

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Housing and Social Wellbeing Committee

29 November 2023

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2023/24

Report by Head of Culture & Communities Services

(Report No. 23/340)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report informs Committee of the funding commitments made for the 2023/24 Community Investment Fund (CIF) across the 12 Council wards. Ward Panels allocated approximately £385,000 to support 94 projects which contribute to the delivery of the priorities outlined in the Council's Corporate Plan. The report also provides an update on progress with the Green Living Fund Participatory Budgeting project 2023/24.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- i. notes the funding decisions taken by Ward Panels for 2023/24 CIF
 - ii. approves the carry forward of £85,530.76 for disbursement to community grassroots projects in 2023/24 and 2024/25, for use in the wards where the underspends have arisen.
 - iii. notes the progress made with the Green Living Fund Participatory Budgeting project

3. STRUCTURE OF REPORT

- 3.1 This report is structured over the following sections:
- Section 4: Background
 - Section 5: Applications
 - Section 6: Funding Decisions
 - Section 7: Conclusion

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2018/19, the Council established a Community Investment Fund (CIF) as part of its commitment to devolve more decisions to local communities. Since then, a total of £2m has been distributed to approximately 400 community-led projects.
- 4.2 In March 2023, the Council approved £400,000 in addition to £68,677 CIF underspend from 2022/2023 for a further round of Community Investment Fund in 2023/24. This provided a total budget of £468,677.64 for CIF 2023/24. The Council also approved a further £200,000 for a Participatory Budgeting (PB) programme.

4.3 [Report 23/194](#) set out the process for running CIF and PB in 2023/24. For CIF the application process opened on 26 June and closed on Friday 18 August. Ward Panels met throughout September to consider the applications and agree any funding to be awarded. In Ward 8, the Kinross-shire Committee has delegated authority over CIF funding and approved the Ward Panel's recommendations on 16 November 2023.

4.4 CIF 2023/24 followed a similar process to previous rounds, with one major change. Whereas previous rounds of CIF had followed a number of manual steps from application through to the final award and project monitoring, this round utilised an on-line portal through MyPKC. This meant that the administration of CIF was contained on one system, including:

- the submission and screening of applications, with the potential for officers and applicants to make amendments or additions as necessary
- the assessment and scoring of applications by Ward Panel members
- the recording of decisions on funding awards by Ward Panels and Kinross-shire Local Committee
- the issuing of award letters to successful applicants
- the development of databases to allow for payment of grants
- the establishment of monitoring requirements for successful projects

4.5 Feedback from officers is that the system has allowed for greater efficiency and released capacity for them to complete other tasks. Feedback from applicants and Ward Panel members has also been positive.

5. CIF APPLICATIONS

5.1 The number of applications received for CIF 2023/24 and the funding requested is set out below. Compared to 2022/2023, there is a slight increase in terms of the number of applications and the value of those applications.

Ward	Funding Available	Number of Applications	Funding Requested
1 – Carse of Gowrie	£37,662.70	5	£37,186.80
2 – Strathmore	£53,907.24	9	£61,937.40
3 – Blairgowrie & The Glens	£31,472.00	10	£37,341.99
4 – Highland	£29,007.00	10	£51,262.00
5 – Strathtay	£33,517.00	11	£62,145.86
6 – Strathearn	£30,967.00	8	£41,627.89
7 – Strathallan	£50,650.47	12	£79,954.60
8 – Kinross-shire	£35,862.00	10	£39,555.98
9 – Almond & Earn	£29,542.00	9	£68,741.00
10 – Perth City South	£45,878.41	5	£13,862.00
11 – Perth City North	£41,273.41	4	£41,398.08
12 – Perth City Centre	£48,938.41	15	£93,615.40
TOTALS	£468,677.64	108	£628,629.00

6. CIF FUNDING DECISIONS

6.1 The following CIF funding decisions were made in each ward area, with funding paid out to successful applicants in October:

Ward 1 – Carse of Gowrie		
Group	Project	Funding
Perthshire Woodcrafters	Provision of training for disabled members/local community	£1,500.00
West Carse Public Hall	Renovation Phase 2	£4,000.00
St Madoes & Kinfauns Parish Church	Madoch Transport Infrastructure	£5,700.00
Tayside Upcycling & Craft Centre	Learn How to Upcycle	£5,220.00
Tay and Earn Trust	Keeping the Carse Active	£9,745.80
TOTAL		£26,165.80

