

South Ayrshire Council

Report by Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education
to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel
of 11 June 2024

**Subject: Participatory Budgeting Activity 2023/2024 – April 2023
to March 2024 Update**

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 2023/24.

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 during 2023/2024.**

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 2023/2024 (as derived from the information contained in the 2023/2024 Finance Order FC5/2023), is £2.580m. 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.

4. Proposals

4.1 It is proposed that the Panel considers the content of the PB Activity Report for 2023/2024 attached as [Appendix 1](#) and notes the value of budgetary spend influenced through the PB process – a total of ££5,223,380, surpassing the target by £2,643,380.

4.2 A development session on PB for senior managers has been arranged and a short-life working group will convene to prioritise and monitor ongoing improvement activity.

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 2023/24.

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk

Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations

8.2.1 The Council will be unable to report its PB activity to 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)** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

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](#)**

Report to Service and Performance Panel of 23 August 2022 - [Participatory Budgeting Activity 2021/22](#)

[Community Choices 1% Framework Agreement](#)

Report to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of 24 October 2023 – [Participatory Budgeting Activity 2022/23](#)

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Date: 31 May 2024

Participatory Budgeting Activity

Time period: 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

Service Area	PB Activity Yes/No	Revenue (£000,000)	Capital (£000,000)
Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Yes	-	810,324.07
Community Health and Care Services (HSCP)	Yes	-	168,692.73
Housing Services	Yes	-	3,708,554.88
Professional Design Services	Yes	-	535,809.23
	Totals		£5,223,380.91

Breakdown of Spend

Ayrshire Roads Alliance	
Maybole and Dunure - road and footpath upgrade	£ 11,635.94
Troon Esplanade - resurfacing	£ 89,538.44
All Main Arterial Routes into Ayr - road upgrade	£ 523,297.37
Dundonald Field (castle) - formal road access and parking	£ 3,373.72
Dundonald, Mossblown, Symington and Loans - road and footpath upgrades	£ 101,494.67
Prestwick Promenade - surfacing works	£ 11,063.22
Citadel Footbridge - refurbishment	£ 11,851.15
Newton Shore Ayr - upgrade the footpath	£ 17,200.78
Newton Shore Promenade - upgrade the carriageway	£ 23,191.29
Auld and New Bridges Ayr - illumination	£ 17,677.50
Total	£ 810,234.07

Community Health and Care Services (HSCP)	
Ayr North Locality	£ 37,210.80
Ayr South Locality	£ 32,688.93
Girvan and South Carrick <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £5,500 on defib programme - £250 on cosy spaces - £15,917 on PB applications 	£ 21,667.00
Maybole and North Carrick <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £21,667 funding 2023/24 + £12,948 in underspend - All went on small grants applications 	£ 34,615.00
Prestwick <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15 applications awarded funding amounting to £20,344 - Further funding provided to 65-Club social isolation event £500 	£ 20,844.00
Troon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £21,667 funding 2023/24 - This has not been spent at present due to staffing resource and Troon LPP not being quorate, but we have 14 applications for small grants which will be considered in the next week. Applications amount to £28,969, but some of the applications are not appropriate. 	£ 21,667.00
Total	£ 168,692.73

Housing Services	
Riverside Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Build - £3,173,942.37 Demolition - £36,037.41 Refurb - £53,990.10 	£ 3,263,969.88
Capital Programme – window replacement work	£ 444,585
Please note	
A budget allocation of £1.350m was made in the 2023/24 housing capital programme for window replacement. The recorded spend as at 30/4/24 is £444,585.	
This covers 324 Properties in Ayr, Girvan, Maybole, Monkton & Prestwick.	

Professional Design Services	
Girvan/South Carrick - Upgrade to the Former Bingo Site at Dalrymple Street	£ 3,510
Girvan/South Carrick - Stumpy Tower Corner Public Realm Upgrade	£ 44,805
Girvan/South Carrick - Upgrade the use of the Boating Pond in Girvan	£ 523
Girvan/South Carrick - New Merchant Navy and Seafarers Memorial at Girvan Harbour	£ 16,450
Girvan/South Carrick - Install a New Power Source in the Promenade Performance Area	£ 70,752
Girvan/South Carrick - Introduction of New Public Toilet Facility near to the Boating Pond in Girvan	£ 2,150
Girvan/South Carrick - Upgrade the Bird Aviary in the Knockcushan Street Community Gardens	£ 715
Girvan/South Carrick - Investment in Upgrade to the shelter and pathways at Girvan Rose Garden	£ 3,660
Girvan/South Carrick - New Deer Proof Fence at Bynehill Cemetery, Girvan	£ 10,011
Girvan Esplanade - Adventure Golf Course	£ 4,393
Prestwick - Provision of 2Nr Steel Park Benches at New Promenade Play Park Area	£ 1,900
Prestwick - Provision of 4Nr Steel Picnic Benches on the Promenade	£ 3,424
Ayr North - Provision of Benches Along Newton Shore Promenade	£ 4,390
Ayr North - Upgrade of Council Owned Area at Dalmilling Shops on Westwood Avenue	£ 26,320
Ayr North - Newton Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)	£ 30,745
River Ayr access	£ 192,324
Kyle - Benches, Picnic Tables and Upgrade Footpath within Annbank Park	£ 1,676
Maybole, North Carrick, Coylton - New Seating to Park in Coylton	£ 11,584
Maybole, North Carrick, Coylton - Support the overall cost of new windows at Straiton Community Hall	£ 10,000
Maybole, North Carrick, Coylton - Provision of a new Safety Boat for Dunure Harbour	£ 52,485
Maybole, North Carrick, Coylton - Multi Use Games Area for Coylton (MUGA)	£ 995
Ayr West - Loudon Hall Investment in New Lighting Installations	£ 4,939
Ayr West - Ayr Town Centre Strategy	£ 38,059
Total	£ 535, 809.23