

## South Ayrshire Council – 12 December 2024

### Formal Questions

<b>Received from:</b>	<b>Councillor Duncan Townson</b>
<b>Response to be provided by:</b>	<b>Councillor Ian Davis, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Human Resources and ICT</b> <b>Mike Newall, Chief Executive</b> <b>Cecilia McGhee, Chief Internal Auditor</b>

	<b><i>Question</i></b>	<b><i>Response</i></b>
1.	The International Ayr Show – Festival of Flight 2024 was a huge success in terms of numbers of people visiting from outwith the local authority, where we saw huge numbers travelling by car, rail and bus, seeing what must have been a boost to regional transport footfall numbers. With such a successful event for the Council, with it's ability to draw people in from across the country and beyond, this question is looking at the sustainability of the Ayr Show, and the numbers that help support this as an ongoing feature on the annual calendar of events, therefore:	
(a)	What were the financial benefits to local businesses and local economy, like for like in 2024 compared to last year (2023) the first year of the Ayr Show and the year before (2022) when the Ayr Show was not in operation?	An economic impact assessment is currently underway which will demonstrate the financial benefits to local businesses . The economic impact assessment for the 2023 air show will also be presented to Service and Performance Panel in January.
(b)	What was the net gain/loss for the Council as event organiser? Did the Council remain within the Council agreed budget? (£300,000 per annum) What is the specific breakdown for this, for example but not exhaustive; sponsorship; transport arrangements and hire; accommodation; event hire; event personnel; security; performance bookings etc?	A report will be presented to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel in January which will outline the income and expenditure for the 2024 Air Show.

	<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
(c)	Going forwards, is the set budget for the Ayr Show correct or does it require to be revisited, in lieu of two years of data surrounding the event?	Once we have the data finalised for the 2024 event we will be able to identify any budget gap. We also have other measures planned for next year's event which will reduce expenditure and that will have to be taken into consideration before we determine what any future funding should be.
(d)	Is the Ayr Show self-sustaining for the Council, and does it offer the Council additional revenue that could be used to help boost additional events that could boost tourism or support other service areas, such as Schools, heritage, roads etc?	We hope to move to a self-sustaining model over the next few years but at present we are not generating additional revenue that could be used elsewhere.
(e)	Is the Ayr Show best value for South Ayrshire Council going forwards?	Based on the economic impact assessment from last year and the increase on numbers this year which would also suggest an increased economic impact the Air Show could be considered as providing best value.

<b>Received from:</b>	<b>Councillor Duncan Townson</b>
<b>Response to be provided by:</b>	<b>Councillor Martin Kilbride, Portfolio Holder for Buildings, Housing and Environment</b> <b>Councillor Ian Davis, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Human Resources and ICT</b> <b>Kenny Dalrymple, Assistant Director – Housing and Operations</b>

	<b><i>Question</i></b>	<b><i>Response</i></b>
2.	With the launch of charging South Ayrshire residents, for the collection of their Brown Bins of £50 per bin over the summer and with that collection period now at an end, I have the following questions:	
(a)	What has been the take up in numbers and percentage for the Collection charge, per household and not per bin?	18,300 households have taken up the scheme which equates to 45.75% of households
(b)	Of that number, how many have opted for a second bin?	2,779 households have 2 or more bins
(c)	What is the breakdown of that number and percentage per ward?	The data we have is based on the collection routes and the service is not able to provide a breakdown per ward. We are currently speaking to the software provider to be able to run reports per town/village which would allow additional data to be provided in the future.
(d)	Has South Ayrshire seen a rise in complaints of fly tipping of specifically garden and brown bin appropriate waste?	Fly tipping report for the time period 15 July – 25 November 2023 shows total reports of 249. Total reports for the same time period for 2024 totals 278 reports. The fly tipping report does not currently have an option for Garden Waste, so the service is unable to confirm if this increase in reports is down to an increase in garden waste being fly tipped.

	<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
(e)	What is the operating cost (fuel, maintenance, collection agents etc) of collecting the Brown Bins?	Operating Costs for garden collections for 2023/24 was £619,382. The costs for the software system plus staffing costs to administer the new system is £123,592 giving a total expenditure of £742,974.
(f)	What is the final number, in terms of net gain/loss from this budget policy?	The current income for 2024/25 is £1,060,277 which leaves a net income of £317,303
(g)	Is there a way to help cut the cost of the Brown Bin charge for those who are in financial difficulties, such as the elderly or low earners?	A commitment was given at the outset that for year 2 the service would look at the possibility of introducing a concession and we have looked at potential options. It is the aim of the service to take forward proposals for concessions to a future Cabinet with a proposed implementation date of 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2025 as this will be the first date for renewals.
(h)	Are there any job losses due to the reduction in the service?	No

<b>Received from:</b>	<b>Councillor Laura Brennan-Whitefield</b>
<b>Response to be provided by:</b>	<b>Jane Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation</b> <b>Kevin Anderson, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance</b>

