



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

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Comhairle Siorrachd
Chlach Mhanann

Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa, FK10 1EB (Tel.01259-450000)

Special Meeting of Clackmannanshire Council

Monday 19 December 2022 at 9.30 am

Venue: Council Chamber, Kilncraigs, Alloa, FK10 1EB



Clackmannanshire Council

There are 32 Unitary Councils in Scotland. Clackmannanshire Council is the smallest mainland Council. Eighteen Councillors are elected to represent the views of the residents and businesses in Clackmannanshire. The Council has approved Standing Orders that detail the way the Council operates. Decisions are approved at meetings of the full Council and at Committee Meetings.

The Council is responsible for approving a staffing structure for the proper discharge of its functions, approving new policies or changes in policy, community planning and corporate governance including standards of conduct.

The Council has further responsibility for the approval of budgets for capital and revenue expenditure, it also has power to make, alter or cancel any scheme made under statute and to make, alter or cancel any orders, rules, regulations or bye-laws and to make compulsory purchase orders. The Council also determines the level of Council Tax and approves recommendations relating to strategic economic development.

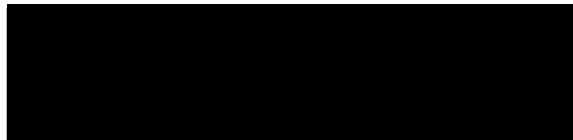
Members of the public are welcome to attend our Council and Committee meetings to see how decisions are made.

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9 December 2022

A SPECIAL MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL will be held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILNCRAIGS, ALLOA, FK10 1EB, on MONDAY 19 DECEMBER 2022 at 9.30 AM



**Stuart Crickmar
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR**

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1. Apologies	--
2. Declaration of Interests Elected Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any financial or non-financial interest which they may have in any item on this agenda in accordance with the Councillors' Code of Conduct. A Declaration of Interest form should be completed and passed to the Committee Services Officer.	--
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Clackmannanshire Council – Councillors and Wards

Councillors

Wards

Councillor	Phil Fairlie	1	Clackmannanshire West	SNP
Councillor	Darren Lee	1	Clackmannanshire West	CONSERVATIVE
Councillor	Graham Lindsay	1	Clackmannanshire West	SNP
Councillor	Mark McLuckie	1	Clackmannanshire West	LABOUR
Councillor	Donald Balsillie	2	Clackmannanshire North	SNP
Councillor	Martha Benny	2	Clackmannanshire North	CONSERVATIVE
Councillor	William Keogh	2	Clackmannanshire North	LABOUR
Councillor	Fiona Law	2	Clackmannanshire North	SNP
Councillor	Wendy Hamilton	3	Clackmannanshire Central	SNP
Councillor	Janine Rennie	3	Clackmannanshire Central	LABOUR
Councillor	Jane McTaggart	3	Clackmannanshire Central	SNP
Councillor	Kenneth Earle	4	Clackmannanshire South	LABOUR
Councillor	Ellen Forson	4	Clackmannanshire South	SNP
Councillor	Craig Holden	4	Clackmannanshire South	IND
Councillor	Bryan Quinn	4	Clackmannanshire South	SCOTTISH GREEN
Councillor	Scott Harrison	5	Clackmannanshire East	SNP
Councillor	Kathleen Martin	5	Clackmannanshire East	LABOUR
Councillor	Denis Coyne	5	Clackmannanshire East	CONSERVATIVE

Report to: Special Meeting of Clackmannanshire Council

Date of Meeting: 19 December 2022

Subject: Place Based Investment Programme Update

Report by: Strategic Director (Place)

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members on activity around the Council's Place Based Investment Programme. This paper describes the process that Council Officers have undertaken to create a plan for the appropriate use of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Funds ("PBIF") for the year 2022/23 and a strategy for future place based funds.
- 1.2. The paper is intended to update Council and also to provide a platform for discussion that will give Council Officers direction for future fundraising activity.

