

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Director of Communities and Transformation
Service and Partnerships Performance Panel
of 9 June 2026**

Subject: Coastal Communities Funding

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Service and Partnerships Performance Panel with an update on Coastal Communities funding and projects support through the fund.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Panel:

2.1.1 Notes the Coastal Communities funding update.

2.1.2 Notes the projects supported through 2024/25 funding.

2.1.3 Notes the projects that are supported and progressing through the 2025/26 funding.

3. Background

- 3.1 In January 2020, [Leadership Panel](#) approved the eligibility criteria, principles, and priorities for accessing funds from the Crown Estate Scotland (CES) Net Revenue Allocation awarded to Council by Scottish Ministers.

CES core purpose is to invest in property, natural resources, and people to generate lasting value for Scotland. Under the Scottish Crown Estate Act 2019, CES is required to maintain, and seek to enhance, the revenue and capital value of the Scottish Crown Estate assets in ways support sustainable development and contribute to improvements in relation to Scotland's economic development, regeneration, social wellbeing and environmental wellbeing.

- 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 awarded Coastal Communities funding through a grant application process and has delegated authority to the Director to approve allocations, that meet the eligibility criteria
- 3.4 On 28 May 2025, Cabinet agreed that rather than implementing a further application process, the funding would be used to deliver and/or enhance a range of projects and initiatives already identified by officers that aligned with the priorities of the fund.
- 3.5 Officers agreed the following projects:
- The Scottish Beach Sprints and Offshore Championships over 2 days on 16th/17th August 2025.
 - New Market Street Traders to support Service Level Agreement activities.
 - Thriving Communities - Community Led grants.
 - NTS Culzean Lego event.
 - Destination South Ayrshire Grants.
 - Summer Fayre 2025.
 - Ayr Yacht Club with dredging of the harbour.
 - DSA summer holiday activities.
 - Coastal paths and rivers events including excursions.
- 3.6 Appendix 1 provides an update on the projects supported from 2024/25 funding.
- 3.7 On 25 November 2025, South Ayrshire Council received a letter from Malcolm Pentland, Deputy Director and Marine Economy and Communities Portfolio Lead within the Marine Directorate, confirming the 2025/26 Scottish Crown Estate Net Revenue allocations. South Ayrshire Council was awarded £163,101.47. Due to the delay in the award, projects could be delivered in the new financial year
- 3.8 Officers have agreed the following projects:
- South Ayrshire Council Summer fAyre
 - South Ayrshire Council Communities Day
 - Destination South Ayrshire (DSA) - Grants
 - Community Led - Large Grants
 - Community Led - Small Grants
 - Free to attend outdoor Coastal Activities
 - DSA Holiday Programme
 - Dolphin House 25 Year Legacy Programme
- 3.9 On 26 February 2026, SAC received further notification confirming multi-year Coastal Communities funding until 2032/2033.

The multi-year investment provides a degree of funding certainty regarding the level of net revenue profits available to the Scottish Government. As a result, and in line with the Fiscal Framework between the Scottish Government and Local Government, Ministers have agreed to extend that funding certainty to Local Government.

This update confirms that, from 2026–27 onwards, the total net revenues distributed to coastal local authorities will be guaranteed at a minimum of £12.4 million per year until March 2031. As net revenue allocations are issued two years in arrears, this arrangement will therefore run until 2032–33.

- 3.10 Officers will present a report to Cabinet seeking approval for 2026/27 proposals once the grant award letter has been received.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 Service and Partnerships Performance Panel are asked to note the Coastal Communities funding update.
- 4.2 Notes the 2024/25 Net Revenue funded projects.
- 4.3 Approves for Officers to provide a further update to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel in June 2027.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 External funding is distributed by Scottish Government and administered by SAC.

7. Human Resources Implications

- 7.1 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

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 are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

9. Equalities

- 9.1 The proposals within this report have been assessed through the EQIA scoping process and there are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts in agreeing the proposals, therefore an EQIA 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 above recommendations relate to Priority 1 - Spaces and Place, Priority 2 - Live, Work, Learn and Priority 3 Civic and Community Pride.

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 the Leader Brian Connolly Portfolio Holder Economy and Strategy.