Ward 2 – Strathmore		
Group	Project	Funding
Scone Thistle Junior Football Club	Tractor and Finishing mower	£6,000.00
St Martins Public Hall	Balbeggie Community Events	£1,800.00
Alyth Development Trust	Alyth Resilience Ranger	£7,494.00
Kettins Community Hub	Kettins Kids	£3,400.00
Guildtown Hall & Playing Fields Association	Guildtown Larder	£2,723.40
Strathmore Community Hub	Coupar Angus Community Cinema	£3,440.00
Scone Airport Men's Shed	Scone Airport Men's Shed Equipment Needs	£5,000.00
RDMI	Thermically efficient window curtains	£9,940.00
Meigle & Ardler CDT	Meigle & Ardler Community Shed	£6,000.00
TOTAL		£45,797.40

Ward 3 – Blairgowrie & The Glens		
Group	Project	Funding
Mount Blair Community Development Trust	Mount Blair Emergency Resilience	£1,500.00
Blairgowrie & Rattray Community Football Trust	The Free Football Project	£5,901.00
SCYD	GO Project	£5,870.00
Girlguiding Blairgowrie and Rattray District	Girlguiding Blairgowrie and Rattray District New Hall	£5,000.00
Blairgowrie & Rattray Access Network	Wider Access for Path Network Maintenance	£915.00
Wisecraft	Scottish Mental Health First Aid @ Wisecraft	£2,740.00
Nest Creative Spaces CIC	Delivery of Free Craft Workshops	£2,950.00
PLUS Perth & Kinross	Green Shoots of Recovery	£2,146.00
Ballintuim Village Hall	Resilience Project	£2,449.99
Mantalk	Mantalk Community Funday	£2,000.00
TOTAL		£31,471.99

Ward 4 – Highland		
Group	Project	Funding
Upper Tay Anti-Poverty Support Group	Upper Tay Anti-Poverty Support Group	£5,000.00
Georgetown Hall Committee	Georgetown Hall Upgrade	£3,307.00
Breathe Project	The Breathe Project	£5,000.00
Highland Perthshire Yoga and Wellbeing	Health for all	£2,000.00
Highland Perthshire Plus	Highland Perthshire Plus Project /Development Worker	£5,000.00
Rannoch Community Trust	Health and Wellbeing Coordinator	£5,000.00
The Mindful Partnership	Minding Highland Perthshire	£2,700.00
Breadalbane Men's Shed	Installation of Toilet / Social Area	£1,000.00
TOTAL		£29,007.00

Ward 5 – Strathtay		
Group	Project	Funding
DAB First Responders	Initial set up equipment for first responders	£5,532.00
St Columba's Episcopal Church, Stanley	New Disabled Access Project	£2,988.86
Bertha Park Residents	Bertha Park Parent and Pre-school Group	£1,708.35
Bertha Park Residents	Bertha Park Youth Group	£1,962.27
Chapelhill Hall	Badminton Club	£165.00
Chapelhill Hall	Cost of living crisis - hall electricity costs	£600.33
Meikleour Village Hall & Institute Committee	Rear Grounds Repair and Improvement	£3,480.00
Bertha Park Community Hub	Bertha Park Community Youthwork	£5,626.00
Dunkeld, Birnam & District Community Development Trust	Community Wellness - Dunkeld & Birnam	£3,640.00
The Chapter House Museum Trust	Young Archaeologist Club	£6,300.00
Y Centre Limited	Y Move	£1,514.19
TOTAL		£33,517.00

Ward 6 – Strathearn		
Group	Project	Funding
Crieff Connexions	Crieff Connexions Social Space	£6,000.00
Comrie Cinema and Events Club	Children's Film Project	£1,880.00
Nature Connects Perthshire CIC	Mindful Me	£2,000.00
Richmond Community	Richmond Community Fellowship Group	£6,035.89
Strathearn Arts	Art for Wellbeing	£3,000.00
Crieff at Christmas	Switch on event and replacement light display	£6,000.00
Logos Youth Voice Crieff	Logos Youth Voice	£2,000.00
TOTAL		£26,915.89

