



North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership

## Irvine Locality Partnership

Monday 2 March 2026, 6.00 p.m. at Volunteer Rooms, Irvine

### BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	<b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.</b>	-	-	Cllr Macaulay	
2.	<b>Action Note</b> Review the action notes from 1 December 2025 and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 4	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	Is this an accurate record of the meetings. Have all actions been completed?
<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>					<b>6.05 – 6.55 pm</b>
3.	<b>Community Investment Fund</b>  The Locality Partnership to consider one application made to the Community Investment Fund.  <b>Full Application</b>  • Micah Project	Pg 9	Enclosed	Elaine Baxter	LP to consider one application made to the Community Investment Fund.
4.	<b>Street Naming Report</b>  The Locality Partnership to consider street naming report for residential site in Montgomerie Park, Irvine.	Pg 26	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	LP to consider three street names for the new development.
5.	<b>Community Representative Application</b>  The Locality Partnership to consider application submitted for the community representative vacancy.	Pg 29	Enclosed	Elaine Baxter	LP to consider community rep application.
<b>WORKSHOP DISCUSSION</b>					<b>6.55 – 7.25 pm</b>
6.	<b>Community Engagement</b> Discussion on Community Engagement events which have been taking place across the Locality.	Pg 33	Enclosed	Elaine Baxter	Discuss the Engagement Events,
<b>LOCALITY REPORT</b>					<b>7.25 – 7.40 pm</b>

7.	<b>Locality Report</b> Receive report from the Locality Officer.	-	Verbal	Elaine Baxter	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities.
8.	<b>Community Council Update</b> Receive update from Chair of Irvine Community Council.	-	Verbal	Chris Pless	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities.
<b>PARTNER REPORTS</b>					<b>7.40 – 7.55 pm</b>
9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Scotland</li> <li>• Scottish Fire &amp; Resue</li> <li>• Active Schools</li> <li>• KA Leisure</li> </ul>	Pg 49	Enclosed/ Verbal	Partners	Reports enclosed for information.
<b>AOCB</b>					<b>7.55 – 8.00 pm</b>
10.	<b>AOCB</b>			Cllr Macaulay	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.

### Distribution List

#### Elected Members

Councillor Shaun Macaulay (**Chair**)  
 Councillor Marie Burns  
 Councillor Robert Foster  
 Councillor Scott Gallacher  
 Councillor Christina Larsen  
 Councillor Nairn Angus-McDonald  
 Councillor Matthew McLean  
 Councillor Louise McLaughlan  
 Councillor Chloe Robertson  
 Councillor Angela Stephen

#### Community Representative

Marjory Dickie  
 Chris Pless, Irvine Community Council  
 Donna Fitzpatrick  
 David Phillips  
 Sally MacIntyre  
 Irene McIlwain  
 Annie Small (**Vice Chair**)  
 Ian Wallace

#### CPP/Council Representatives

Elaine Baxter, Locality Officer  
 Lindsey Murphy, Senior Lead Officer  
 Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer  
 Michael Cowan, Police Scotland  
 Barbara Conner, TSI  
 Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer  
 Ricky Donachie Scottish Fire & Rescue

## Irvine Locality Partnership Priorities

**Supporting  
Skills and  
Work  
Opportunities**

**Enhancing our  
Mental Health  
and Wellbeing**

**Alleviating  
Poverty**

**Championing  
Green Health  
and the Natural  
Environment**



<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Irvine Locality Partnership</b>
<b>Date/Venue:</b>	Monday 1 December 2025 at Redburn Community Centre, Irvine at 6.00 p.m.
<b>Present:</b>	Councillor Shaun Macaulay ( <b>Chair</b> ) Councillor Christina Larsen Councillor Chloé Robertson Councillor Marie Burns Elaine Baxter, Locality Officer Davie Phillips, Community Representative Marjorie Dickie, Community Representative Donna Fitzpatrick, Community Representative Barbara Conner, TACT Ian Wallace, Community Representative Stephen Fraser, Active Schools Inspector Michael Cowan
<b>In Attendance</b>	Jacqui Greenlees, North Ayrshire Council Donna Martin, North Ayrshire Council
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr Angus-McDonald Ricky Donnachie, SFRS Chris Pless, Irvine CC Annie Small, Community Representative ( <b>Vice- Chair</b> ) Lauren Goldie, Active Schools Lindsey Murphy, Public Health Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer Gemma Strain, St Marks John Mcmillan, KA Leisure Cllr Angela Stephen Irene McIlwain, Community Representative Sally McIntyre, Community Representative Cllr Matthew McLean

## ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p><b>Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present to the Irvine Locality Partnership meeting and apologies for absence were recorded.</p> <p>No declarations of interest.</p>	<b><i>Cllr Macaulay</i></b>
2.	<p><b>Action Note</b></p> <p>The action note arising the meeting held in September 2025 was approved as a correct record and the implementation of decisions confirmed.</p>	<b><i>Cllr Macaulay</i></b>

	<p>J Greenlees provided an update on the review of elderly grants process- a stakeholder group is being pulled together to review the process.</p> <p>ACTION- J Greenlees will look into missing payments for elderly grants that were approved at the September meeting.</p> <p>It was again noted only 4 Cllrs in attendance.</p> <p>Chair highlighted the Micah application for CIF would be taken at a future meeting.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Street Naming Report</b></p> <p>The Locality Partnership considered a street naming report for residential site in Montgomerie Park, Irvine.</p> <p>The Partnership are asked to choose up to 5 new street names for the development. 3 suitable names have been selected from several suggestions (Knights, Nixon and Napoleon).</p> <p>It is not a requirement that 5 different names are selected, since different suffixes could be used. However, other names may be put forward for discussion at the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was highlighted that a focus should be on the people of the area, street names should link in with the real people that live there.</li> <li>• Suggestion of the name John Smith Street.</li> <li>• It was agreed this should be decided by email with further suggestions sought from the Heritage Team.</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>J Greenlees/ J McGee</i></b></p>
	<p><b>Chit Chat Proposal</b></p> <p>The Locality Partnership received update from the Locality Officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking to carry out further engagements in January and March to look at community priorities and collect localised information.</li> <li>• Other council departments have been working with E Baxter around engaging with communities also. Will link all engagement together to avoid consultation fatigue for communities.</li> <li>• E Baxter asked community reps to be involved in a stakeholder group to support the development of the engagement and therefore ultimately the Locality Action Plan.</li> <li>• This can then also incorporate the Locality Networks.</li> <li>• E Baxter will be in touch with LP members about getting involved.</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>J Greenlees</i></b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Workshop Discussion: Child Poverty</b></p> <p>Locality Partnership received a presentation from Donna Martin. Discussion took place around how the four Irvine locality priorities link to child poverty, and potential areas of work or focus.</p>	<p><b><i>Donna Martin</i></b></p>

- D Martin introduced herself to the group as the manager of the North Ayrshire Child Poverty Strategy Team and highlighted that the purpose of the team is to look at the various activity across North Ayrshire to reduce child poverty from a strategic perspective to decide what is working best and develop place-based tests of change.
- Spoke about the definition of child poverty, in North Ayrshire there was a drop in child poverty rates. From 22-23 it was 29.2% (after housing costs) but a year later it has reduced to 24.3%.
- The team also want to determine what provision and support is available and make sure families know about it and feel comfortable using it. They have developed a 'menu' of what is available.
- Also spoke about the high levels of 'in work' poverty across North Ayrshire.
- Are required to report annually to Scottish Government on progress. The team want to target families most in need.
- Want to move away from the concept of poverty as a purely financial challenge- also affects people physically and mentally so links in with the current CHES work taking place.
- The team report to the CPP and have just completed the 24/25 report. Moving forward they are testing new community led placed based approaches to determine what works best for families in North Ayrshire.
- Working with Argyll CA, Saltcoats Link UP and Beith Community Trust to co-design place-based approaches using CPEIF. Saltcoats, Kilbirnie and Stevenson Hayocks.
- Provided an overview of the profile developed for Bourtreehill to show how the data sources available can be used to determine the challenges in our communities and where and what resources/ supports might be required and developed and address local need.

