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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands**

**Area Committee**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UNIT**

**02 June 2021**

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## **SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2021/22**

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### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to decide on the allocation of the council's Supporting Communities Fund (SCF) for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.
- 1.2 The total Supporting Communities Fund budget made available by the Council for allocation in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands for distribution in 2021/22 is £22,500
- 1.3 It is recommended that 12 applicants are awarded funding.
- 1.4 Applicants awarded funds from the council's Supporting Communities Fund have 18 months in which to spend the funds.

## SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2021/22

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### 2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The report details recommendations for the award of the council's Supporting Communities Fund (SCF). The total Supporting Communities Fund budget made available by the Council for allocation in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands for 2021/22 is £22,500.
- 2.2 Following consultation on the SCF with the community and recommendations from this agreed at Council on 26 November 2021. Organisations can apply for up to £2,500 and the period of spend is 18 months. This is what the respondents of the consultation wanted. Improvements were also made to simplify the application process.
- 2.3 The SCF is a popular fund and has attracted 23 applications from the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands requesting a total of £43,622.96 in funding.
- 2.4 Applications are scored against criteria set out in the guidance (<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants> )
- 2.5 Due to Covid-19 restrictions applicants who received funding in 2020/21 were granted an extension to carry funds forward to March 2022. Where an organisation has been recommended for an award and received funds in 2020/21, the award recommended within this report is either for a different project or where the original award has been spent and an End of Project Monitoring Form received.

### 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to agree that 12 applications are awarded funding from the Supporting Communities Fund budget totalling £22,500. These are listed with an award recommendation in Table 1 under 4.0 of the report.

## 4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The SCF is marked through a robust process which involves financial checks and contact with the applicant to verify any information where required. All applicants need to provide satisfactory essential information on governance and finance to be eligible for further assessment. The scoring is based on a set of criteria outlined in the guidance and made available on the council's website: ([Guidance for applicants](#)). Applications to the fund in March 2021 must meet one or more of the criteria:
- Fairer Communities – tackling poverty by sharing opportunities.
  - Resilient Communities – rebuilding and repairing from a pandemic; noting that this is only in the case of the group being unable to access other specific funds for this, e.g. Scottish Government funding.
  - Greener, cleaner communities – climate change mitigation
  - Creative Communities - Creativity for Health and Wellbeing
- 4.2 Of the 23 applications, two applications were not eligible. These applicants have been notified and provided with support on applying to other funds where relevant.
- 4.3 Of the 21 eligible applications (requesting a total of £38,622.96) 16 of these have not applied to the fund in the previous year/ two years. Applications to the fund are listed in alphabetical order, by applicant name, in Table 1. One of the eligible applications is a partnership project seeking to reduce fraudulent activity due to Covid-19 and has been passed to the Community Planning Partnership which is currently supporting partnership working on this.
- 4.4 Of the eligible applications to the SCF, 12 are recommended to be awarded funding from the total available of £22,500. 3 of these are for island based projects. The applications recommended for award of funding are indicated by the award amount shown in column 'Award 2021/22' in Table 1. The detail of the projects is in Table 2.
- 4.5 Unsuccessful applicants are marked 'no award' in the table, and they will be provided with information on alternative sources of funding which is available through the council's Funding Alert bulletin and Grantfinder facility on the webpages.
- 4.6 Successful projects funded have to complete a report at the end to evidence the impact of the spending of the money. The results of this are brought to Area Committee in June 2023, if not before depending on project duration.

**Table 1 – Supporting Communities Fund Recommendations of Award 2021/22**

Ref No	Organisation	Grant 20/21	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Award 2021/22
1	Argyll, Lomond and the Islands Energy Agency (ALLenergy)	n/a	£3,700	£625	No Award - Refer to 4.3
2	Artmap Argyll	n/a	£5,400	£600	No Award
3	Campbeltown Community Council	n/a	£20,475	£2,500	No Award
4	CHARTS	n/a	£2,447.88	£400	£400
5	Craignish Village Hall	n/a	£2,280	£2,280	No Award
6	Dunadd Community Enterprise	n/a	£1,456	£1,456	No Award
7	East Kintyre Community Council	n/a	£9,195	£2,500	£2,500
8	Family Mediation, Argyll & Bute	n/a	£19,500	£2,500	No Award
9	Inveraray Community Council	n/a	£4,000	£2,500	£2,500
10	Islay & Jura Community Enterprises Limited	£2,000	£15,238	£2,275	£2,275
11	Live Music Now Scotland	n/a	£2,500	£2,500	£2,184
12	MECOPP – Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project	n/a	£3,450	£1,225	No Award
13	Multiple Sclerosis Centre, Mid Argyll	n/a	£6,416	£2,500	£2,500
14	Shopper-Aide Ltd	£1,561.29	£3,250	£2,500	£2,500
15	South Kintyre Seniors Forum	n/a	£2,500	£2,500	No Award
16	Tarbert & Skipness Community Trust	n/a	£6,000	£1,500	£1,500
17	Tarbert Soup Group	n/a	£10,000	£2,204	£2,204
18	The Community Bureau SCIO	n/a	£3,375	£1,240	£1,240
19	The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust	n/a	£2,422.96	£2,202.96	£2,202
20	This is Islay	n/a	£4,010	£2,110	No Award
21	Whitehouse Village Hall	n/a	£645	£495	£495
		<b>Total Available</b>			<b>£22,500</b>
		<b>Total Recommended</b>			<b>£22,500</b>

