

## Minute of Meeting Local Partnership - Johnstone & Linwood

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 16 November 2022	18:00	Microsoft Teams Meeting,

### PRESENT

Councillor Jacqueline Cameron; Lesley Compston (KLAS Care); Councillor Alison Ann-Dowling; Councillor Audrey Doig; Councillor Chris Gilmour; Councillor Iain McMillan; Geraldine McNelly (Johnstone Community Council); Karen McShane (Dementia Friendly Group); and Councillor Emma Rodden

### CHAIR

Councillor Audrey Doig, Convener, presided.

### IN ATTENDANCE

S Graham, Partnership Planning and Development Manager, R Cooper, Economic Development Manager, and E Shearer, Economic Regeneration Officer (all Chief Executive's); J Murdoch, Housing Regeneration & Service Improvement Manager, J Kennedy, Senior Community Development Officer, M Lockhard, Housing Regeneration Officer, and G Reid, Community Learning & Development Officer (all Communities and Housing); L Currie, Managing Solicitor (Projects), E Gray, Senior Committee Services Officer, and D Pole, End User Technician (all Finance & Resources).

### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

K McIntyre and A McBride, both Engage Renfrewshire.

### RECORDING OF MEETING

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chair intimated that this meeting of the Local Partnership would be recorded and that the recording would be available to watch on the Council's website.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor McMillan declared an interest in item 10 of the agenda – Applications for Local Partnership Funding in respect funding received by Thorn Community Trust as he was a member of that organisation and intimated his intention to not take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

## **TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT**

Karen McShane indicated that she had a connection to item 10 of the agenda as she was a member of the Johnstone Dementia Group. However, she indicated that she had applied the objective test and did not consider she had an interest and intimated that it was her intention to remain in the meeting and to take part in any discussion.

### **1 MINUTE**

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Local Partnership held on 22 June 2022.

**DECIDED:** That the Minute be approved.

### **2 CELEBRATING RENFREWSHIRE UPDATE**

John Kennedy, Renfrewshire Council, and Calum Watson, Celebrating Renfrewshire Steering Group gave a presentation which provided an update in respect of the Celebrating Renfrewshire Fund 2022/23 which allocated grant funding via a participatory budget process.

The presentation outlined how participatory budgeting operated and gave a brief description of the role of the youth-led steering group and advised of the outcome of the planning sessions and the final priorities.

The presentation then advised that 17 applications had been received relating to the Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership area seeking funding of £45,137. The available budget had been oversubscribed by £23,440,14. Using the Council's in-house voting platform, over 2000 local young people had voted, with 247 votes being recorded in the Johnstone & Linwood area. Full details of the awards made were provided. A voting results announcement event, planned and organised by young people, had been held at the UWS Student Union on Friday 28 October 2022. It was noted that an evaluation of the process would now be undertaken, appropriate recommendations made for the future and planning for the next round initiated.

**DECIDED:** That the presentation be noted.

### **3 WINTER CONNECTIONS**

Stuart Graham, Chief Executive's Service, gave a presentation on the Winter Connections Programme, a network of local places where people could connect to others in their community in the coming winter.

The presentation highlighted the purpose of the Winter Connections Fund which would provide assistance to local groups to help cover the additional costs in making venues, activities and sessions available as part of the Winter Connection Programme. The presentation outlined the timeline and next steps for the Programme.

**DECIDED:** That the content of the presentation be noted.

#### 4 **COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FUND 2022/23**

Alice McBride, Engage Renfrewshire, provided a summary report relative to the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund 2022/23.

The Local Partnership was advised that the Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund was now in its second year and Engage Renfrewshire had been allocated just over £550,000 to distribute to the third sector for new applicants and also previously awarded projects.

A brief overview of the aims, key priorities and target audience of the Fund was provided. It was noted that the deadline for applications was 31 October 2022, that successful groups would be notified in early December and that the Fund was over-subscribed.

**DECIDED:** That the report be noted.

#### 5 **BUILDING COMMUNITIES APPROACH**

Glen Reid, Communities and Housing Services gave a presentation in connection with the Building Communities Approach.

