

Greencoat UK Wind South Kyle Wind Farm Community Fund

Fund Report

August 2023 – August 2025

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Executive Summary



The South Kyle Community Benefit Fund provides long-term, flexible funding to support the communities of Dalmellington, New Cumnock, Patna, and Carsphairn.

Launched in 2023 after the commissioning of the South Kyle Wind Farm owned by Greencoat UK Wind, the Fund aims to enhance wellbeing, strengthen local economies, and support sustainable, resilient communities.

Guided by a common purpose and a framework of shared principles, outcomes and objectives the Fund's pioneering design takes account of the plans and capacity of each community.

This first biennial report provides a detailed examination of how the Fund's four components of local community grants, education and training awards, paid professional support, and flagship projects have been delivered across the South Kyle communities.

It highlights how these investments are achieving the Fund's purpose, adhering to its guiding principles, contributing to its outcomes, and advancing its underpinning objectives to promote participation and equality, build community wealth and infrastructure, and encourage climate-smart approaches.

As well as demonstrating the value of locally-led, flexible funding in creating meaningful, inclusive, and enduring community impact, the report also highlights the value of what can be achieved by blending devolved and centralised fund arrangements under a single governance structure when four independent community anchor organisations work in a partnership with a trusted, experienced and specialist community benefit organisation.

Highlights of the first two years include:

- First payment received in August 2023 and distributed in line with a four-year budget developed with the four benefiting communities during the fund's development phase.
- Operating on an initial four-year cycle to prototype a different approach to community benefit.

- Memorandums of Understanding signed between Foundation Scotland and anchor organisations in each community.
- Area wide Advisory Group established and meeting quarterly.
- Four local South Kyle community Funds successfully set up and operating, and which to date have collectively benefitted over 60 local groups with grants totaling over £300,000.
- More than 500 individuals have benefitted from different types of Education and Training opportunities across the communities, building skills and enhancing wellbeing.
- £1M distributed as flagship grants to establish, retain or develop community assets in three of the South Kyle communities and in line with the original four-year budget.
- One community piloting its own 'home grown' apprentice arrangement, matching a local young person with a local business and local college course.

The graphic below shows some flagship projects funded to date:



1. Introduction

This is the first biennial report of the South Kyle Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund that was formally established in August 2023 following a three-year collaborative development phase involving the four participating communities of Dalmellington, New Cumnock, Patna, and Carsphairn.

Linked to the South Kyle Wind Farm, owned by Greencoat UK Wind, the Fund is a secure, long-term, £1.2M pa index linked investment into the communities for the operational lifetime of the wind farm which is expected to be 30 years.

The Fund was intentionally designed to be flexible, responsive, and community-led, recognising that each locality has distinct needs, capacities, and priorities, while also identifying common opportunities and challenges across the South Kyle area.

Its overarching purpose is to enhance the wellbeing, sustainability, and quality of life for residents in all four communities, supporting initiatives that strengthen social, economic, and environmental resilience.

Guided by principles of purposeful investment, context-specific decision-making, collaboration, and community accountability, the Fund seeks to deliver meaningful outcomes across five thematic areas: improved built and natural environments, enhanced leisure and tourism opportunities, strengthened infrastructure and connectivity, a more inclusive local economy, and better opportunities for children and young people.

This report provides a detailed examination of how the Fund's four components of i) local community grants ii) education and training awards iii) paid professional support, and iv) flagship projects have been delivered across the South Kyle communities. It highlights how these investments are achieving the Fund's purpose, adhering to its guiding principles, contributing to its outcomes, and advancing its underpinning objectives to promote participation and equality, build community wealth and infrastructure, and encourage climate-smart approaches.

Through commentary, analysis and case studies, the report illustrates the progress and impact of the Fund in its first two years, demonstrating how this strategic, flexible community benefit arrangement is already supporting and catalysing meaningful change.

2. An Overview of the South Kyle Fund

The South Kyle Community Benefit Fund is linked to the South Kyle Wind Farm, owned by Greencoat UK Wind and sited on the boundary of East Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway.

The fund comprises an annual payment of £5,000 per MW, totalling £1,200,000 in the first year, rising in line with the Retail Price Index, for the life of the wind farm, which is expected to be 30 years. The Fund was established in August 2023 following a three-year development phase and building on these four cornerstones.

- One overarching fund with different components (connected but devolved with opportunity for connection, co-operation and learning between the communities)
- Operating on an initial four-year cycle to prototype a different approach to a community benefit opportunity
- Key focus on outcomes and objectives, not how much money should be going to each community.
- Reviewable distribution and delivery arrangements, in line with the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles on Community Benefit.

During the development phase the four participating communities - Dalmellington, New Cumnock and Patna in East Ayrshire and Carsphairn in Dumfries & Galloway worked with Foundation Scotland to agree a fund design and strategy.

The intention was to design a Fund that would work for each community and be flexible enough to accommodate their distinct operating contexts whilst not losing sight of some of the common challenges and opportunities that the communities share.

The development phase resulted in a strategy scaffolded around the following pillars: a Fund purpose, principles, outcomes and underpinning objectives. This Fund report sets out how the first two years of the South Kyle Fund are beginning to deliver against these pillars.

The **purpose of the South Kyle Fund** is to enhance the lives of people living in Carsphairn, Dalmellington, New Cumnock and Patna, both now and in the future, by contributing to the wellbeing and sustainability of each of the communities.

The Fund is guided by the following **principles**:

Purposeful: building community wealth and wellbeing by focusing on outcomes that create possibility, opportunity and, positive, change and development in communities.

Accountable and inclusive: supporting community-led decision-making processes.

Context specific: governance and administration arrangements tailored to each community's own context and capacity.

Collaborative: sharing resources, ideas and learning between the communities.

The four individual communities are at different stages of developing and implementing their own community-led ambitions and plans. However, common themes were identified to inform **the South Kyle Fund's outcomes**, during its first four-year cycle, with flexibility to review after the first four years if required.

- Improved and enhanced built and natural environment (housing, buildings, public spaces, the natural environment).
- Increased leisure and tourism opportunities.
- Improved infrastructure and connectivity (digital, physical, social, getting around).
- An improving economy with inclusive and accessible. opportunities for training, employment and enterprise.
- Improved opportunities for children and young people living here.

Spending decisions are also shaped by the extent to which they reflect **four underpinning objectives** for maximising social, economic, and environmental benefits, below:

Promote participation and equality: taking account of the needs of different groups within the community, especially those whose voices and ideas are less often heard and/or people who may experience particular barriers to accessing or participating in activities or services.

Become more climate smart: taking account of the climate and/or biodiversity impact of a project and how groups demonstrate awareness and action around this issue. Groups are encouraged to consider the resources required, and their potential environmental impact. Sensible project design can reduce carbon emissions and other waste from the outset.

Build community wealth: The South Kyle funding is not just a major investment into the communities – it is a force for innovation, creativity, wealth retention and economic wellbeing. Therefore, keeping spend local makes sense. Groups and organisations using South Kyle funding are encouraged as far as possible to use local or at least regional suppliers of goods and services where possible.

Build community infrastructure: This is about the sustainability of groups receiving funding. This might be about the succession plans of a group, the robustness of a business plan of a social enterprise, or how a group is recruiting or building the capacity of and sustaining volunteers.

Carsphairn, Dalmellington and New Cumnock each have community anchor organisations that partnered with Foundation Scotland in the development phase. In Patna this role was undertaken by the Patna Community Council which was keen to establish an organisation for the community

Community anchor organisations are commonly defined as independent, community-led organisations with multi-purpose functions, which provide a focal point for local communities and community organisations, and community services. They often own and manage community assets and support small community organisations to engage across the community.

Within the South Kyle area, these anchor organisations include:

New Cumnock Development Trust (NCDT) is a membership organisation and registered company and charity, which has an existing staff team with a track record of project delivery. It has access to some existing community benefit fund income from other sources.

Dalmellington Parish Development Trust (DPDT) is also a membership organisation, a registered company and charity, established to ensure better strategic coordination of activities and opportunities coming into the village, especially those linked to the many planned renewable projects in the area.

Carsphairn has longstanding community benefit experience through its fund distribution body **Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Limited (CREFL)**. Carsphairn Community Trust is a volunteer-led, single tier Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which has taken the lead on local community action planning and delivers some community projects.

Carsphairn Community Council also delivers some community projects, but lacks legal personality, which limits the scope of project activity it can undertake, as is the case with all Community Councils. For similar reasons, Patna Community Council was behind the establishment of the **Patna Action Group (PAG)** to develop and grow more strategic community-led activity in the village.

During the development phase it was also agreed that these anchor organisations would serve as locally based administrators for some strands of Fund activity. This provided opportunities for those organisations to both develop and grow their capacity to serve their communities in line with local plans and ambitions whilst also having access to Foundation Scotland's support and guidance 'behind the scenes'.

The arrangements were articulated in a Memorandum of Understanding between Foundation Scotland and the anchor organisations, signed in August 2023 in conjunction with the signing of the Community Benefit Agreement between Foundation Scotland and the wind farm owner.

3. A Pioneering Fund Design

Each community has its own distinct profile, history and heritage, and landscape of community activity. New Cumnock and Dalmellington both have a broad and active grassroots organisational scene, with small local groups working on particular projects or with specific interest groups. Patna and Carsphairn have far fewer local community groups due to their respective smaller population sizes and, in the case of Patna, the decrease in grassroots community activity linked to economic decline and the local authority taking on a larger role in community service provision.

Taking account of the varied stages and scale of community development, the Fund design sought to accommodate communities at all phases of development and ambition, whilst also recognising the value of the communities staying connected through a central Advisory Group.

The South Kyle Fund comprises four distinct components. Appendix 4 sets out how each component is contributing to the Fund's purpose, principles, outcomes and objectives.

Component 1: Paid/contracted support for each community

Budget: £200,000 per year - £60,000 per community

Each community has an assured sum towards paid or contracted support. From the very start of the Fund development process, the need for long term paid support was recognised. This would help accelerate the delivery of positive and long-lasting improvements within communities and prevent energy and time being lost to fundraising, often on short-term cycles, for key staff posts. Other deliverables from staff or other paid support were expected to include activities such as championing local action plans, building community capacity and confidence, planning, delivering, and securing other funding for larger scale projects, supporting local groups with their own plans, and supporting with the administration and distribution of community benefit funding.

Component 2: Local Community Funds for each community to support local community led activity

Budget: £200,000 per year - £50,000 per community

Each community will have access to its own South Kyle Fund, designed to provide grants to constituted groups providing activities or services for the benefit of their local areas. Each local administrator will shape the Fund to best fit their community, but some common practice and criteria will extend across all the South Kyle community Funds. Foundation Scotland operates as the administrator for the Patna Community Fund, with the Patna Action Group making decisions on awards.

Component 3: Education and Training Schemes to improve skills, knowledge and employment prospects

Budget: £60,000 per year - £15,000 per community

Each community will operate a South Kyle Education and Training Scheme. Although it is expected that this strand will particularly support the aspirations and ambitions of young people, it does not have an upper age limit. This was felt to be particularly important in an economic context where more working age community members may retrain in the coming years.

Component 4: Flagship Projects

Budget: £911,000 in Year one and £592,000 in Year 2

A significant proportion of the Fund will be directed towards key strategic projects in each community. Those projects identified to date are large and complex in scale, and will deliver on multiple or highly prioritised outcomes for the local communities. A particularly challenging part of delivering projects of this type is often fundraising. So, this element of the Fund aims to enable those projects to be delivered at a swifter pace by funding them either as fully as possible or by providing significant match funding.

A key benefit of retaining the Fund as a single overarching structure allows each community to access a significant injection of funding when it is ready within the four-year cycle. This avoids the scenario of building up unspent funds in one community while a neighbouring community is seeking funding to complete a time critical project, enabling projects and community organisations at different stages of development to be supported at the right time.

