

## Notice of Meeting and Agenda Local Partnership - Johnstone & Linwood

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 02 May 2024	18:00	Johnstone Town Hall,

MARK CONAGHAN  
Head of Corporate Governance

### Membership

Councillor Alison Ann-Dowling: Councillor Jacqueline Cameron: Mr Alan Clark: Ms Lesley Compston: Councillor Andy Doig: Rachel Gilger: Councillor Chris Gilmour: Councillor Gillian Graham: Councillor John Hood: Councillor Robert Innes: Mr George MacDonald: Mr Mark McGee: Councillor David McGonigle: Councillor Iain McMillan: Karen McShane: Robert Muir: Mr Lewis Nesbitt: Councillor Emma Rodden: Councillor Andy Steel: Tom Wallace:

### Further Information

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

A copy of the agenda and reports for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley and online at <http://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/CouncilandBoards.aspx>

For further information, please email [democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

## **Apologies**

Apologies from members.

## **Declarations of Interest and Transparency Statements**

Members are asked to declare an interest or make a transparency statement in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest or the transparency statement.

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|----------|--|----------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Minute of Previous Meeting</b>  | <b>4 - 6</b>   |
|          | Minute of the meeting of Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership held on 28 November 2023. |                |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Johnstone &amp; Linwood Local Partnership Budget Monitoring Report</b>                | <b>7 - 9</b>   |
|          | Report by the Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council.                                     |                |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Local Partnerships review and launch of 2024 Development Programme</b>                | <b>10 - 15</b> |
|          | Report by the Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council.                                     |                |

## **End of Term for Community Organisation Representatives**

The term of office for Community Organisation Representatives will end at this point.

## **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

In accordance with Standing Order 13.2, members will be asked to exclude the press and public during consideration of the following item of business as it is likely that the nature of the proceedings, if members of the press and public were present, would lead to the disclosure of confidential information.

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| <b>4</b> | <b>Membership of Johnstone &amp; Linwood Local Partnership</b> |  |
|          | Report by the Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council.           |  |

## **5 Dates of Future Meetings**

Note that meetings of this Local Partnership will be held at 6.00pm on 26 June, 11 September and 5 December 2024.



## Minute of Meeting Local Partnership - Johnstone & Linwood

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 28 November 2023	18:00	Johnstone Town Hall,

### PRESENT

Councillor Alison Ann-Dowling; Lesley Compston (KLAS Care); Councillor Andy Doig; Councillor Audrey Doig; Councillor Chris Gilmour; Councillor Iain McMillan; Karen McShane (Johnstone Dementia Friendly Group); Councillor Emma Rodden; and Councillor Andy Steel.

### CHAIR

Councillor Audrey Doig, Convener, presided.

### IN ATTENDANCE

S, Graham, Partnership Manager, J Kennedy, Senior Development Officer, L Currie, Managing Solicitor (Projects) and E Gray, Senior Committee Services Officer (all Renfrewshire Council); and J Hamilton, Engage Renfrewshire.

### APOLOGIES

Councillor Jacqueline Cameron; Councillor Gillian Graham; Councillor Robert Innes; Councillor David McGonigle; George McDonald (Corseford Tenants' and Residents' Association); James McLeod (Linwood Community Council); Cheryl Thomas (Active Communities); and Thomas Wallace (Johnstone Community Council).

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## **TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT**

Councillor McMillan indicated that he had a connection to item 2 - Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership Budget Monitoring Report - by reason of being a member of Thorn Athletic Community Trust. However, he indicated that he had applied the objective test and did not consider he had an interest to declare.

### **1 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of this Local Partnership held on 5 September 2023.

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

### **2 JOHNSTONE & LINWOOD LOCAL PARTNERSHIP BUDGET MONITORING**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the 2023/24 budget allocated to this Local Partnership which detailed the distribution of funds and feedback received from projects funded. A table setting out the funds allocated by this Local Partnership was appended to the report.

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

### **3 COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

J Kennedy, Senior Development Officer, gave a presentation in connection with activities undertaken locally by Community Learning and Development since the previous meeting.

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

### **4 WINTER CONNECTIONS**

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

The presentation made reference to the previous success of the initiative in 2022/23, the evaluation undertaken following that initiative and highlighted the main aims of the Winter Connections Fund which provided 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 requirement for organisations to agree to comply with specified principles to be eligible for funding was highlighted. The range and venues for activities, available as part of the Winter Connections Programme 2023/24 within or in the vicinity of the Local Partnership area, was noted.

