

County Buildings  
Wellington Square  
AYR KA7 1DR  
Tel. No. 01292 612169

5 December 2024

Dear Councillor

## **SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

You are requested to participate in a meeting of South Ayrshire Council to be held **on Thursday 12 December 2024 at 10.00 a.m.** for the purpose of considering the undernoted business.

This meeting will be held in the County Hall, County Buildings, Ayr on a hybrid basis for Elected Members, will be live-streamed and available to view at <https://south-ayrshire.public-i.tv/>

Yours sincerely

**CATRIONA CAVES**  
Chief Governance Officer

### **B U S I N E S S**

1. Provost.
2. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.
3. Minutes of meetings of the Council and Panels.

(a) Minutes of previous meetings.

Submit for approval as a correct record and authorise to be signed:-

- (i) 10 October 2024

(b) Minutes of Panels.

The minutes (copies previously issued) of the undernoted meetings are for noting:-

- (i) Appeals Panel of [17 September 2024](#).
- (ii) Audit and Governance Panel of [26 September 2024 \(Special\)](#), [2 October 2024](#) and [6 November 2024](#).
- (iii) Cabinet of [25 September 2024](#) and [29 October 2024](#).
- (iv) Local Review Body of [3 September 2024](#) and [5 November 2024](#)
- (v) Regulatory Panel – Licensing of [18 September 2024 \(Special\)](#), [26 September 2024](#) and [31 October 2024](#).
- (vi) Regulatory Panel – Planning of [12 September 2024](#).
- (vii) Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of [17 September 2024](#) and [22 October 2024](#).

4. Review of Governance Arrangements Regarding Ward Capital Fund and Shorefront/Promenade Capital Projects – Submit report by Director of Housing, Operations and Development (copy herewith).
5. Scheme of Delegation – Submit report by Chief Governance Officer (copy herewith).
6. Appointments to Panel – Submit report by Chief Governance Officer (copy herewith).
7. Representation on Outside Bodies – Submit report by Chief Governance Officer (copy herewith).
8. Representation on Working Groups – Submit report by Chief Governance Officer (copy herewith).
9. Appointments to Convention of Scottish Local Authorities Policy Boards – Submit report by Chief Governance Officer (copy herewith).
10. Medium Term Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2029-30 - Submit report by Chief Financial Officer (copy herewith).
11. South Ayrshire Council Annual Performance Report 2023/24 – Submit report by Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education (copy herewith).
12. Outcome of Public Consultation - Heritage Proposals Submitted by Prestwick Civic Pride – Submit joint report by Director of Communities and Transformation and Director of Housing, Operations and Development (copy herewith).
13. Proposed Ward Capital Projects – Update 2023 to 2025 and Approval of New Capital Projects 2024 to 2026 – Submit report by Director of Housing, Operations and Development (copy herewith).
14. Asset Management Plan (Land and Buildings) 2024 – Submit report by Director of Housing, Operations and Development (copy herewith).
15. Notice of Motions

(a) Moved by Councillor Craig Mackay, seconded by Councillor George Weir:

**"Off-street Disabled Parking**

Council notes the response to my Formal Question in March this year that "SAC do not hold details of the number of advisory disabled bays within Council curtilages."

Council recognises that advisory disabled parking bays are not enforceable and are therefore open to abuse.

Council accepts that it was a requirement of the Disabled Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 for both on- and off-street advisory bays to be replaced with statutory bays able to be enforced. This requirement has never been fully implemented in South Ayrshire.

Council agrees:

- that provision will be made within the 2025-26 Revenue Budget to audit advisory disabled parking at council premises, including swimming pools, golf courses, schools and other facilities; and to progress a Traffic Regulation Order to regularise these with the Disabled Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009.
- that a report will be presented to Cabinet with regard to provisions in the same legislation for the council to offer enforcement services (at cost) for disabled parking in car parks attached to private premises."

(b) Moved by Councillor Alan Lamont, seconded by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick:

" This Council:

1. Notes:

- The information detailed in the background below.
- The critical role of farmers and family businesses in driving economic growth, providing employment, and ensuring food security in the South Ayrshire and beyond.
- The harm caused by the Labour Government's latest budget includes a so-called family farm tax (20% inheritance tax on the value of family farms and businesses over £1m).
- Increased National Insurance contributions for employers.

2. Believes:

- These measures unfairly target farmers and family businesses, threatening jobs, investment, and livelihoods in the region.

3. Calls upon the UK Government:

- To reverse the Family Farm Tax and the rise in employers National Insurance contributions. - To review the budget and remove measures harming farmers and family businesses.
- To consult stakeholders for fairer, more supportive policies.

This Council stands with the farmers and family businesses of South Ayrshire and demands urgent action to address these issues and asks the Chief Executive to formally write to the UK Government requesting them to undertake the actions set out in paragraph 3 above."

16. Formal Questions.

17. **Solar Farm Feasibility – Submit report by Director of Housing, Operations and Development (members only).**

18. **Corton - Submit report by Director of Housing, Operations and Development (members only).**

19. **Proposed Public Realm and Redevelopment at Y– Submit report by Director of Housing, Operations and Development (members only).**

20. Consideration of Disclosure of the Above Confidential Reports.

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**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL.**

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting  
on 10 October 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

Present in County Buildings: Councillors Iain Campbell (Provost), Ian Cavana, Alec Clark, Ian Davis, Brian Connolly, Julie Dettbarn, Martin Dowe, William Grant, Hugh Hunter, Martin Kilbride, Mary Kilpatrick, Alan Lamont, Craig Mackay, Brian McGinley, Bob Pollock, Cameron Ramsay, Philip Saxton, Bob Shields, Duncan Townson and George Weir.

Present Remotely: Councillors Kenneth Bell, Ian Cochrane, Chris Cullen, Mark Dixon, Stephen Ferry and Lee Lyons.

Apologies: Councillors Laura Brennan-Whitefield and Gavin Scott.

Attending in County Buildings: M. Newall, Chief Executive; L. McRoberts, Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education; J. Bradley, Director of Strategic Change and Communities; K. Braidwood, Director of Housing Operations and Development; C. Caves, Chief Governance Officer; T. Baulk, Chief Financial Officer; C. Cox, Assistant Director – Planning and Development; K. Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations; C. Iles, Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards; W. Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance; D. Alexander, Service Lead – Procurement; C. Richards, Transformation Co-ordinator (Technology); K. Copland, Senior Accountant/Senior Finance Officer; J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer; J. Butchart, Committee Services Officer; K. Hancox, Committee Services Officer; and C. McCallum, Committee Services Assistant.

**1. Provost.**

The Provost

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting, outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that this meeting would be broadcast live;
- (2) intimated that apologies had been received from Councillors Laura Brennan-Whitefield and Gavin Scott; and
- (3) referred to the recent sad death of ex-Councillor Ian Fitzsimmons.

Various Members then spoke on their memories of Mr Fitzsimmons, stated that he would be sadly missed and sent their condolences to his family and friends.

**2. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.**

The Chief Executive called the Sederunt for the meeting and having called the roll, confirmed that there were no declarations of interest by Members of the Council in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

### 3. Minutes of previous meetings

#### (1) Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Council.

- (a) Provost Iain Campbell, seconded by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick, moved the [Minutes](#) of South Ayrshire Council of 21 June 2024 as a correct record.

The Council

**Decided:** to approve the Minutes of 21 June 2024 and authorise these minutes to be signed as a correct record.

- (b) Provost Iain Campbell, seconded by Councillor Mary Kilpatrick, moved the [Minutes](#) of South Ayrshire Council (Special) of 19 August 2024 as a correct record.

The Council

**Decided:** to approve the Minutes of 19 August 2024 and authorise these minutes to be signed as a correct record.

#### (2) Minutes of previous meetings of Panels.

The Minutes of the undernoted Panels were submitted for information:-

The minutes (copies previously issued) of the undernoted meetings are for noting:-

- (i) Appeals Panel of [9 May 2024](#), and [10 May 2024](#)
- (ii) Audit and Governance Panel of [29 May 2024](#), [26 June 2024](#) and [4 September 2024](#).
- (iii) Cabinet of [21 May 2024](#), [18 June 2024](#) and [27 August 2024](#).
- (iv) Local Review Body of [30 April 2024](#) and [25 June 2024](#).
- (v) Regulatory Panel – Licensing of [2 May 2024 \(Special\)](#), [15 May 2024 \(Special\)](#), [23 May 2024](#), [12 June 2024 \(Special\)](#), [20 June 2024](#), [29 August 2024](#) and [5 September 2024 \(Special\)](#).
- (vi) Regulatory Panel – Planning of [6 June 2024](#), [3 June 2024](#) (Site Visit).
- (vii) Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of [11 June 2024](#) and [20 August 2024](#).

### 4. Appointments to Panels

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 4 October 2024 by the Chief Governance Officer seeking approval to make alterations to the membership of Panels

Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Bob Pollock, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Following a question from a Member on the responsibilities of the Chair, the Chief Governance Officer advised that Councillor Lamont would fulfil all duties of the role of Chair.

In terms of Standing Order No. 19.9, there was no general agreement to the unopposed motion, therefore, the Panel moved to a vote undertaken for or against the Motion. Sixteen Members voted for the Motion, four voted against the Motion and six Members abstained and the Council, having considered any other amendments which might be required for membership of Panels,

**Decided:**

- (1) to note the change in the representative nominated by the Conservative Group as a Conservative Member of the Regulatory Panel and Local Review Body, namely Councillor Lee Lyons replace Councillor Kenneth Bell;
- (2) to agree that Councillor Alan Lamont be appointed Chair of the Regulatory Panel and Local Review Body; and
- (3) to request officers to make the required amendments to the list of Panels to reflect these changes.

**5. Live Webcasting of Meetings**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 3 October 2024 by the Chief Governance Officer seeking approval to reduce the number of Council meetings that were live webcast as a result of the re-establishment of in-person access to Council meetings, budget constraints and lower than expected viewing figures.

Councillor Ian Davis, seconded by Councillor Bob Pollock, moved a Motion as follows, contrary to the recommendations in the report:

"that the Council:

- (1) agrees to maintain the number of Council meetings that are live webcast to be those existing live webcast meetings ; and
- (2) agrees to continue to make available webcasts of Council meetings for public viewing (archived) for 24 months."

Councillor Mackay advised that he had an amendment to this Motion, however, requested an adjournment for this amendment to be discussed with the Chief Governance Officer.

**Adjournment**

The time being 10.20 a.m., the Council adjourned for twenty minutes.

**Resumption of Meeting**

The meeting resumed at 10.40 a.m.

The Chief Governance Officer advised that, following discussion with the Mover and Seconder of the Motion and with the Portfolio Holder, they had agreed to accept Councillor Mackay's amendment, as follows:-

"it is recommended that Council recognises that online viewing figures are much higher than those who have ever attended meetings in person and believes this demonstrates good practice for open democracy. Council will therefore continue to live webcast the existing Panels. This is supported by the significant work undertaken in 2021 comparing functionality and cost from various providers before implementing the current arrangements to best meet Council's needs. The Council believes that the principle of online public access to live and archived meetings should not be deleted and it is agreed that the period for the archived footage remains at two years and officers will bring back a report to Council providing the detail of the most advantageous option selected by officers to deliver this to the public within six months."

Following a question on whether agreeing this Motion would commit the Council to live webcasting or whether a delay to the broadcast could be added, the Chief Governance Officer advised that the Council would continue to use the current technology, however, there was an option to examine a system with a delay.

Comments were made by Members in relation to:

- (a) making meetings easily accessible to the public was good practice and reducing the archive period would contradict this; that there would be financial implications with continuing to webcast all meetings, however, there was merit in exploring alternatives; that the current process was working well and savings could be made without reducing the current retention period;
- (b) that, should the Council agree to record meetings and not live webcast, these should be unedited; and
- (c) that, to reduce the need for adjournments, it was hoped that Members have access to reports earlier and there be no late reports to allow any amendments to be compiled and submitted prior to Council meetings.

The Council,

**Decided:** to approve the Amendment as follows:

"that Council recognises that online viewing figures are much higher than those who have ever attended meetings in person and believes this demonstrates good practice for open democracy. Council will therefore continue to live webcast the existing Panels. This is supported by the significant work undertaken in 2021 comparing functionality and cost from various providers before implementing the current arrangements to best meet Council's needs. The Council believes that the principle of online public access to live and archived meetings should not be deleted and it is agreed that the period for the archived footage remains at two years and officers will bring back a report to Council providing the detail of the most advantageous option selected by officers to deliver this to the public within six months".

## 6. Standing Orders Relating to Contracts

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 2 October 2024 by the Chief Financial Officer seeking approval to amend the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts following their most recent review.

Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Bob Pollock, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

The Council, having considered the revisions proposed to the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts (summary of proposals contained in Appendix 1 to the report)

**Decided:** to approve the revised Standing Orders Relating to Contracts (Appendix 2) and the list of delegations (Appendix 3) with effect from 11 October 2024.

## 7. Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 27 September 2024 by the Chief Financial Officer presenting, in line with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the annual report of treasury management activities for 2023/24 (as attached at [Appendix 1](#)) and seeking Members' consideration of its contents.

The Chief Financial Officer introduced this report and advised that the Audit and Governance Panel at its meeting of 26 June 2024 had considered the Annual Treasury Management Report 2023/24 (attached at [Appendix 1](#)) and agreed that it be remitted to this meeting of South Ayrshire Council for approval.

Councillor Ian Davis, seconded by Councillor Martin Dowey, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

The Council, having thanked the Chief Financial Officer and his team for their work on this matter and the Members of the Audit and Governance Panel for scrutinising the report,

**Decided:** to approve the Annual Treasury Management Report 2023/24, as attached at [Appendix 1](#).

## 8. Local Development Plan 3 Governance Arrangements and Planning Liaison Group

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 2 October 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development recommending arrangements for a Member/Officer Working Group to oversee the preparation of LDP3; and for the retention of the Planning Liaison Group with an amended brief.

Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Bob Pollock, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

The Chief Governance Officer advised that, following a question at item 4 of this Minute regarding the responsibilities of the Chair of the Regulatory Panel, the Chair was also a Member of the Planning Liaison Group.

A question was raised by a Member in relation to when the integrated Equalities Impact Assessment would be rolled out as this report would have been suitable to use this EIA; and the Chief Governance Officer advised that she would ascertain the stage of the process and report back to the Member and that she proposed an Elected Members' Briefing take place on this matter; and the Member confirmed that this would be very useful.

The Council

**Decided:**

- (1) to agree the recommended proposals for a Member/Officer Working Group (MOWG) to oversee the preparation of LDP3, as set out in [Appendix 1](#) to the report;
- \* (2) to agree that the Leader of each of the political groups nominate Elected Member(s) to take up positions on the MOWG and that the Chair of the group would be the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development; and
- (3) to agree to the continuation of the Planning Liaison Group (PLG), with an amended remit, as set out in [Appendix 2](#) to the report.
- \* subsequently agreed as Councillors Bob Pollock (Chair) as PFH Economic Development, Alec Clark, Mark Dixon, Alan Lamont, Martin Kilbride, Craig Mackay and Philip Saxton..

**9. Proposed Ward Capital Projects – Update 2023 to 2025 and Approval of New Capital Projects 2024 to 2026**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 4 October 2024 by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development providing an update on implementation of capital projects approved by the Council at its meeting of 29 June 2023 and by the Cabinet at its meeting of 26 September 2023; and recommending further capital projects for initiation and implementation during the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26.

The Director of Housing, Operations and Development introduced the report and advised

- (1) that officers had noted Members' concerns regarding the speed of progress with ward capital projects and, in their view that there had been less than satisfactory consultation with members; and in response to these concerns, a report would be submitted to Council on 12 December 2024 setting out an approval process for ward capital projects to expedite this process;
- (2) that consultation would also take place with Audit Scotland regarding the proposed approval process for ward capital projects to ensure that the process satisfied financial regulation requirements;
- (3) that a review of the resources managing the ward capital projects would also be undertaken to improve communication and consultation with members and, should members have any queries in relation to any individual projects within their ward, as set out in [Appendix 1](#) to the report, they should discuss these with him following this meeting; and
- (4) that four weekly updates would be provided on all ward capital projects noting progress or circumstantial issues, eg design, lead-in times, contractual or construction related difficulties; and that it was important that employee resources be sourced and allocated to this significant workload.



Councillor Martin Dowey, seconded by Councillor Alec Clark, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Comments were made by Members in relation to:

- (a) this being a complicated report; that officers had taken on board members' concerns; that there would be further consultation with Members going forward; and that this report was the continuation of work from a report considered by Cabinet on 26 September 2023;
- (b) that this was an ongoing report and that they were glad to note that Members could rectify any anomalies within their ward;
- (c) their ward (Ayr East) being the only ward where no progress had been made and that they would like to see progress;
- (d) concerns over the lack of consultation with Members;
- (e) concerns over projects within the report which had not been discussed with or agreed by Members; that should Members agree this report, they would be agreeing to work which they had not had the opportunity to discuss; and that the point of his project was for Ward Members to take the decision on how the monies were utilised, however, this had been strayed from;
- (f) seeking copies of the quotations and final invoices in relation to the upgrade of the surface of the car park area to the north of Kidz Play in Prestwick; and the Director of Housing, Operations and Development advised that he would meet with Prestwick Ward Members following this meeting to discuss this in detail and highlighted that this area of Prestwick suffered from flooding so additional drainage had required to be added, the sub-base of the existing car park had not been up to standard and a power supply had been installed for a future kiosk;
- (g) that communities being involved in capital spend was a "breach of tradition"; that this was a Council process and was for the benefit of the people of South Ayrshire; that officers were correct in ensuring matters were carried out with transparency as Members' wishes may not be incongruent with processes; and that there was a commitment given to Audit Scotland that all place plans would be in place, however, Ayr East Ward did not have a Place Plan or Community Action Plan in place; and
- (h) that the projects were based on place plans which had been out to consultation and that this was a democratic, open process.

Following a question from a Member on whether processes had been followed to date, the Chief Executive advised that processes had been approved early 2023 and officers were carrying these out in line with the procedures stated by the Capital Asset Management Group (CAMG).

Having heard Councillor Pollock advise that he had a proposed Amendment, it was agreed to adjourn to allow his Amendment to be put to writing.

Prior to the adjournment, the Chief Governance Officer advised that Members had previously expressed some concerns regarding parts of the CAMG process, however, this report being considered was regarding the projects and that a further report on the process would be submitted to the meeting of South Ayrshire Council on 12 December 2024.

## **Adjournment**

The time being 11.15 a.m., Council adjourned for twenty five minutes.

## **Resumption of Meeting**

The Council resumed at 11.40 a.m.

By way of Amendment, Councillor Bob Pollock, seconded by Councillor Chris Cullen, moved that the first recommendation (2.1.1) within the report be amended and the other recommendations remain, as follows:

"It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) agree that the Capital Investments Projects that were approved in 2.1.1 of the papers of 26 September 2023 continue to be implemented and any new capital investment projects in the attached Appendix 1 to this paper be subject to consultation with ward members and the Director of Housing, Operations and Development and a paper be brought back to the Council meeting on 12 December 2024;
- (ii) agree that a report be brought to Council on 12 December 2024 recommending a costed design plan to redevelop Burns Statue Square and adjacent streets to improve the public realm and, subject to Traffic Regulation Orders, reorientate traffic flows to reduce the circular flow of vehicle traffic in the area and improve placemaking, pedestrian connectivity through the area and visitor use;
- (iii) agree that a nominal sum of £2m be retained from the Ayr West Ward Capital to fund recommendation (ii) above;
- (iv) agree that the £2m Promenade budget line be split equally between Girvan, Ayr, Prestwick and Troon Wards;
- (v) agree the Plan for Girvan Promenade as set out in Appendix 2 identifying projects in Appendix 1 as the basis for public consultation on potential Ward and Promenade projects;
- (vi) note the progress made with the capital investment projects identified in Appendix 1; and
- (vii) note the intention to provide regular progress updates to all Elected Members on all place projects with the first of these being forwarded by the end of this month."

The Council

**Decided:** to approve the Amendment as outlined at (i) ot (vii) above.



## 10. Notices of Motion

In accordance with Council Standing Order No. 18, a Notice of Motion was submitted by Councillor Julie Dettbarn and seconded by Councillor Laura Brennan-Whitefield as follows:

**“Council notes that:**

- In the 1995 Pensions Act, the Government increased State Pension age for women from 60 to 65, with a further increase to 66 in the 2011 Pensions Act.
- This change was not properly communicated to 3.8m women born in the 1950s until 2012, giving some only one year’s notice of a six year increase in their anticipated retirement age. Approximately 6,000 of the affected women are in the Central Ayrshire constituency alone which includes Troon, Prestwick and Kyle. We can deduce that there will be at least similar numbers in the Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock constituency which covers the remainder of South Ayrshire.
- The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) has found that the Department for Work and Pensions was guilty of maladministration in its handling of the State Pension Age increase for women born in the 1950s.
- The All Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality for Women has concluded that “the impact of DWP maladministration on 1950s-born women has been as devastating as it is widespread. The APPG believes that the case for Level 6 compensation is overwhelming and clear given the scale of the injustice”.
- Research commissioned by campaign group WASPI has found that by the end of 2022, more than 220,000 1950s born women will have died waiting for justice since the WASPI campaign began in 2015.
- The PHSO has recommended a Level 4 pay-out, which falls between £1,000 and £2,950 to symbolise the "significant" and "lasting impact" experienced by many women. However, given that the average individual loss is IRO £50,000 this level of compensation is inadequate. This motion supports the position of the All Party Parliamentary Group in calling for Level 6 compensation which would result in a pay-out of between £10,000 - £20,000.

**Council believes this injustice has had a profound effect on the individuals involved, on the wider community in South Ayrshire, and on local government, not least because:**

- Our local economy is negatively affected by the reduced spending power and disposable income the uncommunicated State Pension Age changes has brought about among women born in the 1950s.
- There is a broader impact on voluntary services of all kinds locally, which are missing out on able, active volunteers who would otherwise have been able to retire from full-time work as planned.
- Women who would have retired and engaged in caring responsibilities for grandchildren, other family members etc are having to continue working – with a knock-on effect for Council services.
- Women who have been left in poverty are struggling to meet their housing costs.

**Council supports:**

- The conclusion of the All Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality that women born in the 1950s have suffered a gross injustice, affecting their emotional, physical and mental circumstances in addition to causing financial hardship.
- A swift resolution to this ongoing injustice before more women die waiting for compensation.
- An immediate Level 6 compensation payment to those affected, with the most going to women who were given the shortest notice of the longest increase in their state pension age.

**Council requests:**

- The Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister to outline the effects of the injustice to 1950s women and on the community of South Ayrshire and to request their support for an immediate Level 6 compensation package and that this be addressed in the new Government's first Budget on 30<sup>th</sup> October."

In the absence of Councillor Laura Brennan-Whitefield, it was agreed that Councillor Bob Pollock second this Motion.

In moving her Motion, Councillor Julie Dettbarn, seconded by Councillor Bob Pollock, introduced an addition to her Motion as follows:

"On 29 July, the UK Government announced its decision to restrict entitlement to the Winter Fuel Payment to those in receipt of Pension Credit and other means-tested benefits from this winter.

That meant that an important provision of financial support that was available to pensioners in the United Kingdom would no longer be in place. Instead, eligibility would be much more limited to those eligible for Pension Credit and other relevant benefits.

This decision was taken with no notice or discussion with the Scottish Government.

As a result of this decision, Scotland's share of this year's Block Grant Adjustment funding is expected to reduce by roughly £150 million.

That is over 80% of the cost of the Scottish devolved payment, the Pension Age Winter Heating Payment.

As a consequence the Scottish Government has announced that it no longer has the funding to offer the payment as a universal benefit as had been intended.

The Scottish Government has also advised that due to the timing of the UK Government announcement, and the lack of prior consultation with Scottish Ministers, this means that alternative approaches to universal payment and the means-tested approach advocated by the UK Government cannot be implemented in the time left available.

As a consequence the Scottish Government intends replicating the UK Government's approach here in Scotland should that be necessary.

It is estimated by The Chancellor that introducing means testing will remove some 10m pensioners from the WFA, with the Scottish Government estimating that some 900,000 pensioners in Scotland will no longer be entitled to support with heating costs this winter.

And with Ofgem announcing an increase in the energy price cap from this month, low-income households will be under even greater pressure this Winter.

The cut to Winter Fuel Payments and the increase in energy costs is a double whammy for people in Scotland and especially for many of the older and more vulnerable individuals. This has particular relevance for South Ayrshire as 26.1% of the population is aged 65+ (against a Scottish national average of 19.6%) and 11.9% of the population are aged 75+ (Scottish national average 8.7%).

The PM has acknowledged that his Government did not undertake any impact assessments in relation to this policy decision – despite a Labour report in 2019 indicating that introducing means testing would in their estimate lead to an additional 4000 deaths per year. This policy if implemented will have a disproportionate impact on pensioners in Scotland as the Meteorological Office shows that due to a number of features such as:

- Latitude – the further north you go the less direct sunlight you receive, leading to cooler temperatures.
- Air mass – the UK is affected by different air masses, with the south of England generally experiencing warmer air from the continent, whilst the further north you travel the likelihood is of cooler air coming in from the Atlantic.
- Geographical features – the presence of mountains with higher altitudes, such as the numerous ranges of Scotland contribute to lower temperatures than the generally more low lying areas of the south.

These factors mean that on average the temperature difference between the most south easterly parts of England and the far north of Scotland is 10/15C, and can be more extreme at times. In other words this policy will also have a detrimentally greater effect on pensioners the further north travelled.

Council asks :-

The Chief Executive, separately, to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor to apprise them that South Ayrshire Council agrees, in this Challenge Poverty Week, that the UK Government must reverse the introduction of means testing for the Winter Fuel Payment immediately. 71,152 older people across Ayrshire will miss out on the payment of £200 - or £300 for those aged 80 or older - this coming winter if this is not urgently addressed in the UK Government's Budget on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Point of Order**

A Point of Order was raised by Councillor Philip Saxton that this addition to the Motion was not competent as it did not relate to the original Notice of Motion.

Comments were then made by various Members regarding this addition to the Motion being a different matter and Provost advised that the Council would adjourn to seek legal advice on this issue.

## Adjournment

The time being 11.45 a.m., Council adjourned for twenty five minutes.

## Resumption of Meeting

Council resumed at 12.10 p.m.

Councillor Julie Dettbarn, seconded by Councillor Bob Pollock, submitted an amended addition to the Notice of Motion as follows:

“On 29 July 2024, the UK Government announced its decision to restrict entitlement to the Winter Fuel Payment to those in receipt of Pension Credit and other means-tested benefits from this winter and this has an impact on WASPI women.

The Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Works and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister to outline the effects of the injustice to 1950s women and on the community of South Ayrshire and to request their support for an immediate Level 6 compensation package **and to note that the recent decision around the winter fuel Payment has an additional impact on WASPI women** and that this is addressed in the new Government’s first budget on 30 October 2024.”

A full debate took place regarding the terms of the Motion and the addition to the Motion.

A Member requested a roll-call vote and the Chief Governance Officer took the vote For or Against the Motion by calling the roll as follows:-

Iain Campbell	For
Mary Kilpatrick	For
Kenneth Bell	For
Ian Cavana	For
Alec Clark	For
Ian Cochrane	For
Brian Connolly	For
Chris Cullen	For
Ian Davis	For
Julie Dettbarn	For
Mark Dixon	For
Martin Dowey	For
Stephen Ferry	For
William Grant	For
Hugh Hunter	For
Martin Kilbride	For
Alan Lamont	For
Lee Lyons	For
Craig Mackay	For
Brian McGinley	For
Bob Pollock	For
Cameron Ramsay	For
Philip Saxton	For
Bob Shields	For
Duncan Townson	For
George Weir	For

The Council

**Decided:** to unanimously agree the Notice of Motion as outlined on the agenda and the amended addition to this Motion as outlined above (page 12).

**11. Formal Question.**

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 26.2, there was submitted a [Formal Question](#) from Councillor Craig Mackay, along with the response, which was made available to all Members.

Councillor Mackay raised a supplementary question in relation to the UK Government's argument that a £22b black hole in the budget had been inherited and what contingency plans were in place should the promised Levelling Up funding for this Council fail to materialise; and Councillor Martin Dowe advised that he had spoken to officers in the UK Government in the last week; and that Council officers were in regular contact with officers in the UK and Scottish Governments regarding this. The Chief Executive further advised that he would be meeting with the four new Labour MPs along with the Chief Executives from East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire Councils to discuss Ayrshire Growth Deal and the Levelling Up Fund.

The meeting ended at 12.35 p.m.

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Director of Housing, Operations and Development  
to South Ayrshire Council  
of 12 December 2024**

---

**Subject:       Review of Governance Arrangements Regarding Ward  
Capital Fund and Shorefront/ Promenade Capital  
Projects**

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**1.       Purpose**

- 1.1       The purpose of this report is to recommend revised governance arrangement for Place Planning and Community Lead Projects ( hereinafter known as ‘Ward Capital Projects and Shorefront/ Promenade Capital Projects’ to provide for a more simplified and responsive set of arrangements to approve projects whilst ensuring that proper financial, legal and other regulatory diligence is maintained.

**2.       Recommendation**

**2.1       It is recommended that the Council:**

- 2.1.1       agrees the approval process and governance arrangements for Ward Capital and Shorefront/ Promenade Capital Projects as set out in [Appendix 1](#); and**
- 2.1.2       requests the Chief Governance Officer to amend the Council’s Scheme of Delegation, to reflect the required changes to delegated powers as set out in paragraph 4.2 below.**

**3.       Background**

- 3.1       The Council-approved Capital Investment Programme 2023-24 to 2034-35 includes funding for ; Place Planning and Community Led Projects and Promenade and Shorefront Enhancement Schemes .This programme provided for a scheme of new capital projects. In order to ensure that proper governance arrangements were in place for the identification and management of such projects, Cabinet on 25 April 2023 approved the arrangements for decision-making in these projects, which involved ward meetings with elected members, bids then submitted to the Capital Asset Management Group (CAMG) to ensure all bid requirements are met, and thereafter submission of recommended bids to Council for approval.
- 3.2       These arrangements effectively removed the delegation given to the Director of Housing, Operations and Development to approve Capital projects up to a value of £100,000 and instead required Council approval of all projects under these budget line. At that time, there were no amendments proposed to the Council’s Scheme of Delegation.

- 3.3 However the governance arrangements have subsequently proved in some instances to hold back progression of some proposed projects. Feedback from elected members in this regard has been considered, and as a result the current governance arrangements have been reviewed to streamline processes whilst ensuring that processes meet the Council's statutory duties, including those related to Best Value and Equalities.
- 3.4 Members will be aware that Audit Scotland require that Councils satisfy themselves that they are securing Best Value in all their financial decisions. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy CIPFA also provide guidance on the proper approval of Capital. The Council's Capital Asset Management Group ensures these requirements are met by first approving potential Capital projects before these are recommended to Council.
- 3.5 Officers met with Audit Scotland to establish if there are alternatives to involving CAMG in prior approval of Capital projects. Audit Scotland have commented that the Council requires to satisfy itself that Best Value is being provided and that the CAMG processes provides this assurance. They confirmed that the Council's processes are consistent with other Councils and are no more onerous than other Council's diligence and processes.
- 3.6 Officers recognise the need for a more flexible approach and have therefore proposed that where they have consulted with all ward members on the spend on the projects for Ward Capital and Shorefront/ Promenade Capital Projects less than £100,000 then after this consultation the project can be progressed by the Director of Housing, Operations and Development following the process outlined in [Appendix 1](#) and authorised using the delegated power set out in paragraph 4.2 below. There will be no requirement for these projects to be approved by Council.

#### **4. Proposals**

4.1 It is proposed that to provide for more responsive approval of potential projects, whilst maintaining proper diligence, that the following approval and governance arrangements are put in place for the Ward Capital and Shorefront/ Promenade Capital Projects, where there is sufficient capital budget provision:

4.1.1 The proposals for Ward Capital and Shorefront/ Promenade/ Capital projects are set out in [Appendix 1](#)). These proposals remove the requirement for Council approval for projects costed at less than £100,000, and provide delegated power to the Director of Housing, Operations and Development to approve Ward Capital and Promenade/ Seafront Capital Projects up to a value of £100,000, in consultation with Ward Members.

4.2 It is further proposed that the Scheme of Delegation is amended to reflect the addition of a delegated power referred to in paragraph 4.1.1 above to the Director of Housing, Operations and Development, as follows:

- Amend paragraph HOD90 to be called HOD90.1, and
- Create a new paragraph HOD90.2:

*HOD90.2 - in relation to the Ward Capital Fund and Shorefront/Promenade Capital projects, following consultation with the Ward Councillors in the relevant Ward, and consideration by the Capital Asset Management Group, to formally approve expenditure from that fund on works requiring to be undertaken, provided the amount involved does not exceed £100,000.*

4.3 This amendment is reflected in the revised Scheme of Delegation (report being submitted as a separate item on the agenda for today's Council meeting).

## **5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

5.1 The proposals continue to provide sound governance arrangements to meet with the requirements of Audit Scotland/Best Value when considering capital projects.

5.2 There are no procurement implications immediately arising from this report, and approved projects will meet with the terms of procurement Standing Orders

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the proposals.

## **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 agreeing to the above recommendations.

### ***Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations***

8.2.1 There is a risk that if the above recommendations are rejected that there will be delay in delivering the capital programme related to Ward Capital, Promenade/Shorefront Improvement.

## **9. Equalities**

9.1 The proposals in this report ensure that Equality Impact Assessment considerations are included within the consideration of potential projects.

## **10. Sustainable Development Implications**

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)***—The proposals in this report ensure that SEA considerations are included in the consideration of potential regeneration projects.

## **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 Spaces and Places

## 13. Results of Consultation

13.1 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowey, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, Councillor Ian Davis, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Human Resources and ICT, and Councillor Bob Pollock Portfolio Holder for Economic Development 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 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
Updated Scheme of Delegation to be published and notified to employees	20 December 2024	Chief Governance Officer

**Background Papers**     [Audit Scotland Report – Major Capital Investment in Councils – Good Practice Guide – March 2013](#)

**South-Ayrshire Council Asset Management Plan**

**Report to Cabinet of 25 April 2023 - [Approval Process and Governance Arrangements for Ward Capital Projects](#)**

**Person to Contact**     **Chris Cox, Assistant Director Planning, Development and Regulation**  
**County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR**  
**Phone 01292 612981**  
**E-mail [chris.cox@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.cox@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Date: 5 December 2024**

**Proposed Revised Governance - Ward Capital Fund and Shorefront/Promenade Projects**

Projects derived from Place Plans, Ward Members or Communities Direct

Less than £100,000  
(Communities Direct – Consult Ward Members)



Ward Member Consultation



CAMG consideration of Business Case and Equalities Impact and public consultation requirements



Director of Housing, Operations and Development approves



Project Proceeds

More than £100,000  
(Communities Direct - - Consult Ward Members)



Ward Member Consultation



CAMG consideration of Business Case, Equalities Impact and public consultation requirements



Council Approval



Project Proceeds

## South Ayrshire Council

### Report by Chief Governance Officer to South Ayrshire Council of 12 December 2024

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**Subject:       Scheme of Delegation**

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#### **1.       Purpose**

- 1.1       The purpose of this report is to seek approval to amend the Scheme of Delegation following review.

#### **2.       Recommendation**

- 2.1       **It is recommended that the Council approves the revised Scheme of Delegation (extract contained in [Appendix 1](#)) with effect from 13 December 2024.**

#### **3.       Background**

- 3.1       It is a requirement of corporate governance that the Council's Scheme of Delegation be kept under review. The last update was approved by Special Council on 19 August 2024.

- 3.2       At its meeting on 6 November 2024, the Audit and Governance Panel considered a call-in from the Cabinet of 29 October 2024 relating to 'Item 4: Community Councils – Amendments to the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils' and decided:

'to approve the recommendation for the report of 29 October 2024 to be brought back to Cabinet and the word 'Council' to be substituted for the word 'Cabinet' where it occurred in the report in relation to any proposed dissolution of a Community Council; and that corresponding changes to the Council's governance documents reflect this change.'

- 3.3       At its meeting on 29 November 2024, the Cabinet agreed to this substitution in the relevant sections of the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils. As a result, the Council's Scheme of Delegation requires to be updated to reflect these changes.

#### **4.       Proposals**

- 4.1       The Scheme of Delegation has been updated to reflect that:

- 4.1.1     powers in relation to dissolution of a community council should be reserved to Council and not to Cabinet;

- 4.1.2 powers delegated to the Director of Communities and Transformation and the Chief Governance Officer be amended to reflect the requirements of the amended Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils;
  - 4.1.3 responsibility for Skills, Development and Training lies with the Portfolio Holder for Education (no longer shared with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development); and
  - 4.1.4 powers delegated to the Director of Housing Operations and Development be amended to include a delegated power in relation to the Ward Capital/ Seafront projects.
- 4.2 The proposed amendments are tracked and highlighted in **bold text** in the relevant extract from the revised Scheme (attached as [Appendix 1](#)).
- 4.3 Subject to approval, it is proposed that the revised Scheme of Delegation is adopted with effect from 13 December 2024.
- 4.4 Subject to approval, the revised Scheme of Delegation will be published on The Core and the Council's website and will also be notified to employees by way of the SAC Staff Community Hub.

## **5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Not applicable.

## **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 risk associated with rejecting the recommendations is that the Council's corporate governance will be less effective.

## **9. Equalities**

- 9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equalities Impact Assessment Scoping process, and there are no significant positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations, therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as [Appendix 2](#).

## 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 4 of the Council Plan: Efficient and effective enabling services.

## 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.

## 14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

- 14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Chief Governance Officer will ensure that the following steps are taken within the following timescales, with progress reported to the Cabinet in the 'Council and Cabinet Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the steps are completed:

<b><i>Implementation</i></b>	<b><i>Due date</i></b>	<b><i>Managed by</i></b>
Updated Scheme of Delegation to be published and notified to employees	20 December 2024	Chief Governance Officer

### Background Papers [Scheme of Delegation](#)

[Call-In Requisition: Cabinet – 29 October 2024 – Item 4: Community Councils – Amendments to the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils](#)

Cabinet – 26 November 2024 – Decision Notice

**Person to Contact**     **Catriona Caves, Chief Governance Officer**  
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR  
Phone 01292 612556  
E-mail [catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**Date:** 5 December 2024

## Relevant Extracts from Scheme of Delegation

Page 10:

### Section 1 - Powers Reserved to Council

#### 20. *Dissolution of Community Councils*

- 20.1 To consider and take decisions on any reports and/ or recommendations regarding the proposed dissolution of a Community Council within the South Ayrshire area.

Page 12:

### Para 2 - Functions and Powers Delegated to the Cabinet: General Delegations

- 2.1.17 considering and determining any recommendations regarding the operation of any Community Council within the South Ayrshire area, **with the exception of decisions regarding the proposed dissolution of a Community Council.**

Page 16:

### Para 4.6 – Education Portfolio

- 4.6.3 On the basis that the Cabinet will make recommendations to Council as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions set out in Section 1, in pursuit of this remit the Portfolio Holder will oversee the following services/ functions to ensure their effective management and continuous improvement:
- Schools and Lifelong Learning;
  - Management of education system;
  - Early Years;
  - Additional Support for Learning;
  - Parental Involvement;
  - Children/ Disability;
  - Play and Out of School Care;
  - Youth Support (in conjunction with the Youth Champion);
  - Skills Development and Training; ~~(in conjunction with the Economic Development Portfolio Holder)~~
  - Adult and Continuing Education;
  - School Sport; and
  - School Estate.

Page 18:

#### Para 4.9 – Economic Development Portfolio

4.9.2 On the basis that the Ayrshire Roads Authority is responsible for delivery of roads services as set out Section 5 of this Scheme, and also on the basis that the Cabinet will make recommendations to Council as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions set out in Section 1 of this remit, the Portfolio Holder will oversee the following services/ functions to ensure their effective management and continuous improvement:

- Road Traffic Regulation;
- Road Network Management;
- Building Standards;
- Flood Prevention;
- Catering and Cleaning Services;
- Fleet Management;
- Planning;
- Procurement and all Contracts (in conjunction with the Finance, Human Resources and ICT Portfolio Holder);
- ~~Skills Development and Training (in conjunction with the Education Portfolio Holder);~~
- Economic Development and Regeneration; and
- Transportation Planning.

Page 65:

#### Director of Housing, Operations and Development

HOD90 in relation to:

HOD90.1 the Repairs and Renewals Fund, following consideration by the Capital Asset Management Group, to formally approve expenditure from that fund on works requiring to be undertaken, provided the amount involved does not exceed £100,000;

HOD90.2 **the Ward Capital Fund and Shorefront/ Promenade Capital projects, following consultation with the Ward Councillors in the relevant Ward, and consideration by the Capital Asset Management Group, to formally approve expenditure from that fund on works requiring to be undertaken, provided the amount involved does not exceed £100,000;**

**Page 67:**

**Director of Communities and Transformation**

CT08 to implement South Ayrshire Council's Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils, and to take all relevant and appropriate decisions in relation thereto, **including authority to the Assistant Director – Communities to take decisions on proposals to extend a period of suspension of a Community Council by an additional three months or such further period as deemed appropriate.**

**Page 75:**

**Chief Governance Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services**

LRS66 to consider **appeals in respect of a Community Council; and consider** requests or recommendations from the Service Lead – Thriving Communities in respect of suspension and/ or dissolution of a Community Council, and to report to ~~Cabinet~~ **Council** as appropriate thereafter.



## South Ayrshire Council Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Template

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. [FSD Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018 and revised in October 2021. See information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies/>

### 1. Policy details

Policy Title	Scheme of Delegation
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Catriona Caves, Chief Governance Officer – <a href="mailto:catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk">catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</a>

**2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts**

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	-	-
Disability	-	-
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	-	-
Marriage or Civil Partnership	-	-
Pregnancy and Maternity	-	-
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	-	-
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	-	-
Sex – (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	-	-
Sexual Orientation – person's sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	-	-

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children's Rights	-	-

**3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage i.e. The Fairer Scotland Duty (This section to be completed for any Strategic Decisions). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.**

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	-	-
Low and/or no wealth – 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	-	-
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	-	-
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	-	-
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent's education, employment and income	-	-

**4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:**

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the 'Three Key Needs' of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
<b>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b>	Low
<b>Advance equality of opportunity</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low
<b>Foster good relations</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low

## 5. Summary Assessment

<b>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?</b> (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as <b>Medium and/or High</b> )	<del>YES</del> <b>NO</b>
<b>Rationale for decision:</b>  <b>This report provides an update on amendments to the Scheme of Delegation following further review, and asks Members to approve. Their decision on this has no specific equality implications</b>	
<b>Signed :</b> Catriona Caves	<b>Chief Governance Officer</b>
<b>Date:</b> 6 November 2024	

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Chief Governance Officer  
to South Ayrshire Council  
of 12 December 2024**

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**Subject: Appointments to Panels**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to make alterations to the membership of Panels.

**2. Recommendation**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Council:**

- 2.1.1 notes the change in the representative intimated by the Conservative Group identified at 4.2 as a Conservative member of the Licensing Board;**
- 2.1.2 appoints a new Chair of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel;**
- 2.1.3 requests that officers make the required amendments to the list of Panels to reflect these changes; and**
- 2.1.4 considers any other amendments which might be required to membership of Panels.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 In terms of para 11.1 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, amendment of the membership of the Cabinet and other Panels, Committees and Sub-Committees is reserved to Council.
- 3.2 Standing Order 28.5 of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Meetings allows political Groups to replace any nominated member by informing the Chief Executive who will advise Members in writing of changes and report them to the next Ordinary Meeting of Council for noting.

**4. Proposals**

- 4.1 At a special meeting on 26 May 2022, the Council approved a number of appointments.

## ***Licensing Board***

- 4.2 The Conservative Group has previously intimated that Councillor Kenneth Bell would replace Councillor Lee Lyons as one of the Conservative members on the Licensing Board (by virtue of their position being reserved for a member of a specified Political Group). In terms of para 28.5 of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Meetings, the Chief Executive has advised all Members in writing of this change which is now being reported to Council for noting.

## ***Service and Partnerships Performance Panel***

- 4.3 The Conservative Group has requested that Councillor Chris Cullen is appointed to replace Councillor Philip Saxton as Chair of the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel.
- 4.4 Members may wish to consider any other amendments which might be required to membership of Panels.

