

Action Note

Meeting:	Garnock Valley Locality Partnership		
Date/Venue:	10 September 2026 at 6pm on Microsoft Teams		
Present:	Councillor John Bell Councillor Anthea Dickson Councillor Ronnie Stalker Councillor Donald L Reid Councillor Margaret Johnson Andy Watson, Dalry Community Council (Vice Chair) David Park, Community Representative Allan Wright, Community Representative Jane Lamont, Community Representative Angela Morrell, Senior Manager (Connected Communities) Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer Chris Parker, Scottish Fire and Rescue Michael Cowan, Police Scotland Ewan Jamieson, Active Schools Co-ordinator Heather McVie-Branley, Community Development Worker Stuart MacMillan, Principal Manager, HSCP In Attendance Calum Couston, Programme Manager Donald Booth, Senior Bus Network Adviser, SPT Michael Watson, Network Design and Analysis Team Leader, SPT Jennifer McGee, Policy & Community Planning Officer (Notes)		
Apologies:	Patrick McGarthy, Beith & District Community Council		
ACTIONS			
No.	Action	Responsible	
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest A Watson, Vice Chair took on chairing this meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted. D Park noted that he is a member of one of the groups who have applied for the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund.	Noted	
2.	Action Note The action note arising from the meeting held on 11 June was approved.	Noted	
3.	Grants The Locality Partnership were asked to consider applications made to the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund and Elderly Grant Fund. Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund The Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund has a balance of £14,812 available for disbursement. Applications were received from: - Dalry Old Folks Welfare Committee - £6,000 - Rosearden Ladies Tuesday Club - £1,000	S Fleming	

Action Note

	The Locality Partnership approved both applications made to the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund. Elderly Grants Fund The 2026/27 Garnock Valley Elderly Grants Fund has a balance of £8,431 available for disbursement. Applications were received from: - Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Age Concern - £2,964.25 - Beith Old People's Welfare - £3,053.02 - Dalry Old Folks Treat Committee - £2,414.24 The Locality Partnership approved all applications made to the Elderly Grant Fund.	S Fleming
4.	Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Trust The Locality Partnership were asked to consider and approve the disbursement of the remaining Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Trust funds, totalling £2,848, to Project Kilbirnie to support upcoming community events and activities. It was noted that the Trust had been dormant for a number of years. The Partnership approved the disbursement of the remaining £2,848 to Project Kilbirnie. Once disbursed, steps will be taken to wind up the Trust through OSCR.	M Boyd
5.	Community Project Fund At the last Locality Partnership meeting the Partnership deferred the application from Radio City Association. C Couston provided the Partnership with an update via email, however it was agreed that discussion would take place at the Partnership meeting. C Couston advised that PMI had indicated that works in the building are approaching completion. The recommended element of the grant request relates to replacement windows and doors, for which landlord approval has been given in principle. Financial information is still awaited. It was also noted that a query had been raised regarding the increase in unrestricted reserves, however no response had been received. The Partnership agreed that any concerns regarding the accounts should be clarified before a final decision is made. C Couston agreed to liaise with Finance regarding the queries raised also and report back to the Partnership in due course. C Couston advised the Partnership that there is a remaining balance within the fund and that it will reopen for applications from 11 September until 1 November 2026. Online information sessions will be held on 22 September and 26 October 2026 at 6.30pm, with an in-person session taking place at Bridgend Community Centre on 7 October 2026 at 6pm. It was noted that applications will be considered by the same assessment panel and will return to the Locality Partnership for approval in December. The only change to the process is that the maximum application amount has been reduced to £35,000, from the previous maximum of £50,000.	C Couston

Action Note

6.	Kilbirnie Cemetery The Partnership were asked to consider suggested names for the new cemetery in Kilbirnie. The report from the Council's Bereavement and Burial Team had two suggestions, these are Moorpark and Burnside. The Partnership approved the naming of the new cemetery as Moorpark.	F Porter
7.	Transport Discussion M Watson advised that bus operators provide services where they are commercially viable and that SPT cannot require private operators to run routes. Around 90% of bus mileage is commercially operated, with details of subsidised services available on the SPT website. Discussion focused largely on the MyBus service and the M32 route in the Garnock Valley. The Partnership raised concerns regarding MyBus eligibility and the Garnock Valley pilot. J Lamont highlighted that Beith Trust supports individuals experiencing transport barriers, many of whom would appear to be excluded by the stated age criteria. Clarification was sought on whether the age limit could be lowered or whether capacity could be allocated to those under 80. M Watson clarified that MyBus is not exclusively for those aged 80 and over, with eligibility also based on factors such as medical needs and benefits received. It was noted that the Garnock Valley bus receives around 35 requests per week, with an 88% acceptance rate. Members queried whether spare capacity or expanded eligibility criteria could support areas with limited transport provision. M Watson advised that eligibility is based on individual circumstances rather than local transport availability. A Watson requested Garnock Valley-specific application and outcome data. Discussion also focused on community transport proposals. It was noted that consultation responses received up to July 2026 were broadly supportive of developing a North Ayrshire community transport model. A report will be presented to the Council's Cabinet seeking approval to progress the proposal. D Booth noted that Coalfields has secured approval in principle for funding from SPT towards a North Ayrshire minibus, subject to revenue funding being identified. D Booth provided the Partnership with a presentation on Bus Franchising Development. The presentation highlighted: • The draft framework programme and proposed development timescales. • The potential for bringing bus service planning and management back under public control in the years ahead. • Planned stakeholder engagement activities and the statutory consultation process. The Partnership queried whether a franchising model would require some form of financial compensation or subsidy. He noted that discussions would need to take place with the Scottish Government and local authorities regarding funding arrangements. It was advised that, under a franchising model, SPT would take responsibility for planning and managing the network, with bus operators bidding to operate routes under contract.	M Watson (SPT) Noted

