
SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2018/19

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report recommends projects to be put forward to a public vote for the award of the Supporting Communities Fund in Helensburgh and Lomond.
- 1.2 This process is part of the Council's decision to undertake a pilot project with the Supporting Communities Fund and trial a Participatory Budgeting (PB) approach to distributing the funds.
- 1.3 Voting is expected to take place from 3rd to 30th April and a plan to engage and promote this to all citizens in the administrative area is attached for consideration.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Area Committee agrees the 21 projects, listed in table 1, progress to the public vote.
- 2.2 Area Committee considers and provides any further suggestions to the proposed plan for engagement and promotion of voting.

3.0 DETAILS

- 3.1 It was agreed by Council on 27 September 2017 that the Supporting Communities Fund be distributed via a PB approach for 2018/19 as a pilot. Recommendations from the pilot will support the Council's considerations of how it could best implement the Scottish Government target of 1% of budget distributed through PB methods by 2020/21.
- 3.2 Area Committee considered the outline approach to the pilot project at their meeting in December.
- 3.3 A website for project ideas was open from 13 November to 22 December 2017. 29 ideas were shared on this for Helensburgh and Lomond. Some of these ideas developed to applications to the fund. An evaluation of the ideas site will form part of the overall evaluation of the pilot.
- 3.4 23 eligible applications were received in Helensburgh and Lomond. The process of scoring of applications against criteria remains the same as in previous years of the fund. 21 projects are recommended to go forward to public vote, see Table 1.
- 3.5 It was agreed at Council on 27 September that in 2018/19 successful applicants, via public vote, can receive full funding of project up to maximum

of £2,500. It may be the case that some projects have an element of reliance upon other funds. Delivery of any project funded (subject to public vote) will be monitored in the same way as previous years and so any spend not incurred will be returned.

- 3.6 The Supporting Communities Fund (SCF) budget made available by the Council for allocation in Helensburgh and Lomond for 2018/19 is £24,500. In addition, there is a carry forward of £3,572 from a return of funds from previous projects unable to spend their funding, giving a total available for allocation at public vote of £28,072.
- 3.7 Projects that are not recommended to go forward this year either did not meet the criteria or meet a threshold in the scoring to be taken forward. Support to strengthen future funding applications is offered to those projects.
- 3.8 For projects going forward to the public vote support is provided to best describe the project and illustrate it with an image for the online dedicated voting website. A plan to promote voting to citizens in the area is attached for consideration.
- 3.9 A focus group of representatives from groups identified as potentially having a lower equality of access to online voting sites is informing the approach and the attached plan may develop subject to their input.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The trial of a PB approach to distributing the Supporting Community Fund will culminate in a digital online public vote that will take place from 3rd to 30th April. The engagement plan attached will provide a wide and varied approach to engaging with the public and, informed by the Focus Group, provide assistance for those that need it.
- 4.2 On completion of the grant pilot process, a full evaluation will take place to review and make recommendations for future Supporting Communities Fund distribution.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy: Pilot project in response to legislation within the Community Empowerment Act requiring Councils to consider Participatory Budgeting in financial decision making
- 5.2 Financial: As per area budget allocation.
- 5.3 Legal: None
- 5.4 HR: None
- 5.5 Equalities Potential inequality in accessing a digital voting site is recognised, a focus group has been put together to address this
- 5.6 Risk: Monitoring of the process will minimise any risk to the Council
- 5.7 Customer Service: None

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Table 1 – Recommendations to go forward to Public Vote

6.2 Engagement Plan – Public Vote

Rona Gold

Community Planning Manager

Community Planning and Community Development

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For further information contact: communitydevelopment@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Table 1 – Recommendations to go forward to Public Vote

Ref No	Organisation	Project Title	Description	Amount Requested
1	Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust	Cobbler Climbers	Equipment for a new climbing club for young people in the Arrochar area.	£2,000
2	Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust	Generation Communities	To support the general running and activities of an intergenerational group in the Arrochar area.	£1,703
3	*Bicentenary Pipe Band Championships Committee	Bicentenary Pipe Band Championships	Contribution towards running the annual Bicentenary Pipe Band Championships.	£2,500
4	Colgrain Primary School Parent Teacher Council	Colgrain Primary School Community Garden	Tools, plants and storage to allow the school to open up the garden area for use by the wider community.	£600
5	Cove and Kilcreggan Lunch Club	The Cove & Kilcreggan Lunch Club	Funds towards the general running of the lunch club, including transportation for members, a Christmas party and summer outing.	£1,150
6	Cove and Kilcreggan Youth Cafe	Youth worker for Cove and Kilcreggan Youth Cafe	Contribution towards the cost of employing a trained youth worker for the Cove and Kilcreggan Youth Café.	£2,500
7	ENABLE Scotland	Jean's Bothy Community Health Hub Courses	To fund courses for the volunteers and staff members at Jean's Bothy Mental Health Hub to run the members' café and support therapeutic activities.	£2,210

