

## ARIA Fund LAG MEETING

20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 9:00 – 16:00

Prestwick Room, South Ayrshire Council, County Buildings, Ayr

### Attendees

Non- Public Sector		Public Sector	
Kevin Brown (KB)	X	Eddie Bulik (EB)	X
Barbara Conner (BC)	X	Melissa McCulloch (MMc)	X
Chris Campbell (CC)	X	Colin McKee (CM)	x
Jim Watson (JW)	X		
Alistair (Ally) Henry	X		
Total No. LAG Members	8		
Minimum Quorum (50%)	6		

LAG Staff	Attended
Jennifer Macdonald (JM)	X
Sarah Kelly (SK)	X

### Apologies

The following had given apologies: -

Mhairi Dawson (MD)  
Rosemary Ramsay (RR)  
Claire Donaldson (CD)

### Acronyms

AB Accountable Body  
CAM Community Asset Maintenance Fund  
CAT Community Asset Transfer  
CLLD Community Led Local Development  
CLT Community Led Tourism  
CWB Community Wealth Building  
EAC East Ayrshire Council  
EOI Expression of Interest  
MoU Memorandum of Understanding  
NAC North Ayrshire Council  
SAC South Ayrshire Council  
SG Scottish Government

Introduction	Actions
<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>JM welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an update on the funding for 2025/26, confirming that the total budget for Scotland would be £9.1m, instead of the previously anticipated £12.2m. Three-quarters of this budget will be allocated to capital expenditure, with the remaining quarter (revenue) likely to cover staff costs.</p>	

LAG members were also informed that a complaint had been lodged by an unsuccessful applicant of the main 24/25 funding round in September 2024. SAC is working with ARIA staff on this matter, as the AB will handle the issue internally in line with their published Complaint procedure.

#### Introduction to new ARIA staff member

Sarah Kelly (SK) introduced herself to the LAG members as ARIA's new Project Officer. Having officially started on 16th January, this was her third day in the role. Sarah lives on the Isle of Arran and previously worked as an Early Years Practitioner with North Ayrshire Council. She also has 10 years of experience in finance, having worked within the corporate division of Lloyds Banking Group. She is excited to be working with the ARIA Fund and its members.

#### Quora

The meeting began with 8 LAG Members so was quorate with at least 50% of the 11 standing Members. This comprised 5 non-public sector and 3 public sector, fulfilling the minimum 51%: 49% non-public: public ratio requirement. 35 projects were considered during the meeting, including 3 CAM projects.

#### Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 LAG meeting were approved.

#### Register of Interests/Conflicts of Interest

Those present were reminded that any LAG member with a vested interest in any of the projects being considered must leave the room during discussions and voting.

#### General comments around this small capital funding round

It was noted that some organisations had submitted multiple applications. LAG members suggested that, in future, each organisation should be limited to a single application.

It was also observed that several applications in this round included "shopping list" items rather than the preferred maximum of three items per project, as stated in the guidance notes.

SAC to take forward complaint from 2024/25 Main Fund applicant.

JM to update future guidance notes to only allow one application per organisation.

#### Project Assessments

<b>Funding to allocate:</b>	
Capital:	N/A
Revenue/Capital Threshold	£320,958.00 (1.6:1)

	<b>No. Applications</b>	<b>Total Grant requests</b>
Reviewed pre-meeting via Technical Check process	53	£754,730.64
LAG decision to be made	35	£510,273.98

The LAG committee was informed that ARIA had received a total of 53 applications, 18 of which were rejected on technical grounds. As a result, 35 applications were forwarded to the LAG for pre-assessment. These were split into three groups: -

- Group 1, 3 LAG Members, 12 projects.
- Group 2, 3 LAG Members, 12 projects.
- Group 3, 4 LAG Members, 11 project.

Some individuals had sufficient time to review projects outwith their allocated group, as pre-agreed by LAG members.

Group 1

Conflicts of Interest

- Biosphere Bikes - CC
- Burnhouse Engineering & Fabrication – KB
- East Ayrshire Leisure - EB

Project	Decision
Arran Aromatics Limited	Approve
Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group	Approve
Biosphere Bikes	Approve
Blackwaterfoot Bakehouse	Approve
Burnhouse Engineering and Fabrication Limited	Approve
Carrick Resilience	Approve
Crosshouse Community Football Club	Approve
Crossroads Community Hub (1 of 2 projects)	Approve
Dunlop Community Hub Ltd	Approve
<i>East Ayrshire Leisure</i>	<i>Reject</i>
<i>Fairlie Woodfuel</i>	<i>Reject</i>
Friends of Dundonald Castle	Approve

1. Arran Aromatics Limited

Lighting upgrade to retail store: installation of LED lighting			
Total Eligible Costs	£8,673.00		
Grant Request & %	£7,805.70	90%	
LA Area	NA		
Applicant Type	Business		

Points Raised at Technical Check:

- Not strong on evidence of local support
- Employee number nearly the maximum number of people
- Significant profits.

