



North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership

## Community Planning Partnership Board

Thursday 8 December 2022 at 11.00 a.m.

Via Microsoft Teams

### AGENDA

Time	No.	Page	Item	Presenter	Ask of CPP Partners
11.00 – 11.05	1.		<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>	Cllr Burns Chair of CPP, North Ayrshire Council	
11.05 – 11.10	2.	Pg 4	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> Submit minutes of 1 September 2022 (copy enclosed)	Cllr Burns, Chair of CPP, North Ayrshire Council	Confirm that this is an accurate record of the meeting and actions have been completed.
<b>Wellbeing</b>					
11.10– 11.30	5.	-	<b>Draft Local Police Plan 2023 - 2026</b> Receive update from Superintendent Derek Frew	Superintendent Derek Frew, Police Scotland	Receive update and discuss the draft plan.
11.30 – 11.50	6.	Pg 11	<b>Cost of Living Crisis</b> Receive update from Audrey Sutton	Audrey Sutton, Executive Director (Communities & Education), North Ayrshire Council.	Receive update and consider opportunities to support the work taking place across North Ayrshire.
11.50 – 12.10	7.	-	<b>Refugee Taskforce Update</b> Receive update from Janeine Barrett.	Janeine Barrett, Senior Manager, Homelessness & Community Safety, North Ayrshire Council	Receive update and consider any actions required.
12.10 – 12.30	6.	-	<b>Child Poverty</b> Receive update from Audrey Sutton.	Audrey Sutton, Executive Director, Communities & Education, North Ayrshire Council.	Receive update and continue to support reducing Child Poverty in North Ayrshire.
12.30 – 12.35	<b>COMFORT BREAK</b>				
<b>Governance</b>					

For further information please contact Jacqui Greenlees, Senior Manager Policy, Performance and Community Planning  
North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE  
Email: [jacquelinegreenlees@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:jacquelinegreenlees@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

12.35 – 12.55	7.	-	<b>CLD Strategic Plan</b> Receive update from Angela Morrell.	Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Connected Communities, North Ayrshire Council	Receive update and discuss the progress of the implementation of the CLD Plan.
<b>Future Developments</b>					
12.55 – 1.15	8.	-	<b>Partner Discussion and Sharing on Key Developments and Opportunities</b>	All	Partners share developments and partnership working opportunities.
1.15 – 1.30	9.	-	<b>AOCB</b>	Clr Burns, Chair of CPP, North Ayrshire Council	
	10.	Pg 62	<b>Reports for information</b>  <b>Minutes of Locality Partnerships</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Arran LP</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Garnock Valley LP</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Irvine LP</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Kilwinning LP</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">North Coast LP</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Three Towns LP</a></li> </ul> <b>Integration Joint Board Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">IJB Minutes</a></li> </ul> <b>Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023 – 28.</b>  <b>Community Planning Inquiry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Community Planning Inquiry Consultation</a></li> </ul>		
<p><b>The Community &amp; Locality Planning Conference will be held on Saturday 28 January 2023 from 9.30 am at Saltcoats Town Hall. To register your place, please email: <a href="mailto:communityplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk">communityplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk</a></b></p>					
<p><b>Date of next meeting: Monday 13 March 2023 at 1.30 pm on Microsoft Teams</b></p>					

For further information please contact Jacqui Greenlees, Senior Manager Policy, Performance and Community Planning  
North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE  
Email: [jacquelinegreenlees@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:jacquelinegreenlees@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

---

**North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board  
Board Membership**

---

<p><b>Ayrshire College</b> Angela Cox, Chief Executive and Principal</p>	<p><b>Scottish Government</b> Sam Anson, Location Director</p>
<p><b>Health and Social Care Partnership</b> Robert Martin (Chair, IJB) Caroline Cameron, Director</p>	<p><b>Skills Development Scotland</b> Shona Mitchell, Head of Operations (Southwest Scotland)</p>
<p><b>Jobcentre Plus</b> Sheila Lynn, Service Lead</p>	<p><b>Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue</b> Ian McMeekin Area Manager</p>
<p><b>KA Leisure</b> Lorraine Tulloch, KA Leisure Board Member</p>	<p><b>Strathclyde Partnership for Transport</b> Allan Comrie, Senior Transport Planner</p>
<p><b>NHS Ayrshire and Arran</b> Lesley Bowie, Chair <b>(Vice Chair)</b> Claire Burden, Chief Executive Ruth Mellor, Consultant Public Health</p>	<p><b>North Ayrshire Council</b> Marie Burns, Elected Member <b>(Chair)</b> John Bell, Elected Member Timothy Billings, Elected Member Scott Davidson, Elected Member Alan Hill, Elected Member Amanda Kerr Elected Member Shaun Macaulay, Elected Member Craig Hatton, Chief Executive Audrey Sutton, Executive Director Rhona Arthur, Head of Service</p>
<p><b>Scottish Enterprise</b> Brian Connolly, Specialist - Partnerships (Innovation and Place)</p>	<p><b>Police Scotland</b> Chief Supt Farouque Hussain Supt Derek Frew</p>
<p><b>Third Sector Interface</b> Vicki Yuill, Chief Executive Officer, Arran CVS</p>	

---

For further information please contact Jacqui Greenlees, Senior Manager Policy, Performance and  
Community Planning  
North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE  
Email: [jacquelinegreenlees@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:jacquelinegreenlees@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

## **Community Planning Partnership Board**

Thursday 1 September 2022 at 11.00 am

Via Microsoft Teams



North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership

### **Present**

#### **North Ayrshire Council**

Cllr Marie Burns, Elected Member (**Chair**)

Cllr John Bell, Elected Member

Cllr Timothy Billings, Elected Member

Cllr Scott Davidson, Elected Member

Cllr Shaun Macaulay, Elected Member

Craig Hatton, Chief Executive

Audrey Sutton, Executive Director

Rhona Arthur, Head of Service

#### **North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership**

Caroline Cameron, Director

#### **DWP**

Sheila Lynn, Service Leader

#### **NHS Ayrshire and Arran**

Lesley Bowie, Chair NHS Ayrshire & Arran Board (**Vice Chair**)

Claire Burden, Chief Executive

Ruth Mellor, Consultant in Public Health

#### **Police Scotland**

Chief Superintendent Faroque Hussain

#### **Scottish Enterprise**

Brian Connolly, Engagement Partner

#### **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Ian McMeekin, Area Manager

#### **Skill Development Scotland**

Paul Zealey, Skills Planning Lead

#### **Scottish Partnership for Transport**

Allan Comrie, Senior Transport Planner

### **In Attendance**

Jacqui Greenlees (NAC), Laura Neill (NAC), Cllr Margaret Johnson (NAC), J McGee (NAC), Sally Amor (NHS)

### **Apologies**

Karen Yeomans (NAC), Robert Martin (NHS Ayrshire & Arran), Carol Turnbull (Ayrshire College), Craig Hatton (NAC), Kaileigh Brown (TSI), Sam Anson (Scottish Government), Cllr Alan Hill (NAC)

## **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.

## 2. Minute of the Previous Meeting and Action Note

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 23 June 2022 were approved.

## 3. Local Employability Partnership

Laura Neill provided the Board with an update on the Local Employability Partnership (LEP).

The key aim of the LEP is to improve skills for employment and to reduce unemployment in North Ayrshire. The LEP are the strategic delivery group who feed into the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan Work priority.

The North Ayrshire LEP have approved a 3-year delivery plan (2022 – 2025). This is a national framework provided by the Scottish Government with delivery on a localised approach and has annual operating plans. The annual operating plans provide the opportunity to take account of changes within the labour market and circumstances to ensure the right services are being delivered in North Ayrshire.

L Neill advised that the LEP Working Groups meet on a weekly basis to make sure the key challenges are being focussed on. A provider forum has also been established and is chaired by Skills Development Scotland. There are currently around 20 different providers part of this forum. The LEP meet on a six-weekly basis.

The LEP focus on three priority groups, these have been identified as:

- Young people - particularly 18-24 years old who are not in employment, education or training, care experienced young people, and young people at risk to not go on to positive destinations
- People with disabilities and long-term health conditions
- Inclusive growth – Parents, specifically lone parent, parents who are disabled or have a family member who is disabled, parents with 3 or more children, minority ethnics, parents with children under 1 years old, parents under the age of 25 and also long term unemployed

L Neill highlighted that the unemployment rate in North Ayrshire is 4.7% (Scotland rate is 3.7%). North Ayrshire has the second highest rate in Scotland and youth unemployment rates in North Ayrshire is at 7.1% and is the highest in Scotland.

The sharpest reduction has been 2.9% reduction for 25–49-year-olds in recent months, there has been an increase in paid work experience for this age group through the Long Term Unemployment Programme and the Council's Skills for Life programme – both had additional places funded through the COVID recovery fund.

North Ayrshire has the lowest employment rate in Scotland (67.3%). The team are working with employers to create fair work through Ayrshire Growth Deal Fair Work Ayrshire and are offering a wide range of support to employers to address recruitment challenges, improve wages through paying the national living wage rate.

The Chair commented that this links work in with the work the Council are doing around Child Poverty and the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

Cllr Billings asked from a geographical perspective if the team were looking at rural and island gaps. L Neill advised Cllr Billings that the team do look at the stats and they have been linking in with the Island Plan and through the new LEADER replacement funding they are looking at how they can better support people on the islands. Cllr Billings welcomed this and offered to support where necessary.

Cllr Bell asked in terms of reduction in unemployment figures for 25–49-year-olds, how many people are now in employment and how many are on places that were created through the new funding. L Neill advised that the team were tasked by Scottish Government to create 65 job

opportunities, however they are looking at creating around 70 jobs to allow funding to be maximised. L Neill also advised that 3,800 people are unemployed in North Ayrshire:

- 745 are aged 16-24
- 2080 are aged 25-49
- 975 are 50+
- There are also an additional 8,370 people who are inactive with a health condition

Cllr Davidson asked L Neill is it would be possible to share the up-to-date employment and unemployment figures for the Kilwinning area for the various age groups. Cllr Bell and the Chair commented that it would be useful for this information for all six of the localities. L Neill undertook to provide this information for the six locality areas.

R Arthur asked about the role for communities in this work and what more the team can do with local connections. R Arthur also highlighted that it can be hard for local organisations to recruit the workforce that they need.

L Neill advised that there is work being undertaken on how to better communicate with communities through the Locality Partnerships. In terms of Council vacancies, the team have been working with Facilities Management and identified 50 customers who were interested in those opportunities. Interviews were conducted and then if those candidates were successful w then the recruitment process will be implemented. The team have also carried out a pilot with the Care at Home Team and nine parents who expressed interest in this field previously. Following a focus group with the Care at Home team and the nine parents, they have adjusted the working day to meet the requirements of the parents, who then went on to do work experience. Eight of the parents gained employment and one went on to further education. The Team is now looking at how we share good practice with the NHS and continuing to work with the HR Team.

Brian Conolly commented that there is a role within the framing of Community Wealth Building to look at this beyond financials and recognising the challenges regarding how people access employability. It is extremely encouraging to hear this work being under way.

The Chair thanked L Neill for her input.

**Actions: L Neill to provide the up-to-date employment and unemployment figures for each of the various age groups at a locality level.**

#### **4. Caring For Ayrshire**

Claire Burden provided the Board with a presentation on Caring for Ayrshire.

C Burden advised the Board that Caring for Ayrshire focuses on working together to achieve the healthiest life possible for everyone in Ayrshire. The four themes of Caring for Ayrshire are:

- Our people
- Our communities
- Restoring our services
- Investing in digital

There are six drivers for change, which are very focussed on restoration. These are:

- Shifting the emphasis away from hospital-based care
- Securing service sustainability
- Limitations of existing structure
- Improving access to health and care services
- Supporting regional working
- Changing demographics

C Burden highlighted the importance of population health benefit and collaboration & partnership working. C Burden commented that collaboration & partnership working is very prominent in Ayrshire and is keen to build partnerships further.

In terms of Community Wealth Building, NHS Ayrshire and Arran are an anchor organisation and aim to align procurement, fair employment and shared land and assets. These are an important part of Caring for Ayrshire.

In terms of Implementing Caring for Ayrshire the team will be:

- Developing health and care models
- Developing workforce model/planning
- Developing informing and engagement plans
- Recruitment of additional staff/resources and development of associated workplans

C Burden highlighted that there will be launch of Caring for Ayrshire and the team will be hosting events. The team are also happy to attend planned events being held by partners.

The next steps for Caring for Ayrshire are:

- Priorities – clarifying locality bases priorities
- Using data and modelling – scenario planning for service change
- Collaboration- work with internal and external stakeholders to design the model
- Engagement – ongoing programme of engagement

Cllr Macaulay commented that there is a need to re-think how we deliver health care digitally within our communities. Cllr Macaulay highlighted that the Irvine Locality Partnership, upskilling people on the use of digital technology and how this can benefit our communities has been front and centre and is important to rural communities. The risk would be making people feel isolated if they are not confident in using technology, however this where we can work together. Cllr Macaulay is keen to see how this can be embedded at a locality level.

C Cameron highlighted that a report went to the North Ayrshire IJB in March 2022 which outlines the priorities in North Ayrshire. C Cameron advised that she would arrange for this report to be circulated to the Board and would be happy to discuss this item further at a future Board meeting.

R Arthur highlighted that in terms of Cumbrae there are many challenges on the island and the support of the health needs of it also.

The Chair thanked C Burden for her input.

**Action: C Cameron to circulate March IJB Report**

## **5. Child Poverty**

Audrey Sutton provided the Board with a presentation on Child Poverty.

A Sutton advised the Board that one of the current Scottish Government priorities is to support progress toward meeting child poverty targets. The Act sets in place robust requirements to lift 140,000 children out of relative poverty by 2030 – reducing levels from 24% to 10%

The recently published Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022-26 gives a clear direction on how we can and will focus resources. The action areas for 2022-26 are:

- To enter, sustain and progress in work
- Maximising the support available for families to lead dignified lives and meet their basic needs
- Supporting the next generation to thrive

A Sutton also highlighted the differences between relative and absolute poverty.

A Sutton advised that the drivers of reduction of child poverty link closely to the themes identified by the Government and the importance of the whole systems requirement to bring everything together to make a difference. The drivers are:

- Income from employment
- Cost of living
- Income from social security and income in kind

In 2019/20 the rate of child of poverty in North Ayrshire was 27.9%, this was the second highest in Scotland. The latest assessment shows that in 2021 there is 24.7% of children living in poverty in North Ayrshire. However, it should be noted that this decrease is unusual due to the impact of the pandemic and the figures are caveated. In North Ayrshire 20.8% of children are living in relevant poverty and 16.8% are living in absolute poverty.

A further report will be brought to the Board around the collective work of the UNCRC Board.

The North Ayrshire the Child Poverty Report and Action Plan were approved by Scottish Government in June 2022. The Cabinet approved the set-up Child Poverty Board. This is being led by North Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire & Arran. This was welcomed by the Scottish Government.

A Strategic Action Template has been created and is made up of four key steps which are:

1. **Agree Themes** – No wrong door and employability.
2. **Initial workshop** – initial face to face sessions where the focus will be on three key questions; - What are we doing well? What can we improve on? and Where are the gaps? The first workshop took place earlier this week and focussed on no wrong door.
3. **Mini-enquiry** – this will involve communities and third sector partners.
4. **Development of the strategic actions** – the Child Poverty Board will consider the output reports from steps 2 and 3.

The Chair conveyed her thanks to everyone who has participated in this work so far. The Chair commented that was lots of good discussion at the session earlier this week and was great to share what work is already being carried out, what has worked and what hasn't worked so well.

The Chair asked for Child Poverty to be a standing item on the CPP Board agenda.

The Chair thanked A Sutton for her input.

#### **Actions:**

- **J McGee to add Child Poverty as a standing item on the CPP Board agenda**
- **A Sutton to bring report on collective work of UNCRC Board to future CPP Board meeting**

## **6. LOIP Workshop Update**

Jacqueline Greenlees provided the Board with a presentation to provide an update following a recent Local Outcomes Improvement (LOIP) workshop with the CPP Senior Officers Group.

J Greenlees advised the Board that the 2022 -2030 LOIP focuses on three key priorities: - Wellbeing, World and Work.

The aim of the workshop was to:

- Decide key LOIP Governance
- Look at the LOIP priorities with a particular focus Wellbeing and Poverty
- LOIP performance arrangements



J Greenlees advised the Board that in terms of wellbeing, it is proposed that the North Ayrshire Wellbeing Alliance will be the key group to focus on the governance of this priority.

A Sutton highlighted that in terms of the Wellbeing Alliance, she would like to bring forward a proposal which will give a reflection of the LOIP priority across all CPP partners with KA Leisure at the heart of it. A Sutton advised that she would arrange for a more detailed version of this model to be shared with the Chair with view to this being brought to a future meeting of the CPP Board.

J Greenlees advised the Board that discussion around performance management for the LOIP focused on reporting partnership work over individual achievements as well as the use of case studies in addition to hard data. J Greenlees will also be liaising with the Improvement Service to develop a LOIP impact tool.

In terms of next steps, the team will:

- Continue to implement the LOIP 22-30
- Work to pull together data and develop the LOIP Impact Tool (previously the LOIP Action Plan)
- Finesse the LOIP document to reflect workshop outcomes
- Continue to develop and implement CPP learning and promote new plan
- Work with partners to develop and implement proposed Wellbeing governance arrangements- Community Wellbeing Alliance

The Chair commented that wellbeing is very relevant to the Locality Partnerships and there is further discussion needed around the role of Locality Partnerships.

Cllr Davidson suggested having further Elected Member development session highlighting more of the work of the CPP. R Arthur highlighted that a face-to-face workshop session would probably be the best way. R Arthur undertook to give this idea more thought.

L Bowie agreed that there would be value in sharing the awareness of the CPP further within organisations. J Greenlees advised that there is a standing offer from the Community Planning Team to our partners to attend team meetings/workshops.

**Action:**

- **A Sutton to bring report on Wellbeing Alliance to a future meeting of the CPP Board**
- **R Arthur to give thought to a further Elected Member session.**

## **7. Partner Discussion and Sharing on Key Developments and Opportunities**

SPT – Alan Comrie advised the Board that the Regional Transport Strategy Consultation is open and will close at midnight Friday 8 October 2022. A Comrie encourage the Board to respond where appropriate.

NHS – Ruth Mellor advised the Board that Sally Amor (who was observing today's meeting) is a new Consultant within the Public Health, her remit is in vulnerable population and will be working with the ADPs across Ayrshire.

## **8. AOCB**

No other business was discussed. The Chair conveyed her thanks to everyone in attendance.

## **9. Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of the North Ayrshire CPP Board will be held on **Thursday 8 December 2022** at **11.00 am via Microsoft Teams**.

## **North Ayrshire CPP Board**

**Date: 8 December 2022**

**Subject:** Cost of Living Crisis

**Purpose:** To provide a progress report to the CPP Board in relation to the North Ayrshire Council responses to the current cost-of-living crisis and associated investments and funds.

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 North Ayrshire Council is designing and delivering a range of investments and initiatives to mitigate the impacts of the current cost-of-living crisis for its residents.
- 1.2 This report provides a comprehensive overview of the current investments, funds, and activity relevant to the cost-of-living crisis, progress to date and next steps. This report will form the basis of future six-monthly reports and progress will continue to be reported to Cabinet and the CPP Board on a regular basis.

### **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The current cost-of-living crisis has resulted in a series of challenges for residents, communities, and businesses in North Ayrshire. The ongoing impact of the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and economic unpredictability, compounded by the energy crisis, increased inflation and increased interest rates has resulted in higher household prices which have created hardship and financial exclusion for citizens, including North Ayrshire residents.
- 2.2 In August 2022, Monetary Policy Report, the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee noted that the risks around its projections from both external and domestic factors were exceptionally large, given the very large increase in wholesale gas prices since May and the consequent impacts on real incomes for UK households and on Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation.
- 2.3 Wholesale gas prices have been highly volatile since early this year and there have been large moves in financial markets, including a sharp increase in government bond yields globally. Sterling has depreciated materially over the period. Over the next 12 months, firms expect wage growth to be slightly lower than over the past year at 5.5%. That implies firms do not expect the current high rates of inflation to lead to a further acceleration in wage growth over the next year. Grocery inflation now stands at 13.9%, a record high since Kantar began

tracking prices in this way during the 2008 financial crash. The net result will be increasing pressure on household finances.

- 2.4 North Ayrshire currently has the second lowest employment rate in Scotland (67.8%) compared to a Scottish average of 74.4%. This most recent data release reflects the period July 2021- June 2022 and shows a 2.9% increase from the previous data release.
- 2.5 North Ayrshire has the third highest unemployment rate in Scotland at 4.1% compared to an average of 3.4% for Scotland. Again, this data is from July 2021- June 2022 and shows a 0.8% reduction on the previous release. Glasgow (4.3%) and Dundee (4.8%) are the only areas with higher unemployment rates nationally.
- 2.6 North Ayrshire's economic inactivity rate (28.7%) is the third highest in Scotland (Scottish average 22.9%). North Ayrshire is the 26<sup>th</sup> highest authority in terms of economic inactivity rates in Great Britain (out of approximately 360 local authorities).