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

## 5 JOHNSTONE & LINWOOD LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council relative to the priorities for the Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership. A list of the current priorities, agreed in 2019, and reassessed in winter 2020/21 in the context of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic were appended to the report.

The Partnership were asked to consider: which of the current priorities should be retained or discontinued; for each current local priority being retained, were any amendments required to refocus or refine these further; and whether there were any new priorities that should be added.

Following discussion it was agreed that all five of the current priorities: focus on young people; taking pride in the look and feel of our towns; what's on in Johnstone and Linwood; roads and transport; and community safety would be retained and that further efforts would be made to increase the youth representation on the Partnership. In addition, it was agreed that a sixth priority would be added around tackling poverty in the area.

There followed a discussion around how grant applications would be prioritised in future financial years.

Councillor Audrey Doig, seconded by Councillor Rodden, moved that grant applications be limited to £5,000 and that applications from organisations based outside of the Partnership area be limited to £1,000.

Councillor McMillan, seconded by Councillor Gilmour, moved as an amendment that grant applications be limited to £5,000 for all organisations.

On a vote being taken by show of hands, 6 members voted for the amendment and 3 members voted for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

### **DECIDED:**

(a) That all five of the current priorities: focus on young people; taking pride in the look and feel of our towns; what's on in Johnstone and Linwood; roads and transport; and community safety be retained;

(b) That further efforts would be made to increase the youth representation on the Partnership;

(c) That a sixth priority would be added around tackling poverty in the area; and

(d) That grant applications be limited to £5,000 for all organisations.



**To: Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership**

**On: 2 May 2024**

**Report by:**  
Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council

**TITLE:**  
**Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership Budget Monitoring Report**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership provides funding to community groups to undertake projects. This funding is allocated from the General Grant Fund and, through a Participating Budgeting exercise known as Celebrating Renfrewshire, the Youth Challenge Fund.
- 1.2 A table setting out the funds allocated by Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership in 2023/24 and current budget position is attached as an appendix to this report.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the budget monitoring report for 2023/24 be noted.

## Appendix 1

### Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24

<b>General Grant Fund</b>	<b>£46,344.00 (net of Members expenses)</b>
<b>Total Funding Awards Available</b>	<b>£46,344.00</b>
	<b>£0</b>

Grant Ref	Organisation	Awarded	Paid	Still to be paid
FR1031	Linwood Community Council	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£0.00
FR1038	Johnstone Castle Learning Centre	£6,000	£6,000	£0.00
FR1045	REEM (Renfrewshire Effort to Empower Minorities)	£600.00	£600.00	£0.00
FR1051	The Renfrewshire Toy Bank	£850.00	£850.00	£0.00
FR1055	Renfrewshire Walking Network	£285.00	£285.00	£0.00
FR1064	Fèis Phàislig	£1,743.00	£1743.00	£0.00
FR1065	Kickin' On	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	£0.00
FR1067	Active Communities	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	£0.00
FR1068	Thorn Athletic Community Trust	£900.00	£900.00	£0.00
FR1100	Rainbow Turtle	£375.00	£375.00	£0.00
FR1102	Johnstone Band	£4,225.00	£4,225	£0.00
FR1110	School of African Cultures	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
FR1114	Spateston Community Development Trust SCIO	£1,375.00	£1,375.00	£0.00
FR1117	Johnstone Sound Community Radio	£1,494.00	£1,494.00	£0.00
FR1121	Renfrewshire Stroke & Disability Art Therapy Group	£375.00	£375.00	£0.00
FR1128	Linwood Community Council	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	£0.00
FR1129	Linwood Community Council	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	£0.00
FR1135	Renfrewshire Rainbow Buddies	£1,665.00	£1,665.00	£0.00
FR1142	Lamont Farm	£3,882.75	£3,882.75	£0.00
FR1147	Johnstone Business Consortium	£4,000.00	£4,000.00	£0.00
FR1148	Shopmobility	£324.25	£324.25	£0.00
FR1151	Renfrewshire Access Panel	£1,250.00	£1,250.00	£0.00

<b>Celebrating Renfrewshire Fund</b>	
<b>Total funding available in 2023/24</b>	<b>£21,697.00</b>
<b>Total funding awarded in 2023/24</b>	<b>£21,988.00</b>
<b>Available funding</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

