

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Director of Strategic Change and Communities  
to Audit and Governance Panel  
of 28 June 2023**

---

**Subject: Corporate Lets**

---

**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update in relation to requests for discretion to be applied to let charges from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

**2. Recommendation**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Panel reviews the information in this report.**

**3. Background**

3.1 At Council in December 2019, it was agreed that officers could apply discretion to let charges for limited prescribed reasons relating to deprivation, location and availability of Council facilities and that, to ensure consistency and transparency, a register of all discretionary lets would be held and reported on annually.

3.2 During the previous reporting period of 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, twelve applications to apply discretion to let charges were received. Ten applications were approved and two were rejected. The low number of applications was largely due the challenging period for lessees in terms of the implications of COVID19 restrictions and indoor lets for external organisations did not fully re-open until September 2021.

3.3 During the current reporting period of 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, the number of applications for discretion to let charges increased to twenty-seven. Twenty-two applications were approved and five were rejected. The register of discretionary applications is set out in [Appendix 1](#).

**4. Proposals**

4.1 It is proposed to continue to review requests for discretion on an annual basis.

**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/**

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 Applying the discretion has resulted in a net reduction of income to the Council, however the income targets for the Ayr Town Hall and Troon Concert and Walker Halls were met during the reporting period 2022/23.

6.2 When considering discretion applications, a range of factors are taken into consideration such as existing staffing levels within the building and any additional costs the let would incur, to ensure that there would be no additional expenditure for the Council. For many of the applicants the full let fee would have been cost prohibitive, therefore the activity would not have taken place, and we would have lost any associated income, albeit at a reduced discretionary rate.

## **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 is a risk that rejecting the recommendations will mean that the Council misses the opportunity to scrutinise discretion applied to lets from external organisations.

## **9. Equalities**

9.1 This report provides an update on the progress of a Panel report which was assessed for potential equality impacts, and the relevant documentation is attached within the report to South Ayrshire Council of 18 December 2019 – [Corporate Lets](#).

## **10. Sustainable Development Implications**

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** - An SEA has not been carried out.

## **11. Options Appraisal**

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

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

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priority 2 of the Council Plan: Live, Work, Learn (Outcome 2: Work and economy – Everyone benefits from a local economy that provides opportunities for people and helps our businesses flourish) and Priority 3 of the Council Plan: Civic and Community Pride (Outcome 1: Pride in South Ayrshire – 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).

### **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 Alec Clark, Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Culture and Rural Affairs, and Councillor Brian Connolly, Portfolio Holder for Sport and Leisure, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

**Background Papers**    **Report to Audit and Governance Panel of 22 June 2022 –**  
**[Corporate Lets](#)**

**Person to Contact**    **Laura Kerr, Service Lead – Destination South Ayrshire**  
**Carnegie Library, 12 Main Street, Ayr, KA8 8EB**  
**Phone 01292 616421**  
**E-mail [laura.kerr4@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:laura.kerr4@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Date: 16 June 2023**

**Approved Discretion Applications**

Application Date	Group/ Organisation	Reason for Let	Date of Let	Frequency Of Let	Let Charge	Amount Discretion Requested	Amount of Discretion Applied	Outcome	Rationale	Decision Maker	Notes
31/03/2022	Ayr Film Society	Charity Film Screening - Ukraine	28/04/2022	One Off	£105.00	100%	£105.00	Approved	Fundraising event/ Ukraine	Jane Bradley	
02/05/2022	Ayr Community Gospel Choir	Concert	11/06/2022	One Off	£808.00	Maximum possible	£240.00	Approved	Charity, fundraising and free entry	Jane Bradley	
04/05/2022	Mrs Leitch	Concert (fundraising for Prostate Cancer)	03/09/2022	One Off	330 + 238.00	100%	£330.00	Approved	Fundraising Event	Jane Bradley	Lessee paid for Tech Support & stage build - £238.00
Jun-22	Ayr Art Guild	NYOS Senior Orchestra Concert	29/07/2022	One Off	£1,014.00	Free day time access	£382.00	Approved	Opportunity for young people. Staff already in during the day.	Jane Bradley	
08/08/2022	Plan B	Retrospective discretion for Winterstorm 2021	Nov-21	One Off	£7,470.00	£2,447.00	£2,447.00	Approved	COVID Recovery	Jane Bradley	Let charge reduced to 2019 rate
30/08/2022	MSP Siobhan Brown	Cost of Living Crisis	30/09/2022	One Off	£210.00	100%	£210.00	Approved	Subject Matter	Eileen Howat	
06/09/2022	Ayr Film Society	Charity Film Screening - Whiteleys	27/11/2022	One Off	150 let + £82 staff	100%	£232.00	Approved	Fundraising event/ Council Charity	Laura Kerr	
08/09/2022	Ayr Model Railway	Exhibition & Kitchen for Fundraising	17-18/09/2022	One Off		Kitchen & Committee Room	N/A	Approved	Fundraising for charity	Laura Kerr	Let cancelled (Queen's death)
06/10/2022	OiR Speakers Group - Town Hall	OiR Speakers Group	Alternate Tuesdays	Regular let (Weekly/monthly)	£60 per let	50%	£30 per let	Approved	Charity providing free service	Laura Kerr	

