

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

24 November 2021

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2021/22

Report by Head of Culture & Community Services

(Report No. 21/222)

This report updates the Committee on Community Investment Funding grants awarded to community groups by Ward Panels following changes to governance approved in June 2021. It also identifies potential improvements for the 2022/23 round.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 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, £1.2m has been distributed in total to over 200 community-led projects.
- 1.2 [Report 18/196](#) set out the governance for awarding CIF grants in the first round with [Report 19/109](#) confirming these arrangements for 2019/20. For both years of CIF, the final decision on grant awards was made at Strategic Policy & Resources Committee with [Report 19/90](#) for 2018/19 and [Report 19/342](#) for the first tranche of 2019/20 funding. Due to COVID, the second tranche of grants were approved under emergency powers in April 2020.
- 1.3 As a result of COVID and lockdown restrictions, there was no CIF process in 2020/21 and the £300,000 budget has been carried over into 2021/22. The Council approved a further £300,000 for CIF in 2021/22, meaning a total of £600,000 is available for 2021/22. A further £300,000 has also been approved for 2022/23.

2. CIF GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING 2021/22

- 2.1 [Report 21/83](#) set out changes to the governance and decision making process for CIF 2021/22. These can be summarised as:
 - in order to achieve greater equity, the **funding distribution** model was changed to better reflect populations in each of the multi-member wards
 - the **assessment criteria** were reviewed and a combination of impact on the Perth and Kinross Offer and strategic priorities of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan are being used to assess applications
 - **criteria** were changed to ensure that only projects led by a community organisation could apply

- the three **Perth City Wards** were merged into one larger pot of funding to better support cross-city projects
- **Knowledge Hub** was used to share all relevant documentation and paperwork with Ward Panels to reduce paper waste
- **decision making** was reviewed, with final decisions on funding being made by Ward Panels

3. APPLICATION SUMMARY

- 3.1 Community Investment Fund 2021/22 opened for applications on 17 June 2021 and closed on 3 September. Applications were received on a ward-by-ward basis, as below and Ward Panels met to consider which of these to fund.

Ward	Number of Applications	Value of Applications	Budget Available
1 – Carse of Gowrie	6	£24,525.00	£45,000
2 – Strathmore	5	£21,255.00	£56,000
3 – Blairgowrie & The Glens	11	£73,271.00	£47,000
4 – Highland	13	£54,097.88	£43,500
5 – Strathtay	6	£28,362.60	£50,000
6 – Strathearn	10	£57,072.99	£47,000
7 – Strathallan	8	£43,384.00	£48,000
8 – Kinross-shire	15	£72,373.32	£53,000
9 – Almond & Earn	7	£85,893.25	£43,500
10/11/12 – Perth City	28	£233,830.41	£167,000
TOTAL	109	£694,065.45	£600,000

- 3.2 Ward Panels met virtually between 15 September and 11 October to assess applications and make decisions on funding. Ward Panels included a combination of elected members for the ward and community group representatives and young people. Ward Panels were supported by a local Community Learning and Development Worker, the Community Planning Team and Lead Officer from the Local Action Partnerships.
- 3.3 All applicants to the 2021/22 CIF were informed of the Ward Panel decision by Friday 29 October and payments were issued from week commencing Monday 1 November. 6 projects have not yet received payment (see paragraph 4.1)

4. FUNDING AWARDS

- 4.1 The following ten tables outline the funding awarded to successful applicants in each of the multi-member wards, with Perth City considered as a single pot in line with previous improvement recommendations. There are 6 projects (marked in their respective table with an asterix *) for which the Panel has agreed in principle to the funding award. These projects have been asked to provide additional evidence before the funding is paid out.