### **Discussion**

- D Martin asked if the information shared would be useful when looking at locality planning/ priorities/ action planning?
- It was asked if live data can be used when assessing impact. D Martin highlighted that it is down to the data sources- for example there is a lag on national data but can get up to date local data from Smart Data Foundry. But it is the combining of these data where the value lies.
- What funding is available for community projects and how are staff spread out? D Martin highlighted the team are sourcing funding to deliver the place-based test of change, for example through the CPEIF (child poverty early intervention fund). This could eventually be mirrored across Irvine. The team want to work with the LP around how to mainstream these approaches and determine need in communities.
- It was highlighted how important collecting the views of people experiencing poverty is, for example previous work through the mini enquiries.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are big differences in what is available across Irvine as a locality, as well as different levels of engagement with services by families.</li> <li>• Hopefully working with families will make them comfortable using the services and supports available to them.</li> <li>• On the ground it feels like child poverty is increasing in parts of Irvine. D Martin highlighted people with lived experience have informed the direction of the team in addition to data.</li> <li>• Local food wastage and pull away from local business by large supermarkets was highlighted.</li> <li>• What you read on paper about communities isn't always the universal experience of the families who are living there.</li> <li>• What is it about Fullarton that works so well and how can we build on it and replicate it? The community focus was highlighted, not a focus on money for families but on volunteering, looking out for each other and compassion. Investment in people.</li> <li>• Could this idea be spread through the chitchats through the locality community representatives?</li>   <li>• ACTION- Further details and statistics will be shared to the partnership on Donna's slides after the meeting.</li> </ul>	<b>J McGee</b>
6.	<p><b>Locality Report</b> The Partnership received a report from the Locality Officer, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing for Wellbeing Group engaging with the Royal Literacy Fund;</li> <li>• Irvine Discovery Group members achieving discovery award.</li> </ul>	<b>E Baxter</b>
7.	<p><b>Partner Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Scotland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An overview of recent work was provided, and a report was enclosed in the papers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No representative present.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• KA Leisure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No representative present.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Active Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An overview of recent work was provided, and a report was enclosed in the papers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was requested that community reps can get more involved. It was highlighted that this could be fostered through the</li> </ul>	

	community chit chat process and also the reps can meet up out with the meetings.	
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

The Meeting ended at 19.45 p.m.



## **Community Investment Fund Application Form: Irvine Locality**

The CIF will support proposals and projects that:

- Connect with:
  - The North Ayrshire Fair for All Inequalities Strategy;
  - the Community Planning Partnership and Locality priorities; and
  - North Ayrshire Council's values, priorities and business objectives.
- Fulfil a compelling need and do not duplicate existing services or facilities;
- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible;
- Exhibit project and/or organisational innovation in their approaches to their work in their way of addressing community challenges and in their request to Locality Partnerships and the Council;
- Come from (an) organisation(s) that is financially viable (can provide financial statements upon request) and efficiently and effectively managed. This can include an organisation to be created to deliver the project;
- Include options or potential for NAC and CPP employee engagement and volunteering where possible; and
- Include measurable outcomes and can report to NAC on outcomes on a regular basis.

### **When to apply and how?**

- LPs should continue to engage with their communities, and stimulate interest in the CIF. The Locality Partnership will then strategically assess the applications, make links and look at the funding 'in the round'.
- If the partnership supports a bid then the group will be encouraged to submit a full application form, which they will decide upon before making a proposal to Cabinet for final approval.
- The finalised proposal will go to the next suitable Cabinet for final approval
- Forms should be returned to your Locality Co-ordinator, by email if possible:

**Elaine Baxter**

**Irvine Locality Coordinator**

Economy and Communities

Community Development Team

Redburn Community Centre

Dickson Drive

Irvine

KA12 9EW

Email: [ebaxter@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:ebaxter@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01294 313593

Mob: 07814418453

**Support and information will be available for groups who are not successful.** For more information see the guidance form here: <http://www.northayrshire.community/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2018/06/community-investment-fund-guidance-notes-17-12-17.pdf>

**APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
Community Investment Fund**

**1. Details of your organisation**

Name of Organisation: **Micah Project SCIO SC052123**

Postal Address for

Correspondence:

.....

Name of Contact Person: Helen Hogg

Position in Organisation: Charity Lead / CEO

Contact Telephone Number :

E mail address

**2. Brief description of your organisation**

*Please include -*

**[a]** *Legal status, e.g. voluntary organisation, public/private limited by shares or guarantee;*

**[b]** *How long has organisation been in existence?*

**[c]** *Aims & objectives;*

**[d]** *General activities or services provided;*

The Micah Project exists to help families thrive by meeting practical needs with dignity and care. Through simple, sustainable initiatives, we support households to flourish, feel connected, and build hope for the future.

**[a] Legal status**

The Micah Project is a Scottish charity, SCIO and community organisation operating on a not-for-profit basis, supported by volunteers and funded through donations and grants.

**[b] How long has the organisation been in existence?**

The Micah Project has been supporting families and communities in Ayrshire since 2020 and a registered charity since November 2022

**[c] Aims & objectives**

The Micah Project aims to help families thrive by tackling the effects of poverty, reducing social isolation, and promoting sustainability. Its objectives include enabling

equitable access to essential items, repurposing preloved clothing to reduce waste, and building strong, supportive community networks rooted in dignity and respect.

#### **[d] General activities or services provided**

The project provides Twice Treasured clothing boxes, school uniforms, and essential household items; runs Sew New wellbeing workshops that repurpose preloved textiles; and offers community-focused programmes that support mental wellbeing, reduce isolation, and promote sustainable living. It operates through local hubs where volunteers sort donations, prepare orders, and engage with families from all backgrounds.

### **3. Title and summary of proposal**

Tell us a bit about your idea. Please describe in as much detail as possible, what the funding will be used for. Please include where it will be held / delivered, who is your target audience, who will benefit from it and how and indicate any partners that are involved.

Please include -

[a] What outcomes your organisation wishes to achieve;

[b] Is this a new service / project?

[c] Does a new organisation need to be set up?

#### **Getting a Great Start – P1 Starter Packs & School Badges**

##### **Proposal Summary**

Getting a Great Start is an early-intervention project providing Primary 1 Starter Packs of school uniform for every child starting school in Irvine's primary schools. As well as these packs each primary school will receive a heat press and starter pack of school badges through the Badge it initiative reducing the cost of the school day significantly with respect and dignity. Giving real choice to parents. This new initiative ensures that all children receive an equal start regardless of means and encourages participation and engagement from parents at an essential part of their child's educational journey. The project will be delivered across 2/3 years with the funding in place for 2 years. The project will be delivered in partnership with all participating primary schools and Parent Councils, supported by volunteers and local community networks.

## Project Description

Starting P1 is an exciting but costly time for families. Uniform expenses, school-specific items, pressure to navigate a new environment and expectations often creates stress and inequality.

Getting a Great Start lessens these barriers by providing every new P1 pupil with a Starter Pack containing:

- 2 polo shirts
- 2 jumpers in their school colours
- A Gym bag
- Gym shorts
- A handmade knitted teddy made by volunteers and community members
- A voucher for 2 free school badges (heat pressed on) to link with our badge initiative
- A photo keyring for parents/carers
- A wee surprise gift such as magnetic letters to encourage early literacy and play

This mix of practical items and thoughtful touches helps every child feel prepared, welcomed, and valued on their first day of school.



