

# Action Note

Meeting:	Garnock Valley Locality Partnership		
Date/Venue:	12 June 2025 – Lochshore Hub		
Present:	<p>Councillor John Bell (Chair) Councillor Anthea Dickson Councillor Donald L. Reid Councillor Ronnie Stalker Councillor Margaret Johnson James Waite, Beith &amp; District Community Council – Vice Chair Catherine Wigzell, Kilbirnie &amp; Glengarnock Community Council Valerie Provan, Dalry Community Council David Park, Community Representative Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Community Learning &amp; Development, (Lead Officer) Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer Ellie Hannah, Active Schools Co-ordinator Sgt Dougie Clark, Police Scotland Heather McVie- Branley, Community Development Worker</p> <p><b>In Attendance</b></p> <p>Graham Robson, KA Leisure Nick Wright, Nick Wright Planning Sharon Fleming, Performance &amp; Grants Officer David Hilditch, Active Travel &amp; Transport Manager Jennifer McGee, Policy &amp; Community Planning Officer (Notes)</p>		
Apologies:	<p>Kyle Lewis, KA Leisure Andy Watson, Dalry Community Council Jane Lamont, Community Representative Inspector Michael Cowan, Police Scotland James Robson, Beith Community Association</p>		
ACTIONS			
No.	Action	Responsible	
1.	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.</p>	Noted	
2.	<p><b>Action Note</b></p> <p>The action note arising from the meeting held on 20 March 2025 was approved with all actions complete.</p>	Noted	
3	<p><b>CIF Project Update – Beith Community Association</b></p> <p>No representatives from Beith Community Association were present.</p>	Noted	
4.	<p><b>Our Garnock Valley</b></p> <p>N Wright advised the Partnership that a consultation period for residents to provide feedback on the draft plan will begin next week and will close on 20 July 2025. The consultation will be accessible via the Our Garnock Valley website:- <a href="#">Our Garnock Valley</a>.</p>	All	