LAG discussion covered:

- It was confirmed that the business holds a 10-year lease on the premises.
- Question as to whether the project could be completed within the required timeframe. The applicant confirmed that it would be.
- It was noted that while the business was profitable, it carried significant debt.
- The LAG noted that installing lower-energy lighting aligns with SG priorities for Net Zero.

Decision: Unanimously **Approved**

## 2. Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group

### Replacement of bespoke doors

Total Eligible Costs	£6,802.97
Grant Request & %	£6,000 88.2%
LA Area	EA
Applicant Type	Charity

#### Points Raised at Technical Check:

- Adequate match funding

#### LAG discussion covered:

- The LAG agreed that the project aligns with SG priorities for community-led tourism.
- The project has local MP support.

**Decision:** Unanimously **Approved**

## 3. Biosphere Bikes

CC left the room.

### Accessible equipment to allow Biosphere Bikes to be a fully inclusive organisation for both volunteers and staff, customers and visitors to the area.

Total Eligible Costs	£6,703.41
Grant Request & %	£6,028.41 90%
LA Area	SA
Applicant Type	Charity

#### Points Raised at Technical Check:

- Strong application
- Local support and strong evidence of need

#### LAG discussion covered:

- LAG members agreed that this was a strong application, well-supported by evidence of local need and community backing.

**Decision:** Unanimously **Approved**

## 4. Blackwaterfoot Bakehouse

### Increase in production and reduction of energy use within small scale bakery.

Total Eligible Costs	£28,432
Grant Request & %	£25,432 89%
LA Area	EA
Applicant Type	Charity

#### Points Raised at Technical Check:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locally supported application</li> <li>Carbon reduction figures included.</li> </ul> <p><b>LAG discussion covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LAG commented that whilst the equipment seemed expensive, it would save time and enable the business to scale up its output.</li> <li>LAG members agreed that supporting this project aligns with the SG's commitment to increasing production output.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: Approved</b></p>											
<p><b>5. Burnhouse Engineering and Fabrication Limited</b></p> <p>KB left the room.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="70 636 1251 900"> <tr> <th colspan="2">Introduction of technology to reduce carbon / environmental footprint</th></tr> <tr> <td>Total Eligible Costs</td><td>£5,957.67</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grant Request &amp; %</td><td>£5,361.90 90%</td></tr> <tr> <td>LA Area</td><td>NA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Applicant Type</td><td>Business</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well established organisation</li> <li>Comfortable turnover</li> <li>Application explains their aim is to improve net zero targets but doesn't provide much detail need/demand or local support.</li> </ul> <p><b>LAG discussion covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LAG noted that while the application did not strongly emphasize the climate change aspect, tablets are increasingly used by engineers, designers, and technicians to review blueprints, schematics, and CAD drawings, reducing the need for printed paper copies and improving workflow efficiency.</li> <li>After discussion, the project was supported based on its potential to significantly reduce paper usage while enhancing the business's productivity and competitiveness.</li> <li>It was also highlighted that the business supports young apprentices who would benefit from using this technology in their training and future work.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: Approved</b></p>	Introduction of technology to reduce carbon / environmental footprint		Total Eligible Costs	£5,957.67	Grant Request & %	£5,361.90 90%	LA Area	NA	Applicant Type	Business	
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LA Area	NA										
Applicant Type	Business										
<p><b>6. Carrick Resilience</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="70 1695 1273 1953"> <tr> <th colspan="2">Purchase of a specialist search and rescue thermal imaging drone</th></tr> <tr> <td>Total Eligible Costs</td><td>£9,430</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grant Request &amp; %</td><td>£8,430 89.4%</td></tr> <tr> <td>LA Area</td><td>SA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Applicant Type</td><td>Charity</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well supported local project</li> </ul>	Purchase of a specialist search and rescue thermal imaging drone		Total Eligible Costs	£9,430	Grant Request & %	£8,430 89.4%	LA Area	SA	Applicant Type	Charity	
Purchase of a specialist search and rescue thermal imaging drone											
Total Eligible Costs	£9,430										
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Applicant Type	Charity										

- Match funding available for the project

**LAG discussion covered:**

- The LAG discussed the project, which involves acquiring a specialist search and rescue thermal imaging drone. Currently, the organisation relies on volunteers using their personal drones, which lack the necessary specialist features.
- The application also suggested using the drone to provide aerial overviews at large community events. It was proposed that, as a condition of the grant, the drone should be made available for any community event, regardless of size.

**Decision:** **Approved**, with the condition that the drone must be made available to all scales of community events that Carrick Resilience members are able to attend to. A diary of public events attended by Carrick Resilience must be provided to the ARIA fund in March 2026.

