Cabinet

A meeting of the **Cabinet** of North Ayrshire Council will be held remotely on **Tuesday, 02 November 2021** at **14:30** to consider the undernoted business.

Arrangements in Terms of COVID-19
In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held remotely in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. Where possible, the meeting will be live-streamed and available to view at https://north-ayrshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home. In the event that live-streaming is not possible, a recording of the meeting will instead be available to view at this location.

1 **Declarations of Interest**
Members are requested to give notice of any declarations of interest in respect of items of business on the Agenda.

2 **Minutes**
The accuracy of the minutes of meeting of the Cabinet held on 28 September 2021 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

EDUCATION ITEM FOR DECISION

3 **Education Authority Annual Plan 2021-22**
Submit a report by the Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the publication of the Education Authority Annual Plan for 2021-22 (copy enclosed).

GENERAL BUSINESS FOR DECISION

Reports by the Chief Executive

North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE

4 **Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2019-20 Data Analysis (Data Released May 2021)**
Submit a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on an analysis of the Council's performance within the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (copy enclosed).

5 **Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-24: Mid Term Report**
Submit a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024 Mid-Term Report (copy enclosed).

6 **A National Care Service for Scotland - Consultation**
Submit a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on a response to the Scottish Government consultation on a National Care Service for Scotland (copy enclosed).

7 **Covid Recovery: A Consultation on public services, justice system and other reforms**
Submit a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on a response to the Scottish Government consultation on 'Covid Recovery: A Consultation on public services, justice system and other reforms' (copy enclosed).

  Report by the Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education)

8 **Proposal for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure**
Submit a report by the Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education) on an application by the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership to allocate CIF funding to a proposed project (copy enclosed).

  Reports by the Executive Director (Place)

9 **Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022-2027**

  Submit a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022-2027 (copy enclosed).

10 **Levelling Up Fund – Round 2**

  Submit a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the UK Government Levelling Up Fund and seeking agreement to officers finalising and submitting an appropriate Round 2 bid based on Commercial Estate Development and associated Low Carbon Infrastructure (copy enclosed).

11   Scotland Loves Local Gift Card Scheme

Submit a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the 'Scotland Loves Local' Gift Card Scheme and to seek approval to sign the Local Authority Concordat (copy enclosed).

12   Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2021/22
Submit a report by the Executive Director (Place) seeking approval from Cabinet for the Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2021/22 (copy enclosed).

13   Urgent Items
Any other items which the Chair considers to be urgent.

14   Exclusion of the Public - Para 10
Resolve in terms of Section 50(A)4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraph 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.
Non Disclosure of Information
In terms of Standing Order 19 (Disclosure of Information), the information contained within the following report is confidential information within the meaning of Section 50A of the 1973 Act and shall not be disclosed to any person by any Member or Officer.

14.1   Montgomerie Park: Proposed Sale of Sites A and B

Submit a report by the Executive Director (Place) on progress following the marketing of Sites A and B and the Heads of Terms which have been negotiated prior to entering missives for the sale of the sites.

Webcasting - Virtual Meeting
Please note: this meeting may be recorded/live-streamed to the Council's internet site, where it will be capable of repeated viewing. At the start of the meeting, the Provost/Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being   recorded/live-streamed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy, including, but not limited to, for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available via the Council's internet site.
If you are participating in this meeting by invitation, you are consenting to being filmed and consenting to the use and storage of those images and sound recordings and any information pertaining to you contained in the them live-streaming/recording or training purposes and for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available to the public. If you do not wish to participate in a recording, you should leave the 'virtual meeting'. This will constitute your revocation of consent.
If you have any queries regarding this, please contact dataprotectionofficer@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Cabinet Sederunt

Elected Members

Joe Cullinane (Chair)
John Bell (Vice-Chair)
Robert Foster
Alex Gallagher
Louise McPhater
Jim Montgomerie

Church Representatives

Mr Andrew Bruce
Mr Ian Haining
Ms Elizabeth Turbet

Teaching Representative

Ms Jackie MacKenzie

Youth Council Representatives

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending:

North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE

Cabinet
28 September 2021

At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2:30 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie; and Jackie MacKenzie (Teaching Representative) (Agenda Item 3).

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) and D. Forbes, Senior Manager (Finance Management); F. Walker, Head of Service (People & ICT) (Chief Executive's Service); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration), Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment), J. McLachlan, Senior Manager (Economic Development & Regeneration), M. Strachan, Senior Manager (Business Support and Development) and R. McGilvery, Senior Manager (Housing Operations) (Place); C. Amos, Interim Executive Director, R. Arthur, Head of Service (Connected Communities), A. Morrell, Senior Manager (Community Learning & Development), L. Forsyth, Senior Manager (Information & Culture) and M. Rae, Senior Manager (Policy, Performance & Community Planning) (Communities and Education); P. Doak, Head of Service (Finance & Transformation) (Health and Social Care Partnership); and J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, C. Stewart and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Apologies

Andrew Bruce and Elizabeth Turbet (Church Representatives).

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 31 August 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3.   **North Ayrshire Council Strategic Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-2024**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the North Ayrshire Council Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-2024. The Community Learning and Development (CLD) was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the development of CLD Key Performance Indicators (KPI).

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the North Ayrshire Council Strategic Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-2024 as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) authorise officers to take forward the Action Plan, with a view to targeting resources to address the identified unmet needs.

4.   **Revenue Budget 2021/22: Financial Performance to 31 July 2021**

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the financial performance of the Council at 31 July 2021. Detailed explanations of the significant variances in service expenditure compared to the approved budgets, together with information on funding to be carried forward to support expenditure during 2021/22 were provided in Appendices 1-5 of the report. Information in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was set out in Appendices 6 and 7. Information on the HSCP financial performance report as at the end of July 2021 was set out in Appendix 8 to the report.

That Cabinet agreed (a) to note (i) the information and financial projections outlined in the report and its associated appendices, (ii) the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership at section 2.6 of the report, (iii) the current projected deficit position of KA Leisure; and (b) to approve the virements detailed in Appendix 7 to the report.

5.   **Capital Programme Performance to 31 March 2022**

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme for 2021/22. Information on the progress of General Services and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) projects was set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined in the report; (b) note the General Services and HRA revised budgets at 31 July 2021; and (b) note the forecast expenditure to 31 March 2022.

6.   **Queen's Platinum Jubilee in North Ayrshire**

Submitted a report by report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the proposed approach to marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in North Ayrshire.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the proposal for officers to explore the possibility of Irvine obtaining City status, while noting that there was a considerable amount of information already held by the Council which could assist in the event of any bid submission.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the Queen's Platinum Jubilee arrangements, as outlined in the report; (b) approve the approach for community engagement to enable local events to be delivered in communities across North Ayrshire; (c) approve the £25,000 participatory budget from existing Connected Communities' funding for the community led events; (d) approve the proposal to deliver a North Ayrshire wide literacy and arts-based event linked to Scotland's Year of Stories, using existing budgets; (e) authorise officers to explore a potential entry into the UK wide competition for Irvine to seek City status; (f) approve the change to public holidays by moving Monday 30 May 2022 to Thursday 2 June 2022 for those employees that have this as a fixed public holiday and for those that do not, a floating day would be fixed from their entitlement for 2022 only; (g) approve the change for schools on Arran by moving the end of term day from 29 June 2022 to 30 June 2022; (h) approve the additional public holiday for all employees on Friday 3 June 2022; (i) authorise the Head of Service (Education) to write to the Scottish Government to obtain approval for one fewer teaching day; (j) approve the closure of main Council buildings on both Thursday 2 June and Friday 3 June 2022; and (k) receive a further update on progress relating to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in North Ayrshire at a future Cabinet meeting.

7.   Community Investment Fund (CIF) Update

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the progress in relation to the Community Investment Fund. The CIF applications which have been approved by the Locality Partnerships and Cabinet along with key achievements to date was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), including measures that were being taken by the Locality Partnerships to ensure areas which might miss out on CIF funding were dealt with on an equitable basis going forward.

The Cabinet agreed to note the achievements to date of the initiatives supported by the Community Investment Fund as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

8.   North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (KA Leisure) Recovery and Renewal Plan

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the progress with the implementation of the North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (KA Leisure) Recovery and Renewal Plan. The KA Leisure Recovery & Renewal Interim Update Report was attached at Appendix 1 to the report with the KA Leisure Health & Wellbeing Service Report being attached at Appendix 2.

The Cabinet also received a presentation from KA Leisure detailing the work undertaken by the organisation to date including their ambitious recovery and renewal plans to take the organisation forward.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:

- proposals to increase membership uptake in leisure facilities over the next 6 months, with particular focus on dealing with the financial position to get them on a firm financial footing; and
- proposals to attract more visitors to the Vikingar! Facility in Largs.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the interim report on North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (KA Leisure) Recovery and Renewal Plan as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) note the projected deficit position in 2021/22; and (c) authorise officers to continue to monitor and support the recovery.

9.   Community Asset Transfer

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the transfer of ownership of Pirnmill Community Centre and land to Pirnmill Village Association; and the transfer of ownership of land at Stevenston Shore Front to 'Raise Your Voice with Ardeer'. Location plans showing both areas were attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the report, respectively.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) the asset transfer of Pirnmill Community Centre and its land from North Ayrshire Council to Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation (SCIO), "Pirnmill Village Association"; (b) approve the recommended terms of transfer on this occasion at 10% of the property valuation of £20,000 (totalling £2000); (c) the asset transfer of land at Stevenston Shorefront between North Ayrshire Council and the Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation (SCIO), "Raise Your Voice With Ardeer"; (d) approve the recommended terms of transfer on this occasion at 10% of the valuation of £5,500 (totalling £550); and (e) authorise officers to conclude the associated legal and community asset transfer processes for (i) Pirnmill Community Centre and its land; and (ii) Land at Stevenston Shorefront.

10.   Community Wealth Building Strategic Annual Report

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the first Community Wealth Building Strategy Annual Report. The Annual Report, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, reflected on the first year of delivering the strategy – amidst the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic – and highlighted key achievements, progress and examples of how Community Wealth Building action and support was having a positive impact across North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note, with satisfaction, the progress in delivering the Community Wealth Building strategy; and (b) approve the Annual Report as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

11.   Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) Visa route

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) programme and the support that the Council could offer to visa applicants following this route.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the background to the Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) programme; (b) note the support that could be available to visa applicants who arrive in North Ayrshire; and (c) receive a further update in 12 months.

12. Islands Infrastructure Fund

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the anticipated Islands Infrastructure Fund in 2021/22. The Islands Infrastructure Fund Criteria was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note that a funding award would be forthcoming from the Scottish Government's Islands Infrastructure Fund for 2021/22; (b) to the proposal for the expenditure of this award including (i) Upgrade of the car park at the Mountain Rescue, Centre in Brodick on the Isle of Arran, (ii) Upgrade of a series of lay-bys at strategic locations on the Isle of Cumbrae, (iii) Implementation of a series of recommendations identified by the Islands Connectivity Study; and (c) due to the requirement to financially commit funds by 31 March, 2022 that delegated authority be provided to the Executive Director (Place) to approve amendments to the expenditure proposal, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Elected Member, as required.

13. Covid Business Support Discretionary Fund

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the agreed Discretionary and Transition Funding support for business and for the proposed awarding of the balance of remaining funds to be dispersed to approved businesses with 1 – 10 employees.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the update on Discretionary and Transition Fund performance; and (b) approve that the residual balance of Discretionary Fund be used to provide a further top up grant of up to £1,700 to those approved businesses with 1-10 employees.

The meeting ended at 3.55 p.m.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

2 November 2021

Cabinet

Title:	**Education Authority Annual Plan 2021-22**
Purpose:	To seek approval for the publication of the Education Authority Annual Plan for 2021-22
Recommendation:	That Cabinet: a) Agrees that the draft Education Authority annual plan for 2021-22 is aligned to the Council Plan priorities and the National Improvement Framework priorities. b) Approves the publication of the plan.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Education Authority Annual Plan sets out how North Ayrshire Council Education Service will deliver the strategic priorities of the National Improvement Framework. In addition, the plan sets out the expected educational benefits of the improvement activities and how success will be measured.

1.2 The Education Authority Annual Plan primarily aligns with the Aspiring Communities priority: "Children and Young People experience the best start in life". This Plan reflects the post covid-19 pandemic context and outlines an ambitious programme for how the Education Service will deliver better outcomes for children and young people in North Ayrshire.

2. Background

2.1 The Education (Scotland) Act 2016, which amended the Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000, introduced the National Improvement Framework (NIF) for education and includes a requirement on education authorities to produce annual plans and reports in pursuance of the National Improvement Framework priorities. Annual plans and reports should demonstrate progress and set out expected education benefits as well as how success will be measured.

2.2 The National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education 2021 was published in December 2020 and set out the Scottish Government's vision for Scotland's children and young people's progress in learning through excellence and equity. All schools and education authorities have developed annual plans which focus on delivering:

- excellence through raising attainment: ensuring that every child achieves the highest standards in literacy and numeracy, and the right range of skills, qualifications and achievements to allow them to succeed.
- achieving equity: ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed, with a particular focus on closing the poverty-related attainment gap.

2.2   The Key priorities set out for 2021 are:

- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people.
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing.
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people.

2.4   The draft Education Authority annual plan for 2021-22, attached at Appendix 1, sets out our local priorities in the format and context of North Ayrshire Council Plan 2019-24. In particular, but not exclusively, this annual plan will operationalise and support the Aspiring Communities priority of the Council Plan Delivery Plan: "Children and young people experience the best start in life".

2.5   This plan also aligns with North Ayrshire Children's Service's Plan and is underpinned by improvement activity within the Education Service, undertaken through the Scottish Attainment Challenge and Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare, to improve outcomes for children and young people.

2.6   Once approved, the education authority annual plan must be published.

3.   Proposals

3.1   It is proposed that Cabinet:

(a)   agrees that the draft Education Authority annual plan for 2021-22 is aligned to the Council Plan priorities and the National Improvement Framework priorities.
(b)   approves the publication of the plan.

4.   Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1   None.

Human Resources

4.2   None.

Legal

4.3   The production of an Education Authority annual plan is a requirement under the

Education (Scotland) Act 2016.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4   The Education Authority annual plan sets out specific improvement actions designed to improve educational outcomes for all, but also to reduce the impact of poverty on educational attainment.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5   None.

Key Priorities

4.6   Aspiring Communities priority: "Children and young people experience the best start in life"

Community Wealth Building

4.7   North Ayrshire's Education Authority Annual Plan supports North Ayrshire's Community Wealth Building aspirations through ensuring the service supports young people to become high quality skilled workers who can contribute to the local economy. In addition, initiatives outlined in the Education Authority Annual Plan can provide a range of opportunities to engage with local businesses and employers.

5.   Consultation

5.1   The content of the Education Authority annual plan for 2021-22 has been agreed across the education service following rigorous self-evaluation across the service of the progress towards the previous year's plan. The process of arriving at the service level priorities and strategic actions included engagement with Head Teachers and the service leadership team in evaluation and planning sessions. At school level, this exercise was repeated with pupils, staff, parents/carers and key partners.

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Caroline Amos
Interim Executive Director (Communities and Education)

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For further information please contact **Andrew McClelland, Head of Service (Education), on 01294 324413**.

Background Papers
1 – Appendix 1

EDUCATION
SERVICE PLAN
2021/22

North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Introduction

The North Ayrshire Education annual improvement plan sets out our priorities for the year ahead and aims to achieve excellence and equity for our learners.

It takes account of the feedback from consultation with our stakeholders across the Council and community and ensures the delivery of the locally agreed priorities of the Council Plan and the nationally agreed priorities of the National Improvement Framework. In the delivery of this plan, we will work in close partnership with the Council and communities of North Ayrshire and as part of the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative (SWEIC).

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented us with a fresh set of challenges and this plan reflects this new evolving context. Therefore, this is a plan like no other previously devised.

You will see from our plan that we remain focused on providing a high quality education and improving outcomes for our learners. Clearly, some of our plans have been adjusted to take account of the very real ongoing impacts of Covid-19.

The process of arriving at the service level priorities and strategic actions included engagement with Head Teachers and the service leadership team in evaluation and planning sessions. At school level, this exercise was repeated with pupils, staff, parents/carers and key partners.

Council Priorities:

The Council strategic priorities for 2019-24 are detailed below:

Aspiring Communities

Active and strong communities

Children and young people experience the best start in life

Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy

People enjoy good life-long health and well-being

People and communities are safe

Inspiring Place

Effective infrastructure and digital connectivity

Affordable, modern and well-designed housing that meets residents' needs

Vibrant, welcoming and attractive places

A sustainable environment

National Improvement Framework:

The National Improvement Framework for Education is designed to help us deliver the twin aims of excellence and equity; galvanising efforts and aligning our collective improvement activities across all partners in the education system to address our key priorities. These priorities remain as:

- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people

Alignment to Local and National Plans

This plan is aligned to local and national plans as follows:

National Improvement Framework Priorities

South West Regional Education Improvement Plan

North Ayrshire Council Plan

North Ayrshire Council Education Service Plan

North Ayrshire Children's Services Plan

Early Learning & Childcare Expansion Plan

North Ayrshire Council Attainment Challenge Annual Plan

- National
- Local Strategic
- Local Operational

COMMUNITIES & EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

Education Service Plan 2021-22

Aspiring Communities

A society where everyone has the same life chances to grow, prosper and have fulfilling and healthy lives.

What we will do to ensure our children and young people experience the best start in life.

Priority 1

We will create the conditions for our children and young people to access the highest quality learning experiences from ages 3-18.

High Level Actions

1. We will create high quality indoor and outdoor learning experiences and environments that are fit for the purpose of delivering an innovative education service, including an expansion of Early Learning and Childcare to 1140 hours across the NAC early years estate.

2. We will ensure our learning estate provides a safe environment in the context of COVID-19.

3. We will develop continuous professional learning pathways that build the capacity of our staff and create future leaders of service delivery and learning that ensure high quality experiences and the best possible outcomes for our children and their families.

Priority 2

We will support our children and young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

High Level Actions

1. We will redesign and implement programmes to achieve excellence and equity for our learners, with a clear focus on reducing the poverty-related attainment gap, taking into account the added challenges presented by Covid-19.

2. We will maintain a focus on high quality learning, teaching and assessment in our schools, including in-school and remote learning contexts.

3. We will ensure our children and young people are equipped with the right skills for learning, life and work and that high numbers of our school leavers are entering positive and sustained post-school destinations.

Priority 3

We will offer opportunities to our young people and their families to play a more active role in school life and encourage more participation in learning.

High Level Actions

1. We will further refine our draft Parental Engagement Policy

2. We will build on our well-established programme to support families with their child's learning, considering the additional demands resulting from COVID-19.

3. We will ensure our children, young people, staff and communities are empowered to shape the education service in our schools.

4. We will develop and implement a clear communications strategy to ensure all stakeholders are kept informed of developments, strategy and policy.

Priority 4

We will work with all young people to build their resilience, supporting their mental health and physical wellbeing.

High Level Actions

1. We will develop a range of wellbeing supports and advice for staff to ensure they are able to meet the needs of our children and young people.

2. We will develop a comprehensive approach to supporting mental health and wellbeing in partnership with other agencies, cognisant of the impact of COVID-19.

3. We will continue to develop our nurturing approaches and review provision in light of the potential impact of COVID-19.

4. We will focus on promoting positive relationships.

Priority 1 Actions

We will create the conditions for our children and young people to access the highest quality learning experiences from ages 3-18

High Level Action

We will create high quality indoor and outdoor learning experiences and environments that are fit for the purpose of delivering an innovative education service, including an expansion of Early Learning and Childcare to 1140 hours across the NAC early years estate.

What will we do?

1. Deliver major educational new build and refurbishment projects aligned to Scotland's Learning Estate Strategy: Connecting People, Places and Learning". This assures consistency of approach and ensures schools are central to the lives of their community.
   • Lockhart Campus
   • Ardrossan Education and Community Campus
   • Moorpark Primary School
   • New primary school for Irvine East
   • Marress House ELC
   • Complete programme of 41 Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) projects across the estate

2. Utilise the NAC Standard Design Brief for ELC to continue to create consistent high quality learning environments encompassing indoor and outdoor learning and nurturing spaces.

3. Develop an Outdoor Play Strategy to support Early Years Practitioners to provide excellent learning and developmental opportunities.

What will the educational benefits be?

Educational settings will be at the heart of our communities and will be welcoming places where people can be engaged and involved in their children's learning and development.

Access to vibrant and stimulating learning environments.

Digitally connected learning environments

All children across the NAC ELC estate will experience learning in high quality learning environments which have been enhanced to a consistent standard.

ELC settings will provide internal and external spaces for children to use and develop risk management skills as well as improve their confidence, self-esteem and imagination.

How will we measure success?

SMART Outcomes and Measures will allow critical performance indicators to be assessed continually throughout new build projects.

Post Occupancy Evaluations will show the positive impact of new buildings on the learning experience.

The measure of condition and suitability core facts will improve.

Improved Care Inspectorate grades for Standard 5 – Environments.

Use of self-evaluation activity to assess quality impact of changes and improvements – environments audit tool.

Outcome measurements from pilot study for ELC Outdoor Learning Strategy.

High Level Action

We will ensure our learning estate provides a safe environment in the context of COVID-19.

What will we do?

1. Regularly update over-arching Education Resilience Plan to ensure we have clear and consistent guidance which ensures the safe continuity of service delivery in our establishments.

2. Develop risk assessments which satisfy the health & safety requirements associated with the pandemic.

3. Prepare individual establishment contingency plans to ensure learning continuity.

4. Build on existing strengths in collaborative partnerships.

5. In partnership with NHS Ayrshire & Arran, implement and update appropriate protocols for COVID-19 outbreak management in establishments.

What will the educational benefits be?

A robust and comprehensive approach to ensuring educational settings operate in a Covid-safe manner will provide educational continuity for learners whilst minimising disruption to their education and offer reassurance to staff.

Monitoring and evaluation of school contingency plans will give reassurance that establishments have implemented appropriate risk control measures in the current context.

Monitoring and evaluation of generic risk assessments and reviews of site-specific arrangements will demonstrate that our environments are as Covid-safe as possible.

How will we measure success?

The number of concerns and complaints around health and safety in the context of Covid-19 will remain low.

The number of outbreaks in our educational establishments will remain as low as possible.

Our contingency plans will enable a prompt response to outbreaks and control onward transmission as quickly as possible.

High Level Action

We will develop continuous professional learning pathways that build the capacity of our staff and create future leaders of service delivery and learning that ensure high quality experiences and the best possible outcomes for our children and their families.

What will we do?

1. Provide a range of opportunities to support practitioners at all levels to develop skills in identifying, facilitating, managing & evaluating strategic change.

2. Work collaboratively with ELC funded provider partners to provide high quality professional learning opportunities and leadership development pathways across all ELC practitioners in North Ayrshire

What will the educational benefits be?

Leadership teams across all establishments will be able to work collaboratively to address and resolve current challenges within their own context, whilst ensuring consistent approaches in line with policy.

Leaders will develop a professional network of support to protect and enhance their wellbeing.

How will we measure success?

Professional learning evaluations completed following each session and at various intervals throughout the academic year will enable the impact of professional learning to be monitored and tracked over time.

Focused conversations will be designed to ensure robust links with session content and leadership development objectives.

Improved grades from Care Inspectorate / Education Scotland in Management and Leadership

Improvement in children's milestone data over time.

Priority 2 Actions

We will support our children and young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

High Level Action

We will redesign and implement programmes to achieve excellence and equity for our learners, with a clear focus on reducing the poverty-related attainment gap, taking into account the added challenges presented by Covid-19.

What will we do? →

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1. Using additionality provided by the Scottish government, Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) and Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) resources, we will further develop professional learning programmes which have a specific focus on strengthening practitioner approaches to reducing the poverty related attainment gap in education establishments.

2. Work with identified partners to provide increased opportunities for care experienced young people & other identified learners who are experiencing significant barriers to learning to achieve and attain to their full potential.

3. Realign existing and additional resource in direct response to challenges presented by the pandemic to maintain a focus on ensuring equity.

What will the educational benefits be? →

Scottish Attainment Challenge and Pupil Equity Funding resources will be redirected towards those who would benefit most and in ways which respond to the unique additional challenges presented by the pandemic ensuring we maintain a sharp focus on reducing the poverty-related attainment gap.

By focusing on additional identified groups of children and young people affected most by the current situation (including care experienced) we will ensure that we continue to have maximum impact on improving pupil outcomes.

The provision of additional resources to those who need them most will ensure the curriculum remains as accessible as possible to all.

The significant investment in digital devices and connectivity for those who do not currently have it will improve equity of educational experience and reduce digital exclusion.

How will we measure success?

Attainment outcomes will improve for all learners, including in the key areas of literacy and numeracy, but also in the breadth and depth of senior phase qualifications across the curriculum.

The gap between the attainment outcomes for those living in areas most and least affected by deprivation will reduce.

Attendance levels of children living in areas in the lowest 20% of Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) will improve.

Average total and complementary tariff points will improve for all leavers, with the pace of improvement accelerating for young people living in areas in the lowest 20% SIMD and for care experienced learners.

Fewer families will report that they have difficulty in accessing digital resources in the home environment. Schools will note improvements in learner engagement in digital learning at home.

High Level Action

We will maintain a focus on high quality learning, teaching and assessment in our schools, including in-school and remote learning contexts.

What will we do?

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1. Provide advice and guidance for high quality learning and teaching, including remote learning.

2. Provide advice and guidance on assessment and moderation practices to ensure appropriate progress is measured and evaluated.

3. Develop on-line opportunities for practitioners to collaborate and engage in assessment and moderation activities across stages and curriculum areas.

4. Continue to support practitioners from all sectors through redirecting the work of the Professional Learning Academy, including during any periods of remote learning.

5. Develop high quality, evidence-based approaches to support the attainment of learners within our ASN schools.

6. Develop a range of high quality online/physical resources to support learning at home, including the promotion of the national e-Learning offer.

7. Respond timeously to changes in SQA assessment arrangements and support schools to implement revised practices.

What will the educational benefits be?

Staff will have a shared understanding of expectations across the service and this will ensure the remote learning offer is guided by consistent themes. Learners will benefit from learning experiences which are tailored to meet their individual circumstances and learning differences.

Throughout the recovery and renewal period, there will be a strong focus on moving learning forward.

Learners will benefit from consistent approaches towards moderation and assessment across schools and clusters leading to increased confidence in our teachers' professional judgement and evidence of progress for learners within and between levels.

All staff will continue to have access to high-quality support resources and professional learning opportunities to ensure high quality pedagogical knowledge and practice.

Learners and their families will benefit from quality home learning activities which are evidence-based, thoughtful and engaging.

School staff will be well supported to implement arrangements for SQA qualifications in session 2021-22, including any adjustments made in response to the ongoing situation, to ensure positive outcomes are maximised for learners.

How will we measure success?

Attainment data will show improvements in performance of our children and young people.

All establishments will be assessing progress using the 4 stages model and be confidently tracking and monitoring the progress of learners.

Qualitative evidence will be gathered by establishments and senior managers during Quality Improvement Visits which will focus on learning and teaching, assessment and achievement in the recovery and renewal phase of the pandemic.

The Professional Learning Academy will continue to gather qualitative feedback on the quality and impact of professional learning opportunities in order to inform next steps.

The SQA verification process will confirm that standards have been applied consistently across the service and that learners receive appropriate grades and qualifications.

High Level Action

We will ensure our children and young people are equipped with the right skills for learning, life and work and that high numbers of our school leavers are entering positive and sustained post-school destinations.

What will we do? →

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1. Continue to work with internal partners such as the employability team and external partners such as Skills Development Scotland, Ayrshire College and Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce to ensure we take a collaborative approach to improving post school destinations and participation for all learners, particularly in light of the additional challenges presented by pandemic.

2. Ensure all schools take a rigorous approach to developing and supporting future pathways for school leavers, especially for those with additional support needs.

3. Identify coordinators in secondary schools to support school leadership teams to further develop all aspects of Developing the Young Workforce policies.

4. Introduce a Quality Improvement Officer with responsibility for Care Experienced Children and Young People to lead improvement activity for this specific group.

What will the educational benefits be? →

The impact of Covid-19 on school leavers will be minimised, in terms of securing positive destinations.

Our school leavers will have received robust guidance & advice and will be more confident about making post-school choices.

More young people will be offered the option of vocational qualifications that match their post-school aspirations.

Young people with additional support needs and those who are care experienced will have outcomes that are equitable with the wider pupil cohort.

How will we measure success?

Initial and follow up school leaver destinations will return to pre-Covid percentage levels and improve further.

A pan-Ayrshire programme of focussed DYW evaluative visits will measure the impact of our approach in North Ayrshire.

Data from college on school-college programmes will demonstrate the effectiveness of our partnership curriculum offer.

Quantitative & qualitative data from Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce will demonstrate the added value of work placements.

The gap between the attainment and post-school destinations outcomes for care experienced young people and the wider pupil cohort will reduce.

Priority 3 Actions

We will offer opportunities to our young people and their families to play a more active role in school life and encourage more participation in learning.

High Level Action

We will launch our revised Parental Engagement Policy

High Level Action

We will build on our well-established programme to support families with their child's learning, considering the additional demands resulting from COVID-19

What will we do? ⊕

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1. Work collaboratively with school staff and parents at all stages to refine and implement the Parental Engagement Strategy, which reflects the NIF priorities and Scottish Government's Learning Together Goals.

2. Encourage and support collaborative partnerships between practitioners, parents and families

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1. Adapt delivery model to enable families to access a range of family learning opportunities offering appropriate sessions from our Programme of Interventions menu.

2. Support learning programmes online and across schools and centres when appropriate. New resources and programmes will be developed to enhance the provision of family learning.

What will the educational benefits be? ⊕

There will be a more consistent approach to engaging families in their child's learning and in the life of the school.

Parents and families will be fully supported to be involved in the life and work of their child's school or early learning and childcare setting.

Parents and families will be fully supported to engage in their child's education throughout their learning journey.

Families will further enhance their knowledge, confidence and understanding in how to support their children's learning at home and in school.

Schools will have increased capacity to engage families in supporting their children's learning. Learners will be supported at home to achieve and attain.

Families will have opportunities to take part in more programmes leading to accreditation.

Families will feel supported to access online family learning resources opportunities.

How will we measure success?

We will gather evidence both qualitative (views, feedback, evidence of impact from what parents say) and quantitative (data, statistics, satisfaction figures).

We will gather and share evidence of effective practice in parental involvement and engagement from self-evaluation focus groups, surveys and other school and local authority level activities.

Analysis of evaluation information from family learning programme delivery.

Impact statements from consultation events e.g., breakfast blethers/discussion dinners.

Number of families engaging with family learning events will increase.

Completed family evaluations and survey information will demonstrate the impact of this programme.

High Level Action

We will ensure our children, young people, staff and communities are empowered to shape the education service in our schools.

What will we do? →

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1. Schools and parents will work collaboratively to set improvement priorities through a variety of approaches including parent focus groups.

2. Implement the revised Devolved School Management (DSM) scheme.

3. Develop a revised Quality Improvement Framework which supports the assurance of high-quality learning (including remote learning) and enhances school empowerment.

4. Strengthen our work to reduce the cost of the school day through a new overarching policy, which combines new approaches in individual schools and across the service, designed to promote equity for all with a maximised approach to participatory budgeting.

What will the educational benefits be? →

Schools and their communities will be further empowered to take decisions which will benefit learners.

The new DSM scheme supports excellence and equity ensuring every child and young person has the same opportunity to succeed. It is intended to be fair, placing the needs of all children and young people at the centre and deliver value for money, ensuring that every penny spent is used effectively

Learners will benefit from consistently high quality learning experiences throughout the pandemic, both in school and remote learning contexts.

Learner and parental views will inform the further development of remote learning.

Cost of the school day will be reduced. Equity will be improved.

Participation in budget decisions will ensure local communities have a greater say in how the education budget is invested in their area, according to their needs.

How will we measure success?

Qualitative feedback will be sought from parents and families during Quality Improvement visits.

Regular liaison with Corporate Finance will demonstrate the effective implementation of the DSM scheme.

Monitoring and evaluation of new scheme via DSM Working Group

Feedback from learner groups / local communities will confirm the impact of participatory budgeting on local priorities.

The proportion of our budget invested in participatory budgeting approaches and initiatives to reduce the cost of the school day will increase.

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High Level Action

We will develop and implement a clear communications strategy to ensure all stakeholders are kept informed of developments, strategy and policy

What will we do? ⊕

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1. Provide regular updates in relation to the continuity of education in the pandemic, for Head Teachers and Heads of Centre through meetings and written communication

2. Provide regular briefings for all staff in schools and centres

3. Ensure regular and appropriate communication with parents/carers

4. Consult with stakeholders, as appropriate, to develop plans for recovery, closures, reopening and remote learning and ongoing service delivery

What will the educational benefits be? ⊕

Consistency of message through regular direct communication to staff and parents will support authority-wide approaches to provision and limit unnecessary variation across the service.

Staff will hear overarching messages regularly, directly and clearly from the Heads of Service, which will ensure staff are equally well informed about key decisions and actions, regardless of role or work location.

Engaging with parent council chairs and ensuring regular direct communication with parents/carers at key points of policy change or following key decisions, will ensure the parent forum can be involved in and be well-informed about key decisions.

A range of engagement methods with stakeholders will ensure that involvement in the development of plans and priorities remains a key feature of how the service works.

How will we measure success?

The proportion of stakeholders participating in decision making and evaluation of our work will increase.

Statistics showing the number of staff members who read the weekly staff briefings will increase.

Attendance at and feedback from parent council chairs meetings will continue to improve.

Complaints about poor communication will remain at a low level.

Feedback from key stakeholders about the extent of their involvement in key decisions will continue to improve.

Priority 4 Actions

We will work with all young people to build their resilience, supporting their mental health and physical wellbeing.

High Level Action

We will develop a range of wellbeing supports and advice for staff to ensure they are able to meet the needs of our children and young people

What will we do? →

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1. Identify and promote a range of available mental health and wellbeing (MHWB) sources.

2. Develop a range of MHWB supports for staff to enable them to better meet their own mental health and wellbeing needs.

3. Further strengthen staff capacity, wellbeing and confidence through a comprehensive programme of professional learning.

What will the educational benefits be? →

Staff will have awareness of how to access relevant support and resources to support both their own and children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Children and young people will feel confident in approaching staff for advice and support on mental health and wellbeing.

Staff will develop positive MHWB and self-care strategies that will help them feel regulated and able to do their job.

Children and young people will feel co-regulated and supported by staff in schools.

Staff will have a greater understanding of some of the key relational and MHWB approaches and feel empowered to use these with children and young people in schools.

How will we measure success?

Staff confidence and wellbeing surveys will continue to show ongoing improvements

Access to online resources and tools developed for staff will increase, e.g. number of hits on Connecting with mental health and wellbeing GLOW page and Supporting children and young people's mental health during COVID.

Evaluations of professional learning delivered online, e.g Nurturing North Ayrshire's Recovery units and Looking after yourself unit.

Children and young people's focus groups which explore how well supported they feel and how aware they are of resources and supports.

Wellbeing Plans which reflect the range of wellbeing approaches and resources used to support children and young people

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We will develop a comprehensive approach to supporting mental health and wellbeing in partnership with other agencies, cognisant of the impact of COVID-19

What will we do? →

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1. Further develop approaches to tracking and monitoring of children and young people's Health and Wellbeing.

2. Implement a range of approaches and develop structures that support children's resilience, wellbeing, and reduce stigma associated with mental health.

3. Develop processes to ensure those children most at risk from school closures are regularly monitored and supported.

4. Community Mental Health & Wellbeing (CMHWB) Supports and Services Framework to ensure every child and young person is able to access local community services which support and improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

What will the educational benefits be? →

Staff will have a greater awareness of the key themes and areas of concern around children and young people's health and wellbeing.

Strategies and approaches will be put into place to support any key areas of concern that are identified.

The local authority will invest in support for mental health and wellbeing that are identified as areas of concern through both CMHWB funding and Attainment Challenge funding.

Children and young people will develop greater resilience and have higher wellbeing both within school and in the wider community.

Children and young people and staff will speak more openly about mental health and wellbeing and there will be reduced stigma around this subject, particularly in regard to suicide.

Children and young people who are most at risk during COVID restrictions will be clearly identified, monitored and supported by key staff within schools.

Children and young people will cope better with the multiple transitions during this period of disruption and recovery.

Children and young people will be able to access a wide range of school and community supports to meet theirs and their families specific mental health and wellbeing needs.

How will we measure success?

Local and national health and wellbeing surveys. School feedback on this and local authority themes and data.

Small samples of school groups completion of recognised measurement and evaluation tools

Evaluations associated with specific interventions such as the Blues programme, The compassionate and connected classroom and Wellbeing indicator webs.

Family intervention evaluations associated with Aberlour and Non-violent resistance.

Tracking tools for child safeguarding and wellbeing including schools' own data.

"See me" surveys used to monitor children and young people's experience of stigma in schools.

High Level Action

We will continue to develop our nurturing approaches and review provision in light of the potential impact of COVID-19

What will we do? →

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1. Maintain a strong focus on nurture across all establishments and enhance provision, as appropriate, across primary, secondary & early years establishments.

2. Strengthen the professional capacity of our staff through a comprehensive programme of professional learning in nurturing approaches.

3. Continue to develop nurturing approaches within our specialist nurture provisions to support children who have experienced adversity.

What will the educational benefits be? →

NAC Nurturing approach ensures both staff and pupils regain a sense of belonging to the school community during and after COVID 19.

Resilience will be nurtured and built through relational approaches ensuring educational expectations continue to be raised.

Children and Young People will feel safe and be able to engage with their learning.

Professional learning will provide practical approaches to support children and staff's mental health and wellbeing.

All children will develop the social skills they need in order to maximise the benefits of education and to interact positively with each other.

Staff will develop a deeper understanding of the emotional support that young people require and how to respond to such needs.

Children and young people who need a targeted intervention in terms of nurture or counselling will be supported to progress in their education.

How will we measure success?

Evaluation tools from Applying Nurture as a whole school approach.

Data from the ongoing use of recognised evaluation tools will demonstrate the positive impact of nurturing approaches in our schools.

Staff evaluations as part of Nurturing North Ayrshire's Recovery units.

Longitudinal attainment and wellbeing data on the impact of nurture groups in primary and secondary.

Focus groups of children and young people on their experience of nurturing approaches in schools and Nurture Group provision.

Embedded nurturing approaches through Nurturing North Ayrshire's Recovery will be evaluated through Senior Manager Quality Assurance support and challenge visits specifically looking at How Good is Our School (version 4) quality indicators 2.4 and 3.1 and through the annual Nurture staff survey.

Quantitative and qualitative measures of counselling.

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High Level Action

We will focus on promoting positive relationships.

What will we do? ⊕

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1. Monitor the impact of the authority level policy for Promoting Positive Relationships.

2. Evaluate the impact of school closures and interruptions to learning on the support we provide our most vulnerable learners.

3. Further develop our approach to teams around children.

4. Develop a pilot service for young people in the early stages of secondary who are challenged in mainstream education

What will the educational benefits be? ⊕

All staff will have greater confidence in delivering an authoritative, nurturing approach.

Schools will have up to date policies in place, that will support children and young people to receive a consistently nurturing experience and will support their attainment and achievement.

Staff will have a wider range of approaches to support children and young people who have experienced adversity and trauma historically and as a result of lockdown.

Targeted pupils in S1 and S2 will have a setting more conducive to supporting their needs.

How will we measure success?

Evaluations of the impact of the Promoting Positive Relationships policy – staff survey.

Attainment and wellbeing measures for children and young people in secondary bases.

Quality Improvement focus on establishment remote learning will ascertain the quality of the support for our vulnerable learners during lockdown.

A quality assurance programme will gauge the effectiveness of the new Secondary support service to identified pupils.

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North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

2nd November 2021

Cabinet

Title:	**Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2019/20 Data Analysis (Data Released May 2021)**
Purpose:	To provide an analysis of our performance within the Local Government Benchmarking Framework
Recommendation:	That Cabinet: (a) agree to note the results of the LGBF indicators as at 2019/20 and (b) refer this report to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

1.   Executive Summary

1.1   The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) is a national framework which collates performance information from each of Scotland's 32 councils. The most recent data available relates to 2019/20, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. The data was released in May 2021, three months later than previous years due to the pandemic.

1.2   The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1992 places a statutory duty on all Scottish Councils to deliver Best Value. This means ensuring that there is good governance and effective management of resources with a focus on improvement, to deliver the best possible outcomes for the people of North Ayrshire.

1.3   Our Performance Strategy outlines our duty of Best Value including the Account Commission's Direction 2018 on Public Performance Reporting which "requires the Council to report on information drawn from the Local Government Benchmarking Framework in particular and from other benchmarking activities".

1.4   The LGBF provides benchmarking data on 97 indicators (as at 2019/20) covering a wide range of key service areas. Due to the large scope of the LGBF, not all indicators are priority areas for our Council, so variation in performance is to be expected. Our priorities are outlined within our Council Plan.

1.5   The Corporate Policy, Performance and Elections Team have provided an analysis of our performance. As the data relates to a period prior to the pandemic, as well as the subsequent delay in the release of the data, it is felt that including improvement activity based on 2019/20 performance would not be appropriate. Many of our services remain impacted by our ongoing response to the pandemic, our service delivery has adapted and we are now entering a period of recovery and renewal. The report therefore provides a summary of performance only and Directorates are using this information alongside learning from the pandemic to look at individual improvements at service level.

1.6   Improvement activity will be included in future reports where appropriate following analysis of further LGBF data releases. This will include guidance on approaching any better performing councils to learn from their approach.

2   Background

2.1   A critical element of Best Value is scrutinising the performance of our Council and sharing our performance with residents, communities, businesses, and other stakeholders via our public performance reporting arrangements. Our Council publishes detailed performance information through key publications such as our Mid-Year and Year-End Council Plan Progress Reports, Annual Performance Reports, LGBF Reports and our Performance Dashboard.

2.2   The LGBF enables us to gain greater insight into our performance through comparing performance, understanding differences and learning from others to help drive improvement and deliver better outcomes for the people of North Ayrshire.

2.3   The LGBF data for 2019/20 has been published by the Improvement Service through their "My Local Council" tool on their website, which allows comparisons with other local authorities.

3   Key Highlights

- The range of indicators has increased, with the introduction of seven new measures. These have been grouped into two new themes "Tackling Climate Change" (two) and "Financial Sustainability" (five). Of the 97 indicators, data is available for 87.
- Short-term (one year) comparisons are available for 83 indicators:
  - **47 (57%) indicators have improved**
  - **28 (34%) have declined** with a further **six (7%) marginally declining**
  - **two (2%) remain unchanged**
- 87 indicators can be compared to the Scottish Average:
  - **47 (54%) indicators are performing better than the Scottish Average**
  - **39 (45%) below the Scottish Average**
  - **one (1%) is the same as the Scottish Average**
- In terms of quartile, out of 32 local authorities our Council is in:
  - The **top quartile (ranked 1st to 8th) for 23 (26%) indicators**
  - The **bottom quartile (ranked 25th to 32nd) for 15 (17%) indicators**
  - In total, **51 (59%) indicators are in the top two quartiles (ranked 1st to 16th)**
- Satisfaction with Council services has **improved in four of the 11 satisfaction indicators** since 2018/19. Seven of these indicators are based on three year rolling averages.
- Our Council Plan Performance Framework 2019-24 contains 34 performance indicators of which nine are sourced from the LGBF. Of these nine indicators, **six improved** and **three declined.**

4 Proposals

4.1 That Cabinet: (a) agree to note the results of the LGBF indicators as at 2019/20 and (b) refer this report to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

5 Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

5.1 None.

Human Resources

5.2 None.

Legal

5.3 None.

Equality/Socio-economic

5.4 There are no equality/socio-economic implications arising from this report. Some of the indicators detailed in the LGBF relate to equality.

Environmental and Sustainability

5.5 There are no environmental or sustainability implications arising from this report. A number of the LGBF indicators relate to environmental issues.

Key Priorities

5.6 Implementation of effective benchmarking practices and scrutiny of performance across the Council will help support our strategic priorities.

Community Wealth Building

5.7 None.

6 Consultation

6.1 The Executive Leadership Team have been consulted on this report.

Aileen Craig
Head of Service (Democratic)

For further information please contact **Isla Hardy, Senior Policy and Performance Officer (Corporate Policy, Performance and Elections)**

Local Government Benchmarking Framework

2019-20 Data Analysis

(Data Released May 2021)

North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Contents

97 indicators for 2019-20

87 short-term comparisons

54% of indicators above Scottish average

57% of indicators improved short-term,

68% long-term (where comparison available)

45% of indicators improved ranking

23 indicators in top quartile

17 indicators remain in top quartile

Introduction

The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) provides an opportunity to benchmark our performance with other local authorities in Scotland. It is administered by the Improvement Service in partnership with SOLACE and highlighted within the Accounts Commission's Direction 2018 which defines how local authorities can demonstrate that they are achieving Best Value for the people they serve. As a result, many of the indicators are used within our Council Plan. Further information on Best Value, Direction 2018, LGBF and benchmarking can be found in Our Performance Strategy.

This report analyses our performance relative to other local authorities, details LGBF indicators used within our Council Plan and segments the full range of indicators by service. The most recent data (released in May 2021) relates to 2019/20 and pre-dates the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic lockdown period. As a result, though this report details our performance as at 2019/20, it does not contain comments on planned improvement activity as we are now entering a period of recovery and renewal. An overview of Council Plan actions as at 2021/22 to support our priorities can be found in our Council Plan Delivery Plan on our website.

The LGBF brings together a range of performance indicators covering nine key themes detailed in the table to the right. The 2019/20 data has introduced two new themes. These are "Financial Sustainability" and "Tackling Climate Change".

LGBF Themes	
Adult Social Care	
Children's Services	
Corporate Services	
Culture and Leisure	
Economic Development	
Environmental Services	
Financial Sustainability	
Housing	
Tackling Climate Change	

By recording the same indicators as other local authorities across a wide range of themes we can identify opportunities to learn from each other. In addition, local authorities with similar traits such as geography and deprivation are categorised into "family groups" to enable as close as a like for like comparison as possible (see Family Groups section).

About the Data

The most recent LGBF data was released by the Improvement Service in May 2021 and relates to 2019/20. This is three months later than usual due to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. There are 97 indicators across the nine themes. The number of indicators has increased from 90 to 97 (8%) between 2018/19 and 2019/20. They are themed as follows:

Breakdown of indicators by theme and data collection			
Theme	No. of Indicators	2019/20 Data Available	
Adult Social Care	11	11	100%
Children's Services	31	23	74%
Corporate Services	10	10	100%
Culture & Leisure	8	8	100%
Economic Development	10	10	100%
Environmental Services	15	15	100%
Financial Sustainability	5	5	100%
Housing	5	5	100%
Tackling Climate Change	2	0	0%
Total	97	87	90%

The 97 indicators have been segmented into overall genres (see below).

