

Action Note

Meeting:	Garnock Valley Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	20 March 2025 – Garnock Campus
Present:	<p>Councillor John Bell (Chair) Councillor Donald L. Reid Councillor Ronnie Stalker Councillor Margaret Johnson James Waite, Beith & District Community Council – Vice Chair Catherine Wigzell, Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Community Learning & Development, NAC (Lead Officer) Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer, Ellie Hannah, NA Active Schools, NAC Inspector Michael Cowan, Police Scotland Neil Shearer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Heather McVie Branley, Community Development Worker David Park, Community Representative</p> <p>In Attendance</p> <p>Ewen Campbell, SWECO PC Caroline Duffy, Police Scotland Alan McDougall, Head Teacher, Garnock Campus Chris Munk, KA Leisure Nick Wright, Nick Wright Planning Jennifer McGee, Policy & Community Planning Officer (Notes)</p>
Apologies:	<p>Councillor Anthea Dickson Lynne McNiven, Director Public Health (NHS Ayrshire & Arran) Kyle Lewis, KA Leisure Kaileigh Brown, The Ayrshire Community Trust Andy Watson, Dalry Community Council Jane Lamont, Community Representative</p>

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.</p>	Noted
2.	<p>Action Note</p> <p>The action note arising from the meeting held on 11 December 2024 was approved with the following updates provided:</p> <p>Beat the Street – J McGee is still awaiting this information for the consultant and has followed up with the Regeneration Team.</p>	J McGee

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	<p>Radio City Application CIF Application – All necessary information has been received and reviewed by the Council’s Finance department. The Partnership confirmed their approval for the application to proceed to Cabinet</p> <p>Community Wealth Building Approach – This has been discussed at the Community Wealth Building Board and looking for the best ways to bring money into the Garnock Valley.</p>	<p>A Morrell</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Grants</p> <p>The Locality Partnership considered one grant application made to the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund from St Margaret’s Church Social Group.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership approved the application to award £1315 to the group to help toward cost for their summer outing.</p>	<p>S Fleming</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>S3 Leadership Programme</p> <p>The Partnership received a presentation on the S3 Leadership and Fire Skills Programme taking place in the Garnock Valley. This programme is delivered in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Garnock Valley Locality Team, KA Leisure, and Garnock Community Campus.</p> <p>C Munk provided the Partnership with the background to the origin of the programme which links to the work of the North Ayrshire Wellbeing Alliance.</p> <p>The most recent programme started in September 2024 with a group of seven young people who were either disengaged or at risk of disengaging at school.</p> <p>N Shearer highlighted that this was the first fire skills programme in North Ayrshire since the pandemic. The young people underwent training in fire safety, first aid (CPR/defibrillator use), teamwork, communication, and leadership skills. The young people also gained an understanding of community safety roles. The programme finished with the young people providing a live demonstration and they also receive certificates for their achievements, including a British Heart Foundation CPR/Defib Certificate. N Shearer also highlighted that this programme was a result of partnership working at the Locality Partnership.</p> <p>PC Duffy commented that as a result of the programme the young people are engaging more, and attendance is improving.</p> <p>H McVie- Branley highlighted that the group are also participating in the Leaders Unlocked programme which is about tackling anti-bigotry and prejudice through art.</p> <p>Further information can be found on the dedicated Glow website – Garnock Community Leaders</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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	<p>The Chair thanked everyone for their inputs and commented that it was great to see the close partnership working in action.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Travel Needs Analysis</p> <p>The Partnership received an update from Ewen Campbell from Sweco on the Travel Needs Analysis.</p> <p>E Campbell highlighted that Sweco were appointed to conduct a travel needs analysis survey in the Garnock Valley. 553 residents completed the survey. The survey examined the current transport offering and travel needs of the local population and advised on options to improve transport which address the needs of the community.</p> <p>The Key findings highlighted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Evening Bus Services: No direct buses from Glasgow after 5:15 PM, impacting employment and leisure. • Unattractive Bus Services: Low frequency and high costs deter users. • Limited Evening Transport: Difficulties accessing public transport after 7 pm particularly to key destinations (Glasgow, Irvine, Paisley). • Rail Accessibility Issues: Limited access to rail stations, especially for Beith and Kilbirnie. • Challenges in Medical Travel: Reliance on cars for hospital visits due to inadequate public transport. • Limited Active Travel Options: Limited cycling infrastructure and safety concerns. <p>Recommendations from the survey included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Transport • Subsidised Bus Services • Garnock Valley Zone Cards • Real-Time Information <p>E Campbell then provided the Partnership with an overview of the Johnstone Community Transport initiative which is a Community Interest Company that was established to improve bus services in Johnstone and surrounding villages.</p> <p>The Chair requested further information on how Johnstone funded their transport initiative. E Campbell undertook to find out this information.</p> <p>C Pieraccini asked the Partnership their thoughts around the next steps in terms of the moving around priority.</p> <p>The Chair highlighted that it would be good for the Council's Regeneration Team who lead on transport strategy to attend a future meeting and to look at how this can be actioned. A Morrell undertook to contact the Team.</p>	<p>E Campbell</p> <p>A Morrell</p>