	<b><i>Question</i></b>	<b><i>Response</i></b>
1.	What initiatives have been put in place by the council to increase the numbers of golfers from under-represented groups, such as young people, women, and disabled people?	<p>The Golf South Ayrshire Golf Club was established in 2021, and has enabled over 200 golfers to obtain a handicap for the first time. The club enables Men, Women and Young People to play together in the same competition, which is unique in South Ayrshire.</p> <p>In summer 2024, we delivered targeted golf activity to young people at one of our local golf courses (Dalmilling). Two five week blocks of sessions were promoted and delivered as part of a free summer programme for young people, with one session specifically for young people who were identified as at risk of missing out. All equipment was provided to ensure all young people could take part without any barriers. Coaching was provided by a local golf professional and young people were supported to attend, and engage in, the sessions by staff from the North Ayr Community Sports Hub and the Active Schools team.</p> <p>The Council continues to engage with local Primary Schools to provide opportunity to participate in golfing activities with a further programme in place for 2025.</p> <p>We are working with each of the 27 golf clubs to agree a partnership agreement, which includes ensuring their club constitutions include references to the equality act and safeguarding, which will enable GSA to establish robust pathways for participation. The Golf South Ayrshire Golf Club is the first affiliated club to achieve Scottish Golf Safegolf Accreditation.</p>

<b>Received from:</b>	<b>Councillor George Weir</b>
<b>Response to be provided by:</b>	<b>Jane Bradley, Director of Communities and Transformation</b>

	<b><i>Question</i></b>	<b><i>Response</i></b>
	<p>The paper on Golf Development at Belleisle considered by council on 19th August this year, was approved by council, and the paper's proposals include 2.1.3: [council] otherwise notes the content of the report and supports the approaches and activities set out in the report. We note that reference to 'public consultation' on this matter has been replaced by the term 'public engagement'. Could the relevant officer advise:</p>	
1.	<p>How the implemented public engagement qualifies as public consultation given that no mention of Golf Development consultation appears on the council public-facing website list of public consultations?</p>	<p>The public engagement held during October 2024 in relation to proposed works at Belleisle Golf Course were not related to a planning application or formal public consultation. The public engagement provided the opportunity for the appointed golf architect to share the plans at an early stage. The drop-in sessions and online/paper feedback allowed the architect and project team the opportunity to seek views from the public/golf club members on the proposals and to explain the impact and indicative timescales.</p>
2.	<p>In keeping with the above definition of public engagement, if public opinion garnered from the enacted public engagement will be taken into account in determining whether to proceed with the current golf development plan, including the driving range and alterations to course layout?</p>	<p>The engagement phase was concluded at the start of November 2024 and the feedback is currently being reviewed by Pangaea Golf Architecture, who are considering the views in relation to the initial proposals.</p>

<b>Received from:</b>	<b>Councillor Craig Mackay</b>
<b>Response to be provided by:</b>	<b>Kevin Braidwood, Director of Housing, Operations and Development</b>

	<b><i>Question</i></b>	<b><i>Response</i></b>
1.	<p><b>Dropped kerb parking enforcement</b></p> <p>In March I raised a Formal Question asking, given the potential for enforcement of pavement parking to be delayed due to the complexity of the process for exempting streets, if there was any obstacle to immediately undertaking enforcement of aspects of Part 6 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 specifically including dropped kerb obstruction and double parking which are not dependent on exemption orders. I was advised that ARA's Parking Team were currently reprogramming handheld ticketing machines in order to be able to carry out enforcement under this Act. With the most recent Cabinet papers indicating an unspecified delay to the pavement parking exemption process, can I again ask about enforcement of dropped kerb and double parking without having to wait for the pavement parking sections of the legislation?</p>	<p>The assessment of streets in both Council areas has now been complete and a report to seek approval to commence the formal traffic order process relative to exemption orders will be presented to South Ayrshire Council in January 2025. If approved the timeframe for having exemption orders in place following the statutory consultation procedure is likely to be around September/October 2025 depending on whether any objections are received however enforcement could start prior to that. The commencement of any enforcement is dependent upon the back office reconfiguration/reprogramming process referred to above which is being progressed with a view to ARA being able to commence enforcement of all aspects of the Parking Bill in April 2025. A report regarding exemptions was considered by East Ayrshire Council earlier this week and it was agreed to postpone a decision pending further engagement with ward members and a report is to be taken back to cabinet in March. It was further agreed that enforcement would be delayed until later in the year when exemption orders had been out in place.</p>
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	<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
2.	<p><b>Caseload management</b></p> <p>Following on from Council being advised (December 2023) that a Caseload Management system "should be ready for use within the next few months"; trials of a system being undertaken (May 2024); and feedback discussed (August 2024); could an update please be provided on the implementation of:</p> <p>a) a system (as trialled) for submission and internal auditing of councillor enquiries;</p> <p>b) a much-needed system to enable councillors to manage and keep track of casework and contacts in a secure way, which ensures confidential constituent notes can be kept separate from the processing of enquiries by officers?</p>	<p>During the course of this year, Members Support officers have worked with ICT and Members to try to resolve the issues within the GOSS system and the provision of a Caseload Management System. The latest feedback from Members identified further issues which ICT have advised Members Support officers are capable of resolution but, to do so, ICT seek clarification of requirement specifications from Members. ICT and Members Services will organise a meeting in the New Year to discuss this requirement and to assist Members to produce the requirements specification</p>