Our People, Our Place

Our people and places make South Ayrshire and we have a clear and ambitious vision of what we want to achieve for them and what we will do as a Council to support them.

We want South Ayrshire to be the best it can be and for all people and places to have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

To achieve this, we’re working to deliver against six strategic objectives that provide the framework for everything we do as a Council:

- Effective leadership that promotes fairness
- Reduce poverty and disadvantage
- Health and care systems that meet people’s needs
- Make the most of the local economy
- Increase the profile and reputation of South Ayrshire and the Council
- Enhanced environment through social, cultural and economic activities

Through these objectives, we will tackle inequalities, injustice and disadvantage by making the best use of available resources and targeting these resources where they are needed most.

You can find out more about the objectives and the outcomes we want to achieve in Our People, Our Place – Council Plan 2018-22.

Our Council

The Council is led by the 28 Councillors elected by the people of South Ayrshire. There are eight Council wards, each served by either three or four Councillors, depending on population size.

You can contact any of your local Councillors if you require information, advice or assistance. Councillors are supported by Council employees who are led by the Chief Executive and our Directors for People, Place and the South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

If you need to contact the Council:

- Visit www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk
- Email customerservices@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
- Call 0300 123 0900

Our roads and transportation service is provided by the Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA), which is a shared service with East Ayrshire Council. To contact ARA about roads, lighting or bridges:

- Visit www.ayrshireroadsalliance.org
- Call 01563 503164

The South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership is responsible for the planning, funding and delivery of a range of community health services and social work/social care services for older people, adults, children and families. If you need to contact the Partnership:

- Email sahscp@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
- Call 01292 612419
Our Budget

For 2018/19, the money we have to spend comes from Scottish Government grant funding (£201.1 million, which includes non-domestic rates income), Council Tax income (£53.8 million) and the use of uncommitted Council reserves (£1.5 million).

We’re spending £186 million on Council services and allocating £70.7 million Council funding to the South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

We’re also working to deliver an eight-year £237 million capital programme 2018/19-2025/26, which will transform our people and places.

Full details of the budget set by Councillors are available in the budget book.

Council Tax

Councillors approved a Council Tax increase of 3 per cent, which will raise Council Tax for a Band D property in South Ayrshire by £35.66 – or around 69p per week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>2017/18</th>
<th>3% increase</th>
<th>2018/19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>£792.38</td>
<td>£23.77</td>
<td>£816.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>£924.44</td>
<td>£27.74</td>
<td>£952.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>£1,056.51</td>
<td>£31.69</td>
<td>£1,088.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>£1,188.57</td>
<td>£35.66</td>
<td>£1,224.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>£1,561.65</td>
<td>£46.85</td>
<td>£1,608.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>£1,931.43</td>
<td>£57.94</td>
<td>£1,989.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>£2,327.62</td>
<td>£69.83</td>
<td>£2,397.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>£2,912.00</td>
<td>£87.36</td>
<td>£2,999.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Message from Council Leader

Douglas Campbell

In setting our first budget as Council Leader, my main concern was to ensure any budget savings considerations were managed in an open, transparent and inclusive manner.

That way, our people and communities would be fully informed about the proposals we would need to consider and could play a full and active role in shaping the budget savings that were taken forward.

I’m pleased and proud that we achieved that, and I want to take this opportunity to again thank everyone who took their time to have their say.

In doing this, we have set an unprecedented budget – one that has been shaped by our people for our people, and that genuinely balances the resources we have with the services and facilities people want and need.

That wasn’t an easy task, but with financial management and a better than expected funding settlement from the Scottish Government, we worked hard to minimise the impact of budget savings on frontline services while ensuring we could boost investment where it’s needed most.

Therefore, the savings proposals within our budget are mainly based around reviewing our work processes, revising our staffing structures and changing our financing arrangements.