2.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that Council notes:

- 2.1. The work that has been undertaken to give a robust view on the place based capital projects that are achievable within the timescales for the 2022/23 fund. (Appendix 1);
- 2.2. The strategy put forward to focus Council activity when planning for anticipated capital funding opportunities in forthcoming years. (Appendix 2) and;
- 2.3. The work that will be undertaken this year through the Investment Working Group to coordinate and prepare for significant investment for transformational capital projects with the intention of bringing an investment strategy to a future Council meeting.

It is recommended that Council approves:

- 2.4. the allocation of the Place Based Investment Fund 2022/23 for projects set out in in Appendix 1.

- 2.5. The carrying forward of projects that are not able to be committed within the timeframe for the 2022/23 allocation of PBIF, and that any resulting underspend for this year (2022/23) is used for the Council's playpark replacement programme.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. The Scottish Government operates three funds as part of their Place Based Investment Programme.
- 3.2. Two of these funds, the Regeneration Capital Grants Fund and the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund, are allocated through a challenge fund mechanism which the Council has applied to and has received funding from in recent years. The third fund is the Place Based Investment Fund, which is a set sum allocated to Local Authorities each year.
- 3.3. The two challenge funds both tend to open and close in summer and require significant planning in advance to successfully apply.
- 3.4. The Scottish Government has committed to providing Local Authorities with funds for the purposes of improving areas with a place based methodology from 2021/22 – 2025/26.
- 3.5. The main objectives of the Place Based Investment Programme are to:
- Ensure that investments in a place are relevant to that place and for the benefit of all the people in that place.
 - Support the delivery of 20 minute neighbourhoods.
 - Provide a consistent framework for looking at investments in a place, and explore with those communities how greater collaboration can improve the circumstances of peoples' lives.
 - Support the ambitions of existing place based plans and strategies, such as the Infrastructure Investment Plan and the emerging National Planning Framework⁴, making sure that money spent in places has the greatest collective benefit possible.
 - Accelerate ambitions for Community Wealth Building, community-led Regeneration, and the cities and town centres agendas.
 - Provide a coherent local framework across urban and rural areas for realising ambitions for inclusion, climate change, and wellbeing.
- 3.6. Clackmannanshire Council was allocated £512,000 in 2021/22, which was put towards cost overruns in the Primrose Street dementia friendly housing development.
- 3.7. Clackmannanshire Council has been allocated £444,000 for the year 2022/23, and the Scottish Government has advised that the Council will receive £310,000 per year for the following three years up 2025/26.

- 3.8. The primary parameters that have directed Council Officers when considering what projects should be presented are:
- Place Based Investment Funds can only be used on capital costs.
 - The various projects where the funds are to be allocated cannot already be on the capital programme and funds cannot substitute for existing spend.
- 3.9. Council Officers have undertaken significant consultation internally over the course of two Investment Working Group meetings and frequent meetings with Senior Managers and Project Managers. The list of projects in Appendix 1 for approval for this year of PBIF represents those projects that best meet the funding criteria and that are possible within the timescales, i.e. that they are committed by 31 March 2023 and delivered within the following year. They include projects that would be Council led but also projects by third sector and community organisations. The grant amounts listed in Appendix 1 are the maximum amounts that will be provided for each project.
- 3.10. Where it is proposed that PBIF projects are on property owned by the Council subject to any legal agreements (ie lease, management agreement and/or licences to occupy where maintenance sits with a third party) maintaining, repairing and renewing will continue to be the responsibility of the Council. The relevant budget holders are aware of this and have confirmed that these commitments are minimal and can be covered by existing budgets.
- 3.11. Where it is proposed that PBIF projects are owned by a third party (i.e private owner, community group and/or other third sector organisations), these owners will be responsible for maintaining, repairing and renewing of new or enhanced facilities provided by the PBIF.
- 3.12. Where funding is being provided to a third party, an offer of grant will be made and will be subject to the Council's usual terms and conditions.
- 3.13. Each project has a 10% contingency applied to mitigate against high rates of inflation that are currently being experienced.
- 3.14. In the event that projects detailed in Appendix 1 are not able to be committed within the timeframe for the allocation of PBIF 2022/2023, it is proposed that those projects are taken from PBIF allocation for 2023/2024, the result of which will be an underspend of the PBIF 2022/2023 funding. As such it is proposed that any underspend for PBIF 2022/2023 funding is put towards the playpark replacement programme.
- 3.15. It is confirmed that the projects detailed in Appendix 1 deliver on the Be the Future themes of sustainable, inclusive growth and improving health and wellbeing.
- 3.16. The combination of the specific projects in Appendix 1 and the wider strategy set out in Appendix 2 provide a basis for delivering on place based investment in Clackmannanshire for the next four years. This will be set out in an Investment Strategy, which will act as a vehicle for attracting investment for projects in the future. A report seeking approval for spend of future PBIF allocations will be brought back to Council.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1. None