## **5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Not applicable.

## **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 There are no risks associated with rejecting the recommendations.

## **9. Equalities**

- 9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as [Appendix 1](#).

## **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 4 of the Council Plan: Efficient and effective enabling services.

## 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.

## 14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Chief Governance Officer 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 details of membership of Panels	20 December 2024	Service Lead – Democratic Governance

**Background Papers**    **Report to South Ayrshire Council (Special) of 26 May 2022 – [Appointments to Panel](#)**

**[Scheme of Delegation](#)**

**[Standing Orders Relating to Meetings](#)**

**Person to Contact**    **Catriona Caves, Chief Governance Officer**  
**County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR**  
**Phone 01292 612556**  
**E-mail [catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Date: 2 December 2024**

## South Ayrshire Council Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Template

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

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The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. [FSD Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018 and revised in October 2021. See information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies/>

### 1. Policy details

Policy Title	Appointments to Panels
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Catriona Caves, Chief Governance Officer – catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

**2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts**

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	-	-
Disability	-	-
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	-	-
Marriage or Civil Partnership	-	-
Pregnancy and Maternity	-	-
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	-	-
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	-	-
Sex – (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	-	-
Sexual Orientation – person's sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	-	-

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children's Rights	-	-

**3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage i.e. The Fairer Scotland Duty (This section to be completed for any Strategic Decisions). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.**

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	-	-
Low and/or no wealth – 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	-	-
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	-	-
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	-	-
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent's education, employment and income	-	-

**4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:**

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the 'Three Key Needs' of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
<b>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b>	Low
<b>Advance equality of opportunity</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low
<b>Foster good relations</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low



## 5. Summary Assessment

<b>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?</b> (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as <b>Medium and/or High</b> )	<del>YES</del> <b>NO</b>
<b>Rationale for decision:</b>  <b>This report seeks approval to make alterations to the list of Panels. Their decision on this has no specific equality implications</b>	
<b>Signed :</b> Catriona Caves	<b>Chief Governance Officer</b>
<b>Date:</b> 6 November 2024	

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Chief Governance Officer  
to South Ayrshire Council  
of 12 December 2024**

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**Subject: Representation on Outside Bodies**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to make alterations to the list of Outside Bodies.

**2. Recommendation**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Council:**

- 2.1.1 adds KIMO International to the list of Outside Bodies;**
- 2.1.2 confirms Councillor Mark Dixon's appointment as the Council's representative;**
- 2.1.3 notes the change in the representative nominated by the Conservative Group identified in 4.5;**
- 2.1.4 notes the proposal that Councillor Mark Dixon be recommended to the Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board as Chair from the South Ayrshire Council membership of the Board (identified in 4.6);**
- 2.1.5 notes the change in the representative nominated by the SNP Group identified in 4.8;**
- 2.1.6 notes the feedback from the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport as outlined in 4.10; and**
- 2.1.7 considers any other amendments which might be required to representation on Outside Bodies.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 In terms of para 11.2 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, the selection and de-selection of Councillors and officers to serve on and/ or to represent the Council on Joint Committees, Joint Boards and other external bodies and organisations is reserved to Council.

**4/**

## 4. Proposals

### ***KIMO International***

4.1 KIMO International is a network of local governments, working together for healthy seas, clean beaches, and thriving coastal communities, and the Council is one of eight Scottish local authority members (previously represented by Councillor Peter Henderson, and subsequently by Councillor Mark Dixon). At its meeting on 29 June 2023, the Council was advised that KIMO International was not on the list of Outside Bodies, and the (then) Head of Legal and Regulatory Services advised that any organisations not listed would be submitted to Council for approval.

4.2 It is proposed that the Council adds KIMO International to the list of Outside Bodies and confirms Councillor Mark Dixon's appointment as the Council's representative.

### ***Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board***

4.3 The chairmanship of the Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board rotates around the three Ayrshire Councils following each Local Government Election, the Chair being selected from South Ayrshire Councillors for the 2022 to 2027 term, and the Vice-Chair from North Ayrshire Councillors. At the first meeting of the Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board following the Local Government Election in 2022, members of the Board approved Councillor Hugh Hunter as South Ayrshire Council's proposal for Chair.

4.4 Councillor Hugh Hunter has formally intimated his intention to resign from the Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board.

4.5 The Conservative Group has requested an amendment to representation to replace Councillor Hunter as outlined below:

<b><i>Outside Body</i></b>	<b><i>Proposed Member</i></b>
Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board	Councillor Martin Dowey

4.6 The Conservative Group has also requested that a proposal be submitted to the Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board that Councillor Mark Dixon be appointed as Chair from the South Ayrshire Council membership of the Board.

### ***Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee***

4.7 Councillor Ian Cochrane has formally intimated his intention to resign from the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee.

4.8 The SNP Group has requested an amendment to representation to replace Councillor Cochrane as outlined below:

<b><i>Outside Body</i></b>	<b><i>Proposed Member</i></b>
Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee	Councillor Craig Mackay

4.9 At its special meeting on 19 August 2024, the Council approved the appointment of the Director of Housing, Operations and Development as one of the Council's

representatives for the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee.

4.10 The Strathclyde Partnership for Transport have subsequently advised that Council representation is from Elected Members and no officer representation is required.

4.11 Members may wish to consider any other amendments which might be required to representation on Outside Bodies.

## **5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 Not applicable.

## **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 There are no risks associated with rejecting the recommendations.

## **9. Equalities**

9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as [Appendix 1](#).

## **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.

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## 12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to enabling services through the delivery of sound decision making and governance.

## 13. Results of Consultation

13.1 There has been no consultation on the contents of this report.

13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowe, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, 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 Chief Governance Officer 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:

<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Managed by</i>
Publish updated details of representation on Outside Bodies	20 December 2024	Service Lead – Democratic Governance
Notification of appointments to all relevant external groups and officers	20 December 2024	Service Lead – Democratic Governance

**Background Papers**    [Scheme of Delegation](#)

[South Ayrshire Council – 29 June 2023 – Minutes \(Item 7, Page 5\)](#)

[South Ayrshire Council \(Special\) – 19 August 2024 – Minutes \(Item 5, Page 6\)](#)

**Person to Contact**    **Catriona Caves, Chief Governance Officer**  
**County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR**  
**Phone 01292 612556**  
**E-mail [catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Date: 2 December 2024**

## South Ayrshire Council Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Template

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. [FSD Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018 and revised in October 2021. See information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies/>

### 1. Policy details

Policy Title	Representation on Outside Bodies
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Catriona Caves, Chief Governance Officer – catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

**2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts**

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	-	-
Disability	-	-
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	-	-
Marriage or Civil Partnership	-	-
Pregnancy and Maternity	-	-
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	-	-
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	-	-
Sex – (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	-	-
Sexual Orientation – person's sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	-	-

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children's Rights	-	-

**3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage i.e. The Fairer Scotland Duty (This section to be completed for any Strategic Decisions). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.**

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	-	-
Low and/or no wealth – 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	-	-
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	-	-
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	-	-
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent's education, employment and income	-	-

**4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:**

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the 'Three Key Needs' of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
<b>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b>	Low
<b>Advance equality of opportunity</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low
<b>Foster good relations</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low

## 5. Summary Assessment

<b>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?</b> (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as <b>Medium and/or High</b> )	<del>YES</del>  NO
<b>Rationale for decision:</b>  <b>This report seeks approval to make alterations to the list of Outside Bodies. Their decision on this has no specific equality implications</b>	
<b>Signed:</b> Catriona Caves	<b>Chief Governance Officer</b>
<b>Date:</b> 14 November 2024	



**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Chief Governance Officer  
to South Ayrshire Council  
of 12 December 2024**

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**Subject: Representation on Working Groups**

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to make alterations to the list of Working Groups.

**2. Recommendation**

2.1 It is recommended that the Council:

2.1.1 notes the change in the representative nominated by the Conservative Group identified in 4.2; and

2.1.2 considers any other amendments which might be required to representation on Working Groups.

**3. Background**

3.1 The Council is currently represented on a number of external Working Groups and has previously agreed to the formation of a number of internal Member/ Officer Working Groups.

**4. Proposals**

4.1 At a special meeting of Council on 19 August 2024, Members agreed that Councillor Bob Pollock replace Councillor Lee Lyons as Depute Leader of the Council.

4.2 The Conservative Group has requested an amendment to representation to replace Councillor Lyons as outlined below:

<b><i>Working Group</i></b>	<b><i>Proposed Member</i></b>
1st Tier Joint Consultative Committee	Councillor Bob Pollock

4.3 Members may wish to consider any other amendments which might be required to representation on Working Groups.

**5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **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 Rejecting the recommendations may in some cases hinder the efficient operation of Council business.

## **9. Equalities**

9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as [Appendix 1](#).

## **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 4 of the Council Plan: Efficient and effective enabling services.

## **13. Results of Consultation**

13.1 There has been no 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.

**14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes**

14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Chief Governance Officer 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:

<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Managed by</i>
Publish updated details of representation on Working Groups	20 December 2024	Service Lead – Democratic Governance

**Background Papers**     [South Ayrshire Council \(Special\) – 19 August 2024 – Minutes \(item 3, page 4\)](#)

**Person to Contact**     **Catriona Caves, Chief Governance Officer**  
**County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR**  
**Phone 01292 612556**  
**E-mail [Catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Date:** 2 December 2024

**South Ayrshire Council  
 Equality Impact Assessment  
 Scoping Template**

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. [FSD Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018 and revised in October 2021. See information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies/>

**1. Policy details**

Policy Title	Representation on Working Groups
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Catriona Caves, Chief Governance Officer – catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

**2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts**

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	-	-
Disability	-	-
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	-	-
Marriage or Civil Partnership	-	-
Pregnancy and Maternity	-	-
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	-	-
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	-	-
Sex – (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	-	-
Sexual Orientation – person's sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	-	-

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children's Rights	-	-

**3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage i.e. The Fairer Scotland Duty (This section to be completed for any Strategic Decisions). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.**

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	-	-
Low and/or no wealth – 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	-	-
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	-	-
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	-	-
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent's education, employment and income	-	-

**4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:**

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the 'Three Key Needs' of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
<b>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b>	Low
<b>Advance equality of opportunity</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low
<b>Foster good relations</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low

## 5. Summary Assessment

<b>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?</b> (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as <b>Medium and/or High</b> )	<del>YES</del> <b>NO</b>
<b>Rationale for decision:</b>  <b>This report seeks approval to make alterations to the list of Working Groups. Their decision on this has no specific equality implications</b>	
<b>Signed :</b> Catriona Caves	<b>Chief Governance Officer</b>
<b>Date:</b> 13 November 2024	

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Chief Governance Officer  
to South Ayrshire Council  
of 12 December 2024**

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**Subject: Appointments to Convention of Scottish Local Authorities Policy Boards**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's approval to make alterations to the list of representatives on the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) Policy Boards.

**2. Recommendation**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Council:**

**2.1.1 notes the change in the representative nominated by the Conservative Group identified in para 4.1 as the Council's representative on the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) Children and Young People Policy Board; and**

**2.1.2 considers any other amendments which might be required to COSLA Policy Board representation.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 29 June 2022, the Council agreed that Councillor Stephen Ferry be appointed as the Council's representative on the COSLA Education and Children Policy Board (now the Children and Young People Policy Board).

- 3.2 At a special meeting on 19 August 2024, the Council agreed that Councillor William Grant replace Councillor Stephen Ferry as Portfolio Holder for Education.

**4. Proposals**

- 4.1 The Conservative Group has requested that Councillor William Grant replaces Councillor Stephen Ferry as the Council's representative on the COSLA Children and Young People Policy Board.

- 4.2 Members may wish to consider any other amendments which might be required to representation on COSLA Policy Boards.

**5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 Minimal costs for attending meetings, etc, can be met from existing budget.

## **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 Rejecting the recommendations will result in the Council not being represented on COSLA Policy Boards.

## **9. Equalities**

9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as [Appendix 1](#).

## **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 enabling services through the delivery of sound decision making and governance.

## **13. Results of Consultation**

13.1 There has been no consultation on the contents of this report.

13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowe, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, 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 Chief Governance Officer 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 Leadership Panel in the 'Council and Leadership Panel Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Managed by</i>
Notify COSLA of the change of representation on Policy Boards	20 December 2024	Service Lead – Democratic Governance

**Background Papers**    **Report to South Ayrshire Council of 29 June 2022 - [Appointments to Convention of Scottish Local Authorities Policy Boards](#)**

**Report to South Ayrshire Council of 19 August 2024 – [Appointments to Panel](#)**

**Person to Contact**    **Catriona Caves, Chief Governance Officer  
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR  
Phone 01292 612556  
E-mail [catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Date:** 29 November 2024

**South Ayrshire Council  
Equality Impact Assessment  
Scoping Template**

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. [FSD Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018 and revised in October 2021. See information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies/>

## 1. Policy details

Policy Title	Representation on Convention of Scottish Local Authorities Policy Boards
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Catriona Caves, Chief Governance Officer – catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

**2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts**

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	-	-
Disability	-	-
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	-	-
Marriage or Civil Partnership	-	-
Pregnancy and Maternity	-	-
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	-	-
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	-	-
Sex – (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	-	-

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Sexual Orientation – person’s sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	-	-
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children’s Rights	-	-

**3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage i.e. The Fairer Scotland Duty (This section to be completed for any Strategic Decisions). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.**

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	-	-
Low and/or no wealth – 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	-	-
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	-	-
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	-	-
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent’s education, employment and income	-	-

**4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:**

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the ‘Three Key Needs’ of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
<b>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b>	Low
<b>Advance equality of opportunity</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low
<b>Foster good relations</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low

## 5. Summary Assessment

<b>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?</b> (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as <b>Medium and/or High</b> )	<del>YES</del> <b>NO</b>
<b>Rationale for decision:</b>  <b>This report seeks the Council's approval to amend representation on COSLA's Policy Boards. Their decision on this has no specific equality implications</b>	
<b>Signed:</b> Catriona Caves  <b>Date:</b> 18 October 2024	<b>Chief Governance Officer</b>

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Chief Financial Officer  
to South Ayrshire Council  
of 12 December 2024**

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**Subject: Medium Term Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2029-30**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Council's updated Medium Term Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2029-30 and associated Budget Strategy for the 2025-26 budget.

**2. Recommendation**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:**

- 2.1.1 considers and approves the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), attached as Appendix 1;**
- 2.1.2 notes the potential cumulative five-year budget gap based on the assumptions contained in the plan is £40.0m; and**
- 2.1.3 approves the budget strategy as contained in Section 4 of Appendix 1, developed to address the anticipated cumulative budget gap.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 28 November 2023, the Cabinet approved the Council's five-year MTFP 2024-25 to 2028-29. The MTFP was extended from the previous three-year timeframe to a five-year timeframe covering the period 2024-25 to 2028-29 following discussions with Audit Scotland, the Council's external auditors. This approach introduced the new methodology of maintaining one extended medium term financial plan rather than the previous approach of having a three-year MTFP alongside a ten-year Long Term Financial Outlook.

**4. Proposals**

- 4.1 As is the case across all local authorities, this Council faces significant financial challenges due to the increased inflationary environment and will be required to operate within even tighter fiscal constraints for the foreseeable future alongside which the continuing difficult national economic outlook and increased demand for services is increasing the pressure on Council activity.

- 4.2 The purpose of the MTFP, contained in Appendix 1, is to provide a clear understanding of the expected resources that will be available in the short and medium term to deliver Council Priorities. It plays a vital part of decision-making and forms the basis of the Council's stewardship over taxpayers' funds
- 4.3 The primary source of funding for the delivery of Council Services is the Scottish Government through the allocation of Aggregate External Finance (General Revenue Grant and Non-Domestic Rates income) which accounts for 78% of the Council's funding. The expectation is that future Scottish Government funding will be severely limited or more likely flatline. This means that current service provision will become unaffordable within the estimated funding envelope, therefore decisions are required to increase income through other means (council tax or fees and charges) or to contract council service provision by reducing or ceasing certain non-priority service provision areas.
- 4.4 The anticipated budget gap position of the Council over the next five years, drawn from the MTFP, is provided in the Fig 1 below. Further work continues to refine the underlying assumptions and final savings requirements will be determined following the Local Government Financial Settlement due to be announced in December 2023.

**Fig 1 – five-year budget gap**

2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m	2028-29 £m	2029-30 £m	Cumulative Total £m
5.5	19.1	7.1	4.3	4.0	<b>40.0</b>

- 4.5 Fig 1 above indicates a significantly larger budget gap in 2026-27, compared to other years in the plan. This is predominantly based on the fact that the pension contribution rate for the Strathclyde Pension Scheme is being paid at the reduced rate in 2025-26 of 6.5%, however this reduction is only temporary, thereafter the rate will increase to 17.5%, significantly increasing costs in 2026-27, resulting in a much larger budget gap than the preceding year or subsequent following years after 2026-27.
- 4.6 Given the significant requirement for savings over the next five years it is essential that a budget strategy is agreed that recognises the fluctuating levels of the projected budget gaps and establishes appropriate plans and associated actions needed to meet the required savings targets.
- 4.7 Contained within the MTFP is a budget strategy that sets out the key principles to ensure a robust and strategic approach to financial planning is progressed.
- 4.8 This Budget Strategy will be key to ensuring that the achievement of the Council's Strategic Priorities identified in the new Council Plan are confined within the resources available to support the delivery of key outcomes.
- 4.9 The years through to 2030 will be challenging financially, given the available funding anticipated. Managing the financial pressures whilst seeking to deliver the Council's priorities will be difficult and will require a comprehensive review of the revenue budget, planned costs and performance as well as a review of the capital plans and aspirations in order to ensure that the Council remains financially resilient.

## **5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 The anticipated funding gap over the period 2025-26 to 2029-30, based on key assumptions, is £40.0m. The Council will require to set a balanced budget for 2025-26 and future years.

## **7. Human Resources Implications**

7.1 Not applicable.

## **8. Risk**

### **8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations***

8.1.1 There is a risk that the Council, on adopting the recommendations, fails to take the necessary actions to address the anticipated funding gap.

### **8.2 *Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations***

8.2.1 There is a risk that Council fails to recognise the potential financial climate and does not take appropriate steps to manage the situation accordingly resulting in service interruption and reputational damage to the Council.

## **9. Equalities**

9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as Appendix 2.

## **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 although various options have been considered as part of the key assumptions when assessing future possible financial outcomes.

12/

## 12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priority 4 of the Council Plan: Efficient and effective enabling services.

## 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 Ian Davis, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Human Resources and ICT, 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 Chief Financial Officer 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 on the Council's website	20 December 2024	Chief Financial Officer
Budget strategy to be implemented as part of the 2025-26 budget setting process	31 March 2025	Chief Financial Officer

**Background Papers**    **Report to Cabinet of 29 November 2022 – [Medium Term Financial Plan Update](#)**

**Report to Cabinet of 28 November 2023 - [Medium Term Financial Plan 2024-25 to 2028-29](#)**

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**Date: 29 November 2024**



# Medium Term Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2029-30 (5 years)

Appendix 1

December 2024





**South Ayrshire Council**  
**Medium Term Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2029-30**

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App 2	Key budget strategy matters	<a href="#">Page 23</a>



# 1. Introduction

The purpose of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2025-26 to 2029-30, is to provide a clear direction on how the Council will manage its financial resources in the medium term to ensure they are deployed effectively to achieve Council Priorities and outcomes and should be seen in the context of the Council Plan and various other strategies and plans in place across the Council. The MTFP plays a vital part of decision-making and forms the basis of the Council's stewardship over taxpayer's funds.

Local authorities continue to operate in a very challenging and uncertain environment with public sector funding not keeping pace with the increasing costs and demand for services.

## Medium Term Financial Plan

Given the extent of financial challenges ahead, it is essential that the MTFP enables the Council to develop a better understanding of the wider policy and financial environment within which it operates and ensure that it can identify and respond flexibly to opportunities and threats and manage and mitigate risks whilst ensuring that financial resources are contributing to achieving Council priorities and outcomes. The principal objectives of the Financial Plan are to:

- Outline the Council's high level financial position over the years 2025-2030 based on a range of assumptions.
- Identify the key influential issues that have been considered in developing the plan.
- Ensure that limited available resources are focused on delivery of the Council's three priorities.
- Provide a financial planning platform for a sustainable revenue budget and capital investment programme which will support the Council's priorities.
- Ensure that the Council is fully aware of the financial challenges and uncertainties that it faces and is in the strongest possible position to deliver the best possible quality and range of services within available resources.
- Increase both organisational awareness and wider community understanding of the Council's financial position and the challenges it is facing over the medium term in balancing and delivering against its budget.

The scale of this challenge will inevitably have an impact on the range and level of services delivered by the Council, and this will require to be managed within the context of its statutory and regulatory responsibilities.

## Transformational Change Programme

To help address the financial challenges, the Council will continue to progress its transformation programme at scale and pace over the short, medium and longer term, and for this activity to be incorporated in the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan and aligned to the key priorities set out within the Council Plan 2023-2028.

## **Financial Forecast risk**

The plan is prepared at a point in time and relies on a series of assumptions and estimates.

The Council will continue to engage with Scottish Government on local government funding through CoSLA. The Scottish Government has still to publish its updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy, however, prior to the launch of the Scottish Government's Programme for Government on 4 September 2024, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance announced cuts to the Scottish Government budget of £500million across a range of portfolios. This is, in part, as a consequence of funding a proportion of public sector pay increases. This further re-enforces the challenging financial landscape faced by Councils. It is also important that Councils continue to lobby Scottish Government for maximum financial flexibility across all policy areas, in particular, funding for health and social care and education.

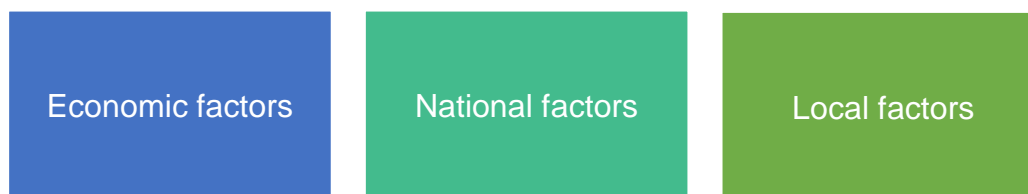
In the UK Autumn Budget in October 2024, the UK Government announced changes to Public Sector funding through budget policies that increase spending by almost £70 billion over the next five years. The impact on Local Government funding allocations in Scotland will only become clear when the Scottish Government announces its budget in early December 2024, with Local Government Settlement following shortly thereafter.

The assumptions on which the financial projections are built upon are the best estimate of the likely future movement in the financial environment. The actual outcome will no doubt differ from the various assumptions however they will continue to be kept under review and updated as appropriate.

## 2. Financial Outlook – Key factors and assumptions

There are several key factors affecting the financial position and financial sustainability of the Council over the medium term as shown in Fig 1 below.

**Fig 1 – key contributing factors**



### **Economic factors**

Funding for public services is linked to the performance of global and national economies and through the volatility in financial markets. UK Government fiscal policy and Bank of England Monetary policy decisions have a significant influence on local government finance whether it is through the level of Block grant available to Scotland, or the purchasing power associated with this funding within the context of inflation and the level of interest rates.

#### **Inflation**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure of inflation rose by 1.7% in the 12 months to September 2024. This is a reduction from August 2024 and significantly below the peak of 11.1% in October 2022 and is below the Bank of England (BoE) target of 2%. Latest forecasts project Inflation will increase further to around 2.5% by the end of the year before falling again through 2025. Moving forward this should have the effect of stabilising costs across various commodities and importantly, where contracts are linked to inflation indices, this should minimise any increases.

#### **Interest Rates**

The Bank of England (BoE) Monetary Policy Committee met on 19 September 2024 and voted to maintain the bank base rate at 5.00%. This is the same level from the previous meeting on 1 August 2024 and a 0.25% reduction from the 5.25% rate prevalent through most of the previous year. It is projected that the base interest rate may reduce further towards the end of 2024 and into 2025, however, this will very much depend on inflation being at or around the 2% BoE target. From a Council borrowing perspective, through the Public Works Loans Board, the rates available are linked to the performance of government bond yields (Gilts). Current projections indicate that bond yields will fall slightly, leading to a reduced cost of borrowing. The landscape, however, remains quite uncertain. Any reduction in the cost of borrowing would help alleviate some of the pressures in delivering the capital programme.

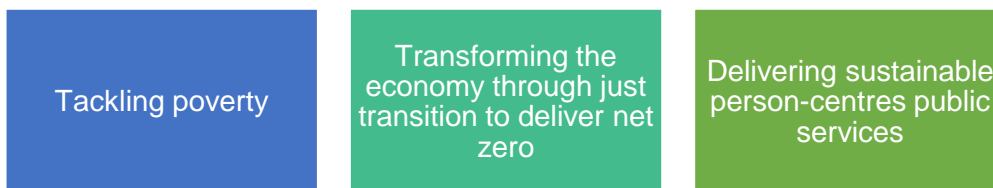
### **National Factors**

#### **The Verity House Agreement**

The Scottish Government and CoSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) signed

the Verity House Agreement on 30 June 2023. This Partnership Agreement is a high-level framework document that sets out a shared vision for a more collaborative approach to delivering shared priorities, with a focus on:

**Fig 2 – shared priorities**



The document emphasises the need for regular and meaningful engagement between local authorities and the Scottish Government and respect for each other’s democratic mandate.

### Local Government Funding

The primary source of funding for the delivery of Council Services is the Scottish Government through the allocation of general revenue and capital grants, and the distribution of national non-domestic rates income. Fig 3 shows the breakdown of funding sources for South Ayrshire in 2024-25. Aggregate external finance (General Revenue Grant and Non-Domestic Rates income) accounted for 80% in 2024-25, leaving the balance funded from local Council Tax income and the utilisation of Council reserves.

**Fig 3 – Council funding sources 2024-25**

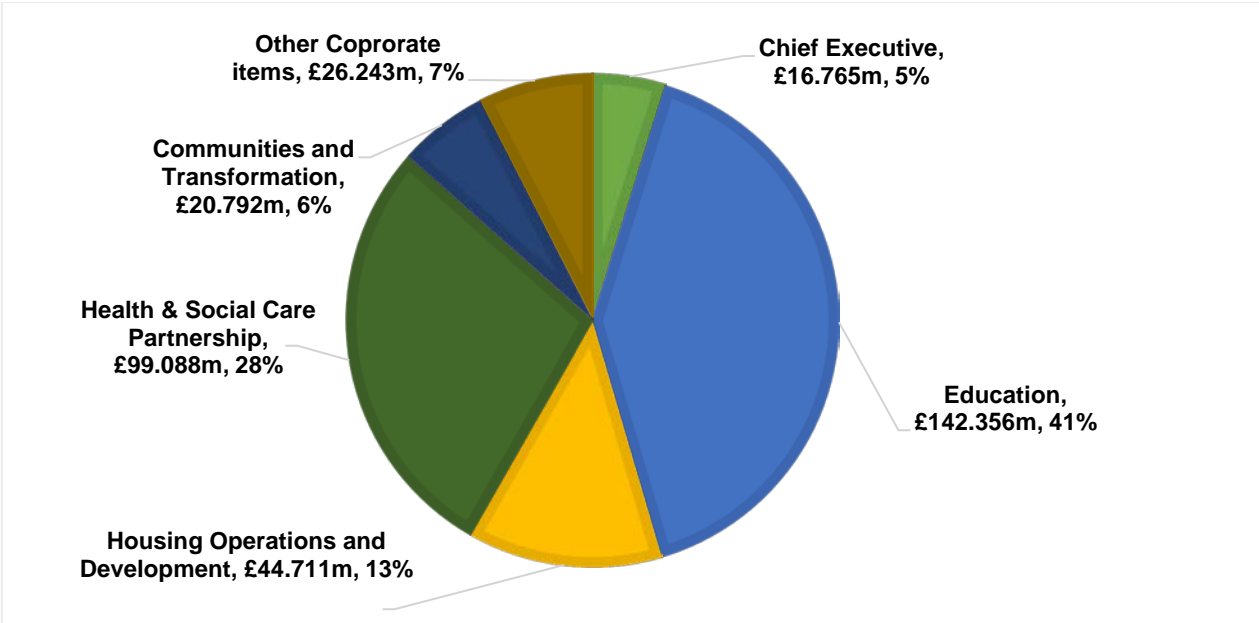


With four fifths of the Council’s net revenue funding being received in this way it is simple to see why UK and Scottish Government policies and economic forecasts impact on the level of Council funding.

Fig 4 below summarises the allocation of resources for 2024-25 approved at Council in February 2024, with around 50% of gross expenditure relating to employee costs;



**Fig 4 – Allocation of Resources to Council Services 2024-25 - £349.995m**



The funding of Local Government in Scotland is one that is driven strongly by the impact of national policy and commitments. Ring-fencing (or Directed Funding), national policy initiatives and protections in education and health and social care continue to grow creating increasing protection. As a result, more and more must be delivered from an ever- decreasing portion of the budget. This continues to place a disproportionate level of pressure on the other Council budgets. This is unsustainable within the context of trying to deliver effective services to communities.

In the UK Autumn Budget in October 2024, the UK Government announced changes to Public Sector funding through budget policies that increase spending by almost £70 billion over the next five years, of which two-thirds is on current (resource) spending and one-third on capital spending, with the increase being very much front loaded.

From a Scottish perspective, through the Barnett Consequential allocations formulae, an additional £1.5 billion is being allocated in 2024-25 with a further £3.4 billion in 2025-26, however a substantial proportion of the funding relates to boosts to NHS funding and, as such, is likely to be ring fenced by the Scottish Government. The impact on Local Government funding allocations will only become clear when the Scottish Government announces its budget in early December 2024, with Local Government Settlement following shortly thereafter.

**Key Planning Assumption 1: For planning purposes a flat cash approach has been assumed for Scottish Government grant funding for all years of the plan, plus or minus any confirmed or anticipated funding changes.**

**Public Sector Pay Settlements**

Pay-related costs are a major component of the Council’s overall expenditure and represents around 50% of Council net spend each year. The Council’s financial planning requires to take account of likely future pay settlements and other pay-related costs.

Pay increases for employees are negotiated at a national level. Public sector pay will be a significant risk going forward and, while inflation has fallen back to 2% in recent months, this will not mitigate the risk that now exists in local government.

Employees of South Ayrshire Council are members of the Strathclyde Pension Fund or the Scottish Public Pension Agency. Both pension schemes routinely review employer pension contributions. The most recent triennial review of the Strathclyde pension Fund resulted in a significant planned reduction from the previous contribution rate of 19.3% to 6.5% for both 2024-25 and 2025-26, followed by a subsequent increase up to 17.5% for 2026-27, with the assumption that this final 2026-27 rate will be maintained during the remaining lifetime of the strategy.

This temporary reduction in contribution rate resulted in significant savings for the Council in 2024-25 and 2025-26, however this will only be a temporary effect until the contribution rate reverts to more normal levels in 2026-27.

In the UK Autumn Budget in October 2024, the UK Government announced changes to National Insurance thresholds and payment rates from April 2025. The changes reduced the threshold from when National Insurance contributions begin from £9,100 annum down to £5,000 per annum for each employee and also change the payment rate from 13.8% to 15%. The impact of this is estimated to increase the pay bill for South Ayrshire council for 2025-26 by circa £5.5m. Latest information indicates that public sector organisations will be exempt or protected from the impact of this changes through additional UK funding. There are no specific details at this stage on how this will work in practice or if the funding provided will be sufficient.

***Key Planning Assumption 2: For planning purposes, a rate of 3% has been assumed for pay uplifts in 2025-26 followed by a 2% uplift over the remaining lifetime of the plan.***

***Key Planning Assumption 3: For planning purposes estimated savings in pension contributions has been spread over a two-year period, 2024-25 and 2025-26, until the contribution rate reverts back to 17.5% in 2026-27.***

***Key Planning Assumption 4: Any increase in National Insurance contributions resulting from the planned UK government Changes will be mitigated through additional funding and will not impact on projected budget gaps.***

## **Local Factors**

### **Council Plan Priorities**

It can be challenging to align funding and priorities during a period of financial constraint. Funding is targeted at core services, for example provision of schools, and essential works such as roads maintenance and a clear link to Council priorities is not always obvious. In addition, service savings must be identified, and no service area can be fully protected from budget reductions, making it sometimes difficult to demonstrate the link between decisions and priorities.

Future budget decisions require to balance the Council Plan priorities with the challenges around financial sustainability and the needs of the local communities.

## Council Tax Income

This is the main fiscal lever that local authorities have, setting the Council Tax.

Councils have discretion to increase Council Tax levels however this has been capped or severely limited on a number of occasions through conditions contained in the annual local government settlement. The cap on Council Tax increases was introduced in 2017-18, following a nine-year Council Tax freeze, from 2008-09. The initial cap condition was absolute in cash terms at 3%. Councils were then given the flexibility to increase their Council Tax for 2019-20 and 2020-21 by 3% in real terms, which equated to increases of 4.79% and 4.84% respectively however this was followed with a further freeze on Council Tax increases in 2021-22, funded through additional Council Tax freeze funding. Council Tax levels were increased in 2022-23 by 2.9% and then by 5% in 2023-24, followed by a further Council Tax freeze in 2024-25.

Council tax was frozen between 2007-08 and 2016-17 and then again in 2021-22 and 2024-25. Over this period, it is estimated that the successive years of freezes mean that the Council Tax base is significantly smaller (around £600m) across Scotland than it could have been, had the decision been left to Councils.

The gearing effect of the smaller tax base means that each subsequent increase in Council Tax raises less income than would have been the case without the freeze. A revenue substitute into General Revenue Grant at year one of a freeze still results in a long-term reduction.

For each 1% increase in Council Tax rates, the Council can raise approximately £0.760m in income. This ability to raise income through Council Tax is important as any increase is mainlined into the base income for the following year and has a compound effect on future years income levels. Various Council tax uplifts have been modelled in the Section 4 (budget Strategy) to demonstrate the impact that different decisions may have on Council finances.

***Key Planning Assumption 5: For planning purposes Council Tax rates will be uplifted by 5% base assumption for each year in the plan.***

## Inflationary/Contractual Pressures

Budgets have traditionally not been routinely increased to reflect inflationary pressure as pressure of this type remained at a relatively low risk levels, however recent national and international events, such as the war in Ukraine, gas and electricity price increases, the general cost of living crisis have all created an unprecedented level of uncertainty which has resulted in levels of inflation not seen for many decades.

Many of the Council's contracts, such as the Schools PPP contract, have direct links to inflation indices and will require to continue to be funded. However, the lack of certainty in future years forecasts, due to the recent economic uncertainty means that attempting to model inflation rates is challenging. Inflation has in recent months begun to ease, returning to the target rate of 2%.

The impact of inflation, despite the rate moving towards the target level of 2%, means that significant pressure is placed on service budgets as goods and services cost more and the purchasing power of existing budgets is diminished. Moreover, the need to provide inflationary uplifts for specific contracts, will inevitably lead to further budgetary pressures in 2024-25 and beyond.

***Key Planning Assumption 6: For planning purposes an estimate of inflationary uplift for 2025-26 has been calculated based on latest information from services, followed by inclusion of an assumed uplift amount for the remained of the years of the plan. The reduced amount in later years of the plan is to account for the anticipated reducing inflationary pressure.***

## Revenue Implications of Capital Investment Decisions

The Council's Capital Investment Plan is considered by Council at the same time as both the revenue budget. This is to ensure there is a clear linkage between the longer-term capital investment decision making and the associated revenue impact for the Council; the resultant debt charges estimated for the period of the approved capital investment programme require to be incorporated into future financial considerations.

Consequently, when there is sustained pressure on the revenue budget this in turn causes pressure in capital finance and in the management of the capital programme and the debt and borrowing requirement that arises from it.

The current Capital Investment Programme was approved by Council in March 2024 with General Fund expenditure of around £408m planned from 2024-25 through to 2035-36. The programme contains a range of projects including new and refurbished schools, Information Technology expenditure, roads and infrastructure expenditure and planned expenditure as part of the Council's Ayrshire Growth deal agreement.

Given the scale of the financial challenges that lie ahead for the public sector it is prudent to review the overall quantum of the capital programme and the ability of the council to identify recurring debt charge budget increases.

The affordability of the capital programme is to be assessed as part of the 2025-26 budget process and will inform the next iteration of the capital programme that will be presented to Members for consideration before the overall 2025-26 revenue budget is set.

***Key Planning Assumption 7: For planning purposes the 2024-25 Period 6 position statement for the Capital Investment Programme presented to Cabinet in November 2024 is being used in relation to debt charge estimates extrapolated across the period of the plan, pending the outcome of the capital programme review to be presented to Council before the 2025-26 budget is set.***

## Service Concession Arrangements

The Scottish Government's 2022 Resource Spending Review contained details of a Service Concession Arrangement flexibility that related to the Council's PPP schools.

The flexibility permitted councils to undertake internal accounting changes that extend the period over which the principal repayment of the unitary charge can be made which results in a one-off credit to the Council and ongoing annual savings for a period of time. In the remaining years following the end of the SCAs, the rescheduled debt repayments continue until the debt liability has been extinguished.

The Statutory Regulation was published and issued to councils in September 2022 and implementation of the flexibility was agreed in a report to Full Council December 2022. Council agreed that part of the one-off retrospective saving would be utilised to help balance the budget over the four-year period 2023-24 to 2026-27 providing the opportunity to buy some time for the Council during which the Council needs to refocus and redesign services to achieve permanent savings to reduce the overall revenue cost base of the council.

International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 16 - In the addition to the application of the above Statutory Regulation and as a result of changes to the Cipfa Code of Practice, the Council requires to adopt a new accounting standard IFRS16 on a mandatory basis for leases and PFI/PPP arrangements with effect from the 2024-25 financial year. Council staff have been working alongside Link Asset Services, the Councils Treasury Management consultants in recent months, to establish the implications for the Council. This work will conclude prior to the year-end but an initial assessment of the impact indicates a positive impact on revenue budgets in 2024-25 and beyond when adopting the standard in relation to Loans Fund Repayment amounts charged to revenue each year for PFI/PPP arrangements.

The actual loans fund repayments (LFR) charged to revenue each year will depend on the indexation applied to the unitary payments each year for the remainder of the contract. An indication of the LFRs using the estimated inflation rate assumed in the current model of 2.5% is shown in the Fig 5 below:

**Fig 5: Movement in Loans Fund Repayment**

	Current planned LFR £m	New estimated LFR £m	Variance (saving)/cost £m
2024-25	4.448	2.660	(1.788)
2025-26	4.675	2.810	(1.865)
2026-27	4.907	2.968	(1.939)
2027-28	5.143	3.135	(2.009)
2028-29	4,991	3.311	(1.680)
2029-30	5.217	3.498	(1.719)
Remaining years	99.223	110.223	11.000
Total	128.606	128.605	0

**Key Planning Assumption 8: For planning purposes the agreed use of the remaining PPP retrospective savings will stay in place for the period of the plan being £3.0m in 2025-26 and £2.0m in 2026-27.**

**Key Planning assumption 9: For planning purposes factor in the estimated revenue implications of the transition to IFRS16 for the period of the plan.**

## Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) contribution

The Integration Scheme sets out the Integrated Joint Board's (IJB) responsibility for financial planning and management of the HSCP's resources. The IJB operates its own Budget Working Group that considers information on anticipated pressures and proposed savings options to inform the allocation of resources delegated to the IJB. Many of the cost pressures experienced by the partnership are similar to those of the Council, such as contract inflation and pay inflation but with the added demographic pressure of an ageing population.

In 2024-25 the Council is contributing £99.1m for delegated services to the HSCP.

In recent years the local government financial settlement has included additional funding for social care with the caveat that the funding should be passported through to the partnership by Councils.

As noted in the Public Sector pay settlement section above, the HSCP will also benefit from the reduced pension contribution rate (down from 19.3% to 6.5%) for all council employees in the partnership, with the cost base for the partnership reducing accordingly. The Council reduced its planned contribution by an appropriate amount in 2024-25 and can maintain this reduced amount in 2025-26 with no detrimental effect on service provision. The Council's contribution will require to increase in 2026-27 when the pension contribution reverts to new 17.5% level.

***Key Planning Assumption 10: For planning purposes the Council's contribution to the HSCP will continue on a flat cash basis, subject to any Scottish Government directed spend. In 2026-27 the contribution will be increased accordingly when the pension rate increases to 17.5%.***

## Fees & Charges

The Council raises income by charging for some of the services it provides. There is a degree of flexibility for the Council as to what level many charges are set at. However, any increases in charges for services need to recognise the relationship between price and demand and the resultant impact on the local economy.

The Council has traditionally included the requirement to increase locally set charges by at least the consumer price index rate each year. Recent evidence suggests that this approach is impacting on the demand for services in certain areas, therefore a more flexible approach is now suggested, where each Service determines the most appropriate change to pricing structures in order to maximise demand for its service provision. It is anticipated that specific budget recommendations will be brought forward as part of the budget setting process each year. The potential to raise additional income will come from increasing current charges or through the introduction of new charges.

***Key Planning Assumption 11: For planning purposes any increase income to be included in the budget through changes to pricing or the introduction of new charges will be included as part of the savings or efficiency measures rather than assuming a flat increase for all locally set charges.***



### 3. Summary of five-year financial position

The previous MTFP approved in November 2023 highlighted that, for the five-year period, 2024-24 to 2028-29, a cumulative budget gap was estimated of £45.9m. This was subsequently updated as part of the 2024-25 budget approved in February whereby the budget gap for the remaining four-year period of the plan was estimated at £45.7m.

Based on the 11 Key Assumptions contained in Section 2, which are collectively detailed in [Appendix 1](#), the budget gap forecast for the new five-year period, 2025-26 to 2029-30, is shown below:

**Figure 6 – Five-year budget gap**

	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m	2028-29 £m	2029-30 £m	Total gap £m
Income (based on 5% CT increase each year)	361.5	364.3	366.4	370.6	375.1	
Expenditure	367.0	383.4	373.5	374.9	379.1	
<b>Budget gap</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>40.0</b>

The budget gap is the difference between the anticipated income and expenditure of the Council.

The significant budget gap in 2026-27, compared to other years in the plan, is predominantly based on the fact that the pension contribution rate for the Strathclyde Pension Scheme is being paid at the reduced rate in 2025-26 of 6.5%, however as previously explained, this reduction is only temporary, thereafter the rate will increase to 17.5%, significantly increasing costs in 2026-27, resulting in a much larger budget gap than the preceding year or subsequent following years after 2026-27.

Given the significant requirement for savings over the next five years it is essential that a budget strategy is agreed that recognises the fluctuating levels of the projected budget gaps and establishes appropriate plans and associated actions needed to meet the required savings targets. This Strategy is detailed in Section 5 of this document.

## 4. Reserves Policy

Local authorities are permitted to establish reserve funds as part of their responsibility for ensuring that sound financial management arrangements are in place. The purposes of reserve funds are as follows:

- As a working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and avoid unnecessary temporary borrowing;
- As a contingency to mitigate against the impact of unexpected events or emergencies; and
- As a means of building up funds to meet known or anticipated future commitments.

### Useable Reserves Policy

**To maintain uncommitted general reserves at a minimum of 2% of the following year's net expenditure.**

This will mean that the Council continues to maintain its reserves at a level which meets CIPFA's best practice guidelines. At this level there will be an inbuilt flexibility for the Council, over the period of this Strategy, to use a level of reserves, as appropriate, to meet particular pressures.

**To consider, on a regular basis, contributing resources to augment currently held committed funds.**

This will mean that the balances held in following funds will be maintained at a level that will allow the Council to meet known or anticipated future commitments.

- (i) Workforce Change Fund - This fund is used mainly to meet the severance and other employee-related costs arising from the Council's Efficiency and Improvement measures undertaken. The level of contribution requires to be reviewed annually as part of the budget setting process to ensure that the Council has sufficient funds available to support further service redesign over the forthcoming years;
- (ii) Transformation Fund - The transformation of the Council is a long-term commitment to ensure services continue to meet the needs of residents now and in the future. To enable the Council to deliver the vision for transformation, new activity will require to be implemented. It is recognised that the design, development and implementation of this activity may require upfront investment to enable the realisation of benefits. New activity will require to focus on one or more of our priority themes: Our workforce, our technology, our assets and our delivery model. The Council has established a Transformation Fund to provide enabling funding for transformation activity; and
- (iii) Election Fund - this fund is used to support expenditure associated with local Council elections. The Scottish Government provides some financial support to Councils for local elections but does not fully provide for all associated costs of running the election. The Council therefore requires to set aside funds to supplement government funding.