## Badge it

Badge It is a practical, poverty busting idea from The Micah Project that reduces the cost of school uniforms for families across North Ayrshire by heat-pressing affordable school badges onto low-cost, unbranded clothing.

School uniforms represent a significant financial burden for many families, and badged jumpers — often £15–£20 each — are one of the most expensive items. The Badge It service allows families to buy supermarket-priced jumpers or cardigans for as little as £2–£5, and then have a school-approved badge applied for a fraction of the usual cost. This creates an immediate saving while ensuring children can still wear appropriate, branded uniform with pride and dignity. It also allows a genuine choice for parents between higher priced alternatives and unbadged clothes. If we are truly seeking to be ‘fairer to all’ this is a great option.

### **Where the Project Will Be Delivered & Target Audience**

- All P1 children in the Irvine locality. This universal approach protects dignity, avoids stigma, and ensures every child has an equal start.
- All primary schools in the Irvine locality.
- Distribution will take place directly through schools, ensuring a smooth, universal, dignity-based process.
- Parent Councils will help coordinate badge distribution and provide feedback.
- Community volunteers will support packing sessions, knitting teddies, and creating “wee surprises.”

### **Who Will Benefit and How:**

#### **Children will benefit through:**

- Arriving at school prepared and confident
- Feeling included and equal to peers
- Having comforting items (like the knitted teddy) that support emotional wellbeing

#### **Parents/carers benefit by:**

- Reducing financial pressure at a key transition point
- Feeling valued and supported by their school community
- Receiving a keepsake (photo keyring) that strengthens family engagement

### **Schools benefit through:**

- Stronger relationships with families
- Fewer uniform-related issues & more preloved uniform engagement
- Better engagement from children and parents

### **Communities benefit through:**

- Increased volunteering opportunities
- Intergenerational connection (e.g., knitters)
- Reduced waste through responsible uniform purchasing

### **Project Partners**

- All participating primary schools
- All Parent Councils
- Community volunteers and knitting groups
- Local businesses involved in uniforms or sponsorship
- The Micah Project and the future CIC organisation.

This project will help establish **a CIC from the charity**, which will:

- Provide long-term, sustainable support for schools
- Reduce reliance on grant funding
- Create a robust structure to use minimal profits from the badging back into the area, increase employment and training opportunities.

## **4. What difference will this project make within the locality and to local services and programmes?**

Please include -

**[a]** How you will approach reducing inequality

**[b]** How this proposal fits with Irvine's priorities of:

1. Supporting Skills and work opportunities
2. Enhancing our mental health and wellbeing
3. Alleviating poverty
4. Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment

## How We Will Approach Reducing Inequality

The **Getting a Great Start – P1 Starter Packs & School Badges** initiative directly tackles inequality at one of the earliest and most significant transition points in a child's life. By providing *universal, dignity-based* support for every new P1 child, we reduce the financial pressures that disproportionately affect families experiencing poverty, unemployment, or cost-of-living strain.

Our approach reduces inequality by:

- Ensuring **every child**—regardless of background—starts school prepared and confident.
- Removing financial and social barriers linked to uniform costs.
- Providing consistent support across entire school clusters, reducing postcode-based disparities.
- Offering non-stigmatising, universal provision rather than targeted, means-tested help.
- Strengthening the connection between families, schools, and community supports from the beginning.
- Involving volunteers, knitters, Parent Councils, and community groups to build a shared approach to early intervention.

This project aligns directly with the North Ayrshire Fair for All Inequalities Strategy, the Community Planning Partnership priorities, and North Ayrshire Council's commitment to fairness, dignity, prevention, and community-led solutions.

### [b] How This Proposal Fits with Irvine's Local Priorities

#### 1. Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities

- Volunteers engaged in assembling packs, heat pressing badges, knitting teddies, and helping with logistics gain practical skills, confidence, and community experience.
- The long-term development of a CIC creates new opportunities for volunteering, employability, and skills development in textile care, community delivery, stock

control, early years support, and circular-economy activities. This is important if the charity is to be able to become less reliant on grant funding.

- Parent Councils and school staff develop stronger collaborative working, which supports family engagement and community empowerment.

**Outcome:** Increased volunteering, skills growth, and pathways into community-led employability opportunities.

## 2. Enhancing Our Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Families experience reduced stress and anxiety at school-start time due to lower financial pressure.
- Children feel confident, included, and emotionally supported (helped especially by the handmade community knitted teddies).
- A positive start to school supports long-term mental wellbeing and resilience.
- Volunteers benefit from social connection, routine, and purpose—especially older adults involved in knitting and packing.
- Early intervention boosts stability in family life, which supports healthier relationships and reduces emotional strain.

**Outcome:** Improved emotional wellbeing for families, children, and volunteers, strengthening the community's collective mental health.

## 3. Alleviating Poverty

The project provides:

- Essential uniform items at no cost.
- Free school badges so families can use low-cost unbranded clothing.
- Advice and signposting to local supports through the starter pack materials.
- A universal programme that removes stigma often associated with financial assistance.
- A long-term CIC model that enables sustainable provision independent of future grant cycles.

This reduces both immediate financial hardship and the inequality caused by high uniform costs.

**Outcome:** Direct reduction in household financial pressure and a measurable impact on the cost of starting school.

#### **4. Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment**

The project contributes to environmental goals by:

- Promoting affordable unbranded clothing (often lower carbon and more sustainable to produce).
- Reducing demand for multiple branded items, cutting textile waste and environmental impact.
- Encouraging responsible purchasing and reuse, aligned with circular economy principles.
- Mobilising community volunteers—especially knitters and clothing sorters—to support sustainable practices.
- Establishing a CIC model that embeds environmental responsibility into long-term operations.

**Outcome:** Reduced textile waste, lower uniform consumption impact, and a stronger culture of sustainable community practices.

#### **Overall Local Impact**

This project strengthens early intervention, reduces inequality, improves wellbeing, and builds a practical, community-led model that supports families across Irvine. It addresses immediate financial need while also contributing to long-term resilience, sustainability, and community cohesion—supporting local services, schools, Parent Councils, and families in a joined-up way consistent with NAC values and Locality priorities.

## **5. Please give an overview of the engagement that has taken place in relation to the project**

*Please include the number of people that have been engaged with/ consulted*

### **Overview of Engagement and Consultation**

Over the past year, the Micah Project has undertaken extensive engagement and consultation to shape and refine the **Getting a Great Start – P1 Starter Packs & School Badges** initiative. Our approach has been firmly rooted in listening to families, schools, and community partners to ensure the project meets real needs and delivers long-term value for the locality.

### **Pilot Programmes**

We have delivered two pilot programmes for Badge it in -

- Louden Montgomery Primary School, Irvine
- Glebe Primary School, Irvine

These pilots have been running for **approximately 24-12 months**, allowing us to evaluate the Badge It model in real school environments.

Both pilot schools have expressed strong support for the initiative and would be among the first to benefit from having their own heat press and badges, improving long-term sustainability.

### **School Engagement**

Headteachers consistently describe the project as a **“win-win situation”**—reducing costs for families, improving equality, simplifying uniform adherence, and strengthening relationships between schools and the community.

### **Feedback has consistently highlighted:**

- The high cost of uniform as a barrier for families
- Appreciation for a universal approach with no stigma
- Enthusiasm for using badges on unbranded clothing to lower costs

- Strong support for early intervention at the P1 transition
- A desire from schools to work in partnership to expand the model
- Recognition that the knitted teddy and small “surprise” add real emotional value to children

Local Development already underway

- **Irvine Royal Academy** already operates its own badge pressing, demonstrating local capacity and validating the wider model.
- Several headteachers have expressed interest in shared heat-press equipment being available cluster-wide being able to share equipment would bring together clusters at events (one event we ran had over 300 families just for badging)
- The groundwork for collaborative working across Irvine’s school clusters is already in place.

