

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Director of Strategic Change and Communities
to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel
of 24 October 2023**

Subject: Participatory Budgeting Activity in 2022/23

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Panel of the Participatory Budgeting (PB) Activity undertaken by Council Services for the period 2022/23.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Panel considers the content of the PB Activity Report attached as [Appendix 1](#) and notes the value of budgetary spend influenced through the PB processes.**

3. Background

- 3.1 PB is a tool for community engagement and developing participatory democracy. The Council has implemented strategies which address the key issues contained within the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The Council has also worked with the Community Choices programme, which supports and promotes PB nationally.
- 3.2 CoSLA has provided a definition of mainstreaming PB as follows: *Proactively involving and engaging local people in making decisions for how public money is spent in their community. This means engaging people in the design of policy and strategy that eliminates existing participation gaps.*
- 3.3 As highlighted to Panel previously, PB is a long-term strategy that will be developed and delivered over many repeated cycles. The Council continues to evolve its strategic approach to PB ensuring that residents are as engaged as possible in the budget allocation process.
- 3.4 The Council has, over the past few years, evidenced greater participation in wider consultation and engagement with communities across a number of social media and mainstream communication platforms.
- 3.5 The Council's 1% target for financial year 2022/23 (as derived from the information contained in the 2022/23 Finance Order FC5/2022), was £2.476m. This is defined by COSLA and Scottish Government as: *'The total estimated expenditure for revenue, as per the Local Government finance circular, less assumed Council tax intake'*.

3.6 The COSLA framework on PB explains that local authorities can use both revenue and capital spend to arrive at the target.

3.7 As outlined in the [report](#) submitted to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of 16 May 2023, the Council had already exceeded the 1% PB activity target within the first half of the 2022/2023 financial year.

4. Proposals

4.1 It is proposed that the Panel considers the content of the PB Activity Report for the full year 2022/2023 attached as [Appendix 1](#) and notes the value of budgetary spend influenced through the PB processes – a total of **£3,407,626**. Members will note that this exceeded the initial 1% target of £2.476m highlighted in 3.6.

4.2 As previously highlighted to panel, it is intended to report to the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel on a six-monthly basis with regards to the development of mainstreaming PB. This will continue to ensure that members are sighted on the obligation to ensure citizens are encouraged to become more directly involved on influencing expenditure going forward.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

5.1 This participatory budgeting satisfies the legal obligations of the council under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to promote and facilitate public participation in its decisions and activities and to give communities more powers to achieve their own ambitions. It also complements the Council's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 and delivers the public sector equality duty by advancing 3 equality of opportunities and fostering good relations between groups. Advice and guidance will be sought from Legal Services on an ongoing basis, where appropriate.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Although there is no direct budget for mainstreaming PB, its ethos is for communities to have a greater influence on spend. [Appendix 1](#) provides detail of the Council spend influenced through PB for the full year 2022/23.

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

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 The Council will be unable to report its PB activity to the relevant bodies.

9. Equalities

- 9.1 The proposals in this report allow scrutiny of performance. The report does not involve proposals for policies, strategies, procedures, processes, financial decisions and activities (including service delivery), both new and at review, that affect the Council's communities and employees, therefore an equality impact assessment is not required.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

- 10.1 **Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** – not applicable.

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 Priority 3 of the Council Plan: Civic and Community Pride.

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, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

Background Papers Report to Leadership Panel of 11 June 2019 - [Moving Towards Mainstreaming Participatory Budgeting](#)

[Community Choices 1% Framework Agreement](#)

Report to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of 16 May 2023 – [Participatory Budgeting Activity in 2022/23 \(Quarters 1 and 2\)](#)

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

Kevin Anderson, Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr KA7 1UT
Phone 01292 612982
E-mail kevin.anderson@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Date: 13 October 2023

Participatory Budgeting Activity In 2022/23

1% target defined as 'total estimated expenditure for revenue, as per the Local Government finance circular, less assumed Council tax intake	£2.476m
--	---------

Breakdown of revenue and/or capital subject to participatory budgeting during 2022/2023			
	Service Area	Revenue (£)	Capital (£)
	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	£128,000	£200,000
	Children's Health, Care & Justice Service (HSCP)	£65,000	
	Community Health and Care Services (HSCP)		£130,000
	Community Services and Facilities Maybole Town Centre Regeneration Public Realm Improvements		£1,500,000
	Housing Services	£1,105,000	
	Thriving Communities	£23,025	£256,601
	TOTAL	£1,321,025	£2,086,601
GRAND TOTAL		£3,407,626	