

## South Ayrshire Council

### Report by Chief Governance Officer to South Ayrshire Council of 26 June 2025

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**Subject: South Ayrshire Charitable Trust**

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#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update on the South Ayrshire Charitable Trust and approve the Trust Business Plan for the 2025/26 financial year.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Members as Trustees of South Ayrshire Charitable Trust:**

2.1.1 **note the summary of grant and donation funding made by the trust during 2024/25 detailed in [Appendix 1](#); and**

2.1.2 **approve the business plan for the running of the trust for the year 2025/26 detailed in [Appendix 2](#).**

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 At the Council meeting of 18 December 2014, Members considered a report concerning the consolidation of sixteen charitable and seven non-charitable trusts into a new trust. The Members were trustees of these historic trusts which were administered by the Council. Members agreed to set up the South Ayrshire Charitable Trust, and to seek charitable status for that trust from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). At the Council meeting of 25 June 2015, Members were advised that the South Ayrshire Charitable Trust had been established and given charitable status by OSCR. The purposes of the South Ayrshire Charitable Trust are (a) the prevention and relief of poverty and (b) the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

- 3.2 Transfers of the sixteen charitable and seven non charitable trusts to South Ayrshire Charitable Trust took place on 1 April 2016. The assets transferred remained ring fenced for the geographic area of the trust from which they came. The consolidation of the charitable and non-charitable trusts operated by South Ayrshire Council into the South Ayrshire Charitable Trust has allowed for a simpler management process of the trusts and meaningful disbursement to those in need in South Ayrshire as envisaged by the original benefactors.

3.3/

- 3.3 The trustees approved a Business Plan on 17 December 2015 for the operation of the South Ayrshire Charitable Trust. In terms of that Business Plan decisions for disbursement of trust funds were delegated to Committees of Trustees who comprised the Councillors for the areas of Ayr; Prestwick and Monkton; Troon; Coylton; Maybole; Barr and Girvan. The Business Plan has been amended in each subsequent year to take account of changes in the amounts held by the trust.
- 3.4 Applications have been invited for grant funding for the last eight years. Funds for Maybole were fully utilised in 2016/17; for Troon and Barr in 2017/18; for Prestwick and Monkton in 2020/21 and for Coylton in 2022/23. Funds for Girvan include external investments in the name of predecessor Trusts and Trustees which are currently inaccessible. Officers in Finance are working to resolve these access issues. The Committee of Trustees for Ayr met to determine grant applications for the year 2024/25. A summary of the grant awards made by the Committee is found in [Appendix 1](#). Grants were awarded with a total value of £8,860. The trustees decide to donate the sums remaining in the Ayr fund to organisations who meet the trust purposes. A grant sum paid by the Prestwick and Monkton fund in 2019/20 was repaid by the grantee as it had not been spent. Applications for grants were invited but none were forthcoming. The Committee of Trustees for Prestwick and Monkton met and made donations to organisations who meet the trust purposes. The Committee of Trustees for Girvan also had a small sum available and agreed to make donations to organisations who meet the trust purposes. A summary of donations made in 2024/25 can be found in [Appendix 1](#). In the last eight years grants and donations of over £700,000 have been made from the trust.
- 3.5 A sum of £50,000 was set aside in the 2025-26 Council budget for a 'Small Grants Scheme to replace Trust Grants'. Officers are considering options for the use of these funds, which could involve utilising the existing grants fund process through Thriving Communities, or adding funds to the SACT fund. An update will be provided to elected members in due course.

#### **4. Proposals**

- 4.1 The only funds remaining are those held external investments in the name of predecessor Trusts and Trustees for Girvan which are currently inaccessible. Until these funds are accessible no grants or donations can be made from South Ayrshire Charitable Trust. Should funds become available in the coming financial year then the advertising process and application administration is undertaken by Thriving Communities with support from Legal Services. The business plan in [Appendix 2](#) sets out the limits for grant spending in each area.

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

- 5.1 The recommendations in this report are consistent with legal requirements. Legal advice will continue to be provided as required.
- 5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

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

- 6.1 In the year 2025/26 there will be no funds available to be spent in Ayr, Barr, Troon, Maybole, Coylton and Prestwick and Monkton. The remaining Girvan funds (£13,000) are tied up in external investments and other restricted funds which are held in the name of predecessor Trusts and Trustees. Finance officers' efforts to have these assets legally transferred to the Trust were previously delayed by the

impact of Covid-19 and although this work resumed, the number of separate entities involved in the resolution process and the impact of competing priorities on the ability to pursue them has resulted in further delays. However, until that issue is resolved it may be that no or very limited funds are available for that area.