Ref No	Organisation	Project Title	Description	Amount Requested
8	Friends of Hermitage Park Association	Helensburgh War Memorial Families Project	To create a digital archive and book, to share stories about the lives of those named on the Helensburgh War memorial.	£2,500
9	Gareloch Riding for the Disabled Association	Gareloch Riding for the Disabled Association	For the upkeep of two horses for use by some of the smaller children who have physical and/or learning difficulties.	£2,092
10	Geilston Hall Management Committee	Argyll's Charles Rennie Mackintosh Trail	To support children in Cardross to research and display the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh in the Geilston Hall.	£750
11	Helensburgh and Lomond Autism	Helensburgh and Lomond Autism Cooking Classes	To provide cooking and independent living skill workshops for children and young people affected with Autism Spectrum Disorder	£1,794
12	Helensburgh and Lomond Foodbank	Helensburgh Foodbank and Partners Provide Support to Clients in Poverty	To source and deliver advice and guidance to clients in poverty, to enable them to maximise their income and develop a personal action plan out of poverty.	£2,000
13	Helensburgh Community Council	Helensburgh 20/20 – a Vision for a Town Embarking Upon Change	To create a Community Action Plan for a comprehensive vision for how the community wants to develop and improve the town.	£2,500
14	Helensburgh Community Council	John Logie Baird Innovation HUB	To fund a feasibility study and business plan for the creation of an Innovation hub in Helensburgh.	£2,500

Ref No	Organisation	Project Title	Description	Amount Requested
15	Helensburgh Heroes	Helensburgh Heroes – Celebrating the Past, Inspiring the Future	To develop and produce teaching resource packs and activity sheets, for use by schools and visitors to the Helensburgh Heroes Centre.	£2,000
16	Kirkmichael Community Development Group	Kirkmichael Meet and Eat Lunch Club	Running costs of the lunch club, including transport for members, outings and a Christmas party.	£2,500
17	Loch Long Jetty Association	Loch Long Pontoon	To obtain a marine licence in order to support a pontoon and visitor moorings.	£2,025
18	Recruit for Spouses CiC	Recruit for Spouses Helensburgh Job Club	Costs associated with the provision of support and advice to Navy spouses searching for work.	£2,500
19	Rhu and Shandon Community Centre	Rhu and Shandon Community Centre Family Activities for 2018	To run family events and activities at the Community Centre, including a Treasure hunt, Autumn Adventure and Burns Supper.	£570
20	*Rosneath Peninsula Highland Gathering	Rosneath Peninsula Highland Gathering	Contribution towards running the annual Rosneath Peninsula Highland Gathering.	£2,500
21	Route 81 Youth Project	Route 81 Friday Night Youth Provision	The provision of free Friday night diversionary activities for 11-18 year olds.	£2,500

**Events and Festivals*

Engagement Plan: Public Vote (3rd April – 30th April 2018)

1.0 Pre-Voting Stage

- 1.1 In accordance with the National Standards of Community Engagement, efforts have been made to maximise inclusion in promoting the public vote. Digital exclusion has been identified as a barrier. A Focus Group will inform engagement with those identified as hard to reach.

2.0 Public Engagement

- 2.1 The Outreach strategy has several strands. To advertise the SCF PB website to the widest possible range of communities; to target specific communities with identified participation barriers, and to target 'advocate' groups, who would be enthusiastic participants.
- 2.2 The strategy builds on the groundwork by the team during the Ideas stage of the SCF PB pilot and follows a similar trajectory.
- 2.3 The Community Development team works with community partners such as Adult Learning and Argyll & Bute TSI to deliver the Outreach strategy.
- 2.4 In particular, the strategy targets locations and communities with identified inequalities issues and takes a variety of formats. (see table, below)

Format	Method	Purpose
Advertising	Posters, fliers and Postcards displayed in public places – Leisure Centres, Libraries, Community Halls, Public Notice Boards, Local Pubs, Cafes and Shops.	To widen public knowledge about SCF PB and to generate interest in voting.
Digital /Social Media	Information on A&B Council Website, Facebook Page & Twitter. Community Groups are encouraged to advertise and redirect to SCF PB from their Website, Facebook page & Twitter.	To multiply SCF PB coverage.
Face to Face Events	Publicised events with Community Development staff	To explain SCF PB and to present the voting site and to get face to face feedback with a broad section of the community.
Targeted Events	Specific Groups Either: Identified as having barriers to participation, eg. Seniors, the Digitally Excluded and Groups of Multiple Deprivation. Or: 'Advocate' groups – enthusiastic participants, who would encourage others to the site to vote, eg. S5 & S6 students.	To demonstrate the SCF PB website and to guide hesitant members of the public whilst voting.