

**South Ayrshire Council**  
**Report by Chief Executive**  
**to South Ayrshire Council**  
**of 25 June 2026**

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**Subject: South Ayrshire Charitable Trust 2026/27**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to trustees on the donations and grants made by South Ayrshire Charitable Trust in the financial year 2025-2026 and to consider a business plan for the financial year 2026-2027.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members as Trustees:**

**2.1.1 note the grants and donations made by the South Ayrshire Charitable Trust in the financial year 2025-2026 as detailed in [Appendix 1](#);**

**2.1.2 approve the Business Plan for the operation of South Ayrshire Charitable Trust for the year 2026-2027 as detailed in [Appendix 2](#) ;**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The creation of South Ayrshire Charitable Trust (SACT) was approved by Members in 2014 with the purposes of (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. The Elected Members of South Ayrshire Council are ex-officio the Trustees of SACT.
- 3.2 The assets from twenty-three historic trusts were transferred to SACT on 1 April 2016, all of which were administered by South Ayrshire Council where the purposes could no longer be given effect to. The assets transferred remained ring-fenced for the geographic area of the trust from which they came.
- 3.3 The Trustees subsequently approved a Business Plan for the operation of SACT in which decisions for disbursement of funds were delegated to Committees of Trustees, comprising the Elected Members for the areas of Ayr; Prestwick and Monkton; Troon; Coylton; Maybole; Barr; and Girvan which married with the geographic areas of the historic trusts.

- 3.4 Applications for grant funding were invited following the inception of SACT, and over £700,000 was subsequently disbursed to local groups, organisations and individuals in line with the purposes of SACT by way of grants and donations over the following years.
- 3.5 As at 31 March 2025, less than £1,000 remained available to disburse and as a consequence, Members approved resources of £50,000 in the Council's 2025/26 revenue budget for a small grants scheme. Officers considered options as to how such a scheme might operate, including the continuation of SACT and other potential models within Council services.
- 3.6 Members decided on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 to donate the revenue budget for a small grants scheme to SACT on a recurring basis. Members agreed SACT could use the sums donated for grants and donations to individuals and organisations.
- 3.7 Members as trustees of SACT agreed to accept the donation and agreed a business plan for the operation of the trust in relation to the remaining funds held by the trust and for the funds donated by the Council. Members as Trustees approved the Business Plan for the operation of SACT in 2025/26 and agree to delegate decisions on the award of grants and donations to the Committees as set out in the Business Plan. The constitution of the committees and split of the donated funds available in 2025/26 is set out in the table below-

<b>Wards</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Ayr North, Ayr East and Ayr West	£18,750
Troon	£6,250
Prestwick	£6,250
Kyle	£6,250
Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton	£6,250
Girvan and South Carrick	£6,250

- 3.8 The funding from the Council was approved on a recurring basis and as such, it was recommended that the Business Plan and Committee arrangements continue to be reviewed on an annual basis.

#### **4. Proposals**

- 4.1 The SACT grant scheme was publicised on social media and in Council publications in 2025. Twenty-nine grant applications were received in total. The Members as trustees are asked to note the awards of grants and donations made in 2025/26 as detailed in Appendix 1. The Prestwick and Kyle committees did not receive any grant applications. The members of the Kyle Committee wished to carry the funds forward to 2026/27 to increase the funds available. The members of the Prestwick Committee

met and made donations to local organisations who in their view met the trust purposes.

4.2 The Members as trustees of SACT are asked to note the funds available for each committee in 2026/27 are as follows:-

- Troon £8,875
- Prestwick £6,250
- Ayr North; Ayr West; Ayr East £26,925
- Kyle £11,875
- Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton £11,125
- Girvan and South Carrick £6,250

Members in their capacity as trustees are also asked to approve the business plan for the operation of SACT in 2026/27 as set out in Appendix 2. The business plan sets out the grant limits for each area for 2026/27 and which takes account the funds available to each area. The grant limits have been increased in the hope of attracting more grant applications. Additionally, in line with the wishes expressed by Members in their capacity as trustees, more clarity has been provided in the Business Plan in relation to when an application from an individual will be considered and what evidence will require to be produced.

4.3 Governance costs, including administrative costs and audit fees, of approximately £5,000 per annum have been incurred by SACT in recent years. These costs will continue to be incurred at a similar level, allowing for the future impact of inflationary pressures, thereby reducing the amounts available to disburse in line with previous practice.

4.4 The only funds remaining of the original funds are those held external investments in the name of historic Trusts and Trustees for Girvan which are currently inaccessible. Staff in Corporate and Service Finance continue to work to access these funds. 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 for the original fund.

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

5.1 The recommendations in this report are consistent with legal requirements. Legal advice will continue to be provided to Elected Members, in their capacity as both Councillors and Trustees, as required.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 The recurring contribution to SACT will allow the Council to meet its obligation in the 2026/27 budget for the provision of a small grants scheme. There are no other financial implications.

## **7. Human Resources Implications**

7.1 There are no human resource implications.

## 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 rejected, the funds allocated in the budget may not be spent as intended for the benefit of the residents of South Ayrshire Council and may be subject to delay.

## 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

11. **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. **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 Ian Davis, Policy Lead for Finance and Corporate Services, 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 'Council and Cabinet Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

<b><i>Implementation</i></b>	<b><i>Due date</i></b>	<b><i>Managed by</i></b>
Advertising for grant applications for South Ayrshire Charitable Trust for the year 2026/27	31 August 2026	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**    **Catriona Caves, Chief Governance Officer  
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR  
Phone 01292 612556  
Email [catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Claire Neillie, Solicitor  
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR  
Phone 01292 612441  
Email [claire.neillie@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:claire.neillie@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Date: 13 May 2026**

**SUMMARY OF GRANT AND DONATIONS BY SOUTH AYRSHIRE CHARITABLE TRUST 2025-26**

**WARD 1 (TROON)-**

Donations

1. Troon's Men's Shed- £1000
2. Micah Project Troon -£1000
3. Irvine and Troon Cancer Support- £500
4. Ayrshire Cancer Support -£500

**WARD 2 (PRESTWICK)-**

Donations

1. Cycling Without Age Scotland (Prestwick) -£500
2. Nexus (Prestwick) -£625
3. Ayrshire Eye Foundation - £1500
4. Ayrshire Cancer Support - £1000
5. Night Before Xmas -£1000
6. Dementia Friendly- £500
7. New Diamonds Club- £500

**WARDS 3.4.5 (AYR NORTH, AYR EAST, AYR WEST)**

Grants

1. Ayrshire Cancer Support- £1500
2. Ayrshire Eye Foundation- £1500
3. Ayrshire Tigers Powerchair Football- £1500
4. Heathfield Community Association- £1500
5. South Ayrshire Foodbank -£1000
6. Individual - £200

Donations

1. Newton Primary Foodbank- £1500

**WARD 6 (KYLE)**

No grant applications were received.

**WARD 7 (MAYBOLE, NORTH CARRICK AND COYLTON)**

Grants

1. Carrick Rugby Football Club - £250
2. Maybole Bowling Club- £500

## **(WARD 8 (GIRVAN AND SOUTH CARRICK))**

### Grants

1. Girvan Bridge Club- £500
2. Girvan Development Group -£500
3. Harbour Ayrshire - £500
4. Maidens T Club- £500

### Donations

1. Milestone Church Girvan (Foodbank)- £1000
2. Girvan's Men's Shed - £300
3. Cosy Spaces - £325
4. C.A.N. Girvan - £1000
5. Duff Street Kitchen -£1000

## **South Ayrshire Charitable Trust – Business Plan 2026/27**

### **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 remained ring fenced for these specific geographic areas. The funds which made up the initial trust fund have been spent bar an amount held in external investments for the town of Girvan. The existing Committee for Girvan will remain in place solely to deal with these remaining funds and their dispersal either by grant or donation. The remaining Committees will also remain in place should any grants or donations be returned by the recipients. These are provided for in Annex 1.

(d) Further sums have been contributed to South Ayrshire Charitable Trust by South Ayrshire Council. The trustees appoint from their number trustees who sit on Committees relative to each of six geographic areas being the areas for the following Council wards-

(i) Ayr East, Ayr North and Ayr West

(ii) Troon

(iii) Kyle

(iv) Prestwick

(v) Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton and

(vi) Girvan and South Carrick.

This is further provided for in Annex 1. The funds contributed are apportioned dependent upon the number of wards represented on each Committee. These Committees will decide grant applications and make donations from the funds allocated to these geographic areas.

(e) A minimum of three trustees is 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 individuals, groups and organisations within the limits of the funds remaining to their trust area.

The limitation on a single grant for the year 2026-2027 will be £1000 from the initial trust fund and for the sums contributed by South Ayrshire Council as follows for each Committee detailed in Annex 1 -

- (i) Ayr East, Ayr North and Ayr West - £2000
- (ii) Troon -£1500
- (iii) Kyle -£2000
- (iv) Prestwick -£1000
- (v) Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton -£2000
- (vi) Girvan and South Carrick.- £1000

The limits on grants will be reviewed on an annual basis at a meeting of all the trustees.

## **4. Who can apply for Grant Funding?**

Individuals, groups and organisations can apply for grant funding provided they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the trustees that the funding will be utilised for the trust purposes.

Individual applicants will require to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the trustees that the grant income is for a specific need and not simply to supplement benefit income. They must provide evidence of the reason for the grant application i.e. a letter of support from a GP or a consultant; social worker or aid worker. Individual applicants will be signposted to the Scottish Welfare Fund and South Ayrshire Council's Information and Advice Team and will be asked to confirm if they made an application to the Scottish Welfare Fund or sought advice from the Information and Advice Team and the outcome of the application or advice.

All grant 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 which the Committee represents.

All grant applicants must provide sufficient evidence to support their grant application and evidence of the costs outlined in the grant application.

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

In relation to the initial trust fund revenue generated from the capital of the trust funds 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. Grants and donations must meet the trust purposes and be utilised for the benefit of the residents of the specific geographical area which the Committee represents

The sums contributed by South Ayrshire Council will be used for grants and donations to support and improve the lives of residents in South Ayrshire. Applicants for grants must demonstrate to the trustees that the grant will be used for a purpose which aligns with the purposes of this trust and the funding will be utilised for the benefit of the residents of the geographical area represented by the Committee. The trustees may make donations to Individuals, groups and organisations for a purpose which aligns with the purposes of the trust and specify that the donation be used for the benefit of residents of the geographical area represented by the Committee.

## **6. Application for Grants**

The trust will be highlighted to Individuals, groups and organisations at least 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 once 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**

### **(a) Initial Trust Fund**

#### **(i) Funds for the benefit of Girvan**

The Committee of Trustees will be the Members who represent Ward 8

#### **(ii) Funds for the benefit of Ayr**

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

#### **(iii) Funds for the benefit of Prestwick and Monkton**

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

#### **(iv) Funds for the benefit of Troon**

The Committee of Trustees will be the Members who represent Wards 1.

### **(b) Sums Contributed by South Ayrshire Council**

#### **(i) Ayr East, Ayr North and Ayr West**

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

#### **(ii) Troon**

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

#### **(iii) Prestwick**

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

#### **(iv) Kyle**

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

#### **(v) Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton**

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

#### **(vi) Girvan and South Carrick**

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