Towards the end of the Fund development phase and informed by community plans, the communities agreed the following allocations of flagship spend across the first four years of the Fund. This was intended to ensure that each community would receive the equivalent of £700,000 over this period, timed to align with when the funding was most critically needed.

Table 1: South Kyle flagship budget, Years 1-4

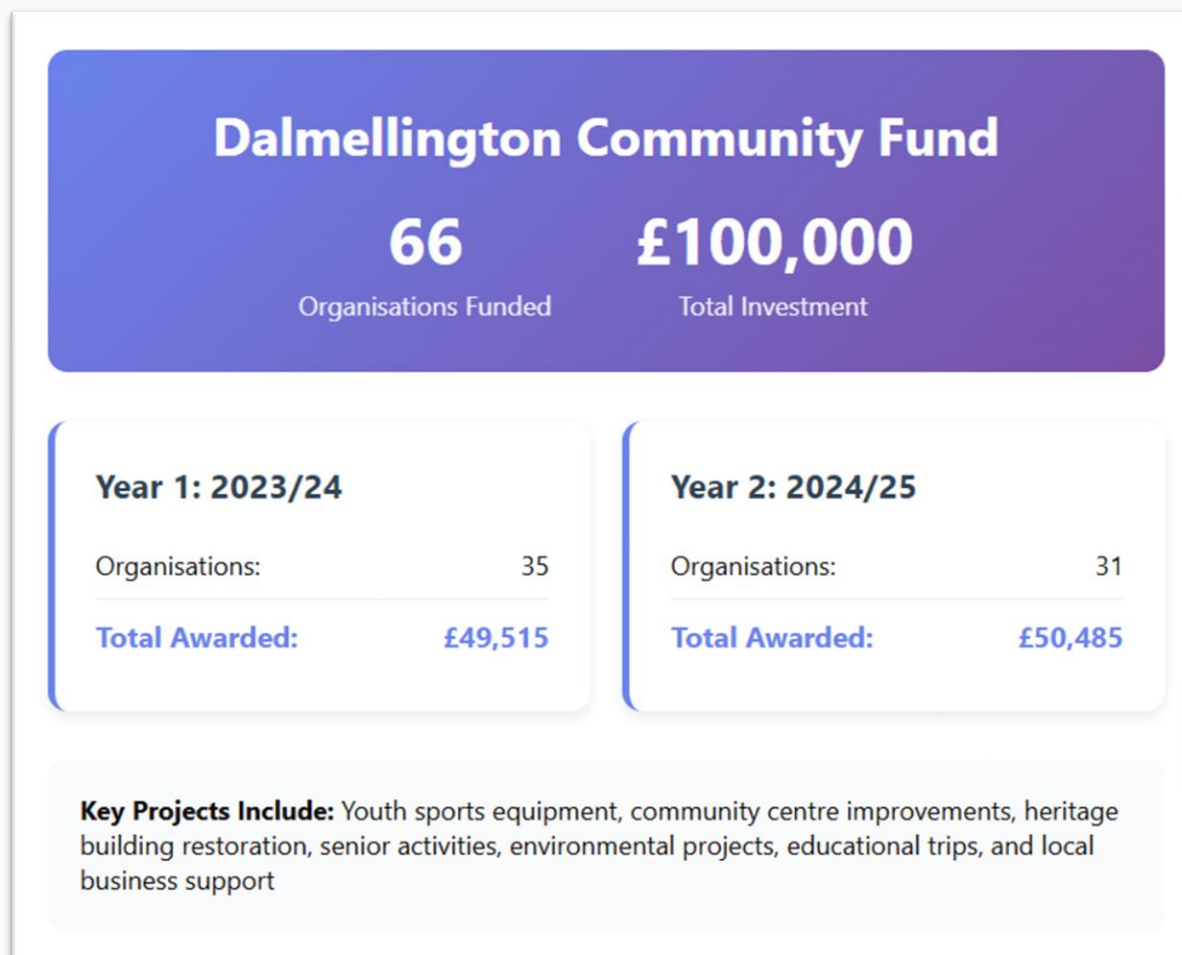
Community	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	
Dalmellington	£262,000	£400,000	£38,000	£0	£700,000
Carsphairn	£15,000	£50,000	£635,000	£0	£700,000
New Cumnock	£594,000	£76,000	£0	£30,000	£700,000
Patna	£40,000	£66,000	£134,000	£460,000	£700,000
Totals	£911,000	£592,000	£807,000	£490,000	

4. Making a Difference

4.1 Local Community Funds

The Local Community Funds are a core component of the South Kyle Fund, designed to offer flexible, locally controlled grant-making to support small to medium-scale initiatives within each community. Each community receives £50,000 a year for distribution.

The **Dalmellington South Kyle Community Fund** operates on a quarterly basis with the Dalmellington Parish Development Trust Board distributing £12,500 each round. Grants are capped at £3,000 because of the high demand on the Fund. The first round opened in November 2023, and eight rounds have been completed during the reporting period. Over these eight rounds DPDT distributed the full sum of £100,000.



Over **45 different groups** have been supported to date, with DPDT venturing to also provide support to local businesses in line with the Community Action Plan priority of improving the buildings and frontages in the centre of the town. Grants were provided only to supplement funds being provided by the local business themselves to make the necessary improvements.

The **New Cumnock South Kyle Community Development Fund** provides grants of up to £5,000 to local groups and operates on a rolling basis. The Fund complements another long-established community Fund serving New Cumnock, but which caps awards at £1,000 and is primarily intended for running costs and trips. NCDT created a sub-group to operate as the decision makers for this Fund, which has made 23 awards totalling £84,516. A balance of £14,584 is being carried over to Year 3.



NCDT has reported that, so far, the Fund has supported start-up costs for new groups, equipment and project materials, community event resources (designed for re-use year after year) and building repairs and improvements. This spend is making a difference in the following ways:

- Improved accessibility: e.g. a new ramp at the football ground.
- Enhancing community spaces: new benches, bowling green drainage.
- Creating new groups: book club, crafts-based bereavement support.
- Supporting young people: – confidence building programme.
- Boosting local resilience: funding to support the food bank.

Patna's, community infrastructure was far less developed compared to other communities.

At the time of the Fund launch, it appeared that a substantial proportion of the population was either not interested in the Fund or felt unable to participate in community plans and ideas.

It has therefore been a notable success that over the first two years, nine awards have been made from the **Patna South Kyle Community Fund**, to eight different groups, totalling £58,986.



The Fund has been operating on a rolling basis and provides grants of up to £10,000. Four applications were withdrawn by applicants, two were refused, and one was deferred pending receipt of further information. All applications were approved for a lesser or greater amount than was requested.

A balance of £33,634 is being carried forward into Year 3 of Patna's South Kyle Community Fund.

During the reporting period, Carsphairn has distributed £81,820 of the **Carsphairn South Kyle Community Fund** through its established local arrangements with CREFL making awards throughout the year. CREFL was expecting to award the balance of funds at its August 2025 meeting.

Carsphairn Community Fund

8

Organisations Funded

£81,820

Total Investment

Flagship Projects:

- **Bowling Club Renovation:** £25,000 for historic sports club restoration
- **Archaeological Research:** £26,010 for Stroanfreggan Community Project (excavation begins September 2025)
- **Speed Safety Signs:** £15,000 for vehicle-activated speed signs
- **Sports Facilities:** £10,000 for Dalry MUGA upgrade
- **Heritage Centre:** £4,420 for annual running costs
- **Community Events:** Children's Christmas party and senior activities

Analysis of how the Local Community Funds align with the South Kyle Fund's purpose, principles, outcomes and objectives

The **purpose** of the South Kyle Fund is “to enhance the lives of people living in the communities now and in the future by contributing to wellbeing and sustainability”.¹ The Local Community Funds deliver on this purpose by ensuring that a broad spectrum of community-led projects receive financial support.

Dalmellington - 45 different groups have been supported, with funding extending beyond traditional community organisations to include local businesses improving town centre frontages. This approach both strengthens local economic activity and enhances the quality of the built environment, thereby improving the everyday experience of residents and visitors.

New Cumnock demonstrated similar impact, supporting start-up costs, staff salaries, equipment, and long-lasting community resources. These grants have enhanced the capacity of local organisations, ensuring that residents have access to safe, accessible, and well-equipped spaces.

¹ [The South Kyle Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund | Foundation Scotland](#)

NCDT reports that the fund provides groups with the chance to undertake improvements and development work, while also bringing in new opportunities for local people.

Patna illustrates how funding can help overcome barriers to participation. Grants have been awarded to groups previously disconnected from formal community activity, enabling a broader spectrum of residents to engage in community development, fostering inclusivity and long-term social sustainability. **Carsphairn** continues its established model, providing more stable support for established community activities and reinforcing continuity in local engagement.

The Local Community Funds exemplify the **Fund's guiding principles**:

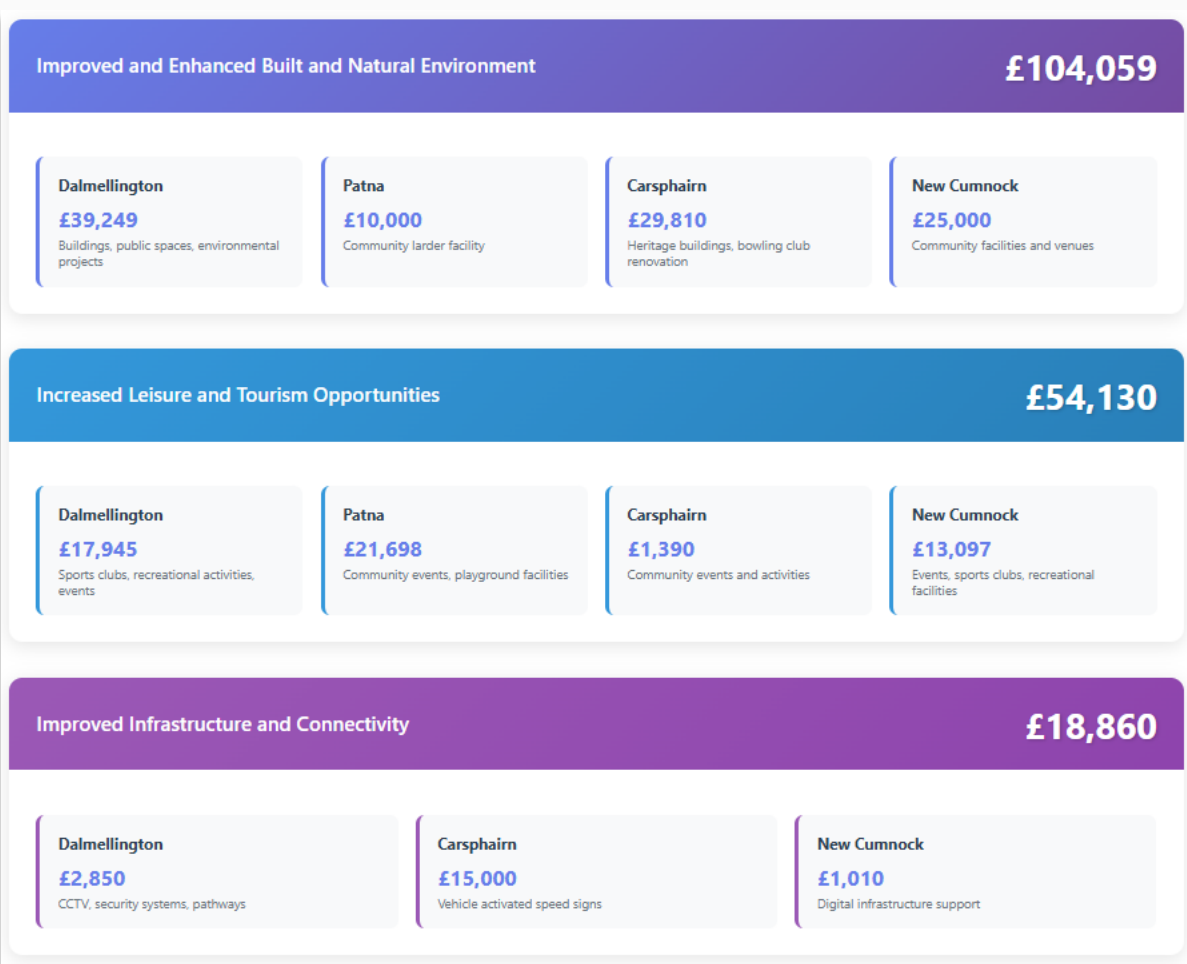
- **Purposeful:** Funds are targeted to projects that create tangible community benefits, including enhancing facilities, supporting new groups, and improving access for all. For example, accessibility improvements such as ramps at the football ground and enhanced public spaces directly address community needs.
- **Context-specific:** Each community tailors its Fund to the local context. Dalmellington caps awards at £3,000 to manage high demand and maintain fairness, whereas Patna provides grants up to £10,000 to reflect different project scales and local capacity.
- **Collaborative:** The Fund encourages match-funding partnerships with local businesses and other funders, fostering collaboration between private and community sectors whilst also leveraging resources. Similarly, NCDT's approach ensures learning and replication of successful practices across community groups.
- **Inclusive and accountable decision-making:** Rolling application processes and sub-groups of local decision-makers, such as NCDT's panel, support transparency, community-led governance, and timely responsiveness to emerging needs.

