

**To: Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership**

**On: 22 June 2021**

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

**TITLE:**  
**Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership Budget Monitoring Report and  
20/21 Funding Application Feedback**

**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 2020/21 and current budget position is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 1.3 Feedback from projects receiving funding in 20/21 on the outcome of projects is also attached. Due to the impact of Covid 19 on the capability of groups to successfully deliver projects, some groups have returned funding to the Local Partnership. In recognition of this situation it has been agreed that Local Partnership underspends in 2020/21 will be carried forward and added to the budget for 2021/22. For 2021/22, the normal arrangements will apply, requiring all funding to be spent by the end of the financial year with no provision for carry over to the following year.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the budget monitoring report and feedback from recipients of funding in 2020/21 be noted.

**3. Feedback From 2020/21 Grant Recipients**

- 3.1 Feedback on the use of Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership funding allocated in 2020/21 was received from seven organisations.

## **1.Lamont Farm**

Funding from Johnstone and Linwood and other Local Partnerships enabled Lamont Farm to provide a service when able to open to the public during 2020 and to enable the public to visit animals safely in the fields when other services were unavailable. Projects were also carried out via the internet, for example Zoom sessions with local children. Animal handling for children under-12 was also delivered safely.

Lamont Farm was opened July-November 2020. Over 1,000 people attended in a single day in during July.

Even during periods when the farm could not fully open, access to the Farm's fields for the public has provided a way of reducing stress and depression.

## **2.Paisley and District Boys Brigade Battalion Administration.**

The Boys Brigade received funding from Renfrew and other Local Partnerships to run events and for Battalion Headquarters running costs. Funding enabled staff to maintain the Headquarters building and prepare it to be ready to open and function fully once lockdown restrictions eased.

## **3.Fordbank Scout Group**

The project was to bridge the gap of availability and opportunities by helping us to provide safe weekly meetings, in a local school, for young people to learn/develop new life skills, make friends, experiences, opportunities and activities. By providing outdoor adventures, camps and activities affordably by reducing the costs passed onto parents/guardians by uniforms (at least 50%), accessories and hall/lock up let costs (at least 50%) which are the groups largest outgoings. Covid unfortunately saw a pause to Face to Face to Scouting but fortunately our application covered a range of expenses to make Scouting more available and buy necessary equipment that was needed due to the previous expansion of the group.

We have used the money awarded to make Scouting available by buying badges, uniforms and neckies as proposed both in the current term and future term will mean we can reduce the cost to parents by offering these materials either free or greatly reduced and allow us to ensure that even those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds can have access to Scouting

We needed another mess tent just due to the growth of the group and the money has been used to purchase the second mess tent as proposed. It has yet to be used but as we start providing face to face Scouting this will provide suitable shelter that we can use if necessary for poor whether as current restrictions only allow outside meetings and in the future will support our ability to offer more young people nights away opportunities.

At the moment this project can only cover our existing members (56 young people) which has dipped as only offering an online offering until just there in April when we held our first face to face sessions. We have issued badges that the young people

have completed online throughout the lockdown. We have historically lent our mess tents out including at the Howwood Fete, offered to the various TARAs (though never actually utilised) and more recently as an outside learning space at Howwood Primary (after the summer) until the weather became too severe, but we are hoping to do so again as needed, lockdown lifts and the weather improves. We will still need to issue the uniforms which are currently in storage and will need to particularly for those who have moved between sections and grown up during lockdown and we anticipate a surge in membership however until face to face Scouting starts as we are meeting less frequently the decision was made to relax our uniform standards just until face to face meetings has settled a bit more and is more permanent.

We have issued badges that the young people have completed online throughout the lockdown at no cost to the parents keeping Scouting accessible. We have historically lent our mess tents out including at the Howwood Fete, offered to the various TARAs (though never actually utilised) and more recently as an outside learning space at Howwood Primary (after the summer) until the weather became too severe, but we are hoping to do so again as needed, lockdown lifts and the weather improves. We will still need to issue the uniforms which are currently in storage and will need to particularly for those who have moved between sections and grown up during lockdown and we anticipate a surge in membership however until face to face Scouting starts as we are meeting less frequently the decision was made to relax our uniform standards just until face to face meetings has settled a bit more and is more permanent and therefore not levying costs on our parents for whom now may be a finically harder time.

