OBAN LORN AND THE ISLES

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL **AREA COMMITTEE**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UNIT **09 SEPTEMBER 2026**

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2026/27

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 Oban Lorn and the Isles.

1.2 The total Supporting Communities Fund budget made available by the Council for allocation in Oban, Lorn and the Isles for distribution in 2026/27 is £22,500.

1.3 It is recommended that 17 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.

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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 Supporting Communities Fund budget made available by Council in Oban, Lorn and the Isles for 2026/7 is £22,500

2.2 Organisations applying to the fund were able to request up to £1,500. This year the SCF has attracted 26 applications from the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area, requesting a total of £35,612.

2.3 Applications have been scored by the Council's Community Development Team against criteria set out in the SCF Application Guidance on the council's webpages, and a summary of all applications is appended to this report. The fund is oversubscribed each year and funds are distributed based on scores, with partial funding being awarded where insufficient funding remains to fully fund, and no award when no further funding is available.

2.4 A summary of all applications is appended to this report. 17 are recommended to be funded.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to agree that the 17 applications, marked as 'Award' and 'Partial Award' within Appendix 1 are awarded funding totalling £22,500 from the Supporting Communities Fund. Detailed information about these projects is contained within Appendix 2.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 The SCF is assessed through a robust process which involves Community Development Team 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. Applications to the fund must be for projects that come under one or more of these categories:

- Fairer Communities – tackling poverty by sharing opportunities.
- Resilient Communities – capacity building, preparing for and responding to community needs
- Greener, Cleaner Communities – environmental action to support addressing climate change
- Creative Communities – creativity for health and wellbeing

4.2 Of the 28 applications received 2 were ineligible and of the 26 eligible applications, 16 are new applicants to the fund.

4.3 Of the 26 eligible applications to the SCF, 17 are recommended to be awarded funding. 7 of these are for island-based projects. The applications recommended for funding are labelled as 'Award' or 'Partial award' in the recommendation column in Appendix 1. The detail of the projects are in Appendix 2.

4.4 The projects recommended will deliver a wide range of activities from music classes to sports for children, and falls prevention for older people. A new Clarsach ensemble will be created and Gaelic will be the language used in an older people's outing. Over half of the recommendations support children and families, including windsurfing, sailing, arts and the installation of a new playground on Mull.

4.5 Unsuccessful applications are marked as 'No award' in Appendix 1. These applicants will be offered support from the Community Development Team and provided with information on alternative sources of funding.

4.6 This year £22,500 is available for allocation from the Council's Supporting Communities Fund.

4.7 Projects awarded funding complete a report at the end to evidence the impact of the funded project. The results of this are brought to Area Committee by Summer 2028.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The Supporting Communities Fund application and assessment process has

been completed as set out within its guidance SCF Application Guidance

5.2 The recommendations made fully allocate the funding available for financial year 2026/27.

5.3 The 17 projects being put forward for an award will help communities to deliver priority activities in their area in 2026/27.

5.4 All applicants to the fund are supported throughout the process and beyond by the Community Development Team.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy - none

6.2 Financial - Recommendations in the report are limited to the budget allocation available in 2025/26 for the Supporting Communities Fund in Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

6.3 Legal - Applications are initially assessed to ensure that groups are constituted with managed accounts.

6.4 HR – none

6.5 Customer Service – none

6.6 Risk - risk to the public pound is managed through the assessment and scoring, and through end of project monitoring process.

6.7 Climate Change – none

6.8 Fairer Scotland Duty - The Supporting Communities Fund supports community groups in tackling poverty, reducing inequality, and building a fairer and more inclusive Scotland.

6.9 Equalities - protected characteristics: applicants are given the options of receiving the application in large print and other languages and support with online applications.

6.10 Consumer Duty- none

6.11 Island Communities: 7 of the applicant projects are island based.

6.12 Children's Rights and Wellbeing- none.

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29th July 2026

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Assessment Recommendations

Appendix 2 - Project Summary Sheet

Appendix 1 – Assessment Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Recommendation	Amount Requested	Recommended Award 2026/27	Cumulative Total
1	Ignite Arts	Award	£1,470.00	£1,470.00	£1,470.00
2	Tiree Makery	Award	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£2,970.00
3	Sound Waves SCIO	Award	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£4,470.00
4	Dervaig Community Hall	Award	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£5,970.00
5	Orchy and Awe Community Trust	Award	£1,457.00	£1,457.00	££7,427.00
6	Oban Youth Café	Award	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£8,927.00
7	Bendoran Watersports CIC	Award	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£10,427.00
8	Tiree Windsurfing Club	Award	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£11,927.00
9	Coll Growing Group (Coll CDT)	Award	£870.00	£870.00	£12,797.00
10	Hynish Trust	Award	£1,440.00	£1,440.00	£14,237.00
11	Appin Village Hall	Award	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£15,237.00
12	Misscarriage Support	Award	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£16,737.00
13	Developing Potential SCIO	Award	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£18,237.00
14	Lorn Toy Library	Award	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£19,737.00
15	Oban and District Access Panel	Award	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£21,237.00
16	Relationship Scotland	Award	£375.00	£375.00	£21,612.00
17	The Ardchattan Centre	Partial Award	£1,500.00	£888.00	£22,500.00
18	Commun Gàidhealachd an Òbain	No Award	£1,500.00	£0.00	
19	1st Oban Brownies	No Award	£1,500.00	£0.00	
20	Sound Waves SCIO (2)	No Award	£1,500.00	£0.00	
21	Kilchrennan Village Hall	No Award	£1,500.00	£0.00	
22	North Mull Parish (Church of Scotland)	No Award	£1,500.00	£0.00	
23	Taynuilt Pipe Band SCIO	No Award	£1,500.00	£0.00	
24	Isle of Luing Community Trust	No Award	£1,500.00	£0.00	
25	A' Bhuain Homecoming Committee	No Award	£1,500.00	£0.00	
26	Neighbours to Friends CIC	No Award	£500.00	£0.00	
	TOTAL		£35,612		£22,500.00

