

# Action Note

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership</b>
<b>Date/Venue:</b>	<b>Monday 23 February 2026 at 6pm via Microsoft Teams</b>
<b>Present:</b>	<p>Cllr Ian Murdoch            Cllr Tom Marshall            Rhonda Leith, Head of Connected Communities            Jacqueline Greenlees, Senior Manager, Community Planning            Louise Riddex, Locality Officer</p> <p>Jennifer McGee, Policy &amp; Community Planning Officer (Notes)</p>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<p>Cllr Todd Ferguson            Cllr Eleanor Collier (apologies submitted after meeting had concluded)</p>

## ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p><b>Grants Discussion – Largs Community Development Trust</b></p> <p>R Leith thanked Elected Members for meeting to discuss the application made to the Common Good Fund from Largs Community Development Trust.</p> <p>J McGee advised that apologies were received from Cllr Todd Ferguson and noted that Cllr Alan Hill had declared an interest as a trustee of the organisation.</p> <p>R Leith highlighted that the meeting had been called exclusively for voting members i.e. the 5 Ward Elected Members as the initial application circulated had resulted in a split decision regarding the funding request and after further questions were raised by an Elected Member in relation to catering costs, the group responded revising their application to reduce the catering costs from £1000 to £750.</p> <p>Elected Members questioned the rationale for considering the application, given that concerns had been highlighted by both Finance and Legal in their comments. R Leith explained that, ultimately, the responsibility for deciding on grant applications rests with the Elected Members.</p> <p>Elected Members also noted the tight turnaround for this application and their preference to have applications considered at full meetings of the LP.</p> <p>Cllr Murdoch queried whether other sources of funding had been explored and the reason for approaching the Common Good Fund directly. L Riddex explained that the original application included two separate events. However, as the second application was not timebound, this is scheduled for consideration at the full LP meeting in March.</p>	

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Cllr Murdoch also queried about the likelihood of the organisation securing alternative funding. L Riddex advised that as the event is scheduled for 8 March, it would be difficult to obtain funds in time.

Elected Members queried about the organisations income stream and whether it would be possible for them to self-fund the event. L Riddex advised that she was unsure if the group had the capacity to self-fund the event.

Elected Members highlighted:

- The comments from legal and finance in the grants report.
- That they supported the concept of the event, however there was therefore concerns about its alignment with the requirements of the Common Good Fund in that it must benefit all, or a significant group, of the residents i.e. the event was only planned for up to 80 participants.
- The amount of funding requested seemed particularly high in that it would almost equate to one third of the remaining funds left for Largs Common Good Fund.

Based on the above Elected Members decided that the application did not meet the criteria and therefore did not support the awarding of this grant.

R Leith thanked everyone for their attendance and advised that the group and Elected Members would be advised of the outcome of the meeting.

**The meeting ended at 6.25 pm**

**LARGS COMMON GOOD FUND  
APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2025/26**

**Common Good Criteria -**

**The application should benefit all or a significant group of the inhabitants of the area to which the Common Good relates**

Applicant	Purpose of Grant	Amount Requested	Previous Common Good Awards
Largs Development Trust	<p>Looking for financial support for the following event: A free International Women's Day event at Vikingar offering discussions on violence against women, legal guidance on self-defence, and practical personal safety training. Up to 80 women will gain awareness, confidence, and safety skills, supported by expert facilitators and strong community demand.</p> <p>Rent for Hall: Gratis Donation to SCPS: £500 Donation to SWI: £150 Catering:£1000 Leaflets Flyers Social Media: £450 Admin/Misc: £150</p>	£2,250	n/a

Economy & Communities, Finance & Corporate Support, and Legal Services have been consulted and their comments are as follows:

**Finance & Corporate Support:**

Income & expenditure records covering the period Aug 24-Jan 26 have been provided although no audited accounts for 24-25 have been provided (nor are these available via OSCR). Budget for 25-26 does not appear to have been provided. No verifiable quotes for expenditure relating to requested grant amount have been provided. Donations to SCPS, SWI and Mediator (totalling £650) would not be approved use of funds. The current balance of the Largs Common Good fund available for disbursement in 25/26 is £6,600.

**Legal:**

In terms of Section 15(4) of the Local Government Etc (Scotland) Act 1994 the Council in administering the Common Good Fund shall have regard to the interests of the inhabitants of the area to which the common good relates.

It is not clear in this case that the costs associated (£2,250) with this event in the application can be justified in terms of Section 15(4) as it appears to relate to a relatively small number (up to 80) of the inhabitants of Largs.

If the Committee is minded to grant funds they must be satisfied that the grant of the funds would be to the benefit of the inhabitants of Largs as a whole.

**Economy & Communities:**

Following the eligibility criteria for the Common Good Fund as outlined in the guidance, projects must benefit all, or a significant group of the residents within the specific Common Good area. To be eligible, projects should demonstrate a broad community benefit and serve all residents, or a significant proportion of them, rather than a narrowly defined group unless there is a clear and demonstrated major local need.