

Action Note

Meeting:	North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	Thursday 21 August 2025 at 6.15pm, Largs Library
Present:	<p>Councillor Alan Hill (Chair) Councillor Ian Murdoch Councillor Todd Ferguson (joined remotely) Russell McCutheon, Executive Director, Place (Senior Lead Officer) Louise Riddex, Locality Officer Deidre Oakley, Locality Priorities Officer Rhonda Leith, Head of Connected Communities (Lead Officer) Linda Smith, Largs Community Council Barbara Conner, TACT Tony Gilhooley, Active Schools Co-ordinator</p>
In Attendance	<p>Tiffany Irvin, Largs Thistle Barry Wilson, Depute Head Teacher, Largs Campus Stephanie Fisher, Head Teacher, St Mary's Primary Alana Reilly Parent Council Chair (St Mary's) Donald Fisher, Football Coach, Largs Thistle Marie Prince Largs Parent Council Kerry Cannon, Largs Karate</p>
Apologies:	<p>Councillor Marshall Councillor Eleanor Collier Lizzy Barbour, Community Rep</p>

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1	Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of Interest	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.	Noted
2.	Community Investment Fund	
	<p>The Partnership considered a full application from Largs Thistle who are seeking £63,000 funding for the purchase of a new minibus. This cost would also cover servicing and maintenance costs for three years.</p> <p>The minibus would be used by all educational establishments at the Largs Community Campus and Largs Thistle Youth teams. Where availability permits and during school holidays, the bus will be available for other constituted community groups to book via the booking system.</p> <p>The minibus will directly benefit a wide range of groups across Largs and the surrounding area. The bus would be based at the Largs campus and used by schools for activities, after-school clubs, cultural visits, and intergenerational activities. At present, pupils often miss opportunities due to reliance on public transport, teachers having to use their own cars, or costly private hire.</p>	

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<p>At weekends, the bus will support youth sport, particularly football where travel can be up to 3 hours for some games. This will remove the heavy burden currently placed on parents and coaches and help retain young people in activity.</p> <p>There is strong community backing for this project, as demonstrated by the range of groups and individuals present at the meeting.</p> <p>The minibus will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove transport barriers and widen access for young people. • Support inclusion and reduce poverty-related opportunity gaps. • Build stronger links between schools, community groups, and families. <p>This would be a sustainable, shared resource that will transform opportunities for children and the wider community.</p> <p>T Irvin also highlighted that Largs Campus will be contributing £5,000 per year to support with maintenance costs should the application be approved.</p> <p>T Irvin also highlighted that the group had explored alternative options, including leasing—which would consume the full funding amount without leaving a lasting asset—and purchasing a used minibus, which, while cheaper upfront, would result in significantly higher maintenance costs.</p> <p>Cllr Murdoch thanked the group for their proposal and highlighted that the application appeared to be for schools/groups in the Largs area only. Cllr Murdoch asked whether the wider North Coast would have access?</p> <p>T Irvin confirmed that the bus will be available to any constituted group and education establishment that meets the agreed criteria in the North Coast area, subject to availability. To ensure fairness and to avoid logistical issues, a robust booking and operational plan would be in place.</p> <p>There was also discussion around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVLA Checks – these would be carried out for all new users for their first few uses then reviewed periodically. • Minibus would seat 17, however two seats could be removed to accommodate a wheelchair user. • Any drivers of the minibus will have to complete MiDas training. • Fuel management would follow a full-to-full system • Usage will be reviewed on a three-monthly basis to evaluate impact and ensure fair use. <p>The Locality Partnership thanked the group for attending and acknowledged significant effort behind this proposal. The group then left the meeting at this point.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed to approve funding of up to £63,000, on the</p>	<p>Noted</p>
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	<p>condition that any underspend either at the point of purchase (if the final cost of the minibus is lower than the quote) or after the three-year period is returned to the CIF pot.</p> <p>The Partnership also emphasised that the minibus should be a resource for the entire North Coast area. Within the Largs school cluster, this should explicitly include West Kilbride Primary, which, although aligned with a different secondary cluster due to its location, falls within the North Coast boundary.</p> <p>R Leith highlighted that Community Centres have been using system called Hallmaster for their bookings and undertook to speak with the Team Manager (Community Resources) to see if this system could be used for the minibus.</p>	<p>R Leith/L Riddex</p> <p>R Leith</p>
3.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>No other business was discussed.</p>	

Meeting ended: 19:50pm