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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES  
AREA COMMITTEE**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UNIT**

**09 MARCH 2022**

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**SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2022/23**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to decide on the allocation of the council's Supporting Communities Fund (SCF) for Oban, Lorn and the Isles
- 1.2 The total Supporting Communities Fund budget made available by the Council for allocation in Oban, Lorn and the Isles for distribution in 2022/

**SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2022/23**

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The report details recommendations for the award of the Council's Supporting Communities Fund (SCF). The total Supporting Communities Fund budget made available by the Council for allocation in Oban, Lorn and the Isles for 2022/23 is £22,500. In addition, there are unspent funds returned from the financial periods 2018/19 of £650 and 2020/21 of £400. A further sum of £480.29 remaining from the Covid-19 Micro Grants Fund has been allocated to the OLI Supporting Communities Fund for distribution in 2022/2023. The total available for allocation is £24,030.29.
- 2.2 Organisations applying to the fund were able to request up to £2,500 and the period of spend is 18 months.
- 2.3 The SCF is a popular fund and has attracted 20 applications from the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area, requesting a total of £44,236.90 in funding.
- 2.4 Applications are scored against criteria set out in the guidance (<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants> )
- 2.5 Where an organisation has been recommended for an award and received funds in 2021/22, the award recommended within this report is either for a different project or where the original award has been spent and an End of Project Monitoring Form received.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members are asked to agree that £1,050 of returned funding from previous Supporting Community Fund awards can be used in this round of funding. Information on the two returned amounts are detailed at 4.6 of the report.
- 3.2 Members are asked to agree that 11 applications are awarded funding from the Supporting Communities Fund budget totalling £24,030.29. These are listed in order of assessment score in Appendix 1 and details of the projects are noted in the same order in Appendix 2.

#### **4.0 DETAIL**

- 4.1 The SCF is marked through a robust process which involves financial checks and contact with the applicant to verify any information where required. All applicants need to provide satisfactory essential information on governance and finance to be eligible for further assessment. The scoring is based on a set of criteria outlined in the guidance and made available on the council's website: ([Guidance for applicants](#)). Applications to the fund in January 2022 must meet one or more of the criteria:

Fairer Communities – tackling poverty by sharing opportunities.

Resilient Communities – rebuilding and repairing from a pandemic; noting that this is only in the case of the group being unable to access other specific funds for this, e.g. Scottish Government funding.

Greener, cleaner communities – climate change mitigation

Creative Communities – creativity for health and wellbeing

- 4.6 Two amounts have been returned from previous rounds of funding and have not been included in a monitoring report to Area Committee: £650 returned by Oban Community Sensory Garden from 2018/19. The group were unable to complete their project initially due to illness and then the garden lease ending.

£400 awarded to Connel Community Council in 2020/21. The group did not take the award due to the Covid-19 restrictions preventing the World War 2 memorial event from taking place.

- 4.7 Remaining funds from the Covid-19 Micro Grants Fund of £480.29 have been allocated to the OLI Supporting Communities Fund for distribution in 2022/2023. These funds are ring fenced to the highest scoring project under the 'Resilient Communities' criteria.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Supporting Communities Fund application and assessment process has been completed as set out within its guidance (<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants> ).

- 5.2 The recommendations made fully allocate the funding available for financial year 2022/2023.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy: N/A

- 6.2 Financial: Recommendations in the report are limited to the budget allocation available in 2022/23 for the Supporting Communities Fund in Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

- 6.3 Legal: Applications are initially assessed to ensure that groups are constituted with managed accounts.

- 6.4 HR: N/A

- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: The Supporting Communities Fund supports community groups in tackling poverty, reducing inequality and building a fairer and more inclusive Scotland.

6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics: Applicants are given the options of receiving the application in large print and other languages.

6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty: None known



**Appendix 1 –**

## Appendix 2 – Project Summary Sheets

Applications Received (in order of scoring by Community Development Officer)

For submission to Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee for final decision (maximum value £2,500).

\* Project recommended to receive the remaining £480.29 from the Covid-19 Micro Grants Fund

Ref:	1
Applicant: The Ardchattan Centre *	
Recommended Award: £2,492.00	Assessment Score (out of 10): 8.2
Project Summary:	

Costs are requested towards the delivery of two intergenerational family projects over 32 creative sessions for Bonawe and Barcaldine. This will create opportunities for the isolated communities to join after the effects of lockdown and enhance wellbeing. The funding will support transport and venue hire for 16 family workshops and 16 Heritage Group meetings as well as Coordinator time. The Heritage Group will focus on the area's ‘

music activities requiring additional support. The group provides overall support to families, linking them with services and professionals.





Ref:	10
Applicant: Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain (Oban Mod Academy)	
Recommended Award: £1,764.20	Assessment Score (out of 10): 6.2
Project Summary:	
Funding is requested for tutors for Gaelic conversation classes in Oban. The project is a pilot project for Gaelic conversation classes in Oban. The project is a pilot project for Gaelic conversation classes in Oban.	

Provision of 'Come and Try' sporting sessions that compliment and extend the Adventure Library project. The project will provide 60 instructor hours for 'Come & Try' activity sessions with access to paddleboards and equipment. Funding is requested towards equipment maintenance and a gazebo, refreshments and transport hire including fuel costs. One-to-one support is offered for special needs participants. Once equipped with the necessary skills, participants can continue themselves, making the most of the local outdoor area. Free taster sessions are run in partnership with local clubs, breaking down financial

potential to roll out this to other communities via 3 volunteers on a similar basis of 3 classes per week in a 6- week block.

**Recommendation:** No Award

**Conditions:** None

**Ref:** 17

**Applicant:** Mull Museum

**Recommended Award:** £0.00 **Assessment Score (out of 10):** 5.8

**Project Summary:**

Costs are requested towards the post -excavation analysis of artefacts and biomass at a Norse farmstead site at Lephin on the Isle of Mull. This third and final phase of the project allows professional excavation of the site, identifying artefacts using scientific analysis and expertise of archaeologists to tell the story. A special publication will communicate local and national historical significance of the site and finds. The project seeks to involve the local community and primary school children in the exploration of their historic environment and encourage tourism to Mull.

**Recommendation:** No Award

**Conditions:**

Ref:	20
Applicant: Isle of Kerrera Development Trust	
Recommended Award: £0.00	Assessment Score (out of 10): 5.3
Project Summary:	