At the same time, we’re putting additional investment into the key areas that support the Council’s vision for Our People, Our Place:

• Increasing the school clothing grant from £50 to £75 pounds
• £65,000 to support the schools at the heart of the community project and to provide additional holiday activities for schools in the most socially-disadvantaged areas
• £20,000 to reinstate a fund to support community galas
• £17,000 to cover the letting costs for breakfast clubs in our schools
• Supporting the development of place plans for the five towns and villages programme, with £100,000 for improved signage and community engagement
• £75,000 to support staff training and retraining initiatives to ensure the Council can deliver the right services in the best possible way.

We’ve also agreed the biggest and most exciting capital programme ever set out for this Council, with almost £237 million being invested over the next eight years. Key projects include:

• More than £43 million strategic investment in ICT
• An additional £12 million for a new ‘all-through’ campus at Carrick Academy, taking the budget to more than £19 million as part of a total investment package of more than £74 million in the education estate
• £3 million more in 2018/19 for road reconstruction and improvement
• £1 million to support Maybole town centre regeneration
• £750,000 to support the implementation of 20 mile per hour speed limits in towns and villages
• £855,000 to improve public toilet provision.

This will make a real and significant difference, giving people the best possible opportunities, a sense of value and a real pride in their communities.

This is how we’re investing in our vision, in our people, and in our places to create a strong, sustainable South Ayrshire that we can all be proud of, and I look forward to working with you to achieve that.
### Net expenditure on Council Services and Calculation of Council Tax Band D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directorate</th>
<th>2018/19 Total Net Expenditure</th>
<th>(RESTATED) 2017/18 Total Net Expenditure</th>
<th>Change from 2017/18</th>
<th>Band D Council Tax Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£m</td>
<td>£m</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Executive’s Office</td>
<td>19.577</td>
<td>19.869</td>
<td>(0.292)</td>
<td>(1.47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>108.211</td>
<td>104.368</td>
<td>3.843</td>
<td>3.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>43.675</td>
<td>42.718</td>
<td>0.957</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care (funding delegated to South Ayrshire Integrated Joint Board)</td>
<td>70.665</td>
<td>68.769</td>
<td>1.896</td>
<td>2.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport Subsidies and Concessionary Fares</td>
<td>1.986</td>
<td>2.026</td>
<td>(0.040)</td>
<td>(1.97)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Services:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board</td>
<td>0.697</td>
<td>0.697</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Services</td>
<td>(1.225)</td>
<td>0.630</td>
<td>(1.855)</td>
<td>(294.44)</td>
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<td>Capital Charges</td>
<td>12.827</td>
<td>14.000</td>
<td>(1.173)</td>
<td>(8.38)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>256.413</td>
<td>253.077</td>
<td>3.336</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financed by:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>162.839</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Domestic Rates</td>
<td>38.299</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Government support</td>
<td>201.138</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of Surplus/Funds</td>
<td>1.510</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>202.648</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding required from Council Tax</td>
<td>53.765</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Comparison with Government Provision for Current Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure figure used by Government in Aggregate External Finance</td>
<td>4,593</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Government support) calculation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculation of Net Expenditure</td>
<td>327.351</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LESS: Fees, charges and other income</td>
<td>70.938</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed spending by Council on comparable basis</td>
<td>4,689</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Expenditure</td>
<td>256.413</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comparison with Government Provision for Current Expenditure**

- **Expenditure figure used by Government in Aggregate External Finance (Government support) calculation** = 4,593
- **Calculation of Net Expenditure** = 327.351
  - Gross Expenditure
  - LESS: Fees, charges and other income = 70.938
- **Proposed spending by Council on comparable basis** = 4,689
  - **Net Expenditure** = 256.413

### Council Employees (Full-Time Equivalent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>At 31st December 2017</th>
<th>At 31st December 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Ayrshire Council</td>
<td>£1,188.57</td>
<td>£1,173.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Average Band D</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,355</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4,321</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Your Council Tax

How and when do I pay?
Direct debit is the easiest way to pay and it’s quick and easy to set up – see www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/pay-council-tax to set up on-line or call 0300 123 0900. Full details on all payment options can be found on the back of your Council Tax Bill.