**To contribute a proportion of the Council tax raised from second homes each year to the Affordable Homes fund.**

The Council amended its policy in relation to Unoccupied Properties and Second Homes with effect from 1 April 2018. The amendment whilst increasing charges in relation to these types of properties retained the requirement to ring-fence a proportion of the income raised for the purchase or building of new social housing, either by the Council itself or local housing associations.

In addition, the Council agreed further changes to increase Council Tax charges for all Second Homes with effect from 1 April 2024 by 100% (double the standard charge) subject to regulations being approved by the Scottish Parliament and further agreed that 50% of additional income generated from charging double Council Tax on Second Homes should be allocated to the delivery of social housing or to fund other incentives such as the Empty Homes initiative or the Social Letting Service

**To set aside or commit other such resources as determined either by the cabinet or Council to meet other pressures or initiatives as required.**

This will mean that resources may be set aside to be used to finance expenditure not included in original revenue budgets for a given year which it is deemed appropriate to incur, and which is out with the level of service provided for in the approved revenue budget.

**To maintain two statutory funds as empowered under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975 as follows:**

- (i) Repairs and Renewal Fund; and
- (ii) Capital Fund

### **Review of Reserves**

An annual review will be undertaken, as part of each annual budget process, to assess the existing reserves and funds and the use made of them over the preceding year and to determine appropriate future use in line with the Council Plan and the MTFP.

### **Use of Reserves to support Financial Resilience**

For financial resilience purposes the council may need to consider using a proportion of unearmarked and earmarked Useable Reserves over the life of the MTFP.

The overall level of financial resources available to the council is finite and therefore any continued use of reserves cannot be sustained in the longer term without placing the council's financial position at risk.

## 5. Budget Strategy 2025-26 to 2029-30

The scale of uncertainty and the need for significant savings means that the Council will require to address the situation and consider options for budget savings over the short, medium, and long-term timescale if a balanced budget is to be maintained.

Should nothing change then future Service demands and cost pressures will significantly outstrip the resources available. The Council will need to continue to improve its productivity and efficiency in order to maintain and improve the Services provided, as well as continue to prioritise its spending. Decisions will have to be taken that will lead to funding reductions in lower priority areas to enable funding to be maintained elsewhere.

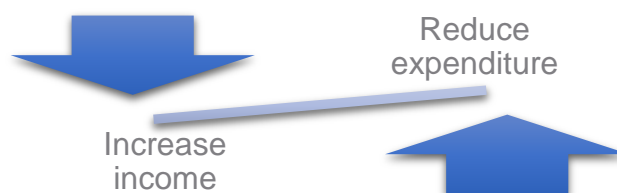
Whilst projections of Scottish Government core funding for local government are at best stagnant in cash terms, and reducing in real terms, councils still must meet ongoing and increasing cost commitments.

Whilst acknowledging the likelihood of continued limitations in funding settlements and increasing cost pressures, the Council needs to continue to strive to achieve its key financial objectives including delivering a robust, sustainable, and balanced budget.

### Bridging the Budget Gap

Section 3 of the report identifies a budget gap of £40.0m over the five-year period 2025-26 to 2029-30. Effectively there are only two ways to bridge this gap.

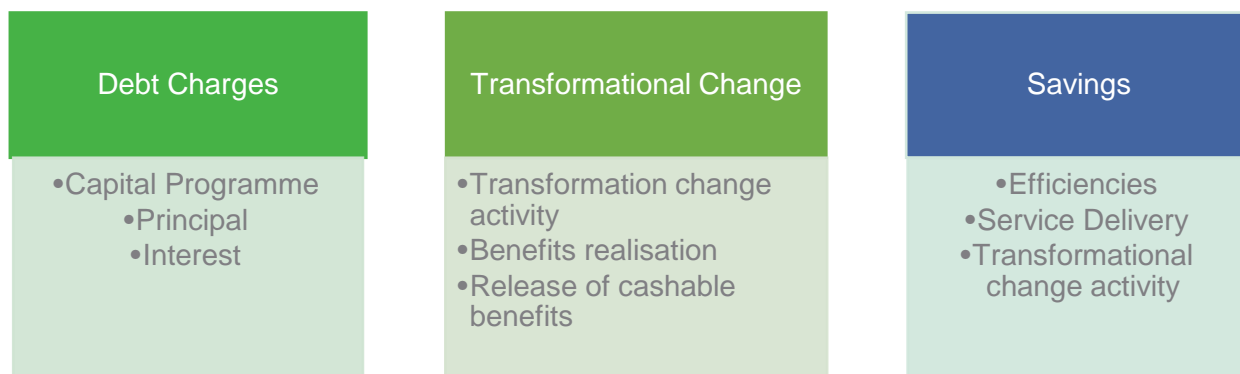
**Fig 7 – bridging the budget gap**



In reality the Council will have to do both and there are a number of variables that impact on the budget gap.

**Fig 8 – budget variables**

Council Tax	Fees & charges	Resource Pressures	Pay uplifts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each 1% increase equates to approx. £0.760m of additional income</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing locally set charges</li> <li>• Introducing new charges</li> <li>• Commercial opportunity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate based</li> <li>• Service based</li> <li>• Funded through Settlement increases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National agreements</li> <li>• Supn increases</li> </ul>



**A strategy for each of the above variables is proposed in the follow sections**

### Council Tax Strategy

Council Tax income equates to approximately 20% of the councils funding each year. It is therefore an extremely important lever for raising additional funding and an important consideration for the budget strategy.

The current Medium Term Financial Plan assumes an increase of 5% each year of the plan. Fig 8 below shows the different levels of income that could be chieved if an increase of 7% or 10% rather than 5% is applied in 2025-26, reverting back to 5% for all years of the plan thereafter.

**Fig 9 – Council Income options**

Year	5% increase across all years		7% increase in 2025-26 followed by 5% thereafter		10% increase in 2025-26 followed by 5% thereafter	
	Estimated CT income £m	Year on Year increase £m	Estimated CT income £m	Year on Year increase £m	Estimated CT income £m	Year on Year increase £m
<i>Base 2024-25</i>	67.6	-	67.6	-	67.6	-
2025-26	71.4	3.8	72.8	5.2	74.8	7.2
2026-27	75.2	3.8	76.7	3.9	78.8	4.0
2027-28	79.3	4.1	80.8	4.1	83.0	4.2
2028-29	83.5	4.2	85.1	4.3	87.5	4.5
2029-30	88.0	4.5	89.7	4.6	92.2	4.7
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>20.4</b>		<b>22.1</b>		<b>24.6</b>

The five-year budget gap information provided in Section 3 of the MTFP is based on a 5% increase each year of the plan. Should the uplift be varied to either to 7% or 10% in 2025-26 followed by a 5% increase thereafter, it would have the effect of reducing the projected five-year budget gap by £1.7m or £4.2m respectively across the period of the plan.

When the Council Tax charge is increased, more households become eligible for Council Tax Reduction (CTR). As at September 2024 approximately 13.7% or 7,550 of chargeable properties were eligible for CTR. Of these the majority (93.2%) were in relation to Bands A to D.

The increase applied for 2025-26 and beyond is subject to Council approval however any decision regarding the level of increase in Council Tax will have direct impact on the level of savings needed to bridge the anticipated budget gap. Savings in whatever form they are agreed will inevitably impact on the level of service provided to the public.

In order to avoid any service savings, reductions or cuts in 2025-26 (excluding HSCP), a Council Tax increase of 13% would be required to fully bridge the estimated Medium Term Financial Plan funding gap of £5.5m in 2025-26.

**Key strategy 1: Apply a minimum of 5% uplift but gauge potential appetite for increases beyond this minimum level.**

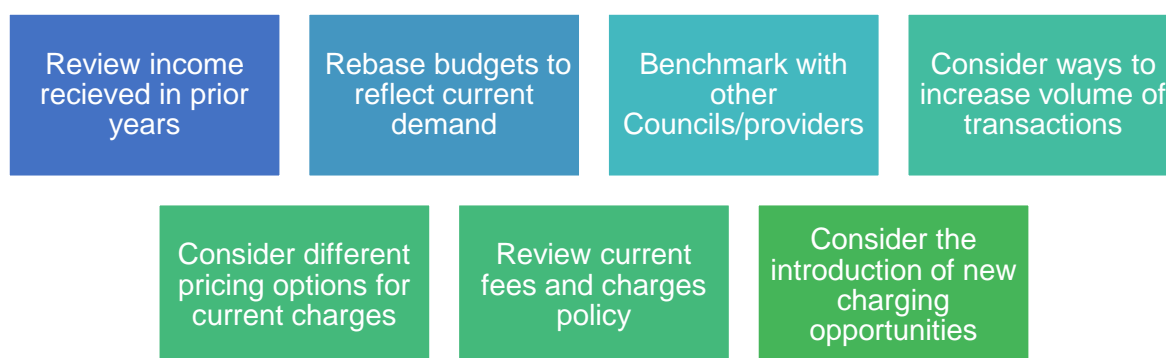
### Fees & Charges Strategy

The Council receives income of around £14.9m (excluding HSCP) from fees and charges each year. Some of these charges are set on a statutory basis where the Council has no ability to change the rates set, however the Council sets most fees and charges.

**Key Strategy 2: In order to maximise income generation opportunities available to the Council a review of current charges should be instigated alongside consideration of areas where new charges could be introduced.**

The review should initially focus on the most significant income streams and include the elements identified in Fig 10.

**Fig 10 - Income review considerations**



### Inflationary/Contractual Pressures Strategy

Budgets have traditionally not been routinely increased to reflect inflationary pressure as pressure of this type remained at a relatively low risk levels, however recent national and international events, such as the war in Ukraine, gas and electricity price increases and the general cost of living crisis have all created an unprecedented level of uncertainty which has resulted in levels of inflation not seen for many decades.

Many of the Council's contracts, such as the schools PPP contracts, have direct links to inflation indices and will require to continue to be funded. However, the lack of certainty

in future years forecasts, due to the recent economic uncertainty means that attempting to model inflation rates is challenging. Inflation has been easing over the year, with the Bank of England recently hitting its 2% target.

Fig 11 below shows details of the additional 'Resource Pressure' funding provided over the last 7 financial years, split between service pressures, directed spend (SG funded) and corporate pressures. Corporate pressures encompasses; Electricity; Gas; Insurance; SPT/AVJB requisitions; and External Audit fees.

**Fig 11 – Inflation/contractual pressures in last 7 years**

	2018-19 £	2019-20 £	2020-21 £	2021-22 £	2022-23 £m	2023-24 £m	2024-25 £m
Service	1.366	1.554	1.835	1.567	3.739	5.988	4.288
Directed spend (SG funded)	1.639	0.148	0.357	(0.156)	3.219	2.370	0.337
Corporate	0.377	0.764	0.254	(0.090)	0.740	2.431	3.077
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.382</b>	<b>2.466</b>	<b>2.446</b>	<b>1.321</b>	<b>7.698</b>	<b>10.789</b>	<b>7.702</b>

This suggest that when inflation was running at more normal levels, for the period 2018-19 to 2021-22, the scale of the additional resources required for inflationary /contractual uplifts was at a much-reduced level compared to more recent years. Given that inflation has now reverted, for the time being, to more normal pre Covid levels, it would be appropriate to reconsider the planning assumptions for uplifts required for inclusion in future budgets.

The current planning assumptions for Inflation/Contractual pressures assumed in the updated Medium Term Financial Plan is shown in Fig 12 below

**Fig 12 – Current Inflation/contractual planning assumptions 2025-26 to 2028-29**

	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m	2028-29 £m	2029-30 £m
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.888</b>	<b>3.054</b>	<b>3.000</b>	<b>3.000</b>	<b>3.000</b>

**Key Strategy 3: Given the recent easing of inflation it is proposed that, for 2025-26 and beyond, to initially limit corporate uplifts to £1.0m per annum and limit Service uplifts to £4.0m per annum. All other contractual increases and any growth items within services will not be accepted and will therefore require to be met from current resources if considered a priority.**

The Corporate amount remains relatively high due to the nature of the items contained within it. For example electricity and gas price increases are expected to still run well above the 2% current inflation rate, as are expected insurance increases. The Service uplift amount is to allow for major contract increases such as PPP, ICT contract increases or ARA contributions. To ensure that this approach is maintained, only contractual increases of £0.050m or above should be considered for inclusion in 2025-26.

## Pay uplift Strategy

Pay-related costs are a major component of the Council's overall expenditure and represents 50% of Council net spend each year. The Council's financial planning requires to take account of likely future pay settlements and other pay-related costs.

Pay increases for employees are negotiated at a national level. Public sector pay will be a significant risk going forward and, while inflation has fallen back to 2%, this will not mitigate the risk that now exists in local government.

Employees of South Ayrshire Council are members of the Strathclyde Pension Fund or the Scottish Public Pension Agency. Both pension schemes routinely review employer pension contributions. The most recent triennial review of the Strathclyde pension Fund resulted in a significant reduction from the previous contribution rate of 19.3% to 6.5% for both 2024-25 and 2025-26, followed by a subsequent increase up to 17.5% for 2026-27, with the assumption that this final 2026-27 rate will be maintained during the remaining lifetime of the strategy.

Fig 13 below shows the current planning assumptions for pay and superannuation rates contained in the updated Medium Term Financial Plan over the period 2025-26 to 2029-30:

**Fig 13 – Pay uplift assumptions**

	2025-26 %	2026-27 %	2027-28 %	2028-29 %	2029-30 %
Pay uplift	3	2	2	2	2
Superannuation rate	6.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5

**Key Strategy 4: Apply the MTFP planning assumption of 3% for pay uplifts in 2025-26 followed by 2% across the remaining years of the plan.**

## Capital Programme Strategy

The Council's Capital Investment Plan is considered by Council at the same time as the revenue budget. This is to ensure there is a clear linkage between the longer-term capital investment decision making and the associated revenue impact for the Council with the resultant debt charges estimated for the period of the approved capital investment programme being incorporated into future financial considerations.

Consequently, when there is sustained pressure on the revenue budget this in turn causes pressure in capital finance and in the management of the capital programme and the debt and borrowing requirement that arises from it.

The current Capital Investment Programme was approved by Council in February 2024 with General Fund expenditure of around £408m planned from 2024-25 through to 2035-36. The programme contains a range of projects including new and refurbished schools, Information Technology expenditure, roads and infrastructure expenditure and planned expenditure as part of the Council's Ayrshire Growth deal agreement.

Fig 14 show the updated planned General Services Capital investment programme and associated planned borrowing to finance the investment over the period 2024-25 to 2028-29 based on the 2024-25 Period 6 (September) capital monitoring report.

**Fig 14 - Planning capital investment and borrowing**

	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m	2028-29 £m	2029-30 £m
Total capital investment	62.263	114.935	93.558	38.427	17.786	18.011
Planned borrowing	47.451	72.092	61.356	21.847	6.249	8.974

Fig 15 below shows the current planning assumptions for debt charges over the period 2024-25 to 2028-29 based on the planned borrowing to finance the capital investment plan shown in Fig 13.

**Fig 15 – Debt charge implications**

	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m	2028-29 £m	2029-30 £m
Principal	6.457	6.544	7.091	7.675	7.916	8.283
Interest	10.979	14.023	16.126	16.950	16.501	16.776
Expenses	0.174	0.169	0.167	0.165	0.161	0.157
Total	17.610	20.736	23.384	24.790	24.578	25.216
Movement		3.126	2.648	1.406	(0.212)	0.638

Revenue debt charge uplifts are driven by the level of planned borrowing in terms of principal repayments and assumptions around interest rates at which the borrowing is taken. In recent years, the Council has continued to increase the level of capital investment which increases the level of principal repayments in a period of higher-than-normal interest rates, resulting in significant increases in borrowing costs.

In addition the current 2024-25 ‘in year’ interest rates have remained higher for longer than anticipated which is having a detrimental effect on the affordability of the current capital investment programme in 2024-25. This will have a compound increases effect on future years.

Given the scale of the financial challenges that lie ahead for the Council, it is prudent to review the overall quantum of the capital programme with the aim of reducing planned investment in order to reduce future recurring debt charge budget increases.

**Key Strategy 5: The affordability of the current capital investment programme will be assessed and presented to Members for consideration in December 2024.**

### Transformational Change Programme

In March 2024 the Council approved the establishment of a Transformation Board with the board being chaired by the Chief Executive as the officer ultimately responsible for the transformation of the Council.



The Councils delivery of a programme of transformational change 'Shaping Our Future Council' has been developed to address improvement and transformation Council-wide across four identified priority areas:

**Fig 16 – transformation priority areas**



Project approval by the Transformation Board will require the inclusion a benefits realisation proposal that incorporate years 1 – 3 of the transformation programme (until 2026/2027). Cashable benefits will be incorporated as part of the annual budget setting exercise.

**Key Strategy 6: Include cashable benefits derived from the benefits realisation element of any approved transformation project as part of the annual budget setting process.**

### Service Savings Strategy

The modelled funding gap of £40.0m represents around 11% of the current 2024-25 net budget (inclusive of HSCP spend). This is a significant level of savings that need to be achieved.

Education Services, the largest service in the Council has in recent years been relatively protected from significant budget reductions either through local priorities or more recently through Scottish Government policy requirements, enforced through the threat of financial sanctions. Given the scale of the expenditure in Education Service, £142.4m in 2024-25 or 41% of the Councils overall net budget, it is not possible to get to a financially sustainable position without significant savings in this area of spend. The ability to achieve savings in this area will be dependent on Scottish Government decisions, particularly in relation to teacher numbers.

A number of workstreams are being progressed through the Transformation Change Programme and it is essential that these projects release cashable savings to drive cost reductions within service provision. It is likely that this will not achieve the level of savings needed within the timescale required to bridge the entirety of the identified budget gaps



therefore a normal savings exercise will need to be progressed in tandem with the Transformational change programme.

In the recent past, Services have been asked to bring forward significant levels of savings without specific targets being allocated. This approach has had limited success therefore, for 2025-26 and beyond, it is recommended that should the transformational change programme and other offered service proposals not achieve the required levels, that targets are then allocated to services which must be achieved.

The allocation of the target will be based on a controllable resource methodology. This approach takes the gross costs of service provision and adds controllable income to arrive at a controllable spend amount for each directorate. This is then used to allocate a target to each service area with proposals being brought back for Members consideration in December 2024.

**Key Strategy 7: Should the Transformational Change Programme and other offered Service savings not achieve the desired levels then Service Savings targets will be allocated to directorates based on a controllable resource methodology with proposals being brought forward for Members consideration.**

## Appendix 1 – MTFP Key Planning Assumptions

The following key assumptions have been used to establish the estimated budget gap for the five-year period 2025-26 to 2029-30.

Key Assumption	Detail
1 – Scottish Government grant funding	A flat cash approach has been assumed for Scottish Government grant funding for all years of the plan, plus or minus any confirmed or anticipated funding changes.
2- Pay uplifts	A rate of 3% for pay uplifts in 2025-26 followed by 2% across the remaining years of the plan.
3 – Pension contributions	Estimated savings in pension contributions will be spread over a two-year period, 2024-25 and 2025-26, until the contribution rate reverts back to the higher rate of 17.5% in 2026-27.
4 – National Insurance contributions	Any increase in National Insurance contributions resulting from the planned UK government Changes will be mitigated through additional funding and will not impact on projected budget gaps.
5 – Council tax	Council Tax rates will be uplifted by 5% for each year in the plan.
6 – Inflationary pressure	An estimate of inflationary uplift for 2025-26 has been calculated based on latest information from services, followed by inclusion of an assumed uplift amount for the remained of the years of the plan. The reduced amount in later years of the plan is to account for the anticipated reducing inflationary pressure.
7 – Debt Charges	The 2024-25 Period 6 position statement for the Capital Investment Programme presented to Cabinet in November 2024 is being used in relation to debt charge estimates extrapolated across the period of the plan, pending the outcome of the capital programme review to be presented to Council before the overall 2025-26 revenue budget is set.
8 – PPP service concession retrospective saving	The agreed use of the PPP retrospective savings will remain in place for the period of the plan.
9 – IFRS16 impact	The estimated revenue implications of the transition to IFRS16 have been factored in for the period of the plan.
10 – HSCP contribution rate	The Council's contribution to the HSCP will continue on a flat cash basis, subject to any Scottish Government directed spend. In 2026-27 the contribution will be increased accordingly when the pension rate increases to 17.5%.
11 – Fees & Charges	Increase in income to be included in the budget through changes to pricing or the introduction of new charges will be included as part of the savings or efficiency measures rather than assuming a flat increase for all locally set charges.

## Appendix 2 - Key Budget Strategy matters with completion dates

Key Strategy No.	Description	Responsible	Completion Date (By end of)
1 – Council Tax	Apply a minimum of 5% uplift but gauge potential appetite for increases beyond this minimum level.	CEX/CFO/ Members	Dec 2024
2 – Fees & Charges	In order to maximise income generation opportunities available to the Council a review of current charges should be instigated alongside consideration of areas where new charges could be introduced.	CFO/ Dir SC/Dir HOD	Dec 2024
3- Inflation/ Contract uplifts	Limit corporate uplifts to £1.0m per annum and limit Service uplifts to £4.0m per annum. All other contractual increases and any growth items within services will not be accepted and will therefore require to be met from current resources if considered a priority.	CEX/CFO/Dir SC /Dir HOD	Sept 2024
4 – Pay uplifts	Apply the MTFP planning assumption of 3% for pay uplifts in 2025-26 followed by 2% across the remaining years of the plan.	CFO	Nov 2024
5 – Capital Investment	The affordability of the current capital investment programme will be assessed and presented to Members for consideration before the overall 2025-26 revenue budget is set.	Dir HOD	Jan 2025
6 – Transformation Programme	Include cashable benefits derived from the benefits realisation element of any approved transformation project as part of the annual budget setting process.	Transformation Board	Ongoing
7 - Savings	Should the Transformational Change Programme and other offered Service savings not achieve the desired levels then Service Savings targets will be allocated to directorates based on a controllable resource methodology with proposals being brought forward for Members consideration.	CEX/CFO/CHRO/ Dir SC/Dir HOD/Members	Dec 2024

**South Ayrshire Council  
Equality Impact Assessment  
Scoping Template**

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. [FSD Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018 and revised in October 2021. See information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies/>

### 1. Policy details

Policy Title	Medium Term Financial Plan Update
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Tim Baulk, Chief Financial Officer – tim.baulk@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

**2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts**

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	-	-
Disability	-	-
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	-	-
Marriage or Civil Partnership	-	-
Pregnancy and Maternity	-	-
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	-	-
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	-	-

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Sex – (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	-	-
Sexual Orientation – person’s sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	-	-
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children’s Rights	-	-

**3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage i.e. The Fairer Scotland Duty (This section to be completed for any Strategic Decisions). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.**

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	-	-
Low and/or no wealth – 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	-	-
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	-	-
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	-	-
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent’s education, employment and income	-	-

**4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:**

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the ‘Three Key Needs’ of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
<b>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b>	Low
<b>Advance equality of opportunity</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low

<b>General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the 'Three Key Needs' of the Equality Duty</b>	<b>Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact  (High, Medium or Low)</b>
<b>Foster good relations</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low

## 5. Summary Assessment

<b>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?</b> (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as <b>Medium and/or High</b> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>
<b>Rationale for decision:</b>	
<b>This report seeks approval of the updated Medium Term Financial Plan. Members' decision on this has no specific equality implications</b>	
<b>Signed :</b> Tim Baulk	<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>
<b>Date:</b> 29 November 2024	

## South Ayrshire Council

### Report by Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education to South Ayrshire Council of 12 December 2024

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**Subject: South Ayrshire Council Annual Performance Report  
2023/2024**

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#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with 'South Ayrshire Council's - Annual Performance Report 2023/24'.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Council considers and approves the content of the 'Annual Performance Report 2023/2024' attached as Appendix 1.**

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Council's new [Council Plan 2023-28](#) was agreed in March 2023 and the priorities and outcomes within the plan place an emphasis on the connection between our places and the wellbeing of our communities and environment. The priorities provide a common framework, aimed at promoting a shared understanding that encourages services and partners to work collaboratively to achieve improved outcomes and wellbeing for our communities.
- 3.2 Delivery of these priorities is supported by a new [Performance Management Framework 2023-28](#) which was agreed by Cabinet in June 2023.

#### 4. Proposals

- 4.1 The Annual Performance Report (2023/2024) sets out the performance of the Council as follows:
- Final year one update on the progress of actions against the [Council Plan](#) (for the period 2023/2024);
  - Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) overview for the period 2022/2023 (this information is always reported one year behind our reporting period); and
  - An assessment of progress in terms of achieving Best Value with a particular focus on continuous improvement, self-evaluation, delivering good governance and financial management.

#### 4.2 Key performance highlights from the report are as follows:

- For the first year of the Council Plan, there were a total of 48 actions – by the [end of year one \(2023/2024\)](#) 20 actions were completed, 17 actions were on track, 3 actions were off track and 8 actions required re-assessment of due dates.
- High level performance [LGBF data for 2022/2023](#) shows that 40% of indicators have improved, 36% of indicators have declined, 11% of indicators are stable and 12% of indicators are where data is not available.
- For the 2023/2024 Best Value Working Group Action Plan, 24 improvement actions were identified – 19 actions (79.2%) were complete, 3 actions (12.5%) were on target and 2 actions (8.3%) had a revised due date.
- As part of [Delivering Good Governance 2023/2024 assessment](#), 8 improvement actions were identified for 2023/2024 – 4 actions(50%) were complete, 1 action (12.5%) was on target and 3 actions (37.5%) haven't progressed.

#### 4.3 The [Council's Audited Annual Accounts for 2023/2024](#) were presented to Audit and Governance Panel in September 2024. The Annual Audit Report by Audit Scotland noted several key conclusions in relation to Best Value including:

- The Council has made good progress with prior year Best Value recommendations. There has been greater strategic focus on improving the pace of change at the council;
- The Council is now systematically measuring and reporting on its performance across its strategic priorities. Good progress has been made in completing actions in year one of the Council Plan;
- The Council has adopted the Improvement Service's Public Service Improvement Framework as its self-evaluation tool. The framework has been used in the service planning process and will be rolled out to individual services during 2024/25;
- An audit review of the council's workforce planning reflects positively on the arrangements in place and identifies areas of good practice. The Council recognises that it needs to make workforce planning more strategic and workforce planning is one of the council's new Transformational Change Board's projects; and
- The Council complies with the requirements of the Statutory Performance Information Direction

#### 4.4 The final section of the report provides information on:

- An overview of financial management and sustainability for the period 2023/2024;
- Wider performance updates;
- An overview of partnership working;
- Awards and accolades received by the Council during 2023/2024; and
- An overview of external scrutiny of the Council held during 2023/2024.



## **5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 Not applicable.

## **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 Rejecting the recommendations may impact on the reputation of the Council.

## **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 all priorities of the Council Plan.

## **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.

#### 14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Depute Chief Executive and Director of Education 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:

<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Managed</i>
Publish the report on the Council's website	20 December 2024	Service Lead – Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability

**Background Papers**    **Report to South Ayrshire Council of 1 March 2023 - [Council Plan 2023-28](#)**

**Report to Cabinet of 20 June 2023 - [Performance Management Framework 2023-28](#)**

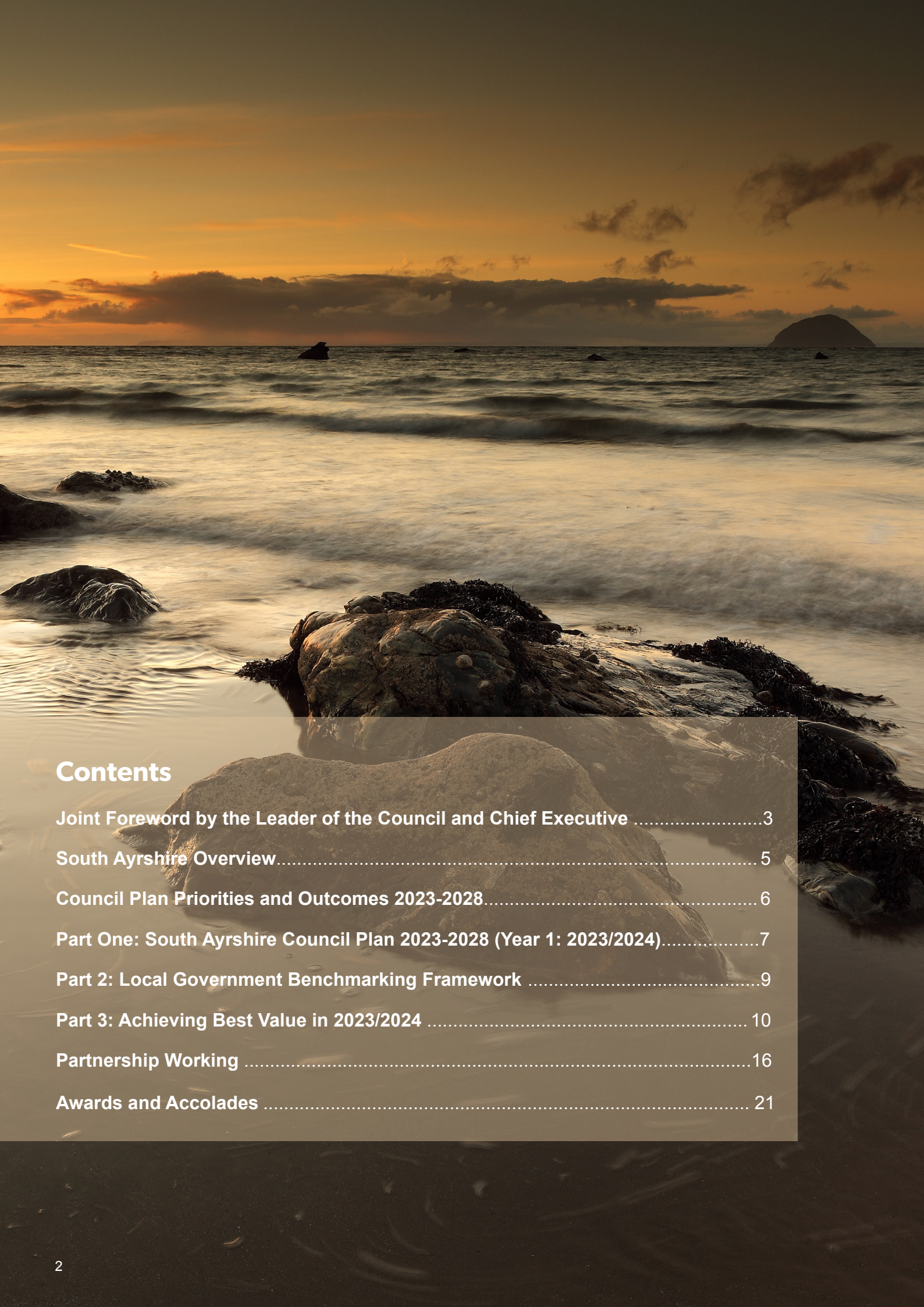
**Person to Contact**    **Kevin Anderson, Assistant Director (Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance)**  
**County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr KA7 1UT**  
**Phone 01292 612982**  
**E-mail [kevin.anderson@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.anderson@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Date: 29 November 2024**

# South Ayrshire Council Annual Performance Report 2023/2024







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## Joint Foreword by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive

We are pleased to present the Council's Annual Performance Report for 2023/24.

This report reflects the first year of our new Council Plan 2023-28 and shows progress towards meeting our strategic priorities:

- Spaces and Places
- Live, Work, Learn
- Civic and Community Pride

Our place-based approach recognises that every area has a different blend of physical, social, and economic characteristics that influence each other and aims to address complex problems that no service alone can solve. The priorities provide a common framework, aimed at promoting a shared understanding that encourages services and partners to work collaboratively to achieve improved outcomes and wellbeing for our communities.

The report takes information from a number of sources to produce a balanced overview of areas where we are performing well and areas where we can learn from others to further improve how we deliver services to the residents of South Ayrshire. It shows what we have done to help the lives of people who

are struggling to get by as well as the impact of the investments we are making in our surroundings.

Despite an increasingly challenging financial picture, this report highlights areas where our staff and partners have successfully made a difference every day to our communities. Highlights include:

Highlights include:

- Over 240,000 visitors to South Ayrshire for the International Festival of Flight
- Opening of the New Carrick Community Campus Leisure Facility
- Approval of a new Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Child Poverty Strategy
- 100 new affordable homes completed and a further 258 on site
- Positive progress on Best Value in relation to performance reporting, workforce planning and self-evaluation.

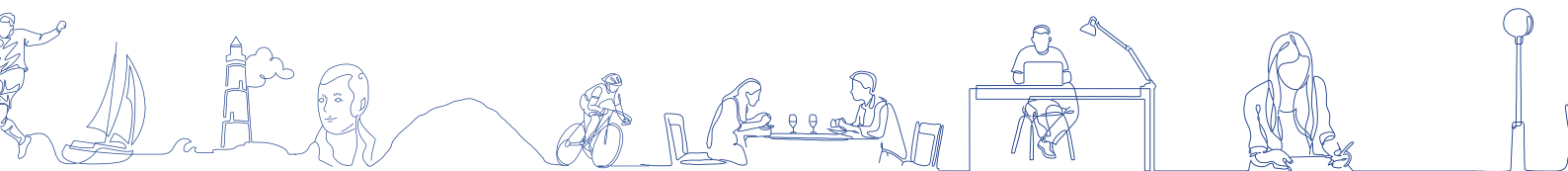
We are extremely proud of the commitment, compassion and kindness our staff and partners show every day and we recognise that they continue to be our greatest asset and biggest strength. Despite the challenges, we continue to be ambitious for our residents and communities.



**Councillor Martin Dowey,  
Leader of South Ayrshire Council**

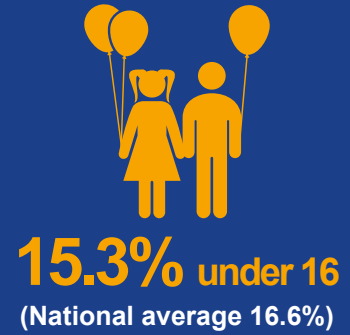
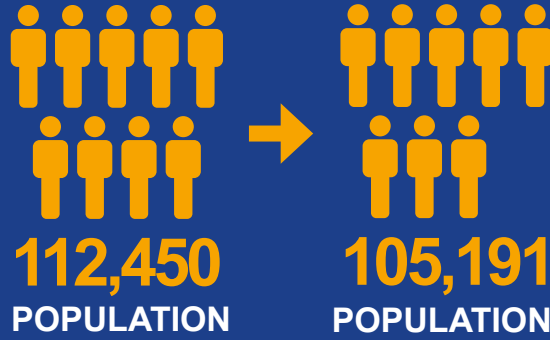


**Mike Newall,  
Chief Executive, South Ayrshire Council**



# South Ayrshire Overview

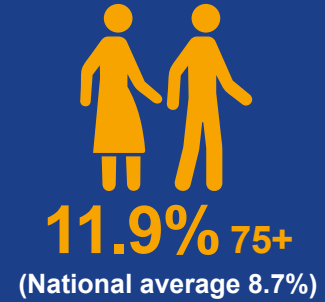
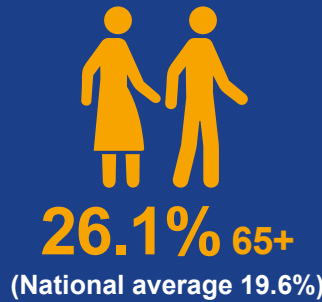
Between 2021 and 2043 the population of South Ayrshire is projected to decrease from 112,450 to 105,191. This is a decrease of 6.9% which compares to a projected increase of 1.7% for Scotland as a whole.



**58.6%**

of the population are working age (16-64) compared with

**63.8%** Nationally



By 2043 it's estimated the number of people 75+ years will have increased by 35% from

**13,664**  
people in 2021 to  
**21,040**



In 2021, South Ayrshire had the 4th highest dependency ratio in Scotland



South Ayrshire has 7 datazones in the top 5% most deprived vigintile



In 2022, there were 56,453 dwellings in South Ayrshire.

**95.5%** were occupied dwellings which is slightly less than national rate of **95.7%**



## About The Council

Elected Members

**CONSERVATIVE 11**  
**SNP 6**  
**LABOUR 5**  
**INDEPENDENT 5**  
**ALBA 1**



Staff



**4,971 full-time equivalent**  
(as at 31 March 2024)

**70.1%**  
Ayr, Prestwick  
and Troon



**29.9%**  
Girvan, Maybole,  
rural Kyle and  
Carrick



(Source: National Records of Scotland, Small Area Population Estimates 2021)

● TROON

● PRESTWICK

● AYR

● MAYBOLE

● GIRVAN

## Council Plan Priorities and Outcomes 2023-2028

Our new [Council Plan \(2023-2028\)](#) was agreed in March 2023 and the priorities and outcomes within the plan place an emphasis on the connection between our places and the wellbeing of our communities and environment. The priorities provide a common framework, aimed at promoting a shared understanding that encourages services and partners to work collaboratively to achieve improved outcomes and wellbeing for our communities.

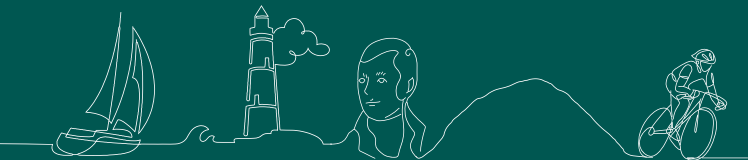
### Priority One Spaces and Places



### Priority Two Live, Work, Learn



### Priority Three Civic and Community Pride



We would not be able to achieve successful outcomes for our communities without the support of our enabling services. While rarely involved in frontline service delivery, it is critical that these services continue to run efficiently and effectively to allow our outcomes and priorities to be achieved. There is also a fourth priority area to reflect the progress of these services supporting our Council Plan.

### Efficient and Effective Enabling Services



## Outline of performance information used

The following sections set out the performance of the Council as follows:

### Part 1

Final Year one update on the progress of actions against the Council Plan (for the Period 2023/2024)

### Part 2

LGBF (Local Government Benchmarking Framework) Overview 2022/2023

### Part 3

Assessment of progress in terms of achieving Best Value with a particular focus on continuous improvement; self-evaluation; delivering good governance; and financial management and sustainability.

# Part One: South Ayrshire Council Plan 2023-2028 (Year 1: 2023/2024)

An updated [Performance Management Framework \(2023-2028\)](#) (PMF) to coincide with the new Council Plan was approved by Cabinet in June 2023. This framework supports the delivery of the Council Plan and its annual Council and Service Planning Cycles. The framework has been updated to reflect the recommendations made by Audit Scotland in the Council’s Best Value Assurance Report 2021. The PMF sets out the reporting schedule for the Council Plan noting that performance will be reported to the Council Leadership Team on a quarterly basis with Service and Partnerships Performance Panel scrutinising performance on quarters two and four each year.

Priority Area	Actions	On track/Completed	Off track/Not yet started/Re-assess due date	Overall health
<b>Priority One:</b> Spaces and Places	18	5 on track and 9 completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - off track with concerns</li> <li>3 – re-assess due date</li> </ul>	
<b>Priority Two:</b> Live, Work and Learn	14	6 on track and 5 completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - off track with concerns</li> <li>2 – re-assess due date</li> </ul>	
<b>Priority Three:</b> Civic and Community Pride	8	2 on track and 2 completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - off track with concerns</li> <li>3 – re-assess due date</li> </ul>	
<b>Efficient and Effective Enabling Services</b>	8	4 on track and 4 completed	0	
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIONS</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>17 on track and 20 completed</b>	<b>3 off track and 8 re-assess due date</b>	

Detailed progress in the first year of the Council Plan (across a total of 48 actions – across our three priority areas but also an additional fourth area to capture progress of our enabling services) can be found in the following reports which were scrutinised by Service and Partnerships Performance Panel:

Council Plan (2023-2028): First Year: [Quarter Two](#) Update (2023/24)

Council Plan (2023-2028): First Year: [Quarter Four](#) Update (2023/24)

**Priority One**  
Spaces and Places

**Actions**  
**18**

**On Track/Completed**  
**5 on track - 9 completed**

**Off Track with concerns**  
**1**

**Re-assess due date**  
**3**

**Overall Health**

**Priority Two**  
Live, Work, Learn

**Actions**  
**14**

**On Track/Completed**  
**6 on track - 5 completed**

**Off Track with concerns**  
**1**

**Re-assess due date**  
**2**

**Overall Health**

**Priority Three**  
Civic and Community Pride

**Actions**  
**8**

**On Track/Completed**  
**2 on track - 2 completed**

**Off Track with concerns**  
**1**

**Re-assess due date**  
**3**

**Overall Health**

**Efficient and Effective Enabling Services**

**Actions**  
**8**

**On Track/Completed**  
**4 on track - 4 completed**

**Overall Health**



## What difference have these actions made to improving outcomes?

### ICTEA-CP 01 Develop a unified ICT and Digital Strategy for the Council

New strategy allows us to continue our work to put the needs of our citizens, communities and staff first to ensure that geography, background or ability are not barriers to getting online and benefiting from digital.

1. Provided assisted digital services to our customers.
2. Supported and promoted digital learning opportunities across our libraries and learning centres.
3. Provided free Wi-Fi in Council buildings used by our communities.
4. Provided a programme of digital professional learning opportunities to support teachers and school staff to be skilled and confident in using technology to enhance teaching and learning.
5. Ensured all learners can access the curriculum no matter their learning needs.
6. Attainment of Digital Schools Award Scotland for our schools.
7. Promoted and reviewed digital skills within our workforce planning activities.
8. Engagement with employees and services to identify digital skills gaps.
9. Development of a competency framework to help define digital skills expectations and levels within job roles.
10. Continued to use digital to promote the events, culture and heritage of our area.

### ES-CP 01- Increase the proportion of school accommodation that is in a satisfactory condition and is suitable for its current use (Category A&B).

Although this is not a Property Maintenance (PM) action, the action does have wider longer-term impacts linked to PM service and has a positive outcome on the community.

A proportion of works identified to improve school accommodation to ensure it is suitable for current use, are issued to property maintenance to carry out. This ensures that works are completed to a high standard and all materials used meet regulations for the premises.

Working in collaboration with Property Maintenance Estimator/QS, our best value culture is maintained, and improvement works can be allocated within budget and timescale target.

All Property Maintenance staff working around children within schools are PVG checked and fully trained on all aspects of health and safety connected to building works, ensuring all risk assessments are in place and followed to minimise risk.

Education, Asset Management and Property Maintenance working in collaboration increases the plausibility of meeting the target of increasing suitability and condition ratings across the school estate from 82% to 90%.

The type of works involved within these public buildings also enhances the development and experience for craft apprentices within the department, enabling them to achieve the required skills to complete their apprenticeship and connected skills tests, this could also tie into actions linked to Thriving Communities.

# THE INTERNATIONAL AYR SHOW

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT



## CASE STUDY

# DELIVER A SAFE AND WELL ATTENDED AYR SHOW

The International Ayrshow- Festival of Flight had its inaugural year in 2023. It was held on the Low Green, at the shorefront in Ayr. The event took place over 3 days in September and attracted over 240,000 visitors. To ensure the safety and satisfaction of attendees, a comprehensive event management plan was implemented and delivered. This plan included stringent safety protocols and effective communication strategies. The event team worked closely with partners across South Ayrshire, including Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire Service, the Scottish Ambulance Service, and the Ayrshire Roads Alliance to deliver a safe event. Moreover, we worked with an experienced Flight Display Director and Strategic Partner, adhering to stringent health and safety regulations, put in place by the Civil Aviation Authority, to put on a spectacular flying display which included the Typhoon and the Red Arrows.

The event brought great economic benefit to the area. According to the on-the-day visitor survey, people attended the event for an average of 1.89 days, meaning that the overall event attendance was approximately 126,984 unique visitors. 37% of attendees were from South Ayrshire, with 57% travelling from elsewhere in Scotland, 4% from the rest of the UK and 2% from overseas. We asked 74 businesses from Troon, Prestwick and Ayr if they believed the Ayr Show provided an economic legacy for the area and 67% agreed. 99% of visitor survey respondents reported that following their experience in South Ayrshire, they would return to the area. The event was rated: excellent or very good by 93% of respondents. While the estimated number of bed stays directly linked to the event was 6,349. The estimated total gross expenditure of the event was £7,173,324.





