

Community Benefits Wish List

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What are 'Community Benefits'?

Community benefits are built into the Council's procurement processes, designed to bring added value to communities when the Council tenders for a service. Social, environmental and employability support can be provided by companies who have goods and services contracts over £50,000 and works contracts over £500,000, ensuring that the impact of them winning that tender isn't just to their own financial benefit; it gives something back to the people of North Ayrshire directly.

Why a Wish List?

As part of North Ayrshire's commitment to Community Wealth Building, we are reviewing how our community benefits are delivered, with the aim of improving the process for both communities and contractors. The Wish List allows us to share the requests for support that the Council has received from groups across the local authority, and acts as a 'one stop shop' for Council contractors to see the range of opportunities available for them to give back to local people. Registering a wish with us helps to get your needs out there and spread the word!

How does the process work?

The Wish List form is open to any community group, organisation, association, or charity within North Ayrshire who would like to request external support. A simplified version of the process can be seen below:



There are several steps to the process:

1. Up to 3 wishes at a time can be requested using the Wish List form which is available online [here](#). Once you have completed the form, we will receive a notification and review what you have submitted. You may have up to 3 wishes on the Wish List at any one time. Additional requests cannot be added until one of your existing wishes has been completed.
2. If we have any questions or need any further information from you, we'll be in touch using the contact details you've submitted. We will only use this contact information for communication regarding community benefits, and you may ask us to remove it, along with any wishes, at any time.

After receiving your form, we will either:

- a. Upload your requests to our portal
- b. Discuss with you whether your requests might be better met by another public sector organisation (e.g. NHS, Police Scotland, Ayrshire College)
- c. Inform you of any requests we are unable to include on the portal. Examples of what we cannot include are listed at the end of this document.
- d. Be in touch to clarify any questions we have about what has been submitted to ensure the wish is as clear as possible for contractors

3. The portal is regularly updated, so check back within 5 working days to see when your wishes have been added. At this stage, your requests are visible to the public. Any businesses working with the Council as contractors will also be able to have a look at the requests from the community. Behind the scenes, we'll be looking at upcoming Council contracts, and matching community benefit requests with contract winners where we can. You will see a status against each wish showing you where in the process it is, along with the date of submission. Completed examples of community benefit are also available to view on the portal.
4. If a contractor feels they could help you with your request, we will put you in touch so that you can work together directly. Support is available if you need it during this phase – your Locality Officer or the Third Sector Interface can signpost you in the right direction.
5. Once you've agreed the scope and timeframe for the community benefit to be delivered, the contractor will fulfil their side of the agreement and undertake the work, support, donation, or other help they've agreed to. Once this has been done, we will carry out a short review with you and the business to establish how it went and the level of benefit provided, which feeds into our reporting to the Scottish Government, as well as ongoing improvements to community benefits processes at North Ayrshire Council.

How long does the process take?

We aim to review all new requests within five working days of submission – you should hear back from us within this timeframe to confirm what happens next with your requests. From there, they will be uploaded to the portal for review by contractors for North Ayrshire Council, and the public generally.

There are no guarantees around how long it might take for your wish to be selected, and we unfortunately can't promise that your request will be fulfilled. However, we will do all we can to signpost contractors who work with the Council to the requests on the portal and promote the many opportunities to give back to them as part of our procurement processes.

To ensure that the list remains accurate, wishes that have not been selected after one year will be removed from the list. You may then submit a new wish if you choose.

Completing the Wish List Form

You can access the form [here](#) or by following this link:

<http://northayrshire.community/community-benefits-wishlist-application-form/>.

If you need any help to complete it, you can email the Community Benefits inbox (communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk), and we'll get back to you.

Below is an explanation of each question to help you provide the right information and minimise the delay between submitting it and our portal being updated.

1. *Name of community group, organisation, association, or charity.*

If you are requesting support for a specific project your organisation is running, you can specify this here.

For example: Children's After School Club (run by Irvine Community Centre).

2. *Contact name and role in your organisation.*

Who will be the main person for us to speak to about community benefits? Your secretary or chairperson? A funding officer? A group leader?

3. *Contact email.*

What's the best email address to get in touch with you? Is it your organisation or group's main inbox, or should we email your named contact directly?

4. *Contact phone number(s).* If you have a main line and a mobile number for your named contact, you can give us them both if you'd like – whatever you think the best way of getting in touch is.

5. *Which locality are you based in?*

The Council has broken North Ayrshire down into 6 'localities', and we'll be using this information to help identify particular contracts that are going on in the area you're based in. You can check which locality your town falls into by following the links below:

Arran: [Arran – North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership](#)

Garnock Valley: [Garnock Valley – North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership](#)

Irvine: [Irvine – North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership](#)

Kilwinning: [Kilwinning – North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership](#)

North Coast: [North Coast – North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership](#)

Three Towns: [Three Towns – North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership](#)

If the project you are requesting support for works across North Ayrshire, you can also select this as an option here.

6. *Please provide a short overview of what your group does.*

This helps to provide some context for contractors who may not be familiar with your group. If you have a website or social media pages, please also provide these here, and we can share them with interested businesses.

For example: "Children's After School Club supports school age children and young people in Irvine with activities to build their confidence, support their learning and grow their interests in a safe and fun environment. We're open to any pupil in North Ayrshire, Monday to Friday, 3:30-5:30pm. Link to Facebook: xxxxx"

7. *Type of wish.*

Please select one of the options listed on the form which best describes what you're looking for. If none of the options are quite right, you can type a description into the 'other' box. Bear in mind that you'll have the chance to provide more detail in the next question!

