

Action Note

Meeting:	Garnock Valley Locality Partnership	
Date/Venue:	11 December 2025, Garnock Campus	
Present:	Councillor John Bell (Chair) Councillor Anthea Dickson Councillor Ronnie Stalker Jane Lamont, Community Representative Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Community Learning & Development, (Lead Officer) Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer Sgt Steven Presslie Police Scotland Heather McVie- Branley, Community Development Worker Chris Parker, Scottish Fire and Rescue Ellie Hannah, Active Schools Co-ordinator Kayleigh Brown, The Ayrshire Community Trust Graham Robson, KA Leisure	
	In Attendance <p>Laura Potter, Childcare Development Officer Stephen Duff, Depute Head Teacher, Garnock Campus Sheena Woodside, Dalry Community Development Hub James Waite, former Vice Chair Jennifer McGee, Policy & Community Planning Officer (Notes)</p>	
Apologies:	Cllr Donald L Reid Cllr Margaret Johnson Helen McNaughton, Beith and District Community Council	
ACTIONS		
No.	Action	Responsible
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.	Noted
2.	Action Note The action note arising from the meeting held on 11 September 2025 was approved with all actions complete. A Morrell provided the Partnership with an update on Coalfields Community Transport. Work is ongoing to identify a pilot delivery model for North Ayrshire, similar to the approach offered in East Ayrshire. Insights from Travel Needs Analysis have informed the proposal, which will be assessed by officers before moving to consultation/engagement stage. Indicative timeline for this work is the first quarter of 2026. J Lamont asked if the process would involve developing the proposal first, then consultation. A Morrell highlighted that it would be more of a community engagement that will focus on gathering public views on the proposal summary. Cllr Dickson commented that she would expect the Partnership to see the proposal before it goes for wider comment. She also enquired about the	Noted

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	<p>model East Ayrshire use. A Morrell undertook to carry out desktop exercise on their model to give a feel of what the offer could be.</p>	A Morrell
3	<p>School Work Placement Initiatives and Local Business Engagement</p> <p>S Duff, Depute Head Teacher of Garnock Campus provided the Partnership with an overview on work carried out to maximise work placements and strengthen links with local businesses.</p> <p>Key activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S4 Work Placements work started in August and completed before the October holidays, over 100 pupils secured placements, including opportunities with six local employers. Many pupils independently sourced placements, some as far afield as Aberdeen, Newcastle, and even THE Netherlands, providing valuable experiences. • Work placements help pupils confirm their intended career pathways. Feedback from the Chamber highlighted that Garnock Campus achieved three times more placements than other Ayrshire schools. • In November 2025 they held their largest careers fayre to date, featuring employers, workplaces, and further/higher education providers. Feedback from employers was highly positive, praising pupils' preparedness and engagement. • Recently held a dragon's den event for S2 pupils, involving local employers in a competition based on Lochshore developments. This further developed pupils' creativity and strong employer connections. • The Campus has introduced a dedicated skills development class for S1 pupils, focusing on communication, problem-solving, leadership, adaptability, organisation, critical thinking, teamwork, and resilience. Pupils use a skills profile toolkit to record and reflect on where they apply these skills, both in and out of the curriculum. • Initiatives are extending into primary and nursery stages. The school plans to host a business breakfast next year to explore new opportunities and partnerships for young people. • INSIGHT data shows Garnock Campus maintains strong positive destination rates (94–96%). The school works closely with SDS and other agencies to support pupils beyond school. • Foundation Apprenticeships are being promoted. <p>H McVie- Branley also advised that a new S3 leadership group started in September, engaging in employability activities and will be taking part in cooking sessions at the George Steven Centre and practical work at Lochshore gardens.</p> <p>Cllr Dickson commended the school's proactive approach and strong community-business relationships.</p> <p>Cllr Stalker enquired about the feedback on the mobile phone ban and upcoming rollout for S1–S3. S Duff advised that feedback had been positive.</p> <p>The Chair thanked S Duff for his input.</p>	
4.	<p>Rural Area Childcare</p> <p>L Potter provided the Partnership with an update on the work taking place around rural area childcare.</p> <p>L Potter highlighted that one of the priorities is supporting school-age childcare providers and organisations in Dalry, including staff qualifications</p>	

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<p>for SSSC and working with Community Childcare Partnerships on sustainability. There has been a significant drop in numbers for both pre-5 and school-age childcare across North Ayrshire.</p> <p>The Scottish Childminding Association programme, which is funded by the Scottish Government, focuses on retaining and recruiting childminders. North Ayrshire is one of 30 local authorities taking part, with a target of 20 new childminders this year, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>So far, 12 people have completed the programme, but only one was from Garnock Valley. There are currently 16 childminders in the area, one in Dalry and the remainder in Kilbirnie and Beith with 10 operating as funded providers, enabling families to use childcare funding with childminders rather than Early Years Centres. A recruitment push is planned for January in Garnock Valley, and support is needed to promote the programme and reach the right people. The programme is fully funded, with all training provided, a start-up grant, and ongoing support from the Council.</p> <p>L Potter asked the Partnership to let her know of any events or groups she could attend and she will also share any promotional information with the Partnership for them to share with their networks</p> <p>A Morrell suggested that L Potter contact the Council's Tenant Participation Team to ask if information could be included in their newsletters. L Potter undertook to contact the team.</p> <p>The Chair thanked L Potter for her input.</p>	<p>L Potter</p> <p>L Potter</p>
<p>5. Community Investment Fund – Expression of Interest</p> <p>The Locality Partnership considered an expression of interest submitted to the Community Investment Fund. Beith Trust is seeking approximately £80,000 as a contribution towards upgrading the pitches at Beith Astro to safeguard a well-used community hub at Meadowside Pavilion. This forms part of a wider initiative to redevelop the Pavilion building, pitch, and surrounding grounds to better meet community needs. The funding package will involve multiple funders, all of whom have been approached and consulted, with applications already submitted.</p> <p>It has been nearly 15 years since the astro was renewed. The Scottish FA is currently delivering a three-year upgrade programme across Scotland, and Beith Trust applied earlier this year but requires match funding. This project needs to be included in the first phase to maintain operations and enable subsequent phases.</p> <p>Cllr Bell queried why replacement costs were so high as they are similar to the original installation. J Lamont explained that astroturf pitches now require a shock pad to meet FIFA standards, which accounts for the increased cost. Cllr Stalker highlighted the lack of facilities in Garnock Valley and described the asset as essential. Cllr Dickson noted that the project represents more than just a football pitch.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed to progress the application to the full application stage and, due to time constraints around match funding, to consider the full application at an interim meeting in January 2025.</p> <p>A copy of the full business plan has also to be shared with the Partnership.</p>	<p>C Pieraccini/J McGee</p> <p>C Pieraccini/J McGee</p>

