

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Depute Chief Executive and Director
of Housing, Operations and Development
to Cabinet
of 28 November 2023**

Subject: Ayr Esplanade Strategy

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend a placemaking improvement strategy for Ayr Esplanade. The purpose of the strategy is to provide a coherent framework for the undertaking of Capital based improvements and investments in the area. The strategy follows consideration of the outcome of public consultation on a draft Ayr Esplanade Strategy undertaken in 2020/2021 on parts of the Esplanade area.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

2.1.1 approves the Ayr Esplanade Strategy set out in Appendix 1 as a basis for informing Capital investment in the area to commence in the period 2024/25;

2.1.2 notes that public feedback on the Esplanade Strategy will be considered in taking forward the longer term potential projects identified in the strategy; and

2.1.3 notes that the Ayr Esplanade Strategy will form a basis for considering external funding opportunities and for Thriving Communities to take forward further opportunities for Council led community initiatives to make greater use of the spaces and places for events and recreational activities.

3. Background

3.1 The Leadership Panel of 17 March 2020 approved a draft Ayr Esplanade Strategy focussing upon 3 areas – St Germain-En-Laye gardens and Bandstand, former Crazy Golf site and former putting green - as a basis for public consultation. Public responses to the strategy were limited. This was considered to be a consequence of the Covid associated lockdown arrangements in place at the time. As a result the draft strategy, and possible further associated investments, did not progress at that time.

3.2 The Council on 1 March 2023 approved capital budget allocation for all of South Ayrshire's promenades of £2.35m (Promenade and Shorefront Enhancement

Schemes). In addition, Capital budget was also approved for all 8 Council Wards ('Ward Placemaking Capital projects').

- 3.3 Identifying potential projects for Ward placemaking has involved consideration of Place Plans developed by communities and discussions with all Elected Members. This work has identified a range of improvements that could be made to the Ayr Esplanade.
- 3.4 A report to Cabinet of 26 September 2023, considering Ward Placemaking Capital projects for 23/24, noted the intention to develop an Ayr Esplanade Improvement Strategy to provide a planned basis to ensure a cohesive package of improvement and capital investment.
- 3.5 Most of the land in the Ayr Esplanade area is inalienable Common Good land. Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act requires that proposals involving a change of use or disposal of common good land be the subject of statutory public consultation with representations being invited in relation to these proposals, and Councils must have regard to any representations made about the proposals when deciding whether to proceed. The Ayr Esplanade Strategy is not sufficiently detailed to fulfil the specific requirements of public consultation to comply with the 2015 Act, where Common Good provisions are affected. Any such proposals to change the use or dispose of land will therefore require separate public consultation. However, the strategy does have the additional advantage of fulfilling the general provisions of the Act in engaging with the community on significant proposals and investments in the area. In addition, court approval may be required for some of the proposals as questions in law may arise as to the right of the Council to appropriate or change the use of land or to dispose of the land. This essentially occurs in relation to areas of land that are inalienable common good land, and in such circumstances the Council is required to obtain court authority for any proposals involving appropriation or disposal of these areas of land in terms of Section 75 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. Many of these areas are open spaces and are used for public recreation, and in terms of Sections 24(2A) and 27(2A) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1959, the Council has to publish a notice of any proposed appropriation or disposal in a newspaper circulating in the area for two consecutive weeks and must consider any objections before deciding whether to proceed.
- 3.6 There are a range of capital improvements that are well advanced in their planning for the Girvan promenade area. A similar strategy, but with a programme delivery focus, will be developed for Girvan Promenade and presented to Cabinet in February 2024. In the meantime, proposals that have developed to the point of being implemented and approved as Capital projects will continue to be implemented.
- 3.7 Although there are a range of capital projects identified for Troon, Newton-on-Ayr and Prestwick promenades, with the relative smaller scale nature of these and the more limited Common Good land affected (if at all) it is not thought that these areas would benefit from a similar Council approved improvement strategy at this time.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 The Ayr Esplanade Strategy is set out in Appendix 1. The strategy aims to enhance the family friendly and pedestrian focussed offer at the Esplanade by improving the public open spaces and public realm, for use by residents and visitors.

- 4.2 Improvements are recommended along the length of the Esplanade from the slipway in the north to the shelter kiosk at Blackburn Drive in the south. Two Gateway areas for focussed more significant public realm improvement have been identified at the Pavillion Road and at Blackburn Drive ends of the main Esplanade area.
- 4.3 The majority of the area is Common Good land and legal advice will be sought on any requirements for specific projects within the strategy. All land will remain in Council ownership though there are some proposals for commercialisation through leasing arrangements (4.4.3 and 4.4.10 below).
- 4.4 Proposals are indicative with sketches provided in the strategy. However, an explanation and further detail on each project timescales is set out below:
- 4.4.1 **Slipway** - Improved heritage artefacts, interpretation boards, wayfinding and accessibility to the slipway at the south of Ayr harbour. This work has already commenced with accessibility improvements being undertaken to the slipway and proposals going through s104 public consultation to remove the Common Good asset 'MV Watchful'. Detailed design proposals for the heritage artefact, interpretation boards and wayfinding are being drafted with a view to forming Capital projects for recommendation to Cabinet in February 2024 for implementation.
- 4.4.2 **Esplanade Lighting** – current lighting columns are of mixed vintage and design. Proposals are being investigated to provide consistent lighting with placemaking design features to enhance the amenity of the area. Lighting proposals will also provide energy efficient LED lighting and opportunity for light changing colour on column lengths. Detailed design proposals are intended to be recommended to Cabinet in 2024.
- 4.4.3 **Former Crazy Golf** – Crazy Golf was discontinued on this site around 2010 and the site lies as a vacant grassed area. The proposal is to reinstate a Crazy Golf facility. This could involve the Council undertaking investment through Promenade or Ward Capital monies and then leasing the facility to a community or commercial enterprise. This land is inalienable Common Good so proposals for the long-term lease of the facility require to undergo s104 public consultation and where required if matters proceed apply for the consent of the courts.
- 4.4.4 **Former Putting Green** – putting discontinued on this site around 2010 and the site lies as a vacant grassed area. It is proposed to install a low level, child friendly maze on the site and/or a sensory garden that could be especially attractive for dementia or visually impaired visitors. There is also opportunity to install some innovative seating arrangements such as tri-pod seating. These proposals are at an early stage of development.
- 4.4.5 **Place De St. Germain-En-Laye Bandstand and Civic Realm** - The bandstand is underutilised as an entertainment space. Design proposals are being drafted to improve the appearance of the bandstand. These proposals may require planning permission in due course. Subject to proposals not requiring planning permission then detailed design proposals are intended to be recommended to Cabinet in February 2024. In addition, the civic realm in this area is fragmented, broken and made of utilitarian materials. Proposals are being investigated to replace the civic

realm surface with unified and natural based material to visually enhance this gateway area to the Esplanade.