**7. Crosshouse Community Football Club**

Increase to lighting fixture numbers and replacement of older fixtures to reduce carbon footprint		
Total Eligible Costs	£5,727.60	
Grant Request & %	£5,152.84	90%
LA Area	EA	
Applicant Type	Community Group	

**Points Raised at Technical Check:**

- The club holds a long-term lease, but difficulties with the Council have made obtaining a copy challenging. However, an email from the Council confirms the lease is in place.
- Additional evidence of local support would have strengthened the application.

**LAG discussion covered:**

- The project's contribution to net zero ambitions is clear.

**Decision:** **Approved** with the condition that no additional unexpected wiring costs will be covered by the ARIA fund, should this work found to be required during installation.

**8. Crossroads Community Hub (1 of 2)**

Development of a new manufacturing facility for specialist electrical services.		
Total Eligible Costs	£8,734	
Grant Request & %	£7,860	90%
LA Area	EA	
Applicant Type	Charity	

**Points Raised at Technical Check:**

- Applicant who is likely to be able to deliver within the ARIA timeframe.
- Not strong on local support

**LAG discussion covered:**

- LAG members discussed whether the EV chargers would be able to be installed within the tight timeframe. It was believed this would be done. The café is a busy community hub with a capable team running it.

**Decision:** **Approved**

## 9. Dunlop Community Hub Ltd

Improvement Package aiming to make the hub warmer and more welcome, as well as improve energy efficiency

Total Eligible Costs	£17,552
Grant Request & %	£15,796.80 90%
LA Area	NA
Applicant Type	Third Sector organisation

### Points Raised at Technical Check:

- All required documents submitted.
- Limited explanation of need and local support.

### LAG discussion covered:

- The primary concern for LAG members was the limited timeframe for completing the roof repairs. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to exclude this element from the grant.

**Decision: Partially approved** at £6,796.80 (90% of the project costs - without roof repair element).

## 10. East Ayrshire Leisure

- “Doon and Roon the Moon”: replacement of wildlife cameras and wi-fi screens

Total Eligible Costs	£38,950
Grant Request & %	£35,055 90%
LA Area	NA
Applicant Type	Charity

### Points Raised at Technical Check:

- Well supported application
- The quotes were not highly comparable, though the equipment is specialised.

### LAG discussion covered:

- Organisation exceeds the employee limit to qualify for this round of ARIA funding.

**Decision: Rejected** on technical/eligibility grounds.

## 11. Fairlie Woodfuel

Energy efficiency project: purchase of fixtures for new electric wood kiln as part of business expansion

Total Eligible Costs	£49,812.96
Grant Request & %	£44,831.66 90%
LA Area	NA
Applicant Type	Business

<p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large scale commercial project</li><li>• Technical issues around match funding amount and ownership of site.</li><li>• Has Council support.</li></ul> <p><b>LAG discussion covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The LAG recognised the Council’s support for the business and noted that the overall project aligned with SG’s priorities of creating employment opportunities for young people.</li><li>• The LAG discussed the business plans to move their operations to a new site, albeit this phase of its transition has yet to complete.</li><li>• The LAG noted that only a single quotation had been submitted for the various fixtures and fittings required to upgrade the biomass kiln.</li><li>• The LAG noted the discrepancy between the full project costs and the match funding secured, noted that there is no clear evidence that the full project costs could be covered.</li><li>• There were some uncertainties regarding the lease on the proposed new site, as well as whether the project could be completed within the tight timeframe for this funding round.</li><li>• Due to the nature and scale of the overall project, the LAG generally agreed that it may be better suited for alternative specialist funders, such as Business Energy Scotland.</li></ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> Unanimously <b>Rejected</b></p>																
<p><b>12. Friends of Dundonald Castle</b></p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">Furnishing, IT equipment and heating upgrade</th></tr><tr><td>Total Eligible Costs</td><td colspan="2">£17,140.75</td></tr><tr><td>Grant Request &amp; %</td><td>£15,426.75</td><td>90%</td></tr><tr><td>LA Area</td><td colspan="2">SA</td></tr><tr><td>Applicant Type</td><td colspan="2">Charity</td></tr></table> <p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong evidence of local support</li></ul> <p><b>LAG discussion covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LAG agreed that this was a good application, albeit the IT costs were high. They agreed that this aspect should be reduced to c.£2k.</li><li>• LAG members were keen that the old furniture was re-used / donated and that plans were put in place for future depreciation of such items.</li></ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> <b>Approved with conditions</b>, at a lower grant level of £11,812.20 reflecting reduced IT cost. <u>Conditions:</u> i) that the Grantee update their business plan to include a furniture sinking fund to account for future asset wear and tear, and ii) wherever possible, all replaced furnishings should be donated to a second-hand or refurbishment organisation to support the circular economy.</p>	Furnishing, IT equipment and heating upgrade			Total Eligible Costs	£17,140.75		Grant Request & %	£15,426.75	90%	LA Area	SA		Applicant Type	Charity		
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LA Area	SA															
Applicant Type	Charity															
CONCLUDES GROUP 1 PROJECT ASSESSMENTS																
<p><b>Group 2</b></p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest:</b> Geilsland Enterprise - BC</p>																