Ward 1 – Carse of Gowrie		
Group	Project	Funding Awarded
Perth Six Circle Project	Positive Intergenerational Interactions and Connections	£2,000
St Madoes & Kinfauns Parish Church	Madoch Centre Sustainable Action	£12,000
St Madoes Snack Group	Soup Lunch Club	£3,070
St Madoes Under 5's	Rebuild Project	£3,185
Errol Community Council	Phone Box Restoration	£770
Inchture Bowling Club	Banking Replacement	£3,500
TOTAL FUNDING		£24,525

Ward 2 – Strathmore		
Group	Project	Funding Awarded
*Forward Coupar Angus	CCF Initiative – Foodshare	£1,657
Alyth Youth Partnership	Activities & Events Programme	£3,730
Perthshire Organic Gardeners	Perthshire Seed Library	£750
TOTAL FUNDING		£6,137

Ward 3 – Blairgowrie and the Glens		
Group	Project	Funding Awarded
Blairgowrie & District Seniors Outings	Funded Trips for Elderly / Disabled	£5,000
Blairgowrie & Rattray CFC	Development Project	£9,710
Blair in Bloom	Mount Ericht Community Garden	£10,000
Blairgowrie Runners	New Year Day Fun Run	£1,000
Blairgowrie Riding for the Disabled	Tack Purchase	£1,900
Rattray & District (RAD) BMX Group	Track Upgrade	£6,000
Nest Creative Spaces	Thrift n Thrive	£4,460

Strathmore Centre for Youth Develop.	The Diversion Project	£4,460
Proactive Communities Blair & Rattray	Wellbeing Cafe	£4,470
TOTAL FUNDING		£47,000

Ward 4 – Highland		
Group	Project	Funding Awarded
Tay Valley Timebank	Tay Valley Voices	£1,400
Blair Atholl Village Hall Committee	Refurbishment of Main Hall	£5,000
Breathe Project	Tech & Stem Skills Space	£3,200
*Breadalbane Men's Shed	Toilet & Social Area	£4,680
Atholl Centre	Welcome Hall	£3,000
Tay Valley Timebank	Upper Tay Transport	£7,100
Highland Perthshire Sports Ambassadors	Highland Perthshire Sports Ambassadors	£3,000
Pitlochry & Moulin Men's Shed	Pitlochry & Moulin Men's Shed	£2,000
Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust	Hut & Tool Store	£6,684
Pitlochry & Moulin Community Support Group	Autumn Festival	£1,560
Perthshire Seed Library	Perthshire Seed Library	£750
TOTAL FUNDING		£38,374

Ward 5 – Strathtay		
Group	Project	Funding Awarded
Luncarty in Bloom	Luncarty in Bloom – Cart Project	£750
Bankfoot Scout Group	Bankfoot Scout Group - A Better Future	£5,797.60
Pitcairngreen Village Hall Association	Digital Connectivity for Pitcairngreen Village Hall	£2,010
Murthy Village Hall Management Committee	Murthy Better Together	£5,000

Care & Wellbeing Cooperative	Supporting Carers	£8,124
TOTAL FUNDING		£21,681.60

Ward 6 – Strathearn		
Group	Project	Funding Awarded
*Creative Crieff	Radio Earn Young Carers	£7,119
Generating Opportunity CIC	Life Stories	£5,105
CrieffAED	Saving Lives in Strathearn	£1,920
Friends of Legion Park	Legion Park Upgrade	£8,000
Crieff Connexions	Crieff School Uniform Bank	£7,500
Richmond House SCIO	Strathearn Health Walks & Carers Café	£5,298
Care and Wellbeing CIC	Gardening for Health	£4,614
*Crieff Community Gardeners	Crieff Community Garden Hub- Bringing the outdoors in	£6,645
Perthshire Seed Library	Preparing for the future and protecting our planet	£750
TOTAL FUNDING		£ 46,951

