

Action Note

Meeting:	North Coast and Cumbraes Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	Tuesday 3 March 2026 at 6pm via Microsoft Teams
Present:	Cllr Alan Hill (Chair) Cllr Tom Marshall Cllr Eleanor Collier Louise Riddex, Locality Officer Sarah Baird, Senior Officer (Islands) Lizzy Barbour, Community Rep Rhonda Leith, Head of Connected Communities Deidre Oakley, Community Development Worker Carol Campbell, Comm Representative Tom Stewart, Largs Community Council Rita Holmes, Fairlie Community Council
In Attendance	Alison Black, 1 st Alliance Credit Union Kay Hall, WK Community Council PS Donald Fisher, Police Scotland Jacqui Greenlees, North Ayrshire Council Sharon Fleming, North Ayrshire Council Jennifer McGee, North Ayrshire Council (Notes)
Apologies:	Cllr Todd Ferguson Barbara Conner, TACT PI Lisa Thomson, Police Scotland Russell McCutcheon, Executive Director (Place) Isy Agnew, Skelmorlie Community Council

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p>Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies for absence were noted and no declarations of interest were made.</p> <p>The Chair and T Stewart declared an interest in the grant report at item 4 as trustees of Largs Community Development Trust.</p>	Noted
2.	<p>Action Note</p> <p>The action note arising from the meeting held on 2 December 2025 was approved.</p>	Noted
3.	<p>1st Alliance Community Bank</p> <p>A Black provided an update to the Partnership on work underway to support financial resilience within island communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid highlighted the extent of financial vulnerability, with an estimated one in four people having less than £100 in savings, increasing the risk of debt and reliance on payday lenders. • The 1st Alliance Community Bank offers payroll-deduction savings, enabling employees to save automatically from their salary. 	

Action Note

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colleagues from Arran CVS keen to visit Cumbrae to promote the Island Cost of Living Fund and attend community events, run pop-ups, and build links with local groups on the island. <p>A Black sought guidance on how best to connect with and engage the island community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair offered to coordinate a suitable date, alongside S Baird, to arrange meetings with local groups and the school. • The network of food larders across North Ayrshire, including one in Millport, was highlighted as a useful contact point. <p>There was a question about whether 1st Alliance's support could also be extended to the mainland. A Black confirmed that her role focuses on island communities; however, 1st Alliance covers the wider West of Scotland, and she would be happy to put the organisation in touch to explore this.</p> <p>The Chair thanked A Black for her update and confirmed he would be in touch soon.</p>	<p>S Baird/ Cllr Hill</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Grants – Largs Common Good Fund</p> <p>As the Chair declared an interest in this item, Cllr Collier took over chairing the meeting at this point.</p> <p>The Partnership considered an application made to the Common Good Fund from Largs Community Development Trust. The application sought £850 from the fund to host a free, independently chaired Scottish Election hustings at Vikingar, Largs.</p> <p>J Greenlees highlighted that the criteria for the Common Good Fund is that the application must benefit all, or a significant group, of the residents of the area to which the Common Good relates.</p> <p>The Partnership discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity on the attendance, specifically which candidates would participate, and whether the event might inadvertently favour one political party. • Breakdown of what the £850 would cover. • Who the facilitator would be and which parties would be invited. <p>It was highlighted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hustings are impartial and all candidates are invited to attend. • The £850 would cover – refreshments, advertisement of the event and a donation for the facilitator. It was noted that KA Leisure waved the fee for hall hire costs. • All MSP candidates for the area have been invited, and the local minister had been asked to facilitate the session. <p>The Partnership agreed to grant £750 to Largs Community Development Trust instead of the £850 requested, in line with financial guidance provided in the grant report which stated that making a donation of £100 to the facilitator was not a suitable use of the fund.</p>	<p>S Fleming</p>