Who has to pay Council Tax?
Council Tax is normally paid by the resident owner or tenant of the property.
Husbands and wives, couples and joint owners/tenants have joint liability for the Council Tax, and we can choose to collect the full amount from anyone who is legally responsible for it.

Exemptions, Discounts & Variations
Some properties may be exempt from Council Tax for example, if they are unoccupied and unfurnished, or if they are occupied solely by students.
You may be entitled to a 25% discount if you are the sole adult aged 18 or over in your home, or if there is more than one adult resident but they can be disregarded due to personal circumstances for example, they are a full time student.
A Disabled Person’s Reduction may be available if there are special features or facilities in the property to meet the disabled person’s needs.
Long Term Empty Properties may be subject to a variation in the level of Council Tax due of up to 200% of the charge.

Full details of all exemptions and discounts can be found at www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/counciltax or by calling 0300 123 0900

Change of Circumstances
You must let us know if there is a change to your household circumstances that could affect your Council Tax – for example, if you receive a discount or exemption such as the single person’s discount and the conditions no longer apply.

Contact us Online
You can tell us about a change of address, set up a Direct Debit, apply for Single Occupier Discount or request a copy of your bill.

What if I cannot afford to pay?
You can apply to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which was created to help people on benefits or on a low income. The basic amount of reduction depends on your (and your partner’s) income, capital, personal circumstances and the amount of Council Tax payable.
The Council Tax Reduction Scheme does not apply to water and sewerage charges.
However, households with two or more adults may be entitled to a separate reduction in these charges of up to 25%. The reduction in water charges is applied automatically – where eligible – based on your entitlement to Council Tax Reduction.
The Scottish Welfare Fund also provides assistance to people who are on a low income and are experiencing exceptional pressures or are in a crisis situation.
You can claim CTR and find out more about Benefits at www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/housing-benefit/

What happens if I do not pay?
If any instalment is not paid by the due date, you will be given a written notice requiring you to pay it within seven days. If this instalment is paid and you subsequently default in a monthly payment, a further reminder will be issued requesting that instalment be brought up to date.
No reminder will be issued in the event of any further instalment remaining unpaid after the due date and the full year’s balance becomes due immediately.
If you do not pay the outstanding instalment(s) quoted in any reminder, you immediately become liable to pay the arrears plus the amount due for the remainder of the year.
The Council can take legal proceedings for recovery of the total amount due after serving a notice requiring payment of that balance within 14 days.
If legal proceedings are taken, the Sheriff will grant what is known as a Summary Warrant against you. This will result in the addition of a 10% surcharge to the Council Tax outstanding and allows the Council to employ a Sheriff Officer to recover the arrears by carrying out an attachment and arrestment of wages, bank accounts, etc.
Any expenses incurred by the Sheriff Officer are also payable by you in addition to the 10% surcharge.

Money Advice
A free, confidential, information and advice service is available to assist with welfare rights and issues related to money and debt advice. Further information can be found at www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/information-and-advice-hub/ or phone 0300 123 0900
Further information

Further information about the Council Tax can be found at www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/counciltax.

Further information about Non Domestic rates can be found at www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/businessrates/.

Further information about Benefit Services can be found at www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/housing-benefit/

Or contact us at:

**Council Tax**
0300 123 0900 or council.tax@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

**Council Tax Reduction Scheme**
0300 123 0900 or benefit.services@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

**Non-Domestic Rates**
01292 612671 or business.rates@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Enquiries about the valuation band (domestic properties) or rateable value (non-domestic properties) including any appeals should be directed to Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board, 9 Wellington Square, Ayr KA7 1HL on 01292 612221 or assessor@ayrshire-vjb.gov.uk.

**Appeals**

Appeals on the grounds that you have been improperly charged should be made in writing to the Revenues and Benefits Manager at the address shown below within 28 days of receiving your bill.

If you have a comment about any aspect of our service, or a suggestion about how we can improve our service, please let us know by writing to:

Revenues & Benefits Manager,
South Ayrshire Council,
PO Box 31,
Ayr
KA7 2PL