a performance from the St Bridget's Primary School Choir; and • future Thinking Differently Doing Better events which Partnership members have been invited to attend. <p>Noted.</p>	
9.	<p>Locality Plan Progress</p> <p>An update was provided on the work carried out by each of the Partnership's sub-groups.</p> <p><u>Moving Around</u></p> <p>The travel needs analysis will be put out to tender at the end of February 2020.</p> <p><u>Work and Local Community</u></p> <p>James Waite raised the CIF application from the three Garnock Valley Community Councils for funding to hold 3 participatory budgeting events which was recommended for approval by the Partnership prior to being deferred by the NAC Cabinet at a Pre Agenda meeting.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the lack of clarity around the decision to defer, the CIF application process, appropriate uses of CIF funding and the communication following the decision.</p> <p>Members requested assurances that all future decisions relating to CIF applications recommended for approval by a Locality Partnership to NAC Cabinet. That cabinet decisions would be fed back to the Partnership and applicants promptly.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the match funding offered by the Scottish Government would be awarded despite the decision by Cabinet to defer the application.</p>	A. Morrell

	<p><u>Facilities and Amenities</u></p> <p>Work on the consultant's brief for the Garnock Valley 2020 Vision remains ongoing.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
10.	<p>Membership</p> <p>The Partnership were informed of an application, submitted by Trish Wallace, to fill the Community Representative vacancy.</p> <p>The Partnership unanimously agreed to appoint Trish Wallace to the role of Community Representative.</p>	J. McGee
11	<p>Garnock Valley Young People</p> <p>Garry Tait provided an update on the work undertaken with young people in the locality, highlighting the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 pupils at risk of expulsion are being worked with to improve their attitude towards school and life in general - so far, the results have been positive; • the group is looking to link up with the Beith Community Development Trust to help young people gain skills and experience which will help them when looking for jobs; • a meeting has taken place with the Beith Skate Park group to discuss further development of the facility; and • the sport drop-in sessions in Dalry continue to be well attended. <p>Noted.</p>	
12.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>The Partnership were informed that Police Scotland were seeking a representative to join the group which is responsible for distributing the Proceeds of Crime fund. Interested members were asked to contact Christina Pieraccini for more information.</p> <p>The Partnership received an update on the revamped Provost Awards which will be split into localities for 2020. The awards will officially be launched on 14 February 2020 and nominations will close on 20 March 2020.</p>	C. Pieraccini

The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.



Locality Partnership: Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

Date: 15 September 2020

Subject: National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 7 – Dalry to Kilbirnie

Purpose: To update the Locality Partnership on options for the potential realignment of NCN 7 between Dalry and Kilbirnie.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 National Cycle Network Route 7 runs from Sunderland to Inverness and cuts through the heart of the Garnock Valley. The section between Kilwinning and Kilbirnie is almost entirely on-road. It is the longest continuous on-road section of NCN 7 in Scotland.
- 1.2 Feasibility studies took place in 2010 and 2017 with a view to finding a workable solution to create an off-road active travel link between Kilwinning and Kilbirnie. The routes identified in studies run through multiple private landholdings. An inability to garner support from the private landowners that straddle the routes identified in these studies has prevented the implementation of an alternative route.
- 1.3 In July 2020 a member of the community identified an alternative route utilising in part the disused railway that runs south of Kilbirnie and owned by Sustrans. This route would require the support of a smaller number of landowners and is considered worthy of further investigation.
- 1.4 The community have initiated landowner discussions and have requested the support of officers from the Active Travel and Transport Team in this.

2. Background

Case for a New Route

- 2.1 North Ayrshire Council and local community groups have identified the creation of an off-road Active Travel Link through the Garnock Valley as a local priority.
- 2.2 A quality off-road link would provide:
 - A safer alternative to the existing on-road alignment suitable for users of all abilities;

- A viable option for cycle commuting to major employers in the area such as DSM;
- Improved opportunities for active travel to the Garnock Campus and the priority regeneration project at Lochshore;
- A suitable alternative to car and bus travel between the settlements;
- The opportunity to increase active travel tourism into the Garnock Valley by connecting with popular routes from the north through Lochwinnoch; and
- An asset to promote recreational cycling and walking and access to greenspace.

2.3 The delivery of a suitable off-road route would therefore be a major benefit and represents a priority for the Active Travel and Transport team within the Council. The delivery of such a route has however not been achievable to date given the lack of secured support from landowners that is required.

Previous Feasibility Work

- 2.4 A feasibility study funded by Sustrans was undertaken in 2010/11 to identify an off-road alternative. The study was developed with extensive public and landowner consultation. An alignment along the old mineral railway line (known locally as the 'Bogie Line') was considered as part of this study. At the time this proposal was met with a substantial level of landowner opposition. Despite engagement and negotiation with landowners, an agreement could not be reached.
- 2.5 A further feasibility study, again funded by Sustrans, was undertaken in 2017. In addition to revisiting the Bogie Line, this also considered a route parallel to the west side of the B780. A third option running alongside the River Garnock was also considered but ruled out primarily due to high flood risk and technical constraints.
- 2.6 The Bogie Line route incorporates 11 different landowners, who were asked to consider the development of a route running through their land. Of the 11 landowners, only five responded and of these, four were against this proposed alignment. The reasons given for opposing the route included loss of privacy, security concerns and disruption to land management.
- 2.7 Given these responses it was agreed with Sustrans and members of Project Kilbirnie and 'Plug the Gap' that the B780 would be considered as the next best alternative. This route incorporates twenty-five landowners and when asked to consider the development of a route only eleven responses were received of which three were positive and eight were negative. This option is also deemed less favourable by Community Groups due to proximity to the B780 and gradient on approach to Kilbirnie.
- 2.8 To date, a lack of landowner support has prevented progress on the delivery of a route – even before costs and funding options are considered.

Potential New Alignment

- 2.9 In July 2020, a member of the community suggested that an additional route alignment could be considered. This proposal would utilise a disused railway line owned by Sustrans, and which runs for around 1km south from Kilbirnie near Brownhill Farm. From the south, there are a few potential route options including utilising land owned by DSM, who have shown support for the project in the past, or by using the local road network
- 2.10 This route offers potential advantage in requiring the agreement of fewer private landowners. Only c1.6km of this route would run through private land opposed to c2.6km for the Bogie Line and B780 alignments. The route could also run along an existing track at the periphery of private land, minimising disruption to operational farmland and any concerns over privacy.
- 2.11 The community has initiated work on this alignment with a site visit involving members of the public and local elected members having taken place in August 2020. The community has also already begun liaison with the landowners along this new alignment to gauge their views on this route option and this provides a forum for further discussion and to hopefully alleviate any concerns landowners have.
- 2.12 Community involvement in gaining the support of landowners is considered to be key, given the limitations on the Council's ability to compel landowners to support a route (as shown by previous attempts).
- 2.13 Sustrans, our primary funding partner, were involved in the previous studies and have advised that they will not support further analysis without landowner approval and buy-in or unless a new potential route is identified. With the suggested new alignment and community efforts to negotiate with landowners it is hoped that Sustrans would be supportive of funding feasibility work into this alignment.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 Due to the lack of landowner support it is proposed to not undertake further landowner engagement for either the Bogie Line or B780 options unless a significant change in the views of landowners is exhibited.
- 3.2 While there is no guarantee of success, an alternative route has been identified that incorporates a lower number of landowners, and the community has already initiated landowner discussions for the potential new alignment. Community involvement in gaining landowner support is welcome and considered key to delivery of a route.
- 3.3 The Active Travel and Transport team can assist with these discussions including:

- confirmation of land ownership;
- submission of a grant funding application through Sustrans 'Places for Everyone';
- appointment of a suitable consultant with necessary technical expertise to undertake a route alignment appraisal and concept design in conjunction with community partners; and
- consultation with landowners including Sustrans, Network Rail, and others.

3.4 It is proposed that the Locality Partnership support:

- the potential alternative route identified;
- officers working with the community with a view to gaining the landowner support required; and
- an application to Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' fund to allow officers to further consider the viability of a new route.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 Currently no budget exists for this proposal. Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' grant fund may be a potential funding source for 100% of costs for feasibility and design. It is proposed to approach Sustrans for funding to study this new route alignment as a first step in the process. It is estimated that a link of around 4km would likely cost in the region of £1m. Unknown structural, flood mitigation, ecological or technical constraints that may be identified during a detailed study of this new alignment may increase cost. As of August 2020, Sustrans can contribute up to 70% of construction costs. The balance of funding would need to be found from other sources subject to budget availability and competing priorities.

Human Resources

4.2 None at this stage.

Legal

4.3 None at this stage.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 Approximately 50% of Dalry and Kilbirnie fall into the bottom 20% in the Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020. Studies show that quality off-road cycling and walking infrastructure increases active travel activity and can result in:

- A positive impact on local economy in terms of increased visits to shops, cafes and local attractions.

- An improvement in health and wellbeing resulting from increased levels of physical activity and access to greenspace.
- Improved connectivity and access to services; especially in areas with limited public transport provision and low car ownership levels.
- An increase in cycling and walking tourism.

4.5 An Equality Impact Assessment would take place as part of this project should it progress towards construction phase.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 Quality off-road active travel infrastructure, and associated increased patronage, can reduce levels of dependency on motorised travel. This in turn can reduce congestion on our road network, reduce emissions and improve local air quality.

The North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action plan identifies several protected species and habitats within the study area. Any future construction work would have to take full cognisance of this and provide mitigation measures to minimise disruption to the local environment, protected habitats, wetlands and watercourses.

Key Priorities

4.6 Construction of a quality off-road Active Travel link between Dalry and Kilbirnie would touch on NAC's key priorities in the following areas:

A Working North Ayrshire – route would be utilised for commuting to places of work.

A Healthier North Ayrshire – route would provide improved opportunities for exercise both in terms of cycle commuters, cycle tourism, recreational cycling and walking and access to greenspace.

A Safer North Ayrshire – an off-road route alignment would replace the existing on-road section of NCN 7 between Dalry and Kilbirnie.

A Thriving North Ayrshire; Children and Young People – route would be constructed to Sustrans NCN standards. These standards are set out to provide routes suitable to be used by a sensible 12-year old.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 Securing and construction of a path on the disused railway line would turn a link with limited usage into a new community asset. Should construction phase be reached community benefits would be built into the procurement exercise.

A quality off-road active travel link connecting Dalry and Kilbirnie towns will re-route and attract cycle commuters, tourists and recreational cyclists (and walkers) through town centres with associated economic benefits.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 This newly proposed route alignment was identified in July 2020. To this end no formal consultation has taken place to date.

For more information please contact: Greg Brown, Active Travel Officer, on 07866 458 115 or at gregbrown@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Community Investment Fund Expression of Interest Form

Organisation name	<i>Dalry Community Council / Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council (supported by Beith Community Council)</i>
Brief details of organisation	This application is supported by the three community councils in the Garnock Valley, however as it more directly impacts Dalry / Kilbirnie & Glengarnock, they will lead on the application. These are the community bodies elected or co-opted to represent the interests of their respective communities, working as a liaison with and partner of North Ayrshire Council.
Locality	Garnock Valley
Amount requested	
Brief overview of proposal	<p>NCN7 runs from Sunderland to Inverness as part of the National Cycle Network. When cyclists reach Kilwinning they are then forced to ride the back road which bypasses Dalry to the East (beyond the Blair housing estate), or leave the NCN7 route to ride alongside the A737. From Dalry to Kilbirnie, cyclists have to traverse the new bypass and ride through Highfield down into the Longbar, before re-joining the off-road cycle path at the Lochshore Industrial Estate.</p> <p>Due to ongoing safety concerns and the ease of the route, there is considerable community interest in developing an alternative. A number of possibilities have been explored in the past, with a feasibility study picking out a new roadside route between Dalry and Kilbirnie along the B780 as the most likely to succeed on the basis of landowner permission (albeit also the least desirable based on the scoring system within the study). However this proposed roadside route retains difficulty in obtaining permissions, and members of the community have raised concerns about safety and the steep cycle over the Hagthorn.</p> <p>In the past month another potential route has been explored – using land already owned by Sustrans to leave Kilbirnie via the disused railway line at the Loadingbank, joining a farm track at Brownhill Farm and following this to Kersland outside Dalry, then following an adopted C Road from Kersland to the B714 Beith Road. From there a short on-road section may be required, which would allow a straight run into Dalry or a route following the right of way past McLuckie's Iron Foundry to Dalry Train Station.</p>

	<p>This funding application is to examine the feasibility of this route. 2 of the 3 land managers involved have indicated that they are content with the study going ahead, and the third is still to be approached at the time of writing (this may have changed by the time of the Locality Partnership meeting). Sustrans may also be willing to part- or fully-fund a feasibility study but they have yet to be approached. Greg Brown of NAC's Active Travel team is leading on this aspect.</p> <p>Some issues already raised by land managers, which require to be addressed, include flooding, biosecurity and farm vehicle access.</p> <p>Developing an off-road route between Kilbirnie and Kilwinning is part of the Local Development Plan (Policy 27). it would also:- encourage healthier lifestyles in promoting cycling to work and school and as an activity; help with sustainability and mitigating the Climate Emergency in opening up safer, greener transport options; open up the wider Garnock Valley to cycling tourism.</p>
Timescale	
Contact details	Peter Stevenson (Secretary Dalry CC) or Allan Wright (Secretary Kilbirnie & Glengarnock CC)

Forms should be returned to your Locality Co-ordinator by post or email.

For more information see the guidance form here: <http://www.northayrshire.community/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2018/06/community-investment-fund-guidance-notes-17-12-17.pdf> or contact the Community Planning Team on info@northayrshire.community



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

The CIF will support proposals and projects that:

- Connect with:
 - The North Ayrshire [Fair for All Inequalities Strategy](#);
 - the [Community Planning Partnership](#) (CPP) and [Locality priorities](#); and
 - North Ayrshire Council's (NAC) 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.

When to apply and how?

- LPs 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 (attached), 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.
- Forms should be returned to your Locality Officer, by email if possible:

Christina Pieraccini
Locality Officer - Garnock Valley
Connected Communities
North Ayrshire Council
Walker Hall
45, Main Street
Kilbirnie
KA25 7BX

Tel: 01505 680203
Mob: 07966 160854
Email: cpieraccini@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

For more information see the guidance form here: <http://www.northayrshire.community/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2018/06/community-investment-fund-guidance-notes-17-12-17.pdf>



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

1. Details of your organisation

Name of Organisation
RADIO CITY ASSOCIATION

Postal Address for Correspondence
RADIO CITY, 1A BRIDGEND KILBIRNIE, KA25 7DF

Name of Contact Person
GORDON MCGUINNESS / ALLAN WILSON

Position in Organisation
CHAIRMAN / DIRECTOR

Telephone Number

Email Address



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

2. Brief description of your organisation

Please include its legal status, aims and objectives, activities or services provided and how long it has been in existence.

The Radio City Association (RCA) is a community anchor organisation that was formally established in November 1999 following the establishment of a steering group in 1997 to redevelop the historic art-deco style Radio Cinema building. The RCA is an OSCR registered charity (SCO42718), with the overall objective of improving life of residents in the Garnock Valley. The concept of Radio City is that of community involvement and participation linked to ongoing community development.

