



North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Annual Report 2022/23

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Introduction

Community Planning is all about how our local public services work together with communities and third sector organisations to plan and deliver services that will improve long term outcomes and tackle inequalities. It is a legal duty within the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

The Community Empowerment Act outlines main duties that Community Planning Partnerships should fulfil:

- 1. Partners work together in a Community Planning Partnership (CPP)**
- 2. Produce a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)**
- 3. Develop Locality Plans**
- 4. Review and report publicly on progress**

This annual report outlines how North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) has met these duties, provides an overview of our achievements in 2022/23 across the themes within our Partnership Community Plan (the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan) and our Locality Partnerships, and contains a summary of our plans for the year ahead.

What is the Partnership Community Plan?

The North Ayrshire Partnership Community Plan 2022-30 is our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. It is a strategic plan which sets out what we want to achieve together as a partnership in North Ayrshire. It is a binding plan on all Community Planning partner organisations and will influence how all partners operate locally. It is a requirement under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. You can find the plan here: [**The North Ayrshire Partnership Plan 2022-30**](#)

It will deliver on our vision of “North Ayrshire – Fair for All” and has three key themes:



Wellbeing

We will address inequalities. We will promote children and young people’s wellbeing. We will enable community wellbeing.



Work

We will increase employment. We will develop volunteering. We will better support our young people.



World

We will work together to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. We will increase active travel. We will increase carbon literacy within our organisations and communities.

Development of the Plan

We used the North Ayrshire **strategic needs assessment**, partner resources and expertise as well as **public feedback**, we have developed Our new Partnership Community Plan for 2022-30. This was agreed by the Community Planning Board on 3rd March 2022.

The **Community Planning Board report on LOIP** gives an overview of the development process and rationale for the plan. We also carried out a **health impact assessment** and **equality impact assessment** of the draft plan.

THE NORTH AYRSHIRE PARTNERSHIP PLAN

LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2022-2030



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Wellbeing



Delivery Group: Wellbeing Alliance

North Ayrshire aims to be a champion of wellbeing in its approach to improving life of its residents and communities, for example through the Community Partnership Plan (LOIP) naming 'Wellbeing' as one of the three priorities within the North Ayrshire Community Partnership Plan.

The development of the Health and Wellbeing Alliance (HWBA) by consensus is the chosen approach to lead on this priority. The HWBA Steering Group had its initial scoping meeting in January 2023, with community events also being held.

Joint Cabinet/ Youth Participation- LOIP Engagement

Joint Cabinet meetings are taking place involving North Ayrshire Council's Cabinet, senior officers, Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament and the Youth Council Executive.

This year, the format was shaken up to include a digital approach, encouraging attendees to share their feedback via a QR code to the Council's new Youth Participation digital platform as well as speaking up on the day via a series of round-table discussions.

Councillors and officials bring together all North Ayrshire secondary schools throughout the year to ensure the Council listens and responds to what young people say about how the local authority operates. But the Youth Joint Cabinet session provides a unique opportunity for young people to speak directly to local policy makers and have lively discussions on the issues that matter the most to them. North Ayrshire is one of only two local authorities in Scotland who host Joint Cabinet for our young people.

Wellbeing



Mini Inquiries

North Ayrshire has the second highest level of child poverty in Scotland. In June 2022, North Ayrshire Council established a Child Poverty and Cost of Living Board, led by the Leader of the Council, to reduce child poverty. The board includes senior officers of the council, the NHS and the third sector, representing non-profit making organisations.

The Board has hosted a series of mini-enquiries on the cost of living, held in partnership with communities and residents to examine topics like access to food, childcare and employment.

The mini-enquiries help develop knowledge and evidence around what help people need to improve their circumstances and quality of life, where services can be improved and any gaps.

Find out more about North Ayrshire's multi-agency approach to reducing child poverty at <https://northayrshire.community/nachildpoverty2022/50334/>

KA Leisure Health and Wellbeing Service

Emerging from the pandemic KA Leisure identified that a number of more vulnerable participants were not able to make a return to venues due to frailty.

To support these participants, they developed a targeted Doorstep intervention programme to address:

- Social Isolation
- Decline in functional capacity and increased risk of falls
- Poor Mental Health

The North Ayrshire Doorstep programme is a unique, versatile and accessible service that is currently offering a lifeline to people within North Ayrshire communities who are isolated within their own home are not otherwise engaging on other activities within their local community.

In March 2022 KA Leisure were awarded £49,631 from the Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund to expand and deliver the service for a further 12 months. Health professionals are now referring participants to the service for whom they otherwise would have no access to appropriate supports or services.