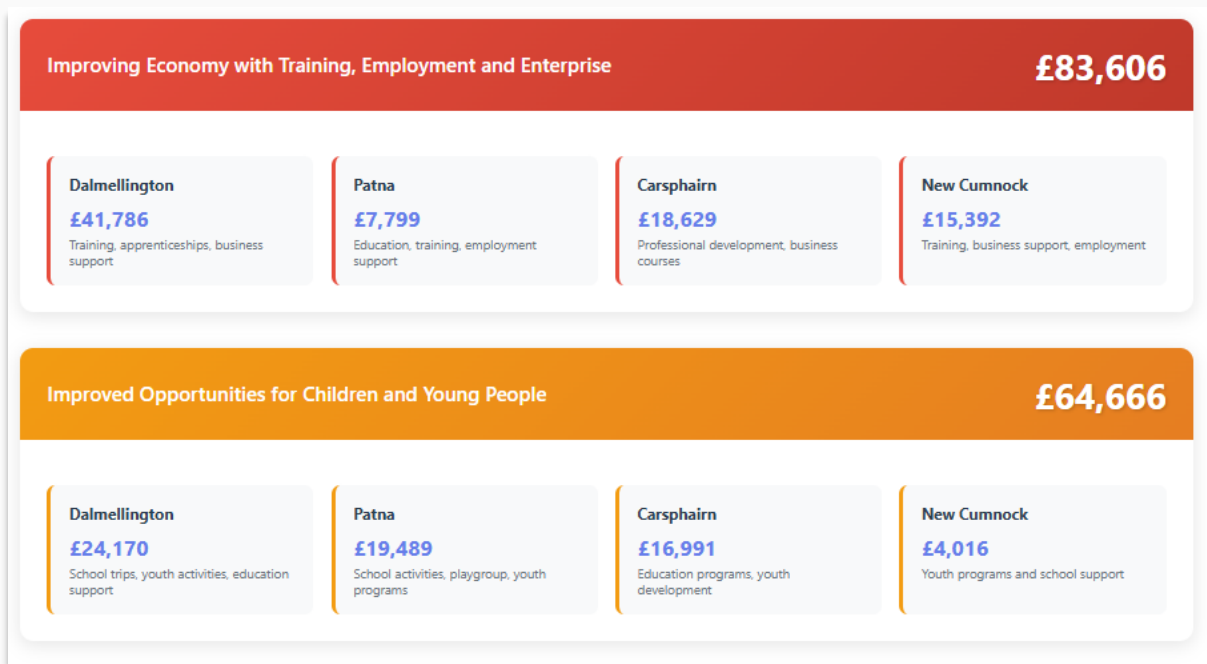
The Local Community Funds address multiple **Fund outcomes**:

- **Improved and enhanced built and natural environment:** Grants to improve town centre frontages, refurbish community spaces, and support maintenance of public areas enhance the local environment.
- **Increased leisure and tourism opportunities:** Funding enables infrastructure improvements and event support, providing venues and opportunities for recreational and cultural activities.

- **Improved infrastructure and connectivity:** Accessibility improvements, including ramps and facility enhancements, ensure equitable access to community spaces.
- **An improving economy with inclusive opportunities for training, employment, and enterprise:** Support for local businesses and community enterprises promotes economic participation and strengthens local enterprise capacity.
- **Improved opportunities for children and young people:** Funding for youth-focused initiatives, confidence-building programmes, and group activities ensures young residents have access to developmental and recreational opportunities.

Below is a breakdown of awards based on the Fund purpose across the four Community Council areas.

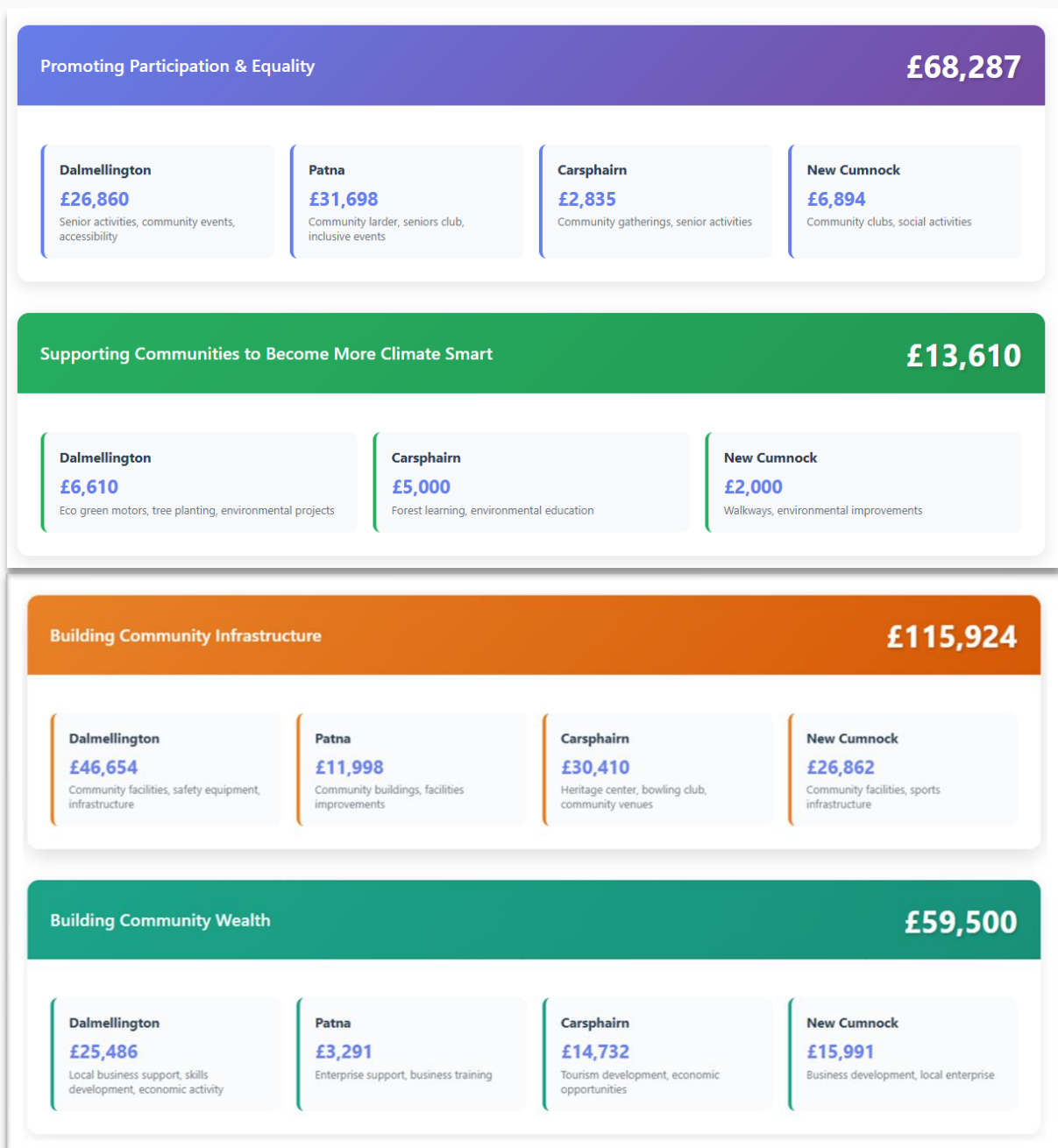




The Local Community Funds also contribute to the **Fund's four objectives**:

- **Promote participation and equality:** By providing grants to previously underrepresented groups (e.g., Patna residents unfamiliar with or uninvolved in community structures), the Fund enhances inclusion and ensures diverse voices are heard.
- **Become more climate smart:** Although specific examples are limited in the reporting period, funding for building improvements and community spaces may encourage more energy-efficient or sustainable practices, particularly when grants are combined with local match funding and project planning.
- **Build community infrastructure:** By funding core organisational costs, equipment, and event resources, the Fund strengthens the capacity and sustainability of local groups, ensuring long-term community benefits beyond the immediate project outcomes.
- **Build community wealth:** Investment in local businesses, volunteer-led groups, and start-ups ensures financial resources circulate locally, supporting resilience and local economic growth.

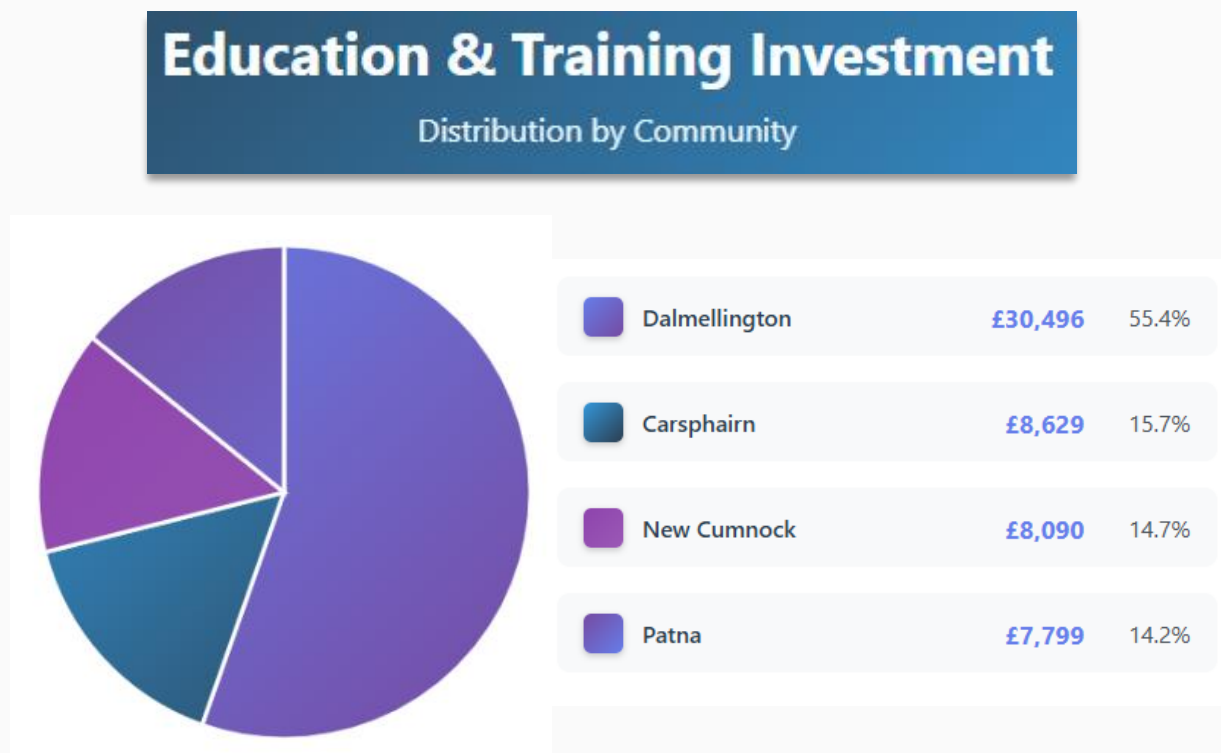
Below is a breakdown of the Fund's four objectives across the Fund area.