Background Papers: [Leadership Panel 2020](#) Scottish Crown Estate

[Cabinet 2025](#) Coastal Communities

Person to Contact

Jamie Tait - Acting Assistant Director Communities
Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR
Phone: 01292 559398
Email: jamie.tait@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

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COASTAL COMMUNITIES NET REVENUE PROJECTS 2024/25

AYR YACHT CLUB	
<p>£4,000 was allocated to support the dredging of the River Ayr, enabling yachts and small craft to berth safely. Although the port is primarily commercial, Ayr Yacht Club has operated on the river for 50 years. Without dredging, the club would have been unable to use the pontoons, putting this long-standing community at risk. Since the works were completed, boats are once again able to berth on the pontoon</p>	
COASTAL PATH AND RIVERS EVENTS, INCLUDING EXCURSIONS	
<p>£12614.24 was allocated to create a range of opportunities designed to raise the profile of our coastal routes and rivers. The project was a collaboration between our Thriving Communities and Sustainable Development teams, delivering a universal offer of activities and education experiences for the public.</p> <p>The funding supported our Sustainability team to design and print a series of Blue and Green Health calendars, including a launch event at Dolphin House in November 2025. The calendars encourage local people to connect with nature by offering ideas for places to explore, activities to try, and ways to engage with blue and green spaces across South Ayrshire. This has included introductory paddling sessions on the River Ayr, with opportunities to learn canoeing and stand-up paddleboarding, as well as free, accessible activities for families and supported groups such as Spotty Zebras and care-experienced young people.</p> <p>In addition, a variety of walking opportunities have been delivered across local coastal and upland areas, including Mochrum Hill, the Girvan Hills and the Carrick Hills. In total, 96 children and 88 adults have benefited from these Coastal Communities funded programmes.</p> <p>In partnership with Scottish Rowing, we also supported the development of new coastal activity at Ayr Beach, where a community beach-sprint rowing programme will launch this summer. Together, these programmes have expanded opportunities for people to be active and connect with our blue spaces, while also enabling staff and volunteers to gain qualifications and receive support to deliver a range of water-based activities.</p>	
DESTINATION SOUTH AYRSHIRE (DSA) GRANTS	
<p>£12,702.50 was awarded to support the DSA grants, benefiting 14 communities and organisations. The funded events and initiatives covered a wide range of activities, including Christmas community celebrations and fireworks events</p>	
Ayr Rugby Club – Fireworks Festival	1000
Dunure Coastal Rowing - Coastal Activity Day	750
Friends of Dundonald Castle - Community Creative Day	715
Symington Gala Committee – Kids Christmas Discos	1000
Kirkmichael Ayrshire Development Trust - Kids Christmas Party	1000
Mossblown Matters – Light up Mossblown	1000
Alloway Railway Tunnell ART SCIO – Buns Day Celebration	1000
Coylton Community Council – Coylton Christmas Events	1000
Flourish ABC CIC – The Infinite Intention	950
Little Peru Limited - Christmas at Litte Peru Alpaca Farm	890
Craigie Community Council – Jingle and Mingle	400
Dynamic Dunure – Community Xmas Switch On	1000

Ballantrae Community Council – Ballantrae Christmas Lights Switch On	1000
Ayr Amateur Opera Company – AAOOC – Annual Production	1000

DESTINATION SOUTH AYRSHIRE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

DSA were awarded **£12000** to deliver summer holiday activities between 27 June and 18 August 2025. A total of 952 visits were recorded across a wide range of activities, including:

- Kids’ outdoor workshops: sea, sand and forests (3–12 years)
- Circus Acts outdoor play (3+ years)
- Face painting and art workshops – creating a painted South Ayrshire coastal jigsaw
- Science Centre interactive exhibitions (5+ years)
- Under-8s interactive play and workshops (1–7 years)
- Silent disco (8–18 years)
- SAC crazy golf course activity (5+ years)
- Vixen Fauna art heraldic workshop (3–14 years)

NATIONAL TRUST SCOTLAND

£10,000 was allocated to the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) to deliver a LEGO-themed interactive trail at Culzean between 1 and 31 July 2025. The Brick Wonderland event showcased large LEGO brick installations inspired by Alice in Wonderland, featuring themed photo spots, trails and interactive scenes throughout the grounds.