	Project	Decision		
	Crossroads Community Hub (2 of 2)	Approve		
	DART	Approve		
	Geilsland Enterprise	Reject		
	Girvan Attractions	Approve		
	R & C Storage Ltd (1 of 2)	Reject		
	Roddenloft	Approve		
	Stair Community Association	Approve		
	The Carrick Centre	Reject		
	The Drift Inn Arran	Approve		
	Heather Lodge	Approve		
	Lamlash House	Approve		

### 13. Crossroads Community Hub Ltd (2of2)

Improvement to external area at Ayrshire Food Hub – Drainage, landscaping, monoblocking and footpath improvement			
Total Eligible Costs	£9,845		
Grant Request & %	£8,860	90%	
LA Area	EA		
Applicant Type	Charity		

#### Points Raised at Technical Check:

- Second application to SCF (of three)
- Evidence of local support indicated from consultation.

#### LAG discussion covered:

- The LAG discussed the drainage issue outside the community hub and queried whether groundworks to rectify this could be completed within the c.6-week time frame in light of the possibility of poor Spring weather causing some delay.

**Decision:** **Approved** with the condition that the organisation must provide an updated schedule of works, site photographs/ map and completion date as soon as a contractor is in place.

### 14. Darvel & Area Regeneration Team (DART)

Creation of a mural at the corner in Darvel			
Total Eligible Costs	£5,730		
Grant Request & %	£5,000	87.3%	
LA Area	EA		
Applicant Type	Charity		

#### Points Raised at Technical Check:

- Locally supported idea
- One numerical error in application (added VAT to project price but correct in value for money form).

#### LAG discussion covered:

- LAG members liked the idea of a mural of local historical figure Alexander Fleming.

- However, there was concern whether the mural could be completed within the short timeframe, particularly if weather was consistently poor. There were also questions around the ownership and permission of the gable end wall to which the mural was to be painted. (see footnote)

**Decision: Approved upon condition** that the Grantee must provide a schedule of works for the project to ARIA, as soon as a contractor has been appointed. The Grantee must also provide design drawings/ photographs before commencement of works.

Footnote: The applicant was contacted subsequent to the LAG meeting and confirmed that DART did own the lease.

#### 15. Dougarie Holdings LLP

##### Replacement of inefficient water treatment tank to larger, more biodiversity friendly facility

Total Eligible Costs	£59,035
Grant Request & %	£50,000 85%
LA Area	NA
Applicant Type	Business

##### Points Raised at Technical Check:

- Need evidenced
- No evidence of local support
- Limited quotes but explained.

##### LAG discussion covered:

LAG members noted that the application was weak on local support and would account for a large proportion of ARIA's available funding.

**Decision: Unanimously Rejected**

#### 16. Geilsland Enterprise

BC left the room.

##### Geilsland weddings & events: furnishings for wedding venue

Total Eligible Costs	£52,383.65
Grant Request & %	£47,145 90%
LA Area	NA
Applicant Type	Business subsidiary of a charity

##### Points Raised at Technical Check:

- New organisation to ARIA but a subsidiary of a previously successful applicant (Beith Trust)
- Strong on local support

**LAG discussion:**

- noted the support from North Ayrshire Council and other groups.
- would have liked to have seen some marketing analysis e.g. advice from Business Gateway or wedding planners.
- noticed that the SG priority child poverty had been ticked, which did not match the theme of the application.
- There was also concern about a lack of funds in the applicant's bank account.

**Decision:** Unanimously **Rejected**

**17. Girvan & District Attractions**

Event equipment: replacement of existing equipment for events	
Total Eligible Costs	£17,492.45
Grant Request & %	£15,492.45    88.6%
LA Area	SA
Applicant Type	Charity

**Points Raised at Technical Check:**

- Well established organisation
- Application clear, with no missing documentation.

**LAG discussion covered:**

- It was confirmed that the organisation had suitable storage facilities for the equipment.
- The LAG noted that this wasn't strictly community-led tourism per se; the organisation made an important contribution to community events.
- Some LAG members queried how many events were supported outside of Girvan town.

**Decision:** **Approved** at a lower level of £6,643.30. This included the Radios, Bins and Gazebos listed within application.