Work



Delivery Group: Local Employability Partnership

The North Ayrshire Local Employability Partnership (LEP) was re-established in 2017 and tasked with overseeing and guiding employability provision in North Ayrshire. The LEP is chaired by North Ayrshire Council, meets every 6 weeks, and is attended by the following partners:

- North Ayrshire Council – employability and skills, business development, children/families/justice, community learning & development and education
- Department For Work & Pensions
- Skills Development Scotland
- Ayrshire College
- TACT - Third Sector Interface
- Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce

The North Ayrshire LEP reports to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and uses intelligence from the Provider Forum, chaired by Skills Development Scotland and the Practitioners Forum, Chaired by North Ayrshire Council to inform activities and priorities.

Operational Delivery Groups around Young People, Inclusive Growth and Closing the Disability Employment Gap have been established and local organisations report to the LEP to maximise expertise and knowledge to identify gaps, opportunities and develop specific proposals and recommendations. This partnership structure and governance helps deliver transparency and accountability in ensuring citizens of North Ayrshire receive the best service and resources are used most effectively, where the greatest need exists to ensure no one is left behind.

Positive Steps with Partners

Positive Steps with Partners is an Employability Pipeline project supporting long term unemployed residents of North Ayrshire to gain new skills and experiences, supporting progression into employment.

The project offers opportunities in personal development and the opportunity to gain new work-based skills through volunteering with various Community Planning Partners. To date our main partner is The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service who provide volunteer placements with their Community Action Team. The team are working to provide new unique placements and have made developments with our HSCP who are looking to develop some placements for volunteers.

Work



Skills for Life

The Skills for Life programme supports lone parents back into work by providing a temporary 26-week mentored position within North Ayrshire Council. After a six-week pre-employment course at Ayrshire College, participants are placed across various council services. The programme runs on a six-monthly cycle and recruits 20 participants per cycle.

**YOUR
NEXT MOVE**
» Working North Ayrshire 



Positive Steps
With Partners

World



Delivery Group: Climate Change Steering Group

North Ayrshire Climate Change Steering Group (CCSG) Act as a sounding board and critical friend to support and challenge the implementation of the North Ayrshire Sustainability Strategy. They bring ideas, lessons learned and best practice from elsewhere in the UK and internationally around climate change mitigation and adaption.

The CCSG contribute wider policy knowledge on the sustainability and climate change agenda, promote North Ayrshire's actions on climate change and contribute to the review and refresh of the North Ayrshire Council Environmental and Climate Change Strategy as required.

Members of the CCSG include representatives from:

- The Council
- Ayrshire College
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- NHS Ayrshire & Arran
- K:A Leisure
- Community Groups
- Industry Sector
- Transport Sector
- Youth Groups

Climate Emergency Training

In order to support the development of the 'World' priority within our Community Partnership Plan through development of a consistent and increased understanding across partners of their responsibilities and opportunities in relation to climate change, it was agreed that Climate Emergency training would be sourced from a national agency to be delivered to the North Ayrshire Senior Officer's Group.

The training was procured via Keep Scotland Beautiful and delivered via a mixture of live workshops and self-study. The aims of the training were to collectively:

- Understand the science of climate change.
- Understand how our CPP will be impacted by climate change.
- Appreciate the significant changes ahead as Scotland moves to a low carbon future.
- Identify practical actions our CPP can take to reduce emissions.

Overall, the training was attended by 26 Community Planning Partners across two cohorts, increasing the knowledge and focus on climate change and sustainability across the CPP.

World



Scottish Fire and Rescue - Bees & Community Gardens

A beehive has been working at Dreghorn Community Fire Station for several years, where firefighter Stephen McAnespie looks after the hives.

His dad, Phil McAnespie has over 20 years of beekeeping experience. He has been mentoring the trainees who are in the process of joining the Ayr & District Beekeepers Association, where they will have opportunities to take exams and become Master Beekeepers.

Bees are vital to the eco-system as they are pollinators transferring grains of pollen from one plant to another, to fertilize the ovaries of flowers. This is not only benefits the agricultural industry it also benefits the spread of wildflowers and plants. Cross-pollination helps at least 30 percent of the world's crops and 90 percent of our wild plants to thrive. It's estimated that bees pollinate around a third of the food that we eat. Without bees to spread seeds, many plants, including food crops, would die off.

As a result of various impacts on the environment, bees are suffering a collapse in their numbers and beekeeping is one way we can help address this.

Travel Smart

The Travel Smart programme looks at how we can reduce our carbon footprint, save money and improve health within the workplace, but also throughout everyday life. They also support and promote a number of infrastructure projects that North Ayrshire Council have with Sustrans to improve and create new walking and routes within North Ayrshire.