**Table 2 – Supporting Communities Fund Recommendation**

Ref	Organisation	Application Detail
4	CHARTS	Support pilot project offering simultaneous translation at community meetings within Gaelic speaking communities.
7	East Kintyre Community Council	Purchase of tools and equipment, trees, wildlife habitats, picnic bench and groundworks at Wellpark Wood community space, created by local groups to develop an accessible community garden with covered seating area.
9	Inveraray Community Council	Hire of a consultant to complete a Community Action Plan for Inveraray Community Council.
10	Islay & Jura Community Enterprises Limited	Weekly swimming therapy sessions for 13 children with physical and mental disabilities in the swimming pool of Mactaggart Leisure Centre with transportation support. Development of a small user group to represent needs of disabled children and influence project activities and direction.
11	Live Music Now Scotland	Six intergenerational music residencies, shared musical enjoyment for older people in Ardfenaig and Kintyre care homes and pre-school children in Ardrishaig and Campbeltown.
13	Multiple Sclerosis Centre, Mid Argyll	Printing of 12 x booklets written by the Scots Literacy Project and support for outreach visits or phone calls using the booklet as a focus, to reduce isolation and boost mental health and wellbeing in older, isolated members of the community.
14	Shopper-Aide Ltd	Accompanied excursions for older people with afternoon tea for 24 people to see the countryside, building confidence out with the home for those most affected by the Covid situation.
16	Tarbert & Skipness Community Trust	Restoration of White Shore Path at Tarbert Harbour. Provision of hand tools and PPE, timber, aggregate and chicken wire to replace eroded sections of the path, and machine hire.
17	Tarbert Soup Group	Twice weekly x 2 hour healthy cooking and eating sessions for younger people ages 8-18. Two food storage cupboards, running costs including rent, insurance, electricity and staffing.
18	The Community Bureau SCIO	Costs to staff and run outdoor activities for older people, people with long-term health conditions and people with mental health issues, to support them with the impact of lockdown.
19	The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust	10 x Countryside Ranger sessions with Gigha Primary School on 5 Environmental Science topics to include provision of resources for repeatable activities.
21	Whitehouse Village Hall	Development of outside space at Whitehouse Village Hall for community 'Grow and Show' events.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Supporting Communities Fund application and assessment process has been completed as set out within the guidance.
- 5.2 The recommendations made fully allocate the funding available for financial year 2021/2022.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy: n/a
- 6.2 Financial: Recommendations in the report are limited to the budget allocation available in 2021/22 for the Supporting Communities Fund in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.
- 6.3 Legal: Applications are initially assessed to ensure that groups are constituted with managed accounts.
- 6.4 HR: n/a
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: The Supporting Communities Fund supports community groups in tackling poverty, reducing inequality and building a fairer and more inclusive Scotland.
  - 6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics: Applicants are given the options of receiving the application in large print and other languages.
  - 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty: None known
  - 6.5.3 Islands: 4 of the applicant projects are island based. 3 of these are recommended for funding.
- 6.6 Risk: risk to the public pound is managed through the assessment and scoring, and through the end of project monitoring process.
- 6.7 Customer Service: None

## **7.0 Appendices**

- 7.1 Table 3 No Grant Recommendation

**Chief Executive Pippa Milne**

**Policy Lead Cllr Mary Jean Devon**

**Community Planning Manager Rona Gold**

12 May 2021

**For further information contact: Ailie Law on 01546 604707**

Appendix 1

**Table 3 – No Grant Recommendation**

Ref	Organisation	Eligible applications receiving lower scoring
1	Argyll, Lomond and the Islands Energy Agency (ALLenergy)	This application is a partnership project seeking to reduce fraudulent activity due to Covid-19 and has been passed to the Community Planning Partnership which is currently supporting partnership working on this.
2	Artmap Argyll	Support for the fourteenth Artmap Argyll open studios event in August 2021
3	Campbeltown Community Council	Update the Campbeltown Community Action Plan 2022-27. Provide 2 days training support for 3 researches via UK Govt Kickstart Fund. 2 days of planning engagement and reporting and 8 days for a local consultant to compile data to produce an action plan including an asset register.
5	Craignish Village Hall	Use of a local contractor to lay an area of hard standing for the Ardfern Community Recycle bins to relocate them to their original position in the Village Hall Carpark.
6	Dunadd Community Enterprise	Purchase of 600 wildflower seedling plugs to be planted between 5 villages to enhance the area for residents and visitors and develop a community engagement focus.
8	Family Mediation, Argyll and Bute	Additional support hours to provide 1:1 support to parents prior to mediation.
12	MECOPP – Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project	A series of traditional basket making workshops to and with members of Mid and North Argyll's Gypsy/Traveller community
15	South Kintyre Seniors Forum	Transportation for older people via minibus, to restore confidence in leaving their homes to access local places after restrictions are lifted /when venues reopen.
20	This is Islay	Start-up and operating costs supporting a regular Island community podcast. 12 x podcasts, volunteer training, operating expenses including licences, insurance and volunteer travel.