**18. R&C Storage Ltd (1 of 2)**

Installation of solar panels and batter to self-storage business	
Total Eligible Costs	£8,660
Grant Request & %	£7,460    86%
LA Area	SA
Applicant Type	Business

**Points Raised at Technical Check:**

- New company which doesn't have a significant turnover, but has a large company loan from directors.
- Didn't provide particularly strong local support, although reported another applicant does use the service.

**LAG discussion covered:**

- No significant local support or business case provided.

**Decision:** Unanimously **Rejected**

**19. Roddenloft**

Climate change mitigation stage 2: installation of solar panel and battery set-up		
Total Eligible Costs	£13,585	
Grant Request & %	£10,000	76.61%
LA Area	EA	
Applicant Type	Business – sole trader	

**Points Raised at Technical Check:**

- Local business with quite a lot of support (for business rather than 3rd sector group)
- Offering more than 20% match funding
- Basic business plan attached to application.

**LAG discussion covered:**

- This is a small business looking to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Question of whether the solar installations were large enough to generate the required KW for business. Scale of project would at least contribute to overall sustainability of business.

**Decision:** **Approved**

**20. The Carrick Centre**

The Carrick Centre's journey to net zero: continuation of partially funded lighting project from September's allocations		
Total Eligible Costs	£35,083	
Grant Request & %	£8,117.60	23%
LA Area	SA	
Applicant Type	Charity	

**Points Raised at Technical Check:**

- next phase of previously funded project (2024)
- Clarification sought from SG as to whether this application is acceptable within the Capital Thresholds guidelines if approved.

**LAG discussion covered:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before the meeting SG confirmed that this project would not qualify under the capital threshold category and would therefore be ineligible.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: Rejected</b> due to ineligibility</p>											
<p><b>21. Stair Community Association</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="70 344 1246 710"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Carpets, tables &amp; chairs and replacement external doors</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Eligible Costs</td><td>£17,691.30</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grant Request &amp; %</td><td>£15,922.17 90%</td></tr> <tr> <td>LA Area</td><td>EA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Applicant Type</td><td>Charity</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear application, with all documents provided.</li> <li>Not a huge amount of local support provided, but letter from Council is clear on importance of the organisation.</li> </ul> <p><b>LAG discussion covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very rural location with clear need.</li> <li>Flagship project for EAC CAT</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: Unanimously Approved</b></p>	Carpets, tables & chairs and replacement external doors		Total Eligible Costs	£17,691.30	Grant Request & %	£15,922.17 90%	LA Area	EA	Applicant Type	Charity	
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<p><b>22.The Drift Inn Arran</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="70 1252 1254 1547"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Replacement &amp; refurbishment of ladies' toilets, which will be available for public use</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Eligible Costs</td><td>£9,668.77</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grant Request &amp; %</td><td>£8,701 90%</td></tr> <tr> <td>LA Area</td><td>NA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Applicant Type</td><td>Business</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local business with significant turnover, but running at a loss.</li> <li>Some evidence of need and local support</li> </ul> <p><b>LAG discussion covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LAG was informed that community volunteers manage the local public toilets after they were sold by the Council. Plans are in place to demolish and replace these facilities, which will take many months.</li> <li>It was generally acknowledged that The Drift Inn would provide a temporary public service while the new toilets were being constructed.</li> <li>Concerns were raised about whether the project could be completed within the required timeframe.</li> </ul>	Replacement & refurbishment of ladies' toilets, which will be available for public use		Total Eligible Costs	£9,668.77	Grant Request & %	£8,701 90%	LA Area	NA	Applicant Type	Business	
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<b>Decision: Approved</b>																	
<p><b>23. Heather Lodge CIC</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="3">Heather Lodge electrical appliances: installation of energy efficient wi-fi heaters and replacement of couches for therapist use</th></tr> <tr> <td>Total Eligible Costs</td><td colspan="2">£9,335.12</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grant Request &amp; %</td><td>£8,401.61</td><td>90%</td></tr> <tr> <td>LA Area</td><td colspan="2">NA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Applicant Type</td><td colspan="2">Social Enterprise</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good evidence of networking and local support.</li> </ul> <p><b>LAG decision covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAG members made the point that improving insulation should always be the first step in ensuring a building's energy efficiency - before introducing additional heating appliances. However, it was recognised that upgrading insulation in older buildings is not always straightforward (e.g. they need to "breathe") and can be costly.</li> <li>• Discussed that wider improvements could be highlighted through CAM application.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: Unanimously Approved</b></p>		Heather Lodge electrical appliances: installation of energy efficient wi-fi heaters and replacement of couches for therapist use			Total Eligible Costs	£9,335.12		Grant Request & %	£8,401.61	90%	LA Area	NA		Applicant Type	Social Enterprise		
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<p><b>24. Lamlash House</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="3">Thermal efficiency improvements and community heritage enhancements at Lamlash House: replacement of insulation and heating boiler, as well as creation of heritage interpretation board</th></tr> <tr> <td>Total Eligible Costs</td><td colspan="2">£8,148.03</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grant Request &amp; %</td><td>£7,333.23</td><td>90%</td></tr> <tr> <td>LA Area</td><td colspan="2">EA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Applicant Type</td><td colspan="2">Business</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nearly complete application with carbon figures for boiler replacement</li> <li>• Minimal evidence of local support</li> </ul> <p><b>LAG discussion covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAG members queried whether planning consent was required to install new insulation. It was confirmed that this was a requirement, and that consent is in place.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: Approved upon condition</b> that Lamlash House Events must continue to offer public events for a minimum of two years post-project completion. This would include providing the ARIA fund with a summary of events held until March 31st 2026, otherwise the full grant amount is eligible for reclaim by the ARIA Fund.</p>		Thermal efficiency improvements and community heritage enhancements at Lamlash House: replacement of insulation and heating boiler, as well as creation of heritage interpretation board			Total Eligible Costs	£8,148.03		Grant Request & %	£7,333.23	90%	LA Area	EA		Applicant Type	Business		
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Total Eligible Costs	£8,148.03																
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LA Area	EA																
Applicant Type	Business																