#### **4. Johnstone Band**

Johnstone Band had originally planned to present a concert, likely in the Bandstand in Houston Square, Johnstone, with a relaxed summer feel with temporary seating and information stands.

COVID-19 restrictions meant that the band has been unable to meet to rehearse or play face-to-face, and our much reduced activity has moved online. We had completed some successful collaboration videos, promoted on Facebook and Twitter, and had taken part in an online competition on YouTube.

We amended our application in the hope that we might be able to present a festive event, and supplement this with some online content. " "Yes, it was different to the original intention. Local restrictions meant that traditional full band activities did not resume for the remainder of 2020/21, and we weren't able to present an alternative outdoor concert at a later point in the year. Amateur groups were not permitted to perform in person, which meant that we couldn't perform, even in small groups outside. Instead expanded our use of video/audio recording, compiling individual "at home" recordings into a festive concert for on-line viewing.

We set up a You Tube channel and redirected funding into purchase of downloadable music, and video production. We were also able to commission a brand new piece of music, specifically for Johnstone Band. We used the new piece "Black Cart Water" as part of our programme for the Kapital Cory Online Brass Band Competition. An

international competition, where the band was delighted to achieve 3rd place in the 1st Section competition.  
35 band members

Over 500 views on YouTube

Almost 4,500 views on Facebook

Over 13,000 views on YouTube as part of the Kapital Cory Online Championships 1st Section competition first broadcast on 28th March 2021.

All band members were able to contribute to the performance virtually, and we were able to support them all throughout the year in terms of developing skills and using technology. The project helped maintain the health and well-being

We had publicity in the local press and, almost 4,500 views on Facebook and over 500 views on YouTube of the mini festive concert, plus releasing the carols individually throughout December on Facebook and Twitter mean that even more have been able to benefit from the project.

We shared the event with local organisations, schools, churches and even with the local supermarkets where we would normally be in person with carol groups.

The Scottish Brass Band Association (SBBA) presented an Advent Calendar of Carols, and used several individual videos of carols and Christmas songs recorded by the band, thus also helping sustain our wider brass band community.

Taking part in the Kapital Cory Online Championships raised the profile of Johnstone, Renfrewshire and Scotland. We are proud to represent our town and local community.

## **5. Johnstone Business Consortium**

The award from Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership was used to pay for Booklets to promote Johnstone, Letters to Santa for local children and a donation of cash to Every Family Deserves a Christmas Dinner Appeal Family First).

Use of the funding was as follows:

£1700 for 2000 booklets to be printed to promote Johnstone

£400 for these booklets to be delivered to 2000 houses around Johnstone and villages

£1000 donated to Every Family Deserves a Christmas Dinner Appeal

£83 for letters to Santa including letters printed, envelopes and small gift .

Beneficiaries of the project are all the people who received booklets, business in Johnstone to help promote the town centre and children who received letters from Santa.

Booklets are in conjunction with an STV advert so Johnstone Business Consortium is still analysing feedback

## **6. Breastfeeding Network**

The award from Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership to continue to help sustain our local breastfeeding support services. We wanted to continue supporting our existing volunteers by offering ongoing learning and developing their skills with supervision/study events and continue to support local families with breastfeeding by offering weekly support groups, attending local community events to increase public and community awareness of breastfeeding.

Over the past year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions we have continued to support our volunteers by offering frequent supervision and ongoing learning opportunities and have developed strategies online making this more accessible during the lockdown.

We have run 2 weekly online breastfeeding support groups open to parents requiring breastfeeding support and information via Zoom. We also started another weekly online antenatal breastfeeding information session for pregnant women and very new mums as all NHS antenatal classes were cancelled.

We set up other means of support by email, 1:1 phone and video call as face to face support was all cancelled. We were unable to attend the postnatal wards to offer support to newly delivered mums or any community events which were cancelled due to the lockdown restrictions. However we are working towards setting up new Walk Talk and Feed groups locally as a way of helping mums to exercise and connect with each other, reduce isolation and get breastfeeding support, which we hope will be sustainable.

We have not spent any funding on venue hire as the venues have been closed, however anticipate higher costs going forward when venues reopen.

