

South Ayrshire Council

Report by Director of Strategic Change and Communities
to Cabinet
of 23 May 2023

Subject: Temporary Senior Communities Officer - Glendoune

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to utilise temporary Covid Recovery funding, that was originally allocated to develop a community space with Glendoune, to extend the temporary Senior Communities Officer post that was funded through Covid recovery funding for a further period of twelve months. This will continue to support activity at Glendoune, supporting key objectives.

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet agrees that the £50,000, initially secured to develop the adjacent site, now be used to extend the temporary Senior Communities Officer post for a further twelve months to build on the positive work that has been established in the area

3. Background

3.1 At the Leadership Panel in June 2021, £143,478 temporary Covid Recovery funding was allocated 'to improve outcomes in Glendoune £93,478 through the recruitment of a temporary Senior Communities Officer and £50,000 of the funding allocated to the proposed development of a community space in Glendoune, Girvan.

3.2 Glendoune is recognised in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) as one of the most deprived areas in South Ayrshire and a priority for community planning partners to improve outcomes for people living in this community.

3.3 Thriving Communities have been supporting Glendoune Community Association (GCA) who are located in a small unit in Piedmont Road, Girvan. The facility is owned by SAC but leased to GCA and provides a small meeting space for the community.

3.4 Over the past few years Officers have supported changes to the management committee at GCA and helped secure additional funding, resources and introduced partners to work alongside GCA and the local community.

3.5 The temporary Covid Recovery funded Officers post has helped create opportunities to further enhance and improve the support within this community. Key highlights are noted in [Appendix 1](#), this notes some of the key successes through the temporary Covid Recovery funded post.

3.6 Plans were developed by Professional Design Services (PDS) to develop the adjacent site, however this has not progressed, as Officers have not been able to identify an alternative site that would accommodate the existing tenants, Girvan Attractions.

4. Proposals

4.1 It is proposed that Members approve £50,000 of temporary Covid Recovery funding, previously earmarked for capital works, be used to extend the temporary Senior Communities Officers post for twelve months to allow ongoing work to improving targeted outcomes.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 £50,000 of temporary Covid Recovery funding to support the proposal. On costs for a Level 9 are £50,094

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 Once the current member of staff contract ends, managing change will apply.

7.2 Redundancy costs of £19,640 would be met by Thriving Communities service staffing budget should alternative suitable employment not be met through managing change.

8. Risk

8.1 Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

8.2 Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations

8.2.1 There may be negativity from community if this proposal is rejected.

9. Equalities

9.1 The proposals in this report allows scrutiny of performance. The report does not involve changes to policies, strategies, procedures and processes, therefore a full equalities impact assessment is not required.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. Options Appraisal

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report

12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priorities 1 and 2 of the Council Plan: Spaces and Places/ Play, Sport and Recreation (Outcome 2); and Live, Work, Learn/ Education and lifelong learning (Outcome 1).

13. Results of Consultation

13.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report

13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowey, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, Councillor Ian Davis, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Human Resources and ICT, and Councillor Alec Clark, Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Culture and Rural Affairs and the contents of this report reflects any feedback provided.

14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Director of Strategic Change and Communities will ensure that all necessary steps are taken to ensure full implementation of the decision within the following timescales, with the completion status reported to the Cabinet in the 'Council and Cabinet Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Managed by</i>
Extend temporary Senior Communities Officers post	30 May 2023	Service Lead Thriving Communities

Background Papers **Report to Leadership Panel of 15 June 2021 – [Covid-19 Programme of Recovery Activity 2021/22 to 2022/23](#)**

Person to Contact **Jane Bradley, Director of Strategic Change and Communities**
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR
Phone 01292 612045
Email jane.bradley@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Jamie Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR
Phone 01292 559398
Email jamie.tait@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Date: 10 May 2023

Improving Outcomes for Glendoune Update

The temporary Senior Communities Officer post was recruited in June 2021 using Covid Recovery funding. The new post was intended to improve community engagement and enhance service delivery, at a local level in Glendoune.

The post was embedded in the new Thriving Communities service, building on the 'Team Around the Community' approach, designed to improve partnership working and improve outcomes for residents in the area.

Glendoune Community Association (GCA)

To empower the community, support was put in place to support changes within GCA that impacted governance arrangements, accessing funding and the recruitment of new volunteers. A robust consultation exercise was carried out by Thriving Communities that included door to door visits to over 200 residents in the area. In addition, there were face to face drop-in sessions at the centre to allow Officers to promote GCA and help recruit new community volunteers.