Ward 7 – Strathallan		
Group	Project	Funding Awarded
Neuro Central	Living well with Neurological Conditions	£6,000
Muthill Baby & Toddler Group	Muthill Baby & Toddler Group	£3,135
Blue Door Foodbank	Opening Doors	£5,500
Auchterarder Bowling Club	Floodlight Project	£7,669
Aberuthven Village Hall Trust	Youth Club Community Spirit	£6,330
Auchterarder Community Bus Group (ACBuG)	Travel Assistance for Independent Mobility (TAIM)	£10,000
Logos Youth Project (Auchterarder)	After School Club	£4,000

Perthshire Seed Library	Preparing for the future and protecting our planet	£750
TOTAL FUNDING		£43,384

Ward 8 – Kinross-shire		
Group	Project	Funding Awarded
Fossoway Tennis Club	Toilet Facilities	£4,000
*Milnathort Town Hall Committee	Sound Panels Project	£9,500
Kinnesswood in Bloom	New Equipment Project	£769
The Lighthouse for Perth	Kinross Mental Health Outreach	£5,720
Kinross Colts FC Juniors	Donaldson Park	£2,000
Broke Not Broken	Wednesday Adventure Days	£3,415
Friends of Portmoak School Parent Council	Playground equipment	£2,000
Pride in Glenlomond Community Group	Phoenix	£1,000
Crook of Devon Village Hall	Kitchen Equipment Upgrade	£6,000
Friends of Cleish School	Friends of Cleish School Wellbeing Boost	£1,201
Traveller Community Group	Kinross-shire Traveller Community Group	£5,000
TOTAL FUNDING		£40,605

Ward 9 – Almond & Earn		
Group	Project	Funding Awarded
*Victory Park Development Group	Victory Park Development	£15,000
Perth Six Circle Project	Positive Intergenerational Interactions & Connections	£3,000
Forgandenny Village Hall	Forgandenny Village Hall - Internal painting	£3,619
Oudenarde Community Group	Oudenarde Community Group - Hub	£1,500
Methven Community Centre	MCC Coffee Morning	£500
Bridge of Earn Institute	Cellar Repair	£9,762

Abernethy (66th Perthshire) Scout Group	Abernethy Pavilion	£10,119
TOTAL FUNDING		£43,500

Ward 10/11/12 – Perth City		
Group	Project	Funding Awarded
North Muirton Community Council	North Muirton Community Defibrillator Project	£2,585
Recycle-to-Cycle The Bike Station	Shifting Gears	£7,668
Men and Children Matter	Skilling up in the Great Outdoors	£1,720
Giraffe	Perth City Foodshare	£11,800
Perth Citizens Advice Bureau	Energy Project	£15,545
Fairview Parent Council	Health & Wellbeing Initiative	£1,000
YMCA Tayside	Y Connect	£6,780
International Cafe	Table Tennis Club	£1,219
Trauma Healing Together	Perth and Kinross Mental Health Festival 2022	£6,000
PLUS Perth and Kinross	Everyone Living their Best Life in Perth City Centre	£4,925.50
People with a Mission Ministries	People with a Mission Ministries Community Programme	£7,500
South Perth Community Garden	New Opportunities at South Perth Community Garden	£2,789.11
Perth High School Parent Council	What's Four Tea	£6,000
Martha's Kitchen (Riverside Church)	Martha's Kitchen	£8,533
Perth Grammar School Paddleboarding Group	Paddle Boarding	£450
Letham Climate Challenge	Community Space: Improving Access	£7,650
Friends of Letham Primary School Parent Council	Dolly Parton's Imagination Library	£2,000
TOTAL FUNDING		£94,164.61

5. FUNDING SUMMARY

5.1 The overall funding provided through the Community Investment Fund across each ward for 2021/22 is summarised below. For those wards which have an underspend of more than £3,000, a further round of Community Investment Fund will be organised for the period between January and the end of March 2022. Any remaining funds following this second round will be added to the allocation for 2022/23. Those wards that have smaller underspends of £3,000 or less will have the remaining funds added to their allocation for 2022/23.