Action Note

	SPT has been awarded from the Transport to Employment fund as part of the national Child Poverty Action Plan. This includes initiatives that reduce the cost of transport for individuals (e.g. discounted ticketing) or improve transport access to employment (e.g. new/enhanced transport service). Provisional proposals include extending X36 evening services and introducing demand-responsive services Monday to Saturday. It was noted that this may not require MyBus, however funding must be spent by the end of the financial year. The proposal is expected to start on 1 November and run until 27 March 2027. The X36 extension would also help Stagecoach assess whether the enhanced service could be commercially viable longer term. M Watson will keep the Partnership updated on the outcome of this work and whether the proposal will be taken forward. The Chair thanked M Watson and D Booth for attending.	M Watson (SPT)
8.	Partner Reports/Updates Police Scotland - Local officers continue to work with communities on driver behaviour. - E-bikes remain a concern, with enforcement and community intelligence leading to seizures of e-motorbikes. Anonymous reporting links are available on Police Scotland social media. - An S2/S3 leadership programme to increase youth community engagement will commence this month. - The Prevention and Interventions Officer continues work on scams and bogus workmen with communities and Trading Standards. - A Savvy About Scams session was held at Kilbirnie Library with Trading Standards and partners. - Funding has been secured for around 300 to 400 Message in a Bottle packs. - Organisations needing support from the Prevention and Interventions Officer were encouraged to get in touch. H McVie noted that the Locality Sargeant advised that there would be e-bike guidance M Cowan noted that this is due to be issued nationally and once available, this will be shared. It was also suggested that it would be useful for an Officer from Garnock Valley Policing team to attend a youth group, and M Cowan offered to arrange this. H McVie noted that the leadership programme had started this week. Cllr Johnson raised that nitrous-oxide canisters had been found during litter picks. M Cowan advised that he was aware of previous issues in Kilbirnie, where a small number had been found, but noted that nothing had been reported for several months. He agreed to find out more and provide an update. Cllr Dickson suggested that it may be worth exploring whether this issue is linked to young people or local fairs, as similar items had been found following fairs in Irvine, Kilwinning and Kilbirnie. Scottish Fire and Rescue - The Community Action Team delivers targeted activity, including Home Fire Safety Visits, water safety education, road safety engagement and support for vulnerable residents. 11 Adult in Need of Support referrals have been submitted, alongside numerous Home Fire Safety Visits.	Noted M Cowan M Cowan M Cowan

Action Note

	- Crews from Dalry, Kilbirnie and Beith have supported local events, community engagement and activities aimed at reducing risk. - Kilbirnie crews provided car-seat safety checks and CPR training to 12 new mothers through a local mother and toddler group. - Planned activity includes young driver initiatives using VR headsets and a Good Egg car-seat safety check event with Ayrshire Roads Alliance. - Crews continue to identify access issues, including parking obstructions and narrow roads, which could affect emergency responses. C Parker encouraged the Partnership to respond to the Draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan consultation, which remains open until 15 October 2026. Cllr Dickson asked whether any information on Operation Moonbeam could be shared with the Locality Partnership in advance. It was advised that Operation Moonbeam will commence at the beginning of October, ahead of the October school break with partners meeting on a daily basis. Active Schools - Summer of Sport funding supported groups from each Garnock Valley settlement to take part in days out at Castle Semple, including water sports and mountain biking. - A programme will run across schools focused on racket sports, ASN sports and martial arts, with the aim of supporting and increasing participation in local clubs. Youth Work - Youth groups will restart next week. - Young people will attend Millport Pride on Saturday. - The Lochshore Highland Games Fun Day, which was rescheduled, will be free to attend and include a range of community stalls. Partners were encouraged to attend.	All Noted Noted
8.	Locality Report C Pieraccini advised that the full report was enclosed as part of the meeting paperwork. C Pieraccini highlighted that: - a meeting to discuss Kilbirnie Civic Week 2027 will take place on Wednesday 16 September at 7pm in Ladeside Pavilion. - three students will be joining the locality team on placement, with two young people also joining for work experience in October.	
9.	AOCB The Chair noted that a report from the HSCP was included for information. C Pieraccini advised that the Recovery Hub will be extended to Dalry after Christmas.	Noted Noted.

The meeting ended at: 9.05 pm