- Financial – All financial related performance
- Performance – All non-financial and non-satisfaction related performance
- Satisfaction – All satisfaction performance. Seven of the 11 satisfaction indicators are based on a rolling three-year average

Breakdown of indicators by areas and data collection			
Theme	No. of Indicators	Data Returns	
Financial	26	26	100%
Performance	60	50	83%
Satisfaction	11	11	100%

There are three time periods used to compare data. Full details are below:

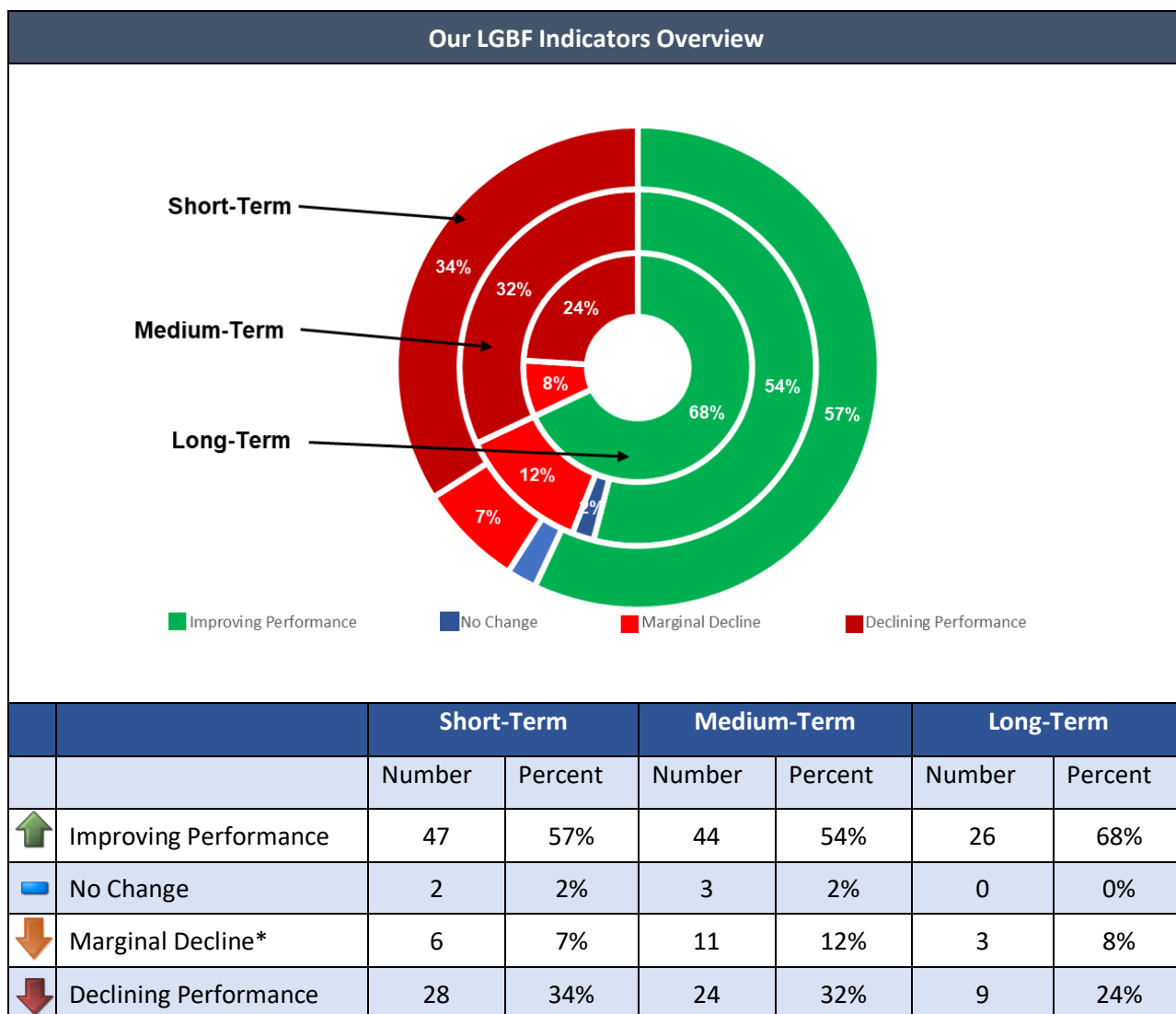| Comparative Years		
Description	Start	End
Short Term	2018/19	2019/20
Medium Term	2016/17	2019/20
Long Term	2010/11	2019/20

Data Trends

Within the current dataset, 87 of the 97 indicators have data available for 2019/20 as some indicators are recently introduced or have expected time delays. In addition, trend data may not be available for certain time periods for the remaining 87 indicators depending on when they were introduced into the LGBF. A breakdown of comparable data is shown to the right.

Breakdown of comparable data		
Comparison Year	**No. of Indicators**	**%**
Short Term	83	95%
Medium Term	82	94%
Long Term	38	44%

To assess performance the terms "improved" or "declined" are used in this report, rather than referring to data as "increased" or "decreased". This terminology is used as for some indicators a value increasing is improved performance (such as satisfaction), however, for some indicators a value increasing is declining performance, (such as cost indicators).

Summary of Performance

Where a short-term comparison is available, 57% of all indicators have improved, 2% have not changed and 41% have declined (though 7% have declined only marginally). Medium-term, 54% of indicators have improved and long-term, 68% have improved. The table below examines this in more detail.

|		Short-Term		Medium-Term		Long-Term	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
⬆	Improving Performance	47	57%	44	54%	26	68%
➖	No Change	2	2%	3	2%	0	0%
⬇	Marginal Decline*	6	7%	11	12%	3	8%
⬇	Declining Performance	28	34%	24	32%	9	24%

*Marginal decline - where the variance is less than 5%.

As shown in the table below, when viewed per genre over the short-term (one year) period, 58% of financial indicators and 60% of performance indicators have improved. This is in comparison to the satisfaction indicators, where there was an improvement in 29% of indicators and a decline in 71% since 2018/19. Over the long-term 71% of financial indicators and 67% of performance indicators have improved.   Overall, this shows the majority of measures have improved over the past ten years in terms of financial and performance indicators. However, at this overall level the data cannot determine whether the same indicators are continuing to improve each year, whether results are due to an unusual baseline figure in 2010 or significantly improved performance during 2019/20.

Seven of the 11 satisfaction indicators are rolling three-year averages and have comparisons available. The current performance timescale for the three-year averages spans 2017-2020. As a result, it can take some time for improvements to impact on these indicators. Detail on each individual indicator is explored in more detail in the Directorates and Services section of this report.
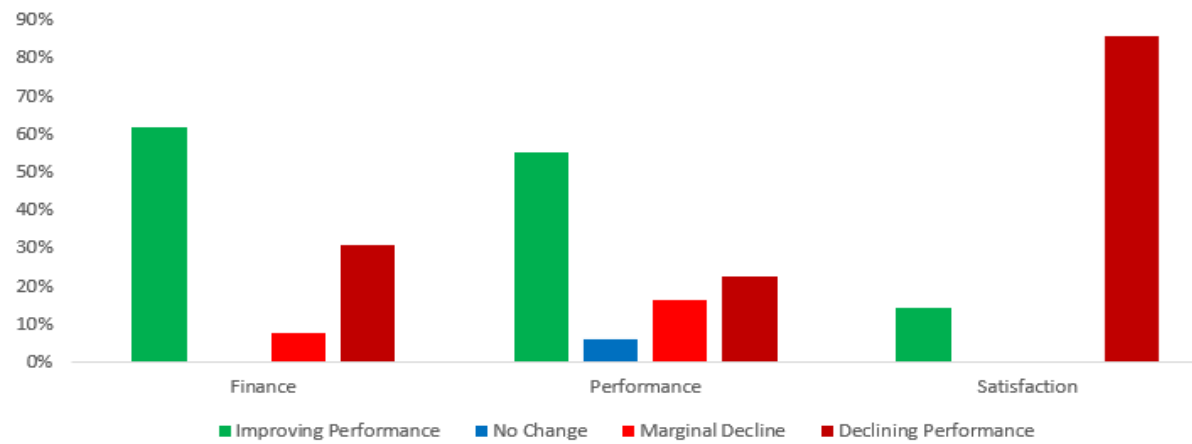
Our LGBF Indicators by Genre - Short-Term
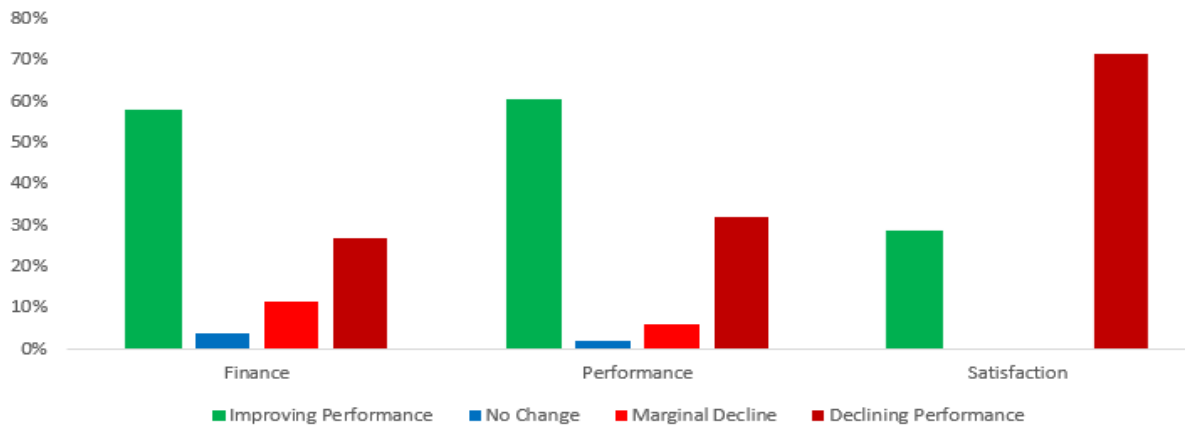
		Financial		Performance		Satisfaction*	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
⬆	Improving Performance	15	57.69%	30	60%	2	29%
◼	No Change	1	3.85%	1	2%	0	0%
⬇	Marginal Decline	3	11.54%	3	6%	0	0%
⬇	Declining Performance	7	26.92%	16	32%	5	71%

*Seven of the 11 satisfaction indicators have comparisons available

Our LGBF Indicators by Genre - Medium-Term

		Financial		Performance		Satisfaction*	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
⬆	Improving Performance	16	61.54%	27	55.1%	1	14%
◼	No Change	0	0%	3	6.1%	0	0%
⬇	Marginal Decline	2	7.69%	8	16.3%	0	0%
⬇	Declining Performance	8	30.77%	11	22.4%	6	86%

*Seven of the 11 satisfaction indicators have comparisons available

Our LGBF Indicators by Genre - Long-Term
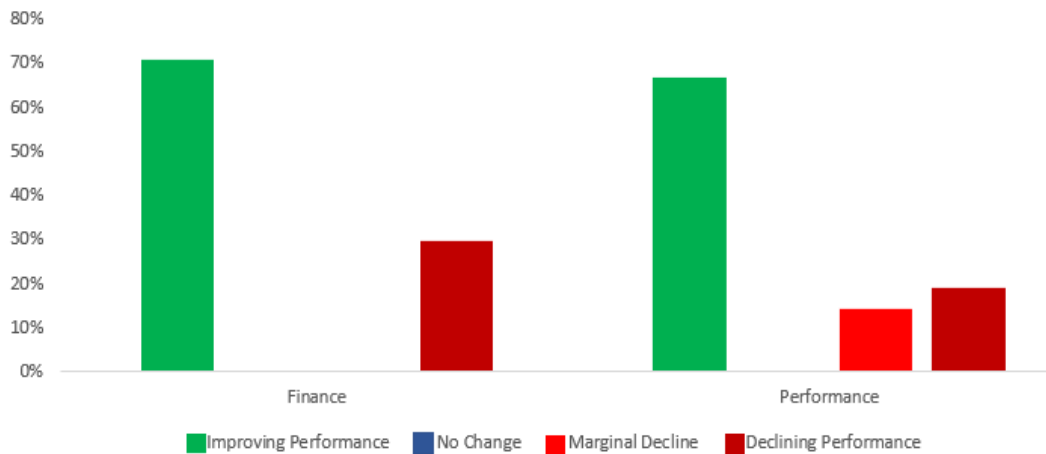
		Financial		Performance	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
⬆	Improving Performance	12	71%	14	67%
➖	No Change	0	0%	0	0%
⬇	Marginal Decline	0	0%	3	14%
⬇	Declining Performance	5	29%	4	19%

Long term data for satisfaction relates to 2014, so is excluded.

Rank

Ranking is a useful tool in comparing performance between all 32 local authorities in Scotland, however an increase in ranking does not necessarily correspond to better outcomes for our residents. The purpose of ranking is to easily identify local authorities we can approach to learn from. An accurate comparison is highly dependent on each council's strategic approaches. For example, a low cost per visit indicator may result in an increased ranking, however cost per visit can be affected by a decrease in the number of venues in the same way as an increase in the number of visitors. Similarly, the percentage of unemployed people assisted into work can be greatly affected by whether a local authority is assisting highly skilled unemployed residents, or those who need substantial support. Ranking is therefore a useful tool but must be used cautiously.

Our Council has been ranked in the top three for 11% of our indicators for the past two years:

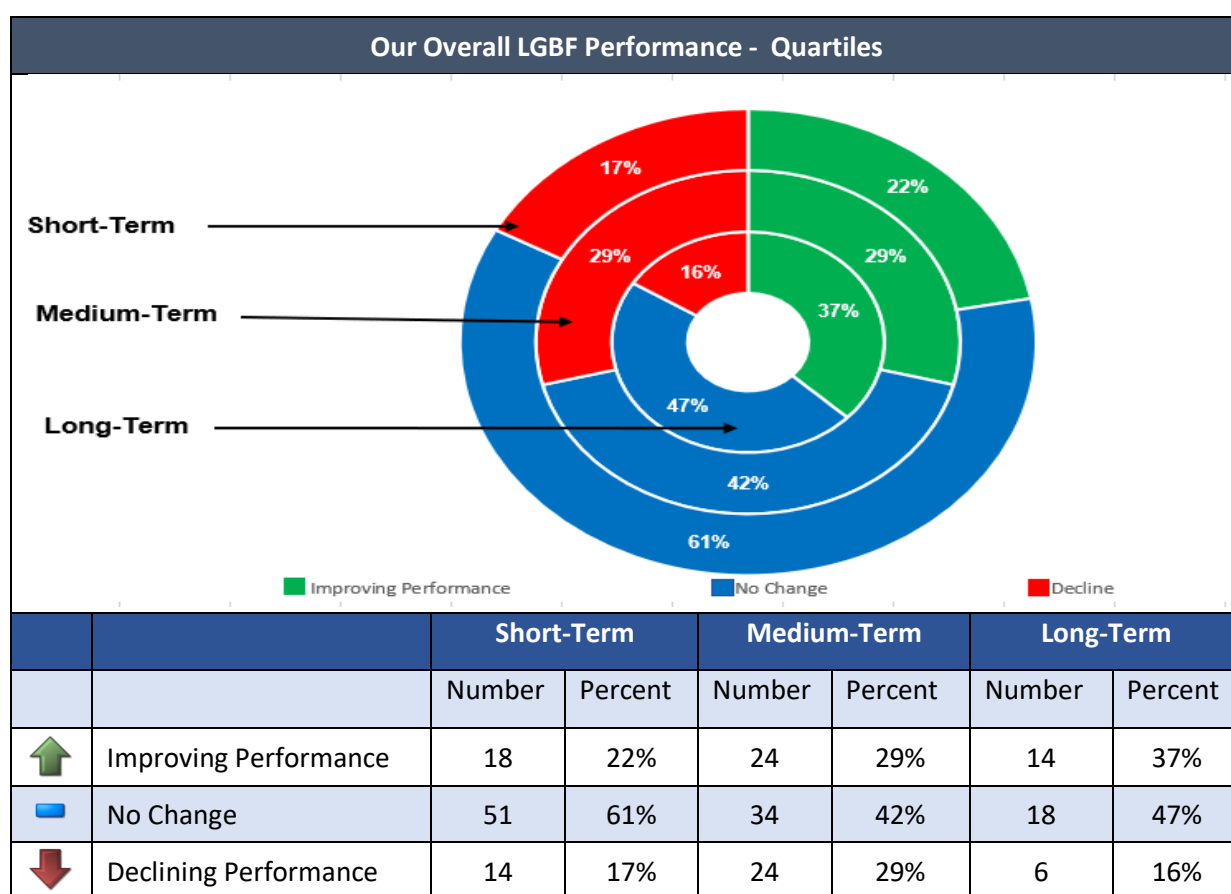| Top Three Ranking		
Comparison Year	No. of Indicators	%
2019/20	10	11%
2018/19	10	11%
2016/17	9	10%
2010/11	4	9%

We have seen an improvement in rank for 45% of indicators, a decline in rank for 35% of indicators with the remaining 20% the same as the previous year. The medium term shows 43% of indicators improved their rank. Over the long term, 63% of indicators have improved ranks, though fewer comparisons are available. The table below looks at this in more detail.

Our Overall LGBF Performance - Rank

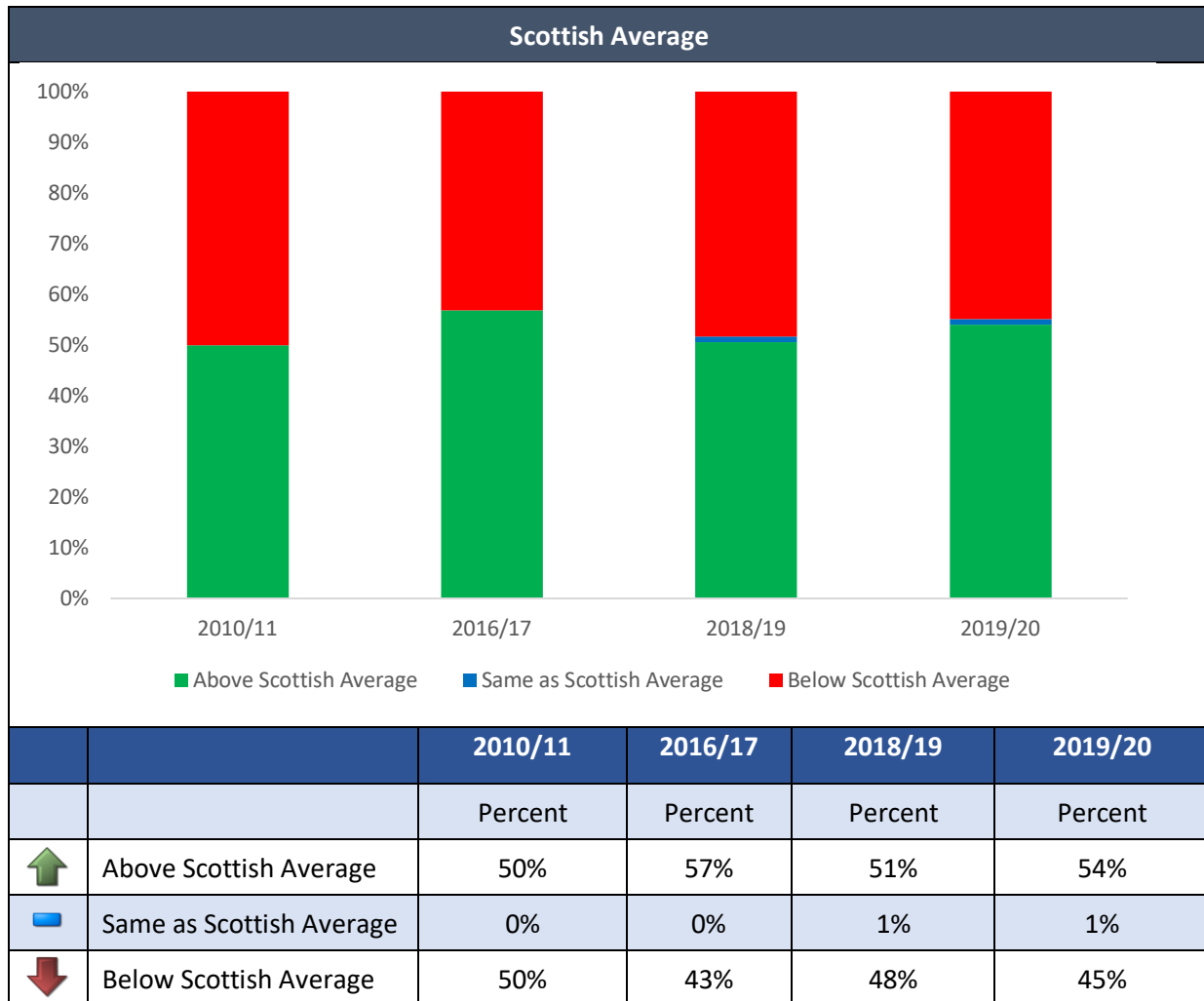|		Short-Term		Medium-Term		Long-Term	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
⬆	Improving Performance	37	45%	35	43%	24	63%
➖	No Change	17	20%	6	7%	1	3%
⬇	Declining Performance	29	35%	41	50%	13	34%
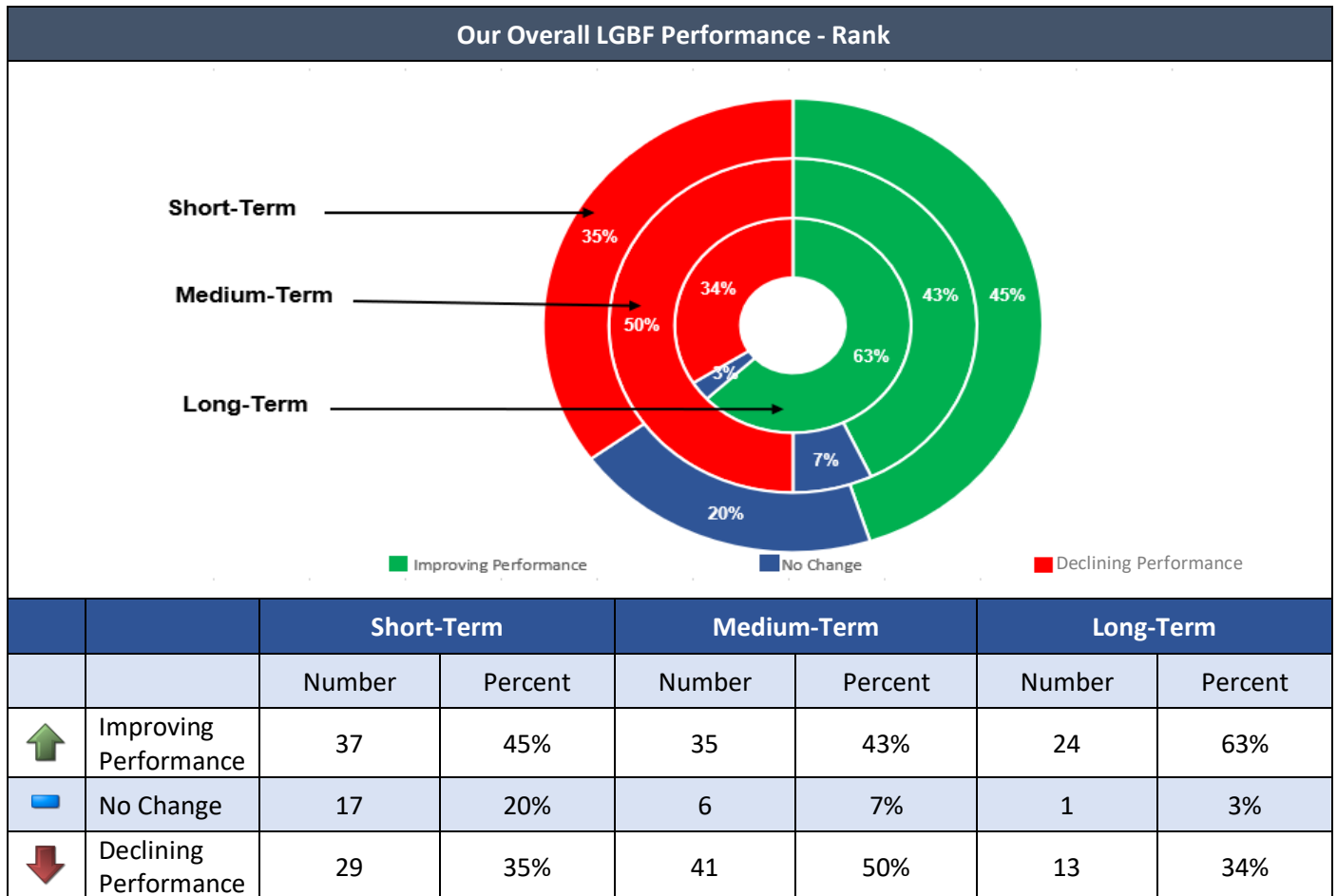
Quartile

Quartiles group the rankings into four sections, with the 1st Quartile showing ranking positions 1-8 for each local authority and the 4th Quartile showing ranks 24-32. It is less prone to fluctuations year on year, particularly where results for all councils for an indicator are very similar. In the short term, 22% of indicators have improved their quartile, with only 17% declining. In the long-term, 84% of indicators have either improved or not changed their quartile.

'No-change' can be the result of our Council already being in the top quartiles, so is not necessarily an indication of poor performance. For 2019/20 there were 23 indicators in the first quartile (compared to 28 in 2018/19) and 17 indicators have remained in the top quartile since 2018/19. The chart below shows our quartile performance in the short, medium and long term.

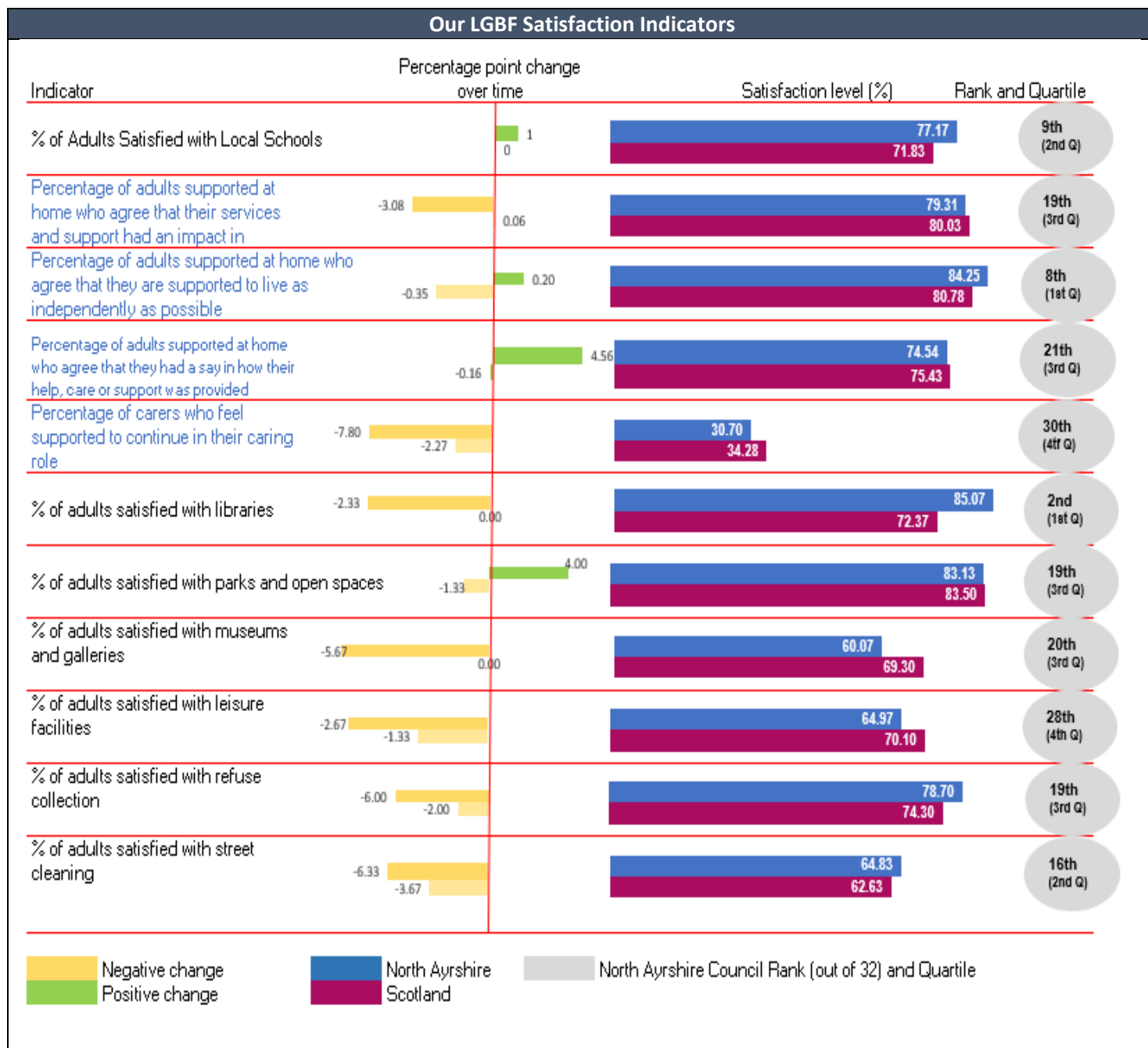|		Short-Term		Medium-Term		Long-Term	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
⬆	Improving Performance	18	22%	24	29%	14	37%
➖	No Change	51	61%	34	42%	18	47%
⬇	Declining Performance	14	17%	24	29%	6	16%

Scottish Average

This section looks at our performance compared to the Scottish Average in more detail. Our performance is above the Scottish average for at least 50% of the indicators across the short, medium and long-term. During 2019/20 we performed above the average in 54% (47) of the indicators. The highest was in 2016/17 when 57% (50) of our indicators were above the Scottish average. The table below looks at this in further detail. Direct comparisons with all Scottish local authorities for each indicator are available through the Improvement Service "My Local Council" online tool.

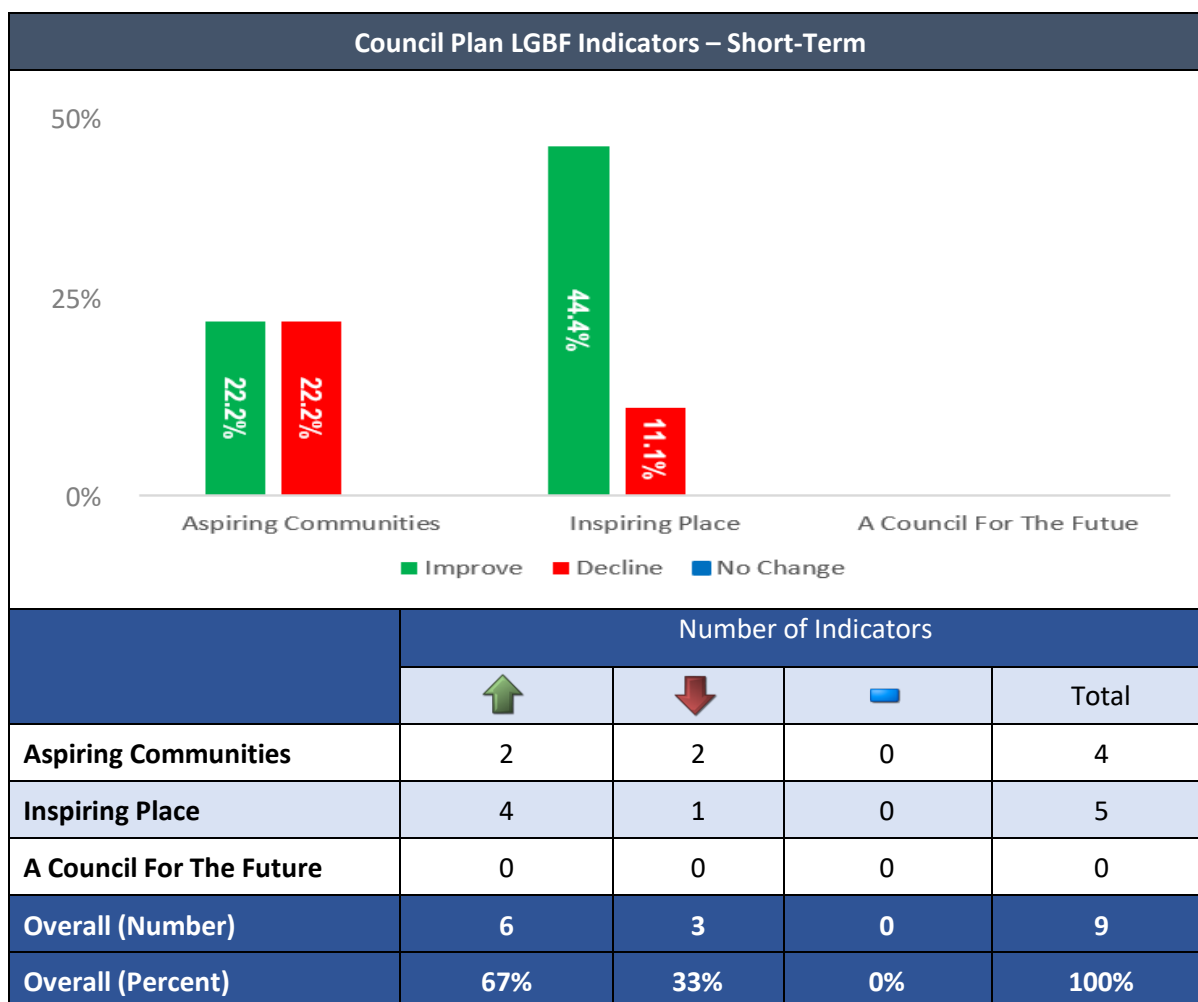|		2010/11	2016/17	2018/19	2019/20
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
⬆	Above Scottish Average	50%	57%	51%	54%
▬	Same as Scottish Average	0%	0%	1%	1%
⬇	Below Scottish Average	50%	43%	48%	45%

Satisfaction

Within the LGBF dataset there are 11 indicators that look at customer satisfaction. Seven of the eleven indicators are based on three year rolling averages with current data relating to 2017-20 and compared in the short term to 2016-19. Four indicators are recorded every two years and are highlighted in blue, they are compared against 2017/18.

The majority of satisfaction indicators are sourced from the Scottish Household Survey and the Improvement Service recognises this source has limitations at local authority level and cannot represent the full adult population of North Ayrshire due to varying and limited sample sizes. Work is ongoing with councils across Scotland to improve the robustness of these indicators. Currently the confidence interval of the three-year rolling averages is 5.5%.

Our LGBF Satisfaction Indicators

Indicator	Percentage point change over time		Satisfaction level (%)		Rank and Quartile
% of Adults Satisfied with Local Schools		1 / 0	77.17	71.83	9th (2nd Q)
Percentage of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact in	-3.08	0.06	79.31	80.03	19th (3rd Q)
Percentage of adults supported at home who agree that they are supported to live as independently as possible	-0.35	0.20	84.25	80.78	8th (1st Q)
Percentage of adults supported at home who agree that they had a say in how their help, care or support was provided	-0.16	4.56	74.54	75.43	21th (3rd Q)
Percentage of carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role	-7.80	-2.27	30.70	34.28	30th (4tf Q)
% of adults satisfied with libraries	-2.33	0.00	85.07	72.37	2nd (1st Q)
% of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces	-1.33	4.00	83.13	83.50	19th (3rd Q)
% of adults satisfied with museums and galleries	-5.67	0.00	60.07	69.30	20th (3rd Q)
% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities	-2.67	-1.33	64.97	70.10	28th (4th Q)
% of adults satisfied with refuse collection	-6.00	-2.00	78.70	74.30	19th (3rd Q)
% of adults satisfied with street cleaning	-6.33	-3.67	64.83	62.63	16th (2nd Q)

Legend:
- Negative change (yellow)
- Positive change (green)
- North Ayrshire (blue)
- Scotland (magenta)
- North Ayrshire Council Rank (out of 32) and Quartile (grey)

Council Plan Indicators

The Council Plan sets out our priorities for the period 2019-24. The Council Plan is supported by the Performance Framework which includes 34 performance indicators (including nine LGBF indicators). As at 2019/20, performance had improved in 21 (66%) of the performance indicators included in the Council Plan Performance Framework, declined in nine (28%) and two had no change (6%) since 2018/19. No comparative data is available for two indicators.

Council Plan LGBF Indicators – Short-Term

	Number of Indicators			
	⬆	⬇	▬	Total
Aspiring Communities	2	2	0	4
Inspiring Place	4	1	0	5
A Council For The Future	0	0	0	0
Overall (Number)	6	3	0	9
Overall (Percent)	67%	33%	0%	100%

As a comparison, at year end 2019/20 the Council Plan Performance Framework showed 69.2% of indicators on target, 11.5% slightly adrift and 19.2% significantly adrift of target.

Council Plan LGBF Indicators - Performance Rank and Quartile									
	Performance			**Rank**			**Quartile**		
	2018/19	**2019/20**	**Data -/+**	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**Rank -/+**	**2018/19**	**2019/20**	**Quartile -/+**
Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations	94.04%	92.45%	↓	27	22	↑	4	3	↑
% of procurement spend spent on local enterprises*	17.43%	16.65%	↓	27	27	—	4	4	—
Proportion of people earning less than the living wage	24.3%	16%	↑	19	9	↑	3	2	↑
% of people aged 65 and over with long-term care needs receiving personal care at home	66.68%	69.42%	↑	8	4	↑	1	1	—
% of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use	91.01%	90.89%	↓	9	10	↓	2	2	—
Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband	93.7%	94.1%	↑	16	18	↓	2	3	↓
% of council dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Standards	99.19%	99.36%	↑	3	2	↑	1	1	—
Street Cleanliness Score	94.5	94.64	↑	12	11	↑	2	2	—
% of total household waste arising that is recycled	54.6%	56.34%	↑	8	6	↑	1	1	—

*   This indicator is based on the Improvement Service calculation of % of procurement spend. On 31st August 2021 Cabinet approved the replacement of this indicator within our Council Plan with a more accurately calculated procurement spend indicator for 2021/22 onwards. However as at 2019/20, the LGBF indicator was reported as part of our Council Plan.

		2010/11		2016/17		2018/19		2019/20		Movement					
Reference	**Description**	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	SR Short-term Trend	FG Short-term Trend	SR Medium-term Trend	FG Medium-term Trend	SR Long-term Trend	FG Long-term Trend
CHN11	Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations	-	-	22	4	27	7	22	4	↑	↑	→	→	-	-
ECON4	% of procurement spend spent on local enterprises	29	7	28	8	27	8	27	6	→	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
ECON7	Proportion of people earning less than the living wage	-	-	25	7	19	6	9	2	↑	↑	↑	↑	-	-
SW3a	% of people aged 65 and over with long-term care needs receiving personal care at home	21	6	12	6	8	4	4	1	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
CORP-ASSET1	% of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use	4	2	5	2	9	2	10	3	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
ECON8	Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband	-	-	18	4	16	3	18	4	↓	↓	→	→	-	-
HSN3	% of council dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Standards	11	2	3	1	3	1	2	1	↑	→	↑	→	↑	↑
ENV3c	Street Cleanliness Score	14	6	29	7	12	4	11	2	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
ENV6	% of total household waste arising that is recycled	10	5	5	2	8	2	6	3	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑

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Family Groups

Family groups enable local authorities to make as close to a like for like comparison as possible with other councils by grouping those within similar traits such as levels of rurality or deprivation.

North Ayrshire Council's LGBF Family Groups	
People Services (Family Group 4)	Other Services (Family Group 2)
For indicators relating to Children, Social Work and Housing, North Ayrshire Council is grouped with the following Councils: • Comhairle nan Eilean Siar • Dundee City Council • East Ayrshire Council • North Lanarkshire Council • Inverclyde Council • West Dunbartonshire Council • Glasgow City Council	For indicators relating to Corporate Services, Culture & Leisure, Economic Development, Environmental Services, Financial Sustainability and Tackling Climate Change, North Ayrshire Council is grouped with the following Councils: • Perth and Kinross Council • Stirling Council • Moray Council • South Ayrshire Council • East Ayrshire Council • East Lothian Council • Fife Council

Direct comparisons with all Scottish local authorities are available through the Improvement Service "My Local Council" online tool.

The charts below segment our performance in terms of percentage of indicators in each rank within each family group. Not all local authorities provided data for all indicators in the most recent LGBF data release. The following charts are based on available data.

During 2019/20, within the People Services Family Group 13% of our indicators were ranked at number one and 54% were ranked between one and four. Only 3% of People Services Family Group indicators were ranked lowest at rank eight.

People Services Family Group Comparison
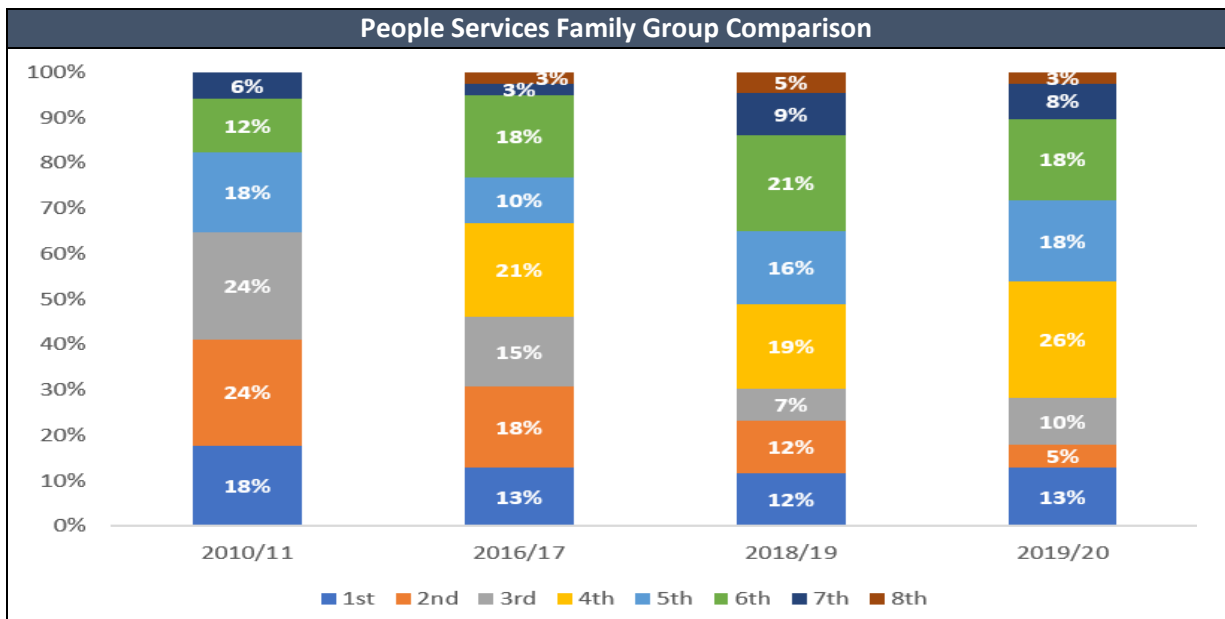
Within the Other Services Family Group 17% of all indicators were within rank one and 64% of our indicators were ranked one to four. In comparison, 10% of our indicators in the Other Services Family Group were ranked lowest in rank eight.

Other Services Family Group Comparison

	2010/11	2016/17	2018/19	2019/20
8th	19%	14%	10%	10%
7th	11%	12%	10%	4%
6th	7%	10%	14%	13%
5th	26%	12%	12%	10%
4th	11%	14%	8%	15%
3rd	7%	6%	14%	19%
2nd	11%	10%	18%	13%
1st	7%	20%	14%	17%

Legend: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th
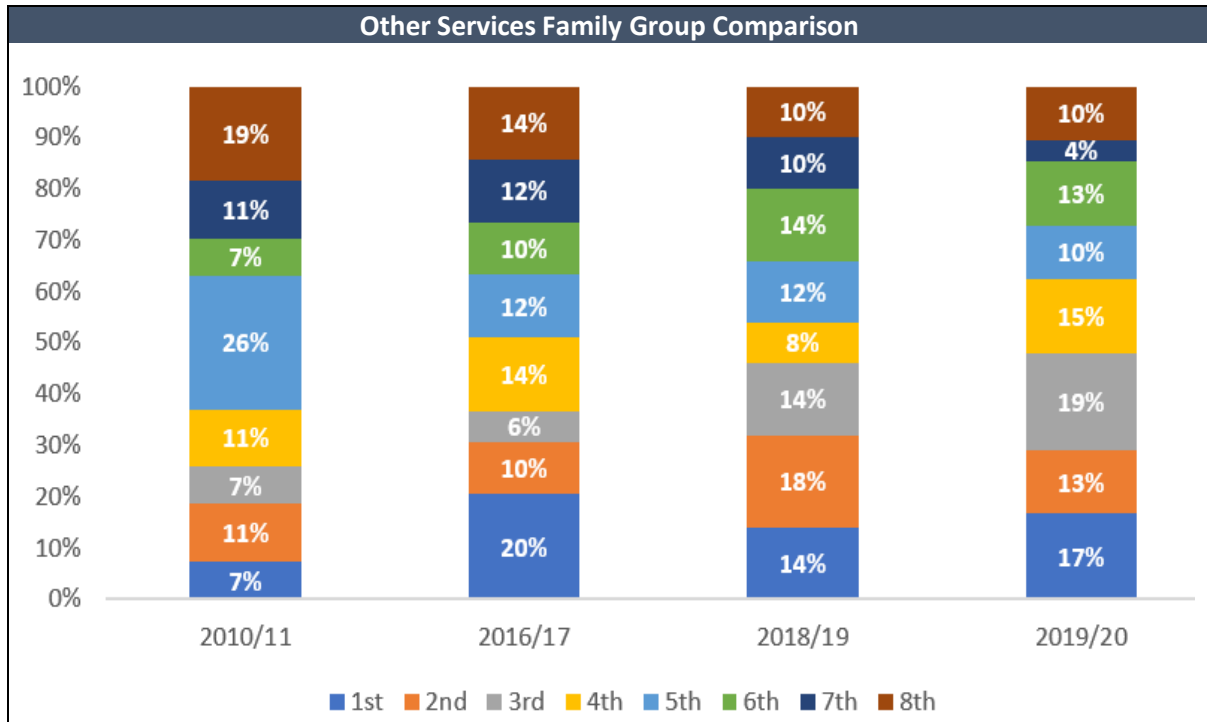
Directorates and Services

This section explores the LGBF performance of our directorates and services.

Chief Executive Services

Our Chief Executive services have a total of 13 LGBF indicators. These are split by the following:

Financial	6
Performance	7
Satisfaction	0

Financial
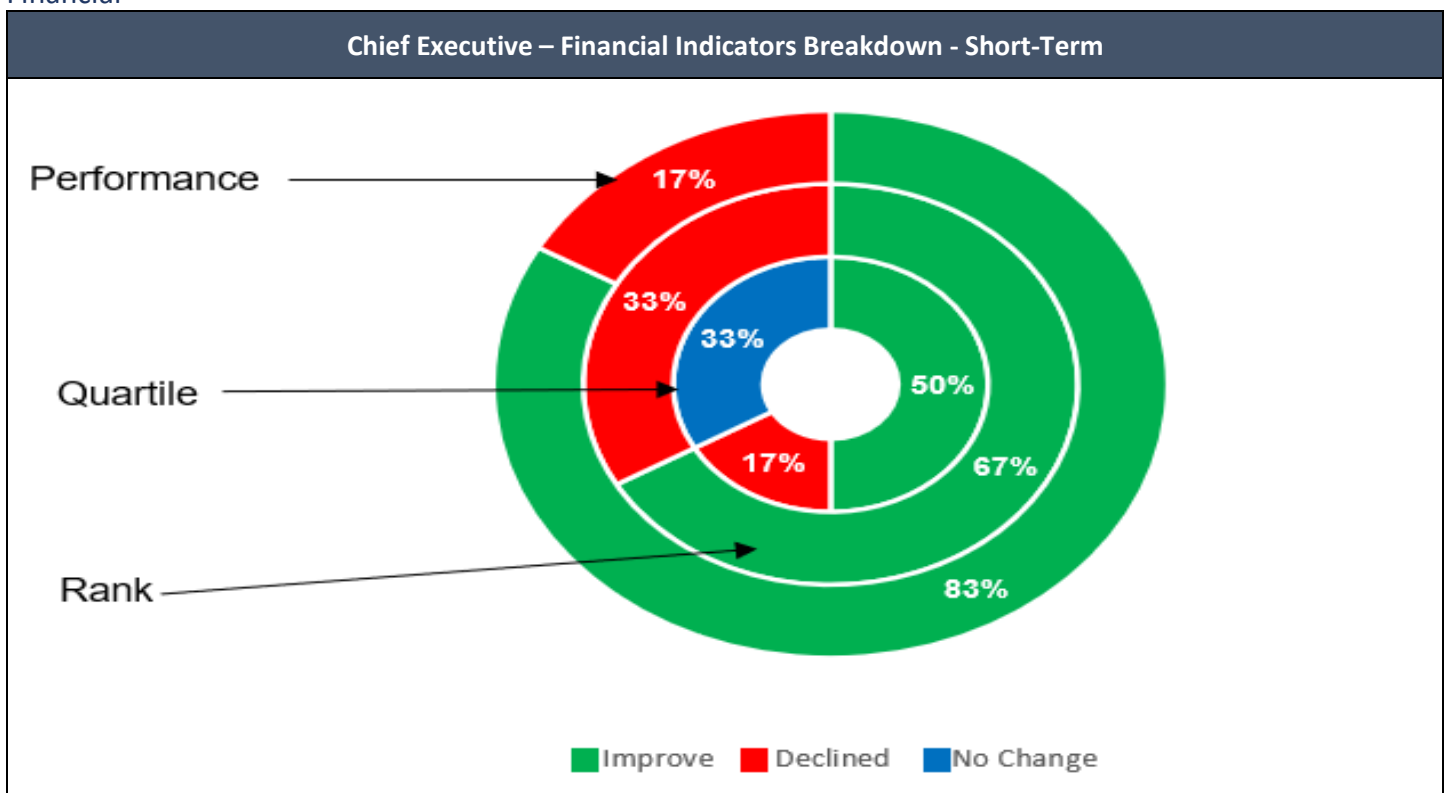
Chief Executive – Financial Indicators Breakdown - Short-Term

Of the financial indicators that fall under the Chief Executive services, in the short-term, 83% of the indicators have seen an improvement in performance and 66% have seen an improvement in the medium-term.