## South Ayrshire Council Performs

An overview of wider Council performance, led by individual services, can be found within the [Public Performance Reporting](#) pages on SAC website.

### Part 2: Local Government Benchmarking Framework

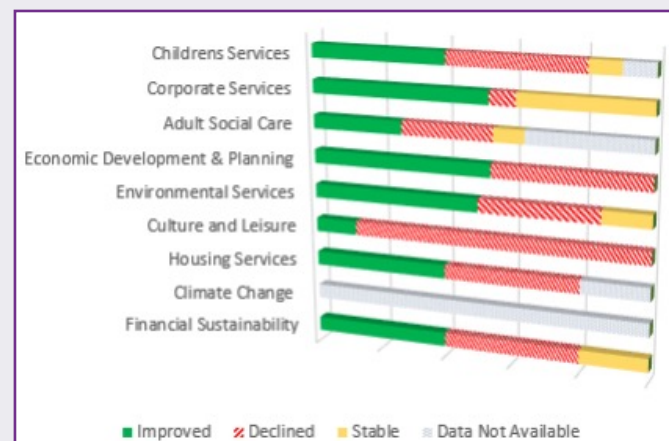
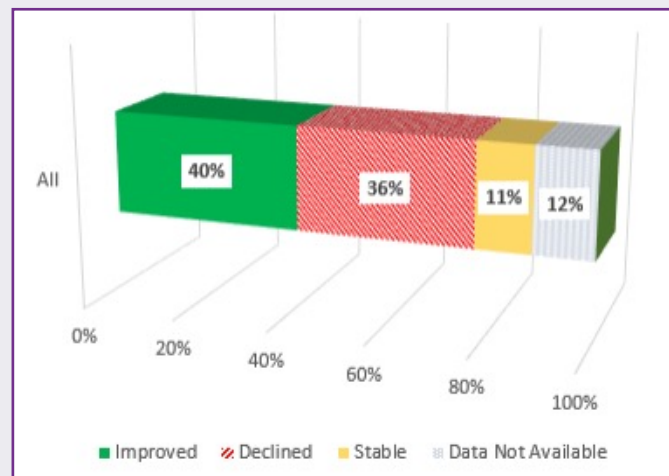
The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) is a high-level benchmarking tool which allows local authorities to compare their performance across a wide range of key service areas. The framework is based on overall service groupings which cover the major public-facing services provided to local communities and the support services necessary to carry this out:

- Children’s services;
- Adult social care;
- Culture and leisure services;
- Environmental services;
- Corporate services;
- Housing services;
- Economic development and planning; and
- Financial sustainability.

Data is also organised around ‘family groups’ to allow comparison with other councils that are similar in terms of the type of population that they serve. Information on the [LGBF Family Groupings](#) for South Ayrshire, comprehensive information on the data and performance measures for 2022/2023\* can be found in [here](#) which is scrutinised by our Service and Partnerships Performance Panel.

\*It should be noted that this data is collected nationally and runs one year behind our reporting period hence the LGBF data provided is up to the period 2022/2023.

#### 022/2023 High Level Performance



2022/23	Improved	Stable	Declined	Data not available
Childrens Services	41%	9%	41%	9%
Corporate Services	57%	42%	8%	0%
Adult Social Care	27%	9%	27%	36%
Economic Development & Planning	54%	0%	46%	0%
Environmental Services	50%	14%	36%	0%
Culture and Leisure	13%	0%	88%	0%
Housing Services	40%	0%	40%	20%
Climate Change	0%	0%	0%	100%
Financial Sustainability	40%	20%	40%	0%

## Part 3: Achieving Best Value in 2023/2024

Best Value is a statutory duty for local authorities and is about ensuring that there is good governance and effective management of resources, with a focus on improvement, to deliver the best possible outcomes for the public.

### Continuous Improvement

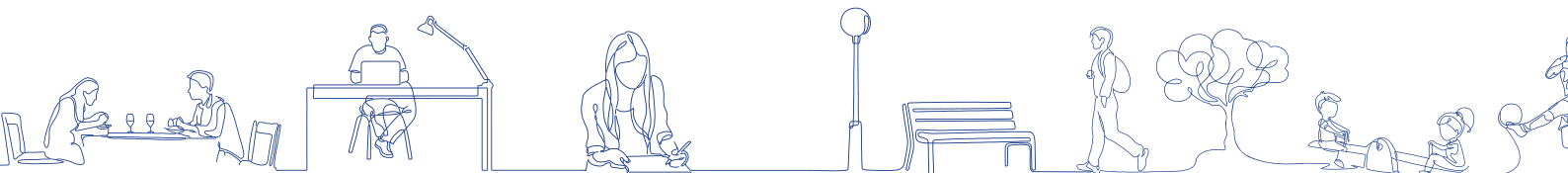
The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 places statutory duties on Councils in relation to Best Value. The audit of Best Value is a continuous process that forms part of the annual audit of every Council. Findings are reported each year through our Annual Audit report.

### Thematic Audits

The first of two Best Value thematic audits took place on **‘Leadership in the development of the Council’s strategic priorities’** during 2022/2023, with the [findings from the Audit](#) presented to Audit and Governance Panel on the 28th June 2023. An improvement plan, [approved by](#) Cabinet on 29th August 2023, comprised actions identified by Audit Scotland. At this meeting it was referenced that the Audit Scotland report was considered at a meeting of Best Value Working Group (BVWG) on 14 August 2023 and it was agreed that additional items be added to the improvement action plan included from within the Audit Scotland report.

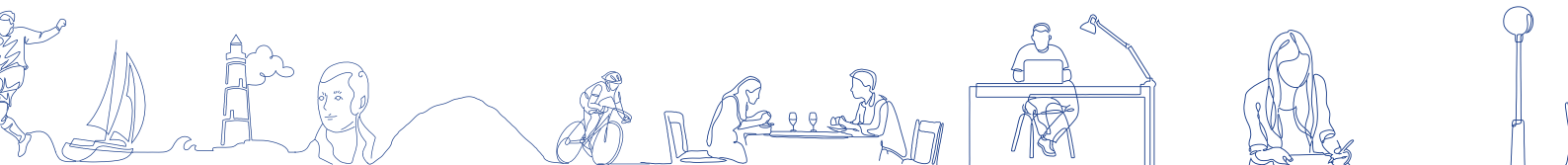
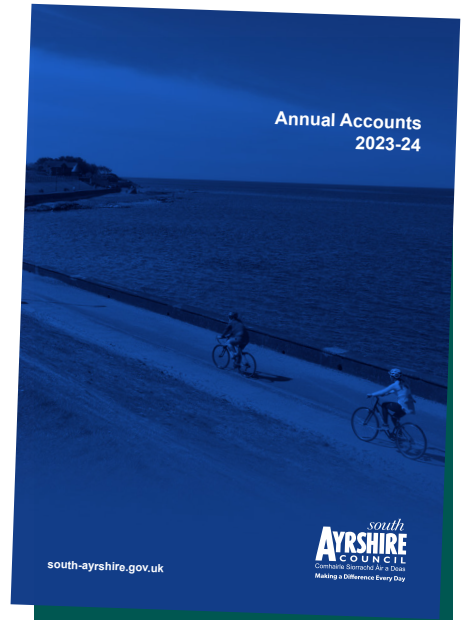
The second of the Best Value Thematic audits took place during 2023/2024 and focused on **‘Workforce Innovation – how councils are responding to workforce challenges’** with the [findings from the Audit](#) presented to Audit and Governance Panel on the 20th March 2024.

Progress against the BVWG Action plan* during 2023/2024 and accompanying narrative can be found <a href="#">here</a> – performance is scrutinised by Audit and Governance Panel.  *The BVWG Improvement Action Plan was further augmented to include additional actions identified following the second thematic audit.	Number of improvement actions: 24		
	Complete	Progressing on target	Revised Due Date
	19 (79.2%)	3 (12.5%)	2 (8.3%)



The Council's [Audited Annual Accounts for 2023/2024](#) were presented to Audit and Governance Panel in September 2024. The Annual Audit Report by Audit Scotland noted several key conclusions in relation to Best Value including:

- The council has made good progress with prior year Best Value recommendations. There has been greater strategic focus on improving the pace of change at the council;
- The council is now systematically measuring and reporting on its performance across its strategic priorities. Good progress has been made in completing actions in year one of the Council Plan;
- The council has adopted the Improvement Service's Public Service Improvement Framework as its self-evaluation tool. The framework has been used in the service planning process and will be rolled out to individual services during 2024/25;
- An audit review of the council's workforce planning reflects positively on the arrangements in place and identifies areas of good practice. The council recognises that it needs to make workforce planning more strategic and workforce planning is one of the council's new Transformational Change Board's projects; and
- The council complies with the requirements of the Statutory Performance Information Direction.

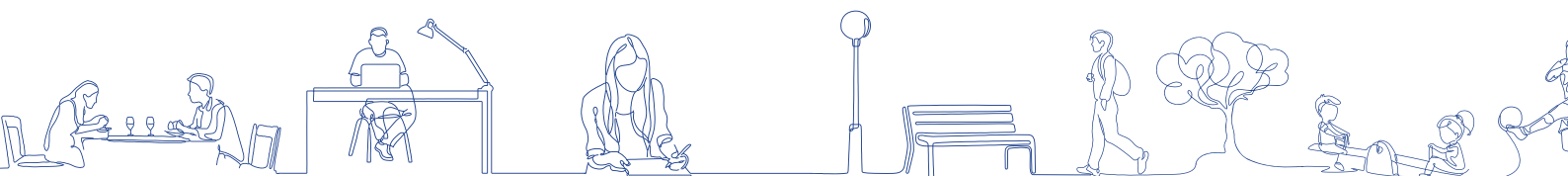


## Self-Evaluation

In March 2024, full Council [approved](#) the use of the Public Service Improvement Framework (PSIF) as the corporate approach to implementing self-evaluation Council wide following guidance from the Best Value Working Group. The Public Service Improvement Framework (PSIF) is a self-assessment approach, developed by the Improvement Service, to support improvement in organisations, with a comprehensive review of their own activities and results. It promotes a robust approach to continuous improvement and is mapped to a number of established organisational improvement tools. This will be rolled out during 2024, however part of the PSIF framework was used in early 2024 as follows:

Corporate Leadership Team		
<p>In February 2024, SAC Corporate Leadership Team participated in the Corporate PSIF Checklist, the purpose of which was to focus upon strengths and to identify areas where there may be scope for improvement. Following completion of the checklist further sessions were held and facilitated by the Improvement Service in March – a Consensus Session on the 5th March and Improvement Planning Session on the 14th March.</p>	<p>Four priority areas were identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further develop the Council’s performance management framework and use of data to support service improvement;</li> <li>2. Look at ways services can engage better with customers and communities in the design and delivery of services;</li> <li>3. Identify ways services can work more collaboratively and deliver transformational change across the Council; and</li> <li>4. Develop approaches for the Council to better engage staff in improvement activity, helping them to understand the outcomes and priorities they are working towards.</li> </ol>	<p>An improvement action plan has been developed to support the priority areas and monitoring will take place via Pentana.</p> <p>Total number of improvement actions: 18</p> <p>Priority 1: 6 actions Priority 2: 5 actions Priority 3: 4 actions Priority 4: 3 actions</p>

Service Planning	
<p>Use of section one of the PSIF Framework (Service Planning) to support all Services in the preparation and development of Service Improvement Plans (SIP) for the period 2024/2025 following completion of the self-evaluation process specifically focused on service planning. These are actions that will support the delivery and management of the Council Plan and wider Council priorities but with a focus on service improvement.</p>	<p>A total of 97 SIP actions have been identified:</p> <p>69 actions (71%) directly link to the completion of the PSIF checklist (Service Planning)</p> <p>28 actions (29%) don’t link to the PSIF checklist but have been identified as additional areas of improvement required.</p> <p>Monitoring will take place via Pentana.</p>








## Delivering Good Governance

South Ayrshire Council is committed to the highest standards of governance in the way that it is organised, managed, and operates. To help achieve and maintain such standards, the Council adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) 2016 Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework. This Framework sets out the main arrangements and procedures that the Council has in place in relation to the seven 'principles' of governance:

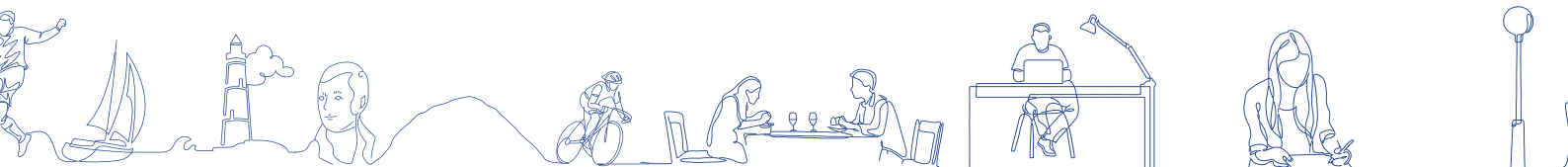
1. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.
2. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
3. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.
4. Determining the actions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
5. Developing the Council's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
6. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
7. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.

These principles are complimented by 21 sub principles and lead officers assess effectiveness each year to identify areas where the principles are being fully met, being met but with room for improvement or requiring improvement. Officers then identify any areas for improvement, and this forms an action plan that is uploaded onto the Council's performance management software and tracked. The assessment is signed off by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive and presented annually to the Audit and Governance Panel for scrutiny. A copy of the report and associated documents can be found [here](#).

Number of Improvement Actions for 2023/2024: 8		
Complete	Progressing on target	Haven't progressed
4 (50%)	1 (12.5%)	3 (37.5%)

 Effective	 Effective but scope for improvement	 Requiring improvement
---	--	---

Delivering Good Governance 2023-24 Year End Assessment - Summary	
Behaving with integrity	
Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values	
Respecting the rule of law	
Openness	
Engaging comprehensively with institutional stakeholders	
Engaging with individual citizens and service users effectively	
Defining outcomes	
Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits	
Determining actions	
Planning actions	
Optimising achievement of intended outcomes	
Developing the Council's capacity	
Developing the capability of the Council's leadership	
Managing risk	
Managing performance	
Robust internal control	
Managing data	
Strong public financial management	
Implementing good practice in transparency	
Implementing good practices in reporting	
Assurance and effective accountability	



## Financial Management and Sustainability

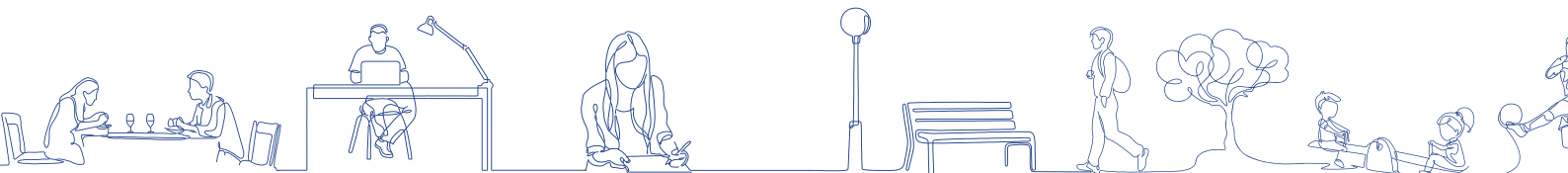
The Council's [Audited Annual Accounts for 2023/2024](#) were presented to Audit and Governance Panel in September 2024. The Annual Audit Report by Audit Scotland noted several key messages in relation to:

- The council operated within budget in 2023/24;
- There are well-established budget monitoring and reporting processes in place;
- There was a £19.671 million net decrease in usable reserves. Total usable reserves are now only £42 million. A review of the council's general fund was undertaken to re-establish its unearmarked balance in line with its reserves policy;
- Capital expenditure decreased in 2023/24 as there continues to be challenges in the construction industry that have impacted on the council's capital programme;
- The council should ensure that all projects in its capital programme are supported by up-to-date business cases. To comply with the council's capital management processes, the revised business case to support its expenditure on the refurbishment of the Ayr Citadel Leisure Centre should be reported;
- Borrowing levels have increased in support of the council's capital programme. The council understands the future revenue implications of servicing this debt;
- Financial systems of internal control were designed effectively, but the implementation of the new Oracle Fusion system resulted in some key controls not being fully operational during the year. These issues were addressed by the council and did not impact on the

compilation of the Annual Accounts, which we have concluded are free from material misstatement;

- The council has in place a medium-term financial plan (MTFP) which covers the five-year period to 2028/29. The plan is subject to annual review and aligns financial decisions with the strategic priorities in the Council Plan;
- The latest update to the MTFP shows a cumulative budget gap of £45.7 million. Savings of £28.826 million need to be delivered in 2025/26 and 2026/27. Given the reducing levels of reserves, future savings must be made through the urgent transformation of services to bridge this gap; and
- The new Transformation Board provides the strategic integration and ownership of the council's transformation plans. With both the governance and funding in place the council now needs to take forward proposals and deliver on its transformation priorities.

Where risks and recommended improvements have been identified, senior officers have developed appropriate management responses and associated timescales for delivery.





## Wider Performance Updates

### Educational Services and Standards and Quality Report

The Education (Scotland) Act 2016 amended the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 and places a duty on each local authority to prepare and publish an annual local Improvement Plan to set out how services and schools will continue to improve and a Standards and Quality Report detailing progress towards meeting improvements linked to the National Improvement Framework and local priorities.

The Educational Services Standards and Quality Report fulfils South Ayrshire Council's statutory obligations in this regard. It sets out clear links to the National Improvement Framework (NIF) Priorities and the South Ayrshire Council Children's Services Plan.

The [Standards and Quality Report](#) provides a summary of the progress and key achievements of Educational Services for academic session 2023/24.



### Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Report

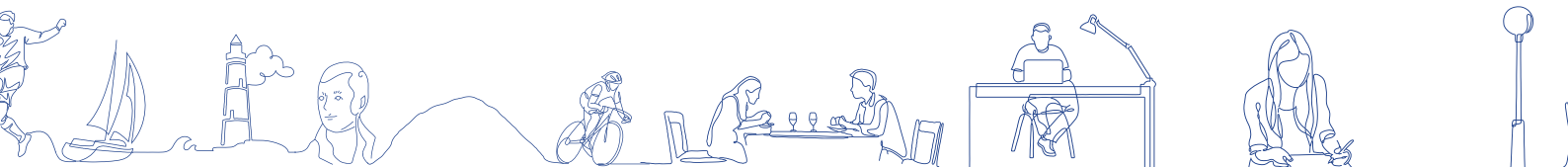
The [Equality Outcomes and Mainstreaming Report](#) provides a summary update on the progress made on mainstreaming equalities into the functions and activities of our organisation. The Report also provides information on our schools as an Education Authority, on South Ayrshire Licencing Board; and demonstrates ways in which we have met the general and specific duties as set out in the Equality Act 2010.



### South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)

The [2023/2024 Annual Performance Report](#) of the South Ayrshire Integration Joint Board is the third progress annual performance report in line with the Strategic Plan 2021-2031. The Annual Report sets out how to show, through effective leadership from the Integration Joint Board, that the HSCP has:

- Worked toward delivering against strategic priorities;
- Performed in relation to the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and the Children's and Criminal Justice Outcomes, as set out by the Scottish Government;
- Performed in relation to local measures;
- Performed financially within the current reporting year and achieved best value;
- Progressed locality planning arrangements; and
- Performed in inspections carried out by Scrutiny Bodies.



## Partnership Working

### South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) Annual Progress Report 2023 can be found [here](#).

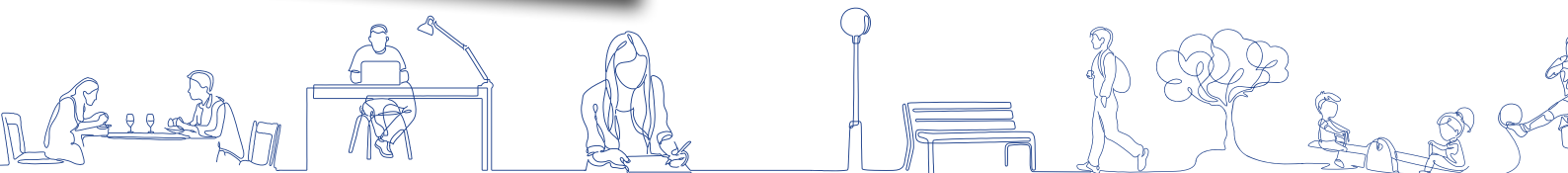
In May 2023, South Ayrshire Community Planning Board approved the restructure of the Community Planning Partnership. This would allow a new LOIP to be directly aligned to the Strategic Delivery Partnerships who would be responsible for the collective development of high-level strategic outcomes, priority areas, focused improvement plans and performance management to evidence where a difference is being made.

Following a lengthy development and consultation phase during 2023/2024, the new [Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2029](#) was [approved](#) by South Ayrshire Community Planning Board in April 2024.

The new LOIP has two high level outcomes focused on place and wellbeing, under which sit several key priority areas

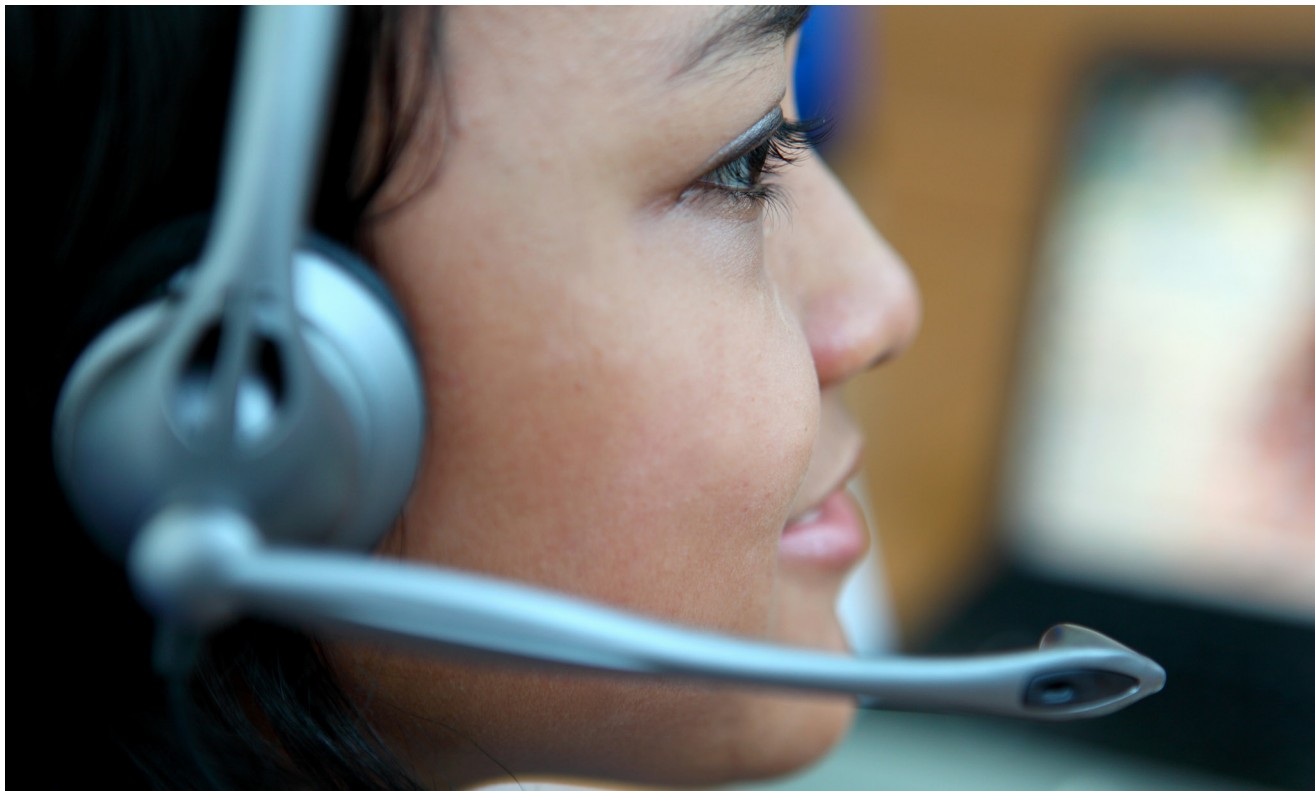
incorporating Children's Services, Community Safety, Population Health, Sustainability and Financial Inclusion and Growth.

[Consultation](#) has shown high levels of support for the priority areas we proposed, and work will now take place to develop supporting actions plans to take forward priority areas. More detailed information on each of the priority areas are highlighted in the [plan on a page](#).



## Case Study

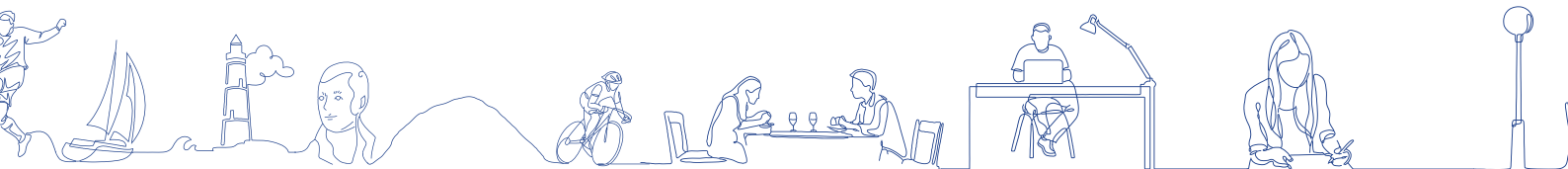
### Partnership Working - Information and Advice Hub:



The Information and Advice Hub provides a comprehensive, impartial, and confidential information and advice service in relation to welfare benefits, debt/money, employment, and home energy. Advisors work from a range of locations across South Ayrshire, including schools, local foodbanks, and in various community locations such as our libraries, as well as providing services digitally and by phone.

Last year the Hub managed 29,553 enquiries. Of these 6403 cases were opened for complex advice and information, 5012 of which involved priority groups affected by child poverty as defined by the Scottish Government. These include households where a person is disabled, minority ethnic families, families with a child under 1 year old, and households where the mother is under 25 years old.

The team have worked hard to increase awareness of the services offered by the Hub to frontline services, promoting the impact of early intervention in reducing poverty and disadvantage. The team have developed and delivered a range of education and awareness sessions for staff across SAC and the HSCP and these have recently been extended to third-sector organisations. In 2023/24 The Hub was able to expand their work in the community, working with the Trussell Trust to provide services at local foodbanks and McMillan Cancer Support to provide targeted advice and help for local people with a cancer diagnosis. We also established a programme of advice provision and early intervention in schools which is currently being expanded to include all schools in South Ayrshire.







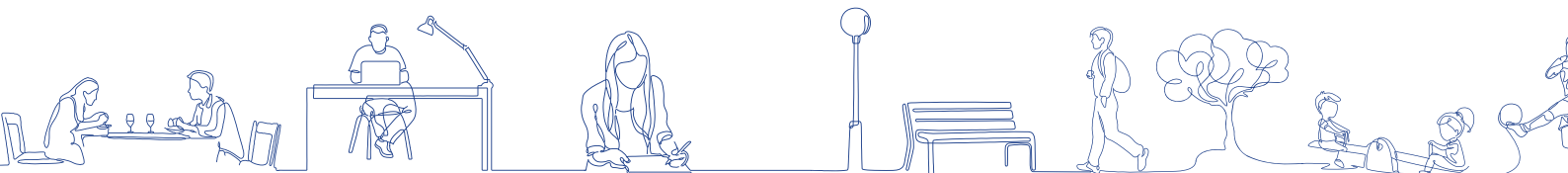
## South Ayrshire Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partnership Plan (2021-2024)

The 2021-2024 CLD Plan focused on five priority areas as follows:

- Priority 1: Youth Work Provision – Improving Outcomes for Young People
- Priority 2: Mental Health & Wellbeing – Building Healthier Communities
- Priority 3: Employability & Volunteering – Supporting our Communities to Progress
- Priority 4: Adult & Family Learning – Improved Outcomes for Adults & Families
- Priority 5: Community Empowerment & Engagement – Supporting our Communities to Thrive



As work continues to develop a new plan for 2024-2027, the [End of Plan Report](#) (2021-2024) provides a comprehensive update on progress made against the above 5 priority areas.



## Case Study

### Employability and Skills

Millie was referred to Thriving Communities extended schoolwork experience programme - Workout! – through her guidance teacher at Kyle Academy. Millie’s aspiration was to gain permanent employment with South Ayrshire Council working in an administrative role. Millie has a condition called Spastic Diplegia Cerebral Palsy, she is profoundly deaf in both ears and wears cochlear implants. Millie also walks with the support of a walking frame. Due to the complexity of Millie’s disabilities her dream seemed extremely far from reach. Millie was placed within Thriving Communities admin team during her Workout! placement where she gained valuable work experience. Millie’s needs were assessed, and adaptations within the workplace were put in place to support Millie’s mobility. Millie’s hard work and dedication shone through, and Millie was offered an extended work placement while she completed S5. Thriving Communities supported Millie with the transition from school to our post school programmes. A tailored action plan was agreed to suit Millie’s needs and aspirations. As well as continuing with her work placement, Millie attended various groups to build on her confidence and employability skills.

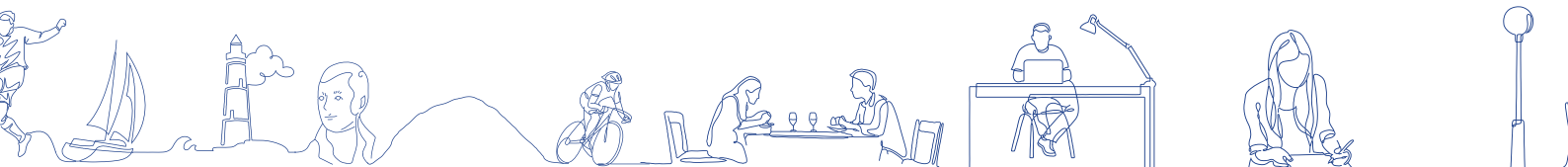
Millie continued to thrive within the workplace and became a valuable member of the team. The opportunity to apply for a Business and Administration Modern Apprenticeship arose and Millie felt she was ready to apply for this. The team supported Millie to apply for the MA and prepare for the assessment centre. Millie’s willingness to learn and her determination shone through, and she was successful in securing an Apprenticeship. Thriving Communities admin team were so impressed with Millie they were keen

to keep her within the department as a Modern Apprentice. Throughout her apprenticeship Millie continued to learn and grow, accomplishing any tasks set within the workplace and for her qualification. As part of the MA offer, Millie continued to receive employability support to apply for posts within the authority.

Millie completed her apprenticeship, achieving a qualification in Business and Administration Level 2 (SCQF L5), achieving this well before the expected end date. Not only did Millie achieve her qualification and MA certificate but her dream of securing a permanent position within South Ayrshire Council came true when she successfully secured a permanent L4 post within Risk and Safety as a Clerical Assistant. The Risk and Safety Team were so keen to employ Millie that they switched floors with another department to enable the full team to work from the bottom floor to support Millie’s mobility issues.

Quote from Millie

**‘If I needed any support with anything, the team always helped me and always went above and beyond to support me. It made me feel very happy to achieve my qualification. I felt supported from the full team, thank you’.**





## Children's Services Annual Report 2023/2024

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 states a requirement for every local authority and relevant health board in Scotland to jointly prepare a Children's Services Plan, detailing plans over a three-year period. Part 3 sets out a legal framework for children's services planning with aims to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring delivery of local services that are integrated, focusing on promotion of child wellbeing and quality preventative approaches.

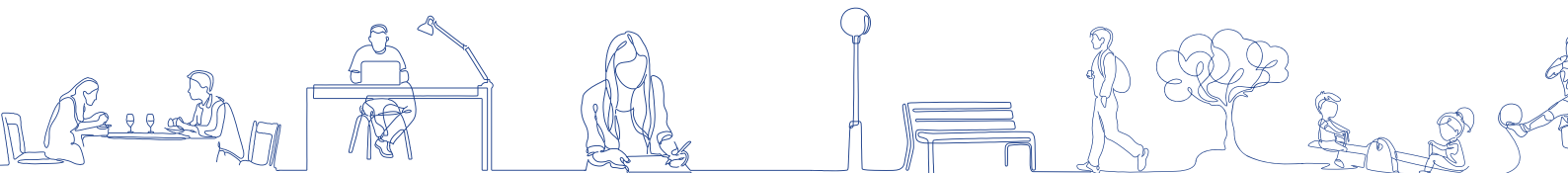
As set out under section 13(1) of the Act, a local authority and health board must publish a yearly report detailing services provided in accordance with the plan including what the provision has achieved.

The Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-2026 is supported by six thematic workstreams:

- 1. The Promise** - South Ayrshire's children and young people with care experience will have a good loving childhood, where their needs are met, and outcomes are improved;
- 2. Families** - Support is easily accessible through integrated, multi-agency teams who are based in local communities and know it well. Early help for whole families to overcome difficulties and stay together, where children feel loved and are safe;
- 3. Included** - Children, young people and families who have diagnosed or undiagnosed additional support needs feel supported and reach their full potential;
- 4. Voice** - Children and young people feel involved and listened to in decision-making around their wellbeing through continuous engagement. Compassionate, responsive decision-making for children is embedded into all our priorities;
- 5. Healthy** - Reducing harm, promoting health and safety for our children, young people and families; and
- 6. People** - A training offer to staff in South Ayrshire, allowing them to come together to learn, collaborate and build relationships for the best outcome of the child.



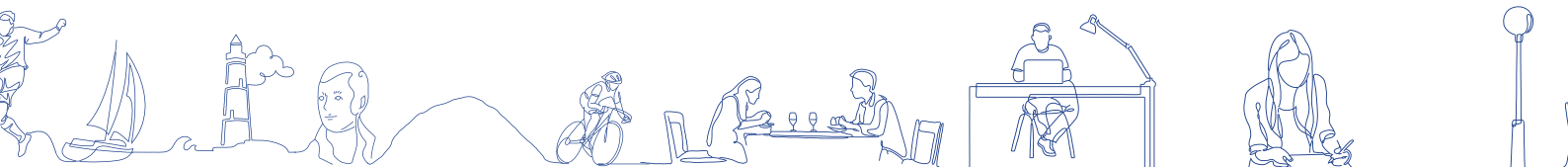
The 2023/2024 Annual Report provides a summary of progress against year one of the Children and Young People's Services Plan (2023-2026).





## Awards and Accolades

- Education's Prestwick North Education Campus building achieved a prestigious award in November 2023, winning first place in the 'Pupil/Student Experience' category at the Learning Places Scotland Awards 2023, in Glasgow. The Campus was up against tough opposition for the award, with Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities also in the running, however, the judging panel was most impressed with the agile nature of the learning spaces at the Campus which support group, peer to peer and individual learning. The judges also appreciated the use of natural daylight throughout the building, which promotes a healthy learning environment.
- Two trainee Trading Standards Officers passed their professional qualification exams.
- Accredited to Type 3 in Welfare Rights Advice.
- Accredited to Type 2 in Money Advice.
- Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) UK Apprentice of the year – Charlie White (December 2023).
- APSE Scotland Apprentice of the year – Charlie White (February 2024).\*
- \*First time same apprentice has won both awards from the same Council
- Skills Development Scotland, Instructor of the Year 2024 – William J Andrew March
- Special Recognition Award, South Ayrshire Council – April 2024: Charlie White and William J Andrew.
- Outstanding People Awards May 2024: Charlie White – Outstanding Trainee of the Year.
- Outstanding People Awards May 2024: William J Andrew – Outstanding Supervisor of the Year.
- Outstanding People Awards May 2024: Property Maintenance – Outstanding Team Bronze Award
- Thriving Communities commended by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and used as an example of good practice on SDS website. [South Ayrshire Council Provider CPD Case Study: Supporting individuals during apprenticeships and employability programmes | Skills Development Scotland](#)
- Education and Health and Social Care Partnership were finalists in the iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards 2024 for work on Belmont Family First.



## External Scrutiny

### Education

- External review by Scottish Government / ScotXed on submission and publication of school estate condition and suitability statistics.
- External review by Scottish Government / ScotXed on submission and publication of annual staff and pupil Census statistics.
- External scrutiny through Education Scotland/HMIE school inspections programme. All inspections are reported through SAC Education Authority Cabinet meetings.

### Revenue and Benefits

- The Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim is audited every year on behalf of the DWP by External Audit. This exercise is ongoing for 2023/24, and due for completion by end Jan 2024. The 2022/23 Audit was completed successfully on time & without qualification.
- The DWP and Scottish Government both publish regular statistics on Benefits & Scottish Welfare Fund processing times.
- Directors of Finance PI's
- LGBF PI's

### Information and Advice Hub

- The Information and Advice Hub are accredited by the Scottish Legal Aid Board (SLAB), to the Scottish National Standards for Information and Advice Providers. In order to maintain this accreditation, the IAAH are subject to regular Independent Peer Review Audits.

### Housing Services

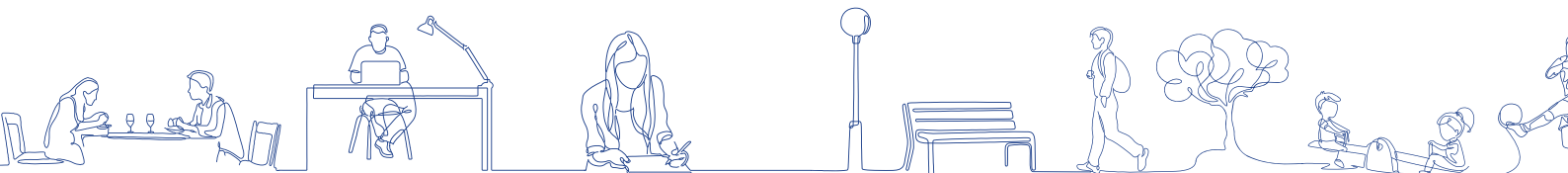
- Each year the Council as a landlord submits an annual return on the housing charter to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) on a range of charter indicators. SHR using this return along with other data as part of their risk assessment process and publish an 'Engagement Plan' for all Social Landlords. The 2023/24 Engagement Plan was published on 31st March 2023 and SHR engaged with the Council about its services for people who are homeless.
- In September 2023, the Care Inspectorate carried out an unannounced inspection of the Viewfield Gate Housing Support Service. Two areas were inspected – 'How well do we support people's wellbeing' and 'How good is our leadership', both services were graded 4 – 'Good'.

### Property Maintenance

- Internal Audit Report – IA/2024/06, Procurement Framework Agreements – April 2024.
- Internal Audit Report – IA/2025/23, Property Maintenance Stores Year End Balance – June 2024.

### Thriving Communities

- Education Scotland CLD Inspection
- Scottish Qualifications Authority
- Skills Development Scotland
- Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE)











**South Ayrshire Council**

**Joint Report by Director of Communities and Transformation  
and Director of Housing, Operations and Development  
to South Ayrshire Council  
of 12 December 2024**

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**Subject: Outcome of Public Consultation - Heritage Proposals  
Submitted by Prestwick Civic Pride**

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

1.1.1 confirm the outcome of the public consultation on the submissions made by Prestwick Civic Pride (PCP) to the Council, involving a range of potential development projects on Prestwick Promenade and the Freemans Hall, Prestwick and the Salt Pans Houses.

1.1.2 seek approval of the next steps in developing a masterplan to inform the regeneration projects for Prestwick.

**2. Recommendation**

2.1 It is recommended that the Council:

2.1.1 **requests officers to undertake a scoping exercise for a masterplan to regenerate Prestwick with a focus on improvements to the Promenade;**

2.1.2 **agrees that a workshop will be held with Ward Members and local community stakeholders to present the strategic purpose, objectives and priorities of the emerging masterplan; and**

2.1.3 **requests that a further report be submitted to Council outlining the results of the scoping exercise and the workshop with Ward Members and local community stakeholders with a draft masterplan which will be used as the basis of a further public consultation.**

**3. Background**

3.1 Cabinet on 23 April 2024 approved the undertaking of a public consultation on the heritage proposals formed by PCP on the basis of seeking initial views on the proposals to assist in informing the development of a masterplan for Prestwick. The proposals presented had not been developed by the Council and had not gone through Council diligence requirements so the public consultation made clear that

the proposals had not been developed by the Council and as a result of this the Council could not, at that stage, endorse the proposals.

3.2 The proposals involved:

- i) Reinstatement of a steeple at Freeman’s Hall together with proposed changes of use of the Hall and adjacent cottage and an extension to the building;
- ii) Proposals to conserve the Salt Pans Houses in association with St Nicholas Golf Club; and
- iii) Improvements to Prestwick Seafront.

3.3 A consultation was undertaken throughout May and ended on 3 June 2024. The consultation asked 7 questions on the PCP proposals. 357 responses were received. The outcome of the consultation is set out in Appendix 1.

3.4 A summary of the consultation responses is provided below:

<b>Question</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Qualified support</b>	<b>No answer</b>
What are your views on the proposals for the Freemans Hall and Cottage	38%	43%	9%	10%
What are our views on the proposals to reinstate the steeple	31%	61%	1%	7%
What are your views on the enhancements for Prestwick Promenade	67%	15%	13%	5%

Which of the Two Studies Would You Say is the Most Important?

<b>Freemans Hall</b>	<b>Promenade</b>	<b>No Preference</b>	<b>Broadway</b>
12%	62%	25%	1%

Of the potential Prestwick Seafront or Promenade projects the former bathing lake was the top favoured project, followed by central activity area, the arrival points to the Promenade, signage strategy then Promenade art.

For those that disagreed with the proposed theme of the Promenade a wide range of alternatives were suggested, with the most popular being repurposing the derelict building adjacent to the sailing club. Key themes related to the need for improvement, practical improvements that attract visitors, redevelopment, and the importance of maintenance with a desire for more facilities.

The top 10 alternative spending suggestions were: Broadway former cinema, the derelict gym, improved food/drink, town centre modernisation, free parking, improve safety, support water sports, road improvements, free public toilets, outdoor pool.

- 3.5 The Council-approved Capital Investment Programme 2023-24 to 2034-35 includes funding for £2m for Prestwick regeneration/ heritage.
- 3.6 Regeneration projects are usually progressed through the development of a masterplan for the relevant regeneration area. Masterplans provide a cohesive framework for projects, ensuring that the objectives of regeneration are met. Masterplans also consider priorities and the phasing of development. The identification of projects within a masterplan front loads the diligence regarding the inception and approval of projects required to meet with Audit Scotland requirements.
- 3.7 A key requirement of Capital projects is the undertaking of options appraisals and business cases to ensure that the Council is utilising its resources efficiently. Masterplans also efficiently manage public consultation requirements and ensure that wider legal requirements such as Equality Impact Assessments are undertaken as part of the identification of projects.
- 3.8 A separate report on this Council agenda sets out approved and recommended Capital project for Prestwick as part of the Ward and Promenade/Seafront budget projects. It should be noted that within this list there are projects related to Prestwick promenade.

#### **4. Proposals**

- 4.1 Given the outcome of public consultation, it is recommended that the Council commences the preparation of a regeneration masterplan for Prestwick with a focus on improvements to the Promenade.
- 4.2 To provide a strategic purpose to the masterplan and to identify key objectives and priority projects, it is recommended that a workshop be held with Ward Members and local community stakeholder groups. The output from the workshop will be collated and officers will follow the required governance process which includes consideration by the Capital Asset Management Place Planning Group, and the completion of business cases where required to evidence Best Value and the undertaking of a Strategic Environmental Appraisal and an Equalities Impact Assessment of the emerging proposals. A draft masterplan will then be submitted to Council for approval incorporating all these elements and it is intended this draft masterplan will be used as the basis of a further public consultation.