The programme has been running for over 5 years and has successfully supported the below workplaces to achieve the Cycle Friendly Employer Award from Cycling Scotland:

- Booth Welsh
- Ayrshire Central Hospital
- KA Leisure
- North Ayrshire Council
- GSK Irvine

/..

World



The benefits of achieving the Cycle Friendly employer award are that workplaces can apply for grant funding up to £25k, this funding can be used to introduce, improve or upgrade shower facilities, bike racks or bike parking, or information to promote active and sustainable travel.

The type of free activities the programme can run within our workplaces are as follows:

- Information Stalls (Promote Active Travel and engage with employees to understand their current modes of transport, promote current cycle within the area of the workplace and provide information of new and improved infrastructure projects)
- Dr Bike Sessions
- Bike Maintenance Classes
- Active Travel Breakfasts
- Personal Travel Plans
- Loan Bikes (Electric & Non Electric)
- Lunchtime Led Walk or Led Ride



Locality Planning

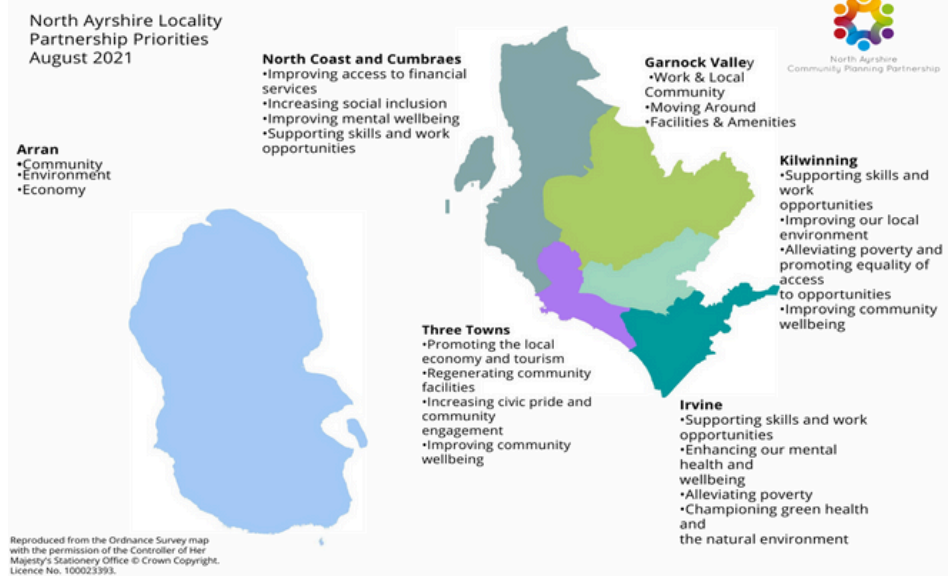
At a local level, there are six Locality Partnerships (LPs) in North Ayrshire which cover the whole local authority area.

LPs are the means by which we fulfil duties under the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 to have locality arrangements. Their membership comprises:

- Elected Members,
- Community representatives,
- Community Council Chairs, and
- Community Planning partners.

The LPs agreed their first set of local priorities following consultation, use of the Place Standard and consideration of local statistical profiles in 2016. The LPs meet quarterly with interim working groups/workshops as required. Their remit is to focus on tackling local issues and inequalities as well as to develop, review and implement the priorities of the Locality Plan for their area.

As the original priorities were in place since 2016/17, it was agreed in 2020 that the priorities should be refreshed. This process consisted of research and analysis on local issues followed by 14 weeks of public consultation, and the LPs agreed their refreshed priorities at the June 2021 round of meetings. Additionally, the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders for Locality Partnerships were reviewed and refreshed in 2022.



The next section of this report covers key achievements and milestones for each of the LPs.

Arran Locality Partnership

Locality Planning on Arran has evolved significantly since its 2016 inception.

The Arran Locality Partnership has forged very close links with the Health and Social Care Partnership Locality Forum. This collaboration has helped to develop a greater synergy between the two groups, enabling a more integrated and comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of the island's residents.

In recent years, the focus of the Arran Locality Partnership has shifted towards aligning its efforts with the development of the Arran Local Island Plan. The partnership has been exploring how North Ayrshire Council can shape the services it delivers to Arran residents and support the overarching objectives outlined in the Arran Plan. This strategic alignment ensures that the locality planning process remains responsive to the unique needs and priorities of the island community.

Arran Locality Partnership adopted the key themes of the Arran Island Plan in 2021 following an extensive public engagement exercise. This ensures that the development of the Arran Island Plan and the work of the Locality Partnership align.