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Chief Executive Services – Financial Indicators - Performance Rank and Quartile									
	Performance			Rank			Quartile		
	2018/19	2019/20	Performance -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Rank -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Quartile -/+
The cost per dwelling of collecting council tax	7.3	4.71	⬆	16	5	⬆	2	1	⬆
Total useable reserves as a % of council annual budgeted revenue	8.6	9.1	⬆	29	28	⬆	4	4	▬
Uncommitted General Fund Balance as a % of council annual budgeted net revenue	2.1	2.8	⬆	21	12	⬆	3	2	⬆
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - General Fund	4.9	4.5	⬆	4	6	⬇	1	1	▬
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - Housing Revenue Account	15	17.1	⬇	8	10	⬇	1	2	⬇
Actual outturn as a percentage of budgeted expenditure	98.39	99.32	⬆	22	15	⬆	3	2	⬆

			Chief Executive Services – Financial Indicators - Detail															
				2010/11		2016/17		2018/19		2019/20		Movement						
Council Plan PI (P)	Council Plan Priorities	Reference	Description	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	SR Short-term Trend	FG Short-term Trend	SR Medium-term Trend	FG Medium-term Trend	SR Long-term Trend	FG Long-term Trend
	✓	CORP 4	The cost per dwelling of collecting council tax	13	5	10	4	16	6	5	3	⬆	⬆	⬆	⬆	⬆	⬆
		FINSUS1	Total useable reserves as a % of council annual budgeted revenue	-	-	26	7	29	7	28	6	⬆	⬆	⬇	⬆	-	-
		FINSUS2	Uncommitted General Fund Balance as a % of council annual budgeted net revenue	-	-	23	8	21	6	12	4	⬆	⬆	⬆	⬆	-	-
		FINSUS3	Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - General Fund	-	-	5	1	4	1	6	1	⬇	▬	⬇	▬	-	-
		FINSUS4	Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - Housing Revenue Account	-	-	5	1	8	2	10	3	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	-	-
		FINSUS5	Actual outturn as a percentage of budgeted expenditure	-	-	24	6	22	6	15	5	⬆	⬆	⬆	⬆	-	-

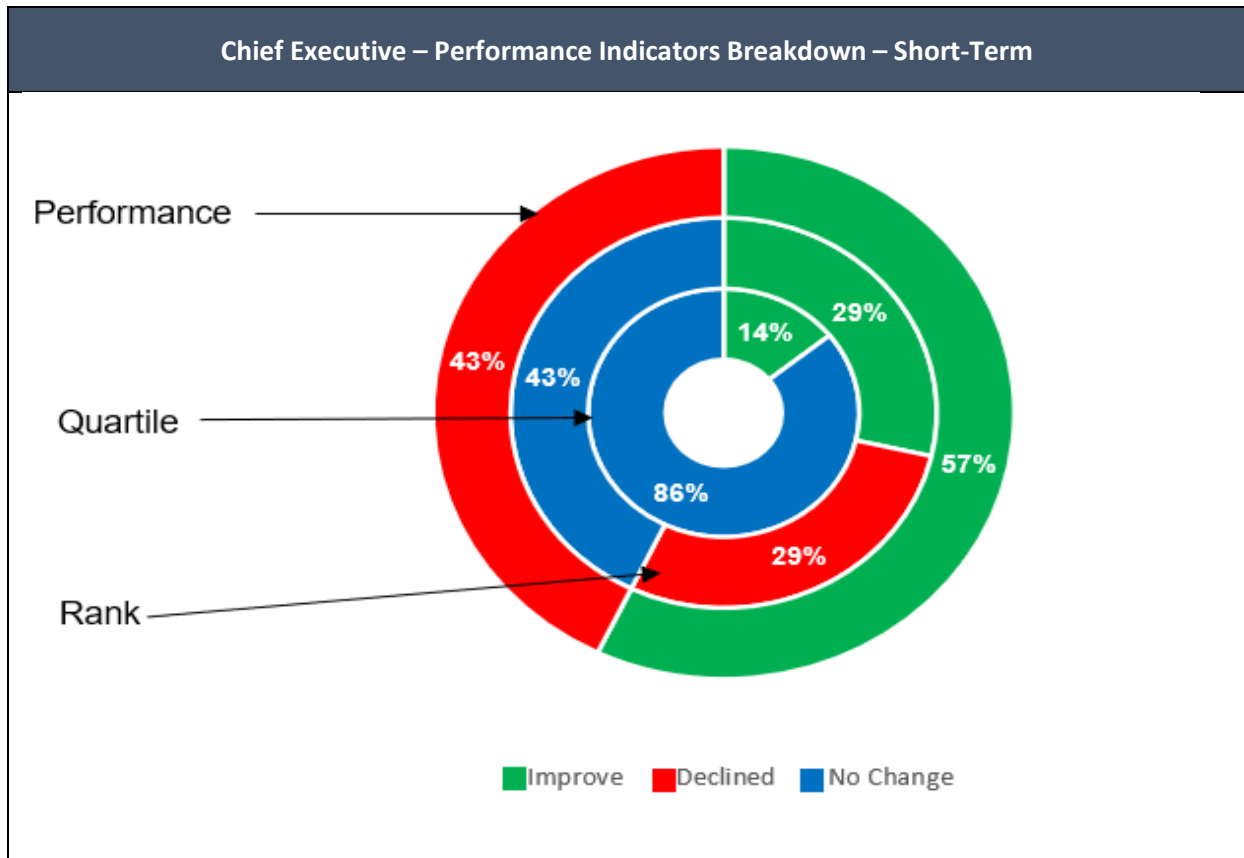Performance

Chief Executive – Performance Indicators Breakdown – Short-Term

Of the performance indicators that fall under the Chief Executive services, in the short-term, 57% of the indicators have improved. This is the same for the medium-term which also saw an improvement in 57% of the indicators.

Chief Executive Services – Performance Indicators – Performance, Rank and Quartile									
	Performance			Rank			Quartile		
	2018/19	2019/20	Performance -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Rank -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Quartile -/+
Support services as a % of total gross expenditure	2.70	2.71	⬇	2	2	▬	1	1	▬
% of the highest paid 5% employees who are women	59.33	60.79	⬆	5	5	▬	1	1	▬
The gender pay gap (%)	2.81	1.78	⬆	13	12	⬆	2	2	▬
Sickness absence days per employee (non-teacher)	11	8.94	⬆	12	2	⬆	2	1	⬆
% of income due from council tax received by the end of the year	94.28	93.35	⬇	29	32	⬇	4	4	▬
% of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days	94.89	93.27	⬇	13	16	⬇	2	2	▬
% of procurement spend spent on local enterprises	17.43	16.65	⬇	27	27	▬	4	4	▬

			Chief Executive Services – Performance Indicators - Detail	2010/11		2016/17		2018/19		2019/20		Movement					
Council Plan PI (P)	Council Plan Priorities	Reference	Description	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	SR Short-term Trend	FG Short-term Trend	SR Medium-term Trend	FG Medium-term Trend	SR Long-term Trend	FG Long-term Trend
		CORP 1	Support services as a % of total gross expenditure	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	—	—	↓	—	—	—
		CORP 3b	% of the highest paid 5% employees who are women	14	4	7	1	5	2	5	2	—	—	↑	↓	↑	↑
		CORP 3c	The gender pay gap (%)	-	-	7	3	13	5	12	5	↑	—	↓	↓	↓	↓
	✓	CORP 6b	Sickness absence days per employee (non-teacher)	1	1	16	6	12	5	2	2	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓
	✓	CORP 7	% of income due from council tax received by the end of the year	27	8	28	7	29	7	32	8	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	—
	✓	CORP 8	% of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days	21	5	18	4	13	3	16	4	↓	↓	↑	—	↑	↑
✓	✓	ECON4	% of procurement spend spent on local enterprises	29	7	28	8	27	8	27	6	—	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

Communities and Education Directorate

Our Communities and Education Directorate has a total of 33 LGBF indicators. These are split by the following

Financial	6
Performance	23
Satisfaction	4

Financial
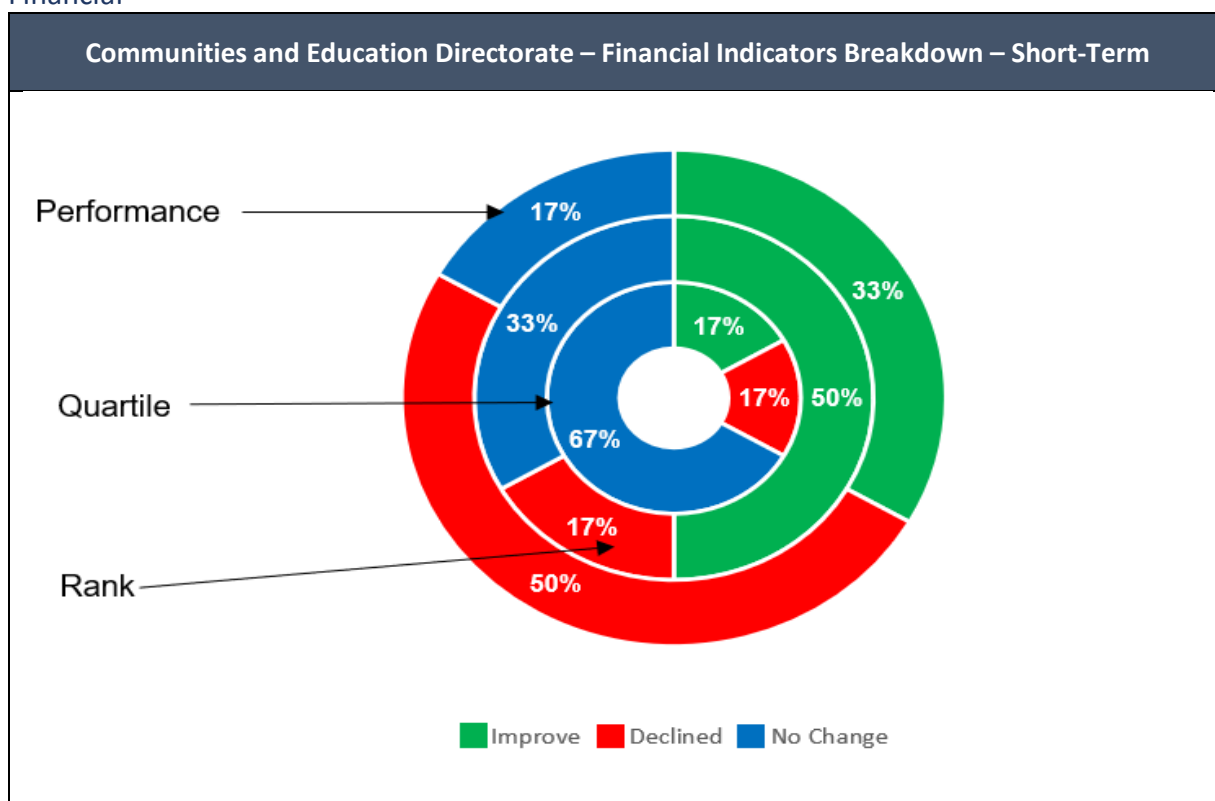
Of the financial indicators that fall under Communities and Education Directorate, in the short-term, 33% of the indicators show improved performance. This is the same as in the medium term, however in the long-term 67% of indicators saw a rise in performance.

Three of these indicators relate to cost per pre-school, primary and secondary pupil. Due to the particular challenges North Ayrshire faces in terms of deprivation, a higher investment in our young people relative to other local authorities (shown as declining performance in terms of rank) should not necessarily be viewed as negative performance.

Communities and Education Directorate – Financial Indicators – Performance, Rank and Quartile									
	Performance			Rank			Quartile		
	2018/19	2019/20	Performance -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Rank -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Quartile -/+
Cost per attendance at sports facilities	1.78	1.79	⬇	8	8	▬	1	1	▬
Cost per library visit	2.46	2.20	⬆	16	18	⬇	2	3	⬇
Cost of museums per visit	0.40	0.39	⬆	3	2	⬆	1	1	▬
Cost Per Primary School Pupil	£5,913	£6,253	⬇	28	27	⬆	4	4	▬
Cost per Secondary School Pupil	£7,702	£7,538	⬆	25	21	⬆	4	3	⬆
Cost per Pre-School Education Registration	£6,452	£8,098	⬇	27	27	▬	4	4	▬

			Communities and Education Directorate – Financial Indicators - Detail															
				2010/11		2016/17		2018/19		2019/20		Movement						
Council Plan PI (P)	Council Plan Priorities	Reference	Description	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	SR Short-term Trend	FG Short-term Trend	SR Medium-term Trend	FG Medium-term Trend	SR Long-term Trend	FG Long-term Trend
		C&L1	Cost per attendance at sports facilities	23	5	20	5	8	2	8	3	▬	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲
		C&L2	Cost per library visit	7	3	8	3	16	5	18	6	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
		C&L3	Cost of museums per visit	5	2	1	1	3	1	2	1	▲	▬	▼	▬	▲	▲
		CHN1	Cost Per Primary School Pupil	26	6	16	3	28	7	27	6	▲	▲	▼	▼	▼	▬
		CHN2	Cost per Secondary School Pupil	15	2	23	6	25	6	21	4	▲	▲	▲	▼	▼	▼
		CHN3	Cost per Pre-School Education Registration	23	3	21	4	27	5	27	6	▬	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼

Performance

Communities and Education Directorate – Performance Indicators Breakdown – Short-Term

Performance — 27% 13%

Quartile — 27% 40% 40%

Rank — 20% 60%

73%

■ Improve   ■ Declined   ■ No Change
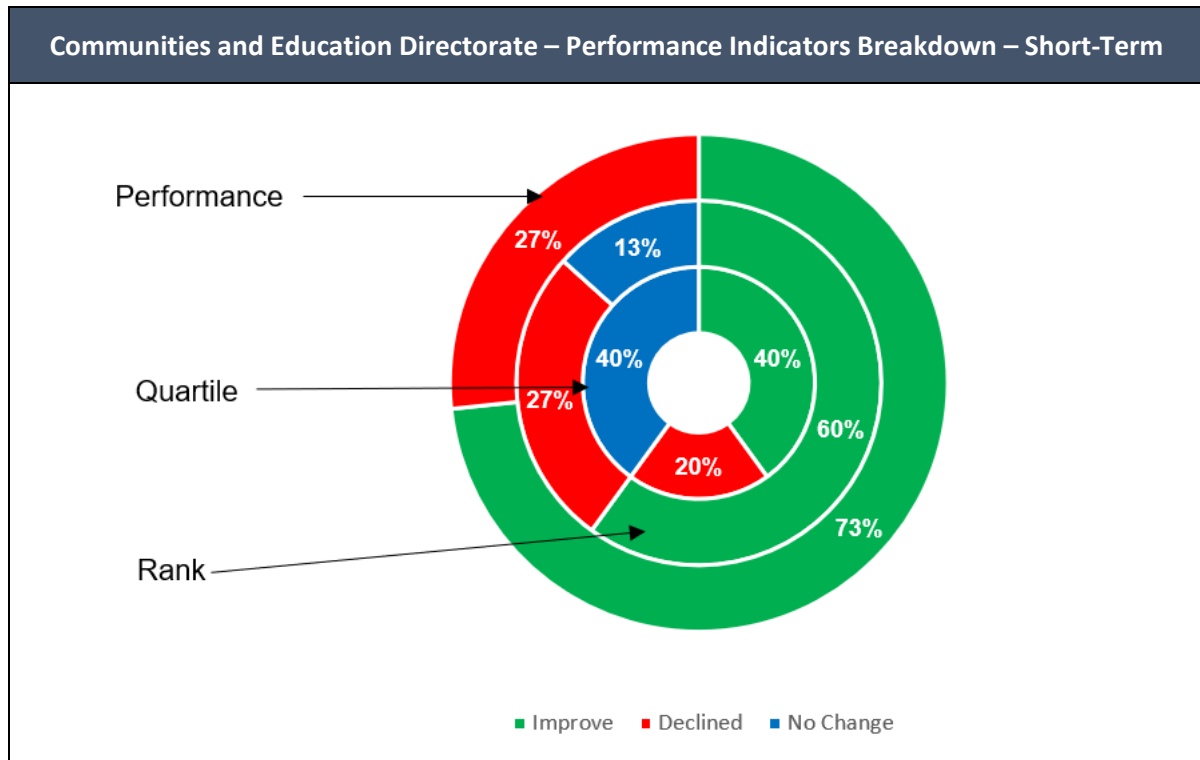
Of the non-financial / satisfaction indicators assigned to our Communities and Education Directorate, 73% have seen an improvement in performance in the short-term. This is in comparison to the medium-term where 60% of the indicators showed improved performance.

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Communities and Education Directorate – Performance Indicators – Performance, Rank and Quartile									
	Performance			Rank			Quartile		
	2018/19	2019/20	Performance -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Rank -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Quartile -/+
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5	60%	61%	⬆	23	20	⬆	3	3	▬
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6	35%	38%	⬆	29	22	⬆	4	3	⬆
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5 (SIMD)	48%	46%	⬇	7	10	⬇	1	2	⬇
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6 (SIMD)	16%	19%	⬆	14	13	⬆	2	2	▬
Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations	94.04%	92.45%	⬇	27	22	⬆	4	3	⬆
Overall Average Total Tariff	792.94	805.28	⬆	28	27	⬆	4	4	▬
Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 1	627	599	⬇	14	17	⬇	2	3	⬇
Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 2	781	813	⬆	10	10	▬	2	2	▬
Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 3	850	973	⬆	22	11	⬆	3	2	⬆
Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 4	1011	1054	⬆	19	13	⬆	3	2	⬆
Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 5	1157	1164	⬆	18	18	▬	3	3	▬
% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy	73.85%	-	-	12	-	-	2	-	-
% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy	79.44%	-	-	14	-	-	2	-	-

Communities and Education Directorate – Performance Indicators – Performance, Rank and Quartile									
	Performance			Rank			Quartile		
	2018/19	2019/20	Performance -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Rank -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Quartile -/+
Literacy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and most deprived pupils	21.99%	-	-	15	-	-	2	-	-
Numeracy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and most deprived pupils	17.13%	-	-	13	-	-	2	-	-
% of children meeting developmental milestones	80.82%	83.27%	⬆	28	23	⬆	4	3	⬆
% of funded early years provision which is graded good/better	93.22%	96.5%	⬆	16	8	⬆	2	1	⬆
School attendance rate	92.14%	-	-	29	-	-	4	-	-
School attendance rate (Looked After Children)	88.78%	-	-	8	-	-	1	-	-
School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils)	13.23	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	-
School exclusion rates (per 1,000 'looked after children')	81.02	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-
Participation rate for 16-19 year olds (per 100)	90.53	90.56	⬆	25	26	⬇	4	4	▬
Sickness absence days per teacher	5.53	5.53	▬	8	11	⬇	1	2	⬇

				2010/11		2016/17		2018/19		2019/20		Movement					
Council Plan PI (P)	Council Plan Priorities	Reference	Description	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	SR Short-term Trend	FG Short-term Trend	SR Medium-term Trend	FG Medium-term Trend	SR Long-term Trend	FG Long-term Trend
		CHN4	% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5	-	-	14	2	23	4	20	4	↑	▬	↓	↓	-	-
		CHN5	% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6	-	-	18	2	29	7	22	4	↑	↑	↓	↓	-	-
		CHN6	% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5 (SIMD)	-	-	7	2	7	3	10	4	↓	↓	↓	↓	-	-
		CHN7	% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6 (SIMD)	-	-	8	2	14	5	13	4	↑	↑	↓	↓	-	-
✓	✓	CHN11	Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations	-	-	22	4	27	7	22	4	↑	↑	▬	▬	-	-
		CHN12a	Overall Average Total Tariff	-	-	18	3	28	5	27	7	↑	↓	↓	↓	-	-
		CHN12b	Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 1	-	-	4	2	14	4	17	6	↓	↓	↓	↓	-	-
		CHN12c	Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 2	-	-	9	4	10	5	10	5	▬	▬	↓	↓	-	-
		CHN12d	Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 3	-	-	5	2	22	8	11	4	↑	↑	↓	↓	-	-
		CHN12e	Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 4	-	-	10	3	19	6	13	5	↑	↑	↓	↓	-	-
		CHN12f	Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 5	-	-	12	4	18	5	18	6	▬	↓	↓	↓	-	-
		CHN13a	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy	-	-	-	-	12	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		CHN13b	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy	-	-	-	-	14	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Communities and Education Directorate - Performance Indicators - Detail

Council Plan PI (P)	Council Plan Priorities	Reference	Description	2010/11 Scottish Rank	2010/11 Family Group Rank	2016/17 Scottish Rank	2016/17 Family Group Rank	2018/19 Scottish Rank	2018/19 Family Group Rank	2019/20 Scottish Rank	2019/20 Family Group Rank	SR Short-term Trend	FG Short-term Trend	SR Medium-term Trend	FG Medium-term Trend	SR Long-term Trend	FG Long-term Trend
			Communities and Education Directorate - Performance Indicators - Detail														
		CHN14a	Literacy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and most deprived pupils	-	-	-	-	15	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		CHN14b	Numeracy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and most deprived pupils	-	-	-	-	13	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		CHN17	% of children meeting developmental milestones	-	-	24	4	28	4	23	1	↑	↑	↑	↑	-	-
		CHN18	% of funded early years provision which is graded good/better	-	-	5	4	16	2	8	2	↑	➖	↓	↑	-	-
		CHN19a	School attendance rate	17	2	27	6	29	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		CHN19b	School attendance rate (Looked After Children)	4	1	17	1	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		CHN20a	School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils)	22	2	10	4	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		CHN20b	School exclusion rates (per 1,000 'looked after children')	3	1	5	5	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		CHN21	Participation rate for 16-19 year olds (per 100)	-	-	23	3	25	3	26	4	↓	↓	↓	↓	-	-
	✓	CORP 6a	Sickness absence days per teacher all	7	2	17	5	8	3	11	4	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓

Satisfaction

Communities and Education Directorate – Satisfaction Indicators Breakdown – Short-Term
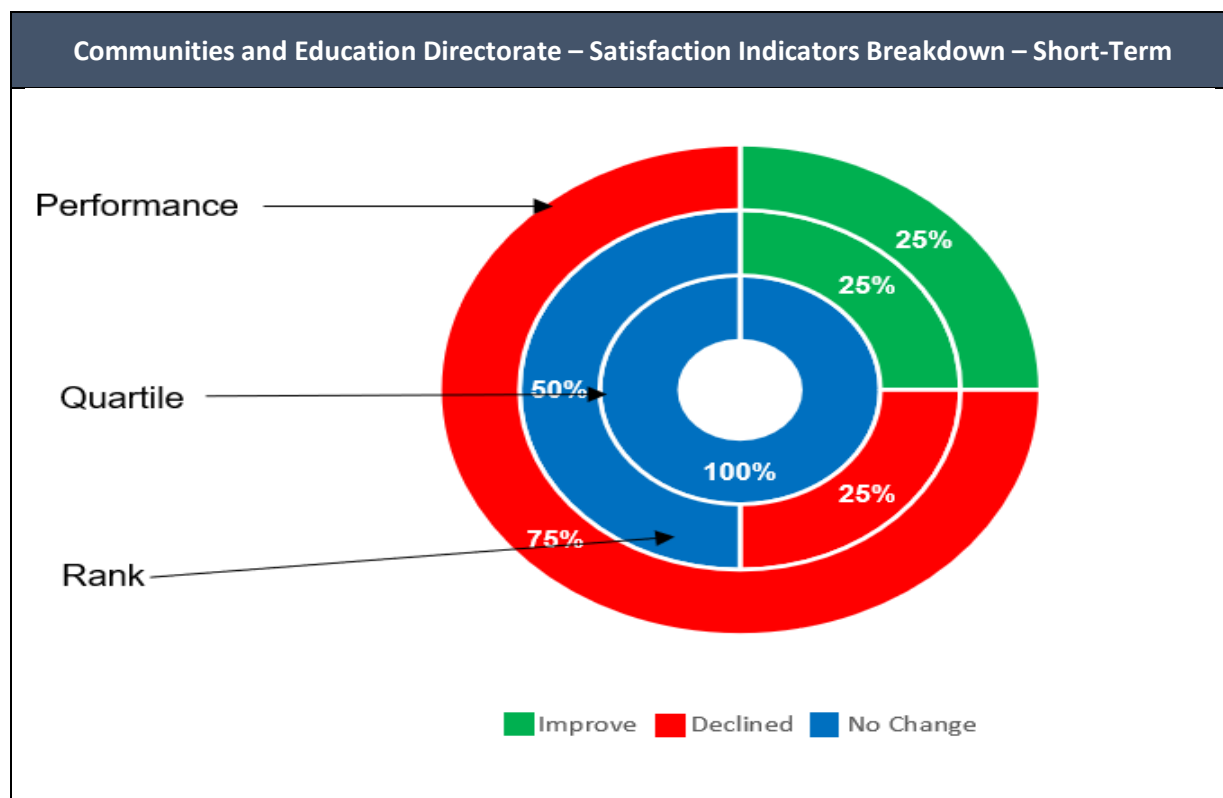
Of the four satisfaction indicators that fall under the Communities and Education Directorate, only one has improved performance in the short term (% of adults satisfied with local schools). All are rolling three-year averages, therefore changes in performance can take up to three years to filter through.

Three indicators have declined in the short and medium-term, however our library satisfaction remains at the second highest ranking of all local authorities in Scotland and ranked first within our family group with 85.1% of adults satisfied with libraries.

Communities and Education Directorate – Satisfaction Indicators – Performance, Rank and Quartile									
	Performance			Rank			Quartile		
	2016/19	2017/20	Performance -/+	2016/19	2017/20	Rank -/+	2016/19	2017/20	Quartile -/+
% of adults satisfied with libraries	87.4	85.07	⬇	2	2	▬	1	1	▬
% of adults satisfied with museums and galleries	65.73	60.07	⬇	17	20	⬇	3	3	▬
% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities	67.63	64.97	⬇	28	28	▬	4	4	▬
% of adults satisfied with local schools	76.17	77.16	⬆	13	9	⬆	2	2	▬

Council Plan PI (P)	Council Plan Priorities	Reference	Description	2010/11 Scottish Rank	2010/11 Family Group Rank	2016/17 Scottish Rank	2016/17 Family Group Rank	2018/19 Scottish Rank	2018/19 Family Group Rank	2019/20 Scottish Rank	2019/20 Family Group Rank	SR Short-term Trend	FG Short-term Trend	SR Medium-term Trend	FG Medium-term Trend	SR Long-term Trend	FG Long-term Trend
	✓	C&L5a	% of adults satisfied with libraries	-	-	2	1	2	1	2	1	▬	▬	▬	▬	-	-
		C&L5c	% of adults satisfied with museums and galleries	-	-	13	4	17	5	20	8	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	-	-
	✓	C&L5d	% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities	-	-	23	8	28	7	28	8	▬	⬇	⬇	▬	-	-
		CHN10	% of adults satisfied with local schools	-	-	13	5	13	4	9	3	⬆	⬆	⬆	⬆	-	-

Place Directorate

The Place Directorate has a total of 35 LGBF indicators. These are split as follows:

Financial	10
Performance	22
Satisfaction	3

Financial

Place – Financial Indicators Breakdown – Short-Term
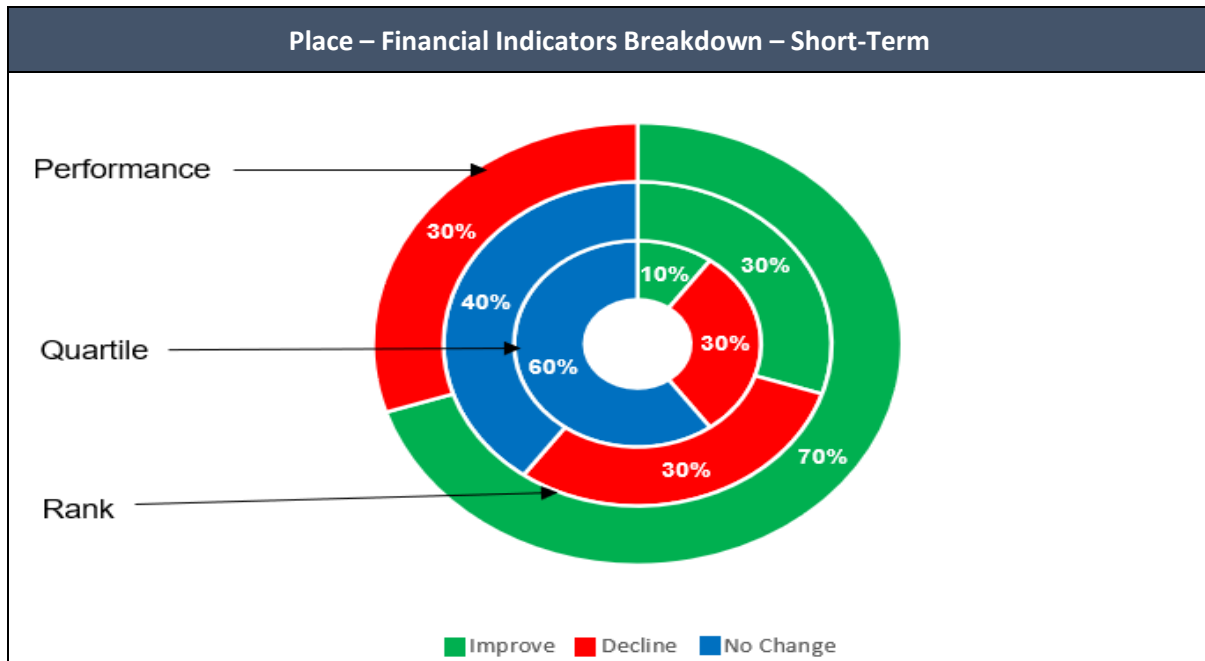
Of the financial indicators that fall under the Place Directorate, in the short-term, 70% of the indicators show improved performance. The medium-term shows an improvement across 80% of the indicators.

Place Directorate – Financial Indicators – Performance, Rank and Quartile									
	Performance			Rank			Quartile		
	2018/19	2019/20	Performance -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Rank -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Quartile -/+
Cost of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population	£18,568	£22,592	⬇	12	21	⬇	2	3	⬇
Net cost of waste collection per premise	£53	£55	⬇	7	13	⬇	1	2	⬇
Net cost of waste disposal per premise	£105	£97	⬆	22	15	⬆	3	2	⬆
Net cost of street cleaning per 1,000 population	£17,357	£15,897	⬆	24	24	▬	3	3	▬
Cost of roads per kilometre	£11,480	£9,967	⬆	16	16	▬	2	2	▬
Cost of Trading Standards and environmental health per 1,000 population	£12,571	£11,667	⬆	2	1	⬆	1	1	▬
Cost of Trading Standards per 1000	£2,658	£2,598	⬆	3	1	⬆	1	1	▬
Cost of environmental health per 1,000 population	£9,913	£9,069	⬆	5	5	▬	1	1	▬
Cost of planning and building standards Per Planning Application	£3,565	£4,213	⬇	8	17	⬇	1	3	⬇
Investment in of Economic Development & Tourism per 1,000 Population	£120,140	£108,335	⬆	23	23	▬	3	3	▬

Council Plan PI (P)	Council Plan Priorities	Reference	Description	2010/11 Scottish Rank	2010/11 Family Group Rank	2016/17 Scottish Rank	2016/17 Family Group Rank	2018/19 Scottish Rank	2018/19 Family Group Rank	2019/20 Scottish Rank	2019/20 Family Group Rank	SR Short-term Trend	FG Short-term Trend	SR Medium-term Trend	FG Medium-term Trend	SR Long-term Trend	FG Long-term Trend
		C&L4	Cost of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population	23	5	28	7	12	3	21	5	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↔
		ENV1a	Net cost of waste collection per premise	-	-	11	1	7	3	13	3	↓	↔	↓	↓	-	-
		ENV2a	Net cost of waste disposal per premise	-	-	22	8	22	7	15	7	↑	↔	↑	↑	-	-
		ENV3a	Net cost of street cleaning per 1,000 population	28	8	21	6	24	6	24	6	↔	↔	↓	↔	↑	↑
		ENV4a	Cost of roads per kilometre	14	5	16	5	16	6	16	5	↔	↑	↔	↔	↓	↔
		ENV5	Cost of Trading Standards and environmental health per 1,000 population	17	3	8	2	2	2	1	1	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
		ENV5a	Cost of Trading Standards per 1000	-	-	10	4	3	2	1	1	↑	↑	↑	↑	-	-
		ENV5b	Cost of environmental health per 1,000 population	-	-	12	4	5	1	5	1	↔	↔	↑	↑	-	-
		ECON2	Cost of planning and building standards Per Planning Application	26	8	16	5	8	2	17	4	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑
		ECON6	Investment in of Economic Development & Tourism per 1,000 Population	19	7	28	8	23	8	23	8	↔	↔	↑	↔	↓	↓

Place Directorate – Financial Indicators – Detail

Performance

Place Directorate – Performance Indicators Breakdown – Short-Term

Performance

Quartile

Rank

15%

10%

45%

20%

45%

55%

70%

40%

Improve   Decline   No Change
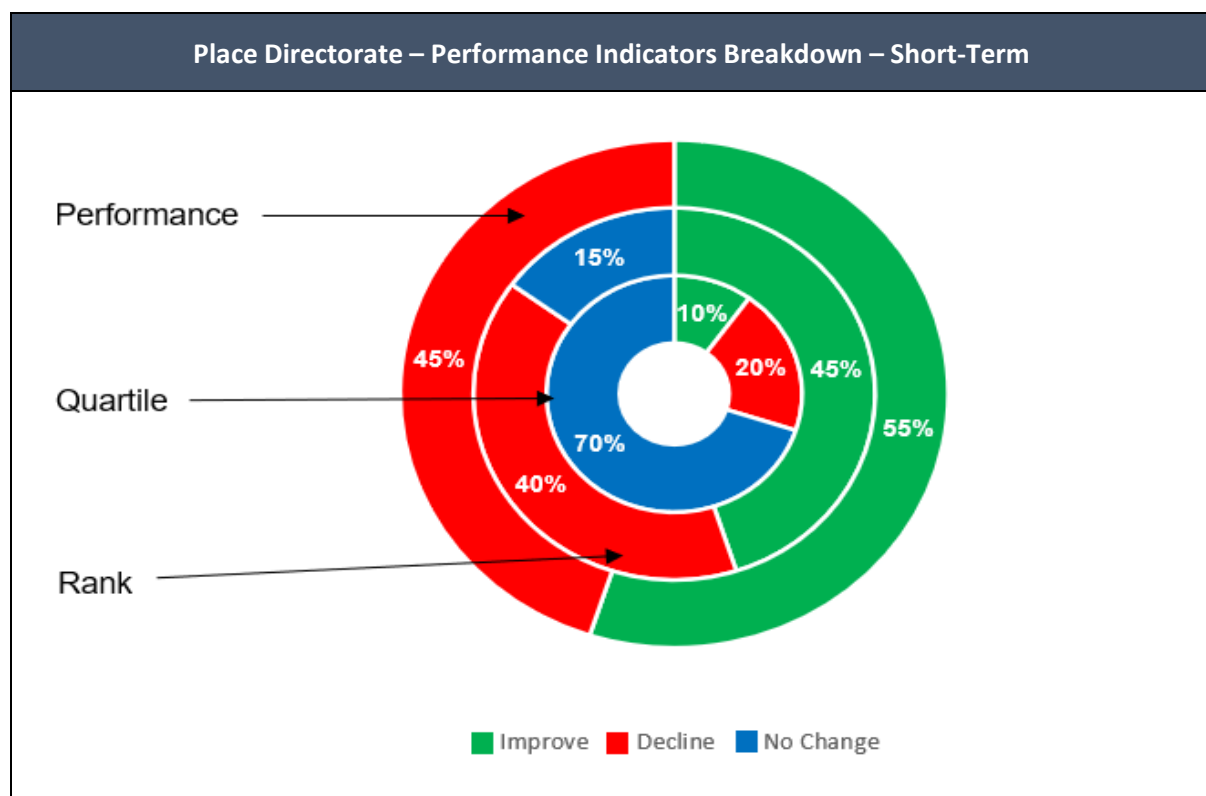
Of the performance indicators assigned to the Place Directorate, 55% of the indicators have improved performance in the short-term. This is in comparison to the medium-term where 63% of the indicators saw improved performance.

Place Directorate – Performance Indicators – Performance, Rank and Quartile									
	Performance			Rank			Quartile		
	2018/19	2019/20	Performance -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Rank -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Quartile -/+
Street Cleanliness Score	94.5	94.64	↑ (green)	12	11	↑ (green)	2	2	▬ (no change)
% of A Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	37.3	38.78	↓ (red)	30	30	▬ (no change)	4	4	▬ (no change)
% of B Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	40.36	36.83	↑ (green)	29	25	↑ (green)	4	4	▬ (no change)
% of C Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	48.65	46.93	↑ (green)	30	30	▬ (no change)	4	4	▬ (no change)
% of U Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	33.85	33.65	↑ (green)	12	11	↑ (green)	2	2	▬ (no change)
% of total household waste arising that is recycled	54.6	56.34	↑ (green)	8	6	↑ (green)	1	1	▬ (no change)
Gross rent arrears (all tenants) as at 31 March each year as a percentage of rent due for the reporting year	3.34	3.65	↓ (red)	3	3	▬ (no change)	1	1	▬ (no change)
% of rent due in the year that was lost due to voids	0.45	0.61	↓ (red)	1	4	↓ (red)	1	1	▬ (no change)
% of council dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Standards	99.19	99.36	↑ (green)	3	2	↑ (green)	1	1	▬ (no change)
Average number of days taken to complete non-emergency repairs	5.45	6.3	↓ (red)	5	9	↓ (red)	1	2	↓ (red)
% of council dwellings that are energy efficient	98.43	98.38	↓ (red)	1	2	↓ (red)	1	1	▬ (no change)
% of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use	91.01	90.89	↓ (red)	9	10	↓ (red)	2	2	▬ (no change)
% of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition	95.6	94	↓ (red)	8	12	↓ (red)	1	2	↓ (red)

Place Directorate – Performance Indicators – Performance, Rank and Quartile									
	Performance			Rank			Quartile		
	2018/19	2019/20	Performance -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Rank -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Quartile -/+
% of unemployed people assisted into work from council operated / funded employability programmes	16.97	20.13	⬆	11	6	⬆	2	1	⬆
Average time per business and industry planning application (weeks)	6.7	5.1	⬆	3	1	⬆	1	1	➖
No of business gateway start-ups per 10,000 population	21.66	21.75	⬆	8	5	⬆	1	1	➖
Proportion of people earning less than the living wage	24.3%	16%	⬆	19	9	⬆	3	2	⬆
Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband	93.7%	94.1%	⬆	16	18	⬇	2	3	⬇
Town Vacancy Rates	9.99%	12.55%	⬇	15	21	⬇	2	3	⬇
Immediately available employment land as a % of total land allocated for employment purposes in the local development plan	63.03%	60.82%	⬇	9	10	⬇	2	2	➖
CO2 emissions area wide per capita	6.20	-	-	25	-	-	4	-	-
CO2 emissions are wide: emissions within scope of LA per capita	5.85	-	-	20	-	-	3	-	-

Place Directorate- Performance Indicators - Detail

Council Plan PI (P)	Council Plan Priorities	Reference	Description	2010/11		2016/17		2018/19		2019/20		Movement					
				Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	SR Short-term Trend	FG Short-term Trend	SR Medium-term Trend	FG Medium-term Trend	SR Long-term Trend	FG Long-term Trend
✓	✓	ENV3c	Street Cleanliness Score	14	6	29	7	12	4	11	2	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
		ENV4b	% of A Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	31	8	28	6	30	8	30	7	▬	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑
		ENV4c	% of B Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	29	7	24	5	29	7	25	5	↑	↑	↓	▬	↑	↑
		ENV4d	% of C Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	31	8	31	8	30	8	30	8	▬	▬	↑	▬	↑	▬
		ENV4e	% of U Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	13	4	8	3	12	4	11	3	↑	↑	↓	▬	↑	↑
✓	✓	ENV6	% of total household waste arising that is recycled	10	5	5	2	8	2	6	3	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑
	✓	HSN1b	Gross rent arrears (all tenants) as at 31 March each year as a percentage of rent due for the reporting year	-	-	3	1	3	1	3	1	▬	▬	▬	▬	-	-
	✓	HSN2	% of rent due in the year that was lost due to voids	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	↓	▬	↓	▬	↓	▬
✓	✓	HSN3	% of council dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Standards	11	2	3	1	3	1	2	1	↑	▬	↑	▬	↑	↑
	✓	HSN4b	Average number of days taken to complete non-emergency repairs	-	-	12	3	5	2	9	3	↓	↓	↑	▬	-	-
	✓	HSN5a	% of council dwellings that are energy efficient	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	2	↓	↓	↓	↓	-	-
✓	✓	CORP-ASSET1	% of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use	4	2	5	2	9	2	10	3	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

			Place Directorate- Performance Indicators - Detail												Movement			
				2010/11		2016/17		2018/19		2019/20									
Council Plan PI (P)	Council Plan Priorities	Reference	Description	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	SR Short-term Trend	FG Short-term Trend	SR Medium-term Trend	FG Medium-term Trend	SR Long-term Trend	FG Long-term Trend
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		CORP-ASSET2	% of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition	17	5	1	1	8	3	12	3	↓	▬	↓	↓	↑	↑
		ECON1	% of unemployed people assisted into work from council operated / funded employability programmes	-	-	13	2	11	4	6	3	↑	↑	↑	↓	-	-
		ECON3	Average time per business and industry planning application (weeks)	-	-	2	1	3	3	1	1	↑	↑	↑	▬	-	-
	✓	ECON5	No of business gateway start-ups per 10,000 population	-	-	5	2	8	2	5	2	↑	▬	▬	▬	-	-
✓	✓	ECON7	Proportion of people earning less than the living wage	-	-	25	7	19	6	9	2	↑	↑	↑	↑	-	-
✓		ECON8	Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband	-	-	18	4	16	3	18	4	↓	↓	▬	▬	-	-
		ECON9	Town Vacancy Rates	-	-	-	-	15	5	21	6	↓	↓	-	-	-	-
		ECON10	Immediately available employment land as a % of total land allocated for employment purposes in the local development plan	-	-	29	7	9	1	10	2	↓	↓	↑	↑	-	-
		CLIM1	CO2 emissions area wide per capita	25	6	25	6	25	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-=
		CLIM2	CO2 emissions are wide: emissions within scope of LA per capita	19	4	20	5	20	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Satisfaction

Place Directorate– Satisfaction Indicators Breakdown – Short-Term

Performance

Quartile

Rank

33%
33%
33%
33%
33%
67%
67%

Improve   Decline   No Change
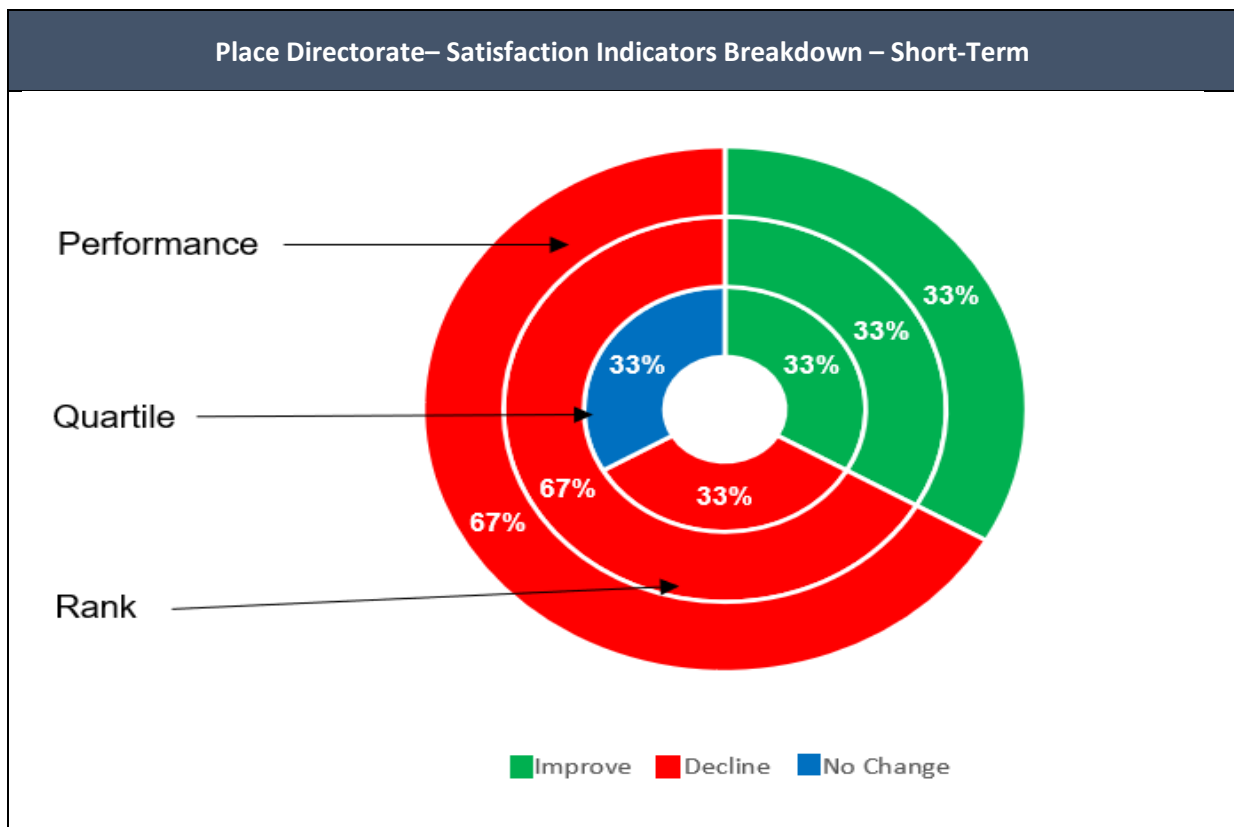
Of the three satisfaction indicators assigned to the Place Directorate, in the short and medium-term, one (33%) of the indicators shows improved performance.   All three satisfaction indicators are rolling three-year averages therefore it can take some time for a change to filter through into these results.

