

TO: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board

ON: 12 March 2019

REPORT BY: Director of Communities, Housing and Planning Services

**HEADING: GREENSPACES, PARKS & PLAY AREAS AND VILLAGES
INVESTMENT FUND**

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board on progress made in developing projects using the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment fund.
 - 1.2 The key objective of the fund is to work with and support community groups to identify and deliver improvement projects in their local communities, to improve their local greenspaces (including parks and play areas) and to strengthen the identity, heritage, uniqueness and integrity of village life.
 - 1.3 Communities and Public Protection and partners have been working with many groups across Renfrewshire since the launch of the fund in October 2018, and the first application has now been approved by the Director of Communities, Housing and Planning.
 - 1.4 A number of other projects are currently being developed by community groups and will be brought to the Communities Housing and Planning Policy Board for information or approval as relevant.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Communities Housing and Planning Policy Board:
 - (a) Notes the work currently being undertaken to support communities as they develop projects to be funded using the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund.

- (b) Notes the award of a grant for £4500 under delegated authority to Linwood Community Development Trust as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
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3. Summary of Applications

3.1. Communities and Public Protection has been working with a number of community groups since the launch of the funding in October 2018, and currently 8 projects are actively being developed within communities across Renfrewshire, including the re-provision of a community facility in Bargarran, Erskine which was agreed by Council on 2 March 2018. Other projects under active development include:

- 6 play park upgrades:
 - Ferguslie (Glencoats Park),
 - Howwood Public Park,
 - Kilbarchan Public Park
 - Thomas Shanks Park, Johnstone
 - Elderslie (Lomond Gardens/Queens Drive, and
 - Glenburn (Skye Crescent Public Park)
- The installation of a structured sensory garden in Roberston's Park, Renfrew
- Improvements to structures and lighting in Fountain Gardens

3.2. Further reports will be brought back for the consideration of the Board in relation to these projects at future meetings of the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board.

3.3. A cross-service panel of Officers has been established to review and assess the applications against the agreed objectives and criteria outlined in Section 4 of this report. For any grant award under £5000, the Director of Communities, Housing and Planning Services has delegated authority to approve grant applications.

3.4. Only one grant application currently meets the criteria for approval of grant and a summary of the application can be found at Appendix 1. As detailed above, as this application is for less than £5000, it has been approved by the Director of Communities, Housing and Planning following discussion with the Convener of the Communities Housing and Planning Policy Board.

4. Background

4.1. At its meeting on 2 March 2018, Council agreed to commit £1.870 million (£1 million capital and £0.87 million revenue) to support a programme of investment in greenspaces, parks and play areas and villages.

- 4.2. On 19 September 2018, the Leadership Board agreed the key objectives of the fund to:
- Regenerate and make physical and environmental improvements to greenspaces, parks & play areas and villages across Renfrewshire;
 - Promote sustainable community use of greenspaces, parks and play areas and villages;
 - Increase levels of external funding being attracted into Renfrewshire to develop and use greenspaces, parks & play areas and villages;
 - Support communities to manage or deliver sustainable services in greenspaces, parks & play areas and villages in Renfrewshire;
 - Strengthen community capacity in Renfrewshire increasing regular participation in community events/activities; and
 - Encourage the development of new partnerships, community ownership of assets and asset transfer.
- 4.3. It was further agreed that applications for the ringfenced Villages Investment Fund should also strengthen the unique identity, heritage and integrity of village life.
- 4.4. Applicants to the fund need to be able to demonstrate:
- positive impact for local communities
 - community involvement in the design and delivery of the project
 - good working relationships and partnership with others
 - financial sustainability
 - strategic fit with the fund objectives and criteria
 - value for money and leverage of additional funding and/or resources
- 4.5. The Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment fund is closely aligned to other grant funding within the Council e.g. Community Empowerment Fund and close links are maintained to Officers administering these grants.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – Council approved the allocation of £1.870 million to establish the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Parks and Villages Investment Fund in March 2018. The Grant award noted in this report provides £4500 funding to the Linwood Community Development Trust.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning**
The Greenspaces, Parks & Play Parks and Village Investment Fund will be important to achieving and assisting the Community Plan by ensuring that Renfrewshire is thriving, well, fair and safe for residents, workers and visitors.
4. **Legal** – All legislative requirements will be taken cognisance of during this process wherever required e.g. health and safety requirements.

5. **Property/Assets** – There is the potential for property/assets to be included as part of this fund.
 6. **Information Technology** – None
 7. **Equality & Human Rights**
 - (a) It is anticipated that the fund will have a positive impact on equality and human rights, and applications for the fund will be assessed to ensure they take relevant equalities implications into account where required.
 8. **Health & Safety** – Cognisance will be taken of health and safety requirements wherever required e.g. for play park equipment.
 9. **Procurement** – There is potential for the Council to be procuring and installing equipment of behalf of a community group as part of this grant funding process.
 10. **Risk** – Discussions with the Council Risk Manager are on-going to ensure that the risk to the Council, as part of this grant funding process, is minimised.
 11. **Privacy Impact** – None
 12. **CoSLA Policy Position** – Not applicable
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List of Background Papers

None

OR
18 February 2019

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Appendix 1

Applicant	Project Description	Requested	Recommendation	Reason	Geographical Area
Linwood Community Development Trust (LCDT)	<p>LCDT successfully transferred ownership of Linwood Woodland in 2018. The path network requires to be upgraded to improve its safety and accessibility for wheel chair users, parents with prams and cyclists.</p> <p>The path is further used weekly by Parkrun runners (around 100 weekly runners). Parkrun have offered funding of £10.5k for labour; making the path wider, formation of gully's and drainage. These funds must be accessed prior to end March 2019.</p> <p>LCDT's application is for funding for aggregate materials to allow these works to go ahead.</p>	£4500	Approved by Director under delegated authority	<p>The grant funding is being approved as it matches the award criteria and secures additional external funding of £10,500 for the community. It further assists in completing a project that will improve the access to Linwood Woodland for the whole community and promote additional use by the whole community.</p> <p>The path will be used by members of the community and will assist in Parkrun.</p>	Linwood