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. The funds to be used for these projects are 100% externally funded from the Scottish Government.

5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report.

This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes x

5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes x

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No X

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all X

Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish X

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No X

9.0 Legality

- 9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

- 10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1: List of projects to be funded by the Place Based Investment Fund in year 22/23 and analysis table

Appendix 2: Strategy for focus of future Place Based Investments

11.0 Background Papers

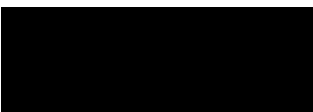
- 11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Pete Leonard	Strategic Director (Place)	Extension : 2533

Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Pete Leonard	Strategic Director (Place)	

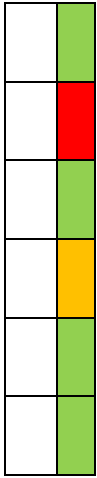
Appendix 1: List of projects to be funded by the Place Based Investment Fund in year 22/23 and analysis table

<https://ourplace.wsdev.org/about-place/themes/place-based-investment/place-based-investment-infrastructure>

AIMS OF PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

1. Ensure that investments in a place are relevant to that place and for the benefit of all the people in that place.
2. Support the delivery of 20 minute neighbourhoods.
3. Provide a consistent framework for looking at investments in a place, and explore with those communities how greater collaboration can improve the circumstances of peoples' lives.
4. Support the ambitions of existing place based plans and strategies, such as the Infrastructure Investment Plan and the emerging National Planning Framework4, making sure that money spent in places has the greatest collective benefit possible.
5. Accelerate ambitions for Community Wealth Building, community-led Regeneration, and the cities and town centres agendas.
6. Provide a coherent local framework across urban and rural areas for realising ambitions for inclusion, climate change, and wellbeing.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT SUMMARY	INDICATIVE COSTS	RAG ASSESSMENT AGAINST PBIP AIMS	COMMENTS ON ALIGNMENT WITH PBIP AIMS	FUTURE MAINTENANCE
Former Bowling Green, Tullibody Civic Centre	Replace grass with all-weather artificial grass surface on former bowling green at Tullibody Civic Centre.	Cost £155,000 Plus Contingency £15,500		<p>Support Tullibody Community Development Trust to make better use of outdoor playing surface, for such activities as walking football. Use currently limited as it is a grass surface and often is unplayable, and subject to wear and tear when in use.</p> <p>An all weather surface would allow the community to make better use of the area for a variety of outdoor sports and activities all year round, and making,</p>	Tullibody Community Development Trust are the current owners of the property and as such will have all obligations in relation to maintaining, repairing and renewing the proposed works.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT SUMMARY	INDICATIVE COSTS	RAG ASSESSMENT AGAINST PBIP AIMS	COMMENTS ON ALIGNMENT WITH PBIP AIMS	FUTURE MAINTENANCE
				<p>use safer and more accessible.</p> <p>Investment in former Council asset transferred to community; demonstrating ongoing support of CWB.</p> <p>Would need to be sure that the community group could deliver the project within the required timescales.</p>	
<p>Hawkhill Community Centre</p>	<p>Replace grass with all-weather artificial grass surface and purchase of mobile floodlights, to allow for greater range of outdoor activities, including in evenings.</p>	<p>Cost £135,000 Plus Contingency £13,500</p>		<p>Support Allow Hawkhill Community Association to make better use of outdoor playing surface. Use currently limited as it is a grass surface and often is unsafe or unplayable, and subject to wear and tear when in use.</p> <p>An all weather surface would allow the community to make better use of the area for a variety of outdoor sports and activities all year round, and making use safer and more accessible.</p>	<p>The owner of the property is Hawkhill Community Association and as such will have all obligations in relation to maintaining, repairing of the proposed works.</p>