You can find the Arran Island Action Plan at:

- [Arran Island Plan - 2022/23 Annual Action Plan](#)

Arran Priorities



Community

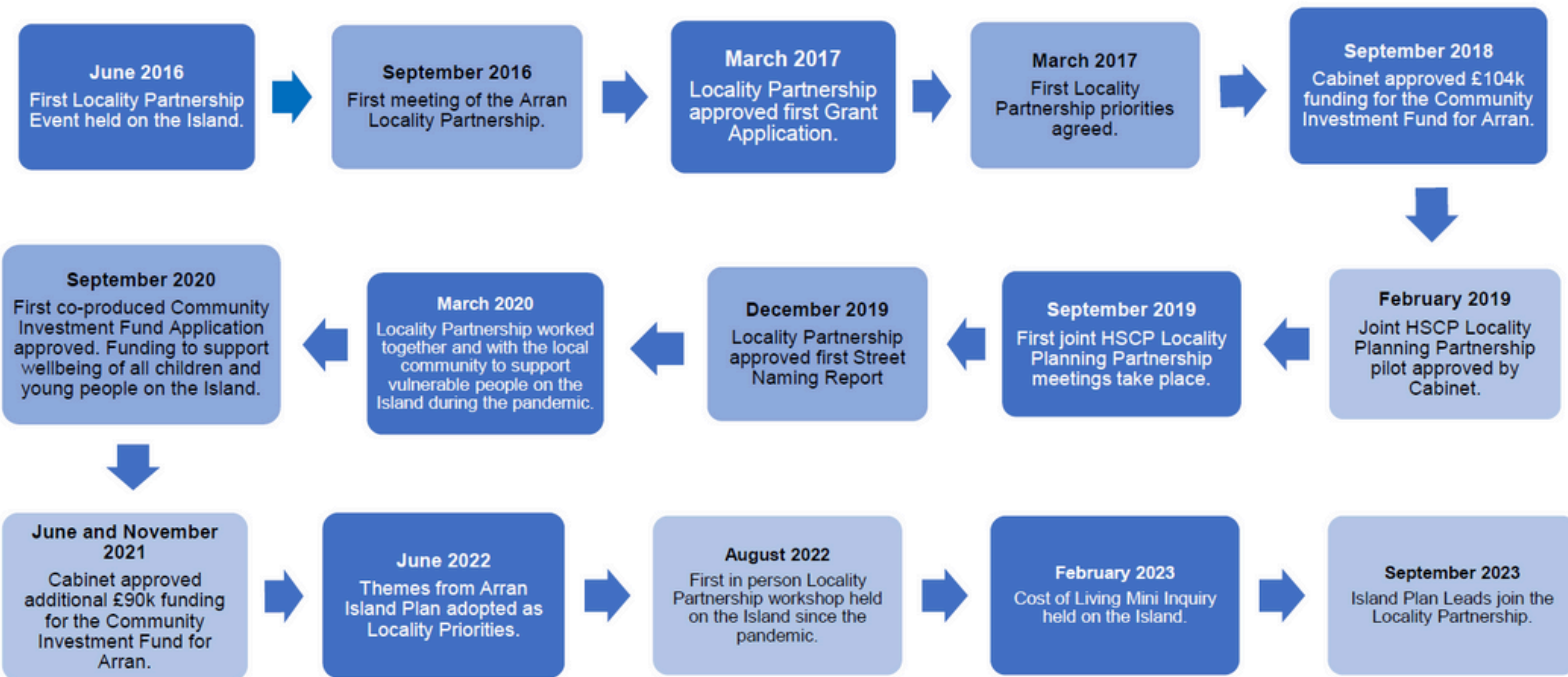


Economy



Environment

Arran Locality Partnership



Since 2016/17 the Locality Partnership has awarded over £40,000 of Grant payments community groups on the Island.

Since 2018 the Locality Partnership has awarded over £125,000 of Community Investment Funding to community groups on the Island.

Since the conception of the Locality Partnerships in North Ayrshire in 2016/17 over £165,000 has been awarded to Community Groups on Arran.

Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

The Garnock Valley encompasses a collection of thriving towns and villages, including Beith, Dalry, Kilbirnie, Gateside, Barrmill, Longbar, Glengarnock, Burnhouse, and Greenhills, with an approximate total population of 19,767 residents

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Garnock Valley was a hive of industrial activity, serving as a center for a diverse range of manufacturing and production sectors. This included linen, wooden furniture, silk scarves, leather and pigskin goods, weaving, iron and steel work, foundry and engine works, coalmining, and brickworks.

The Garnock Valley, with its stunning views, supports a diverse range of natural habitats through which run miles of foot and cycle paths for recreational purposes.