## **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 If the recommendations are not approved, trust resources will not be best utilised for the benefit of residents of South Ayrshire in the coming year.

## **9. Integrated Impact Assessment (incorporating Equalities)**

9.1 The proposal is in relation to day-to-day operations or maintenance of existing assets therefore an Integrated Impact Assessment is not required.

## **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.

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

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to the Council Priority One of 'Spaces and Places' (outcome 'Play, sport and recreation'); Priority Two 'Live, work learn' (outcome 'work and economy') and Priority Three Civic and Community Pride' (outcome 'community engagement')

## **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 Brian Connolly, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, and Councillor Ian Davis, Portfolio Holder for Finance,

Human Resources and ICT, 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 Chief Governance Officer 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 '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>
Advertising for grant applications for South Ayrshire Charitable Trust for the year 2025/26 should funds become available	31 October 2025	Service Lead - Thriving Communities

**Background Papers**    **Report to South Ayrshire Council of 18 December 2014 – [Consolidation of Charitable and Non-Charitable Trust Funds Administered by South Ayrshire Council](#)**

**Report to South Ayrshire Council of 25 June 2015 – [South Ayrshire Charitable Trust](#)**

**Person to Contact**    **Karen Briggs, Service Lead, Legal and Licensing  
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR  
Phone 01292 612416  
E-mail [Karen.briggs@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.briggs@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Date:** 19 June 2025

**GRANTS AND DONATIONS MADE BY SOUTH AYRSHIRE CHARITABLE TRUST 2024/25****GRANTS MADE BY AYR COMMITTEE**

- (1) Harbour (Ayrshire) £1000
- (2) Ko-Nekt (Childcare) CIC £1000
- (3) Lochside Neighbourhood Group £1000
- (4) Oshay's Brain Domain £1000
- (5) Sensory Impaired Support Group £860
- (6) South Ayrshire Foodbank £1000
- (7) Ukrainian Community Group £1000
- (8) Vics in the Community £1000
- (9) Wallacetown EYC £1000

**TOTAL - £8860****DONATIONS MADE BY AYR COMMITTEE**

- (1) £1500 to Ayrshire Cancer Support - to support car service they provide to take cancer patients for treatment in hospitals
- (2) £1000 to Newton Primary School Food Bank- for provision of toiletries and food for those in need
- (3) £500 to Wallacetown EYC - to be used for provision of clothing and payment of trips for children in need
- (4) £500 to Compass Drop In Centre, James Street, Ayr – to support services provided to service users with addiction issues

**TOTAL -£3500****DONATIONS MADE BY PRESTWICK AND MONKTON COMMITTEE**

- (1) £500 to Monkton Community Council to support them to provide a Xmas Dinner for the elderly in Monkton and assist the support they provide in ensuring cosy spaces in Monkton.
- (2) £190 to VASA to support the Xmas dinner they provide to those nominated to them by social services who are alone on Xmas day. They had contacted community leaders advising they were supporting 19 people in Prestwick and Monkton and needed funds for a dessert and small gift.
- (3) £500 to The 65 Club/Age Concern Prestwick to support the Xmas lunch they provide for their service users. The broad aim of The 65 Club is to take action which will improve the quality of life of older people (50 years and older), their families and disabled people living in Prestwick and the surrounding area.
- (4) £500 to the Dementia Friendly Prestwick to subsidise the £15 attendance fee they charge per day for the meeting centre in Prestwick for residents of Prestwick and Monkton
- (5) £500 to Diamonds Lunch Club, New Life, 60 Monkton Road Prestwick South Ayrshire, KA9 2PA to support the Xmas lunch they provide for their service users.

- (6) £310 to the Night Before Xmas Campaign to support the gifts they give to children in need in Prestwick and Monkton at Xmas.

**TOTAL £2500**

### **DONATIONS BY GIRVAN COMMITTEE**

- (1) £500 to CAN who provide a car service for cancer patients who require to attend hospital out with Girvan for treatment.
- (2) £500 to Ayrshire Hospice Shop in Girvan which supports the Ayrshire Hospice.
- (3) £250 to OIR Girvan. The Opportunities In Retirement Girvan assist the elderly in retirement in providing activities and social interaction.
- (4) £250 to Cosy Spaces Girvan run by VASA meets in The Town House in Knockcushan Street, Girvan to provide a free hot drink and light lunch in a warm space for those in need of socialisation every Wednesday.
- (5) £250 to Men's Sheds Girvan is a facility set up for local men to socialise and take part in various activities.
- (6) £250 to Duff Street Kitchen, 32 Glendoune Street, Girvan provides a safe space for all ages to socialise and enjoy a home cooked meal. They provide soup kitchens all provided by volunteers.