## CONCLUDES GROUP 2 PROJECT ASSESSMENTS

### Group 3

**Conflicts of Interest** CC- Girvan Community Garden

Project	Decision
Girvan Community Garden	Approve
Hamilton Cottages Limited	Approve
Little Peru	Approve
Millport Town Hall	Approve
NACBS	Approve
Newmilns Snow & Sports Complex (NSASC)	Approve
R&C Storage Ltd (2 of 2)	Reject
The Isle of Arran Candle Company Ltd	Approve
Dunlop Community Hub Ltd (CAM)	Approve
Heather Lodge (CAM)	Approve
Isle of Arran Museum (CAM)	Approve
Girvan Community Garden	Approve
Hamilton Cottages Limited	Approve
Little Peru	Approve

### 25. Girvan Community Garden

CC left the room.

#### Improvement to off-grid power generation: purchase of a second power bank, solar panels and leisure batteries to maximise winter power generation

Total Eligible Costs	£6,886.94
Grant Request & %	£6,198.24 90%
LA Area	SA
Applicant Type	Charity

#### Points Raised at Technical Check:

- Continuation of previously ARIA funded project, to complete installation
- Three letters of local support

#### LAG discussion covered:

- There was a general discussion on the benefits of having a LAG representative with energy expertise, as we are currently not technically skilled for future, similar projects. Such a member could assist in evaluating whether proposed renewable power supply equipment would adequately meet a project's required kW output, etc.

**Decision:** Unanimously **Approved**

JM to try to find additional LAG support from an organisation with expertise in Green Energy Production for future projects like this.

### 26. Hamilton Cottages Limited

Enhancing guest experience: extending car parking, building and off-grid sauna, and improving access to grounds and woodlands		
Total Eligible Costs	£11,928	
Grant Request & %	£10,000    84%	
LA Area	SA	
Applicant Type	Business	
<b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business case for need</li><li>• Limited local support provided</li></ul> <b>LAG discussion covered:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LAG members discussed whether the improvements to the car park area could be completed within the short timeframe.</li></ul> <b>Decision: Approved</b>		

27. Little Peru		
Little Peru Net Zero: upgrade of existing on-site renewables; groundworks and landscaping to improve drainage; purchase of signage to promote local cycle and walking routes		
Total Eligible Costs	£16,649.86	
Grant Request & %	£14,984.86    90%	
LA Area	SA	
Applicant Type	Business	
<b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cashflow could be stronger, however can provide loan to cover costs.</li><li>• Two letters of local support</li></ul> <b>LAG discussion covered:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The LAG agreed that the upgrade of existing renewables and signage were desirable to enhance the business and help achieve net zero. However, they were less convinced about the necessity to improve drainage around the site and whether this could be achieved within the timeframe.</li></ul> <b>Decision: Approved</b> <u>at £10,448.87, excluding groundwork's costs.</u>		

28. Millport Town Hall		
Community regeneration of Millport Townhall: purchase and installation of reception desk, blinds and furniture for the Community Hub area.		
Total Eligible Costs	£22,847	
Grant Request & %	£20,562    90%	