- 4.4.6 **Signage around Pavilion Road** – There is currently a plethora of signage that provides some confusion to visitors and detracts from the amenity of the area. Opportunities for rationalisation are being investigated and in particular the idea of replacing existing signage with pedestrian oriented digital signage. Business case work requires to be advanced with the commercial sector before proposals can be approved.
- 4.4.7 **Accessible Strategy** - A survey will be undertaken of the Esplanade in order to identify further accessibility improvements around the Esplanade. This could identify further projects to enhance the pedestrian and cycle experience in the area. This might include improved public realm surfaces beyond gateway points and crossing point (4.4.4, 4.4.7 and 4.4.8), rationalised crossing points, way finding and signage. This strategy work will commence in 2024, with potential improvements being brought forward to Cabinet for approval in 2024/25.
- 4.4.8 **Improved Crossing Points** - There are current 4 crossing points between the Esplanade and the Low Green. Existing traffic calming is utilitarian in form and materials, and some of the stairs are in poor condition. Proposals are being investigated to replace these traffic calming islands with civic realm that provides placemaking opportunities as well as continuing to provide a traffic calming function. These proposals would tie in with an opportunity to make the stairs feature points along this part of the esplanade along with improving disability access. Potential improvements require to be considered holistically and improvements are intended to be brought forward to Cabinet for approval during 2024/25.
- 4.4.9 **Former WC/ Shelter Block and Improved Public Realm** – The current shelter is underutilised. This is located on inalienable Common Good land. A separate report on this agenda is recommending the commencement of a public consultation to enable a new commercially operated café/ kiosk to operate for the 2024 summer season. In addition, there is an opportunity to create a southern gateway point at this location with improved public realm surfaces and stairs to the Low Green.

4.5 The above proposals will be developed further in terms of design, costing and then, following approval by the Capital Asset Management Group (CAMG), will be brought back to a future Council for approval as Capital projects. The views of the public will be sought on the proposals and these views will be considered when assessing respective Capital projects through the CAMG.

4.6 In addition to the above firm proposals there are 3 proposals where considerations are at an early stage the public will be consulted on options. The 3 areas include:

- 4.6.1 The Watch Tower at the harbour end of the Esplanade. This is not in Council ownership and views are sought on potential new uses or improvements to the area.
- 4.6.2 Potential further cycle provision. There is a cycle way in place for most of the Esplanade, however, there may be opportunities to expand the network.

4.6.3 The former paddling pool on the grassed area to the side of Blackburn Drive. This has been disused since 1990 and is not capable of reuse as a paddling pool. Options for redevelopment could include temporary grass-creted car parking for events overspill or simply infilling grassing over the area.

4.7 Thriving Communities and Destination South Ayrshire are working to develop further opportunities to make use of the Ayr Esplanade, particularly the Low Green, for events or other community or recreational purposes. By improving the amenity and uses of the Esplanade, the strategy will complement other work programmes to improve visitor numbers and recreational use. Furthermore, the strategy will provide a basis for external funding opportunities that may transpire.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

5.1 The recommendations in this report are consistent with legal requirements. Legal advice will be sought from Legal Services on any legal requirements, including under common good, for specific projects within the strategy. Legal Services may require to assist with the carrying out of common good consultations and consent of the courts for appropriations or disposals such as the conclusion of new leases in due course.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 All Capital proposals will be, or have been, considered by the Capital Asset Management Group as Promenade Capital or Ward Placemaking Capital projects.

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk

Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations

8.1.1 There is a risk that when more detailed designs are developed that the cost of the proposals exceed Capital budget provisions. In this scenario not all proposals may be possible and the setting out of these in a strategy may have raised public expectations beyond financial deliverability.

Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations

8.2.1 There is a risk that Capital projects are considered in a piecemeal manner without a framework to provide coherence. There would also be a risk that the Council has not considered public views and is not meeting the intentions of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

9. Equalities

9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached as Appendix 2.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

- 10.1 **Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** - The proposals in this report do not represent a qualifying strategy for consideration for SEA as the proposals involve minimal interference with current land uses and will not have a significant environmental effect. However, being a strategy prepared by a public authority a screening has been undertaken and this indicates that an SEA is not required. This is attached in Appendix 3.

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 2 of the Council Plan: Live, Work, Learn/ Work and economy (Outcome 2).

13. Results of Consultation

- 13.1 Consultations have taken place with Councillor Alec Clark, Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Culture and Rural Affairs, and Councillor Martin Kilbride, Portfolio Holder for Buildings, Housing and Environment, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

- 14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development 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:

Implementation	Due date	Managed by
Publish Ayr Esplanade Strategy	4 December 2023	Assistant Director – Planning and Development

Background Papers Report to Leadership Panel of 17 March 2020 - [Ayr Esplanade – Phase 1](#)

Report to Cabinet of 26 September 2023 – [Proposed Ward Capital Projects – Update 2023 to 2025](#)

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Date: 22 November 2023

Ayr Esplanade Improvement Strategy

South Ayrshire Council

November 2023



Purpose of this Document

Austin-Smith:Lord were appointed to collate and illustrate South Ayrshire Council's proposed enhancements.

This booklet provides information about the proposals for Ayr Esplanade which South Ayrshire Council plan to undertake.

This work is in response to feedback received, through consultation, to an initial Ayr Seafront Strategy produced in 2020.

The extent of the proposed intervention area has been expanded and extends from Seafield Road at the Southern end of the site, to the Pier at the northern extent.

South Ayrshire Council plans to make the most effective and efficient use of its current assets at Ayr Esplanade using Ward Capital funding, approved earlier this year.

The project aim is to enhance the family friendly and pedestrian focussed offer at the Esplanade by improving the public open spaces, for use by residents and visitors.

This development is part of the broader overall strategy for Ayr and Ayr Town Centre which aligns with the Local Development Plan.

The interventions will be delivered between 2024 and 2026.



Ayr Esplanade -Aerial photograph of the existing context and intervention area.

Aims of the Proposed Improvements

The proposals outlined for Ayr Esplanade aim to:

- Enhance the key existing assets and attractions along the esplanade.
- Enhance the family friendly offer..
- Introduce additional facilities and provisions such as a cafe/ kiosk, Crazy Golf and a community garden.
- Enhance cultural amenities such as the stage at Saint Germain-En-Laye Gardens and introduce interpretation and improvements to the artworks and heritage aspects at the Slipway area.
- Improve safety through enhancements to the standard of lighting along the esplanade.
- Improve accessibility through upgrading the pedestrian crossing points together with traffic calming measures.



Ayr Esplanade - As Existing

Summary and Location of the Proposed Improvements



1. Former Slipway

Removal of the deteriorating Watchful decommissioned fishing boat and its mount, repairs to the footbridge, repairs to the shelters, seats and bollards, cleaning and refurbishment of the handrails, structures and paving. Refurbishment of art, updated signage and improved wayfinding with improved heritage artefacts and interpretation.

3. Former Crazy Golf

This project would see the reintroduction of Crazy Golf to the site.

4. Former Putty Green

The site could benefit with improved biodiversity with the introduction of some hardy, indigenous planting in the form of a sensory garden and or a maze and opportunities for innovative seating.