**TOTAL -£2000**

**TOTAL GRANTS AND DONATIONS IN 2024/25= £16,860**

## South Ayrshire Charitable Trust – Business Plan 2025/26

### 1. The Trust

The South Ayrshire Charitable Trust was established in 2015. The following comments are made regarding the trust deed:

- (a) The trustees are the Councillors of South Ayrshire Council and their statutory successors in office. All trustees will be appointed on an *ex officio* basis.
- (b) The South Ayrshire Charitable Trust is designed to assist and improve the lives of those who are in need because of poverty, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage, and who are resident within the South Ayrshire area.
- (c) The funds which made up the initial trust fund came from trusts which were designed to benefit specific geographic areas within South Ayrshire. The funds which originated from these trusts remain ring fenced for these specific geographic areas. The trustees appointed from their number trustees who sit on Committees relative to each of these geographic areas who will decide grant applications for these areas. The trustees for each area can also make donations as they see fit from the funds ring fenced for their area. A minimum of three trustees was appointed for each Committee. The trustees for each Committee are detailed in Annex 1. A quorum of two is sufficient for all decisions regarding the awarding of grants and donations from the trust funds from the said Committees. (hereinafter referred to as 'the Committees').

### 2. Purposes of the South Ayrshire Charitable Trust

The purposes of the South Ayrshire Charitable Trust are :

- (a) the prevention or relief of poverty; and
- (b) relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage and who are resident in South Ayrshire.

### 3. Limitation of Value of Funding

The limitation on particular grants and donations is strictly at the discretion of the trustees. While grants agreed by the trustees will be subject to the grant conditions outlined in this Business Plan, there may also be occasions where the trustees decide to make specific donations to persons and organisations within the limits of the funds remaining to their trust area. The limitation on grants for the year 2025-2026 will be £1000 for Girvan. The limits on grants will be reviewed on an annual basis at a meeting of all the trustees.

### 4. Who can apply for Funding?

Groups, organisations and individuals provided they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the trustees that the funding will be utilised for the trust purposes. Where the trust funds are ring fenced for a specific geographic area the applicants will require to show to the trustees that the funding will be utilised for the benefit of the residents of the specific geographical area.

## **5. The Use of Trust Funds**

The revenue generated from the capital of the trust fund and where the trustees consider it reasonable the capital of the trust fund will be used to support and improve the lives of residents in South Ayrshire through grants and donations. Possible activities the trust may support could include but are not limited to:

- (a) providing grants and donations to local clubs or organisations which support the poor, the disadvantaged, the disabled, the elderly or the sick; and
- (b) providing grants and donations to purchase items for local hospitals and care homes for projects which will benefit patients and residents.

## **6. Application for Grants**

The trust will be highlighted to groups, organisations and individuals once per annum via the South Ayrshire Council website and other appropriate methods of publication. Prospective applicants will be notified of the funding criteria and how to obtain application forms.

An application form will be completed by the applicant and returned to South Ayrshire Council.

Applications will then be examined by officers and if they are fully completed they will be passed before the relevant Committee of trustees at a meeting for consideration.

The Committees will meet at least on a yearly basis to consider the grant applications and award grants. The decisions on which applications are awarded funding will be at the discretion of the Committees of trustees.

Grants will be issued by South Ayrshire Council from the accounts they hold for the trust.

Applicants will be required to provide an evaluation form detailing how grant funds were spent and evidence of spending. If they fail to do so the Committees can decide not to fund future applications.

## **Annex 1**

### **Ayr**

The Committee of trustees will be the Members who represent Wards 3,4 and 5.

### **Girvan**

The Committee of trustees will be the Members who represent Ward 8.

### **Coylton**

The Committee of trustees will be the Members who represent Ward 7.

### **Prestwick and Monkton**

The Committee of trustees will be the Members who represent Wards 2 and 6.

### **Troon**

The Committee of trustees will be the Members who represent Ward 1

### **Maybole**

*The Committee of trustees will be the Members who represent Ward 7*