## Summary

The level of community consultation demonstrates both a high level of community buy-in and a clear, evidenced need for the project. The proposals presented are shaped directly by this engagement and are ready for expansion across the locality.

## 6. Please tell us how the project will be managed

*Please include -*

**[a]** *How the finances will be managed*

**[b]** *Does the proposed project contribute to volunteering or employment opportunities in Irvine? Please include the number of volunteering opportunities and employment opportunities*

**[c]** *If there are any staff requirements, please outline your HR plans*

**[d]** *Is there evidence of partnership working in relation to the project within Irvine locality?*

## How the Project Will Be Managed

### [a] Financial Management

The project will be managed by The Micah Project, transitioning into the newly forming CIC by the end of the 2 years, which will provide a sustainable governance and financial structure for long-term delivery.

Finances will be managed through:

- A dedicated project budget held within The Micah Project.
- Oversight by our Treasurer and the Project Lead
- Termly financial monitoring and reporting to the Board
- Clear procurement processes for uniforms, badges, and materials
- Use of SAGE accounting software to ensure transparency and compliance
- Ability to provide financial statements to NAC upon request

This structure ensures accountability, compliance with charitable and CIC regulations, and long-term sustainability of the project.

## **[b] Contribution to Volunteering & Employment Opportunities in Irvine**

This project offers significant new opportunities for volunteering, skills development, and community participation across the Irvine locality.

### Volunteering Opportunities

We anticipate 100-150 volunteer roles, including:

- Heat-pressing and badge production
- Preparing and sorting P1 Starter Packs
- Knitting community teddies
- Stock organisation and logistics
- Supporting school distribution days
- Parent Council volunteers helping with pop-up Badge It sessions
- Admin and data support for monitoring outcomes

These roles are accessible to people of all ages and abilities, supporting skill development, confidence building, and social connection.

### Employment Opportunities

We anticipate 2-4 part-time paid roles emerging as the project grows, focused on:

- Coordination of uniform and badge production
- Logistics and operational support
- School and community partnership liaison

These roles will support longer-term sustainability and reduce reliance on grant funding.

### **[c] Staff Requirements and HR Plans**

As the project grows, we intend to recruit part-time staff to coordinate the uniform and badge service. HR plans include:

- Providing clear job descriptions and contracts aligned with Scottish employment law
- PVG checks for any staff or volunteers working with children/families
- Induction and training in safeguarding, confidentiality, and volunteer management
- Ongoing supervision and support from the Project Lead
- Policies for recruitment, health & safety, and data management
- Fair, inclusive recruitment aligned with equalities legislation

Volunteer roles will be supported through an induction process, training on badge pressing and equipment, and safe working guidance in line with our HR framework.

### **[d] Evidence of Partnership Working Within the Irvine Locality**

This project is built on strong existing partnerships across Irvine schools, Parent Councils, and community organisations. Engagement and collaboration to date includes:

- Pilot programmes in *Louden Montgomery Primary* and *Glebe Primary*, running for around a year
- Active involvement from Parent Councils helping shape badge use and pack distribution
- Partnership with community volunteers, knitting groups, and local churches
- Alignment with existing locality priorities on poverty reduction, wellbeing, volunteering, and supporting families

As mentioned in the feedback Headteachers have consistently described the initiative as a “win-win situation for everyone”, highlighting improved equality, reduced stress for families, and stronger school engagement.

This project therefore builds on a proven foundation of cooperation within the Irvine locality and strengthens the local ecosystem of support around families.

## **7. Amount of funding being requested**

Please supply details of the amount of funding being requested and any **other** funding you have had over the past 5 years, both financially and ‘in kind’.

**Amount requested: £100,000** over 2 years to deliver the Getting a Great Start – P1 Starter Packs & School Badges initiative across the Irvine locality.

This funding will cover pack contents, badge production, volunteer support, staff coordination, logistics, monitoring, and contribution towards the establishment of a CIC to sustain the project long-term.

*Please include detail on -*

**[a]** Breakdown of costs if available;

**[b]** Recent quotations where appropriate

### **[a] Breakdown of Costs**

£100,000

#### **Focus:**

- P1 Starter Pack contents (uniform items, gym kits, teddies, letters, surprises):  
**£40,000 - 2 x P1 Starter pack - Average of 35 Children per school across 12 schools, Allows for contents and support staff hours to pack.**
- Badge vouchers & heat-press & Badges materials for 12 Primary schools -  
**£12,000 - Includes Heat Press £500, Training £250, Badges £250**
- Volunteer coordination & training: **£1,500**
- Monitoring & evaluation, admin, printing, and data support: **£2,000**
- Rent, Logistics, storage, fuel, and equipment use: **£30,000** (50% off project costs  
Rent - Stevenston - £18,000 pa, Delivery costs £12,000 pa x2years) -

- Project Lead Salary - **£40675.20** (1 x 24 hours @ £15.00 per hour =£18,720 + NI contributions 1497.60 + expenses £120 = £20,337.60 x2

**Total: £126,175.20**

This budget includes inflation-aware costs for clothing, printing, heat-press consumables, and equipment maintenance. We are also applying for other funding but are able to confirm £10,000 in funding from supporters of the project towards this project.

### **[b] Quotations and Cost Assurance**

We have gathered indicative quotations from:

- School uniform suppliers for bulk polo shirts and jumpers
- Badge manufacturer for iron-on woven badges
- Heat-press equipment suppliers
- Local craft suppliers for knitted teddy materials and “wee surprise” items

These quotations confirm that the above budget is realistic and represents good value for money.

### Previous Funding (Past 5 Years)

The Micah Project has operated largely through **small community grants, donations, and in-kind support**. As well as CIF funding for clothing packs. We have not previously received large-scale government or local authority funding for uniform-based early intervention work. This project represents a significant expansion built on proven community pilots.

This strong blend of in-kind resources and local buy-in demonstrates the project’s credibility, sustainability, and community backing.

## **8. Monitoring and evaluation process**

*Please include detail on –*

**[a]** *What monitoring and evaluation processes are planned/ in place*

The **Getting a Great Start – P1 Starter Packs & School Badges** project will be monitored and evaluated using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to ensure measurable, transparent outcomes that can be reported regularly.

### **1. Data Collection and Tracking**

We will collect clear data for each stage of delivery, including:

- Number of P1 Starter Packs distributed (per school, per cluster, per year)
- Number of badges produced and applied
- Number of volunteers involved and volunteer hours contributed
- Number of families accessing support or attending pop-up Badge It sessions

This data will be recorded using spreadsheets and digital tools overseen by the Project Lead.

### **2. School Feedback**

Regular feedback will be sought from Schools and will include:

- Children's readiness and confidence at school start
- Uniform adherence and equality indicators
- Parent/carer engagement
- Staff reflections on the impact of the project

### **3. Parent/Carer Feedback**

Parent views will be gathered through:

- Short surveys included with packs
- Conversations at Parent Council meetings
- Pop-up sessions and follow-up conversations

This will capture:

- Financial impact
- Reduced stress/worry
- Ease of preparing children for school
- Suggestions for improving pack contents

We will measure the project's impact in relation to:

- Reducing inequality
- Improving mental health and wellbeing
- Alleviating poverty through reduced uniform costs
- Increasing volunteering opportunities
- Supporting sustainable, circular-economy practices

Each outcome will be evidenced through data & feedback.