Grant Ref	Organisation	Awarded	Paid	Still to be paid
CE1010	Create Paisley	£997.00	£997.00	£0.00
CE1015	Fordbank Scout Group	£3,200.00	£3,200.00	£0.00
CE1022	Johnstone Castle Learning Centre	£3,500.00	£3,500.00	£0.00



CE1023	Johnstone High	£3,500.00	£3500.00	£0.00
CE1046	Solid Rock Cheer and Gym	£3,500.00	£3,500.00	£0.00
CE1050	St. Convals YFC 2008	£3,500.00	£3,500.00	£0.00
CE1054	Thorn Athletic Community Trust	£3,500.00	£3,500.00	£0.00



**To:** Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership

**On:** 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

**Report by:**  
Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council

**TITLE:**  
**Local Partnerships review and launch of 2024 Development Programme**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 In 2019, Renfrewshire Council approved a new model of community level governance through the launch of 7 new Local Partnerships. The partnerships have continued to develop and grow over this period, promoting community empowerment through the identification of the initial local priorities, local grant making and the nationally recognised youth participatory budgeting process Celebrating Renfrewshire.
- 1.2 The pandemic has impacted some of the planned developments in relation to the Local Partnerships, and a consultation and engagement exercise was undertaken in late 2023 to learn from the work that has been undertaken to date and to identify options for building on this as we move forward. The findings of the consultation exercise were reported to Renfrewshire Council's Leadership Board in September 2023.
- 1.3 Local Partnerships have a huge amount of potential to strengthen community empowerment and capacity in Renfrewshire, and to harness this potential it is proposed that next phase of their development is now progressed. With a focus on "*Local Plans, Local Priorities and Local Voices*", a range of development actions are now proposed, as set out in Section 4 of this report.
- 1.4 Subject to the approval of the board, this development programme and related campaign will commence from the end of February 2024. A key focus in 2024 will be around enhancing communications in relation to Local Partnerships activities, refreshing

partnership membership and supporting a review of current priorities for each Local Partnership.

- 1.5 Local Partnership Grant Funding guidance has also been refreshed for 2024 in response to the consultation exercise feedback received and was approved by the Council's Leadership Board in February 2024.

## 2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of the Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership:

- Note the launch of a new campaign to relaunch the Local Partnerships which will be implemented from end February 2024
- Note the refreshed Local Partnership Guidance for 2024

## 3. **Background**

- 3.1 Local Partnerships were established during 2019 following an extensive programme of consultation. Seven Local Partnerships were created, replacing the previous Local Area Committees that had been in place for many years.

- 3.2 This new model of community level governance was viewed as being critical to the Council changing the way in which it works with local communities, providing opportunities for communities to have a say on what matters at a local level and working together to achieve these ambitions.

- 3.3 It was initially intended that the operation of the Local Partnerships would be reviewed after a period of 12 months, however due to COVID and wider resource pressures, the review was postponed at that time. In September 2023, officers commenced a consultation and engagement process to inform the next phase of the development of Local Partnerships, with a key focus on building on existing strengths and identifying further opportunities for the Partnerships to grow.

- 3.4 Specifically the process focused on identifying opportunities to:

- Enhance participation in Local Partnership meetings
- Facilitate greater engagement from Council services and partner organisations on issues which impact Local Partnership areas
- Develop meaningful local priorities and action plans
- Identify options for improving the grant allocation process

- 3.5 A detailed report on the consultation findings was presented to Leadership Board in December 2023. Overall there was consensus that Local Partnerships have created a new community level governance model which has moved on considerably from that which previously operated under the Local Area Committee model. One of the key strengths identified was that current model supports Local Partnerships to develop their own identity and to work flexibly in line with local requirements and that this was a very important feature to be protected.
- 3.6 Extensive feedback was provided on what is working well and also on opportunities to develop the model even further. Key findings were highlighted as being:

Summary of findings:

- Local partnerships are generally working well, but there could be a better balance of input with more opportunities for the community voice.
- Adjustments may be required to ensure greater participation of Local Partnership members/groups facing barriers.
- Local representation could be strengthened in terms of ensuring that all membership spaces are filled and that there is a spread of representation across communities and with different groups such as young people.
- Council services and partner organisations need to review the way in which they engage with Local Partnerships to ensure this is tailored and focused on what matters to each Local Partnership.
- Local Partnerships represent a significant opportunity – they should not be solely about grants, and all opportunities to strengthen their role should be progressed.
- There is strong support in relation to Local Partnerships refreshing their priorities and developing local action plans – but this needs to be meaningful and there needs to be resource in place between meetings to make things happen and to join the dots.
- Local Partnerships need support to reach out into communities and to communicate what is happening at a local level through the collaboration

that is taking place.

- Grants allocation guidance and support for applicants needs to be strengthened
- Information on grant applications could be further strengthened to support decision making. A stronger focus needs to be placed on reporting back impact at a local level.

#### **4. Next Phase of Local Partnerships – Local Plans, Local Priorities, Local Voices”**

4.1 In response to the findings from the consultation and engagement findings, officers have been working to develop the next phase of the Local Partnerships, and subject to approval of the board, this will be launched from late February 2024. Under the banner of a “Local Plans, Local Priorities and Local Voices” campaign, we will work with partners and communities to implement the following elements:

- Local Partnership membership refresh exercise to be undertaken to ensure strong and representative **Local Voices** inform their activities
- To further strengthen representation the Community Learning and Development team will work with young people to develop proposals on how to involve young people more meaningfully in the work of the Local Partnerships.
- Support will be provided to each Local Partnership to review current **Local Priorities during 2024** to ensure these remain fit for purpose: - these will be used to develop a future work programme of activity through a **Local Partnerships Plan**
- Work will be undertaken to enhance communication on the work of the Local Partnerships – through newsletters, email and social media channels: - showcasing impact of activities and positive opportunities to get involved in local activities.
- A Local Partnership Development Officer will be recruited who will co-ordinate all related activities including the review of local priorities and development of the Local Partnership Plans
- A new meetings schedule for Local Partnerships will be implemented – 3 core meetings per year to focus on taking forward Local Partnership Plans, with one special meeting per annum in May/June each year to consider grant awards.
- Refreshed grants guidance will be launched early March 2024 – making it clearer for grant applicants and Local Partnership members to participate in the grant making process, and with a much stronger emphasis on evidencing the difference or impact that grant funding has made in a local area.

- A Council grant prospectus will be developed and promoted - ensuring there is visibility and enhanced awareness of all available Council grant funding, with Local Partnerships focusing on funding small and locally focused projects.

## **5. Launch of Local Partnerships Funding**

5.1 Extensive feedback was provided through the engagement process on the current Local Partnerships grant funding process. Respondents recognised that Local Partnerships needed to continue to develop to focus on other activities beyond grant awards, however the grant award process itself could be strengthened moving forward. Local Partnership funding is heavily oversubscribed, and it was recognised that applicants may need more help to ensure their applications are strong and tailored for consideration on a small grants basis.

5.2 Key points raised within the consultation and engagement exercise were:

- Continuing to improve the support provided to grant applicants on the process as well as to direct to other sources of funding which may be appropriate to the requirements of a community organisation, or to the project/initiative seeking funding
- The need to review grant criteria to make this clearer on the process and funding criteria – strongly reinforcing the requirement for applicants to evidence links to Local Partnership priorities and to provide evidence of impact.
- A requirement to review the levels of grant funding available through the Local Partnerships Grant Funding – specifically including the provision of a cap on application values given that the funding is significantly oversubscribed.

5.3 Existing funding guidance has now been reviewed and refreshed Local Partnerships Guidance 2024 was approved by Leadership Board in 2024. In updating the guidance, officers have aimed to incorporate the key suggestions and points made through the engagement exercise, including the implementation of maximum funding levels in line with other small grant funding opportunities offered eg Community Food Fund, Summer of Fun and the Winter Connections programme.

## **6 Next steps**

6.1 The consultation and engagement exercise highlighted the strong progress that Local Partnerships have made, moving to a community level governance model which is much more strongly rooted in community voice and representation. The launch of the second phase of the Local Partnerships represents a significant opportunity to move forward and strengthen the potential impact that these can have across Renfrewshire's communities.

6.2 Regular updates on the implementation of Phase 2 – *Local Plans, Local Priorities and Local Voices* will be provided to both Local Partnerships as well as Renfrewshire Council's Leadership Board within 6 monthly update reports.

**Author:**

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