Ward 7 – Strathallan		
Group	Project	Funding
54th Perthshire (Auchterarder) Scouts	Scout Hall Renovation	£13,411.00
Muthill Bowling Club	Operation Mower	£6,000.00
Auchterarder & District Men's Shed	Music Project	£1,200.00
Auchterarder Community Sports and Recreation	Auchterarder Public Park - Public Convenience Project	£2,500.00
Auchterarder Community Sports and Recreation	ACSR Rackets	£3,976.90
Rotary Club of Auchterarder & District	Sandy Gunn Memorial Garden Phase 2	£9,400.00
Aberuthven Village Hall Trust	Sustain Community Spirit	£2,880.00
Dunning Scout Group	Expedition Trailer	£6,586.51
Dunning Community Council	Portable PA system	£1,000.00
Logos Youth Project	Logos Youth Voice Auchterarder	£1,300.00
Auchterarder Curling Club	Auchterarder Curling Development	£1,600.00
TOTAL		£49,854.41

Ward 8 – Kinross-shire		
Group	Project	Funding
Milnathort and Orwell Core Paths Group	Core Path Flail	£1,828.98
Kinross Bowling Club	Share Facilities of KBC with whole Community (Installation of Disability Ramps)	£4,750.00
Glenfarg Community Transport Group	Website Development	£3,000.00
Broke not Broken	Infant Food Insecurity Project	£4,800.00
Aero Space Scientific Educational Trust	Our World from Space	£5,000.00
Kythe	12 month Programme of Activities	£2,000.00
Perth Autism Support	Outreach Activities	£4,047.00
Kinross Centre	Ruby Anniversary	£2,130.00
TOTAL		£27,555.98

Ward 9 – Almond & Earn		
Group	Project	Funding
Forgandenny Village Hall	Black out blinds for Forgandenny Village Hall	£1,000.00
66th Perthshire Scout Group	Pavilion Renovations Phase 5	£1,750.00
Y Centre Limited	Y Move	£3,750.00
Earn Community Council	Supply & Fit Bus Shelter	£2,000.00
Green Shoots Community & Learning Centre	Green Shoots Garden Playground	£1,000.00
Friends of Abernethy Kirkyard	Abernethy Kirkyard	£500.00
Methven Community Centre	Continual Improvement	£2,000.00
Oudenarde Community Cabin	Oudenarde Community Events	£3,000.00
Bridge of Earn Amateur Football Club	Victory Park Football Pitch Maintenance and Winter Training	£4,000.00
Kythe	12 month Programme of Activities	£3,000.00
TOTAL		£22,000.00

Ward 10 – Perth City South		
Group	Project	Funding
Craigie and Moncreiffe Parish Church	Craigie Connect	£4,000.00
Perth Baptist Church	Open Circle at Perth Baptist Church	£5,000.00
Letham4all	@Moncreiffe	£7,560.00
Perth Parrots Floorball Club	Perth Parrots Floorball Club - Sport & Social Activity	£1,084.00
Moncreiffe Parent Council	Educating Outdoors	£11,877.00
TOTAL		£29,521.00

Ward 11 – Perth City North		
Group	Project	Funding
Letham Climate Challenge	Kingswell Allotment Shed	£1,100.00
Letham4all	Repair, Re-use and Remake	£3,802.00
Mangin Manashee	Winter Respite and Activities	£7,500.00
TOTAL		£12,402.00

Ward 12 – Perth City Centre		
Group	Project	Funding
Perth Minorities Association	Empowering Social Spaces for All	£3,500.00
CATH	On the mend	£6,000.00
All Strong Scotland	All Strong Recovery	£6,900.00
ESOLPerth	Primary English Language Club	£7,780.00
VisionPK	Sensory Hub Project	£5,000.00
Mindspace	Young People's Recovery College	£8,887.00
ESOLPerth	New Scots English Language Learning & Wellbeing	£4,800.00
Perth Sea Cadets	Better Enable Sea Cadets Perth to help young people develop	£3,000.00
Bajka	We can live together integration events	£3,000.00
TOTAL		£48,867.00

6.2 The table below summarises the overall spend and confirms underspend of over £3,000 in eight ward areas:

Ward	Funding Available	Funding Awarded	Underspend
1 – Carse of Gowrie	£37,662.70	£26,165.80	£11,496.90
2 – Strathmore	£53,907.24	£45,797.40	£8,109.84
3 – Blairgowrie & The Glens	£31,472.00	£31,471.99	£0.01
4 – Highland	£29,007.00	£29,007.00	-
5 – Straththay	£33,517.00	£33,517.00	-
6 – Strathearn	£30,967.00	£26,915.89	£4,051.11
7 – Strathallan	£50,650.47	£49,854.41	£796.06
8 – Kinross-shire	£35,862.00	£27,555.98	£8,306.02
9 – Almond & Earn	£29,542.00	£22,000.00	£7,542.00
Ward	Funding Available	Funding Awarded	Underspend
10 – Perth City South	£45,878.41	£29,521.00	£16,357.41
11 – Perth City North	£41,273.41	£12,402.00	£28,871.41
12 – Perth City Centre	£48,938.41	£48,867.00	£71.41
TOTALS	£468,677.64	£383,075.47	£85,602.17