Application Date	Group/ Organisation	Reason for Let	Date of Let	Frequency Of Let	Let Charge	Amount Discretion Requested	Amount of Discretion Applied	Outcome	Rationale	Decision Maker	Notes
26/10/2022	Scottish Women's Institutes, Ayrshire	Federation Show	14-15/10/2022	One off let/Annual let	£1,600.00	50%	£800.00	Approved	Event aimed at a primarily aging population.	Laura Kerr	
27/10/2022	Minishant Women's Institute	Regular meeting of the wri	Monthly Meetings	Regular let	£12 per hour	Group is unable to afford this cost, bulk of members are over 70.	50% reduction	Approved	Targeted group in rural community. Limited income	Laura Kerr	
01/11/2022	Ayr Community Gospel Choir	Choral Concert for Charity	03/12/2022	One off	578	Maximum possible	£250.00	Approved	Charity, fundraising and free entry	Laura Kerr	
08/11/2022	Whiteleys Retreat	Charity Event	27/11/2022	One off let/Annual let	272	100%	£272.00	Approved	Council Charity	Laura Kerr	
10/01/2023	Dundonald toddlers	Toddler group	Weekly every Tuesday 09.30am - 11.30am	Regular let (Weekly/monthly)	£24 per let	Not specified	£12 per let	Approved	Rural area, low entry fee for targeted group	Laura Kerr	
01/03/2023	Ayrshire Music Festival	Ayrshire Music Festival	7-15/3/2023	One off let/Annual let	£3,440	50%	£1,864.00	Approved	Charity, free entry for children, low entry cost for adults	Laura Kerr	
27/8/2021	West of Scotland Brass Band Association	Concert/competition at Troon	27/08/2022	One Off	£925.50	100%	£925.50	Approved	Free for children to attend, community event	Laura Kerr	
01/11/2022	Ayrshire Hospice	Giggin it Laldy - Eventure Scotland	13/11/2022	One Off	£384.00	100%	£384.00	Approved	Raising funds for new hospice build. In partnership with DSA, bringing high profile acts into South Ayrshire.	Jane Bradley	

Application Date	Group/ Organisation	Reason for Let	Date of Let	Frequency Of Let	Let Charge	Amount Discretion Requested	Amount of Discretion Applied	Outcome	Rationale	Decision Maker	Notes
01/06/2022	National Youth Theatre	National Youth Theatre Camp	1-3/7/2022	One off let	£3,240.00	100%	£3,240.00	Approved	National event for young people. Delivered in partnership with Youth Theatre Arts Scotland and the Ayr Gaiety	Laura Kerr	In-kind use of Ayr Town Hall and Ayr Grammar.
11/11/2022	Scotland on Tour	Scottish Bands - COVID recovery	11/11/2022	One off let	£820.00	Free hall hire	£504.00	Approved	Partnership Event	Laura Kerr	
24/03/2023	Ayrshire Hospice	Giggin it Laldy	24/03/2023	One Off	£1,220.00	100%	£1,220.00	Approved	Raising funds for new hospice build. In partnership with DSA, bringing high profile acts into South Ayrshire.	Jane Bradley	Hall Hire charges, Stage Builds, Section 89, and Front of House staffing for event
17/08/2022	Ayrshire AST - Children Panel Training	Ayr Town Hall	5th Oct 2022, 11th Jan 2023, 1st Feb 2023	various dates	£180.00	Free Hall Hire	£180 + £60.00 for 2023 in same discretion	Approved	PAN Ayrshire Training	Laura Kerr	Children's Panel Training for Ayrshire. Catering was paid for by AST Additional Date 03 May 2023
Mar-22	Ballroom Dancing	Transfer over weekly events from SAC	April 2022 - March 2023	Regular let (Weekly)	11287.5	50% Hall Hire	£5,643.75	Approved	Programme transfer from SAC	Jane Bradley	

## Rejected Discretion Applications

Application Date	Group/ Organisation	Reason for Let	Date of Let	Frequency Of Let	Let Charge	Amount Discretion Requested	Amount of Discretion Applied	Outcome	Rationale	Decision Maker	Notes
16/01/2023	GIRLGUIDING AYRSHIRE SOUTH	GIRLGUIDING THINKING DAY EVENT	26-Feb-23	One off let/Annual let	£516	£350 would be an affordable	£0.00	Declined	Not a free activity or raising funds, group have secured external funding and charging entry fees	Laura Kerr	
17/02/2023	Ayr Development Trust	Community Development Trust Monthly Meeting	07/03/2023	Regular let (Weekly/monthly)	£20 per hour	100%	£0.00	Declined	Space available in schools	Laura Kerr	School facility open
30/03/2023	Plan B Events Scotland	WinterStorm Rock Weekend	25-27/11/2022	One off let/Annual let	6299.5	Not specified	£0.00	Declined	Commercial	Laura Kerr	
03/06/2022	McLeod Fitness	McLeod Fitness	Various	Regular Lets	£15 per hour	Not specified	£0.00	Declined	Commercial	Laura Kerr	
27/10/22	RLNI Troon Fundraising	RNLI CHRISTMAS FAYRE (WINTERTAINMENT)	20/11/2022	One off let/annual let	£525	Not specified	£0.00	Declined	Insufficient information and justification		