

Action Note

Meeting:	Garnock Valley Locality Partnership – CIF Discussion
Date/Venue:	12 January 2026 at 7pm on Microsoft Teams
Present:	<p>Councillor John Bell (Chair) Councillor Anthea Dickson Councillor Ronnie Stalker Councillor Donald L Reid Jane Lamont, Community Representative Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Community Learning & Development, (Lead Officer) Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer Helen McNaughton, Beith and District Community Council</p> <p>In Attendance</p> <p>Jennifer McGee, Policy & Community Planning Officer (Notes)</p>
Apologies:	<p>Cllr Margaret Johnson Ellie Hannah, Active Schools Co-ordinator Heather McVie-Branley, Community Development Worker</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>Community Investment Fund – Full Application</p> <p>C Pieraccini highlighted that this interim meeting had been called following agreement at the December Locality Partnership meeting to expedite the application due to time constraints around match funding opportunities.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership considered a full application from Beith Community Development Trust for £80,000 towards Phase 1 of a two-year project to refurbish the full-size 3G pitch at Beith Astro, a vital community hub at Meadowside Pavilions. After over a decade of heavy use, the pitch has exceeded its lifespan, and resurfacing with a new FIFA-compliant surface and shockpad is essential to maintain safety, playability, and income that sustains wider community programmes.</p> <p>The venue serves over 1,000 weekly users and creates volunteering and employability pathways. Investment will protect this vital asset, ensuring ongoing delivery of sport, learning, wellbeing, and food-growing initiatives for Garnock Valley.</p> <p>J Lamont highlighted that there is a 3-year window to access SFA funding for pitch upgrades with priority given to shovel-ready projects. Being awarded funding from CIF could also unlock SportScotland funding opportunities for the pavilion building.</p> <p>Cllr Bell asked about a future transfer to a sports trust and whether this is separate from the Community Development Trust. J Lamont confirmed that yes this was longer term plan with the aim is to build capacity within the sports</p>	

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	<p>teams to manage the facility over the next five years, which would benefit tier-level clubs seeking investment funding.</p> <p>Cllr Dickson praised the documentation and queried whether the pavilion refurbishment fits the derelict building fund noted in the business plan. J Lamont highlighted that the building is not derelict but does not meet current health and safety standards, so this will need to be checked. Cllr Dickson also queried in income projections where there is a £20k increase over two years. J Lamont advised that this is based on implementing access control, allowing teams to use codes and removing the need for a caretaker – a saving rather than new income.</p> <p>J Lamont also highlighted that if the application is successful, installation is planned to start at the end of May 2026, and regular updates will be provided to the Partnership regarding the project's progress. Additionally, J Lamont stated that if the SFA does not have unused funding from this financial year for the project, the annual round of funding applications opens in March, with decisions expected in May.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership unanimously agreed to support this application.</p> <p>C Pieraccini advised J Lamont that if she needs anything prepared for the SFA to show that the funding has been approved subject to Council Cabinet ratification to let her know so this can be drafted.</p>	A Morrell
3.	AOCB No other business was discussed. The Chair thanked everyone for attending.	Noted

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm