

Report

Report to:	Hamilton Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 May 2024
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Can Do Community Challenge Fund Applications
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise the Area Committee members of Can Do Community Challenge Fund applications in 2023/2024
- ◆ provide details of the funding to approve across local community groups

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation:-

- (1) that the Can Do Community Challenge Fund applications be approved as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1. The [‘Can Do Community Fund’](#) is a one-year Investment fund from South Lanarkshire Council for local communities that do not have access to Participatory Budgeting (PB) funds. This funding aims to address specific needs, and targets projects identified through consultation and engagement with local communities. Monies are not available in areas where a Neighbourhood Plan and associated PB funding is in place.
- 3.2. Community organisations, including Community Councils, had the opportunity to apply for grants of up to £10,000 to tackle identified issues within their areas, whether they require revenue, capital funding or a combination of both. The fund had a £200,000 limit for the whole of South Lanarkshire and was promoted during Community Meetings, online and in the South Lanarkshire View.
- 3.3. Scoring of applications was conducted by a panel within the Council’s Community Engagement Team that assessed each application based on their impact on Connect Council Plan Community and Environment priorities https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/15715/connect_council_plan_2022-27_pdf. Amongst the other factors taken into consideration by scoring panel members were reach of activity and the depth of community engagement in project ideas. Scoring Criteria are available at Appendix 2.
- 3.4. To ensure community organisations across all eligible localities had an equitable chance to complete the online application process, all applications were scored together after the closing date of the fund on 31 January 2024.

4. Application Approval

- 4.1. Area Committee members are asked to approve the list of applications in Appendix 1. A range of methods will be used to capture feedback from successful applicants and those organisations which did not meet the criteria were provided with alternative funding options and capacity building support from Neighbourhood Development Officers and other Community Engagement Team members.
- 4.2. Further information on the applications is available to members on request.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The current position on Can Do Community Challenge Fund is as follows:

Total funding available: £200,000.00

Expressions of interest: £316,721

Funding approved: £200,000

Value of declined applications: £47,782

Value of ineligible or withdrawn applications: £68,939

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

8. Other Implications

- 7.1. There are no risks associated with the content of this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. There are no Equality Impact Assessment or Consultation implications associated with this report.

Jackie Taylor

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

24 April 2024

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

Values

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Working with and respecting others
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient, and transparent
- ◆ Ambitious, self-aware, and improving
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable

Priorities

- ◆ We will work to put people first and reduce inequality
- ◆ We will work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places
- ◆ We will work to recover, progress, and improve

Outcomes

- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ Thriving business, fair jobs and vibrant town centres
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities

- ◆ People live the healthiest lives possible

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Jen Kerr, Community Engagement Manager

Email: Jennifer.Kerr1@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

**Can do Community Challenge Fund 2023/2024
Hamilton Area Awards**

EID No	Applicant	Amount requested	Purpose of Grant	Amount awarded
2144	Larkhall Community Growers	£4,835.00	Save Money Be Healthy – healthy eating and family nutrition advice using a community garden	£4,835.00
2176	Larkhall District Volunteer Group	£10,000.00	Community Vehicle to support Health visits	£10,000.00
2212	Bothwell Futures	£10,000.00	Community led business plan support for Wooddean Park	£10,000.00
2139	Church at the Cross	£10,000.00	Expansion of Hareleeshill Community Hub activities	£8,028.00
2228	Low Waters Community Group	£10,000.00	Building repairs to restore Community facility (CAT link)	£10,000.00
2200	Larkhall Community Growers KS	£10,000.00	King Street Community Space design phase	£10,000.00
2191	Eddlewood FC	£7,702.03*	Community Sports Hub legal fees and other costs *split payment as £2043.70 Kitchen Upgrade. All subject to CAT decision due 31 st March	£7,702.03
2172	MorphFit	£10,000.00	Community Wellbeing and Mental Health activities	£9,240.09
			Hamilton Area Total	£69,805.12

There were no eligible, unsuccessful applications for this area.

Criteria and Scoring Matrix for the Can Do Community Challenge Fund

Purpose

The purpose of this scoring matrix is to help assess eligible applications for Can Do Community Challenge Fund monies. The format reflects Connect Council Plan Priorities and further details are available under the Communities and Environment section at the link below:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/15715/connect_council_plan_2022-27_pd

Council Plan Community Priorities
• Link of activity with Caring, Connected and Sustainable Community themes. • Project is responding to Community Feedback or an identified need. • Encouragement of collaborative working across different community groups. • Reduces Inequality through open access to participation or benefits of the project's activity. • Promotes Community Ownership or Co-Production • Reduces Digital Exclusion • Project design reflects active participation of diverse groups within the Community. • Reduces Social Isolation • Circular Economy and Recycling • Environmental Improvements • Creation of Safe Community Spaces • Encourage participation in physical and cultural activities. • Improves the life chances of children and young people

Criteria

Organisations must demonstrate how they promote the Caring, Connected, Sustainable themes and how the application reflects the Council's key priorities reflected in the attached Community Benefits guide.

Applicants will have to demonstrate positive impacts on improving the quality of life for residents.

Criteria	Scoring Range
Alignment with Council Priorities How do the services or activities which will be supported by Can Do Community Challenge Funding align with Council priorities as detailed in the Community Benefits guidance? One point for each objective that the project can be aligned to. To be considered all applicants must identify at least 1 Council priority in their submission. Those addressing multiple priorities will be scored higher during appraisals.	0 – 12 1 point for each Priority Met
Community Engagement and Leadership Assessment Panel Members are asked to rate on a scale of 0-10 (10	0 – 10

being very strong proposals and 0 being no supporting evidence) which applications demonstrate a clear process of Community Engagement and Consultation in the design stage of the application. Evidence can include Consultations, letters of support, research, community meeting reports and surveys.	
Reach How does this intervention help bring diverse groups within the Community together? Is participation open to all? Will the Community Benefits it will generate, assist wider groups across Equalities protected characteristics?	0 – 10
Locality Knowledge/ Governance Has the applicant demonstrated a depth of knowledge on community issues and evidenced this, in terms of previous learning, consultancy work or research? What governance structures are built into the proposal- how will results be captured and shared with the community? In short does the applicant have a previous track record of delivery in this community?	0 – 10
Exit Strategy/ Sustainability How the project will be sustainable in the longer term? Capturing learning to inform further Community collaborations or external funding applications? Legacy in terms of positive impacts to the local environment?	0 – 10
Innovation/Added Value How do application ideas represent new thinking for this community? What elements of the project are replicable or could be scaled up? How will learning benefit the community long-term?	0 – 10
Total application score is from assessment (out of 50) + Alignment with Council Priorities score. <i>Applicants must meet 50% minimum score and must have a score in community engagement.</i>	