By supporting a wide spectrum of initiatives that are improving the physical, social, and economic fabric of the communities, the four Local Community Funds are a practical embodiment of the South Kyle Fund's overarching purpose and principles. They are responsive to immediate and longer-term needs and reinforce principles of inclusivity, local governance, and collaboration. Importantly, they complement the other Fund components including flagship projects, education and training, and paid support, by providing the grassroots-level resources necessary to translate broader strategies into tangible, locally relevant outcomes. Appendix 1 lists all groups awarded grants through the four local South Kyle Community Funds. Appendix 3 includes three case studies of awards from four of the local Community Funds.

4.2 Education and Training Funds

All four communities have set up and distributed Education and Training Funds in line with the Fund Framework and which provides the rationale for this component.



In the first year, **Dalmellington Parish Development Trust** made awards to four individuals and also provided group training courses or provided funds to other organisations to do similarly. This included, for example, professional coaching for the local youth football team, as well as a course of swimming lessons for all the primary age children at a local school.

The group training events have been very popular with demand for a range of courses including First Aid & Defib Training, Food Hygiene, Personal Licence Training and Mental Health Awareness. In the first year the Fund benefitted 242 people and a similar number (238) in the second year, awarding a total of £30,496

New Cumnock Development Trust reported that 15 Education and training awards have been made to date totalling £7,817.08 with a further two awards pending. This included 14 individual awards and one community-wide First Aid group training for 12 people organised by NCDT and which has generated further interest in group training opportunities. £22,182.92 of the £30,000 remains to distribute.

In New Cumnock, three people who benefitted from a grant award have provided feedback on the difference this has made to them:

"The training and Education funding allowed me to study for my Counselling in Grief and Bereavement diploma. This diploma is now being put to necessary use providing Counselling to the people of New Cumnock and surrounding areas who have been affected by Grief. We set up New Cumnock Rocks-Bereavement support which provides Peer Group Support, one to one Counselling and online support. The service users and I are grateful for the outcome this funding has provided."

"I had decided I wanted to leave school and wasn't keen on going to college. I knew there was a local business who worked in turbines and renewable energy, it made sense to me to look into this kind of work with so much happening in New Cumnock and nearby. Being able to go and do my CITB/CSCS training with funding from NCDT gave me a good start looking for work. I was successful in being taken on by FSHV and they are now going to put me through an apprenticeship giving me more qualifications."

"The Education and Training Fund paid for me to go for a medical that I needed to be able to renew my driving licence with Coalfield Community Transport. I am a volunteer driver and without this funding I wouldn't be able to renew my licence. Having this covered means I can continue to drive the community groups for many of our local groups from The Scouts, the NCDT, The Glenafton supporters club and I am happy to help anyone who may need a driver."

NCDT noted that the Education and Training awards are a new concept, and now that they can provide real examples of initial grants and what the Fund can be used for, they expect its popularity to grow.

In May 2024, the **Patna Education and Training Fund** was launched. This was part of a concerted effort by Patna Action Group and Foundation Scotland to widen the distribution of the Fund beyond open grant-making and to maximise the impact of the Fund in the area of benefit. The Fund provides bursaries of up to £1,500 to residents of Patna.

The Patna Education and Training Fund has no application deadline, and applicants can expect to receive a decision within four to six weeks. In this reporting period, 11 applications were made to the Fund, and 10 awards, totalling £7,799 were made. Grants of between £420 and £1,500 were paid to support the education and training of residents in the area. Some were for a lesser or greater amount than was requested. A balance of £22,201 is to be carried over to Year 3.

Similar to New Cumnock, the Fund requires more local promotion to ensure residents are aware of the opportunities it provides. When asked if they could have managed without the funding, feedback from recipients provides an insight into how the funding is helping to alleviate some of the economic and emotional pressures some Patna residents experience:

"I live with my gran and papa and they have always given me everything with no help from anyone. I applied to get the grant to help take the pressure off them a wee bit."

In Patna, the Education and Training awards are beginning to show how small amounts of support can contribute to improved livelihoods and begin to contribute to building more opportunities and a stronger future for individuals and families.

Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd (CREFL) reported that ten Education and Training awards had been made over the two years, with £8,629 spent and £21,371 remaining. CREFL has been operating an Education and Training Fund for many years, so the community is familiar with the opportunities it provides. The South Kyle contribution of £15,000 was intended to top up their current Fund, although evidence from the first two years of delivery suggests that demand is low, due to Carsphairn's small resident population, which includes relatively low numbers of younger adults and young people.

Analysis of how the Education and Training Funds align with the South Kyle Fund's purpose, principles, outcomes and objectives

The Education and Training Funds contribute to the **Fund's purpose** by empowering residents to improve their personal and professional capacities, thereby enhancing long-term community wellbeing. Funding has enabled individuals to pursue vocational training, professional qualifications, and personal development, which in turn strengthens the local workforce, social support systems, and access to essential services. By enabling residents to gain skills that directly feed back into the community - such as counselling, volunteering, or supporting local organisations - the Fund supports both individual growth and wider community benefit.

The South Kyle Education and Training Funds are in line with the Fund's **guiding principles**:

- **Purposeful:** The E&T Funds are explicitly outcome-focused. They address real barriers to employment, volunteering, and community participation, offering practical support that creates opportunities for meaningful voluntary engagement, employability and community contribution.

- **Context-specific:** Each community has tailored its E&T Fund to local needs. For example, Patna introduced a flexible, rolling bursary system to overcome timing and accessibility barriers, while New Cumnock and Dalmellington provided both individual and group training that reflected local opportunities and gaps in skills provision.
- **Collaborative:** The Funds foster collaboration between community organisations and residents. Group training initiatives, such as youth football coaching and First Aid courses, bring residents together while also linking the training to community organisations, ensuring benefits ripple through multiple layers of local life.
- **Community-led and accountable:** Local anchor organisations administer the Funds, ensuring decisions reflect local priorities and are accountable to the community. Decisions about who receives support and the type of training funded are shaped by knowledge of local needs, enhancing trust in both the process and outcomes.

These funds address multiple **Fund outcomes:**

- **An improving economy with inclusive and accessible opportunities for training, employment and enterprise:** The E&T Funds directly support employability, skill development, and economic participation. Grants that enable vocational training, apprenticeships, and professional qualifications strengthen pathways to employment or self-employment, particularly in sectors aligned with local opportunities such as renewables, community transport, and social enterprise.
- **Improved infrastructure and connectivity** (social and skills networks): By funding courses, workshops, and group learning opportunities, the E&T Funds enhance social connectivity and networks of support within communities. Residents gain not only technical or professional skills but also access to peer networks, mentoring, and shared learning spaces.
- **Improved opportunities for children and young people:** Several E&T initiatives support young people's transitions into work or further education, providing access to qualifications or vocational experience that might otherwise be unattainable. This addresses long-term retention of younger residents and supports local succession planning for community roles and enterprises.

They also contribute to the Fund's **four objectives**:

- **Promoting participation and equality:** The Funds provide inclusive access to opportunities that might otherwise be limited by financial, geographic, or social barriers. Flexible award mechanisms, such as rolling applications in Patna, ensure that support is accessible to residents in diverse circumstances, including those facing economic or familial pressures.
- **Becoming more climate smart:** Some training initiatives, such as renewable energy sector skills in New Cumnock, align with sustainable economic opportunities and increase awareness of local environmental industries.
- **Building community wealth:** By investing in skills, confidence, and capacity among residents, the E&T Funds strengthen social and economic capital. Residents are empowered to contribute to local projects, services, and enterprises, creating a multiplier effect that keeps benefits within the community.
- **Building community infrastructure:** The Funds support capacity-building among residents who deliver or volunteer in community organisations. By enabling training that enhances management, leadership, or specialist skills, the Fund reinforces the sustainability of local groups and helps embed knowledge and expertise within the community.

The South Kyle Education and Training Funds reflect a flexible, responsive approach to community-led development. Beyond simply providing financial support, the Funds strengthen both human and social capital, enabling residents to gain skills that directly benefit themselves and the wider community.

The Funds enhance employability, support social infrastructure, and provide tailored interventions that respect each community's context, demonstrating strong alignment with the Fund's purpose, principles, outcomes, and objectives.

Furthermore, this component evidences how targeted investment in learning and skills development can directly enhance individual and community resilience, while aligning with the Fund's overarching purpose of supporting wellbeing and sustainable community development.

4.3 Paid support

Provision of paid support was a critical component of the Fund design. All four communities have benefitted from this resource, which was budgeted at £60,000 per community per year.

Dalmellington: The South Kyle funding is used to employ two part-time Development Officers. These roles have been critical to the success of the South Kyle Fund in Dalmellington as well as providing key support to local groups and oversight of multiple projects DPDT is involved with.

DPDT has reported that the South Kyle funding has been pivotal to the growing success of their work as a local anchor organisation, to meet the growing needs and ambitions of the community. Crucially, the commitment to the paid support component has enabled DPDT to create two part-time Development Officer posts on permanent contracts. This means that DPDT could overcome one of the key barriers in attracting and retaining staff for community development roles which are historically linked to shorter term project-based funding.

New Cumnock: The South Kyle funding is a key resource in contributing to NCDT's staff costs and has been instrumental in providing stability to the current three-person staff team who have otherwise depended on short-term grants to contribute to sustaining their posts. These roles include a Community Engagement Coordinator, a Sport Health & Wellbeing Manager, and a Business & Development Manager.

Match funded by the Scottish Government's Strengthening Communities Programme until March 2028, the South Kyle funding is also enabling the organisation to better invest in learning and development opportunities for staff.

The Sport Health & Wellbeing Manager has been championing NCDT's focus on a preventative approach to health and wellbeing. This includes making staff wellbeing a priority, encouraging people to be active and look after themselves before problems start, providing health and wellbeing activities to the community in a celebration of active lifestyle at the annual FitFest event, and hosting a roundtable with the local MSP to promote the preventative approach and share what's happening locally and with national government.

The assured support from South Kyle is ensuring that NCDT is not only getting by, but working with more confidence and structure, that has meant less firefighting and fundraising, and more time to focus on what really matters.

"We have clearer ways of working together as a team, renewed emphasis on managing the team and supporting wellbeing. Leadership training is helping us learn how to guide NCDT as our projects develop and we are building in-house expertise through technical training and learning from others."

(NCDT Sport Health & Wellbeing Manager)

Patna – Patna Action Group was formally established in August 2023. During its first year, supported by Foundation Scotland, the group met on a monthly basis to finalise plans for their Local Community Fund and Education Fund. They also learned about operating as an incorporated organisation and their legal responsibilities. The group began scoping a Development Officer role in 2024 and successfully appointed their preferred candidate on a 28 hours per week arrangement later in the year.