Following an extensive public engagement exercise in 2021 on the priorities of Garnock Valley, feedback from the community was that the priorities set in 2017 were still relevant. Garnock Valley Locality Partnership continue to adopt the priorities they agreed in 2017.

To ensure the Partnership focus on the priorities, there are three separate sub-groups who each focus on one of the priorities and updates are provided to the Locality Partnership on a quarterly basis.

Garnock Valley Priorities



Moving Around (Public Transport, Traffic & Parking)

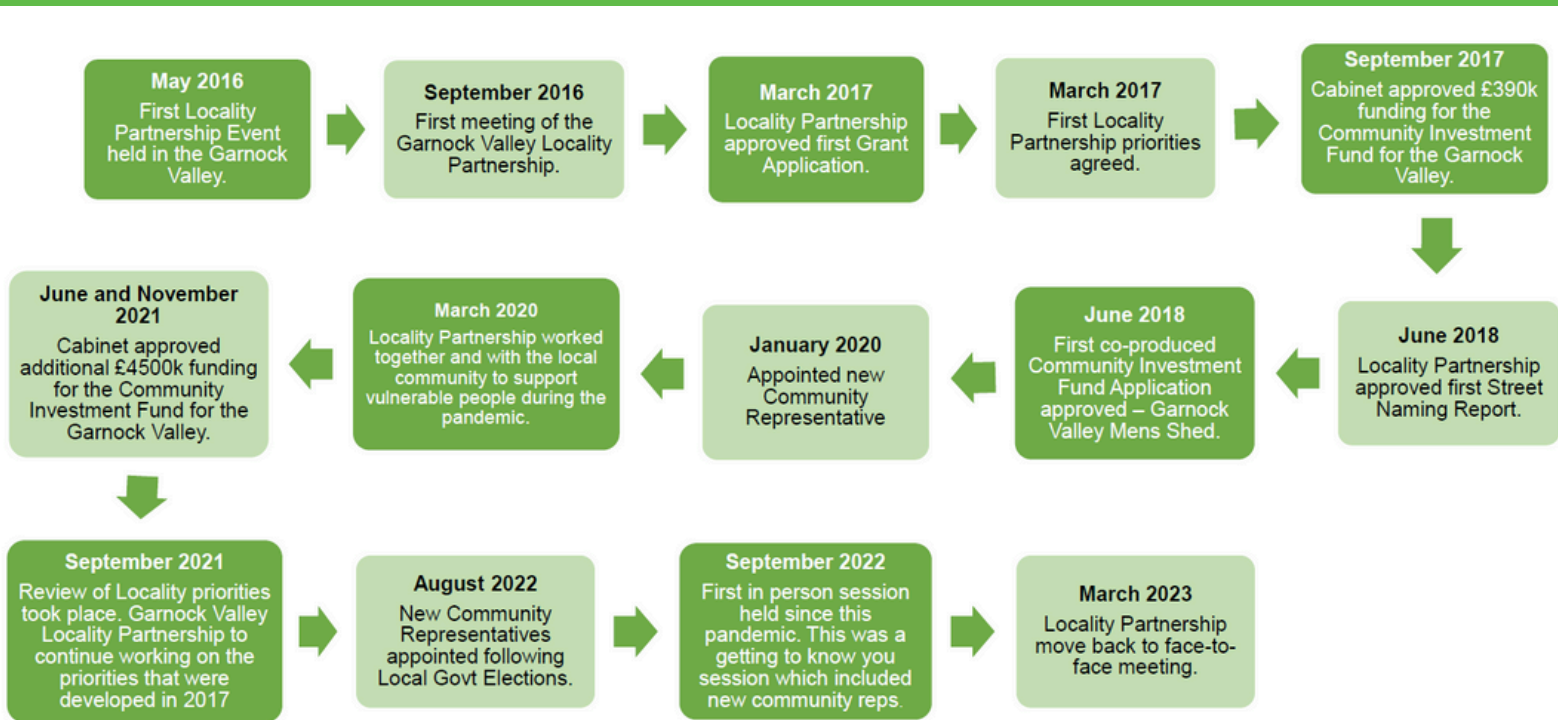


Work and the Local Community



Facilities & Amenities

Garnock Valley Locality Partnership



Since 2016/17 the Locality Partnership has awarded over £195,000 of Grant payments community groups in the Garnock Valley.

Since 2018 the Locality Partnership has awarded over £341,000 of Community Investment Funding to community groups in the Garnock Valley.

Since the conception of the Locality Partnerships in North Ayrshire in 2016/17 over £536,000 has been awarded to Community Groups in the Garnock Valley.

Irvine Locality Partnership

The Irvine Locality Partnership encompasses the main town of Irvine, as well as the surrounding villages of Springside, Dreghorn, and Drybridge. This combined area has a total population of approximately 39,000 residents.