5. Place De St. Germain-En-Laye Bandstand

The bandstand was well-used during the pandemic, and to build on this local interest, there is now an ambition to better protect the audience from the elements by improving shelter to the performance area. This is in addition to footpath improvements at the corners of the Esplanade at Pavilion Road and Bath Place, replacing concrete slabs with high quality natural stone paving.

6. Signage

The existing, out-dated signage at the corner of Pavilion Road outside the main playpark would be replaced with new pedestrian-orientated, regularly updated, digital signage

8. Pedestrian Crossings

Review of traffic calming measures and enhancements of selected crossing points.

9. Former Public Convenience

The project would see the existing dilapidated shelter brought into back into use as a Cafe / Kiosk, supported by some repairs to public realm.

Other Site Wide Works.

2. Esplanade Lighting

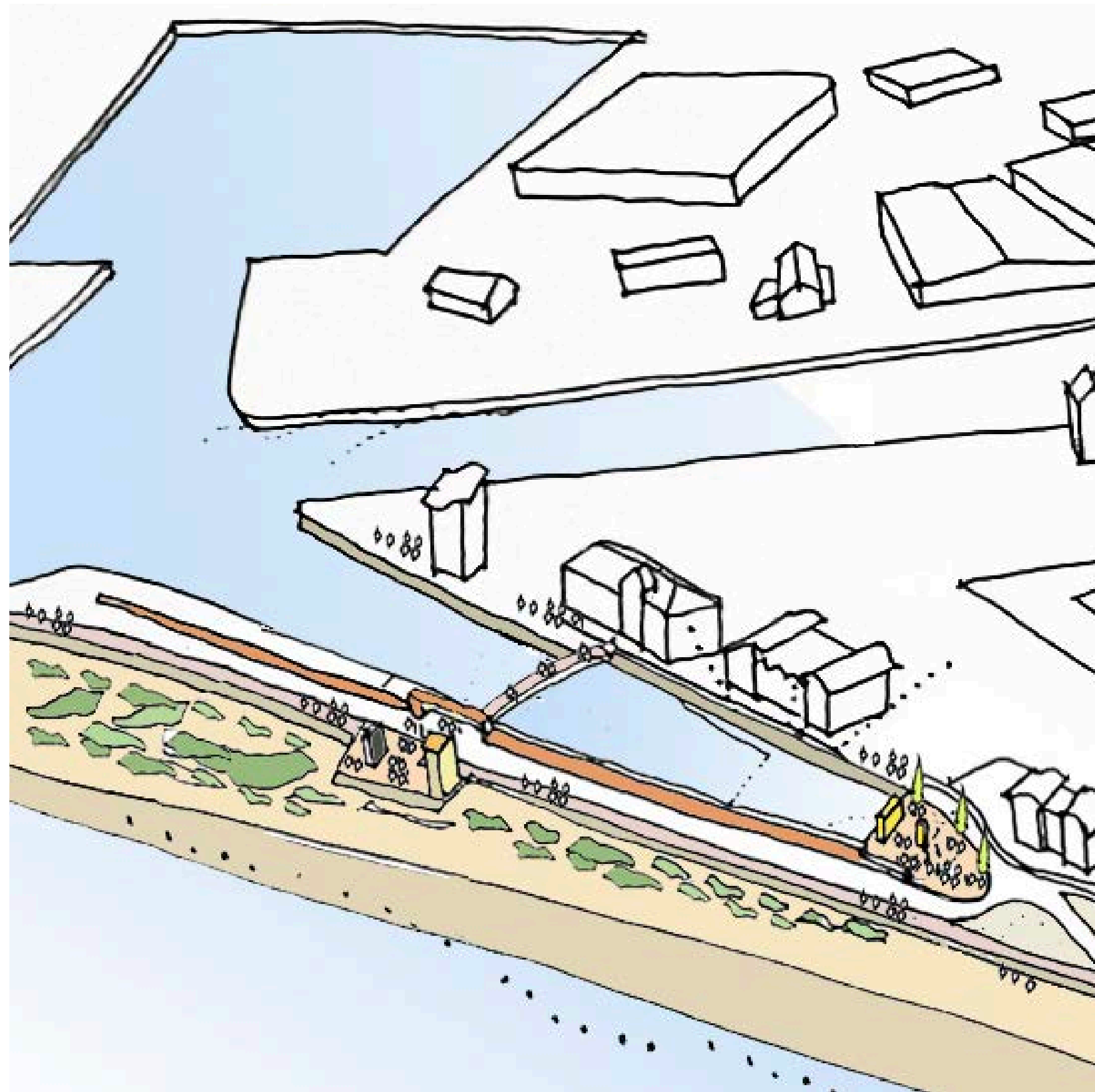
This joint project with Ayrshire Roads Alliance looks towards uniformity along the stretch of Esplanade, replacing the existing concrete and galvanised posts with modern designs and energy efficient, LED, colour changing lighting features.

7. Accessibility Strategy

A survey will be undertaken of the Esplanade in order to identify further improvements around the Esplanade – this could identify further projects to enhance the pedestrian and cycle experience in the area. These might include improved public realm surfaces, cycle lanes, rationalised crossing points, way finding/ signage.

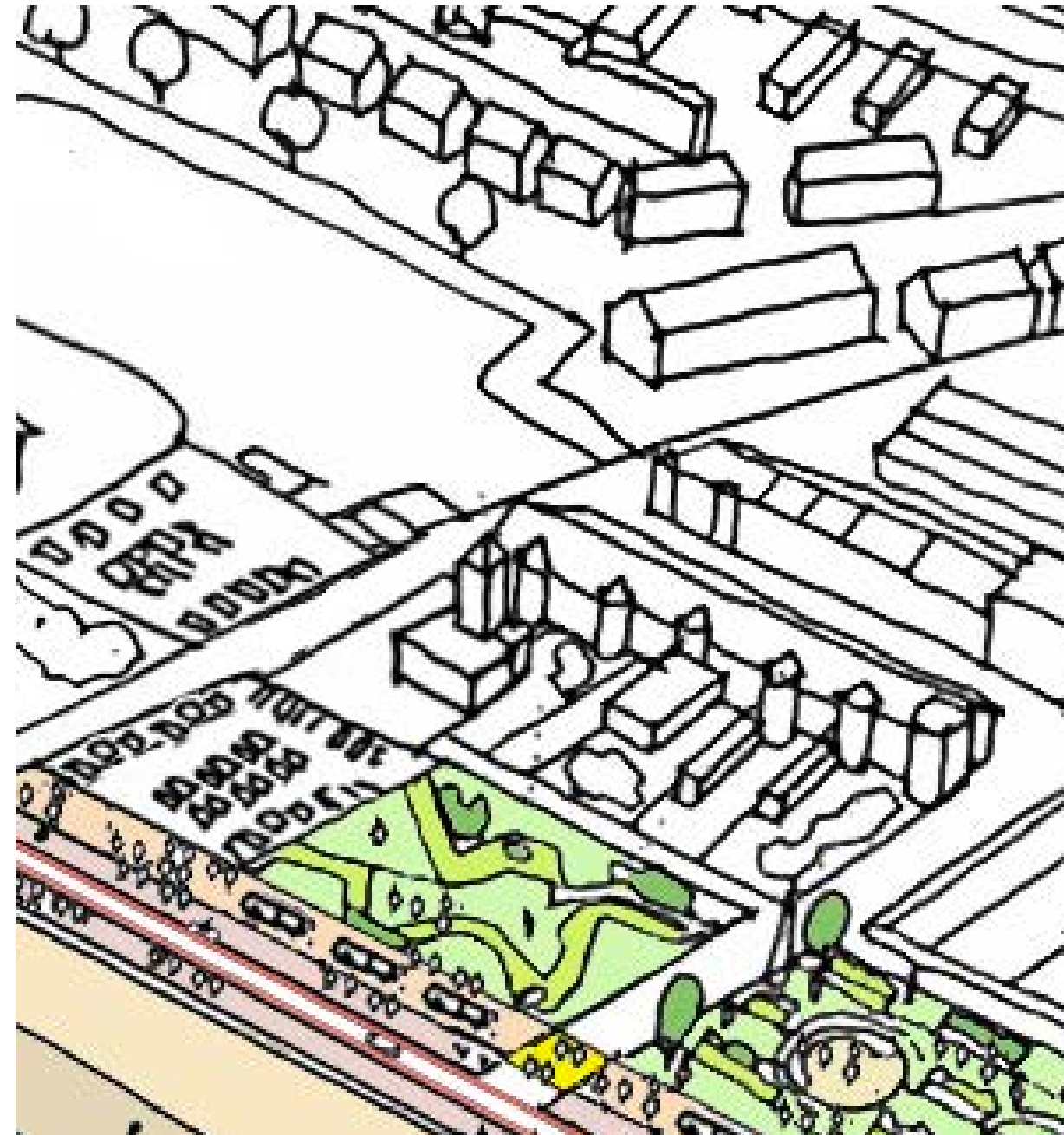
Ayr Esplanade - Sketch Indicating the Proposed Improvements