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6.	<p>Partner Reports</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>S Presslie provided the Partnership with the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steven appointed as new Locality Sergeant has been in the role for around 3 months• Team have addressed poor driver behaviour and parking issues through road checks and enforcement.• Visits to local schools and nurseries to build positive relationships with young people.• Raising awareness of bogus workmen, team also identified an offender who has since been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.• Encouraged vigilance and reporting of suspicious activity.• Focus on gathering intelligence to disrupt local drug supply.• Campus Officer completed Mentor in Violence Prevention training; now qualified as trainer.• Delivered firework safety sessions with Fire Service to primary pupils.• Activities included Inverclyde trip for care-experienced young people, S3 leadership programme, Pitch-In programme for P6/7 pupils, and 16 Days of Action events for senior pupils. <p>Cllr Stalker praised officer presence at Christmas switch-on events across Garnock Valley.</p> <p>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</p> <p>C Parker provided the Partnership with the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community engagement on bonfire and firework safety targeting schools.• Operation Moonbeam deemed successful.• Continued delivery of home fire safety visits.• Ian Campbell and Craig Donnelly have recently been appointed as the Local Area Liaison Officers for North Ayrshire.• Community Action Team working with Housing and HSCP to refresh referral pathway training.• Fire Skills course planned for the S3 Leadership Programme in the New Year.• Winter safety campaign ongoing. <p>KA Leisure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progress on Garnock Valley Hub project and Dalry Early Years Partnership; plans to continue in new year.• Recent activities included adult ASN events (e.g., silent disco) and ClubStart programme offering free football access.• 108 Stanley Primary pupils completed six-week swimming block, all achieving 25m+. Keen to work with schools in the Garnock valley to provide pupils with this opportunity.• Increased partnerships with schools; free ASN lessons offered during summer, with push for adult sessions.• Garnock football astro bookings have over 79% from local area. <p>E Hannah offered to link G Robson with her contacts for further collaboration.</p> <p>The Chair thanked partners for their input.</p>	E Hannah
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7.	<p>Workshop Discussion – Our Garnock Valley</p> <p>C Pieraccini introduced the topic for discussion following the request from the seven Our Garnock Valley community bodies that the Locality Partnership adopt the eight calls to action within the Our Garnock Valley plan as the Locality priorities. These calls to action were identified following extensive community engagement as part of the Our Garnock Valley plan. C Pieraccini highlighted that the initial LP priorities were set in 2017 and, during the refresh in 2021, the Garnock Valley chose to keep the original priorities, which were still felt to be fit for purpose at that time. She also highlighted that the Terms of Reference allow the priorities to be set by the Locality Partnership, and that other locality partnerships across North Ayrshire have updated their priorities in recent years, following community engagement.</p> <p>J Waite noted his support in broadening the focus of the Partnership.</p> <p>J Lamont highlighted a lack of targeted implementation and stressed that aligning work to these headings would make Locality Partnership meetings more productive and ensure the plan is actioned rather than left on the shelf. S Woodside emphasised that previous consultations led to little action, but the group is determined to move forward this time. J Lamont reminded members that over 2,000 people engaged in the process, validating the plan's ideas.</p> <p>Cllr Bell raised concerns about achievability, noting the Locality Partnerships' limited ability to deliver all actions, but agreed that shared targets make progress easier. J Lamont clarified that delivery would not fall solely on the Partnership, community bodies and other partners also have responsibility.</p> <p>Cllr Bell added that the calls to action appear to align with current priorities, but care should be taken not to assume that all actions have universal support.</p> <p>Cllr Dickson noted the advantage of having clear priorities to align funding opportunities and track progress quarterly. A Morrell asked members to consider the positives and negatives of endorsing the calls to action.</p> <p>Following this discussion, the Locality Partnership agreed to adopt the 8 calls to action as the locality priorities for the Garnock Valley.</p> <p>As discussed at previous Locality Partnership meetings, C Pieraccini went on to ask Partners to identify three areas they felt that they could contribute to delivery of the plan. These were collated using post it notes provided. She advised that these would be collated and brought to the March meeting for further discussion and action.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>C Pieraccini/J McGee</p>
8	<p>AOCB</p> <p>The Chair advised the Partnership that the Garnock Valley Locality Report and North Ayrshire wide CLD report was attached for information.</p> <p>The Chair conveyed his best wishes for the festive season.</p> <p>Valedictory</p> <p>The Chair noted that this was J Waite's final meeting of the Partnership after eight years of involvement. The Chair expressed his sincere thanks for his support and contribution to the Locality Partnership.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Noted</p>

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The meeting ended at 9.05 pm