Place Directorate – Satisfaction Indicators – Performance, Rank and Quartile									
Description	Performance			Rank			Quartile		
	2016-19	2017-20	Performance -/+	2016-19	2017-20	Rank -/+	2016-19	2017-20	Quartile -/+
% of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces	79.13	83.13	⬆	26	19	⬆	4	3	⬆
% of adults satisfied with refuse collection	84.7	78.7	⬇	6	19	⬇	1	3	⬇
% of adults satisfied with street cleaning	71.17	64.83	⬇	11	16	⬇	2	2	▬

Place Directorate – Satisfaction Indicators – Detail																			
				2010-14		2014/17		2016/19		2017/20		Movement							
Council Plan PI (P)	Council Plan Priorities	Reference	Description	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	SR Short-term Trend	FG Short-term Trend	SR Medium-term Trend	FG Medium-term Trend	SR Long-term Trend	FG Long-term Trend		
		C&L5b	% of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces	-	-	26	8	26	8	19	6	⬆	⬆	⬆	⬆	-	-		
		ENV7a	% of adults satisfied with refuse collection	-	-	7	1	6	1	19	4	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	-	-		
		ENV7b	% of adults satisfied with street cleaning	-	-	9	4	11	4	16	4	⬇	▬	⬇	▬	-	-		

Health and Social Care Partnership

The Health and Social Care Partnership has a total of 16 LGBF indicators assigned to them. These are as follows:

Financial	4
Performance	8
Satisfaction	4

Financial
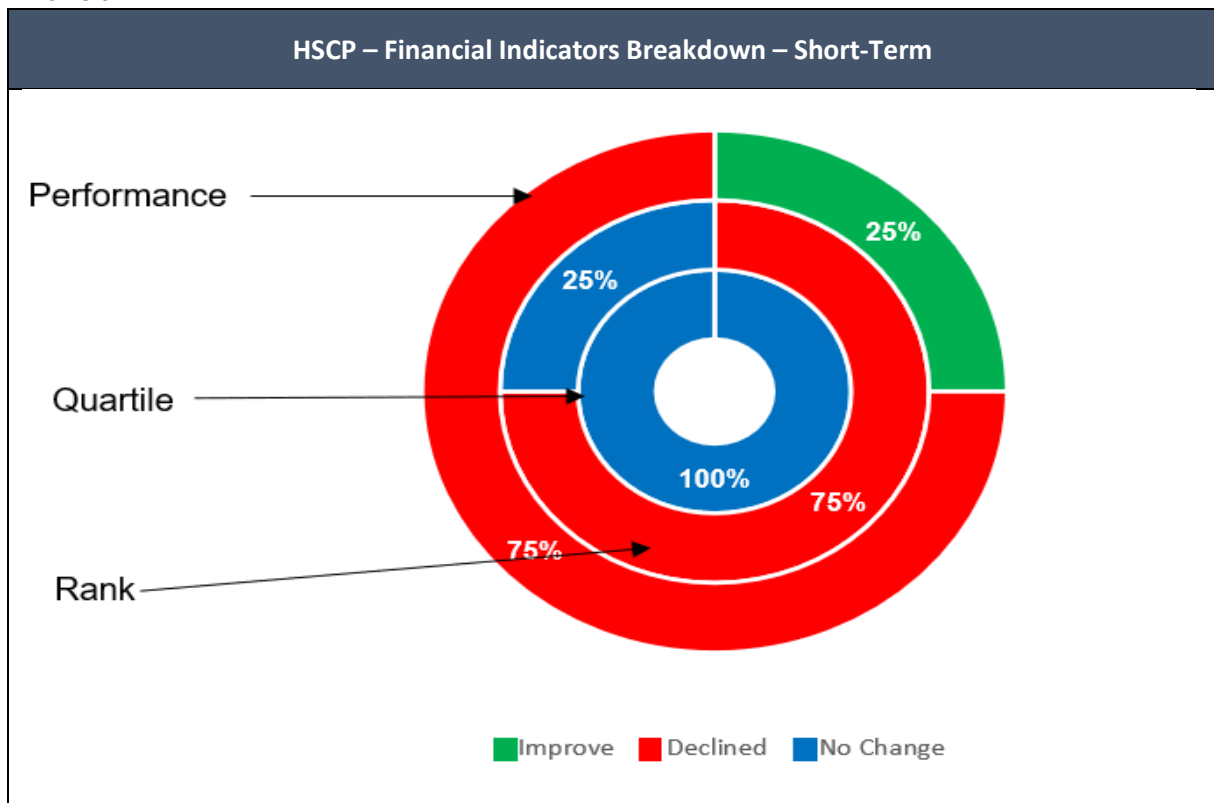
Of the financial indicators that fall under the HSCP, in the short-term, 25% of the indicators have seen an improvement in performance. This is in comparison for the medium-term which saw 50% of the indicators improve.

HSCP – Financial Performance – Performance, Rank and Quartile									
	Performance			Rank			Quartile		
	2018/19	2019/20	Performance -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Rank -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Quartile -/+
The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in Residential Based Services per Child per Week	£3,288	£3,598	⬇	9	14	⬇	2	2	▬
The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in a Community Setting per Child per Week	£324	£309	⬆	15	15	▬	2	2	▬
Home care costs per hour for people aged 65 or over	£25.92	£27.59	⬇	19	21	⬇	3	3	▬
Residential costs per week per resident for people aged 65 or over	£401	£405	⬇	15	16	⬇	2	2	▬

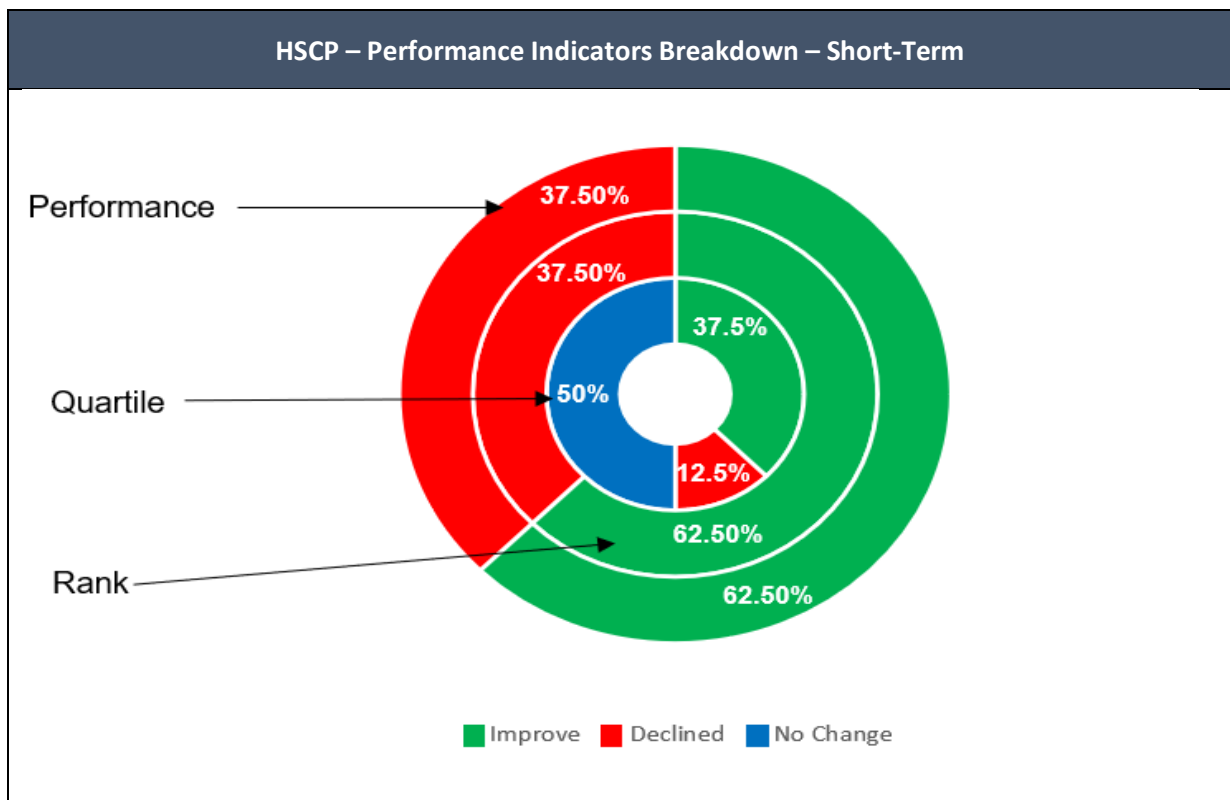	HSCP – Financial Performance – Performance, Rank and Quartile																					
				2010/11		2016/17		2018/19		2019/20		Movement									
Council Plan PI (P)	Council Plan Priorities	Reference	Description	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	SR Short-term Trend	FG Short-term Trend	SR Medium-term Trend	FG Medium-term Trend	SR Long-term Trend	FG Long-term Trend				
		CHN8a	The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in Residential Based Services per Child per Week	19	3	6	2	9	3	14	4	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬆	⬇				
		CNH8b	The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in a Community Setting per Child per Week	14	5	17	5	15	6	15	5	▬	⬆	⬆	▬	⬇	▬				
	✓	SW1	Home care costs per hour for people aged 65 or over	25	7	26	7	19	4	21	5	⬇	⬇	⬆	⬆	⬆	⬆				
	✓	SW5	Residential costs per week per resident for people aged 65 or over	18	3	11	3	15	4	16	4	⬇	▬	⬇	⬇	⬆	⬇				

Performance

HSCP – Performance Indicators Breakdown – Short-Term

Performance — 37.50%

37.50%

37.5%

Quartile — 50%

12.5%

62.50%

Rank — 62.50%

Legend: ■ Improve ■ Declined ■ No Change

Of the performance indicators assigned to the HSCP, 62.5% of the indicators have seen an improvement in performance in both the short and medium term.

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HSCP – Performance Indicators – Performance, Rank and Quartile									
	Performance			Rank			Quartile		
	2018/19	2019/20	Performance -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Rank -/+	2018/19	2019/20	Quartile -/+
% of children being looked after in the community	88.18%	90.26%	⬆	20	15	⬆	3	2	⬆
% of child protection re-registrations within 18 months	7.17%	15.04%	⬇	21	29	⬇	3	4	⬇
% LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)	21.82%	18.26%	⬆	18	14	⬆	3	2	⬆
Self Directed Support (Direct Payments + Managed Personalised Budgets) spend on adults 18+ as a % of total social work spend on adults 18+	3.14%	3.56%	⬆	26	27	⬇	4	4	▬
% of people aged 65 and over with long-term care needs receiving personal care at home	66.68%	69.42%	⬆	8	4	⬆	1	1	▬
Rate of readmission to hospital within 28 days per 1,000 discharges	111.4	112.25	⬇	22	20	⬆	3	3	▬
Proportion of care services graded 'good' (4) or better in Care Inspectorate inspections	81.93%	87.18%	⬆	16	6	⬆	2	1	⬆
Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged, per 1,000 population (75+)	1126.18	1328.71	⬇	25	30	⬇	4	4	▬

Council Plan PI (P)	Council Plan Priorities	Reference	Description	2010/11 Scottish Rank	2010/11 Family Group Rank	2016/17 Scottish Rank	2016/17 Family Group Rank	2018/19 Scottish Rank	2018/19 Family Group Rank	2019/20 Scottish Rank	2019/20 Family Group Rank	SR Short-term Trend	FG Short-term Trend	SR Medium-term Trend	FG Medium-term Trend	SR Long-term Trend	FG Long-term Trend
	✓	CHN9	% of children being looked after in the community	16	5	23	8	20	6	15	5	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	▬
		CHN22	% of child protection re-registrations within 18 months	-	-	21	6	21	5	29	7	↓	↓	↓	↓	-	-
		CHN23	% LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-July)	-	-	17	6	18	6	14	6	↑	▬	↑	▬	-	-
	✓	SW2	Self Directed Support (Direct Payments + Managed Personalised Budgets) spend on adults 18+ as a % of total social work spend on adults 18+	20	3	28	6	26	4	27	6	↓	↓	↑	▬	↓	↓
✓	✓	SW3a	% of people aged 65 and over with long-term care needs receiving personal care at home	21	6	12	6	8	4	4	1	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
		SW6	Rate of readmission to hospital within 28 days per 1,000 discharges	21	5	26	6	22	6	20	6	↑	▬	↑	▬	↑	↓
		SW7	Proportion of care services graded 'good' (4) or better in Care Inspectorate inspections	-	-	17	4	16	6	6	3	↑	↑	↑	↑	-	-
		SW8	Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged, per 1,000 population (75+)	-	-	13	5	25	7	30	7	↓	▬	↓	↓	-	-

Satisfaction

HSCP – Satisfaction Indicators Breakdown – 2017/18 and 2019/20 Comparison
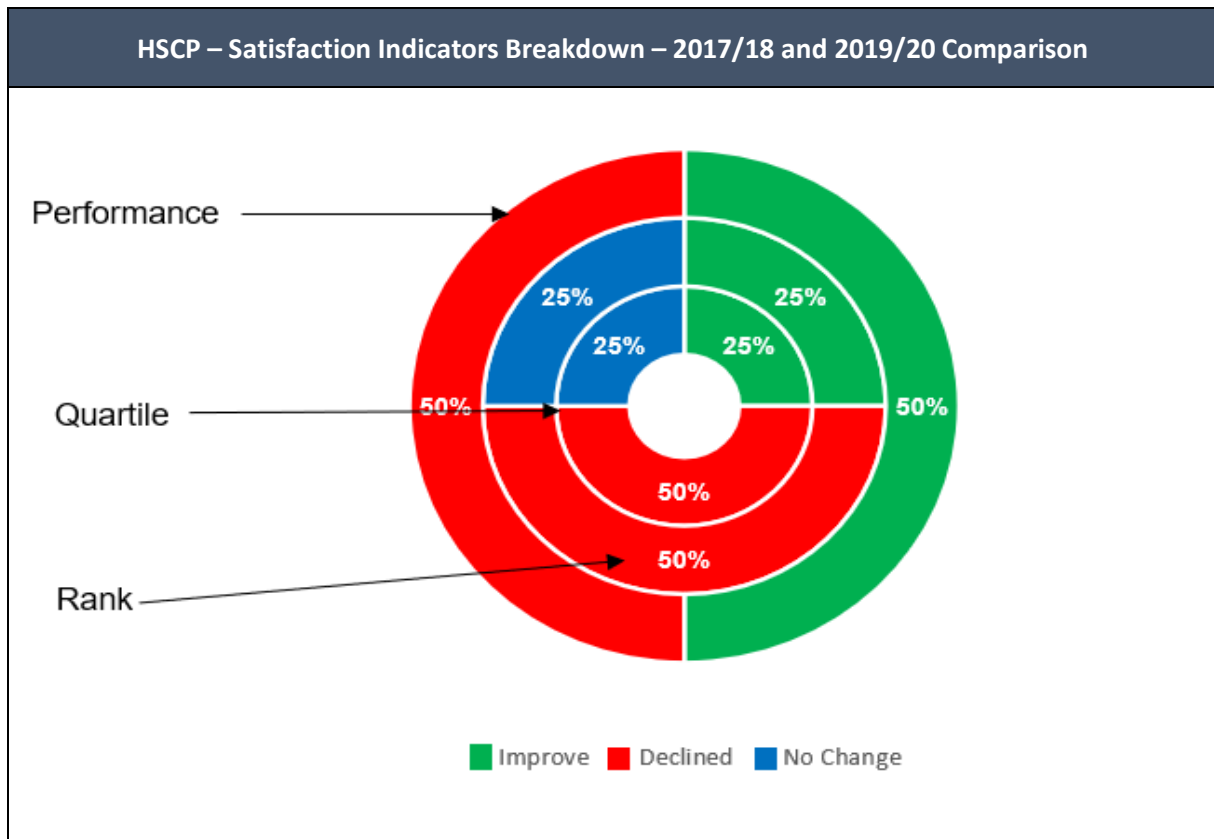
There is no short-term data available for HSCP satisfaction indicators as they are recorded every two years. However, between 2017/18 and 2019/20 performance improved in two of the four indicators.

HSCP – Satisfaction Performance – Performance, Rank and Quartile									
	Performance			Rank			Quartile		
	2017/18	2019/20	Performance -/+	2017/18	2019/20	Rank -/+	2017/18	2019/20	Quartile -/+
% of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact in improving or maintaining their quality of life	82.39%	79.31%	⬇	9	19	⬇	2	3	⬇
% of adults supported at home who agree that they are supported to live as independently as possible	84.05%	84.25%	⬆	8	8	▬	1	1	▬
% of adults supported at home who agree that they had a say in how their help, care or support was provided	69.98%	74.54%	⬆	28	21	⬆	4	3	⬆
% of carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role	38.5%	30.7%	⬇	13	30	⬇	2	4	⬇

				2013/14		2015/16		2017/18		2019/20		Movement					

HSCP – Satisfaction Performance – Performance, Rank and Quartile

Council Plan PI (P)	Council Plan Priorities	Reference	Description	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	Scottish Rank	Family Group Rank	SR Two Year Trend	FG Two Year Trend	SR Four Year Trend	FG Four Year Trend	SR Six Year Trend	FG Six Year Trend
		SW4b	% of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact in improving or maintaining their quality of life	31	8	22	8	9	2	19	5	⬇	⬇	⬆	⬆	⬆	⬆
		SW4c	% of adults supported at home who agree that they are supported to live as independently as possible	31	8	19	7	8	1	8	3	➡	⬇	⬆	⬆	⬆	⬆
		SW4d	% of adults supported at home who agree that they had a say in how their help, care or support was provided	27	8	20	6	28	7	21	5	⬆	⬆	⬇	⬆	⬆	⬆
		SW4e	% of carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role	31	8	11	4	13	4	30	8	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬆	➡

The Corporate Policy, Performance and Elections Team welcome any feedback you may have. We strive to make our Council and reports as accessible as possible and appreciate opportunities to discuss how this can be achieved. For further information please contact:

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

2 November 2021

Cabinet

Title:	**Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024: Mid-Term Report**
Purpose:	To present the Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024 Mid-Term Report (Appendix 1)
Recommendation:	That Cabinet agrees to endorse the publication of the Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024 Mid-Term Report as set out at Appendix 1.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The British Sign Language (BSL) (Scotland) Act 2015 requires public bodies in Scotland to publish plans every six years that show how they will promote and support BSL.

1.2 In 2018, partners across Ayrshire developed and published a Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024 which set out several actions to improve communication and access for BSL users who work, learn and live in Ayrshire.

1.3 Partners have now produced a Mid-Term Report outlining progress in terms of the various actions set out in the Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024 since its publication in 2018. Once approved by partner bodies, the Mid-Term Report will be published in both written English and BSL format, as required by legislation.

2. Background

2.1 The British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 places a duty on all public bodies to promote, and facilitate the promotion of, the use and understanding of the language known as British Sign Language (BSL) within their areas of responsibility.

2.2 The Scottish Government developed a British Sign Language National Plan which was launched on 24 October 2017 and sets out actions to help ensure that deaf and deafblind BSL users are fully involved in all aspects of daily and public life.

2.3 The British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 also requires the production of Local Plans that reflect the aims and actions contained within the Scottish Government's National Plan.

2.4 An Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan was developed by partners in North, East and South Ayrshire Councils, North, East and South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnerships, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and Ayrshire College. The Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024 was approved by partner bodies and published in October 2018. The Plan aims to strengthen infrastructure, employee engagement and governance across partner bodies, resulting in an improved person-centred service for BSL users.

2.5 The report attached at Appendix 1 provides an update on the actions contained in the Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024 since its publication in October 2018.

2.6 The Covid-19 pandemic has undoubtedly impacted on the work of partners in implementing or progressing some of the actions detailed in the Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024. However, good progress has continued in some areas, including: -

- Implementation of training, including basic online awareness, basic introductory face-to-face courses and longer-term courses in BSL;
- Promotion of ContactSCOTLAND-BSL Support Service;
- Development of BSL information on public facing websites;
- Adoption of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI Technology) – for example, our Sensory Impairment Team were provided with smartphones during the first lockdown, to allow them to communicate more effectively with the BSL/Deaf Communities;
- Engagement with the BSL Community, including through the Ayrshire Deaf Club; and
- Work within Schools and Post-Educational settings.

2.7 Partners will continue to progress the actions contained in the Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024, and it is anticipated that all the actions will be completed by 2024 when a final report will be produced and presented to Cabinet for approval.

2.8 Following approval of the Mid-Term Report (attached at Appendix 1) by the various partner bodies, the report will be designed and published in both written English and BSL format, as required by the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015.

3. Proposals

3.1 That Cabinet agrees to endorse the publication of the Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024 Mid-Term Report as set out at Appendix 1.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 The Scottish Government provided funding to local authorities to support both the preparation of a British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024 and the cost of translating this.

A balance of £8,649 remains to support the implementation of training and the cost of translating the Mid-Term Report and a final report due in 2024. The cost of translation services will be split between the partner bodies. There may be indirect financial implications on Council Services as the actions detailed within the Local Plan progress.

Human Resources

4.2 There will be implications for Human Resources for training and awareness of BSL issues for Council employees.

Legal

4.3 The Council has a legal obligation to produce and implement a BSL Local Plan.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 As most BSL users are deaf, this falls into the protected characteristic of disability as set out in the Equality Act 2010. Deaf and Deafblind BSL users will be impacted positively by a BSL Local Plan.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 There are no Environmental or Sustainability implications arising from this report.

Key Priorities

4.6 Local BSL Action Plans are specifically designed to ensure that deaf and deafblind BSL users are fully involved in all aspects of daily and public life. The implementation of the BSL Action Plan supports the priorities of the Council Plan and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).

Community Wealth Building

4.7 There are no Community Wealth Building implications arising from this report.

5. Consultation

5.1 Consultation has taken place with the partner bodies across Ayrshire.

Aileen Craig
Head of Service (Democratic)

For further information please contact Andrew Hale, Health Improvement and Equality Officer or Mackenzie Fox, Policy and Performance Assistant, on (01294) 324648 .

Background Papers
Scottish Government British Sign Language (BSL) National Plan 2017-2023
Cabinet Report – 3 September 2018 – Pan-Ayrshire British Sign Language Plan
Cabinet Minute – 3 September 2018 – Item 5 Pan-Ayrshire British Sign Language Plan

Ayrshire Shared British Sign Language (BSL) Local Plan 2018-2024 DRAFT Mid-Term Report

Executive Summary

The British Sign Language (BSL) (Scotland) Act 2015 requires public bodies in Scotland to publish plans every six years that show how they will promote and support BSL*. In 2018, partners across Ayrshire partnership including Ayrshire College, East, North and South Ayrshire Councils, East, North and South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnerships and NHS Ayrshire & Arran, developed and published a shared BSL Local Plan. The Ayrshire Shared BSL Local Plan set our collective intentions in how we planned to improve communication and access to services for BSL users who work, learn, and live in Ayrshire. The BSL Local Plan set out ten long-term goals for BSL in Ayrshire and described the actions that would be taken between 2018 and 2024 to progress towards these goals. This progress report will outline the actions that we have taken towards meeting these goals over the last three years and the work planned for the next three years to achieve the goals.

Actions were set out within the ten long-term goals across the following areas:

- Scottish Public Services
- Family Support, Early Learning and Childcare
- School Education
- Post-School Education
- Training, Work and Social Security
- Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Transport
- Culture and the Arts
- Justice
- Democracy

* Wherever we refer to 'BSL users' we mean D/deaf and/or Deafblind people (those who receive the language in a tactile form due to sight loss) whose first or preferred language is British Sign Language.

Scottish Public Services

We share the long-term goal for all Scottish public services set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

> **"Across the Scottish public sector, information and services will be accessible to BSL users."**

The table below provides an update of what we said we would do and what we have done so far in order to achieve this goal.

What we said	What we did
We will provide Deaf Awareness training for staff, particularly frontline staff.	A 10-week Introduction to BSL training course was delivered across the partner organisations in 2019. In addition to this, short BSL/ Deaf Awareness sessions were held. Further training had to be postponed due to the pandemic. Online training was proposed however feedback received was that this was not the best way to learn BSL. A number of courses were planned across Ayrshire for staff to learn basic BSL but due to the pandemic have been postponed and will run in due course. Two online Deaf Awareness Training sessions were delivered to staff by Deaf Action in May 2021 during Deaf Awareness Week. Over 100 members of staff signed up to this training but a few were unable to attend on the day. BSL Awareness online training, produced by NHS Health Scotland, was shared across the partners.

We will jointly promote contactSCOTLAND-BSL to staff and service users.	Two face to face sessions took place at University Hospital Crosshouse and North Ayrshire Council in 2019 with other sessions planned across other parts of Ayrshire for early 2020. However, due to the pandemic the further sessions did not take place. Since then online sessions have been offered by contactSCOTLAND-BSL and these have been shared across the partner organisations and staff encouraged to attend. Unfortunately, the number of staff attending these sessions cannot be quantified.
We will develop a specific BSL page on our public websites with information in BSL, or signposting to relevant information that is available in BSL.	Accessible information has been placed on the partners' websites, however much of this has been focused in relation to Covid, with links to national information. As we navigate our way through the pandemic, the partners are developing dedicated pages for BSL users to ensure there is direct access to information. Information from BDA was also shared via the partners' social media sites, in particular tagging the local Ayrshire Deaf Club.
We will explore the use of technology to help meet communication support requirements.	The partners are currently at different stages of introducing VRI technology to support BSL users. VRI technology was identified in early 2020; however, due to the pandemic this was not fully progressed across all the partners. It is anticipated that as services and buildings re-open, VRI technology will be sourced and purchased.
We will conduct a scoping exercise to find out the level of BSL skills amongst staff, particularly frontline staff.	This was to be undertaken in 2020 but due to the pandemic this has been delayed. We will progress this in due course.

We will develop and promote an accessible checklist to ensure barriers to participation in community engagement and involvement are removed.	East Ayrshire Council has developed an Accessible venue training course which is shared with partners. This course encompasses provision for BSL users to ensure effective engagement and participation. This course is reviewed on a regular basis. Participants are asked to provide information on any additional requirements when attending community events.
We will ensure BSL provision is available for community engagement events.	There have been very few engagement events in the last 18 months. Communication has been kept open via messaging with the Ayrshire Deaf Club during the pandemic to ensure that support is provided when needed. That said, the pandemic has highlighted further issues with communication for BSL users. For future engagement, when online surveys are used targeted work will be considered with local BSL users to provide in a format appropriate to them.
We will establish a diverse Ayrshire-wide user network to enhance the implementation of the Ayrshire BSL Local Plan.	The User Group network has not been established and has been delayed due to the pandemic. The Pan Ayrshire Sensory Impairment Operational Group was re-established in September 2021.
We will raise awareness of translation and interpretation procedures to ensure staff can readily access the appropriate communication for service users.	The partners were exploring the possibility of putting out a joint tender to procure translation and interpretation service provision including BSL provision. The tender specification documentation was almost complete, however, this coincided with the impact of the pandemic which has delayed progress. This will be revisited and progressed in due course.

Family Support, Early Learning and Childcare

We share the long-term goal for family support, early learning and childcare set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

> **"The Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach will be fully embedded, with a Deaf or Deafblind child and their family offered the right information and support at the right time to engage with BSL."**

The table below provides an update of what we said we would do and what we have done so far in order to achieve this goal.

What we said	What we did
We will ensure that parents and family members have access to funded BSL courses.	The Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service has a Sign Language Assistant who tutors families in BSL free of charge. Non-funded courses are provided to parents at the Ayrshire Deaf Club and through providers such as BSL Ayrshire.
We will establish an Ayrshire-wide Network for Deaf children and young people.	A National Managed Clinical Network (MCN) (Hearing Impairment Network for Children & Young People (HINCYP)) was established in 2019. HINCYP aims to improve the care for children and young people with a hearing impairment including BSL users. The MCN has involvement from parents/carers of children and young people with a hearing impairment, as well as professionals working in health, education and social work; and voluntary sector organisations.
We will ensure that information on language options is available to children and their families from the point of diagnosis.	All of Ayrshire's families with newly diagnosed deaf babies are supported by peripatetic teachers of the deaf (ToDs). ToDs continue to share all communication options with families and continue to offer BSL tuition from a BSL user to families who wish it at diagnosis and beyond*.*

School Education

We share the long-term goal for school education set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

> *"*Children and young people who use BSL will get the support they need at all stages of their learning, so that they can reach their full potential; parents who use BSL will have the same opportunities as other parents to be fully involved in their child's education; and more pupils will be able to learn BSL at school."

The table below provides an update of what we said we would do and what we have done so far in order to achieve this goal.

What we said	What we did
We will ensure that parents and carers have access to information in an appropriate format.	Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service's database has details of the preferred contact method for families of deaf children. Interpreters are provided for meetings with BSL users. Deaf parents whose children are hearing rely on individual schools for accessibility.
We will ensure that interpreter support is available to enable children, young people, parents, and carers to participate in wider school activities such as Parent Council meetings, school trips, Team Around the Child (TAC), Case Conferences, Children's Hearings and so on.	As of June 2021, 138 children are supported regularly across the 3 Ayrshires. Deaf parents of Deaf children are provided with interpreters by Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service. No events or trips have taken place over the past two school sessions due to Covid.
We will ensure that interpreter support is available for young people to access work placements, local careers and Further Education events.	Unfortunately, due to the pandemic work placements were suspended. As we navigate pathways out of the pandemic support will be made available for young people.

We will further promote BSL for 1 + 2 languages within the school curriculum from early years.	Two primary schools in South Ayrshire, one in North Ayrshire and one in East Ayrshire currently teach BSL as part of 1+2 languages. Over the past five years over 500 children, deaf and hearing, will have been exposed to basic BSL signs.
We will develop a partnership approach between education and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to better support deaf children and young people.	A meeting between CAMHS, Local Authority staff and Deaf learners took place pre-pandemic but due to the pandemic no further meetings have taken place. We will progress this in due course.

Deaf learners continue to access NDCS 'healthy minds' sessions through 'healthy minds' trained teachers of the deaf from Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service. |
| We will work in collaboration with deaf young people to explore the possibility of establishing an Ayrshire youth club. | An Ayrshire youth club for deaf young people was successfully established early 2019 and has continued to meet during the pandemic via remote access. The youth club continues to grow despite the pandemic. |

Post-School Education

We share the long-term goal for post school education set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

"BSL users will be able to maximise their potential at school, will be supported to transition to post-school education if they wish to do so and will receive the support they need to do well in their chosen subject(s)."

The table below provides an update of what we said we would do and what we have done so far in order to achieve this goal.

What we said	What we did
We will develop links with appropriate partners to ensure that young people are tracked in relation to post-school destinations.	In the last three years the Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service has tracked 33 deaf young people, however, none of these were BSL users. Staff from the Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service met with staff from Ayrshire College in 2018. Since then annual deaf awareness sessions have been arranged in the three college campuses. This was delivered remotely during the pandemic.
We will ensure college involvement with school transition meetings where appropriate.	Relationships with Local Authority Deaf schools have been enhanced since the development of the Ayrshire Shared BSL Local Plan 2018-24. College staff are involved in school transition meetings, as required, and this has resulted in a smoother transition for pupils moving on to college. Some staff members attended transition meetings for students coming to the College. Ayrshire College students can request support at any stage in their learning journey. Students have the opportunity to advise the College of any support requirements at application stage, allowing support at interview to be made available. As soon as the College receives a request for support, the Inclusive Learning Team will contact the student to arrange a needs assessment and identify appropriate support strategies. The College has delivered support remotely using Teams and Zoom throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and will continue to offer both face to face and online support moving forward.

Training, Work, and Social Security

We share the long-term goal for training, work and social security set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

> **"BSL users will be supported to develop the skills they need to become valued members of the Scottish workforce, so that they can fulfil their potential, and improve Scotland's economic performance. They will be provided with support to enable them to progress in their chosen career."**

The table below provides an update of what we said we would do and what we have done so far in order to achieve this goal.

What we said	What we did
We will ensure regular meetings of the Transition Forum for BSL Users to support an easy transition from school to a positive destination.	Unfortunately, regular meetings were not held due to the pandemic and this will be revisited in due course.
We will promote Ayrshire Disability Inclusive Confident Employers (DICE) to staff as a resource for expert advice on initiatives such as 'Access to Work'.	The Partners signpost staff within their respective organisations, to the Ayrshire DICE group via their intranets. Each of the partners has a seat at the DICE meetings and therefore sometimes receive the requests/referrals direct from members of their own organisation.

Health (including social care), Mental Health and Wellbeing

We share the long-term goal for health (including social care), mental health and wellbeing set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

> **"BSL users will have access to the information and services they need to live active, healthy lives, and to make informed choices at every stage of their lives."**

The table below provides an update of what we said we would do and what we have done so far in order to achieve this goal.

What we said	What we did
We will develop information, in collaboration with deaf children and young people, regarding the importance of attending audiology appointments.	This was to be undertaken in 2020 but due to the pandemic and limited engagement opportunities with children and young people, this has been delayed. We will progress this in 2022 in line with the easing of Covid restrictions.
We will use social media to share information on available mental health support.	During the pandemic digital information was a key part in the sharing of information to all communities. However, a number of the planned areas of work for accessing health care and mental health services have been delayed. The focus over the last 18 months has been to ensure BSL users were aware of the changes to accessing health care. A number of BSL video clips were produced in line with the changes to service provision, access to audiology provision, the restarting of services and changes to accessing urgent care. Information from the British Deaf Association was also shared via the partners' social media sites. To ensure information was reaching BSL users, the local Ayrshire Deaf Club was tagged to allow them to further disseminate any information.
We will provide palliative and end of life care information and care plans that are co-produced by Deaf people and deaf sector organisations.	The My Anticipatory Care Plan (My ACP) template to support palliative and end of life care used across Scotland was developed nationally by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS). A patient leaflet on My ACP is available online and engagement is being made with HIS to seek support to take this action forward in the second phase of the plan. The care plan itself will require further consideration to ensure families are aware of the individual's most important wishes.

Transport

We share the long-term goal for transport set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

*"**BSL users will have safe, fair and inclusive access to public transport and the systems that support all transport use in Scotland."***

The table below provides an update of what we said we would do and what we have done so far in order to achieve this goal.

What we said	What we did
We will explore technological solutions to support private transport providers to communicate with BSL users.	Due to the impact of the pandemic, these actions have not been progressed. Reviewing the actions set in 2018, the partners are considering whether BSL awareness training with a focus on the use of contactSCOTLAND-BSL would be more appropriate and effective solutions.
We will ensure taxi providers licensing training incorporates BSL awareness.	As above.

Justice

We share the long-term goal for justice set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

"BSL users will have fair and equal access to the civil, criminal, and juvenile justice systems in Scotland."

The table below provides an update of what we said we would do and what we have done so far in order to achieve this goal.

What we said	What we did
We will ensure appropriately trained BSL interpreters are available within Civil, Juvenile, and Criminal justice settings.	Although there is the opportunity of BSL interpreters available in these settings, as yet there have been no requests for BSL support.

Democracy

We share the long-term goal for democracy set out in the BSL National Plan, which is:

> **"BSL users will be fully involved in democratic and public life in Scotland, as active and informed citizens, as voters, as elected politicians and as board members of our public bodies."**

The table below provides an update of what we said we would do and what we have done so far in order to achieve this goal.

What we said	What we did
We will ensure BSL training information provided by the Electoral Commission is cascaded to all relevant electoral staff.	The relevant electoral staff are all signposted to the Council website and have links to the Electoral Commission webpages.
We will promote information on voting processes in appropriate formats.	Information is available in other formats including a short video of what to expect in a voting station at elections.
We will promote the Access to Elected Office Fund (Scotland).	This is promoted on Council websites.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

2nd November 2021

Cabinet

Title:	**A National Care Service for Scotland - Consultation**
Purpose:	To seek approval of a response to the Scottish Government consultation on a National Care Service for Scotland
Recommendation:	That Cabinet: • Approves the proposed consultation response to the Scottish Government Consultation: A National Care Service for Scotland attached at Appendix 1

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Scottish Government is consulting on the proposals to establish a National Care Service (NCS) for Scotland. This paper seeks approval for the proposed response to the consultation. The response highlights that the lack of specific detail contained within the consultation makes it difficult to fully assess the proposed NCS and the effects the creation of such a NCS would have and whether it would lead to an improvement for service users. The consultation paper contains proposals that go beyond what was proposed by the Independent Review of Adult Social Care and as such the underlying justification for the proposals is unclear. The consultation, while acknowledging budget pressures on local authorities, does not appear to have considered granting additional funding to them to provide improved services which is the aim of the consultation.

1.2 The proposals involve moving decisions about social care to a NCS which would be a centralised body answering directly to Scottish Ministers and establishing Community Health and Social Board Boards, responsible to Scottish Ministers, in place of the current Integration Joint Boards. The proposals represent a reorganisation impacting on local decision making, accountability and delivery of social care.

1.3 The consultation response to the proposals has been prepared after engaging with elected members and is now presented for consideration and approval. The deadline for submitting responses to the consultation is 2nd November 2021 and to ensure that the Council's response is timeously received, it is proposed that the response, if approved by Cabinet, will be submitted with the caveat of it being subject to the Council's call-in period in terms of Standing Orders.

2.   Background

2.1   The Scottish Government published the consultation "A National Care Service for Scotland – Consultation" on 9th August 2021. The consultation follows on from the Scottish Government commissioned Independent Review of Adult Social Care (IRASC) which was published on 3rd February 2021. The IRASC proposed, amongst other things, the creation of a NCS for Scotland which would be accountable to Scottish Ministers and have responsibility for delivering adult social care. The proposals would bring a range of Council services, as noted at 2.2 below, under the direct accountability of Ministers and should the responsibility for these services change it would represent the biggest change to councils since the Local Government re-organisation in 1996.

2.2   The scope of the NCS outlined in the consultation goes beyond that which was recommended by the IRASC. The IRASC was limited to reviewing adult social care in Scotland. The Scottish Government's proposed scope for the NCS extends beyond adult social care and is a departure from what had originally been discussed with local authorities. The proposed NCS will at a minimum include adult social care services, although it is further proposed to include the following services for which (with the exclusion of healthcare) local authorities are currently responsible for: (a) Healthcare, (b) Social work and social care, (c) Children's Services, (d) Justice social work, (e) Alcohol and drug Services, and (f) Mental health services.

2.3   It is also proposed that Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) would be reformed and become Community Health and Social Care Boards (CHSCBs), being the local delivery body for the NCS. CHSCBs would be accountable to and funded by Ministers. They would have members who represent the local population including carers and local elected members. It is anticipated that CHSCBs would be aligned with local authority boundaries, and they would oversee the delivery of social care and social work services within their local area, whilst also working together across Scotland at a national level.

2.4   It is proposed by the consultation that the NCS will develop and manage a National Commissioning and Procurement Structure of Standards and Processes for ethical commissioning and procuring of social care services and supports. CHSBs will be required to comply with those standards and processes and procure within that framework. CHSCBs would have responsibility and authority for planning, commissioning, and procurement of community health and social care and other relevant support. The NCS would be responsible for ensuring CHSCBs' compliance through oversight of commissioning and procurement processes at a local level. Additionally, the proposed NCS would be responsible for the commissioning, procurement and contract management of national contracts and framework agreements for specialist services including care for people with complex care needs, residential care homes, and care at home contracts.

2.5   The consultation sets out the Scottish Government's plans to improve social care and social services for people, as well as the social care and social services workforce. The plans include proposals to move away from current eligibility criteria to access social care services. There is a proposal to change the system so that prevention and early intervention along with portability of care packages are prioritised, although detailed plans on how that will be achieved are not provided by the consultation. In relation to the social care and social services workforce, the consultation proposes the establishment of a National Social Work Agency, as part of the NCS structure, to have national oversight and leadership over social work qualifications, workforce planning, improvement, training,

continuous professional development and pay and grading within a national framework. The NCS is also proposed to set training and development requirements to support entry to the social care workforce and professional development.

2.6 The consultation proposes that regulation of social care services would be independent of the NCS, however the NCS would be responsible for setting national care standards which would provide the framework for regulation of social care. Scrutiny, inspection and regulation of the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Social Services Council will be reviewed independently. It is proposed that they will obtain more enforcement powers in respect of the scrutiny of care services and the social services workforce respectively.

2.7 A Members' briefing session was held on 19th October 2021, with a briefing paper provided in advance of the meeting. Topics discussed included:

- Concern that the proposals would mean that decisions on policy and strategy for social care services would no longer be made locally, based on the needs and circumstances of local people, but would instead bring a centralising approach with those decisions being taken nationally.
- That keeping local accountability for social care services would result in better services and better outcomes for service users.
- Concern about national commissioning and its impact on Community Wealth Building.
- Discussion on the existing and positive links between Social Services and other local authority services including Education, Housing, Welfare Rights and Environmental Health.
- The relationship between Education and children's social work services playing a key role in child protection and that removing children's social work services from local authorities would increase barriers between Social Work and Education and not improve integration.
- Funding constraints impeding the current system and that better funding would greatly improve the social care system without the need to consider the radical restructuring proposed.
- North Ayrshire's excellent delivery model that implements a whole systems approach with the IJB and services working well across the IJB, Council and Health Board. Improvements to the current nationwide systems could be achieved through both increased funding and learning from the broad North Ayrshire type delivery model. The merits of the current model should be developed and improvements to the current model would deliver a quicker, more accessible solution for service users.
- Implications for local authority funding.
- There was insufficient detail in the proposals on how the proposed NCS would work in practice including:
  - how the NCS would be funded and whether funding would be sufficient
  - how it would improve social care and social services for service users
  - how it would affect those bodies presently responsible for the delivery and decision-making of social care and social services
  - how it would affect the employment status of employees
  - how it would affect local authorities' future role in the delivery of social services and social care,
  - how it would affect interim service provision pending the establishment of the NCS with uncertainty contributing on long-term strategic planning for services and thereby adversely impacting on service users in the short to medium term

- Overall, that any future decisions made by the Scottish Government on social care and social services should be centred around improvements for service users.

2.8 There are some key proposals in the consultation that were considered to be of merit and worthy of further discussion with a view to generally improving the quality of experience for service users, carers and staff, including:

- National improvement of care for people
- National standards including quality and consistency
- Improvement of working conditions, workforce planning, and enhancing training and development for the social care and social services workforce.
- Strengthening the regulation and scrutiny of social care service providers.

2.9 Members agreed with the general proposals for response suggested at the briefing. Those proposals along with comments from Members have been encompassed within the proposed response.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet:

- Approves the proposed consultation response to the Scottish Government consultation A National Care Service for Scotland attached at Appendix 1.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 None.

Human Resources

4.2 None from this consultation response.

Legal

4.3 None from this consultation response. However, if the NCS goes ahead as proposed, there will be substantial change to the statutory powers and responsibilities of local authorities.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 Scottish Government will assess the outcomes of the consultation exercise for equality, diversity and socio-economic outcomes.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 None.

Key Priorities

4.6   If the outcome of the consultation results in the alteration to local authority statutory powers and responsibilities and transferring those to a National Care Service, this will impact on how the Council delivers on priorities for citizens and communities.

Community Wealth Building

4.7   There would be implications for Community Wealth Building from proposals for extensive national commissioning.

5.   Consultation

5.1   The Consultation response has been informed by engagement involving Officers and Elected Members. Scottish Government will consult on any actions they propose to take in response to the consultation responses received from members of the public and strategic partners.

Aileen Craig
Head of Service, Democratic Services

For further information please contact **David McDowall, Solicitor,** on **MS Teams**, and **Claire Kierney, Solicitor,** on **MS Teams**.

Background Papers
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North Ayrshire Council response to A National Care Service for Scotland – Consultation

<u>Overview</u>

North Ayrshire Council (the 'Council') welcomes the opportunity to respond to A National Care Service for Scotland – Consultation (the 'Consultation'), but is disappointed that local authorities were not consulted on the proposed scope of the National Care Service ('NCS') prior to the publication of the Consultation considering the proposals represent the largest reform to Scottish local government for over a decade and the proposed NCS is a significant expansion from the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care ('IRASC'). The failure to consult local authorities prior to the public consultation would seem at odds with the requirement contained within European Charter of Local Self-Government at Article 4(6) namely that local authorities shall be consulted, insofar as possible, in due time and in an appropriate way in the planning and decision-making processes for matters which concern them directly. The Council is further disappointed in the short period for response to the Consultation which has provided operational challenges for the Council, particularly during recovery from the Covid pandemic.

The Consultation fails to give any detail on how the proposed NCS would affect local authorities in the interim and long-term. It is therefore very difficult for the Council to give a fully informed view on the proposed NCS as the full impact on the Council is unknown. The Consultation proposes a significant change to the legal duties and finances of local authorities and the role of local authorities would be greatly reduced by the proposed NCS. The questions set by the Consultation appear to be aimed at service users rather than local authorities. As such and considering the impact the proposed NCS would have on local government and our communities, the Council considers it prudent to provide a general response to the Consultation highlighting the areas of concern and implications to the Council and its citizens.

<u>Structure of response</u>

The structure of the Council's response is as follows:

- Section 1 – Ambiguities of Consultation
- Section 2 – Council's views on the scope of the proposed NCS
- Section 3 – Implications of proposed NCS for Local Authorities
- Section 4 – Conclusions

1.   Ambiguities of Consultation

1.1   In summary, the Consultation does not give enough detail on what the proposed NCS would look like, how it would work in practice, how it would be funded, how it would improve social care and social services for service users, and how it would affect those bodies that are presently responsible for the delivery and decision-making of social care and social services. For example, the Consultation proposes to transfer mental health services from the remit of local authorities to the NCS, although mental health services are wide ranging. It is not confirmed which parts, or if all, of mental health services would be transferred to the NCS. Additionally, the proposals of the Consultation go much further than the recommendations of the IRASC and the basis for doing so is absent from the Consultation. Specifically, the Consultation fails to make the case for why profound restructure is needed to the delivery model of social care and social services to deliver increased benefits for service users. The Council is in support of better outcomes for service users. There are however many assertions made in the consultation with no evidence provided to support. It is therefore very difficult to assess and give a conclusive view on the benefits and pitfalls of the proposed NCS in comparison to the current system. The Council considers that further consultation is required which provides full detail on the proposed NCS. A clear case for the need for such radical change still needs to be made outlining the benefits to service users and how those benefits would be achieved, for a properly considered view to be given.

1.2   The Consultation does not address how the NCS would be funded and the extent of funding that would be required to deliver on the aims of the Consultation. As the Consultation itself notes, many of the criticisms of the current system can largely be drawn back to funding constraints. The Consultation refers to an aim to move social care away from being a safety net to being a springboard. However, there is no detail on the proposed funding arrangements to enable this transformational change from the current system. Additionally, it is unclear how local authority funding of social care and social services would be affected in the interim while the Scottish Government holds discussions on the setting up of the expanded NCS plan. Long-term changes to local authority funding are also not addressed by the Consultation and there is no clear picture on how local authority service delivery will be affected across the board resultant of any changes to local authorities funding. The Consultation appears to have given no consideration to possible improvements to the current model including increases in funding and the resultant increased benefits that could provide to service users.

1.3   The Consultation does not address how the NCS would be staffed and the impact it would have on local authority employment. The Consultation specifically notes that the proposals do not envisage a wholesale change in employment status for people in the NHS. However, the same is not stated for those working in social care and social work presently employed by local authorities. It is unclear whether it is envisaged that social care and social work staff will shift to being employed by the NCS directly or whether they will remain in the employment of local authorities with services being commissioned from local authorities by the NCS via Community Health and Social Care Boards ('CHSCBs'). Should employees be transferred to the NCS from local

authorities, it is unclear what that transfer would look like as there is no detail in relation to the application of TUPE, pension liabilities and other employment matters provided by the Consultation. It is also unclear whether other local authority services which support local authority social services and social care delivery, such as Procurement, Human Resources, IT, and Legal Services, would be partly transferred to the NCS and how those various support services budgets and service remit would be affected.

1.4   The Consultation does not give any detail on what would happen to local authority property which is currently used to deliver social services and social care, and there is no recognition that local authorities could be left with unoccupied properties and a lack of income from those. Equally no steer is given as to what will happen to local authority resources used to provide social care or situations where local authority social work departments provide accommodation in conjunction with other local authority services such as Housing. Additionally, it is unclear how any ongoing leasing agreements for property which a local authority may have undertaken to provide social services and social care would be dealt with and if the local authority would suffer financial detriment resultant of such ongoing agreements.

1.5   One of the proposed functions of the NCS is to ensure effective local and national working with other public services, but again there is no detail on how that would be achieved in practice in the Consultation. Part of the argument for a NCS seems to be better integration of social care services by bringing them all under the one over-arching umbrella. However, social services do not operate within a vacuum within the local authority. There is a great deal of overlap and joint working with other local authority services such as Education and Housing. Moving Social Work, for example, out with the remit of local authorities would then make joint working among these services more difficult, not less difficult. Most importantly, it could create a complex and confusing system for service users who require to access multidisciplinary services. It is unclear how services which remain in local authorities' remit would link with the NCS to ensure joint working between those services and NCS social services.

1.6   Local authorities' future role in the delivery of social services and social care, if any, is uncertain from the Consultation. Such uncertainty can only hinder long-term strategic planning for services and will adversely impact on service users in the short to medium term. As noted earlier, the scope of the proposed NCS detailed in the Consultation is a significant expansion of what was recommended by the IRASC. As such, it is unclear what the evidential basis is for proposing these reforms. The benefit of removing the proposed remit of social care and social services from local authorities to a NCS, and the need to do so to deliver improvements to social care and social services are not addressed by the Consultation. There is also no consideration of what improvements could be made to the current model and how local authorities could be better supported by the Scottish Government to deliver improvements to social care and social services without the need for radical reform. As noted at 1.2 one of the major uncertainties of the Consultation is how the proposed NCS would be funded. The Consultation fails to evaluate if a better solution to investing substantial funding to develop and deliver the proposed NCS would be to increase local authorities funding to improve the current model.