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	<p>Community events will be held on Monday 23rd June in Garnock Campus at 3pm and 6pm. They will be an opportunity to see and discuss the draft Plan, including how to turn the Plan into reality.</p> <p>Once the consultation period has ended, the plan will be reviewed and finalised before going back to the working group. The groups involved will then submit the plan to North Ayrshire Council as the Local Place Plan. Councillors will receive formal notification of the consultation period next week.</p> <p>N Wright emphasised that the Plan is shaped by community responses and is organised around eight key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action and decision making</li> <li>• Town centres</li> <li>• Getting about</li> <li>• Community life</li> <li>• Parks and outdoor space</li> <li>• Home</li> <li>• Young people</li> <li>• Jobs and business</li> </ul> <p>N Wright provided a summary of each of the eight themes, outlining the community's aspirations, proposed actions, and examples of similar projects being implemented elsewhere.</p> <p>Each town will have its own section where the survey responses are presented in detail.</p> <p>N Wright asked how the Locality Partnership could adopt this plan, and could the Partnership use it as a model and monitor progress? C Pieraccini noted that this would form part of the discussion relating to the review of Locality Planning.</p> <p>C Pieraccini acknowledged the two years of work involved and commended the community organisations for their contributions, attending meetings, discussing the plan, and shaping the consultation process.</p> <p>N Wright encouraged the Partnership to help promote the opportunity for residents to provide their comments.</p> <p>The Chair thanked N Wright for his input.</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Community Transport</b></p> <p>D Hilditch attended the meeting to discuss Community Transport and highlighted that the Council issued a response to SPT Regional Bus Strategy Consultation. C Pieraccini advised that the working group also submitted a response to the Consultation.</p> <p>The Partnership discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving public transport in Garnock Valley is a priority, focusing on better linking towns and improving access to rail, education, and hospital services, which remain challenging</li> <li>• Current bus services, especially in the evenings, are inadequate and while a full solution may be costly and not immediate community transport has helped fill gaps elsewhere</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D Hilditch highlighted that a £200,000 grant has been allocated for Garnock Valley and North Coast to improve bus stop signage and make minor route enhancements. Partnership members were invited to share suggestions</li> <li>SPT are exploring franchise models for bus services</li> <li>C Pieraccini is keen to engage with the Johnston Bus Company to explore their business model</li> <li>N Wright noted that these issues link closely to the responses to Local Place Plan, and how this would be a key resource for ongoing transport and connectivity information.</li> </ul> <p>A Morrell highlighted that Coalfields has prepared proposal that has been sent to Chief Officers within the Council. A Morrell undertook to prepare a summary of this proposal and update the Partnership at the September meeting.</p> <p>The Chair thanked D Hilditch for attending.</p>	<p><b>D Hilditch</b></p> <p><b>A Morrell</b></p>
6.	<p><b>Youth &amp; Education Overview</b></p> <p><b>Youth Work</b></p> <p>H McVie-Branley advised that a full report was included as part of the Locality Report submitted with the meeting papers.</p> <p>H McVie-Branley also advised the Partnership that since the last meeting (March 2025), over 1200 hours of youth work has taken place in Garnock Valley with 855 young people being engaged in activities.</p> <p>122 young people engaged in P7 transition from across the primary schools in the Garnock Valley.</p> <p>The Garnock Valley Locality Team were finalists at the Youth Link Scotland Awards for the Community Based Youth Work Award.</p> <p><b>Active Schools</b></p> <p>E Hannah advised that a full report was included as part of the Locality Report submitted with the meeting papers.</p> <p>E Hannah also advised the Partnership that full year stats would be shared at the September meeting and recruitment for next year's Sports Leaders will begin soon. To date, 11 young people have already enrolled in the sports academy ahead of the engagement process.</p> <p>The Chair thanked both H McVie-Branley and E Hannah for their updates and congratulated the Garnock Valley Locality Team on becoming finalists at the award ceremony.</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
7.	<p><b>KA Leisure</b></p> <p>G Robson provided the Partnership with an update of the work of KA Leisure across the Locality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attended opening of Beith Skatepark providing first aid support and balance bike sessions for children aged 2–4.</li> <li>Support Parklives every Friday evening.</li> <li>Supporting Community Sports Day at Dalry Community Sports Hub for individuals with additional support needs on 12 July</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosting free fun event for the Garnock P7 group during the holidays to support their transition</li> <li>• ASN swimming lessons are being added to the timetable to encourage participation and ensure accessibility for all</li> <li>• Open day provisionally scheduled for 31 August to showcase the offerings of KA Leisure and other local organisations. Keen to increase participation in the area.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked G Robson for his update.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Police and SFRS – Wellbeing and Partnerships</b></p> <p>Sgt Clark provided the Partnership with an update on the work of Police Scotland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The team has been continuing to work with Trading Standards on scam prevention work.</li> <li>• Commended the efforts of PC Duffy, Campus Officer and the work she does to support young people within the Campus.</li> <li>• New Local Authority Liaison Officer recently appointed, Sgt Caroline Mowbray</li> <li>• The team is actively addressing drug-related issues and is keen to encourage greater community involvement to help tackle these issues.</li> <li>• Police will be present at some upcoming local events to engage with the community.</li> <li>• Since the last meeting there have been 14 ASBO incidents and 17 active cases currently ongoing in the area.</li> <li>• Sgt Clark also highlighted the significant amount of positive work that is being carried out in the area by the Locality Policing Team.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Bell thanked Sgt Clark for his update.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Locality Plan Progress</b></p> <p>C Pieraccini highlighted that the working group has been reviewing the Plan, its implementation, and the next steps. Some ideas from the Plan are currently being tested, and it is hoped that a few CIF proposals will be submitted over the summer in addition to the plan.</p> <p>The group will meet again at the start of September.</p> <p>The Chair thanked C Pieraccini for her input.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Locality Officer Update</b></p> <p>C Pieraccini advised that a full report was included as part of the meeting papers.</p> <p>The Chair thanked C Pieraccini for her detailed report.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Review of Locality Planning</b></p> <p>J McGee advised the Partnership that a report went to the Council's Cabinet in May 2025 on the review of Locality Planning. The recommendations of the report were shaped by the survey responses issued to all Locality Partnership members over summer/autumn 2024, where the majority of respondents were community reps. J McGee also highlighted that there was also an</p>	

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	<p>Information Session held late May 2025 where all Locality Partnership Members were invited to attend.</p> <p>J McGee asked the Partnership how they felt about the format and structure of the meeting and what changes to the meeting format, or any other aspects would members like to see going forward.</p> <p>The Partnership discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update reports being included with meeting papers and circulated in advance rather than presenting on the night.</li> <li>• Having a flexible approach</li> <li>• The current meeting structure seems effective. It was suggested that it may be useful to have a workshop format to focus on thematic action points under each theme rather than by organisation, to make meetings more action oriented.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for more partners to get involved.</li> <li>• The group agreed not to commit to a single structure but to trial a themed approach based on the Plan</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked the Partnership for their input.</p>	<b>J McGee</b>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>Cllr Stalker expressed his disappointed that Beith Community Association did not attend to provide their update tonight. A Morrell advised the Partnership that communication would be sent to the Group, and they will be invited to attend the September meeting.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for attending and advised that the Roads, Structures and Street Lighting Maintenance Programme 2025/26 report was enclosed for information.</p>	<p><b>A Morrell/J McGee</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>

**The meeting ended at 8.35 pm**