(All sources for above data: [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](#))

- 2.7 The North Ayrshire rate for claimants as a proportion of the working age population (aged 16-64) is 4.6%. This compares to regional figures of 4% for East Ayrshire and 3.6% for South Ayrshire and a Scottish average of 3.2%. This dataset is for September 2022 and shows an improvement from June 2022 where the figure was 5.0%. This trend is reflected nationally.

(Source: [Dataset Selection - Query - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](#))

- 2.8 North Ayrshire's vulnerability to the current economic crisis provides the context for the updates to the CPP Board in relation to current national and local interventions.

### **UK Government Response**

- 2.9 The UK Government has committed to providing over £37 billion additional support this year:
  - The Energy Bill Scheme will ensure that 29 million households across the UK will receive a £400 non repayable discount on energy bills. In addition, 1.1 million families who are in receipt of tax credits across the country will receive a cost-of-living payment of £326.
  - The Energy Price Guarantee will ensure a freeze on energy bills and typical households will pay not more than £2,500 annually until April 2023.
  - All pensioner households will receive an extra £300 to help them to cover the rising cost of energy this winter.
  - More than 8 million households on means tested benefits will receive a payment of £650 including those who receive Universal Credit, Income-based

Jobseekers Allowance, Income-related Employment Support Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Pension Credit.

- People with disabilities will receive an extra £150 to help with the particular extra costs they face.
- The National Insurance contribution threshold has risen to £12,570.
- Households who do not pay for gas or electricity from the mains will receive support.
- Support is promised for businesses over the next six months targeting the most vulnerable industries.

### ***Scottish Government Response***

2.10 In March 2022 and in response to the cost-of-living crisis, the Scottish Government announced additional financial support to low-income households through a cost-of-living credit of £150 on 2022/23 Council Tax bills.

2.11 The Scottish Government published the Programme for Government 2022 – 2023 with measures to address longer term challenges, provide urgent support and help tackle the current cost-of-living crisis.

2.12 Support includes the following:

- For anyone in receipt of the Scottish Child Payment, an automatic increase to £25 per week will be in place from 14 November 2022. Applications for the Scottish Child Payment will also be open to all eligible under 16s from that date, with all payments backdated to the date of application.
- Bridging Payments which deliver immediate financial support to low-income families with school age children worth £130 in October and December 2022 have been doubled to £260.
- Legislation to ensure the Best Start Grant is paid automatically to eligible families in receipt of Scottish Child Payment without the need to apply.
- Introduction of the new Winter Heating Payment allowance which guarantees a £50 annual payment to around 400,000 low-income households.
- Doubling of the Fuel Insecurity Fund to £20 million in 2022-23, to help households at risk of self-disconnection or self-rationing their energy use.
- Widening eligibility for the Tenant Grant Fund, to support those struggling with increasing costs.
- Giving local authorities more flexibility to take account of energy bills in their prioritisation of households for Discretionary Housing Payments. Funding for Discretionary Housing Payments is increased by £5 million.
- Legislation to reduce hardships particularly for those in rented accommodation by freezing rents for six months.

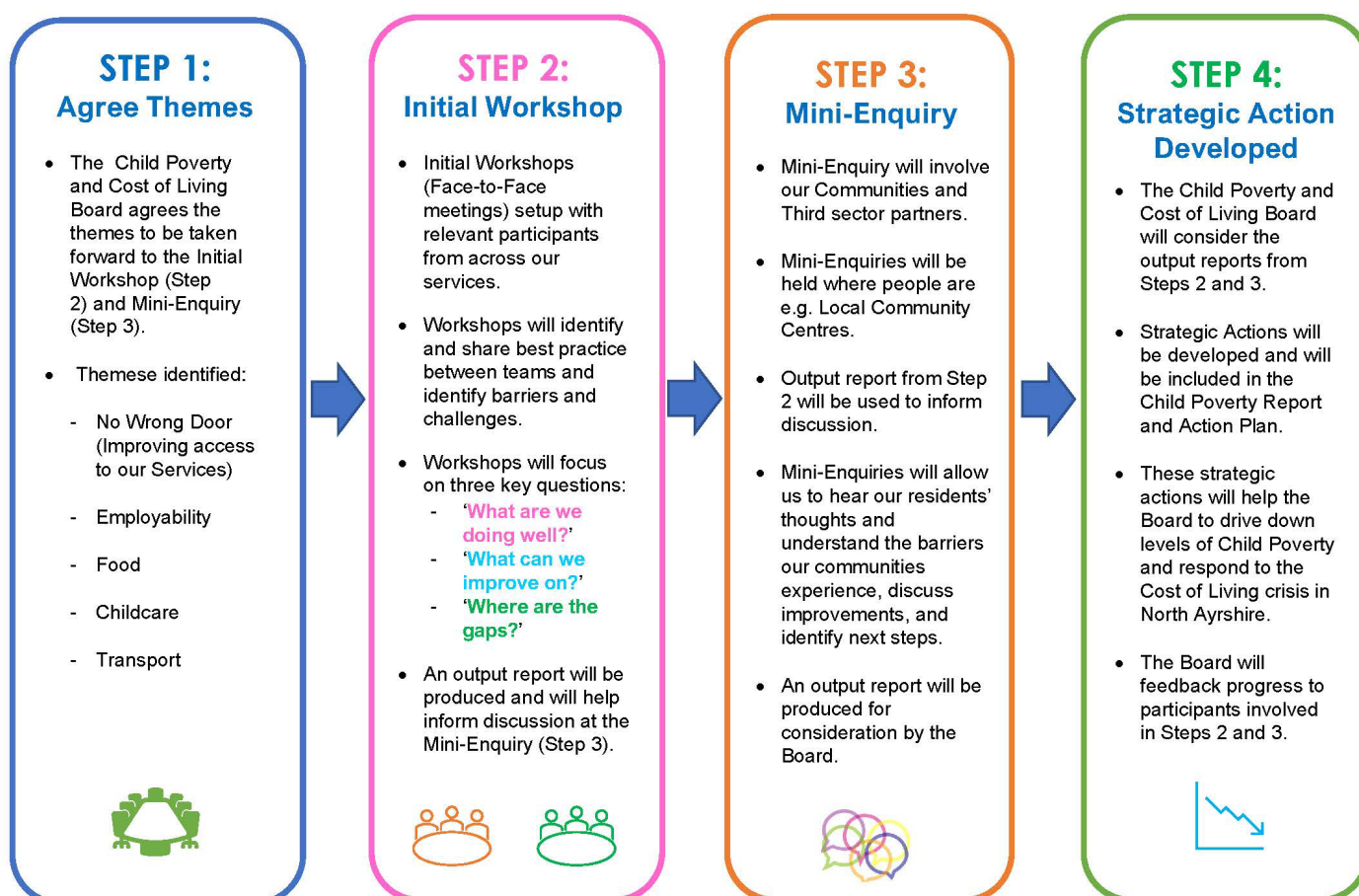
## North Ayrshire Response

### 2.13 Governance

2.13.1 In June 2022 Council agreed to set up a new Board to tackle child poverty. With the escalation in cost-of-living concerns this board now also oversees the Council's response to the current cost-of-living crisis. The board is chaired by the Council Leader. The strategic approach to the themes in relation to child poverty and cost-of-living are agreed by the Board and explored in conjunction with Community Planning, third sector partners and residents.

2.13.2 A consistent approach to identifying actions is ensured by the following approach:

#### Child Poverty and Cost of Living Crisis – Strategic Action Template



2.13.3 The outputs from this work will inform the three-year Child Poverty strategy and annual report which will be presented to Cabinet and will contribute to

regular updates to Cabinet Board on the cost-of-living crisis and related expenditure. Regular reports will also be presented to the CPP Board.

- 2.13.4 The Council has made substantial investments in tackling child poverty and the cost-of-living crisis. The most recent of these have been agreed in Cabinet reports of June 2022 and August 2022.
- 2.13.5 This CPP Board report brings together an overview of these investments, the funds that North Ayrshire administers locally on behalf of Scottish Government or Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) which have an impact on the costs of living, progress in relation to intended impacts and timetables for future progress against the funded actions. The funds have been organised thematically and this approach reflects the support we also offer to residents through the Council's web presence at: [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living).
- 2.13.6 Future regular reports to Cabinet and the CPP Board will provide further updates on these funds and related activity as outlined at Appendix 1.

## 2.14 Cost-of-living Themes and Investments

2.14.1 The themes are as follows:



*Energy Advice and Support*



*Food, Clothing and Essentials*



*Finance and Benefits*



*Children and Families*



*Health and Wellbeing*



*Business and community including transport for work*



*Support for Communities*



*Workforce wellbeing*

2.14.2 Further detailed information about the funding associated with the above themes is contained in **Appendix 1**, as well as progress in relation to expenditure, future plans and timescales.

## 2.15 Cost-of-living Funding and Activities: Overview

2.15.1 Energy Advice and Support (*see Appendix 1, Pages 2 - 3*)

### **Energy Smart Scheme and Advice**

#### **Investments:**

- Energy Smart Scheme including Emergency Support element - £2.176m
- Energy Advice and Support (Citrus Energy) - £0.060m

**Key objectives:** To support residents of North Ayrshire through the cost-of-living crisis by reducing fuel poverty and increasing affordable warmth, whilst reducing carbon emissions and providing local employment opportunities as part of the programme.

**Scheme details:** Delivery of the sustainability initiative is being implemented across three stages and incorporating:

- Energy efficiency and low carbon behaviour advice,
- Emergency support payments and
- Implementation of physical energy efficiency measures.

2.15.2 Food, Clothing and Essentials (*see Appendix 1, Pages 4 - 5*)

### **Fairer Food**

#### **Investments:**

- Fair Food System - £0.150m
- Support to Fairer Food Network - £0.247m
- North Ayrshire Fairer Food Network - £0.142m
- Community Food Network - £0.500m
- Cost of the School Day (Food Element) Fund – Recurring Food element - £0.150m

**Key objectives:** The aim of the Fairer Food, clothing and essentials funding is to alleviate immediate crisis due to poverty and to invest in early intervention or long-term solutions which off-set future demand by providing low-cost cupboard staples to top-up shopping.

**Scheme details:** A network of community food larders has been established with North Ayrshire Fairer Food branding. They are supported in relation to food safety, health and safety and other regulations. The North Ayrshire Fairer Food Network of community food providers meets regularly and have been co-developing, sharing



good practice and piloting bulk-buying, as well as establishing community benefit partnerships.

### 2.15.3 Finance and Benefits (see Appendix 1, Pages 6 - 15)

#### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Tenant Grant Fund**

**Investments:** North Ayrshire Council received an allocation of £298k.

**Key objectives:** The grant is to help prevent homelessness and sustain tenancies by directly reducing, alleviating, or paying off rent arrears altogether, where a tenant is in either the social or private sector, and has faced difficulties due to Coronavirus. The grant covered arrears arising between 23 March 2020 and 9 August 2021.

**Scheme details:** Scottish Government provided an allocation of £10m to Scottish local authorities during financial year 2021-22 to provide direct financial support to tenants - via landlords in their area - for the specific purpose of paying rent arrears arising from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was aimed at highly vulnerable tenants who would become homeless or did not have alternative sources of support.

#### **Tenant Hardship Fund**

**Investments:** The Scottish Government provided an allocation of £867,000 to North Ayrshire through the Scottish Government Winter Support Fund – Tackling Financial Insecurities. From this fund the Council's Housing Service was awarded £195K for help with tenancy hardship, focusing on highly vulnerable tenants affected by fuel poverty.

**Key objectives:** To create flexibility across a number of areas to target those most in need e.g., food support, fuel, isolation, welfare fund top ups, housing, homelessness.

**Scheme details:** The funding assists any North Ayrshire Council tenant who is finding it difficult to manage fuel bills. Support Workers have been recruited and provide person-centred housing related support including income maximisation, welfare benefit advice and assistance, fuel, and utilities advice, helping them to sustain their tenancy and prevent any potential homelessness issue in the future. The fund helps support winter warm initiatives and interventions for our most vulnerable tenant who are at the greatest risk of fuel poverty.

#### **Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF)**

**Investments:** Total £1,153,000 recurring funding from Scottish Government:

- £362,000 allocated to Crisis Grants

- £791,000 allocated to Community Care Grants

**Key objectives:** The aim of the funding is to provide financial help by way of a Crisis Grant to those in immediate crisis or a Community Care Grant to those in need of essential household items.

**Scheme details:** The SWF is delivered using a “One Team” approach - ensuring that when someone calls to apply for a Crisis Grant, a decision to award is made while the customer is on the phone and the payment can be made quickly to enable them access to much needed cash or fuel vouchers.

### **Council Tax Reduction scheme (CTR)**

**Investments:** £12,880,000 recurring funding by North Ayrshire Council.

**Key objectives:** To help those on lower incomes by lowering the amount of Council Tax that they are liable to pay. This is based on age, household structure and income and is charged on per dwelling basis rather than individuals.

**Scheme details:** Automation of CTR has been introduced to ensure that any notifications received from DWP confirming eligibility or changes are automatically applied to the relevant Council Tax account.

### **Housing Benefit**

**Investments:** £34,400,000 recurring funding from DWP.

**Key objectives:** To help people who are unemployed, on a low income or claiming benefits to pay their rent costs.

**Scheme details:** Housing Benefit is aimed at pensioners and people of working age who are unemployed, on a low income or claiming benefits and have not yet been moved to Universal Credit to help them pay their rent costs. This has helped people to afford to keep their tenancy and prevent them from falling into arrears with their rent.

### **Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)**

**Investments:** £2,400,000 recurring funding agreed by North Ayrshire Council.

**Key objectives:** To help people who claim benefits towards the cost of their rent.

**Scheme details:** The aim is to provide financial help to people claiming Housing Benefit or who receive housing cost payments through Universal Credit, but their benefit is less than the full amount of their rent. DHP is used to help cover the shortfall. This has helped people to afford to keep their tenancy and helped prevent them from falling into arrears with their rent.

### Financial Inclusion

**Investments:** Access to finance (1<sup>st</sup> Alliance) £0.150m.

**Key objectives:** To support the 1<sup>st</sup> Alliance Credit Union to deliver a progressive finance scheme to lend to individuals who are considered as a higher credit risk due to history but who can afford repayments.

**Scheme details:** Small loans are available to low-income residents who would not normally qualify through typical lending rules i.e., due to the higher risk factor, the credit union would not be able to lend from members' funds.

**Investments:** Financial Inclusion Capacity Building: £258k.

**Key objectives:** The funding allocation was made to support the increasing demand for financial inclusion supports which is currently being experienced.

**Scheme details:** The additional funding will provide additional staffing capacity to support local people.

#### 2.15.4 Children and Families (see Appendix 1, Pages 16 - 22)

### Free School Meals

**Investments:**

- Scottish Government revenue funding for 2022-23 (£712k)
- Scottish Government revenue funding for 2022-23 (900k)

**Key objectives:** To ensure children have access to a free, healthy, and nutritious meal during the school day, and to support access to food for children throughout school holiday periods.

**Scheme details:** Roll out of universal free school meals to Primary 4 & Primary 5 children is complete. We continue to monitor and encourage uptake of meals to ensure we maximise the benefits of this entitlement.

The holiday programme ran over the Easter and summer breaks with support from community partners. Vouchers were also issued during the longer summer break. Vouchers will also be issued for the October and Christmas breaks.

### Child Bridging Payment Top-Up

**Investments:**

- (£0.570m) June 2022
- (£1.140m) August 2022

**Key objectives:** The Scottish Child Payment Bridging Payments bring together the Covid hardship payments and the Family Pandemic Payment into one payment, made four times a year. These payments are available for each child who gets free school meals because of low income.

**Scheme details:** The scheduled summer, autumn, and winter Child Bridging Payment of £130 was increased to £230 (additional £100 payment) and eligibility for the £100 payment was extended to low-income families of children of pre-school age.

**Cost of the School Day**

**Investments:** Cost of the School Day Support - £0.500m (recurring).

**Key objectives:** The aim of the Cost of the School Day (COSD) is to drive forward a whole systems approach to reducing the cost of the school day in order to deliver a fairer and more equal North Ayrshire.

**Scheme details:** There are three key elements:

- 1000 new digital devices each session for those in greatest need in P5 and S2.
- £100k for school uniform, winter clothing, outdoor learning, sports – participatory approach with schools.
- £150k for food in partnership with community organisations.

**Children and Families Investment Fund****Investments:**

- Children and Families Investment Fund - £0.075m
- Digital Access Fund - £0.255m
- Support for the North Ayrshire Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan - £0.076m

**Key objectives:** The aim of the funding was to promote recovery and support the most vulnerable children and families.

**Scheme details:** The Children and Families Investment Fund links into the Cost of the School Day funding and is allocated to community support for food and clothing.

Digital access and skills are targeted by a newly recruited Digital Participation Officer. The Council also participated in Connecting Scotland programmes with SCVO which provided additional digital devices and connectivity. Its funding is not yet fully allocated. An officer has been recruited to support the Child Poverty work and the funds will be fully utilised.

### **School Clothing Grants**

**Investments:** £816,500 recurring funding agreed by North Ayrshire Council. Additional funding is provided from the Council to match demand.

**Key objectives:** The intended impact is that all school children have adequate school clothes and shoes.

**Scheme details:** An annual payment of £120 is given to primary school children and £150 to secondary school children before the start of the new school year then to new applicants throughout the year.

### **Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)**

**Investments:** £580,000 recurring funding agreed by North Ayrshire Council.

**Key objectives:** To provide financial support to young people from low-income families to allow them to be able to afford to stay in post-16 education either in school or college who might otherwise have left education.

**Scheme details:** The funding provides financial support of £30 a week (paid fortnightly in arrears) to 16-to-19-year-olds in education who come from low-income families subject to attendance and agreement of a learning plan.

## 2.15.5 Health and Wellbeing (see Appendix 1, Pages 23 - 24)

### **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing**

**Investments:** Community Mental Health and Wellbeing - £0.307m.

**Key Objectives:** To empower local communities to deliver a wide range of events, activities and interventions that support positive mental health and wellbeing across North Ayrshire.

**Scheme details:** The funding was distributed via a robust application process in partnership with Arran CVS (in their role as part of the Third Sector Interface).

**Investments:** Community Support for Mental Health - £0.075m.

**Key Objectives:** To empower local communities to deliver a wide range of events, activities and interventions that support positive mental health and wellbeing across North Ayrshire.

**Scheme details:** The allocation was added to the existing North Ayrshire Council Participatory Budget (PB) exercise in order that projects that support mental health and wellbeing could be funded as part of the regular PB process.

#### 2.15.6 Business Support (see Appendix 1, Pages 25 - 28)

##### **Supporting the Resilience of Local Businesses**

North Ayrshire Council provides a range of supports and interventions to assist businesses. These can be found at: [Business and community \(north-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](http://Business and community (north-ayrshire.gov.uk))

##### **Review and Improve Support for Childminders and Out of School Clubs Providers**

###### **Investments:**

- North Ayrshire COVID Economic Recovery Fund - SG Funding: £0.126m.
- North Ayrshire COVID Economic Recovery Fund - SG Funding: £0.050m.

**Key objectives:** The funds support the provision of wrap around childcare for families who need it. Due to COVID-19, the use of childcare has changed significantly. The funds are aimed at providing local childcare provision, to support employability and offer positive placements for vulnerable children and those in kinship care.

**Scheme details:** With childcare available over the summer, the fund is encouraging parents and carers with school age children to undertake a variety of short courses that upskill or lead to a route into employment. This will then build relationships with the Employability team, whilst building up confidence in the use of childcare services.

##### **Public Transport Travel Scheme**

**Investments:** NAC Economic Covid Recovery Funding: £20,000.

**Key objectives:** This fund supports low-income households, access to employment, address transport poverty and build confidence in public transport post covid. Due to the nature of the travel cards this will also benefit beneficiaries for both work and their personal life as they can also be used at evenings / weekends.

**Scheme details:** The scheme provides three months of free access to bus or rail travel. Beneficiaries are also supported with a free personalised travel plan to identify the best travel option for them.

## 2.15.7 Support for Communities (see Appendix 1, Pages 29 - 30)

### **Opening of Community Centres**

**Investments:** Funding to accommodate activities associated with isolation / financial insecurity £0.005m.

**Key objectives:** To provide additional core opening hours funding to support opening of community centres to accommodate activities associated with isolation / financial insecurity.

**Scheme details:** This funding allows local community centres to be open longer in order to accommodate / offer a wider range of activities aimed at alleviating the effects of social isolation and delivering activities to contribute to positive mental health.

### **Community Books**

**Investments:** £0.022m

**Key objectives:** To enable the development and sharing of the Community Book initiative developed during the pandemic.

**Scheme details:** Funding to establish the base / platform on which the local Community Books will be hosted in future. This resource will allow staff and community leaders access to a wide range of information relating to resources available in the local area. This will in turn assist with enquiries from citizens seeking help and advice.

### **Third Sector Support**

**Investments:** £0.114m

**Key objectives:** To enable third sector partners to continue and develop “what works” programmes of activity.

**Scheme details:** This scheme builds on current programmes such as Out and About, working with families and key groups to improve access to food and environmental opportunities locally. This includes through the Fairer Food network and Eglinton Garden Project which develop skills to grow and cook food, as well as through family sessions and activities that build ongoing individual and community capacity. These sessions will encourage people to engage with the local environment to support mental health and wellbeing and to develop parenting skills, family bonding, relationships, volunteering, and employability in a supportive environment.