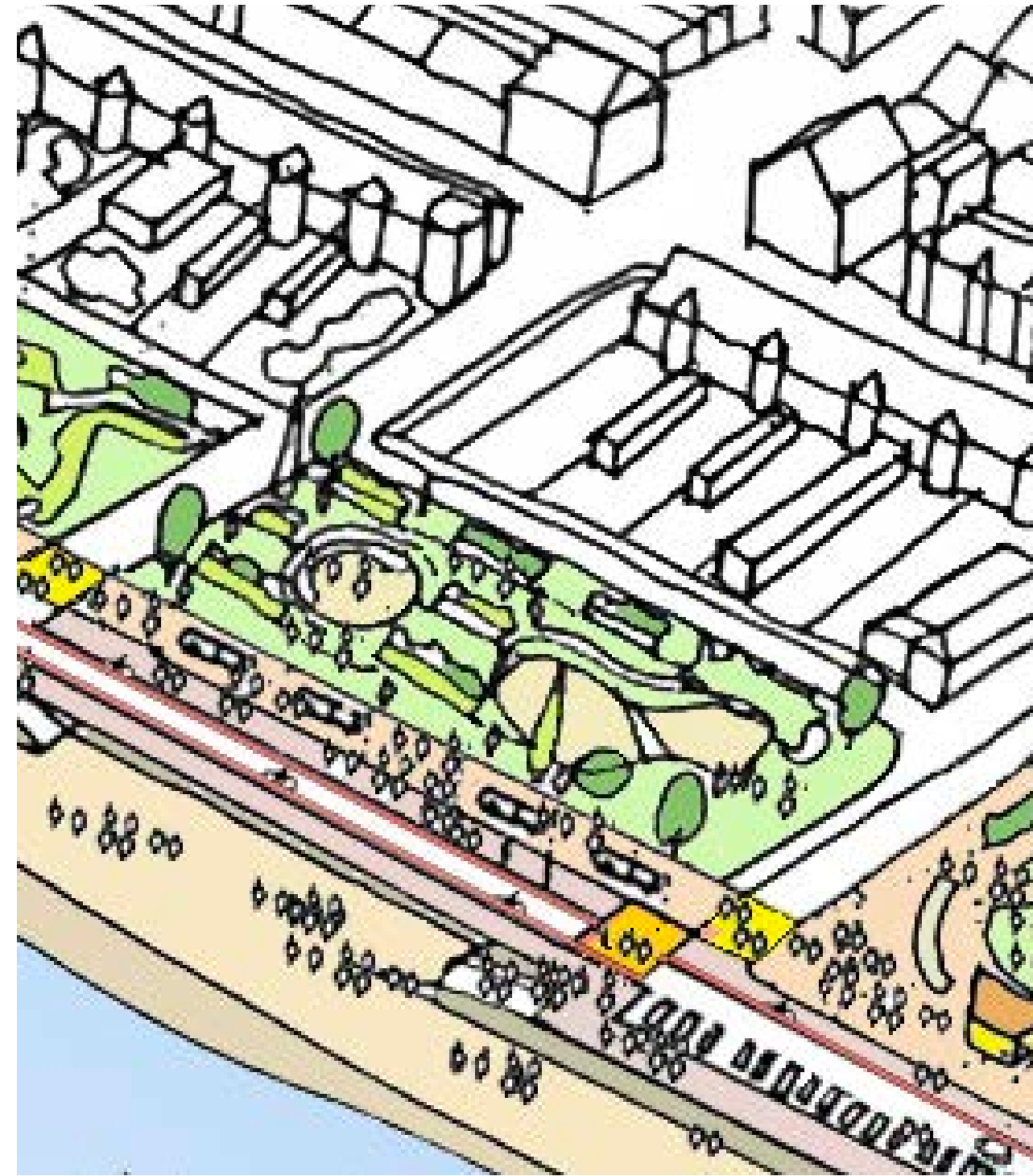
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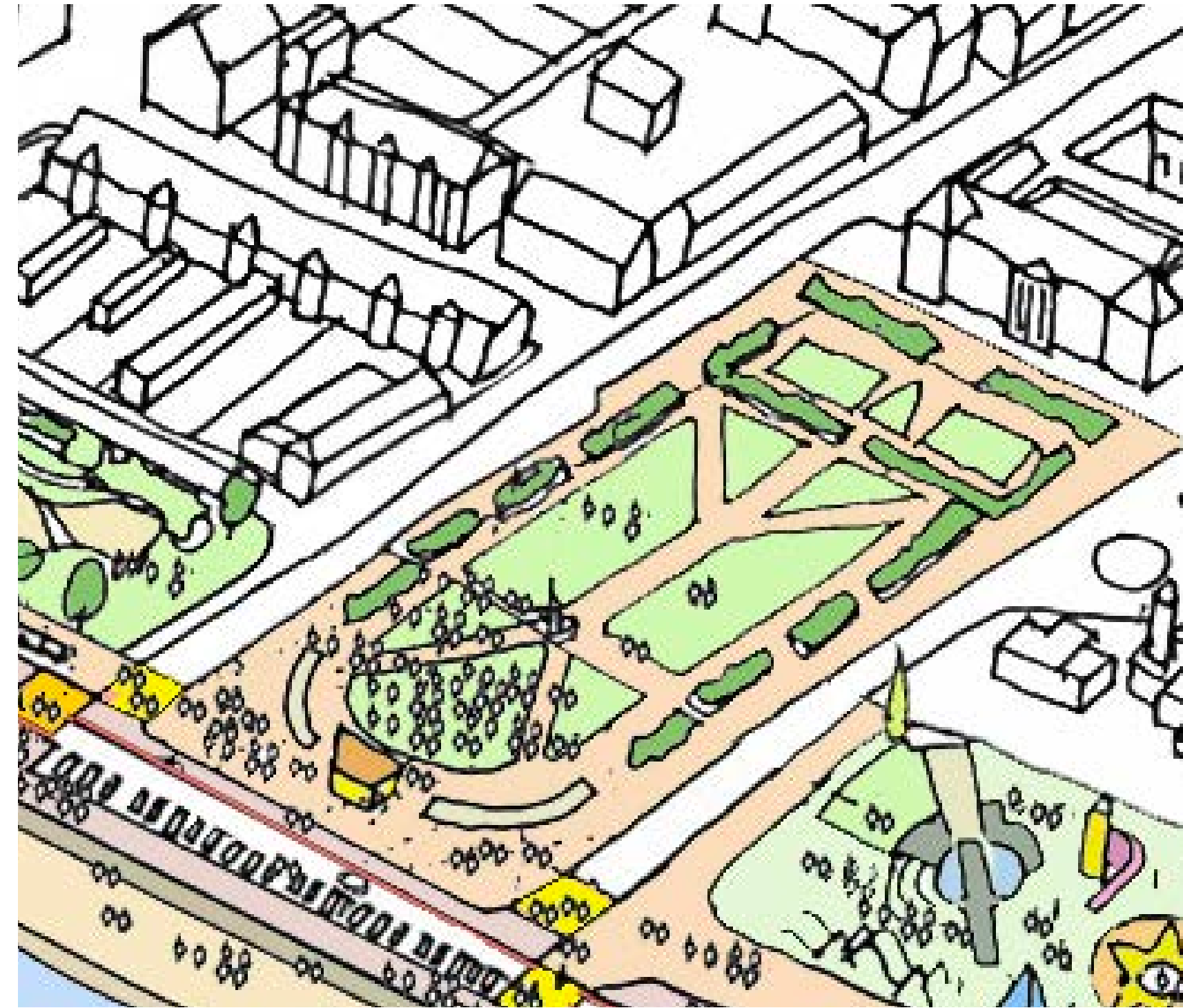
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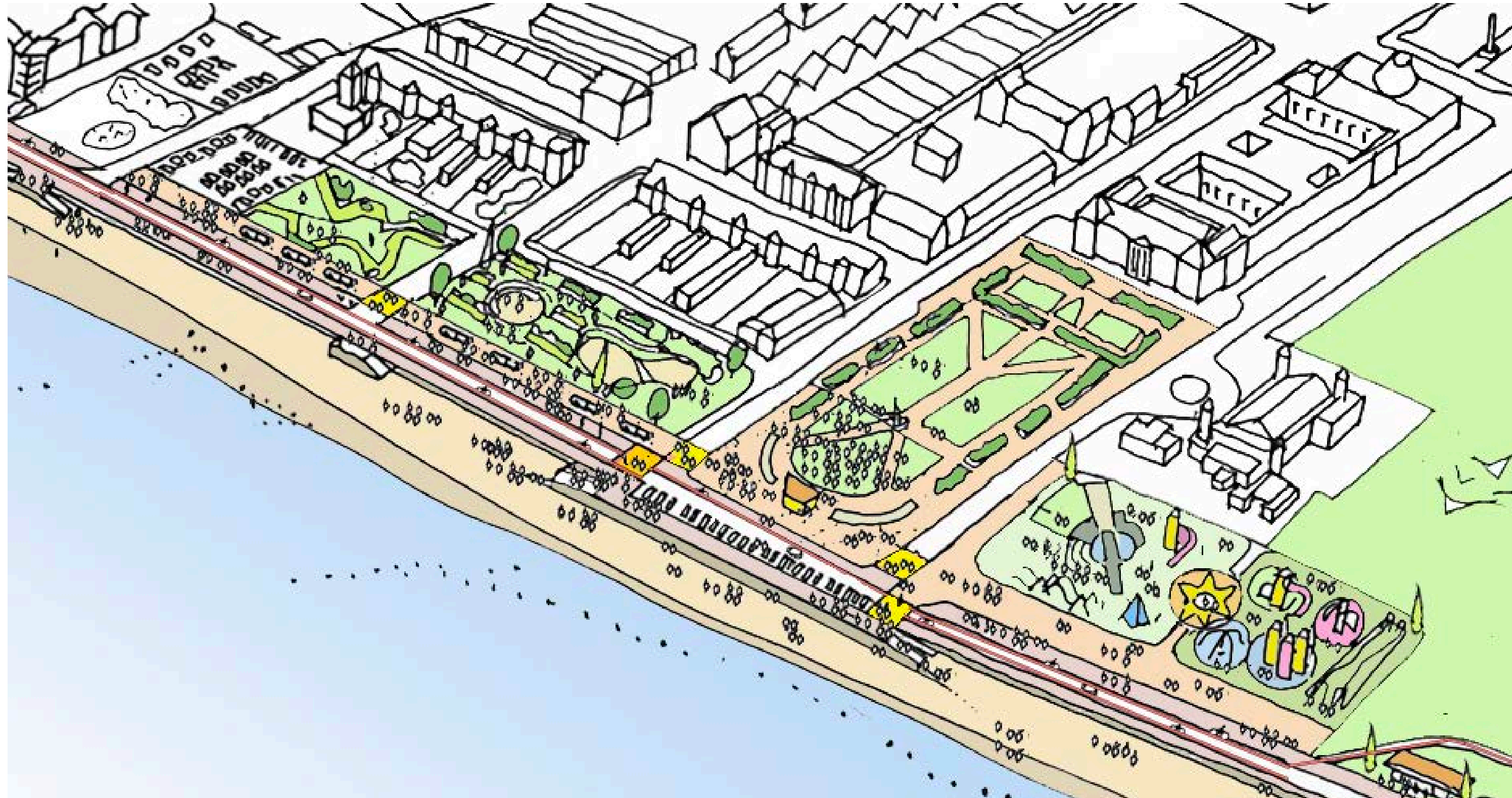