**Locality Partnership:** *Irvine Locality Partnership*

**Date:** *2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026*

**Subject:** *Residential Development by North Ayrshire Council at Montgomerie Park, Irvine*

**Purpose:** *Decide 3 street names for the new development*

**Background**

*North Ayrshire Council's Housing Services has contacted Planning Services requesting street names for the development of 188 houses on a largely greenfield site at Montgomerie Park, Irvine.*

*The Council has a statutory obligation under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 to give a name to each new street built within the Council area. The chosen names, along with house numbers, would become the official postal addresses, with postcodes provided by Royal Mail.*

*A plan of the development is available as an appendix showing the street layout.*

*A number of the houses facing Taylor Drive would have Taylor Drive as their address.*

**Key Points for Locality Partnership**

*At the previous meeting of the Irvine Locality Partnership held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 it was highlighted that a focus should be on the people of the area, and that street names should link in with the real people that live there.*

**Action Required by Locality Partnership**

*Select 3 new street names for the development. A list of suggested names is provided for consideration. These were suggested by the pupils of Montgomerie Park Primary School. However, it is open to the Locality Partnership to choose their own names.*

*It is proposed that the longest street would have 'Crescent' as its suffix. The two shorter streets would have 'Terrace.' This would reflect the type of streets to be developed (see plan).*

**For more information please contact:** *Lisa Dempster or Kirsty Gee, Planning Technicians, 01294 324319, [snn@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:snn@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)*

**Date:** *18<sup>th</sup> February 2026*

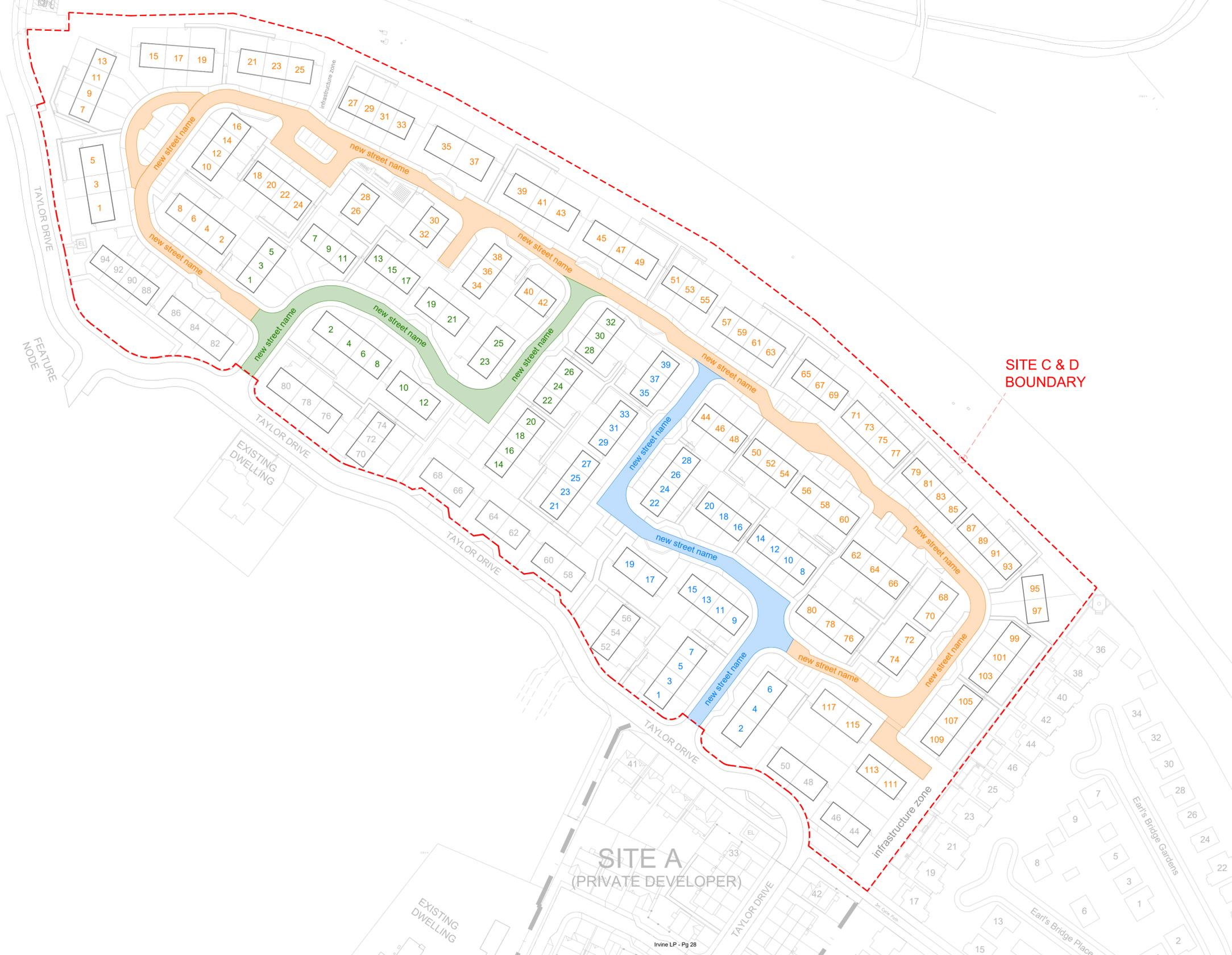
<b>Street Name Suggestions</b>	<b>Background</b>
Montgomerie	Suggested by the pupils of Montgomerie Park Primary School
Cuthbert	Suggested by the pupils of Montgomerie Park Primary School
Kings	Suggested by the pupils of Montgomerie Park Primary School
Park	Suggested by the pupils of Montgomerie Park Primary School

# Appendix 1

SUDS  
POND 5



STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING	
TAYLOR DRIVE (44-94 evens)	
NEW STREET TO BE NAMED 01 (1-117 odds, 2-80 evens)	
NEW STREET TO BE NAMED 02 (1-25 odds, 2-32 evens)	
NEW STREET TO BE NAMED 03 (1-39 odds, 2-28 evens)	



SITE C & D  
BOUNDARY

SITE A  
(PRIVATE DEVELOPER)

Drawing Status: FOR APPROVAL			
Project:			
New Housing Development 188 new houses at Sites C & D Montgomerie Park, Irvine			
Drawing Title:			
Site Plan as Proposed STREET NAMING & NUMBERING			
Client : North Ayrshire Council			
Town : Irvine			
UPRN :			
Property Name : Sites C&D Montgomerie Park, Irvine			
Project No: 0205			
Scale: NTS	Drawn: IC	Drawing No:	Rev:
Date: FEB 2026	Checked:	0205-NAC-00-ZZ-DR-A-0014	

# Nomination Form

## Locality Partnerships

### Community Representative

#### 1. Personal Details

Title: Mr

Forename: Greg

Surname: Sutherland

Address:

Postcode:

Tel. No:

Email:

#### 2. Please tell us which Locality Partnership you are applying to join *(mark an X in the relevant box below)*

- |                       |                          |                    |                                     |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Garnock Valley</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Irvine</b>      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Kilwinning</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>North Coast</b> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>Three Towns</b>    | <input type="checkbox"/> |                    |                                     |

#### 3. Please tell us about any current and previous experience of working in a group or committee.

Date or Year	Role or description of your involvement
<b>March 2025</b>	<p><b>Irvine Clean Up Crew:</b> Steering committee member &amp; Social Media Coordinator</p> <p>In this role I attend monthly committee meetings, providing my input and opinion. I also take a leading role of managing the groups social media, which is an important tool for arranging community clean ups, and other events, and is a useful tool for spreading awareness of the group, and advocacy of issues that are of importance to Irvine Clean Up Crew i.e.. Irvine Beach</p>

**4. Have you (or the person you are nominating) undertaken voluntary work in the last 5 years?**

Yes  No

If you answered **yes** to the above question, please tell us provide the following information:

Date or Year	Volunteer Role/Title	Organisation/company name and aims
Feb 2025	Committee Member, Social Media Lead, Regular Volunteer	Irvine Clean Up Crew: Reduce litter, improve our town's natural environment and promote a sense of civic pride

**5. Please tell us about any other experience that you (or the person you are nominating) have that might be relevant to this nomination?**

I have experience in Stakeholder Engagement teams, Digital Marketing and Analyst style roles. I comfortable and competent in analysing sets of qualitative or quantitative data, summarising and visualising this in an easy-to-understand format.

