

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Director of Strategic Change and Communities  
to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel  
of 16 May 2023**

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**Subject: Participatory Budgeting Activity in 2022/23 (Quarters 1 and 2)**

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Panel of the Participatory Budgeting (PB) Activity undertaken by Council Services in the first half of financial year 2022/23.

**2. Recommendation**

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

**2.1.1 considers the content of the PB Activity Report attached as [Appendix 1](#) and notes the value of budgetary spend influenced through the PB processes; and**

**2.1.2 requests that data for October 2022 to March 2023 be submitted to Panel in August 2023.**

**3. Background**

3.1 PB is a tool for community engagement and developing participatory democracy. The Council has implemented strategies which address the key issues contained within the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The Council has also worked with the Community Choices programme, which supports and promotes PB nationally.

3.2 CoSLA has provided a definition of mainstreaming PB as follows: Proactively involving and engaging local people in making decisions for how public money is spent in their community. This means engaging people in the design of policy and strategy that eliminates existing participation gaps.

3.3 It is recognised that PB has to be seen as a long term strategy that has to develop and be delivered over many repeated cycles. The Council will continue to evolve its strategic approach to PB to ensure residents are as engaged as possible in the budget allocation process.

3.4 The Council has, over the past few years, evidenced greater participation in wider consultation and engagement with communities across a number of social media and mainstream communication platforms. For financial year 2021/22, the Council's PB activities amounted to a total of £5.922m of revenue and capital expenditure as influenced by South Ayrshire citizens.

- 3.5 The Council's 1% target for financial year 2022/23, as derived from the information contained in the 2022/23 Finance Order FC5/2022, was £2.476m as defined by COSLA and Scottish Government as: 'The total estimated expenditure for revenue, as per the Local Government finance circular, less assumed Council tax intake'.
- 3.6 [Appendix 1](#) confirms that the Council has already exceeded the 1% PB activity target for financial year 2022/23.

#### **4. Proposals**

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Panel considers the content of the PB Activity Report attached as [Appendix 1](#) and notes the value of budgetary spend influenced through the PB processes.
- 4.2 It is intended to report to the Service and Partnerships Performance Panel on a six-monthly basis with regards to the development of mainstreaming PB. This is to ensure members are sighted on the obligation to ensure citizens are encouraged to become more directly involved on influencing expenditure going forward.

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

- 5.1 This participatory budgeting satisfies the legal obligations of the council under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to promote and facilitate public participation in its decisions and activities and to give communities more powers to achieve their own ambitions. It also complements the Council's legal duties under the Equality Act 2010 and delivers the public sector equality duty by advancing 3 equality of opportunities and fostering good relations between groups. Advice and guidance will be sought from Legal Services on an ongoing basis, where appropriate.
- 5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Although there is no direct budget for mainstreaming PB, its ethos is for communities to have a greater influence on spend. [Appendix 1](#) provides detail of the £3.256m of Council spend influenced through PB for the first two quarters of 2022/23. This already exceeds the 1% target of £2.476m as determined in 3.5 above.

#### **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 Although there is no direct budget for mainstreaming PB, its ethos is for communities to have a greater influence on spend. To that end, Leadership Panel agreed on 12 March 2019 to make £1.5m available over three years for the delivery of Placemaking and associated Place Plans and mainstreaming PB will assist in their delivery.

## 9. **Equalities**

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

## 10. **Sustainable Development Implications**

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

## 11. **Options Appraisal**

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

## 12. **Link to Council Plan**

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priority 3 of the Council Plan: Civic and Community Pride.

## 13. **Results of Consultation**

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

13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowey, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

**Background Papers**    **Report to Leadership Panel of 11 June 2019 - [Moving Towards Mainstreaming Participatory Budgeting](#)**  
**Report to Service and Performance Panel of 23 August 2022 - [Participatory Budgeting Activity 2021/22](#)**  
**[Community Choices 1% Framework Agreement](#)**

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**Date: 3 May 2023**

**Participatory Budgeting Activity  
April to September 2022**

No	Service Area	PB Activity Yes/No	Revenue (£000,000)	Capital (£000,000)
1	Asset Management & Community Asset Transfer	Nil		
2	Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Yes	£36,000	£200,000
3	Children's Health, Care & Justice Service (HSCP)	Yes	£65,000	
4	CLD & Employability and Skills			
5	Community Health and Care Services (HSCP)			
6	<b>Community Services and Facilities</b> 1. Maybole Town Centre Regeneration Public Realm Improvements	Yes		£1,500,000
7	Corporate Accounting	Nil		
8	Democratic Governance	Nil		
9	Destination South Ayrshire	Nil		
10	Economy and Regeneration	Nil		
11	Education Support Services	Nil		
12	Facilities Management	Nil		
13	Housing Services	Yes	£1,105,000	
14	HR, Payroll and Employee Services	Nil		
15	ICT Enterprise Architecture	Nil		
16	ICT Operations, ICT Strategy & Delivery	Nil		
17	Internal Audit	Nil		
18	Legal and Licensing	Nil		
19	Neighbourhood Services	Nil		
20	Organisational Development & Customer Services	Nil		
21	Planning and Building Standards	Nil		
22	Policy, Performance & Community Planning	Nil		
23	Professional Design Services	Nil		
24	Procurement	Nil		
25	Property Maintenance	Nil		
26	Revenues and Benefits	Nil		
27	Risk and Safety	Nil		
28	Special Property Projects	Nil		
29	Thriving Communities	Yes	£23,025	£256,601
30	Trading Standards & Environmental Health	Nil		
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,229.025</b>	<b>1,956,601</b>