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	<p>C Pieraccini undertook to share a copy of the finalised document with Cllr Donald Reid who is the Council's rep on the SPT Board.</p> <p>The Chair thanked E Campbell for his presentation. The Chair also conveyed his thanks to the working group.</p>	<p>C Pieraccini</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Our Garnock Valley</p> <p>C Pieraccini advised that the draft report has been shared with the working group. Discussion is required around how the findings are put into action and how the Locality Partnership can help make it happen.</p> <p>The Partnership received an update from N Wright on the Our Garnock Valley work, which has been ongoing for over 18 months with monthly meetings taking place. The final stage of the project is approaching, with a consultation on the draft plan scheduled for around May 2025, including an event with a date to be confirmed.</p> <p>N Wright advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight themes were tested at events in November, with "homes" added as an additional theme • The plan will be different from previous versions, featuring a live format and a section on action and decision-making • Maps for each town and village will be included, with accessible graphics • The plan will highlight larger transformational projects that communities can lead <p>N Wright will bring the finalised plan to the June Partnership meeting. to the next meeting with the finalised plan and feedback.</p> <p>C Pieraccini emphasised the importance of considering implementation strategies, what the role of the Locality Partnership could be and what the LP could do between now and June to meet community aspirations. C Pieraccini encouraged the Partnership to consider this.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>J McGee</p> <p>All</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Education and Youth Overview</p> <p>The Partnership received updates from:</p> <p>Locality Team</p> <p>H McVie Branley highlighted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Garnock Valley Youth Forum and Youth Synergy are ongoing, with Youth Synergy growing. • A new girls group for 2nd/3rd year pupils started last week. • Detached youth continues to take place on Thursday and Fridays. • The mobile youth centre will be used for Parklives when it starts back up. • The team will be at the Beith skatepark launch. • P7 transition programs all schools are engaging, except for Gateside Primary who are doing their own programme. 	

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- The youth space is being painted with colours chosen by the young people.

School Cluster

A McDougall provided updates from Garnock Campus, Beith Primary, Gateside Primary and Dalry Primary schools.

Garnock Campus

- Emphasis on health and wellbeing with a wealth of information on the school's website that can be used by parents/carers. Positive feedback on extended breakfast and Lochshore walks. Strong staff-student relationships noted. The Campus is also reviewing their mobile phone policy with pupils, staff and parents/carers being surveyed

Beith Primary

- Revising their aims and values.
- Community Café run by P7
- New Early Years Manager, Anne Marie McKenna.
- Upcoming "Matilda" show (tickets available from school) and VE Day concert.

Gateside Primary

- British Science Week activities took place
- Fairtrade Committee raised funds with hot chocolate afternoons. Writing Week inspired by Lindsey Littlejohn.
- Choir in Ayrshire Music Festival

Dalry Primary

- Reviewing values and curriculum.
- STEAM Week focused on space and aerospace with many visitors.