Ward	Allocation 2021/22	Spend 2021/22	Funds for 21/22 Round 2	Underspend for 22/23
1 – Carse of Gowrie	£45,000	£24,525	£20,475	TBC
2 – Strathmore	£56,000	£6,137	£49,863	TBC
3 – Blairgowrie and the Glens	£47,000	£47,000	-	-
4 – Highland	£43,500	£38,374	£5,126	TBC
5 – Strathtay	£50,000	£21,681.60	£28,318.40	TBC
6 – Strathearn	£47,000	£46,951	-	£49
7 – Strathallan	£48,000	£43,384	£4,616	TBC
8 – Kinross-shire	£53,000	£40,605	£12,395	TBC
9 – Almond and Earn	£43,500	£43,500	-	-
10/11/12 – Perth City	£167,000	£94,164.61	£72,835.39	TBC
TOTAL	£600,000	£406,322.21	£193,628.79	TBC

6. KEY LEARNING POINTS

6.1 Looking forward to the 2022/23 round of CIF, the following learning points have been noted. The Committee's views are sought at this stage to inform any further changes to criteria, process and timescales. A further paper with specific recommendations for the next round of CIF will be brought to Committee for discussion in the first quarter of 2022:

- **Governance and decision making** – Grant decisions are now made by Ward Panels, and it is essential for ward Councillors to play a lead role in this process. A number of development sessions have been provided to date for Councillors on fulfilling this role, but we acknowledge the challenges in finding time to organise these sessions. It is, therefore, proposed to:
 - set a minimum requirement of one Councillor to attend each Ward Panel and chair the meetings. Wider attendance from other ward Councillors would be determined amongst themselves.
 - promote Ward Panels amongst the many volunteers registered with the Council and encourage them to get involved in local decision making. Training and support for volunteers would be provided.
- **Impact on outcomes** – CIF was established to support community-led projects which tackle inequality and improve quality of life. CIF projects vary

enormously in scale and purpose. Smaller, short-term projects will not necessarily 'shift the dial' on major inequalities but can make a real positive difference to day-to-day life whilst the project is underway. For 2022/23, we propose to implement a tiered monitoring framework which asks for performance detail proportionate to the size of project and grant award:

- projects up to £2,999;
 - projects of £3,000 - £9,999; and
 - projects of £10,000 or greater.
- **Focus of funding** – Initial rounds of CIF resulted in significant investments in upgrading community assets and infrastructure. This round of CIF, with amended criteria and potentially reflecting the impact of COVID, has resulted in an increase in applications for projects seeking to have a positive impact on social isolation and wellbeing. It is anticipated that future rounds of CIF will receive similar levels of applications from projects of this nature and therefore the Council should consider the best solution for long-term support. The options include:
 - Status Quo – continue to invite applications for short term funding to CIF;
 - External funding – support potential applicants to source longer-term external funds from other providers; and
 - Mainstream – review design and commissioning of key services to determine if mainstreaming would be the best solution.
 - In addition to these key points, alternatives and greater clarity around scheme administration using the Knowledge Hub and eligibility of larger organisations or those bidding in multiple wards will be considered and recommendations for improvement made.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Community Investment Fund (CIF) invests in community-led projects which tackle inequalities and improve quality of life across Perth and Kinross. Local community members have significant influence over decision making through involvement with Ward Panels. This year to date, **£406,322.21** has been invested in support of **86** projects across Perth and Kinross.

7.2 It is recommended that the Committee

- i. notes the spend for CIF 2021/22
- ii. notes a further round of CIF will be organised for seven ward panels for the period between January and March 2022
- iii. notes that remaining underspends following the second round of funding will be added to allocations for 2022/23
- iv. notes a further paper will be brought to Committee in the first quarter of 2022, outlining proposals for 2022/23 CIF

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Approved

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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 £600,000 for 2021/22

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 Officer Team.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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.

3. APPENDICES

None