Appendix 2 – Project Summary Sheet

Applications presented in order of scoring by Community Development Officer. For submission to Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee for final decision (maximum value £1,500).

Ref:	1
Applicant:	Ignite Arts
Recommended Award:	£1,500
Project Summary:	Popular, intergenerational Clarsach classes have created a demand for a new and inclusive ensemble, that is returning the regular playing of one of Argyll's oldest instruments to the area. The funding will pay for 12 sessions in Taynuilt and include musical direction, hall hire and sheet music.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	2
Applicant:	Tiree Makery
Recommended Award:	£1,500
Project Summary:	Primary aged children on Tiree will benefit from 6 free, high-quality, artist-led workshops. They will be able to develop creative, practical, communication and problem-solving skills while building confidence through self-expression. Materials and refreshments will be provided ensuring they are available to all.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	3
Applicant:	Sound Waves SCIO
Recommended Award:	£1,500
Project Summary:	A contribution towards 8 residential workshops and one 5-day summer school for Mull's primary school children. Professional tutors teach traditional, classical and contemporary music, ensemble playing, songwriting and performance skills. Instruments, tuition and accommodation if needed are all provided free.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	4
Applicant:	Dervaig Community Hall
Recommended Award:	£1,500
Project Summary:	Towards the installation of a new playpark to add value to the busy hall and ensure there are recreational facilities in the area for families. This will support population retention. This contribution will specifically be used for installation costs for one of the playpark elements.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	5
Applicant:	Orchy and Awe Community Trust
Recommended Award:	£1,457

Project Summary:	The Development Trust want to pilot a programme of 8 accessible exercise classes and guided walks, mainly for older people. This wellbeing project will prevent falls, increase health and stimulate friendship as different walk routes are shared and explored. It is hoped that it will build enough momentum for local exercise businesses to attract regular custom and sustain the classes.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	6
Applicant:	Oban Youth Café Project Ltd
Recommended Award:	£1,500
Project Summary:	A key contribution towards the delivery of a holiday programme of activities over the October, Easter and Summer holidays for up to 20 young people at each session. The programme uses creativity as a way of improving health and wellbeing, and helps young people learn new skills, develop friendships in a safe and inclusive space. Sessions are timed so that rural folk can access them too.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	7
Applicant:	Bendoran Watersports CIC
Recommended Award:	£1,500
Project Summary:	Developing further sailing skills with the 12 young people of Bunessan Primary School so they will be able to sail a dinghy, understand wind and tide, work with others, launch and recover boats. All equipment and safety management are provided so there are no cost barriers. 3 instructors will deliver 10 sessions.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	8
Applicant:	Tiree Windsurfing Club
Recommended Award:	£1,500
Project Summary:	A contribution towards next year's training season for children and young people aged 5 and a half up to 18 years old. With no swimming pool and scant access to urban sport or leisure activities, it is looked forward to by all youngsters, some of whom have gone on to competition level with the Club - even internationally.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	9
Applicant:	Coll Growing Group (under aegis of Development Coll)
Recommended Award:	£870
Project Summary:	The addition of water to their new Polycrub will ensure that residents of all ages and abilities can grow nutritious food to support food resilience on their island. There are 20 growing spaces in the Polycrub, and some of these are fully accessible. The grant will pay for installation, pipe and 2 waterbutts.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	10
Applicant:	Hynish Trust