#### **5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct legal or procurement implications arising from this report. The development of a subsequent Prestwick Masterplan will require to comply with a range of legal requirements, including provision of a Strategic Environmental Appraisal, Equalities Impact Assessment, and statutory processes applying to Common Good property. If either Prestwick Promenade or the proposals for the Freeman's Hall and adjoining Cottages were to be developed by the Council, then as they include common good property there may be a requirement for the following statutory processes to be undertaken before progressing further: (1) under section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the Council must, before

making a decision to dispose of change the use of these areas, publish details of the proposed disposal or change of use, notify any community council whose area includes all or part of the former burgh area and any community body known by it to have an interest in the areas, invite representations in respect of the proposals and the Council must have regard to any representations made about the proposals in deciding whether to proceed; (2) as the common good subjects include inalienable common good property, in terms of section 75 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the Council is also required to obtain authority from the Sheriff Court for any proposed appropriation or disposal of the inalienable property, and (3) as the proposals include areas which are open spaces and used for public recreation, under Sections 24(2A) & 27(2A) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1959 the Council must also publish a notice of any proposed appropriation or disposal in a newspaper circulating in the area for at least 2 consecutive weeks; and consider any objections made in response before deciding whether to proceed. Further legal advice will be required in due course to ensure full compliance with legal procedures and statutory processes undertaken.

5.2 The Freeman's Hall is a grade B listed building and is located within Prestwick Conservation Area. Any proposals to the Freeman's Hall would require both Listed Building Consent and a Planning Permission.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Projects that are developed through the Prestwick Masterplan will require to be approved by the CAMG to ensure all statutory diligence has been satisfied, before coming back to Council for approval. Approved projects will be funded through the £2m Regeneration Fund for Prestwick.

## **7. Human Resources Implications**

7.1 None.

## **8. Risk**

### ***8.1 Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations***

8.1.1 There is a risk that some or all of the projects set out in Appendix 1 do not fulfil diligence requirements. In such a scenario the community may have had raised expectations on the deliverability of projects.

### ***8.2 Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations***

8.2.1 The studies set out in Appendix 1 have been professionally developed and have been the subject of consultation arranged by PCP. Not taking these projects forward through the recommendations in this report would mean that these studies are not being taken forward by the Council.

8.2.2 The identification of all Capital projects requires the undertaking of diligence to meet with Audit Scotland requirements. The identification of projects outwith the masterplan will require carrying out diligence on a project-by-project basis with no opportunity to provide a cohesive, integrated improvement to Prestwick.

## 9. Equalities

- 9.1 The masterplan will fully consider equalities, and an Equalities Impact Assessment will inform the proposals that develop.

## 10. Sustainable Development Implications

- 10.1 **Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** – An SEA has not been developed for this report. An SEA will be developed for a Prestwick Masterplan and will inform the proposals that development

## 11. Options Appraisal

- 11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in the preparation of this report. An options appraisal will inform the capital projects set out in a Prestwick Masterplan.

## 12. Link to Council Plan

- 12.1 Spaces and Places.

## 13. Results of Consultation

- 13.1 Appendix 1 provides a report on the outcome of public consultation on the PCP proposals.
- 13.2 Consultation has taken place with 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 Director of Communities and Transformation and the 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
Stakeholder Workshop	30 April 2025	Assistant Director Communities
Draft Masterplan for Prestwick Regeneration	30 September 2025	Assistant Director Communities

### Background Papers    Capital Programme 2024/25

**Report to Cabinet of 23 April 2024 - [Heritage Proposals Submitted to the Council by Prestwick Civic Pride](#)**

**Person to Contact**

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**Phone 01292 612994**  
**Email [george.hunter@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:george.hunter@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Chris Cox, Assistant Director Planning, Development and Regulation**  
**County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR**  
**Phone 01292 612981**  
**Email [chris.cox@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.cox@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Date: 5 December 2024**



# Prestwick Regeneration Consultation Analysis July 2024

streets-uk



[fiona.robertson@streets-uk.com](mailto:fiona.robertson@streets-uk.com)  
Tel: 07771 978577

# Background

In May 2024, a consultation was undertaken by South Ayrshire Council in relation to plans to develop a masterplan for Prestwick town centre.

A total of 357 responses were received. This report provides a summary of the consultation responses.

Questions asked are shown opposite.

My South Ayrshire Pay Report Contact us

South AYRSHIRE COUNCIL Making a Difference Every Day

← Prestwick Masterplan and Regeneration

## Prestwick Regeneration Consultation form

### Questions

**Question 1 - What are your views on the proposals for Freemans Hall and Cottage?**

You can enter up to 1500 characters

**Question 2 - What are your views on the proposals to reinstate the steeple? Are there any designs that you favour?**

You can enter up to 1500 characters

**Question 3 - What are your views on the enhancements for Prestwick Promenade?**

You can enter up to 1500 characters

**Question 4**

A selection of themes or areas have been suggested for improvement at the promenade. How would you rate these themes or areas in order of priority? (Please rank in order of preference, where 1 is your favourite suggestion and 5 is your least favourite suggestion)

<b>Theme 1 - The former bathing lake</b>	<b>Theme 2 - The arrival points to the promenade</b>	<b>Theme 3 - The central activity area</b>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Theme 4 - Signage Strategy? General Promenade Improvements?</b>	<b>Theme 5 - Promenade Art Strategy</b>	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

**Question 5 - If you disagree with the proposed themes for the promenade, what other suggestions would you be supportive of?**

**Question 6 - Which of the two studies would you say is most important? Would you prioritise one set of works over the other?**

You can enter up to 1500 characters

**Question 7 - Are there any other ideas or proposals not set out in these studies, that you think should be included in the masterplan?**

Ayrshire Live Prestwick

## Prestwick heritage plans set for public

Proposals constructed by the town's Civic Pride group will now go before resident

By **Kevin Dyson** Local Democracy Reporter  
15:01, 25 APR 2024



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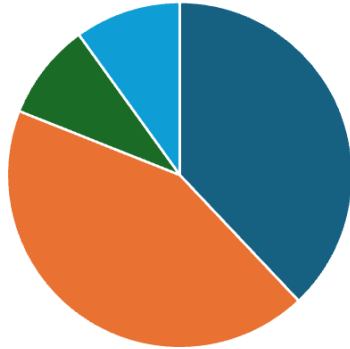
Our community members are treated to special offers, promotions and adverts from us and our partners. You can check out at any time. [More info](#)

Ambitious heritage plans put together by Prestwick Civic Pride (PCP) will go out to public consultation.

South Ayrshire Council's cabinet agreed to undertake a consultation on proposals that have been put together for the town by the local group. But there was some debate around the funding of one part of the proposals - the reinstatement of the steeple at Freeman's Hall.

# Consultation Results

Q1 - WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSALS FOR FREEMANS HALL AND COTTAGE?



■ Support proposals ■ This isn't a priority ■ Conditional support ■ No opinion

- 38% support the proposals
- 9% offered qualified support
- 43% don't support the proposals
- 10% didn't answer or had no opinion

Key themes:

## Support for Modernisation and Restoration:

- Several respondents express strong support for the proposals, particularly the aspects related to modernising and restoring the buildings.

## Concerns About Historical Preservation:

- Some respondents are concerned about maintaining the historical integrity of Freemans Hall and Cottage.

## Environmental and Sustainability Considerations:

- A few respondents highlight the need for the proposals to include environmentally sustainable practices.

## Need for Clear Communication and Transparency:

- Several responses mention the importance of clear communication and transparency throughout the project. Respondents want to be kept informed about the progress and any potential disruptions.

## Mixed Feelings on Modern Design Elements:

- There are mixed feelings about the introduction of modern design elements. While some appreciate the blend of old and new, others worry that it might clash with the traditional aesthetic of the existing structures.

## Suggestions for Additional Facilities:

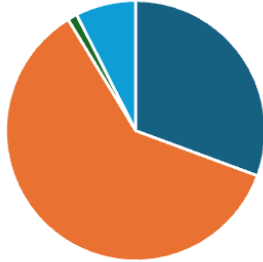
- Some respondents provide suggestions for additional facilities, such as study spaces, communal areas, and improved accessibility features.

## Financial Considerations:

- There are concerns about the financial implications of the proposals. Respondents want to ensure that the project is cost-effective

# Consultation Results

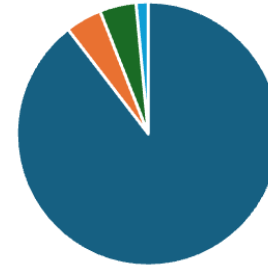
Q2 - WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSALS TO REINSTATE THE STEEPLE?



■ Support proposals ■ This isn't a priority ■ Conditional support ■ No opinion

- 31% support the proposals with a further 1% offering qualified support
- 61% don't support the proposals
- 7% didn't answer or had no opinion

Q2 - ARE THERE ANY DESIGNS THAT YOU FAVOUR?



■ Original ■ Modern ■ In keeping with building ■ Stand up to storms

## Key themes:

The majority of responses express strong opposition to reinstating the steeple. The main reasons cited include:

- Waste of money/better uses for the funds (e.g., community projects, infrastructure)
- Lack of practical benefit to the community
- Concerns about ongoing maintenance costs

A smaller number of responses support reinstating the steeple. Their reasons include:

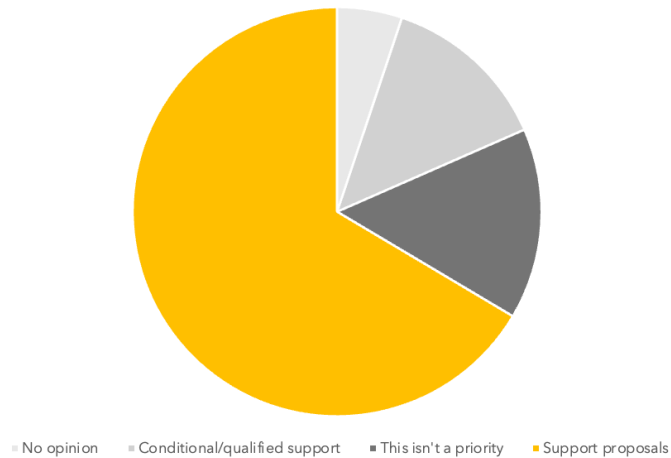
- Historical preservation
- Aesthetic value
- Restoring the building's original character

Design preferences (among those who support reinstatement):

Most supporters prefer a design close to the original, often including a clock.

# Consultation Results

Q3 - WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE ENHANCEMENTS FOR PRESTWICK PROMENADE?



67% support the proposals  
 15% don't support the proposals  
 13% conditionally support the proposals  
 5% didn't answer or had no opinion

## Key Positive Themes:

1. General support for improvements and modernisation
2. Belief that enhancements will attract more visitors
3. Enthusiasm for redeveloping the former bathing lake area
4. Support for making the area more accessible and family-friendly
5. Desire for more amenities like cafes, restaurants, and toilets
6. Appreciation for proposed art installations and landscaping

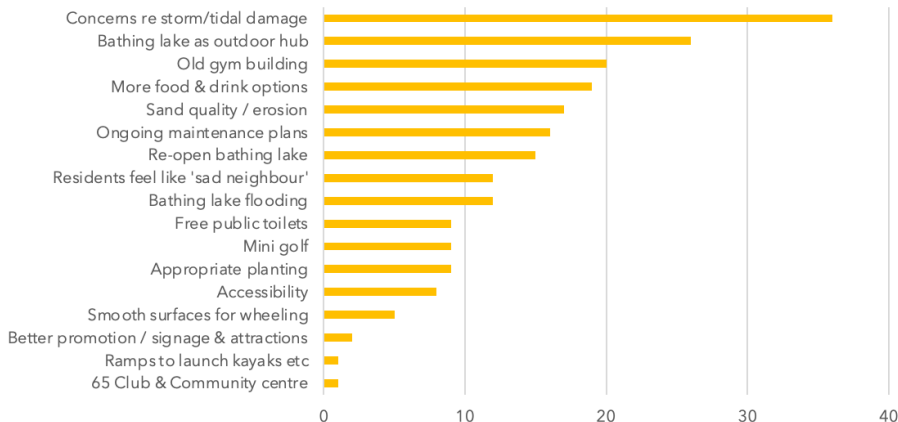
## Key Concerns/Negative Themes:

1. Worries about maintenance and durability of improvements, especially given harsh weather conditions
2. Concerns about flooding and storm damage, particularly for the bathing lake area
3. Scepticism about the practicality of some proposed features
4. Desire for focus on basic repairs and cleanliness over aesthetic enhancements
5. Concerns about cost and whether the money could be better spent elsewhere
6. Worries about overcommercialisation or losing the area's natural charm

## Neutral/Mixed Themes:

1. Suggestions for alternative improvements or priorities
2. Requests for more information or specific details about plans
3. Comparisons to other nearby coastal towns (both positive and negative)

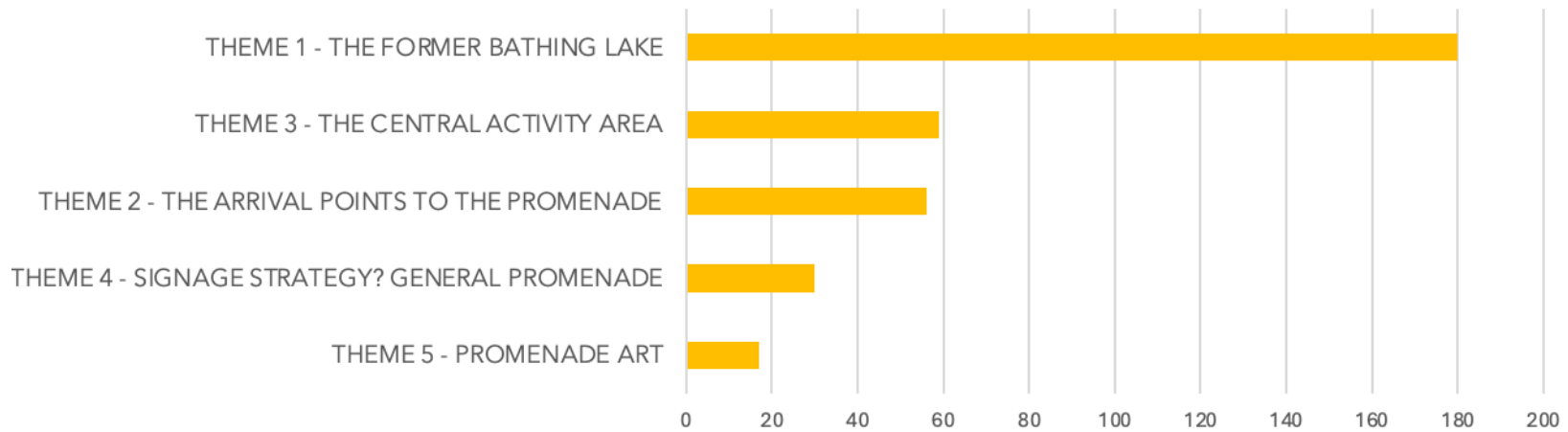
Q3 - BREAKDOWN OF COMMENTS / QUALIFIED SUPPORT



# Consultation Results

Q4 - A SELECTION OF THEMES OR AREAS HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED FOR IMPROVEMENT AT THE PROMENADE. HOW WOULD YOU RATE THESE THEMES OR AREAS IN ORDER OF PRIORITY? (PLEASE RANK IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE, WHERE 1 IS YOUR FAVOURITE SUGGESTION AND 5 IS YOUR LEAST FAVOURITE SUGGESTION).

## BREAKDOWN OF VOTES FOR FAVOURITE CHOICE

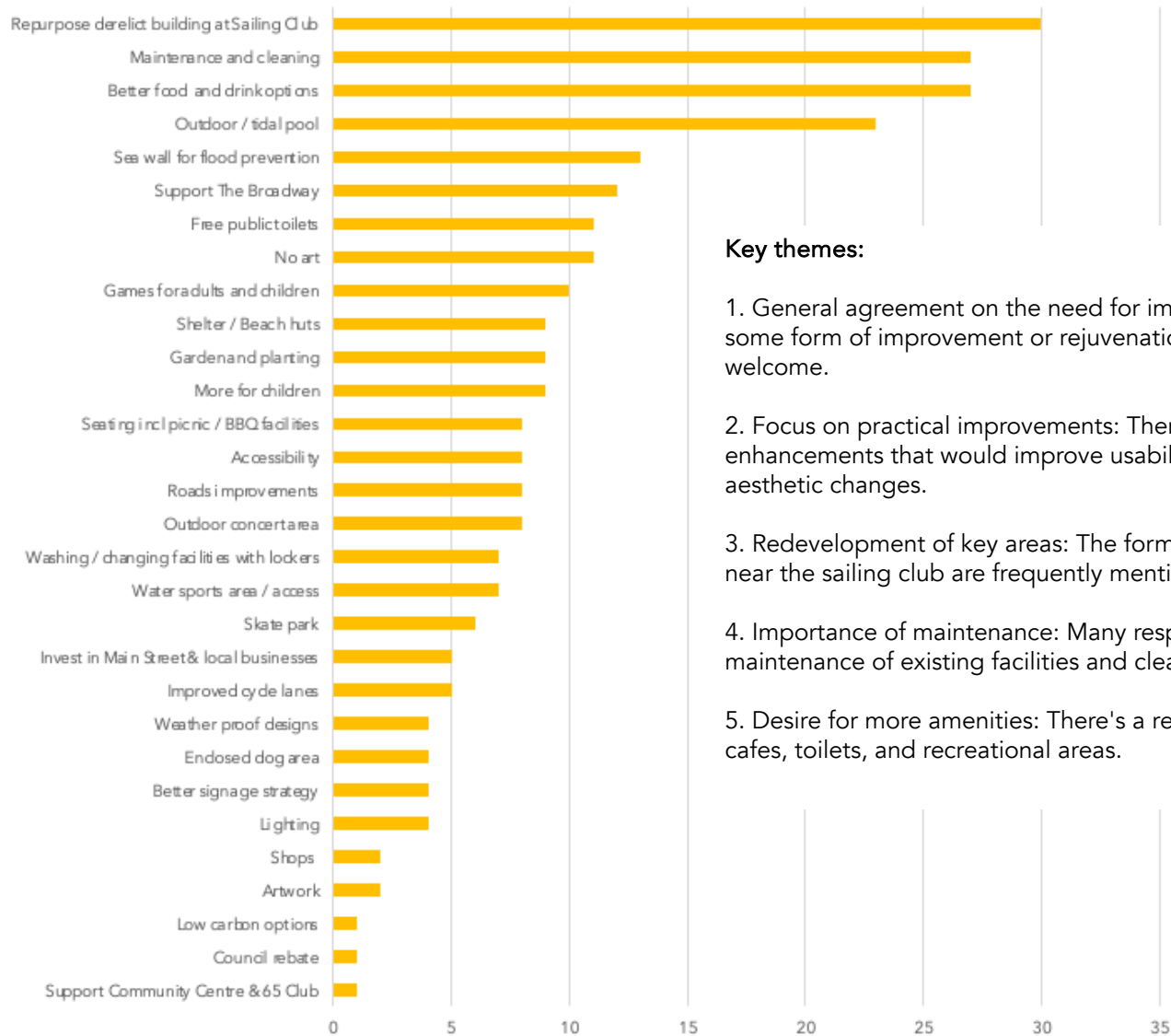


Respondents were asked to allocated points to their most favourite and least favourite theme. The allocation of points in the original question was somewhat counterintuitive with 1 point allocated to favourite and 5 to least favourite. To make the analysis easier to understand we reallocated 1 point to least favourite and 5 to most favourite and the table opposite summarises the total points allocated overall.

BREAKDOWN OF OVERALL TOTAL OF VOTES	
THEME 1 - THE FORMER BATHING LAKE	1268
THEME 2 - THE ARRIVAL POINTS TO THE PROMENADE	987
THEME 3 - THE CENTRAL ACTIVITY AREA	1043
THEME 4 - SIGNAGE STRATEGY/GENERAL PROMENADE	792
THEME 5 - PROMENADE ART	670

# Consultation Results

Q5 - IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THE PROPOSED THEMES FOR THE PROMENADE, WHAT OTHER SUGGESTIONS WOULD YOU BE SUPPORTIVE OF?

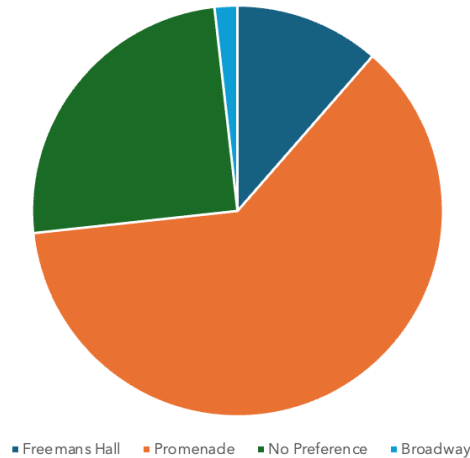


## Key themes:

1. General agreement on the need for improvement: Most respondents agree that some form of improvement or rejuvenation of the promenade area is necessary and welcome.
2. Focus on practical improvements: There's a noticeable emphasis on practical enhancements that would improve usability and attract visitors, rather than purely aesthetic changes.
3. Redevelopment of key areas: The former bathing lake and the derelict building near the sailing club are frequently mentioned as areas needing attention.
4. Importance of maintenance: Many responses stress the need for better maintenance of existing facilities and cleanliness of the beach and promenade.
5. Desire for more amenities: There's a recurring theme of wanting more facilities like cafes, toilets, and recreational areas.

# Consultation Results

Q6 - WHICH OF THE TWO STUDIES WOULD YOU SAY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT? WOULD YOU PRIORITISE ONE SET OF WORKS OVER THE OTHER?



- 12% stated Freeman's Hall most important
- 62% stated promenade most important
- 25% didn't answer or had no preference
- 1% suggested Broadway

1. Strong preference for the promenade/seafront development. Many view the promenade as more important for several reasons:

- It would benefit a wider range of residents and visitors
- It could attract more tourists and boost the local economy
- It's used more frequently by people for recreation, health, and enjoyment
- It's seen as having more potential to improve Prestwick's appeal as a destination

2. Concerns about the steeple project:

Many respondents view the steeple reinstatement as unnecessary or a "vanity project." There are frequent comments about it being a waste of money or less beneficial to the community compared to other potential improvements.

3. Focus on community benefit:

Respondents often emphasise the importance of projects that will benefit the most people or have the broadest positive impact on the community. This aligns with the preference for the promenade, which is seen as more accessible and useful to a wider range of people.

4. Economic considerations:

There's a recurring theme of wanting to prioritise projects that could boost tourism and local businesses. The promenade development is frequently cited as having more potential economic benefits for the town.

5. Desire for alternative projects:

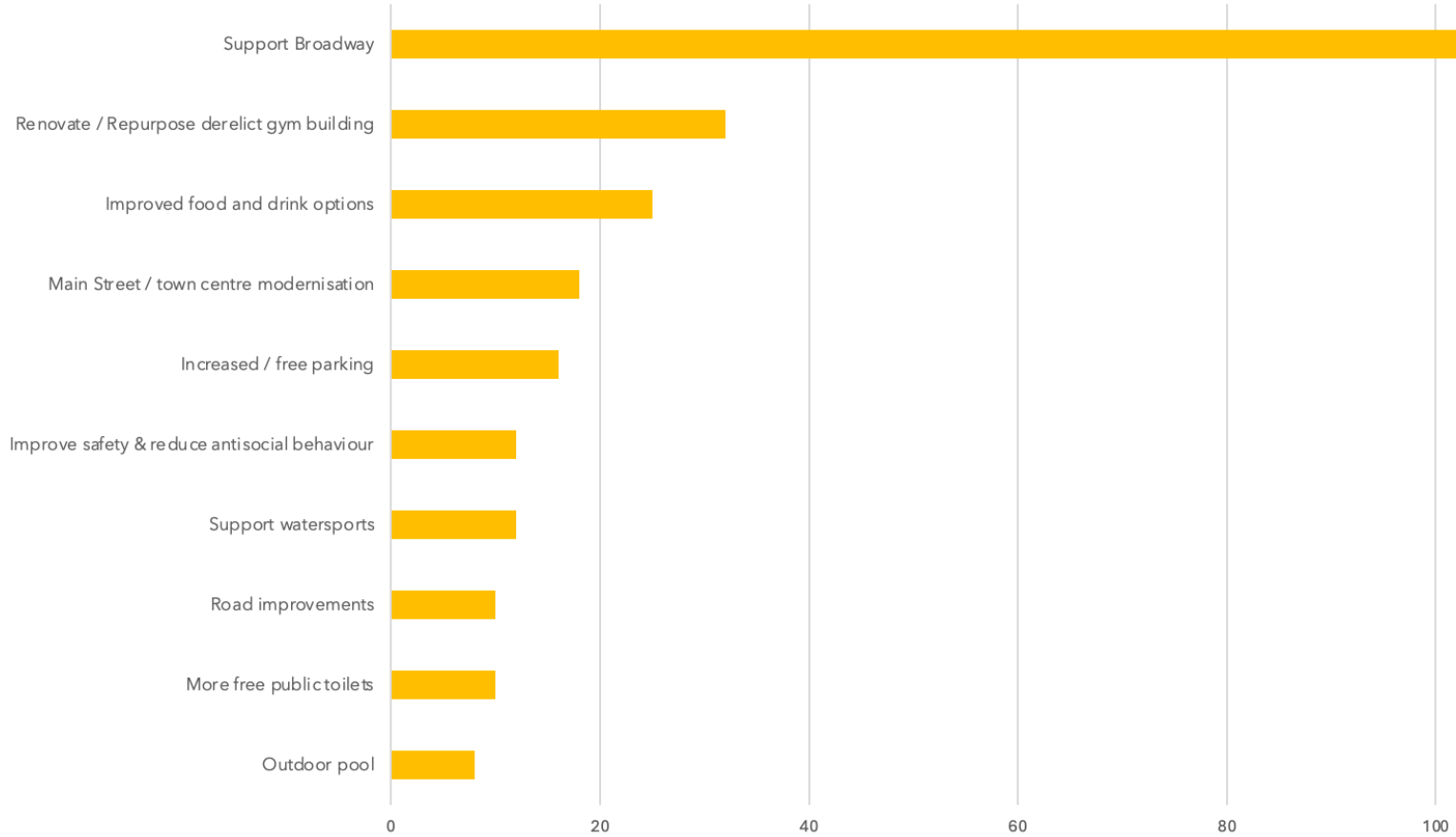
Some respondents express dissatisfaction with both proposed projects and suggest alternatives, such as supporting the Broadway Cinema project or focusing on other community needs.

Overall, while there is some diversity in opinions, the most common idea across the responses is a clear preference for prioritising the promenade and seafront development over the Freeman's Hall and steeple project, primarily due to perceived broader community benefits and potential economic impact.



# Consultation Results

Q7 - SUMMARY OF TOP TEN SUGGESTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE SPENDING



**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Director of Housing, Operations and Development  
to South Ayrshire Council  
of 12 December 2024**

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**Subject: Proposed Ward Capital Projects – Update 2023 to 2025  
and Approval of New Capital Projects 2024 to 2026**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on implementation of ward capital projects approved by the Council at its meeting of 29 June 2023 and by the Cabinet at its meeting of 26 September 2023 and to recommend further capital projects for initiation and implementation during the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26.

**2. Recommendation**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Council:**

- 2.1.1 agrees the capital investment projects identified in Appendix 1 (white background under project description) for initiation and implementation during the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26;
- 2.1.2 agrees that the £2m Promenade budget line be split equally between Girvan, Ayr, Prestwick and Troon Wards;
- 2.1.3 agrees that, to ensure ongoing proper financial management, that Ward Members provide a list of priority projects to avoid potential budget over-commitment.
- 2.1.4 Notes that some of the amber projects in Appendix 1 will require public consultation as part of an Integrated Impact Assessment prior to being able to be recommended to Council for approval.
- 2.1.5 notes the progress made with the capital investment projects identified in green in Appendix 1;
- 2.1.6 agrees that a copy of Appendix 1 containing all potential projects will be forwarded to Community Councils and feedback sought; and
- 2.1.7 notes the arrangements put in place to provide regular progress updates to all Elected Members on all place projects and to consider the feedback from Community Councils.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 1 March 2023, the Council approved the General Services Revenue Budget 2023-24 and the Capital Investment Programme 2023-24 to 2034-35. Contained in the Capital Investment Programme 2023-24 to 2034-35 was funding for Place Plans; Place Planning and Community Led Projects; Place Planning and Ayr Ward West/Ayr Town Centre Projects; Girvan Regeneration Projects; and Promenade and Shorefront Enhancement Schemes. The Ward Capital and promenade funding was profiled over 4 financial years, 2023/24 to 2026/27.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 25 April 2023, the Cabinet approved a process for identifying potential capital investment projects. This involved a review of Place Plans (Community Action Plan), meetings with Elected Ward Members and further consideration by the Capital Asset Management Group (CAMG). This programme of participatory budgeting of place projects has been commended by Audit Scotland. The projects in Appendix 1 have been identified through the process agreed by the Cabinet in April 2023.
- 3.3 At its meetings on 29 June and 26 September 2023 the Council and the Cabinet agreed 116 capital investment projects (categorised as green) due for commencement in 2023/24 and 2024/25. These projects are set out in Appendix 1 with green colour under the project description, where the project is either complete or is continuing as intended and approved.
- 3.4 A report recommending new projects and the removal of previously approved projects that are no longer feasible was considered by Council on 10 October 2024. The Council was concerned to ensure that Ward Members had further discussion on the status of projects and decided not to approve new projects and to retain the list of projects last approved on 26 September 2023.
- 3.5 Meetings have since taken place with all Ward Members. Additional resource has been committed to the management of all Ward/Seafront projects. All known place plan projects have been included in spreadsheets. The spreadsheets now have separate tabs: Ward, Promenade and Regeneration/ Town Centre where appropriate. Some projects have been identified as potential Active Travel projects and have been removed from potential ward capital projects to be incorporated in future designs and discussions for Active Travel through Ayrshire Roads Alliance and Member/ Officer Working Group.
- 3.6 This work has resulted in further information being presented to Ward Members at these meetings and further projects now being recommended for approval.
- 3.7 As noted in 3.1 the capital spend for both Ward and Promenade projects is over 4 financial years. The profiled spend for all Ward Capital projects to 31 March 2025 is £3,627,778 or 45.35% of the overall budget. Profiled spend for Promenade projects to 31 March 2025 is £1,117,560 or 55.88% of the overall budget. Committed spend on Ward projects to 31 March 2026 is £6,138,778 or 76.73% of the overall budget with Promenade committed spend to 31 March 2026 £1,637,060 or 81.85% of the overall budget. To ensure the momentum continues, dedicated project management will be allocated.
- 3.8/

- 3.8 A further 44 projects are now being recommended for approval in Appendix 1. These are identified as white under the project description heading.
- 3.9 Cabinet on 23 September 2024 approved arrangements to ensure that the Council meets its statutory requirements under the Fairer Scotland duty. This requires all projects and financial decisions to be assessed through an Integrated Impact Assessment. All new projects, not previously approved by Council, have been screened. Whilst it is considered that most projects do not require full Integrated Impact Assessment, some projects will require assessment and associated public consultation.

#### **4. Proposals**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Council approves the projects set out in Appendix 1 with the white colour under the project description heading.
- 4.2 The spreadsheet of all projects for each Ward will be shared with respective Community Councils. Feedback will be considered in the regular update meetings with Ward Councillors and in an update report to Council in June 2025.
- 4.3 A number of Wards have estimated budget committed with spend relatively close to the budget limit. Whilst officers will continue to progress projects as quickly as resources enable, the simultaneous progression of all projects is neither feasible nor financial prudent. Whilst every effort is made to establish meaningful estimated costs, there is inevitably cost variance between estimate and actual costs arising. This being the case, if all projects were progressed at the same time, then there is the possibility of budget over-run or abortive work. To minimise this financial outcome and to assist with managing workloads Ward Members will be asked for their priority projects. Regular meetings will then provide updates on project costs and available budget. This will enable the remaining 2 years of implementation of these projects to be delivered in line with budget profiling.
- 4.4 It is recommended that, to assist the proper planning and budgeting of promenade projects, the geographical split of the Promenade budget line of £2m. now is split equitably 4 ways, with £500,000 to the promenades of Girvan, Ayr, Prestwick and Troon
- 4.5 Regular meetings will continue with Ward Members to update on the progress of approved projects and other projects that are ready for approval. The most up to date financial information will also be presented to ensure that budget lines are not over-committed.

#### **5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

- 5.1 Legal advice will be provided as required on the capital improvement projects. In the event that a project involves a disposal or change of use of Common Good, the following provides a summary for Members of the legal processes which will require to be satisfied. Under Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 the Council, before making a decision to dispose or change the use of these areas, must:
- Publish details of the proposed disposal or change of use;

- Notify (a) any community council whose area includes all or part of the areas (taking account of the burgh council boundaries) and (b) any community body known by it to have an interest in the areas; and
- Invite representations in respect of the proposals;

and the Council must have regard to any representations made about the proposals in deciding whether to proceed.

5.2 If the areas are inalienable Common Good, under Section 75 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Council is also required to obtain authority from the Sheriff Court for any proposed appropriation or disposal of the areas.

5.3 Furthermore, under section 15(4) of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994, in administering common good property, a Council shall have regard to the interests of the inhabitants of the former burgh area to which the common good related prior to 16 May 1975.

5.4 It should be noted that if any development relates to land which is open space and used for public recreation, there may be a requirement under Sections 24(2A) and 27(2A) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1959 that the Council must also:

- Publish a notice of any proposed appropriation or disposal in a newspaper circulating in the area for at least 2 consecutive weeks; and
- Consider any objections made in response before deciding whether to proceed

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1 The Capital Investment Programme Expenditure in relation to community projects 2023/24 to 2034/35 as approved by the Council on 01 March 2023 is set out below:

<b>Communities Investment</b>	<b>2023/24 £</b>	<b>2024/25 £</b>	<b>2025/26 £</b>	<b>2026/27 £</b>
Girvan Regeneration Projects	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	-
Place Planning and Community Led Projects	1,750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000
Place Planning and Ayr Ward West/ Ayr Town Centre Projects	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Promenade and Shorefront Enhancement Scheme	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000

6.2/

6.2 Ward Capital and Promenade profiled spend June 2023 to 31 March 2026

Ward Capital Budget 2023-2027	Spend to Date	Spend to 31 Mar 25	Committed Spend to 31 Mar 26	Percentage spend to Date	Percentage spend to 31 Mar 25	Percentage Committed Spend to 31 Mar 26
£8,000,000	£2,586,878	£3,627,778	£6,138,778	32.34	45.35	76.73

Promenade Budget 2023-2027	Spend to Date	Projected Spend to 31 Mar 25	Committed Spend to 31 Mar 26	Percentage spend to Date	Percentage spend to 31 Mar 25	Percentage Committed Spend to 31 Mar 26
£2,000,000	£836,060	£1,117,560	£1,637,060	41.8	55.88	81.85

**7. Human Resources Implications**

7.1 Not applicable.

**8. Risk**

**8.1 Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations**

8.1.1 There is a risk that some of the projects being recommended may prove to be unfeasible following further diligence work and this would result in expectations having been raised that cannot be delivered.

8.1.2 The report is recommending a further 51 projects across many Council services. This provides for a challenging programme to coordinate and deliver. There is a risk that pace of delivery will be slower as a result of the number of projects.

8.1.3 With so many projects being recommended there is a risk that the outcomes of improved placemaking could be diluted compared to investing in a smaller range, but more substantial projects.

**8.2 Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations**

8.2.1 There is a risk if the above recommendations are rejected that the Council will not be able to either complete the capital investment in improvements in our communities or if further projects are taken forward that this delays the delivery of already approved projects.

8.2.2 There is a risk that if the projects in the Girvan promenade area are not set within a plan as the basis for consultation that this could bring about challenges regarding the Community Empowerment Act 2014. There is also the risk that this could lead to incremental, incoherent placemaking.

**9. Equalities**

9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through an Equality Impact Assessment including Fairer Scotland Duty and is attached in Appendix 3.

## 10. Sustainable Development Implications

- 10.1 **Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** – This proposal does not propose or seek approval for a plan policy, programme, strategy, or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy. The plan for Girvan Promenade and potential strategy for Prestwick Promenade will be subject of SEA.

## 11. Options Appraisal

- 11.1 The various proposals that communities and Ward Members put forward for consideration can be found here. A thorough and detailed assessment of every proposal presented ensured that all options were fully appraised

## 12. Link to Council Plan

- 12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priority 1: Spaces and Places; and Priority 3: Civic and Community Pride of the Council Plan.
- 12.2 In terms of Priority 1: Spaces and Places, Outcome 1: Moving around and the environment and Outcome 2, Play Sport, and Recreation, are supported by the proposals set out in this report.
- 12.3 In terms of Priority 3: Civic and Community Pride, Outcome 1: Pride in South Ayrshire and Outcome 2: Community Engagement, are supported by the proposals as set out in this report.

## 13. Results of Consultation

- 13.1 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowey, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, and Councillor Alec Clark, Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Culture and Rural Affairs, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback received.

## 14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

- 14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the 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
Commencement of new Ward Capital projects	12 December 2024	Assistant Director – Housing and Operations/ Assistant Director – Planning and Development
Report to Council – Burns Statue Square Public Realm and Traffic Improvements	12 December 2024	Assistant Director – Planning and Development



Implementation	Due date	Managed by
Update on Ward Capital Projects and Potential New Ward Capital Projects	26 June 2025	Assistant Director – Housing and Operations/Assistant Director – Planning and Development

**Background Papers**    **Report to South Ayrshire Council of 29 June 2023 - [Proposed Ward Capital Projects 2023 to 2027](#)**

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

**Report to Cabinet of 12 March 2024 – [Ayr Town Centre Framework](#)**

**Report to Cabinet of 23 April 2024 – [Heritage Proposals Submitted to the Council by Prestwick Civic Pride](#)**

**[Report to South Ayrshire Council of 10 October 2024 - Proposed Ward Capital Projects – Update 2023 to 2025 and Approval of New Capital Projects 2024 to 2026](#)**

**Person to Contact**

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**Email [chris.cox@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.cox@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Kenny Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations**  
**County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR**  
**Phone 01292 612041**  
**Email [kenneth.dalrymple@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:kenneth.dalrymple@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Date: 5 December 2024**

# Troon Ward Capital Projects

Appendix 1

Ward 1 - Troon

Budget

£1,000,000

	WARD	PROJECT	SERVICE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL/ ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
1	Troon	Power source to Civic Spaces Around Walker Hall	Asset Management	Ward	Complete		100%	Oct '24	Oct '24	£10,000.00	£9,500.00	£500.00
2	Troon	Town Centre Recycling Bins	Neighbourhood Services/PDS	Ward	Delivery	Procurement process is commencing. Installation and completion dates will depend on Scottish Power connections.	30%	Dec'24	Mar '25	£140,000.00	£97,000.00	£43,000.00
3	Troon	Augmenting Play Areas within various communities - Adamsgate, Muirhead and Hoisery Park	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Complete	All 3 play areas complete and RPII inspections carried out. Total Project Funding £144,816.67. £50k Ward spend and £94,816.67 from VAT / SG Funding	100%	Oct'24	Nov '24	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£0.00
4	Troon	Urban Realm Improvements	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Delivery	This money will be used to replace traditional bins in the Town Centre with solar compator bins to ensure consistency and increase capacity which should reduce collection frequency and reduce litter. .		Spring'25	Spring'25	£72,360.00	£72,360.00	£0.00
5	Troon	Planters	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Complete	Redesign on Planters complete Nov 24,	100%	Winter '24	Winter '24	£10,000.00	£3,000.00	£7,000.00
6	Troon	Expansion of pump track	Professional Design Services	Ward	Feasibility	Members looking for something more challenging for older kids. Officers to engage with TUSK and design expansion within the allocated budget.		Summer'25	Winter '25	£187,500.00	£187,500.00	£0.00
7	Troon	Extension to play park for older children	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Concept	<b>Potential match funding from SG.</b> Designer been onsite, await design and quote. Area identified behind Town hall.		Spring'25	Summer '25	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£0.00
8	Troon	Match funding for Marr Pitch replacement surface	Destination South Ayrshire	Ward	Design & Tender	Match funding from SFA; Front funded from Education Services. To look at future revenue costs/income projections		Spring '25	Summer'25	£135,000.00	£135,000.00	£0.00
9	Troon	Skate park - reinstall items removed on promenade - poss adj playpark? (currently stored at Dukes Road?)	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Design & Tender	Quote received, NS to meet Elected Members to agree identified location.		Dec-24	Jan-25	£10,000.00	£3,500.00	£6,500.00

10	Troon	Support and continue development of facilities at Fullerton Woods	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Concept	Originally included the play area which has been updated since the original request. NS to look at footpath reinstatements		Summer'25	Winter'25	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£0.00
11	Troon	Extension to the toilet block to provide a coffee stall (possible commercial opportunity?) at Fullerton Wood	Professional Design Services	Ward	Concept	PDS to look at reconfiguration of current toilet block to incorporate cafe outlet. Business case required for cafe outlet (internalor lease space)		Autumn '25	Spring'26	£150,000.00	£150,000.00	£0.00
12	Troon	Changing Screens near Royal Troon beach car park beach	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Feasibility	NS/PDSto source options. Nominal estimate of £10k		Spring 25	Spring 25	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	
										<b>£884,860.00</b>	<b>£827,860.00</b>	<b>£57,000.00</b>

**Total Budget Committed    £827,860.00**

**Total Budget Remaining    £172,140.00**

# Troon Promenade Projects

Appendix 1

Ward 1 - Troon

Budget

£500,000

WARD	PROJECT	SERVICE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL/ ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
Troon	Resurfacing of Troon Esplanade with Red Tarmacadam	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Promenade	Complete	Positive for coal tar	100%	Spring '24	Summer'24	£80,000.00	£89,538.00	-£9,538.00
Troon	BBQ Area on Promenade with picnic area	Neighbourhood Services	Promenade	On site	Awaiting delivery of benches.	80%	Nov'24	Jan'25	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£0.00
Troon	Wind Direction Installations	Neighbourhood Services	Promenade	Concept	NS have quotes x3 windsocks / installation, Paul Scully to provide locations as per Cllr Pollock.		Spring'25	Spring 25	£10,000.00	£4,500.00	£5,500.00
Troon	Esplanade - additional area to be resurfaced. Includes emergency repairs for H&S issues	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Promenade	On Site			Nov '24	Dec '24	£36,120.00	£36,120.00	£0.00
Troon	Esplanade - additional area to be resurfaced.	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Promenade	Design	Phase 2 Resurfacing. ARA re-running quote through the framework for updated prices.		Mar '25	Mar '25	£222,000.00	£222,000.00	£0.00
Troon	Shore Defence Structural Stabilisation	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Promenade	Design	Inspect, Design and Stabilise required areas of shore defences. This will be done in 2 phases. PH1 at the kiosk, PH2 at the skatepark		Mar '25	Mar '25	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£0.00
Troon	Install Lecterns along Promenade	Neighbourhood Services	Promenade	Concept	Install 3 Lecterns along promenade at Ballast Bank, Italian Gardens and Templehill.		Mar '25	Mar '25	£7,500.00	£7,500.00	£0.00
Troon	Compositble toilet at south end of South Beach.	Professional Design Services	Common Good	Concept	Asset Management and Legal confirmed Common Good funds cannot be utilised in non Common Good property Business Case required.		Spring '25	Summer'25	£30,000.00	£30,000.00	Anticipated
									<b>£445,620.00</b>	<b>£449,658.00</b>	<b>-£4,038.00</b>

Total Committed £449,658.00

Total Remaining £50,342.00

# Prestwick Ward Capital Projects

Appendix 1

Ward 2 - Prestwick

Budget

£1,000,000

	WARD	PROJECT	SERVICE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL / ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
1	Prestwick	Upgrade the surface of the car park area to the North of Kidz Play	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Complete	Discovered additional works when surface was broken which had to be stabilised with additional loads brought in. Additional drainage, kerbing, red chips. Banking had to be stabilised due to movement. Additional request from Client for electrical kiosk.	100%			£135,000.00	£261,838.00	-£126,838.00
2	Prestwick	Introduction of a Memorial Tower	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Concept	NS have worked with external memorial provider - examples of memorials to be sent to members for consideration with a view to potentially piloting in the first instance.		Apr-25	Apr-25	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£0.00
3	Prestwick	Replace banner signage on lampposts on Prestwick Main Street	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Concept	Econ & Regen working on banner design; ARA to install		Jan 2025	Jan 2025	£10,000.00	£3,000.00	£7,000.00
4	Prestwick	Repair / renew steps to Boydfield Gardens and improve footpath surfacing throughout	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Concept	ARA to survey and develop a scope of works.		Mar 2025	Mar 2025	£75,000.00	£75,000.00	£0.00
5	Prestwick	Additional Works to Prestwick Pool as part of SALIX funded energy improvements	Professional Design Services	Ward	Design and Tender	Works are now underway on site to upgrade the plant at Prestwick Pool along with a building fabric upgrade including insulated roof and wall cladding. Prestwick pool gym was refurbished around 3 years ago which means the only part of the building still to be upgraded is the changing rooms. Ward funding is supporting this last piece of work at Prestwick swimming pool.		Nov 2024	Mar-25	£150,000.00	£150,000.00	£0.00
										<b>£420,000.00</b>	<b>£539,838.00</b>	<b>-£119,838.00</b>