2   Council's views on the proposed scope of the NCS

2.1 The scope of the proposed NCS detailed in the Consultation is a significant expansion of what was recommended by the IRASC. The Council is in favour of the general principal of the IRASC to improve social care both for service users and for the social care workforce, although the Council is not in support of the scope of the NCS as proposed by the Consultation. The Council does not support the transfer of any local authority delivered services to the NCS. The reasons for the Council's opposition are noted in detail throughout this response with the Council's principal argument being that to centralise the delivery and decision making of vital social care and social work services would be contrary to the principle of localism. The Council's view is that legislative and structural change is not necessary to provide the proposed benefits to the delivery of social care and social work services in Scotland. What is needed is further investment and consistent funding into the current system to enable the required improvements to social care and social services to be delivered, coupled with a limited national approach. There are some key proposals in the Consultation that the Council considers meritorious and would improve the quality of experience for service users, carers and staff, noted below:

- National improvement of care for people.
- Improvement of working conditions, workforce planning, and enhancing training and development for the social care and social services workforce.
- Strengthening the regulation and scrutiny of social care service providers.

The Council may support a model of NCS which takes a national approach to improve care for people and the social care and social services workforce with the remit for delivery of social care and social services and commissioning remaining with local authorities as is currently. However, what is proposed at present does not receive the support of the Council. Further detailed consultation on the finalised proposed remit of the NCS would be required before the Council could give a conclusive view.

2.2 As highlighted above, the main criticism of the current system is funding constraint. Social care accounts for a significant proportion of local authority spending and activity and if social care had been adequately funded to date Scotland could have had a thriving social care system without the need to consider restructuring. The IRASC notes that the *"changes proposed would likely not be necessary if more progress had been made by the Scottish Government, Health Boards, Local Authorities and Integration Joint Boards with integration health and social care"*, although there is no consideration of increased funding to local authorities to deliver improvements to social care given by the Consultation. The Council believes that further investment and consistent funding in the current system could deliver the proposed improvements to social care and outcomes for service users without the need for a radical national system. Additionally, the improvements to social care could be delivered much more quickly if the whole of the planned investment funded the development of the current system, opposed to substantial spending on unnecessary restructuring. Ultimately additional and continuous funding into the current system is needed, not a NCS as proposed in the consultation.

2.3 The Council is not in support of the proposal for Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) to be reformed to become Community Health and Social Care Boards (CHSCBs).

The Council presently has an excellent model for delivery of social care and social work services within North Ayrshire and the success of the IJB contributes towards that model. The IJB and the Council within North Ayrshire are very well linked. Our model includes the remit of Children's Services, Mental Health and Justice Services delegated to the IJB. There is also a supportive and cooperative relationship between the three Ayrshire IJBs. Within North Ayrshire, the Council, Health Board and the IJB work effectively across services, which has developed a successful whole systems approach and resulted in an excellent delivery model of social care and social services for the community. Additionally, the Council has a positive relationship with North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership that again works very well and contributes towards delivering good quality outcomes for and with the community. The Council's view is that further funding to IJBs could result in better integration and delivery of social care services across Scottish local authorities delivering benefits for service users along with direction for the wider model utilised by North Ayrshire to be mandatory in other authorities. It is considered that the solution may be to improve the current model including increased and regular funding, not to change its foundations. The Council would welcome the opportunity to implement improvements to the current system with service users at the centre of all decisions.

2.4 There are considerable concerns around the removal of social care and social work services from the remit of the local authority given the relationship between these and other local authority services. COSLA has summarised those concerns noting, *"Many of the people who access the services included in the Scottish Government's NCS proposals also rely on other services delivered by Local Government, including Housing, Education, Welfare Advice and Employment Support. These essential services cannot be seen in isolation, they work best when they are connected. It is vital that the links between them are preserved if we are to provide the most effective support for people who rely on these essential services the length and breadth of Scotland each and every day."* The Consultation's proposals for a NCS put at risk the vital links that exist across essential services. For example, the relationship between Education and children's social work services plays a key role in child protection. The removal of Children's Services from the remit of local authorities does not appear to have been properly considered by the Consultation given there is a lack of evidence to justify the inclusion of Children's Services in the NCS. No account appears to have been taken of what the proposed changes would mean for children, young people and their families. The reasoning noted in the Consultation for the proposal to transfer Children's Services to the NCS is that it would ensure cohesive integration of health, social work and social care. However, removing Children's Services from local authorities may create greater complexity and poorer integration with the key service of Education. The Council considers that there would be considerable risk to child protection to remove Children's Services out with the remit of local authorities and at an arm's length of Education. In fact, it could be argued that there are greater synergies between Children's Services and Education than Adult Social Care given how closely the Education Service works with Children's Services. The inclusion of Children's Services within the NCS goes far beyond the scope of the IRASC and the argument for the need and benefit to remove Children's Services from the remit of local authorities is unpersuasive. Additionally, the reform to Children's Services proposed by the Consultation risks derailing ongoing work which local authorities are currently conducting which would have implications on service delivery.

2.5 Any change from the current model for the delivery of social care and social services needs to result in an improvement for the service user and not a lesser service. It is difficult to comprehend what improvements to service users the NCS would bring given the lack of detail on how the NCS will be shaped in the Consultation. The Scottish Government's aim is to have the NCS centred around human rights. A human rights-based approach should empower service users to easily access the care they require, yet the Consultation fails to address the implications of the proposed changes for the many people who use essential social care services. Removing social care services that are presently intrinsically linked with other locally delivered services, for example Housing, from local authorities' remit could cause confusion for service users. Service users are used to having these services work together under the umbrella of the local authority and to approaching the local authority for information and assistance. The creation of a NCS could create a confusing system and it is unclear how service users' ability to access multidisciplinary services would be improved with the creation of the NCS.

2.6 The Council's view is that the proposed NCS contradicts the principle of localism and full detail on that argument is noted at 3.2, while specifically in terms of the proposed scope of the proposed NCS, the Council considers that a NCS with a national approach to procurement of social care and social services completely contradicts the principle of Community Wealth Building. There would undoubtedly be a knock-on effect to local businesses, local employment and local supply chains if procurement of social care and social services was made at a national level. The Council's view is that procurement, as far as legally permissible, should be made locally to develop and contribute towards the local economy and keep wealth within local communities. The proposed NCS does not offer a truly national approach to social care like the National Health Service. What the NCS proposes is to nationalise commissioning with service delivery being procured to private providers. The Council has concerns that this approach could result in competition that drives down standards due to cost saving. Service users should be at the forefront of any decisions made by the Scottish Government on a NCS, and the Council is not satisfied that centralising commissioning of social care and social services would result in a better social care service for people in its communities.

3   Implications of proposed NCS for Local Authorities

3.1 As noted previously, the lack of detail within the Consultation makes it difficult to assess the implications for local authorities of the proposed changes. The uncertainty this causes, is, an issue for local authorities when they should be focussing on recovering from the Covid pandemic. With the creation of the proposed NCS local authorities would lose their decision-making role in determining priorities for social care involvement in their area. Transfer of some (if not all) of social work functions from local authorities would involve transferring the multiple statutory responsibilities and change ways of working that have been long established. This would inevitably be very costly and time consuming to implement, both at government and parliamentary level to ensure that the drafting, consideration and finalisation of the requisite legislation and regulations are in place as well as setting up the necessary structures, including recruitment and systems. At local authority level it would also be costly and resource intensive to implement particularly at senior management level. This risks distracting from the provision and improvement of services while any changes are undertaken.

3.2 Having a NCS means that decisions on policy and strategy for social care services would no longer be made locally, based on the needs and circumstances of local people, it would instead bring a centralising approach with those decisions being taken nationally. COSLA has said that the proposed NCS, *"cuts through the heart of local governance in Scotland – not only does it have serious implications for Local Government – it is an attack on localism and on the rights of local people to make decisions democratically for their place."* The Council's belief is that social care services should be designed and delivered as close as possible to the people who use them on a daily basis, not centralised. The Council considers that keeping local accountability for social care services would result in better services and better outcomes. The United Nations Charter of Local Self-Government, which was ratified by Government on 24th April 1998, states public responsibilities shall generally be exercised, in preference, by those authorities which are closest to the citizen. A NCS would seem to contradict this principle by centralising decisions on local care needs rather than allowing those decisions to be made at a local level. This apparent contradiction may mean that the proposals could be subject to time consuming and costly legal challenge. The NCS would also seem to contradict one of the key principles of the Christie Commission, namely: Recognising that effective services must be designed with and for people and communities - not delivered 'top down' for administrative convenience. A NCS answering to the Scottish Ministers would clearly be a "top down" method of delivery for social care.

3.3 There are also concerns that reducing the capacity of local authorities exposes civil emergency arrangements to new risks. The Coronavirus pandemic saw local authorities in conjunction with local partners, the third sector and communities supporting the immediate response and leading the recovery of social care within their local areas. The Consultation does not consider the impact the NCS would have on future local, regional, and national civil emergency responses.

4   Conclusions

4.1 Throughout this response, the lack of detail which has been provided in the Consultation has been noted. Without specific detail to allow for informed consultation this Consultation is at best premature. Much of what is proposed goes far beyond the IRASC and as such, the underlying justification is unclear. No consideration appears to have been given to the alternative position of better funding local authorities to enable them to provide the improved service that is the aim of the consultation. Any new NCS would need to be significantly better funded than local authorities are at present to implement the recommendations proposed by the IRASC. When this is coupled with the cost, complexity and time required to set up the NCS properly it is difficult to see how this could provide better value than the current system, if funded appropriately.

4.2 While there may be some benefits from introducing a NCS with scope limited to nationally improve care for people and the social care and social services workforce, the Council cannot support a more wholesale change. Moving decisions about social care to a centralised body answering directly to Scottish Ministers completely cuts across the principle of localism. A "one size fits all" approach must be avoided. The council believes that decisions about priorities for social care are best made locally by people who understand the needs of the local communities. Continuing to have care provided by local authorities would allow this to happen and would involve a much greater degree of local accountability. While it is important to share and learn from best practice, decisions on local priorities are best made closer to the communities they affect rather than by a centralised body.

4.3 Ultimately the Council's view is that what is needed to deliver improvements to social care and social services is increased and continuous funding for local authorities and IJBs. The Consultation does not make the case for the need for the implementation of the proposed NCS to deliver outcomes for service users. The proposed NCS would not come without its own issues, including risks of a competitive led and confusing model. There would additionally be interim issues during the transition of services from local authorities to the proposed NCS which would only result in inconveniences and uncertainties for service users. Improvements to the current model would deliver a quicker, more accessible and better solution for service users. The merits of the current model should be developed, not dismantled and reinvented.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

2nd November 2021

Cabinet

Title:	**Covid Recovery: A Consultation on public services, justice system and other reforms**
Purpose:	To seek approval of a response to the Scottish Government consultation Covid Recovery: A Consultation on public services, justice system and other reforms
Recommendation:	That Cabinet: • Approves the proposed consultation response to the Covid Recovery: A Consultation on public services, justice system and other reforms consultation attached at Appendix 1

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Scottish Government is consulting on a review of the legislative powers that supported the response to the Covid pandemic. This paper seeks approval for the proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation Covid Recovery: A Consultation on public services, justice system and other reforms. The response highlights that the Council is generally in favour of the proposed modernising reforms but would wish to ensure that there are sufficient safeguards in place for the more wide-reaching power in relation to making public health protection regulations.

2. Background

2.1 On 17th August 2021, the Scottish Government published a consultation titled "Covid Recovery: A Consultation on public services, justice system and other reforms". The consultation has a main focus on a review of the legislative powers that were used in response to the Covid pandemic. The consultation closes on 9th November 2021.

2.2 The proposals contained within the consultation mostly make permanent some of the measures that were put in place temporarily by legislation designed solely to deal with the Covid pandemic but there are some new proposals. Many of the proposed changes could be classed as modernising or increased digitalisation powers, allowing for greater use of technology in how certain matters are carried out. However, the most wide reaching of the proposals is to make permanent public health protection regulations that were initially brought in to deal with the Covid pandemic. During the pandemic, among

other uses, these powers were used to prohibit or limit numbers at gatherings; introduce lockdown measures; and require that face coverings were worn.

2.3 At a meeting of the Council on 8th September 2021 it was agreed as follows:

(a) that arrangements be made to enable Members of North Ayrshire Council to discuss and comment on the Scottish government's proposals regarding making Covid powers permanent; and

(b) that a report, reflecting the views of Elected Members expressed at the Members' briefing session, be brought to Cabinet to form the Council's submission to the Scottish Government's consultation.

2.4 A members' briefing was held on 19th October 2021. The views of members were that increased modernisation/digitalisation of services is welcomed, the experience of the pandemic having shown it to be an efficient and effective way of working. There was some concern that not everyone would be able to engage with the new digital way of working, whether through not having access to the internet or not being sufficiently computer literate. Therefore, it was considered that options must be retained for accessing the services in a more traditional manner and that initiatives should be promoted to increase people's digital skills.

2.5 Members had concerns regarding the proposed powers to make public health protection regulations. It was acknowledged that these are wide reaching powers that may have an impact on individual liberties. It was considered that care needs to be taken to ensure that there are adequate safeguards to these powers to ensure that their use is necessary, proportionate, time limited and subject to scrutiny and regular review.

2.6 Members' views have been incorporated into the proposed consultation response.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet:

• Approves the proposed consultation response to the Scottish Government consultation "Covid Recovery: A Consultation on public services, justice system and other reforms" at Appendix 1.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 None.

Human Resources

4.2 None.

Legal

4.3   None.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4   None.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5   Some of the proposals in the consultation would result in remote working solutions thereby reducing the requirement to travel which would in turn have a positive impact on the environment by reducing emissions.

Key Priorities

4.6   Some of the proposals contained in the consultation would lead to modernisation and digitalisation of systems and processes which corresponds with the Council's priority for efficiencies that maximise resources and provide value for money.

Community Wealth Building

4.7   None.

5.   Consultation

5.1   The Consultation response has been informed by stakeholder engagement involving Officers and Elected Members.

Aileen Craig
Head of Service, Democratic Services

For further information please contact **David McDowall, Solicitor,** on **MS Teams**.

Background Papers
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Covid recovery: a consultation on public health, services, and justice system reforms

Overview

The North Ayrshire Council ("the Council") welcomes the consultation and the modernising approach which it proposes following on from the lessons learned from, and new procedures adopted during, the current Covid-19 pandemic. In relation to the format of the consultation template, it was felt that this did not allow the Council to express its views fully. Accordingly, we have structured our response on a hybrid basis, using a more general approach to outline our overarching thoughts on the consultation while also responding to the specific questions that it was felt had most relevance to our areas of work. Much of the content of the consultation relating to modernising the criminal justice system is outwith the remit of the Council and accordingly we have no response to make to these sections.

General Views

Many of the proposals contained within the consultation are welcomed by the Council particularly in the public services and justice system reforms sections. Increased modernisation/digitalisation of services is welcomed and some could argue long overdue. The experience of the pandemic has shown this to be an efficient and effective way of working.

While increased modernisation is welcomed, it must be borne in mind that not all parts of the population that require to access services are equally computer literate. Also, access to technology and good internet services are not universal. While it is advantageous to many to be able to access services in a more digital manner, the option must be retained for accessing the services in a more traditional manner. Those who cannot, or will not, access services electronically cannot and should not be excluded. Initiatives should be promoted to increase people's digital skills so that those not currently confident in this area can be skilled up so they can also enjoy the benefits of the increased digitalisation.

The Council has concerns around the power to make public health protection regulations. While it can generally be accepted that the pandemic has shown the need for an agile response from government, care should be taken in drafting any such powers to ensure there is not an unacceptable level of interference with people's rights. Safeguards need to be in place to ensure that any powers are necessary and proportionate. There should be a requirement that any regulations made under this power should only apply for defined periods in relation to specific risks and should be subject to scrutiny and regular review. It is noted that while there was some comment in the consultation on the safeguards in relation to educational closure or continuity directions there was no similar mention of safeguards within the section relating to the health protection regulations. The Council considers such safeguards to be essential and would welcome further detail and discussion on what

safeguards would be put in place in relation to the proposals for public health protection regulations to ensure appropriate scrutiny of the powers and consideration of civil liberties and human rights.

Specific Topic Responses

The remainder of the response will answer the specific questions from the consultation that the Council felt had most relevance to our areas of work. For the sake of clarity, questions which we did not feel were within our area or where we did not have a view are omitted.

Question 1: **Education: powers to make directions to close educational establishments, and to ensure continuity of education**

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic H1 (Education: powers to make directions to close educational establishments, and to ensure continuity of education) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic H1 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic H1 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic H1 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic H1, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

The Council would be in agreement that the provisions for Topic H1 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent to ensure it includes all educational establishments. The safeguards underpinning these powers are essential. All Scottish Government decisions to use the educational continuity direction making power so far during the pandemic have been done following CMO advice and that level of advice should always be in place as well as the others suggested in the paper.

Question 2: Power to make public health protection regulations

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic H2 (Power to make public health protection regulations) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☐ I think the provisions for Topic H2 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic H2 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic H2 should be extended or made permanent

☒ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic H2, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Please refer to the general comments made at the beginning of this response. The powers contained within these proposals are far reaching and would have implications for civil liberties and could result in future lockdowns, closure of businesses and school closures. There appears to be little, if any, detail in the proposal relating to making future regulations as to what safeguards would be in place regarding these powers or what the circumstances would need to be to trigger them. While it can probably be accepted that the Scottish Government may need powers to deal with any future threats to public health, safeguards relating to the making and exercise of these powers and regulations are essential. Specific provisions for safeguards/review mechanisms and what the trigger mechanisms would be for implementing the powers are required. These should not be powers that are exercised lightly.

Question 4: Virtual public meetings under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

It is proposed that new permanent legislative provisions for Topic H4 (Virtual public meetings under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010) as described will be developed. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the proposed provisions for Topic H4 should be developed

☐ I do not think the proposed provisions for Topic H4 should be developed

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on the proposed provisions for Topic H4 please write them below.

The Council believes these provisions should be developed. However, it would be better if the flexibility to hold public meetings virtually applied at all times rather than just during a public health emergency. The pandemic has shown the benefits of virtual meetings.

The Council would also agree with more flexibility around paper copies being made available.

Chapter 3: Public services & justice system

Question 5: Alcohol licensing remote hearings

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P1 (Alcohol licensing remote hearings) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic P1 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P1 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic P1 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P1, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

1.   Discretion to proceed in private
The procedures for the Licensing Board should entitle the Board, on their own motion or on the request of any party, to resolve to hold their proceedings in private, along the lines of the 'Exempt Information' provisions in Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Schedule 7A. This would involve amendment of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, Schedule 1, Paragraph 12 ("Proceedings"). There should be an amendment of Paragraph 13 ("Validity of proceedings"), so that it should not be open to anyone to challenge Board decisions on the basis that the provisions requiring 'in public' proceedings were not adhered to.

2.   Gambling
While appreciating that the Gambling Act 2005 is a UK statute, consideration should also be given to extending similar remote hearings provisions to the Licensing Board when acting as the 'Licensing Authority' under that Act. The Gambling Act says little on how Boards in Scotland are to deal with business, and since the Act simply adopts the existing Board structure under the alcohol-licensing scheme, it is not unreasonable to suppose that an amendment of the

procedures in the primary context (alcohol) should apply to the other (gambling).

Primary legislation should be utilised to effect the necessary changes.

Question 6: Bankruptcy: debt level that enables creditors to pursue the bankruptcy of a debtor through the courts

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P2 (Bankruptcy: debt level that enables creditors to pursue the bankruptcy of a debtor through the courts) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- ☐ I think the provisions for Topic P2 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent (i.e. with a creditor petition debt level of £10,000 as per the current provisions)

- ☐ I think the provisions for Topic P2 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent with an amended creditor petition debt level of £5,000

- ☐ I think the provisions for Topic P2 should be extended beyond March 2022 (i.e. with a creditor petition debt level of £10,000 as per the current provisions), but not made permanent

- ☒ I think the provisions for Topic P2 should be extended beyond March 2022 with an amended creditor petition debt level of £5,000, but not made permanent

- ☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic P2 should be extended or made permanent

- ☐ Unsure

- ☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P2, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

The Council appreciates the desire to strengthen protection and make this permanent as it provides future stability; however, it is considered that the £10,000 limit is too high on a permanent basis. Whilst we consider any petition for bankruptcy on a case-by-case basis and only after all other efforts are exhausted, this higher threshold does limit recovery potential and would impact on smaller creditors to pursue debts.

For example, based on the Council's Band D Council Tax charge with water & wastewater, the proposed £10,000 limit would require the accrual of 6 years' debt before any petition for bankruptcy could be considered.

As covid recovery progresses, debt is an ongoing issue and reverting to the previous debt level of £3,000 from March 2022, would reduce the protection to debtors too quickly. As a longer term support, the proposal to extend beyond March 2022 with a creditor petitioning level of £5,000 would keep an adequate level of support for debtors whilst phasing the transition to a longer-term petition

level. Not making the £5,000 permanent allows for further review as covid recovery progresses and the longer-term picture is clearer.

Question 7: Bankruptcy: electronic service of documents

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P3 (Bankruptcy: electronic service of documents) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic P3 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P3 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic P3 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P3, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Electronic communication is more time and cost effective and is more suitable to remote/agile working practices which have developed during the pandemic which has resulted in staff not being present in offices to receive and action intimations and documents. As electronic transmission of a document must be in a way the recipient has indicated they are willing to receive the document, then this provides protection as the method of communication is expected by the recipient.

Question 8:

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P4 (Bankruptcy: moratoriums on diligence) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P4 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent (i.e. with a moratorium period of 6 months as per the current provisions)

☒ I think the provisions for Topic P4 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent with an amended moratorium period of 12 weeks

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P4 should be extended beyond

March 2022 (i.e. with a moratorium period of 6 months as per the current provisions), but not made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P4 should be extended beyond March 2022 with an amended moratorium period of 12 weeks, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic P4 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P4, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

> With increasing debt issues and the impact of covid recovery, demand on debt advice services increases so it may be difficult to find and implement a debt solution within the 6 week period. An increase in the moratorium to 12 weeks will support debtors who are seeking help and advice to implement the best debt solution for their circumstances. The existing 6 months limit is too long for a permanent moratorium period, as it does not promote urgency to engage and seek the appropriate outcome; this also impacts on creditors' ability to recover debt and may in turn affect the viability of businesses.

Question 9: Bankruptcy: virtual meetings of creditors

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P5 (Bankruptcy: virtual meetings of creditors) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic P5 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P5 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic P5 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P5, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

> The ability to hold virtual meetings increases the availability of creditors to be present at the meeting and is a more efficient and agile method of working.

Question 10: Care services: giving of notices by the Care Inspectorate

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P6 (Care services: giving of notices by the Care Inspectorate) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic P6 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P6 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic P6 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P6, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

The Council agrees that the existing provision is continued in terms of utilising electronic means to share formal notices with care providers. It is noted to be a quicker and easier way to communicate, particularly with organisations who are shifting to a blended approach of working styles, which undoubtedly will incorporate agile working for their staff

However, it is important that effective verbal communication also requires to continue alongside the use of electronic communication to ensure effective partnership working.

Question 11: Civic government licensing remote hearings

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P7 (Civic government licensing remote hearings) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic P7 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P7 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic P7 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P7, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

The enabling powers should not limited to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. While the majority of Licensing Committee proceedings involve the 1982 Act, that is not the only enactment the Committee deals with. For example: Landlord Registration under Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004.

The enabling provision should refer to "all proceedings of the Licensing Authority or the Local Authority when conducting proceedings involving any type of Licence, Registration, Consent or Permission."

A general form of words should be used, rather than attempt to list of all enactments as a list would quickly go out of date.

Question 12: Courts: intimation, etc. of documents

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P8 (Courts: intimation, etc. of documents) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic P8 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P8 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic P8 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P8, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

This would seem to be an appropriate way of intimating matters and streamlining the process.

Question 14: Freedom of Information: giving notice electronically

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P10 (Freedom of Information: giving notice electronically) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic P10 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P10 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic P10 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P10, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

> The provisions would enable the use of an efficient communication tool which is necessary in today's world. It would also cut down on cost, resource, time and carbon footprint.

Question 16: Legal writings etc.

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P12 (Legal writings etc.) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic P12 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P12 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic P12 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P12, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

> This will create more flexibility in the way which documents are signed. It would also reduce unnecessary meetings and travel, freeing up officer time and reducing carbon emissions.

Question 17: Mental health: named person nomination

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P13 (Mental health: named person nomination) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic P13 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P13 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic P13 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P13, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

As suggested within the consultation, it is our view that removal of this requirement will remove unnecessary barriers to the process of nominating a Named Person, thereby reducing delays that have previously been experienced in this regard. We do not have concerns and have not experienced any difficulty, as a result of the current temporary removal of the requirement. The proposals reflect a streamlining of process.

Question 20: Remote registration of deaths and still-births

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P16 (Remote registration of deaths and still-births) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic P16 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P16 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic P16 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P16, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

The Council would support this proposal. However, it is also important that traditional methods of registration are retained.

Question 21: Remote registration of live births

It is proposed that new permanent legislative provisions for Topic P17 (Remote registration of live births) as described will be developed. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the proposed provisions for Topic P17 should be developed

☐ I do not think the proposed provisions for Topic P17 should be developed

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on the proposed provisions for Topic P17 please write them below.

> The Council would support this proposal. However, it is also important that traditional methods of registration are retained.

Question 22: Tenancies: protection against eviction (discretionary grounds of eviction); and pre-action requirements for eviction proceedings on ground of rent arrears

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P18 (Tenancies: protection against eviction (discretionary grounds of eviction); and pre-action requirements for eviction proceedings on ground of rent arrears) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic P18 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P18 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent, but only to the extent that rent arrears should continue to be a discretionary eviction ground – with all other eviction grounds returning to their pre-pandemic status

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P18 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic P18 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent, but only to the extent that rent arrears should continue to be a discretionary eviction ground – with all other eviction grounds returning to their pre-pandemic status

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic P18 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P18, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

> The proposal to make all the grounds for eviction in the private rented sector discretionary and to continue with the pre-action requirements for all rent arrears is supported. It would ensure that private landlords are engaging with their tenants to attempt to address the arrears and are offering support/signposting where appropriate. It would also allow the landlord to show that they have tried early intervention and prevention of the arrears accruing.

It is believed that giving the Tribunal discretion on the ground of rent arrears allows it to ensure that the appropriate supports have been provided, benefits addressed, section 11 notifications etc been completed. It would also afford the opportunity for the case to be signposted to the relevant local authority for Housing Advice, support and prevention.

Chapter 4: Responding to the impact of COVID-19 in the justice system

Question 23: Courts and tribunals: conduct of business by electronic means

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic J1 (Courts and tribunals: conduct of business by electronic means) as described will be extended beyond March 2022. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic J1 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic J1 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic J1 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic J1, or the proposal for extension beyond March 2022, please write them below.

This modernises and simplifies court processes and could result in efficiency savings.

Question 24: Courts and tribunals: virtual attendance

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic J2 (Courts and tribunals: virtual attendance) as described will be extended beyond March 2022. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

☒ I think the provisions for Topic J2 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

☐ I think the provisions for Topic J2 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent

☐ I do not think the provisions for Topic J2 should be extended or made permanent

☐ Unsure

☐ I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic J2, or the proposal for extension beyond March 2022, please write them below.

This has the potential to make efficiency savings and lower the climate impact of commuting to and from court. Care needs to be taken to ensure that the software chosen to operate remote video links is available, and works well, for all court users. Poor connections or inability to access chosen platforms would risk undermining any potential benefits. There require to be necessary safeguards to ensure that court users and the public have ready access to the justice system.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

2 November 2021

Cabinet

Title:	**Proposal for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure**
Purpose:	To determine an application by the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership to allocate CIF funding to a proposed project.
Recommendation:	That Cabinet: a) Reviews the enclosed application from the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership in line with CIF criteria; and b) Approves the CIF application in relation to Café Solace, Garnock Valley.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Within its budget for 2017-18, North Ayrshire Council provided a funding allocation for the creation of an innovative fund to enable communities to address the priorities they have identified though Locality Planning Partnerships and within the context of North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Fair for All Strategy and the Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy. In June 2021, Cabinet approved a further £1m top-up for the funding, with consideration of a further £2m to follow in autumn 2021.

1.2 Locality Partnerships have subsequently continued to work on their local action plans and are refining proposals for expenditure in line with their locally identified needs. This is a challenging process, and it is a testament to the dedication of the Locality Partnerships and their community partners that proposals are now emerging to provide creative approaches to addressing local challenges.

1.3 This report brings forward a proposal from the Garnock Valley which responds to the specific need of the local community, and which has been developed based on local circumstances and opportunities.

1.4 This proposal has been approved to be submitted to Cabinet through a process of collaboration and consensus by the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership.

2. Background

2.1 Within its budget for 2017-18, North Ayrshire Council provided an allocation for the creation of an innovative fund to enable communities to address the priorities they have identified though Locality Planning Partnerships and within the context of North

Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Fair for All Strategy and the Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy. The CIF proposals are developed in conjunction with Locality Partnerships through an expression of interest process. Applications are decided by the Locality Partnership before making a proposal to Cabinet for approval. The table below provides information on the CIF allocation per locality and the balances available. The allocations were made based on population distribution. In June 2021, Cabinet approved a further £1m top-up for the funding, with consideration of a further £2m to follow in autumn 2021.

Table 1: CIF Allocation and Balances

Locality	Value of CIF from first funding allocation (2017-18)	Balance remaining from first funding allocation	Value of CIF from second funding allocation (June 2021)	Potential additional funding allocation*	Potential total balance available*
Irvine	£754 000	£449 396	£290 000	£580 000	£1 319 396
Kilwinning	£286 000	£104 810	£120 000	£240 000	£464 810
Three Towns	£598 000	£261 768	£240 000	£480 000	£981 768
Garnock Valley	£390 000	£213 500	£150 000	£300 000	£663 500
North Coast	£468 000	£164 161	£170 000	£340 000	£674,161
Arran	£104 000	£58 774	£30 000	£60 000	£148 774
TOTAL	**£2 600 000**	**£1 272 409**	**£1 000 000**	**£2 000 000**	**£4 272 409**

*Subject to a projected balanced outturn position for 2021/22.

2.2　It was agreed that the CIF will support proposals and projects that connect with:

- The North Ayrshire Fair for All Strategy;
- The Community Planning Partnership and Locality priorities;
- North Ayrshire Council's values, priorities and business objectives;
- The Community Wealth Building and Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategies;
  And also:
- Fulfil a compelling need and do not duplicate existing services or facilities;
- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible;
- Exhibit project and/or organisational innovation in their approaches to their work in their way of addressing community challenges and in their request to Locality Partnerships and the Council;

- Come from (an) organisation(s) that is financially viable (can provide financial statements upon request) and efficiently and effectively managed. This can include an organisation to be created to deliver the project;
- Include options or potential for NAC and CPP employee engagement and volunteering where possible; and
- Include measurable outcomes and can report to NAC on outcomes on a regular basis.

2.3 The proposal development and application process has been agreed as follows:

- Locality Partnerships should continue to engage with their communities and stimulate interest in the CIF. Each Locality Partnership will then strategically assess the applications, make links and look at the funding 'in the round.'
- If the partnership supports a bid then the group will be encouraged to submit a full application form, which they will decide upon before making a proposal to Cabinet for final approval.
- The finalised proposal will go to the next suitable Cabinet for final approval.

2.4 The enclosed application has been developed by community partners and North Ayrshire Council officers and is now recommended for approval by Cabinet. The proposal is as follows:

2.4.1 **The Garnock Valley Locality Partnership**

The allocation and funds committed to date are outlined in Table below.

The Garnock Valley Locality Partnership CIF allocation	£390 000
Men's Shed – Project Initiation	£28 000
Travel Needs Analysis	£25 000
Geilsland Hall Volunteering and Employability	£45 000
Beith Community Development Trust YOUth Lead Project	£43,500
Garnock Valley 20:20 Vision	£15,000
Garnock Valley Men's Shed – Heating System Replacement	£20,000
Balance	**£213,500**

Proposal: Café Solace, Garnock Valley: £49,723.00 (Appendix 1)

Café Solace is a community group, in existence since 2017. The aim of Café Solace Kilbirnie is to engage with people in recovery, their families and friends and the wider community by providing resources and opportunities conducive to recovery in North Ayrshire. They also aim to be actively involved in community participation opportunities and education, and to provide skills development, training and volunteering opportunities for people in recovery and those with other challenges or barriers in their lives. This funding, together with the assistance of other funding partners, will contribute to Café Solace establishing a new post of a full-time Food Development Worker for a period of three years. The new Food Development Worker will provide learning and development opportunities in a range of contexts to help to

address food poverty and engage with a wide range of community members, volunteers, partners and customers. The project will be based in Kilbirnie but will serve the whole Garnock Valley locality, building on the foundations laid by the volunteers during the pandemic. The target audience are those experiencing food poverty in the Garnock Valley, the established customer base and the volunteers, many of whom are individuals for whom drugs and alcohol have had a negative effect on their life chances. The range of contexts will take a holistic approach to learning and development, which will focus on personal and family life, health, employability and budgeting. These learning opportunities will effectively help to tackle food poverty by building the capacity of learners to prepare affordable, nutritious meals on a budget, and by using a variety of approaches to address the root causes of food poverty, including education and employability. Existing partnerships with Health & Social Care will be utilised, and where possible, enhanced to enable effective targeting of vulnerable groups. This proposal reduces poverty and inequalities and the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership's priorities of Work and Local Community and Facilities and Amenities.

Key Outcomes include:
- Improved life chances for individuals for whom drugs and alcohol have had a negative effect;
- The development of a community food larder, leading to wider access to affordable food for the community; and
- Increased capacity for individuals and groups to access and prepare affordable, nutritious, and healthy meals.

3. Proposals

3.1 That Cabinet:

a) Reviews the enclosed application from the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership in line with CIF criteria; and
b) Approves the CIF application in relation to the Café Solace, Garnock Valley.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 CIF funding is allocated within existing resources. Potential external funding partners have been identified to address the funding gap.

Human Resources

4.2 The funding will support the wages of a full time Food Development Worker for three years. There are approximately 9 local volunteering opportunities, depending on membership.

Legal

4.3 None.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4   The purpose of Locality Planning is to reduce inequalities, increase community cohesion and advance community empowerment. Each of the CIF proposals is tested against that purpose before being presented to Cabinet. The Café Solace, Garnock Valley application provides opportunities for skills development, community cohesion, addressing food poverty and improved nutrition, health and wellbeing. The proposal addresses inequalities by better meeting the needs of men in rural communities, combating social isolation and meeting mental wellbeing needs.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5   Environmental and sustainability issues are considered in relation to each CIF application. The new Food Development Worker will consider how to minimise energy use in food preparation, reduce food waste and contribute towards the response to the Council's Climate Emergency.

Key Priorities

4.6   The proposals contained within the report support the North Ayrshire Council Plan priorities:

- Active and strong communities
- Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy
- People enjoy good life-long health and wellbeing.

Community Wealth Building

4.7   The applications support the following pillars of community wealth building:

- Creating volunteering and skills development opportunities; and
- Advancing community enterprises.

5.   Consultation

5.1   The proposal contained within this report has been developed by the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership, through consultation with Café Solace volunteers and partners and local people who use the Café.

Caroline Amos
Interim Executive Director of Communities and Education

For further information please contact **Rhona Arthur, Head of Connected Communities,** on **01294 324415**.

Background Papers
Appendix 1: CIF Application: Café Solace, Garnock Valley

North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Appendix 1 - Community Investment Fund: Proposal to Cabinet

Organisation name	*Café Solace, Garnock Valley*
Brief details of organisation	Café Solace are a community group, in existence since 2017. The aim of Café Solace Kilbirnie are to engage with people in recovery, their families and friends and the wider community by providing resources and opportunities conducive to recovery. They also aim to be actively involved in community participation opportunities and education, and to provide skills development, training and volunteering opportunities for people in recovery and those with other challenges or barriers in their lives. Café Solace work alongside other groups that promote the wellbeing of the wider North Ayrshire communities and have been key partners throughout the pandemic at the Garnock Valley Hub at Bridgend Community Centre.
Locality	Garnock Valley
Amount requested	£49,723
Brief overview of proposal	Funding will contribute to Café Solace establishing a new post of a full-time Food Development Worker for a period of 3 years, together with the assistance of other funding partners. The new Food Development Worker will provide learning and development opportunities in a range of contexts that will help to address food poverty and engage with a wide range of community members, volunteers, partners and customers. The project will be based in Kilbirnie and serve the whole Garnock Valley, building on the work of the volunteers during the pandemic. The target audience are those experiencing food poverty, the established customer base and the volunteers, many of whom are individuals for whom drugs and alcohol have had a negative effect on their life chances. The range of contexts will take a holistic approach to learning and development, which will focus on personal and family life, health, employability and budgeting. These learning opportunities will effectively help to tackle food poverty by building the capacity of learners to prepare affordable, nutritious meals on a budget, and by using a variety of approaches to address the root causes of food poverty, including education and employability. Existing partnerships with Health & Social Care will be utilised, and where possible, enhanced to enable effective targeting of vulnerable groups. This proposal reduces poverty and inequalities and the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership's priorities of Work and Local Community and Facilities and Amenities. **Key Outcomes:** • Improved life chances for individuals for whom drugs and alcohol have had a negative effect;

	• Development of a community food larder, leading to wider access to affordable food for the community; • Increased capacity for individuals and groups to access and prepare affordable, nutritious, and healthy meals; • Improved physical and mental health amongst participants; • Reduction in loneliness and social isolation; • Increased social capital for individuals and groups; and • Enhanced employability prospects amongst participants. **Reducing inequality:** • Targeted work amongst the most vulnerable, hard to reach and socially excluded groups and individuals; • Utilising existing partnerships and building new partnerships to ensure effective targeting of the most vulnerable groups and individuals; • Addressing inequalities in education through provision of learning and development opportunities that will build and enhance the skills, knowledge and experience of participants; and • Targeted provision aimed at addressing how those experiencing financial hardship and debt can access more affordable food – cooking on a budget sessions. **Work and Local Community** – by ensuring that there is a more cohesive and developmental approach to community-based food provision in the Garnock Valley. The project will establish a food hub that will address the provision of affordable food and the root causes of food poverty through provision of learning and development opportunities. This will, in turn, enhance the employability of participants to ensure they will be more work-ready. Larder maintenance, food hygiene and environmental health form a key part of service preparation and delivery. **Facilities and Amenities** – the project will enhance existing provision at Bridgend Community Centre through the creation of a food hub that is at the heart of the local community, engages with new and existing user groups, and provides opportunities for targeted work that will build the skills, knowledge and experience of groups and individuals to effectively tackle food poverty and disadvantage. Correspondingly, the post will provide the opportunity to widen the reach of the project to include Beith, Dalry, Gateside and Barrmill, with outreach workshops across the area. All café users and volunteers have been consulted. Café Solace are also part of the Garnock Valley Food Network, working with organisations across the Garnock Valley to help alleviate food insecurity and reducing food waste. Full funding, an additional £50,000, is still to be confirmed.
Timescales	Autumn 2021
Contact details	Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer, Connected Communities cpieraccini@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

2 November 2021

Cabinet

Title:	**Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022 – 2027**
Purpose:	To seek Cabinet approval of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022 - 2027
Recommendation:	That Cabinet (i) approves the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022-2027 at Appendix 1 for submission to Scottish Government and (ii) gives delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place) and the Cabinet Member for the Green New Deal and Sustainability to liaise directly with the Scottish Government in agreeing the North Ayrshire development programme and the rescheduling of projects as required.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2022 – 2027 sets out the priorities and locations for affordable housing investment by the Council and Registered Social Landlords in North Ayrshire over the next five years. The SHIP is based on projected Scottish Government grant funding provision for the Council and our partner Registered Social Landlords of £98.943m during the period 2022 – 2027 and represents Council investment of £101.616m.

1.2 It is proposed that delegated authority is assigned to the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability, to liaise with the Scottish Government and agree the rescheduling of projects detailed in the SHIP, as required. Any additional projects that are not contained within the approved SHIP will require further Cabinet approval.

1.3 From a Council perspective, the SHIP reflects the historic commitment to construct 1,100 new build homes. It makes provision for an additional 275 new homes to replace the Fullarton tower blocks, which are scheduled for demolition following re-housing of all tenants and includes 250 new units for the Council's Estate Based Regeneration Programme, an increase of 50 from the previous SHIP.

1.4 The Council and its RSL partners have been monitoring the impact of both COVID-19 and Brexit on the SHIP. It is clear that they have created time and financial impacts, due to labour and material shortages and an increase in material costs. The SHIP includes the latest available estimates of the time and financial impacts of COVID-19 on the development programme.

1.5   The SHIP 2022 - 2027 will secure investment in a total of 1,900 properties across North Ayrshire and provide sustainable, affordable, accessible and high-quality homes which will contribute to the wider regeneration aims for the area. This will in turn secure employment and training opportunities for North Ayrshire businesses and residents and support the Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy. Members are invited to approve the SHIP at Appendix 1 for submission to the Scottish Government, as the Council's investment plan for new affordable housing in the area over the next five years.

2.   Background

2.1   The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2022 – 2027 sets out the priorities for affordable housing investment in North Ayrshire over the next five years to support the outcomes in the Local Housing Strategy. The Plan is prepared in accordance with Scottish Government guidance and includes details of individual development projects to be taken forward over its five-year lifespan (see Appendix 1).

2.2   The plan supports the Council's historic commitment to develop 1,100 new build Council homes.

2.3   On 19 June 2018, Cabinet approved the demolition of the Fullarton tower blocks in Irvine. The SHIP makes provision for the replacement of all 275 of these homes within the Irvine locality.

2.4   On 15 January 2019, Cabinet approved an Estate Based Regeneration Programme. To assist the delivery of this programme, the SHIP includes provision for 200 units as an indicative replacement for any selective demolition of particularly low demand stock.

2.5   The new SHIP includes the provision of an additional 50 new units to contribute further to the Estate Based Regeneration Programme. These projects take the total investment in Council developments to £171.502m during the period 2022 - 2027 and represents Council investment of £101.616m.

2.6   The Scottish Government has committed to providing North Ayrshire Council with grant funding for the Council and our RSL partners of £81.210m from April 2021 to March 2026. The funding levels beyond March 2026 are not currently known and have therefore been estimated for planning purposes, based on trend assumptions. The Scottish Government is currently undertaking a review of benchmark grant funding levels for social housing and whilst the outcome of this review is awaited grant rates for new build Council developments has been assumed in the SHIP at a rate of £87,025 per unit.

2.7   The SHIP is based on total projected Scottish Government grant funding provision of £98.943m for the Council and our RSL partners during the period 2022 - 2027. In accordance with Scottish Government guidance, the Council has over committed the funding within the SHIP by approximately 25% to ensure that the allocation is spent, and to provide the opportunity for North Ayrshire to absorb slippage from other local authority areas. For this reason, a significant portion of the funding is allocated during the second and third years of the SHIP.

2.8 The Council and its RSL partners have been monitoring the impact of both COVID-19 and Brexit on the SHIP. It is clear that they have created both time and financial impacts, due to labour and material shortages and an increase in material costs. The SHIP includes the latest available estimates of the time and financial impacts of COVID-19 and Brexit on the development programme.

2.9 For any projects noted within the SHIP, Cabinet is asked to delegate authority to the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability, to liaise with the Scottish Government and agree the rescheduling of projects as required. This is of particular importance where deliverability is delayed due to emerging constraints and challenges that require to be addressed. Any additional projects that are not contained within the SHIP will require Cabinet approval.

Strategic Priorities

2.10 The SHIP is based on a series of guiding principles for housing provision, taken from the Local Housing Strategy.

2.11 In order to prepare the SHIP, the Council invited site nominations from its partners. All of the developments proposed by partners were considered on their individual merits, with reference to the LHS development priorities and any known constraints. If any project becomes delayed or non-viable, the Council will work with RSL partners and the Scottish Government to ensure that new homes are delivered, and the available grant funding spent, by accelerating other projects.

2.12 In terms of ongoing governance, senior officers monitor the progress of the new build programme monthly through the SHIP Project Board.

Demand

2.13 Demand figures have been obtained from the Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) and the North Ayrshire Housing Register (NAHR). House size and type priorities have also been informed by the NAHR.

2.14 Figure 1 plots HNDA demand information against the total number of new build homes which have been, or will be, completed over the life of the HNDA and the SHIP. The new supply figures illustrate the aspiration to plan for a growing population, promoting regeneration within our communities, and to seek continued investment in our housing stock to improve overall stock condition, which are not reflected in HNDA figures. The Irvine / Kilwinning new build figure is significantly higher, when compared to other sub-housing market areas, as it includes the provision for the replacement of the Fullarton tower blocks.

Figure 1: SHIP 2016–2027 vs HNDA demand 2016-2025 & Net Gain 2016-2027
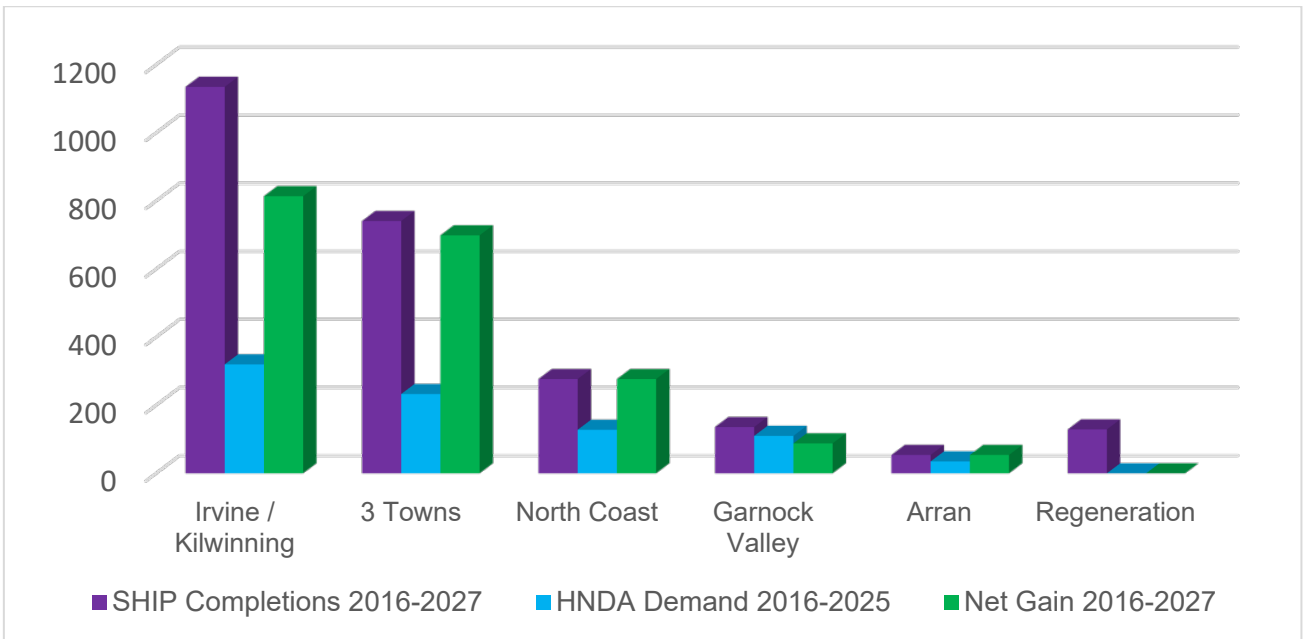
2.15 The Council allocates funding to each developing organisation from the Scottish Government Resource Planning Assumption (RPA). Figures 2 and 3 show the proportion of stock held by each developing organisation, and the share of funding per developing organisation.