The PAG Development Officer has been instrumental in supporting activity contributing to a refreshed Patna Community Plan. This has included supporting Patna residents to complete a community survey; by June 2025, 426 (48%) of households had responded to the Community Action Plan survey, exceeding the 40% required threshold to certify a community-wide mandate and triggering South Ayrshire Council Vibrant Communities' analysis of the results.

Draft findings were circulated to PAG for mapping priorities and potential projects against themes. Priorities and potential projects were presented at a public voting event in the Autumn of 2025.

The Development Officer has also been supporting PAG with a number of pipeline projects and providing support to local groups to plan activities.

Alongside learning about their roles as PAG Directors, making initial decisions on awards, and undertaking the preparatory work to establish the Development Officer role; another priority for PAG in Year 1 was to set up a local apprenticeship opportunity.

The ambition was to match a local school leaver with a local business. This was achieved after discussions with a local garage that was keen to take on a motor mechanic.

Funding of £24,960 was awarded to support the costs of an apprenticeship position over two years, enabling a local young person to become a fully qualified motor mechanic through working at the garage as well as undertaking an IMI Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Principles at Ayr College.

The award was allocated from the underspend in the paid support budget.

Patna's 'home grown' apprentice scheme

"Over the last 6 months I have enjoyed being at work and being part of a team. I really like helping with the bigger jobs like timing belts and gearboxes. At the moment I am confident enough to check tyre pressures, change tyres and help with services. Over the next 6 months I would like to be able to maybe do a full service on my own with Allan checking it over for me. I am making more of an effort to keep the garage workshop tidy and putting away tools after each job." (Apprentice)

"Our apprentice has been progressing steadily over the last 6 month and he has gained a lot more confidence than when he first started. He has been shadowing myself through all aspects of vehicle repair and maintenance. Some of the basic tasks such as checking tyre pressures and testing anti-freeze levels he can now do unsupervised. Over the next 6 month I would like to see him take on more tasks and be confident enough to use his own initiative to include good housekeeping. Our apprentice is punctual, always wears his protective clothing and his attendance is excellent." (Employer)

- **An *improving economy*** with inclusive and accessible opportunities for training, employment and enterprise
- **Promoting participation and equality** by ensuring that at least one of Patna's young residents has the opportunity for vocational progression.

Carsphairn: CREFL allocated funds to two areas for paid support i) the local Community Trust so projects can be progressed in line with the Carsphairn Future Plan Review and ii) a Housing Officer to address provision of affordable housing to support the village's sustainability. The Trust has an officer in post but plans to appoint a Housing Officer have yet to progress.

Analysis of how the paid support component aligns with the South Kyle Fund's purpose, principles, outcomes and objectives
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The provision of paid professional support directly strengthens the Fund's overarching purpose by building the capacity of communities to deliver sustainable and impactful activity. Development Officers and other professional roles allow communities to move beyond reliance on short-term volunteers or uncertain grant-dependent staffing. This ensures continuity, strategic oversight, and a higher likelihood of achieving meaningful long-term outcomes, which aligns with the Fund's goal of enhancing wellbeing and sustainability.

Having assurance of assured longer term staffing roles within two of the four local anchor organisations, for example, underpins the operational stability necessary to manage multi-year projects, coordinate community input, and deliver tangible benefits. **NCDT commented that:**

“Covering salaries has strengthened our organisation by giving us the stability to focus on Trotters and other major capital projects. It has been a steep learning curve, but the experience, skills, and knowledge gained will support other capital projects in the future..... We’ve been able to use the opportunity of professional support flexibly – we’ve been able to direct it where it’s needed most across the two years and also ensure that our jobs represent Fair Work. This flexibility has been key to keeping community priorities moving forward.”

This component addresses the Fund’s **guiding principles:**

- **Purposeful:** Paid support ensures that community efforts are structured, consistent, and outcome-driven rather than ad hoc. The availability of professional staff enables better planning, monitoring, and delivery of activities that directly address community priorities, such as the Patna apprenticeship scheme or New Cumnock’s preventative health initiatives.
- **Context-specific:** Each community has designed its use of paid support to fit its own context and priorities. Dalmellington uses Development Officers to coordinate multiple projects and support local groups; New Cumnock applies staff resources to health, wellbeing, and engagement programmes; Patna’s Development Officer has helped with the gathering of information and surveying for the Patna Community Action Plan and support new initiatives. Carsphairn meanwhile has been able to progress some activity on planning for housing provision and implementing future community-led projects. This flexibility respects each community’s scale, capacity, and strategic focus.
- **Collaborative:** Professional staff facilitate partnerships both within and across communities. For example, New Cumnock’s staff coordinate FitFest, linking residents with local health services and national networks, while Patna’s Development Officer works with local businesses to create apprenticeship opportunities, demonstrating collaboration across the public, private, and voluntary sectors.
- **Community-led and accountable:** Paid professionals reinforce local governance by supporting community anchor organisations to operate effectively. They provide the technical expertise, administrative capacity, and continuity needed for transparent decision-making, ensuring that the communities retain control over prioritisation and delivery while benefiting from professional guidance.

The assured paid support contributes to various **Fund outcomes**:

- **An improving economy with inclusive and accessible opportunities for training, employment, and enterprise:** Staff roles enable communities to design and implement programmes that stimulate local economic opportunities. Patna's apprenticeship scheme, facilitated through professional support, directly addresses youth employability and skill development, while Dalmellington and New Cumnock staff help nurture enterprises and community-based initiatives, contributing to local economic growth/inclusion.
- **Improved infrastructure and connectivity (social and organisational):** Development Officers act as central connectors within each community, coordinating projects, partnerships, and communications. They strengthen infrastructure, ensuring that local groups have access to support, guidance, and capacity-building opportunities that enable long-term sustainability.
- **Improved opportunities for children and young people living here:** Paid staff directly support youth engagement through initiatives such as youth football coaching, FitFest programming, and apprenticeship facilitation. These roles enable structured, consistent interventions that would be difficult to deliver without professional support, enhancing opportunities for skill development, social participation, and personal growth.

The roles also contribute to the Fund's **four objectives**:

- **Promoting participation and equality:** Professional staff ensure equitable access to funding, programmes, and support. By proactively managing outreach, coordinating community surveys (e.g., Patna), and supporting marginalised groups, they help ensure that voices across all demographics are heard and considered in decision-making.
- **Building community wealth:** Paid roles provide stability that allows communities to retain local expertise and skills, preventing reliance on external short-term contractors or volunteer burnout. This investment in human capital ensures that knowledge, relationships, and capability remain embedded within the community.
- **Building community infrastructure:** The presence of professional staff directly strengthens organisational capacity. They implement governance frameworks, monitor projects, manage budgets, and support volunteers and committees, helping communities grow resilient, sustainable institutions capable of managing multi-year initiatives like the South Kyle Fund itself.

- **Becoming more climate smart:** While not the primary focus of these roles, professional staff can ensure that projects incorporate climate or sustainability considerations, for instance through coordinating environmentally conscious local initiatives or providing technical advice on projects such as housing developments or community facilities.

Paid professional support is a cornerstone of the South Kyle Fund's design, providing the operational capacity, expertise, and continuity necessary to deliver strategic outcomes. It allows communities to plan effectively, retain institutional knowledge, and execute initiatives with confidence, enhancing both immediate benefits and long-term sustainability.

These roles serve as the "enabler" for the other Fund components, ensuring that projects, from education and training to community-led initiatives, are implemented efficiently, inclusively, and in line with the Fund's principles and objectives.

4.4 Flagship Projects

The funding allocated to flagship projects has been of significant support to three of the four South Kyle communities over these first two years, providing assured support for both anticipated and unexpected spend and opportunities.

In Dalmellington the Trust requested early drawdown of £65,000 of its budgeted sum for this two-year period because of the sudden sale of an important and much-loved community facility, the **Dunaskin Doon Bowling Club**.

On behalf of club members, DPDT was able to successfully make an offer on the property, bringing a 140-year-old institution into community ownership and securing it for the lasting benefit of the community. This was DPDT's first community purchase, made possible only by the flexibility afforded by the Flagship Fund.

*"This has been made possible by the South Kyle Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund and is the first windfarm community benefit money spent in Dalmellington Parish."
(DPDT)*



A second unforeseen opportunity also was seized by DPDT when the Church of Scotland declared **the Kirk O' The Covenant Church** surplus to the Church of Scotland's needs. Following extensive local consultation, the community developed a vision to retain it for weddings and funerals but also create an observatory on the church roof.

This is complete with powerful telescope and video links to other observatories around the world that can benefit from viewing the skies above Dalmellington that are afforded with dark sky status.

Plans included an auditorium with planetarium that will double up as a village cinema as well as a café on site. This video sets out the proposals for the building. [Watch it here.](#)

The third unexpected opportunity DPDT seized to further secure community assets, was £40,000 to support the long established **Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group (ARPG)** erect a new Heritage Railway Vehicle Shed. ARPG operates the Doon Valley Railway, a living museum between Patna and Dalmellington and where historically significant industrial steam and diesel locomotives can be seen working in Scotland's last authentic industrial railway setting. When the four-year flagship budget was being drawn up neither of these projects were on DPDT's radar.



However, the flexibility provided with the budgeting approach provided parameters for the Advisory Group to work with and, most importantly, immediate access to funding held securely in Foundation Scotland's South Kyle Fund.

Also in Dalmellington, £272,000 was invested in Phase 1 of an **All Ability Cycle Track** that had been extensively planned over the preceding years with Phases 2 and 3 still in development. The track opened in September 2025 and now provides a traffic free opportunity for people of all abilities to enjoy exciting cycling tracks, with a particular design focus on those with additional needs.

The track will also provide the location for lessons as well as bike hire and specialist adapted bikes for those with additional needs and a cycle and repair workshop.

New Cumnock was also budgeted to receive flagship support in the first two years with an allocation of £594,000 towards two major capital projects that are at the heart of plans to regenerate New Cumnock and detailed in the New Cumnock Regeneration Masterplan.

The first is the redevelopment of the dilapidated former **Castle Hotel** into bunkhouse style visitor accommodation, and the second is the redevelopment of another site called **Trotters**, a former department store, into a community re-use hub for the repair, re-use and re-purposing of textiles, furniture, electronics and other household items.

The building will house a café, workshops (focusing on repair skills using textiles and woodwork with potential for other creative uses), a pop-up shop including showcasing products made by local makers, a community co-working hub available for hire, and a community space. New training and apprenticeship opportunities are also set to be available. This project is designed to support re-use, creativity, entrepreneurship, and community connection. A detailed case study about NCDT's work to repurpose this long-term vacant building [can be found here](#).

These images show the building as it was at the time of the purchase and what the revitalised building will look like.



Both projects are significant undertakings and the stability of key staff, supported in part by South Kyle funding, has been an important factor in NCDT's capacity to manage these complex projects running in parallel. In the last 18 months this has included keeping the Trotters project on track despite delays and increased costs, managing contracts and VAT, and securing over £400k to get the social enterprise activities up and running.

Whilst managing the Castle Hotel and dealing with unforeseen construction challenges and rising costs, bringing in new architects and moving forward with design work that will build toward the full vision of bunkhouse style visitor accommodation. The flagship project planned for Patna was an extension to the established children's playpark on Carnshalloch Avenue adjacent to the two primary schools and nurseries. The Patna Community Action Plan had identified improving the playpark as a top priority.

The project was led and managed by the Community Council who worked with the two primary schools to ascertain what equipment the children would like to be added. The Community Council also liaised with East Ayrshire Council to identify a suitable supplier.

East Ayrshire Council will monitor and maintain the equipment. The South Kyle Fund contributed £106,127 to the project which costed £136,127.