Moreover, I have excellent communication skills which I've developed through a range of workplaces, in retail and care settings, and now in more research/analyst style roles. As mentioned above I am a member of the Irvine Clean Up Crew committee, and I have served as Class representative for several years during my studies.

Additionally, I know Irvine very well and understand the town's communities and challenges faced by the town. I'd be a representative from Irvine Clean Up Crew, a voluntary group which does a huge amount of work in the town, which I have outlined in greater detail below.

**6. Please tell us of any assistance you (or the person you are nominating) would need to help undertake the duties as a member of the Locality Partnership.\***

N/A

**7 . Why do you (or the person you are nominating) want to be a member of your Locality Partnership**

On a personal level I care deeply about Irvine, I am local to the town, and I think Irvine has amazing potential. I'm open minded, creative, interested in supporting local grass roots organisations and seeing local businesses flourish too.

From an organisational point of view, I'd be a representative from Irvine Clean Up Crew (ICUC), a group which does a huge amount of work in the town. Made up entirely of volunteers we clean up polluted areas of the town, clearing away a huge amount of litter. We do this through our network of volunteers who go out on their own time, and by coordinating community clean ups bringing together groups of volunteers to tackle a specified location. We also liaise with businesses and support corporate volunteering days, providing necessary equipment and support to make this happen.

ICUC engages with local primary schools too, educating about the negative impact of littering on our the natural environment.

We have also recently extended our reach further maintaining flower beds, and planters in the town centre area. And we play a vital role in keeping the beach clean especially during the busy summer period.

The group has a vested interest in Irvine, and makes good sense for us to have representation in the locality partnership, we have many similar goals and values - and ultimately want Irvine to improve - to become a cleaner place, instil a sense of civic pride and ensure the town's natural environment is cared for and can flourish.

## **Proposer**

Please give the name and contact details of one person who has known you (or the person you are nominating) in a personal or community capacity for at least two years and who would be prepared to support your nomination:

Name: Shaun Macaualy

Address:

Postcode:

Tel. No:

Email: shaunmacaualy@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

## **Declaration**

I confirm that the information given on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge.

A Locality Partnership member appointment is a public appointment, which is of interest to individuals and services within North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership. I understand that if I am appointed my name will be released to the Locality for which this group was established to enable me to fulfil my duties as a member.

Signed: Greg Sutherland

Date: 26/01/2026

If you are completing this form on behalf of a proposed nominee, please ask them to agree to this nomination by signing below:

Signed:

Date:

**Please note this information (with the exception of your contact details within Q1 and information given at Q5 and your proposer's contact details) will be shared with all attendees at the Locality Partnership meeting. Your contact details will be held by the Community Planning Team within North Ayrshire Council and we will use these to contact you about Locality Partnership and Community Planning matters only.**

**Please return this completed form to the Community Planning Team at [communityplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)**



# Irvine Locality Engagement Plan 2025 / 2026: Irvine Community Conversations and Online Engagement”

*Elaine Baxter, Irvine Locality Officer*

*2025/2026 Developing Irvine’s Locality Plan  
Community Learning & Development / Connected Communities*

## Introduction

Throughout late 2025 and early 2026, the Irvine Locality Partnership’s CPP partners facilitated a series of **Community Conversations** to gather local insight shaping priority actions for the Irvine Locality Plan 2026/27. These conversations explored poverty, skills, employability, mental health and wellbeing, championing green health and open spaces. Partners included: **CLD Irvine Locality Team, Community Planning Partners, North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, North Ayrshire Council, Police Scotland and Ayrshire Community College.**

This report summarises:

- How we engaged local people / Engagement Methods / Stakeholder
- Outreach Engagements with local targeted groups
- Online Engagement – CONSUL Democracy “Irvine Community Conversations”
- What we heard

- The proposal ideas generated
- Next Steps / Locality Network
- Funding considerations
- Mid Way Report Conclusions

## **How We Engaged**

Evaluations from previous community chit chats has informed us to take a different approach to engaging with our communities. Instead of expecting people to come to us to take part in community conversations we took the approach to go to what was on locally.

### **Using a range of methods**

We used a blended approach to our engagement to ensure that local voices shaped Irvine's priorities, we used a broad mix of inclusive, accessible and community friendly engagement methods. This approach helped us reach a wide range of people – children, young people and adults, older residents, families, ASN learners and people with lived experience of poverty, mental health and recovery. Irvine Locality Partnership used multiple engagement methods across different groups, ages and settings. This approach ensured that people could participate in ways that felt comfortable, accessible and meaningful.

### **“Chit Chat Sessions” in Local Venues**

To reach people where they already are, we hosted community chit chat sessions in friendly, informal spaces so people felt at ease and were intentionally designed to reduce anxiety about “formal consultations, encourage natural conversation, make space for lived experience and stories, allowing people residents to drop in without signing up. These sessions created a safe, relaxed environment where people could speak openly about challenges, strengths and opportunities in relation to the locality priorities.

Locations included:

- Community lunch club (Hosted in partnership with Friends of Redburn)
- Community Centre (Hosted in partnership with BABCA)
- Local Church Fullarton Connexions (Hosted in partnership with NA ADP, Café Solace and local recovery organisations)

These conversations gathered insight whilst still advocating community voice. Reducing barriers around travel, confidence and stigma. Participants contributed detailed lived experience insights.

## Targeted Conversations with Key Stakeholders

We actively reached out to services, local community groups and third sector organisations delivering in within the area aligning their work to the priorities of the Irvine Locality Partnership. This collaborative group ensured that engagement was informed by local expertise, was inclusive and reflected the full range of needs across the locality.

The community stakeholder group has been essential in ensuring the engagement was inclusive and collaborative. Bringing together statutory services, third sector organisations, CPP partners and community groups. Creating a shared platform where local voices could genuinely influence priorities, planning and future activity across Irvine.

**Statutory Services representatives:** North Ayrshire Council (NAC), Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP), Community Learning and Development, Environment and Sustainability, Police Scotland, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

**Third Sector and Community Organisations:** Local Neighbourhood Board, charities and social enterprises, community groups and associations, lived experience groups – addiction, recovery, disability and mental health, Faith based organisations providing community support, volunteer led groups including – community lunches, clean up crew and community activist groups.

**CPP Partners:** Part of the wider community planning partnership community representatives.

Partners contributed data, insight and frontline experiences ensuring engagement questions reflected local need, barriers to service access, transport, health, education and community priorities.

## Outreach Engagement Sessions

Short informal conversations utilising our participation structures:

- Community Council Meetings (Irvine & Dreghorn) March 2026
- Pupil Councils (Feb – March 2026)
- Youth Groups (Feb-March 2026)
- Food larders and warm hubs
- Senior Pupils S5 & S6 Active School deliver to NASA pupils Greenwood & Irvine Royal Academy (Feb – March 2026)
- Irvine Adult learners CLD (Feb – March 2026)

**Youth Friendly School Engagement:** Targeting young people within NAC participation structures primary school captains, pupil councils and youth forums, ensuring inclusion of ASN pupils, capturing honest unfiltered perspectives, allowing quieter or anxious pupils to participate, strengthening connections between schools and community planning this ensures that young people’s voices are central to the Irvine Locality Partnerships work on wellbeing, skills, poverty and championing green health and open spaces.

