

# Action Note

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Garnock Valley Locality Partnership</b>
<b>Date/Venue:</b>	12 March 2026, 7.00 pm, Rosearden Hall, Dalry
<b>Present:</b>	<p>Councillor John Bell (Chair)  Councillor Ronnie Stalker  Councillor Donald L. Reid  Councillor Margaret Johnson  Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer  Ellie Hannah, Active Schools Co-ordinator  Helen McNaughton, Beith &amp; District Community Council  Andy Watson, Dalry Community Council  Heather McVie-Branley, Community Development Worker</p> <p><b>In Attendance</b></p> <p>Jennifer McGee, Policy &amp; Community Planning Officer (Notes)  Sheena Woodside, Dalry Community Development Hub  Allan McGinlay, Chair Dalry Community Sports Club  Myra Sim, Dalry Old People's Welfare Committee  Diane Ralston, Dalry Community Sports Club  Hugh Campbell, Dalry Community Sports Club  Robert Danks, Dalry Community Sports Club  Kenny Vannart, Dalry Community Sports Club  Allan Wright, Project Kilbirnie  Jane Lamont, Beith Trust  Nick Wright, Nick Wright Planning</p>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<p>Councillor Anthea Dickson  Angela Morrell, Senior Manager  Graham Robson, KA Leisure  Michael Cowan, Police Scotland</p>

## ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
2.	<p>Action Note</p> <p>The action note arising from the meeting held on 11 December 2026 was approved.</p> <p>The following updates were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Transport – a further consultation will take place after the purdah period regarding the Council's proposal for community transport.</li> </ul>	<b>Noted</b>
3	<p><b>CIF Expression of Interest</b></p> <p>The Locality Partnership considered an expression of interest application from Dalry Community Sports Club. The application is seeking £100,000 for their Community Allotments project.</p>	

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	<p>The project is to develop new community allotments and playing fields beside Dalry Public Park to boost social connection, improve access to fresh food, support mental and physical wellbeing, and create learning opportunities. The allotments will include leased plots, a free community growing area and an educational space, while the playing fields will expand outdoor sport using the renovated pavilion. With a total project cost of £193,000 and £58,000 already secured, the Club is seeking £100,000 from the Community Investment Fund to deliver the initial phase.</p> <p>There was discussion around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clarification regarding other potential funders.</li><li>• The project will be delivered in two phases.</li><li>• The five-year lease with DSM provides confidence to both parties about the project's viability.</li><li>• The group demonstrating strong capacity, with the sports pavilion in daily use, the site being well maintained, including benches, solar lighting and reinstated floodlights.</li><li>• The application was considered very thorough, with all required information provided.</li><li>• The only concern raised related to the lease length, though the group did not anticipate this causing issues as the land was formerly leased to North Ayrshire Council for 30 years until six years ago.</li></ul> <p>The Partnership agreed that the application should progress to full application.</p> <p>C Pieraccini highlighted that the group were keen to begin phase 1 of the project during the better weather months and requested if it would be possible for an interim meeting to held in advance of the next planned Locality Meeting. The Partnership approved this request, and it was agreed that an interim meeting of the Locality Partnership would be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April 2026.</p>	<p><b>C Pieraccini</b></p> <p><b>C Pieraccini/J McGee</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Community Representative Applications</b></p> <p>The Partnership were asked to consider two community representative applications to fill the vacancies on the Partnership.</p> <p>Applications were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jane Lamont from Beith Trust, Jane previously served on the Partnership for several years but had to step down following the recent Community Council elections in accordance with the Partnership Standing Orders.</li><li>• Allan Wright, Allan was previously the secretary of Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Council and supported the work of the Partnership through the subgroup.</li></ul> <p>The Partnership considered both applications and approved to appoint both J Lamont and A Wright to the Locality Partnership as Community Representatives.</p>	<p><b>J McGee</b></p>