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT SUMMARY	INDICATIVE COSTS	RAG ASSESSMENT AGAINST PBIP AIMS	COMMENTS ON ALIGNMENT WITH PBIP AIMS	FUTURE MAINTENANCE												
				<p>Investment in community run sports/leisure facility; demonstrating ongoing support of CWB.</p> <p>Would need to be sure that the community group could deliver the project within the required timescales.</p>													
New cycle facilities in Clackmannan	Build new pump track for BMX bikes in George V Park in Clackmannan. Project to cost £116,200, with with a grant of ££50,000 from Sports Scotland.	<p>Cost £118,000</p> <p>Plus Contingency £11,900</p> <p>(£50,000 funding contribution from Sportscotland secured)</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td>1.</td><td>Green</td></tr> <tr><td>2.</td><td>Green</td></tr> <tr><td>3.</td><td>Green</td></tr> <tr><td>4.</td><td>Green</td></tr> <tr><td>5.</td><td>Yellow</td></tr> <tr><td>6.</td><td>Yellow</td></tr> </table>	1.	Green	2.	Green	3.	Green	4.	Green	5.	Yellow	6.	Yellow	<p>The Community partner, Clackmannan Development Trust has, in consultation with the community, been very keen to add to the cycling infrastructure in the area with more challenging features.</p> <p>These facilities would contribute towards health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Potential match funding available would maximise the investment.</p>	Owned by the Council and as such all obligations on maintaining, repairing and renewing works will be with the Council. This will be met from within existing budgets.
1.	Green																
2.	Green																
3.	Green																
4.	Green																
5.	Yellow																
6.	Yellow																
Wimpy Park	New play facilities to be installed in Wimpy Park as part of the overall development of the old walled	<p>Cost £41,000</p> <p>Plus Contingency £4,100</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td>1.</td><td>Green</td></tr> <tr><td>2.</td><td>Green</td></tr> <tr><td>3.</td><td>Green</td></tr> </table>	1.	Green	2.	Green	3.	Green	<p>Strong community benefit and fit with 20 minute neighbourhood and inclusion aims.</p>	The area within the walled garden (excludes the wall) is leased to Wimpey Park Community Group.						
1.	Green																
2.	Green																
3.	Green																

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT SUMMARY	INDICATIVE COSTS	RAG ASSESSMENT AGAINST PBIP AIMS	COMMENTS ON ALIGNMENT WITH PBIP AIMS	FUTURE MAINTENANCE						
	garden.		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	4.		5.		6.			[and all obligations for maintaining, repairing and renewing the play facilities will be with the Community Group
4.											
5.											
6.											