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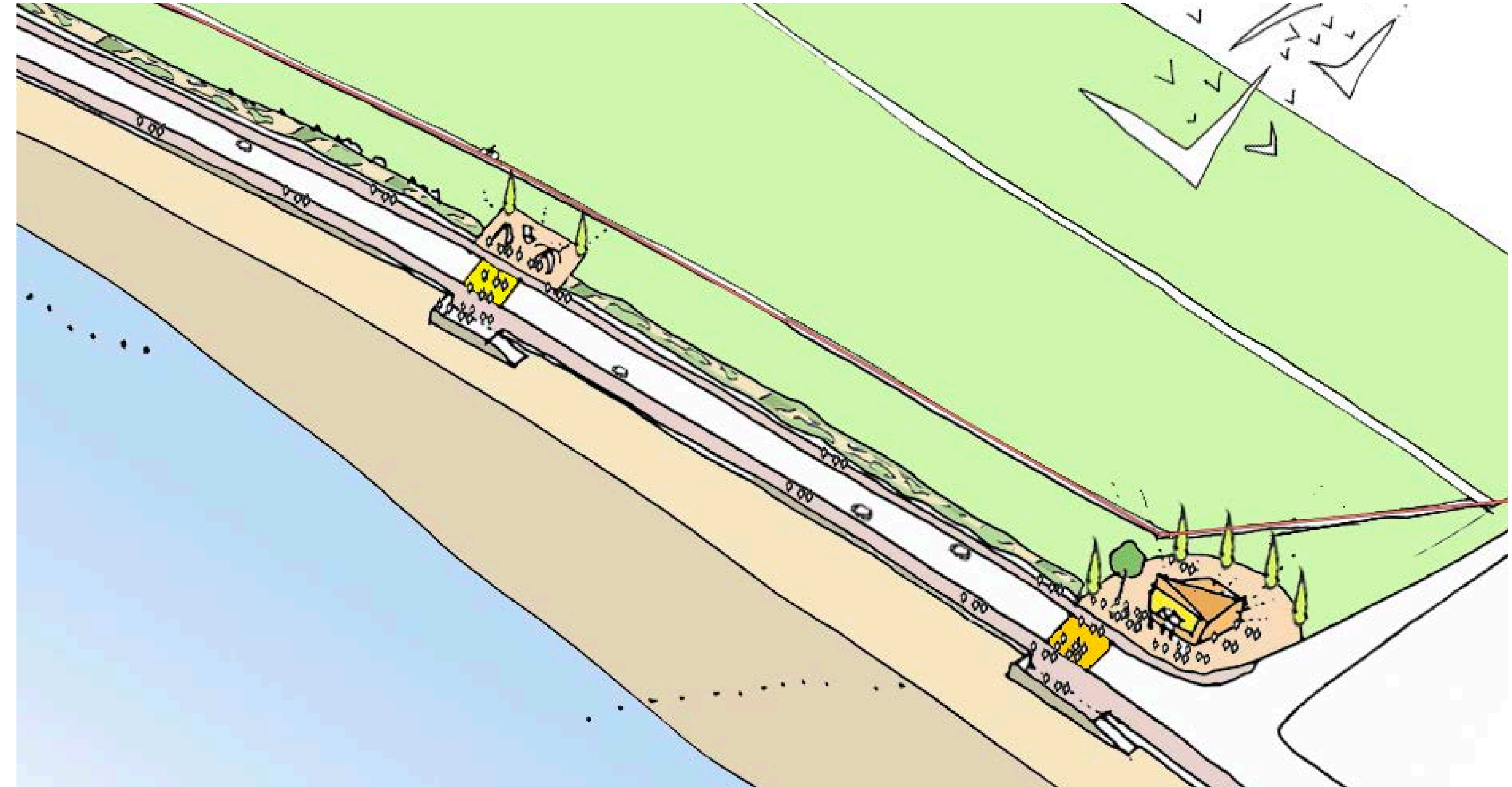
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8. Pedestrian Crossings