Figure 2: Proportion of stock held in North Ayrshire per developing organisation (%)

Developer	North Ayrshire Stock
NAC	12,892
CHA	2,258
Riverside (IHA)	1,710
Cairn (ANCHO)	657
Trust	287
Link	0
Total	**17,804**
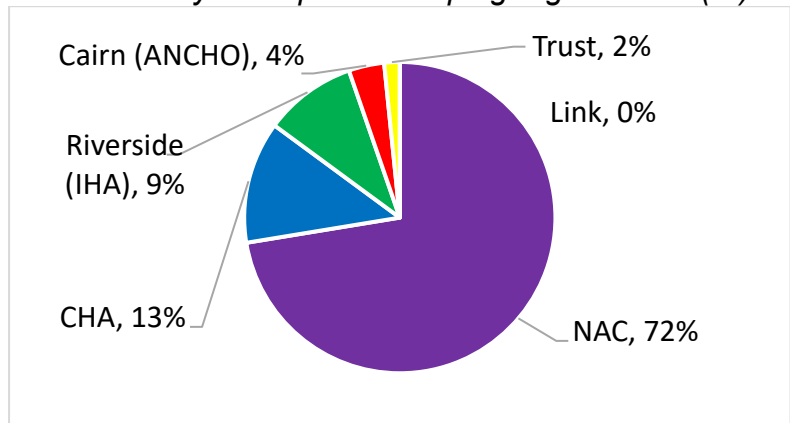
Figure 3: Proportion of funding per developing organisation (%)

Developer	Completions in SHIP 2022 - 2027
NAC	1,275
CHA	446
Riverside (IHA)	123
Cairn (ANCHO)	24
Trust	20
Link	12
Total	**1,900**

148
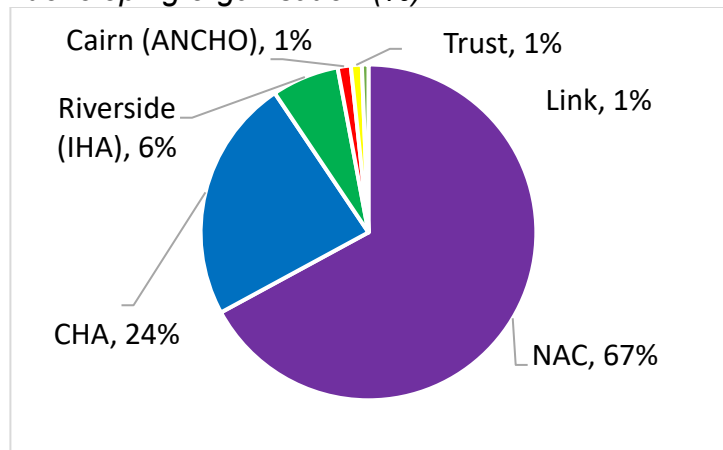
2.16 An indicative size mix (Table 1) for new developments across North Ayrshire has been prepared based on the HNDA and North Ayrshire Housing Register (NAHR) intelligence to meet existing and future housing need.

Table 1: Indicative mix by bedroom size

No of Beds	Three Towns	Arran	Garnock Valley	Irvine / Kilwinning	North Coast	North Ayrshire
1	17%	19%	19%	18%	20%	**18%**
2	56%	55%	52%	55%	54%	**55%**
3	15%	16%	17%	15%	14%	**15%**
4+	12%	10%	12%	12%	12%	**12%**

Specialist Accommodation

2.17 Analysis of the NAHR, and projected future demographic trends signifying an ageing population, indicate that at least 25% of all new build homes should be designed for older people (i.e., amenity housing or sheltered housing).

2.18 Following review of North Ayrshire's Housing Allocation Policy in 2019, the age restriction for the allocation of amenity housing was removed. This allowed allocation of amenity homes to younger people with accessible housing, promoting independent living. Currently, 79% of applicants for amenity housing are aged over 51. The Council will continue to monitor the availability of housing for older people to ensure that their needs can be addressed through the affordable housing supply programme.

2.19 In order to promote independent living, the Flatt Road development site in Largs is being used as an exemplar for assistive technology. Features can be included within the sheltered housing complex and supported accommodation where required to support tenants' individual needs.

2.20 The Council's Housing Service and Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) worked together to develop a model for Extra Care Sheltered Housing. The vision was to create safe, affordable homes for tenants who require additional support. Following development of a possible model, demand analysis was undertaken by the HSCP in 2021. At that time, it was determined that there was not sufficient demand to integrate the model into a new sheltered housing complex. The Council has, however, incorporated flexibility into some new build sheltered housing complexes to allow this model to be reconsidered in future, with minimal investment.

2.21 To ensure need is met now and in the future, the Local Housing Strategy 2018 – 2022 set a target for all tenures, with at least 7% of all new build stock being fully wheelchair accessible. This will be reviewed in the next LHS (due for renewal 2022) and the future Local Development Plan (draft plan due to be published in early 2023) following Scottish Government guidance for local authorities on the setting of targets to support the delivery of more wheelchair accessible housing.

2.22 The SHIP will support the Health and Social Care Partnership to meet specialist housing need through dedicated projects using the jointly developed supported accommodation model, and as part of a wider site mix on other developments. The new SHIP makes provision for delivery of 47 supported accommodation housing units at three different locations, all of which are currently under construction.

Child Poverty and Improving Health and Wellbeing

2.23 The North Ayrshire Local Child Poverty Action Plan and Report 2019/20 recognises that the instance of child poverty within North Ayrshire is one of the highest in Scotland and acknowledges the role that access to good quality and affordable housing has in combating inequality. All new build Council family homes have study space and private gardens.

2.24 The Council is also considering ways in which young people can access construction related learning and training opportunities. Skills Development Scotland and the Council committed to contact every school leaver this year to support and sign-post those who may be impacted by this year's qualifications situation and those who have had offers of employment withdrawn or postponed. Developing the Young Workforce have also launched an online Skills Academy to support school leavers and job seekers. Officers from Housing and PMI will work alongside Education colleagues to determine how our housebuilding programme can support the Council's ambitions to encourage more young people into training and employment.

Island Development

2.25 On Arran, the Council's development of 34 units at Brathwic Terrace, Brodick will complete in February 2022. In addition, Trust Housing Association is currently in discussions with a local landowner to develop 20 new units in Brodick. These developments, alongside work with communities on the island, are anticipated to stimulate investment in other infrastructure (transport, marine, digital) to encourage economic growth. Similarly, 18 new homes have recently been completed on Cumbrae through the SHIP as part of a second phase of the successful St Beya Gardens site. It is hoped that these developments will help to address local housing need, support key employment and enable people to remain on the islands.

Buy Backs

2.26 Bringing empty homes back into use supports regeneration; it is a strategic priority within the current LHS and will continue to be a priority in the future. It also supports the Council's Regeneration Delivery Plan. In recognition of this, a target has been set to purchase at least 5 second hand or empty properties during each financial year of the new SHIP, subject to the availability of Scottish Government Grant.

Sustainability & Safety

2.27 Council officers are seeking to maximise the incorporation of energy efficiency measures and renewable technologies within the new build programme. The developments within the SHIP will benefit from a range of sustainable measures, for example solar photovoltaic panels, small scale district heating schemes, and passive design measures to minimise space heating demand. The exact package of measures will be determined through assessment of opportunities on a site-by-site basis.

2.28 Building Standards introduced a legal requirement for new build social housing properties with planning applications submitted on or after 1 March 2021 to be fitted with sprinkler systems. In advance of this legislation, and in recognition of the safety benefits of sprinkler systems, the Council has installed sprinklers in all new build housing proposals which reached technical design stage after October 2019. The

Council is also working to comply with the new regulations for smoke and heat detection within our existing stock by February 2022.

Regeneration

2.29 The provision of affordable, modern and well-designed homes that meets residents' needs is one of nine strategic priorities within the Council Plan 2019 - 2024.

2.30 The Council continues to explore the site and area specific opportunities with strategic partners to secure maximum regeneration benefits, supporting the ambitions of the Council's Regeneration Delivery Plan to drive forward development on strategic regeneration sites, including town centres. Our town centres continue to be of strategic importance as the economic and social focus points of North Ayrshire. The Council has acquired the former King's Arms public house in Irvine Town Centre and will redevelop the site into six amenity flats to address need and encourage town centre living. Other town centre projects include: the redevelopment of the former Largs Police Station and adjacent former St Colm's Place Sheltered Housing Complex; the development of the former Springvale depot in Saltcoats; the redevelopment of former sheltered housing complexes at Afton Court and Caley Court in Stevenston; and the redevelopment of the Irvine High Flats. Regeneration Project 1d in Ardrossan and the unallocated regeneration blocks will also be utilised to further support North Ayrshire regeneration.

2.31 The SHIP also includes the provision of funding for 250 units to assist the delivery and funding of Housing's Estate Based Regeneration Programme, an additional 50 units from the previously approved SHIP. Most of this investment is anticipated to be replacement for any selective demolition of stock. The additional 50 regeneration units included within the new SHIP will allow Housing Services to continue with implementation of the Estate Based Regeneration Programme, as well as support a review our assets in relation to our EESSH2 and zero emissions targets to consider further redevelopment opportunities.

Community Wealth Building

2.32 Effective use of community benefit clauses in development contracts, and partnership work with colleagues in Economic Development to support our local construction and supply chain companies to bid for this work, can secure many of these jobs for our local people and support the Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy. The Council has recently undertaken a review of our Dickson Drive, Irvine house building pilot and will utilise this to inform a second project with Building Services to construct a number of new homes at Ayrshire Central, Irvine.

2.33 The Council is also currently developing a pilot model for employability by offering training and employment opportunities obtained through community benefits from Housing Services maintenance and investment contracts to our Housing First tenants, supporting some of our most complex support cases to sustain housing and employment. The delivery of the SHIP, alongside investment in land and asset maintenance, plays a key role in community wealth building.

Affordability

2.34 The Council is committed to ensuring rent levels are affordable. Many tenants in social housing are partly or fully dependent on benefits and are under increasing pressure from the impacts of Welfare Reform and rising living costs. The Scottish Housing Regulator has intimated that social landlords will be expected to keep rent increases to a minimum. To ensure homes are affordable, the Council and all RSL partners will be expected to set rent levels on new build homes at or below the Local Housing Allowance. North Ayrshire Council has an approved rent structure based on house size and type, with no additional charge for new build properties.

Key Achievements from 2020/21

2.35 During 2020/21, 49 units were completed at Watt Court, Dalry. The project included a new local Housing Office, a sheltered housing complex with an integrated community hub and amenity bungalows. The Council's first 15 new build supported accommodation bungalows at Bessie Dunlop Court are also on this site, where tenants are supported to live independently by on-site HSCP staff. A further 18 new homes were completed at St. Beya Gardens, Cumbrae during summer 2021.

2.36 During the year work commenced on site for a total of 166 units at St. Michael's Wynd, Kilwinning; Kinnier Road, Saltcoats; Springvale, Saltcoats; and Harbourside, Irvine. More recently work also commenced on site for a further 44 units at St. Colm's Place, Largs; and Caley Court, Stevenston.

2.37 Cunninghame Housing Association completed their 28 units at Ardoch Court, Stevenston. The Association also commenced works on site for 72 units at West Byrehill, Kilwinning and 2 units at Glebe Street, Saltcoats. Irvine Housing Association commenced works on site for 77 units at the second phase of Tarryholme, Irvine.

2.38 North Ayrshire's Resource Planning Assumption for the Council and our RSL partners during 2020/21 was £17.093m. During the year a total of £21.403m was claimed, through obtaining slippage funding of £4.310m from other local authority areas. North Ayrshire Council and our RSL partners have been able to claim an additional £16.729m towards affordable housing in the area from slippage in other local authority areas in the five years from April 2016 to March 2021.

Removal of Projects from the SHIP 2022 - 2027

2.39 The Cunninghame Housing Association new build development planned for Annick Drive, Dreghorn has been removed from the SHIP as it is not financially viable.

Amendments to the SHIP

2.40 The following amendments have been made in this update of the SHIP:

- The Fullarton Street, Irvine site can accommodate 54 units, increased from the 45 units previously anticipated.
- Early design work for the King's Arms, Irvine has confirmed that the site can deliver six accessible amenity flats, reduced from ten units.
- Design work has also confirmed that the former Stanecastle Primary School site can deliver 28 units, reduced from 30.
- The Ayrshire Central, Irvine site has been increased to 171 units from 100 units.

- Redevelopment Projects 10, 11b and 14 located in Irvine have been combined and reduced to 168 units from 179 units.
- The Bourtreehill Village, Irvine site has been provisionally increased from 18 to 32 units.
- Cunninghame Housing Association's (CHA) site at Harbour Road, Irvine has been reduced from 40 to 29 units.
- Riverside's (formerly Irvine Housing Association) development at 111 Bank Street, Irvine has increased from 14 units to 16 units.
- Cunninghame Housing Association's site at West Byrehill, Kilwinning has been reduced from 76 to 72 units and both phases have now been combined.
- Regeneration Project 1d in Ardrossan can deliver 36 units, reduced from 50.
- The former Largs Police Station can accommodate 12 amenity flats, increased from nine.
- Unallocated Regeneration Block 1 has been reduced from 92 to 49 units; the other 43 units have been allocated to projects in the SHIP.

2.41 A number of the sites within the SHIP have been anonymised for reasons of commercial sensitivity, or as they require further work to ensure that they comply with the Council's Planning or Roads policies.

New Council Projects 2022 - 2027

2.42 The Council has included 50 new units within the SHIP to further contribute to the Estate Based Regeneration Programme. These are listed as 'Unallocated Regeneration Block 2'. The Council has also recently announced the regeneration of Glebe Place, Saltcoats where 30 low demand homes will be demolished and replaced by eight new homes. A further regeneration project in Ardrossan, which is currently confidential, will include seven new homes.

New RSL Projects 2022 - 2027

2.43 Cunninghame Housing Association have nominated one 22-unit development site located in Saltcoats (Confidential Site 11). This site has been anonymised as it requires further work to ensure that it complies with the Council's strategic priorities.

SHIP Impact on North Ayrshire School Capacity

2.44 Ayrshire Central, Irvine was identified as having the potential to adversely affect the capacity of Castlepark Primary School. The housing mix for the site has therefore been revised and now includes a greater weighting of amenity properties. There is recognition from experience at other sites that new affordable housing development generally comprises families who already reside within the school catchment area. Officers from Housing, Planning and Education will continue to monitor emerging development to ensure any impact upon school capacity can be addressed or mitigated.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet (i) approve the North Ayrshire Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022-2027 for submission to the Scottish Government; and (ii) gives delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place) and the Cabinet Member for the Green New Deal and Sustainability to liaise directly with the Scottish Government in

agreeing the North Ayrshire development programme and the rescheduling of projects as required.

4.   Implications/Socio-economic Duty

<u>**Financial**</u>

4.1   The financial implications arising from the projects included within the SHIP 2022 - 2027 have been assessed by each of the developing organisations, ensuring that the programme is fully deliverable within the timescales set out. The Council has identified a budget of £171.502m to deliver the North Ayrshire Council development projects set out within the SHIP, inclusive of Scottish Government funding.

<u>**Human Resources**</u>

4.2   The Strategic Housing Investment Plan will be delivered by North Ayrshire Council staffing and complemented by external expertise, where required.

<u>**Legal**</u>

4.3   The Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992, Schedule 1, Part 12, Class 33, as amended, enables local authorities to carry out works, within their district, for the erection of dwellings so long as the development conforms with the Local Development Plan. The Council's House Building Protocol governs the design and consultation processes for such development to ensure that appropriate levels of design scrutiny and consultation are maintained. In 2019, it was agreed that all future Council housing developments progressed as permitted development will be required to obtain a 'Certificate of Lawfulness' from the Council's Planning Service. This will certify that each site within the SHIP has been considered against the full terms of the adopted Local Development Plan. Housing development proposals by the Council which do not fall within the scope of permitted development, including schemes which require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will require planning permission. Proposals over 0.5 hectares in area will require to be screened for the purposes of EIA.

<u>**Equality/Socio-economic**</u>

4.4   The provision of new social housing will have a positive impact on those who require specialist accommodation, older people, those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and those for whom purchasing a home is not an affordable option. The benefits of new build housing in relation to health, wellbeing and educational attainment, are well documented. New housing will also support our island communities and their economies.

<u>**Environmental and Sustainability**</u>

4.5   New homes should have a low environmental impact, with the aim of reducing fuel use and associated fuel costs. All projects within the SHIP will be delivered in accordance with Building Standards regulations for energy efficiency. In addition, the majority of the new projects incorporated into the plan will meet the Scottish Government's 'Greener Standard'. Innovative approaches to fuel efficient

development will be considered on a site-by-site basis (e.g., biomass boilers, solar photovoltaic panels, smart technologies etc). New Council homes contribute significantly to the Council's Sustainability agenda. New housing is more energy efficient, better ventilated, and has higher levels of thermal comfort, which supports improved health and well-being.

Key Priorities

4.6   The provision of new affordable housing supports the Council Plan priority to provide affordable, modern and well-designed homes that meet residents' needs. It supports the ambitions of the Council's Regeneration Delivery Plan to drive forward development on strategic regeneration sites, including town centres. There is also evidence that children and young people can benefit from improved cognitive development and a reduction in behavioural issues through living in a more attractive, warmer, and better ventilated environment and the provision of new affordable housing also supports the Council Plan priority that children and young people experience the best start in life. New housing will also support our island communities and their economies.

Community Wealth Building

4.7   The Council's contractors are required to participate in the Council's Community Benefits Programme. The projects within the SHIP aim to deliver new employment opportunities for the area, including the provision of dedicated apprentice starts, graduate positions and the creation of local jobs. The project contractors also engage with local schools to provide health and safety presentations, undertake STEM activities, provide mock interviews, and host design competitions.

5.   Consultation

5.1   The Council has taken a collaborative approach to the preparation of the SHIP, and the
following stakeholders have been involved in the process:

- ANCHO in partnership with Cairn
- Cunninghame Housing Association
- Riverside (formerly Irvine Housing Association)
- Link Group Ltd
- Trust Housing Association
- The Scottish Government
- North Ayrshire Council Officers (Economic Growth, Education, Finance, Housing, Planning, Property Management and Investment, Active Travel & Transport, Roads, and the Health and Social Care Partnership).

5.2   Regular meetings are held with developing organisations, the Council and the Scottish Government as part of the SHIP governance process. The meetings will continue to be convened on a quarterly basis each year, to ensure that partners' requirements are identified, and the development programme delivered.

RUSSELL MCCUTCHEON
Executive Director (Place)

For further information please contact **Jacqueline Cameron, Senior Manager, Housing Strategy and Development,** on **01294 485652**.

Background Papers
N/A

North Ayrshire Council

Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022 - 2027

North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Introduction

Purpose

The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2022-2027 sets out the priorities for affordable housing investment in North Ayrshire over the next five years and outlines how the Council and its partners will deliver these priorities. The focus of the SHIP is to support the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) which delivers affordable housing for rent in North Ayrshire.

Environment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) pre-screening questionnaire undertaken for the LHS confirmed that the development proposals within the SHIP have been scoped within the SEA for the North Ayrshire Local Development Plan.

Strategic Policy Context

Housing to 2040, Scotland's first 20-year housing strategy, was announced in March 2021. The strategy commits to providing around £16bn of investment to support the delivery of 100,000 new homes by 2032, with at least 70% of these being for social rent. The Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) comprises a range of funding mechanisms to enable affordable housing providers to deliver homes in communities across Scotland to support local authorities' Local Housing Strategies. The Scottish Government has allocated Resource Planning Assumptions (RPAs) for the full five-year period of the current parliament to deliver the ambitious affordable homes target set out in Housing to 2040.

The SHIP is an extension of, and aligns to, the Local Housing Strategy 2018-22 (LHS). In preparing the SHIP, the Council has referred to the outcomes identified in the LHS, which support objectives of the Council Plan.

The SHIP also aligns with the Council's Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach, which sets out how the Council, in conjunction with our residents, will recover and renew services by: building upon the outcomes of the Council Plan; committing to Community Wealth Building; and committing to a Green New Deal.

Equalities

In line with our Council Plan, fairness and equity is core to the Strategic Housing Investment Plan. We strive for a North Ayrshire where everyone has the same life chances to grow, prosper and have fulfilling and healthy lives. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the SHIP. It found that there are no negative or discriminatory effect on any equality groups.

The provision of new social housing will have a positive impact on those who require specialist accommodation, older people, those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and those for whom purchasing a home is not an affordable option. The benefits of new build housing in relation to health, wellbeing and educational attainment, are well documented.

Consultation and Collaboration

As the strategic housing authority, the Council is committed to supporting our partners to deliver affordable housing development within North Ayrshire. The Council adopts a collaborative approach in the preparation of the SHIP. The key stakeholders opposite have influenced the final programme.

In preparing the SHIP 2022-2027 the Council invited site nominations from its RSL partners. All developments proposed were considered on their individual merits, with reference to the development priorities set out within the LHS and any known constraints.

Thereafter, the Council issued the draft SHIP to its partners to review the priorities of each individual site and assist in agreeing the wider plan. The Council will continue to monitor the development programme and any arising opportunities at quarterly meetings held with developing RSLs and the Scottish Government.

Council Officers monitor the impact of the new build programme on education facilities and other services through the SHIP Project Board.

If any project becomes delayed or non-viable, the Council will work with RSL partners and the Scottish Government to ensure that new homes are delivered by accelerating other projects within the SHIP.

Key SHIP Stakeholders

Local registered social landlord partners, including ANCHO, Cairn, Cunninghame Housing Association (CHA), Link Group Ltd, Riverside Scotland and Trust Housing Association

North Ayrshire Council internal departments, including Economic Growth, Education, Finance, Housing, Planning, Property Management and Investment, Active Travel and Transport, Roads, and the Health and Social Care Partnership

The Scottish Government

Investment Priorities

The LHS indicates the importance of establishing clear investment priorities to meet the housing needs of local people, allow partners to identify projects, and ensure that the Scottish Government's goals for new affordable social homes are supported. To ensure maximum benefit is achieved from social housing investment, all projects must:

Consider their role in providing health benefits to tenants and supporting young people to maximise their educational attainment.

North Ayrshire's Local Child Poverty Action Plan and Report 2019/20 recognises that the instance of child poverty within North Ayrshire is one of the highest in Scotland.

Research undertaken by Shelter suggests children can benefit from improved cognitive development and a reduction in behavioural issues through living in a more attractive, warmer, and better ventilated environment. All new build Council family homes have study space and private gardens.

We are also considering ways to allow young people to access construction related learning and training opportunities. Skills Development Scotland and the Council committed to contact every school leaver in 2021 to support and sign-post those who may be impacted by this year's qualifications' situation and those who have had offers of employment withdrawn or postponed. Developing the Young Workforce have also launched an online Skills Academy to support school leavers and job seekers.

We are committed to working alongside Education colleagues to determine how our housebuilding programme can support the Council's ambitions to encourage more young people into training and employment.

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The Kings Arms located in Irvine Town Centre will be redeveloped to provide 6 new amenity flats

Be attractive and have aesthetic value, to contribute to the regeneration of North Ayrshire, including its town centres.

The provision of affordable, modern and well-designed homes that meets residents' needs is one of nine strategic priorities within the Council Plan. Public sector investment can have a transformational impact within communities, and there are cumulative benefits through considering how this can be coordinated with developing partners and the private sector.

The Council explores site and area specific opportunities with partners to secure maximum regeneration benefits. This supports the ambitions of the Council's Regeneration Delivery Plan to drive forward development on strategic regeneration sites, including town centres. Town centre regeneration is a primary focus of the SHIP, with several projects completed to date within, or near, town centres.

The Fullarton tower blocks in Irvine is a major regeneration project

The SHIP supports major housing led regeneration in North Ayrshire, an example being provision for the replacement of the 275 homes in the Fullarton tower blocks in Irvine which are scheduled for demolition. The SHIP also includes the provision of funding for 250 units to assist the delivery and funding of Housing's Estate Based Regeneration Programme (EBRP). This investment aims to provide new homes to replace any stock which requires to be demolished or reconfigured as part of the EBRP.

Be sustainable. Project design, building materials and component parts will maximise energy efficiency and reduce running costs. Design will also contribute to community stability and promote feelings of safety and inclusion.

The Council's [Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy](#) includes actions to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. The delivery of new housing has a key role to play in carbon reduction, climate change mitigation, and alleviation of fuel poverty.

Biomass District Heating Network at Flatt Road, Largs

Dickson Drive, Irvine

The Council and its partners will continue to consider innovative and sustainable approaches to heat and power, such as low carbon heat, solar photovoltaic panels and smart technologies. The Council recognises that a 'fabric first' approach to sustainability can provide benefits to tenants, in terms of reducing heating costs, and also benefit the environment, all of our homes are designed to minimise heat loss.

The Council completed two ['sustainable demonstrator homes'](#) within Dickson Drive, Irvine in 2020 to highlight best practice in design and innovation, ensuring benefits from sustainable technologies are maximised. The benefits are currently being assessed, and the findings will be shared with partners to inform future developments. To build

upon this, we are developing a 'sustainability shopping basket' to establish a standard suite of sustainability measures for each development and have committed to engaging a sustainability expert to ensure technology delivers low fuel costs for tenants whilst maximising energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.

All Council developments are planned using 'secure by design' principles. Also, in recognition of the safety benefits of sprinkler systems, the Council is installing sprinklers in all new build housing proposals which reached technical design stage after October 2019, prior to the introduction of Building Standards legislation in March 2021.

Recognise local needs and aspirations and become an integral part of existing estates. Homes should be designed in such a way that they can be 'homes for life' and easily adapted to the changing needs of their occupants.

It has become clear from numerous development project consultation events carried out by the Council and its partners to date, that most local people express a preference for houses rather than flats. In some areas it may be appropriate to include flatted development, which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

In 2019, the updated North Ayrshire Housing Allocation Policy removed the age restriction for the allocation of amenity housing. The allocation of amenity homes to younger people with mobility requirements promotes independent living and 'homes for life'.

The Council and its partners recognise that bringing former social housing stock into ownership can assist with housing management and maintenance issues and increase housing available through the North Ayrshire Housing Register. Empty homes are detrimental to the local environment, often the target of antisocial behaviour and are more likely to fall into disrepair. Bringing empty homes back into use is a strategic priority within the current LHS and will continue to be a priority in the future. The second hand and empty homes buy back scheme can also assist the Council to deliver our Estate Based Regeneration Programme by acquiring homes in communal blocks or in areas identified for improvement through the scheme.

Before and after photographs of an empty home brought back into use

Maximise return on investment and value for money by considering build and lifetime maintenance costs.

As part of the tendering process we prepare a minimum specification for materials utilised in our new build developments to ensure that they align to our current lifecycle replacement and maintenance programmes. We have also developed a suite of standard house types to further assist with maintenance programmes and reduce project design costs.

The Council is committed to making efficiency savings through strategic procurement arrangements in the delivery of our new build affordable housing programme, to ensure value for money for our tenants. We have procured contractors for several SHIP projects through the HubSW, as part of a procurement strategy to achieve cost and time savings through economies of scale. The Council has also, with ten local authority partners, worked with Scotland Excel to develop a New Build Residential Construction Framework Agreement available for use by all Scottish local authorities and registered social landlords.

The LHS recognises that many tenants in social housing are on lower incomes and/or dependant on benefits. The Scottish Housing Regulator expects social landlords to be able to demonstrate affordability and engage meaningfully with tenants on rent increases. Therefore, to ensure homes are affordable, partners are expected to set rent levels on new build homes at or below the Local Housing Allowance.

Standard House Type: 3-bedroom ground floor living for wheelchair users

Involve the local community through consultation and wider action initiatives. The Council and our partners engage with local communities when developing all new build development sites through the SHIP. For Council projects local residents are invited to review and comment upon the draft plan for the site. Thereafter the final plans are presented to the community and local residents are also invited to 'Meet the Builder' when a contractor has been appointed.

The Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy introduced a new model to develop resilient, inclusive local economies, with more local employment and a larger and more diverse business base, ensuring that wealth is locally owned and benefits local people. Through the SHIP, contractors are expected to participate in the Council (or partners') Community Benefits scheme, providing apprenticeships to young people, skilling up the local workforce and supporting economic growth. Homes for Scotland suggests there are 4.1 jobs created for every new home constructed. Effective use of community benefit clauses in development contracts, and partnership work with colleagues in Economic Development to support our local construction and supply

chain companies to bid for this work, can secure many of these jobs for our local people.

The Council is currently developing a pilot model for employability by offering training and employment opportunities obtained through community benefits from Housing Services maintenance and investment contracts to our Housing First tenants, supporting some of our most complex support cases to sustain housing and employment.

The Council also plans to undertake a review of our Dickson Drive, Irvine house building pilot and will utilise this to inform a second project with Building Services to construct a number of new homes at Ayrshire Central, Irvine.

Seek to continually improve, with lessons learnt and good practice shared across all partners. The Council regularly meets with the Scottish Government and our partner RSLs to review the progress of the SHIP and share good practice and lessons learned. The Council also holds 'lessons learned' meetings and undertakes tenant satisfaction surveys for each site.

All projects which meet the criteria outlined within the SHIP will be considered to be 'high priority'. In the case of developments by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), the housing mix and type for each individual development site and the proposed rent levels for the new homes should be formally agreed with the Council prior to the submission of a planning application.

Projects from the SHIP 2021-2026 which have not yet completed have been included in the new 2022-2027 plan. Thereafter, the Council will prioritise all projects which are considered deliverable and meet the strategic goals outlined above.

Demand

Demand figures have been obtained from the [Housing Need and Demand Assessment](#) (HNDA) and the North Ayrshire Housing Register (NAHR). House size and type priorities have also been informed by the NAHR.

Location

North Ayrshire contains five Sub Housing Market Areas (SHMAs), these are:

Whilst there are 7,091 applicants on the NAHR, only 47.5% of these applicants (3,369) have a recognised housing need (NAHR, August 2021).

Arran	Garnock Valley	Irvine/Kilwinning	North Coast (incl. Cumbrae)	Three Towns

A SHMA is the widest area that a person would be willing to move to for new living accommodation for the purposes of strategic housing planning. Whilst the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership is committed to Locality Planning, the Local Housing Strategy is based on a Housing Need and Demand Assessment in line with legislation. The Assessment identifies sub housing market areas rather than localities. Generally, the SHMAs align to the locality areas except for Irvine and Kilwinning, who each have their own designated locality.

The Council's HNDA calculates a housing shortfall figure for each SHMA. It should be noted however that the HNDA figures do not reflect other strategic endeavours, such as regeneration or economic recovery, which impact on demand. They are intended to give an indication of the range of shortfall, rather than an absolute figure. This information has been plotted, in figure 1 below, against the total number of homes which have been, or will be developed, over the life of the HNDA and the SHIP. These new supply figures illustrate the aspiration to plan for a growing population, and to seek continued investment in our housing stock to improve overall stock condition.

Figure 1: SHIP Actual & Projected Completions 2016-2027 vs HNDA Demand 2016-2025 & Net Gain 2016-2027
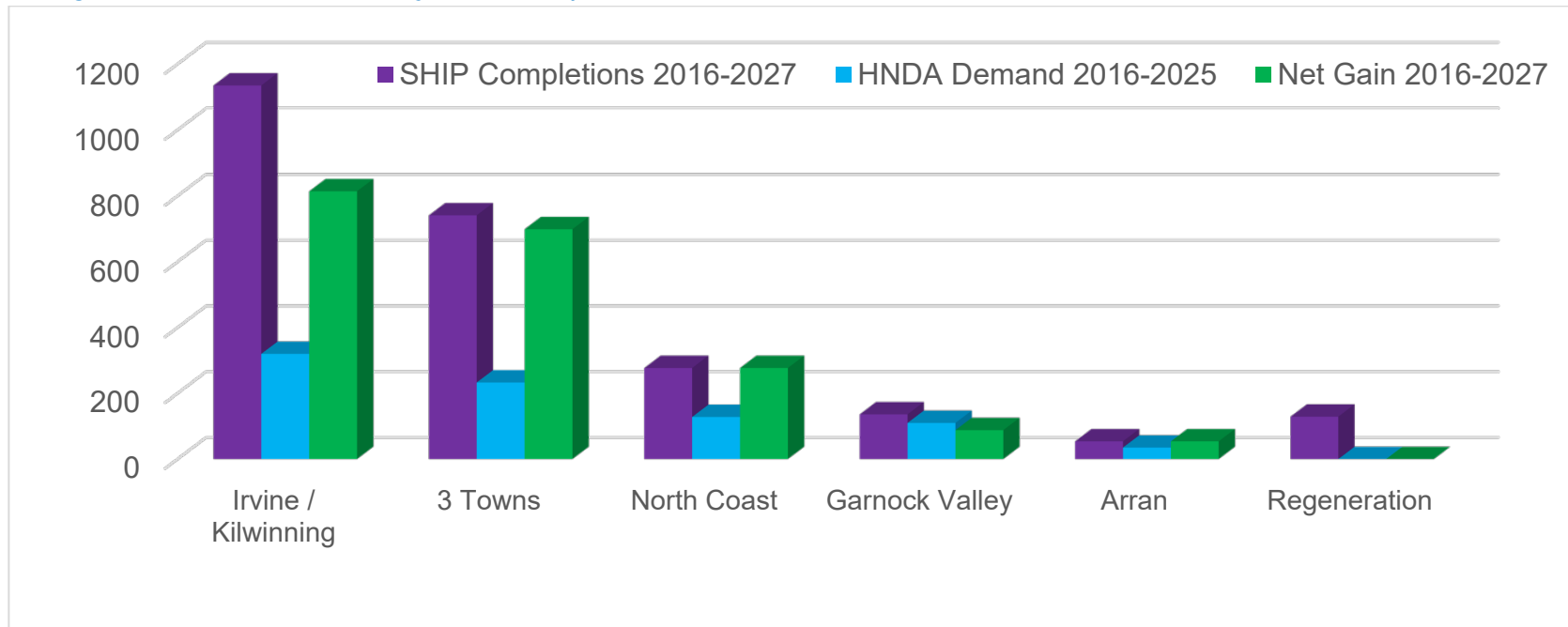
The 'net gain' columns indicate the additional homes available per locality following completion of the developments, minus the strategic demolitions set out in the SHIP.

In order to further inform demand for housing on the Isle of Arran, the Council is undertaking research to determine locality preferences for housing on the island.

Development is not the only policy intervention being explored by the Council. It would be very difficult for the Council and its partners to meet housing need only through investment in new homes.

Work to maintain and improve the condition of our existing social housing stock, provide aids and adaptations and improve the private rented sector are all intended to address the housing needs of the local population

Size

Whilst the overall demand figure is obtained from the Housing Need and Demand Assessment, analysis of the North Ayrshire Housing Register identifies demand trends for properties. House size has been identified by considering the minimum accommodation size suitable for the household; this is referred to as the 'strategic bedroom requirement'.

Table 1: % Applicants by Strategic Bedroom Requirement and SHMA

No of Beds	Three Towns	Arran	Garnock Valley	Irvine / Kilwinning	North Coast	North Ayrshire
1	57%	59%	59%	58%	60%	**58%**
2	16%	15%	12%	15%	14%	**15%**
3	15%	16%	17%	15%	14%	**15%**
4	8%	5%	6%	9%	8%	**8%**
5+	4%	5%	6%	3%	4%	**4%**

(Source: North Ayrshire Housing Register, August 2021)

The strategic bedroom need is used for planning purposes only. Generally, one-bedroom homes are found to be of lower demand. Two-bedroom homes are a more popular option for smaller households and are more flexible in meeting households' future needs. An additional bedroom can also provide study space, or space for home working.

An indicative size mix (Table 2) for developments across North Ayrshire has been prepared by uplifting the two-bedroom provision and reducing the one-bedroom, thus meeting tenant aspirations and providing flexibility in terms of property sizes as households change composition over time.

Table 2: Altered Demand by Bedroom Size (Reflecting Aspiration) and SHMA

No of Beds	Three Towns	Arran	Garnock Valley	Irvine / Kilwinning	North Coast	North Ayrshire
1	17%	19%	19%	18%	20%	**18%**
2	56%	55%	52%	55%	54%	**55%**
3	15%	16%	17%	15%	14%	**15%**
4+	12%	10%	12%	12%	12%	**12%**

This mix is intended as a guide only; each project will be considered on a site-by-site basis by the developing organisation, before being approved by the Council.

Specialist Housing Needs

Housing for Older People

Analysis of the HNDA and the NAHR indicates a rising need for accommodation for older people. For this reason, the LHS sets a target of approximately 25% of all new homes to be suitable for older people (i.e., amenity housing and sheltered accommodation). It is anticipated that these homes will primarily comprise one and two bedrooms. In the 12 months from 1 September 2020, 76% of applicants allocated amenity housing were aged over 51. The Council will continue to monitor the availability of housing for older people to ensure that their needs can be addressed through the affordable housing supply programme.

Alongside the new build progamme, the Council will continue to deliver our Sheltered Housing Re-provisioning Programme, which includes £25m investment in the refurbishment of sheltered housing units out with the SHIP.

Glencairn House Sheltered Complex
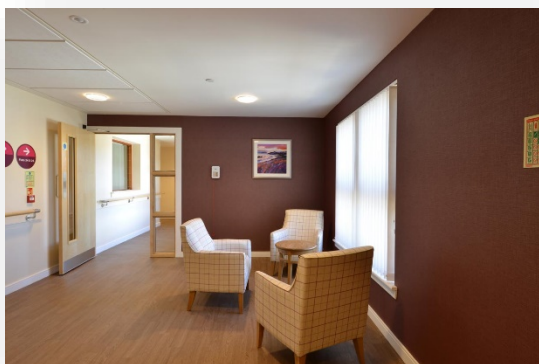
Dementia Friendly Design
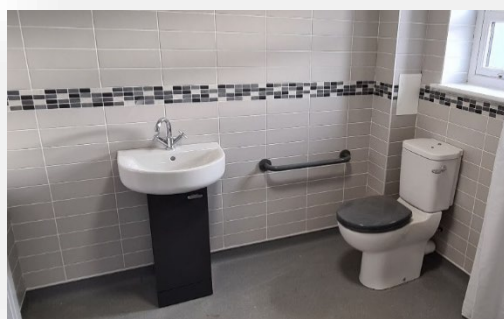
Wet Floor Shower Rooms with Contrasting Fittings as Standard

Visiting Service Rooms

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Extra Care Housing

Housing Services and the Health and Social Care Partnership worked together over the last few years to develop a model for Extra Care Sheltered Housing. The vision was to create safe, affordable homes for tenants who require additional support, with extra services to promote independent living, such as assistance with meals or welfare checks, to be available to tenants for an additional fee.

Following development of the outline model, demand analysis was undertaken by the Health and Social Care Partnership in 2021. At that time, it was determined that there was not sufficient demand to integrate the model into a new sheltered housing complex. The Council has, however, incorporated flexibility into some new build sheltered complexes to allow this model to be reconsidered in the future with minimal additional investment.

Assistive Technology

In order to promote independent living, the Flatt Road development in Largs is being used as an exemplar for assistive technology. Features that can be installed within the sheltered housing complex and supported accommodation, where required, to support tenants' individual needs include:

Super-fast broadband

Smart heating controls

Automatic lights and blinds

An integrated home communications hub with:						
video door entry	video calls	electronic welfare checks	enhanced assistive technology	safety monitors and sensors	electronic noteboard & calendar	android apps
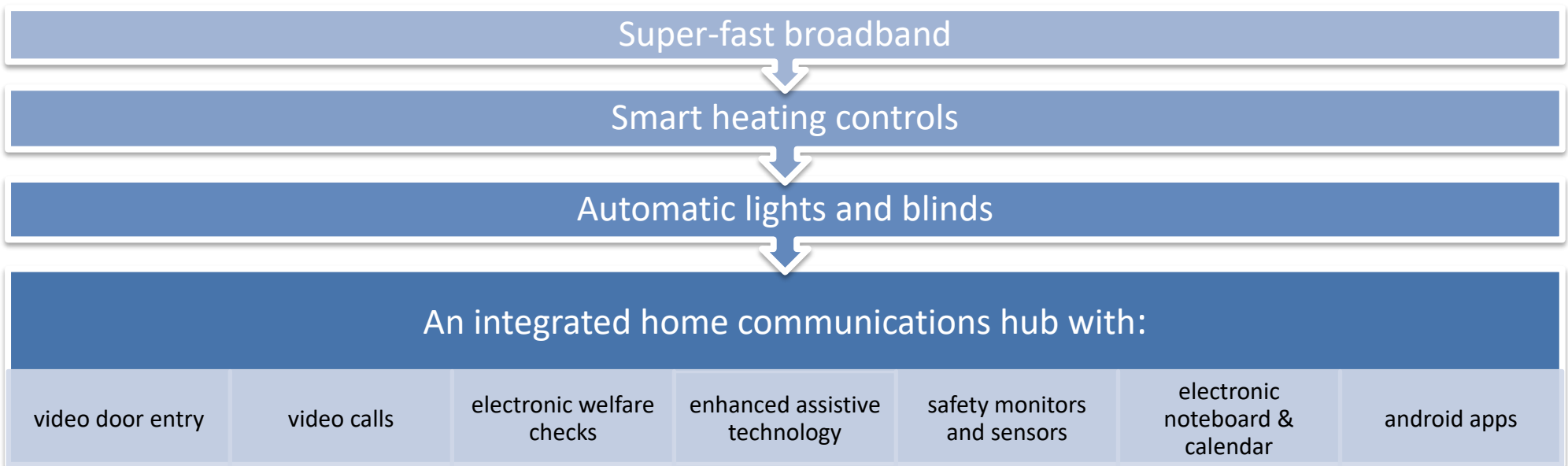
Wheelchair Accessible Accommodation

'Housing for Varying Needs', a national design guide, provides the following definitions which have been adopted by the LHS when describing the applicable specialist housing:

Ambulant Housing

Meets a wide range of specialist housing needs. The majority of demand is likely to be from the older age group, who have mobility problems, but who can walk with (or without) an aid. Some people in this group may occasionally use a wheelchair. Demand is not exclusive to the older age group; mobility issues can affect people throughout their lives, for various reasons.

Wheelchair User Housing

For people who use a wheelchair all or most of the time. The home will be level access throughout, have space for a wheelchair to circulate and access all rooms, a kitchen and bathroom that suits the occupant's particular needs and fittings and services that are within reach and easy to use. A wheelchair user may live alone, or with a carer or partner or be part of a family unit.

2 Bedroom Wheelchair User Bungalow

All amenity and sheltered housing in North Ayrshire should be built to an ambulant housing standard as a minimum. To ensure need is met now and in the future, the LHS sets a target for all partners to ensure at least 7% of all new build stock is fully wheelchair accessible. To date, 16% of new build homes delivered by North Ayrshire Council are suitable for wheelchair users. It should be noted that most demand for wheelchair user housing comes from those under 60 years old. In addition, we have a set of standard house types for our developments, which are of an accessible design to accommodate changing mobility needs.

In 2019, the Scottish Government issued guidance for local authorities on the setting of LHS targets to support the delivery of more wheelchair accessible housing, including the requirement for a private sector target. The Council will consider this during renewal of the LHS in 2022, and the next Local Development Plan due to be published in 2023.

Occasionally it may be necessary to build larger specialist housing to meet the specific needs of individual households. Where this is being provided by an RSL, the Council will approve the proposals before a planning application is submitted.

Supported Accommodation

Officers within the Place Directorate and the Health and Social Care Partnership have developed a new supported accommodation housing model for implementation at various sites across North Ayrshire.

The focus is on maximising independence for adults within a homely setting, who require a higher level of support, and who are living with learning disabilities, or mental ill-health issues (all ages), or who are under 65 years and have physical disabilities. The new supported accommodation model can:

Supported accommodation at Bessie Dunlop Court, Dalry

- prevent demand for additional services
- support a more independent lifestlye for service users
- integrate residents into community life
- use technological advances to support care provision
- provide care and support in a homely setting
- provide a base for effective care provision
- realise financial savings for the HSCP

The SHIP will support the Health and Social Care Partnership to meet specialist housing need through dedicated supported accommodation projects, and as part of a wider site mix on other developments. The SHIP makes provision for delivery of 47 supported accommodation housing units at three different locations in addition to the 15 homes already delivered.

Gypsy / Travellers

The Council has not identified any additional demand issues in relation to accommodation for gypsy / travellers. We will, however, review the condition of our permanent site at Redburn, Irvine in consultation with residents to identify any future maintenance and investment works.

When this review is complete, the Council will apply to the Scottish Governments Gypsy / Traveller Accommodation Fund to seek funding for any necessary renovation or improvements to our Redburn site.

Island Communities

The Council is committed to supporting our island communities. 18 new homes were completed on the Isle of Cumbrae during summer 2021. The site provided a mixture of general needs houses, amenity bungalows and homes for wheelchair users.

The Council will also complete 34 new homes at Brathwic Terrace on the Isle of Arran during February 2022. We introduced a 'Local Lettings Initiative' for Arran and will closely monitor demand on the island after the allocation of the new homes.

The Local Lettings Initiative gives additional priority to island residents and key workers.

In addition, Trust Housing Association is currently in discussions with a local landowner to develop 20 new units on Arran. These developments, alongside work with communities on the island, are anticipated to stimulate investment in other infrastructure (transport, marine, digital) to encourage economic growth.

St Beya Gardens, Cumbrae

St Beya Gardens, Cumbrae

Brathwic Terrace, Arran

Homelessness

North Ayrshire Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan 2019 – 2024 was approved in 2019. Our vision is *to reduce the time spent in temporary accommodation by enabling homeless households to access settled accommodation quickly and with the right support to sustain their housing outcome*. The North Ayrshire RRTP outcomes are:
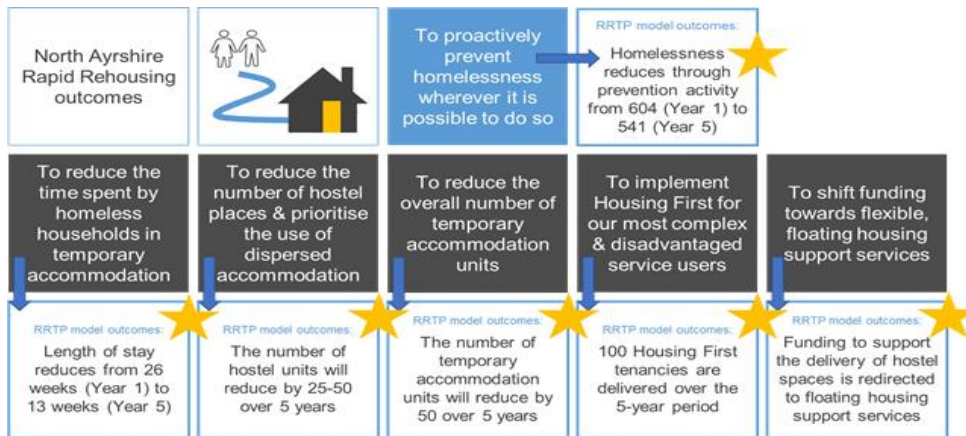
The provision of new affordable housing through the Strategic Housing Investment Plan will continue to support the delivery of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

Alternative Models of Affordable Housing Delivery

Recognising that a suite of affordable housing solutions is required to meet the needs and aspirations of local people, the Council has embarked on two pilot projects aimed at the private housing sector.

The 'HOME (Home Ownership Made Easy)' project is based on a model devised by Scottish Futures Trust. This shared ownership housing option will provide households the opportunity to purchase a stake in a home. Two options are available, which have been named for the level of investment required to secure the HOME:

- The £5k HOME, aimed at first time buyers.
- The £40k HOME, aimed at owner-occupiers over 60 years who wish to downsize or secure more accessible housing.

The Council's 'BUILD' project will offer six fully serviced self-build plots for sale to individuals interested in this type of project.

Private Sector Property Condition

The Council's revised Scheme of Assistance 2019 introduced a range of new measures to improve private sector housing condition, including:

A 'pre-tenancy support service' for landlords to aid the prevention of future property condition issues.

A 'missing shares scheme' to remove barriers where a property owner refuses to meet their common repair obligations.

Use of the Council's powers for Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) where appropriate to acquire empty properties in poor condition, bringing them back into mainstream housing stock.