Analysis of how the flagships project component align with the South Kyle Fund's purpose, principles, outcomes and objectives
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The flagship projects component has played a pivotal role in enabling transformational, long-term change across the South Kyle communities and provided the scale, certainty and flexibility required to respond to both planned regeneration ambitions and unforeseen opportunities that, if missed, could have resulted in the permanent loss of key community assets.

In doing so, it has demonstrated the distinctive added value of a place-based, multi-year community benefit fund. In addition, it has reduced the risk of communities mothballing projects or scrambling for alternatives. At its core, the flagship projects component advances the Fund's purpose by strengthening the long-term sustainability, resilience and wellbeing of South Kyle communities. The projects supported go beyond short-term benefit, instead focusing on securing strategic assets, revitalising vacant or at-risk buildings, and creating infrastructure that will generate social, economic and wellbeing returns over decades.

Critically, the ability to act quickly, whether to acquire a historic bowling club, secure a surplus church, or support essential heritage infrastructure, has allowed communities to take control of their own futures at moments of vulnerability or opportunity. This proactive, preventative approach aligns strongly with the Fund's intention to support communities not only to respond to need, but to shape their own long-term futures.

The flagship projects component exemplifies several of the Fund's **core principles in practice**:

- **Purposeful and strategic:** Flagship funding has been used to support projects that are clearly anchored in long-term community visions, such as regeneration masterplans, asset transfer strategies and inclusive infrastructure development. Even where opportunities were unforeseen, decisions were guided by clear strategic intent.
- **Flexible and responsive:** A defining strength of this component has been its flexibility. The ability to draw down funds early, re-profile budgets and respond to emerging circumstances has been essential in enabling communities to act decisively in fast-moving or complex situations, something that more rigid funding models often don't allow.
- **Community-led with appropriate governance:** While projects are large and complex, they remain firmly community-driven, with local trusts and Community Councils leading decision-making. The presence of agreed parameters and advisory oversight has ensured accountability without undermining local autonomy.
- **Capacity-aware:** This component implicitly recognises that transformational projects require organisational capacity. The stability provided by flagship funding, particularly when combined with staff support, has enabled community organisations to manage risk, complexity and parallel delivery in a way that might otherwise not be unachievable.

The flagship projects component makes a substantial contribution across multiple **Fund outcomes**, particularly where outcomes intersect:

- **Improved built environment and infrastructure:** Investment in community ownership, regeneration of vacant buildings, and development of inclusive recreational infrastructure is already delivering visible, lasting improvements to the physical fabric of communities.
- **Economic opportunity and regeneration:** Projects such as visitor accommodation, a re-use hub and heritage infrastructure are designed to generate economic activity, support local enterprise, attract visitors and create training and employment pathways, embedding economic benefit locally.
- **Inclusive access to leisure, culture and wellbeing:** Facilities such as all-ability cycling infrastructure, enhanced play spaces, cultural venues and heritage assets will expand access to leisure and cultural participation for a wider range of residents, including those with additional needs.

- **Strengthened community confidence:** Successfully delivering large-scale projects builds confidence, both within communities and among external partners, that local organisations can manage complex capital developments, unlocking further investment and opportunity.

The flagship projects component also strongly advances the **Fund's objectives:**

- **Promoting participation and equality:** By prioritising inclusive design and community access, whether through all-ability facilities, shared cultural spaces or family-focused infrastructure, flagship projects help ensure that benefits are widely felt, not limited to a narrow user group.
- **Building community infrastructure and assets:** Community ownership and long-term stewardship are central to many flagship investments, directly strengthening the asset base and governance capacity of local organisations.
- **Building community wealth:** Flagship projects anchor economic activity locally, retain value within communities, and support the development of social enterprises and visitor economies that can generate ongoing income streams.
- **Becoming more climate smart:** While not always framed explicitly as environmental projects, several flagship investments promote sustainable re-use of existing buildings, low-impact recreation, and reduced reliance on car travel, aligning with climate-conscious development principles.

What distinguishes the flagship projects component is not simply the scale of investment, but the way it enables **timely, confident and community-controlled** decision-making.

The combination of multi-year budgeting, flexibility, and secure fund management has allowed communities to respond to real-world complexity, where opportunities are not aligned with prescribed funding cycles or pre-approved project lists.

In this sense, the component acts as both a **strategic enabler and a safety net**, supporting ambition while reducing risk. It demonstrates how community benefit funding, when designed with trust and flexibility, can unlock outcomes that are genuinely transformational.

5. The South Kyle Advisory Group

The South Kyle Advisory Group was established at the end of the development phase of the Fund. It operates in line with a Terms of Reference that was co-produced by community representatives and Foundation Scotland. The Group currently comprises representatives of each of the four anchor organisations and meets quarterly to oversee the Fund budget and share updates and learning around the practical implementation of the four Fund components. Meetings rotate around the communities.

Members have valued the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences and build alliances and connections. NCDT commented that:

“The advisory group - is a real strength, helping communities to support one another and share ideas”. (Advisory Group Member)

Members report back to their own organisations after meetings so insight and learning can be cascaded beyond the members themselves. This has included, for example, learning about one community’s experience of tailoring their South Kyle Education and Training Fund to provide a series of theme-based training sessions (such as the first aid course) for larger numbers of residents to attend together.

Dalmellington Parish Development Trust shared their approach and arrangements for this which has resulted in New Cumnock and Patna also trialling theme-specific group training sessions for residents and which are also proving popular. Currently, the Advisory Group comprises representatives of the four anchor organisations who are either the administrators of South Kyle funds within their communities and/or the organisations developing the flagship projects, and therefore also the grant funded organisations.

Whilst this hasn’t always been the case in the first two years, there is a need to guard against the Fund appearing as a closed shop. It is therefore incumbent on each of the local partner organisations and Foundation Scotland to ensure information about the South Kyle fund is readily available. However, it is also worth considering the value of broadening the Advisory Group’s membership to include representation beyond the anchor organisations. This could help manage the instances of conflicts of interest that also can arise when members also represent other funders, which may impact critical reflection and learning focused discussion.

6. Conclusion

Overall, the South Kyle Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund is showing early evidence as a pioneering and effective model of community benefit distribution in a multi-community arrangement that is already making a lasting difference and offering valuable insights about a community benefit fund design that blends both devolved and centralised fund arrangements under a single governance structure.

In part, this is the result of investing in a set-up phase that not only sought to identify community aspirations and needs in the short and longer term, and also considered ways that the funding could be utilised best, and made available to meet these needs and ambitions in a manner that does not create winners and losers – or the perception of such.

NCDT has described the arrangement as a ‘turning point’ and that it has grown their confidence as an organisation;

“It’s grown our voice and influence – we’ve been able to build better relationships with local and regional organisations, take part in policy discussions on health, wellbeing and regeneration, and show that a small community like ours can have a strong voice at the table.” (NCDT)

In **Patna**, it is encouraging the community to set its own priorities and bring people back together, which in turn will strengthen how the community can identify its shared ambitions for its future.

In **Dalmellington**, it has helped to build the agency, confidence and capability of the anchor organisation, enabled investment in some new community assets and ensured continuity of and development of other established community activity.

Carsphairn has a long history of administering community benefit funding, reflecting a strong tradition of local stewardship and volunteer leadership that have shaped priorities, expectations and funding norms. The South Kyle components that integrate into Carsphairn’s existing arrangements (the local Community Fund and the Education and Training Fund) still require reporting against in relation to the South Kyle Framework. Meanwhile, the flagship component has prompted more proactive discussions about how incoming community benefit funding can better strengthen the foundations for future community resilience.

Across all four communities the Fund has provided far more than financial support: it has delivered stability, confidence and capacity, enabling communities to strengthen

anchor organisations, invest in people and skills, secure and repurpose vital local assets, and support a wide range of grassroots activity that improves wellbeing, opportunity and local resilience.

The components within the overall Fund design enable the communities to both plan strategically but also act quickly when opportunities arise. The design also means the communities can focus on delivery rather than the drain of constantly applying for funds. As NCDT stated:

“Having funding that doesn’t require constant applications gives us time, confidence, and control to deliver what our community has asked for....”

However, the larger scale capital projects take time, and although rotating the larger investments between the communities provides welcome planning certainty in a multi-community arrangement like South Kyle, there is merit in planning for the 2028-2032 period in the first part of 2026 and alongside the distribution of Years 3&4 during 2026-2028.

The intention is to also review the approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning, ensuring both alignment with the Fund’s purpose, principles, outcomes and underpinning objectives whilst also maximising opportunities for identifying and sharing learning with a fast-evolving wider community benefit landscape in Scotland.

7. Contact

For further information about the Fund you can visit:

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/south-kyle-wind-farm-community-benefit-fund>

Or contact:

Rachel Searle, Foundation Scotland

Tel: 07900 221483

Email: rachel@foundationscotland.org.uk

Appendix 1: Summary of Awards from local Community Funds

Dalmellington Community Fund

Year 1: 2023/4		
Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Amount
Craigmark Youths	Tournament/Festival fees	£600
Craigmark Youths	Trophies - end of season awards	£400
33rd Ayrshire Scouts	Timber double door for Scout Hall	£1,000
Dalmellington Brass Academy	Uniforms	£1,000
Doon Valley Amateur Boxing Club	Equipment replacement	£1,000
Dalmellington Pigeon Club	Urgent Roof repairs	£3,000
Dalmellington Community Assoc	Seniors Christmas Events 2023	£2,000
Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group	Fencing	£3,000
Bellsbank Seniors	Activities and Trips	£1,500
Drumgrange & Keirs Angling	Fishing for all	£500
DV Boxing Club	Balance of P1 funding	£1,800
Gails Mellowing Moments	Full funding award from P1	£1,000
Drumgrange & Keirs Angling	Balance of funding from P1	£500
Loch Doon Caravan CP	Secure entry system CCTV	£2,100
Dalmellington Parish Church	Sand and seal flooring	£1,128
Dalmellington Parish Church	Heating oil	£1,000
Classic Cuts	Shop front repair	£3,000
Loch Doon Residents Assoc	Tree planting	£800
Dunaskin Community Development	CCTV	£750
Craigmark FC	Farrell Suite refurb	£3,000
Doon Valley Angling Club	Ecogreen outboard motors and batteries	£2,640
Neptune Barbeth Fishing Club	Club house roof	£1,365
Dalmellington Garden Assoc	Full funding award from P1	£950
Donation CAP	CAP Launch event	£500
Dalmellington Band	Concert/contest fees	£1,500
Dunaskin Doon Bowling Club	Health& Safety equipment	£500
Craigmark Youths	Football nets	£1,050
Doon Valley Coffee House	Shop front improvement	£3,000
Brew & a Blether	Let costs	£1,560
Loch Doon Caravan & Camping Club	Safety floor play area	£1,660
DCA	Let's get together events	£1,000
Craigmark FC	Grounds maintenance	£500
Dalmellington Parent Council	ECC outdoor suits	£811
ARPG	Wagon shed restoration	£3,000
Bellsbank Church	Grounds maintenance	£400
		£49,515