Review of traffic calming measures and enhancements of selected crossing points.



2. Esplanade Lighting

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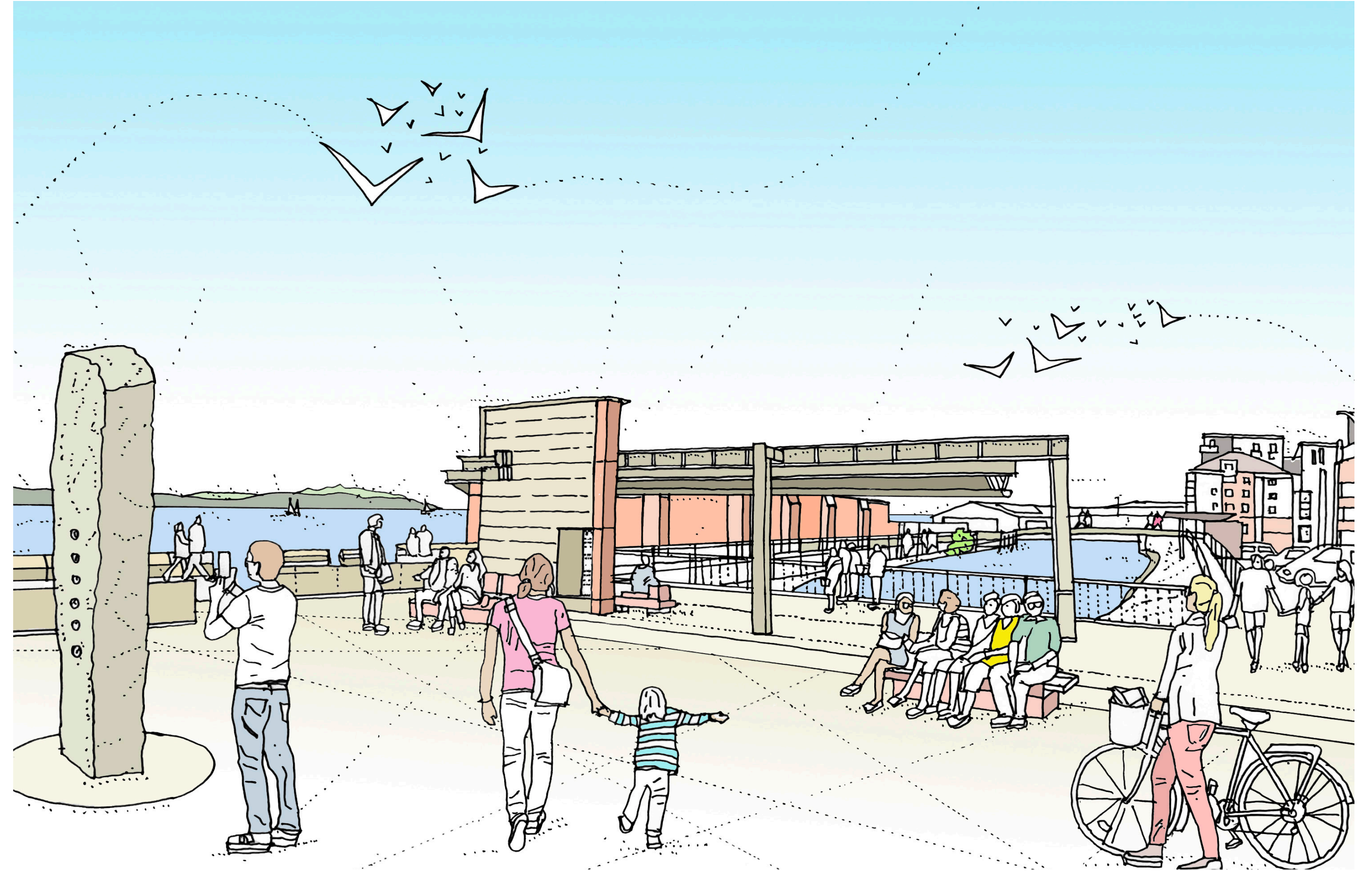
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The project would see the existing dilapidated shelter brought into back into use as a Cafe / Kiosk, supported by some repairs to the public realm



Artist's Impression looking North along the Esplanade



Artist's Impression looking towards the Slipway.