In July 2002 after raising c.£2.5m from a wide variety of partner sources, both public and private, construction commenced to convert Radio City from a derelict cinema in the former steel town of Kilbirnie & Glengarnock, a highly deprived area, to a state of the art Healthy Living Centre opening in December 2003. It is now the only remaining functional such centre from fifteen comparable 'Millennium' projects, as all its contemporaries have since closed their doors, suitable testimony to Radio City Association's commitment to sustainable development. The vision that has been established for Radio City is to develop a vibrant community partnership, growing opportunities for lifestyle change across health, learning and employability to enable inclusive economic growth and sustainability.

The purposes and aims of RCA are set out within the **charity's constitution**, these are broad in scope and are namely;

- To provide recreational facilities within Garnock Valley ("the Operating Area") and organise recreational activities within the Operating Area with such facilities/activities being available to members of the public at large, with the object of improving their conditions of life.
- To advance the mental and physical health of residents of the Operating Area To advance education, and in particular (i) to increase public knowledge and awareness of issues relating to health, drug abuse and alcohol dependency and (ii) to provide or assist in the provision of learning activities for pre-school children or (in relation to out of school hours or holiday periods) children of school age.
- To relieve poverty within the Operating Area by the promotion, provision and facilitation, as part of a wider strategy, of various initiatives, schemes and programmes of an economic development and social nature.
- To promote and/or provide training in skills of all kinds, particularly such skills as will assist residents of the Operating Area in obtaining paid employment.
- To promote, establish, operate and/or support other similar schemes and projects, which are in furtherance of charitable purposes, for the benefit of the community within the Operating Area

To consolidate these objectives, Radio City Association recently sold the Radio City building to the Priory Group, maintaining a Service Level Agreement. This enabled RCA to continue its work delivering



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community development and allowed Priory Group to provide extensive educational and training opportunities for disadvantaged young people as part of a Community Benefit Agreement. The Radio City formerly a derelict site under threat of demolition is now one of the largest sources of inward investment and employment in the area with over 80+ FTE positions in order to provide education for up to 40 children outside of mainstream education and in residential care as well as continued operation of the community café and multi-purpose hall.

To further continue the Radio City Association's commitment to local sustainable development, RCA has developed the "Electric Valley" initiative with focus on 'clean growth' developing a circular energy economy using zero carbon technologies to facilitate community wealth building and empower local people. Specifically, the "Electric Valley" involves development of a 2.5MW single turbine community owned windfarm and a small-scale hydro scheme in partnership with Scottish Water, the latter being a first of its kind project in Scotland. The revenues generated from these projects will be utilised for re-investment in the local area supporting a range of strategic objectives to provide a legacy benefit to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Garnock Valley through strategic, targeted re-investment projects as well as funds for benefit to the local community.

The RCA has developed the "Electric Valley" with seven areas of strategic focus, as identified in the **Electric Valley Reinvestment Strategy document**, in order to combat socio-economic issues in the Garnock Valley and target of reinvestment of the renewable energy projects into identified local projects that will support and develop the social and economic fabric of the area, creating new community assets and investing in people. In addition, the development of the micro-grant community fund will aid local people in gaining new skills, tackle the climate emergency through innovation, support voluntary groups, participate in events, support wellbeing and assist young people. There is also a proposed community development benevolent fund to develop locally constituted groups and also create new enterprise schemes. RCA also propose to establish a research institute with links to Strathclyde University and Ayrshire College to create an economic development cohort that communities can use to further their own development objectives. Taken together these three strands of community funding create a holistic approach that can address local problems.

The Electric Valley (EV) programme will work to resolve underlying local issues that have prevented inclusive growth and seen social conditions worsen and economic disparity continue for many years by fundamentally re-aligning the way the economy works in favour of the community with a novel approach to community wealth building. In addition, EV will tackle the challenges of the future, such as ensuring a "Just Transition" in the decarbonisation of the economy in the midst of the Climate Emergency, and future technological revolution that will change the nature of work and society. This will be done by harnessing the potential of local people to address these challenges and seize upon the enormous benefits and counteract the acute effects, creating new community wealth by investing in our community by means of; skilled employment, tackling social injustice and economic inequality, as well as leveraging additional funding into projects and fostering partnership with other anchor institutions to build sustainability and start to reverse the damning statistics highlighted in the socio - economic analysis.



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3. Title and summary of proposal

Tell us about your idea. Please describe in as much detail as possible, what the funding will be used for.

Please include:

- where it will be held / delivered
- who is your target audience
- who will benefit from it and how
- any partners that are involved.

Project Title: "ELECTRIC VALLEY"

Attached Documents

Relevant Employment Documents

- RCA Safe Recruitment Policy
- RCA Privacy Policy
- RCA Safeguarding Policy
- RCA Equal Opportunities Policy
- RCA Employers Liability Insurance

Wind Project

- Grid Connection Documents
- Wind Analysis Report
- Financial Model (Wind)

Hydro Project

- Gilkes Turbine Information
- Wallingford Hydro Flow Report
- Financial Model (Hydro)

Financial and Re-Investment

- Electric Valley Socio-Economic Analysis
- Electric Valley Policy Framework
- Electric Valley Re-Investment Strategy
- Knox Institute Design Video

Other

- RCA CIF Presentation (at LCPP Meeting)
- Draft Community Fund Agreement
- Draft SCIO Constitution



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Electric Valley Executive Summary

The Garnock Valley faces severe challenges which present a barrier to inclusive growth and creating a more sustainable economy locally. These challenges are examined in further detail in the attached Electric Valley socio-economic analysis but can be broadly summarised as; **Declining young and working age population** – resulting in fewer younger people in the area and resulting in population decline and decreased economic activity. **Increasingly ageing population** – creating an increasing demand for health and well-being services further straining public services with finite resources. **Economic and social recovery from the closure of traditional industry** – The closure of Glengarnock Steelworks in the 1980's created loss of employment in a faltering local economy and worsening social exclusion in the last decade. **Perception by the community that the Garnock Valley is a neglected area of North Ayrshire** -A common trait of the Garnock Valley is the opinion that investment is directed to other areas of North Ayrshire which appear to the observer to be faring better comparatively. The electric valley can be a catalyst for change at a community level that *whilst not being a panacea* will work to resolve issues at a community level - addressing local priorities. **Gross Inequalities in areas of Health, Wealth and Education** – The area has significant challenges in terms of public health outcomes and economic disparity as examined in the socio-economic analysis report, particularly in areas of household income and female employment, in addition to poor levels of educational attainment which underpins the wealth gap.

In order to address these ongoing and persistent issues, RCA has developed a Community Wealth Building approach in the Electric Valley. The Electric Valley is a reference project that will evidence how the "Just Transition" can be equitable and bring about lasting community benefit and economic and social change through a programme of **Community Wealth Building** in action.

The Electric Valley as proposed is an innovative way forward for the benefit of the Garnock Valley community, this creativity will be required in order to address future challenges the Valley will face through technological development and decarbonisation in coming years, in addition to the long-lasting, latent issues that have prevented inclusive economic growth in the Valley for decades and seen social injustice continue.

The climate emergency ensures that the poorest suffer the impacts the most as they will prospectively in the transition to a 'green' economy of the future. The Electric Valley is a bold proposal that ensures the green economy is used for the common good rather than pushing out those who would not have access to its benefits economically.

The proposal is materially different to all *promises* of community benefit from commercial proposals that have come before.

The development of community renewable energy schemes that are 100% in community ownership is a turning point in the local economy that can transform lives and prospects for individuals locally, kickstarting a shift in the way the economy operates by creating new opportunities that would



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otherwise not exist and challenging the underlying social problems that have persisted in the area consequently.

The challenges are big and in order to address them the vision needs to be radical that's why RCA has developed the Electric Valley strategic investment. The support from the CIF will assist in putting words into action, developing business and implementation plans and enable development of the energy schemes

In order to achieve a "Just Transition" in the future decarbonisation of our economy, the effort has to be community led to be truly equitable. This includes Electric Valley proposals for investment in green technology such as electric vehicles as improvements in air quality should not be determined by personal wealth and community led efforts to eradicate 'fuel poverty' by utilising local sources of green energy. The potential for creating a new local, social economy with the Electric Valley is a realistic prospect.

By looking to co-create with other local institutions and community anchors the Electric Valley is a proposal with community wealth building at its centre that will achieve scalability and potentially be perceived as an exemplary reference project of how communities can work to tackle the challenges they face. The Electric valley is reflected by the priorities of the local community in the Garnock Valley and in accord with strategic plans of the council and at both Governments at a national level.

The resultant effect is the creation of a community benefit fund based on the **Scottish Government guidance of £5,000 per MW (RPI Index Linked)** for a micro-grant scheme that will assist individuals to support local individuals in the community and voluntary organisations as well as a separate benevolent fund for local constituted community groups and to support new enterprise schemes. This is a novel approach in Community Ownership of renewable energy schemes, as it has not been replicated in this format elsewhere.

This community fund is of course in addition to the full reinvestment of all net funds in local strategic projects utilising the re-investment strategy designed by RCA based on extensive socio-economic analysis of the local area and examination of local priorities and strategic plans at local and national level. There are various high-level plans that have been set out as possibilities. These will be explored further for their business potential and developed with the assistance of CIF funding. The Electric Valley will unleash bold, blue-sky thinking at a community level, establish a community resource and open up new channels of creativity by building community capacity to deliver change at a local level.

This is not a short term project with limited outcomes but a long term project that will deliver for the community for generations, providing for greater resilience for the community to face the challenges of the future and address the underlying issues such as economic disparity and the inequalities in the outcomes of health and education that have presented barriers to inclusive growth locally for decades.



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Electric Valley Background Financial Information

Finance Summary Wind

Capital	
Turbine Cost (2.5MW Nordex N90 – variance depending on Euro Exchange Rate)	Approx. £1,700,000
Grid Connection	Approx. £300,000
Balance of Plant	Approx. £400,000

Gross Revenue (25 Year Operational Period based on P90 Export Price 3.86p/KWh)	Approx. £7,200,000
Operation & Maintenance Costs (includes community fund, maintenance, staff, accounts etc.)	Approx. £70,000 PA
Amortization / Debt Service (vary depending on interest rate and negotiation over loan-period)	Approx. £2.5million

Finance Summary Hydro

Capital	
Turbine Cost (1186KW Gilkes Twin-Jet Turgo Turbine)	Approx. £950,000
Grid Connection	Approx. £200,000
Balance of Plant	Approx. £400,000

Gross Revenue (25 Year Operational Period based on P90 Export Price 6.5p/KWh)	Approx. £5,000,000
Operation & Maintenance Costs (includes community fund, maintenance, staff, accounts etc.)	Approx. £80,000 PA
Amortization / Debt Service (vary depending on interest rate and negotiation over loan-period)	Approx. £1.5million

Assumptions on Revenue Forecasts (Energy Marketing)

Anticipated revenue return for the wind turbine has been established using the P90 figure. P90 is all about quantifying the uncertainty of annual energy yield predictions. A P90 figure is the level of energy generation that is forecasted to be exceeded 90% of the year. This is a more conservative estimate and it comes with a lower level of risk, as 90% of the time the generation could be exceeded and therefore could accelerate the financial payback targets.

In regard to the Wind Turbine the P90 figure includes the assumption of a 39% Capacity Factor as established by the Wind Survey report provided by Prevailing (attached) which gives an annual output of 7,440,000 KWh over 20 years.



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In respect of the Hydro scheme the morphology modelling produced by Wallingford Hydro (attached) who provide river modelling for SEPA amongst others, provides the flow duration curve which demonstrates the minimum possible extraction rate for the hydro scheme that can be approved by SEPA. As this is the conservative estimated minimum flow level, it is again likely this will be exceeded. This information is combined with energy production estimates for Gilkes Twin Jet Turgo Turbine to provide a capacity factor of 25.6%. This gives an energy output of 2,661,433KWh per annum for the hydro turbine. These figures are baseline projections as the lowest possible energy output.

This results in the anticipated lowest level of gross community benefit that will accrue on the renewable energy schemes and could be exceeded, however RCA would rather 'under-promise and over-deliver' on these expectations. This equates to a return of approximately £3million for the wind turbine and £1.5 million for the hydro turbine, based on the lowest possible estimate of the P90 energy generation estimate with low capacity factors and also on the low export price of 3.86p/KWh for the wind turbine and 6.5p/KWh for the hydro turbine providing an overall conservative picture on the prospective return to the community in the strategic investment. This is the minimum level of funds that would be directed towards the strategic investment projects as the community fund and other costs are included in O&M costs.

The market for energy production has changed rapidly in recent years with the removal of Feed-in-Tariffs (FiT) and Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs). The RCA's export price for electricity is based upon an indicative power purchase offer of 3.86p/KWh for the WTG and 6.5p/KWh for hydro to underpin revenue forecasts. This again may be exceeded dependant on potential negotiation of a Virtual PPA or Private Wire connection rather than selling wholesale to the grid. RCA has entered discussions with a variety of large-scale users in the local area and beyond with prospective PPA's, this could prospectively help secure local jobs by reducing energy costs whilst also delivering greater financial benefit to the community.

In addition, the rollout of the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) by the UK Government Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Department makes it incumbent on utility companies with >100,000 customers to offer a route-to-market for community generators <5MW for at least 7 years. This *could* result in additional revenue albeit on a lower gross price. RCA has engaged with BEIS on the SEG in consultation and phone calls with civil servants and UK Ministers in order to determine the likely benefit of the SEG to the Electric Valley schemes. The UK government has also announced the relaunch of onshore wind auction pricing similar to the Contract for Difference (CfD) auctions that taken place for offshore wind that could potentially enable higher market 'strike price' for onshore wind.

The Market Conditions for electricity can change as with any commodity, with the UK Government shifting to an increasingly market driven system. Currently the market price for electricity is down due to the number of increasing CCGT Turbines supplying the national grid and the hedged price of Gas declining since Summer 2019, with Gas forwards trading lower than they have for some time, which is continuing to drag power prices down.



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Wind capture prices are also down as high capacity factors this winter - as a result of the stormy weather - has led to a higher price cannibalisation effect on wind power, currently estimated to be resulting in 6% lower captured prices, which market participants are factoring into expectations.

RCA expect it will take a small demand/ supply-side shock for this to change, and expect that with future energy demand anticipated to exponentially increase as a result of decarbonisation of road transport and heat, with the resultant effect of higher energy demand and prices in the long term. Fixed prices under a 100% offtake could rise in the next few months for unsubsidised distribution connected wind & hydro, for 1-2 year and longer-term contracts and could be additional with an element of dispatchability. It is also expected increased sale prices would occur with an aggregator who would look to build it into Balancing Mechanism (BM) / Ancillary services (especially Fast Reserve (FR) / Firm frequency response (FFR) alongside their other assets.

Therefore, RCA's revenue projections are a conservative best prediction for minimum gross community return based on the projections made by independent third-party consummate energy professionals and engagement with stakeholders including prospective buyers of the generated electricity and BEIS officials and RCA's professional advisers

The revenues will be used to fund the strategic investment projects and the community funds as proposed. There will be other costs incurred including operational costs such as payment of any staff and maintenance of offices. All spend will be audited and published in line with all OSCR regulations and UK Company Law and RCA will be transparent in all spend. RCA also maintains a reserves policy which requires for savings to be put aside for unexpected events.