SHIP Funding Streams

Affordable Housing Supply Programme
The Scottish Government has committed to providing North Ayrshire with £81.210m of affordable housing funding for the Council and our RSL partners from April 2021 to March 2026 (see table 3 below). The SHIP is based on projected Scottish Government grant funding provision of £98.943m for the Council and our RSL partners during the period 2022 – 2027. Funding for Council projects has been assumed at a rate of £87,025 per unit.

Reserves & Balances
All developing organisations will utilise available reserves and balances to support the development programme.

Borrowing
The majority of development funding is secured from borrowing. Private finance supports RSLs' development programme, and prudential borrowing supports local authority new build projects.

Affordable Housing Policy Developer Contributions
The Council's previous Affordable Housing Policy (RES4), which required contributions to affordable housing provision from specified private developments within North Ayrshire, was removed within the new Local Development Plan (LDP2) which was adopted on 28 November 2019. Developer contributions, in the form of commuted sums, received through the application of the Affordable Housing Policy to date under the previous Local Development Plan, will be utilised to fund projects being delivered through the SHIP, when required.

Other Funding Sources
The Council will consider utilising the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund to support the regeneration of SHIP sites, where strategically aligned to the Council's Regeneration Delivery Plan.

Council Tax on Empty & Second Homes
Income received from the reduction in discount for empty and second homes in North Ayrshire is held in the Council's Affordable Housing Account. The Council provides grant funding to support the development of projects within the SHIP from the Affordable Housing Account, when required.

To meet the requirement for 'slippage', in accordance with Scottish Government guidance, the Council has over committed the funding within the SHIP. The slippage requirement is to ensure that the allocation is fully spent even if delays or constraints emerge on other development sites, and to provide the opportunity for North Ayrshire to absorb slippage from other local authority areas.

Table 3: North Ayrshire Resource Planning Assumption per Annum 2021/22 to 2025/26

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total
RPA	£18.205m	£15.692m	£15.648m	£15.702m	£15.963m	**£81.210m**

Planning and other Regulatory Matters

In 2014, the Council's Cabinet approved the House Building Protocol, to be used in all Council housing development projects that meet the criteria for permitted development. Class 33 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992, as amended, enables local authorities to carry out works, within their district, for the erection of dwellings so long as the development conforms with the Local Development Plan.

In 2019, it was agreed that all future Council housing developments progressed as permitted development will be required to obtain a 'Certificate of Lawfulness' from the Council's Planning Service. This will certify that each site within the SHIP has been considered against the full terms of the adopted Local Development Plan. Housing development proposals by the Council which do not fall within the scope of permitted development, including schemes which require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will require planning permission. Proposals over 0.5 hectares in area will require to be screened for the purposes of EIA.

Risks to delivering the SHIP

Whilst delivery of the SHIP programme has been recovered following the temporary suspension of all projects on site in March 2020, this has had longer term implications. COVID-19 continues to have an impact on the construction industry.

Through our own experience and engagement with RSLs and other developers, development constraints or risks to delivery of the programme have been identified as:

- Building costs inflation and rising tender prices
- Shortages of materials
- Capacity within the building and development industry across the country
- Costs of infrastructure and ground remediation
- Delays to getting statutory utility consents in place
- Workforce interruptions related to COVID-19

The Council and our partners will continue to work closely to monitor and actively manage these risks through the period of the SHIP.

Amendments or Additions to the SHIP

The delegated authority to accelerate any project detailed within the North Ayrshire approved SHIP is held by the Executive Director (Place) and the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability.

SHIP Development Projects

An overview of projects detailed in the SHIP tables is provided below by locality.

Irvine & Kilwinning

Project	Timeline	Site Information
Dalrymple Place, Irvine (NAC) 33 units	Site Start: January 2020 Expected Completion: Autumn/winter 2021	Previously a 22-unit sheltered housing complex, the site has been demolished to provide 33 new homes comprising a mix of sheltered housing and bungalows suitable for wheelchair users in a high demand area.
St. Michael's Wynd, Kilwinning (NAC) 79 units	Site Start: September 2020 Expected Completion: Autumn/winter 2022	The homes link to the first phase St Michael's Wynd development. The site includes general needs, amenity, wheelchair user housing, sheltered housing and supported accommodation and benefits from good transport links.
Former Towerlands Primary, Irvine (NAC) 50 units	Site Start: February 2020 Expected Completion: Winter 2021 / early 2022	The site provides general needs, amenity and wheelchair user properties on the former school site.
Harbourside, Irvine (NAC) 71 units	Site Start: October 2020 Expected Completion: Autumn/winter 2022	The site is in a high-demand area and is a short walk from Irvine Beach Park, the town centre, shopping mall and train station. The site will deliver an intergenerational development with a particular focus on older people's housing provision.
Bourtreehill Village, Irvine (NAC) 32 units	Site Start: Spring 2022 Expected Completion: Summer 2024	The site will see the regeneration of the Bourtreehill Village area of Irvine. Consultations are underway with residents of the local area and interested parties to develop the vision for the site.

Corsehillhead, Kilwinning (NAC) 7 units	Site Start: Spring 2022 Expected Completion: Early 2023	The site will deliver a mix of general needs and amenity accommodation in the Corsehill area of Kilwinning.
Redevelopment 10, 11b & 14 Irvine (NAC) 168 units	Site Start: Spring/summer 2022 Expected Completion: Autumn 2025.	This site will provide a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user accommodation. This site is currently confidential due to a requirement for public consultation and for acquisition of land.
Ayrshire Central, Irvine (NAC) 171 units	Site Start: Spring/summer 2022 Expected Completion: Autumn/winter 2024	Located in a high demand area, this site will deliver a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair properties at the Ayrshire Central, Irvine site.
Stanecastle, Irvine (NAC) 28 units	Site Start: Spring 2022 Expected Completion: Summer/autumn 2023	This site will deliver a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user accommodation on the site of the former Stanecastle School.
Fullarton Street, Irvine (NAC) 54 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Summer 2024	This project will deliver a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair accommodation on the site of the Irvine High Flats which are scheduled for demolition.
King's Arms, Irvine (NAC) 6 units	Site Start: Autumn/winter 2022 Expected Completion: Autumn/winter 2024	This project involves the regeneration of a prominent town centre building to deliver six amenity flats.
Confidential Site 1 (Cairn) 20 units	Site Start: Early 2023 Expected Completion: Summer 2024	This development will provide general needs, amenity and wheelchair accommodation. This site is currently confidential due to a requirement for planning consent and for acquisition of land.
Confidential Site 3 (Cairn) 4 units	Site Start: Spring 2024 Expected Completion: Spring 2025	This site has the capacity for 4 affordable, general needs homes. This site is currently confidential due to a requirement for planning consent and for acquisition of land.
West Byrehill, Kilwinning (CHA) 72 units	Site Start: Spring 2021 Expected Completion: Spring 2023	Located on the edge of Kilwinning, this site will provide a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user homes.
Harbour Road, Irvine (CHA) 29 units	Site Start: Spring 2022 Expected Completion: Summer 2023	Located in Irvine Harbourside this site will provide 29 new homes in close proximity to the town centre and Irvine train station.
Annick Drive, Dreghorn (CHA) 20 units	Site Start: n/a Expected Completion: n/a	This site has been removed from the SHIP as it is not financially viable.

Project	Timeline	Site Information
Tarryholme, Irvine, Phase 2 (IHA) 77 units	Site Start: Summer 2021 Expected Completion: Early/spring 2023	This project is a second phase of the Tarryholme development which will deliver an additional 77 units.
Bank Street, Irvine (IHA) 16 units	Site Start: Autumn 2022 Expected Completion: Summer 2023	This town centre regeneration project in Irvine will deliver 16 new homes for affordable rent.

Three Towns

Project	Timeline	Site Information
Springvale Depot, Saltcoats (NAC) 14 units	Site Start: Winter 2020 Expected Completion: Winter 2021	This project provided a regeneration opportunity for a surplus site in the Council's ownership. It will comprise a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user properties.
Caley Court, Stevenston (NAC) 16 units	Site Start: Summer 2021 Expected Completion: Late summer 2022	This development is located on the site of a former sheltered housing complex. The new homes will provide supported accommodation with an on-site staff base in close proximity to Stevenston town centre and train station.
Afton Court, Stevenston (NAC) 6 units	Site Start: Spring 2022 Expected Completion: Winter 2022	This town centre regeneration project will bring the site of the former Afton Court sheltered housing complex back into use. The site can accommodate 6 amenity bungalows, recognising the highly accessible nature of this location. It is currently anticipated that modular construction will be utilised for this development to reduce the time on site and the impact of the works on local residents.
Former James McFarlane, Saltcoats (NAC) 18 units	Site Start: Spring 2022 Expected Completion: Spring/summer 2023	The site of the former James McFarlane school has capacity for 18 affordable homes, providing general needs, amenity and wheelchair accommodation.
Former James Reid & Focus Centre, Saltcoats (NAC) 44 units	Site Start: Spring 2022 Expected Completion: Winter 2023	The site of the former James Reid school and the former Focus Centre has capacity for 44 affordable homes, providing general needs, amenity and wheelchair accommodation.
Glebe Place, Saltcoats (NAC) 8 units	Site Start: Spring 2024 Expected Completion: Spring/summer 2025	This regeneration project which includes the demolition of low demand flats can accommodate approximately 8 new affordable homes near Saltcoats town centre.

Regeneration Project 1d, Ardrossan (NAC) 36 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Spring 2025	This project provides a regeneration opportunity for 36 affordable homes, comprising general needs, amenity and wheelchair accommodation.
Regeneration Project 1e, Ardrossan (NAC) 7 units	Site Start: Spring 2024 Expected Completion: Spring/summer 2025	This regeneration opportunity can accommodate approximately 7 new affordable homes.
Glebe Street, Saltcoats (CHA) 2 units	Site Start: January 2021 Expected Completion: Winter 2021	This formerly vacant site will deliver 2 wheelchair user homes. This site is also being supported by funding from the Council's Affordable Housing Account.
Green Street, Saltcoats (CHA) 24 units	Site Start: Early 2022 Expected Completion: Spring 2023	Demolition of the former building on the site is now complete and works to construct the 24 new amenity homes will commence during 2022.
Sharphill Phase 4, Saltcoats (CHA) 76 units	Site Start: January 2020 Expected Completion: Early/spring 2022	Work is underway at this development which will deliver a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user homes.
Sharphill Phase 5, Saltcoats (CHA) 82 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Winter 2024	The next phase of the Sharphill site will deliver an additional 82 new homes, providing a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user homes.
Confidential Site 8, Stevenston (CHA) 19 units	Site Start: Autumn/winter 2022 Expected Completion: Autumn/winter 2023	This site has capacity for 19 homes and is confidential until site feasibility can be confirmed.
Confidential Site 9, Stevenston (CHA) 70 units	Site Start: Spring 2024 Expected Completion: Winter 2025	This site has capacity for up to 70 new homes. Parts of the site are located on Open Ground and can only progress subject to public consultation and a Planning Application for change of use.
Confidential Site 10, Ardrossan (CHA) 50 units	Site Start: Spring 2024 Expected Completion: Winter 2025	This project has capacity for up to 50 homes and is confidential until site feasibility can be confirmed.
Confidential Site 11, Saltcoats (CHA) 22 units	Site Start: Spring 2024 Expected Completion: Winter 2025	This site has been anonymised as it requires further work to ensure that it complies with the Council's strategic priorities.
Parkend Gardens, Saltcoats (Link) 12 units	Site Start: Early 2023 Expected Completion: Early 2024	This development is located in close proximity to Saltcoats town centre and adjacent to North Ayrshire Council's new development at Kyleshill Court, Saltcoats. It will deliver a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair accommodation.

North Coast

Project	Timeline	Site Information
Flatt Road, Largs (NAC) 123 units	Site Start: 24 June 2019 Expected Completion: Summer 2022	This site is located in North Ayrshire's most highly pressured housing market and delivers a mix of general needs, wheelchair liveable and amenity properties. A sheltered housing complex with a community hub and a separate new supported accommodation with an on-site staff base. The site will also be used as an exemplar for assistive technology.
Former St. Colm's Place, Largs (NAC) 29 units	Site Start: June 2021 Expected Completion: Autumn/winter 2022	The former sheltered housing complex at St. Colm's Place has now been demolished and will be re-built as part of the sheltered housing re-provisioning programme. Located in a high demand central area it has good transport links and access to the town centre.
Former Largs Police Station (NAC) 12 units	Site Start: Early 2022 Expected Completion: Early 2023	Located adjacent to the former St. Colm's Place the former Largs Police Station has capacity to develop 12 amenity flats in the high demand, town centre, location.

Garnock Valley

Project	Timeline	Site Information
Former Garnock Academy, Kilbirnie (NAC) 50 units	Site Start: Spring 2022 Expected Completion: Autumn/winter 2023	The site of the former Garnock Academy will see the development of a mixture of general needs homes, amenity bungalows and homes suitable for wheelchair users.
Laburnum Avenue, Beith (NAC) 6 units	Site Start: Autumn 2022 Expected Completion: Spring 2024	This development will regenerate low demand flatted accommodation to deliver 6 new affordable homes in Beith.
Newhouse Drive, Kilbirnie (NAC) 7 units	Site Start: Autumn 2022 Expected Completion: Spring 2024	This development will regenerate low demand flatted accommodation to deliver 7 new affordable homes in Kilbirnie.

Arran

Project	Timeline	Site Information
Brathwic Terrace, Brodick (NAC) 34 units	Site Start: February 2020 Expected Completion: February 2022	The site is a short distance from a number of shops and cafes, as well as the ferry terminal. This is the first Council housing development on the island since the stock transfer to Trust Housing Association (then Isle of Arran Homes).
Confidential Site 4 (Trust HA) 20 units	Site Start: Spring 2023 Expected Completion: Autumn/winter 2024	This site is confidential to allow the acquisition of land and whilst site viability is confirmed.

Locality to be Confirmed

Project	Timeline	Site Information
Unallocated Regeneration Blocks (NAC) 99 units	Site Start: Autumn 2023 Expected Completion: Autumn 2026	This involves the regeneration of 99 properties to deliver a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user properties. The locations for these projects have still to be finalised.
Regeneration Project 3 (IHA) 30 units	Site Start: Spring 2024 Expected Completion: Spring 2026	This project involves the regeneration of 30 properties to deliver a mix of general needs, amenity and wheelchair user properties. The location has still to be finalised.

Appendix 1 CONFIDENTIAL SHIP 2022 - 2027

Site	Town	Site Coordinates	Dev	Units	Type	Estimated Site Start	Estimated Practical Completion	SHIP Approval Year	Site Starts Pre 2022/23	Site Starts 2022/23	Site Starts 2023/24	Site Starts 2024/25	Site Starts 2025/26	Site Starts 2026/27	Site Completions 2021/22	Site Completions 2022/23	Site Completions 2023/24	Site Completions 2024/25	Site Completions 2025/26	Site Completions 2026/27	Scottish Government Grant	General Needs	Amenity	Supported	Wheelchair	GFL	Sheltered	SHIP Spend 2022/23	SHIP Spend 2023/24	SHIP Spend 2024/25	SHIP Spend 2025/26	SHIP Spend 2026/27
Flatt Road (Phase 1 & 2)	Lrgs	X: 220870 Y: 659464	NAC	123	New Build	24 Jun 19	31 Jul 22	2019/20	123						81	42					-	49	16	22	5	3	28	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Friars Lawn (Refurb 5)	Kilw	X: 229881 Y: 643272	NAC	22	Refurb	30 Sep 19	30 Nov 21	2019/20	22						22						-						22	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Dalrymple Place (Redev 2)	Irv	X: 232947 Y: 639017	NAC	33	New Build	20 Jan 20	31 Oct 21	2019/20	33						33						-				9		24	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Towerlands Primary School	Irv	X: 232773 Y: 652754	NAC	50	New Build	17 Feb 20	31 Jan 22	2019/20	50						50						-	20	12		5	13		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
St. Beya Gardens	Cumbrae	X: 216954 Y: 655538	NAC	18	New Build	24 Feb 20	08 Jul 21	2019/20	18						18						-	3	9		3	3		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Brathwic Terrace	Arran	X: 201898 Y: 635460	NAC	34	New Build	24 Feb 20	28 Feb 22	2019/20	34						34						-	17	8		2	7		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
St. Michael's Wynd	Kilw	X: 229250 Y: 643100	NAC	79	New Build	14 Sep 20	30 Sep 22	2020/21	79							79					-	34	2	10	2	7	24	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Kinnier Road (Refurb 7)	Salt	X: 225152 Y: 641959	NAC	2	Refurb	28 Sep 20	30 Nov 21	2020/21	2						2						-	2						£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Springvale Depot	Salt	X: 224596 Y: 641591	NAC	14	New Build	19 Oct 20	30 Nov 21	2020/21	14						14						-	6	2		2	4		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Harbourside	Irv	X: 230880 Y: 638145	NAC	71	New Build	26 Oct 20	30 Jul 23	2020/21	71							71					-	25	11		4	4	27	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
St. Colm's Place (Redev 5)	Lrgs	X: 220370 Y: 659565	NAC	29	New Build	09 Jun 21	31 Oct 22	2019/20	29							29					£1,711,000						29	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Caley Court	Stev	X: 226725 Y: 641478	NAC	16	New Build	16 Aug 21	31 Aug 22	2021/22	16							16					£1,123,123	1		15				£623,123	£0	£0	£0	£0
Largs Police Station (Redev 13)	Lrgs	X: 220315 Y: 659560	NAC	12	New Build	31 Jan 22	31 Jan 23	2021/22	12							12					£1,044,300		12					£567,269	£0	£0	£0	£0
Afton Court (Redev 6a)	Stev	X: 226665 Y: 641885	NAC	6	New Build	01 Apr 22	30 Nov 22	2021/22		6						6					£522,150		6					£522,150	£0	£0	£0	£0
Corsehillhead	Kilw	X: 231315 Y: 643095	NAC	7	New Build	01 Apr 22	28 Feb 23	2021/22		7						7					£609,175	5	2					£478,675	£0	£0	£0	£0
James McFarlane (Redev 8a)	Ardr	X: 223300 Y: 643345	NAC	18	New Build	01 Apr 22	31 May 23	2021/22		18							18				£1,566,450	7	6		1	4		£1,000,000	£386,450	£0	£0	£0
Stanecastle (Redev 11a)	Irv	X: 234070 Y: 640150	NAC	28	New Build	01 Apr 22	01 Sep 23	2021/22		28							28				£2,436,700	12	7		5	4		£500,000	£1,656,700	£0	£0	£0
James Reid & FC (Redev 8b)	Salt	X: 225511 Y: 642690	NAC	44	New Build	01 Apr 22	30 Nov 23	2021/22		44							44				£3,829,100	20	11		7	6		£1,500,000	£1,889,100	£0	£0	£0
Garnock Academy (Redev 9)	Kilb	X: 231290 Y:654800	NAC	50	New Build	01 Apr 22	30 Nov 23	2021/22		50							50				£4,351,250	39	3		2	6		£2,000,000	£1,851,250	£0	£0	£0
Bourtreehill Village (Redev 7)	Irv	X: 234475 Y: 639220	NAC	32	New Build	01 Apr 22	01 Jul 24	2022/23		32								32			£2,784,800	20	6		2	4		£0	£1,000,000	£1,784,800	£0	£0
Ayrshire Central (Redev 12)	Irv	X: 232105 Y: 640785	NAC	171	New Build	01 Apr 22	30 Nov 24	2022/23		171							100	71			£14,881,275	31	84		24	32		£2,000,000	£5,000,000	£5,628,339	£0	£0
2nd Hand & Empty Home Buy Backs	!	!	NAC	25	Buy Back	01 Apr 22	31 Mar 27	2021/22		5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	£1,000,000	25						£200,000	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000
Redevelopment 10, 11b & 14	Irv	TBA	NAC	168	New Build	01 May 22	30 Nov 25	2022/23		168							50	68	50		£14,620,200	74	48		19	27		£4,000,000	£3,000,000	£3,000,000	£3,620,200	£0
Laburnum Avenue (Regen Project 1a)	Beith	X: 234170 Y: 653640	NAC	6	New Build	01 Oct 22	31 Mar 24	2022/23		6							6				£522,150		4		2			£522,150	£0	£0	£0	£0
Newhouse Drive (Regen Project 1b)	Kilb	X: 230940 Y: 653815	NAC	7	New Build	01 Oct 22	31 Mar 24	2022/23		7							7				£609,175		5		2			£0	£609,175	£0	£0	£0
King's Arms (Regen 1c)	Irv	X: 232090 Y: 638935	NAC	6	New Build	01 Oct 22	31 Mar 24	2022/23		6							6				£522,150		6					£0	£522,150	£0	£0	£0
Fullarton Street (HF)	Irv	X: 232050 Y: 638550	NAC	54	New Build	01 Feb 23	30 Jun 24	2022/23		54								54			£4,699,350	19	21		7	7		£0	£1,000,000	£3,699,350	£0	£0
Regeneration Project 1d	Ardr	TBA	NAC	36	New Build	01 Apr 23	30 Apr 25	2023/24			36								36		£3,132,900	20	5			11		£0	£0	£500,000	£2,632,900	£0
Glebe Place	Salt	X: 224700 Y: 641700	NAC	8	New Build	01 Apr 24	30 Apr 25	2024/25				8							8		£696,200	5	3					£0	£196,200	£500,000	£0	£0
Regeneration Project 1e	Ardr	TBA	NAC	7	New Build	01 Apr 24	30 Apr 25	2024/25				7							7		£609,175	5	2					£0	£0	£500,000	£109,175	£0
Unallocated Regeneration Block 1	TBA	TBA	NAC	49	New Build	01 Oct 23	30 Sep 25	2023/24			49							38	11		£4,264,225	24	10		10	5		£0	£0	£1,716,775	£2,547,450	£0
Unallocated Regeneration Block 2	TBA	TBA	NAC	50	New Build	01 Sep 24	30 Sep 26	2024/25				50								50	£4,351,250	24	11		10	5		£0	£0	£0	£2,000,000	£2,351,250
Confidential Site 1 ❷	Irv	TBA	Cairn	20	New Build	01 Feb 23	31 Jul 24	2022/23		20								20			£1,600,000	15			5			£200,000	£1,400,000	£0	£0	£0
Confidential Site 3	Kilw	TBA	Cairn	4	New Build	01 Apr 24	31 Mar 25	2023/24				4						4			£320,000	4						£0	£0	£320,000	£0	£0
Sharphill (Ph 4)	Salt	X: 225343 Y: 643182	CHA	76	New Build	20 Jan 20	28 Feb 22	2019/20	76						76						£6,915,235	65	5		5	1		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
West Byrehill (Phase 1 & 2)	Kilw	X: 228760 Y: 642710	CHA	72	New Build	12 Apr 21	28 Feb 23	2020/21	72							72					£6,901,729	59	8		3	2		£5,237,729	£0	£0	£0	£0
Glebe Street (Confidential Site 5)	Salt	X: 224625 Y: 641747	CHA	2	New Build	07 Jan 21	30 Dec 21	2020/21	2						2						£144,000				2			£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Green Street (Confidential Site 7)	Salt	X: 224755 Y: 641300	CHA	24	New Build	08 Jan 22	31 Mar 23	2021/22	24							24					£1,910,000		22		2			£1,365,000	£0	£0	£0	£0
Confidential Site 11	Salt	TBA	CHA	22	New Build	30 Aug 22	31 Aug 23	2022/23		22							22				£2,100,000		21		1			£100,000	£1,500,000	£500,000	£0	£0
Harbour Road	Irv	X: 231397 Y: 638254	CHA	29	New Build	01 May 22	31 Jul 23	2022/23	29								29				£2,700,000	28			1			£2,000,000	£700,000	£0	£0	£0
Annick Drive ꝓ	Dreg	X: 234967 Y: 638261	CHA	-	New Build	-	-	-													-							£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Confidential Site 8	Stev	TBA	CHA	19	New Build	01 Sep 22	30 Sep 23	2022/23		19							19				£1,680,000	19						£180,000	£1,500,000	£0	£0	£0
Confidential Site 9 ❷	Stev	TBA	CHA	70	New Build	01 Apr 24	01 Dec 25	2024/25				70							70		£4,640,000	64	2		4			£0	£0	£1,000,000	£3,640,000	£0
Sharphill (Ph 5)	Salt	X: 225351 Y: 643409	CHA	82	New Build	01 Apr 23	01 Dec 24	2023/24			82							82			£7,512,122	64	16		1	1		£0	£3,246,122	£3,000,000	£0	£0
Confidential Site 10	Ardr	TBA	CHA	50	New Build	01 Apr 24	31 Oct 25	2024/25				50							50		£4,430,000	45	3		2			£0	£0	£4,430,000	£0	£0
Parkend Gardens	Salt	X: 225165 Y: 641130	Link	12	New Build	31 Jan 23	31 Jan 24	2022/23		12							12				£1,068,384	8	3		1			£0	£297,759	£600,000	£0	£0
Tarryholme (Ph 2)	Irv	X: 233023 Y: 637910	Riverside	77	New Build	07 Jun 21	06 Feb 23	2020/21	77							77					-	30	36		5	6		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Bank Street (111)	Irv	X: 232720 Y: 639260	Riverside	16	New Build	30 Sep 22	30 Jul 23	2022/23		16							16				£1,152,000	16						£700,000	£452,100	£0	£0	£0
Regeneration Project 3	TBA	TBA	Riverside	30	New Build	01 Apr 24	31 Mar 26	2024/25				30							30		£2,160,000	18	6		2	4		£0	£0	£1,500,000	£660,000	£0
Confidential Site 4 ꝓ	Arran	TBA	Trust	20	New Build	01 Feb 23	31 Oct 24	2023/24		20								20			£2,000,000	15	3		2			£0	£500,000	£1,500,000	£0	£0
Total				**1900**					**783**	**781**	**172**	**154**	**5**	**5**	**332**	**489**	**467**	**360**	**197**	**55**	**£117,119,568**	**937**	**437**	**47**	**159**	**166**	**154**	**£23,173,946**	**£28,210,706**	**£29,757,614**	**£15,249,725**	**£2,551,250**

Legend:

- SHIP 2021 - 2026
- New addition to SHIP
- Confidential Sites
- Removed from SHIP 2022 - 2027

ꝓ The access point for this development should be agreed with NAC Roads as the existing road network may not cope with the additional units

❷ This site is located on Open Ground and can only progress subject to a Planning Application for change of use

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

2 November 2021

Cabinet

Title:	**Levelling Up Fund – Round 2**
Purpose:	To update Cabinet on the UK Government Levelling Up Fund and to seek agreement to Officers finalising and submitting an appropriate Round 2 bid based on Commercial Estate Development and associated Low Carbon Infrastructure.
Recommendation:	That Cabinet: a) Notes the progress to date on the previously agreed submissions to the Levelling Up Fund; b) Notes that Officers have continued to develop a potential second round bid with South Ayrshire Council centred on Commercial Estate Development and associated Low Carbon Infrastructure; c) Agrees to the finalisation and submission of a proposed Round 2 bid together with an associated business case, to the UK Government totalling up to £40m with South Ayrshire Council (maximum £20m per Authority); and d) Notes that 10% (up to £2m) match funding will be required and will be met from existing capital resources.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) is a £4.8 billion capital investment fund to support town centre and high street regeneration, local transport projects, and cultural and heritage assets. North Ayrshire Council has been identified as a 'priority one' area and has been allocated up to three applications. This is comprised of one application per UK parliamentary constituency and one transport application.

1.2 In June 2021, Cabinet approved the submission of two applications to the first round of funding which included the proposed B714 Upgrade and the Gateway to the West Coast and Clyde Islands strategic regeneration package bid. The report agreed by Cabinet also noted the intended development of a further application with South Ayrshire Council for the Central Ayrshire constituency which covers the two Authorities.

1.3 Definitive timescales for the submission and consideration of the Round 2 bids are still awaited with an anticipation of an Autumn 2021 date. Although details of submission dates are still awaited, it is expected that there will be a challenging turnaround time from date of announcement to actual bid submission. Officers therefore continue to

develop a joint bid with South Ayrshire Council whilst awaiting confirmation of submission timescales. The proposed application and business case being developed as part of the bid preparation are based on Commercial Estate Development and associated Low Carbon Infrastructure at sites within the Central Ayrshire constituency at Irvine and Prestwick. The proposals which are located within North Ayrshire align to the adopted North Ayrshire Regeneration Delivery Plan approved by Cabinet in March 2021.

2.   Background

2.1   The UK Government's £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund (LUF) aims to invest at least £800 million in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. North Ayrshire has been identified as a 'priority one' category authority given our socio-economic and connectivity challenges. This is however a competitive bidding process against other local areas and the Council requires to put forward high-quality, detailed and compelling business cases which meet the Fund's criteria.

2.2   The LUF focusses investment on projects funding across three themes: town centre and high street regeneration; local transport; projects and maintaining or explaining cultural and heritage assets. Applications can be submitted for up to £20 million per authority bid or in exceptional cases up to £50m for a strategic transport project. Cabinet approved the submission of the B714 Upgrade and West Coast and Clyde Islands strategic regeneration package bids on 15 June 2021. The applications were submitted to UK Government on 18 June 2021. The outcome of these applications is anticipated in Autumn 2021. Limited feedback has been received on the two bids submitted to date.

2.3   It is expected that the next round of funding will also open for submissions in Autumn 2021 however a definitive date has yet to be confirmed. Recent guidance indicates that this will include updated guidance and application processes. It is anticipated that this will follow the approach of prioritising projects which are able to demonstrate early investment or delivery. UK Government officials have stated the intention is to better align future rounds with financial years.

2.4   The identification of prospective projects for the Central Ayrshire constituency application with South Ayrshire Council has been informed by the assessment of suitable projects that align to the fund's criteria. Consideration of local priorities that provide the best opportunity for a strategically aligned package of projects and interventions across both Council areas has centred on the following themes:

- Commercial Estate Development: to increase capacity in Prestwick and Irvine, designed around the Plan for Growth with a focus on the regeneration of vacant and derelict sites and digital and data driven manufacturing; and
- Low Carbon Infrastructure: to improve active and sustainable travel links to both commercial areas ensuring that we meet our net zero and inclusive economy commitments and deliver a green recovery from the impact of Covid.

2.5   A portfolio project is proposed based on these themes within the Prestwick to Irvine corridor. This will focus on the Community Wealth Building Land and Assets theme, tackling vacant and derelict land and property and levelling up the under provision in the commercial estate. Design and development work for the constituent elements is

currently underway alongside the production of a detailed business case to support the application process. This will inform the value of the bid to a maximum of £40m across the two Authorities (£20m per Authority).

2.6   The North Ayrshire element of the project if successful will create: new commercial estate provision on vacant and derelict land sites, new electric vehicle charging infrastructure; new e-bike charging infrastructure; new and improved active travel infrastructure between the sites and to connect to the wider network; and improved public transport infrastructure including new bus stops and laybys to support existing and future bus routes.

2.7   This will tackle long term vacant and derelict land bringing it back into positive use thereby reducing the level and impact on local communities and supporting economic development. Sites being considered in Irvine include Kyle Road, Annickbank, Marine Drive and potentially i3. It is expected that the works will require to be delivered by March 2024 in line with the LUF requirements. This approach:

- Aligns with the regeneration and town centre investment priorities of developing abandoned or dilapidated sites and quality commercial space in key locations such as gateways and employment sites;
- Will accelerate the delivery of a range of actions identified in the Regeneration Delivery Plan;
- Will deliver investment in the priority areas identified for the LUF of ex-industrial areas, deprived towns and coastal communities; and
- Will also contribute to the Government's Net Zero and environmental ambitions through the delivery of low carbon infrastructure.

3.   Proposals

3.1   That Cabinet:

a) Notes the progress to date on the previously agreed submissions to the Levelling Up Fund;
b) Notes that Officers have continued to develop a potential second round bid with South Ayrshire Council centred around Commercial Estate Development and associated Low Carbon infrastructure;
c) Agrees to the finalisation and submission of a proposed Round 2 bid together with an associated business case, to the UK Government totalling up to £40m with South Ayrshire Council (maximum £20m per Authority); and
d) Notes that 10% (up to £2m) match funding will be required which will be met from existing capital resources.

4.   Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1   The Council requires to provide 10% match funding to support all LUF bids. It is envisaged that the North Ayrshire match funding for this proposal will be met from existing capital resources. This includes contributions from the Scottish Government's Vacant and Derelict Land Fund, Council's Investment Fund to support Commercial Estate development and Cycling Walking and Safer Routes allocations. South Ayrshire Council will meet their 10% match funding contribution.

Human Resources

4.2   It is expected that there will be staffing requirements for the project. Costs and details of these will be included in the application and business case being developed. Subject to the successful outcome of the application, recruitment and appointments would take place in accordance with North Ayrshire Council recruitment procedures.

Legal

4.3   Subject to a successful funding application, landowner negotiations will be required for elements of the active travel infrastructure within the project.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4   The project will assist in meeting our socio-economic duty as set out in the Fairer Scotland Duty. It seeks to reverse economic, social and physical decline and reduce socio-economic disadvantage. It aims to build community wealth and tackle local deprivation through the regeneration of our communities by maximising the potential of our land and assets. It will tackle long term vacant and derelict land bringing it back into positive use thereby reducing the level and impact on local communities and supporting economic development.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5   The project aligns with the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. It will transform vacant and derelict land into vibrant places which support employment and the economy, and that local people can be proud of.

Key Priorities

4.6   The project will contribute to achieving a wide range of the Council Plan outcomes. It will contribute to the ambitions of: an inclusive, growing and enterprising economy; North Ayrshire to be well-connected with effective infrastructure; and for a sustainable, vibrant, welcoming and attractive environment.

Community Wealth Building

4.7   The project will contribute to Community Wealth Building and in particular will have a significant positive impact on Council's ambitions under the Land and Assets pillar.

Procurement: Local supply chain opportunities will be created through the project. For future procurement exercises related to the project, the Business Development team will review opportunities for the North Ayrshire business base and provide supplier development support as required.

Fair Employment: The project will create employment opportunities particularly within the construction sector. Where North Ayrshire is the contractor for services, through our enhanced Community Benefits approach we will ensure the creation of local training and work experience opportunities.

Land and Assets: The project will regenerate sites which are long term vacant and derelict land and identified as priorities for investment. This will bring underutilised land into positive use to support local social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

Financial Power: The project will invest in localities and leverage external national investment into North Ayrshire.

Plural Ownership: The project will create commercial space to support local businesses to stay and grow in North Ayrshire.

5.   Consultation

5.1   The project has been informed by the Regeneration Delivery Plan (RDP). The RDP sets out the Council's priorities for regeneration over the next 5 years and was the subject of extensive consultation including workshops with Council Officers; workshops with Elected Members; reports to and feedback from North Ayrshire Ventures Trust and the Community Wealth Building Expert Panel; and public engagement via Consul. It was also informed by the Locality Partnerships' priorities and previous public consultation exercises including Charettes.

5.2   Further consultation and engagement will be undertaken with local communities and stakeholders on the detailed design for the constituent elements of the projects subject to the outcome of the funding bid.

5.3   Support for the proposal is required from the local MP for the constituency covered by the application. Conversations have been held with the MP who has indicated their support for the proposals and the approach being taken. A formal letter of support will require to be submitted with the application.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON
Executive Director (Place)

For further information please contact **Louise Kirk, Senior Manager Regeneration,** on **01294 324766**.

Background Papers
Cabinet Report – Levelling Up Fund, 15 June 2021
Cabinet Report – Regeneration Delivery Plan, 23 March 2021

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

2 November 2021

Cabinet

Title:	**Scotland Loves Local Gift Card Scheme**
Purpose:	To provide information on the 'Scotland Loves Local' Gift Card Scheme and to seek approval to sign the Local Authority Concordat.
Recommendation:	That Cabinet: a) Notes the update on the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card Scheme; b) Approves participation in the scheme for the first year at no financial cost to the Council; c) Approves the signing of the Local Authority Concordat.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Scotland Loves Local (SLL) Gift Card Scheme is a national initiative, supported by Scottish Government and Scotland's Towns Partnership (STP), with the aim of encouraging communities to 'shop locally' to support local businesses recover from the economic impact of Covid-19. All Local Authorities in Scotland are being asked to participate in the scheme through the signing of a Local Authority Concordat.

2. Background

2.1 The SLL campaign is a national initiative designed to encourage all those who live in Scotland to think local first and support their local high streets and town centres. The SLL Gift Card Scheme is a component part of this wider campaign and the set up of the programme has been funded by Scottish Government and will be launched by STP. STP state that the primary objective of the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card is to encourage consumers to spend money locally – in turn supporting local businesses that are recovering from the impact of the Covid-19 restrictions.

2.2 The Scottish Government funded element of the programme comprises the production and fulfilment of 32 Gift Cards that are unique to each of Scotland's local authority areas and can only be spent in that area, with 5,000 cards per Local Authority area being produced. The gift card is free for every business across Scotland to accept and uses the MasterCard network, so any business with a card reader can sign up. Each business has to register to be able to then accept the card within their business. Onboarding can be completed at the Scotland Loves Local website: www.lovelocal.scot/giftcard. Once a business has registered it means that Gift Card recipients will be able to spend their Local Gift Card in that business, and they will

appear on the relevant online map and business directory listings. The gift card can be used in any type of business, and online or offline – so long as the merchant has a physical presence in the area. All production and fulfilment of the product, as well as merchant and customer care, will be managed by STP and partners Miconex, the operational partner delivering the programme and they will provide all cardholder and merchant support. Gift cards can be purchased online through a central website and will be available for purchase following the national consumer launch.

2.3 The Scottish Government is meeting the set up costs of the programme and there will be no financial costs to Local Authorities in the first year of the programme (September 2021 to August 2022). Should there be demand for more than 5,000 gift cards within the Local Authority area, Miconex will facilitate orders of supplementary cards. Costs will depend on the size of the order, however Miconex state a minimum order will be 5,000 cards at a cost of £4,500. Thereafter, it will be a decision for each Local Authority that is not already enrolled in an existing gift card programme whether they wish to continue in a local gift card programme for the area. Such a decision will be subject to a commercial discussion and agreement between the Local Authority and Miconex. Should the Council wish to remain within the scheme beyond the pilot year, there would be a monthly fee of £600 as well as card printing costs. This fee encompasses participation in the scheme, fulfilment, promotion, e-commerce and platform access. A three-month notice to quit the scheme is requested.

2.4 At the June 2021 meeting of the COSLA Environment and Economy Board, the Board agreed to note the launch of the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card Scheme and 'encourage local uptake and engagement with the scheme to support and promote inclusive growth and local economic recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic'. To confirm the participation of the Council in this scheme, Local Authorities are being asked to sign the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card Local Authority Concordat which gives the support of the Council to:

- Use of the Gift Card in the local authority area – in so doing, promoting the sale, use and circulation of gift cards in our local authority area.
- Promotion of registration and onboarding to the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card scheme amongst outlets, merchants and attractions in the local authority area.
- Working with STP partners to launch the gift card in our local authority area. STP partners can provide support with communications activities, including provision of launch packs, drafting and distribution of news releases, and local photographer support.
- Provision of content for a landing page specific to our local authority area to encourage use of the Gift Card in our local authority area. The content required will be our local authority logo and any introductory content we wish to display on the landing page.

2.5 As of the 6 October, 18 Local Authorities have committed to the scheme, including East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council. The design of the scheme means that a number of national chains have committed to taking part in the programme. In line with Community Wealth Building aims, the Council would wish to see wealth retained locally through spend in local SMEs, social enterprises and wider forms of plural ownership models and would emphasise that aspect in any local promotion. As outlined above, STP have requested that Local Authorities utilise their networks to engage with businesses within their area to sign up to the scheme and there will be a requirement from the Economic Development and Regeneration and Communications

services to deliver a campaign targeting local businesses for inclusion. This would be delivered primarily through the Council's social media channels and business advisor promotion as part of the wider package of ongoing business engagement and support. There is already an existing 'ArranCard' gift card scheme operating on the island that can be used in a variety of island businesses including cafes, restaurants, shops and other venues and if the Council's participation is agreed, this scheme would not seek to compete with this existing provision. STP have noted that the gift card does not necessarily need to be used purely for gifting and Local Authorities may wish to utilise their individual programme to meet wider local priorities.

2.6   As part of the wider Community Wealth Building strategy and to support local economic recovery, the Council launched a 'Keep it Local' campaign in 2020. This marketing campaign ran from July 2020 – September 2020 and again in April 2021 – May 2021 and focused on 'shop and visit local' but also expanded to include local employment and investment to promote the Community Wealth Building approach. This included a 'Keep it Local' animation and town centre promotional video. Officers are developing options to continue this campaign following the launch of the Community Wealth Building Annual Report in October 2021.

3.   Proposals

3.1   That Cabinet:

   a)   Notes the update on the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card Scheme;
   b)   Approves participation in the scheme for the first year at no financial cost to the Council;
   c)   Approves the signing of the Local Authority Concordat.

4.   Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1   None. However, if the Council wishes to continue beyond the fully funded first year of the scheme there will be financial implications.

Human Resources

4.2   Existing resourcing will be required to be used within Economic Development and Regeneration and Communications to support the campaign.

Legal

4.3   None. However, if the Council wishes to continue beyond the fully funded first year of the scheme there may be legal implications.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4   STP state that the primary objective of the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card is to encourage consumers to spend money locally – in turn supporting local businesses that are recovering from the impact of the Covid-19 restrictions.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5   None.

Key Priorities

4.6   The report covers information relevant to the following Council Plan priorities:

- North Ayrshire has an inclusive, growing and enterprising economy

Community Wealth Building

4.7   In line with Community Wealth Building aims, the Council wishes to see wealth retained locally through spend in local SMEs, social enterprises and wider forms of plural ownership models.

5.   Consultation

5.1   Engagement has taken place with Scotland's Towns Partnership. The SLL Gift Card Scheme has been considered by the COSLA Environment and Economy Board.

Russell McCutcheon
Executive Director (Place)

For further information please contact **Caitriona McAuley**, **Head of Service – Economic Development and Regeneration,** on **01294 324257.**

Background Papers

Appendix 1 - Scotland Loves Local Gift Card Local Authority Concordat

Appendix 1 – Scotland Loves Local Gift Card Local Authority Concordat

SCOTLAND LOVES LOCAL GIFT CARD

LOCAL AUTHORITY CONCORDAT

By participating in the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card initiative, Scottish local authorities can help businesses in their region unlock a new level of local spending – one which we believe will be important in helping businesses both recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, and which will build for a future that has localism at its heart.

To confirm the participation of your local authority in the scheme, please complete the details in this form and refer to the terms of engagement and business below.

Name of Local Authority:

Lead Economic Development Officer:

- Name

- Phone

- Email

Lead operational contact (if different from Economic Development Officer):

- Name

- Phone

- Email

Lead communications contact:

- Name

- Phone

- Email

If it would be useful for Scotland Loves Local to provide a briefing for councillors within your local authority on the scheme and rollout, please tick here: ☐

Terms of engagement

By participating in the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card, your local authority is agreeing to:

1. Support the use of the Gift Card in the local authority area - in so doing, allowing the sale, use and circulation of gift cards in your local authority area.
2. Promote registration and onboarding to the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card scheme amongst outlets, merchants and attractions in the local authority area.
3. Work with our partners to launch the gift card in your local authority area. Our partners can provide support with communications activities, including provision of launch packs, drafting and distribution of news releases, and local photographer support.
4. Provide content for a landing page specific to your local authority area to encourage use of the Gift Card in your local authority area. The content required will be your local authority logo and any introductory content you wish to display on the landing page.

Terms of business

All production and fulfillment of the product, as well as merchant and customer care, will be managed by Scotland's Towns Partnership and our partners Miconex, who are experienced providers of town and city gift cards.

Year one of the scheme is free of charge. 5,000 Gift Cards unique to your local authority area will be produced upon launch of the scheme. There are no initial setup costs for local authorities to become part of the Scotland Loves Local scheme. These are being met with the support of the Scottish Government.

However, should there be demand for more than 5,000 Gift Cards within your local authority area, Miconex will facilitate orders of supplementary cards. Costs will depend on the size of the order, but a minimum order will be 5,000 cards at a cost of £4,500.

Should your local authority wish to remain within the scheme after year one of the scheme, there will be a nominal fee to continue within the scheme from year two onwards amounting to £600/month plus printing costs for the Gift Cards. This fee encompasses participation in the scheme, fulfillment, promotion, e-commerce and platform access.

If your local authority does not wish to participate in the scheme after year one, we politely request a minimum of three months' notice, by email to: leigh@mi-cnx.com

Signed:

Date:

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

2 November 2021

Cabinet

Title:	**Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2021/22**
Purpose:	To seek approval from Cabinet for the Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2021/22.
Recommendation:	That Cabinet (a) approves the Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2021/22 and (b) notes the preparations and developments contained in the Winter Preparation Action Plan.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 North Ayrshire Council has a statutory obligation, under Section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, to take such steps as it considers reasonable to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles over public roads which by definition includes carriageways, footways, footpaths, pedestrian precincts, etc.

1.2 The Council is also responsible for the management and operation of the coastal flood protection controls at Largs and Saltcoats. The Council will close the flood gates on the promenades and erect the flood barriers at Largs Pier in advance of predicted severe weather with minimum disruption to promenade users and the Largs to Cumbrae ferry. Coastal flooding can occur at any time and, accordingly, the Council provides this service throughout the year.

1.3 A review of the Council's Winter & Weather Emergencies Service was undertaken over the summer months. The 2021/22 Winter Preparation Action Plan has been developed to ensure adequate preparations and effective arrangements are in place for 2021/22. The Winter Preparation Action Plan is included at Appendix 1.

1.4 The Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2021/22 is contained at Appendix 2.

2.   Background

2.1   In its statutory role as the local Roads Authority, the aim of North Ayrshire Council in respect of its winter service and weather emergencies is to:

- provide a standard of service on public roads which will permit safe movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic appropriate to the prevailing weather conditions;
- establish a pattern of working which will keep delays, diversions or road closures to a minimum during adverse weather conditions;
- conduct operations having regard to the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and any other relevant enactments.

2.2   Separately, the Trunk Road Network is the responsibility of Transport Scotland and their management contractor, Amey. The Trunk Road network includes the A78, the A737 from Kilwinning to the Renfrewshire Boundary and A738 from the Pennyburn Roundabout to the A737 Dalry Road Kilwinning.

2.3   All winter gritting and snow clearing operations on the Trunk Road Network are the responsibility of Amey. The Council's Roads Team do however liaise on a regular basis with the trunk road operator during periods of adverse weather in order to provide the best possible seamless service to the travelling public.

2.4   The Council's current updated Winter Preparation Action Plan 2021/22 highlights a number of key areas where preparation arrangements are being reviewed and refreshed:

- Salt supply resilience, storage and capacity
- Pandemic resilience arrangements
- Grit bins/community resilience

2.5   Whilst the Council's primary focus is on our Priority Network, our communities have an expectation of wider assistance during extreme weather, for example in and around schools, in residential streets, car parking areas etc. There are approximately 500 grit bins provided on the road network. Salt is also available from a number of supply points throughout the Council area. Details of planned winter treatments are posted on the Council's website. In addition, details of disruption to the road network caused by adverse weather are also posted on the website. In periods of severe weather Elected Members are also provided with regular service updates.

2.6   The Council's gritting routes have been developed from thermal mapping of the road network. Thermal mapping is a process by which the variation of minimum night-time road surface temperature is measured, and this provides the temperature relationship across the whole network, identifying those sections of the road which are likely to freeze first. Thermal Mapping identifies colder roads and enables selective targeting of those areas in need of treatment. While our gritting routes are unchanged for this winter the de-trunked section of the now de-trunked section of the A737 through Dalry has been added to the Council's gritting routes. Details of each Priority route are provided on the Council's web pages at: http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/winter-gritting.aspx

2.7   A total of 65% of the road network will receive planned treatments. The remaining 35% of the road network, comprising of minor rural and residential roads, is covered by Priority 3 routes. All routes will continue to be monitored and reviewed over the winter period and amended where necessary.

2.8   Priority 1 routes will be treated on receipt of an adverse weather forecast as detailed in the decision-making matrix contained in Appendix C of the Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2021/22.

2.9   Priority 2 routes will be treated in addition to Priority 1 routes when sub-zero temperatures are forecast to extend beyond midday and will be treated following completion of Priority 1 routes. Generally, the treatment of Priority 2 routes will commence at 8.00am however appropriate treatment may be instructed at any time depending on conditions.