In December 2021 Officers helped establish a new GCA management committee and helped form relationships with residents and other partner agencies in the area.

Success through Partnership Working

Following consultation and extensive engagement with the community, GCA were supported to apply for funding and were successful in gaining £19,900 through the VASA Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.

The temporary Senior Communities Officer then developed a Glendoune Roadmap that helped secure support from various partners, this commitment has helped shape service delivery within the community, this includes:

- Three Sixty, a mental health charity delivering sessions twice per week within the centre.
- Girvan Community Sports Hub delivering adult provision in Glendoune for the first time, which is allowing them to grow their staff skills and experiences.
- Information & Advice Hub and Stepping Stones For Families have been key partners - providing benefit advice at the weekly drop ins and group sessions.
- Thriving Communities supporting the delivery of community-based adult learning and employability programmes from the centre.
- Engagement with funders to explore external funding opportunities.
- Increased participation in volunteering

Volunteer Success Stories Supported by the temporary Senior Communities Officer

- The GCA Chairperson was supported to gain employment with Thriving Communities as a Family Engagement Officer.
- The GCA Treasurer, having been long-term unemployed, has equally grown in confidence and was successful in gaining a 6-month work placement through Thriving Communities Evolve Programme. At the conclusion of the Evolve Programme he has secured a temporary Clerical Assistant position with the Council.

- The GCA Secretary, a lone parent of three children, has always been a very passionate individual and puts her heart into everything she does. Through volunteering with the association, she realised she wanted to help more people in the community. They were supported to apply to university to become a nurse, she is now close to finishing her first year. Although she has stepped down as Secretary due to her university commitments, she still actively attends meetings and events and is passionate about her community.
- The new GCA Secretary is now actively delivering Personal Development groups at Glendoune to support others within her community. A focus of this role is working alongside ACE to develop new outdoor programme for adults.
- Other members from GCA have been supported to gain volunteering experience and have engaged in adult learning and employability programmes that have led to employment in Girvan.

Success in Funding & Financial Impact

Prior to the role of the temporary Senior Communities Officer, accessing funding was a challenge for GCA. With support from the temporary Senior Communities Officer, they have secured:

- VASA Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund - £19,900
- Morrisons Construction - £700
- Community Donations - £1,677
- LACER Fund - £1000
- Grants Foundation - £10,000
- VASA Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund (round 2) – £22,200

Income can also now be generated from lets that are managed through a new room booking system developed by the temporary Senior Communities Officer. Weekly lets include organisations supporting addictions and mental health and wellbeing.

School Holiday Programme Success

GCA, in partnership with Thriving Communities and other community organisations, have organised and facilitated successful holiday programmes in Glendoune, the programme has helped engage young people and parents and families.

Glendoune Holiday Programmes Outcomes:

- Easter Programme 2022: 43 children referred
- Summer Programme 2022: 150 registered
- October Programme 2023: 45 children referred

The number of referrals has risen at Glendoune for both Easter and Summer programmes. This is due to engagement in Schools and Glendoune having a presence in the community. Young people were consulted on what they would like organised in their area, with food insecurity underpinning the holiday programme initiatives. Feedback from parents has been extremely positive and GCA and Thriving Communities are developing these opportunities.

In addition to the summer programme a range of community events have been organised in the community, the summer event organised to celebrate GCA and the ongoing partnership work in the local area was extremely positive. The event was free for residents and brought together partners from across Girvan who provided activities and information on support that is available for residents. A calendar of events is currently being planned by GCA.

Glendoune Roadmap

The Glendoune Roadmap is a Community Based Adult Learning Provision which operates from the Glendoune Centre and is supported by Thriving Communities, GCA and key partners such as Three Sixty and Girvan Sports Hub.

- 47 adults have engaged in the Glendoune Roadmap
- 14 community-based adult learning programmes have been delivered
- Adults have been engaged in 552 hours of learning
- 7 of these learners have achieved accreditation
- 89% of learners live in SIMD areas 1 and 2
- 62% of learners are female
- All adults have progressed to one of the following destinations:
 - a further learning programme
 - signposted to a partner agency for mental health support
 - referred to employability service
 - supported with income maximisation
 - volunteering in their community