Charities are occasionally criticised for not spending every penny directly on their cause. It is reasonable for a small proportion of a charity's budget to be used to pay for administration or support activities to ensure the charity is run legally, this may include internal and external audits, legal advice for trustees, costs of holding trustee meetings and preparing statutory accounts. It also includes staff costs and running costs such as essentials like an office, computers, transport, insurance and proper accounting – all of which are necessary to run any effective organisation, and charities spend as prudently as possible in order to focus income on furthering their cause. These costs are relatively fixed and charities are required to spend this money in order to fulfil their legal duties. These essential costs are usually included proportionally in the charity's accounts across all four spending areas (charitable activities, grants, generating funds and governance). All charities aim to keep governance and administrative costs as low as possible. But it's inevitable they will spend some money in these areas if they want to function effectively and legally.



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In operation of the turbines there are also a variety of costs including transmission costs for using the Grid Network known as Distribution Use of System (DUoS), which can vary based on the Allowed Distribution Network Revenue (AR) EDCM (Extra-High Voltage Distribution Charging Methodology). There are also Balancing Services Use of System (BSUoS) charges. The Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the turbines is the main cost alongside Insurance Costs, Balance of Plant Costs in addition to costs for Metering, LV Supply and Communications to ensure safe operation.

This is in addition to debt servicing for cover of the capital costs of the project and amortization of debt. The initial capital cost plan as prepared has assumed an allowance for inflation in line with the BCIS Tender Price Index for inflation at 8.5%.

CIF Proposal Summary

The CIF funding support will enable occupancy of vacant high street unit (proposed as one of ground floor shop units of Knox Institute as phase one of redevelopment project as part of ongoing Community Asset Transfer). This will serve as the Electric Valley office allowing community engagement in a prominent town centre location allowing for a palpable sense of ownership by the community of the CIF Investment and increased awareness and engagement by the public of the Electric Valley project.

Support for office fit-out and procurement of fixtures, fittings and equipment (FF&E) are also required and the RCA's procurement strategy outlines the hierarchy of procurement designed to support the local supply chain and socially minded business as the first priority. Support for operational costs are also requested to fund essential functions. This will allow RCA to establish the organisational readiness to prepare for investment and distribution of funding as well as help improve governance and transparency of RCA ahead of distribution of funds providing a main street base representing a modal shift for a voluntary organisation.

The investment will result in the creation of 3 jobs (1.75 FTE) to professionalise the organisation, including a student placement focused on RCA facilitating Community Wealth Building, with RCA as a community anchor organisation encouraging collaboration with other anchor institutions in North Ayrshire in future projects.

The responsibilities of the job roles are extensive and fluid in nature but generally include negotiating terms with the Scottish Investment Bank and commercial lenders to secure financial agreement to develop the renewable energy projects, submit additional planning arrangements for road access to NAC, negotiate with Glasgow International Airport for PSR Terma mitigation, work with Scottish Water Project Managers and with dedicated NSO's to develop the Hydro Scheme, Engage with SEPA regarding CARS Licensing process and morphology studies as well as negotiating with turbine suppliers and developing detailed transportation studies, Procure the turbines and other tendering exercises to develop the projects. Also required will be oversight of the refurbishment of the Knox Institute office, establishment of the research Institute and oversee development and administration of the strategic re-investment proposals and the community investment funds. Effective and efficient Business administration will also be a requirement regarding registration and compliance with Statute



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and other administrative duties to ensure transparency and good governance in the interim period before the energy projects are operational.

CIF Proposal Detail

The proposal for CIF Funding is to take forward the Electric Valley project to the next stage of operation supporting the RCA through a myriad of upcoming requirements to secure the capital investments for project development, transitioning from the voluntary efforts of a small group of motivated professionals and advisors to a professional organisation capable of delivering the significant re-investment proposals specified thus far in the Electric Valley programme of works. The CIF in so doing will connect with Fair for All Strategies, the GVLCP priorities and NAC's values, priorities and business objectives and further facilitate the investment of £ms in future job creation and expansion of training opportunities and the physical regeneration of local community facilities.

North Ayrshire Council is a study area on community wealth building by the **Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES)** and is embarking on a 'deep town' approach that would be complimentary to the council administration's ambitions. Drawing on learning from around the UK on Community Wealth building as a response to fiscal constraints of local government and reduced governmental spending the Radio City Association's Electric Valley can be an ambitious community led solution that can be delivered with confidence.

The CIF funding will enable RCA to liaise with external stakeholders on a professional basis including those already engaged such as Strathclyde University, West of Scotland University & Ayrshire College, local business leaders and the wider community as well as leveraging in partner organisations. This will all facilitate community wealth building by drawing in other local anchor institutions and additionally working with North Ayrshire Council to enable the development of the '**Deep Town**' Approach.

The project delivers on several aspects of 'Deep Town'. As identified by the policy framework analysis the objectives of the Electric Valley are in accordance with strategic initiatives and plans at local and national level. The project offers additionality with the leveraging of future funding and attracting inward investment as well as working with local anchor institutions to attract active involvement in partnerships in into the Garnock Valley. In addition, the significant potential the project offers for investing in the local area and local people for the foreseeable future. Locality Planning Partnerships were established under the Community Empowerment Act and the Electric Valley is an ambitious community led development project. The social entrepreneurship of the Electric Valley is embodied by the Community Empowerment Act which aims to facilitate such schemes.

The Electric Valley project has support funding from sources including **North Ayrshire Venture Trust (NAVt)** which will create a community liaison post, **UK Steel Enterprise** supporting the regeneration of the office, **Paths for All** which has supported development of an active travel strategy to assist in the modal shift of transport to more environmentally friendly means and will allow RCA to provide a voluntary Active Travel hub in the office facility in conjunction with the **Architectural Heritage Fund**



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which has allowed for creation of the detailed business plan and schematic drawings of the office facility proposals.

The Radio City Association operating area covers the entire Garnock Valley as by its nomenclature does the Electric Valley Project. Thus far the voluntary efforts of those proposals, encouraged by NAC Planning Authority for re-investment to be included in the planning application, have been situated mainly in Kilbirnie purely because of personnel constraints in developing business plans. The RCA has identified a number of prospective redevelopment projects located in **Beith** and **Dalry** and a number of schemes which can be extended across the Garnock Valley. The support from the CIF would allow for these projects to be developed to work alongside the community engagement process in all areas of the Valley which will assist in the ambition to further expand the consultation exercise in **Beith** and **Dalry**. This consultation will reach out in its scope beyond the usual format to engage with those who often are not aware of or involved in local activities and projects.

The proposal will bring significant and long-term benefits to the Garnock Valley community addressing the dereliction of the main street of the Garnock Valley town of Kilbirnie with phase one of the Knox Institute project and further ambitious projects already identified as potential reinvestment in **Beith**, **Dalry** and elsewhere across the Valley.

The funding support will facilitate re-investment in the area, supporting the development of the Electric Valley with preparation of detailed business proposals to target the strategic re-investment in addition to the exploration of the multiple available avenues of the Electric Valley micro-grants scheme, the Community Benevolent Fund and in the strategic project investment.

Office Details

The proposal is for the office facility to constitute the first phase of the Knox Institute long term re-development project and will offer potential for involved to stakeholders to participate, encouraging further economic and social enterprise activity to take place in the Valley. The Institute project came out of a need to address local economic stagnation and the vacant nature of the Main street. It is - like Radio City - central to the town both geographically and overall in its perception to visitors and residents and a visual representation of the local issues that need to be tackled. The project would see the building utilised as a community asset rather than a derelict liability. It will seize upon the town's proud industrial and philanthropic past and demonstrate hope for the future. The re-development of the ground floor of **Knox Institute** office has been developed as a strategic Electric Valley re-investment project.

Additional funding leveraged in includes the £3,000 from the **Architectural Heritage Fund** which has allowed for detailed proposals of the Knox Institute to be prepared including Architectural Design and Costings. In addition, **UK Steel Enterprise** have committed £2,500 in order to support office costs in the Knox Institute. The support of the first phase will also allow for greater confidence in delivery of the project in the long term with the involved stakeholders and with the community.

It is the aim of the project to redevelop the Knox Institute constructed in 1892, a category B-listed building at the heart of Kilbirnie town centre to make it a focal point for local people providing



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economic and social regeneration by creating a social enterprise and community facility promoting the third sector and being a 'Hub' for social action in North Ayrshire creating a social and solidarity economy in the Garnock Valley as an anchor institution.

The project will result in the creation of an anchor institution that will facilitate community wealth building and produce a "start-up ecosystem" focused on social entrepreneurs. The opportunity is to create "spin-out" working in collaboration with local **FE Colleges and with Universities** to increase productivity within the sector and create research collaboration through RCA's proposed **Community Knowledge Bank** and provide a seed accelerator to face the community's challenges such as the evolving tech-sphere.

It will tackle inequality produced by welfare reform and longer-term poverty as evidenced in the socio-economic study attached to the CIF application. The KI can therefore act as a spin out innovation centre outpost and collaborate with other similar projects.

Drawing on New Urbanism theory and urban planning learning from Melbourne (Victoria), Australia and Portland (Oregon), USA and Paris (France), the development of the idea of the 20 minute neighbourhood with the Knox Institute at its centre offering new services for the general public and being a stimulus to allow for the Electric Valley to encourage redevelopment for housing, business and community within the 20 minute focus, creating what is termed as a polycentric network of partnership between communities, the municipal authority, business and other stakeholders.

The town of Kilbirnie suffers from significant deprivation, in part a legacy of the closure of the Glengarnock Steel Works and the associated loss of employment in the 1980s. This has resulted in long term social exclusion and lack of opportunity in both Kilbirnie and the wider Garnock Valley. Kilbirnie shares with Stevenston the unwelcome distinction of being the only town in North Ayrshire not having any SIMD data zones within the more prosperous fourth or fifth quartiles.

There is, therefore, a demonstrable need for social enterprise, charities and the wider third sector to work together to create an alternate local economy and provide a level of services to seize upon the currently untapped potential of the sector, creating local job opportunities, growing the local economy, supporting local people through charitable and social projects and ensuring that redevelopment is 'community led' providing a sustainable future for the Garnock Valley and its people.

"The Institute" redevelopment can help attract inward investment from other social enterprises by having a bespoke space allowing for the growth of the Social Enterprise and wider Third Sector in North Ayrshire. It will create the opportunity to innovate through Public-Common Partnership by entrusting the governance and management of assets such as the Knox Institute to democratic, citizen-led organisations such as RCA and allowing reinvestment of gains back into the community and the proportionate surplus generated enabling for growth and capacity while the rest goes to capitalise other collective ownership schemes.



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Job Details

The proposal is to support three jobs prospectively in order to professionalise the organisation and meet requirements going forward in the Electric Valley Project. These posts will assist in providing economic analysis to support the development and regeneration of North Ayrshire's economy in the development of the Electric Valley.

The Chief Executive and Financial Director roles directly contribute to ensuring that the Electric Valley project continues to be developed by ensuring the organisation and administration of the Electric Valley project operated by RCA is in place. This includes all due diligence dealings and negotiations with lenders to realise the potential of the Electric Valley project by building resilient systems of working.

The student placement role provides a unique opportunity for economic development experience within a local context and provide an opportunity to learn and lead on various projects. This post will look to work with the Economic Policy team within the Economic Development and Regeneration Service of North Ayrshire Council.

The Electric Valley CIF posts will look to work with the council to ensure that North Ayrshire is at the forefront of developing policy and practical solutions to creating an inclusive economy. These posts will be expected to contribute to Community Wealth Building practices and achieve the ambition of transition to net zero carbon emissions.

All roles will be above living wage rates of pay which is and will continue to be the employment practise of RCA in the Electric Valley project. The roles as follow are also set out in further detail in Section 6;

Chief Executive Summary

- **Oversee all activities** and advise the board on appropriate actions to be taken and provide for good governance and oversight of operations by developing organisational readiness and creating the research Institute, negotiate terms with lenders as well as leveraging in support from various stakeholders creating new partnerships. The energy development projects will be managed by the CE e.g. procurement policies and requirements for tendering.

Executive Finance Director Summary

- **The EFD will be the financial comptroller of all processes** of RCA business and provide audit trail of all financials to get best value in addition to provision of financial modelling for projects, working alongside RCA's engaged accountant to provide overview and transparency in all financial dealings. This will be essential in all due diligence deliberations with both the Scottish Investment Bank and the commercial partner as junior lender.



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Community Wealth Facilitator

- Placement opportunity for young local person aged 18-24 prospectively from Ayrshire College in order to develop community wealth building in the Garnock Valley with RCA as Community Anchor bringing in alongside the College as a strategic partner in the Garnock Valley to develop their presence locally. The CWF will work alongside the NAVT post to develop strategic projects alongside the Community Liaison Officer as well as development of the Benevolent Fund and Miro-Grant Community Fund.

Organisational Requirements Going Forward

Financial and Energy Development

The RCA will require support to bring the Electric Valley project to financial close, building upon the significant personal efforts and commitment of our dedicated volunteers, members and supporters to date. due diligence negotiations with prospective commercial lender for capital development programme and with Scottish Enterprise (Scottish Investment Bank)

Hydro Specific

- Ongoing technical engagement with Scottish Water Horizons dedicated project management team as well as NSO engineers and over development of hydro scheme
- Engagement with SEPA regarding CARS Licensing and River Flow monitoring
- Tendering for morphology and fish studies
- Ongoing engagement with SIB and Commercial Lender including extensive due diligence process, financial modelling and establishment of SPV
- Tendering for turbine and project management and civil works
- Negotiation of PPAs
- Overseeing wayleave process and grid connection in conjunction with SPEN
- Ongoing engagement with CARES, BEIS and all other stakeholders
- Establishing an RFI register and other PM activities

Wind Specific

- Engagement with Glasgow Airport regarding PSR Terma Mitigation
- Engagement NAC planning re: pinch point road alteration for transport of turbine and other transport requirements
- Ongoing engagement with SIB and Commercial Lender including extensive due diligence process, financial modelling and establishment of SPV
- Tendering for turbine and project management and civil works
- Negotiation of PPAs
- Overseeing wayleave process and grid connection in conjunction with SPEN
- Ongoing engagement with CARES, BEIS and all other stakeholders
- Establishing an RFI register and other PM activities



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

Project Development and Administration

- Develop business plans for strategic investment projects as well as the community benevolent fund and micro grant scheme.
- Organisational development to ensure that RCA is investment ready and governance procedures are adequate to maintain public confidence in the organisation as a respected local charity that has a track record of continued operation of 20 years +.
- RCA's cyber security protocols and other organisational requirements such as financial management will require to be maintained in an evolving digital environment and as the RCAs operations expand as well as full compliance with all regulations and requirements.
- Establishment of Community Knowledge Bank and Active Travel Hub.