Project	PBIF Allocation	Match Funding Secured	Total
Wimpy Park	£45,100	£0	£45,100
Tullibody Civic Centre	£170,500	£0	£170,500
Hawkhill Community Centre	£148,500	£0	£148,500
Cycle Facilities	£79,900	£50,000	£129,900
Total	£444,000	£50,000	£494,000

Appendix 2: Strategy for focus of future Place Based Investments

As noted in 3.3, this funding allocation will be received by Clackmannanshire Council until 2025/26 at least. Further to this, we also expect to be in a position to draw down from other Place Based Investment Programme funds such as the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund and the Regeneration Capital Grants Fund as well as a future round of the Levelling Up Fund and the substantial City Region Deal Funds including the Culture, Heritage and Tourism Programme. The table below is an attempt to set out the priorities for investment in Place Based capital projects so that we are better able to prepare for funding opportunities as they arise.

This table is a starting point and the Investment Working Group will build on it to produce a full Investment Strategy this coming year.

Theme	Possible Projects	Potential Funders
Town Centre and Transformation Zone Development	Glentana Mill development Greenfield House Alloa Town Centre Site Assembly Alloa streetscape improvements Tillicoultry town centre improvements Bedford Place Redevelopment The Shore, Alloa	Place Based Investment Fund – up to £310,000 pa City Region Deal (Scottish International Environment Centre) – £17m City Region Deal (Intergenerational Living Innovation Hub) – £7.25m Levelling Up Fund constituency bid - up to £20m
Green Spaces	Alloa green spaces masterplanning and network development Cochrane Park Toilets and Café	Place Based Investment Fund – up to £310,000 pa Regeneration Capital Grants Fund – up to £1m

<p>Recreation/tourism</p>	<p>Wellbeing Hub</p> <p>Fir Park redevelopment</p> <p>Gartmorn Dam development including Carsebridge estate</p> <p>Active Travel Routes</p> <p>Sauchie Tower and surrounding area</p> <p>Menstrie Mountain Bike Skills Area</p>	<p>Sports Scotland – currently up to £50,000 awards</p> <p>Place Based Investment Fund – c. £310,000 pa</p> <p>Regeneration Capital Grants Fund – up to £1m</p> <p>City Region Deal (Culture, Tourism, Heritage) – c. £5m</p> <p>Levelling Up Fund constituency bid - up to £20m</p> <p>Levelling Up Fund transport bid – up to £20m</p>
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Report to: Special Council

Date of Meeting: 19 December 2022

Subject: Cost of Living in Clackmannanshire

Report by: Strategic Director Partnership and Performance

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report updates Council on the current cost of living pressures affecting families in Clackmannanshire. It sets out the actions already taken to provide additional assistance this year and proposes further initiatives to help mitigate unfolding impacts of the cost of living crisis. This report recognises that a significant amount of work is already in place aimed at supporting families and mitigating the worst impacts at a local and national level, and, along with our partners in Clackmannanshire, seeks to build on work to date whilst identifying gaps and seek solutions to address these.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. Council is asked to:
- 2.2. Note the actions already taken by the Council and partners, to support families impacted by the cost of living crisis, set out at paragraph 3.7;
- 2.3. Note the further work being developed by the Clackmannanshire Alliance to support communities impacted by the cost of living crisis, set out at paragraph 3.9;
- 2.4. Approve an allocation of £7000 from within the existing Partnership & Performance budget to support local organisations to provide practical cost of living support for families in immediate need, see paragraph 3.11 for details;
- 2.5. Note that further cost of living update reports will be brought to Council in early 2023, and regularly thereafter.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1 The Scottish Government published a report in November 2022 which analysed the impacts of the cost of living crisis on Scotland. This report reflected the latest UK Consumer Price Index (CPI) showing inflation running at 10.1%, the highest level since 1982, interest rates at the highest level since 2008 along with predictions from the Bank of England that the UK will shortly

enter recession and will likely remain in recession for much of 2023. In addition, the Scottish Economy is forecast to contract in 2023. The result of these factors is a cost of living crisis, anticipated to have detrimental effects on businesses, communities, households and public sector budgets, and which follows a challenging economic landscape as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, Brexit and a period of prolonged austerity.