## 2.15.8 Workforce wellbeing (see Appendix 1, Pages 31 - 32)

## **Workforce Wellbeing – Employee Wellbeing**

**Investments:** LiveWell Healthy Working Lives Programme: £20k

**Key objectives:** The LiveWell Programme aims to increase awareness of support and information, while wellbeing related activities are made more accessible through reducing or negating the costs associated with participation. This in turn improves employee morale, wellbeing, engagement, and performance.

**Scheme details:** The LiveWell Programme takes an organic approach, with a framework of planned activities scheduled alongside ad hoc opportunities. This enables LiveWell to adapt quickly to new suggestions and ideas. The programme also provides small grants to teams for health and wellbeing activities via our LiveWell Grant Scheme. It also provides advice and support to employees in relation to cost-of-living concerns.

**Investments: Primary Care & Social Care Staff Wellbeing Programme:** (£368,454 – over 3 years).

**Key objectives:** The programmes give equal priority to staff in all sectors and provide funding for physical and mental health and wellbeing interventions to manage stress and anxiety.

**Scheme details:** The wellbeing of the health and social care workforce remains a key priority and it is recognised that teams are fatigued because of unrelenting pressures. It is important therefore that continued wellbeing initiatives are put in place to support staff on an ongoing basis.

2.16 Further detailed information about the funding associated with the above themes is contained in **Appendix 1**, as well as progress in relation to expenditure, future plans and timescales. This will form the basis of future associated six-monthly updates to Cabinet and the CPP Board.

### **3 Proposals**

3.1 It is proposed that the CPP Board

- Notes the progress the Council has made on developing support in relation to the cost-of-living crisis; and
- Agrees to accept future progress reports on the investments, funds and activity associated with the cost-of-living crisis.

### **4. Conclusion**

4.1 The cost-of-living crisis affects all North Ayrshire residents. This report provides a comprehensive overview of UK, Scottish Government and North Ayrshire Council interventions to mitigate the effects of the crisis.



**Name:** Audrey Sutton

**Designation:** Executive Director (Communities & Education)

**Date:** 8 December 2022

# North Ayrshire CPP Board

## Cost of Living Themes and Updates – November 2022



*Energy Advice and Support*

*Food, Clothing and Essentials*

*Finance and Benefits*

*Children and Families*

*Health and Wellbeing*

*Business and Community including transport to work*

*Support for Communities*

*Employee Wellbeing*



## Energy Advice and Support

### Community based energy support

<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	£1.726m Energy Smart Scheme was secured from funds as part of the 2022/23 Budget process. The £1.726m investment was supplemented by an additional £0.450m to support the crisis payment element of the scheme by Cabinet on 23/08/2022.
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	The key objective is to support residents of North Ayrshire through the cost-of-living crisis by reducing fuel poverty and increasing affordable warmth, whilst reducing carbon emissions and providing local employment opportunities as part of the programme.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify partner for energy advice: Minute of Agreement with the Energy Agency for Home Energy Scotland to administer advice line.</li><li>• Establish energy advice line: complete, active since September 2022 and being regularly promoted.</li><li>• Identify criteria and delivery method for crisis payment: complete, Energy Smart Emergency Support scheme launched 31 October 2022.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Physical measures: initial phase will focus on loft and cavity wall insulation, addresses being collated using Energy Savings Trust Home Analytics Data for targeted maildrop. Supplies of LED bulbs and draught excluders will be made available at touchpoints, for example food larders. Further measures will be added to the scheme following a procurement process to identify a partner contractor.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	The following Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will monitor the success of the programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of households in fuel poverty helped with energy efficiency advice.</li><li>• Number of households in receipt of crisis support.</li><li>• Number of households granted financial assistance for energy efficiency measures.</li><li>• Estimated annual savings on fuel bills.</li><li>• Carbon emissions saved through installing energy efficiency measures.</li></ul>
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continued implementation of Emergency Support element</li><li>• Implement package of physical measures for delivery over heating season (loft and cavity wall insulation, LED bulbs, draught excluders) (November 2022 – March 2023).</li><li>• Appoint contractor early 2023 to deliver second phase of energy efficiency measures.</li></ul>
<b>6. Comments</b>	The Energy Smart model aims to support residents of North Ayrshire through the cost-of-living crisis by reducing fuel poverty and increasing affordable warmth, whilst reducing carbon emissions. Delivery of the sustainability initiative is being implemented across three stages and incorporating energy efficiency and low carbon behaviour advice, direct support payments and implementation of physical energy efficiency measures.

<b>Citrus Energy</b>	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	Fuel Poverty - increase capacity in Citrus Energy Fund - Tackling Financial Insecurity: Scottish Government Funding: £0.060m Date awarded - 15/06/2021
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	Increased capacity in Citrus Energy allowed the organisation to deliver the additional support in the Garnock Valley and Irvine and deliver much needed energy advice to local communities.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	The additional capacity was for a 12-month period and is now finished with the allocation fully spent.
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	Additional information and advice has been provided at a critical time for residents seeking support.
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	N/A
<b>6. Comments</b>	This piece of work was initiated as a result of learning from the pandemic.



## Food, Clothing and Essentials

Fairer Food	
<p><b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b></p>	<p>Fair Food System            Fund: Recovery and Renewal Investment Fund - £0.150m            Support to Fairer Food Network            Fund: Tackling Financial Insecurity SG – 2021/22 Winter - £0.247m            North Ayrshire Fairer Food Network            Fund: North Ayrshire COVID Economic Recovery Fund - SG Funding - £0.142m            Community Food Network            Fund: Original Investment Fund - £0.500m            Cost of School Day Food allocation: £150,000</p>
<p><b>2. Intended impact</b></p>	<p>The prevention of food poverty through the provision of food with dignity. The aim is to reduce the cost of the weekly shop, not to provide a full shop, so that family budgets go further. This minimises pressure on the foodbank. Funding has been used for food vouchers during holidays and the provision of warm clothing/footwear/outdoor wear and basic household items, such as toiletries. It also includes support for self-isolation on islands, mental health, energy, and money advice.</p>
<p><b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b></p>	<p>A network of community food larders has been established with North Ayrshire Fairer Food branding. The Council provides support in food safety, health and safety and other regulations. The NA Fairer Food Network of community food providers meet regularly and have been co-developing, sharing good practice and piloting bulk-buying, as well as establishing community benefit partnerships.</p> <p><b>Fairer Food System</b>            Allocation fully spent. This was the initial funding allocation that started off the establishment of the network. Expenditure included shelving, tills, resources for cooking &amp; food preparation areas, initial stock, branding, fridges, freezers, chill cabinets etc. £0.150m</p> <p><b>Support to Fairer Food Network</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA Food Resilience (Community Hubs and NA Foodbank) Peripatetic Support Officer supports the transportation of supplies such as emergency parcels, larder top up stock, delivery, and uplifts of stocks/equipment/materials across all sites. Funding to cover additional Venue Assistants for food support at Whitlees Centre. Emergency stock supplies and equipment investment for emergency situations including BBQs for each larder site. Additional urns, crockery and twelve months Foodbank Co-ordinator and cook costs: £0.077.</li> <li>• Food Larder Development: Top up for winter food supplies, marketing and promotion, equipment and adaptations, training of staff – The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS), Elementary Food Hygiene, Financial Regulations: £0.143m.</li> <li>• Community Cafes: Costs for food, supplies to host free soup days, coffee mornings or similar targeting financially vulnerable and isolated. Investment in equipment within Community Cafes: £0.027m.</li> <li>• The North Ayrshire Foodbank staffing, food supplies and resources have been supported.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>North Ayrshire Fairer Food Network</b>  The North Ayrshire Fairer Food Network is our local alternative to foodbanks and is aimed at addressing food insecurity in a dignified way. Further development of the larders and shops will support low -income residents by developing and improving the sustainability of the existing network.  New initiatives and business models include community fridges, community cafes, social enterprises based on growing produce and better links across providers. It will also focus on support for the islands communities so that approaches are developed which fit their specific needs: £0.142m.</p> <p><b>Cost of the School Day (Food element) 2021/22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reusable water bottles were purchased for all North Ayrshire school pupils. Water bottles reduce the need for pupils to purchase single-use plastic liquids during the school day. Providing all pupils with a water bottle reduces stigma and promotes healthy practices. It is also more environmentally friendly.</li> <li>• Those accessing Community Larders with school aged children were provided with supplementary food items linked to the cost of the school day.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cost of the School Day (Food element) 2022/23</b>  Planning with community larder network and partners are ongoing to address the particular issues created by the cost-of-living crisis.</p>
<p><b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b></p>	<p>14 Community Larders are operational.  Network support group meets quarterly and members are part of a communication group for peer support.  Weekly footfall across the Larders – 850 per week (families/members).  Membership is far greater than the weekly footfall estimated c2000- 3000.</p> <p>“The people coming in are from all demographics, from those working to those on benefits.”  “The groups have become experts in where to buy and how to get the best value for money from supermarkets and other suppliers. However, what is being offered is being changed to meet the budgets available and rising cost of foods.”</p>
<p><b>5. Next steps and timescales</b></p>	<p>External consultants have recently completed a review of the larder models, which vary depending on the local aims of the community organisation. This will be taken to the NA Fairer Food Network for discussion and coproduction of a sustainable model before more funding is distributed.  Balance of Tackling Financial Insecurity £61,499.  Officers are working on support for community groups to assist with warm banks, food, and energy advice for winter 2022.</p>
<p><b>6. Comments</b></p>	<p>The models have to align with the aspirations of community volunteers and the available budget. There is considerable potential for the larder volunteers to offer advice and refer to other partners.</p>



## Finance and Benefits

Tenant Grant Fund													
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	The Scottish Government provided an allocation of £10m to Scottish local authorities during financial year 2021/22 to provide direct financial support to tenants - via landlords in their area - for the specific purpose of paying rent arrears arising from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was aimed at highly vulnerable tenants who would become homeless or did not have alternative sources of support. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Tenant Grant Fund: North Ayrshire Council received an allocation of £298k.												
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	The grant is to help prevent homelessness and sustain tenancies by directly reducing, alleviating, or paying off rent arrears altogether, where a tenant is in either the social or private sector, and has faced difficulties due to Coronavirus. The grant covered arrears arising between 23 March 2020 and 9 August 2021.												
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	The full allocation of funding has been spent; it was closed to new applications on 31 March 2022. Total expenditure was £298,259.65, split across 2021/22 and 2022/23.												
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	<p>555 applications were received, of which 460 were awarded grant. Of the remaining 95 applications, 75 were closed, 18 were assessed as not eligible and 2 were refused by the relevant landlord.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Applications Approved</th> <th>No of applications</th> <th>Amount paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Private let</td> <td>29</td> <td>£18,665.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RSL</td> <td>92</td> <td>£54,978.63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NAC</td> <td>341</td> <td>£224,615.63</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Applications Approved	No of applications	Amount paid	Private let	29	£18,665.39	RSL	92	£54,978.63	NAC	341	£224,615.63
Applications Approved	No of applications	Amount paid											
Private let	29	£18,665.39											
RSL	92	£54,978.63											
NAC	341	£224,615.63											
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	N/A												
<b>6. Comments</b>	Initial spend within the Fund was low despite a high level of applications being received. Although applications were being made these couldn't be progressed due to a number of factors, including the requirement for proofs and non-engagement from either the tenant or landlord. In January 2022 officers reviewed processes and engaged with landlords to expedite applications into decision making and awards being made. The process was very labour intensive, and staff had to make several contacts with both tenants and landlords despite best attempts to ensure the information required was fully captured within the application process.												

<b>Housing Tenant Hardship Fund</b>	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	<p>The Scottish Government provided an allocation of £867,000 to North Ayrshire through the Scottish Government Winter Support Fund – Tackling Financial Insecurities. The supporting guidance detailed flexibility of use across a number of areas to target those most in need e.g., food support, fuel, isolation, welfare fund top ups, housing, homelessness.</p> <p>From this fund the Council’s Housing Service was awarded £195K for help with tenancy hardship, focusing on highly vulnerable tenants affected by fuel poverty.</p>
<b>2. Strategic intent: intended impact</b>	<p>The funding assists any North Ayrshire Council tenant who is finding it difficult to manage fuel bills. The Support Worker provides person-centred housing related support including income maximisation, welfare benefit advice and assistance, fuel, and utilities advice, helping them to sustain their tenancy and prevent any potential homelessness issue in the future.</p> <p>The fund helps support winter warm initiatives and interventions for our most vulnerable tenant who are at the greatest risk of fuel poverty.</p>
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	<p>Funding was carried over into 2022/23 due to the timing of allocation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 temporary posts funded until April 2023, at a cost of £142K: 4 Housing Support Workers posts were created at the end of 2021/22 (2 x Fuel Poverty and 2 x Sheltered Wellbeing). The funding was carried over into 2022/23 due to the time taken to recruit into the posts.</li> <li>• Top up of meters to help resettlement from temporary accommodation into mainstream tenancies. We have set aside £15K and are currently setting processes up with the Scottish Welfare Fund.</li> <li>• Assist to top up gas meters where they require to be uncapped in order to re-start a gas supply and allow for a gas safety check to be completed. To date we have only spent £210 as we have managed to gain access to other funds via energy suppliers/agencies, but expectations is that due to funding from these sources being limited we will achieve full expenditure of £10K by 31 March 2023.</li> </ul> <p>Winter warmth initiatives/interventions - officers are researching what could impact most effectively on making heating and overall energy cheaper in relation to the cost-of-living crisis. We currently anticipate expenditure of £28K by 31 March 2023.</p>
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	<p>To September 2022 we have supported 140 tenants with an average age of 40 to tackle fuel poverty. 5 of these tenants had previously been known to Homeless Services. Our engagement rate YTD is 46%.</p> <p>We carry out regular visits to each of the 28 sheltered units and have engaged with 167 residents/tenants to date.</p>
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	<p><b>Fuel Poverty/Sheltered Wellbeing Housing Support Workers</b> Continue to engage with tenants/residents to tackle fuel poverty and maximise income where possible to avert crisis with energy over the winter months – by 31 March 2023.</p> <p><b>Winter Warmth Initiatives/Interventions</b> Provide our most vulnerable tenants with access to a range of goods that reduce energy costs over the winter months – by 31 March 2023.</p>



	<p><b>Sustainability Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linking in on any of the Sustainability team’s projects that could support tenants.</li> <li>• Discussions around the new ‘Energy Smart’: Energy Based Community Support Model - by 31 December 2022.</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Welfare Fund</b></p> <p>Ongoing discussions with Social Welfare Fund (SWF) Manager about how we can assist with payments for meters for new tenancies (NAC only, as Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) do this as part of new tenancy set up) and people struggling to meet the cost of energy prices as they start to rise – by 31 October 2022.</p> <p><b>Social Media/Referrals</b></p> <p>Continue to engage with residents in North Ayrshire via social media and a referral process that will be managed via the Housing Support Service Co-ordinator - by 31 March 2023.</p> <p><b>Cost-of-living Crisis</b></p> <p>Working with other Council departments/agencies to address Cost-of-living crisis being faced by people at risk of homelessness and also tenants. Signposting to other agencies and collecting data on resources available within communities for support through the winter months – by 31 March 2023.</p>
<p><b>6. Comments</b></p>	<p>As funding was not made available until around February 2022, recruitment timescales meant staff were unable to take these posts up until May 2022. Within a short space of time the team have achieved great success in engaging with tenants who are in fuel poverty (46%). The team have also successfully engaged with tenants and helped to arrange gas safety checks, with gas restored to 92 properties. This intervention potentially avoided 158 forced entries into these properties and avoided a cost of approx. £25k to the Council.</p>

Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF)	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	Total £1,153,000 recurring funding from Scottish Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £362,000 allocated to Crisis Grants</li> <li>• £791,000 allocated to Community Care Grants</li> </ul>
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	The aim of the funding is to provide financial help by way of a Crisis Grant to those in immediate crisis or a Community Care Grant to those in need of essential household items. The funding is intended to provide a Crisis Grant of a cash award to people who are in financial crisis because of either a disaster like a fire or flood or are in an emergency situation such as having lost all their money, had their money stolen, or are in need of food. It is also used to provide energy vouchers for their home. The award is made using a text message or email to their phone with a code which can be redeemed at any Pay Point vendor ensuring they can access the cash or energy top up for their pre-payment meter quickly. Community Care grants aim to help people who are leaving any form of care such as hospital or prison or who have been homeless and require help to set up their own home by providing them with essential household items and furniture. It can also be used to help households facing exceptional pressure with on-off items such as a washing machine or cooker.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	Crisis Grants - £128,820 Community Care Grants - £613,277 Total spend - £742,097
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	This financial year to date, the Scottish Welfare Fund has helped 1,608 people in financial crisis with a Crisis Grant. 815 people have received fuel vouchers, and 781 people have received a Community Care grant to help with essential household items and furniture.
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	Continue to accept and process applications as quickly as possible throughout the year.
<b>6. Comments</b>	The SWF is delivered using a "One Team" approach ensuring that when someone calls to apply for a Crisis Grant that a decision to award is made whilst the customer is on the phone and the payment can be made quickly to enable them access to much needed cash or fuel vouchers.

<b>Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTR)</b>	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	£12,880,000 recurring funding by North Ayrshire Council.
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	To help those on lower incomes by lowering the amount of Council Tax that they are liable to pay. This is based on age, household structure and income and is charged on a per dwelling basis rather than to individuals. To fund CTR awards to all eligible households on a low income across North Ayrshire.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	Year to date £12,869,533 has been awarded in total.
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	CTR has enabled Council Tax bills to be more affordable for lower income families. Current caseload is 16,179.
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	Continue to ensure that there is high uptake of CTR and that it is awarded quickly for those eligible.
<b>6. Concluding comments</b>	Automation of CTR has been introduced to ensure that any notifications received from The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) confirming eligibility or changes are automatically applied to the relevant Council Tax account.

<b>Housing Benefit (HB)</b>	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	£34,400,000 recurring funding from DWP.
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	To help people who are on unemployed, on a low income or claiming benefits towards paying their rent costs. Housing Benefit is aimed at pensioners and people of working age who are unemployed, on a low income or claiming benefits and have not yet been moved across to Universal Credit to help them towards paying their rent costs.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	Year to date £19,014,471 has been awarded in total.
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	This has helped people to afford to keep their tenancy and helped prevent them from falling into arrears with their rent. Current caseload is 7,828.
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	Continue to ensure that Housing Benefit claims and changes of circumstances are processed quickly and accurately.
<b>6. Comments</b>	N/A

<b>Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)</b>	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	£2,400,000 recurring funding agreed by North Ayrshire Council.
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	The aim is to provide financial help to people claiming Housing Benefit or who receive housing cost payments through Universal Credit but their benefit is less than the full amount of their rent. DHP is used to help cover the shortfall.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	Year to date £1,437,795 has been awarded in total.
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	This has helped people to afford to keep their tenancy and helped prevent them from falling into arrears with their rent.
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	Continue to ensure that DHP claims are processed fairly and quickly within the budget.
<b>6. Concluding comments</b>	DHP requests are managed annually within the budget.

Financial Inclusion	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	<b>Recovery and Renewal Investment Fund</b> Financial Inclusion: Progressive Finance Access to Finance (1 <sup>st</sup> Alliance): £0.150m
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	North Ayrshire Council approved funding for the 1st Alliance Credit Union to deliver a progressive finance scheme, to lend to individuals, who are considered as a higher credit risk due to history, but who can however afford repayments. Small loans would be available to low-income residents who would not normally qualify through typical lending rules i.e., due to the higher risk factor, the credit union would not be able to lend from members' funds. The agreed period for this investment is 1st October 2021 to 1st October 2023 (or whenever the capital investment is exhausted if prior to this date) and the total grant funding will be paid in three instalments. North Ayrshire residents who borrow from 1 <sup>st</sup> Alliance must save a minimum of £3/week to access a loan (this saving and borrowing model is standard for Credit Unions), therefore borrowers will at the same time become savers. In the longer term this will provide a safety net for both planned and unplanned expenses and reduce the need to borrow from other sources, including high-cost lenders, or to fall into debt, including arrears with bills. The fund is recycled as each loan is cleared off and the member moves onto a members based loan. This will therefore provide a legacy fund which will enable 1st Alliance to continue providing low-cost loans to "high risk" customers in the future.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	To the end of September 2022, 128 individuals accessed loans through this investment, the total value of loans to date is £62,430 and the loans agreed range from £250-800. 63 loans were agreed from August to December 2021. 36 from January to June 2022. 29 from July to September 2022. Borrowers are from across North Ayrshire with the majority being from Irvine, Kilwinning or the Three Towns. Five were from Garnock Valley, 2 from the North Coast and 3 from Arran. 47 loan requests were declined mostly due to lack of affordability or defaults on credit files. 16 loans are currently in arrears, a total of £4,690.48, which represents 7.51% of total loans. A standard assumption of 5% bad debt provision had been assumed. This higher rate of bad debt applies to all 1 <sup>st</sup> Alliance loan portfolios and they believe it to be linked to a number of factors including the increase in cost-of-living. £100,000 has been paid to 1 <sup>st</sup> Alliance to support the delivery of the Progressive Finance Initiative.
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	Borrowing through 1 <sup>st</sup> Alliance costs less on interest rates than most other lenders. For example: 1st Alliance: £400 loan = 10 per week for 11 months = £72 interest. Scotcash: £400 loan = £12.21 per week for 12 months= £234.78 interest & £24 fee.

