
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

LEGAL AND REGULATORY SUPPORT

29 APRIL 2026

**BUILDING STRONGER CONNECTIONS AND COLLABORATIONS WITH
COMMUNITIES – COUNCIL BUDGET DECISIONS**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council agreed as part of the budget for 2026/2027 to allocate £50,000 to each of the 4 Area Committees for distribution to support activities which align with existing and emerging local plans and issues. It also agreed additional funding for Community Councils and this report takes forward those decisions.

**BUILDING STRONGER CONNECTIONS AND COLLABORATIONS WITH
COMMUNITIES – COUNCIL BUDGET DECISIONS**

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 As part of the Budget for 2026/2027, the Council agreed the following:-

In line with the Council's Strategic Priority of building stronger connections and collaborations with communities, agrees the following investments totaling £220,000 in increasing community empowerment:

- i) Allocation of £50,000 to each of the four Area Committees as part of the priority commitment to support reshaping of business, decision-making and overall activities to align with existing and emerging local plans and issues; with officers to develop appropriate criteria and governance arrangements, and bring forward a report on delivery and implementation options to members for final approval – this to be funded from the Priorities Investment Fund; and
- ii) Increasing the funding support available to Argyll and Bute's 56 Community Councils with a total investment of £20k, to be added into the revenue base budget, with an appropriate distribution framework to be developed and reported to the Policy and Resources Committee.

This report takes forward those agreements and sets out how they will be delivered.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to agree:-

- 3.1 That officers arrange for Area Committee Business Days to take place to allow for discussion on the proposed Area Committee Priorities;
- 3.2 That a report will be submitted to the June Council meeting which will outline for agreement the process for dealing with applications to the Fund; and

3.3 The distribution mechanism for the additional Community Council funding as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of this report.

4.0 DETAIL

Area Committee Priorities Fund

4.1 In order to take forward the proposal for distribution of this £50k funding for each Area Committee, there will require to be agreement on some key elements:-

- Framework for dealing with applications
- Priorities to be agreed by each Area Committee
- Timetable for decision making

4.2 The Council already has an established process in place for dealing with applications to the Supporting Communities Fund which are also agreed by the Area Committees. This process provides a fair and transparent framework for dealing with applications, using a scoring system. It is suggested that this process or that used for Common Good applications are taken forward as the basis for dealing with applications to the Area Committees Priorities Fund. Any process will be developed to be as simple for applicants to engage with as possible and will be on the basis of allowing the maximum discretion for each Area Committee to distribute the funding having regard to agreed priorities. A report will be brought to the Council meeting in June 2026 which will outline the proposed framework and process for applications and will also confirm the associated timetable to ensure that the funding is allocated within the financial year 2026/27.

4.3 In terms of taking forward the agreement of priorities, it is suggested that officers take forward Business Day meetings with all 4 Area Committees where they can discuss the priorities for their area.

Community Councils

4.4 Officers have looked at the options for distribution of the additional £20,000 which has been allocated. Currently all Community Councils receive an admin grant which relates to the electorate in the area (£400, £500 or £700). They also receive an additional discretionary sum which is calculated at a rate of 10p per elector. It is recognised that all Community Council's incur costs in relation to administration that may include matters such as social media and online meeting costs regardless of the size of population of the electorate. Having regard to that and noting the basis of funding already allocated, it is suggested that the £20,000 is allocated equally between all 56 Community Councils – this would give each an additional payment of £357.

4.5 This will be paid in addition to the current administration grant and the discretionary grant. A table outlining the amended grant awards for each community council is attached as Appendix 1.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 This report takes forward the recommendations from the Budget in February 2026 relating to the Council Priority of building stronger connections and collaborations with communities

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy - none

6.2 Financial – sets out how the allocations made in the budget will be spent.

6.3 Legal - none

6.4 HR – there will be some additional staffing resource to take forward these decisions.

6.5 Customer Service - none

6.6 Risk - none

6.7 Climate Change - none

6.8 Fairer Scotland Duty - none

6.9 Equalities - protected characteristics - none

6.10 Consumer Duty - none

6.11 Island Communities - none

6.12 Children’s Rights and Wellbeing - none

Douglas Hendry

Executive Director with responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support

Councillor William Sinclair

Policy Lead for Customer Services and Community Planning

16th April 2026

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Appendix 1

Community Council	Admin Grant	Discretionary Grant	Additional Grant	Total Payable
Southend	£400	£39.30	£357	£796
The Laggan	£400	£30.20	£357	£787
Campbeltown	£500	£411.70	£357	£1,269
West Kintyre	£400	£72.90	£357	£830
East Kintyre	£400	£58.50	£357	£816
Tarbert & Skipness	£500	£116.30	£357	£973
Gigha	£400	£14.20	£357	£771
Islay	£500	£268.60	£357	£1,126
Jura	£400	£19.00	£357	£776
Colonsay	£400	£11.40	£357	£768
South Knapdale	£400	£18.80	£357	£775
North Knapdale	£400	£44.40	£357	£801
Ardrishaig	£500	£110.40	£357	£967
Lochgilthead	£500	£227.00	£357	£1,084
West Lochfyne	£400	£31.80	£357	£789
Furnace	£400	£22.30	£357	£779
Inveraray	£400	£58.40	£357	£815
Dunadd	£400	£79.20	£357	£836
Craignish	£400	£40.60	£357	£798
Mull	£500	£252.00	£357	£1,109
Iona	£400	£14.40	£357	£771
Coll	£400	£16.20	£357	£773
Tiree	£400	£52.90	£357	£810
Oban	£700	£660.20	£357	£1,717
Glenorchy & Innishail	£400	£60.90	£357	£818
Taynuilt	£400	£94.80	£357	£852
Avich & Kilchrenan	£400	£28.20	£357	£785
Luing	£400	£15.20	£357	£772
Kilninver & Kilmelford	£400	£36.00	£357	£793
Seil & Easdale	£400	£57.00	£357	£814
Kilmore & Kilbride	£400	£31.90	£357	£789
Dunbeg	£400	£70.80	£357	£828
Lismore	£400	£15.30	£357	£772
Appin	£400	£45.10	£357	£802
Connel	£400	£54.00	£357	£811
Ardchattan	£500	£145.10	£357	£1002

Community Council	Admin Grant	Discretionary Grant	Additional Grant	Total Payable
Colintraive & Glendaruel	£400	£30.10	£357	£787
Cairndow	£400	£13.00	£357	£770
Lochgoil	£400	£37.40	£357	£794
Strachur & District	£400	£66.40	£357	£823
Kilfinan	£400	£66.50	£357	£824
Hunters Quay	£400	£79.90	£357	£837
Kilmun	£400	£80.40	£357	£837
Ardentinny	£400	£16.00	£357	£773
Sandbank	£500	£107.20	£357	£964
Dunoon	£700	£525.70	£357	£1,583
South Cowal	£500	£136.10	£357	£993
Bute	£500	£484.80	£357	£1,342
Rhu & Shandon	£500	£167.80	£357	£1,025
Garelochhead	£500	£131.80	£357	£989
Cove & Kilcreggan	£500	£126.60	£357	£984
Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui	£400	£68.60	£357	£826
Rosneath & Clynder	£500	£115.90	£357	£973
Luss and Arden	£400	£29.80	£357	£787
Helensburgh	£700	£1,140.90	£357	£2,198
Cardross	£500	£ 206.50	£357	£1,064
Totals	£24,800	£ 6,956.40	£19,992	51,748