Community Benefits

The CIF funding will offer a local young person a unique opportunity to be actively engaged in the project offering a variety of opportunities for personal development and learning by assisting in the development of a local approach to community wealth building in North Ayrshire prospectively in partnership with the council on the CLES 'Deep Town' approach.

The project funding will support renovation of vacant high street shop unit as phase one of Knox Institute Project improving perceptions of the town centre of Kilbirnie, giving a tangible sense of development of community priorities. The outlined community priorities will be developed through further consultation and engagement offering community aspiration through 'reach out' community engagement with persons not normally involved as well as the creation of the Electric Valley Community Forum. All of this will build both community and organisational capacity.

The delivery of the project vision will result in economic development opportunities with the ultimate consequence being the re-forging of the local economy focused on sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The project will bring additionality to the local area bringing employment and other new economic activity that was not pre-existing resulting in wider investment in the area. Other areas and communities have adopted this initiative in following a locally owned, controlled and focused projects and have recognised the potential of community ownership and the social enterprise sector.

The RCA seeks to follow these and in itself become exemplary to other communities by developing this project which will be capable of delivering significant, substantial and long lasting socio-economic benefits. These benefits and positive impacts will be seen at a project, community and strategic level. The proposal will provide immediate benefits in stage one to many and assist to realise further community focused and controlled projects to release further potential for growth through people, community enterprise and third sector community organisations that would not otherwise happen in the long term.

In technical economic terms, the additionality effects will be significant and the follow-on economic multiplier effects will generate a resulting positive ripple effect in terms of jobs, income and services provided in the local area. This will all provide enhanced community capability and capacity building



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to create a stronger platform for sustainability and growth, addressing the severe challenges that the area faces and has faced for many decades. Other local projects have not had the change effect that this project will provide – it is a potential ‘game changer’ for the community and can be delivered with confidence.

This proposal will be a positive example of community enterprise and empowerment in action. This will enable community development led from and by members of the local community to show the enterprise, innovation and sustainability working together to create a balanced and valuable project. The project will look to seize upon the enthusiasm of younger generations for change and utilise their knowledge by embracing new ways of thinking and develop new ideas using technology to tackle the issues that have persisted for generations enabling community learning and development.

The positive outcomes from this should be recognised and they extend well beyond the immediate returns to the community – this project will open up creativity in realising the principles and ethos of a local circular economy that delivers for the people. It will do so in ways that address deeper underlying issues including population decline, outward migration of young and skilled people and a vast array of social issues prevalent since the economic decline of the area in recent decades. This is a community project for community benefit.

The statistics outlined in the socio-economic analysis document are startling but merely scratch the surface of an array of issues and represent a strong case for this proposal. There are a litany of other statistics which highlight the need for this type of development, with evidence from elsewhere that shows how the type and form of development proposed will realise significant benefits and positive impacts demonstrating the power of community led projects to address issues such as sustainability of communities, local capacity and confidence building and self-sufficiency in community economy facilities. The Garnock Valley area faces severe challenges that the project would make a material contribution to addressing.

As shown in the socio-economic analysis contained the Garnock Valley is one of the most prominent areas in need of this type of project and many would argue that it should have come forward before now. Community led investment of this type as proposed is needed given the decline of many post-industrial areas, including the Garnock Valley which is a prime example unfortunately. *It should be emphasised that it is incumbent on us all to act to support and assist the community realise its true potential.* It is the strong belief of RCA that this development can address many of the challenges in the local area. The evidence and professional views expressed in the socio-economic analysis annex report show the need for the development. The positive benefits from the development will change the prospects positively for many individuals and community groups currently bereft of such opportunities to improve lives and the sustainability of the local community without further dependency and reliance on subsidies and welfare support that is diminishing with prolonged budgetary pressures. The project benefits and impacts will change lives, addressing long term poverty and issues arising from welfare reform and in multiple other areas such as employability, skills and healthy living.



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The econometric model to assess the potential job creation which is likely to result from the annual re-investment in the RCA's prospective "Electric Valley" projects, is predicated on evidence garnered from UK based projects on cost per job, utilising the HM Treasury Green Book - Regional Development Agency Appraisal Evaluation Guidance. Annual investment of £373,000 would create / safeguard a net of 18 jobs per annum (created or safeguarded) with job life of 10 years minimum. These jobs would be liable to be longer lasting given the evidence on persistence and self-containment which the UK Government Department of Communities and Local Government recognised is much 'stickier' in deprivation areas - such as SIMDs within the Garnock Valley. This however requires to be caveated by the fact that this relates to small and medium sized enterprises rather than social enterprises and community enterprises or groups per se, such as those liable to be the principle beneficiaries of the planned development investment. There is no suggestion however, that such jobs would be any less 'long term'.

The relevant calculation therefore is:

Revenue ÷ Cost per job × Multiplier Effect

$$£373,000 ÷ £30,000 × 1.25 = 15.5$$

Construction jobs additional at £145,000 (2.5 jobs a year) which results in a net total of 18 jobs per annum - based on Regional Development Agency (RDA) evidence from England (2003-15). Taken over the period of the twenty five year operational life of the Electric Valley project therefore, the job effect is likely to be even greater given the labour intensity of many of the projects to be supported.

In addition, the economic multiplier effects will add further rounds of benefit (from indirect expenditure and induced spending and inter-trading) with additional net positive impacts in the local economy. All this will increase capacity, resilience and sustainability emphasised by the RCA's strategic approach to creating and assisting projects that can become anchors in the economy and local community rather than short lived ventures reliant on funding and a small pool of dedicated people. These projects have the ability to be transformational and inspirational with the potential to become exemplary. This is based on the book calculation and local calibration from actual projects. The calculation is also projected from the net job creation effect applied to comparable circumstances in England. The economic appraisal is based on evidence from HM Treasury and other international comparisons to create a range of scenarios on a cost per job basis with the figure of 18 jobs being a conservative forecast of the anticipated economic impact. This figure is reached after sensitivity analysis and background calculations as the best estimate based on combined experience of many years of economic appraisal and evaluation of RCAs team of volunteers with professional experience in economic forecasting and modelling.

Building upon the significant achievements already delivered by the charity to date in tackling what many would term as intractable difficulties in the local area around poverty, employment and opportunity, the RCA's Electric Valley will generate significant resource and capability which will have an enduring effect in creating a more socially equitable society. The project will provide access to what



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could be deemed as universal human rights in terms of access to quality services and opportunity for well-paid employment and personal development for the community ensuring that access is not dependent on wealth. This is a prudent approach not based on macro-economic intervention or trickle-down economics but is instead led from the grassroots level of the community to deliver major social change and create a new model for the economy which puts power and wealth in the hands of local people and institutions.

The need for change is palpable and it is an embarrassment that the situation of effective market failure and the associated deprivation that comes alongside has continued over a protracted period and still persists. The project seeks to address the issues at hand in a futuristic and empowering manner that will be seen for generations in its transformational impact.

Beyond the economic and employment benefits, the social dimension should not be underestimated, by its nature co-operation is inextricably linked to a geographical area and, therefore, the business is almost always an important contribution to the economic regeneration of the area in which the enterprise operates. The assets of this co-operative nature of business will continue to be indivisible and inter-generational, which helps link the co-operative approach with its social reality. The co-operative business model contributes to a real economic pluralism in a market economy in which different forms of enterprise compete with each other, not only different products. The project can draw on learning such as the Marcora law in Italy regarding co-operatives as well as Mondragon in Spain and the principles of the Rochdale Pioneers closer to home in order to develop a co-operative economy. This democratising of the local economy is in contrast to the orthodox approach of corporate developments and wealth extraction and also the local market failure which has denied more re-development to have taken place in the Garnock Valley to date. Instead, the project focuses on creating a locally productive economy forming new local institutions and wealth creating co-operative enterprise that will lock in wealth, fairer wage rates and greater workers' and community control with more advanced environmental and social responsibility. The project can build a foundation of community wealth building to address latent underlying issues that have persisted and prevented inclusive growth such as long-term poverty and lack of opportunity to newer challenges such as those brought on by welfare reform.

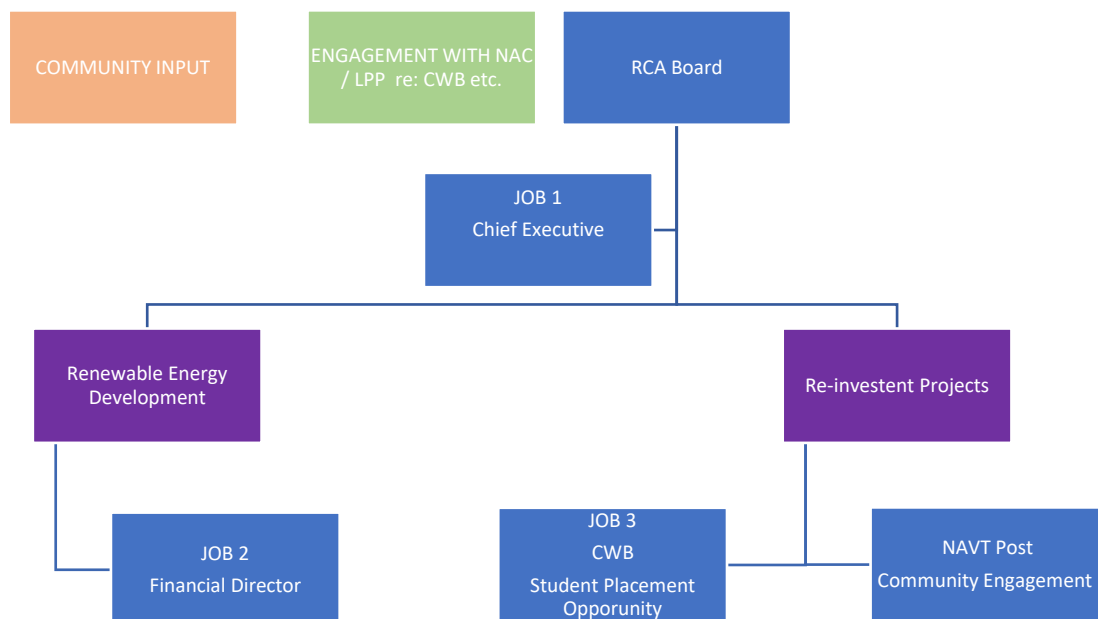
Through the RCA strategic investment in projects such as the Knox Institute, advancement of the technological revolution can be at the cusp of a new model of wealth creation by creating a newfound resilience within the social enterprise sector and the community to tackle the advancement of the Internet of Things (IoT) Artificial Intelligence (AI), nanotechnology, fifth generation wireless technologies (5G) and decentralised consensus within fintech sector. It involves taking advantage at this time of "Industry 4.0" by creating a social enterprise network with the "fab lab" centre promoting technological evolution within the sector, creating a social enterprise zone focused on cyber manufacturing and product design shaping the future economy in a socially responsible way and a new social contract between government, business and people to address the challenges that will arise with the rapidly shifting technological world that is emerging in the 21st century - such as increased job insecurity, an ageing demographic and globalisation.



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The Electric Valley project calls for a mission-led approach to develop a net job exporter situation and tackle the disproportionate impacts on communities and people that will be introduced by coming challenges of the future. These factors and more make the compelling case for imaginative and predictive solutions from governments and institutions as well as local communities. There are limits to that which can be done from the community level up, such as the limits of scaling up, critical mass, connectivity between sectors and clustering. This proposed development is an exceptional approach that will create positive impact, foster local governance and generate a mission led approach to yield true community wealth building and provide inspiration for communities increasing aspirations and reaping the benefits of those auspicious and providential outcomes delivered

Project Structure





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4. What difference will this project make within the locality and to local services and programmes?

Please include:

- The outcomes you aim to achieve
- How you will approach reducing inequality
- How this proposal fits with the Locality Partnership priorities of 1. Moving Around (Public Transport, Traffic and Parking) 2. Work and Local Community 3. Facilities and Amenities

The proposal will assist in the development of the wind and hydro energy projects and allow stage one of the Knox Institute project to get underway. The RCA has developed the Electric Valley concept with seven areas of focus that allows for direct targeting of the strategic investment funds to tackle the issues as outlined in the socio-economic analysis to provide for inclusive economic growth and provide outcomes that address the inequality that exists locally around health, wealth, education and a litany of other issues which are barriers to inclusive economic growth.

The development of proposed microgrant community funds will also assist local individuals in realising potential, assist local organisations and enable community development and foster greater wellbeing. The CIF funding support allows RCA to generate greater organisational capacity and as a result create overall community capacity far exceeding that which currently exists by unlocking the potential of wider partnerships and access to funding streams.

The attached Electric Valley Policy Framework Analysis Document outlines how the proposal aligns with the strategic objectives of the council including reduction of inequalities as contained within the Fair-For-All Strategy. The proposal can assist the council in their 116 actions of the strategy. As well as this, the comprehensive socio-economic analysis outlines the potential for the project to deliver on addressing inequalities. The proposal for the CIF will directly assist in reducing inequalities by leveraging funding for redevelopment of the Knox Institute and allowing partner organisations to work alongside RCA.

The proposal directly correlates to the Community Wealth Building Strategy developed by NAC and CLES. The 'deep town' approach to CWB is in agreement with the design of the Electric Valley and offers the opportunity for being a case study on how to develop community wealth at a grassroots level that can be replicated by communities throughout North Ayrshire and beyond. This proposal is not a short-term project but a long-lasting strategic project that will unleash community creativity and build greater resilience within the community for the challenges of the future and the current problems the community has continued to face for decades.

The declaration by North Ayrshire Council of a climate emergency underlines the importance of the Electric Valley project on being a forerunner of the action local communities can take to address the lingering threat of climate change, which is a major issue to all communities throughout the world and is a priority for local people and policymakers. The Electric Valley can secure a "just transition" in the decarbonisation of the Garnock Valley economy and tackle the climate crisis head on.



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Locality Priorities

1. Moving Around (Public Transport, Traffic and Parking)

- An Active Travel Hub will be housed in the office facility working alongside other active travel hubs in Ayrshire
- The long-term aspirations of the Knox Institute project of which this project prospectively supports as a first phase includes a modal shift in transport provision in the local area as well as other social activities including electric vehicles
- Bike club development and focus on cycling at Valefield will increase ability for individuals locally to have access to cycling
- The development of the community grant fund will assist local people in access to transport such as offering support for cost of driving lessons and support for apprentices and students to public transport
- The Electric Valley project will deliver services to people in their local community improving access to these services and preventing travel further afield

2. Work and Local Community

- The CIF funding will allow for a placement opportunity for a local student offering development of community organisation in the long term by building a partnership with Ayrshire College as a local institution
- The Electric valley community forum will allow for community creativity by developing projects creating a network of local people with skills and allow for wide ranging consultation on community priorities.
- Local investment from the Electric Valley will create jobs, create new enterprise and help the Garnock Valley realise its economic potential and
- Support local community with grants scheme including assistance for individuals gaining skills and access to activities and promotion of wellbeing as well as benevolent fund that will foster new enterprise and develop the community
- The CIF will support development of a new Community Knowledge Bank in partnership with multiple potential stakeholders as anchor institutions including UWS, Ayrshire College and Strathclyde University

3. Facilities and Amenities

- Redevelopment of Knox Institute as part of 1st phase. The CIF funding will allow for leveraging of funding from other external parties to meet the long- term ambition of providing a valuable community facility in the Knox Institute building facilitating ongoing community development and the improve the organisational resilience of voluntary and third sector locally as well as local business development through the Institute and the benevolent fund
- The CIF Funding will support development of proposals in Beith and Dalry as well as the Valefield development and other spin out projects which will provide for greater community capacity developing facilities and amenities in the locality through the proposed Community Knowledge Bank and Active Travel Hub.