	<p>This investment has therefore provided access to low-cost affordable loans for residents who would otherwise either have gone to higher cost lenders or have fallen into debt due to not being able to access a loan from anywhere. 22 loans were to buy out high-cost debts which have higher interest rates.</p> <p>The other loans were for a range of purposes including purchase of household items, clothes, events, holidays and for Christmas, which accounts largely for the higher number of loans agreed at the end of 2021 than in the first half of 2022.</p> <p>114 borrowers are regularly saving. A total of £16,927.84 has been saved over the first 12 months, an average of £148 per saver. 11 borrowers have now accessed top-up loans which means that the interest rate is reduced, as they have evidenced that they are responsible borrowers.</p>
<p><b>5. Next steps and timescales</b></p>	<p>Progress will continue to be monitored and a meeting held with 1<sup>st</sup> Alliance in November to discuss. The final payment of £50,000 is likely to be transferred around end of 2022.</p>
<p><b>6. Comments</b></p>	<p>The investment is proving to be beneficial to North Ayrshire residents who may otherwise have been unable to access low-cost affordable loans, meaning that they have been able to cover additional unexpected and expected costs, purchase essential household items, and reduce higher costs loan payments. Many have improved credit ratings and/or moved on to top up loans with a lower interest rate and most have built up some savings, many of whom may not have managed to save before. 1<sup>st</sup> Alliance is now building that 'legacy fund' which will benefit residents beyond the scope of this investment period.</p>

Financial Inclusion Capacity Building	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	£258k for Financial Inclusion, agreed at August 2022 Cabinet.
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	The funding allocation was made to support the increasing demand for financial inclusion supports which is currently being experienced through the Money Matters and Welfare Reform Advice Teams. This is also to support the anticipated outcome of the current review of income maximisation and advice services when set within the context of the current cost-of-living crisis.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	The review of financial inclusion services across the Council has now been concluded and it has been agreed that the Money Matters Team (Health & Social Care Partnership) and Welfare Reform Advice Team (Housing) will come together under a single lead for Financial Inclusion. The new team aims to build on the work of the existing services and create additional capacity to support local citizens through reducing cross-referrals and streamlining referral pathways. The additional funding will provide additional staffing capacity to support local people. The project to review financial inclusion services has just concluded. A particular need for ongoing debt advice has been identified through the project and this will be explored.  <i>An update is provided in separate Cabinet report (29/11/22)</i>
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	N/A
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	See 3 above. It is anticipated that the lead for financial inclusion will be appointed by the end of November and then decisions will be taken on the use of the funding.
<b>6. Comments</b>	N/A





## Children and Families

Free School Meals	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount.</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Scottish Government revenue funding for 2022/23 (£712k).</li> <li>2) Scottish Government revenue funding for 2022/23 (900k).</li> </ol>
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	The funding supports the continued roll out of Universal Free School Meals (UFSMs). This funding is the revenue funding to cover costs for Primary 4 and Primary 5 children in the financial year 2022/23. The Scottish Government also provides funding to enable a continued provision of food-based support during the school holiday periods to those children with an assessed eligibility for free school meals.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The holiday programme ran over the Easter and summer breaks with support from community partners. Vouchers were also issued during the summer, autumn, and winter breaks.</li> <li>2) Roll out of Universal Free School Meals (UFSMs) to Primary 4 &amp; Primary 5 children is complete. We continue to monitor and encourage uptake of meals to ensure we maximise the benefits of this entitlement.</li> </ol>
<b>4. What difference has the investment made? (Stats and qualitative information)</b>	<p>Easter meals provided – 4,622            Summer meals provided – 16,213            Vouchers issued for circa 4,500 children            Uptake of school meals has increased for primary 4 &amp; primary 5 children following the UFSM provision roll out however, overall uptake for UFSMs is lower than anticipated. This is the general trend across other authorities.</p> <p><u>Quarter 2 figures 2022/23</u>            P1-P5 UFSMs - 76.5%.            P6 &amp; 7 assessed need FSM uptake - 52.6%.</p>
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	<p>Vouchers will be issued for the Christmas period.            Planning has been undertaken in Facilities Management (FM) to facilitate a further roll out of UFSMs when it is announced by the Scottish Government.</p>
<b>6. Concluding comments</b>	Holiday meal provision (food or vouchers) ensures continuity of food for all children assessed as eligible for FSMs. This supports access to food and removes a financial burden from families.

	The expansion of UFSMs continues to support all families in this difficult economic climate. Many families who are not eligible for assessed-need FSM, are also struggling with the cost-of-living increases therefore free provision of a hot meal will ease the financial burden of having to pay or provide an alternative lunch option.
<b>Child Bridging Payment</b>	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount.</b>	The scheduled summer Child Bridging Payment of £130 was increased to £230 (additional £100 payment by North Ayrshire Council) and eligibility for the £100 payment was extended to low-income families of children of pre-school age. (Funding source: North Ayrshire COVID Economic Recovery Fund SG Funding): £0.570m June 2022. The scheduled autumn and winter Child Bridging Payment of £130 was increased to £230 (additional £100 payment) and eligibility for the £100 payment was extended to low-income families of children of pre-school age. Funding source: The Council's uncommitted Investment funds and earmarked funds following approval from the 2022/23 Budget process: £1.140m August 2022.
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	The Scottish Government provides Child Bridging Payment funding to local authorities for each child in receipt of Free School Meals on the basis of low income. These payments are provided for all eligible children and young people of school age. The payments total £520 per annum and they are currently paid in spring, summer, autumn, and winter at £130 for each eligible child. The funding from Scottish Government has been increased to £260. The funding was increased to help address the current cost-of-living pressures and to also recognise the needs of families of children at pre-school age. It is estimated that the £100 payments directly to families benefit around 5,700 children (over 3,300 families) with payments made from late June 2022.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	Summer and autumn payments have been made; the winter payment is scheduled in December 2022. The expenditure is scheduled to be completed in December 2022.
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	Feedback indicates that the timing and value of the payments has made a real difference to families, especially as school holidays and colder weather impact on household bills.
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	The December 2022 payment is scheduled. A recent Scottish Government announcement updated that the December (winter) Child Bridging payment to double to £260 per eligible child.
<b>6. Concluding comments</b>	The payments have bridged the period of the roll out of the Scottish Child Payment and the local top-up has been welcomed by families.

<b>Cost of the School Day Support</b>	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount.</b>	<p><b>Cost of the School Day</b>  Fund – Council budget 04/03/2021 and Cost of the School Day Cabinet Report 23/03/2021  Date allocated - 2021/22 budget  Amount - £0.500m pa (recurring)</p>
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	<p>The aim of the Cost of the School Day (COSD) is to drive forward a whole systems approach to reducing the cost of the school day in order to deliver a fairer and more equal North Ayrshire. It delivers the NA Children’s Services Plan 2020-23 vision which is “for all our children and young people to have the best start in life and for North Ayrshire to be the best place in Scotland to grow up”.</p>
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	<p>There are three key elements:  1000 new digital devices each session for those in greatest need  £100k for school uniform, winter clothing, outdoor learning, sports – participatory approach with schools  £150k for food in partnership with community  Expenditure  2021/22 –£500k  2022/23 - £500k committed</p>
<b>4. What difference has the investment made? (Stats and qualitative information)</b>	<p>2021/22 Expenditure  £250k - 1,000 Chromebooks purchased. Devices are distributed annually to schools using Footwear and Clothing Grant (FCG) data. Schools issue to pupils in greatest need in P5 and S2. Providing devices enables pupils to participate in digital learning both in the classroom and at home.  £100k - Using FCG data, schools provided with budget to purchase school uniform and equipment items linked to the cost of the school. This ensures clothing or equipment is not a barrier to accessing education.  £61,470 - Reusable water bottles for all North Ayrshire school pupils. Water bottles reduced the need for pupils to purchase single-use plastic liquids during the school day. Providing all pupils with a water bottle reduces stigma and promotes healthy practices. It is also more environmentally friendly.  £88,530 – funding for North Ayrshire’s Community Larders. Those accessing Community Larders with school aged children were provided with supplementary food items linked to the cost of the school day.</p>
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	<p>2022/23 Expenditure  Informed by feedback from children and young people attending the COSD Conference in June 2022  £250k – 1000 digital devices are mid-procurement.  £100k – Schools are progressing spend as allocation above.  £150k – Discussions with community larder network and partners are ongoing as part of the network review.</p>
<b>6. Comments</b>	<p>The funding has been welcomed by schools as an enabler in reducing the poverty-related attainment gap.</p>

<b>Children and Families Investment Fund</b>	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount.</b>	<p><b>Children and Families Investment Fund</b> Fund: Recovery and Renewal Investment Fund - £0.075m</p> <p><b>Digital Access Fund</b> Fund - Recovery and Renewal Investment Fund - £0.255m</p> <p><b>Support for the North Ayrshire Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan</b> Fund: North Ayrshire COVID Economic Recovery Fund - SG Funding - £0.076m Date Allocated – 15/06/21</p>
<b>2. Background: rationale for the funding allocation</b>	<p>A Cabinet Report on 15/6/21 set out the rationale, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise the health and wellbeing of our residents by protecting the most vulnerable in our society against the immediate threat of coronavirus and the consequences of changes to the way we live.</li> <li>• Work with our communities in the renewal of services to ensure they meet their needs and priorities.</li> <li>• Build community capacity and resilience.</li> <li>• Ensure our children and young people get the best start in life by creating opportunities for education and employment, including through Community Wealth Building and Renewal. Prioritise and help tackle poverty, including child poverty.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Intended impact</b>	<p>The aim of the funding was to promote recovery and support the most vulnerable children and families. Funding also supported the further reduction in the Cost of the School Day, to contribute towards Scottish Government’s aim of eradicating digital exclusion by improving digital access and skills, and the ongoing work to reduce Child Poverty and mitigate against its impact.</p>
<b>4. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	<p><b>Children and Families Investment Fund</b> This links into the Cost of the School Day funding and is allocated to community support for food and clothing.</p> <p><b>Digital Access Fund</b> Digital access and skills are targeted by a newly recruited Digital Participation Officer. The Council also participated in Connecting Scotland programmes with Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) which provided additional digital devices and connectivity. Its funding is not yet fully allocated.</p> <p><b>Support for the North Ayrshire Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan</b> An officer has been recruited to support this work and the funds will be fully utilised.</p>
<b>5. What difference has the investment made?</b>	<p><b>Children and Families Investment Fund</b> This fund is supporting the Cost of the School Day initiatives.</p> <p><b>Digital Access Fund</b> A Digital Participation Officer has been recruited to work in communities. Work is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Support for the North Ayrshire Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan</b> An officer has been recruited to support this work and the funds will be fully utilised.</p>

<p><b>6. Next steps and timescales</b></p>	<p><b>Children and Families Investment Fund</b>          Agree the full allocation via FCG data with Education in winter 2022.</p> <p><b>Digital Access Fund</b>          Continue to support the Digital Participation Officer and look for further opportunities.</p> <p><b>Support for the North Ayrshire Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan</b>          Continue the proposed work.</p>
<p><b>7. Comments</b></p>	<p>Future reporting will include impact data as the work progresses.</p>

<b>School Clothing Grants</b>	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	£816,500 recurring funding agreed by NAC. Additional funding is provided from the Council to match demand.
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	The aim of the funding is to provide financial help with children's school clothing and shoes. An annual payment of £120 is given to primary school children and £150 to secondary school children before the start of the new school year then to new applicants throughout the year. The intended impact is that all school children have adequate school clothes and shoes.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	Total children – 4,599 from 2,837 families Total spend - £607,950 2,730 Primary children – spend £327,600 1,869 Secondary children – spend £280,350
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	Provided financial support to 2,837 families and a total of 4,599 children to enable them to afford school clothes and shoes.
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	Continue to accept and process applications as quickly as possible throughout the year.
<b>6. Comments</b>	A promotional campaign takes place each year at the start of school summer holiday period to confirm that applications are open. Text messages and emails are sent out to previous recipients with a link to the online application form and encouraging people to apply. This is also promoted via the Council's Twitter and Facebook pages.

<b>Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)</b>	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount.</b>	£580,000 recurring funding agreed by North Ayrshire Council.
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	To provide financial support to young people from low-income families to allow them to be able to afford to stay in post-16 education either in school or college who might otherwise have left education. The aim of the funding is to provide financial support of £30 a week (paid fortnightly in arrears) to 16-to-19 year-olds in education who come from low income families subject to attendance and agreement of a learning plan.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	Total expenditure this financial year to date is £258,690. 478 young people have received at least one payment for this school year.
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	As payments are made directly into the young person's bank account, this ensures that they can access the funds easily and use them for whatever they need to help them maintain attendance in school.
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	Continue to accept and process applications as quickly as possible throughout the year.
<b>6. Concluding comments</b>	A promotional campaign takes place each year after the start of the school year in August to confirm that applications are open and encourage uptake. This is also promoted via the Council's Twitter and Facebook pages.



Contribution to Mental Health and Wellbeing	
1. Description of funding stream, date and amount.	<p><b>Contribution to Community Mental Health and Wellbeing</b> Fund - Tackling Financial Insecurity Winter Funding 2021/22: £0.307m Date Allocated - 29/11/21</p> <p><b>Community Support for Mental Health</b> Fund - Recovery and Renewal Investment Fund: £0.075m Date Allocated – 15/06/21</p> <p><b>Costs for Island Self-Isolation</b> Fund – Tackling Financial Insecurity Fund Date Allocated 29/11/21</p>
2. Intended impact	Empowering local communities to deliver a wide range of events, activities and interventions that support positive mental health and wellbeing across North Ayrshire.
3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure	<p><b>Contribution to Community Mental Health and Wellbeing</b> Scottish Government gave Arran Community &amp; Voluntary Service (CVS) responsibility for the distribution of the National Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.(CVS) developed a robust application and assessment process involving staff from across the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and individuals with lived experience. The fund was heavily oversubscribed and the £307k was allocated in partnership with Arran CVS to allow more applications to be funded.</p> <p><b>Community Support for Mental Health</b> The 75k formed part of a combined Locality PB budget.</p> <p><b>Costs for Island Self-Isolation</b> During lockdown periods, protocols were developed for dealing with visitors to the island who tested positive whilst on Arran and were in need of assistance to self-isolate or travel home.</p>
4. What difference has the investment made?	<p><b>Contribution to Community Mental Health and Wellbeing</b> The £307k formed part of a combined budget of £813,346k was allocated to a total of 55 groups over 61 projects.</p> <p><b>Community Support for Mental Health</b> The £75k formed part of a combined budget of £813,346k was allocated to a total of 55 groups over 61 projects. The allocation was reported on the <a href="#">CPP website</a>.</p> <p><b>Costs for Island Self-Isolation</b> The availability of the fund allowed a robust and practical protocol to be in place if needed.</p>



<p><b>5. Next steps and timescales</b></p>	<p><b>Contribution to Community Mental Health and Wellbeing</b>  As we approach the one-year milestone since allocations were made Arran CVS are carrying out the evaluations of the projects. The next round of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund has just launched and again CPP partners are involved in the process to maximise impact and share local knowledge and experience.</p> <p><b>Community Support for Mental Health</b>  Funding fully utilised as above, non-recurring.</p>
<p><b>6. Comments</b></p>	<p><b>Contribution to Community Mental Health and Wellbeing</b>  Using the established process made the spend quick and effective with money getting to the local groups quickly and via a single application process. It allowed the available money to be combined for maximum impact.</p> <p><b>Community Support for Mental Health</b>  As above.</p> <p><b>Costs for Island Self-Isolation</b>  The fund allowed North Ayrshire Council to proactively contribute to the CPP approach to situation and emergent protocols.</p>



## Business and community including transport to work

### Supporting the Resilience of Local Businesses

<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	North Ayrshire Council provides a range of supports and interventions to assist businesses. These can be found at: <a href="https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk">Business and community (north-ayrshire.gov.uk)</a>
----------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### Review and Improve Support for Childminders and Out of School Clubs (OOSC) Providers

<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	<b>Review and improve support for childminders and OOSC providers</b> Fund - North Ayrshire COVID Economic Recovery Fund - SG Funding: £0.126m. <b>Targeted employability opportunities for key families during Summer 2022</b> Fund - North Ayrshire COVID Economic Recovery Fund - SG Funding: £0.050m. Date awarded – June 2022
----------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p><b>2. Intended impact</b></p>	<p><b>Review and improve support for childminders and OOSC providers</b>  By the end of this parliament Scottish Government has committed to ensure provision of wrap around childcare for families who need it. Use of childcare has changed significantly because of COVID-19. OOSC providers face a particularly unstable business environment. Reduced use of OOSC services during lockdown and changed working patterns provide an opportunity to assess future demand and support the sector to ensure the local availability of services in line with Scottish Government's expectations.</p> <p><b>Targeted employability opportunities for key families during Summer 2022</b>  Parents and carers with school age children will be encouraged to undertake a variety of short courses that upskill or lead to a route into employment. Build relationships between the Employability Team and participants, whilst building up confidence in the use of childcare services.</p> <p><b>Review and improve support for childminders and OOSC providers</b>  Aimed at sustaining local childcare provision, to support employability and offer positive placements for vulnerable children and those in kinship care.</p> <p><b>Targeted employability opportunities for key families during Summer 2022</b>  With childcare available in OOSC services over the summer, parents and carers with school age children will be encouraged to undertake a variety of short courses that upskill or lead to a route into employment. Ten programmes will be delivered near OOSC provision or in the same building. This will build relationships between the Employability Team and participants, whilst building up confidence in the use of childcare services. It will effectively provide a wider awareness of and confidence in the support available and will help to sustain the providers by addressing the current pressure created by current low uptake.</p>
<p><b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b></p>	<p><b>Review and improve support for childminders and OOSC providers</b>  The post associated with the work will be advertised in January 2023 with the timescale designed to maximise intelligence from Scottish Government about their intentions for early years and wraparound care.</p> <p><b>Targeted employability opportunities for key families during Summer 2022</b>  Plans are now progressing to deliver programmes with partners in Easter and Summer 2023.</p>
<p><b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b></p>	<p>Future report.</p>
<p><b>5. Next steps and timescales</b></p>	<p><b>Review and improve support for childminders and OOSC providers</b>  Recruitment in January / February 2023.</p> <p><b>Targeted employability opportunities for key families during Summer 2022</b>  Planning for delivery in Easter and Summer holidays 2023.</p>
<p><b>6. Concluding comments</b></p>	<p><b>Review and improve support for childminders and OOSC providers</b></p>

The fluctuating childcare services across North Ayrshire will benefit from the additional support and the local families will have access to quality services.

**Targeted employability opportunities for key families during Summer 2022**

Partners are keen to support this style of delivery.

Public Transport Travel Scheme	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	Public Transport Travel Scheme NAC Economic Covid Recovery Funding Approved by <u>Cabinet</u> 7 June 2022 and subsequent Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 20 June 2022: £20,000
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	The scheme contributes to the principles of the Recovery Fund and Child Poverty Action Plan. This scheme provides support low-income households and individuals returning to work with free access to public transport for a fixed three-month period.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	<p>The scheme provides three months of free access to bus or rail travel. Beneficiaries are also supported with a free personalised travel plan to identify the best travel option for them. This supports low-income households, access to employment, address transport poverty and build confidence in public transport post COVID-19. Due to the nature of the travel cards this will also benefit beneficiaries for both work and their personal life as they can also be used at evenings/weekends. They can also be used alongside other concessionary travel schemes including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young Person's <a href="#">Free Bus Travel Scheme</a> which allows children and young people under 22 free bus travel;</li> <li>• <a href="#">Kids for a Quid</a> rail scheme allows children to travel for £1 alongside an adult traveller, for up to four children; and</li> <li>• <a href="#">Concessionary travel scheme</a> for disabled people and those over 60 years of age.</li> </ul> <p>The Active Travel and Transport Team worked with the Council's Employability team, CEIS and the Lennox Partnership to identify beneficiaries. When beneficiaries were identified, the team prepared a personalised travel plan for each individual to work out the best public transport ticket solution for them. Thereafter the individual was provided with the most appropriate ticket for the three-month period.</p> <p>The £20,000 fund has been fully expended and providing free travel for to 79 beneficiaries. Additional match funding secured from Smarter Choices Smarter Places (SCSP) from Paths for All to extend the scheme. A further 105 beneficiaries will receive free travel through this funding.</p>
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	<p>79 individuals will benefit from the £20,000 investment. This comprised of 40 Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) ZoneCards and 39 Stagecoach bus travel passes.</p> <p>105 individuals will benefit from the additional SCSP funding. This comprised of 105 Stagecoach bus travel passes.</p> <p>Qualitative information is not available at this stage. Pre and post intervention surveys are being undertaken with beneficiaries to assess the impact of the scheme.</p>
<b>5. Next steps and timescales</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Issue of remaining 31 travelcards to beneficiaries funded under Smarter Choices Smarter Places in week commencing 27 November 2022.</li> <li>– Completion of post intervention surveys with beneficiaries in March 2023.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Comments</b>	The scheme will directly benefit low-income households by reducing the impact of travel costs on household budgets and helping to address transport poverty. This will improve access to employment opportunities and sustain employment. It will also build confidence in the public transport network post-pandemic and support sustainable travel for everyday journeys.