## Online Engagement via CONSUL

Residents can contribute digitally through the CONSUL platform. The consultation went live on January 23<sup>rd</sup> January and will run until the 31<sup>st</sup> of March once data is analysed final report will be presented to Irvine Locality Network meeting in April to agree locality action plan, identify short-, medium- and long-term plans with identified lead service or organisation. This will be presented to Irvine Locality Partnership in June 2026.

## Targeted Sessions

Engagement was widened to include:

- Young people
- Older adults
- Families
- People experiencing poverty
- Community volunteers
- Local groups and grassroots organisations

## Participation Summary

*182 participants have attended our community Conversations:*

Redburn Community Lunch -  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026

84 residents came along to share food, ideas and conversations about what matters most in their community. 65% of attendees were older generation.



Fullarton Connexions Community  
Conversation Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
February 2026

55 residents came along to café solace community meal provision. Four ADP community groups were in attendance and volunteers from café solace which is a recovery café in Irvine. 100% attendees were between 18-59.



Volunteer Rooms Community  
Conversation Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>  
February 2026

We welcomed 39 participants to our Volunteer Rooms Community Conversations Event. We were delighted to welcome an incredible range of community groups, organisations, colleagues and CPP Partners. The participation and energy made the event a real success. We were please to have both national and local funders join the conversation, share opportunities and support groups exploring new ideas.



Bourtreehill Community Chit Chat  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

7 participants took part from 3 different organisations in local area. Low attendance so Irvine locality team will widen participation to include local Children 1<sup>st</sup> Organisation into discussion.

## Headline Messages for ILP Partners

Across all conversations, local people are remarkably consistent. They are not asking for dozens of new services – they are asking us to work together to fix **a small number of big, structural issues**:

1. **Transport is the single biggest cross-cutting barrier** – it limits access to work, college, parks, hospitals, youth activities, larders, community groups and mental health support.
2. **Cost of living and poverty pressure everything** – food insecurity, rising costs and in-work poverty mean families are dropping out of social and learning opportunities
3. **Community spaces (especially Redburn and other centres) are lifelines** – they provide food, social contact, activities, volunteering and a sense of belonging, particularly for older adults and families under stress.
4. **Young people need more support, space and opportunity** – especially those not attending school, and children aged 5–10 who have very limited provision in some areas.
5. **Mental health, trauma and recovery support are not keeping pace with need** – waiting times are long, crisis support is limited, and people are asking for more local, lived-experience led, trauma-responsive help
6. **People want practical skills and routes into decent work** – digital basics, life skills, confidence building and clear, supported pathways into training and jobs, delivered locally.

7. **The local environment and green spaces matter** – safety (lighting, ASB), maintenance (pavements, glass, dog mess), and access (transport, paths) are all impacting physical and mental health. These messages mirror the ILP’s existing priorities (skills & work, mental health & wellbeing, alleviating poverty, green health & environment) and strongly reinforce the **Marmot / CHES focus on wider determinants**.

## Key Themes – What This Looks Like on the Ground

### a) Transport & Access

Residents in Bourtreehill, Redburn, Castlepark, Springside and Vineburgh repeatedly highlight **unreliable buses, cancelled routes, lack of shelters and limited evening/Sunday services** as major barriers. This cuts people off from work, college, parks, health services and community hubs.

“Hard to get to Eglinton Park without the car.”

“No bus shelters in Redburn area... soaked while waiting.”

### b) Poverty, Cost of Living & Food Security

Cost of living is described as “**huge**” and “**stressing everyone out**”. Families speak about **not being able to afford clubs, activities, travel or even food**, especially in areas without local larders. Community food provision and lunches are repeatedly described as “**lifelines**”.

### c) Community Connection & Safe Spaces

Friends of Redburn, community centres, chapel lunches, castlepark clubs and walking groups are seen as **core infrastructure** for wellbeing. For some older people, these are literally their “family here”.

At the same time, antisocial behaviour, environmental neglect and fear (e.g. in and around the beach, mall, some parks, evenings) are pushing some residents back indoors.

### d) Young People’s Needs

The evidence is strong on **two fronts**:

- **Non-attenders** and young people with poor mental health need **community-based, flexible, accredited learning** and support.
- **Children aged 5–10 and teenagers** need more **local, safe, low-cost things to do** or they end up “hanging around” in environments that can fuel ASB.

### **e) Mental Health, Trauma & Recovery**

Participants consistently describe:

- Difficulty accessing GP and psychology support
- Lack of crisis support locally
- Need for lived-experience workers and recovery hubs
- Stigma – both around mental health and accessing services

Police Scotland, HSCP, CLD and community groups are all **already picking up some of this pressure** – but the community is clear that provision is still patchy and too clinical/distant for many.

### **f) Skills, Learning & Work**

Key points for partners:

- **Digital exclusion is widespread** (email, QR codes, online banking, forms).
- Fear, anxiety and stigma are major barriers to accessing college or formal learning
- People want **practical life skills** and **confidence-building** in community venues instead of “big campus” settings.
- There is a strong perception that work is “who you know, not what you know”, especially for people with convictions or poor mental health.

### **g) Green Health & Environment**

Residents value Eglinton, the beach, local parks and paths – but raise:

- Safety: lighting, ASB, off-lead dogs
- Access: poor transport, flooded underpasses, broken pavements
- Maintenance: litter, glass, dog mess, vandalised playparks There is a clear appetite for **well-maintained, safe, local green spaces** that support walking, play, nature and community events.

## What This Means for the ILP

For ILP partners, the message is clear: we need to **work differently together**, not just add more small projects.

Concretely, this means:

- Treating **transport, information, youth support and mental health** as **cross-cutting enablers** across all four locality priorities.
- Supporting and replicating **community hub models** across Irvine, linking food, social connection, learning, recovery and youth activities.
- Making sure **Ayrshire College, CLD, employability partners and HSCP** co-design local, trauma-informed learning and support.
- Using **CONSUL and ongoing conversations** to keep checking back with the community and reporting progress.

The remainder of the Locality Plan can then set out **specific actions and commitments** under each priority.

Across all engagement methods, residents consistently raised issues relating to cost of living, wellbeing, local environment, youth provision, and accessible community learning/support. The findings below **directly reflect the actual proposals** gathered CONSUL Feb 2026.