Irvine's rich industrial past is reflected in its picturesque harbour area, which is also home to the National Maritime Museum. The town's beach is a natural amenity that is enjoyed year-round by both locals and visitors, providing opportunities for the community to stay healthy and active.

Irvine, the surrounding villages and its individual localities have strong, vibrant, active communities who work together to ensure that local people are involved, included and cared for, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose.

Following an extensive public engagement exercise in 2021 on the priorities of Irvine, feedback from the community was that the priorities set in 2017 were in need of a refresh in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Locality Team hosts chit chat events across each of the community settlements in Irvine to discuss issues relating to the priorities and how the Partnership can provide support.

Irvine Priorities



Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities



Alleviating Poverty



Enhancing our Mental Health and Wellbeing



Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment.

Irvine Locality Partnership



Since 2016/17 the Locality Partnership has awarded over £451,000 of Grant payments community groups in Irvine.

Since 2018 the Locality Partnership has awarded over £460,000 of Community Investment Funding to community groups in Irvine.

Since the conception of the Locality Partnerships in North Ayrshire in 2016/17 over £900,000 has been awarded to Community Groups in Irvine.

Kilwinning Locality Partnership

Kilwinning, a bustling community in North Ayrshire, is situated along the banks of the River Garnock, just north of Irvine and approximately 21 miles south of Glasgow. This historic town is home to a population of around 16,000 residents.

Kilwinning has a long and storied past, having served as a center for various industries throughout its history. The town was once a hub for weaving, coal mining, and ironworks, playing a significant role in Scotland's industrial development. In the 20th century, Kilwinning became part of the country's last New Town, further solidifying its place as an important economic and cultural hub.

In 2021, an extensive public engagement exercise was undertaken to reassess the community's priorities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The feedback gathered from this process indicated that the priorities established in 2017 required a refresh to better address the evolving needs and challenges faced by the locality.