	The mode of transport is tailored to individual beneficiaries' needs and both bus and rail travel solutions will be facilitated across North Ayrshire. Free travel and transport advice is available to all North Ayrshire residents under the Travel Smart and Trinity Active Travel Hub activities. This includes personalised travel plans. Qualitative information will be available on completion of the 3 month free travel period for all beneficiaries.
--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



*Support for Communities*

Support for communities	
1. Description of funding stream, date and amount.	<p><b>Additional core hours to support opening of Community centres to accommodate activities associated with isolation and financial insecurity</b>  Fund: Tackling Financial Insecurities Funding 2021/22: £0.005m.  Date allocated- 29/11/21</p> <p><b>Community Books</b>  Fund: Tackling Financial Insecurity Funding 2021/22: £0.022m.  Date allocated - 29/11/21</p> <p><b>Third sector support for programmes to support low-income families and individuals by building on current programmes</b>  Fund: North Ayrshire COVID Economic Recovery Fund – Scottish Government: £0.114m.  Date allocated – 7/6/22</p>
2. Intended impact	<p><b>Additional core hours to support opening of Community centres to accommodate activities associated with isolation/financial insecurity</b>  This funding allows local community centres to be open longer in order to accommodate/offer a wider range of activities aimed at alleviating the effects of social isolation and delivering activities to contribute to positive mental health. The Winter Warmer programme will be delivered with and by community partners.</p> <p><b>Community Books</b>  Funding to establish the base/platform on which the local Community Books will be hosted. This resource will allow staff and community leaders access to a wide range of information relating to resources available in the local area. This will in turn assist with enquiries from citizens seeking help and advice.</p>

	<p><b>Third sector support for programmes to support low-income families and individuals by building on current programmes</b>  Work with the third sector support for programmes to support low-income families and individuals by building on current programmes such as Out and About, working with families and key groups to improve access to food and environmental opportunities locally, including through the Fairer Food network and Eglinton Garden Project, to develop skills to grow and cook food and, through family sessions and activities, build ongoing individual and community capacity. These sessions will encourage people to engage with the local environment to support mental health and wellbeing and to develop parenting skills, family bonding, relationships, volunteering, and employability in a supportive environment.</p>
3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure	<p><b>Additional core hours to support opening of Community centres to accommodate activities associated with isolation/financial insecurity</b>  The funding is fully committed for spend via third sector partners with service level agreements.</p> <p><b>Community Books</b>  Work continues to find the most effective solution however a temporary fix is in place on the CPP web site.</p> <p><b>Third sector support for programmes to support low-income families and individuals by building on current programmes</b>  There will be a ‘test and learn’ trial in one locality over a year, which will establish impact and provide data and evidence for future service design and external funding bids. The initiative will link to the Love Local voucher scheme which will support local businesses. A pilot is planned for Ardrossan with the aspiration to widen to the Three Towns in 2023.</p>
4. What difference has the investment made?	<p><b>Additional core hours to support opening of Community centres to accommodate activities associated with isolation/financial insecurity</b>  Longer opening hours are available in some community centres and the Winter Warmer programme of events in warm spaces.</p> <p><b>Community Books</b>  6 community books and 6 thematic Cost-of-living Crisis community books are live on the Community Planning Partnership webpages - <a href="http://northayrshire.community/communitysupport/">http://northayrshire.community/communitysupport/</a></p> <p><b>Third sector support for programmes to support low-income families and individuals by building on current programmes</b>  A pilot is being designed.</p>
5. Next steps and timescales	<p><b>Additional core hours to support opening of Community centres to accommodate activities associated with isolation/financial insecurity</b>  Funding fully allocated – non-recurring.</p> <p><b>Community Books</b>  Staff continue to work with partners and providers to select the most appropriate platform to host the resource. The aim is to have it in place by the end of the calendar year for testing however, a temporary solution is currently operational on the CPP web site.</p> <p><b>Third sector support for programmes to support low-income families and individuals by building on current programmes</b>  Staff continue to work with partners to develop an inclusive model that fulfils the outcomes. This will be in place across Three Towns from Easter 2023 for 12 months with focussed pieces of work during school holidays.</p>
6. Comments	<p>Support is also provided for communities through the Fairer Food network and community grants, including Community Investment Fund (CIF).</p>







## Employee Wellbeing

LiveWell Healthy Working Lives Programme	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	<b>LiveWell Healthy Working Lives Programme: £20k for 2022/ 23</b>
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	£20k of funding supports employee health and wellbeing through a programme of activities/events including a small grant fund. The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) allocates the funding which emphasises the importance of employee health and wellbeing within the workplace. The LiveWell Programme aims to breakdown some of the barriers that employees face when trying to improve their health and wellbeing. The LiveWell Programme aims to increase awareness of support and information, while wellbeing related activities are made more accessible through reducing or negating the costs associated with participation. This in turn improves employee morale, wellbeing, engagement, and performance.
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	The LiveWell Programme has always taken an organic approach, with a framework of planned activities scheduled alongside ad hoc opportunities. This enables LiveWell to adapt quickly to new suggestions and ideas. The Programme also provides small grants to teams for health and wellbeing activities via our LiveWell Grant Scheme. Provision of funding from the ELT has allowed the LiveWell group to explore a wider range of activities than otherwise possible. £3,972 has been spent over Q1 and Q2 2022. Activity is reduced over the summer holiday period and increases again during Q3.
<b>4. What difference has the investment made?</b>	<p><i>“During my time working from home, I found it difficult being on my own most of the time and not being able to just turn around and ask a colleague a quick question and having to send emails often. Although I was a bit reserved having never participated in Tai Chi, I thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and was looking forward to the next one. I believe this helped me cope with the isolation I was experiencing.”</i> – Employee and Tai Chi Class participant.</p> <p><i>“I can control my anxiety now I’m a lot calmer and loved the meditation.”</i> – Employee and Meditation participant.</p> <p><i>“...Was nice to be reassured that I am not actually ‘going off my head’ and the symptoms such as memory, foggy moments etc. are all part of the menopause. This session has given me the confidence to speak to my doctor. Thank you!”</i> – Employee and Menopause Awareness workshop participant.</p> <p>Short evaluations are produced on activities by topic and evaluate positively, sample evaluations are highlighted below for activities during Q1 and Q2:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x Menopause Awareness workshops rated 4.7 out of 5.</li> <li>• 2 x Mindfulness courses rated 4.7 out of 5.</li> <li>• 2 x Boulderling sessions rated 5 out of 5.</li> <li>• 1 x Mental Health and Return to Work session.</li> <li>• LiveWell Grant, (3 x LiveWell Grants were awarded for dance instructor training, a Transport Garage team building day and a Treetops Adventure team building activity).</li> </ul> <p>The activities listed are those paid for from the ELT budget; other activities are also promoted that do not have a direct cost. In addition to activities a wide range of health promotion topics are promoted via the LiveWell SharePoint page, News in Brief and LiveWell Facebook page. These have included, Mental Health Awareness, Oral Health, Diabetes Awareness, Sexual Health Services, Digital Detox, Blood Donation and Suicide Prevention awareness.</p> <p>In light of the Cost-of-living crisis a new section has been added to the LiveWell SharePoint page called SaveWell. This includes information on: benefits and income; debt; energy saving advice; savings and affordable loans; housing support and advice; accessing affordable food, white goods, and household items; financial pressures and your mental health; and employee discounts. Since being published in September the SaveWell site has been visited 312 times (as at 7 October 2022).</p> <p>In addition to the LiveWell Programme of activities, the following support is being provided to employees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living Wage implemented from date of announcement rather than official implementation date.</li> <li>• Promotion of tax relief opportunities such as income tax marriage allowance, aligned to issue of P60 issue. Laundry allowance and professional membership fees.</li> <li>• Promotion of government childcare support scheme.</li> <li>• Pay advances for those transitioning into employment with us.</li> <li>• Promotion of credit unions particularly Scotwest Credit Union and all their promotions through webinars.</li> <li>• Employee discounts including supermarkets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Next steps and timescales</b></p>	<p>Following a recent LiveWell employee Survey, the LiveWell Programme is being further developed with opportunities up to December 2023. Activities and health promotion information will continue to be promoted and the LiveWell Grant Scheme will be re-promoted to encourage more teams across the Council to apply.</p> <p>The Council's new Energy Emergency Support Payment will also be promoted to employees.</p>
<p><b>6. Comments</b></p>	<p>The qualitative comments provided in the evaluation of activities highlight both the appreciation of and the benefits obtained from participating in wellbeing activities. Many employees would not access activities if they were not promoted through the workplace.</p>

Primary Care & Social Care Staff Wellbeing Programme	
<b>1. Description of funding stream, date and amount</b>	Scottish Government allocated a total of £108,590 to North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership in financial year 2021/22 to support the wellbeing and mental health of the Primary Care and Social Care workforces, as well as meeting practical needs over the winter period. Additional funding of £250,000 over a two-year period (2022/23 & 2023/24) was agreed by the Integration Joint Board to continue the staff wellbeing programme. A bid was submitted to the Workforce Wellbeing Fund for Adult Social Work and Social Care and £9,864 was granted to fund Health & Wellbeing events. (£368,454 – over 3 years)
<b>2. Intended impact</b>	<p>This funding gives equal priority to those working in primary care and social work/social care sectors, including independent contractors, out of hours services, volunteers, carers, personal assistants, and support staff.</p> <p>Key areas have been identified as local priorities, recognising the opportunity to build on existing local approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for teams to 'take a step back' together and participate in wellbeing opportunities</li> <li>• Mindfulness Interventions</li> <li>• Support and management of distress and anxiety; post-traumatic stress disorder; bereavement; staff affected by 'long Covid.'</li> </ul>
<b>3. Progress to date against milestones, including expenditure</b>	<p><b><u>Physical Activity</u></b>  <b>Paths for All - online Workplace Walking Course</b>  This is an interactive online course which helps get colleagues moving more in and around the working day. The course provides ideas, knowledge, and skills to develop and deliver a successful workplace walking initiative.</p> <p><b>KA Leisure Activities</b>  On two occasions in recent months there has been an opportunity for staff to receive a free 3-month gym pass to KA Leisure facilities. 100 passes have been allocated on a first come, first served basis. This has been very popular with staff taking the opportunity of a free 3-month trial and several have gone on to continuing a gym membership at corporate discounted rates.  In addition, KA Leisure have delivered online weight management sessions, as well as physical activity and yoga sessions.</p> <p><b><u>Mental Health</u></b>  <b>Mindfulness</b>  <i>Everyday Mindfulness Scotland</i> have delivered several 4-week online programmes over the last year, using a mix of presentation and mindfulness practices, focus on anxiety and stress, fight or flight and rest and digest.  Over the last year, 137 staff have completed the mindfulness programme and positive feedback has been received on this method of supporting staff. Examples:</p> <p><i>'It's so difficult to get time to look after ourselves that I didn't see how I was going to fit this in, but I did and the time was in the evening when I've got other commitments, but this has made me commit to myself and it's made all the difference to my stress levels'</i></p> <p><i>'I just want to say I didn't think this on-line was going to work but it does. I was so much more able to join in when I was in my own home environment. I know its all about using the practices and so I'm determined to try and make the time'</i></p>

*'At the start of the course, I wasn't particularly sure what I was going to learn, but it became clear as we progressed through the course. The course was very well delivered, and the explanations/teaching of the techniques and practices were excellent. I feel I have benefited greatly in myself and in my work with service users.'*

### **Optima Health Workshops**

Since the implementation of the Staff Wellbeing programme, the following suite of online workshops have been delivered by the Council's Occupational Health provider, Optima Health and were attended by 129 staff:

- Psychological Impact of Working from Home
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Sleep
- Financial Wellbeing
- Returning to the workplace

The following workshops are currently being delivered - Digital Wellbeing, Menopause and Winter Wellbeing.

### **Primary Care & Social Care Grants Scheme**

The Grant Scheme has been operating since March 2022. Applications were invited from teams across North Ayrshire (including all Health & Social Care Partnership staff, GPs and Primary Care staff, Third & Independent Sector providers who are commissioned by HSCP, Personal Assistants, volunteers, and Unpaid Carers) for funding to support staff health & wellbeing activities, which would be arranged/delivered by staff for local teams.

Applications are considered by the Primary Care & Social Care Grants Committee. And must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Support for teams to 'take a step back' together and participate in wellbeing opportunities,
- Support and management of distress and anxiety; PTSD; bereavement; staff affected by 'long Covid'

Some examples of wellbeing applications we have received to date.

- Outdoor Group Activities – including Tree Tops, Cumbrae Cycling and Wellbeing Day Retreats
- Yoga Sessions
- Therapy Treatment and Training including reflexology, TRE, reiki, and Indian head massage
- Escape Rooms
- Fitness & Wellbeing equipment including a cross trainer and exercise bike
- Self-Care plans, mindfulness, and positivity cards

At the time of writing £176,115 has been spent on these wellbeing activities and interventions.

#### **4. What difference has the investment made?**

At the time of writing there has been a total of 207 applications since the commencement of the Scheme with 180 accepted, 8 partly funded, 5 pending awaiting more information, 3 withdrawn and 11 rejected. All of these supporting staff to take a time out with their own teams. Positive feedback has been received from all staff and teams, hence the approval from the IJB to continue the programme for a further two years, this is also in line with our strategic priority to develop and support our workforce.

<p><b>5. Next steps and timescales</b></p>	<p>A bid was submitted to the Workforce Wellbeing Fund for Adult Social Work and Social Care in July 2022 for £9,864 and this was successful. The funding will deliver health and wellbeing events during February 2023 within KA Leisure facilities:</p> <p>The following activities will be delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Menopause awareness sessions</li> <li>• Mindfulness exercise sessions</li> <li>• Weight management sessions</li> <li>• Mental Health Awareness Sessions</li> <li>• Appointments for health check ups</li> <li>• Appointments for Massage sessions</li> <li>• Appointments for manicures</li> </ul> <p>As per the criteria for the Workforce Wellbeing Fund, the approved grant is to fund initiatives for those staff working only in the Adult Social Care/Social Work field and does not include staff working in Children’s Services, NHS staff and Partnership support staff. The Partnership Senior Management Team has agreed that grant monies can be moved to expand this wellbeing work to all staff in the Partnership, reflecting our integrated approach. The Staff Wellbeing programme will continue to offer health &amp; wellbeing opportunities through Optima Health, KA Leisure as well as further Mindfulness training. In addition, the Grant Scheme will continue to offer opportunities for teams to apply for wellbeing grants.</p>
<p><b>6. Comments</b></p>	<p>The wellbeing of the health and social care workforce remains a key priority and it is recognised that teams are fatigued because of unrelenting pressures. It is important therefore that continued wellbeing initiatives are put in place to support staff on an ongoing basis. An evaluation process is in place to capture the views of staff against each wellbeing activity. In addition, the Primary Care &amp; Social Care Grant Scheme seeks feedback from staff on approved wellbeing grants relating to the application process and evaluation of the activities undertaken.</p>

---

# NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

24 November 2022

## CPP Senior Officers Group

---

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023 – 2028</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide the CPP Senior Officers Group of the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023-2028
<b>Recommendation:</b>	That the CPP Senior Officers Group provide comment on the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023-2028

---

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2023 – 2028 sets out the priorities and locations for affordable housing investment by the Council and Registered Social Landlords in North Ayrshire over the next five years. The SHIP is based on projected Scottish Government grant funding provision for the Council and our partner Registered Social Landlords of £120.855m during the period 2023 – 2028 and represents Council investment of £84.773m.
- 1.2 It is proposed that delegated authority is assigned to the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place, to liaise with the Scottish Government and agree the rescheduling of projects detailed in the SHIP, as required. Any additional projects that are not contained within the approved SHIP will require further Cabinet approval.
- 1.3 From a Council perspective, the SHIP reflects the previous commitment to construct 1,625 new build homes, including provision for 275 new homes to replace the Fullarton tower blocks, which are scheduled for demolition following re-housing of all tenants and 250 new units to support the Council's Estate Based Regeneration Programme.
- 1.4 The Council and its RSL partners have been monitoring the impact of both COVID-19 and Brexit on the SHIP. It is clear that both issues have contributed to time and financial impacts, due to labour and material shortages and an increase in material costs. The SHIP includes the latest available estimates of the time and financial impacts of COVID-19 on the development programme.
- 1.5 The SHIP 2023 - 2028 will secure investment in a total of 1,652 properties across the six North Ayrshire social landlords currently active in housebuilding and will provide sustainable, affordable, accessible, and high-quality homes which will contribute to the wider regeneration aims for the area. This will in turn secure employment and training opportunities for North Ayrshire businesses and residents and support the Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy. Members are invited to approve the SHIP at Appendix 1 for submission to the Scottish Government, as the Council's investment plan for new affordable housing in the area over the next five years.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2023 – 2028 sets out the priorities for affordable housing investment in North Ayrshire over the next five years to support the outcomes in the Local Housing Strategy. The Plan is prepared in accordance with Scottish Government guidance and includes details of individual development projects to be taken forward over its five-year lifespan (see Appendix 1).
- 2.2 The plan supports the Council's historic commitment to develop 1,100 new build Council homes. In June 2018, the demolition of the Fullarton tower blocks in Irvine was approved. The SHIP makes provision for the replacement of all 275 of these homes within the Irvine locality.
- 2.3 In January 2019, the Estate Based Regeneration Programme was approved. To assist the delivery of this programme, the SHIP includes provision for 200 units as an indicative replacement for any selective demolition of particularly low demand stock.
- 2.4 Programme revisions to date include the addition of a further 50 new units towards the Estate Based Regeneration Programme, bringing the total to 250. These projects take the total investment in Council developments to £165.361m during the period 2023 - 2028 and represents Council investment of £84.773m.
- 2.5 The Scottish Government has committed to providing North Ayrshire Council with grant funding for the Council and our RSL partners of £63.005m from April 2022 to March 2026. The funding levels beyond March 2026 are not currently known and have therefore been estimated for planning purposes, based on trend assumptions. The Scottish Government benchmark grant rates are subject to annual inflation in line with the Scottish Social Housing Tender Price Index. For new build Council developments funding levels have been estimated for projects not yet at tender stage at benchmark rates plus annual inflation which was 8.3% for 2021/22 and has been assumed at 8.6% for 2022/23 and 3.7% for 2023/24. The Council will seek grant funding above these levels in accordance with Scottish Government guidance on a site-by-site basis, as required. The RSL funding rates have been included as requested by each developing organisation and will be subject to Scottish Government authorisation.
- 2.6 The SHIP is based on total projected Scottish Government grant funding provision of £120.855m for the Council and our RSL partners during the period 2023 - 2028. In accordance with Scottish Government guidance, the Council has over committed the funding within the SHIP by approximately 25% to ensure that the allocation is spent, and to provide the opportunity for North Ayrshire to absorb slippage from other local authority areas. For this reason, a significant portion of the funding is allocated during the second and third years of the SHIP.
- 2.7 The Council and its RSL partners have been monitoring the impact of both COVID-19 and Brexit on the SHIP. It is clear both have contributed to time and financial impacts, due to labour and material shortages and an increase in material costs. The SHIP includes the latest available estimates of the time and financial impacts of COVID-19 and Brexit on the development programme.

- 2.8 An additional £32.762m is required to support the Council's developments set out within the SHIP to offset rising rates of inflation and ensure that the costs associated with the introduction of new legislation which requires the installation of Zero Direct Emissions heating systems and Electrical Vehicle Charging Points can be met. The Council is also enhancing the building fabric for all new homes to reduce the need for heating. This additional expenditure alongside estimated additional grant of £13.933m, will be considered within the review of the HRA Business Plan to be presented to Council in February 2023 as part of the 2023-24 HRA Budget and rent setting.
- 2.9 For any projects noted within the SHIP, Cabinet is asked to delegate authority to the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place, to liaise with the Scottish Government and agree the rescheduling of projects as required. This is of particular importance where deliverability is delayed or acceleration is possible due to emerging challenges or opportunities that require to be addressed. Any additional projects that are not contained within the SHIP will require Cabinet approval.