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<b>5</b>	<p><b>Our Garnock Valley</b></p> <p>A workshop session was held to explore three priority actions from the Our Garnock Valley Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9.7 Population Retention and Youth Recovery Strategy</li><li>• 7.5 Retain, Provide and Enhance Key Public Services</li><li>• 11.8 Transport Improvements</li></ul> <p>The Partnership reviewed what is currently happening in each area and identified where further action or influence may be possible.</p> <p><b>Population Retention &amp; Youth Recovery</b></p> <p>The discussion focused on how existing initiatives around housing, education and careers can be strengthened to encourage young people to stay in the area. Key factors included access to employment, business start-up opportunities, leisure provision, transport links and affordable childcare. Members highlighted the need for high-quality job opportunities, better support for young entrepreneurs, closer work with community clubs, and enhanced employability pathways. Opportunities such as apprenticeships, pop-up uses for empty units and additional training (e.g. cookery/SVQs) were also raised. Additional partners identified as important to this work included Regeneration, Business Gateway, Employability &amp; Skills, Housing, and SPT.</p> <p><b>Local Living &amp; Public Services</b></p> <p>Discussion on the need to protect and enhance essential services such as health centres, community centres, libraries, greenspaces, childcare and banking access in each town. Ideas discussed included expanding the role of libraries as multi-service community hubs, increasing visibility of local issues, exploring a rotating Registrar service, and encouraging developers to deliver community benefits where possible.</p> <p><b>Transport Improvements</b></p> <p>There was discussion around the NCN7 route and wider transport activity led by the Active Travel and Transport Team. Members expressed concern about repeated consultations and emphasised the need for practical solutions rather than further reports. It was agreed that Active Travel and Transport should be invited to the June meeting to outline what can be delivered in partnership with NHS and SPT.</p> <p>Additional points raised included exploring how Pride in Place funding might support improvements, challenges with the X36 service, implementation of the Regional Bus Strategy, and maintaining focus on the Beith bypass upgrade.</p>	<b>C Pieraccini</b>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Partner Updates</b></p> <p><b>Active Schools:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reports for Term 3 will be provided at the next meeting and will include actively level stats.</li><li>• Recent activity includes rugby taster sessions in primary schools and a pilot programme for S4–S6 pupils focused on empowering young females, delivered through a seminar with a local female coach.</li><li>• E Hannah will be leaving her post at the end of March as her contract is coming to an end.</li></ul>	

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	<p>The Chair expressed his thanks to E Hannah for her work in the Garnock Valley, noting the positive impact on young people and the helpful insight her updates provided.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Locality Report</b></p> <p>C Pieraccini advised that the full report was enclosed as part of the meeting paperwork.</p> <p>C Pieraccini highlighted that the team will be building on the work from Friday's Older People's Voice Conference to ensure the views of older residents continue to be heard. She also advised that, as a result of their Our Garnock Valley work, the Our Garnock Valley group had been invited to a discussion around Local Governance Review, one of only three areas in Scotland invited to participate . C Pieraccini reminded the Partnership of the workshop scheduled for next Saturday.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><b>Vice Chair</b></p> <p>C Pieraccini advised that the Vice Chair position is currently vacant and that J McGee will email all Community Representatives to seek expressions of interest. The Partnership will then consider the appointment at the interim meeting in April.</p> <p><b>Delegated Powers</b></p> <p>J McGee advised the Partnership that an email will be issued to all LP members explaining the delegated authority process for grant decisions. Previously, no response was treated as no objection, but going forward no response will now be recorded as an abstention.</p> <p><b>Community Projects Fund</b></p> <p>J McGee advised the Partnership that the Regeneration team are seeking one representative from the Partnership to sit on the assessment panel for the Community Projects Fund. An email will be issued to community reps.</p> <p>The Chair asked J McGee to clarify whether representatives would be scoring projects from their own localities and how any conflicts of interest would be handled if a representative is involved with an applying organisation. J McGee undertook to find this information out and share with the response with the Partnership.</p>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>J McGee</b></p>

The meeting ended at 9.08 pm