Year 2: 2024/5		
Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Amount
Loch Doon Caravan & Camping Club	Wash room facility	£3,000
Bellsbank Initiative Trust	Club Letting costs	£2,500
Dalmellington Community Assoc	Senior Xmas events	£2,500
Local Resident	Film Production equip	£1,000
Dalmellington C C	Xmas Light costs	£2,000
Dalmellington C C	New Xmas lights	£1,476
Craigengillan Estate	Ness Glen cutting and clearing	£810
Bellsbank School Parent Council	P7 Residential trip	£2295
DCA	Summer Fund Day for all 2025	£3,000
DPDT	First Aid course Feb 25	£500
Dalmellington Inn	Shop front maintenance	£3,000
DPDT	First Aid course Mar 25	£805
Dalmellington Motor Cycle Club	Open Day costs	£1,000
Butterfly Events	Hillbilly Run	£1,000
Dalmellington PS & ECC	Titanic Trip	£1,000
Craigmark Youths	Tournament fees	£600
Dalmellington Amateur Gardening Association	Annual Flower Show	£950
DPDT	Round House Project	£3,000
Neptune Barbeth Fishing Club	Repairs to hut and viewing platform	£983.93
Drumgrange & Kiers Angling Club	Junior Angling Events	£1,000
St. Thomas Social Club	New Doors	£2,990
DPDT	SCPLH Course	£1,305
Bellsbank Project & Creche Service	Core costs	£3,000
33rd Ayrshire Scout Group	Upgrade Fire alarm system	£2,450
Dalmellington Bowling Club	Upgrade of small hallway	£1,000
Zone Initiative Ltd	Replace Fire/emergency door	£1,680
Zone Youth Committee	Day trip Hannaston Alpacas	£550
Dalmellington Community Action Group	DV Gazette printing costs	£1,500
Bellsbank ECC Parent Council	Outdoor learning project	£1,400
Scottish Ambulance Service	Recliner chair	£190
Dunaskin Community Development	Core path maintenance	£2,000
		£50,484.9

Patna Community Fund

Organisation	Grant purpose	Amount
Doon Academy Parent Council	To fund an expressive arts trip to London that will build the resilience, develop the skills, and enhance both employability and social networks of 40 pupils.	£3,000
33 rd Ayrshire Scout Group	To contribute to the cost of installing a fire alarm system, enhancing safety and enabling continuous use of the hall for community and scouting activities.	£998
Patna Community Larder	To purchase food for the Patna Community Larder for one year, ensuring all Patna residents have access to affordable food, toiletries, and emergency supplies	£10,000
Patna Doon Valley Over 60s Club	To provide funding towards an activity programme for the members of the Patna Doon Valley Over 60s Club, thereby enhancing social connections and wellbeing amongst older people locally.	£10,000
Patna Playgroup	To contribute to the running costs and new equipment for Patna Playgroup. (withdrawn after award)	£3,290
Patna Primary School, Supported Learning Centre & Early Childhood Centre	To meet the cost of swimming, soft play, residential trips, and skiing for 172 children, enhancing skills, health, and social inclusion.	£10,000
The Patna Extravaganza Group	To contribute to the costs of the Patna Extravaganzas in 2024 and 2025, a community event that is open to all with fairground rides, food stalls and sporting activities, boosting community spirit and bringing people together.	£20,000
Patna Action Group	To provide signage, publicity and hospitality for the Patna Playground opening ceremony on 14th June 2025.	£1,698
TOTAL		£58,986

Carsphairn Community Fund

Organisation	Grant purpose	Amount
Bowling Club	Renovation of old bowling club that is a cultural heritage/historic sports club. Reinstating a recreational sports club for all interested.	£25,000
Carsphairn Community Council	Seniors Dinner Music. Funding for a musical performance which traditionally has followed the annual seniors' dinner since it's re-introduction in 2014 and which has added to the evening's enjoyment.	£450
Carsphairn Heritage Initiative	To cover the Heritage Centre's annual running costs, helping to ensure that the Centre's collection is preserved for the benefit of anyone interested in Carsphairn and the local area.	£4,420
Carsphairn Community Council	Supporting a free introductory programme of Forest Learning Sessions at Bairn Banters.	£490
Carsphairn Heritage Initiative	Stroanfreggan Community Archaeological Research Project. The overarching archaeological aim of SCARP is to examine a hillfort and its prehistoric context. A large amount of community involvement is welcomed - children are expected to benefit via school involvement. The aim is for residents to gain knowledge and appreciation of the past but also to engender interest in our area from further afield leading to potentially more visits and economic activity. The excavation begins in September 2025.	£26,010
DDCPT	Dalry MUGA resurface & upgrade Project intends to provide modern sports facilities to the people of the Glenkens.	£10,000
Lagwyne Hall Committee	Carsphairn Children Christmas Party. Annual community party.	£450
Carsphairn Community Council	Vehicle Activated Speed Signs – intention is to slow down vehicles traveling within the village and ensure the safety of residents.	£15,000
TOTAL		£81,820

New Cumnock

Organisation	Amount
NC Bowling Club	£5,000
Afton Bookworms	£2,000
New Cumnock Events Group	£5,000
New Cumnock Rocks	£2,500
New Cumnock Fire station	£3,000
New Cumnock Walkways	£2,000
New Cumnock Primary School Parent Council	£3,000
New Cumnock Golf Club	£5,000
New Cumnock Working Men's Club	£5,000
New Cumnock Working Men's Club	£500
Glenafton Athletic Football Club	£5,000
New Cumnock Community Football Club	£2,500
Release	£3,816
Kaizen	£6,000
Lochhill Dairy Co	£5,000
Pathhead Action Group	£5,000
New Cumnock Angling Association	£5,000
New Cumnock Working Men's Club	£5,000
New Cumnock Primary School Parent Council	£1,500
New Cumnock Rocks	£1,500
New Cumnock Coffee Bean	£2,100
Savannahs Snack Van	£4,500
Release	£4,600
TOTAL	£84,516

Appendix 2: Summary of Awards from local Education and Training Funds

Dalmellington

Year 1: 2023/4		
	Details	Amount
Craigmark Youths	Professional Coaching	£600
Dalmellington Primary School	Swimming Lessons	£972
Dalmellington Primary School	P7 residential trip	3,000
DPDT	First Aid & Defib training	£844
The Zone Recovery Group	CRAFT - Training	£550
DPDT REHIS	Elementary Food Hygiene Cert	£860
DPDT Ayr College	SCPLH x 12 candidates	£1,860
Dalmellington Brass Academy	Summer school	£500
Cumnock & Doon Valley Gift Furniture Scheme	Doon Academy Skiff Boat Project	£350
EAC	Licence fees SCPLH	£300
NM Photography	Photography course	£1,195
Local Resident	Floristry course	£320
Local Resident	Lap top and books (Study Support)	£1,000
Local Resident	Apprenticeship tools (Electrician)	£1,000
DPDT	SCPLH Course x 12 candidates	£1,020
		£14,371
Year 2: 2024/5		
	Details	Amount
Local resident	IT equipment Electrical Course	£926
Dalmellington Primary School	Chrome Books IT equipment	£900
Local resident	Apprenticeship College tools	£1,000
Doon Academy	London Arts Trip	£3000
Dalmellington Primary School	Swimming Lessons	£888
Local resident	Film & Drama Club	£1,1287
DPDT	EAC Licence fees for Aug Course	£600
Local resident	Apprenticeship tools	£970
Local resident	Lap Top Nursing Degree	£925
DPDT	Mental Health Awareness Training	£870
Dalmellington Primary School	P7 Residential Trip 2025	£2,500
Local resident	IT equipment & Maths tutoring Aeronautical Engineering course	£1,000
Local resident	Apprenticeship tools, Plasterer	£558
DPDT	1st Aid Training Bellsbank	£860
		£1,6125

Patna

Details	Amount
Two personal alcohol licenses to allow volunteers to operate the bar at a community event.	£420
Camera equipment as part of the Intro to Acting for Stage, Screen & Digital Media course at Ayrshire College.	£1,000
Towards a laptop to study an NQ Early Learning and Childcare Level 6 course at Ayrshire College.	£480
Expenses while studying an HNC Business with Management course.	£1,000
Expenses and equipment relating to a General Construction Operative Skills Part 1 course at Ayrshire College.	£800
Expenses associated with completing a Practical Instructor Course with the Institute of Modern Dog Trainers.	£816
A laptop and study costs relating to an Applied Animal Science course at Scotland's Rural College, Edinburgh.	£609
Expenses associated with completing Physical Education (MA Hons).	£1,500
Course fees and expenses associated with completing Door Supervisor and First Aid training.	£474
Workwear and tools required for plastering apprenticeship thereby increasing employment opportunities.	£700
	£7,799

Carsphairn

Details	Amount
MSc Professional Education and Leadership	£1,000
PAT Testing Competency,	£332
Executive Functioning Coach Training Certification Level 1	£924
Driving Lessons	£945
Environmental Geography	£1,000
PAT Testing City and Guilds qualification (2377-77)	£478
iPET Network Level 3 Diploma in Dog Grooming and Salon Management	£1,000
Agronomy with Environmental Management – Graduate Diploma Experienced Practitioner Route	£950
Business HNC	£1,000
Driving Lessons	£1,000
	£8,629

New Cumnock

Details	Amount
Travel costs to university and placement	1,000.00
Massage course £550, materials and travel £150	700.00
Study aids (laptop & printer) £700, books £100	800.00
Refresher personal license	114.00
Refresher personal license	114.00
BSc Adult nursing - laptop etc £500, travel/uniform £500	1,000.00
Community First aid training £50 hall hire Glenafton AFC £500 First 2 Aid	550.00
BA (Hons) International Business - IT equipment	448.00
Speech & Language Pathology - travel costs plus course books and stationary	1,000.00
Bereavement counselling course	430.38
Medical costs to renew mini bus license - volunteer driver	80.70
CSCS card at college plus travelling costs	230.00
Wedding Planner course	1,000.00
British Red Cross for 3 trainees	622.80
	£8,089.88

Appendix 3: Case Studies

Drumgrante and Keirs Angling Club

This case exemplifies how a relatively modest investment from the South Kyle Fund can produce multi-layered, lasting impact, fully aligned with the Fund's overarching aim of enhancing wellbeing and sustaining strong, resilient communities.

We received £1000 to provide 20 community permits. We ended up giving out over 30 free community funded permits and which we believe is taking some pressure off the NHS. We worked in partnership with the local health centre and in particular their occupational therapist to give permits to individuals who are struggling with mental health for whatever reason.

There have been 2 gentlemen in particular who received these permits who have fished the river multiples times a week and have taught themselves how to fish. They have expressed to us the difference this permit has made to them and their mental health, being able to escape to the peaceful surroundings of the River Doon and socialize with fellow anglers. One has stated he was so close to going back on drugs after being clean for a period of 6 months and this has given him something else to focus his attention on.

Another gentleman recently lost his wife and was not in a financial position to purchase a permit but supported by the local health centre he was given one of our community permits and he has found himself down the river a lot this season as he feels he needs to escape the loneliness of his house.

Permits were also given to the Zone Recovery Group to enable them to have sessions down by the river and again this has been a huge success. And we were able to provide permits to young carers and their support workers, again to give them a place locally they could go to disappear from their everyday life for a bit.

Our committee has worked with many individuals who received these permits and some common comments are how refreshed and free they feel sitting beside the water, to them it's not about how many fish they catch but the peace, tranquility and the social aspect of it.

As a club we have seen the difference in many individuals who were fortunate to receive permits.

The provision of community angling permits directly improves quality of life by enhancing mental wellbeing, reducing social isolation, and supporting resilience and recovery. By offering nature-based, community-focused interventions, the Fund addresses current wellbeing needs while also easing potential future pressure on health services—demonstrating its commitment to sustainable, preventative solutions.

The project embodies the **Fund's principles**:

- **Purposeful:** The project is clearly outcome-focused rather than activity-led. While the grant funded permits, the real value lies in the wellbeing outcomes achieved: improved mental health, reduced isolation, and increased social connection. These outcomes create tangible positive change for individuals who may otherwise face significant barriers to participation.
- **Context-specific:** The project supports continued use of a local natural asset - the River Doon - by an established community organisation with strong local knowledge. By using angling as an accessible, culturally relevant activity in a rural context, the project reflects a deep understanding of what works for this community.
- **Collaborative:** The partnership with the local health centre and occupational therapist is a notable strength. This collaboration bridges community activity and health services, demonstrating how South Kyle funding can act as a catalyst for joined-up, place-based approaches to wellbeing.
- **Community-led and accountable:** The Angling Club committee identified the need, allocated permits, and provided ongoing support to participants, reinforcing the Fund's commitment to community-led decision-making and local delivery.