- 3.2 The negative impacts of rising costs are already being experienced by families and will likely worsen over the coming months with the anticipated recession. Evidence published by Scottish Government in November 2022 shows that the impact of cost of living pressures will affect some groups and households disproportionately. The evidence suggests that low income households are most at risk and those on low incomes with particular characteristics are more likely to fare the worst. Groups identified as being particularly at risk include minority ethnic families; asylum and refugee families; gypsy travellers, women and lone parent families (and other gendered factors) and disabled people.
- 3.3 Socio economic factors are also evidenced as particular risk groups. These include households in receipt of income related benefits; households narrowly ineligible for means tested benefits due to earnings being just above the threshold; households who rent their homes and rural and island households.
- 3.4 Evidence has also been published by Scottish Government on the social and wellbeing impacts of cost of living. This includes health and mental health impacts from living in households which are cold and damp, including acute conditions and growth and cognitive issues in children; specific impacts on vulnerable people and those with chronic health conditions or disabilities; health and mental health impacts on people facing difficult financial pressures leading to increased levels of stress and anxiety and increased levels of stress resulting from insecure employment and insecure tenures, all of which has an impact on any children living in families impacted by these factors.
- 3.5 In the 2022/23 Programme for Government (PfG), the Scottish Government announced a package of support to aid families and businesses. Almost £3 billion has been allocated to mitigate the impact on households, including a range of support for energy bills, childcare, health and travel, as well as social security payments. This includes increasing the Scottish Child Bridging Payment to assist families with school age children receiving free school meals on the basis of family low income; Initiatives such as the Fuel Insecurity Fund and Discretionary Housing Payment support to take account of energy bills in applications for payments and new legislation to protect tenants from rent increases and evictions. Alternative funding support for energy bills has also been announced to help families at risk of self-disconnection or self-rationing of energy over winter. More information is expected on this scheme from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and engagement is ongoing with Council officers on this at the time of writing this report.
- 3.6 Whilst the main drivers of the cost of living crisis are macroeconomic, and the tools to make the most effective direct solutions are largely in the hands of national governments through, for instance, social security systems, taxation, and market regulation, there is an important role for Local Government and Community Planning Partners to ease some of the impacts of the cost of

living crisis and to identify and address gaps in provision or groups for which existing or emerging cost of living provision does not meet.

- 3.7 In August Clackmannanshire Council agreed a package of support totalling £1.075m to help local families funded through various Covid support funds including Financial Insecurity and Winter Wellbeing Fund; Family Wellbeing Fund and Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery Fund (LACER). This enabled the following support to be provided for local families, communities and businesses:
- i. A cost of living payment of £100 for over 5000 Clackmannanshire residents eligible for Council Tax Reduction. The Council committed £539,000 to this scheme in autumn 2022, aligned with both Challenge Poverty Week and the energy price cap update.
 - ii. Implementation of activities to support wellbeing, through targeted responses to address financial insecurity. This included cash-first initiatives alongside the integration of money advice and holistic support services to prevent future hardship. These initiatives included increased emergency financial assistance through Scottish Welfare Fund and Discretionary Housing Payment; proactive financial assistance including those impacted by the cut to Universal Credit and those not eligible for mainstream or other support and direct assistance to access food, fuel and other essentials. This investment totalled £271,000.
 - iii. Challenge Poverty Week 2022 - the focus of this year's multi-agency conference in support of the national Challenge Poverty Week in October was on cost of living and the main drivers: income from employment; social security; and costs of living around energy and food costs. The event, hosted by the Clackmannanshire Alliance heard from speakers from the Poverty Alliance and the Fraser of Allander Institute as well as experts from Scottish Government, Social Security Scotland, Citizens Advice Bureau and others through Cost of Living workshops. An evaluation of the event was considered by the Alliance in December and has helped shape the early development of poverty mitigation priorities for 2023.
 - iv. As part of ongoing work to tackle child poverty, all education settings have continued their work to reduce the cost of the school day, ranging from clothing banks, food availability, preloved items swap shops to master classes for families cooking on a budget.
 - v. Support for families through the Family Wellbeing Partnership (FWP) which aims to improve the wellbeing and capabilities of families. Clackmannanshire's FWP work in partnership with Columba 1400 is funded by the Scottish Government's Social Innovation Partnership. The Social Innovation Partnership is a collaboration between the Scottish Government and The Hunter Foundation which seeks to invest in solutions to tackle poverty through innovation and creative solutions. The Family Wellbeing Partnership seeks reform towards person-centred approaches and holistic models of support to improve outcomes for families in Clackmannanshire. This work includes the Values Based Leadership programme with Columba 1400 and recent cohorts involved the STRIVE (safeguarding through rapid intervention) team and Employability cohort. The FWP has facilitated