### Strategic Priorities

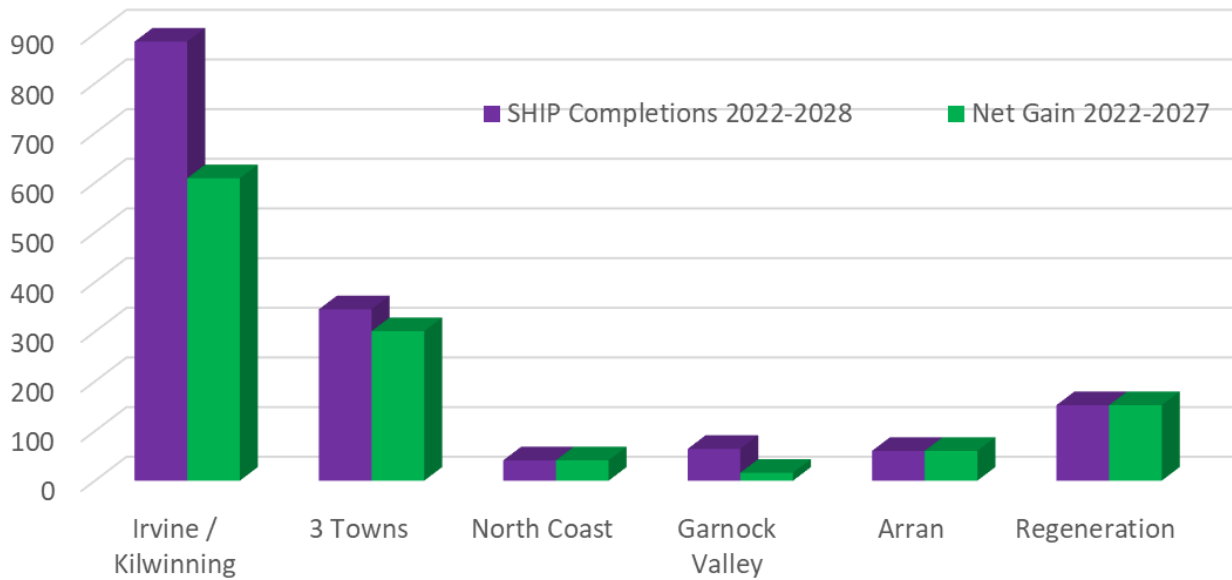
- 2.10 The SHIP is based on a series of guiding principles for housing provision, taken from the Local Housing Strategy.
- 2.11 In order to prepare the SHIP, the Council invited site nominations from its partners. No new sites were nominated for the SHIP 2023 however three RSL partners introduced buy back programmes. If any project becomes delayed or non-viable, the Council will work with RSL partners and the Scottish Government to ensure that new homes are delivered, and the available grant funding spent, by accelerating other projects.
- 2.12 In terms of ongoing governance, senior officers monitor the progress of the new build programme monthly through the SHIP Project Board.

### Demand

- 2.13 Demand figures have been obtained from the North Ayrshire Housing Register (NAHR). House size and type priorities have also been informed by the NAHR. The Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) sets the housing estimate for the period 2022-2027 as 2,330 new units, either in the social rented sector, or, in the case of strong economic recovery, split across all tenures. Housing supply targets will be set out in the emerging Local Housing Strategy.
- 2.14 Figure 1 plots SHIP completions against net gain from 2022 to 2028. The 'net gain' columns indicate the additional homes available per locality following completion of the developments, minus the strategic demolitions set out in the SHIP.

*Figure 1: SHIP Actual & Projected Completions 2022-2028 & Net Gain 2022-2028*





2.15 The Council allocates funding to each developing organisation from the Scottish Government Resource Planning Assumption (RPA). Figures 2 and 3 show the proportion of stock held by each developing organisation, and the share of funding per developing organisation.

Figure 2: Proportion of stock held in North Ayrshire per developing organisation (%)

Developer	North Ayrshire Stock
NAC	13,135
CHA	2,329
Riverside (IHA)	1,710
Cairn (ANCHO)	657
Trust	287
Link	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,118</b>

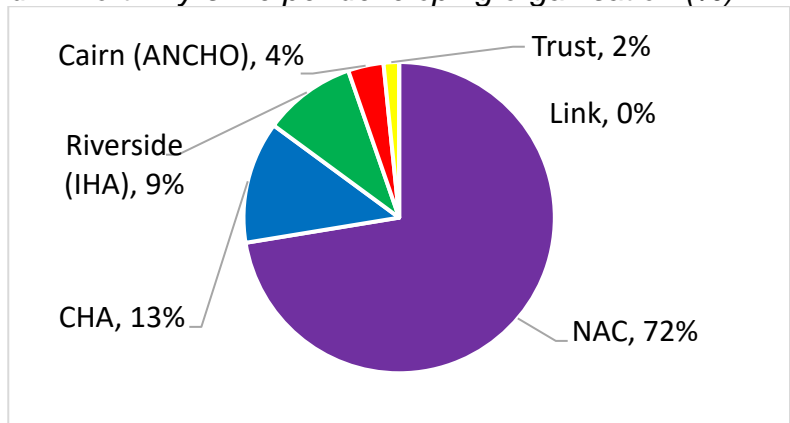
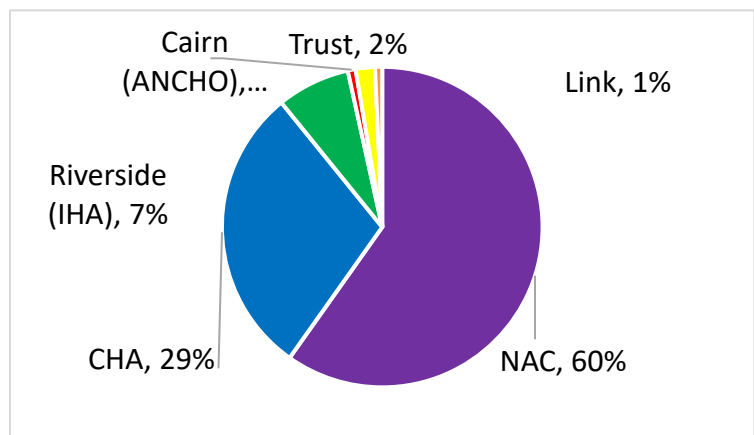


Figure 3: Proportion of funding per developing organisation (%)

Developer	Completions in SHIP 2023 - 2028
NAC	988
CHA	485
Riverside (IHA)	122
Cairn (ANCHO)	13
Trust	32
Link	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>1652</b>



2.16 An indicative size mix (Table 1) for new developments across North Ayrshire has been prepared based on North Ayrshire Housing Register (NAHR) intelligence to meet existing and future housing need.

*Table 1: Indicative mix by bedroom size*

No of Beds	Three Towns	Arran	Garnock Valley	Irvine / Kilwinning	North Coast	North Ayrshire
1	14%	14%	10%	15%	14%	<b>14%</b>
2	60%	54%	56%	56%	63%	<b>57%</b>
3	15%	20%	20%	15%	15%	<b>16%</b>
4+	11%	12%	14%	14%	8%	<b>13%</b>

### Specialist Accommodation

2.17 Analysis of the NAHR, and projected future demographic trends signifying an ageing population, indicate that at least 25% of all new build homes should be designed for older people (i.e., amenity housing or sheltered housing).

2.18 Following a review of North Ayrshire’s Housing Allocation Policy in 2019, the age restriction for the allocation of amenity housing was removed. This allowed allocation of amenity homes to younger people with an accessible housing requirement, promoting independent living. Currently, 79% of applicants for amenity housing are aged over 51. The Council will continue to monitor the availability of housing for older people to ensure that their needs can be addressed through the affordable housing supply programme.

2.19 In order to promote independent living, the Flatt Road development site in Largs was used as an exemplar for assistive technology. Features can be included within the sheltered housing complex and supported accommodation where required to support tenants’ individual needs.

2.20 The Council’s Housing Service and Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) worked together over the last five years to consider a model for Extra Care Sheltered Housing. The vision was to create safe, affordable homes for tenants who require additional support with extra services to promote independent living, such as assistance with meals or welfare checks, to be available for tenants for an additional fee. Following development of the outline model, demand analysis was undertaken by the HSCP in 2021 alongside engagement with other areas in Scotland where similar housing models operate. At that time, it was determined that there was not sufficient demand to integrate the model into a new sheltered housing complex and there are challenges in sustainable funding to operationalise the model. The Council has, however, incorporated flexibility into some new build sheltered housing complexes to allow this model to be reconsidered in future, with minimal investment should the HSCP choose to develop this further.

2.21 To ensure need is met now and in the future, the Local Housing Strategy 2018 – 2022 set a target for all tenures, with at least 7% of all new build stock being fully wheelchair accessible. This will be reviewed in the next LHS (due for renewal in early 2023) and the future Local Development Plan following Scottish Government guidance for local authorities on the setting of targets to support the delivery of more wheelchair accessible housing.

2.22 The SHIP will support the Health and Social Care Partnership to meet specialist housing need through dedicated projects using the jointly developed supported accommodation model, and as part of a wider site mix on other developments, a further emerging area being explored is how the SHIP can support those with more complex care needs. The latest SHIP includes provision for 25 supported accommodation housing units at two different locations.

#### Child Poverty and Improving Health and Wellbeing

2.23 North Ayrshire's Local Child Poverty Action Plan and Report 2020/21 recognises that the instance of child poverty within North Ayrshire is one of the highest in Scotland and acknowledges the role that access to good quality and affordable housing has in combating inequality. All new build Council family homes have study space and private gardens.

2.24 The Council is also considering ways in which young people can access construction related learning and training opportunities. The North Ayrshire Local Employability Partnership Delivery Plan 2022 – 2026 sets out the intentions to help people of all ages to gain skills for employment. It will prepare people for employment, training, education and/or volunteering, with the aim of increasing qualification levels and job prospects as well as reducing unemployment. Officers from Housing and PMI will work alongside Education colleagues to determine how our housebuilding programme can support the Council's ambitions to encourage more young people into training and employment.

#### Island Development

2.25 On Arran, the Council's development of 34 units at Brathwic Terrace, Brodick completed during June 2022. In addition, Trust Housing Association is currently in discussions with a local landowner to develop 26 new homes in Brodick. These developments, alongside work with communities on the island, are anticipated to support investment to encourage economic growth. Similarly, 18 new homes have recently been completed on Cumbrae through the SHIP as part of a second phase of the successful St Beya Gardens site. It is hoped that these developments will help to address local housing need, support key employment and enable people to remain on the islands. Work is ongoing to determine housing need on Arran at a town / village level, through analysis of the North Ayrshire Housing Register and further contact with applicants. Consideration is also being given to commissioning independent research with a particular focus on housing's role in supporting the local economy. The outcome of this work will be reported to Cabinet in due course, alongside any proposed action.

#### Buy Backs

2.26 Bringing empty homes back into use supports regeneration; it is a strategic priority within the current LHS and will continue to be a priority in the future. It also supports the Council's Regeneration Delivery Plan. In recognition of this, a target has been set to purchase at least five second hand or empty properties during each financial year of the new SHIP, subject to the availability of Scottish Government Grant.

## Sustainability & Safety

- 2.27 Council officers are seeking to maximise the incorporation of energy efficiency measures and renewable technologies within the new build programme. The developments within the SHIP will benefit from a range of sustainable measures, for example solar photovoltaic panels, small scale district heating schemes, and passive design measures to minimise space heating demand. The exact package of measures will be determined through assessment of opportunities on a site-by-site basis.
- 2.28 Following a revision to national Building Standards, all new build social housing properties with planning applications submitted on or after 1 March 2021 require to be fitted with fire suppression systems. In advance of this legislation, and in recognition of the safety benefits of fire suppression systems, the Council has installed fire suppression systems in all new build housing proposals which reached technical design stage after October 2019.

## Regeneration

- 2.29 The provision of affordable, modern and well-designed homes that meets residents' needs is one of nine strategic priorities within the Council Plan 2019 - 2024.
- 2.30 The Council, along with its strategic partners, continues to explore the site and area specific opportunities to secure maximum regeneration benefits, supporting the ambitions of the Council's Regeneration Delivery Plan to drive forward development on strategic regeneration sites, including town centres. Our town centres continue to be of strategic importance as the economic and social focus points of North Ayrshire. The Council has acquired the former King's Arms public house in Irvine Town Centre and will redevelop the site into six amenity flats to address local housing need and encourage town centre living. Other town centre projects include: the redevelopment of the former Largs Police Station and adjacent former St Colm's Place Sheltered Housing Complex; the development of the former Springvale depot in Saltcoats; the redevelopment of former sheltered housing complexes at Afton Court and Caley Court in Stevenston; and the redevelopment of the Irvine High Flats. Regeneration Project 1d in Ardrossan and the unallocated regeneration blocks will also be utilised to further support North Ayrshire regeneration.
- 2.31 The SHIP also includes the provision of funding for 250 units to assist the delivery and funding of Housing's Estate Based Regeneration Programme. Most of this investment is anticipated to be replacement for any selective demolition of stock. The regeneration units included within the SHIP will allow Housing Services to continue the implementation of the Estate Based Regeneration Programme, as well as support a review of our assets in relation to our ESSH2 and zero emissions targets to consider further redevelopment opportunities.

## Community Wealth Building

- 2.32 Effective use of community benefit clauses in development contracts, and partnership work with colleagues in Economic Development to support local construction and supply chain companies to bid for this work, can secure many of these jobs for our local people and support the Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy. The Council has undertaken a review of our Dickson Drive, Irvine house building pilot and will utilise this to inform a second project with Building Services to construct a number of new homes at Ayrshire Central, Irvine.

2.33 The Council is also currently developing a pilot model for employability by offering training and employment opportunities obtained through community benefits from Housing Services maintenance and investment contracts to our Housing First tenants, supporting some of our most complex support cases to sustain housing and employment. The delivery of the SHIP, alongside investment in land and asset maintenance, plays a key role in community wealth building.

#### Affordability

2.34 The Council is committed to ensuring rent levels are affordable. Many tenants in social housing are partly or fully dependent on benefits and are under increasing pressure from the impacts of Welfare Reform and rising living costs. The Scottish Housing Regulator has intimated that social landlords will be expected to keep rent increases to a minimum. To ensure homes are affordable, the Council and all RSL partners will be expected to set rent levels on new build homes at or below the Local Housing Allowance. North Ayrshire Council has an approved rent structure based on house size and type, with no additional charge for new build properties. Current rent levels are set below the Local Housing Allowance.

#### Key Achievements from 2021/22

2.35 During 2021/22, the Council's largest development to date at Flatt Road, Largs reached completion providing 123 units including a new sheltered housing complex, supported accommodation, amenity bungalows, general needs properties and homes suitable for wheelchair users. The site is serviced by a district heating scheme which provides heating and hot water to all residents. The redevelopment of Dalrymple Place, Irvine also completed providing 33 new sheltered and amenity homes. A further 18 units were completed at the St Beya Gardens, Millport development; 14 new homes were delivered at Springvale, Saltcoats; 50 units were created at Towerlands, Irvine; and the 34 new homes at Brathwic Terrace, Arran were all allocated by June 2022.

2.36 During September 2022 works concluded at the 79-unit St. Michael's Wynd, Kilwinning site which delivered supported accommodation, sheltered housing, general needs properties and accessible housing. The 29 new homes at the St. Colm's Place sheltered housing complex also reached completion during September 2022. The 16 units of supported accommodation at Caley Court, Stevenston are expected to complete during autumn / winter 2022. Work continues to develop 71 new homes at Irvine Harbourside which are expected to complete during early 2023.

2.37 The contractor has commenced work on site to deliver 12 new amenity flats at the former Largs Police Station. The completion date for this site has slipped by eight months due to analysis being undertaken to determine the most cost-effective heating option for future tenants. At Afton Court, Stevenston works are anticipated to commence on site during late 2022 to deliver six new amenity bungalows. Now that a contractor has been appointed, the timeline has been confirmed and this scheme will complete around six months later than previously anticipated.

- 2.38 Cunninghame Housing Association completed 76 units at Sharphill Phase 4 in Saltcoats and allocated their two new wheelchair accessible homes at Glebe Place. Work continues to develop 72 units at West Byrehill, Kilwinning and 24 units at Green Street, Saltcoats. Riverside Scotland continue works on site for 77 units at Tarryholme Phase 2, Irvine which is expected to complete in early 2023.
- 2.39 North Ayrshire's Resource Planning Assumption for the Council and our RSL partners during 2021/22 was £18.205m. During the year, a total of £20.641m was claimed, through obtaining slippage funding of £2.436m from other local authority areas. North Ayrshire Council and our RSL partners have been able to claim an additional £19.165m towards affordable housing in the area from slippage in other local authority areas in the six years from April 2016 to March 2022.
- 2.40 As a result of past success in accelerating projects and claiming additional funding year upon year to date, and also due to the slippage in some of the projects noted below, it is unlikely that North Ayrshire will be able to claim our full Resource Planning Assumption for the 2022/23 financial year. Discussions are ongoing with the Scottish Government to ensure that grant funding is maximised wherever possible.

#### Removal of Projects from the SHIP 2023 - 2028

- 2.41 Cunninghame Housing Association's Confidential sites 9 and 11 have been removed from the SHIP as they have been assessed as unviable. A block of 92 units named 'Unallocated CHA Block' has been added into the SHIP to provide CHA with capacity for future development while the association identifies suitable sites.
- 2.42 The Council's 'Unallocated Regeneration Block 2' is no longer required as the units have now been allocated to specific projects within the SHIP where additional capacity was identified.

#### Amendments to the SHIP

- 2.43 The following amendments have been made in this update of the SHIP:
- Following value engineering design work, the James Reid, Saltcoats site can accommodate 47 units (increased from 44 units), the Stanecastle, Irvine site can accommodate 31 units (increased from 28 units) and the James McFarlane, Ardrossan site can accommodate 19 units (increased from 18 units).
  - The Ayrshire Central, Irvine site has been increased to 202 units from 171 units.
  - Redevelopment Projects 10, 11b and 14 located in Irvine have now been named as Montgomerie Park, Irvine and can accommodate 189 units, increased from 168 units.
  - The Laburnum Avenue, Beith site can accommodate seven units, increased from six.
  - The Fullarton Street, Irvine site can accommodate 62 units, increased from the 54 units previously anticipated. The estimated project start and completion dates for this site have been adjusted by a year now that the timeline for the demolition of the high flats has been established.
  - Glebe Place, Saltcoats has been reprofiled from 2024/25 to 2026/27 to enable the Council in assisting the Scottish Government to meet accommodation needs for Ukrainian Displaced People.
  - Unallocated Regeneration Block 1 has been reduced from 49 units to 30 units; the other 19 units have been allocated to projects in the SHIP.

- Cairn Housing Association's Confidential Site 1 has reduced from 20 units to 9 units following site viability assessments.
- Cunninghame Housing Association's (CHA) Confidential Site 8 has been named as Garven Road, Stevenston and can accommodate 20 units, increased from 19.
- CHA's site at Harbour Road, Irvine has been reduced to 27 units from 29 units.
- Cunninghame Housing Association's phase 5 site at Sharphill, Saltcoats has been increased to 100 units from 82 units.
- Riverside are unable to deliver their development at 111 Bank Street, Irvine. Cunninghame Housing Association are currently reviewing site viability and this site has therefore remained within the SHIP.
- Trust Housing Associations Confidential Site 4 can now accommodate 26 units, increased from 20 units.

2.44 A number of North Ayrshire Council project timelines have experienced slippage due to the requirement for redesign and value engineering to offset increasing costs and whilst studies were undertaken to ensure that the introduction of Zero Direct Emissions heating and hot water systems provided value for money for tenants.

2.45 Some SHIP sites have been anonymised for reasons of commercial sensitivity, or as they require further work to ensure that they comply with the Council's Planning or Roads policies.

#### New Council Projects 2023 - 2028

2.46 The Council has included a three unit refurbishment of a property on Nelson Street in Largs and a further two unit refurbishment project in Irvine, a viability assessment is currently underway for this scheme and it has therefore been marked as confidential until this is complete.

#### New RSL Projects 2023 - 2028

2.47 Cunninghame Housing Association, Riverside Scotland and Trust Housing Association have included buy back programmes within the new SHIP.

#### SHIP Impact on North Ayrshire School Capacity

2.48 Officers from Housing, Planning and Education will continue to monitor emerging development to ensure any impact upon school capacity can be addressed or mitigated.

### **3. Proposals**

3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet (i) approve the North Ayrshire Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023-2028 for submission to the Scottish Government; and (ii) gives delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place) and the Cabinet Member for Place to liaise directly with the Scottish Government in agreeing the North Ayrshire development programme and the rescheduling of projects as required.

#### **4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty Financial**

- 4.1 The financial implications arising from the projects included within the SHIP 2023 - 2028 have been assessed by each of the developing organisations, ensuring that the programme is fully deliverable within the timescales set out. The current HRA Business Plan includes a budget of £165.361m to deliver the North Ayrshire Council development projects set out within the SHIP, inclusive of Scottish Government funding. It is estimated that an additional £32.762m is required to support the Council's developments set out within the SHIP 2023-2028 to offset rising rates of inflation and ensure that the costs associated with the introduction of new legislation which requires the installation of Zero Direct Emissions heating systems and Electrical Vehicle Charging Points can be met. The Council is also enhancing the building fabric for all new homes to reduce the need for heating. This additional expenditure alongside estimated additional grant of £13.944m, will be considered within the current review of the HRA Business Plan prior to it being presented to Council in February 2023 as part of the 2023-24 HRA Budget and rent setting.

#### **Human Resources**

- 4.2 Council projects within the Strategic Housing Investment Plan will be delivered by North Ayrshire Council staffing and complemented by external expertise, where required.

#### **Legal**

- 4.3 The Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992, Schedule 1, Part 12, Class 33, as amended, enables local authorities to carry out works, within their district, for the erection of dwellings so long as the development conforms with the Local Development Plan. The Council's House Building Protocol governs the design and consultation processes for such development to ensure that appropriate levels of design scrutiny and consultation are maintained. In 2019, it was agreed that all future Council housing developments progressed as permitted development will be required to obtain a 'Certificate of Lawfulness' from the Council's Planning Service. This will certify that each site within the SHIP has been considered against the full terms of the adopted Local Development Plan. Housing development proposals by the Council which do not fall within the scope of permitted development, including schemes which require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will require planning permission. Proposals over 0.5 hectares in area will require to be screened for the purposes of EIA.

#### **Equality/Socio-economic**

- 4.4 The provision of new social housing will have a positive impact on those who require specialist accommodation, older people, those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and those for whom purchasing a home is not an affordable option. The benefits of new build housing in relation to health, wellbeing and educational attainment, are well documented. New housing will also support our island communities and their economies.