6.3 Following the conclusion of this funding round, specific requests were made in Ward 1 (Carse of Gowrie) and Ward 8 (Kinross-shire) to allow the underspends (£11,496.90 in Ward 1 and £8,306.02 in Ward 8) to be made available to bids from community groups in those Wards. As a result, the application process was reopened for these Wards, with a closing date of 22

November. Ward Panels are due to assess these applications and make decisions on any further funding awards in early December.

- 6.4 It is recommended that the remaining underspends be ringfenced to support future grassroots projects in each specific Ward. The current Transformation Review of community engagement is considering ways to make the grant application and monitoring process across various Council grant schemes including any future version of CIF more streamlined and cost-efficient to administer.

7. GREEN LIVING FUND PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

- 7.1 In March 2023, Councillors approved an allocation of £200,000 towards a Participatory Budgeting (PB) project for 2023/24. The process for running the Participatory Budgeting project was agreed through [Report 23/194](#), with agreement that the project would support community-led initiatives which addressed climate change and cost of living.

- 7.2 The PB project is being run in conjunction with Local Action Partnerships and has been branded the “Green Living Fund” PB Project. The project will be delivered as set out below:

- Monday 30 October – open for bids from community groups
- Friday 15 December – close for bids from community groups
- January 2024 – screening process to check feasibility of bids
- February 2024 – voting opens to public for 2-3 week period
- w/c 26 February – Perth and Kinross event to announce winners

- 7.3 The Green Living Fund PB Project is being hosted via the CONSUL platform, with support from COSLA ([Green Living Fund \(communitychoices.scot\)](#)). Bidders are required to demonstrate how their project will impact on one or more of the themes listed below, whilst also demonstrating how it will support local people with the cost of living.

1. **Energy** – reducing consumption, energy saving, promoting efficiency and use of renewables
2. **Transport** – encouraging active travel, use of public transport and decarbonising transport
3. **Waste** – reducing waste, reusing and recycling
4. **Resilience and Biodiversity** – improving greenspace, biodiversity, local food growing; mitigating/adapting to climate change; and supporting community resilience and emergency projects
5. **Engagement** – increasing public awareness and engaging communities

- 7.4 Once the bidding process is concluded, officers will work with Local Action Partnerships to ensure that those bids that go forward to the public vote are feasible and reflect local needs and contexts. Voters will be presented with a budget for the Local Action Partnership locality in which they live and be

allowed to vote for as few, or as many, projects as they wish until the budget has been fully allocated. An event in Perth city centre is being organised for the end of February where the results will be announced and further funding support and advice for community groups will be available.

7.5 A report will be brought to Housing & Social Wellbeing on 20 March 2024 summarising the delivery of the Green Living PB Project.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 Community Investment Fund supports new and innovative community projects that tackle inequalities and improve quality of life. This round of CIF has made 96 awards totalling £383,075.47 across Perth and Kinross, with two projects being cross-boundary. Additional funding commitments may be made in Ward 1 (Carse of Gowrie) and Ward 8 (Kinross-shire) before the end of 2023.

8.2 Work to deliver the Green Living Fund Participatory Budgeting project is progressing, with groups currently submitting proposals for screening before a final public vote in the first quarter of 2024.

Authors

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Executive Director (Communities)	14 November 2023

- **APPENDICES - NONE**

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Local Outcomes Improvement Plan	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 Supporting and investing in community-led solutions to locally identified issues contributes to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan / LOIP in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

Corporate Plan

1.2 Supporting and investing in community-led solutions to locally identified issues contributes to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 Community Investment Fund has a budget of £410,000 for 2022/23 and funding decisions of £342,588.14 have been made, leaving an underspend of £68,077.64.
- 2.2 An additional £200,000 of funding was made available for a Participatory Budgeting exercise to be run in conjunction with Local Action Partnerships. A future report will set out how this funding has been used.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.2 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment Process (EqIA) and has been assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.
- 3.4 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

Sustainability

- 3.5 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.
- 3.6 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 There has been consultation with the Finance Department, Communities and the Executive Leadership Team.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 2.1 No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.