LA Area	NA																
Applicant Type	Charity																
<p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong, well supported application for items which can easily be purchased within the timeframe.</li> <li>Some minor price variations from quotes, but this appears to be due to rounding and does not cause significant price difference.</li> </ul> <p><b>LAG discussion covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LAG sought clarification on the completion of the overall project.</li> <li>ARIA staff called the project during the meeting to clarify and then confirmed that the overall project was nearing completion, with only painting and other minor finishings to be done. It was also confirmed that the purchased items could be appropriately stored in the short interim.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: Approved</b></p>																	
<p><b>29. North Arran Community Benefit Society (NACBS)</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="3">Lochranza Country Inn: refurbishment to create a community lounge/office space for locals, new hob for kitchen and IT equipment</th></tr> <tr> <td>Total Eligible Costs</td><td>£33,841.92</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Grant Request &amp; %</td><td>£30,457.73</td><td>90%</td></tr> <tr> <td>LA Area</td><td>NA</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Applicant Type</td><td>Charity</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local support for original / wider project.</li> <li>However, no new letters of support for this specific project.</li> <li>Funds will be used to purchase multiple items, nearly all of which are 'off the shelf'.</li> <li>Need / demand not detailed.</li> </ul> <p><b>LAG discussion covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Considerable number of items to purchase. It was agreed that the commercial gas hob, carpet, flooring and IT equipment would be funded, but <b>not</b> the furniture, fixings and fittings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: Approved</b> at the <u>lower grant level</u> of £14,358.36</p>			Lochranza Country Inn: refurbishment to create a community lounge/office space for locals, new hob for kitchen and IT equipment			Total Eligible Costs	£33,841.92		Grant Request & %	£30,457.73	90%	LA Area	NA		Applicant Type	Charity	
Lochranza Country Inn: refurbishment to create a community lounge/office space for locals, new hob for kitchen and IT equipment																	
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LA Area	NA																
Applicant Type	Charity																
<p><b>30. Newmilns Snow &amp; Sport Complex (NCASC)</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="3">Rebrand Stage 3: Signage. Installation of rebranded signage and updating staff uniforms.</th></tr> <tr> <td>Total Eligible Costs</td><td>£22,098.24</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Grant Request &amp; %</td><td>£18,562.52</td><td>84%</td></tr> </table>			Rebrand Stage 3: Signage. Installation of rebranded signage and updating staff uniforms.			Total Eligible Costs	£22,098.24		Grant Request & %	£18,562.52	84%						
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Total Eligible Costs	£22,098.24																
Grant Request & %	£18,562.52	84%															

LA Area	EA
Applicant Type	Charity

**Points Raised at Technical Check:**

- Video provides a clearer understanding of why signage is necessary.
- Local council support
- Error in cost breakdown part of form, albeit result is that applicant is providing a higher match funding amount.

**LAG discussion covered:**

- Recognised that the signage and uniforms not only enhance the organisation’s appearance, but also serve as a crucial Health and Safety measure.

**Decision: Approved**

**31. R & C Storage Ltd (2 of 2)**

Upgrade to existing lighting: replacement of old florescent lighting with LED lighting		
Total Eligible Costs	£9,600	
Grant Request & %	£8,100	84%
LA Area	SA	
Applicant Type	Business	

**Points Raised at Technical Check:**

- Application 2 of 2.
- Small turnover but large company loan from directors.
- No business plan or clear indication of how cashflow of retrospective payment would be met.
- Not a strong application, limited need and local support

**LA discussion covered:**

- As per application 1 of 1, no local support provided, with limited business case for the improvements.

**Decision: Unanimously Rejected**

**32. Isle of Arran Candle Company**

Purchase of new IT and candle making equipment		
Total Eligible Costs	£6,852.31	
Grant Request & %	£6,000	88%

LA Area	NA																
Applicant Type	Business																
<p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No business plan provided</li> <li>Not strong on need / local support</li> </ul> <p><b>LAG discussion covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement to production, safeguarding new island business.</li> <li>Only one laptop approved.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: Approved</b> <u>at lower rate</u> of £5,052.28</p>																	
<p><b>33. Dunlop Community Hub</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="79 734 1268 1077"> <tr> <th colspan="3">CAM: Property condition survey</th></tr> <tr> <td>Total Eligible Costs</td><td colspan="2">£3,560</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grant Request &amp; %</td><td>£3,204</td><td>90%</td></tr> <tr> <td>LA Area</td><td colspan="2">EA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Applicant Type</td><td colspan="2">Business (Community)</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Viable matched funding</li> <li>They have also submitted an application to SCF.</li> </ul> <p><b>LAG discussion covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unanimous approval given this is a proven applicant.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: Unanimously Approved</b></p>		CAM: Property condition survey			Total Eligible Costs	£3,560		Grant Request & %	£3,204	90%	LA Area	EA		Applicant Type	Business (Community)		
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<p><b>34. Heather Lodge CIC - Maintenance Plan</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="70 1547 1275 1912"> <tr> <th colspan="3">CAM: Property condition survey</th></tr> <tr> <td>Total Eligible Costs</td><td colspan="2">£5,850</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grant Request &amp; %</td><td>£5,265</td><td>90%</td></tr> <tr> <td>LA Area</td><td colspan="2">NA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Applicant Type</td><td colspan="2">Social Enterprise</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good evidence of networking and local support.</li> <li>Long lease in place</li> </ul>		CAM: Property condition survey			Total Eligible Costs	£5,850		Grant Request & %	£5,265	90%	LA Area	NA		Applicant Type	Social Enterprise		
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LA Area	NA																
Applicant Type	Social Enterprise																