increased pace of collaboration within Clackmannanshire and beyond, to improve the outcomes for families.

- vi. Building on the learning from STRIVE and the support for low income families during the Summer of Food and Wellbeing, there is now a significant focus on preventative measures and early help, which aims to avoid families and individuals falling into crisis. This includes cash-first approaches, development of local child care and child wellbeing solutions for low income families and development of enhanced employability offers. An Early Help Team within People Services is also being established. With support of the Scottish Government's new Family Wellbeing Fund, a collaborative approach to commissioning is being progressed which will enable families with lived experience of poverty and related issues to influence the development of services to support them. In addition this fund will provide additional resource to families at greatest risk of breakdown. Winter funding from the Family Wellbeing fund was also allocated to STRIVE to enable the provision of financial support to families in, or on the edge of crisis. The Council is also working directly to support families of children with complex medical needs at home, who may be facing higher bills as a result of health related equipment costs or particular vulnerabilities in the event of a loss of power over the winter months.
- vii. The Scottish child payment has been increased by Scottish Government to £25 per week and for all children under 16 years. There are a number of other payments/grants available for families including Child Winter Heating Assistance, Best Start Grants, Best Start Foods, Job Start Payment and Young Carer Grants. Families can get advice on all of these from Citizens Advice Bureau and the Energy Advice Team within the Council. More information on these can be found on [clacks.gov.uk](https://www.clacks.gov.uk) and by visiting Clackmannanshire Citizens Advice Bureau <https://www.clackscab.org.uk/>
- viii. In early December 2022 the Council agreed additional funding to the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF). The fund administers grants to individuals on behalf of the Scottish Government for both Crisis Grants which covers short term crisis including food, gas, electric and clothing, and Community Care Grants that support individuals to maintain their tenancy and can include essential household living items. Recognising the likely increase in applications over the winter period Council has agreed additional funding up to £150,000 to enable payment of both grants up to 31st March 2023.
- ix. Ensuring that information and advice on the cost of living and accessing services and support is located in one centralised portal on Clacks.gov.uk. This ensures that all support currently available is clearly accessible and can be navigated from the home page. Signposting to the Scottish Government Cost of Living website is included as will signposting to local community support cost of living information and advice. A cost of living leaflet resource is also being developed to ensure accessibility of information, advice and services for those without ready access to the web-based resource.
- x. A range of support is also being provided by community and voluntary sector partners in Clackmannanshire. Detailed information is being compiled and will shortly be published, however this includes support around provision of food, cooking skills and equipment; access to energy vouchers; access to

clothing and household equipment and provision of warm and safe spaces across Clackmannanshire where residents can access support.