**Total Committed £539,838.00**

**Total Remaining £460,162.00**

# Prestwick Promenade Projects

Ward 2 - Prestwick

Budget

£500,000

	WARD	PROJECT	SERVICE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL / ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
1	Prestwick	Provision of 2nr steel benches at New Prestwick Promenade Playpark	Neighbourhood Services	Promenade	Complete		100%			£10,000.00	£1,900.00	£8,100.00
2	Prestwick	Provision of 4nr steel picnic tables at Prestwick Promenade	Neighbourhood Services	Promenade	Complete		100%			£10,000.00	£3,424.00	£6,576.00
3	Prestwick	Prestwick Promenade surfacing works	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Promenade	Complete	Additional works were required once programme had commenced due to coal tar and other additional works.	100%			£200,000.00	£224,067.00	-£24,067.00
4	Prestwick	Introduce 'World Destination' signpost on Prestwick Promenade	Neighbourhood Services	Promenade	Concept	Officers to speak to Craig Ross at Prestwick Academy to progress.		Spring '25	Spring'25	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£0.00
5	Prestwick	Improve Access at Promenade Childrens Playpark for Buggies/Wheelchair Access	Neighbourhood Services	Promenade	Concept	Speak to Prestwick Academy		Spring '25	Spring'25	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£0.00
										<b>£240,000.00</b>	<b>£249,391.00</b>	<b>-£9,391.00</b>

**Total Committed £249,391**

**Total Remaining £250,609**

# Ayr North Ward Capital Projects

Ward 3 - Ayr North

Budget

£1,000,000

	WARD	PROJECT	APPROVED	SERVICE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL / ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
1	Ayr North	Newton MUGA	Jun-23	Professional Design Services	Ward	Complete		100%			£182,174	£239,650	-£57,476
2	Ayr North	Upgrade the Council owned area at Dalmilling Shops on Westwood Avenue	Jun-23	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Complete		100%			£30,000	£24,835	£5,165
3	Ayr North	Upgrade the former play area at the junction of Westwood Avenue and Dalmilling Drive	Jun-23	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Complete		100%			£5,000	£2,923	£2,077
4	Ayr North	Upgrade the carriageway and footpath at Newton Shore Promenade	Jun-23	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Complete	Cost of total scheme £624,885. SAC budget reduced to £246,539 with the remainder being allocated through alternative funding streams/Active Travel.	100%			£300,000	£228,791	£71,209
	Ayr North	Ayr North - Upgrade Footpath at Newton Shore Promenade with Red Tarmacadam	Jul-23	Place Plan	Ward	Complete		100%				£90,634	£17,748
5	Ayr North	Upgrade on-street parking at Lochside Community Centre	Jun-23	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Complete	Additional scope: Lighting column had to be repositioned with additional ducting/cables required. Footway created, lining works & drainage.	100%			£15,000	£31,601	-£16,601
6	Ayr North	Provision of benches along Newton Shore Promenade	Sep-23	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Complete		100%			£15,000	£4,390	£10,610
7	Ayr North	River Ayr Access Platform		Professional Design Services	Ward	Complete		100%			£180,000	£134,048	£45,952
8	Ayr North	Provision of a bike shelter at Lochside Community Centre		Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Concept			Spring'25	Spring'25	£10,000	£10,000	£0
9	Ayr North	Provision of play equipment for younger children - Craigie Way, Westwood Avenue		Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Feasibility	Neighbourhood Services has commissioned a survey, design and estimate for the sites. Westwood Ave was surveyed and there was no requirement for additional play equipment	5%	Mar-25	May '25	£50,000	£50,000	£0
10	Ayr North	Oswald Road - surfacing & equipment		Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Feasibility	Neighbourhood Services has commissioned a survey, awaiting design and estimate for the site	5%	Mar-25	May '25	£50,000	£50,000	£0
11	Ayr North	Provide Benches and Sculptures at various location in Wallacetown		Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Concept	Suggestion from community to place benches and sculptures at 15 site throughout Wallacetown. Feasibility is currently being explored						
12	Ayr North	Consideration of facility space in Newton Park		Asset Management/Thriving Communities	Ward	Concept	Seed funding/proposals. High level scoping to be undertaken				£50,000	£50,000	
											<b>£977,808</b>	<b>£843,986</b>	<b>£133,822</b>

Total Budget Committed **£843,986**

Total Budget Remaining **£156,014**



# Ayr East Ward Capital Projects

Ward 4 - Ayr East

Budget

£1,000,000

	WARD	PROJECT	SERVICE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL / ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
1	Ayr East	New community notice boards for outside Forehill Library and Castlehill Gates	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Ongoing	Site feasibility - Community Council to hold the keys		Dec '24	Jan-25	£10,000	£10,000	£0
2	Ayr East	Install a sensory path in Castlehill Woods	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Design	NS preparing scope of works		Spring '25	Spring '25	£50,000	£50,000	£0
3	Ayr East	Various proposed works at Glencairn Park including solar light, a floating path at the 'duck pond', improve general access	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Concept	List of options looked at. Officer met with members onsite to take forward possible projects		Spring '25	Spring '25	£100,000	£100,000	£0
	Ayr East	Improve Bin Locations at Glencairn Park	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Concept					£10,000	£10,000	£0
4	Ayr East	Extension to the rear of Forehill Library to create a community space/room	Professional Design Services	Ward	Concept	Instruction to be provided from Asset Management. Looking to accommodate approx 25m2 PDS to look at options		Spring '25	Spring '26	£250,000	£250,000	£0
5	Ayr East	Place Planning Initiatives	Various	Ward	Concept	Continue to work with place plans/commnites and members to identify projects for delivery				£250,000	£250,000	£0
6	Ayr East	Car Parking Provision Peggieshill Rd	ARA	Ward	Concept	ARA to determine feasibility and cost				£75,000	£75,000	£0
										<b>£745,000</b>	<b>£745,000</b>	<b>£0</b>

**Total Budget Committed £745,000**

**Total Budget Remaining £255,000**

# Ayr West Ward Capital Projects

Ward 5 Ayr West

Budget £1,000,000

	WARD	PROJECT	SERVICE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL / ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
1	Ayr West	Road upgrade works to all main arterial routes into Ayr	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Complete	Dalmellington Rd - £60,750      Whitletts Rd/High Rd - £84,635      Craigie Rd £192,161      Doonholm Rd - £54,292      Holmston Rd - £138,615 Public Notices £1583 Maybole Road was excluded from works	100%			£405,000	£535,450	-£130,450
2	Ayr West	Blackfriars Walk - replace barriers	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Complete	This was a H&S issue agreed with Ward members as there was no budget available to undertake the works. NS have undertaken the works whilst awaiting on approval of the project to enable a budget transfer	100%	Oct '24	Oct '24	£24,000	£24,070	-£70
3	Ayr West	Illumination of the Auld Brig and New Bridge	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Complete	Scope of works only covered street furniture on bridges. Estimate was to replace pedestal and upgrade statutory lighting. Remaining pedestals are showing signs of corrosion and could fail which means statutory lighting would not illuminate footway and carriageway resulting in a H&S situation. Estimated cost of replacement is £150,000. Options to be explored for uplighting. Line added below	100%			£101,000	£102,781	-£1,781
4	Ayr West	Multi Media Modern Signage	Transformation Team	Ward	Concept	*on hold pending works being undertaken through Transformation team						£0
5	Ayr West	Murals on Buildings	Destination South Ayrshire	Ward	Concept	Destination South Ayrshire to undertake feasibility						

6	<b>Ayr West</b>	Installation of column lighting to Ayr Promenade	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Design & Tender	This project now ties in with the 5G installation project being undertaken by ICT/Destination South Ayrshire. Additional budget is required to support the wifi equipment for the columns identified for this project and cover additional material costs since the original estimate. Grant funding of £200k for the wifi element is fully committed. The feed is a Scottish Power cable that will need to be capped and may result in areas of the footpath being lifted to undertake the works.	January'25	February'25	£100,000	£145,000	-£45,000
7	<b>Ayr West</b>	Re-introduce path at river in Cambusdoon / red sandstone steps upgrade	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Design & Tender	Costed proposals to be sent to ward members for information prior to determining the overall scope of the works against the ward capital budget. This may result in only part of the works being undertaken	Spring'25	Autumn'25	£140,000	£140,000	£0
									<b>£770,000</b>	<b>£947,301</b>	<b>-£177,301</b>

**Total Budget Committed    £947,301**

**Total Budget Remaining    £52,699**

# Ayr West Promenade Projects

Appendix 1

Ward 5 Ayr West

Budget

£500,000

	WARD	PROJECT	SERVICE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL / ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
1	Ayr West	Remove the Watchful and carry out repairs to the slipway	Professional Design Services	Promenade	Complete					£20,000	£6,988	£13,012
2	Ayr West	Resurfacing of Ayr Promenade with Red Tarmac	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Promenade	Complete	Coal tar present during works				£200,000	£226,023	-£26,023
3	Ayr West	Repairs to the footbridge over the Slipway	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Promenade	Ongoing	Tender return value was £191,492 due to market forces (price of steel). Additional safety works have been identified during the project and are currently being costed		Sept '24	Nov'24	£140,000	£200,000	-£60,000
4	Ayr West	Introduce 'World Destination' signpost on Ayr Promenade *	Neighbourhood Services	Promenade	Concept	Design concept awaited for all Wards, then signage specific to area		Spring '25	Summer'25	£5,000	£5,000	£0
										<b>£365,000</b>	<b>£438,011</b>	<b>-£73,011</b>

**Total Budget Committed      £438,011**

**Total Budget Remaining      £61,989**

# Ayr West Town Centre Projects

Ward 5 Ayr West

Budget

£3,000,000

	WARD	PROJECT	SERVICE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL / ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
1	Ayr West	Burns Statue Square Public Realm upgrades	ARA/SPP	Town Centre	Concept Design	Cost estimated at £14,900,000 based on recently returned design brief including optimism bias. Alternative budget stream is being explored		Summer '25	Summer '26	£2,000,000	TBC	
2	Ayr West	Loudon Hall Investment in New Lighting Installations	Asset Management	Town Centre	Complete		100%			£12,189	£14,936	-£2,747
3	Ayr West	Miller Road Ayr Decorative Column Lighting	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Town Centre	Complete		100%			£12,596	£12,596	£0
4	Ayr West	Town Hall Gardens	Professional Design Services	Town Centre	Concept	PDS to revisit scheme to design an option for around £70,000		Spring '25	Summer '25	£70,000	£70,000	£0
5	Ayr West	Uplighting of the Auld Brig and New Bridge	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Town Centre	Concept	Works re uplighting and changing colours will require specialist consultant to undertake feasibility and design. The cost of the consultant to undertake the feasibility could be circa an additional £50k. Additional budget will be required for installation. Business case to be prepared and submitted to CAMG once preferred option has been identified if budget is identified.		Jan-25	Apr-25	£50,000	£50,000	£0
6	Ayr West	Construct an enclosed area at the bandstand in Place de Saint-Germain-en-Laye Gardens	Professional Design Services	Town Centre	Design & Tender	Statutory consents required. Business case to be prepared and submitted to CAMG.		Spring '25	Summer '25	£300,000	£300,000	£0
7	Ayr West	Develop a child's maze, sensory garden and imaginative seating on Promenade at former putting green	Neighbourhood Services	Town Centre	Concept	Option of 'picnic pods' to be explored; Feasibility, design and estimates being collated. Will require consultation as the space is in Common Good.		Autumn '25	Spring '26	£150,000	£150,000	£0
8	Ayr West	Reintroduce Crazy Golf on Ayr Promenade	Professional Design Services	Town Centre	Design & Tender	Will require consultation as the space is in Common Good. Business case to be prepared with regards to the operation of running the proposed project		Summer '25	Winter '25	£110,000	£110,000	£0
9	Ayr West	Noticeboard at Alloway Primary - relocate existing and introduce a 2nd noticeboard in Alloway?	Thriving Communities	Town Centre	Concept	Project to progress following full council approval of ward capital programme.		Jan-25	Jan-25	£5,000	£5,000	£0

10	Ayr West	Uplighting Auld Brig and New Bridge	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Town Centre		Works regarding uplighting and changing colours will require specialist consultant to undertake feasibility and design and estimate. A holding figure of £200,000 has been placed until the estimated cost has been received. Business case to be prepared and submitted to CAMG once preferred option has been identified if budget is available. .				£200,000	£200,000	£0
11	Ayr West	South Harbour Heritage Trail	Professional Design Services	Town Centre	Concept	Report returned and public information session was undertaken. Options to be discussed with Ward Members and taken forward for design. NB nominal £50k identified until preferred option agreed and estimate concluded.				£50,000	£50,000	£0
12	Ayr West	Honest Men and Bonnie Lassies Walk of Fame at Burns Statue Square	ARA/SPP	Town Centre	Concept	*on hold pending design/costs Burns Sq*						£0
13	Ayr West	Public Art, Burns Statue Sq - initial design work	ARA/SPP	Town Centre	Complete	Initial designer fee		June'24	Aug'24	£12,000	£12,000	£0
14	Ayr West	Grain Exchange, external area - Remove bus stop and artwork to create event space	SPP	Town Centre	On hold	*on hold pending design/costs Burns Sq*						£0
										<b>£2,971,785</b>	<b>£974,532</b>	<b>-£2,747</b>

**Total Budget Committed    £974,532**

**Total Budget Remaining    £2,025,468**

# Kyle Ward Capital Projects

Ward 6 Kyle

Budget

£1,000,000

	WARD	PROJECT	SERVICE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL / ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
1	Kyle	New outdoor adult gym equipment in Mossblown	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Complete	This was already allocated through the VAT funding	100%			£40,000	£0	£40,000
2	Kyle	Install seating for the elderly and more dog waste bins in Annbank	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Complete	Revenue funding	100%			£5,000	£0	£5,000
3	Kyle	Barnweil Monument to be repaired to allow access	Asset Management	Ward	Complete	The building is not suitable for public access, however Asset Management have made essential repairs to make wind and watertight; guano internally cleared.	100%			£5,000	£3,500	£1,500
4	Kyle	Install planters in Monkton	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Complete	Clarification from community that they want the planters and will maintain. 7.11.24 - Locations agreed and ARA have reviewed visibility splays at both junctions and confirmed planters can be placed at locations. Will update with timescale for siting planters.	80%			£5,000	£5,000	£0
5	Kyle	Formal road access and parking provision at Dundonald Field	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Complete		100%			£20,000	£32,678	-£12,678
6	Kyle	Road and footpath upgrades at Dundonald, Symington, Mossblown and Loans	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Complete	Works complete with the exception of the Loand site which was postponed	100%			£69,000	£102,476	-£33,476
7	Kyle	Annbank Park - Benches, Picnic Tables and Upgraded Footpath	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Partially Complete	Confirmation ARA to inspect and identify footpath requirements	50%	Aug'24	Feb'25	£25,000	£25,000	£0
8	Kyle	Construct new footpath at southern edge of Collenan Reservoir	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Design & Tender	Place plan, location to be clarified. Scope to be fully defined		Mar '25	Mar '25	£22,000	£22,000	£0



9	Kyle	New location for War Memorial in Mossblown	Professional Design Services	Ward	On Site	Contribution from Ward to reinstate public realm at new location	90%	Sept'24	Nov'24	£80,000	£80,000	£0
10	Kyle	Installation of new benches within Symington	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Design & Tender	Benches ordered - Kerix Rd / Bruands Cres.	10%	Nov'24	Dec'24	£15,000	£5,000	£10,000
11	Kyle	Installation of adult gym equipment and new benches within Symington Park	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Design & Tender	Awaiting Design / Quote from Playpark Supplier		Nov'24	Spring'25	£40,000	£40,000	£0
12	Kyle	Community Cinema at Carvick Webster Memorial Hall, Monkton	Thriving Communities	Ward	Legally Committed			Sept '24	Spring'25	£45,000	£45,000	£0
13	Kyle	Install benches and bins in wooded area of Dundonald	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Concept	The wooded area is in private ownership. No dog bins will be placed in a wooded area as it will increase revenue costs. Community to contact Hillhouse to ask if they will provide benches for the wooded area.		Jan '25	Jan '25	£5,000	£5,000	£0
14	Kyle	Install a History Park at Loans Community Hall and link to Smugglers trail	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Concept	Cllr Ferry to forward drawings		Spring '25	Spring '25	£50,000	£50,000	£0
15	Kyle	Create a carpark for the village hall in Craigie	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Concept	ARA to survey and cost. Land ownership to be confirmed (T Burns)		Summer '25	Summer '25	£50,000	£50,000	£0
16	Kyle	Review and upgrade of seating, signage around Craigie	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Concept	Survey / estimate required - Await confirmaion of exact areas		Spring '25	Spring '25	£15,000	£15,000	£0
17	Kyle	Review use of Craigie village green for community events and children to access	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Concept	Village Green is in private ownership. Feasibility survey and estimate required. (T Burns to look into ownership)		Spring '25	Spring '25	£25,000	£25,000	£0
18	Kyle	Improve sports facilities in Annbank	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Design & Tender	Await Quotation for Resurfacing / Fence Renewal at MUGA		Jan '25	Jan '25	£81,000	£81,000	£0
19	Kyle	Reserve for Community Projects in Tarbolton		Ward	Concept	NS to liaise with Communities and Community Council				£150,000	£150,000	£0
20	Kyle	BBQ Stands & Picnic Tables @ Collenan Reservoir	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Concept	Site meeting required and discussion around feasibility. Place holder of £14k allocated until feasibility and estimate concluded				£14,000		
21	Kyle	Improve accessibility at the Mossblown village hall	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Concept	Create an alternative to the set of stairs at the main entrance. Place holder of £20k allocated until feasibility and estimate concluded				£20,000		

22	Kyle	Finger Signposts, Symington	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Concept	Discussion to take place with Community Council representative. Place holder of £12k allocated until feasibility and estimate concluded				£12,000		
23	Kyle	Container Mansfield Rd, Tarbolton	Asset Management	Ward	Concept	Clarification required re purpose of container. Place holder of £5k allocated until feasibility and estimate concluded				£5,000		
										<b>£798,000</b>	<b>£736,655</b>	<b>£10,345</b>

**Total Budget Committed £736,655**

**Total Budget Remaining £263,345**

# Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton Ward Capital Projects

Appendix 1

Ward 7 Maybole, North Carrick And Coylton  
Budget £1,000,000

	WARD	PROJECT	SERVICE	REQUEST SOURCE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL / ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
1	Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton	Moving Around - New seating to Park, Coylton	Neighbourhood Services		Ward	Complete		100%			£10,000	£11,584	-£1,584
2	Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton	Support overall cost of Window Replacement at Straiton Community Hall	Asset Management		Ward	Complete	Funding was int the form of a grant for £10,000	100%			£10,000	£10,000	£0
3	Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton	New curtains with Maybole Coat of Arms for Town Hall stage and completion of other ancilliary works	Destination South Ayrshire			Complete	Funded through an alternative budget	100%			£10,000	£0	£10,000
4	Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton	New safety boat for Dunure Harbour	Neighbourhood Services		Ward	Complete		100%			£52,485	£52,605	-£120
5	Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton	Roads and footpaths upgrades, Maybole and Dunure	Ayrshire Roads Alliance		Ward	Complete	Members to receive breakdown of Dunure works	100%			£64,000	£13,865	£50,135
6	Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton	Coylton Primary School: Re-line the existing playground to mark out play areas; existing has faded too much to be of use	Professional Design Services		Ward	Complete	Agreed with Ward Members prior to approval process to meet with the school return timescales. Budget to be transferred one approved	100%			£10,000	£7,139	£2,861
7	Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton	Decorative lighting at Dunure Castle	Asset Management	Community Action Plan - Original List	Ward	Design & Tender	Asset Management in discussion with lighting contractor. Curently looking at 2 static and one rise and fall columns, two floods and a projector. There have been challenges over the light exposure and also with the height and weight of the columns. There is a 6 month lead in time for the delivery of the columns.	10%	Sept '24	July-25	£50,000	£50,000	£0
8	Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton	Improve access from Harbour to Kennedy Park and Castle incl new viewpoint	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Community Action Plan - Original List	Ward	On site	Design being altered to meet with HES requirements	20%	Winter'24	Jun-25	£140,000	£230,000	-£90,000
9	Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton	New MUGA for Coylton	Professional Design Services	Ward Member discussion 5/3/24	Ward	Concept	Finding a suitable location for the MUGA has proved difficult. Asset Management have written to BT to enquire about a piece of their land. Estimated cost has increased based on the recent MUGA at Newton and potential utility requirements at Coylton. Business case to be prepared and submitted to CAMG once a suitable location has been established	5%	Spring '25	Sep-25	£250,000	£250,000	£0
10	Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton	Protect and enhance wildlife habitats in the villages - Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael community action plan	Sustainable Development	Community Action Plan - Original List	Ward	Concept	Project proposals expected January 2025	0%	Feb-25	Sep-25	£25,000	£25,000	£0
11	Maybole, North Carrick & Coylton	Minishant - Improve playpark and associated surfacing within the park	Neighbourhood Services	Community Action Plan - Original List	Ward	Concept	Met with the designer week commencing 28 October 2024. Awaiting confirmation on usage of playpark and design / quotation of additional equipment if necessary	10%	Mar-25	Mar-25	£50,000	£50,000	£0

12	<b>Maybole, North Carrick &amp; Coylton</b>	Minishant - Installation of new benches	Neighbourhood Services	Community Action Plan - Original List	Ward	Concept	Neighbourhood Services to get community contact to identify preferred locations	0%	Spring '25	Spring '25	£10,000	£10,000	£0
13	<b>Maybole, North Carrick &amp; Coylton</b>	Creation of an 'alzheimers walk' in crosshill with different coloured benches placed strategically throughout the village	Neighbourhood Services	Community Action Plan - Original List	Ward	Design & Tender	Locations have now been identified with the community. The community has identified 9 location for 9 benches. Prices are currently being sought but may exceed the £20k estimated budget. Bid to be submitted to CAMG before December 24	0%	Jan-25	Jan-25	£20,000	£20,000	£0
14	<b>Maybole, North Carrick &amp; Coylton</b>	Christmas Light Plug Installations, Kirkmichael & Crosshill	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward Member request	Ward	Design & Tender	Bid to be submitted to CAMG before December 24	0%	Nov-24	Nov-24	£8,000	£4,000	£4,000
15	<b>Maybole, North Carrick &amp; Coylton</b>	Construction of new permanent car park adjacent to Miller Park, Maybole	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward Member discussion 5/3/24	Ward	On Hold	On hold due to planning conditions. KD to pick up with ARA. Adult equipment. Speak to Elaine Schendel.	0%	On Hold		£65,000	£65,000	£0
16	<b>Maybole, North Carrick &amp; Coylton</b>	McCandlish Hall Straiton	Asset Management	McCandlish Hall Committee via Ward Members	Ward	Concept	Grant match funding for roof repairs, audio visual equipment & curtains		Mar-25	May-25	£26,500	£26,500	£0
											<b>£800,985</b>	<b>£825,693</b>	<b>-£24,708</b>

**Total Budget Committed    £825,693**

**Total Budget Remaining    £174,307**

# Girvan Ward Capital Projects

Ward 8 - Girvan

£1,000,000

	WARD	PROJECT	SERVICE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL / ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
1	Girvan	New Merchant Navy and Seafarers Memorial at Girvan Harbour	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Complete		100%			£15,000	£16,450	-£1,450
2	Girvan	Upgrade to Ardstinchar Bridge	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Complete		100%			£40,000	£42,196	-£2,196
3	Girvan	Install new deer proof fence at Bynehill Cemetery, Girvan	Professional Design Services	Ward	Complete	Clarification on the final costs	100%			£123,166	£123,166	£0
4	Girvan	Colmonell - Installation of benches in the community garden and lecturn at the statue	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Complete	Funded through Neighbourhood Services Grounds Maintenance budget	100%			£1,376	£0	£1,376
5	Girvan	Colmonell - seating at the bridge	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Complete							
6	Girvan	Upgrade to bird aviary in Knockcushan Street Community Gardens	Professional Design Services	Ward	Complete	Works commenced on site 05/08/24 and are now practically complete with the exception of the delivery of the birds to their new habitats. Additional render repairs and decoration will be completed by Property Maintenance.	100%			£120,000	£59,243	£60,757
7	Girvan	Provision of 6 new flag poles at Girvan Harbour	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Concept	Estimted Costs. Grass embankment across from the Town House		Mar-25	Mar-25	£12,540	£12,540	£0
8	Girvan	Ward Project - Installation of Bunting for Length of Girvan Promenade & around Stumpy Tower	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Complete	Members to receive a breakdown of costs	100%			£3,276	£3,276	£0

9	Girvan	Refurbishment/Demolition of shelter, repaving, seating and footpath reconstruction at Rose Garden	Professional Design Services	Ward	Design and tender	Options to be finalised with regards to either refurbishment or demolition of the shelter		Spring'25	Summer'25	£100,000	£100,000	£0
10	Girvan	New seating along the River Stinchar Walk	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Feasibility	Ownership consent required.		Spring '25	Spring'25	£10,000	£10,000	£0
11	Girvan	Contribution to the formation of a car park at the rear of Dailly Primary School	Professional Design Services	Ward	On Site	Works should be complete by 22 November 2024		Oct'24	Oct'24	£55,000	£105,714	-£50,714
12	Girvan	Install solar lighting along the treelined footpath at Victory Park	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Concept	Solar Lights. ARA to clarify		Spring '25	Spring'25	£10,000	£10,000	£0
13	Girvan	Upgrade of boating pond with new power supply to the kiosk	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Ward	Design & Tender	Initial design and quotation came in at circa £275,000 in September 2024. A design change has been undertaken to reduce the cost to closer match the allocated budget and is currently being prepared to go back out to tender. This does not include a new power supply which would need to be priced and programmed separately		Jan-25	Mar-25	£175,000	£150,000	£25,000
14	Girvan	New surfacing in harbour car park to designate different uses*	Professional Design Services/ARA	Ward	Concept	Clarification required on proposed works and estimate. Seeking approval for stage 2 feasibility which will include consultation with ARA and public consultation.		Spring'25	Summer'25	£150,000	£150,000	£0
15	Girvan	Develop community space within Dailly	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Concept	Redevelop play area. Meeting to be set up in regards to requirements. Match funding through Scottish Government grant.		Spring '25	Summer'25	£50,000	£50,000	£0
16	Girvan	Resurface existing tennis courts in Girvan	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Design & Tender	Externally funded - Ali Mutch		Spring'25	Spring'25	£81,000	£0	£81,000
17	Girvan	Resurface existing tennis courts in Ballantrae	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Design & Tender	Updated quotation has been requested with works to be programmed for spring 25		Winter 25	Spring'25	£77,000	£81,500	-£4,500
18	Girvan	War memorial at Heronsford	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Complete	Work underway. Funding to be transferred on approval	100%	Oct'24	Oct'24	£6,400	£3,360	£3,040
19	Girvan	Community theatre, Girvan (Academy)	Professional Design Services	Ward	Concept	Initial design work now underway to establish costs and contribution from SRB. Contribution to school project		Summer '25	Summer'25	£50,000	£50,000	£0
20	Girvan	Upgrade Knockcushan Gardens	Neighbourhood Services	Ward	Design & Tender	Design complete and ready to be estimated & tendered.		Spring '25	Spring'25	£30,000	£30,000	£0
										<b>£1,109,758</b>	<b>£997,445</b>	<b>£112,313</b>

**Total Budget Committed    £997,445**

**Total Budget Remaining    £2,555**

# Girvan Promenade Projects

Ward 8 - Girvan

Budget £500,000

	WARD	PROJECT	SERVICE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL / ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
1	Girvan	Installation of new height restriction barrier at the south of the Harbour Master's Office at Girvan Harbour	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Promenade	Complete		100%			£10,000	£10,000	£0
2	Girvan	New shelter (Park Run start point)*	Professional Design Services	Promenade	Concept	PDS to progress proposals and costs. Business case to be prepared and submitted to CAMG		Summer'25	Winter'25	£100,000	£100,000	£0
3	Girvan	New seating at the shorefront at the event area	Professional Design Services	Promenade	Concept	Following public information session in June, feedback from the public was that concrete seating would not be desirable along the promenade. New scope of work is to be confirmed to allow designs to recommence. Public consultation; business case to be prepared and submitted to CAMG		Summer'25	Winter'25	£100,000	£100,000	£0
4	Girvan	Creation of events space at the shorefront with power supply and new surfacing	Asset Management	Promenade	Ongoing	Cable installed, surfacing to be progressed prior to April 25		June '24	March '25	£68,000	£68,000	£0
5	Girvan	Upgrade of the Memorial Fountain and McCubbin Fountain*	Professional Design Services	Promenade	Concept	PDS to progress proposals. Public consultation; business case to be prepared and submitted to CAMG		Spring'25	Autumn'25	£50,000	£50,000	£0
6	Girvan	Paving upgrade on approach to Memorial Fountain with water feature*	Professional Design Services	Promenade	Concept	Per layout plan. Approval sought for stage 2 feasibility and public consultation following discussion with Ward Members		Spring'25	Summer'25	£100,000	£100,000	£0
7	Girvan	New crazy golf facility*	Professional Design Services	Promenade	Concept	Concept design. Initial public consultation undertaken. Approval to be sought subject to legal terms with local group to operate and further public consultation.		Autumn'25	Winter'25	£100,000	£100,000	£0
										<b>£528,000</b>	<b>£528,000</b>	<b>£0</b>

**Total Budget Committed £528,000**

**Total Budget Remaining -£28,000**



# Girvan Regeneration Projects

Ward 8 - Girvan

Budget

£3,000,000

	WARD	PROJECT	SERVICE	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	NOTES	PROGRESS	START	END	BUDGET	ACTUAL / ANTICIPATED	VARIANCE
1	Girvan	Stumpy Tower Corner	Professional Design Services	Regeneration	On Site	The project is substantially complete	95%		Dec-24	£450,000	£450,000	£0
2	Girvan	New public toilets and biosphere bike store*	Professional Design Services	Regeneration	Concept	Public consultation and full Business Plan to ensure revenue cost neutral		Spring'26	Autumn'26	£400,000	£400,000	£0
3	Girvan	Extension to the Quay Zone	Professional Design Services	Regeneration	Concept	Subject to approval by December Council. Possibly out to tender January 2025.		Spring'25	Spring'26	£1,500,000	£1,500,000	£0
4	Girvan	Former Bingo Site Regeneration	Professional Design Services	Regeneration	Concept	Design proposals prepared to RIBA Stage 3.		Spring'25	Autumn'25	£300,000	£300,000	£0
5	Girvan	Girvan and South Carrick - Upgrade Works to the Exterior Facades of Buildings in Dalrymple Street, Knockcushan Street and Hamilton Street	Girvan Regeneration Officer	Regeneration		Buildings in private ownership of a number of owners. Currently unable to progress				£36,270	£0	£36,270
6	Girvan	Install multi-media signage at the Quay Zone	Transformation Service	Regeneration	Feasibility	Feasibility being reviewed as part of Transformation programme looking at EV charge points incorporating digital signage.						£0
7	Girvan	Consultant - Girvan Story Regeneration Project	Regeneration Team	Regeneration	Ongoing	Consultant to put together projects and bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)	50%			£60,000	£60,000	£0
8	Girvan	Girvan Library contribution	Professional Design Services	Regeneration	Complete	Works are complete, new furniture and fittings delivery awaited.	100%			£161,087	£161,087	£0
										<b>£2,907,357</b>	<b>£2,871,087</b>	<b>£36,270</b>

**Total Budget Committed £2,871,087**

**Total Budget Remaining £128,913**

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

**Section One: Policy Details\***

Name of Policy	Proposed Ward Capital Projects Update 2023 to 2025
Lead Officer (Name/Position)	Mike Newall Depute Chief Executive and Director of Housing, Operations and Development <a href="mailto:mike.newall@south-ayrshire.gov.uk">mike.newall@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</a>
Support Team (Names/Positions) including Critical Friend	Macy Biggar Community Planning and Equalities Assistant Susan McCardie Community Planning Lead Officer

\*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 <b>aims</b> of the policy?	Proposed improvement projects identified through Place Plans are implemented throughout the Council area and funded through the Capital Ward budgets as approved by Council on 1 March 2023.
What are the intended <b>outcomes</b> of the policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To confirm place improvement projects in each Ward from completed Place Plans.</li> <li>• To share finalised project list for each ward with Community Councils to provide them with details of the proposals for their information.</li> <li>• Attract more tourists to South Ayrshire</li> <li>• Residents will be proud to be part of South Ayrshire</li> </ul>

**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 Policy will impact areas of South Ayrshire which are associated with Capital Projects that support Place Plans and Community Led projects in each ward for; Ayr Town Centre projects; for Girvan Town Centre Regeneration Projects and for the Promenade and Shorefront enhancements.
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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
<b>Age:</b> Issues relating to different age groups e.g. older people or children and young people	<b>Positive:</b> New arrangements would be fully inclusive to all age groups.
<b>Disability:</b> Issues relating to disabled people	<b>Positive:</b> New arrangements would be fully inclusive to people with disabilities
<b>Gender Reassignment – Trans/Transgender:</b> Issues relating to people who have proposed, started or completed a process to change his or her sex	<b>Positive:</b> New arrangements would be inclusive to all irrespective of a person’s gender.
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership:</b> Issues relating to people who are married or are in a civil partnership	<b>Positive:</b> New arrangements would be inclusive to all irrespective of a person’s marital/civil partnership status.
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity:</b> Issues relating to woman who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave	<b>Positive:</b> New arrangements would be fully inclusive to this group.
<b>Race:</b> Issues relating to people from different racial groups,(BME) ethnic minorities, including Gypsy/Travellers	<b>Positive:</b> New arrangements would apply equally to Individuals of all racial groups
<b>Religion or Belief:</b> Issues relating to a person’s religion or belief (including non-belief)	<b>Positive:</b> New arrangements would be fully inclusive to all religions and beliefs (including non-belief).
<b>Sex:</b> Issues specific to women and men/or girls and boys	<b>Positive:</b> new arrangements would have a positive impact on both men and women.
<b>Sexual Orientation:</b> Issues relating to a person’s sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, heterosexual/straight	<b>Positive:</b> New arrangements would be fully inclusive to all irrespective of a person’s sexual orientation.

<b>Equality and Diversity Themes Relevant to South Ayrshire Council</b>	<b>Positive and/or Negative Impacts</b>
<b>Health</b> Issues and impacts affecting people's health	<b>Positive:</b> Place Plans will ensure a better understanding of our population and places and allow development of plans to positively impact on health.
<b>Human Rights:</b> 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.	<b>Positive:</b> A human rights approach will underpin both the formal engagement and consultation process, and any subsequent implementation of new governance arrangements.

<b>Socio-Economic Disadvantage</b>	<b>Positive and/or Negative Impacts</b>
<b>Low Income/Income Poverty:</b> Issues: cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food and clothing.	<b>Positive:</b> Place Plans and Community Led Projects will allow the Council to focus on where the need is greatest to support low income/income poverty.
<b>Low and/or no wealth:</b> 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	<b>Positive:</b> Place Plans and Community Led Projects will allow the Council to focus on where the need is greatest to support low and/or no wealth.
<b>Material Deprivation:</b> 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	<b>Positive:</b> Place Plans and Community Led Projects will allow the Council to focus on where the need is greatest to support material deprivation.
<b>Area Deprivation:</b> Issues: where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	<b>Positive:</b> Place Plans and Community Led Projects will allow the Council to focus on where the need is greatest to support area deprivation.

### Section Three: Evidence Used in Developing the Policy

<p><b>Involvement and Consultation</b> In assessing the impact(s) set out above what evidence has been collected from involvement, engagement or consultation? <b>Who</b> did you involve, <b>when</b> and <b>how</b>?</p>	<p>At Council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023, the Council approved the General Services Revenue Budget 2023-2024 and the Capital Investment Programme 2023-24 to 2034-2035.</p> <p>Extensive consultation has taken place as part of the Place Planning process, for place-based strategies, budget survey and accessible Ayr. Further information can be found on our consultation <a href="#">web page</a>.</p> <p>Consultation has taken place with all Elected Members as part of the review of proposed improvement projects in each of the Council's Wards as identified through Place Plans.</p>
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<p><b>Data and Research</b> In assessing the impact set out above what evidence has been collected from research or other data. Please specify <b>what</b> research was carried out or data collected, <b>when</b> and <b>how</b> this was done.</p>	Data was taken from Place Plans published in 2019, 2021 and 2022 from across South Ayrshire. The data confirmed the priority actions South Ayrshire communities said they wanted to see delivered. In addition to this, road safety data from Ayrshire Roads Alliance and Transport Scotland and traffic speed data from Police Scotland were also considered as part of the priority project considerations.
<p><b>Partners data and research</b> In assessing the impact(s) set out in Section 2 what evidence has been provided by partners?  Please specify partners</p>	Ayrshire Roads Alliance, Police Scotland, North Carrick Community Benefit Company, Dynamic Dunure, Go Girvan, Girvan Attractions, the Quay Zone in Girvan, Prestwick Civic Pride Partnership, Community Councils, Newton Green Tenants and Residents Association, SUSTRANS, Transport Scotland and Local Elected Members.
<p><b>Gaps and Uncertainties</b> Have you identified any gaps or uncertainties in your understanding of the issues or impacts that need to be explored further?</p>	Further reviews of proposed Place Plan actions for each of our communities will be completed to identify potential capital projects that support the strategic objectives and outcomes of the Council, but also have no risk of any future revenue burdens.

**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	Completion of approved Ward Capital Projects.	Mike Newall, Chris Cox, Kenny Dalrymple and Kevin Braidwood	By 31 March 2025

**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?	Works are already being implemented.
When will the policy be reviewed?	June 2025
Which Panel will have oversight of the policy?	Full Council


**Summary Equality Impact Assessment Implications & Mitigating Actions**

**Name of Policy:** Approval Process and Governance Arrangements for Ward Capital Projects.

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

<p><b>Eliminate discrimination</b></p> <p>Neither assist nor inhibit.</p>
<p><b>Advance equality of opportunity</b></p> <p>This will look to advance opportunities through improvement of our places.</p>
<p><b>Foster good relations</b></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><b>Consider Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Fairer Scotland Duty)</b></p> <p>The Approval Process and Governance Arrangements for Ward Capital Projects will pay due regard to the Fairer Scotland Duty.</p>

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

**Signed:** 

**Date:** 12 August 2024

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Director of Housing, Operations and Development  
to South Ayrshire Council  
of 12 December 2024**

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**Subject:       Asset Management Plan (Land and Buildings) 2024**

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**1.       Purpose**

1.1       The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Council's revised Asset Management Plan (Land and Buildings).

**2.       Recommendation**

**2.1       It is recommended that the Council:**

**2.1.1       notes the revisions and updates detailed in paragraph 4.4 of this report; and**

**2.1.2       approves the 2024 South Ayrshire Council Asset Management Plan (Land and Buildings) which is attached as Appendix 1;**

**2.1.3       requests that an annual update and review of the Asset Management Plan (Land and Buildings) be provided to Council; and**

**2.1.4       requests that a full review and revision as required of the Asset Management Plan (Land and Buildings) be carried out and reported back to Council by the end of December 2027**

**3.       Background**

3.1       On 16 March 2021, a revised Asset Management Plan (Land and Buildings) was approved by the Leadership Panel. This document set out the Council's approach to the management of its assets in terms of addressing a number of key challenges for the Council's land and buildings.

3.2       An Asset Management Plan is a valuable tool to support the Council's strategic objectives. It is necessary therefore that it is kept up to date in order that it can continue to provide direction and focus to the delivery of asset management and continue to contribute to the identification of efficiency savings in 2024/25 and future years.

**4/**



## 4. Proposals

- 4.1 The Council is committed to managing its land and building assets efficiently and effectively. It is recognised that the land and building assets are important in the community's perception of the Council and the services we deliver to them.
- 4.2 The Council is asked to note the updated core property information on the condition, suitability and accessibility of the Council's property assets which is included with the proposed revised 2024 Asset Management Plan ('AMP'). The core property data within the AMP have been updated to reflect the changes to the numbers of properties, asset values and key performance indicators.
- 4.3 The AMP is attached as Appendix 1. It sets out the Council's approach to the management of its assets in terms of addressing several key challenges for the Council's land and buildings. These can be summarised as follows:
- 4.3.1 Ensuring energy performance of our land and building assets is monitored, and improvements undertaken where financially viable and technically feasible;
  - 4.3.2 Ensuring energy performance of our land and building assets is monitored, and improvements undertaken where financially viable and technically feasible;
  - 4.3.3 Ensuring that land and buildings are managed effectively and efficiently and demonstrating that they deliver best value; and
  - 4.3.4 Maintaining, improving and rationalising the Council's property portfolio as required to support the delivery of Council services through different ways of working.
- 4.4 The revisions and updates in the AMP include the following provisions:
- 4.4.1 Membership of the Corporate Asset Management Group – Corporate Property (CAMG-CP) has been updated to reflect the current Corporate Leadership Team structure (See Appendix 1 p.31).
  - 4.4.2 A new Capital Asset Management Ground Place Planning (CAMG-PP) has been formed to deliver Ward Capital projects (See Appendix 1 pp.32-33).
  - 4.4.3 A requirement that Council properties identified as surplus to Council requirements must be vacated within three months of such a decision being taken by ELT. This shall increase the efficiency of property rationalisation, maximise revenue savings, and expedite capital receipts (See Appendix 1 p.29).
  - 4.4.4 The implementation of a programme to reduce energy consumption in non-domestic Council buildings. This shall ensure high standards of energy efficiency across non-domestic council properties thereby minimising expenditure and reducing CO2 emissions in line with Council climate change targets. A range of measures will be introduced including: set heating time periods; set heating temperature ranges; detailed responsibilities for action on both services and staff. Appropriate exemptions are included where: occupancy is outwith core operating

times; buildings have elderly or vulnerable occupants, and swimming pools and sports facilities buildings have legal temperature requirements for changing or swimming areas (See Appendix 1).

- 4.4.5 The AMP will be subject to interim review annually (next review 2025) and full review in three years time (2027).

## **5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

5.1 The recommendations in this report are consistent with legal requirements. Any legal implications regarding management of specific assets will be detailed in future reports to South Ayrshire Council or Cabinet.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 The recommendations in this report do not have direct financial implications. However, the continuation of effective asset management planning for land and buildings and brings with it opportunities for the Council to generate financial and efficiency savings, along with the opportunity to reduce annual running costs in the future.

## **7. Human Resources Implications**

7.1 Not applicable.

## **8. Risk**

### ***Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations***

8.1.1 Risk that the Council does not align strategic objectives with its Asset Management Plan resulting in organisational inefficiency.

### ***Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations***

8.2.1 The risk associated with rejecting the updates to the Asset Management Plan is that the Council will lose the opportunity to streamline its approach to capital asset and ward capital management planning and fail to realise potential efficiency savings.

## **9. Equalities**

9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Integrated Impact Assessment and a summary is provided as Appendix 2.