## **Climate Change and Carbon** **Key Priorities**

4.6 The provision of new affordable housing supports the Council Plan priority to provide affordable, modern and well-designed homes that meet residents' needs. It supports the ambitions of the Council's Regeneration Delivery Plan to drive forward development on strategic regeneration sites, including town centres. There is also evidence that children and young people can benefit from improved cognitive development and a reduction in behavioural issues through living in a more attractive, warmer, and better ventilated environment and the provision of new affordable housing also supports the Council Plan priority that children and young people experience the best start in life. New housing will also support our island communities and their economies.

## **Community Wealth Building**

4.7 The Council's contractors are required to participate in the Council's Community Benefits Programme. The projects within the SHIP aim to deliver new employment opportunities for the area, including the provision of dedicated apprentice starts, graduate positions and the creation of local jobs. The project contractors also engage with local schools to provide health and safety presentations, undertake STEM activities, provide mock interviews, and host design competitions.

## **5. Consultation**

5.1 The Council has taken a collaborative approach to the preparation of the SHIP, and the following stakeholders have been involved in the process:

- ANCHO in partnership with Cairn
- Cunninghame Housing Association
- Riverside (formerly Irvine Housing Association)
- Link Group Ltd
- Trust Housing Association
- The Scottish Government
- North Ayrshire Council Officers (Economic Growth, Education, Finance, Housing, Planning, Property Management and Investment, Active Travel & Transport, Roads, and the Health and Social Care Partnership).

5.2 Regular meetings are held with developing organisations, the Council and the Scottish Government as part of the SHIP governance process. The meetings will continue to be convened on a quarterly basis each year, to ensure that partners' requirements are identified, and the development programme delivered.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON  
Executive Director (Place)

For further information please contact **Fiona Ellis, Senior Manager, Housing Strategy and Development**, on 01294 324031.

### **Background Papers**

0

# North Ayrshire Council

## Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023 - 2028



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

## Introduction

### Purpose

The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2023-2028 sets out the priorities for affordable housing investment in North Ayrshire over the next five years and outlines how the Council and its partners will deliver these priorities. The focus of the SHIP is to support the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) which delivers affordable housing for rent in North Ayrshire.

### Environment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) pre-screening questionnaire undertaken for the LHS confirmed that the development proposals within the SHIP have been scoped within the SEA for the [North Ayrshire Local Development Plan](#).

### Strategic Policy Context

[Housing to 2040](#), Scotland's first 20-year housing strategy, was announced in March 2021. The strategy commits to providing around £16bn of investment to support the delivery of 100,000 new homes by 2032, with at least 70% of these being for social rent. The Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) comprises a range of funding mechanisms to enable affordable housing providers to deliver homes in communities across Scotland to support local authorities' Local Housing Strategies. The Scottish Government has allocated Resource Planning Assumptions (RPAs) for the full five-year period of the current parliament to deliver the ambitious affordable homes target set out in [Housing to 2040](#).

The SHIP is an extension of, and aligns to, the [Local Housing Strategy 2018-22](#) (LHS). In preparing the SHIP, the Council has referred to the outcomes identified in the LHS, which support objectives of the [Council Plan](#).

The SHIP also aligns with the Council's [Economic Recovery and Renewal](#)

[Approach](#), which sets out how the Council, in conjunction with our residents, will recover and renew services by: building upon the outcomes of the Council Plan; committing to Community Wealth Building; and committing to a Green New Deal.

### Equalities

In line with our Council Plan, fairness and equity is core to the Strategic Housing Investment Plan. We strive for a North Ayrshire where everyone has the same life chances to grow, prosper and have fulfilling and healthy lives. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the SHIP. It found that there are no negative or discriminatory effect on any equality groups.

The provision of new social housing will have a positive impact on those who require specialist accommodation, older people, those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and those for whom purchasing a home is not an affordable option. The benefits of new build housing in relation to health, wellbeing and educational attainment, are well documented.

## Consultation and Collaboration

As the strategic housing authority, the Council is committed to supporting our partners to deliver affordable housing development within North Ayrshire. The Council adopts a collaborative approach in the preparation of the SHIP. The key stakeholders opposite have influenced the final programme.

In preparing the SHIP 2023-2028 the Council invited site nominations from its Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners. All developments proposed were considered on their individual merits, with reference to the development priorities set out within the LHS and any known constraints.

Thereafter, the Council issued the draft SHIP to its partners to review the priorities of each individual site and assist in agreeing the wider plan. The Council will continue to monitor the development programme and any arising opportunities at quarterly meetings held with developing RSLs and the Scottish Government.

Council Officers monitor the impact of the new build programme on education facilities and other services through the SHIP Project Board.

If any project becomes delayed or non-viable, the Council will work with RSL partners and the Scottish Government to ensure that new homes are delivered by accelerating other projects within the SHIP.

## Key SHIP Stakeholders



**Local registered social landlord partners,** including ANCHO, Cairn, Cunninghame Housing Association (CHA), Link Group Ltd, Riverside Scotland and Trust Housing Association



**North Ayrshire Council internal departments,** including Economic Growth, Education, Finance, Housing, Planning, Property Management and Investment, Active Travel and Transport, Roads, and the Health and Social Care Partnership



**The Scottish Government**

## Investment Priorities

The LHS indicates the importance of establishing clear investment priorities to meet the housing needs of local people, allow partners to identify projects, and ensure that the Scottish Government's goals for new affordable social homes are supported. To ensure maximum benefit is achieved from social housing investment, all projects must:

*Consider their role in providing health benefits to tenants and supporting young people to maximise their educational attainment.*



North Ayrshire's Local Child Poverty Action Plan and Report 2020/21 recognises that the instance of child poverty within North Ayrshire is one of the highest in Scotland.

Research undertaken by Shelter suggests children can benefit from improved cognitive development and a reduction in behavioural issues through living in a more attractive, warmer, and better ventilated environment. All new build Council family homes have study space and private gardens.

Developing the Young Workforce have launched an online Skills Academy to support school leavers and job seekers.

The North Ayrshire Local Employability Partnership Delivery Plan 2022 – 2026 sets out the intentions to help people of all ages to gain skills for employment. It will prepare people for employment, training, education and/or volunteering, with the aim of increasing qualification levels and job prospects as well as reducing unemployment.

We are committed to working alongside Education colleagues to determine how our housebuilding programme can support the Council's ambitions to encourage more young people into training and employment.



*The Kings Arms located in Irvine Town Centre will be redeveloped to provide 6 new amenity flats*

*Be attractive and have aesthetic value, to contribute to the regeneration of North Ayrshire, including its town centres.*

*The provision of affordable, modern and well-designed homes that meets residents' needs is one of nine strategic priorities within the Council Plan. Public sector investment can have a transformational impact within communities, and there are cumulative benefits through considering how this can be coordinated with developing partners and the private sector.*

The Council explores site and area specific opportunities with partners to secure maximum regeneration benefits. This supports the ambitions of the Council's Regeneration Delivery Plan to drive forward development on strategic regeneration sites, including town centres. Town centre regeneration is a primary focus of the SHIP, with several projects completed to date within, or near, town centres.



*The Fullarton tower blocks in Irvine is a major regeneration project*

The SHIP supports major housing led regeneration in North Ayrshire, an example being provision for the replacement of the 275 homes in the Fullarton tower blocks in Irvine which are scheduled for demolition. The SHIP also includes the provision of funding for 250 units to assist the delivery and funding of Housing's Estate Based Regeneration Programme (EBRP). This investment aims to provide new homes to replace any stock which requires to be demolished or reconfigured as part of the EBRP.

*Be sustainable. Project design, building materials and component parts will maximise energy efficiency and reduce running costs. Design will also contribute to community stability and promote feelings of safety and inclusion.*

The Council's [Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy](#) includes actions to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. The delivery of new housing has a key role to play in carbon reduction, climate change mitigation, and alleviation of fuel poverty.



*Dickson Drive, Irvine*



The Council and its partners will continue to consider innovative and sustainable approaches to heat and power, such as low carbon heat, solar photovoltaic panels and smart technologies. The Council recognises that a 'fabric first' approach to sustainability can provide benefits to tenants, in terms of reducing heating costs, and also benefit the environment, all of our homes are designed to minimise heat loss.

The Council completed two '[sustainable demonstrator homes](#)' within Dickson Drive, Irvine in 2020 to highlight best practice in design and innovation, ensuring benefits from sustainable technologies are maximised. The benefits are currently being assessed, and the findings will be shared with partners to

inform future developments. To build upon this, we are developing a 'sustainability shopping basket' to establish a standard suite of sustainability measures for each development and have committed to engaging a sustainability expert to ensure technology delivers low fuel costs for tenants whilst maximising energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.

All Council developments are planned using 'secure by design' principles. Also, in recognition of the safety benefits of sprinkler systems, the Council installed sprinklers in all new build housing proposals which reached technical design stage after October 2019, prior to the







*Recognise local needs and aspirations and become an integral part of existing estates. Homes should be designed in such a way that they can be 'homes for life' and easily adapted to the changing needs of their occupants.*

It has become clear from numerous development project consultation events carried out by the Council and its partners to date, that most local people express a preference for houses rather than flats. In some areas it may be appropriate to include flatted development, which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

In 2019, the updated North Ayrshire Housing Allocation Policy removed the age restriction for the allocation of amenity housing. The allocation of amenity homes to younger people with mobility requirements promotes independent living and 'homes for life'.



The Council and its partners recognise that bringing former social housing stock into ownership can assist with housing management and maintenance issues and increase housing available through the North Ayrshire Housing Register. Empty homes are detrimental to the local environment, often the target of antisocial behaviour and are more likely to fall into disrepair. Bringing empty homes back into use is a strategic priority within the current LHS and will continue to be a priority in the future. The second hand and empty homes buy back scheme can also assist the Council to deliver our Estate Based Regeneration Programme by acquiring homes in communal blocks or in areas identified for improvement through the scheme.

*Before and after photographs of an empty home brought back into use*

*Maximise return on investment and value for money by considering build and lifetime maintenance costs.*

As part of the tendering process we prepare a minimum specification for materials utilised in our new build developments to ensure that they align to our current lifecycle replacement and maintenance programmes. We have also developed a suite of standard house types to further assist with maintenance programmes and reduce project design costs.

The Council is committed to making efficiency savings through strategic procurement arrangements in the delivery of our new build affordable housing programme, to ensure value for money for our tenants. We have procured contractors for several SHIP projects through the HubSW, as part of a procurement strategy to achieve cost and time savings through economies of scale. The Council has also, with ten local authority partners, worked with Scotland Excel to develop a New Build Residential Construction Framework Agreement available for use by all Scottish local authorities and registered social landlords.

The LHS recognises that many tenants in social housing are on lower incomes and/or dependant on benefits. The Scottish Housing Regulator expects social landlords to be able to demonstrate affordability and engage meaningfully with tenants on rent increases. Therefore, to ensure homes are affordable, partners are expected to set rent levels on new build homes at or below the Local Housing Allowance.



*Standard House Type: 3-bedroom ground floor living for wheelchair users*

*Involve the local community through consultation and wider action initiatives.*

*The Council and our partners engage with local communities when developing all new build development sites through the SHIP. For Council projects local residents are invited to review and comment upon the draft plan for the site. Thereafter the final plans are presented to the community and local residents are also invited to 'Meet the Builder' when a contractor has been appointed.*

The Council's [Community Wealth Building Strategy](#) introduced a new model to develop resilient, inclusive local economies, with more local employment and a larger and more diverse business base, ensuring that wealth is locally owned and benefits local people. Through the SHIP, contractors are expected to participate in the Council (or partners') Community Benefits scheme, providing apprenticeships to young people, skilling up the local workforce and supporting economic growth. Homes for Scotland suggests there are 4.1 jobs created for every new home constructed. Effective use of community benefit clauses in development contracts, and partnership work with colleagues in Economic Development to support our local construction and supply chain companies to bid for this work, can

secure many of these jobs for our local people.

The Council is currently developing a pilot model for employability by offering training and employment opportunities obtained through community benefits from Housing Services maintenance and investment contracts to our Housing First tenants, supporting some of our most complex support cases to sustain housing and employment.

The Council also plans to undertake a review of our Dickson Drive, Irvine house building pilot and will utilise this to inform a second project with Building Services to construct a number of new homes at Ayrshire Central, Irvine.

*Seek to continually improve, with lessons learnt and good practice shared across all partners. The Council regularly meets with the Scottish Government and our partner RSLs to review the progress of the SHIP and share good practice and lessons learned. The Council also holds 'lessons learned' meetings and undertakes tenant satisfaction surveys for each site.*

All projects which meet the criteria outlined within the SHIP will be considered to be 'high priority'. In the case of developments by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), the housing mix and type for each individual development site and the proposed rent levels for the new homes should be formally agreed with the Council prior to the submission of a planning application.

Projects from the SHIP 2022-2027 which have not yet completed have been included in the new 2023-2028 plan. Thereafter, the Council will prioritise all projects which are considered deliverable and meet the strategic goals outlined above.

## Demand

Demand figures have been obtained from the North Ayrshire Housing Register (NAHR). House size and type priorities have also been informed by the NAHR.

The HNDA sets the housing estimate for the period 2022-2027 as 2,330 new units, either in the social rented sector, or, in the case of strong economic recovery, split across all tenures.

Housing supply targets will be set out in the new Local Housing Strategy which is currently being prepared.

Whilst there are 6,994 applicants on the NAHR, only 49% of these applicants (3,460) have a recognised housing need (NAHR, August 2022).

## Location

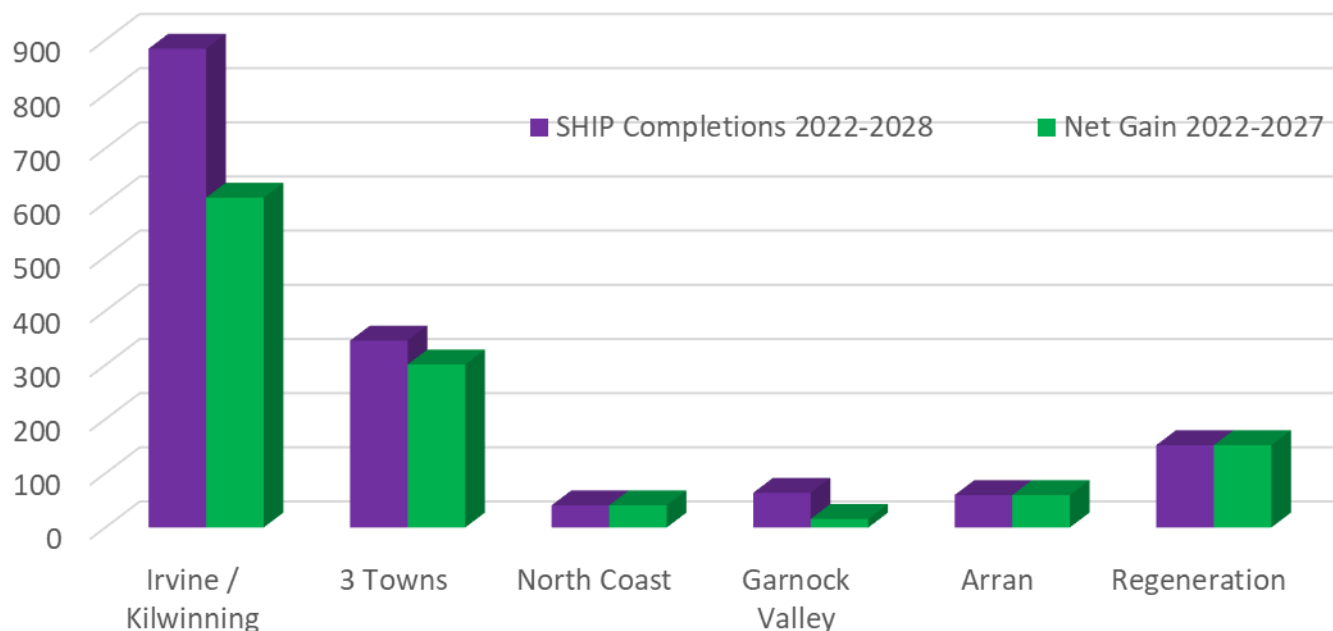
A Sub Housing Market Areas (SHMA) is the widest area that a person would be willing to move to for new living accommodation for the purposes of strategic housing planning. North Ayrshire contains five SHMAs, these are:



The North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership approach sets out six localities. The localities align to the SHMAs with the exception of the Irvine and Kilwinning localities which combine to form one single Sub Housing Market Area.

The total number of homes which will be developed over the lifetime of the SHIP have been plotted by SHMA in figure 1 below. These new supply figures illustrate the aspiration to plan for a growing population, and to seek continued investment in our housing stock to improve overall stock condition.

Figure 1: SHIP Actual & Projected Completions 2022-2028 & Net Gain 2022-2028



The 'net gain' columns indicate the additional homes available per locality following completion of the developments, minus the strategic demolitions set out in the SHIP.

To further inform demand for housing on the Isle of Arran, the Council has undertaken research to determine locality preferences for housing on the island.

Development is not the only policy intervention being explored by the Council. It would be very difficult for the Council and its partners to meet housing need only through investment in new homes.

Work to maintain and improve the condition of our existing social housing stock, provide aids and adaptations and improve the private rented sector are all intended to address the housing needs of the local population

## Size

Analysis of the North Ayrshire Housing Register identifies demand trends for properties. House size has been identified by considering the minimum accommodation size suitable for the household; this is referred to as the 'strategic bedroom requirement'.

*Table 1: % Applicants by Strategic Bedroom Requirement and SHMA*

No of Beds	Three Towns	Arran	Garnock Valley	Irvine / Kilwinning	North Coast	North Ayrshire
1	60%	54%	56%	56%	63%	<b>57%</b>
2	14%	14%	10%	15%	14%	<b>14%</b>
3	15%	20%	20%	15%	15%	<b>16%</b>
4	7%	9%	6%	10%	5%	<b>8%</b>
5+	4%	3%	8%	4%	3%	<b>5%</b>

*(Source: North Ayrshire Housing Register, August 2022)*

The strategic bedroom need is used for planning purposes only. Generally, one-bedroom homes are found to be of lower demand. Two-bedroom homes are a more popular option for smaller households and are more flexible in meeting households' future needs. An additional bedroom can also provide study space, or space for home working.

An indicative size mix (Table 2) for developments across North Ayrshire has been prepared by uplifting the two-bedroom provision and reducing the one-bedroom, thus meeting tenant aspirations and providing flexibility in terms of property sizes as households change composition over time.

*Table 2: Altered Demand by Bedroom Size (Reflecting Aspiration) and SHMA*

No of Beds	Three Towns	Arran	Garnock Valley	Irvine / Kilwinning	North Coast	North Ayrshire
1	14%	14%	10%	15%	14%	<b>14%</b>
2	60%	54%	56%	56%	63%	<b>57%</b>
3	15%	20%	20%	15%	15%	<b>16%</b>
4	7%	9%	6%	10%	5%	<b>8%</b>
5+	4%	3%	8%	4%	3%	<b>5%</b>

This mix is intended as a guide only; each project will be considered on a site-by-site basis by the developing organisation, before being approved by the Council.

## Specialist Housing Needs

### Housing for Older People

Analysis of the HNDA and the NAHR indicates a rising need for accommodation for older people. For this reason, the LHS sets a target of approximately 25% of all new homes to be suitable for older people (i.e., amenity housing and sheltered accommodation). It is anticipated that these homes will primarily comprise one and two bedrooms. In the 12 months from 1 September 2021, 70% of applicants allocated amenity housing were aged over 51. The Council will continue to monitor the availability of housing for older people to ensure that their needs can be addressed through the affordable housing supply programme.

Alongside the new build programme, the Council will continue to deliver our Sheltered Housing Re-provisioning Programme, which includes £25m investment in the refurbishment of sheltered housing units out with the SHIP.



*Glencairn House Sheltered Complex*



*Dementia Friendly Design*



*Wet Floor Shower Rooms with Contrasting Fittings as Standard*



*Visiting Service Rooms*

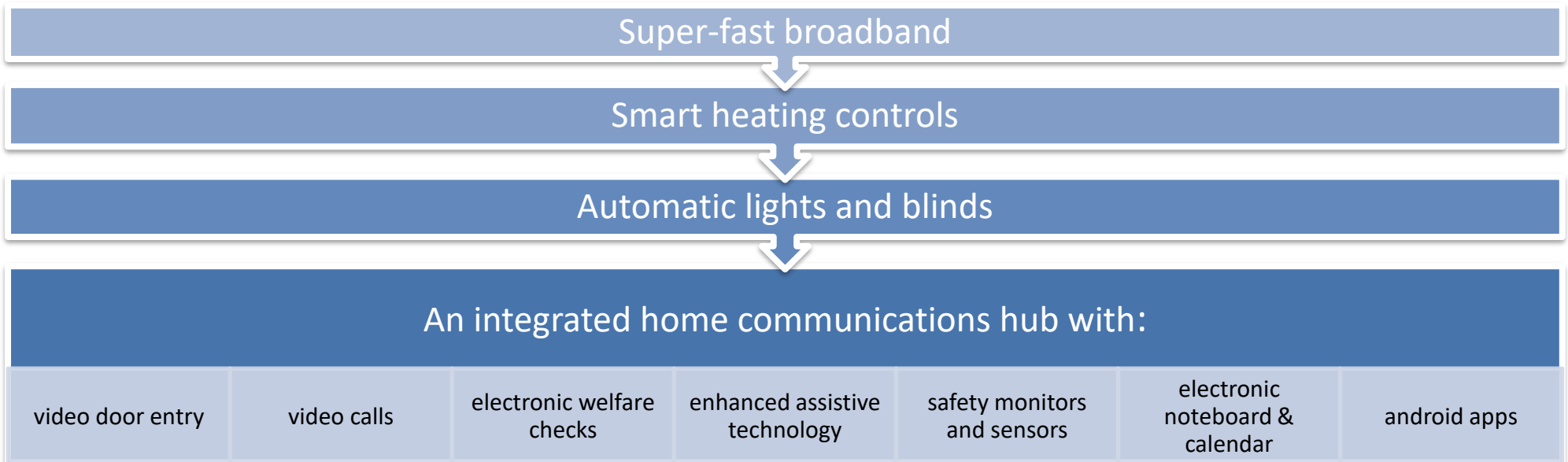
## Extra Care Housing

Housing Services and the Health and Social Care Partnership worked together over the last few years to consider a model for Extra Care Sheltered Housing. The vision was to create safe, affordable homes for tenants who require additional support, with extra services to promote independent living, such as assistance with meals or welfare checks, to be available to tenants for an additional fee.