8. *What do you need?*

Use this space to give us some information about the support you're looking for. For example, if you're looking for a donation of materials, how much do you need? What kind of materials? Is it for a specific project? Is there a deadline? What else might a business need to know to be able to give you the help you need?

For example: "Our after-schoolers are creative and our activities encourage them to express this through crafts like painting, modelling, sculpting and drawing. We're looking for donations of art and craft supplies, particularly pens, pencils, glue, clay, and paint. Our club reopens again at the start of the new school term, so would ideally like to have new supplies in place for then."

Questions 8 and 9 appear on the form 3 times to provide space for 3 separate wishes to be submitted. There is no requirement to submit 3 wishes at once, and if your group only need support with one request, you can leave the second and third wish sections blank. Any additional wishes you'd like to submit later can be added by completing the form again until you have 3 wishes on the list. If you would like to remove a wish from the list (it may no longer be relevant, or have been delivered in another way), you can do so by emailing(communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk).

There is a data retention statement included on the form, which we encourage you to read in full before pressing 'submit'. It outlines how we will store the contact details you provide to us, and the circumstances in which this information will be shared with Council contractors.

Community Benefit Restrictions

A wide range of support can be provided to groups requesting a Community Benefit, but there are some restrictions on this. These are broadly outlined in the table below for reference and clarity. All requests submitted through the Wish List form will be reviewed before being uploaded to the portal, and you will be notified of any that are out-with the remit of this process in advance.

Requests for services (e.g. voluntary time from a business to support a project through activities such as painting, gardening, or advice) will be agreed based on the time required to complete the request. For example, some additional help to paint a hall may only be required for an afternoon, and a business is more likely to be able to support a project like this compared to one that takes several days and several staff away from their core jobs to complete. This doesn't mean the latter isn't possible; it's just worth bearing in mind when you're thinking about support you need.

Requests for financial donations are **capped at £1000**. If your project requires financial support greater than £1000, you should explore the grant funding options open to you – we can signpost to this support if required. A good starting point is the [Community Funding page](#) on the North Ayrshire Council website.

If you require support with funding, the Third Sector Interface or your Locality Team will be able to work with you.

Type of request	How to proceed
Construction (homes, premises, shops, facilities, roads)	<p>Requests of this scale are not possible through Community Benefits processes due to the cost and the legal processes in place to make them happen.</p> <p>Contact the appropriate Council department for advice, support or to read guidance on processes to follow for these large projects.</p> <p>Planning and Building Standards (north-ayrshire.gov.uk)</p>
Installation of large systems (electrical, heating, security)	<p>Requests of this scale are highly unlikely to be possible through Community Benefits processes route due to the cost.</p> <p>Contact the appropriate Council department for advice, support or to read guidance on processes to follow for these large projects.</p> <p>Planning and Building Standards (north-ayrshire.gov.uk)</p>
Large donations or major works	<p>If you are looking for support for a large or complex project, it may be advisable to proactively seek out funding support in addition to requesting help via the Wish List, particularly if there is an element of time pressure around the work.</p> <p>One common example that falls into this category are requests for portacabins or containers, which often come with hidden costs (transportation, connections to services, installation of doors, windows, insulation etc). Rising costs of materials and services have impacted the trades who would normally support projects like this, so they may be more limited in the help they can offer than they were pre-2020.</p>
Creation of paid employment opportunities	<p>Employability and the creation of paid opportunities for local people is centrally managed, and forms part of the formal procurement contract between North Ayrshire Council and the successful contract holder. This is laid out in Scottish procurement legislation, namely the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.</p> <p>However, requests for volunteering opportunities or work shadowing could be requested through the Wish List – select ‘other’, and then describe what your group would like to ask for in the space for further detail.</p>
A request which serves one individual, family, or informal group (e.g. friends)	<p>Community benefits are, by definition, for the benefit of a community – a community defined by location or shared interest. We cannot proceed with requests from a single individual, a family, or a group of friends; requests can only be accepted from community groups, community associations, community organisations, voluntary organisations, or other formal Third Sector organisations.</p>
A request that concerns land or property your group or organisation doesn't own	<p>In most cases, any requests concerning changes to land (e.g. tidying up pitches) or property (e.g. painting a hall) must come from the group or organisation who own or lease the asset. If you require work to be carried out on an area of land, please ensure that you either own the land or have written permission from the landowner. For example, planting wildflowers for a bio-diversity project where your community group doesn't own the land can still be carried out if there is clear written permission from the landowner.</p>
A request that benefits operations out-with the North Ayrshire boundary	<p>For organisations with branches across Ayrshire, the request to the Wish List must benefit their work within North Ayrshire. For example, a charity with a</p>

	project in Irvine and Kilmarnock can only request support for the work taking place in Irvine.
A request to cover core costs	The Wish List will not support funding requests to cover core costs, such as rent or staff salaries. It also cannot be used to recruit staff or volunteers; if you are looking for this type of help, then you should contact TACT for advice and support: The Ayrshire Community Trust The Centre for Volunteering Excellence in North Ayrshire (tact.scot)
A request from a school	The Wish List is targeted specifically at community-led and Third Sector organisations, and is therefore not open to requests from schools at this time. If you are a school looking for support, then you should speak with the Education Team at North Ayrshire Council to identify other avenues that may be open to you.