## **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 as defined by the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

## 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 Priorities 1, 2 and 3 of the Council Plan.

## 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 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 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:

<b><i>Implementation</i></b>	<b><i>Due date</i></b>	<b><i>Managed by</i></b>
Asset Management Plan adopted and published on Council website	December 2024	Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer
Annual update to Council on review of Asset Management Plan	December 2025	Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer
Update to Council on full review and revision of Asset Management Plan	December 2027	Service Lead – Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer

**Background Papers**    **Report to Leadership Panel of 16 March 2021 – [Updated Asset Management Plan \(Land and Buildings\)](#)**

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**Date: 3 December 2024**



# Asset Management Plan 2024

## Land and Buildings December 2024





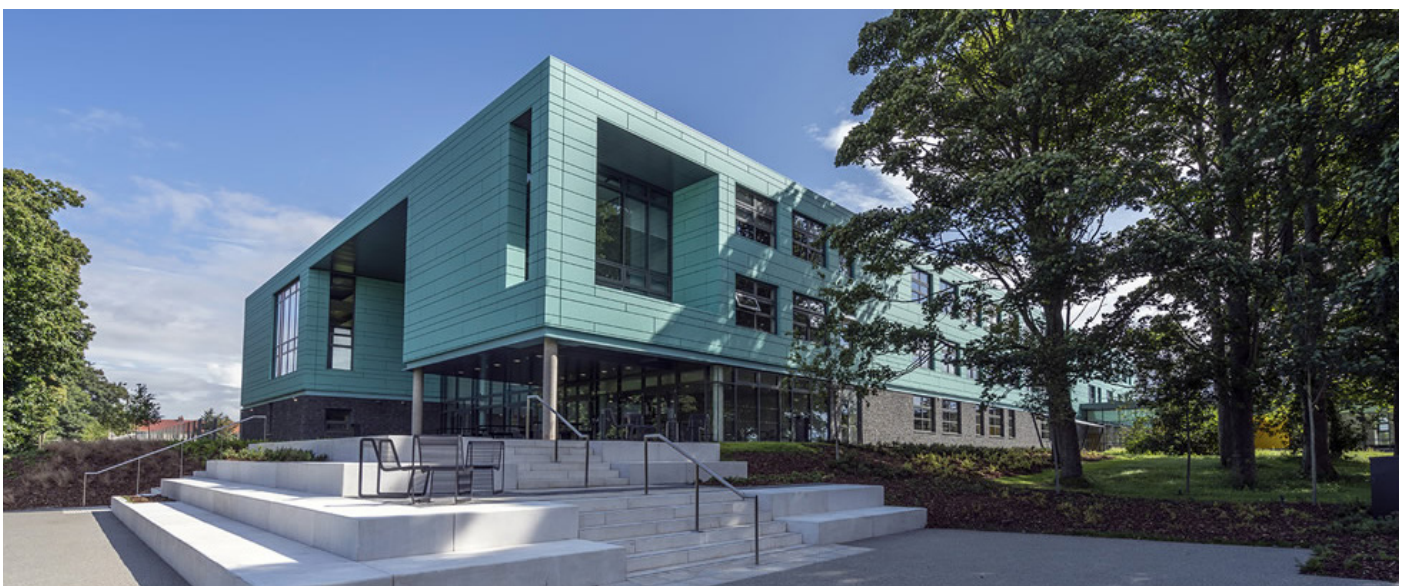
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# 1. Background and Context

- 1.1 The scale of previous Scottish Government grant reductions and those forecast for future years mean that it will become increasingly difficult for the Council to remain financially sustainable with the current service delivery model. It is anticipated that future service demands and cost pressures will significantly outstrip the resources available.
- 1.2 After staff costs the revenue resources deployed in the management of the Council's property assets represent the next highest area of expenditure. It is therefore essential that these significant resources are deployed effectively and efficiently to sustain and where possible improve the performance of our property assets
- 1.3 South Ayrshire Council is committed to managing its land and building assets efficiently and effectively. The Council's land and building assets can be broken down into the following asset categories:
- **Operational Assets** which are required to directly support Council services;
  - **Non-Operational Assets** which are commercial premises which assist in economic development and generate a revenue income stream for the Council – for example, shops and, industrial units; and
  - **Common Good Assets** which are generally historic properties/land owned and managed by the Council for the benefit of the inhabitants of the former Burgh to which they are related.
- 1.4 The appropriate use of land and building assets in the right location can make the difference between good or bad service delivery. Land and building assets are visible and therefore positively influence our community's perception, as well as that of visitors to the area, of the Council and the services we deliver; it is recognised that:
- Managing land and building assets effectively is a key element of supporting service delivery;
  - Resources employed in the management of our land and building assets are significant and therefore the efficiency of their deployment is critical;
  - Land and building assets can be a key driver of service transformation and modernisation;
  - Reducing emissions from the public sector built estate to zero between now and 2045 will be critical to achieving national targets;
  - Schools are a key asset, often the most used public facility and the main hub of the community;
  - The value of land and building assets owned by the Council is significant; and
  - Properties are key to public perception of our local authority and the area.



- 1.5 Given that there has been a reduction in Local Authority budgets that will continue for the foreseeable future it is now more vital than ever that the Council ensures the efficient and effective use of our land and building assets to meet the delivery of key service objectives.
- 1.6 The Council has approved a ten-year general services capital programme for 2024-25 to 2035-36 that has been formulated based on our corporate priorities, managing risks, ensuring asset management best practice and adherence to the prudential code. By having the asset management strategy, capital and revenue resources agreed for the next ten years the Council has established a sound basis for aligning our resource deployment with the achievement of corporate priorities and the modernisation of services to meet the aspirations of our communities
- 1.7 Responsibility for asset management of land and buildings in the Council falls within the remit of the Asset Management & Community Asset Transfer (AMCAT) service under Housing, Operations and Development, which has the direct responsibility for the co-ordination and management of the asset management planning process.
- 1.8 AMCAT as the lead service in land and building assets management, must ensure that this is delivered in an efficient and effective manner that supports and links into the Council's financial strategy.

## 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This Asset Management Plan (AMP) sets out the Council's approach to the management of its land and building assets to ensure full support of the delivery of our services and the Council's Strategic Objectives.
- 2.2 The management of the Council's land and building assets involves a number of significant elements including the day-to-day management of their use and maintenance, to significant renovation and new construction projects.
- 2.3 Managing these assets in a challenging financial climate will be a fundamental element of the Asset Management & Community Asset Transfer (AMCAT) service delivery strategy, with a commitment to the sustainable development of finite land resources to create an attractive, functional, built environment that makes best use of new and traditional building assets.
- 2.4 Our Mission is to provide an asset management service which:

### 1. Is managed in the corporate interest to support the Council's three priorities

- We will have a holistic corporate approach to decision making on the way we manage our land and buildings aligned to long term outcomes to positively shape the future of South Ayrshire
- We will challenge and make decisions on property matters at a corporate level in line with our strategic priorities.
- We will take account of service demand and priorities and balance these against our overall corporate objectives.
- We will manage budgets creating the flexibility to prioritise key investment needs across the estate.
- We will ensure that property information is accurate, current, comprehensive, and widely used so that we can make informed choices.



## 2. Ensures excellent value for money with priorities driven by the issues most important to our communities.

- We will seek to deliver excellent value for money by ensuring that property is suitably managed and maintained within budget constraints.
- We will challenge the cost of property activities through effective contract management to ensure excellent value for money.
- We will challenge our use of assets where appropriate including options for disposal, acquisition, and optimising space for third party demand and maximise income generation.
- We will seek efficiencies in occupancy and utilisation and support new ways of working and alternative service delivery models where appropriate.
- We will prioritise our capital expenditure on an annual-cyclical basis through the Capital Asset Management Group who will assess capital bids against robust criteria related to our corporate priorities recommended to Members for future investment on that basis.

## 3. Supports local economic growth and ensures South Ayrshire is 'Open for Business'

- We will manage our commercial portfolio to maximise income,
- We will, in partnership with other services, support the delivery of visitor and event strategies.
- We will seek further opportunities to support income generation for the Council and economic opportunity within our communities.
- We will seek opportunities for green growth, green energy generation, green income, net zero, and energy sustainability.

## 4. Is fit for purpose and represents our organisation

- We will prioritise CRA and other relevant expenditure to make our buildings suitable and sufficient for service delivery.
- We will work to provide property that is flexible and resilient to respond to future need and changes in the economy and social demand.
- We will ensure our property is accessible, equitable, secure and safe to use fulfilling statutory requirements and supports the health and wellbeing of our employees
- We will work with our service areas to understand their current and longer-term requirements continually challenging ourselves on alternative service delivery models specifically where modern technology can play a part.

## 5. Protects and enhances the environment

- We will ensure property design, construction, operation and maintenance optimise sustainability and minimise CO2 emissions.
- We will monitor, manage and reduce energy use, water consumption and CO2 emissions using technologically advanced solutions.
- We will ensure new build property meets the highest environmental standards, optimise our legacy portfolio, and move towards decarbonising the heating in our buildings.
- We will increase our use of renewable energy and undertake energy efficient invest-to-save opportunities where appropriate.

## 6. Supports partnership working and collaboration between Council services and with our partners

- We will work with other agencies and public sector partners to promote collaboration, co-location, and joint service delivery.
- We will work with communities to identify, support and drive forward community asset transfers.

2.5 These key actions and outcomes will be delivered in conjunction with the Council's other services to support service delivery outcomes and the Council's Strategic Objectives, using corporate processes and procedures for consistency and quality control.

# 3. Asset Management Plan

## 3.1 The Role of Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer

3.1.1 The role of AMCAT as lead service in delivering land and buildings asset management consists of the following main activities:

1. Leading on the scope and direction of this AMP;
2. Responsibility for ensuring that services use land and building assets effectively and efficiently;
3. Prioritising and managing the deployment of revenue resources for statutory compliance, cyclical and reactive maintenance;
4. Prioritising and managing the deployment of capital resources to support and undertake planned improvements and statutory compliance works
5. Managing the capital receipts programme and maximising Best Value in relation to property disposals;
6. Providing professional services to the Council and partners relating to the management of land and building assets;
7. Undertaking office accommodation reviews in relation to the Council's administrative buildings;
8. Managing the Council's non-operational property portfolio;
9. Working on a range of energy projects and driving forward net zero property actions;
10. Delivering the Council's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES);
11. Delivering the Council's Community Asset Transfer service.

## 3.2 Asset Management and the Council's Strategic Objectives




3.2.1 Significant resources are deployed in the management, maintenance and construction of our land and building assets and therefore it is essential that these are deployed to deliver the best possible outcomes for South Ayrshire. Land and building assets are essential to the services delivered by the Council. Managing these assets is a structured process that seeks to ensure best value; continuous improvement in performance; achievement of our Strategic Objectives; and service modernisation. The Asset Management Plan sits within a matrix of documentation and specifies the delivery strategy and realisation mechanism for a range of Council priorities as they relate to property assets. These include;

- [Transforming the Estate which outlines a series of actions to ensure the Council property estate meets future operational objectives;](#)
- [South Ayrshire Council Scheme of Delegation;](#)
- [South Ayrshire Council Policy for the Acquisition and Disposal of Land and Buildings;](#)
- [South Ayrshire Council's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy;](#) and
- [South Ayrshire Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy.](#)

3.2.2 The application of an asset management approach can enable efficient resource deployment, service rationalisation, and longer-term financial planning and improved risk management. It is therefore essential that the Council embraces this approach and strives to invest to ensure our land and building assets are fit for purpose. The value of an asset management approach is that it enables the Council to develop a better understanding of the land and building assets which it operates, identify and respond flexibly to changing contributing factors, manage and mitigate risk and ensure financial resources are directed towards achieving the Council's strategic objectives.

3.2.3 The Council's priorities and outcomes place an emphasis on the connection between our places and the wellbeing of our communities and environment. The place-based approach recognises that every area has a different blend of physical, social, and economic characteristics that influence each other and aims to address complex problems that no service alone can solve. The priorities provide a common framework, aimed at promoting a shared understanding that encourages services and partners to work collaboratively to achieve improved outcomes and wellbeing for our communities. The priorities, and the connection with asset management are as follows:



Council Priority	Asset Management's Contribution
<p>Everyone can access streets, places and spaces that make a positive contribution to wellbeing, are well connected, well designed, and maintained.</p> <p>Everyone can access a range of high quality, safe, well maintained, accessible places with opportunities for play, sport and recreation.</p> <p><b>Priority One</b> Spaces and Places</p> 	<p>Our land and building assets provide a range of services to the whole community from accommodation to sport, leisure, learning and recreation. Further, our assets house essential 'back office' functions for front line services. Effective asset management ensures these properties are safe, accessible and fit for purpose.</p> <p>By investing in our land and building assets and ensuring they are managed in a sustainable manner we ensure that there is an attractive and vibrant environment in South Ayrshire and meet targets for carbon reduction and a low carbon future.</p>
<p>Everyone benefits from high quality education and lifelong learning and is supported to learn and fulfil their potential.</p> <p>Everyone benefits from a local economy that provides opportunities for people and helps our businesses to flourish.</p> <p>Everyone can find a good quality home that they can afford, that meets their needs and is in an area where they feel safe and connected.</p> <p><b>Priority Two</b> Live, Work, Learn</p> 	<p>The investment in land and building assets is significant and supports employment directly in the Council through the Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer, PDS, and Property Maintenance, and indirectly through the engagement of local contractors to undertake works.</p> <p>The estates section of Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer support the local economy through the provision of commercial and industrial units. Schools represent a significant proportion of the Council's operational property portfolio.</p> <p>Ensuring these are compliant, in good condition and fit for purpose is crucial to creating a positive environment for learning.</p>
<p>Everyone (residents, visitors, and tourists) can enjoy attractive destinations and people are proud to live in our towns and villages and celebrate our culture and heritage.</p> <p>Everyone has the opportunity to influence and contribute to what happens in their local area.</p> <p><b>Priority Three</b> Civic and Community Pride</p> 	<p>Land and building assets are visible and therefore positively influence our community's perception, as well as that of visitors to the area, of the Council and the services we deliver.</p> <p>Asset management supports communities to take control of land and buildings via community asset transfer through Part 5 of the 2015 Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act (as well as through leases and disposals outside of the Act) by ensuring that community bodies have access to accurate property knowledge. This knowledge supports communities to empower themselves through ownership of land and buildings. The Asset Management and Community Asset Transfer service have dedicated support for community bodies interested in taking on land and buildings.</p>

## 4. Delivering the Asset Management Plan: 6 Workstreams

Asset Management comprises 6 workstreams. The following sections outlines the core functions of these workstreams. Each has dedicated officer support. The 6 workstreams are:

1. Central Repairs Account (CRA)
2. Property Data and management
3. Estates
4. Community Asset Transfer
5. Energy Management
6. Office Accommodation



### 4.1 Central Repairs Account

- 4.1.1 The Central Repairs Account (CRA) is a resource held by AMCAT. The purpose of the CRA is to ensure that properties are maintained to an acceptable standard and condition (see also Property Data), are compliant with regards legislation, and safe and accessible for employees and the public.
- 4.1.2 The CRA is used to fund repairs to the structure and fabric of properties as they require maintenance due to wear and tear, usage, aging, weathering and periodic faults and defects. The CRA does not fund service delivery equipment, machinery, fixtures and fittings, discretionary cosmetic upgrades, or property design specification omissions. The CRA is also used to fund statutory compliance and inspections (e.g. fire/intruder alarms, legionella testing etc.) and this is managed by the AMCAT service.
- 4.1.3 In 2023/2024 the CRA budget was £2,610,681. The CRA has come under significant pressure in recent years with a £300,000 reduction applied in 2022/2023. During the period of inflationary pressure 2022-2023 (which especially impacted construction materials) the real terms buying power of the CRA was further negatively affected. Further, the increasing complexity of building systems has resulted in increasing compliance costs.
- 4.1.4 As a result of this the CRA prioritises reactive repairs which require immediate rectification. AMCAT's aspiration is that, should budgets allow, planned and preventive maintenance will be reinstated as an operating principle.
- 4.1.5 Where property repairs are required these should be addressed to AMCAT. The request will be assessed by AMCAT to ensure it meets the criteria described in 4.1.2 and is deemed a priority in relation to other demands. Thereafter AMCAT will request Property Maintenance undertake the task or instruct a specialist contractor through a measured term contract.

### 4.2 Property data and management

- 4.2.1 The decision-making process relating to asset management should be based upon a sound knowledge of the portfolio and an appreciation of how properties are meeting current and future service needs and supporting the corporate approach set out above. This understanding is gained by the collection and interpretation of several elements of data gathered for each property. This data consists of fully costed condition surveys (see Appendix F) following the Scottish Government elemental approach, (see Appendix B), a suitability assessment (based on guidance issued by the Scottish Government), energy usage and annual running cost figures. The data is then moderated, collated and stored electronically. This allows a very accurate assessment to be made of current asset performance. The following sections give more detail on the current arrangements and performance of current land and building assets.

4.2.2 This AMP sets out that we will manage our assets efficiently and effectively to support the delivery of the Council's Strategic Objectives. To demonstrate this six performance areas have been identified. The following table demonstrates how these relate to property and sets out appropriate high-level performance indicators that we will use to measure our performance over the year and also to benchmark with other Local Authorities.

<b>Performance Area</b>	<b>Primary Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Activity Aims</b>
<b>Compliance</b>	Percentage of buildings that are fully compliant in terms of having a current fire safety risk assessment, up to date asbestos register, Legionella testing and management processes in place.	Demonstrating that our land and building assets comply with statutory and regulatory requirements. Ensuring properties are safe and available for use to deliver services by having them regularly inspected and retaining compliance logs.
<b>Condition</b>	Percentage of properties in good or satisfactory condition.	Detailing the extent to which our land and building assets are maintained in satisfactory or better condition to support service delivery
<b>Suitability</b>	Percentage of properties that are considered satisfactory or better in terms of suitability.	Detailing the extent to which our land and building assets are fit for purpose in terms of accommodation type and layout to support the delivery of services.
<b>Sufficiency</b>	Percentage of properties that are considered satisfactory or better in terms of sufficiency, utilisation and usage to support service delivery.	Detailing the extent to which our land and building assets are sufficient for service delivery and utilised as much as possible by our communities.
<b>Accessibility</b>	Percentage of properties that are considered accessible according to Government guidelines as detailed in the Equality Act 2010.	Demonstrating that our land and building assets provide accommodation that is accessible for all service users and staff.
<b>Sustainability</b>	Total carbon emissions from corporate land and building assets (CO2 tonnes).	Demonstrates the impact our consumption of energy has on the environment. The energy performance of our land and building assets is monitored, and improvements undertaken where financially viable and technically feasible.

4.2.3 Fixed assets are managed efficiently and effectively taking account of availability, accessibility, safety, utilisation, cost, condition and depreciation. The Asset Register is a document of considerable importance to any organisation; an asset register is designed to record all assets on the balance sheet, together with basic information as to use, size, value, occupying department. The register will record the existence of the asset, in order that an accurate, regularly updated listing is in existence so as to assist in good asset management planning and meeting audit requirements. South Ayrshire Council was the first Local Authority in Scotland to have a cloud-based Asset Register.



#### 4.2.4 Land and buildings asset portfolio is broken down into the following categories:

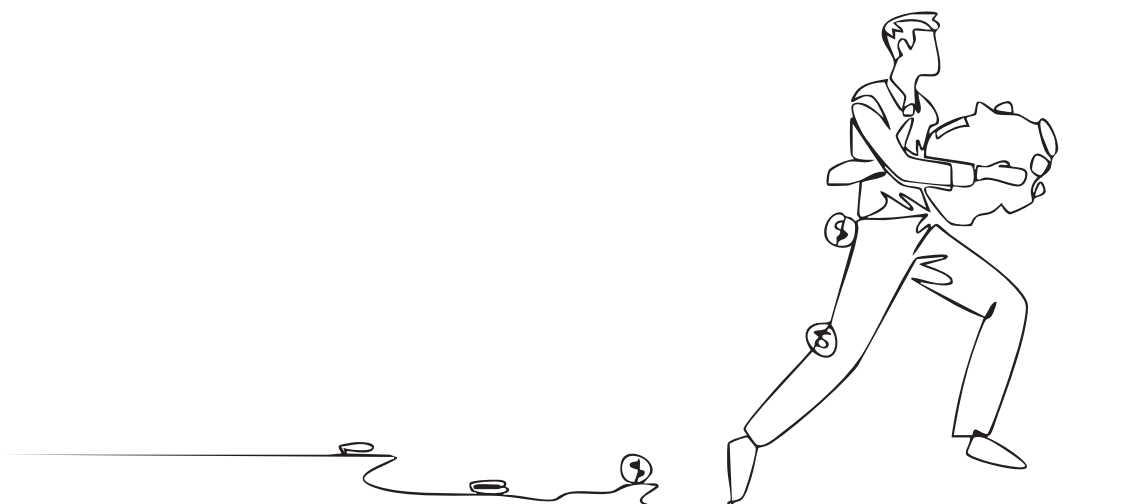
- Operational Assets are those that are used to directly support Council service delivery such as schools, community centres and depots.
- Non-Operational Assets are those used to enable the council to support local business space and economic development, indirectly support corporate or community planning objectives and provide the council with a revenue stream. This category also includes surplus assets for disposal to support capital programmes and strategic development land.
- Common Good Assets which are generally historic properties/ land owned and managed by the Council for the benefit of the inhabitants of the former Burgh to which they are related

4.2.5 As reported in the 2023/24 Asset Register, the current asset value in terms of all land and buildings presently owned by the Council amounts to around £1,073m with properties classified in line with International Accounting Standards (IAS) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). This is broken down as follows:

Asset Value by IFRS Category	2023/2024
Council Dwellings	£324,881,000
Other Land and Buildings	£392,626,000
Schools PPP Assets	£163,529,000
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	£43,267,000
Infrastructure Assets	£76,617,000
Community Assets	£574,000
Surplus Assets Held for Sale	£1,677,000
Assets Under Construction	£55,852,000
Common Good	£14,597,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,073,620,000</b>

4.2.6 A list of our operational portfolio is attached as Appendix C. The table below provides a summary of Asset value as at 31 March 2024 by property use type and number:

4.2.7 Assets are re-valued on a 5-year rolling programme in accordance with the Accounting Code of Practice and in line with valuation criteria as set out by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. All values are recorded within the Council's asset system and an Asset Register report is produced each year.





Summary Table	Establishments	GIA (M2)	Asset Value
Car Parks	38	N/A	£8,779,519
Cemeteries and Crematorium	14	1,519	£1,388,361
Community Facilities	16	7,924	£10,188,543
Depots and Stores	8	6,953	£66,716,428
Municipal Buildings	2	14,228	£5,605,087
Museums	3	1,543	£3,408,593
Offices	20	15,917	£6,122,877
Parks and Recreation	16	5,303	£5,318,258
Public Libraries	8	4,472	£3,734,925
Public Toilets	8	657	£1,102,510
Social and Housing	13	9,139	£7,126,039
Schools - Early Years Centres	5	3,154	£6,535,196
Schools - Primary Schools	37	84,064	£139,817,048
Schools - Secondary	8	98,911	£285,011,535
Schools - Special Schools	2	3,943	£6,808,355
Sports and Leisure	16	19,495	£35,075,398
<b>Total Operational Assets</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>277,222</b>	<b>£532,738,672</b>

### Property Performance: Condition, Suitability, Accessibility

- 4.2.8 The AMP is by its nature a dynamic document, subject to annual update. The performance data contained within this AMP is drawn from 2023/2024 figures, however continual update is made to individual property records as new information comes to light (for example details of a new improvement may be added to a condition record).
- 4.2.9 The performance of the Council's operational property has been evaluated based on a considerable volume of property performance data for business needs and benchmarking. A set of performance indicators has been developed which enables accurate assessment to be made of individual properties, as well as assist in benchmarking with other Scottish Authorities through the National Best Value Benchmarking Scheme and ACES Asset Management Group. More importantly this enables the Council to monitor its property performance against preceding years.
- 4.2.10 The decision-making process relating to asset management has to be based upon a sound knowledge of the portfolio and an appreciation of how properties are meeting current and future service demands.

4.2.11 The information currently gathered relates to the following key areas:

- 1) **Condition** measures the percentage of gross internal floor area of operational accommodation.  
Each operational property is allocated a condition rating as detailed below:

- A: Good performing well and operating efficiently;
- B: Satisfactory performing adequately but showing minor deterioration;
- C: Poor Showing major defects and/or not operating adequately;
- D: Bad Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure.

Condition surveys are updated periodically and when improvement works are carried out.

- (2) **Suitability** is defined by CIPFA as being ‘the extent to which a property meets the current and future needs of, and contributes toward improvement of, service delivery’.

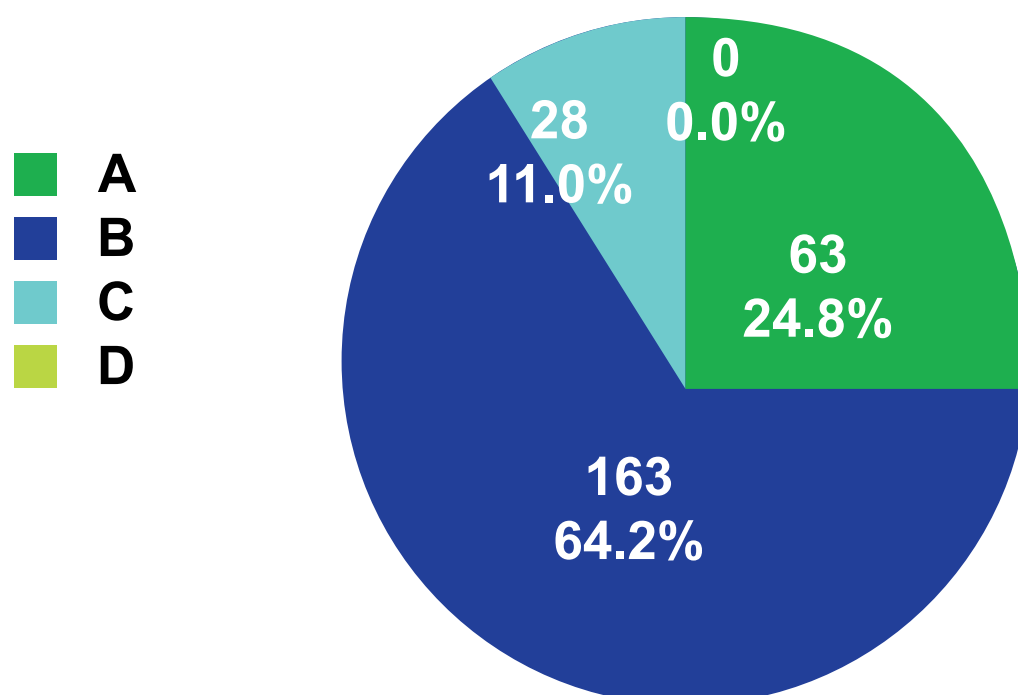
Suitability information is collected on a 5-year rolling programme basis with the assessment of suitability being carried out by service managers in conjunction with Asset Management officers.

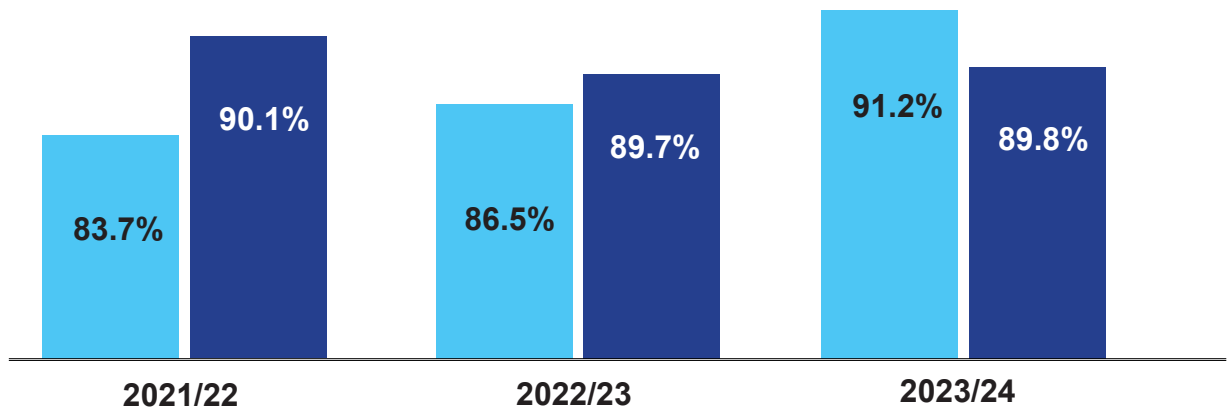
- (3) **Accessibility** measures the number of council buildings from which the council delivers services to the public and the percentage of these in which all public areas are suitable for and accessible to people with a disability.

4.2.12 Surveys of all properties have now been completed and further work has been undertaken to identify works required for each building. Further work is required to quantify costs and thereafter implement these works in compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

4.2.13 The pie charts below outline condition, suitability and accessibility percentage breakdowns by category rating in relation to our operational portfolio together with a 3-year comparison with the Scottish Local Authority average:

## Condition 2023-24

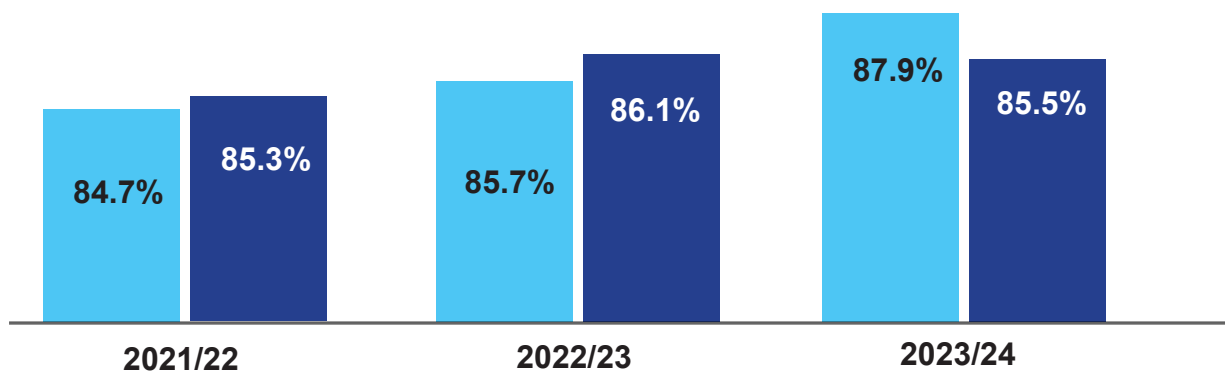
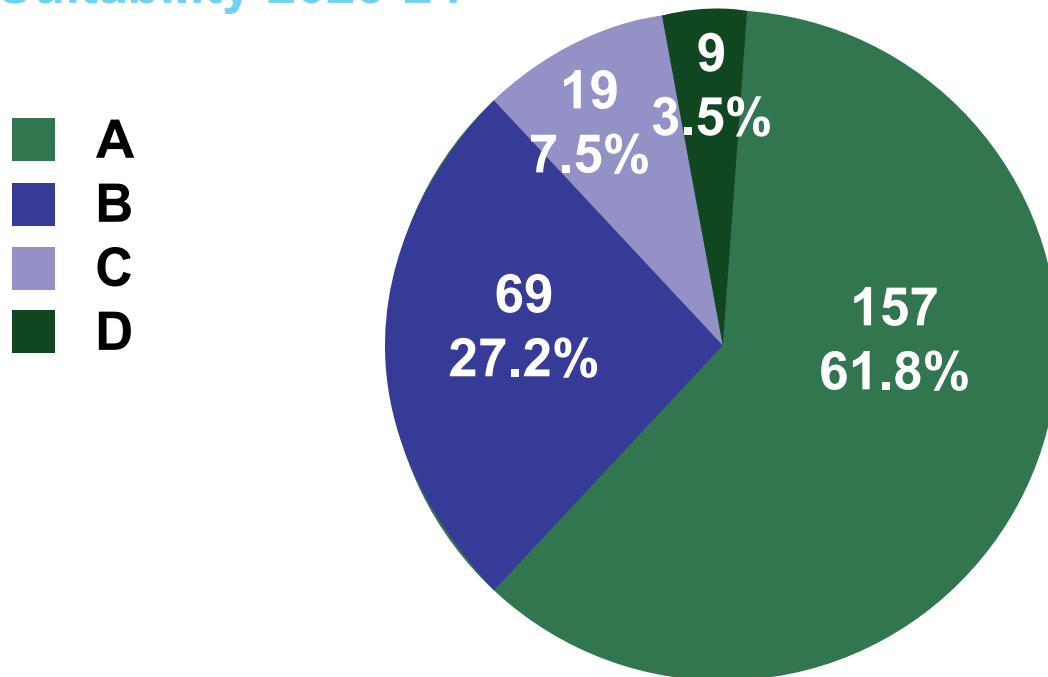




■ S06.1.01 LGBF Proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition.

■ Scottish Average

### Suitability 2023-24

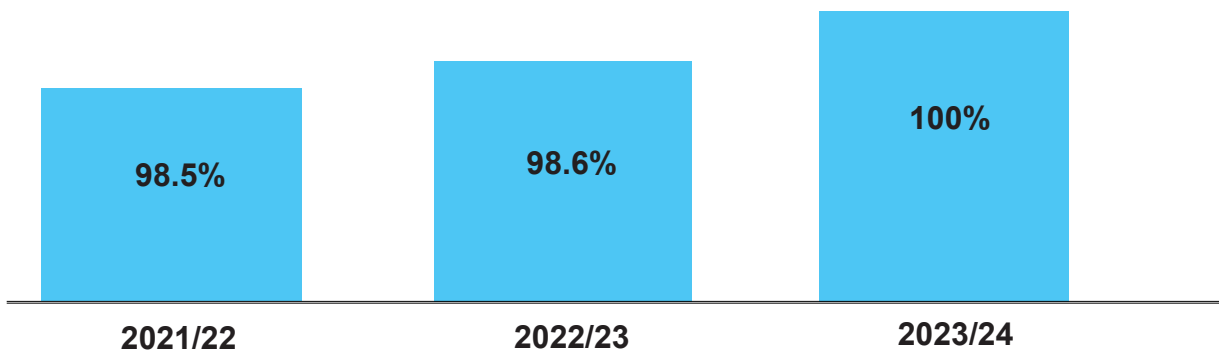
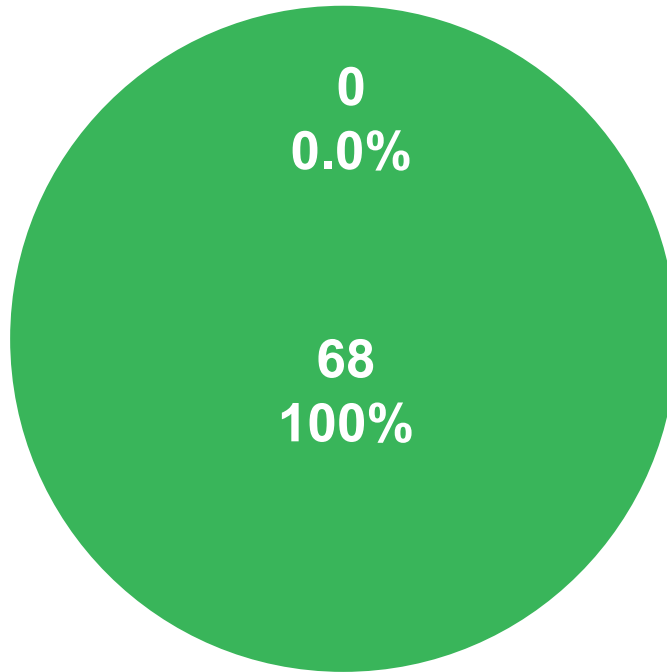


■ S06.1.02 LGBF Proportion of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use.

■ Scottish Average

# Accessibility 2023-24

■ **Pass**  
■ **Fail**



■ S06.1.06.3 Percentage of council buildings in which all public areas are suitable for and accessible to disabled people.

4.2.14 Within the Council a number of key performance measures are used to report the performance of our asset base to ensure that our assets are fit for purpose. The following performance indicators are reported to Audit Scotland an annual basis:

- the proportion of operational accommodation that is in satisfactory condition;
- the proportion of operational accommodation that is suitable for its current use; and
- the percentage of Council buildings in which all public areas are suitable for and accessible to disabled people.

4.2.15 Additional performance measures are reported within the Council as follows:

- percentage of non-operational properties let;
- current maintenance spend per square metre; and
- ratios of planned and reactive maintenance spend as expressed as a percentage.

4.2.16 The 2023/24 Audit Scotland return on Condition shows 91.2% of the Council's operational property with a grade A or B rating. The 2022/23 value was 86.5%. Through strategic investment in our properties and rationalisation of our estate a targeted increase has been identified which will see the improvement of this SPI. Data published by the Improvement Service for Local Government Benchmarking for 2023/24 shows a Scottish average of 89.8%.

4.2.17 New and more accurate electronic property condition surveys are continually maintained and updated for all operational properties. This data identifies planned maintenance requirements.

4.2.18 The 2023/24 Audit Scotland SPI return on Suitability shows 87.9% of the Council's operational property with a grade A or B rating. The 2022/23 value was 85.7%. The Council is seeking to improve this indicator through strategic investment in our properties and rationalisation of our estate. Data published by the Improvement Service for Local Government Benchmarking for 2023/24 shows a Scottish average of 85.5%.

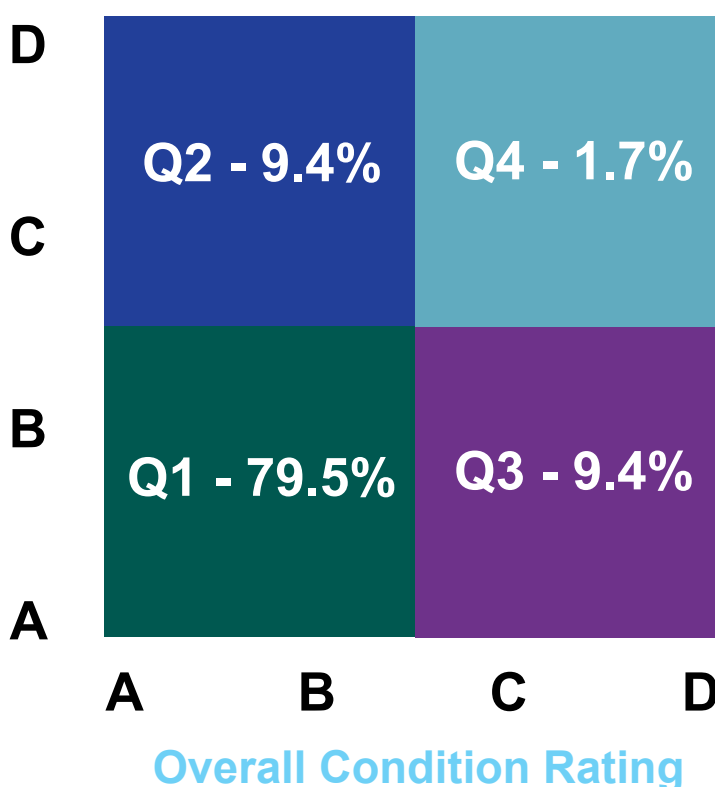
4.2.19 The 2023/24 Audit Scotland SPI return on Accessibility shows 100% of the Council's operational property public areas are suitable for and accessible to disabled people. The 2022/23 value was 98.6%. This indicator is not reported within the 2023/24 Improvement Service data set.



## Property Assessment Matrix

4.2.20 The Property Assessment Matrix below combines the condition and suitability grading for each of our operational properties and provides a high-level assessment indicating what quartiles need to be targeted for improvement or considered for operational disposal. Please see Appendix C for a property breakdown.

### Property Assessment Matrix



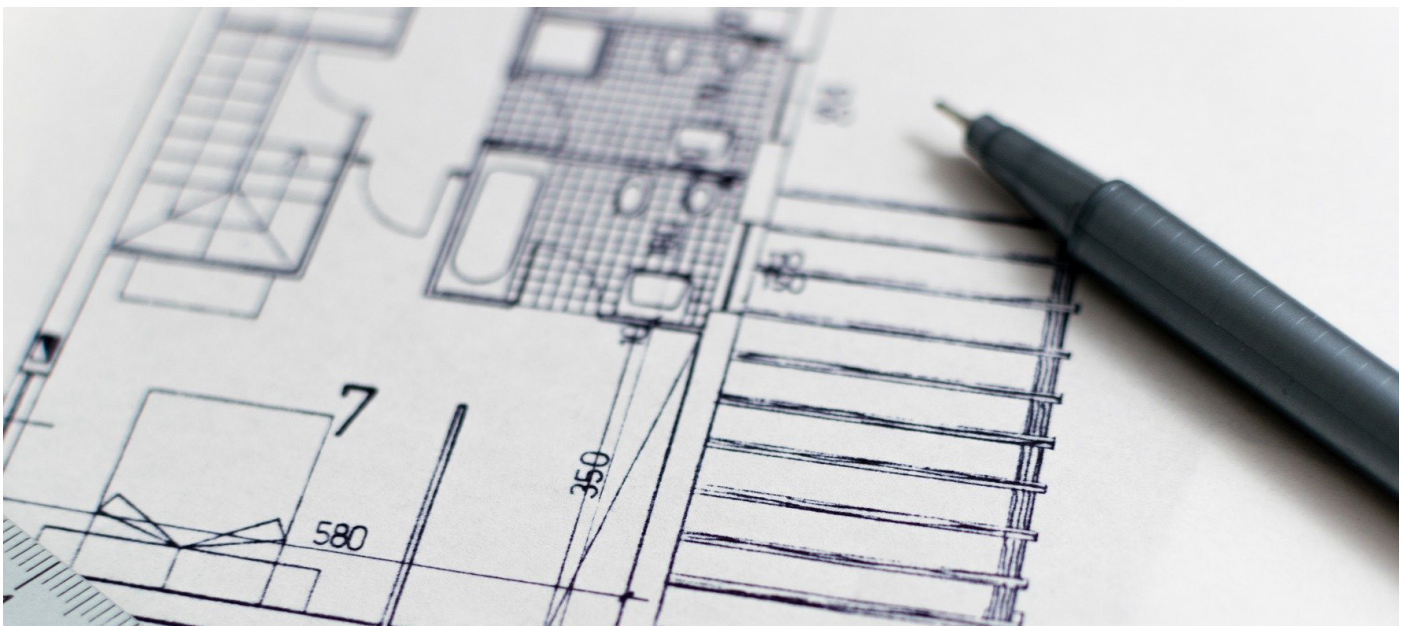
- The best position for properties in good condition & high suitability
- 2nd best position for properties; high suitability but condition requires improvement
- 3rd best position for properties; good condition but low suitability
- 4th best position for properties; poor condition & low suitability

4.2.21 Planned property activity every year will work to reduce the number of properties in Q3 and Q4 categories and ensuring funding is targeted to increase the number of properties in Q1 and Q2 categories.

## Civica/Tech Forge Asset Management System

4.2.22 The Technology Forge Asset Management System (TF) – now ‘Civica’ (to avoid confusion with other Civica systems here after referred to as Civica TF) is a cloud-based system which is consistently developed and runs on any web browser. The system can be viewed by Council staff. This has assisted in the development of a collaborative approach to asset management and in the creation of a single source for all operational property data.

- 4.2.23 Civica TF holds the Council's Asset Register, including valuation information, in accordance with Audit Scotland guidelines.
- 4.2.24 Civica TF is the principal Council property database and the system is central to all aspects of the work of the AMCAT service. All pertinent Asset Management information is held on the system including Condition, Suitability and Accessibility information together with the Corporate Asset Register, Compliance Programming and Identified Building Works.
- 4.2.25 Within the Civica TF Cloud, the Council's property data can be managed from any location with a web-based solution. For this reason there is no longer a requirement to have servers and there are also no databases to maintain. All that is required is a connection to the internet and Civica TF can be accessed via PCs, laptops, tablets and smart phones. The Council's data is held on secure servers by Civica TF. Data Security is maintained through an international quality accredited standard.
- 4.2.26 Revenue costs relate to running and maintenance costs for each property. Maintenance costs are held within Civica TF whilst annual running cost information is obtained from Finance, based on a cost centre basis.
- 4.2.27 In the period since October 2010, the Council has been required to take all reasonable steps to open services to disabled people. The Equality Act 2010 covers all buildings. Barriers to access that make it difficult for people to access services require to be altered unless alternative means of providing that service can be delivered either through increased use of technology and property assets which can provide a range of Council services.
- 4.2.28 Surveys have been carried out for all properties which are accessed by the public to check compliance with the points identified in the Equality Act 2010 and also BS 8300 2001 and 2009. These surveys have highlighted further work that the Council needs to undertake in order to fully comply.
- 4.2.29 These surveys have highlighted further work that needs to be undertaken in order to achieve full compliance. From the current in year 2023/24 budget of £399,418 there is a projected spend to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 of £324,418. The approved budget for 2024/25 & 2025/26 is £300,000 in each financial year.
- 4.2.30 There is a systematic and evidence-based approach to identifying and managing risks in relation to land, buildings, plant, equipment, vehicles, materials and digital infrastructure. Steps are taken continually to ensure that properties comply with legislative and regulatory requirements. On-going programmes of compliance testing to measure and control risk are in place with this information recorded and managed within TF.