Key highlights included the LEGO photo opportunities and themed displays. The event was a success, attracting visitors to Culzean and contributing positively to the local economy.

NEW MARKET STREET TRADERS

£15,000 was allocated to New Market Street Traders (NMST) to support the ongoing partnership between NMST and South Ayrshire Council (SAC). The partnership aims to strengthen local businesses through a progressive approach to business support, enhance the street through improvement works, build capacity within NMST to unlock funding opportunities, and collectively promote and raise the profile of New Market Street.

Coastal Communities funding was used to fund salary costs for a part-time coordinator position. Over the past twelve months the coordinator managed a programme of improvements and maintenance works across the street, working closely with local businesses, property owners, and key stakeholders. The coordinator secured permissions from traders and building owners to enable works to proceed efficiently and helped foster strong collaborative relationships throughout the process.

The coordinator has helped establish a positive and productive relationship with SAC, strengthening communication between the Council and local traders.

This funding has significantly increased the profile of New Market Street, with traders now considering additional opportunities to further enhance the town centre.

SUMMER fAYRe FUNDING

£10,000 was allocated to support the Summer fAYRe held on 21 June 2025. The event featured a wide range of attractions, including a pipe band contest, Highland dancing, food and market stalls, a classic car display, and fairground and inflatable activities. The Coastal Communities funding was used specifically to cover essential infrastructure costs, including hostile vehicle mitigation measures

THE SCOTTISH BEACH SPRINTS AND OFFSHORE CHAMPIONSHIPS**Ayr Beach - 16th and 17th August 2025**

A total of £6,209.22 of in-kind support was allocated to the Scottish Beach Sprints and Offshore Championships, delivered in partnership with Scottish Rowing and Swift Racing. The competition marked the final event in the Four Nations Series, providing an exciting sporting experience for more than 140 participants and raising the profile of South Ayrshire as a host destination for national and international events.

The event created opportunities for local spectators to engage with rowing, showcasing South Ayrshire's facilities and strengthening partnerships between sports organisations and the wider community.

Volunteers from the Active Schools Leadership Academy supported the event, alongside Thriving Communities and Ayr United Football Academy, who provided beach sports activities for athletes and spectators.

It is estimated that the event generated £42,000–£52,000 for the local economy through spending by athletes and visitors who travelled from across the UK and Jersey to attend.

Results from the weekend can be viewed using the links below:

[Scottish Rowing Beach Sprints Championships 2025 Results.pdf](#)

[Scottish Rowing Offshore Championships 2025 Results.pdf](#)

THRIVING COMMUNITIES - COMMUNITY LED GRANTS

£45,000 was allocated to support community groups and local organisations to access community grants. Applicants could apply for both small and large grants, with all submissions reviewed and scored by a panel.

Information on the funded projects can be viewed at: [Participatory budgeting](#)

Small Grants

Carraig Connections	920
Kincaidston & Belmont Bowling Club	1000
Rotary Club of Ayr - Senior Primary Schools (P7) Careers Fair	800
Ayr & Prestwick Men's Shed	837.92
28th Ayrshire Scout Group (Troon)	1000
Community Gift Exchange SCIO	1000
South Ayrshire Tennis Club - Parkinson's Table Tennis	976.99
Maidens T-Club	850
The South Parish Church Community Purchase Group	1000
Irvine and Troon Cancer Care	1000
Maybole Juniors FC - Lining Machine	839.94
Maybole Charity Shop	978.68
Vics In The Community	1000
Carrick - Maybole Walking Football	492.92
Carrick Centre - Carrick Men's Group	770
Little Acorns CIC	1000
	£14466.45

Large Grants

Ballantrae Resilience Group	3237.4
Kirkmichael Ayrshire Development Trust	3782.47
Harbour Ayrshire - New Horizons	3580
Ayr Sea Cadets & Royal Marines Cadets	3700
Friends of Dundonald Castle SCIO	3408

Friends of the Broadway, Prestwick	4934
The Iris Arts Ayr CIC	3950
Adventure Centre for Education (ACE)	3941.68
	£30533.55