The people who benefited from the project are the 183 attendances and 56 new mums, many who attended on more than one occasion

Our online Zoom groups are open to all across Renfrewshire and due to our own Information Governance we have been unable to store personal information and postcodes securely. New and existing breastfeeding families had access to online breastfeeding support via Zoom on 147 occasions (including during Christmas and New Year weeks )

We gave email and social media support as well as 1:1 zoom call and video chat. New parents have been particularly isolated during the pandemic as face to face support from their health care providers was severely limited and in many cases, completely unavailable being restricted to video call from health visitors and GPs. We have been a lifeline for these mums who had very little practical support from family and friends at a very vulnerable time in their lives. We know that breastfeeding rates have been rising in Renfrewshire over the last few years and evidence shows that peer support makes a big impact on helping parents achieve their breastfeeding goals.

We aim to continue with our project which was originally in our application by restarting face to face breastfeeding groups, offering support in the postnatal setting, attending community events when guidelines allow.

## **7.Linwood Community Council**

The purpose of the project was to offer an alternative to the Christmas Light Up that is usually planned for the community.

Local schools, nurseries and services were provided with funding to enable them to plan Christmas activities under the restrictions imposed by Covid 19 to ensure safe and controlled social distanced events within their facilities.

This was different to the local activities that were carried out last year as they were open to all the local community in the same venue.

Those who benefited from the project included all the children within the education system and care home settings in the local area. It provided some Christmas cheer to people that might not have had any access to festive events due to restrictions enforced.

Feed back from some of the groups describe the fun and excitement the children had planning their own events.

**Appendix 1**

**Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21**

<b>General Grant Fund</b>	<b>£ 46,344(net of Members expenses)</b>
<b>Total Funding Awards</b>	<b>£45,185.16</b>
<b>Carry Forward to 2021/22</b>	<b>£1,158.84</b>

<b>Grant Ref</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Awarded £</b>	<b>Paid £</b>	<b>Still To Be Paid £</b>
FR1043	Eat Up	£579.36	£579.36	
FR1057	Greensyde Carers	£300	£300	
FR1069	Linwood Elderly Forum	£1,891.36	£1,891.36	
FR1085	Active Communities	£6,018.57	£6,018.57	
FR1092	Toddle Tots	£776.81	£776.81	
FR1111	Boys Brigade Paisley and District	£337.74	£337.74	
FR1112	Johnstone Business Consortium	£3,796.22	£3,796.22	
FR1124	Fordbank Scout Group	£2,481.89	£2,481.89	
FR1143	Thorn Primary School	£3,377.42	£3,377.42	
FR1161	Auchenlodment PS and ELC	£4,728.39	£4,728.39	
FR1167	Johnstone Band	£1,725.86	£1,725.86	
FR1172	Renfrewshire Access Panel	£1,512.62	£1,512.62	
FR1177	Lamont Farm Project	£2,000	£2,000	
FR1181	Breastfeeding Network	£2,498.94	£2,498.94	
FR1191	Paisley YMCA	£807.88	£807.88	
FR1212	Shopmobility	£916.63	£916.63	
FR1213	Linwood Community Council	£5,471.42	£5,471.42	
FR1214	Linwood Community Council	£5,403.87	£5,403.87	
FR1216	Johnstone Dementia Friendly Group	£1,916.35		£1,916.35

<b>Celebrating Renfrewshire Fund</b>	<b>£21,697</b>
<b>Total Funding Awards</b>	<b>£21,697</b>
<b>Carry Forward to 2021/22</b>	<b>£0</b>

<b>Grant Ref</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Awarded £</b>	<b>Paid £</b>	<b>Still To Be Paid £</b>
CE1002	Paisley YMCA	£1,500	£1,500	
CE1009	Sandyflats TARA	£2,000		£2,000
CE1016	Young Enterprise Renfrewshire	£1,164.36	£1,164.36	

CE1017	Own Yer Bike	£1,982.28	£1,982.28	
CE1018	Afrosots United FC	£1,164.36	£1,164.36	
CE1025	Renfrewshire Youth Voice	£2,000	£2,000	
CE1026	Youth Interventions	£2,000		£2,000
CE1030	Active Communities	£2,000	£2,000	
CE1034	Fordbank Scout Group	£2,000	£2,000	
CE1036	Always Included	£2,000	£2,000	
CE1042	Renfrewshire Carers	£1,886		£1,886
CE1045	Pachedu	£2,000	£2,000	