
Report To:	Policy and Resources Committee	Date:	3 June 2025
Report By:	Corporate Director, Education, Communities and OD	Report No:	PR/15/25/RB/TM
Contact Officer:	Tony McEwan	Contact No:	01475 712828
Subject:	Anti-Poverty Fund: Free Playschemes 2025-2027		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 ☒ For Decision ☐ For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to request funding from the Council's Anti-poverty fund to extend the free summer playschemes for 2025 – 2027.
- 1.3 The Council has operated free summer playschemes since 2023 in response to the cost of living crisis, through the budget process and also through anti-poverty funding. The summer playschemes were very successful over several years while they were subsidised but have seen an increase in their popularity since the Council made them free of charge.
- 1.4 The Council has, as part of its 2025/26 budget process, set aside funding for additional support needs, including summer provision, and therefore is not being considered as part of this report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:
- agrees to an allocation of up to £60k from the anti-poverty ear-marked reserve to ensure that playschemes remain free for families for the summers of 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Council has, for several years, provided subsidised funding of £75k per year so that families could access Inverclyde Leisure and Community Centre managed summer playschemes at a low cost.
- 3.2 Since 2023 and in response to a national cost of living crisis, the Council provided £35k of additional funding as part of the budget process in order that the playschemes could be accessed for free. This anti-poverty measure was extremely popular with families and resulted in greatly increased attendance, representing an increase in attendances of almost 17% in 2024.
- 3.3 The increase in demand for places also exceeded the budget available in 2024, with the £15k budget pressure being able to be met by the Communities Service for that year only.
- 3.4 It is now estimated that the cost of providing free playschemes requires additional funding of up to £20k per year.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Policy and Resources Committee agrees to an allocation of up to £60k from the anti-poverty ear-marked reserve to ensure that playschemes remain free for families for the summers of 2025, 2026 and 2027. The increased uptake of playschemes shows that the activities are valued by the communities and addresses the cost of living pressure for families.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial	x	
Legal/Risk		x
Human Resources		x
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)	x	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		x
Environmental & Sustainability		x
Data Protection		x

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Anti Poverty Fund Earmarked Reserve	Playschemes	2025/26 – 2027/28	£60,000		Up to £60k over a three year period.

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

N/A

5.4 Human Resources

N/A

5.5 Strategic

This fits in with the Strategic objective to ensure that our young people have the best start in life through high quality support and education

5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: This report asks to continue a policy rather than to introduce a new one

(c) Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.8 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 N/A

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 N/A