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5. What engagement has taken place in relation to the project?

Please include the number of people who have been engaged with or consulted as well as the range of people.

In the course of developing the Electric Valley the community consultation undertaken has been broad and wide ranging. This consultation has included public meetings, meetings with community groups, local authority and government stakeholders as well as a number of voluntary organisations, local businesses, schools and other organisations.

The first meeting since the inception of the project was over 3 years ago with **Project Kilbirnie with Councillor Anthea Dickson and Ian Shaw LCPP community Representative in attendance on 13th March 2017 in Radio City** outlining the project and subsequent discussions have continued to be held with various local organisations including **the Men's Shed** and RCA are happy to meet any organisation with an interest who may have been overlooked.

RCA have met subsequently on four occasions with sub groups of the Garnock Valley LCPP dating back to March 2019 including attending two meetings of the full LCPP, most recently in January. Meetings have also been held prior to the CIF application with the Work and Communities subgroup and the Facilities and Amenities sub group and in each of these meetings discourse was had with Members for over an hour at which time various questions were asked and answered.

RCA have met with the area's elected representatives including MSPs and local councillors on multiple occasions and information shared with them including formal letters and copies of the public petition and offers to discuss the project. In addition, RCA have met and engaged on numerous occasions at different levels with other North Ayrshire Councillors across parties, re delivery of the EV and the 20th anniversary booklet which outlines RCA's proposals and meetings

In addition, to meeting with Council Leader Joe Cullinane in **August and October 2019** and discussions with other NAC cabinet members, meetings have been held with the local **constituency MSP and local councillor for Dalry and West Kilbride in September 2019** as well as regional MSPs and engagement with other elected representatives on numerous occasions in Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie.

The Scottish Investment Bank have been engaged early in the process with an inception meeting with Michelle Howell Head of Energy Investment Fund at SIB in June 2017. The project is being overseen by Investment Manager Laura Finlayson of SIB who is leading the process on behalf of the Scottish Investment Bank. The engagement with SIB is extensive including a number of telephone conversations, conference calls and meetings with SIB and the senior commercial lender this has included a meeting on 20/11/2019 in Scottish Enterprise Haymarket between RCA, SIB and their commercial lender.



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RCA also met with **Scottish Enterprise (Stacey Neville and Suzanne Orchard)** on **10/12/18** in **Kilmarnock** to examine what assistance **SEn** could offer in development of the Electric Valley and offered innovation support going forward.

Scottish Water have been engaged extensively as a result of the process of development of the hydro scheme. **Scottish Water** have created a project management team within Scottish Water Horizons has been set up with two dedicated members of staff to the project and engagement at Director level has taken place. **RCA visited Scottish Water's Intelligent Control Centre 19th February**, the central hub of all **Scottish Water** operations which allowed for the proposal to be further developed by offering insight into SW's operational process.

RCA have also been engaged with the **UK Government Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy** including a consultation event held on in Glasgow and a teleconference with **Senior Department Civil Servant Max Dowland** on **19/12/2019**

RCA had meetings **Lorna McGoran Primary Care Development Manager of the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership** and **Gillian Jennings Health Improvement Officer of Ayrshire and Arran Health Board** on **30/09/19**. Subsequently a meeting was held with the three **Health and Social Care Partnership Community Link Workers for the Garnock Valley (Sam Hodgkinson, Ann Porter and Clare Love)** on **23/10/19** at which the Electric Valley proposals were discussed. In addition, the voluntary assistance of **Joanne Inglis** was invaluable in the process. There was an expressed interest in assisting with project development and contributing ideas by the HSCP and RCA will look to work in collaboration with NHS Ayrshire going forward to tackle the severe health inequalities that exist locally.

Engagement with council officers at **NAC** has also been extensive including a meeting held with **Alasdair Laurenson Senior Manager of Regeneration, Executive Director of Economic Development and Caitriona MacAulay Senior Manager Community Participation and Empowerment** in June and August 2019. Further engagement was subsequently held with **Jim McHarg Senior Manager Community Participation and Empowerment** to move the KI project forward on **5th December 2019**. A subsequent meeting with the economic development team regarding community wealth building is scheduled for **19th March 2020**. Multiple meetings were also held with **Garnock Valley Regeneration officers Janet Dunsmore and Jenny Baker** and in addition, the Head of Service of each Council Directorate and Senior Officers were all mailed the Electric Valley 20th Anniversary booklet which outlined the RCA proposals and our proposed re-investment plan.

RCA have also been engaged with **HALO Regeneration Project**, a strategic part of the **Ayrshire Growth Deal** on **10th January 2019** with initial discussions held with **Gary Deans, Director of the HALO project** on possible collaboration between the HALO and Electric Valley projects given the similarity of the proposals, subsequent contact was made in February 2020.

RCA have actively engaged local schools in the Electric Valley project contacting head of education **Andrew McClelland at NAC** in 2019 who subsequently allowed for information to be shared with Moorpark Primary and Dalry Primary for a school project by pupils. **Scott Morrison of NA Active Schools** has also been in contact with RCA.



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RCA has also been engaged extensively with North Ayrshire Council's Social Enterprise Team attending the **Social Enterprise Conference in Irvine in 2019** to discuss our project. There have also been a multitude of meetings with officers including **Julia Whittaker, Rosemary Fotheringham, Tom Henderson** and both **Lesley Forsyth** and NAC's Business Gateway Officer, **Steven Reilly** on **11th February**.

RCA have also been actively involved in the strategic council projects of the **Stoneyholm Mill and Lochshore committees** attending numerous meetings of both groups – making a presentation to the former in **September 2018**.

RCA has ongoing engagement **with Glasgow University Mechanical Engineering Students** who are developing a project that will provide future options RCA can explore on how to further develop the project locally. RCA have also met with **Richard Bellingham, Director at the Institute for Future Cities** from **Strathclyde University** on taking forward the Electric Valley in partnership with SU and leveraging in additional support as an anchor institution. RCA have also met with **Jackie Galbraith (then vice-principal)** and **Stuart Miller of Ayrshire College** and discussed how the College and RCA could work in partnership and with the **University of the West Scotland** to involve their **Ayr Campus** and also assist in establishing the community knowledge bank.

Sarah Pearce of **Heritage Trust Network** discussed the proposals of the KI regeneration and offered the support of the HTN in the project with RCA on **24/09/2019** at Radio City in addition to other associations the RCA is involved in who have been in contact including **CTA, SCVO, P4P** and other organisations.

This engagement with public sector and external stakeholders is in conjunction with numerous consultation events held by RCA in **the Walker Hall, Ladeside Bowling Club** and at **Ladeside Pavilion, Kilbirnie** on **28th November 2018, 9th March, 13th April, 26th May, 18th August, 20/21 August 2019**, all in collaboration with community partners garnering support from approximately **500 members of the public** in a petition around the re-investment proposals.

RCA has met with **Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Council** on two occasions. RCA delivered a presentation at the **February 2019 meeting of the KGCC** with **31 members of the public present**. The presentation was 20 minutes with Q&A session of 40 minutes. This was subsequent to the previous **January** meeting at which the proposals were discussed and RCA also answered an array of questions. **The proposals were sent to all 3 Community Councils of the Garnock Valley** and RCA will happily present to any interested groups to set out the ambition of the Electric Valley project.

There were also advertisements in the local newspaper of the proposals. The North Ayrshire Council planning portal had approximately 90 responses from individual members of the public in favour of the renewable energy developments with only a handful of opponents, principally from Lochwinnoch.

RCA presented the Electric Valley proposals to the meeting of the **Jolly Beggars Burns Club in Beith Masonic Social Club** which was attended by approximately 40 people including representatives from a number of other community groups such as **Garnock Valley Pipes and Drums** outlining the proposals.



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This is in addition to meetings with **Kilbirnie Roseberry Burns Club** who welcomed the proposals when presented to their committee on 17/01/19, particularly the focus on Heritage within the Electric Valley and also **Kilbirnie Lodge Royal Blues No. 399** who were presented with information on the same evening. The committee of **Ladeside of Kilbirnie Bowling club** also welcomed the proposals of the Electric Valley when representatives of RCA presented to their committee and offered assistance in their delivery. **Further community consultation event was held on 25/08/19 with members of the club and the public invited to view proposals. Glengarnock Ironworks Bowling Club** were also consulted on the proposals with committee members receiving a presentation.

A public petition of support circulated at community consultation events held by RCA has garnered approximately 500 signatures of local people which has been shared with local elected councillors. Further community engagement is planned in order to further develop the project which the CIF will enable with a listening exercise on community priorities. This includes for example consultation on designs that are developed for the Institute with plans for an open day event to showcase the heritage of the building and educate local people on the history and project ambitions. Community consultation and wider stakeholder consultation has revealed the widespread support for the asset transfer of the building and for its proposed return to active use and the viability of proposals in the long term. **This will include showcasing the digital design video of the Institute.**



The ambition is the creation of the Electric Valley Community Forum (EVCF) with local experienced people to provide voluntary creative input into projects. Thus far in its informal arrangement the EVCF has enabled development of supporting documents with voluntary assistance from its members which includes health professionals, an experienced economist, engineers and others with highly valuable skills that have allowed for the outline proposals to be developed to professional standards. RCA members are an invaluable asset to the operations of the charity and the community and RCA will take all measures possible to take full advantage of this resource and enhance plans accordingly.

Members of the local farming community have been consulted in order to assess how the Electric Valley could assist in farm diversification and rural economic development. This is in addition to multiple businesses throughout the Garnock Valley area both large and small in various sectors ranging from hospitality to construction and manufacturing that have been in discussion with RCA on the project and contacted by RCA directly. This was in order to assess how the Electric Valley can assist in development of the economy locally and the potential of the project for local business. As



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part of the consultation activity, RCA discussed with existing local businesses about their performance in terms of turnover, footfall, goods and services provided and number of employees to determine if it would be possible for the Electric Valley to help them to expand.

Numerous other consultation Events have been held and other local clubs including **Garnock Rugby Club** have written to RCA in support of the project and the establishment of the EV Club.

Extensive engagement with the third sector locally has also taken place, including with **Brian Harkin of the Salvation Army** who provides employability services as Job Coach. Discussion centred around the unmet need that arises from lack of investment in disabled people locally and the social consequences that result. The Salvation Army and RCA determined that the employability of local people could be improved through the project.

RCA also met with Cunninghame Housing Association Chief Executive Frank Sweeney in August 2018 to discuss possible synergies in social housing provision and the NAC SHIP. Engagement with **Piper Group** one of Scotland's largest charities has taken place in an attempt to gain additional third sector partnership within the Electric Valley project. **COO Andy Kerr expressed support to address issues of unemployment for those suffering disabilities in partnership with RCA in the Institute project with Piper Group - when discussing the possibility of partnership on 02/05/19.** The partnership between RCA and the **Priory Group** is a mutually beneficial link that will continue to benefit the community in the future of the Electric Valley with multiple meetings held to discuss how to take forward the Electric Valley. The latest meeting being on **3rd March 2020** when the Strategic Partnership was discussed on how we could work to achieve the best outcomes for both parties including how RCA can contribute to the School Improvement Plan.

Engagement with local charities has also taken place including the then **Service Director of local North Ayrshire Charity CHAP** and also with **CEIS Ayrshire**. **Garnock Connections** and RCA have worked collaboratively regarding the development of **Active Travel** in the area including RCA's assistance in the development of their app and local walking routes. This has included a joint event on an RCA route attended by approximately 40 people at which a presentation was made by RCA and booklets and other materials on RCA's history and ambitions were distributed. This event included members of various local organisations including local walking groups. RCA have also attended Green Health Partnership events and met **David Meechan of the GHP** subsequently. **Sustrans and Paths for All** have also been highly engaged in the Electric Valley project including meetings with **Ayr Active Travel hub** and in **Cunninghame House** with **Rory McColl and David Reid** in order to develop a pan-Ayrshire approach to active travel and assistance in establishment of a bike club and also meeting in the Radio City with **Pete Mills of Cycling Scotland** and also with **Robyn Warburton**.

RCA held a public meeting in the Radio City building to discuss the EVC proposals on 6th September 2018 that was advertised with posters in locations such as public libraries, Radio City and other locations throughout the area.

The project was advertised in an article by RCA in the **Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald Newspaper** both in print and digitally. **The A&S Herald had a print circulation of 5,521 in the period July-December**



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2018 and a digital presence of 22,343 followers on Facebook and 5,564 followers on Twitter. This article set out the benefits of the project in addition to social media channels of RCA. The article was published on 31st August 2019. Scottish Government Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) have also published news bulletins on the RCA project in their monthly public newsletter which is circulated nationally to all those community, voluntary, private and third sector organisations on their circulation list.

RCA have also engaged a number of high energy users locally and others nationwide regarding prospective Power Purchase Agreement's (PPAs) as part of our Energy Marketing Strategy. The creation of the office with support of the CIF will enable greater recognition in the community of the project and its potential to address the worsening position in relation to prevailing levels of fuel poverty in the Valley RCA look forward to engaging the community further with the additional support the CIF will provide.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

6. How will the project be managed?

Please include:

- How the finances will be managed
- Does the proposed project contribute to volunteering or employment opportunities in the Garnock Valley? Please include the number of volunteering opportunities and employment opportunities
- If there are any staff requirements, please outline your HR plans

The project will be overseen by the Radio City Association Board of Trustees. This board is composed of a number of experienced individuals, including an Executive Director of Skills Development Scotland, General Manager of CEIS Ayrshire, Civil Engineer, Housing Manager, Former Parish Priest who has also served on multiple community and local authority bodies and an OECD Economist. These are among other talents and experiences not listed as well as our dedicated volunteers who provide additional capacity in a variety of fields and thus far have assisted the organisation to be at an investment ready stage to provide significant community investment in future.

The board members individually have years of experience in the charity and voluntary sectors as well as in their own personal careers they have overseen and managed complex projects and worked within various high budget constraints to deliver projects. As an example, the RCA Board steered and operated the Radio City through a myriad of challenges managing the building for on a purely voluntary basis for over a decade and all RCA volunteers have the same dedication and willingness for the project to succeed.

Board meetings are held monthly in order to inform the supervisory board of the activities undertaken in the previous month and to establish key performance targets and manage the organisation financially.

RCA Policies and Practises

RCA currently operate to a number of requirements to comply with a range of different reporting mechanisms such as the **CARES Scottish Government** funding support for example. RCA utilises modern software advantageously to provide for greater transparency and accountability for all organisational spend, this is achieved with Quick Books and Receipt Bank and monthly personal accountancy and bookkeeping support in order to provide an ongoing audit of all transactions. This financial management system allows RCA monitor transactions and ensure that all spend is purposeful. RCA also employs CRM software Senta for accounting purposes.