Kilwinning Priorities



Supporting Skills and Work



Improving Our Local Environment

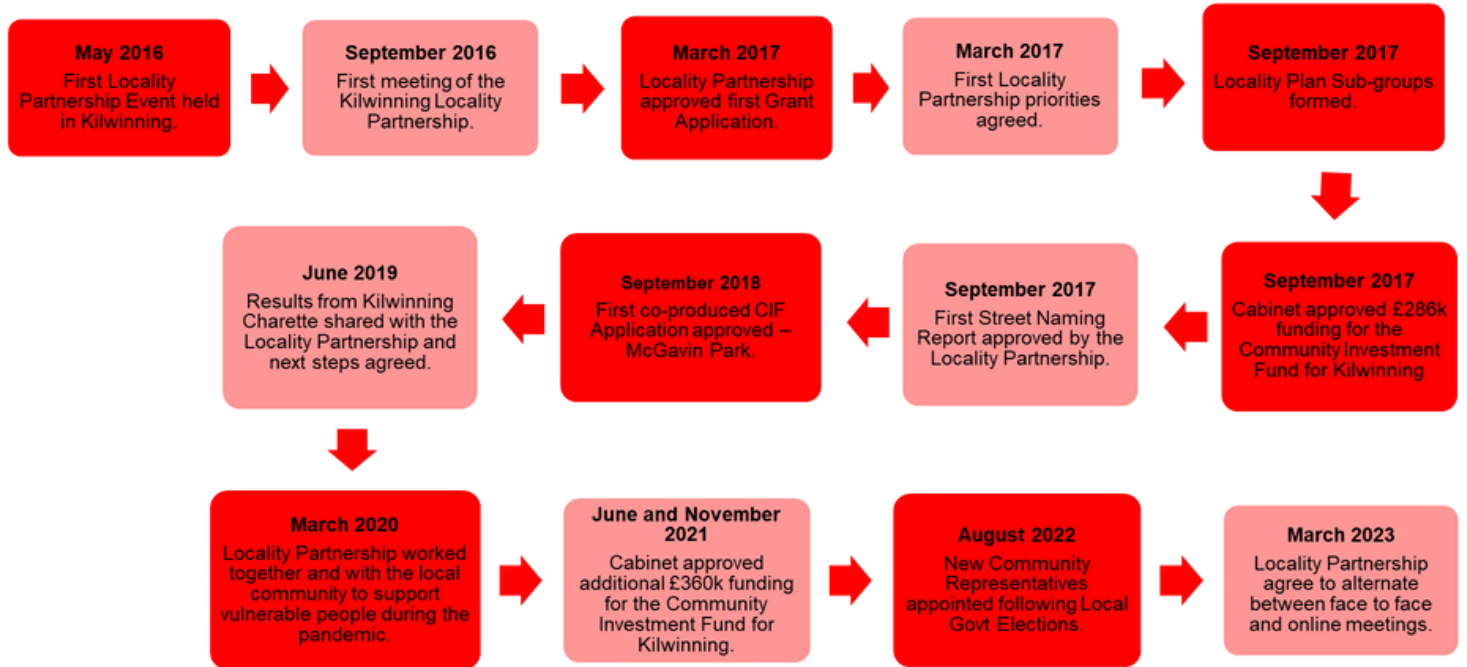


Alleviating Poverty and Promoting Equality of Access to Opportunities



Improving Community Wellbeing

Kilwinning Locality Partnership



Since 2016/17 the Locality Partnership has awarded over £188,000 of Grant payments community groups in Kilwinning.

Since 2018 the Locality Partnership has awarded over £231,000 of Community Investment Funding to community groups in Kilwinning.

Since the conception of the Locality Partnerships in North Ayrshire in 2016/17 over £400,000 has been awarded to Community Groups in Kilwinning.

North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership

The North Coast Locality encompasses the island of Cumbrae and the charming seaside towns of Largs, Fairlie, Skelmorlie, and West Kilbride. This vibrant coastal area is home to a population of approximately 23,000 residents.

Largs, the largest town in the locality, is a beloved seaside resort that offers a vast array of amenities and activities for visitors to enjoy. Visitors can also take a ferry to the nearby island of Cumbrae for a day of exploration and discovery.

Fairlie, Skelmorlie and West Kilbride, although smaller than Largs, also have some great amenities including restaurants, shops and lovely rural walks. The seafront at Seamill has a long sandy beach and there is a small harbour at Portencross with beautiful views.

In 2021, an extensive public engagement exercise was undertaken to reassess the community's priorities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The feedback gathered from provided valuable insights into the evolving needs and concerns of the community and a refreshed set of the priorities allowed for a more targeted and effective approach.

