

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Director of Communities and Transformation
to Cabinet
of 28 May 2025**

Subject: Coastal Communities Fund 2025/2026

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to amend the process for the awarding of Coastal Communities Funding (from Crown Estate net revenues from 24/25). From which, SAC can allocate funding during for 2025/26.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Cabinet approves the amended process for the awarding of Coastal Communities Funding during the financial year 2025/2026.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In January 2020, the Leadership Panel approved the eligibility criteria, principles, and priorities for accessing funds from the Scottish Crown Estate Net Revenue Allocation as awarded to the Council by Scottish Ministers.
- 3.2 There is an expectation that the Council will use the funding to ensure that it specifically benefits our coastal communities which is defined as 'Coastal settlements including seaside towns, ports and other areas which have a clear connection to the coastal economy'.
- 3.3 Since 2020, the Council has awarded the Coastal Communities funding through a grant application process and, subject to compliance with the eligibility criteria, delegated authority to the Director to approve any allocation.
- 3.4 The Council has been awarded £140,623.46 from the Scottish Crown Estate Net Revenue Allocation from the financial year 2024/2025. From which, the Council can allocate to appropriate activity during the financial year 2025/2026.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 Scottish ministers' expectation is that the Council will use the funding to ensure that it specifically benefits our coastal communities. The Council is responsible for making decisions on the funding of projects that benefit our coastal communities whilst at the same time being transparent and accountable to those communities and others for the expenditure made.

- 4.2 The eligibility criteria, funding principles and funding priorities remain the same. As do the priorities identified and approved within the report which were projects that would:
- support improvements in productivity in the coastal economy through projects that support the outputs and performance of coastal businesses;
 - provide support for evidence of demand and do not duplicate provision funding elsewhere;
 - address seasonality by creating new patterns of demand for tourism, establishing unique selling points and distinctive market niches in the visitor economy across a greater proportion of the year;
 - deliver improvements to public places that will increase the number of visitors, generate direct and indirect employment opportunities, and make coastal communities more attractive places to live and work; and
 - support the delivery of jobs and economic growth through integrated regeneration initiatives which include, where appropriate, addressing the issues of flooding, coastal erosion, risk management or bathing water quality which threaten the development of the coastal economy.
- 4.3 This year, rather than putting in place an application process, it is proposed that the fund is used to deliver and/ or enhance a range of projects and initiatives that have already been identified and which would meet the above priorities. This would include enhancing the Community Empowerment Fund, Destination South Ayrshire Priorities and Destination South Ayrshire Tourism Grants.
- 4.4 Details of all projects and initiatives will be published on the Council's website outlining the associated community benefits.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

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

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The Council has been awarded £140,623.46 from the Scottish Crown Estate Net Revenue Allocation for financial year 2025/26 – this is from revenue generated by Crown Estates during 24/25 but can be spent allocated within current year. Annual allocations in future years will depend on the net revenue generated by Scottish Crown Estate marine asset operations.

7. Human Resources Implications

- 7.1 Coastal Communities funding will be delivered from across services within the Communities and Transformation Directorate.

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 Council may not be able to deliver the range of projects and initiatives that have been identified and which meet the appropriate criteria.

9. Integrated Impact Assessment (incorporating 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 at this stage.

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. The proposals considered fit with existing Council strategies and priorities.

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 / Work, and the economy.

13. Link to Shaping Our Future Council Yes ☐ No ☒

13.1 Not applicable.

14. Results of Consultation

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

14.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Bob Pollock, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

15. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

- 15.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Director of Communities and Transformation 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>
Progress funding and delivery of Coastal Communities projects	December 2025	Assistant Director - Communities

Background Papers Report to Leadership Panel of 21 January 2020 - [Scottish Crown Estate Net Revenue Allocation - Eligibility Criteria, Principles and Priorities](#)

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