Following development of the outline model, demand analysis was undertaken by the Health and Social Care Partnership in 2021 alongside engagement with other areas in Scotland where similar housing models operate. At that time, it was determined that there was not sufficient demand to integrate the model into a new sheltered housing complex and there are challenges in sustainable funding to operationalise the model. The Council has, however, incorporated flexibility into some new build sheltered complexes to allow this model to be reconsidered in the future should the HSCP chose to develop this further.

## Assistive Technology

In order to promote independent living, the Flatt Road development in Largs is being used as an [exemplar for assistive technology](#). Features that can be installed within the sheltered housing complex and supported accommodation, where required, to support tenants' individual





## Wheelchair Accessible Accommodation

'Housing for Varying Needs', a national design guide, provides the following definitions which have been adopted by the LHS when describing the applicable specialist housing:



### Ambulant Housing

*Meets a wide range of specialist housing needs. The majority of demand is likely to be from the older age group, who have mobility problems, but who can walk with (or without) an aid. Some people in this group may occasionally use a wheelchair. Demand is not exclusive to the older age group; mobility issues can affect people throughout their lives, for various reasons.*



### Wheelchair User Housing

*For people who use a wheelchair all or most of the time. The home will be level access throughout, have space for a wheelchair to circulate and access all rooms, a kitchen and bathroom that suits the occupant's particular needs and fittings and services that are within reach and easy to use. A wheelchair user may live alone, or with a carer or partner or be part of a family unit.*



*2 Bedroom Wheelchair User Bungalow*

All amenity and sheltered housing in North Ayrshire should be built to an ambulant housing standard as a minimum. To ensure need is met now and in the future, the LHS sets a target for all partners to ensure at least 7% of all new build stock is fully wheelchair accessible. To date, 16% of new build homes delivered by North Ayrshire Council are suitable for wheelchair users. It should be noted that most demand for wheelchair user housing comes from those under 60 years old. In addition, we have a set of standard house types for our developments, which are of an accessible design to accommodate changing mobility needs.

In 2019, the Scottish Government issued guidance for local authorities on the setting of LHS targets to support the delivery of more wheelchair accessible housing, including the requirement for a private sector target. The Council will consider this during renewal of the LHS in late 2022, and the next Local Development Plan due to be published in 2023.

Occasionally it may be necessary to build larger specialist housing to meet the specific needs of individual households. Where this is being provided by an RSL, the Council will approve the proposals before a planning application is submitted.

## Supported Accommodation

Officers within the Place Directorate and the Health and Social Care Partnership have developed a new supported accommodation housing model for implementation at various sites across North Ayrshire.

The focus is on maximising independence for adults within a homely setting, who require a higher level of support, and who are living with learning disabilities, or mental ill-health issues (all ages), or who are under 65 years and have physical disabilities. The new supported accommodation model can:



*Supported accommodation at Bessie Dunlop Court, Dalry*



The SHIP will support the Health and Social Care Partnership to meet specialist housing need through dedicated supported accommodation projects, and as part of a wider site mix on other developments. The SHIP makes provision for delivery of 25 supported accommodation housing units at two different locations in addition to the 37 homes already delivered.

## Gypsy / Travellers

The Council has not identified any additional demand issues in relation to accommodation for gypsy / travellers. We will, however, review the condition of our permanent site at Redburn, Irvine in consultation with residents to identify any future maintenance and investment works.

When this review is complete, the Council will apply to the Scottish Governments Gypsy / Traveller Accommodation Fund to seek funding for any necessary renovation or improvements to our Redburn site.

## Island Communities

The Council is committed to supporting our island communities. 18 new homes were completed on the Isle of Cumbrae during summer 2021. The site provided a mixture of general needs houses, amenity bungalows and homes for wheelchair users.

The Council also completed 34 new homes at Brathwic Terrace on the Isle of Arran during June 2022.

A 'Local Lettings Initiative' was introduced for Arran prior to the allocation of the new Council homes. The Local Lettings

Initiative gives additional priority to island residents and key workers.

Trust Housing Association is currently in discussions with a local landowner to develop 26 new units on Arran.

These developments, alongside work with communities on the island, are anticipated to stimulate investment in other infrastructure (transport, marine, digital) to encourage economic growth.

The Council will closely monitor demand for future affordable housing on the island.



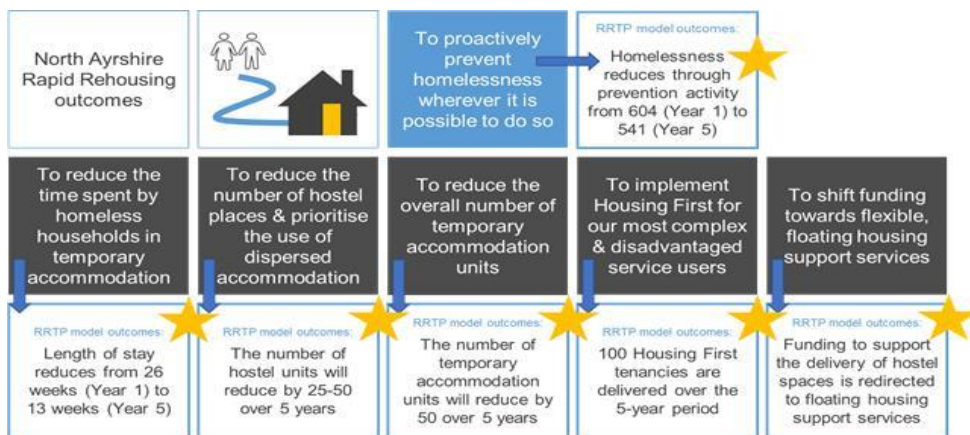
St Beya Gardens, Cumbrae

St Beya Gardens, Cumbrae

Brathwic Terrace, Arran

## Homelessness

North Ayrshire Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019 – 2024 was approved in 2019. Our vision is *to reduce the time spent in temporary accommodation by enabling homeless households to access settled accommodation quickly and with the right support to sustain their housing outcome*. The North Ayrshire RRTP outcomes are:



The provision of new affordable housing through the Strategic Housing Investment Plan will continue to support the delivery of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

## Alternative Models of Affordable Housing Delivery

Recognising that a suite of affordable housing solutions is required to meet the needs and aspirations of local people, the Council has embarked on two pilot projects aimed at the private housing sector.

The 'HOME (Home Ownership Made Easy)' project is based on a model devised by Scottish Futures Trust. This shared ownership housing option will provide households the opportunity to purchase a stake in a home. Two options are available, which have been named for the level of investment required to secure the HOME:

- The £5k HOME, aimed at first time buyers.
- The £40k HOME, aimed at owner-occupiers over 60 years who wish to downsize or secure more accessible housing.

The Council's 'BUILD' project will offer six fully serviced self-build plots for sale to individuals interested in this type of project.

## Private Sector Property Condition

The Council's revised [Scheme of Assistance 2019](#) introduced a range of new measures to improve private sector housing condition, including:



A 'pre-tenancy support service' for landlords to aid the prevention of future property condition issues.



A 'missing shares scheme' to remove barriers where a property owner refuses to meet their common repair obligations.



Use of the Council's powers for Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) where appropriate to acquire empty properties in poor condition, bringing them back into mainstream housing stock.

## SHIP Funding Streams

<p><b>Affordable Housing Supply Programme</b></p> <p>The Scottish Government has committed to providing North Ayrshire with £63.005m funding for the Council and our RSL partners from April 2022 to March 2026 (see table 3 below). The SHIP is based on projected grant funding of £120.855m. Funding for Council projects not yet at tender stage has been assumed at benchmark plus annual Scottish Social Housing Tender Price Index inflation which was 8.3% for 2021/22 and has been assumed at 8.6% for 2022/23 and 3.7% for 2023/24. The Council will seek grant funding above these levels on a site-by-site basis, as required. The RSL funding rates have been included as requested by each developing organisation and will be subject to Scottish Government authorisation.</p>	<p><b>Reserves &amp; Balances</b></p> <p>All developing organisations will utilise available reserves and balances to support the development programme.</p>	<p><b>Borrowing</b></p> <p>The majority of development funding is secured from borrowing. Private finance supports RSLs' development programme, and prudential borrowing supports local authority new build projects.</p>
<p><b>Affordable Housing Policy Developer Contributions</b></p> <p>The Council's previous Affordable Housing Policy (RES4), which required contributions to affordable housing provision from specified private developments within North Ayrshire, was removed within the new Local Development Plan (LDP2) which was adopted on 28 November 2019. Developer contributions, in the form of commuted sums, received through the application of the Affordable Housing Policy to date under the previous Local Development Plan, will be utilised to fund projects being delivered through the SHIP, when required.</p>	<p><b>Other Funding Sources</b></p> <p>The Council will consider utilising the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund to support the regeneration of SHIP sites, where strategically aligned to the Council's Regeneration Delivery Plan.</p>	<p><b>Council Tax on Empty &amp; Second Homes</b></p> <p>Income received from the reduction in discount for empty and second homes in North Ayrshire is held in the Council's Affordable Housing Account. The Council provides grant funding to support the development of projects within the SHIP from the Affordable Housing Account, when required.</p>

To meet the requirement for 'slippage', in accordance with Scottish Government guidance, the Council has over committed the funding within the SHIP. The slippage requirement is to ensure that the allocation is fully spent even if delays or constraints emerge on other development sites, and to provide the opportunity for North Ayrshire to absorb slippage from other local authority areas.

*Table 3: North Ayrshire Resource Planning Assumption per Annum 2022/23 to 2025/26*

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	
<b>Planning and other Regulatory Matters</b>	RPA	£15.692m	£15.648m	£15.702m	£15.963m	<b>£63.005m</b>

that meet the criteria for permitted development.

In 2014, the Council's Cabinet approved the House Building Protocol, to be used in all Council housing development projects

Class 33 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992, as amended, enables local

authorities to carry out works, within their district, for the erection of dwellings so long as the development conforms with the Local Development Plan.

In 2019, it was agreed that all future Council housing developments progressed as permitted development will be required to obtain a 'Certificate of Lawfulness' from the Council's Planning Service. This will certify that each site within the SHIP has been considered against the full terms of the adopted Local Development Plan. Housing development proposals by the Council which do not fall within the scope of permitted development, including schemes which require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will require planning permission. Proposals over 0.5 hectares in area will require to be screened for the purposes of EIA.

- Shortages of materials
- Capacity within the building and development industry across the country
- Costs of infrastructure and ground remediation
- Delays to getting statutory utility consents in place
- Workforce interruptions related to COVID-19

The Council and our partners will continue to work closely to monitor and actively manage these risks through the period of the SHIP.

### **Risks to delivering the SHIP**

Whilst delivery of the SHIP programme has recovered following the temporary suspension of all projects on site in March 2020, this has had longer term implications. COVID-19 continues to have an impact on the construction industry.

Through our own experience and engagement with RSLs and other developers, development constraints or risks to delivery of the programme have been identified as:

- Building costs inflation and rising tender prices

## Amendments or Additions to the SHIP

The delegated authority to accelerate any project detailed within the North Ayrshire approved SHIP is held by the Executive Director (Place) and the Cabinet Member for Place.

### SHIP Development Projects

An overview of projects detailed in the SHIP tables is provided below by locality.

#### Irvine & Kilwinning

Project	Timeline	Site Information
St. Michael's Wynd, Kilwinning (NAC) 79 units	Site Start: September 2020 Completion: 7 September 2022	The new homes link to the first phase St Michael's Wynd development. The site includes general needs, amenity, wheelchair user housing, sheltered housing and supported accommodation and benefits from good transport links.
Harbourside, Irvine (NAC) 71 units	Site Start: October 2020 Expected Completion: Early 2023	The site is in a high-demand area and is a short walk from Irvine Beach Park, the town centre, shopping mall and train station. The site will deliver an intergenerational development with a particular focus on older people's housing provision.
Bourtrees Hill Village, Irvine (NAC) 32 units	Site Start: Autumn/winter 2023 Expected Completion: Autumn/winter 2025	The site will see the regeneration of the Bourtrees Hill Village area of Irvine. Consultations are underway with residents of the local area and interested parties to develop the vision for the site.
Corsehillhead, Kilwinning (NAC) 7 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Spring 2024	The site will deliver a mix of general needs and amenity accommodation in the Corsehill area of Kilwinning.
Montgomerie Park, Irvine (NAC) 189 units	Site Start: Summer 2023 Expected Completion: Winter 2026	This site will provide a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user accommodation.
Ayrshire Central, Irvine (NAC) 202 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Spring 2026	Located in a high demand area, this site will deliver a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair properties at the Ayrshire Central, Irvine site.
Stanecastle, Irvine (NAC) 31 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Autumn 2024	This site will deliver a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user accommodation on the site of the former Stanecastle School.
Fullarton Street, Irvine (NAC) 62 units	Site Start: Early 2024 Expected Completion: Summer 2025	This project will deliver a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair accommodation on the site of the Irvine High Flats which are scheduled for demolition.

King's Arms, Irvine (NAC) 6 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Autumn 2024	This project involves the regeneration of a prominent town centre building to deliver six amenity flats.
Confidential Site 1 (Cairn) 9 units	Site Start: Winter 2023 Expected Completion: Winter 2024	This development will provide general needs, amenity and wheelchair accommodation. This site is currently confidential due to a requirement for planning consent and for acquisition of land.
Confidential Site 3 (Cairn) 4 units	Site Start: Spring 2025 Expected Completion: Spring 2026	This site has the capacity for 4 affordable, general needs homes. This site is currently confidential due to a requirement for planning consent and for acquisition of land.
West Byrehill, Kilwinning (CHA) 72 units	Site Start: April 2021 Expected Completion: February 2023	Located on the edge of Kilwinning, this site will provide a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user homes.
Harbour Road, Irvine (CHA) 27 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Spring 2024	Located in Irvine Harbourside this site will provide 27 new homes in close proximity to the town centre and Irvine train station.
Bank Street, Irvine (CHA) 16 units	Site Start: Spring 2025 Expected Completion: Spring 2026	This town centre regeneration project in Irvine was previously allocated for Riverside. Riverside are no longer able to progress the scheme and CHA are currently determining the viability of delivering 16 new homes for affordable rent.
Tarryholme, Irvine, Phase 2 (Riverside) 77 units	Site Start: June 2021 Expected Completion: February 2023	This project is a second phase of the Tarryholme development which will deliver an additional 77 units.

### Three Towns

Project	Timeline	Site Information
Caley Court, Stevenston (NAC) 16 units	Site Start: August 2021 Expected Completion: Autumn/winter 2022	This development is located on the site of a former sheltered housing complex. The new homes will provide supported accommodation with an on-site staff base in close proximity to Stevenston town centre and train station.
Afton Court, Stevenston (NAC) 6 units	Site Start: Winter 2022 Expected Completion: Summer 2023	This town centre regeneration project will deliver 6 amenity bungalows, recognising the highly accessible nature of this location. Modular construction will be utilised to reduce the time on site and the impact of the works on local residents.
James McFarlane, Saltcoats (NAC) 19 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Spring/summer 2024	The site of the former James McFarlane school will provide general needs, amenity and homes suitable for wheelchair accommodation.
James Reid, Saltcoats (NAC) 47 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Winter 2024	The site of the former James Reid school and the former Focus Centre will provide general needs, amenity and wheelchair accommodation.



Glebe Place, Saltcoats (NAC) 8 units	Site Start: Spring 2026 Expected Completion: Spring/summer 2027	This regeneration project which includes the demolition of low demand flats can accommodate approximately 8 new affordable homes near Saltcoats town centre.
Regeneration Project 1d, Ardrossan (NAC) 36 units	Site Start: Autumn 2024 Expected Completion: Spring 2026	This project provides a regeneration opportunity for 36 affordable homes, comprising general needs, amenity and wheelchair accommodation.
Regeneration Project 1e, Ardrossan (NAC) 7 units	Site Start: Spring 2024 Expected Completion: Spring/summer 2025	This regeneration opportunity can accommodate approximately 7 new affordable homes.
Glebe Street, Saltcoats (CHA) 2 units	Site Start: June 2026 Expected Completion: March 2022	This formerly vacant site provided 2 homes suitable for wheelchair users. This site was also supported by funding from the Council's Affordable Housing Account.
Green Street, Saltcoats (CHA) 24 units	Site Start: April 2022 Expected Completion: Spring/summer 2023	Demolition of the former building on the site is now complete and works to construct the 24 new amenity homes commenced in April 2022.
Sharphill Phase 5, Saltcoats (CHA) 100 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Winter 2024	The next phase of the Sharphill site will deliver an additional 100 new homes, providing a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user homes.
Garven Road, Stevenston (CHA) 20 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Spring/summer 2024	This site was formerly known as Confidential Site 8 and has capacity to deliver 20 new homes.
Confidential Site 9, Stevenston (CHA) 70 units	Site Start: Expected Completion:	This site has been removed from the SHIP as it is not viable. The 70 units have been moved to the 'Unallocated CHA Block' to provide CHA with capacity for future development within the SHIP as sites are identified.
Confidential Site 10, Ardrossan (CHA) 50 units	Site Start: Spring 2025 Expected Completion: Winter 2026	This project has capacity for up to 50 homes and is confidential until site feasibility can be confirmed.
Confidential Site 11, Saltcoats (CHA) 22 units	Site Start: Expected Completion:	This site has been removed from the SHIP as it is not viable. The 22 units have been moved to the 'Unallocated CHA Block' to provide CHA with capacity for future development within the SHIP as sites are identified.
Parkend Gardens, Saltcoats (Link) 12 units	Site Start: Early 2023 Expected Completion: Early 2024	This development is located in close proximity to Saltcoats town centre and adjacent to North Ayrshire Council's new development at Kyleshill Court, Saltcoats. It will deliver a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair accommodation.

## North Coast

Project	Timeline	Site Information
Former St. Colm's Place, Largs (NAC) 29 units	Site Start: June 2021 Expected Completion: September 2022	The former sheltered housing complex at St. Colm's Place was demolished and rebuilt as part of the sheltered housing re-provisioning programme. Located in a high demand central area it has good transport links and access to the town centre.
Former Largs Police Station (NAC) 12 units	Site Start: Autumn 2022 Expected Completion: Autumn 2023	Located adjacent to the former St. Colm's Place the former Largs Police Station will deliver 12 amenity flats in the high demand, town centre, location.

## Garnock Valley

Project	Timeline	Site Information
Former Garnock Academy, Kilbirnie (NAC) 50 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Autumn/winter 2024	The site of the former Garnock Academy will see the development of a mixture of general needs homes, amenity bungalows and homes suitable for wheelchair users.
Laburnum Avenue, Beith (NAC) 7 units	Site Start: Autumn 2023 Expected Completion: Autumn 2024	This development will regenerate low demand flatted accommodation to deliver 7 new affordable homes in Beith.
Newhouse Drive, Kilbirnie (NAC) 7 units	Site Start: Autumn 2023 Expected Completion: Autumn 2024	This development will regenerate low demand flatted accommodation to deliver 7 new affordable homes in Kilbirnie.

## Arran

Project	Timeline	Site Information
Confidential Site 4 (Trust HA) 26 units	Site Start: Winter 2024 Expected Completion: Winter 2026	This site is confidential to allow the acquisition of land and whilst site viability is confirmed.

## Locality to be Confirmed

Project	Timeline	Site Information
Unallocated Regeneration Block (NAC) 30 units	Site Start: Autumn 2024 Expected Completion: Autumn 2026	This involves the regeneration of 30 properties to deliver a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user properties. The locations for these projects have still to be finalised.
Regeneration Project 3 (Riverside) 30 units	Site Start: Spring 2025 Expected Completion: Spring 2027	This project involves the regeneration of 30 properties to deliver a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user properties. The location has still to be finalised.
Unallocated CHA Block (CHA) 92 units	Site Start: Spring 2024 Expected Completion: Winter 2025	The 92 units have been allocated within the SHIP to replace Confidential Sites 9 and 11 which were not viable. This will provide CHA with capacity for future development as the association identifies suitable sites.