Action Note

5.	Island Plan S Baird provided the Partnership with update on the refreshed National Islands Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Plan replaces 2019 version and has a strong Arran & Cumbrae input.• Focus on population, poverty, economy, climate and public services.• Plan structured around seven major themes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connectivity• Economy/Education/Skills• Poverty/Social Justice• Empowered Communities/Culture• Housing• Health/Social Care• Climate/Nature/Energy• Route Map sets actions/timelines.• Data Dashboard to be updated.• New survey; annual SG report including Island Communities Assessments (ICIA); outcomes framework over three years.• Annual engagement sessions; governance review; full Plan review within five years.• North Ayrshire Council will promote new plan request Scottish Government briefing; embed ICIA, refresh Local Island Plans and continue funding and pilot work The Partnership asked about the key differences between the two Plans. S Baird explained that the new version is much leaner, with seven clear objectives and defined responsibilities. A member briefing will take place in June 2026. S Baird also shared the link to the new National Island Plan	
6.	Locality Priorities Officer Update D Oakley provided the Locality Partnership with the following update: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Chit chats' will now be replaced by 'Community Conversations'.• Although the Yuletide event was rained out, it was still a success. An evaluation meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening.• The chair of Largs Foodhub has resigned their departure is regrettable as she was integral to the hub's achievements. The hub remains self-sufficient.• Millport Community Shop has met with TACT to discuss obtaining charitable status.• The final report on island cost of living funding will be completed before D Oakley departs from her role. The Chair expressed his gratitude for the work carried out by D Oakley over the years, noting that her input and support provided to the groups in the area will be greatly missed.	
7.	Locality Officer Update L Riddex advised that a report was included with the meeting paperwork. L Riddex highlighted:	

Action Note

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That she is working with LCDT on a lottery funding application for a post to support local projects etc. • The Locality Team are working in Largs Academy delivering the PDA in youth Work. 15 young people have completed their first and second units and working on their third and final unit. • Older peoples conference being held on Friday exploring how the Council can enhance the lives of older people with a focus on improving access to and use of local green spaces for those age 50 plus. <p>The Chair thanked L Riddex for her update.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Engagement Workshop</p> <p>L Riddex advised that the team is organising a series of Community Conversation events. Several groups have already been contacted, and engagement will also be available online via CONSUL. Posters with QR codes will be shared with the Partnership.</p> <p>Scheduled sessions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 March - Men's Shed trustees • 10 March - SWI coffee morning • 12 March- NC Youth Forum & West Kilbride Youth Group • 16 March - Drop-in, West Kilbride Village Hall • 18 March - Skelmorlie & Largs youth groups • 23 March - Drop-in, Largs Library <p>A date for Cumbrae is still to be confirmed, L Riddex advised that she is liaising with the Community Council Chair regarding groups to engage with.</p> <p>Feedback from young people will be gathered using quiz-style questions, with responses uploaded to CONSUL by the Locality Team.</p> <p>The Partnership asked about anonymising usernames and school engagement. It was confirmed that usernames can be anonymised, and the quiz will be completed during PSE classes.</p> <p>L Riddex provided demo of the online CONSUL page that has been set up for the online engagement. A direct link will be shared with the LP to CONSUL along with a flyer. L Riddex encouraged the Partnership to share widely with their networks. The online engagement will close on 10 April.</p> <p>The Chair thanked L Riddex for her update.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Partner Reports</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>D Fisher advised that a report was included with the meeting paperwork. D Fisher highlighted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant work is being carried out on campus, including anti-bullying initiatives, re-engaging pupils in school, and delivering internet-safety sessions in primary schools. • Working alongside NAC, Trading Standards addressing community concerns about local shops, including vape retailers. 	

Action Note

	The Chair thanked D Fisher for his update.	
10.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>R Leith advised 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>Cllr Collier advised that there will be a meeting next week, organised by F. Hussain, to plan events in Largs for the World Cup. Applications for late licenses are open until 31 March. Ideas being explored include a Brazilian-themed programme and a “pub passport” with stamps for participating venues.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

The meeting ended at 7.05 pm