

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Chief Executive
to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel
of 20 August 2025**

Subject: Participatory Budgeting Activity 2024/2025 Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Panel of the Participatory Budgeting (PB) Activity undertaken by Council Services for the period 2024/25.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended 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 during 2024/2025.**

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 As highlighted to Panel previously, PB is a long-term strategy that will be developed and delivered over many repeated cycles. The Council continues to evolve its strategic approach to PB ensuring that 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.

- 3.5 The Council's 1% target for financial year 2024/2025 (as derived from the information contained in the 2024/2025 Finance Order FC 2/2024, is £2,742,980. This is 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 The CoSLA framework on PB explains that local authorities can use both revenue and capital spend to arrive at the target.

4. Proposals

4.1 It is proposed that the Panel considers the content of the PB Activity Report for 2024/2025 attached as [Appendix 1](#) and notes the value of budgetary spend influenced through the PB process – a total of £14,865,083 surpassing the target by £12,122,103.

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 Council spend influenced through PB for 2024/2025.

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 The Council will be unable to report its PB activity to relevant bodies.

9. Integrated Impact Assessment (incorporating 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 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 as follows:

- [Appendix 1](#) allows for scrutiny of performance.

12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to all Priorities of the Council Plan.

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 the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

Background Papers Report to Leadership Panel of 11 June 2019 - [Moving Towards Mainstreaming Participatory Budgeting](#)

[Community Choices 1% Framework Agreement](#)

Report to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel of 11 June 2024 - [Participatory Budgeting Activity 2023/2024 – April 2023 to March 2024 Update](#)

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Date: 7 August 2025

Participatory Budgeting Activity

Time Period: 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025

Service Area	PB Activity Yes/ No	Revenue (£000,000)	Capital (£000,000)
Ayrshire Roads Alliance (in conjunction with Professional design Services)	Yes	£0	£1,557,402
Ayrshire Roads Alliance	Yes	£6,500	£0
Community Health and Care Services (HSCP)	Yes	£98,417	£0
Housing Service	Yes	£0	£11,332,000
Professional Design Services	Yes	£0	£1,870,764
	Totals	£104,917	£14,760,166
Total Spend (Revenue + Capital)			£14,865,083

BREAKDOWN OF SPEND

Ayrshire Road Alliance in Conjunction with Professional Design Services	
Upgrade of the boating pond in Girvan	£122,190
Creation on new pathway in Pinwherry and Pinmore	£22,700
Upgrade to Ardstinchar Bridge Ballantrae	£38,466
Work to maintain and upgrade the Troon Esplanade	£229,500
Upgrade the surface of the car park area to the North of Kidzplay	£252,446
Resurface and reconfigure the Prestwick Promenade with Red Tarmacadam	£223,037
Upgrade to the Newton Shore Footpath with red tarmacadam	£19,186
Upgrade of the Carriageway of Newton Shore Promenade	£223,930
Creation of a formal road access and parking provision to be created at Dundonald Field, Dundonald.	£30,771
Upgrades made to the roads and footpaths in Dundonald, Mossblown, Symington and Loans.	£85,104
Road and Footpath upgrades in Maybole and Dunure	£9,636
Improve access from the Harbour to Kennedy Park and the Castle with a new viewpoint bridge	£65,775
Install lighting to illuminate the Auld and New Bridges Ayr	£102,871
Road upgrades to all main arterial routes into Ayr	£131,790
Total	£1,557,402

Ayrshire Roads Alliance	
Provision of Community Grit Bins	£6,500
Total	£6,500

Community Health and Care Services (HSCP)	
Ayr North Locality – Small Grants PB Process	£20,690
Ayr South Locality – Small Grants PB Process	£24,195
Maybole and North Carrick Locality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £10150 through small grants PB • £11517 through small grants • 11 Groups were funded 	£21,525
Girvan and South Carrick Locality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £17175 through small grants PB • £4350 through small grants • 16 group were funded 	£21,525
Prestwick Locality	£5,241
Troon Locality	£5,241
Total	£98,417

Housing Services	
Redevelopment of High Flats, Riverside, Ayr	£11,332,000
Total	£11,332,000

Professional Design Services	
Upgrade to the open space at Stumpy Tower, Girvan situated at the corner of Knockcushan Street and Dalrymple Street	£337,674
Upgrade at the former Bingo Site on Dalrymple Street Girvan	£500
New public toilet installed near the Boating Pond and Biosphere Bikes nr Louisa Drive Girvan	£5,450
Girvan Story Project	£16,573
Installation of concrete public seating on Girvan Promenade	£4,680
Upgrades to promenade and shorefronts in South Carrick	£4,576
Installation of bunting for the length of Girvan Promenade and around Stumpy Tower	£3,276
Upgrade of the Bird Aviary in the Knockcushan Street Community Gardens	£58,282
New Shelter on Girvan Esplanade	£200
Installation of new deer proof fence at Bynehill Cemetery Girvan	£110,841
Installation of recycling bins in Troon	£68,199
Creation of outdoor stage and bandstand at Walker Hall Troon	£16,326
Prestwick Heritage works	£2,250
Renovation works to Prestwick swimming pool	£150,000
Upgrade of the onstreet parking adjacent to Lochside Community Centre, Lochside Road, Ayr	£29,706
Installation of a Multiuse games area in the Newton area of Ayr	£197,342
Upgrade of the area and the relocation of the War Memorial in Mossblown	£80,000
Installation of new benches in various locations in Symington	£2,014
Equipment for a community cinema in the Carvick Webster Hall Monkton	£8,651
Supply and installation of branding for Dunure Safety Boat	£120
Protection and enhance wildlife habitats in Crosshill, Straiton, and Kirkmichael	£25,000
Creation of an Alzheimer's Walk in Crosshill with different coloured benches placed throughout the village	£74,440
Installation of Column Lighting to Ayr Beach Promenade	£20,311
Upgrades to Burns Statue Square public realm areas	£113,147
Installation of a decorative lighting column on Millar Road Ayr	£1,657
Construction an enclosed area at the bandstand at Place De Saint Germain en Laye Gardens	£22,163
Town Centre Strategy for Ayr	£83,258
Purchase of stretch tents	£44,000
Repair of footbridge over the slipway access to Ayr Harbour	£271,820
Remove the Vessel Watchful and carry out repairs to slipway	£6,988
Work to improve the High Street and associated buildings and spaces	£67,771
Improvements to Ayr's Inner Harbour	£30,799
Ayr Esplanade Artwork Trail	£12,750
Total	£1,870,764