### Strengths

- Strong community centres and active volunteers
- Accessible green spaces
- Supportive local groups and third-sector partners
- Appetite for skills development and informal learning

### Key Issues Raised

- Lack of accessible, local wellbeing support
- Gaps in everyday life-skills learning
- Barriers to employability (confidence, digital skills, qualifications)
- Ongoing cost-of-living pressures, particularly around food
- Need for more family and youth provision
- Gaps in communication about available support
- Desire for better-maintained parks and clean, safe outdoor spaces

## **Proposals Emerging Community Conversations**

### **Locality Priority: Supporting Skills & Work Opportunities**

#### **Community proposals included:**

- Community-based skills workshops
- A digital skills programme
- Life-skills classes (cooking, budgeting, DIY, household skills)
- “Employability-plus” support groups (blending wellbeing + work support)
- A volunteering time-credit scheme to reward local contributions

#### **Suggested Partners:**

Ayrshire College, CLD, DWP, Libraries, HSCP, Justice, ADP, NAC, Third Sector, local businesses

### **Locality Priority: Enhancing Mental Health & Wellbeing**

#### **Key project ideas:**

- Mental-health drop-ins in local hubs
- Evening wellbeing sessions
- Lived-experience worker roles supporting crisis and community response

- A 24/7 crisis-aware pathway
- Men's groups / music-based wellbeing groups

**Suggested Partners:**

HSCP, NHS, Police Scotland, CLD, Third Sector, Community Centres

**Locality Priority: Alleviating Poverty**

**Proposals generated:**

- Family meal nights
- Pop-up local food larders
- Parenting & life-skills programmes
- A printed **What's On** guide
- A community newsletter delivered through local groups

**Suggested Partners:**

Community Centres, CLD, Churches, NAC Comms, Foodbanks, HSCP

**Locality Priority: Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment**

**Community ideas:**

- Improvements to local parks
- Nature walks and local trails
- Family clean-up days
- Community gardens
- Transport to green spaces to reduce access barriers

### **Suggested Partners:**

NAC Sustainability Team, NANN, Schools, College, Volunteer Groups, SPT

## **Cross-Cutting Partnership Projects – Multi-Priority Themes**

### **Community Hubs**

- Town-centre community hub (signposting, mental health drop-ins, café, volunteering).
- Local hubs in Redburn, Castlepark, Springside with mixed social and skills activity.

### **Lived Experience & Partnership Development**

- Lived experience advisory group supporting:
  - Hub design
  - Mental health response
  - Communications
- Shared “front door” training for local partners on:
  - Trauma-informed practice
  - No-wrong-door
  - Basic signposting

## **Irvine Locality Priority Action Alignment**

### **Action Matrix – Locality Network to Identify “Who Leads / Who Supports”**

#### **Skills & Work**

- **Action:** Create community-based learning hubs delivering digital, life skills and confidence-building.
  - **Lead:** CLD & Ayrshire College

- **Support:** NAC Employability, DWP/Jobcentre, HSCP (for trauma-informed practice), 3rd sector (e.g. recovery groups).
- **Action:** Co-design supported pathways for non-attenders, ASN, those with convictions.
  - **Lead:** Education & Ayrshire College
  - **Support:** CLD, HSCP, Justice Services, 3rd sector.
- **Action:** Promote practical, accredited qualifications (REHIS, First Aid, licences) linked to local jobs.
  - **Lead:** Ayrshire College, CLD
  - **Support:** Local employers, TSI, NAC Economic Development.

## Mental Health & Wellbeing

- **Action:** Expand low-cost wellbeing activities (walking groups, Redburn lunches, Active North Ayrshire classes).
  - **Lead:** CLD, KA Leisure, HSCP
  - **Support:** 3rd sector, community groups, NHS Public Health.
- **Action:** Explore a local MH / recovery hub and crisis support model for Irvine.
  - **Lead:** HSCP & NHS MH services
  - **Support:** Police Scotland, CLD, recovery organisations, lived-experience reps.
- **Action:** Increase MH literacy and resilience building in community settings and FE.
  - **Lead:** Ayrshire College, HSCP
  - **Support:** CLD, schools, 3rd sector.

## Alleviating Poverty

- **Action:** Address food access gaps in Castlepark, Redburn and town centre (e.g. larders, community meals).
  - **Lead:** HSCP, NAC Communities
  - **Support:** 3rd sector food projects, faith groups, CLD.
- **Action:** Scale up long-term life skills programmes (cooking, budgeting, financial planning) in schools and community.
  - **Lead:** Education, CLD
  - **Support:** Ayrshire College, HSCP Financial Inclusion.
- **Action:** Develop volunteer recognition / "pay it forward" schemes with local businesses.

- **Lead:** NAC Communities, TSI
- **Support:** Local businesses, supermarkets, community groups.

## Green Health & Environment

- **Action:** Improve lighting, bins, dog control and play equipment in key parks (Castlepark, Redburn, Springside).
  - **Lead:** NAC Streetscene & Housing
  - **Support:** Local community groups, Police Scotland, NANN team.
- **Action:** Support Irvine Clean Up Crew and similar groups to recruit volunteers and adopt local green spaces.
  - **Lead:** NAC Environment, NANN
  - **Support:** CLD, schools, community councils.
- **Action:** Improve access to Eglinton and the beach (transport, signage, paths).
  - **Lead:** NAC Transport & Roads
  - **Support:** NANN, community groups, neighbouring localities.

## Cross-Cutting: Transport, Information, Youth, Lived Experience

- **Action:** Convene a **Transport & Access mini-group** within ILP to look at local solutions (routes, shelters, timings).
  - **Lead:** NAC Transport / Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
  - **Support:** All ILP partners, community reps.
- **Action:** Create a quarterly **“What’s On in Irvine” guide**, in print and digital, co-owned by ILP.
  - **Lead:** NAC Communications / CLD
  - **Support:** All partners provide content.
- **Action:** Embed **lived-experience reps** and **youth voices** in ILP decision making and project design.
  - **Lead:** ILP Chair & CLD
  - **Support:** HSCP, Justice, College, 3rd sector, Police Scotland.
- **Action:** Use **CONSUL** to consult on the draft plan and gather ongoing feedback.
  - **Lead:** CLD / Digital Engagement
  - **Support:** All partners to promote and respond.

# Funding Opportunities

## Internal / Local Authority

- Irvine Locality Community Investment Fund
- CLD Delivery budgets
- HSCP small grants
- Participatory budgeting (PB)
- NAC anti-poverty and place-based funds

## External Sources

- National Lottery Community Fund
- ARIA Fund
- Foundation Scotland
- Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund
- Community Ownership Fund
- Third-sector development funding

## Community Feedback Loop

- Share outcomes on CONSUL
- Provide updates through community centres, social media, and newsletters
- Continue dialogue through ongoing "Mini-Conversations"

## Implementation Planning

- Develop the 2026/27 action plan
- Define timelines, partners, and expected outcomes
- Identify pilots for quick implementation (e.g., skills workshops, wellbeing sessions, pop-up larders)

## Ongoing Engagement

- Establish regular community voice forums
- Continue capturing lived-experience insight
- Evaluate early projects and adjust through co-design

## Conclusion

The Community Conversations across Irvine have produced a rich set of resident-driven proposals that clearly reflect local needs. Themes around skills, wellbeing, poverty alleviation, and community environment provide a strong foundation for the 2026/27 Locality Plan. By aligning the proposals with local partners, funding opportunities, and community capacity, the Irvine Locality Partnership with support from all services, CPP Partners and Community and third sector organisations are well-positioned to develop meaningful, equitable, and locally led change.

# Irvine Locality Partnership Update

—

## Scottish Fire and Rescue



North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership

# Enhancing our Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) contributes to mental health and wellbeing through community safety engagement and partnership participation. The North Ayrshire Green Health Framework emphasises nature-based activity to improve mental health and includes SFRS involvement in community greenspace such as fire service community gardens.

# Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities

The North Ayrshire Green Health Strategic Framework highlights volunteering, active citizenship, learning, and employment as priority themes that align with SFRS youth and community engagement. North Ayrshire Council's community empowerment strategies also create partnership opportunities for SFRS to support youth development and skills initiatives such as the Greenwood Academy Mentor Programme and Fireskills Course.

# Alleviating Poverty

North Ayrshire Council prioritises reducing inequalities, providing a framework where SFRS supports vulnerable households through safety visits and multi-agency working

# Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment

SFRS has developed **Community Gardens** on its estate in North Ayrshire, transforming service areas into nature-rich spaces that engage the community and improve local biodiversity. The service has launched a new [Wildfire Strategy](#) to address the increasing risks posed by climate change to Scotland's natural environments, focusing on training and equipment to protect local ecosystems.