The project contributes to the **Fund's outcomes** in the following ways:

- **Improved and enhanced natural environment:** Participants regularly engage with the local river, reinforcing its value as a shared community asset and promoting physical and mental wellbeing through outdoor activity.
- **Improved infrastructure and social connectivity:** The project strengthens social infrastructure by creating supportive spaces for connection, peer interaction, and shared experience along the river.
- **Improved opportunities for children and young people:** By including young carers and their support workers, the project ensures that young people with caring responsibilities—who might otherwise miss out on leisure opportunities—can access restorative, outdoor experiences.

And it also contributes to the **Fund's objectives**:

- **Promoting participation and equality:** The project removes financial and social barriers for individuals experiencing bereavement, mental ill-health, addiction recovery, and caring responsibilities. The decision to issue more permits than initially planned reflects a flexible, equity-focused approach.
- **Becoming more climate smart:** Nature-based, low-impact recreation supports wellbeing while avoiding resource-intensive infrastructure, encouraging sustainable use of local green and blue spaces.
- **Building community wealth:** Although the grant is modest, it strengthens local volunteer-led activity, retains engagement locally, and supports preventative health outcomes, reducing wider public costs.
- **Building community infrastructure:** Delivering this project enhances the Angling Club's capacity, profile, and community relevance. Close collaboration with health partners embeds the Club more deeply within the local support ecosystem, strengthening long-term sustainability.

Conclusion

This case study demonstrates how South Kyle funding enables small-scale, community-led initiatives to achieve disproportionate impact. It highlights the Fund's effectiveness in supporting preventative, inclusive, and locally grounded solutions that improve wellbeing, foster social connection, and make meaningful use of local assets.

Patna Extravaganza Group

The Patna Extravaganza case study illustrates how South Kyle funding is supporting community reconnection, pride and participation in a context where grassroots activity had previously declined. By enabling the revival of a much-loved local tradition, the Fund is contributing to social wellbeing, community identity and longer-term capacity building.

In 2024 and 2025 the Group received funding to contribute to its efforts to resurrect a historic annual fun day for the local community. The day encompasses a dog show, food stalls, a funfair, traditional games such as tug of war, a hill race, inflatables and various stalls and entertainment.

Galas and fairs are a valued Scottish summertime tradition that promote community spirit and nurtures social connections. They provide children and families with opportunities for fun that may otherwise be financially inaccessible in the middle of the school summer holidays. In both years the events had a footfall of circa 2000 which included visitors from the surrounding Doon Valley area.

Successfully run over the last two years the event is helping to rebuild the village's community spirit, helping to reinstall a sense of pride and encourage Patna residents to get involved in community activity. In 2025 the number of volunteers helping organise the event had increased to 26 – almost double that of the previous year.

The resurrection of the Patna Extravaganza directly enhances quality of life for residents by creating shared experiences that strengthen social bonds and foster a renewed sense of belonging. In a community where confidence in collective action had diminished, the event provides an accessible and visible demonstration of what community-led activity can achieve, contributing to both immediate wellbeing and the longer-term sustainability of community life in Patna.

The project embodies the **Fund's principles**:

- **Purposeful:** While the event itself is time-limited, its outcomes are enduring. The Extravaganza has acted as a catalyst for rebuilding community spirit, increasing volunteering and re-establishing a culture of participation. These outcomes align closely with the Fund's focus on creating opportunity, possibility and positive change rather than simply funding one-off activities.

- **Context-specific:** The project responds directly to Patna's local context, where there are fewer established community groups and a recognised need to re-engage residents. Reviving a familiar and culturally significant event provided a low-barrier, inclusive entry point for participation that resonated strongly with local people.
- **Collaborative:** The scale and success of the event reflect collaboration between volunteers, local groups and external contributors, as well as engagement with visitors from across the Doon Valley. This outward-facing dimension strengthens Patna's connections beyond the village itself.
- **Community-led and accountable:** The event is organised and delivered by local volunteers, with increasing numbers stepping forward to help plan and run the Extravaganza. This growth in volunteer involvement demonstrates trust, accountability and a strengthening sense of local ownership.

The project contributes to the **Fund's outcomes** in the following ways:

- **Increased leisure and tourism opportunities:** With a footfall of around 2,000 people each year, including visitors from neighbouring communities, the Extravaganza contributes to local leisure provision and positions Patna as a welcoming and vibrant place to visit.
- **Improved infrastructure and social connectivity:** Although temporary in nature, the event strengthens social infrastructure by bringing people together, fostering new relationships and rebuilding networks that support ongoing community activity.
- **An improving economy with inclusive opportunities:** The event supports local traders and stallholders and is designed to be affordable and accessible, ensuring that economic and social benefits are widely shared rather than concentrated among those with greater means.
- **Improved opportunities for children and young people:** The Extravaganza provides accessible, low-cost activities for children and families during the school holidays, addressing both financial and social barriers to participation.

And it also contributes to the **Fund's objectives:**

- **Promoting participation and equality:** This objective is central to the case study. Free or low-cost activities ensure that families who may be financially constrained can fully participate. The increase in volunteer numbers indicates growing confidence and inclusion, with more residents feeling able to contribute their time and skills.

- **Becoming more climate smart:** While not an explicit focus, the use of local venues, volunteers and suppliers reduces travel and resource intensity, and the emphasis on shared, community-based celebration aligns with more sustainable models of leisure.
- **Building community wealth:** By drawing visitors into the village and supporting local stalls and suppliers, the event helps circulate money locally. More importantly, it builds social capital—an essential component of community wealth—by strengthening trust, pride and collective efficacy.
- **Building community infrastructure:** The Extravaganza has played a foundational role in rebuilding Patna's volunteer base. The growth in organising capacity and experience provides a platform for future community-led projects, strengthening the village's ability to plan, deliver and sustain activity over time.

Conclusion

The Patna Extravaganza Group case study demonstrates how South Kyle funding can be used strategically to rebuild confidence and participation in communities with limited existing infrastructure. By investing in a culturally resonant, inclusive and highly visible event, the Fund has helped re-establish community pride, grow volunteer capacity and create momentum for wider community development, strongly aligning with the Fund's purpose, principles, outcomes and objectives.

Bairn Banter Forest School

The Bairn Banter Forest School case study highlights the significant impact that a modest South Kyle grant can achieve when it is well aligned with local need, particularly in small rural communities. It demonstrates how targeted investment can strengthen social connection, support early years development and promote long-term community sustainability.

A modest award of £490 is providing structured opportunities for local families to develop a deeper connection to nature together whilst providing children with the necessary opportunities to explore, discover and develop their own connections in this environment throughout a variety of enjoyable and immersive play experiences and opportunities. With Carsphairn School being closed, the social sessions Bairn Banter Forest School provides have been a rare opportunity for the young children of Carsphairn to meet socially. The Forest learning sessions have allowed this to take place outdoors where children can learn to enjoy, understand and conduct tasks in the environment in which they live with a greater understanding and confidence.

By creating structured, nature-based learning and play opportunities for young children and their families, the project directly enhances wellbeing and quality of life in Carsphairn. In the context of the local school closure, these sessions provide a vital alternative space for social interaction, helping to mitigate isolation among young families and contributing to the long-term social sustainability of the community.

The project embodies the **Fund's principles**:

- **Purposeful:** Although modest in financial value, the grant is clearly outcome-driven. It supports early years development, family wellbeing and social connection, delivering benefits that extend beyond the sessions themselves by building confidence, curiosity and relationships.
- **Context-specific:** The project responds directly to Carsphairn's rural context and the loss of a key community institution. Outdoor, nature-based learning is particularly well suited to the local environment and provides an accessible, low-cost way to support children's development in a community with limited formal provision.
- **Collaborative:** The sessions bring together children, parents and carers, strengthening informal support networks among families. This collaborative, relational approach is especially important in small communities where opportunities for peer connection are limited.
- **Community-led and accountable:** The initiative is locally delivered and rooted in community need, reinforcing trust in small community organisations to identify gaps and respond effectively with appropriate solutions.

The project contributes to the **Fund's outcomes** in the following ways:

- **Improved opportunities for children and young people living here:** This is the most direct and significant outcome delivered. The Forest School provides children with regular, meaningful opportunities for learning, play and social interaction at a critical stage of development.
- **Improved and enhanced natural environment:** By encouraging children and families to engage positively with the natural environment, the project fosters appreciation, understanding and stewardship of local outdoor spaces.
- **Improved infrastructure and social connectivity:** While not physical infrastructure, the sessions strengthen social infrastructure by creating consistent, shared spaces for connection among families, helping to sustain community cohesion.

And it also contributes to the **Fund's objectives**:

- **Promoting participation and equality:** The project offers accessible, low-cost opportunities for families who may otherwise face barriers to early years provision or social interaction, particularly in a rural setting with limited services.
- **Becoming more climate smart:** Nature-based learning promotes environmental awareness from an early age and models low-impact, outdoor activity. The emphasis on understanding and working within the local environment aligns strongly with climate and biodiversity awareness.
- **Building community wealth:** While not generating direct economic outputs, the project builds social capital—supporting families to remain connected and engaged in the community, which is vital to the long-term viability of small rural places like Carsphairn.
- **Building community infrastructure:** The Forest School strengthens local capacity by sustaining a community-led service that fills a critical gap following the school closure. It also supports the development of local skills and experience in delivering early years and outdoor learning activity.

Conclusion

The Bairn Banter Forest School case study exemplifies how the South Kyle Fund's flexible, community-led approach enables small, well-targeted investments to deliver meaningful and lasting impact. By supporting early years development, strengthening family connections and fostering a positive relationship with the natural environment, the project strongly aligns with the Fund's purpose, principles, outcomes and objectives, and underscores the value of proportionate funding in rural community contexts.

Appendix 4: Fund design & alignment with the Fund's purpose, principles, outcome and objectives

Fund Component	How it Supports the Fund's Purpose	Alignment with Fund Principles	Contribution to Fund Outcomes	Contribution to Fund Objectives
Education & Training Funds	Supports lifelong learning, employability, and personal development	Purposeful: builds individual & group capacity Context-specific: tailored to local roles per community	Improved economy: increases skills, employability, and opportunities for children & young people Improved infrastructure: supports community capacity building	Promotes participation & equality: access to learning for different groups; Builds community wealth: enhances local skills and employability
Paid Professional Support	Enables effective delivery of projects and community-led initiatives	Purposeful: strengthens organisational capacity Context-specific: roles tailored to each community; Collaborative: supports shared knowledge and learning	Improved built environment and infrastructure: supports project delivery, local services and facilities	Builds community infrastructure: strengthens staff and organisational resilience; Promotes participation & equality: ensures all community voices can be supported and included
Flagship Projects	Enables major capital and innovative projects with community impact	Purposeful: supports diverse local projects Context-specific: responsive to community priorities; Collaborative: enables joint decision-making	Improved built environment, leisure and tourism opportunities, local enterprise, and community capacity	Builds community wealth: creates enterprise and employment opportunities; Promotes participation & equality: provides access and benefits to all community members

Fund Component	How it Supports the Fund's Purpose	Alignment with Fund Principles	Contribution to Fund Outcomes	Contribution to Fund Objectives
Local Community Funds	Provides flexible funding for diverse local initiatives	Purposeful: funds wide-ranging local projects Context-specific: responsive to community needs; Collaborative: decisions made locally with community input	Improved built environment, increased leisure opportunities, support for children and youth, strengthened local groups	Promotes participation & equality: accessible funding for all groups; Builds community infrastructure: strengthens local organisations and community capacity