- 4.2.31 Steps are taken continually to ensure that properties comply with legislative and regulatory requirements. On-going programmes of compliance testing to measure and control risk are in place to address key issues relating to:
- gas installation testing – tested annually;
  - electrical installation testing – tested on a 5-year rolling programme;
  - legionella testing – Legionella is monitored on a monthly basis in all properties;
  - asbestos management – Ongoing in accordance with HSG247 and CARs 2012 – also all properties with known positive samples are monitored annually.; and recorded in the Asbestos register in all properties
  - fire risk assessments and general health and safety audits – ongoing management.

### 4.3 Estates

- 4.3.1 The Estates section is a specialist function within AMCAT. Estate management concerns the delivery of the following activities which contribute towards the delivery of the AMP. The Estates section primarily deals with the following areas of work:
- Property acquisition and disposal
  - Non-operational and commercial property management
- 4.3.2 In June 2022 the Council updated its [Policy for the Acquisition and Disposal of Land and Buildings](#) which was first introduced in 2016. The purpose of this policy is to inform Elected Members, services and other interested parties of the principles and process by which the Council will acquire and dispose of land and buildings. This policy aims to formalise the basis for the identification of any future need for land and buildings and the means of its disposal and contribute to the efficiency saving in future years. The policy forms the operating basis of the Estates section with regards acquisition and disposal of property.
- 4.3.3 The Council can choose to acquire land and buildings in either of the following forms:
- ownership; or
  - leasehold.

The reasons for the Council to acquire land or buildings would be:

- opportunities for improved service delivery;
- investment purposes; and
- acquisition in line with Council's strategic objectives.

- 4.3.4 Firstly, prior to the purchase or lease of any asset a full options appraisal should be carried out which should involve appraisal of all the options for delivery of the final objective. Consideration should be given to all other Council-owned land and buildings and whether these could be used to fulfil the requirement prior to any acquisition. Further, within the options appraisal consideration of full life property costs should be made with appropriate budgetary consequences understood. It is the responsibility of the proposing services to undertake the options appraisal. The options appraisal should be reported to the Director – Housing, Operations and Development - the result of which identifies the requirement for the land or buildings for service delivery.
- 4.3.5 Secondly, the identified ongoing revenue and capital costs are contained within an approved budget which has been confirmed as appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer and ICT and/ or an appropriate budget is approved by the Council; and
- 4.3.6 Thirdly, the Cabinet/ Council has approved the acquisition of the land or buildings for the purpose of service delivery.
- 4.3.7 On acquisition the proposed holding service is responsible for all property costs.

### Surplus Land and Building Assets

- 4.3.8 Vacant and surplus properties cost the Council money. It is therefore important that once a property is declared surplus its future use is determined in a timely manner to minimise ongoing costs to the Council. Until the property has been disposed of by the Council or formal transfer of a property to another Council service has been completed the incumbent holding service will continue to be responsible for the property and all associated costs.
- 4.3.9 The identification of surplus assets is an ongoing process which will require the co-operation of all Council services. There are clear benefits to the Council in reducing its portfolio of properties and therefore a rigorous examination of assets is required. Disposals of the Council land and property assets are undertaken by the Estates Section in order to secure 'best value' and maximise the generation of capital receipts.
- 4.3.10 Property may be identified as being potentially surplus to the Council's requirements as a result of one or more of the following circumstances:
- the holding service determining it no longer has a requirement for its property due to changes in its operational requirements;
  - as part of a wider strategic review of the Council's land and buildings an alternative and more cost effective service delivery site has been identified;
  - the property has no potential for future strategic or regeneration/redevelopment purposes (including affordable housing);
  - the income generated from the land or buildings is nil or less than £1,000 per annum and there is a potential regeneration or redevelopment opportunity for the asset; and/ or
  - the site has been identified by the Council's Housing Services or local or national Housing associations as being suitable for affordable housing.

- 4.3.11 All land and property that is potentially surplus to requirements will be offered to use as follows:
- Housing Services;
  - Council Directorate; and
  - Public Sector Organisations.
- 4.3.12 If a Council service expresses an interest in retaining the asset, a clear business case including recognition of the ongoing financial responsibilities will require to be developed to justify retention and the relevant approval sought. This exercise may therefore culminate in an alternative Council use being identified, disposal to a community organisation, the leasing of the property where the Council wishes to retain a long-term interest, demolition of the property or the property's outright sale on the open market.
- 4.3.13 Formal approval to declare the asset surplus to requirements will be given by the Cabinet or Council where the land/property is valued at equal-to-or-greater-than £100,000. Under the Scheme of Delegation HOD78 may be used to declare land and property surplus to requirements where the value of the land/property is valued at less than £100,000. Requests for approval to declare land and buildings surplus to requirements will usually be sought in batches to limit the number of individual reports required.
- 4.3.14 It should be noted that there are some sites and properties which are of little or no commercial value and as a consequence are likely to remain in the Council portfolio for the foreseeable future. A small number of properties have lain derelict and unused for a number of years resulting in ongoing costs to the Council. One solution for a number of these properties is demolition in order to reduce this ongoing financial burden to the Council.

### Non-operational and commercial estate

- 4.3.15 AMCAT Estates section manages the Council's non-operational estate and does so to meet a variety of objectives as follows:
- To return an income on previously acquired property to the benefit of the Council.
  - To promote and support economic development
  - To create new avenues for income generation
  - Support the Council's visitor offer and generate income for the Council
- 4.3.16 The management of the Commercial Property Portfolio is focused on influencing local business space provision, supporting economic development and delivering revenue income. It comprises a diverse range of property types, including industrial, retail and office properties together with strategic land and other miscellaneous assets. The Council's non-operational assets consist of a variety of properties which are leased out to third parties and which provide the Council with an income stream. Overall the non-operational estate is well tenanted with 95% of non-operational properties currently let. A list of these properties is shown as Appendix D.

- 4.3.17 The non-operational estate presently brings in an annual income of approximately £880,000.
- 4.3.18 The vast majority of the Council's non-operational properties are on Full Repairing and Insuring (FRI) terms which means the burden for repairs and maintenance, along with the cost of utilities and non-domestic rates, lies with the tenant.
- 4.3.19 South Ayrshire Council holds a considerable amount of land, parks, and open space which offer excellent settings for a wide range of events – from small community fun days to major events such as The International Ayr Show - Festival of Flight. In order to ensure the Council receives best value on the opportunities Estates shall undertake commercial marketing exercises and/or valuations as appropriate for these opportunities. Estates shall work closely with other services to support the delivery of a coherent and organised calendar of events to support the visitor economy of South Ayrshire, showcase what our area has to offer and deliver value to the Council.

## 4.4 Community Asset Transfer

- 4.4.1 The Council continues to encourage the progression of our community organisations to support them in creating strong, successful, sustainable and effective asset transfer proposals that can make a real difference in South Ayrshire through the acquisition and development of Council land and buildings.
- 4.4.2. Furthermore, the objective of the Council's approved Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process and associated fund is to enable a streamlined, efficient and appropriately resourced CAT route map for an applicant that ensures equal access for all in exploring and pursuing ambitions.
- 4.4.3 To date 5 community asset transfers have been completed under Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, 1 is pending conclusion following approval by Cabinet, and one has been refused.
- 4.4.4 As of February 2024, seven further community groups (described as Community Transfer Bodies under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) have submitted CAT Stage 1 EOI forms to the Council and are working towards the submission of a formal Stage 2 CAT request. Of those seven community groups: 4 can be described Community Associations; 2 as Sports Clubs, 1 as an Arts/Culture organisation.
- 4.4.5 The Council has an 'Advancing Community Assets Fund' (ACAF) which is designed to support community-controlled bodies that aspire to take on a Council-owned asset through ownership, lease or other rights such as rights to manage, occupy or use the asset for a specified purpose, with the aim of promoting or improving economic development, regeneration, public health, social wellbeing, environmental wellbeing or reducing socio-economic inequalities for people living in South Ayrshire. The purpose of the Advancing Community Assets fund is to encourage the progression of all our community organisations, disadvantaged or not, to support them in creating strong, successful, sustainable and effective asset transfer proposals that can make a real difference in South Ayrshire through the acquisition and development of Council land and buildings.

Community Asset Transfers Approved under Part 5 of the Community Empowerment Act				
Organisation	Council Asset approved for Community Asset Transfer	Outcome	Capital Receipt Value	Advancing Community Assets Fund
Barr Community SCIO SCO49703	Barr Community Centre	Approved by Cabinet 25th Sept 2024	£1	£118,826
Troon Water Sports Centre (SCIO), SC047691	Site at Barassie, North Beach, Troon	50 year lease concluded 2024	N/A	Not Eligible
Ayr Lawn Tennis Club (SCIO) SC049014	Seafield tennis court, Arrol Drive, Ayr, KA7 4AZ	Purchase, 26th July 2022	£4,500	£60,000
Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Development Trust (SCIO) SC048025	Former Pinwherry primary school, Main Street, Pinwherry, South Ayrshire KA26 0RN	Purchase, 23rd April 2021	£25,000	£106,710
Friends of Dundonald Castle SCIO 31541	Dundonald Castle visitor's centre and adjacent land, Winehouse Yett Dundonald KA2 9HD	Purchase, 19th February 2021	£28,000	Not Applicable
Colmonell Community Association SCIO SC049177	Former public convenience Colmonell, Main Street, Colmonell KA26 0RY	Purchase, 30th October 2020	£1	Not Applicable

4.4.6 The Advancing Community Assets Fund has two categories:

### Development

The first category of grant is a development grant, which may be available to eligible bodies interested in making a community asset transfer request but who are at the early stages of the process (known as a Community Asset Transfer (“CAT”) Stage 1-Expression of Interest). Sums of up to a maximum of £12,000 for costs associated with all types of property surveys and investigation relating to the land and property asset may be available for the development of an asset transfer proposal and to help towards preparing a Stage 2 CAT application.

### Capital

The second category of grant, the capital grant, may be available to bodies at the later stages of the process, which are in a position to make an application for a community asset transfer request (known as a Stage 2 CAT applications.) Costs may be available for capital works, relevant to the condition of the asset being requested. The Council expects that requests for capital costs would not exceed £100,000; however the Cabinet will consider grant requests in excess of £100,000 on a case by case basis. Capital grant funding may only be requested through the Stage 2 CAT application form. An asset may be requested without a request for a capital grant however a capital grant through the Advancing Community Assets Fund will not be considered by the Council without submission of a formal Community Asset Transfer request for lease or ownership.

- 4.4.7 The Team Leader Community Asset Transfer post within Asset Management is the Council’s ‘single point of contact’ and works to promote community asset transfer in the community and supports interested groups to reach an informed choice regarding the viability or liability of potential transfers, providing information, advice and support from initial enquiry through to post-acquisition. The Team Leader liaises within Asset Management and across the wider council to provide a high-quality service to interested community bodies. The Team Leader also chairs the ‘Community Asset Transfer Advisory Group’ who consider Part 5 applications against a comprehensive assessment tool and make approval recommendations to Cabinet. This ensures that all community asset transfers under Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 are viable, robust, and represent good value to both Council and Community.
- 4.4.8 We continue to update and enhance the CAT pages on the Council website ([www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/community-asset-transfer](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/community-asset-transfer)) where members of the public can learn how to apply for a CAT, sign posting to useful support organisations as well as details of live applications.
- 4.4.9 A new CAT information flyer and a short video have been produced, in collaboration with the Public Affairs team, to raise awareness amongst communities of the opportunities offered by CAT. The Team Leader Community Asset Transfer also attends community events and meetings to promote asset transfer.

- 4.4.10 The transfer of assets by sale or lease to community and charitable bodies can also take place outside of Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. In some cases this is a necessity as community or charitable bodies do not meet the criteria for being a 'community controlled body' as defined by the Act. In others, it can be quicker to purchase or lease a property which has been declared surplus and marketed. Assets transferred in this way are not eligible for ACAF grants. Through the Community Asset Transfer Team leader, the Council will work proactively with community and charitable bodies interested in taking on Council properties in a similar supportive manner to those applying through Part 5 of the Act in order to ensure positive and appropriate outcomes for the community and the Council.
- 4.4.11 The AMCAT service works with internal Council colleagues to facilitate the transfer/acquisition of assets by community bodies. Most notably, this collaboration involves colleagues from Legal Services and from various teams within the Thriving Communities service. Good working relationships have also been established with external partners including Community Ownership Support Service (COSS), Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS) and with Voluntary Action South Ayrshire, the local Third Sector Interface. This collaborative approach can be tailored to the particular circumstances of each community and seeks to offer the most comprehensive package of support.
- 4.4.12 Disposals of land and property within or without Part 5 of the Act are subject to requirements of the Council's Policy for the Acquisition and Disposal of Land and Buildings as described in section 4.3

## 4.5 Energy Management

- 4.5.1 Governments around the world are under increasing pressure to identify measures to help mitigate the ongoing climate crisis. With the built environment accounting for a significant proportion of current energy use and carbon emissions globally, improving the performance of not only new buildings, but also our current building stock, will be key if ambitious decarbonisation targets - such as the Scottish Government's aim to create a net-zero society by 2045 – are to be met. On the 1st of October 2020 the Council set its net zero targets by adopting a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030 (based on 2014/15 as a baseline) and a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. It should be noted that the Scottish Government is also seeking to introduce a statutory requirement for all publicly owned buildings to meet zero emission heating requirements by 2038.
- 4.5.2 In November 2021 a Net Zero Carbon Estate Strategy report was completed (see Appendix G). This report set out how the Council could align their decarbonisation strategy with the 10-year capital programme. The report assessed the works required to decarbonise our existing buildings and detailed three potential strategic routes to net zero carbon. The options assessed a range of capital and revenue cost scenarios with the capital cost impact estimated at between £225m to £576m. A Net Zero Board group was then established and met for the first time in April 2022 to carry forward the next step actions that were identified in the report. Since then, the group has met regularly and all report actions have been successfully completed in the Cabinet log. Work is continuing in this area.



- 4.5.3 The energy performance of our land and building assets is monitored and improvements undertaken where financially viable and technically feasible. The Council established a Carbon Budget in 2021 and now reports progress on our net zero targets on an annual basis. At present, we are working to ensure that the carbon footprint for Council buildings, in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, falls in line with our net zero targets. This is being carried out through a range of energy efficiency projects, including extensive internal and external LED lighting refits, AMR and BEMS update and installations, and rigorous energy monitoring processes.
- 4.5.4 The Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy published in 2019 gives high level objectives for the Council's move towards zero carbon. In the move towards zero carbon we must introduce innovative, low carbon heating solutions, LED lighting inside our buildings and to light our streets, and a suitable infrastructure to support the move towards electric vehicles. A Sustainable Design Checklist is in development which will be used for future new build and retrofit works for Housing and Non-Housing properties.
- 4.5.5 To meet zero carbon targets for 2045 it is essential that the Council make best use of renewable energy resources. Currently installed renewable capacity includes 175 kW of solar PV, 468kW of biomass heat, and 340kW of air source heat pumps. This represents a reduction of 258 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually compared to fossil fuel alternatives. Registration of installations for the Feed in Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive funding schemes has generated an income of £88,000 to date for the Council. Renewables are now installed on all new build non-Housing properties with gas no longer used and heating and hot water now provided by air source heat pumps. Renewables for future new build will be considered as per design briefs. The recently opened Bridge St Depot welfare building in Girvan was the Council's first A+ net zero carbon energy performance certificate rated building and was also the first Council site to install a battery for solar PV electricity storage. Feasibility work is scheduled to take place on 3 potential sites for solar farms within South Ayrshire as part of a commercialisation opportunity. Feasibility work has also been undertaken at 3 Education properties in the Wallacetown area of Ayr for a community led solar PV scheme.

Renewables	
Feed in Tarrif Income To Date	£42,932
Renewable Heat Incentive Income To Date	£45,090
Total Renewables Income To Date	£88,022

Renewables				
Financial Year	FIT kWh	FIT Income	RHI kWh	RHI Income
2021 - 2022	21,529	£5,934	465,660	£14,919
2022 - 2023	25,427	£7,215	469,973	£14,919

- 4.5.6 Since 2016 the Council has been utilising Salix Finance funding to help deliver energy and carbon reduction projects. The Energy team has successfully delivered projects including ventilation upgrades, LED lighting upgrades and the fitting of swimming pool covers. In 2021/22 two new internal posts were created, Building Services Engineer (Mechanical) and Building Services Engineer (Electrical) as well as £1m of Capital funds to be used for Net Zero project work. Significant work has since been undertaken on BEMS, LED lighting upgrades, installation of electrical submetering as well as feasibility work for several Net Zero projects. Officers will continue to work with Council services to identify project opportunities with a programme of carbon reduction projects developed that will target the highest energy consumption sites in the current Council estate, focussing initially on quick payback projects. Looking further ahead, AMCAT will develop a medium-long term programme that will aim to reduce carbon emissions across the operational estate.
- 4.5.7 In December 2023 the Council submitted a joint bid to the Salix managed Scotland's Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Fund for projects at Crosshill PS and Prestwick Swimming Pool. This new funding source of £20m was available to local authorities to bid into. In March 2024 the Council was notified that the Council had been successful in its request for £1,556,560. The Scottish Government is yet to confirm future funding availability. Going forward a suite of Net Zero project feasibility reports will be undertaken so the Council is in a strong position to bid for any further grant funding. Within 2024/25 further LED lighting upgrade projects and BEMS upgrades will be delivered in our properties that will help the Council meet its energy and carbon reduction objectives. Most medium and large sized sites are now remotely connected to IQVision so further iterative improvements will be made to these sites as well as considering appropriate BEMS solutions for our smaller sites which are not remotely connected at present. The Council has undertaken work to identify further potential projects with a pipeline of future projects now in place.
- 4.5.8 The Council has undertaken a renewal program of utility meters, focussing largely on the implementation of automatic meter readers (AMR). This allows for monitoring of utility consumption within a 24-hour window as half hour meter readings, presenting the opportunity to quickly address faults and excessive energy consumption. We now have 100% AMR data coverage of all corporate (Non-Housing) gas supplies. Work also commenced in November 2021 to install AMR on metered water supplies for the first time. 61 water AMR are now installed providing 31% coverage of all metered supplies. Water AMR provides an early warning system for water leaks with the AMR being used at Forehill PS to identify and fix a leak resulting in a leak allowance of 3690m<sup>3</sup> and a refund of £6463 being received by the Council. Electricity AMR have also been invested in with 37% coverage of all metered supplies across the estate. The other major benefit of AMR is that it ensures that accurate reads are used for billing, and it has been noted that billing to estimate reads has significantly reduced. We will continue to review and extend AMR coverage across our buildings focussing on buildings with the highest consumption or where significant opportunities exist to make savings. The availability of high-quality utility data is essential to our efforts to reduce energy consumption and associated carbon emissions.



- 4.5.9 The necessity for Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS) was starkly outlined during the Covid-19 lockdowns, when energy staff worked to ensure heating controls were adapted for building closures. A new Trend IQVision software platform has been installed and there are now 90 sites connected to this system. The system allows remote access to BEMS to monitor and make controls adjustments. Timeclocks, setpoints and other settings can now be adjusted remotely and this system is now also used to manage holiday heating shutdown periods e.g. school holidays. Significant savings have been achieved, in total reductions equate to 4.6million kWh, £245,000 of costs avoided and 833 tonnes of CO2e reduced. IQVision integration has had a transformative impact on how we manage building energy consumption and is now a critical system used by several staff on a daily basis. This programme continues to develop to ensure that all BEMS can be monitored and accessed remotely, allowing energy staff to adapt heating controls, identify errors, and manage instances of severe weather without the need for a site visit. Improvements on AMR and BEMS coverage are interlinked in providing reductions in energy use, carbon emissions and travel requirements.
- 4.5.10 The requirement for a building heating policy was identified as a result of BEMS work. The Council didn't have a document that defined heating times and temperatures and staff and service responsibilities. A heating policy document has now been created and was shared with services in August 2023 (see Appendix I). Formalising the approach around how we heat our buildings has had many benefits allowing energy saving opportunities to be maximised. This also brings the Council in line with other local authorities who either have a policy in place or have been looking to introduce this policy in response to recent utility cost price increases.
- 4.5.11 The Council completed its draft Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy for public consultation between 16th February and 10th April 2024. Once consultation and service feedback have been implemented a final draft will be formed for Full Council on 27th June 2024. The LHEES is a specialised plan for heat decarbonisation, taking a data driven approach to identify areas of intervention. Interventions will be focussed on areas of developing heat networks, and energy efficiency improvements, especially where this is a driver for fuel poverty. Initial work will look at wider engagement with private and public partner organisations, development of feasibility work on heat network potential and building level intervention plans. This work will link closely with the Ayrshire Energy Masterplan, looking at area wide investment opportunities.
- 4.5.12 The Council is supporting the development of an Ayrshire Energy Masterplan which represents a cross-authority approach to develop a strategic energy vision for the Ayrshire region. This will include socio-economic and techno-economic modelling to identify investment opportunities, areas of business growth, and skills and supply chain development areas. Strategic outcomes will link with LHEES through local energy and heat generation, decarbonisation, investment in local carbon technologies, and a just and inclusive energy transition. The Ayrshire Energy Masterplan strategy report will be finalised in 2024.



- 4.5.13 The council appointed consultants in September 2019 to undertake a forensic investigation into the 'pass through' and non-commodity charges within the energy and water billing. Third-party costs from the Distribution Network Operator, the Grid and HMRC account for over 50% of the energy billing, many of which are complex comprising of multiple components. This work took some time to complete and was delayed due to Covid 19 site access restrictions. This work concluded in January 2023 and the Council has received a total saving of £93k. The £93k saving includes refunds and first year cost savings but it should be noted that the savings will recur meaning that the savings benefit to the Council will be much higher than the £93k figure. This has been a very worthwhile project, and will be repeated in 3 years. Learnings have been integrated in business as usual checks for bill validation and staff have been upskilled.

## 4.6 Office Accommodation

- 4.6.1 The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a significant change to work patterns which have endured to a significant extent across both the Council and the wider economy. Enabled by technological innovation many Council services have chosen to adopt flexible work patterns where possible and appropriate. Many non-frontline staff are now working part of their week at home and part of their week in a Council office. As a consequence, parts of the Council's office accommodation estate are now significantly under-occupied.
- 4.6.2. Offices remain an important aspect of working life in the Council and are important in fostering collaboration and a sense of togetherness within and between teams and services. We will also seek collaboration with public sector partners where co-working offers opportunities for improved service delivery – for example through hub/locality models.
- 4.6.3. Under occupancy of property is a poor use of Council resources and does not foster a positive and vibrant working environment. The Transforming the Estate work programme was approved at Cabinet of 23 May 2023 and provision was made to significantly rationalise the Council's office estate. Therefore, AMCAT will look to reduce the office accommodation footprint where possible through a process of office rationalisation and consolidation. This work will reduce revenue property costs, reduce the Council's CO2 emissions, provide a capital receipt to the Council, and result in fully populated workspaces. Where AMCAT identify that a property is surplus to operational requirement, AMCAT will, having engaged with the affected service(s), and having identified suitable alternative provision appropriate for the needs of that service (where required), seek ELT approval to rationalise the property. Thereafter Council properties identified as surplus to Council requirements must be vacated within three months of such a decision being taken by ELT. This shall increase the efficiency of property rationalisation, maximise revenue savings, and expedite capital receipts. The property in question will then be subject to the processes defined by the Council's Policy for the Acquisition and Disposal of Land and Buildings and the Scheme of Delegation.
- 4.6.4 All requests for office moves should be addressed through the Director, Housing, Operations and Development to ensure equity in office space allocation and will be subject to ELT approval.
- 4.6.5 Office accommodation will be kept under review and where under occupancy is identified this will be managed as required in order to ensure effective and efficient uses of resources.

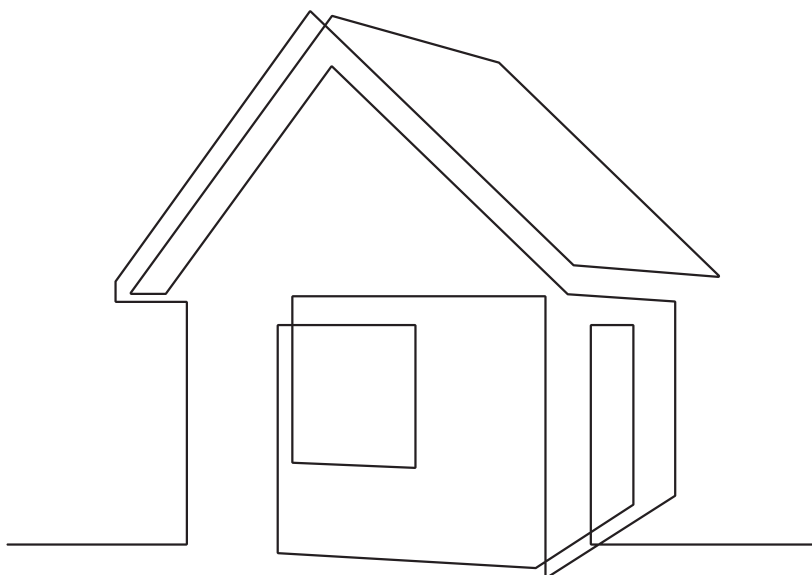


## 5. Capital Asset Management Planning

- 5.1** The Council’s Financial Strategy is to continue to invest in the assets of the Council over a 10-year period through an affordable and deliverable capital investment programme which reflects both available resources and delivery of Strategic Objectives and Outcomes.
- 5.2** The Council has previously developed and implemented a Business Case process including option appraisal linking to the AMP (See Appendix A).
- 5.3** In addition, the membership of the Capital Asset Management Group (CAMG), comprising senior officers representing all services, which is tasked with ensuring the effective management of the capital programme and the evaluation of new bids brought forward.
- 5.4** Since 2015 all bids for all new capital projects are considered on an annual cyclical basis and accord with a timescale that aligns with the budget setting process in December each year. This has ensured that projects are considered and evaluated on a consistent basis related to strategic objectives and corporate policies and recommended to Members for future investment on that basis, consultation with Portfolio Holders on an ongoing basis will ensure lines of communication are kept open during the year with final proposals and recommendations being brought forward for formal approval through the budget process annually.
- 5.5** In recent years the Council and the Scottish Government have funded an increasing range of place based projects through initiatives such as Place Based Programme, Ward Capital Programme, Promenade Capital and Regeneration Capital. The nature and form of capital projects funded under these arrangements are different from the property focus of the existing CAMG. This AMP introduces a second CAMG grouping – CAMG Place Planning (CAMG-PP) to oversee the approval of these projects. This will compliment the existing CAMG as described above which will henceforth be referred to as CAMG Corporate Property (CAMG-CP).

### 5.6 CAMG – Corporate Property

- 5.6.1** As part of the continuous improvement in the Councils approach to asset management, the CAMG-CP will focus on corporate property projects and has approved a capital programme for a 10-year period. This enables longer term capital investment plans to be developed in the context of improving the linkages between capital investment and Council strategic objectives and key Outcomes.
- 5.6.2** Bids for all new capital projects are considered on an annual cyclical basis and accord with a timescale that aligns with the budget setting process in December of each year. This will ensure that projects are considered against the Council’s Strategic Objectives on a prioritised basis having regard to existing programmes, available resources and deliverability.



- 5.6.3 The Financial Regulations published in June 2024 detail the procedure for the preparation annually of a financial plan for the capital investment programme.
- 5.6.4 The basis for assessment of business cases for projects is as follows: completed business cases are considered and assessed at the one time by the CAMG-CP in September each year; recommendations from the CAMG-CP based on the scored templates are passed to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) for consideration in October; and proposals are presented to Elected Members for inclusion in the Capital Programme
- 5.6.5 The CAMG-CP is established to consider at a strategic level, corporate property issues and investment options. The membership of the CAMG is as follows:
- Director – Housing, Operations and Development (Chair);
  - Director of Health and Social Care;
  - 2 x Assistant Director Housing, Operations and Development;
  - Chief Financial Officer;
  - Quality Improvement Manager - Education Support Services; and
  - Service Lead Asset Management & Community Asset Transfer
- 5.6.6 Capital projects are considered on a regular basis by the CAMG-CP with a view to producing a Capital Project Business Case for each project. Services work together with relevant officers across services as required to complete the template sections 1 to 4, with the actual scoring of the project in section 5 undertaken by the CAMG-CP. Only projects in excess of £100,000 capital requirement will be subject to this process.
- 5.6.7 Projects under £100,000 will be prioritised and approved through a separate form submitted to the CAMG-CP. These will be considered and approved utilising a similar methodology for main capital bids. There may be various sources of funding utilised for works in this category of value including the CRA fund and the Repairs and Renewal Fund. The method for approval of these bids by the CAMG-CP can be achieved through circulation of bids through emails and/or meetings.
- 5.6.8 Works required to be undertaken and proposed to be funded by the Repairs and Renewal Fund in excess of £100,000 will require to be considered for recommendation by the CAMG-CP but will require formal approval by Cabinet.
- 5.6.10 The Housing Asset Management Group (HAMG) is an operational sub group of CAMG-CP. It meets on a monthly basis to discuss the Housing capital programme and ensures that spend is monitored throughout the financial year. Any adjustments to capital programme budget lines are referred to the CAMG-CP or Cabinet for approval. The HAMG sub group is chaired by the Service Lead - Housing Services and consists of senior officers within Housing and Finance. It fulfils a similar role to the CAMG-CP sub group. It also discusses potential new housing projects, energy efficiency measures, new build /demolition projects, larger scale environmental projects in housing areas and feasibility proposals.

- 5.6.11 If, at any time following approval it becomes apparent that a capital project will be overspent or if the phased expenditure for the current year is likely to vary between years, then following consultation at either the Capital Asset Management CP Sub-Group or the Housing Asset Management Sub-Group, it shall be the duty of the Service Lead – Asset Management & Community Asset Transfer / Service Lead - Housing Services to report such variation immediately to the CAMG-CP.
- 5.6.12 Where a budget variance amount is less than £100,000, the transfers or adjustments to funding shall be considered by the CAMG-CP and formally approved by the Director – Housing, Operations and Development as Chair of the CAMG-CP. Where the variance amount is in excess of £100,000 or if the phased expenditure for the current financial year is at any time expected to vary by an amount in excess of £100,000, then approval must be sought from Cabinet.

## 5.7 CAMG – Place Planning

- 5.7.1. This AMP introduces a new ‘Capital Asset Management Group Place Planning’(CAMG-PP). The CAMG-PP will focus on delivering capital ‘place planning’ projects between 2024 and 2027. Funding is allocated by Ward and was approved at Cabinet 25th April 2023 and is as follows:

Year/Project	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Girvan Regeneration Projects	£1,500,00	£1,500,000		
Place Plans	£700,000			
Place Planning and Community Led Projects	£1,750,000	£1,750,000	£1,750,000	£1,750,000
Place Planning and Ayr Ward West/Ayr Town Centre Projects	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000
Promenade and Shorefront Enhancement Scheme	£850,000	£500,000	£500,000	£500,000

- 5.7.2 Potential projects and considered by CAMG-PP to ensure that projects are considered on a consistent basis and following due diligence.
- 5.7.3 With a place making focus potential Place Planning Projects are scored on place based outcomes such as visitor attraction, enhancing town centre vitality and compatibility with heritage conservation objectives. However, given the need to manage a range of these projects and with the emerging Council budgetary position, potential projects are also scored on their deliverability prospects and opportunity to reduce revenue cost and improve property condition. The bid form for Place Planning Projects is set out in Appendix H.



5.7.4 Regeneration projects will be identified through masterplans developed for each area. Masterplan projects will be first screened by CAMG-PP before being recommended to Council/Cabinet for public consultation. CAMG-PP will ensure that projects satisfy diligence requirements of Best Value and IIA. No further approvals are required from CAMG-PP.

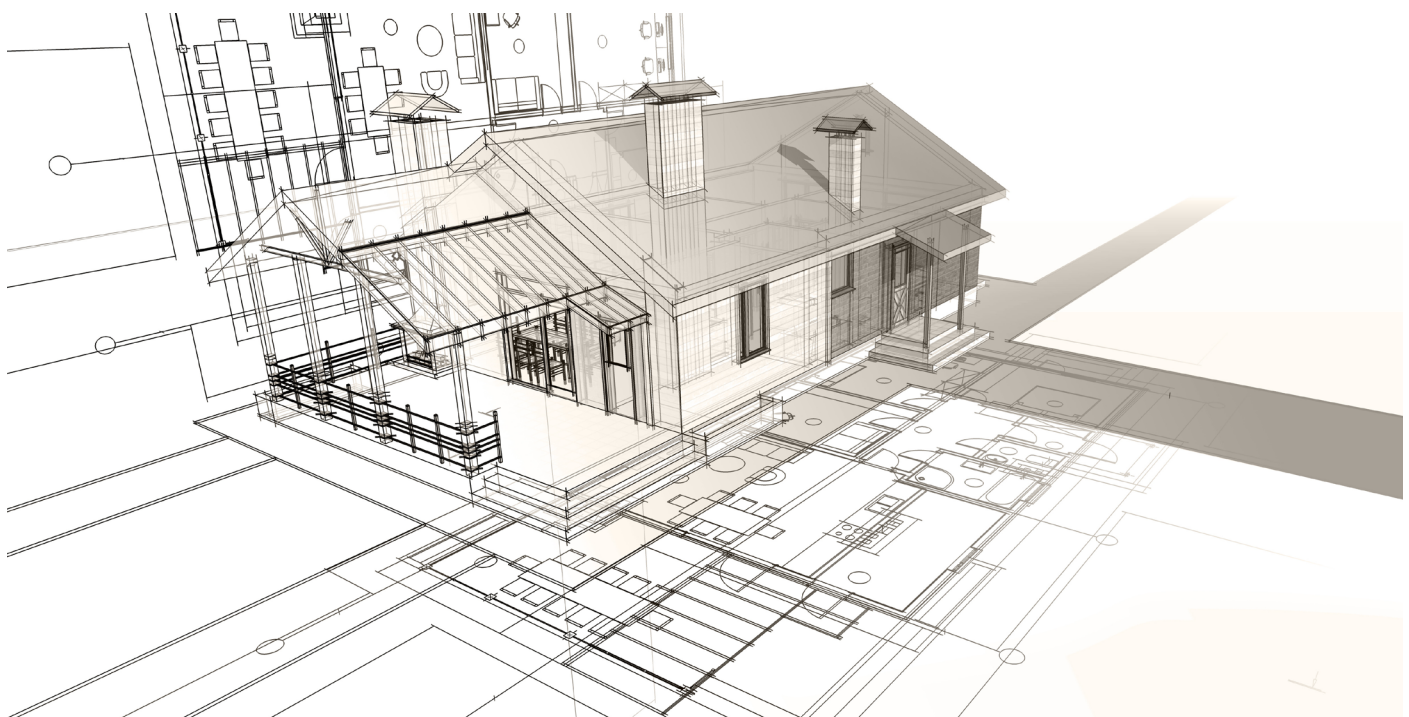
5.7.5 The basis for assessment of business cases for projects is as follows:

completed business cases are considered and assessed on a rolling basis and as required when projects are sufficiently developed to enable CAMG-PP proper consideration;  
for projects with an estimated cost of more than £100,000 recommendations from the CAMG-PP based on the scored templates are submitted to Cabinet or Council for approval.  
The Director of Housing, Operations and Development, in consultation with Ward Members, has delegated authority to authorise projects with an estimated cost of less than £100,000 following CAMG approval.

In the event of a project exceeding its approval estimate once a project has been approved then the Director of Housing, Operations and Development, as Chair of the CAMG, will have delegated authority to progress the project, including consultation with the Section 95 Officer, provided that it does not exceed £100,000 from its estimated cost and can be financed from elsewhere within the Capital Programme.

5.7.4 The CAMG-PP membership is as follows:

- Director of Housing, Operations and Development
- Director of Strategic Change and Communities
- Legal officer nominated by Chief Governance Officer
- Assistant Director Housing and Operations
- Assistant Director Planning and Development
- Assistant Director Communities
- Service Lead Professional Design Services
- Service Lead Asset Management & Community Asset Transfer



## 6. Conclusions

6.1 This AMP is focused on improving our properties within the budgets we have available. The AMP is a dynamic document which will be adaptable and will be reviewed and reported on an annual basis.

6.2 This AMP will provide information and direction to the following range of stakeholders:

- The Council, its Panels and Elected Members – to inform how available land and building assets are currently used;
- Chief Officers, Service Leads and Employees – to help identify the available resources and assist in service delivery planning;
- Residents and visitors of South Ayrshire – to show how the Council's land and building assets impact on service provision; and
- Partners – to help identify opportunities for joint working.

6.3 It is essential that the Council embraces this approach to asset management and strives to invest to ensure our land and building assets are fit for purpose. This will enable efficient resource deployment, service rationalisation, longer term financial planning and improved risk management.



## **7. Appendices**

**A – Capital Business Case Form**

**B - Scottish Government Elemental Listing for Condition Surveys**

**C - Property Asset Information**

**D - Leased Property Information**

**E - General Services Capital Programme 2024-25 to 2035-36**

**F - Sample Condition Survey**

**G - Net Zero Carbon Estate Strategy 2021**

**H - Place Planning Capital Buisness Case Form**

**I - Energy Reduction in Buildings**

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COUNCIL  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Deas  
Making a Difference Every Day

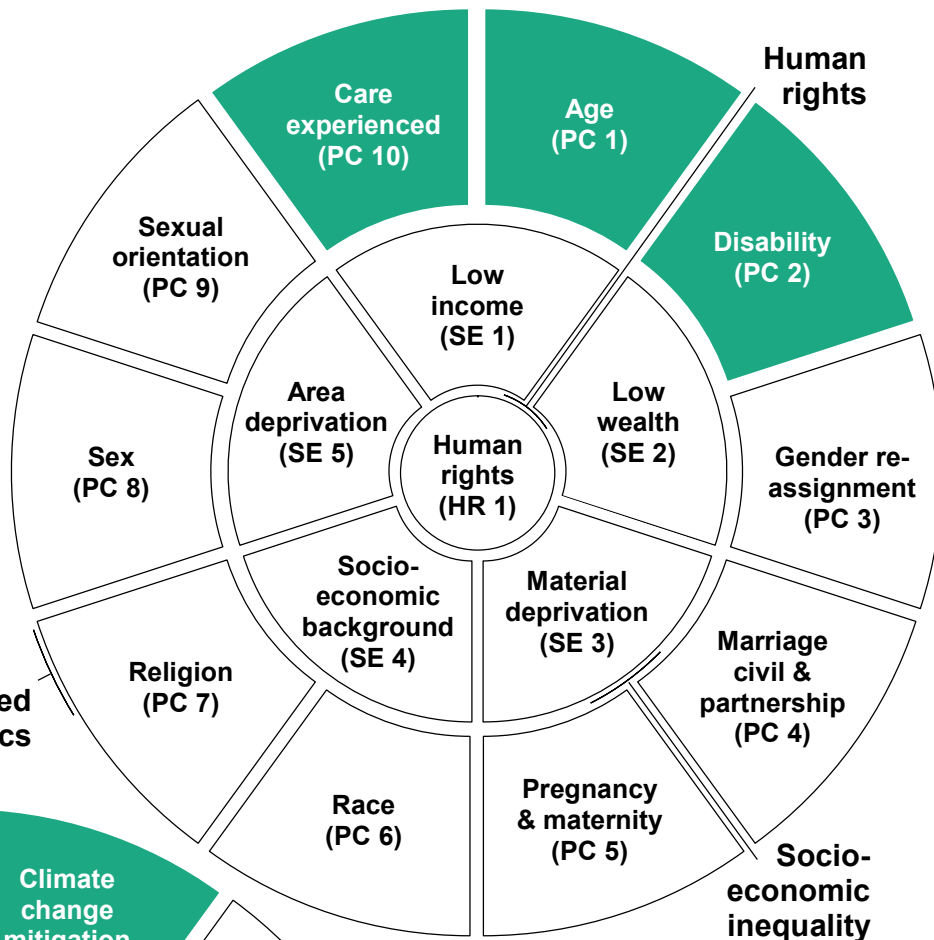
# Integrated Impact Assessment Summary Report

## Asset Management Plan 2024

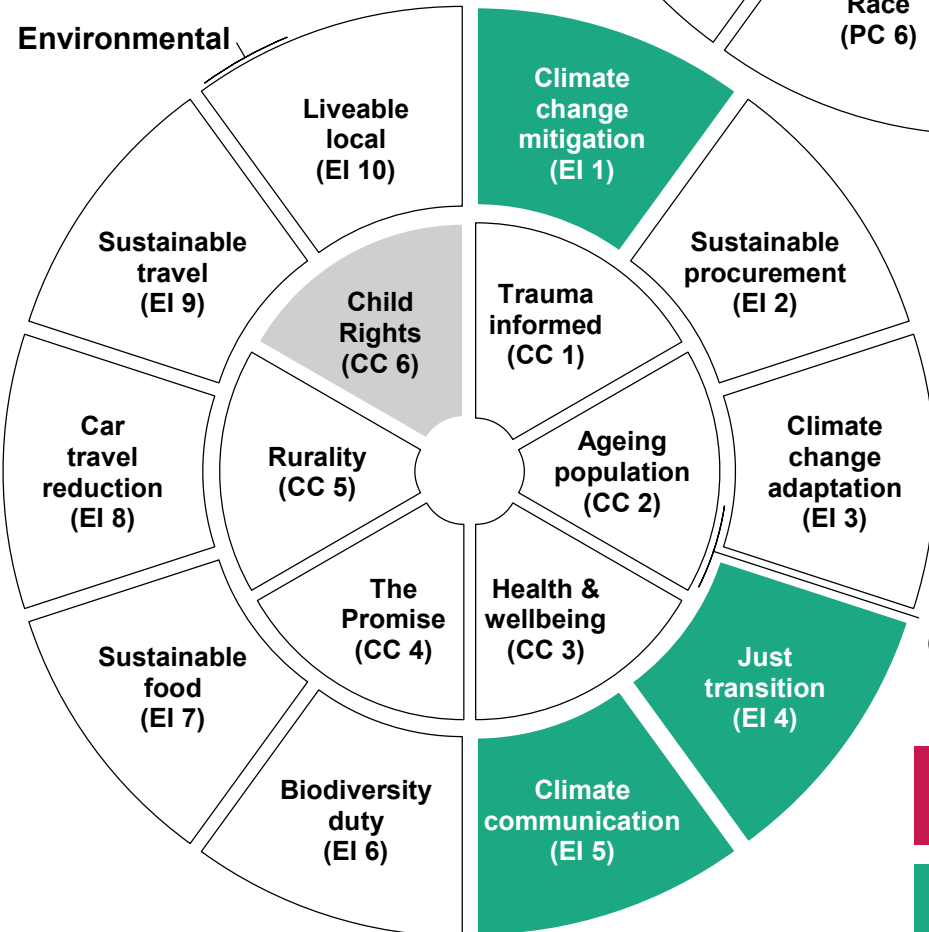


Completed by:  
 Robin Jamieson,  
 Coordinator Asset Management  
 ,  
 Asset Management and  
 Community Asset Transfer

Date started: 11.11.2024



Protected characteristics



Environmental

Cross-Cutting

To be implemented on:

12.12.2024

Review date:

11.12.2025

Oversight Panel:

South Ayrshire Council

negative impact	uncertain / not clear
positive impact	no impact / not applicable

**Public sector equality duty**

Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation?

The 2024 AMP does not affect this aspect.

Advancing equality of opportunity?

The 2024 AMP provides for DDA audit work and subsequent actions.

Fostering good relations?

The 2024 AMP does not affect this aspect.

**Consultation declaration**

We confirm consultation has NOT been carried out as part of this process.

**Mitigating Actions Required (re negative / unclear impacts)**

**CROSS-CUTTING IMPACTS**

<b>CC 6</b>	Child Rights & Wellbeing Assessment	Please detail here
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