2.10   Priority 3 routes will generally only be treated following severe weather or when sub-zero conditions are forecast to continue over an extended period. They will be treated as resources permit only after all Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes are clear unless identified as an emergency.

2.11   Operational resources from Commercial Services (Roads) and Streetscene will be provided for the Winter and Weather Emergencies Service. The stand-by period for carriageway treatments will be 21 October 2021 until 14 April 2022. This period may be extended beyond the given dates if required. These arrangements include home stand-by which is activated by the designated Winter Supervisor when instructed by the Winter Controller or as the result of hazardous road conditions being reported. Arrangements have also been made with Streetscene to assist with the treatment of priority footways over the winter season and stand-by arrangements are also in place with Streetscene to treat footways when necessary, at weekends from 20 November 2021 through to 6 February 2022 and over the festive holiday period. Generally, the treatment of footways will commence at 8.00am, with arrangements in place to undertake emergency work out of normal working hours, weekends and public holidays in extreme circumstances.

2.12   Last winter season included a prolonged cold spell resulting in the use of approximately 8,153 tonnes of salt treating the road network, compared to approximately 5,183 tonnes of salt during the winter of 2019/20. A total of 7,000 tonnes of salt will be stored at our Goldcraigs Depot and 2400 tonnes at our Market Road depot on Arran, complying with the salt stock levels agreed with the West of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership (WoSRRP). In addition, salt will be distributed to Streetscene Depots to assist with the treatment of footways. Salt usage will be monitored weekly and stocks will be augmented if necessary.

2.13   The role of communities to provide their own resilience is recognised and grit bins will be replenished to allow communities to self-help during periods of adverse weather within available resources over the winter period.

2.14   Similar to last winter, winter treatment decisions and any road closures due to adverse weather will be provided on the Council's website.

2.15 A pre-winter planning meeting was held on 30 September with Managers from across Council Services. This meeting was held to ensure Services are taking the necessary steps to prepare for the severities of winter weather.

2.16 A planning exercise known as the 'dry run' was carried out on the mainland on 24 September 2021 and was carried out on Arran on 1 October 2021 to check our readiness for the forthcoming winter season.

2.17 The weather stations on the A760 at Catburn, between Largs and Kilbirnie, and on the B880 String Road, Arran have been serviced and calibrated and will assist Winter Controllers and Supervisors in monitoring weather conditions. Cameras are fitted on the weather stations and images from the these are available to members of the public through the Council's website.

2.18 Each year, a Winter Preparation Action Plan is created to ensure adequate and appropriate arrangements are being put in place for the forthcoming winter. The 2021/22 Action Plan detailed at Appendix 1 confirms all planned actions are either complete or are on target.

2.19 Special arrangements in respect of Covid have been considered as part of our pre-planning. A resilience network has been developed should we face resourcing challenges due to the pandemic, for example via self-isolation. This was successfully implemented last year and has been developed further to place us in a robust position for this winter.

3. Proposals

3.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2021/22 and note the preparations undertaken as detailed in the attached 2021/22 Winter Preparation Action Plan.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 A budget of £0.510m has been allocated for the delivery of the Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2021/22.

Human Resources

4.2 The Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan will be delivered within existing resources.

Legal

4.3 The Council has a statutory obligation under Section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 "to take such steps as they consider reasonable to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles over public roads".

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 The delivery of the Winter Service maintains accessibility to our towns and communities and supports social and economic activity.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 There are no environmental or sustainability issues arising directly as a result of this report. However, weather forecasting and treatment decisions follow national guidance, all gritters are calibrated and this ensures appropriate salt spread rates to minimise environmental impact.

Key Priorities

4.6 Delivery of the winter service supports the Council Plan priority of keeping North Ayrshire residents safe.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 Delivery of the Winter and Weather Emergencies Service supports Community Wealth Building by maintaining a resilient road network enabling access to employment and movement of goods and services.

5. Consultation

5.1 Consultation regarding preparations for the forthcoming winter season and the development of the Winter Action Plan was undertaken with The Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team, Transport, Streetscene, Waste Services, Communications, Customer Services, North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Education, Housing, Criminal Justice, suppliers and external organisations.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON
Executive Director (Place)

For further information please contact **David Hammond, Head of Commercial Services,** on Tel 01294 324570.

Background Papers
0

COMMERCIAL SERVICES - 2021/22 WINTER PREPARATION ACTION PLAN

Service Improvement Action		Existing Operation	Proposed Action	Timescale	Progress
1.0	**Policies, Procedures & Guidance**				
1.1	Review Existing Policy and Procedures document	Winter and Weather Emergencies Procedures and Resources Document reviewed on annual basis.	Review annually after each Winter Period.	September 2021	Complete
2.0	**Review of Existing Winter Maintenance Operations**				
2.1	Existing Priority Gritting Routes	Priority 1 routes cover 44% of the network, Priority 2 routes cover 21% of the network.	No changes proposed, review annually.	September 2021	Complete
2.2	Non-Priority Routes	Priority 3 routes are treated following an extended cold spell or following severe weather.	No changes.	September 2021	Complete
2.3	Footway Gritting	Formal arrangement with Streetscene for assisting with reactive delivery of the winter service.	Review annually. No changes proposed.	September 2021	Complete
2.4	Assistance from outside parties	Formal arrangement in place with local contractors and farmers to assist in the event of extreme weather conditions.	Review annually. Arrangements made for a contractor to provide Gritting on Cumbrae for this winter.	September 2021	Complete
Service Improvement Action		**Existing Operation**	**Proposed Action**	**Timescale**	**Progress**
2.5	Gritting of other Council locations	Education and Housing have arrangements in place with Streetscene and Community Justice for assistance with snow clearing and gritting.	Review arrangements annually. No changes proposed.	September 2021	Complete

2.6	Network Resilience	Resilience network developed should drivers be depleted due to pandemic. Mutual aid arrangements established with neighbouring authorities.	Review annually	October 2021	Complete
3.0	**Winter Gritting Fleet**				
3.1	Winter Gritting Fleet	The gritting fleet comprise 13 No. 18 tonne Econ Uni-Bodies and 1 No 7.5 Tonne Econ Uni-Bodies and 1 Trailer Gritter.	Vehicles to be serviced and gritter units to be calibrated.	September 2021	Complete
4.0	**Operational Controls**				
4.1	Weather forecast provision	The Council's weather forecast service is currently procured by means of a collaborative contract with 12 other Local Authorities in the South West of Scotland.	Contract was awarded to DTN, for 4 years + 2 year extension option, commencing September 2017.	September 2021	Complete
4.2	Ice Prediction methods	North Ayrshire Council has two weather stations installed on the road network and has access to a further two weather stations in the Council area, provided by Transport Scotland, on the trunk road network. We also have access to a number of additional weather stations on our neighbouring authorities' road network.	Stations to be serviced and calibrated for start of winter season.	September 2021	Complete

2

Service Improvement Action		Existing Operation	Proposed Action	Timescale	Progress
4.3	Winter Gritting Records	Records of winter instructions and operations recorded on Vaisala Manager - Winter Roads Management System. Record footway treatments undertaken.	Continue to record roads winter actions on Vaisala Manager - Winter Roads Management System.	September 2021	Complete
4.4	Business Continuity	The provision of Winter and Weather Emergencies Procedures and Resources document is included within the Business Continuity Plan.	Review Business Continuity Plan.	Review Annually	Complete
5.0	Salt				
5.1	Salt Storage	Ensure salt stock complies with Scottish Government resilience levels prior to the onset of the winter season.	7000 Tonnes of salt to be stored at Goldcraigs Depot and 2400 tonnes to be stored on Arran for start of winter season.	Review Annually	Complete
5.2	Salt Distribution	Procedure implemented for salt distribution throughout Council Services in place at Depot.	Review and ensure all staff are aware of procedures annually.	Review Annually	Complete
6.0	Communication				
6.1	Information available to Members, Council Services, general public and other stakeholders	Weather forecasts and winter decisions distributed across Services. Roads winter gritting decision posted on Council Website. Details of any road closures due to adverse weather posted on Website.	Issue information to Locality Planning Partnerships. Continue to provide information on the Council website. Monitor effectiveness of information provided on the Council website. Promote Roads Winter Service during Customer Services Week and Are You Ready for Winter campaign.	Oct/Nov 2021 Review Annually Review Annually Oct/Nov 2021	On target Complete On target On target

3

7.0	**Measuring Performance**				
7.1	Monitor performance of winter actions	Performance is currently measured using APSE Performance indicators which measure efficiency in relation to documented procedures.	Review annually.	October 2021	On target
7.2	Monitor performance on individual routes	Gritting routes optimised following thermal mapping exercise undertaken during winter season 2018/19.	No changes proposed, review annually.	September 2021	Complete
7.3	Improve efficiency of gritting operations	Winter decisions are made based on thermal mapping exercise carried out during winter 2018/19.	No changes proposed, review annually.	September 2021	Complete
8.0	**Training**				
8.1	Winter Service Training	Staff trained in delivery of winter service.	Identify training needs of personnel involved with the provision of the winter maintenance service. Arrange appropriate training.	Review Annually	Complete
8.2	Severe Weather Exercise	Ayrshire Local Resilience Partnership arranged a Severe Weather tabletop exercise in September 2018.	Appropriate attendance at ALRP exercises as arranged.	September 2021	Complete
9.0	**Health & Safety**				
9.1	Toolbox Talks	Toolbox talks are delivered to all personnel engaged in the delivery of the winter maintenance service.	Review annually and provide toolbox talk at the start of each winter.	Annually	Complete

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Commercial Services

Roads Winter Service
and
Weather Emergencies Plan

2021 – 2022

Cunninghame House
IRVINE
Ayrshire KA12 8EE
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CONTENTS

1.   INTRODUCTION

North Ayrshire Council has a statutory obligation, under Section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, to take such steps as it considers reasonable to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles over public roads which by definition includes carriageways, footways, footpaths, pedestrian precincts, etc.

In its statutory role as the local Roads Authority, the aim of North Ayrshire Council in respect of its winter service and weather emergencies is to:-

(i)   provide a standard of service on public roads which will permit safe movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic appropriate to the prevailing weather conditions;

(ii)   establish a pattern of working which will keep delays, diversions or road closures to a minimum during adverse weather conditions;

(iii)   conduct operations having regard to the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and any other relevant enactments.

This Plan only relates to the Council's duties as Roads Authority and does not cover the wider response of the Council during winter and other weather emergencies.

North Ayrshire Council has no responsibility for the treatment of trunk roads. From 1st April 2001, the contract for management and maintenance of the trunk roads in Scotland has been awarded by the Scottish Government to the private sector. The successful contractor for the South West of Scotland is Amey and the roads involved in North Ayrshire are as follows:-

A78   full length from Meadowhead roundabout, Dundonald to Inverclyde boundary at Skelmorlie;

A737   Dalry Road, Kilwinning to Renfrewshire boundary;

A738   Pennyburn roundabout to A737 Dalry Road, Kilwinning

All winter gritting and snow clearing operations on these roads will be the responsibility of Amey. North Ayrshire Council's Commercial Services (Roads) and Amey liaise on a regular basis during periods of adverse weather in order to provide the best possible service to the travelling public.

North Ayrshire Council is also responsible for the management and operation of the coastal flood protection controls at Largs and Saltcoats. The Council will close the flood gates on the promenade and erect the flood barriers at Largs Pier in advance of predicted severe weather with minimum disruption to promenade users and the Largs to Cumbrae ferry. Coastal flooding can occur at any time and, accordingly, the Council will provide this service throughout the year.

In the event of extreme weather similar to that which was experienced on Arran late March 2013 where major disruption affects large parts of the community, a coordinated response is adopted by the Council to ensure public safety. In dealing

with such emergencies, the Police initially lead the emergency or response stage of the emergency. Thereafter, the Council leads the recovery stage. Generally, there are 3 levels of Civil Contingencies response. There is a strategic group at National or Strathclyde wide level, a tactical group at North Ayrshire level and an operational group at local level.

The Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team (ACCT) act as lead for the Council and implement the Civil Contingencies Plan liaising with all relevant Stakeholders identified within the Plan.

2.   PRIORITIES FOR WINTER TREATMENT

North Ayrshire Council has defined the priorities for carriageway and footway/footpath treatment as follows:

2.1.1 Carriageway Priorities

Where slush is formed, this shall be removed as soon as practicable to avoid the risk of rutting should there be a further significant fall in road temperatures which might result in freezing conditions.

2.1.2 Carriageway Routes for Proactive Treatment

Priority 1 – Strategic, Main Distributor and Distributor routes, bus routes and certain pre-determined Secondary Distributor routes identified from the Local Transport Strategy (LTS) will be treated when it is forecast that snow or ice is likely to be present on road surfaces.

Due to the various climatic domains within North Ayrshire the Priority 1 routes may be adjusted to cover either the four pre-determined Inland Routes or two pre-determined High Routes which all currently form part of our existing Priority Network.

Priority 1 gritting routes are available on the Council website (See Appendix A).

2.1.3 Carriageway Routes for Reactive Treatment

a) **Priority 2** – Remaining Secondary Distributor, local access and residential distributor roads.

Given the presence of ice and snow Priority 2 routes may be treated during normal working hours as resources permit when sub-zero temperatures are forecast to continue beyond midday following completion of Priority 1 routes.

b) **Priority 3 –** The remaining road network including minor rural unclassified routes and remaining residential areas not already covered

Priority 3 routes will be treated as resources permit when sub-zero conditions are forecast to continue over an extended period only after all Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes are clear unless it is identified as an emergency.

2.1.4 **Carriageway Routes for Snow Clearance**

On receipt of a weather warning predicting medium (25 - 100 mm deep) or heavy (over 100 mm deep) snowfalls, the Senior Manager (Network) where appropriate, will recall to depots such vehicles capable of being equipped with snowploughs.

While snow is still falling the Strategic and Main Distributor Network will be prioritised for ploughing and treatment in order to target resources and to keep these routes open for traffic.

After snow has stopped falling but is lying, the remaining Priority 1 precautionary routes will be ploughed and treated before commencing ploughing and treatment on Priority 2 and Priority 3 routes as resources and conditions permit.

2.1.5 **Cumbrae**

There are no Roads Operatives based on the Isle of Cumbrae, however contract arrangements have been made to carry out gritting operations on the Island.

2.2 Footway/Footpath Priorities

With limited resources available footways and footpaths will only be treated when considered necessary (e.g. heavy snowfall or extensive icing). They will normally only be treated during normal working hours (commencing from 8:00am), but arrangements are in place to undertake emergency work out of normal working hours, weekends and public holidays in extreme circumstances.

Generally, treatment of footways and footpaths will be reactionary and not pre-planned, and where possible work will be undertaken during normal working hours.

When treatment is instructed the following priorities will apply:-

Priority 1 Routes will be considered for treatment if it is forecast that ice or snow is likely to be present or where surfaces are wet with temperatures   forecast   to remain below zero until 10:00am the next working day.

Priority 1 Routes - Urban shopping areas and precincts, footway access to
                schools, emergency facilities including fire and rescue,
                police and ambulance services, hospitals, sheltered
                housing, doctors surgeries and health   centres etc;

Priority 2 routes will be treated if it is forecast that ice or snow is likely to be present with temperatures forecast to remain below zero for a prolonged period only after priority 1 routes are clear.

Priority 2 Routes - Steep hills on main distributor and residential distributor routes,
                routes to bus stops etc, only after all Priority 1 have been
                cleared;

Priority 3 routes will be treated if it is forecast that ice or snow is likely to be present with temperatures forecast to remain below zero for a prolonged period only after priority 1 and 2 routes are clear.

Priority 3 Routes - Other areas of high pedestrian concentration.

Streetscene staff will assist with the treatment of footways.

In order to maximise coverage on footways, generally only one side of a road will be initially treated.

It is not possible for the Council to treat all footways and footpaths within North Ayrshire. As such the Council encourages the community to participate in self help, through the use of grit bins which can be requested through the grit bin application process. Grit bins will only be allocated where it has been assessed and deemed as an appropriate location by the Council.

2.3 Cycle Routes

With limited manpower resources no treatment will be carried out on off road cycle routes.

2.4 Response and Treatment Times

Routine precautionary salting of priority 1 carriageway routes should be completed within 3 hours of the planned start time. For emergency or unplanned salting the start time from leaving the depot shall be no more than 1 hour.

3. ORGANISATION

The Head of Commercial Services is responsible for specifying the level of winter service required based on approval from the Council. The Senior Manager (Network) is responsible for implementing this service.

A duty Winter Controller and Winter Supervisor will be appointed by the Senior Manager (Network) for the whole of the winter period covered by these procedures (mid-October to early April)

4. NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL RESOURCES (ROADS)

4.1 General

Following approval from the Council, it is the responsibility of the Head of Commercial Services to define the level of service to be provided within their sphere of operations and to issue appropriate instructions to the Senior Manager (Network) to provide the necessary labour and plant for winter operations. This level of service will be based on the national Code of Practice for Well Maintained Highways (see Appendix B).

The level of winter treatment is established utilizing the weather forecasts provided by DTN in accordance with the winter treatment matrix (Appendix C).

The Senior Manager (Network) shall thereafter be responsible for advising the Head of Service of any matters which may affect his ability to deal with adverse weather conditions e.g. labour disputes, extensive plant breakdowns etc.

Labour resources from Commercial Services (Roads) will be provided for the Winter and Weather Emergencies Service. The stand-by period will be 21st October 2021 until 14th April 2022. This period may be extended beyond the given dates if conditions warrant such action. These arrangements include home stand-by which is activated by the designated Winter Supervisor when instructed by the Winter Controller or as the result of hazardous road conditions being reported.

4.2 Labour

A proportion of the roads labour force will be on stand-by for winter service operations out of normal working hours, with the remainder on call out as necessary. This allows evening and early morning precautionary salting to be carried out on our priority carriageway network to treat dangerous roads before the morning rush hour.

In determining the labour resources required for the winter service, cognisance is taken of the key objective to treat all priority routes before the commencement of the morning peak period.

4.3 Vehicle Plant and Equipment

Prior to commencement of winter service operations, the Senior Manager (Network) will ensure that all equipment for salting roads and snow clearing is in working order and, where appropriate, that ancillary items can be fitted to vehicles without difficulty, e.g. ploughs set up on blocks to facilitate assembly. The above procedure should also be applied to vehicles and plant available under contract for the winter service.

The Senior Manager (Network) will ensure that all vehicles engaged in the winter service are equipped with radios or other appropriate communication devices to allow contact to be maintained between the depot and operators. Superintendents have mobile telephones. There is also vehicle tracking system fitted and operational in all vehicles to reduce the risk associated with gritting operations.

A summary of labour, vehicles, plant, and equipment available for the winter service work is detailed in Appendix D.

Once per year the Senior Manager (Network), will organise a trial closure of the flood gates and erection of the de-mountable barriers at the Largs and Saltcoats flood protection controls. This is to ensure that the gates and barriers remain in full working order and that all staff are familiar with the process.

4.4   Salt

Salt is purchased through a Scotland Excel annual purchase contract. Mainland salt deliveries are stored in the salt barn within the Goldcraigs Depot. Salt on Arran is stored in the open at the Roads Depot in Market Road, Brodick.

During the season, the Senior Manager (Network) will arrange for a weekly check to be made on the amount of salt used and for stocks to be augmented as necessary. There is a procedure in place at the depot to strictly control salt distribution. All vehicles are tagged and must cross the weighbridge to accurately record salt usage. This includes salt distributed to Streetscene and contractors assisting with winter service delivery.

Small quantities of salt are available for issue free of charge to the public, subject to residents supplying a suitable container. Details of locations of community grit bins where small quantities of salt are available are given in Appendix E

The planned salt stock level at commencement of winter is given in Appendix F.

In the event of prolonged severe weather the Council has a salt resilience plan (Appendix G), which will be implemented if conditions require.

5.   OTHER RESOURCES

During adverse weather conditions, the Senior Manager (Network), (after consultation with the Head of Commercial Services), shall, if necessary, augment his resources by the use of personnel from Streetscene and external contractors at rates agreed prior to engagement through a framework contract. The Head of Commercial Services should be advised, as soon as practicable, of external resources engaged as a result of decisions made outwith normal working hours.

The Senior Manager (Network) will provide a supply of salt to Streetscene and external contractors where appropriate to permit the treatment of agreed footways/footpaths. This will be managed through a salt management system based at Goldcraigs Roads Depot.

6. WEATHER FORECASTING

North Ayrshire Council, through a collaborative contract led by South Lanarkshire Council, has appointed DTN, as their weather forecast provider. During the winter service period DTN will provide a weather forecasting service and monitor road and weather conditions.

The forecasters receive, monitor and interpret, climatic, ice prediction and weather radar information on a continuous basis and provide detailed weather forecasts on a daily basis during the whole winter period.

SEPA operate a coastal flood warning system for the Firth of Clyde. If storm surges and coastal flooding are predicted, SEPA provide advance warning to the Council by e-mail and also through their Floodline service which is available on their website or by phone. This service is available all year round.

7. DECISION MAKING

The Senior Manager (Network) will appoint suitably trained and experienced personnel as Winter Controllers.

During the winter season the Winter Controller will receive the weather forecast around 12.00 hours and decide on the treatment to be carried out. The Winter Controller will check the treatment decision of neighbouring authorities for consistency and reconsider if necessary. The weather forecast provider will provide an evening forecast around 18.00 hours and if this update indicates any change in the forecast the Winter Controller will amend the decision accordingly and advise the Winter Supervisor.

For out of office hours, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays the Senior Manager (Network) shall provide the weather forecast provider with contact telephone numbers of the on duty Winter Controller. If the forecast conditions change from good to adverse at any time, then the weather forecast provider will phone the Winter Controller either at work or at home as appropriate. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the Winter Controller to take action including the calling out of stand-by squads to undertake salting/snow clearing.

Winter Controllers have the facility at any time to contact the weather forecast provider for advice or clarification of forecasts. These arrangements will be in place from 7 October 2021 until 14 April 2022 and these dates can be extended if required.

The decision making process is illustrated in Appendices B & C.

The Head of Commercial Services will appoint suitably trained staff and experienced personnel to manage the coastal flood prevention schemes at Largs and Saltcoats. During the winter season, this will be the Winter Controller.

8.   ICE PREDICTION

In addition to the weather forecast information, the Council has available further information from sensors which have been installed at the locations listed below:-

- A78 Ardrossan
- A737 Highfield
- A760 Catburn
- A735 Near Dunlop
- B880 Arran, summit of The String

The sensors provide current details of road and air temperatures and indicate the presence of moisture, thereby identifying locations that icing has occurred or where there is a risk that icing will occur.

By utilising the data from these sensors the weather forecast provider is able to supplement their forecast by producing site specific forecasts. The above information is available to the Winter Controller via computer link 24 hours a day throughout the winter period.

9.   ROAD CONDITION REPORTS

During periods of adverse weather, the Senior Manager (Network) shall receive reports on road conditions from the Winter Supervisor by 09.45 hours. These reports should be updated as necessary depending on changing circumstances.

10.   COMMUNICATIONS

The Head of Commercial Services or nominated senior manager will deal with statements to the Press, Radio and Television regarding road conditions throughout the area. The Council's Communication team will assist, and may take the lead role depending on the nature of any significant event.

General advice and information, along with timeous service updates, will be placed on the Council's website.

The Head of Commercial Services (or nominated senior officer) will ensure that all staff involved in communication with members of the public are fully briefed with consistent and accurate information.

A protocol has been agreed by the West of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership (WoS RRP) and Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team (ACCT) for the transfer of information in relation to Winter and Weather Emergencies.

The Council's daily winter decisions are available for the public and can be accessed via the Council's website. Any winter and weather emergencies can be reported to North Ayrshire Council and the Trunk Road Operators using the contact information contained within Appendix H.

The distribution list for winter weather emergencies can be found under Appendix I.

11. ROAD CLOSURES

Where it is considered that a road is rendered unsafe due to adverse winter conditions then the Police or persons acting on behalf of the Chief Constable will arrange to have the road closed and advise the on-duty Winter Supervisor as soon as possible of their actions. The Winter Supervisor will advise the Winter Controller/Senior Manager (Network) of any road closures. Appropriate measures will also be taken to re-direct traffic and to ensure that the necessary signs are put in place. When the road affected is a through route the adjoining Councils will be kept informed. Police will advise the other emergency services (Ambulance & Fire) of the closures.

Prior to signing diversionary routes, the capacity of the roads and the headroom and weight restrictions of structures should be checked with the Winter Controller to ensure that they are adequate (see Appendix J).

12. LIAISON WITH THE POLICE

Commercial Services (Roads) will ensure close liaison with the Police, particularly during periods of severe weather.

Where practicable, the Police will be informed in advance of North Ayrshire Council's proposed operations. Similarly arrangements have been made for exchanging information on proposed actions with neighbouring authorities and the trunk road operating company.

Where necessary the service will request appropriate assistance from the Police when moving equipment, arranging road closures and dealing with abandoned vehicles.

Reports from the Police regarding dangerous road conditions should be acted upon by the Winter Supervisor as soon as practicable, having regard to priorities in this document and the conditions pertaining throughout the area.

13. **AYRSHIRE LOCAL RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP (ALRP) DISRUPTIVE WEATHER RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS**

There have been a number of occasions when severe weather including high winds, heavy rain and snow has caused disruption to communities and services in Ayrshire. Arrangements are in place where partner organisations can trigger the ALRP Disruptive Weather Response Arrangements. The purpose of these arrangements are:-

- To protect human life, property and the environment
- To implement a professional and co-ordinated multi-agency response to the incident in conjunction with our communities
- To maintain wider public confidence in the multi-agency response and minimise general community and infrastructure impact
- To ensuring that all possible measures are in place to protect vulnerable or displaced members of the community
- To supporting effective public communication in regard to the incident along the principles of warning and informing
- To ensure awareness of the potential impact of events out with Ayrshire on the local multi-agency response
- To ensuring that organisational and partnership learning points are captured to ensure a continuing focus on safeguarding the public

14. **CROSS BOUNDARY ARRANGEMENTS**

Because the Council boundaries do not always coincide with convenient turning points at the end of gritting routes, arrangements have been drawn up with all adjacent authorities for the gritting routes to be continued short distances to appropriate turning points. See (Appendix K).

15. **VEHICLE ROUTES**

A thermal mapping exercise was undertaken on North Ayrshire's road network over winter season 2018/19 and routes have been developed by the Roads Service on the basis of the priorities listed in Section 2. However, in order to minimise unproductive mileage, some roads in a lower category may be treated out of sequence. This may also occur when conditions vary throughout the area.

A complete set of route cards will be kept in the Commercial Services (Roads) offices, with a duplicate set being held in Goldcraigs Depot.

Treatment of precautionary carriageway salting routes should be completed within three hours of planned start time under routine conditions. When the Winter Controller instructs immediate winter service operations, the response time to start treatment should be within one hour.

It should be noted that gritting routes are either at or close to capacity and it is unlikely that any additions to routes could be considered without additional finance and human resources.

16.   PRECAUTIONARY SALTING

On receipt, within normal working hours, of a forecast from the weather forecast provider warning of frost, freezing or snow conditions, the Winter Controller in consultation with the Senior Manager (Network), shall give consideration to precautionary salting of main roads.

Where such a warning is received out with normal working hours, the Winter Controller has delegated authority to activate call-out procedures as indicated in Section 7.

Extensive and accurate records of weather forecasts, winter treatment decisions and actions taken will be kept to demonstrate our compliance to our Winter and Weather Emergencies Plan.

17.   GRIT BINS

There are approximately 500 grit bins distributed across North Ayrshire. These are located at areas of particular difficulty e.g. dangerous bends, steep gradients etc. The policy and procedures for siting of grit bins, and requests for additional bins is shown in Appendix L.

Grit bins will be refilled prior to the start of winter and as considered necessary during the winter season and following periods of severe weather when resources are available.

The locations of Community Grit Bins are listed in Appendix E.

18.   LARGS AND SALTCOATS FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEMES

On receipt of a severe weather warning predicting a combination of strong winds, high tides or tidal surges the Winter Controller will, when necessary, instruct the closure of the flood gates on the promenade at Largs and/or the erection of the flood barriers at the Largs Pier and/or Saltcoats promenade.

19.   SANDBAG PROCEDURES

The deployment of sandbags to prevent or contain floodwaters can be an effective way of mitigating the effect of a flood, however the lead time for filling and deployment can be lengthy, as a large number of bags cannot be filled in advance due to storage problems. Therefore, an early decision must be taken to sandbag, to avoid a subsequent waste of time and effort. The deployment of sandbags will be decided with regard to the following priorities:

1. To prevent loss of life or serious injury
2. Maintenance of access for the emergency services
3. Protection of vital facilities within the community
4. Protection of transportation routes
5. Protection of NAC property
6. Protection of private dwelling houses

The decision to deploy sandbags will be made by the Winter Controller / Supervisor or appropriate officers in Building Services, Cleansing or the Island Officer on Arran in accordance with the Services' callout/emergency procedures.

Notes:

1.   Sandbags will not normally be deployed to protect commercial property;
2.   Appropriate stocks of empty and filled sandbags will be held by the Services mentioned above, based on previous usage and experience.

The above procedure mainly relates to tidal, fluvial and watercourse flooding. Where flooding occurs as a result of a blocked, damaged or ineffective Council owned drainage systems, sandbags will be deployed as required to mitigate the effects of flooding (and reduce the likelihood of claims against the Council) including the protection of commercial property.

20.   Resilience Arrangements

In the current uncertain times, it has been necessary to introduce contingency arrangements should service delivery be restricted due to COVID.

Should our operational resources be reduced, a minimum resilience network for winter gritting has been prepared. Should we have to reduce our level of service due to COVID our priority gritting routes will reduce from 6 to 3. On Arran we may require reducing from 2 to I gritting vehicle covering the island routes and the treatment time for gritting operations will increase accordingly.

Mutual aid arrangements across authorities were in place for winter 2020/21 to mitigate Covid related risks and the same arrangements are in the process of being formalised for this year.

The Head of Service will decide if the level of service has to be reduced should resources be depleted due to Covid.

Details of our resilience network are attached as **Appendix M.**

Priority 1 Carriageway Gritting Routes
Policy & Procedure

Priority 1 Gritting Routes can be viewed on the Councils website using the following address:-

http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/winter-gritting.aspx

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Road Surface Temperature	Precipitation	Predicted Road Conditions		
		Wet	**Wet Patches**	**Dry**
Temperature Forecast between +1.5ºC And +0.5ºC	**No** Rain **No** Hoar Frost **No** Fog	High Route Patrols		No action likely
Temperature Forecast below +0.5ºC	**No** Rain **No** Hoar Frost No Fog	(Priority 1 Routes)		
	Expected Hoar Frost **Expected** Fog	Salt before frost		
	Expected rain **BEFORE** freezing	(Priority 1 Routes) Salt after rain stops		
	Expected rain **DURING** freezing	(Priority 1 Routes) Salt before frost, as required during rain and after rain stops		
	Possible rain **Possible** hoar frost **Possible** fog	(Priority 1 Routes) Salt before frost		Monitor weather conditions
Expected Snow Fall		(Priority 1 Routes and footways) Salt before snow fall		

The decision to undertake precautionary treatments should be adjusted, where appropriate, to take account of residual salt.

All decisions should be evidence based, recorded and continuously monitored and reviewed.

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DECISION MAKING

WINTER TREATMENT SPREAD RATE MATRIX SCOTS WINTER SERVICE SUBGROUP ADVICE - AUGUST 2015

Salt Type	Precautionary Treatment for frost / ice	Variation of Well Maintained Highways Appendix H - September 2013					
		Column C Poor Cover Medium Traffic Normal Loss	Column D Poor Cover Medium Traffic High Loss	Column G Fair Cover Medium Traffic Normal Loss	Column H Fair Cover Medium Traffic High Loss	Column K Good Cover Medium Traffic Normal Loss	Column L Good Cover Medium Traffic High Loss
Dry Salt	RST at or above -2 Degrees and dry or damp road conditions (Table H9 of Code - where the road surface is dry no action is needed even when conditions are below zero)	10 (8)	10 (8)	10 (8)	10 (8)	10 (8)	10 (8)
Pre-wet Salt		10 (8)	10 (8)	10 (8)	10 (8)	10 (8)	10 (8)
Treated Salt		10 (7)	10 (7)	10 (7)	10 (7)	10 (7)	10 (7)
Dry Salt	RST at or above -2 Degrees and wet road conditions	15 (13)	20 (16)	10 or 15 (11)	15 (13)	10 (8)	10
Pre-wet Salt		15 (12)	15 (14)	10 (10)	15 (12)	10 (8)	10 (9)
Treated Salt		10 (10)	10 or 15 (11)	10 (8)	10 (10)	10 (7)	10 (7)
Dry Salt	RST below -2 deg C and above -5 deg C and damp road conditions	15 or 20 (17)	20	10 or 15 (14)	20 (17)	10 or 15 (11)	15 (13)
Pre-wet Salt		15 or 20 (16)	20 (18)	15 (14)	15 (16)	15 (11)	15 (12)
Treated Salt		15 (12)	15 (14)	10 or 15 (11)	15 (12)	10 (8)	10 (10)
Dry Salt	RST below -2 deg C and above -5 deg C and wet road conditions	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x17)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x20)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x28)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x17)	20(20)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (25)
Pre-wet Salt		1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x16)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x18)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (27)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (31)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (21)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (24)
Treated Salt		1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (24)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (28)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (21)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (24)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (16)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (19)
Dry Salt	RST at or below -5 deg C and above -10 deg C and damp road conditions	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x16)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x19)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (27)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x16)	20	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (24)
Pre-wet Salt		1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x16)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x18)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (27)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (31)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (21)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (24)
Treated Salt		1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (23)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (27)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (20)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (23)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (15)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (18)
Dry Salt	RST below -5 deg C and above -10 deg C and wet road conditions	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x32)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x39)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x27)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x32)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x20)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x24)
Pre-wet Salt		1 x 20* then monitor & treat as required (2x31)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x36)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x27)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x31)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x21)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x24)
Treated Salt		1 x 20 then monitor & treat as reqirred (2x23)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x27)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x20)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x23)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (30)	1 x 20 then monitor & treat as required (2x18)

( ) = Appendix H rates in brackets
Please see H10.25 regarding effectiveness of sodium chloride at low temperatures.

Salt Type	Precautionary Treatments Before Snow or Freezing rain	Light or Medium Traffic	Heavy Traffic
Dry Salt		$20g/m^2$	$20g/m^2$
Pre-wet Salt	Light Snow Forecast	$20g/m^2$	$20g/m^2$
Treated Salt		$15g/m^2$	$15g/m^2$
Dry Salt		$20g/m^2$	$40g/m^2$
Pre-wet Salt	Moderate/Heavy Snow Forecast	$20g/m^2$	$40g/m^2$
Treated Salt		$15g/m^2$	$30g/m^2$
Dry Salt		1 x$20g/m^2$ then monitor	
Pre-wet Salt	Freezing rain Forecast	1 x$20g/m^2$ then monitor	
Treated Salt		1 x$15g/m^2$ then monitor	

Note:

- Rate of spread for precautionary treatments may be adjusted to take account of local variations along the routes such as residual salt, temperature variations, surface moisture (air or road surface) road alignment and traffic density.

- All decisions should be evidence based, recorded and require continuous monitoring and review.

- Ice refers to all ice on the road surface, including black ice.

- The level of service generally complies with the recommendations laid down in "Well Maintained Highways" the UK Code of Practice for Highway Management and is summarised above.

- Appendix H of "Well Maintained Highways" which covers winter maintenance operations and treatments underwent a complete revision in November 2013. The SCOTS winter Subgroup consulted with the National Winter Service Research Group (NWSRG) concerning the implementation of Appendix H of Well Maintained Highways. The Subgroup made a number of suggestions to implement Appendix H that have been commented on by the NWSRG. Having considered the comments from the NWSRG on the review of Appendix H the SCOTS Winter Service Subgroup provided advice that Scottish Local Roads Authorities adopt variations to Appendix H of Well Maintained Highways and North Ayrshire Council are following these.

SUMMARY OF AVAILABLE LABOUR & PLANT

TYPE OF PLANT	GOLDCRAIGS	ARRAN	OTHER NAC	TOTAL
Gritters				
18 Tonne Uni-body	10	3		13
7.5 Tonne Uni-body	1	0		1
Trailer Gritter	0	0	1	1
Footway Gritter	1	1	7	9
Lorries				
18 Tonne Uni-body	10	3		13
26 Tonne Multilift	1	0		1
7.5 Tonne Uni-body	1	0		1
Loading Shovel	1	0		1
JCB 2CX	0	1		1
Telehandler	0	1		2
Ploughs				
Fixed V	3	2		5
Large Blade	15	3		18
LABOUR				
Drivers	22	6	7	35
Operatives	11	3	36	50
Other Equipment				
Muck Truck + plough (For footways)			2	2

Note

When necessary labour, vehicles, plant and equipment from other Council Departments, farmers, plant hirers and contractors will be used to supplement above resources.

This also applies for non-winter related emergency responses.

COMMUNITY GRIT BINS

Small quantities of salt are available for issue free of charge to members of the public, subject to their supplying a suitable container from the Community Grit Bins sited at the following locations.

Town	Location
Ardrossan	Carpark, North Crescent Road.
Beith	Community Centre, Kings Road.
Brodick	Household Waste Recycling Centre
Dalry	Car Park, Kirk Close.
Fairlie	Car Park, Pier Road.
Irvine	Bartonholm Household Waste Recycling Centre.
Kilbirnie	Streetscene Depot, Paddockholm Road.
Kilwinning	Byrehill Place (off Pennyburn Road)
Lamlash	Council Office
Largs	Waste & Streetscene Depot, Alexander Avenue.
Millport	Kepple Pier
Saltcoats	Streetscene Depot, Mid Dykes Road.
Skelmorlie	Toward View (opposite Fire Station).
Stevenston	Car Park, Garnock Road.
West Kilbride	Community Centre, Corse Street.

SUMMARY OF AVAILABLE MATERIALS

The following salt, grit and sand stocks will be in place at commencement of winter:-

DEPOT	TONNAGE SALT	TONNAGE SAND (for Sandbags)
Goldcraigs (salt barn)	7000	100
Arran	2400	300
Cumbrae	20	(500 filled sandbags)

Approximately 4000 sandbags are located at Goldcraigs, and 500 on Arran.

Salt Resilience Plan (Mainland)

Level 1 (Green) Service – Stock Levels 2500 Tonnes and above

- Service levels as detailed in NAC Winter and Weather Emergencies Plan.
- Typical daily salt usage (snow conditions) 470T – **resilience 5 days**
                                      or
- Typical daily salt usage (frost & ice only) 235T – **resilience 10 days**

Level 2 (Amber 1) Service – Stock Levels 1800 Tonnes – 2500Tonnes

- Only Priority 1 carriageway routes treated with pure salt, remaining priority carriageway routes reduced to half the normal spread rate or salt/grit mix at 50/50
- All footway routes reduced to salt/sand mix at 50/50
- Grit bins replenished with salt/sand mix at 50/50.
- Typical daily salt usage (snow conditions) 330T – **resilience 2 days**.
                                      or
- Typical daily salt usage (frost & ice only) 165T – **resilience 4 days**

Level 3 (Amber 2) Service – Stock Levels 1000 Tonnes – 1800 Tonnes

- All carriageway routes reduced to half the normal spread rate or salt/grit mix at 50/50
- Priority 1 footway routes treated with salt/sand mix at 50/50
- Remaining footway routes treated with sand/grit mix at 50/50
- Grit bins replenished with sand/grit mix at 50/50
- Typical daily salt usage (snow conditions) 150T – **resilience 5 days**.
                                      or
- Typical daily salt usage (frost & ice only) 75T – **resilience 10 days**

Level 4 (Red) Service – Stock Levels less than 1000Tonnes

- Priority 1 carriageways reduced to half the normal spread rate or salt/grit mix at 50/50
- Treat remaining carriageway routes with sand/grit mix at 50/50
- All footway routes treated with sand/grit mix at 50/50
- Grit bins replenished with sand/grit mix.
- Typical daily salt usage (snow conditions) 100T – **resilience 10 days**
                                      or
- Typical daily salt usage (frost & ice only) 50T – **resilience 20 days**

Assuming 7000 tonnes in stock at start of winter our total resilience would be either

- **Total Resilience during periods of heavy snow - 27 days**
                                      or
  Total Resilience during periods of frost & ice conditions - 54 days

Salt Resilience Plan (Arran)

Level 1 (Green) Service – Stock Levels 1000 Tonnes and above

- Service levels as detailed in NAC Winter and Weather Emergencies Plan.
- Typical daily salt usage (snow conditions) 52T – **resilience 10 days**
  - or
- Typical daily salt usage (frost & ice only) 26T – **resilience 20 days**

Level 2 (Amber 1) Service – Stock Levels 550 Tonnes – 1000Tonnes

- Only Priority 1 carriageway routes treated with pure salt, remaining priority carriageway routes reduced to half the normal spread rate or salt/grit mix at 50/50
- All footway routes reduced to salt/sand mix at 50/50
- Grit bins replenished with salt/sand mix at 50/50.
- Typical daily salt usage (snow conditions) 44T – **resilience 10 days**.
  - or
- Typical daily salt usage (frost & ice only) 22T – **resilience 20 days**

Level 3 (Amber 2) Service – Stock Levels 250 Tonnes – 550 Tonnes

- All carriageway routes reduced to half the normal spread rate or salt/grit mix at 50/50
- Priority 1 footway routes treated with salt/sand mix at 50/50
- Remaining footway routes treated with sand/grit mix at 50/50
- Grit bins replenished with salt/sand mix at 50/50
- Typical daily salt usage (snow conditions) 30T – **resilience 10 days.**
  - or
- Typical daily salt usage (frost & ice only) 15T – **resilience 20 days**

Level 4 (Red) Service – Stock Levels less than 250 Tonnes

- Priority 1 carriageways reduced to half the normal spread rate or salt/grit mix at 50/50
- Treat remaining carriageway routes with sand/grit mix at 50/50
- All footway routes treated with sand/grit mix at 50/50
- Grit bins replenished with sand/grit mix.
- Typical daily salt usage (snow conditions) 20T – **resilience 12 days**
  - or
- Typical daily salt usage (frost & ice only) 10T – **resilience 25 days**

Assuming 1,900 tonnes in stock at start of winter our total resilience would be either

- **Total Resilience during periods of heavy snow - 49 days**
  - **or**
  Total Resilience during periods of frost & ice conditions - 98 days

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CONTACT ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

During Normal Working Hours	Outwith Normal Working Hours
MAINLAND Commercial Services (Roads) Cunninghame House IRVINE KA12 8EE Tel: 01294-310000	**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL CALL CENTRE** Road & Lighting Faults 24 hours, 7 days per week Tel: 01294 310000
ARRAN Arran Local Office Lamlash Isle of Arran KA27 8JY Tel: 01770-600338 Fax: 01770-600028	
TRUNK ROADS **A78, A737 & A738** Amey **Network Control Centre** 150 Polmadie Road Glasgow G5 OHD Control Room 0800 042 0188 OCCR-southwest@amey.co.uk	

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Inverclyde Council – Head of Transportation & Roads Service	1
Contact Centre, Building Services, Stevenston	1
Contact Centre, Bridgegate House, **Irvine**	1

BRIDGES WITH WEIGHT OR HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

Bridge Location	Grid Reference	Signed Height	
		Metric	**Imperial**
B714/50 : Dalry, Railway Bridge	229960 649702	3.8	12' – 6"
B706/40 : Barrmill	236834 651392	4.0	13' – 0"
B7047/10 : Meadowfoot Road, West Kilbride	220791 647032	4.6	15' – 0"
C6/10 : West Balgray	235333 642491	3.9	12' – 9"
C26/10 : South Kilruskin	220541 650473	4.4	14' – 6"
C26/20 : North Kilruskin	220423 650868	5.0	16' – 6"
U67/10 : Dubbs	228508 642006	3.0	9' – 9"
U67(A78 280) : Todhill (Dubbs Road, under A78, Kilwinning Bypass)	229175 642250	4.0	13' – 0"
U67/30 : Nethermains	230059 642199	3.7	12' – 0"
C56/30 : Moor Road	220639 652980	4.7	15' – 6"
C67/20 : Tandelhill	238174 651683	4.4	14' – 3"
C99/20 : Cockenzie	230694 646241	3.0	10' – 0"
Unc.TG/230 : Garnock View, Glengarnock	231875 653191	3.8	12' – 6"
Unc.TI/70 : Old Church Street, Irvine	213571 638800	4.0	13' – 3"

WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS

Bridge Location	Grid Reference	Signed Weight
B781/30 : West Kilbride, Dalry Road	221015 649062	7.5T
C129/20 : Floors, north of Kilmaurs	240866 641921	17T
C99/30 : Dusk Bridge, near Dalry	230599 646882	7.5T
Unc.TL/30 : Largs, May Street	220711 658602	7.5T
U16/10 : Dalgarven Mill Bridge, north of Kilwinning, (formerly Unc.NC/30)	229571 645847	26T
U23 : Fairliecrevoch Bridge, Perceton, Irvine	236065 642011	3T
Unc.NT/10 : Barrmill	236472 650997	3T
U54/30 : Sevenacres Mill Bridge, Kilwinning	233123 643810	18T

ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES

ROADS TO BE TREATED BY ADJACENT AUTHORITIES	ROADS TO BE TREATED BY NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
Ayrshire Roads Alliance (East Ayrshire) A71 – from boundary westwards to Corsehill roundabout. A735 – that section within North Ayrshire boundary. B769 – from boundary south westwards to Chapeltoun junction. C129 – that section within North Ayrshire boundary. C20 – that section within North Ayrshire boundary. B706 - from boundary to A736 C117 From Chapeltoun Bridge to Wheatrig Bridge	**South Ayrshire** U107 from the South Ayrshire Council boundary at the railway bridge to A759 Auchengate Interchange.
	East Ayrshire A736 – from Caldwell Bridge southwards to Lugton. A736 – from B778 junction south eastwards to Torranyard. C24 - from Greenhill Terrace, Knockentiber to boundary at Plann Bridge. C126 From Montgreenan Bridge to North Lodge. Knockentiber Road from boundary near Springside to junction with C24
Roads to be Treated by Ayrshire Roads Alliance (South Ayrshire) B730 from the North Ayrshire Council boundary at the railway bridge south of Drybridge to junction Shewalton Road, Drybridge.	**Renfrewshire Council** A760 – from boundary to Kerse Road junction, Kerse Road – from boundary to A760 junction

Note: There are no cross boundary arrangements with East Renfrewshire Council.

GRIT BIN POLICY & PROCEDURE

1. North Ayrshire Council shall provide grit bins for self-help by members of the public. These shall be sited locally in accordance with this policy.

2. Grit bins shall only be located where the following criteria are met: -

   - The location is not on a precautionary carriageway route;
   - The gradient is greater than 1 in 10, or at a junction with a known history of accidents;
   - The location shall not obstruct the passage of pedestrians, a minimum of 1.5m clearance on the footway is required;
   - The location shall not obstruct sight lines;
   - The location is not within 200m of another grit bin location;
   - The location is within an urban area;
   - The location is within the boundary of the public road. Commercial Services (Roads) will not provide grit bins in private areas or car parks for internal use by either the Council or any other public or private property such as schools, parks, hospitals, care homes etc. unless a service level agreement is in place.

3. Grit bins will only be located where they can be filled from a lorry. The grit bins shall be replenished at the start of the winter period and on a monthly cycle during the winter period, as resources permit.

4. Grit bins will generally be left in place during the summer months, unless there is a history of vandalism at a particular location.

5. The location of grit bins will be recorded in an electronic database, which will be made available on the North Ayrshire Council website.

6. Only written requests on the Council's Grit Bin Application Form will be considered, these are available from the Head of Commercial Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE, and on the Council's website.

7. A request will not be accepted unless a location to site the grit bin has been agreed. Therefore, even if the criterion for locating a grit bin is met, a grit bin will not be provided if the adjacent residents cannot agree a position. The signed agreement of adjacent residents must be included on the submitted application form, otherwise the application will not be considered.

8. Grit Bin Application forms are available on the Council's website at
   http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/winter-gritting.aspx

COVID Resilience Network