Recommended Award:	£1,440
Project Summary:	The Trust aim to co-create child friendly interpretation of the historic Hynish Lighthouse Shore Station on the Isle of Tiree with young people from the local school. This will bring the site to life for young people and fill a gap for visitors and families. The funding will not cover the school day, but will pay for the resource that belongs to the Hynish Trust.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	11
Applicant:	Appin Village Hall
Recommended Award:	£1,000
Project Summary:	The Hall Committee aim to run a programme which will recruit, support and reward volunteers. This will be done by offering supported opportunities to repair and decorate the hall, and by making their tasks easier with improved equipment (especially for the Appin Show stall) and by hearing the voices of all with a consultation about the hall.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	12
Applicant:	Miscarriage Support (MISS)
Recommended Award:	£1,500
Project Summary:	The costs of a "Wave of Light" Memorial event as part of Baby Loss Awareness Week (9th - 15th October); this will support those who have experienced baby loss by providing a free and safe space to come together in remembrance of their baby and in support of each other. It will also provide increased awareness of this new service and allow them to subsequently develop across Argyll and Bute and support more people.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	13
Applicant:	Link and Connect (Developing Potential SCIO)
Recommended Award:	£1,500
Project Summary:	Mainly towards a visit to the township at Auchindrain with the Gaelic speakers group. This will be an opportunity to capture and share memories of crofting life and allow older people to use their native language which becomes more difficult as they get older and lose their contemporaries. There will also be a contribution towards their usual monthly get together.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	14
Applicant:	Lorn Toy Library
Recommended Award:	£1,500
Project Summary:	Funding towards volunteer and peer support training in order to be able to work with families to offer a sustainable alternative to nappies and to try out a baby sling. This will give more confidence in making environmental parenting choices (that can save money for parents) as well as building the capacity of the organisation.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	15
Applicant:	Oban and District Access Panel
Recommended Award:	£1,500
Project Summary:	Full funding for administrative support for 15 months to enable this group to undertake more work to advocate for improved access for all, to raise the profile of their work and to ensure that there is adequate follow up to their recommendations. They audited 85 planning applications last year. Some of their recommendations have been rolled out across the UK.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	16
Applicant:	Relationships Scotland Couple Counselling Argyll
Recommended Award:	£375
Project Summary:	The grant would be used towards the cost of relationship counselling appointments for individuals and couples in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay, ensuring that people experiencing financial hardship can access support at no cost or for a reduced contribution.
Recommendation:	Award

Ref:	17
Applicant:	The Ardchattan Centre
Recommended Award:	£888
Project Summary:	An 18 month programme of workshops and shared activities, including film nights, classes, popup tearoom etc that are designed to bring people together and create a richer community experience, drawing people to the Ardchattan Centre for its own sake and also to enjoy their heritage, surroundings and each other.
Recommendation:	Partial Award

Ref:	18
Applicant:	Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain/Mòd Academy
Recommended Award:	Nil
Project Summary:	The Mòd Academy now features more Gaelic language teaching as part of its development of children and young people, preparing them for excellence at the National and local Mòdan.
Recommendation:	No Award

Ref:	19
Applicant:	1st Oban Brownies
Recommended Award:	Nil
Project Summary:	Towards a trip to the Lochgoilhead Scout Centre for 28 girls aged 7 to 10 to challenge themselves, grow their confidence and widen their horizons, Funding is used to ensure that no children are left behind due to financial reasons.
Recommendation:	No Award

Ref:	20
Applicant:	Sound Waves SCIO
Recommended Award:	Nil
Project Summary:	Inclusive concert programme that travels the whole island and includes Iona, bringing classical chamber music celebrating Mendelssohn in particular, to islanders. The concerts are payable by voluntary donation ensuring that all can attend. A partnership with local Community Transport ensures that there are no geographic barriers either.
Recommendation:	No Award

Ref:	21
Applicant:	Kilchrenan Village Hall
Recommended Award:	Nil
Project Summary:	Building the capacity of Kilchrenan Hall to deliver a participative community arts programme in order to bring ages and generations together and mitigate against rural isolation and lack of access to services. By supporting this programme of events, the hall committee will demonstrate their ability to increase their offering in future years.
Recommendation:	No Award

Ref:	22
Applicant:	North Mull Parish (Church of Scotland)
Recommended Award:	Nil
Project Summary:	16 creative workshops in 4 rural Church buildings where up to 30 island residents from tiny rural communities can connect, learn new skills and improve their wellbeing.
Recommendation:	No Award

Ref:	23
Applicant:	Taynuilt Youth Pipe Band SCIO
Recommended Award:	Nil
Project Summary:	A contribution towards the first official Highland dress uniform for 16 band members. This new Youth Band helps young people develop musical ability, confidence, discipline, teamwork and pride in their local community and heritage.
Recommendation:	No Award

Ref:	24
Applicant:	Isle of Luing Community Trust
Recommended Award:	Nil
Project Summary:	Towards the costs of bringing mains water to the Community garden and polycrub, so that they are compliant with environmental health regulations and can supply the Taste of Luing project at the community owned cafe. Surplus produce is distributed by donation to islanders.
Recommendation:	No Award

Ref:	25
Applicant:	A'Bhuain Homecoming Committee
Recommended Award:	Nil
Project Summary:	Towards the costs of running the isle of Tiree's every 10 year Homecoming - a' Bhuain - which invites the return of the diaspora to celebrate the island's heritage, culture and community, bringing all ages together in a wide programme of activities, involving island partners and businesses.
Recommendation:	No Award

Ref:	26
Applicant:	Neighbours to Friends CIC
Recommended Award:	Nil
Project Summary:	The organisation are seeking funding to provide two reusable social connection starter packs, promotional materials and delivery costs to establish new volunteer-led social connection points in Oban, helping adults build friendships and reduce loneliness.
Recommendation:	No Award