RCA's procurement policy is based upon the best practise with reference to the NEC4 Framework developed by ICE and sets out our approach to Community Wealth Building as a cornerstone of our overall strategy supporting local business and suppliers. RCA's procurement process is outlined



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

further in Section 8. **This process has been utilised by RCA thus far in the Electric Valley project for all tendering processes as required by the Scottish Government CARES scheme.**

Radio City Association's safe recruitment policy outlines the requirements for Radio City Association when recruitment process takes place. RCA look to recruit staff with varied and wide-ranging skills and match the RCA ethical approach to all our activities in order to uphold our community values and the public confidence in our organisation. Radio City Association maintains a policy of paying the Real Living Wage as a minimum for all employees (£9.30 for FY 2019/20). Radio City Association meets all statutory arrangements regarding auto-enrolment employer pension contributions and National Insurance contributions combining use of software and personal accounting support to ensure compliance. RCA has policies which outline the requirements in the recruitment process including an Equal Opportunities policy and Safe Recruitment policy, combined with other internal documents regarding staff protection and conduct.

The attached documents set out the RCA's recruitment policy and safeguarding policy. The roles will be advertised by RCA online where candidates will be required to submit a Curriculum Vitae and then screened in order to select suitable candidates for formal interview. RCA maintains a reserves policy as stated in the charity's SORP.

All data collected and held is managed in line with RCA's Privacy Policy to ensure compliance with GDPR Legislation. The RCA maintains GCHQ NCSC accredited protocols in regard to Cyber Security with RCA being Cyber Essentials certified as of July 2019. This compliance demonstrates RCA's commitment to data security and our practise of ensuring we maintain the full confidence of the community and all external stakeholders as is the case for all matters of regulatory compliance.

Radio City Association maintains Employer's Liability insurance up to £10 million and Public Liability insurance up to £5 million including product Liability Insurance up to £5million. The insurance certificate is attached and will be displayed in the office facility as required by statute alongside all other HSE required notifications.

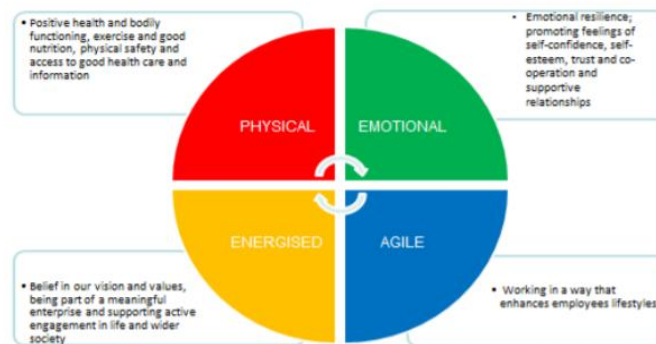
The RCA's Health, Safety and Wellbeing policy is summarised below;

- Go beyond legal compliance by pursuing a policy of best practice.
- Continuously promote improving and aligned high standards with all of those we work with.
- Ensure that all our assets are constructed, operated and maintained safely.
- Work to embed behaviours and practices that ensure safe and healthy workplaces.
- Promote health and wellness to avoid preventable ill health and mental health issues.
- Be proactive in the management of ill health, absence and return to work.
- Encourage and enable employees to make positive lifestyle choices.
- Build personal resilience and the ability to cope with change.
- Recognise that employees have different wellbeing requirements and provide for them as far as possible.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

RCA Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy



The RCA Board ensures achievement of the stated goals and objectives by setting and approving targets. Safety, health and wellbeing performance is monitored by the RCA Board using all available methods including extensive workforce engagement as a matter of course in order to develop staff and to respond to their own ambitions to ensure they accord with the RCA strategy.

Volunteering, Employment and Other Opportunities

The project will prospectively provide three posts that will develop the organisation into a professional body rather than a purely voluntary one. In addition, the activities carried out by these individuals will unlock new opportunities to expand the charitable activities and create new positions for local people to be employed through the development of the re-investment proposals in the new venture creations.

Volunteering opportunities will be increased with creation of the Electric Valley Community Forum in addition to the expansion of activities in the area of Active Travel and the Electric Vehicle Club and other re-investment proposals as well as further employment opportunities as the Knox Institute project develops as a social enterprise hub with the investment of the Electric Valley funds and the other identified strategic projects. There will also be additionality in terms of construction jobs with RCA's procurement policy local contractors delivering the renovation works of the Knox Institute and the construction of the renewable energy assets.

The resultant re-investment will result in local economic growth and carbon sequestration in all projects. The Electric Valley is a reference project have engaged with several institutions in this regard including Ayrshire College, Strathclyde University and Glasgow University Mechanical Engineering Students. The proposals all develop the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) creating a more resilient society for future challenges including those brought about by climate change as explored in the 2006 seminal thesis by Nick Stern on the economics of climate change in addition to tackling the threat of the climate emergency through direct local action and displacing carbon emissions. RCA is a partner member in a number of associate social enterprise and environmental bodies and RCA also subscribes to the SE Code the Scottish Governments voluntary code of practise for social enterprise.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

7. Amount of funding being requested

Please supply details of funding being requested and any other funding you have had over the past 5 years, both financially and “in kind”.

Amount of funding requested (£) **72,319.06**

Please give a breakdown of cost and recent quotations where appropriate.

Previous Funding 2015-20

Source	Amount	Year
Third Sector Enterprise Fund	£9,521	2014/15
Community Energy Scotland (Installation Radio City Solar)	£20,464	2014/15
CARES Enablement Grant	£9,950	2017/18
National Lottery Fund (Awards for All)	£7,500	2017/18
Green Health Partnership	£1,000	2017/18
GV Participatory Budgeting	£1,000	2017/18
Paths for All	£12,500	2019/20
SCVO Cyber Grant	£1,000	2019/20
Architectural Heritage Fund	£3,000	2019/20
North Ayrshire Ventures Trust	£14,466	2019/20
UK Steel Enterprise	£2,500	2019/20
Total	£82,901.00	



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

Office Fit Out

Item	Cost	Description / Link
Painting and Decorating		
Labour	£500 (Estimate)	Plaster and Paint Local GV / NA Contractor
Materials	£250	Paint / Skirting Boards / Plaster
Flooring		
Carpeting and Underlay	£700 (Estimate)	£10/m ² -70m ² Based on floor area of 21/23 Main Street with supply from local Carpet Shop
Labour	£100 (Estimate)	Carpet fitting
Plumbing		
Labour	£200 (Estimate)	Local GV / NA Plumber
WC	£150 (Estimate)	Toilet £100 / Sink £50
Frontage		
Signage	£250 (Estimate)	Scotland's Bravest Manufacturing Company is one of the leading social enterprises in the country providing employment and development opportunities for armed forces veterans who are unemployed or struggle to adjust to life outside the services with a disability or health condition. Based in Erskine
Window Vinyl	£50	
Roller Shutter	£200 (Estimate)	19 Main Street Window
Health and Safety		
Fire Extinguishers	£81	Water and Foam Extinguishers
H&S signage	£25	Required Health and Safety office display signs
First Aid Kit	£20	HSE required
Fire Alarm/Detection System	£500 (Estimate)	Saltire Safety based in Glengarnock identified as local supplier
Security		
CCTV Cameras	£200 (Estimate)	
Security Alarm System	£500 (Estimate)	Saltire Safety based in Glengarnock identified as local supplier
Lighting and Electrics		
LED Lighting	£200 (Estimate)	Energy Efficient Lighting
Electric Sockets	£50 (Estimate)	Floor sockets / wall sockets / RCD
Labour	£200 (Estimate)	Local GV / NA Electrician
Total	£4,176	



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

FF&E

Description	Cost	Number of Items	Cost per item
Furniture and Fixtures			
Office Guest Chairs	£648	12	54
Office Chairs	£288	4	72
4 Person Office Table	£403	1	403
Secure Cupboard Storage	£150	1	150
Secure Filing Cabinet	£131	1	131
Firesafe	£59	1	59
Safe	£199	1	199
Lockbox	£87	1	87
Wall Mounted Whiteboard	£65.99	1	65.99
Wall Mounted Pinboard	£40.79	1	40.79
Conference Table	£275	1	275
Electronics			
All in One Printer	394.80	1	394.80
P4 Level Shredder	£229	1	229
Computers	£3300	3	1100
VOIP Office Phone	£74	1	£74
Chromecast	£30	1	£30
Laminator	£45	1	£45
Total	6,819.58		



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

Operating Costs

Item	Cost
Broadband	
Virgin Media Fibre Broadband	£659
Software and Cyber Security	
VPN	£100
EDMS	£550
Business Planning Software	£99
Antivirus / Malware Protection 2-year subscription	£100
Microsoft Office x 3	£120
Electric and Heat	
Estimated dual fuel bill	£600
Water	
Average Scottish Water Home Bill	£369
Rent	
North Ayrshire Council 19 Main Street	£500
Accountancy	
Payroll Software and Bookkeeping	£544
Stationery	
Staplers / Paperclips etc.	157.85
Pens etc.	£61.29
Business Cards	£72
Paper / Notepads	141.66
Printer Ink	£500
Stamps	£131
Envelopes	128.47
Folders etc.	188.47
Storage and Misc.	250.35
Total	5272.09



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

Job 1 – Chief Executive

Summary

The CE will be responsible for ensuring that the organisation demonstrates investment readiness to funders and lenders. This will include management of day to day activities of the Charity and engaging with all other relevant stakeholders as the chief representative of the RCA.

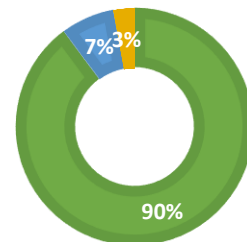
The CE will have responsibility for overseeing actions of all staff including and ensure smooth management of the organisation by keeping the RCA Board informed . In addition the CE will develop strategic direction including procurement and overseeing the re-investment strategy as developed by the staff members involved.

Salary	£20,800.00
National Insurance	£1,679.18
Employer Pension Contribution (3%)	£674.38
Total	£23,153.56

EMPLOYEE COST

Chief Executive
12 Month Contract - £20,800
£20 per hour
20 hours per week (0.5 FTE)

■ Salary
■ NI
■ PC



Key Responsibilities

- Perform the roles as RCA Company Secretary heading the Executive Board as set out in Chain of Management Programme
- Manage all other staff ensuring that duties are fulfilled
- Oversee Membership of RCA managing all membership details and all contact with members
- Organise RCA Trustee meetings and ensure proper governance arrangements and compliance with OSCR and all other regulations, overseeing charity's policy and carry out any and all reforms and ensuring that high standards continue to be maintained
- Oversee Project Management of all electric valley renewable energy projects and tendering processes such as ongoing technical engagement with Scottish Water Horizons dedicated project management team as well as NSO engineers and overall development of hydro scheme
- Oversee development of re-investment proposals and develop the future plans of investment and expansion as well as develop the management of the Electric Valley Community Fund and wider re-investment strategy and establish new community research Institute.
- Engage with all external stakeholders as the first point of contact of the organisation
- Negotiate necessary agreements such as wayleaves in conjunction with SPEN etc. reviewing and notarise all relevant legal documents and contracts



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

Job 2- Executive Financial Director

Summary

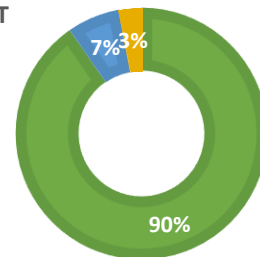
The EFD will provide the financial modelling for funders based on KW/h prices and negotiate any potential Power Purchase Agreement. The EFD will negotiate with the terms of loan amortization and also have responsibility negotiating with the CE for wayleave agreements with landowners on the grid connection route in conjunction with SPEN as well as Terma PSR Radar mitigation with GIA. The EFD will also manage the accountancy procedures of the RCA including the management of payroll and bookkeeping and provide assistance in financial modelling for proposed re-investment projects.

Salary 12 Months	£18,720.00
National Insurance 12 Months	£1,392.14
Employer Pension Contribution (3%) 12 month	£603.36
Grand Total (12 Months)	£20,715.50

- **12 Month Post – £18,720**
£18 per hour
- **20 hours per week (0.5 FTE)**

EMPLOYEE COST

- Salary
- NI
- PC



Key Responsibilities

- Direct Electric Valley renewable energy projects to financial close through ongoing engagement with Senior Commercial Lender and Scottish Investment Bank in due diligence process
- Financial Modelling of Electric Valley Renewable Energy Projects
- Create Financial Forecasts for Electric Valley Re-investment Projects (e.g. Valefield / Institute etc.)
- Develop an RFI Register of potential local suppliers to support local business and supply chains
- Provide bookkeeping, accounting for all income and spend
- Negotiate any potential Power Purchase Agreement
- Manage payroll for all employees and provide bookkeeping
- Project Management and Development including tendering, developing timescales and cost management of project
- Negotiate contracts, insurance and financial agreements with all stakeholders e.g. GIA
- Ensure maximum profitability in structuring of financial arrangements



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

Job 3 - Community Wealth Facilitator

Summary

It is the intention to utilise the re-investment to make the hiring and development of young people through offering placements in partnership with local educational institutions, such as Ayrshire College, as a key part of the re-investment strategy and subsequently retain these young people as staff.

The role will provide a placement opportunity for a local Ayrshire College student offering experience and insight into the social enterprise sector and bring the College in as a strategic partner within the project creating opportunity for spin out projects and build upon the community wealth building principle by creating an anchor organisation alongside the Community Anchor of RCA in the 'Deep Town' NAC approach in the Garnock Valley if it is chosen to be so by the council.

The role will involve the project development of the reinvestment by creating business plans for proposed projects and identifying strategic investment priorities and sites.

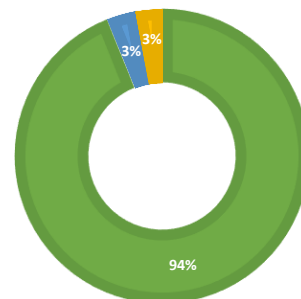
The role will involve administrative functions and community engagement offering unique experience for a young individual to be involved in community development and learn from the experience.