Photographs of Items Identified for Improvement



1. Former Public Conveniences



2. Esplanade Lighting



6. Signage



7. Accessibility



3. Former Crazy Golf



4. Former Putting Green



5. Place De St Germain-En-Laye Bandstand



8. Pedestrian Crossings



9. Former Public Conveniences

Ayr Esplanade - Future Opportunities



The Site at the former Watch Tower
Explore opportunities to enhance this external area to include public realm enhancements, feature lighting, seating, and interpretation.

Cycle Routes
Investigate rationalisation and improvements to the cycle network provision and the interface with the road and path network.

Former Paddling Pool
Explore opportunities for the reuse of the former paddling pool area e.g. for overflow parking for busy events such as the Ayr Show.

Austin-Smith:Lord

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**South Ayrshire Council
 Equality Impact Assessment including Fairer Scotland Duty**

Section One: Policy Details*

Name of Policy	Ayr Promenade Strategy
Lead Officer (Name/Position)	Chris Cox, Assistant Director – Housing, Planning and Development
Support Team (Names/Positions) including Critical Friend	Pauline Bradley, Service Lead – Professional Design Services Kevin Anderson, Service Lead – Performance and Community Planning.

*The term Policy is used throughout the assessment to embrace the full range of policies, procedures, strategies, projects, applications for funding or financial decisions.

What are the main aims of the policy?	To provide recommendations for a placemaking improvement strategy for Ayr Esplanade.
What are the intended outcomes of the policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the strategy is to provide a coherent framework for the undertaking of Capital based improvements and investments in the area.

Section Two: What are the Likely Impacts of the Policy?

Will the policy impact upon the whole population of South Ayrshire and/or particular groups within the population? (please specify)	The development will impact the whole population of South Ayrshire but in particular Ayr and help attract visitors to the area.
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Considering the following Protected Characteristics and themes, what likely impacts or issues does the policy have for the group or community?

List any likely positive and/or negative impacts.

Protected Characteristics	Positive and/or Negative Impacts
Age: Issues relating to different age groups e.g. older people or children and young people	Positive: Potential new attractions / amenities on the promenade can appeal to all ages. The project aim is to enhance the family friendly and pedestrian focus offering at the Esplanade by improving the public open spaces, for use by residents and visitors.
Disability: Issues relating to disabled people	Positive: Potential new attractions / amenities including a sensory garden will ensure inclusion for all. This will include wheelchair accessibility and creating safe spaces. In addition

	the new crossing points will be designed to improve wheelchair accessibility.
Gender Reassignment – Trans/Transgender: Issues relating to people who have proposed, started or completed a process to change his or her sex	No Impact
Marriage and Civil Partnership: Issues relating to people who are married or are in a civil partnership	No Impact
Pregnancy and Maternity: Issues relating to woman who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave	No Impact
Race: Issues relating to people from different racial groups,(BME) ethnic minorities, including Gypsy/Travellers	No Impact
Religion or Belief: Issues relating to a person’s religion or belief (including non-belief)	No Impact
Sex: Issues specific to women and men/or girls and boys	No Impact
Sexual Orientation: Issues relating to a person’s sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, heterosexual/straight	No Impact

Equality and Diversity Themes Relevant to South Ayrshire Council	Positive and/or Negative Impacts
Health Issues and impacts affecting people’s health	Positive: Improvements to facilities and amenities are likely to have a positive impact on the mental wellbeing of people. By improving the surfacing and lighting, it will also encourage active travel.
Human Rights: Issues and impacts affecting people’s human rights such as being treated with dignity and respect, the right to education, the right to respect for private and family life, and the right to free elections.	Positive: Any public feedback on the strategy will be considered when assessing potential Capital works. Some of the proposals are seeking public views on options and some of the proposal will require planning permission providing interested parties with the right to comment and have these comments considered.

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Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Positive and/or Negative Impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty: Issues: cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food and clothing.	No Impact
Low and/or no wealth: Issues: enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future	Positive: There will be a positive impact for those who have a low income or are living in income poverty. Access will be provided to well maintained open spaces that can be used free of charge, e.g. play parks and improved access to the beach.
Material Deprivation: Issues: being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	Positive: There will be a positive impact for those who have a low income or are living in income poverty. Access to leisure activities will be improved.
Area Deprivation: Issues: where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	Positive: There will be a positive impact for those who have a low income or are living in income poverty. Improved cycle routes/lanes will be provided which will encourage more use.

Section Three: Evidence Used in Developing the Policy

<p>Involvement and Consultation In assessing the impact(s) set out above what evidence has been collected from involvement, engagement or consultation? Who did you involve, when and how?</p>	<p>Public consultation was undertaken in 2020/21 on a draft Ayr Esplanade Strategy. Residents within South Ayrshire were invited to comment on an online consultation document. Public responses to the strategy were limited. This was considered to be a consequence of the Covid associated lockdown arrangements in place at the time.</p>
<p>Data and Research In assessing the impact set out above what evidence has been collected from research or other data. Please specify what research was carried out or data collected, when and how this was done.</p>	<p>Public responses to the strategy were limited. This was considered to be a consequence of the Covid associated lockdown arrangements in place at the time. Most of the land in the Ayr Esplanade area is Common Good land. Section 104 of the Community Empowerment Act (2015) requires that proposals involving a change of use or disposal of land be the subject of statutory public consultation.</p>

<p>Partners data and research In assessing the impact(s) set out in Section 2 what evidence has been provided by partners?</p> <p>Please specify partners</p>	<p>Fort, Seafield ad Wallacetown Community Council have been kept up to date with planned works.</p>
<p>Gaps and Uncertainties Have you identified any gaps or uncertainties in your understanding of the issues or impacts that need to be explored further?</p>	<p>Not for the purpose of this report</p>

Section Four: Detailed Action Plan to address identified gaps in:

- a) evidence and
- b) to mitigate negative impacts

No.	Action	Responsible Officer(s)	Timescale
1			

Note: Please add more rows as required.