<p><b>LAG discussion covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unanimous approval given.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> Unanimously <b>Approved</b></p>											
<p><b>35. Isle of Arran Heritage Museum - Group B listed buildings survey</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="81 380 1262 696"> <tr> <th colspan="2">CAM: Property condition survey</th></tr> <tr> <td>Total Eligible Costs</td><td>£8,600</td></tr> <tr> <td>Grant Request &amp; %</td><td>£7,740    90%</td></tr> <tr> <td>LA Area</td><td>NA</td></tr> <tr> <td>Applicant Type</td><td>Charity</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Points Raised at Technical Check:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listed building.</li> <li>• Only two quotes could be provided within the short timeframe, but this was communicated to ARIA staff and explained in the Application.</li> </ul> <p><b>LAG Discussion covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unanimous approval given this is a known applicant and it is recognised that a property survey is desirable.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> Unanimously <b>Approved</b></p>	CAM: Property condition survey		Total Eligible Costs	£8,600	Grant Request & %	£7,740    90%	LA Area	NA	Applicant Type	Charity	
CAM: Property condition survey											
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Grant Request & %	£7,740    90%										
LA Area	NA										
Applicant Type	Charity										
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The discussion then shifted to the remaining funds and the possibility of allocating part of them to an IT fund for third-sector organisations. LAG members expressed concerns that the relevant team at SAC was already at full capacity to manage such a fund. In response, it was suggested that ARIA staff explore the possibility of overseeing its administration.</li> <li>• There was also a discussion about the future of the ARIA fund, in light of ongoing budget cuts by SG. JM will seek quotes for a feasibility study into the possibility of ARIA transitioning into an independent entity with a different legal structure to attract diverse funding sources. Previously approved tender documents will be sent to potential candidates for quotations in the following weeks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Date to be confirmed after the end of the financial year, likely May.</p> <p><b>The meeting was Closed.</b></p>											

## Actions taken after the meeting by ARIA staff


### For Applicants:

- **Carrick Resilience:** advise that approval is conditional upon the drone being made available to all scales of community events that Carrick Resilience members are able to attend. A diary of public events attended by Carrick Resilience must be provided to ARIA staff in March 2026
- **Crosshouse Community Football Club:** advised that approval is conditional upon no additional unexpected wiring costs being covered by the ARIA Fund, should they be found during installation.
- **Crossroads Community Hub:** advised that approval is conditional upon provision of an up to date schedule of works, site photographs/ map and completion date as soon as a contractor is in place.
- **Dunlop Community Hub:** advised that approval is at a lower grant award rate (£6,796.90) as roofing costs will have to be excluded from grant award.
- **Friends of Dundonald Castle:** advised that approval is based upon lower grant award rate (£11,812.20) to reflect reduced IT spend. Also, conditional upon provision of a business plan to include a furnishings sinking fund and to put existing/old furniture back into the circular economy.
- **Girvan Attractions:** advised that approval is at a lower grant award rate (£6,643.30).
- **Little Peru:** advised that approval is based upon a lower grant award rate of £10,448.87, to reflect exclusion of groundwork costs.
- **DART:** advised that approval is conditional upon provision of a schedule of works for the project, as soon as a contractor has been appointed. The Grantee must provide design drawings/ photographs before commencement of works and make provisions for adverse weather conditions.
- **Lamlash House:** advised that grant award is conditional upon Lamlash House Events continuing to offer public events for a minimum of two years post project completion. Also, the Grantee must provide the ARIA fund with a summary of events held by March 31st, 2025, and by March 31st, 2026, or the full grant amount is eligible for reclaim by the ARIA Fund.
- **Millport Town Hall:** advised that the grant award is conditional upon provision of a construction contractor's schedule of works, including completion date and any updates that may occur during the project timeline.
- **NACBS:** advised that grant award is based upon a lower amount (£14,358.21) to reflect exclusion of furnishings items.
- **Isle of Arran Candle Company:** advised that the grant award is based upon a lower amount 95,052.28) to reflect reduced IT costs.

### General

- SAC to take forward complaint from 2024/25 Main Fund applicant.
- JM to update future guidance notes to only allow one application per organisation.
- JM to reach out to find additional LAG support from an organisation with expertise in Green Energy Production.
- Launch of an IT fund for third-sector organisations in late February
- Quotations will be sought for a feasibility study into ARIA becoming an independent organisation.

Jim Watson



ARIA LAG Chair

21<sup>st</sup> May 2025

END