- 3.8 In addition to these initiatives, work has been undertaken by Council officers to identify gaps or further support required particularly within the context of the cost of living crisis during the winter months and colder weather. A cross-service Incident Management Team was convened which considered existing service provision and anticipated gaps across the following themes: support with income, benefits and employment; support with fuel and heating; support with food; health and wellbeing; housing and homelessness; transport, support for businesses; support in an emergency or crisis and support for our workforce.
- 3.9 A special meeting of the Clackmannanshire Alliance Board was also convened by the Council Leader in late November with partners and key local community organisations. The focus of the meeting was to ensure that Community Planning Partners collective work around the cost of living crisis is co-ordinated, joined-up and informed by community need. Discussions with partners focussed on identifying specific cost of living challenges for families and communities in Clackmannanshire and particular gaps in provision; identifying existing or planned work by community partners and identifying partnership solutions to help families and communities with the cost of living. Early priority actions have been identified by Alliance partners which will be further developed and progressed in early 2023. These include:
- i. The urgent creation of a one stop shop approach for all energy, financial and mental health and wellbeing advice to address poverty and wellbeing ensuring that information, advice and support is available in one place and that signposting and referral pathways are clear, streamlined and that employees across the partnership are knowledgeable in the support available and the dignified approaches required;
 - ii. Building on the one stop shop approach, improving the use of data and data sharing across partners to ensure that the most vulnerable residents and families are receiving the targeted support they require;
 - iii. Improved collaboration to reach families and communities in greatest need and ensure support is provided around access to food, budgeting, cooking tools and cooking skills and to mitigate the impacts of high energy costs for the most vulnerable Clackmannanshire residents. This also includes ensuring that practical energy support is also provided through increased awareness of Priority Services Scheme and pre-payment voucher schemes;
 - iv. The Clackmannanshire Alliance, alongside the Family Wellbeing Partnership are also scoping options to establish a local foundation which will coalesce funds aimed at improving wellbeing, mitigating poverty and directly supporting individuals and families in greatest need, enabling access to funds utilising cash first approaches. This foundation would also source future funding. This work requires further scoping which will be taken forward in early 2023.
- 3.10 In recognition that Alliance partners will further develop and progress these actions from now and into early 2023, specific engagement has been progressed over the last week with local organisations to identify urgent gaps in cost of living provision. This work has been taken forward with

Clackmannanshire Citizens Advice Bureau, The Gate and Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface (CTSI). Through this engagement immediate priorities have been identified where practical action could make a difference. These include ensuring we can meet increased demands for access to emergency energy vouchers for very vulnerable residents and provision of food packs with recipes, cost-efficient cooking equipment (air fryers) and coaching in their use for a number of families over the Christmas period and into the early New Year. While plans are underway by Clackmannanshire's voluntary sector to secure longer term funding for these initiatives, there are immediate, identified gaps through January and February.

- 3.11 It is therefore proposed that Council agrees the allocation of £4,000 to Citizen's Advice Bureau to bolster the provision of emergency energy vouchers (approx. 140 additional vouchers at a value of £29 each); and £3,000 to The Gate to double the capacity of a food initiative, extending its reach to all Clackmannanshire beyond its current funded limited of Alloa South East. In doing so it is anticipated that 35 to 40 vulnerable families will benefit. This allocation totalling £7,000 will be met from within the existing Partnership & Transformation budget, currently projecting an underspend of £39,000 for 2022/23.
- 3.12 In recognition that the cost of living crisis is a rapidly unfolding situation, the priority actions identified by the Clackmannanshire Alliance being progressed in early 2023, and with a number of developing national developments around the cost of living crisis, it is proposed that a further report is brought to Council in early 2023, with regular updates thereafter as required.

Conclusion

- 3.13 The Council, the Alliance and Clackmannanshire's communities have responded collectively and with vigour and pace to the cost of living crisis. Whilst significant supports and information are already in place, it is recognised that more coordination and effort is required; both immediate actions and over the coming months to respond to an unfolding situation the like of which has not been seen for generations.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1 No sustainability implications are identified.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

- 5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes X
- 5.3. Finance has been consulted and has agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes X

5.4. Staffing

No staffing implications are identified.

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No X

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life	X
Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish	X

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?
Yes X No

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes X

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None.

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at

which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

Scottish Government - The Cost of Living Crisis in Scotland: Analytical Report
November 2022

Author(s)

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