



# Argyll & Kintyre 275kV Local Fund Proposal

## Overview and Consultation

UK Government [guidance](#) on community benefit funding for transmission infrastructure was published in March 2025. The guidance sets out the Government's expectations for how communities that live near onshore electricity transmission infrastructure developments should benefit from the development of this infrastructure.

The Argyll & Kintyre 275kV Local Fund is the first Community Benefit Fund to be developed by SSEN Transmission since the new guidance was published. This document outlines an initial proposal for the structure and priorities of the Argyll & Kintyre 275kV Local Fund.

This has been produced following a consultation period across September and October 2025. This consultation included the following engagement activities:

Consultation Activity	Numbers of Participants
Dalmally Community Centre drop in, Monday 8 September, 5.30pm – 8pm	16
Lochgilphead Community Centre presentation, Tuesday 9 September, 10am – 12pm	17
Lochgilphead Community Centre drop in, Tuesday 9 September, 1pm – 4pm	12
Tarbert Village Hall presentation and drop in, Tuesday 9 September, 5.30pm – 8pm	21
Carradale Village Hal presentation and drop in, Wednesday 10 September, 10am – 12pm	12
Inveraray (Loch Fyne Hotel) presentation, Wednesday 10 September, 1pm – 4pm	5
Inveraray (Loch Fyne Hotel) drop in, Wednesday 10 September, 5.30pm – 8pm	5
Online Sessions, Tuesday 16 September, 6.30pm – 8pm and Friday 19 September, 12pm – 1.30pm	28
Survey	26

Across all in-person and online events, 116 people participated in the consultation. In addition, 26 people completed the survey, and 7 people responded with specific email feedback. A number of meetings were held with the Argyll and Bute Council to understand the area and existing work on community priorities.

In addition, desk research was carried out using available, place plans, community plans, and socio-economic data pertaining to the area.

In summary, the key outcomes of the consultation were:

- A broad range of key community priorities were highlighted, including community infrastructure; amenities and local services; transport; housing; youth engagement; employment and skills; outdoor spaces and sustainability.
- Respondents indicated that they chose these priorities in order to address the key challenges faced by their communities: specifically highlighting challenges around population decline / aging populations, limited connectivity, and environmental degradation.
- Respondents indicated a preference for the funding to be flexible and “cover a diverse range of projects”, pointing out that “different communities have different priorities, some need capital project funding [...] others need revenue support”.
- All respondents stated a preference for funding to be available within one of the ten community council areas that border the Argyll & Kintyre 275Kv project or specified a preference for funding to be made available across the whole area covered by the infrastructure e.g. “Distributed fairly across the whole length of the line”.

This proposal has been produced to best reflect the views of the communities affected by the SSEN Transmission infrastructure projects, as defined in UK Government Guidance, within the proposed fund area.

## Area of Benefit

There are ten community council areas that border the new Argyll & Kintyre 275kV project. Feedback from the consultation showed support for the beneficiaries of funding to be from these areas.

Projects directly benefitting people in the following areas will be eligible for the fund:

- Inveraray
- Furnace
- Dunadd
- West Loch Fyne
- Lochgilphead
- Ardrishaig
- Tarbert & Skipness
- West Kintyre
- East Kintyre
- Glenorchy & Innishail

Organisations based out with these community council areas are welcome to apply to the fund, provided that a majority of beneficiaries of the proposed activity are resident within the area of benefit.

## Fund Value

All SSEN Transmission community benefit funding is being delivered in accordance with [UK Government guidance](#) on the delivery of community benefit for transmission infrastructure. The following infrastructure projects have been identified as eligible to form the Argyll & Kintyre 275kV Local Fund:

- Inveraray – Crossaig 275kV Overhead Line
- Crarae Substation
- An Suidhe Substation
- Craig Murrail Substation
- Creag Dhubh to Dalmally Overhead Line
- Creag Dhubh to Inveraray Overhead Line

In accordance with the SSEN Transmission fund delivery model, 50% of the community benefit funding from each of these projects will be made available for local community funding, with the remaining 50% of the funding being delivered via the Regional Fund.

Therefore, the current total lifetime funding available for the Argyll & Kintyre 275kV Local Fund is £3,268,000. This value may increase if eligible infrastructure is built in the area and can be incorporated into this fund without disadvantaging any local communities.

## Fund Duration and Structure

Based on feedback and the need to build interest in the Fund and its impact, it will be established to run for a minimum of 5 years. Discussions and desk research indicates that we should consider revenue and capital projects, with a focus on both immediate delivery as well as longer term sustainability of projects.

Feedback from the consultation indicated a preference for a flexible fund with no maximum or minimum grant values. It is therefore proposed that, initially, there is no minimum grant value and a maximum will be equal to the funding available in that round. This will be reviewed once the decision-making panel is appointed. Smaller grant values may require light touch and easy to access availability which will be

reflected in how the Fund is administered and delivered. The SSEN Transmission Fund Manager will develop this in the early months of 2026.

As the Fund will be delivered over 5 years, the total amount available annually will be £653,600. This amount may increase if additional eligible projects are built in the area and this will be communicated.

## Fund Priorities

Based on community consultation responses, as well as alignment with local authority and community plan documents, it is proposed that the Community Fund focuses on projects or activities that address the following challenges:

- Tackling the root causes of depopulation (for instance, by enhancing infrastructure such as affordable housing, transport, broadband; providing education, skills and training opportunities; establishing or supporting community services and facilities).
- Improving connectivity (for instance, by providing activities for groups experiencing social isolation including younger people, older people and marginalised groups; improving access to transport including community transport).
- Tackling the climate and biodiversity crises (for instance, through sustainability initiatives; nature restoration projects; improving access to nature and active travel).<sup>1</sup>

## Community Capacity

In addition, SSEN Transmission can support capacity building for new and existing community organisations to access funding as appropriate. Consultation responses indicated that respondents feel that there is sufficient capability across the area to use the funding and deliver positive impacts. A Local Fund Manager will engage with third sector organisations and further investigate any needs for additional support.

## Decision Making Process

It is proposed that an independent, impartial panel will be appointed to act as the decision-making body for the Community Fund. This panel will include representatives from the beneficiary area and will be supported by an SSEN Transmission Fund Manager to ensure consistent standards are applied throughout the decision-making process.

Funding decisions will be based on the priorities outlined within this document and will also take into account the distance from infrastructure of a community project, impact of the project, value for money, fit with local place plans, deliverability, community involvement and evidence of need.

More information on the panel will follow shortly.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, organisations must have a constitution, operate on a not-for-profit basis, and align with the fund priorities identified through the consultation. Public bodies may apply; however, statutory services and gap funding for existing provision will not be supported. Public bodies should demonstrate strong partnership working, and priority will be given to community-led projects.

Funding is not available for community projects which fall under the following categories:

- The advancement of religion or politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups);
- Direct costs of energy consumption;
- The repayment of loans or payment of debts;

- Trips abroad;
- Costs already incurred or activities which will take place before a decision has been made (retrospective funding);
- Payments towards areas generally understood to be the primary responsibility of statutory authorities.

## Next steps

- SSEN Transmission welcomes feedback on this Community Fund Proposal from stakeholders.
- Following a period of consultation the final Fund Proposal will be published, a decision-making panel will be appointed, and a Fund Manager will be employed to support the development and administration of the Fund.
- It is anticipated that the Fund will open and begin disbursing grants in 2026.

Please contact [community.benefit@sse.com](mailto:community.benefit@sse.com) with any comments or questions on the fund.