Salary	£11,440.00
National Insurance	387.50
Employer Pension Contribution (3%)	£354.83
Total	£12,182.33

- **12 Month Contract - £11,440**
- **£11 per hour**
- **20 hours per week (0.5 FTE)**

EMPLOYEE COST

- Salary
- National Insurance
- Pension Contribution



Key Responsibilities

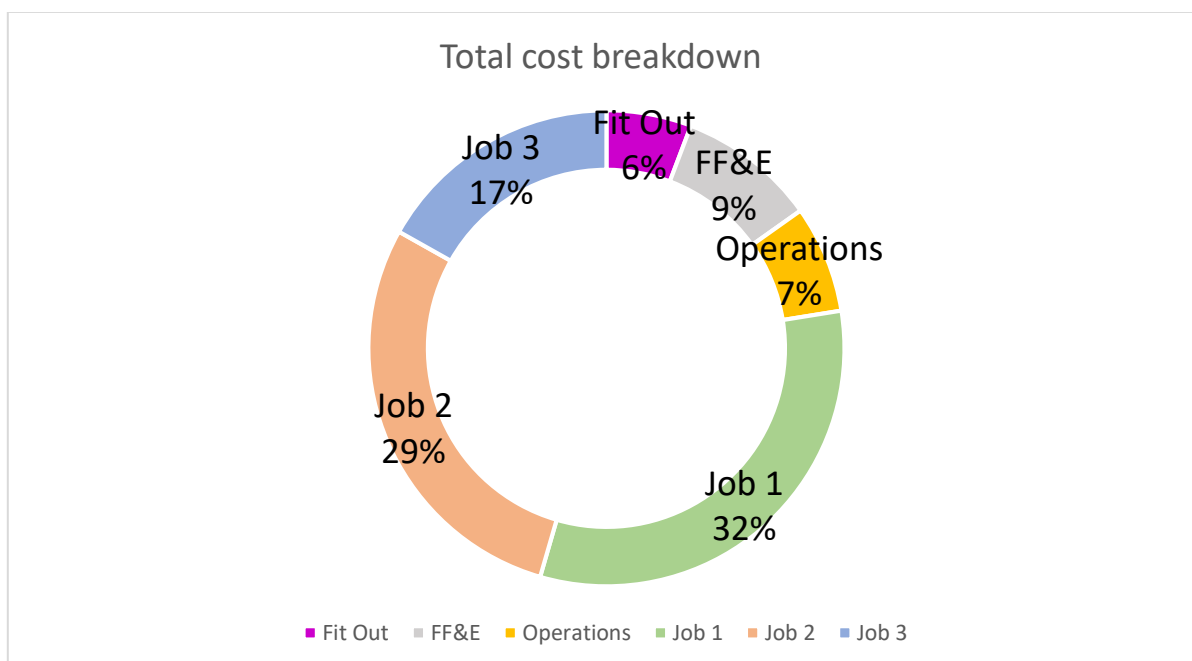
- Project Development of Electric Valley Reinvestment Projects including master planning by working with Community Liaison Staff Member to develop business plans with community input
- Work to leverage further funding into projects
- Liaise with NAC Community Wealth Building Officials and Elected Members
- Engage local business to develop shared opportunities particularly developing relationships with local business and social enterprise suppliers to oversee procurement and fit-out of office
- Creating apprentice scheme for those who will be trained on the Electric Valley renewable energy project development going forward
- Developing the Community Fund Model and Re-investment strategy by working with stakeholders



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

TOTAL COST

OFFICE FIT OUT	£4,176.00
FF&E	£6,819.58
OPERATING COSTS	£5,272.09
JOB 1	
Chief Executive 12 Months	£23,153.56
JOB 2	
Executive Financial Director 12 Months	£20,715.50
JOB 3	
Community Wealth Facilitator 12 Months	£12,182.33
Grand Total	£72,319.06





COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

8. Monitoring and evaluation process

Please include detail on the monitoring and evaluation processes planned or in place.

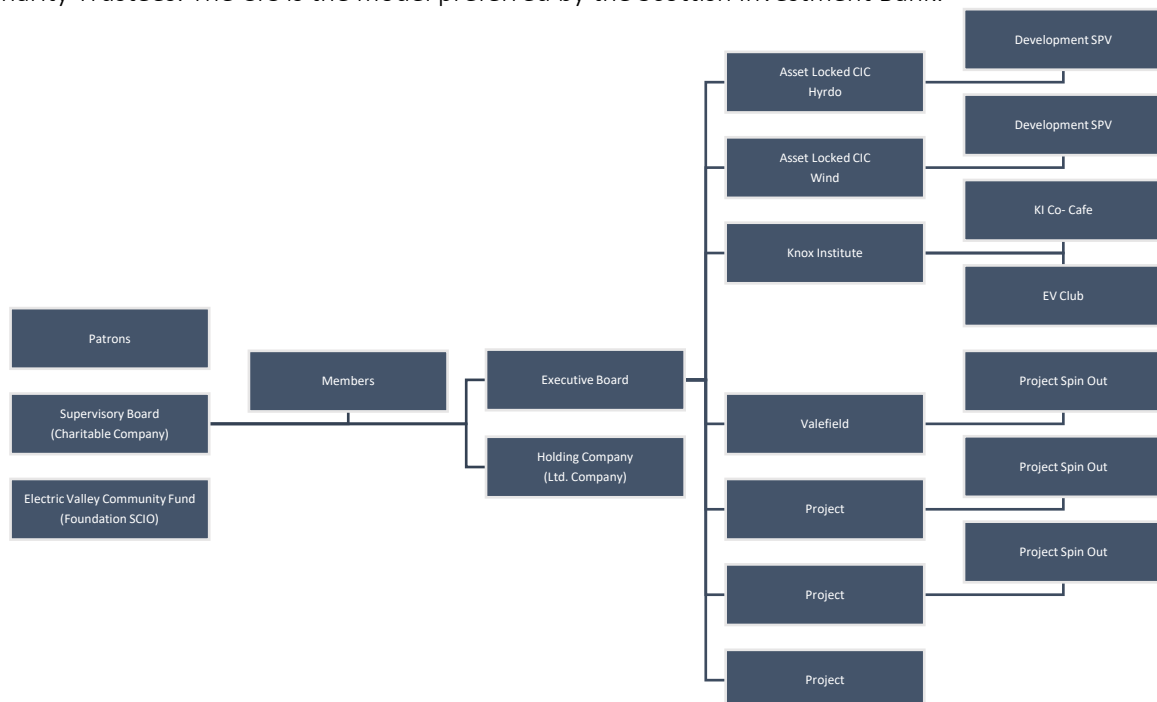
Monitoring

The operational support provided via the CIF will allow for ongoing project monitoring and enhanced accountability by allowing staff time to be dedicated to the project rather than the voluntary efforts that the project is currently entirely reliant upon. As set out section 5 processes are in place.

The CIF support will allow for dedicated time to be put into quarterly reports on activities carried out in the Electric Valley project including community consultation, project development of the re-investment proposals and an overview of the development of the renewable energy projects which can be shared online

The RCA Supervisory Board is elected from among the association membership for oversight yearly at the AGM. Supervisory board appoint members of Community Fund Foundation SCIO for distributing community fund. Executive Board appointed by Supervisory Board roles of CEO, CFO, CSO and other relevant positions to manage association day to day. Chair of the Executive Board is appointed Company Secretary on Supervisory Board. Executive board also forms holding company for assets. Members of the Executive Board form separate entities for each project alongside any other potential stakeholders. Spin outs also operate as separate legal entities.

The financial process of lenders requires establishment of an SPV in partnership with the lender for this purpose CIC's will be established to develop the projects to limit personal financial liability of the Charity Trustees. The CIC is the model preferred by the Scottish Investment Bank.





COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

Evaluation

The RCA's own skilled economic professionals and economic advisers will seek to evaluate the benefits of the project as a consolidation of all parts of re-investment of the Electric Valley. The volunteers associated with this process include an OECD economist, the former Chief Economic forecaster of the Fraser of Allander Institute and economic professionals with combined experience well in excess of 60 years of high-level economic analysis and modelling.

This will allow for development of a report analysing socio-economic impact of the Electric Valley project. Analysis will consist of a variety of methods and techniques to assess and determine the impact that the project makes. The focus will be on assessing impact on inclusive growth utilising the SCRIG Inclusive Growth Diagnostic for North Ayrshire amongst others. The creation of the community research institute will assist in this evaluation including partner institutions and RCA's own skilled economic advisers.

The aim of inclusive growth is to ensure the benefits of the economy extend to all segments of society. In order to realise the Garnock Valley's economic potential, the task starts with connecting people with vital networks that power the modern economy to address the systemic problem of inequality, which has a decisive influence on how inclusive our economy is. The Electric Valley will shine a light on how a new social and economic model can emerge and how systems can change through local community leadership, to develop a local economy with inclusive growth that better benefits the majority and reconnects wealth creation with social justice.

The approaches as outlined will entail planning of outcomes using logic modelling and other techniques to explain any intended impact in a systematic and visual way. In order to measure outcomes, the process will involve applying indicator frameworks, creating impact maps and outcomes monitoring systems. This will allow development of an outcome measurement tool and permit the valuing of outcomes by applying innovative techniques to equate outcomes with the intention of recreating any impact into monetary terms, and ensure that they are taken fully into account in financial decisions. This enables an overall gauging of impact and create a comprehensive social impact framework that will include Social Accounting and Social Return on Investment (SROI).

A matrix for assessment of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) will be developed which will be based on Garnock Valley Locality priorities and other factors which affect inclusive growth in North Ayrshire and the Garnock Valley locality utilising analysis such as those outlined in the Electric Valley Policy Framework Analysis including NAC's Fair for All Strategy. As well as further 'outreach' community consultation undertaken to further determine what individuals within the community wish investment directed.

RCA will look to engage with North Ayrshire Council Social Enterprise Officers in development of the NASEN Framework in implementing an effective and standardised framework for gauging and monitoring social and economic impact of the voluntary and third sector across North Ayrshire as outlined in the Council's Social Enterprise Strategy



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

Procurement

RCA's procurement model is based on the NEC4 Framework developed by Institute Civil Engineers (ICE). RCA are also members of the Scottish Government Partnership for Procurement (P4P). Procurement for local reinvestment projects will be evaluated on a local spend basis. In addition to accounting for local spend, spend on local SMEs and social enterprises will be assessed in order to provide an ethical spend ratio and evaluate impact on the local economy as well as 'green procurement' credentials. RCA's strategy is based on hierarchy of procurement with all tendering evaluated against a range of criteria in addition to assessment based upon whether a bidder is a;

- Local Business
- Social Enterprise
- SME / Ethical Business Practice

An options study to examine the procurement case for the local energy company initiative in the post-Brexit scenario to advise the Radio City Association Board and funders on the optimum Turbine selection for both the Community Wind Project and Community Hydro project will take place. The RCA will develop an RFI register for local suppliers and businesses in order to develop the renewable energy schemes and re-investment projects.

RCA practice green procurement, all agreements such as purchase of software will be from companies with an environmental stance such as RCAs computer software purchase from Microsoft who have pledged carbon negativity by 2030 and hardware from John Lewis who are employee owned and member of Ethical Trading Initiative. The aim is for RCA to ensure our supply chain is environmentally friendly and for RCA to operate as a carbon negative operation with displacement of carbon emissions.

The overall aim is of all procurement spend being local as far as possible but ethical above all else underlining a proactive approach to Corporate Social Responsibility. The RCA holistic procurement methodology also extends to future loan agreements with ethical banks and insurance and pension arrangements with companies with positive ethical investment activity, environmental policy as well as international development, animal welfare, tax avoidance and other areas. RCA's current insurance is with AXA who have an ethical score of 72/100 by Good Shopping Guide.

Long Term Strategy



This strategic focus of investment is based upon existing policy frameworks at local and national level as well as RCA's own socio-economic analysis of the Garnock Valley area and based upon consultations already carried out. The strategic reinvestment is a live document and can be adapted as further consultation is undertaken. The developed matrix allows for targeted investment based on



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

local need and demand to develop an inclusive economy; projects will then be evaluated against these outcomes. The long-term strategy is set out in the Electric Valley Policy Framework and Socio-Economic Analysis Documents.

The future strategy of development of the programme includes;

- Engage further with local and higher education to develop a 'live' module of work as RCA is currently doing with Glasgow University Mechanical Engineering Students for example
- Work to establish RCA as community anchor working alongside other local anchor organisations and leverage in additional support from NA wide anchors such as Ayrshire college as part of CWB strategy.
- Establish key targets in order to know whether, on completion of the project impact aims have been achieved
- Consider how to monitor progress, and how to measure and evaluate the outcomes including capturing impacts of volunteer time and environmental, economic and social impacts within an evaluation report
- Develop the associated activity plan regarding engagement on projects with local community

Re-investment Projects Development

In project delivery of the development of the re-investment projects, RCA has adopted the Prince2 methodology as its standard project management approach. Gateway Reviews are a review of a procurement project carried out at the six key decision points by the experienced project management team in place at RCA. The Gateway Review process provides assurance that the project has a sound basis to continue successfully to the next stage. Each of these stages is called a gate process linked to evidencing the process of satisfying the business need including the procurement options at each of the six gates. The following outlines the process.

- **Gate 0 - Strategic Assessment** – this review is repeated throughout a project's life. At the start the focus will be on realism about what can be achieved. Later, ongoing management of change, risks and resources will be more important. When the project is completed evaluation of outcomes and lessons learned will be the main feature including where local spend has occurred.
- **Gate 1 - Business Justification** - This gate concentrates on the projects business justification. It also provides assurance to the project board that the proposed approach has been researched and can be delivered.
- **Gate 2 - Procurement Approach** - This gate confirms to the project board that the selected procurement approach is appropriate.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

- **Gate 3 - Investment Decision** - This gate confirms that the recommended contract decision is appropriate, that the benefits stack up and the appropriate skills are available to manage the project.
- **Gate 4 - Readiness for Service Coverage** - This confirms readiness to implement the business changes and that a system exists for measuring on-going performance.
- **Gate 5 - Benefits Evaluation** - Confirms that the service is being delivered and benefits achieved, that Value for Money has been maintained or improved and that there is learning from the experience. Where appropriate RCA will also undertake a Social Audit

On the Knox Institute project a RIBA plan of works has been developed which has been shared with NAC in the associated Project Management Report. Under NEC4 Professional Service Agreements. A client gateway has been stipulated following the close out of each RIBA stage. Also, PM reports will ensure all CDM regulatory requirements are complied with as will be the case for all construction-based projects.

All financial modelling is baseline case in order to provide conservative projections and business plans developed will include a best-case / worst-case scenario in a range of potential outcomes.

We have been asked but ‘what if the SIB investment doesn’t materialise, where is the legacy benefit?’

This **‘What If’** scenario underestimates the fact that a successful EV project results in **4 or 5 times the LCPP investment being returned in community benefit every year for the next twenty five years** and put simply, we don’t believe the scenario arises, as all our discussions with Michelle Howell and Laura Finlayson at the SIB dating back to **25th July 2017** and more recently with their **commercial partner Norrie Cruikshank on 20th November 2019** indicate that we have what they both describe as ‘viable projects’, information we have shared with the LCPP Community Learning and Development Officer.

‘What if’, however, irrespective of both parties publicly stated support for community energy, that position changes and either party pulls out, does that leave RCA high and dry without capital funding and the LCPP without any Legacy benefit for their investment?

Unlikely as this scenario is - SIB have been investing in Renewable Energy Projects through various funding streams since **2005** and last year invested **£10.2m**, leveraging **£34.5m** of public and private investment in 9 ‘clean energy’ projects including **£38.8m** in 5 ‘not for profit’ community projects, still‘What If...’?