North Coast & Cumbraes Priorities



Improving Access to Financial Services



Increasing Social Inclusion

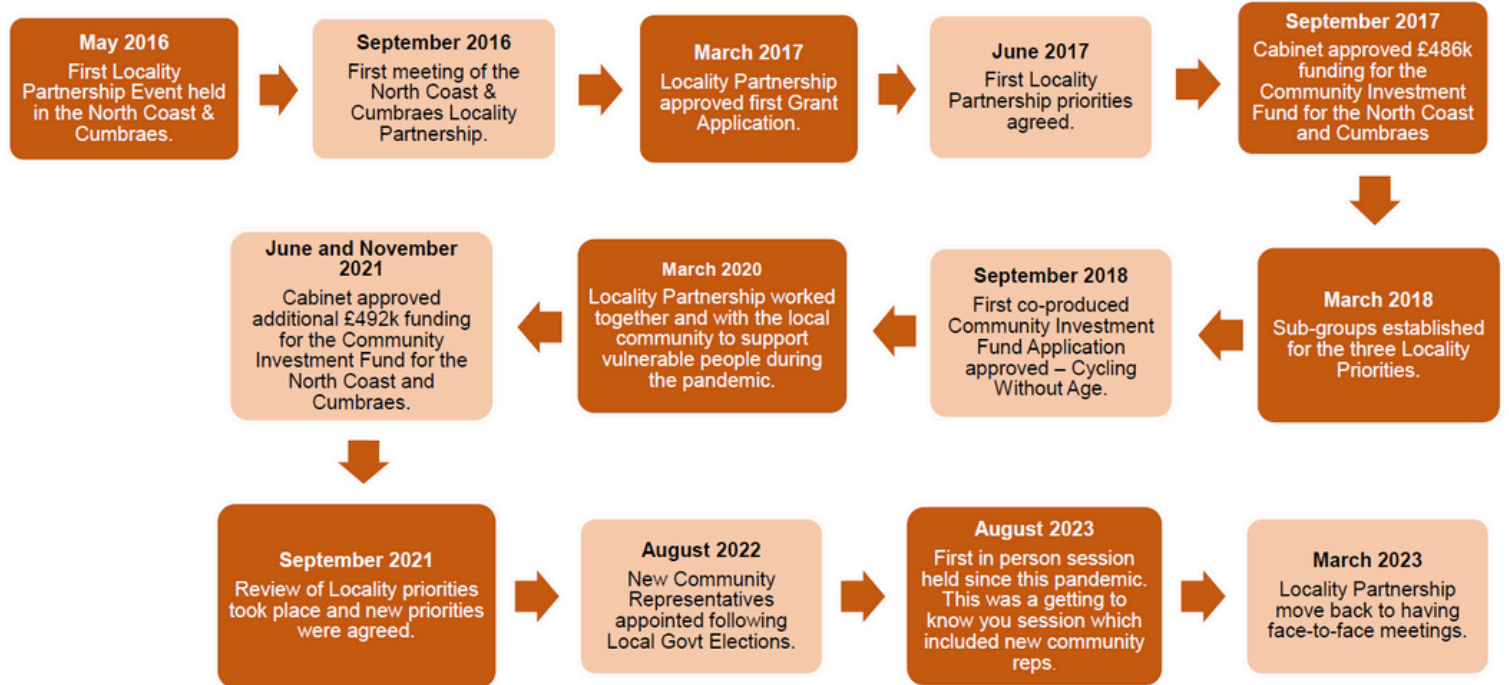


Improving Mental Wellbeing



Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities

North Coast & Cumbraes Locality Partnership



Since 2016/17 the Locality Partnership has awarded over £198,000 of Grant payments community groups in the North Coast & Cumbraes

Since 2018 the Locality Partnership has awarded over £380,000 of Community Investment Funding to community groups in the North Coast & Cumbraes.

Since the conception of the Locality Partnerships in North Ayrshire in 2016/17 over £578,000 has been awarded to Community Groups in the North Coast & Cumbraes.

Three Towns Locality Partnership

The Three Towns, comprises of the communities of Saltcoats, Stevenston, and Ardrossan. Situated to the north of Kilwinning, has a combined population of around 32,300 residents.

The area is steeped in history and boasts stunning natural scenery, including lovely beaches that attract visitors. The picturesque landscapes and coastal charm make it a popular destination for both leisure and tourism.

The Three Towns offer a diverse array of leisure and tourist attractions, catering to a wide range of interests. These include the Clyde Marina, the impressive ruins of Ardrossan Castle, the Arran ferry at Ardrossan Harbour with convenient access to train and bus connections, the Auchenharvie Leisure Centre and Golf Club, the Ardeer Golf Club, the Ardeer Quarry Local Nature Reserve, and the historic ruins of Kerlaw Castle.

In 2021, an extensive public engagement initiative was undertaken to re-evaluate the community's priorities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The feedback gathered through this process provided valuable insights into the evolving needs and concerns of the community. This, in turn, allowed for a refreshed set of priorities, enabling a more targeted and effective approach to addressing the community's evolving requirements.

Three Towns Priorities



Promoting the Local Economy & Tourism



Regenerating Community Facilities



Increasing Civic Pride and Community Engagement



Improving Community Wellbeing

Three Towns Locality Partnership



Since 2016/17 the Locality Partnership has awarded over £324,000 of Grant payments community groups in the Three Towns

Since 2018 the Locality Partnership has awarded over £616,000 of Community Investment Funding to community groups in the Three Towns.

Since the conception of the Locality Partnerships in North Ayrshire in 2016/17 over £940,000 has been awarded to Community Groups in the Three Towns



COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

The new Community Directory will allow users to search for local services, groups and activities by entering their postcode or by selecting their Locality.

CPP CONFERENCE

The 2024 Conference will have a focus on People and Local Democracy. Conversations from the Conference will form as our response to the Scottish Government's Democracy Matters 2 Consultation.

2024 DEVELOPMENTS

PLACEMAKING

The development of Local Place Plans in North Ayrshire will link in closely with Locality Priorities and Action Plans. Local Place Plans are community led plans which have to be submitted by end of June 2024.

REFRESHED CPP WEBSITE

The new CPP Website will allow users to easily access all things Community Planning. There will be a designated Events and Consultation sections and it will also host our new Community Directory.

FUTURE OF LP'S

Strengthening links to inequalities with refreshed agenda formats at Locality Partnership meetings, ensuring discussions relate to the locality, their priorities and reducing inequalities.



Other Key Plans

The North Ayrshire Partnership Community Plan 22-30 contains the priorities for our Community Planning Partnership. We will continue to support a wide range of other partnership work including these strategies:

- [Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy 2016-25](#)
- [North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan](#)
- [North Ayrshire Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy](#)
- [North Ayrshire Violence Against Women Strategy](#)
- [Child Poverty Action Plan and Report 2022/23](#)
- [Children's Services Plan 2020-2023](#)
- [Children's Services Plan Progress Report 2020-2023](#)

We thank you for your continued support to deliver on our vision of “North Ayrshire – Fair for All”

Contact Us:

Community Planning Team
Cunninghame House,
Irvine,
KA12 8EE



northayrshire.community



communityplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



[@NAyrshireCPP](https://twitter.com/NAyrshireCPP)