An overview was provided of the four main areas of responsibility and the wide range of activities undertaken by Communities Learning & Development Section. Reference was made to the delivery of universal services, targeted provision, community capacity and connected communities initiatives and future partnership working with Local Partnerships.

**DECIDED:** That the presentation be noted.

#### 6 **HOUSING REGENERATION PROGRAMME (HOWWOOD ROAD AREA)**

Jennifer Murdoch and Michelle Lockard, Communities & Housing Services, gave a presentation in connection with the housing-led regeneration and renewal programme approved by the Council. The presentation made reference to the project in the Howwood Road area.

The presentation then outlined the consultation feedback, details of what the project would entail; gave examples of previous work; and detailed the next steps and timeline.

**DECIDED:** That the content of the presentation be noted.

#### 7 **START UP STREET JOHNSTONE**

Ruth Cooper, Chief Executive's Service, gave a presentation on the Start-Up Street project and wider support to business start-ups.

The presentation provided an overview of Business Gateway and the services they could offer someone starting a business including training and workshops and a budget for expert help. The organisation were based in InCube on Paisley High Street and offered support to around 300 start-ups per year across Renfrewshire. Further information was provided on the initiatives run by the group including Creative Business Support, the InCube Creative Programme and Incubator, the InCube Shop, the Creative Hub Development Fund, and a wide range of grants and loans.

The Start-Up Street initiative began in Paisley and was designed to support new businesses who weren't able to take the step to moving into a commercial property. Six shop units were converted into spaces which early stage businesses could use while being offered subsidised rents for a period of two years. Start-Up Street Johnstone had renovated four garage units to create workshop space for for new businesses with a focus on health and wellbeing. Three new businesses were on site with applications for the fourth space being evaluated.

**DECIDED:** That the presentation be noted.

## 8 **JOHNSTONE TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN**

Euan Shearer, Chief Executive's Service, gave a presentation on the Johnstone Town Centre Strategy.

The Strategy was initially prepared in 2016 as part of a series of Council strategies to support growth in Renfrewshire's town centres. Each strategy was unique to the town, took consideration of their individual characteristics and aimed to support the health of town centres and the delivery of the Local Development Plan.

The presentation gave an overview of the key features of the Johnstone Town Centre Strategy along with actions identified within it based on the themes of transport, environment, local economy and opportunity sites. A summary of how these actions had been delivered was also provided. Plans to refresh the strategy were set out with the first phase to begin before the end of 2022.

**DECIDED:** That the report be noted.

## 9 **BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL ACTION GROUP FOR THE FORMER LEADER RURAL AREAS**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council, relative to a collaborative programme between Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde to recruit new members to a strengthened Local Action Group for the Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde rural areas.

The report advised that the LEADER programme, which generated around £4.5m for the area between 2014 and 2020 through investment and the leveraging of match funding, stopped in 2020 with the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. The Scottish Government had since invited submissions from Local Action Groups in former LEADER areas for projects to test new approaches to delivering community-led local development.

The Scottish Government was also looking to strengthen Local Action Groups through more diverse representation. An application processes was opened for people and organisations from the geography of the rural areas whose activities were considered to meet equality, diversity and inclusion criteria to join Local Action Groups.

**DECIDED:** That the link to apply to join the Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde rural areas Community Action Group would be circulated to members.

10 **JOHNSTONE AND LINWOOD LOCAL PARTNERSHIP BUDGET MONITORING AND FEEDBACK REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council, relative to the Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership budget for 2022/23.

The report advised that the Local Partnership provided funding to community groups to undertake projects. This funding was allocated from the General Grant Fund and, through a Participatory Budgeting exercise known as Celebrating Renfrewshire, the Youth Challenge Fund .

Appendix 1 to the report detailed the funding allocated at the meeting of the Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership held on 22 June 2022 together with the current budget position, while Appendix 2 detailed feedback received from community groups awarded funding during 2021/22.

**DECIDED:** That the report be noted.

11 **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Members of the Local Partnership were advised that it was proposed that meetings of the Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership be held at 6pm on 14 February, 9 May, 5 September and 28 November 2023.

**DECIDED:** That arrangements be made to convene meetings of the Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership at 6pm on 14 February, 9 May, 5 September and 28 November 2023.