- A. RCA would not cease to exist– if we had done that in 1999 the RCA Building would now be flats. Plan A would be quickly followed by Plans B, C & D etc if this were to happen.
- B. If the current commercial partner were to pull out, SIB have numerous other potential commercial partners, including Close Bros., Santander, Clydesdale Banks etc.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

- C. If SIB pull out there are other providers of loan finance to Social Enterprises including, Strathclyde Pension Fund, Social Investment Scotland, Resilient Scotland, Charity Bank, Energy for All, Crowdfunding etc.
- D. If the public and third sector finance route completely dried up, contact has already been made with alternative funders, UK & European Hedge Funds, Private Wealth Funds, Nucleus, Blackrock and others – although this would undoubtedly involve equity exchanges substantially reducing the return to the community.
- E. More importantly the CIF Funding (per se) would *create lasting legacy benefit* in securing the fundamentals by which these deals can be done and **community wealth building capacity** initiated and in addition (see below);

- **Kilbirnie Main Street would have one less empty office** and The Knox Institute Regeneration would have begun.
- **A new community knowledge bank and research institute** accessible to all local community organisations will have been established with **a new student placement** agreed with a suitable HEI secured.
- An **'Active Travel Hub'** and RCA Community Engagement facility will have been created in lieu of a disused commercial Letting office.
- A Hydro **CARS licence from SEPA**, a **SW Flowmeter located in Garnock**, a Radar 'Terma' deal struck with **GAA**, Legal rental agreements and wayleave permits agreed with **local landowners** and **PPA's** with local and other UK businesses will all have been secured equivalent to **£000s in new capital assets for the community**.

RCA isn't gong down the SIB investment route because it is the *only* route to future investment finance but the *best* route for the community, as it maximises their future revenues and consequential 'legacy benefit' ...



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Community Support

Garnock Valley Locality Partnership
15th September 2020

GV LP - 64

Background – Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

- Established Locality Partnership working to address local priorities
- National Accounts Commission report “Best Value Assurance Report” commended Locality Partnership work – recommend locality plans are clearer about the impact to be made
- Community Charter development



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Support within communities during lockdown

- Key role played by individuals and groups in helping others
- Established groups taking on new support roles
- New groups formed
- Garnock Valley Community Support Hub



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

GARNOCK VALLEY COMMUNITY SUPPORT HUB

North Ayrshire Community Support Hubs

This diagram illustrates how the Community Support Hubs have been operating from March 2020. It shows the range of backgrounds of those involved in the hub, the local groups and businesses the hub has been working with to support communities, and examples of innovation.



Looking forward

- Community Support Hubs – locality brokerage model
- Community Wealth Building – community economic development
- Community food system – community food providers and foodbanks
- Including learning from the experience of our communities – discussion questions and follow up questionnaire



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Discussion questions

- Thinking about community support during lockdown –what worked and didn't work?
- What does your community need going forward?
- How does this fit with the current Locality Partnership priorities (financial inclusion, social isolation – older people, stress and anxiety – younger people)?
- What impact do we want to make in this locality?



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Garnock Valley Locality Update

September 2020



Locality update

- **Garnock Valley Community Support Hub** – The onset of COVID-19 restrictions and lockdown meant that much of the community activity was paused and a rapid response was required to support communities at a very difficult time. Community volunteers supported by NAC and NAHSCP set up the Garnock Valley Community Support Hub. Since 23rd March, the Hub has been supporting vulnerable people within the community, including people in shielding. The Hub was able to offer advice, guidance, food parcels and prescription collections and deliveries for those unable to leave their home. Café Solace, Dalry Community Sports Club, Salvation Army, Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Association, and Beith Community Development Trust all worked together to support the community in need, alongside many individual volunteers who delivered prescriptions throughout the Garnock Valley. Since 23rd March the hub has: Received 1862 phone calls, delivered 1298 food packages, which fed 2265 people and delivered 240 prescriptions (Correct at 7th September 2020). Sadly, one of the key members of staff who had worked daily within the hub, Theresa Potter, passed away suddenly on Tuesday 28th July. Theresa is much missed by all her friends in the hub.
- **Dalry Community Sports Club** - received funding from Dalry Parish Boundary Trust to help during the pandemic. 70 Families were identified through both Dalry primary schools. They received arts and craft materials, skipping ropes, balls, hula hoops etc. The feedback from the teachers has been very positive and the children were delighted with their small parcels as this enabled them to do some of the daily challenges set by the schools.
- **Beith Community Development Trust** - In addition to helping deliver parcels from the hub, the Trust set up a cooked meals service and a community shopper service. More recently, they have worked with parents at St. Bridget's Primary School in distributing Fare Share helping to feed families in the Garnock Valley.
- **Dalry Community Development Hub** – Along with the Dalry Community Sports Club, the Development Hub set up a drop off point in Smith Street for donations of non-perishable food to help the Garnock Valley Community Food Drive. Numerous bags were donated, which were forwarded to the support hub for distribution. Through this initiative a book stall was set up to help people access some reading material as the libraries were closed. This has been very successful and is available till 7.30 pm daily.
- **Garnock Valley Food Network** - Strong partnerships between community organisations and local businesses have been forged during this time. As a result, several community organisations are now working to develop a Garnock Valley Community Food Network, which is a cross-locality collaboration to support and address food insecurity in the Garnock Valley in the longer term.



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- **Garnock Valley Community Councils PB** – As a result of COVID-19, the Valley Voice Project has been rescheduled to this time next year. A joint Garnock Valley Community Council meeting was held online to discuss the way forward and everyone agreed that due to the uncertainty around events in the near future, the PB events should be postponed. The 3 Community Councils continue to plan for these events however they are also exploring other options e.g. an electronic voting model.
- **Lochshore** – Events which were planned to take place at Lochshore in partnership with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) have been rescheduled. These will now hopefully run in October. Work on the visitor centre has been delayed and they are now working to a completion date of early 2022. Work has progressed to explore the feasibility of a circular route around the loch and play activities that could enhance the site.
- **Beith and District Community Council** – The Community Council have continued to work together remotely using email, phone and Zoom. They have started using zoom for their monthly meetings and invite the public to attend. Throughout this COVID time they successfully delivered VE Day 75 years in May and VJ Day 75 years on 15 August. Both events were well received by the community and shared via live Facebook feeds. They had excellent engagement from participants and the public respected COVID guidance by participating safely at home with only a few attending in person.
- Prior to NAC restarting their grass cutting and planting, the Community Council secured free plants from Tesco in Kilbirnie and used these to plant up the bedding areas and planters around the town. They received a generous donation from a local business that was sent to Gateside Plant Centre. This allowed them to purchase more plants to brighten up and enhance the town. They encouraged local residents via social media to cut grass in their areas and many were happy to do so.
- **Dalry Community Council** - Also marked VE Day on 8th May and VJ Day on 15th August. On both occasions a small commemoration was held at Dalry Cross when appropriate music was played, and the Church bells rang. They give their thanks to David Park of the Royal British Legion who delivered the ceremony.
- **#Digidream** - Friday 7th August seen the completion of Connected Communities Summer #DigiDream Programme of activities and challenges. The Social Media figures show how much of an impact it had both for reach to communities and engagements of young people and families. This involved:
 - 105 separate activities and challenges for young people to take part in. In 13 weeks, it reached over 1,260,000 people.
 - Engagement with over 71,000 people in 13 weeks.
 - The weekly online family quiz ran for the full duration with young people, friends and family groups – this was the most popular activity. The quiz was



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adapted to bring on two BSL interpreters for young people who were deaf to be able to participate.

- Working with the Countryside Rangers, over 300 plants were distributed to young people to grow their own vegetable gardens.
- Community Development Team created lockdown and isolation packs for young people, which were delivered to their homes.
- Created large weekly challenges including the July step challenge with young people and families - with over 1.7 million steps walked, equating to approx. 800 miles.
- Young people throughout North Ayrshire were consulted to gather their views on access to digital resources during lockdown.
- In addition, young people's views on their mental health and wellbeing during lockdown were collated to plan activities to help.

Highlights

The working group did not meet during April, May or June due to COVID-19 restrictions. Meetings have now resumed online.

- **Plug the Gap** – In July, a member of the community identified a potential alternative option for connecting Kilbirnie to Dalry via a cycle track. The 3 Garnock Valley Community Councils are now working together to actively explore this and hope to work with partners to progress.
- **Bike Maintenance** – Small, socially distanced bike maintenance sessions were delivered at the end of August to help families keep their bikes on the road. These sessions were delivered outdoors, with numbers keeping with Scottish Government guidelines.
- **Walks** – Guided walks will soon begin in September to encourage families to keep active and continue healthy activities started during lockdown.

Next Steps

The group will meet next on Wednesday 14th October 2020 at 6pm online. Anyone interested is welcome to join in.

Highlights

The working group for Facilities & Amenities did not meet between April and August due to COVID-19 restrictions. Meetings have now resumed online.

- **Garnock Valley Men's Shed** – The Shed successfully applied for Foundation Scotland funding (£3,562.00) for the Lockdown Models Project. This provided 40 free model kits for men in isolation or shielding. This involves online digital instruction videos created by the model group to share their skills and online zoom tutorial sessions.



Moving around
(public transport,
traffic and parking)





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Facilities and amenities

- The Shed also applied for digital devices from Connecting Scotland to help some of the members get online and stay connected with other members. A Digital Champion has been appointed from the Community Development Team to support the 8 shedders to help develop their digital skills.
- **NAC Libraries** – Staff from the libraries were covering Child Care Hubs and Wellbeing Hubs for Care at Home Staff. The libraries are now offering a phone/click and collect service which at present is running from the Kilbirnie Branch. They are available for calls Monday to Friday and there is a drop off box for returns outside during these times as well.

Next steps

The working group will next meet on Wednesday 7th October 2020. Anyone with an interest is welcome to join in online.

Highlights

The working group did not meet between March and June due to COVID-19 restrictions. Meetings have now resumed online.

- **Garnock Valley Activity Agreement (No One Left Behind)** – Young people on the programme continued to receive support from the Community Development Team, albeit remotely. This was to ensure the young people continued to receive the support they needed and keep them engaged in the programme.
- **"My Community App"** – As part of the recovery from COVID-19, funding was available to support local towns recover economically. Beith Community Development Trust, in partnership with the working group for Work and Local Community and NAC, applied for and were successful in securing funding to develop a community app. This app will provide lots of information on local businesses, which will hopefully encourage more people to shop locally. In addition, it will create a platform for local community groups to promote themselves and their activities to the wider community. The project is funded for 3 years and the funding will also aid the development a "Community Caretaker" role to help care for our town centres. A photography competition is currently running to find an image that captures the essence of the Garnock Valley and it is hoped that the app will be launched soon.
- **Garnock Valley Youth Forum** – NAC Youth Work staff have been engaging with young people in weekly online sessions in a programme that has been discussed and agreed with the young people. Moving onto a digital platform, the youth forum have become comfortable with their surroundings and are now progressing a few projects. The Community Development Team are currently planning for when face to face youth activities can restart, in line with Scottish Government guidance.



Work and the local community



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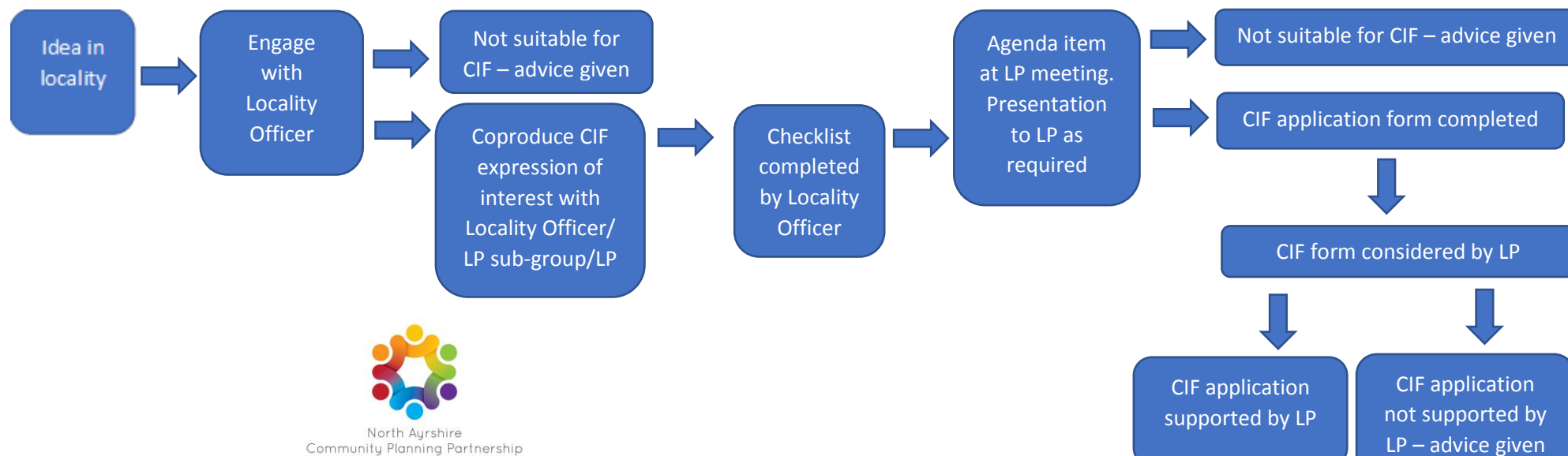
- **Barrmill Jolly Beggars** - Barrmill Jolly Beggars BC have been extremely proactive during the pandemic. They identified that older people were potentially going to slip through the safety net and were concerned that their own members, aged 70-95 would suffer because they were mainly shielding. They decided to supply them with quality food parcels – Bags of Kindness – and these were extremely well received. They applied for a variety of grants which became available to support people through the coronavirus pandemic, all of which were successful. As a result, they widened their bags of kindness support to the wider community – essentially disabled people, widows/widowers and those mainly over 70 years of age. To date they have now distributed some 1,360 bags of kindness and have had some wonderful feedback. These will continue until December 2020. Special thanks are due to Kathleen Reid, treasurer, for applying for the funding and for administering the bags of kindness distribution.
- **The Ayrshire Community Trust** – TACT have been responding to the demand of COVID-19 to offer support and information to individuals, volunteers, groups and organisations remotely since Monday 30th March 2020.
- TACT Staff have been organising and facilitating monthly ‘networking’ Forums for all 3rd Sector groups and organisations that wish to attend. If you are interested in attending, please email: info@tact.scot
- Staff identified and nominated 53 local organisations for the Well-being Fund of £2,000 per group. To date we know 35 of these have been successful in receiving this award.
- TACT acted as an anchor organisation with a Funding Bid to the Supporting Communities Fund for a total of £107,270 which enabled 13 groups and organisations to expand services in relation to COVID-19.
- TACT dispersed £37,951.82 through two rounds of the TACT Community Fund which seen 26 applications supported.
- TACT have a small supply of PPE for local volunteers which we have been delivering to groups and organisations that require this to operate.

Next steps

The next meeting of the working group will take place on Thursday 17th September 2020. Anyone with an interest is welcome to join in online.

For further information contact:

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North Ayrshire Community Investment Fund (CIF)

The CIF will support proposals and projects that:

- Tackle inequalities in North Ayrshire such as financial deprivation, poorer health outcomes, reduced employability, limited access to good food, or reduced access to access to services
- Align to the Locality Partnership's priorities
- Do not duplicate existing services or facilities
- Provide long-term results
- Include measurable outcomes and can report on outcomes on a regular basis

The full criteria and guidance are available at
<http://www.northayrshire.community/your-community/>