Section Five - Performance monitoring and reporting

Considering the policy as a whole, including its equality and diversity implications:

When is the policy intended to come into effect?	December 2023
When will the policy be reviewed?	N/A
Which Panel will have oversight of the policy?	South Ayrshire Council Cabinet ?? November 2023

Section 6

South Ayrshire Council



Summary Equality Impact Assessment Implications & Mitigating Actions

Name of Policy:

This policy will assist or inhibit the Council's ability to eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations as follows:

<p>Eliminate discrimination</p> <p>Neither assist nor inhibit. South Ayrshire Council is committed to eliminating discrimination and stigmatisation.</p>

<p>Advance equality of opportunity</p> <p>Redevelopment will enhance equality of opportunity.</p>
<p>Foster good relations</p> <p>This will continue to foster good relations by developing meaningful communication and engagement with local communities to identify their needs and views.</p>
<p>Consider Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Fairer Scotland Duty)</p> <p>The delivery of the outcomes and actions will support those who are socio-economically disadvantaged. This can be achieved by improving the quality and energy efficiency of housing and the places where people live.</p>

Summary of Key Action to Mitigate Negative Impacts	
Actions	Timescale
None	N/A

Signed: Chris Cox

Date: 16 November 2023

Pre-screening Notification

Responsible Authority:	<u>Box 1.</u> South Ayrshire Council
Title of the plan:	<u>Box 2.</u> Ayr Esplanade Strategy
What prompted the plan: (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	<u>Box 3.</u> The Ayr Esplanade Strategy has been developed to tie together various small, targeted improvements that SAC is eager to deliver for residents of, and visitors to, Ayr. The small improvements will be funded using the recently-allocated Ward Capital.
Plan subject: (e.g. transport)	<u>Box 4.</u> A collection of 9 small projects, including enhancements to public spaces and repairs to existing structures.
Brief summary of the plan: (including the area or location to which the plan related)	<u>Box 5.</u> The site area for investment would be between Blackburn Drive in the south and the pier in the north. Relevant statutory approvals will be sought where required. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Former Slipway Repairs and Improvements - Removal of the deteriorating Watchful decommissioned fishing boat and its mount, repairs to the footbridge, repairs to the shelters, seats and bollards, cleaning and refurbishment of the handrails, structures and paving. Refurbishment of art, updated signage and improved wayfinding with improved heritage artefacts and interpretation. 2. Esplanade Lighting - This joint project with Ayrshire Roads Alliance looks towards uniformity along the stretch of Esplanade, replacing the existing concrete and galvanised posts with modern designs and energy efficient, LED, colour changing lighting features. 3. Former Crazy Golf - This project would see the reintroduction of Crazy Golf to the site. 4. Former Putting Green - The site could benefit with improved biodiversity with the introduction of some hardy, indigenous planting in the form of a sensory garden and or a maze and opportunities for innovative seating. 5. Place De St. Germain-En-Laye Bandstand - The bandstand was well-used during the pandemic, and to build on this local interest, there is now an ambition to better protect the audience from the elements by improving shelter to the performance area. This is in addition to footpath improvements at the corners of the Esplanade at Pavilion Road and Bath Place, replacing concrete slabs with high quality natural stone paving. 6. Signage - The existing, out-dated signage at the corner of Pavilion Road outside the main playpark would be replaced with new pedestrian-orientated, regularly updated, digital signage 7. Accessibility Strategy - A survey will be undertaken of the Esplanade in order to identify further improvements around the Esplanade – this could identify further projects to enhance the pedestrian and cycle experience in the area. These might include improved public realm surfaces, cycle lanes, rationalised crossing points, way finding/ signage

	<p>8. Pedestrian Crossings - Review of traffic calming measures and enhancements of selected crossing points.</p> <p>9. Former Public Convenience - The project would see the existing dilapidated shelter brought into back into use as a Cafe / Kiosk, supported by some repairs to adjacent public realm.</p>
<p>Brief summary of the likely environmental consequences: (including whether it has been determined that the plan is likely to have no or minimum effects, either directly or indirectly)</p>	<p><u>Box 6.</u> It is believed that the proposals detailed in the Ayr Esplanade Strategy will have no or minimal impact on the environment, either directly or indirectly.</p>
<p>Brief summary of how environmental principles have been considered: (including whether any of the guiding principles, as set out in section 13 of the Continuity Act, are relevant to the plan)</p>	<p><u>Box 7.</u> It is believed that the proposals detailed in the Ayr Esplanade Strategy will have no or minimal impact on the environment – Unaffected by Continuity Act Section 13.</p>
<p>Contact details:</p>	<p>Chris Cox Assistant Director Planning and Development Housing, Operations & Development Directorate chris.cox@south-ayrshire.gov.uk 01292 612 981 South Ayrshire Council County Buildings Wellington Square Ayr KA7 1DR</p>
<p>Date of opinion:</p>	<p>21.11.2023</p>

When completed send to: SEA.gateway@gov.scot or to SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2F (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Completion guidance (Please delete this page before submission)

Link to SEA Guidance: [Strategic Environmental Assessment: guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Strategic-Environmental-Assessment-guidance)

Box 1	<p>Name of the organisation that is responsible for the plan.</p> <p>Note: The Responsible Authority is any person, body or office holder exercising functions of a public character. Where more than one authority is responsible for a plan they should reach an agreement as to who is responsible for the SEA. Where an agreement cannot be reached, the Scottish Ministers can make the determination (Extract from SEA Guidance: Glossary (Page 50)).</p>
Box 2	<p>Name of the plan.</p> <p>Note: The 2005 Act applies to plans which relate to matters of a public character. The term 'plan' within guidance also covers policy, programme and strategy (Extract from SEA Guidance: Glossary (Page 50)).</p>
Box 3	<p>In terms of pre-screening, knowing why a plan is being produced is one of the key components in understanding whether exemption is an option.</p>
Box 4	<p>The 2005 Act outlines the sectors as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town & country planning and land use.</p>
Box 5	<p>The name of the plan alone can seldom offer sufficient information to understand what it covers and why it has been considered suitable for pre-screening.</p> <p>The description of the plan being pre-screened has to contain sufficient information to allow those reading the notification to understand the objectives of the plan and how the Responsible Authority aims to deliver them. Brief descriptive information such as the area or location of the plan is required by the 2005 Act, but it can also prove helpful to include additional information in a summary, such as whether the plan is expected to improve or strengthen the current approach, the reason the plan is being prepared, who it would apply to and the timescale for delivery. This type of information can help paint a clear picture of whether pre-screening was suitable in the circumstances.</p>
Box 6	<p>As only those plans that have no or minimal effects on the environment can be pre-screened, it is important for a Responsible Authority to use the criteria detailed in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 as a guide to providing a description of the likely environmental effects. This approach supports the transparency of the assessment process, whilst helping to ensure Responsible Authorities remain compliant with the requirements of this self-exemption route.</p> <p>Similarly to Box 5 above, it can prove helpful if a Responsible Authority provides additional information, such as a summary of the reasons why the plan will have no more than minimal effects on the environment, including any intrinsic mitigation, as well as any existing or future assessment needs within the plan hierarchy.</p> <p>In those cases where a Responsible Authority is uncertain of the scope of the likely environmental effects, pre-screening is not recommended. In this scenario, screening the plan is likely to be a better option.</p>
Box 7	<p>Section 15 of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2020 places a duty on public authorities to have due regard to the guiding principles on the environment when preparing a plan, programme or strategy requiring a SEA under the 2005 Act. Whilst not yet in force, it is important that the guiding principles are considered in all policy development.</p>

Please note:

(A) The plan has to fall into Section 5(4) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

(B) You should apply the criteria specified within Schedule 2 of this Act to reach a conclusion on no or minimal environmental effects: www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2005/15/contents