Moorpark Primary recently appointed a new Head Teacher.

Active Schools

E Hannah provided the Partnership with an update on the work of Active Schools relating to the Partnership priorities:

Moving Around

- Provide 52 clubs across the cluster during lunchtime and after school which removes accessibility barriers and transport costs

Work and Local Community

- 2 Young People involved in NPA level 6 qualification and attend college once a week. There are 17 Higher Sports Leaders, 10 North Ayrshire Sports Academy across the locality. Garnock Valley Active Girls worked with young ambassadors to deliver a week of celebrations in lead up to International Women's Day. The group with over 100 women over the week.

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	<p>Facilities and Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with local primary schools and Lochshore hub for the P7 transition event. Working collaboratively with KA Leisure to offer clubs during and after school times. <p>The Chair thanked everyone for their input.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>KA Leisure</p> <p>Apologies were received from KA Leisure.</p> <p>A report will be circulated to the Partnership by email.</p>	<p>J McGee</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Police and SFRS – Wellbeing and Partnerships</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>M Cowan provided the Partnership with the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the campus discussions on critical topics such as extortion, internet safety, drugs, knife crimes, and hate crime, with a focus on disability hate crime have taken place. All classes have received their first two inputs on the violence prevention program there is a plan in place to train student mentors. An 8-week "Pitch In" program for S1/S2 boys at Rugby Park and netball programme to continue after Easter Holidays. In terms of preventative work Prevention and Intervention Officer Guy Jenner is addressing several key issues. He is working to prevent bogus work crimes and collaborating with North Ayrshire Carers to provide support. He is also distributing cold calling deterrent materials and implementing vaping education programs in schools. Additionally, he is conducting information sessions for the ADP to reduce substance-related issues. Community Wellbeing Officer is working with two local children's houses. The Locality Policing Team continue to work with the rural community. Additionally, a new Anti-Social Behaviour Order Officer has been appointed cover the whole of North Ayrshire. <p>J Waite asked M Cowan about staffing at the local office. M Cowan confirmed that Sgt Dougie Clark would be coming back to his post in the Garnock Valley.</p> <p>Scottish Fire and Rescue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 home fire safety visits have taken place in the Locality with 57.14% of these visits were to the most vulnerable in our community and were deemed high risk. New service was launched in February 2025 whereby partners referring individuals for a home fire safety visits will now do so using the new online portal: - Home fire safety visits Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 11 AP1 referrals to social work partners for people who live within the Garnock Valley. 	<p>Noted</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently looking for On-Call firefighters at Dalry Community Fire Station. Full details can be found: - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Jobs myjobscotland <p>N Shearer advised that a full report was provided within the papers and was happy for the Partnership to contact him if they had any queries.</p> <p>The Chair conveyed his thanks to N Shearer, who is retiring from his post at the end of March, for all of the support he and the team has provided to the Partnership.</p>	Noted
10.	<p>Locality Plan Progress</p> <p>C Pieraccini advised the Locality Partnership that the working group have been working hard. Recently they have received updates on the Wellbeing Alliance and from the Council's Employability Team</p> <p>The next few meetings will have a focus on the work of Our Garnock Valley and the Travel Needs Analysis.</p>	Noted
11.	<p>Locality Officer Update</p> <p>The Locality Report was enclosed as part of the agenda pack.</p> <p>The report highlighted updates in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Locality The Locality Priorities Garnock Valley Multiply Youth Work <p>Cllr Reid conveyed his thanks to the Locality Team for all the work they do.</p>	Noted
12.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Review of Locality Planning</p> <p>A Morrell advised the Partnership that following the Locality survey issued during 2024 responses have been reviewed with the Council's Administration and work is underway to make Partnership meetings more action focussed. Feedback from the partnership on these initiatives would be welcomed.</p> <p>J Waite asked if an updated on the Beith Community Centre project could be brought to the June Partnership meeting. J McGee confirmed that it is on the agenda planner for the June meeting.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Noted</p>

The meeting ended at 8:45 pm