

**COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND**

**2025/2026**

The closing date for applications is 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026.  
Please note late applications will not be accepted

Please refer to the associated guidance when completing this application form.

All projects must be completed by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

This is an application form for the Coastal Communities Fund managed by South Ayrshire Council. Please complete all parts of the form. If you require any clarification or additional information, then please contact [grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**Amount of grant requested**

TYPE OF GRANT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE	SELECT ONE
*Small grant	Up to £1000	To support small grass roots groups and organisations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
*Development grant	Up to £10,000	The Development Grant will assist groups to plan & develop small scale projects that will link into one of the priorities of the Coastal Communities Grant Fund. Projects will essentially make communities a more attractive place to live & work.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Section 1: Organisation Details**

Organisation Name	<b>Harbour Ayrshire</b>
Organisation Address	<b>6 Miller Road, Ayr, KA7 2AY</b>
Type of organisation (voluntary organisation, charity, CIC, Ltd. by guarantee, SCIO, unincorporated association etc. or private sector)	<b>SCIO</b>

If a charity or Limited Company, please include your number	<b>SCO51829</b>
Does your group/organisation have a bank account?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/>

**Section 2: Contact details**

Contacts	
Name	Andrew Downie
Position in Organisation	Funding Manager

**Section 3: Project Details**

**a. Project Title**

Bridge to Shore
-----------------

**b. About your project, what are you seeking funding for?**

**For large grant applicants only - what risks have you considered, and what steps will you take to keep the project sustainable over the long term?**

Your funding would support up to 10 individuals from Ayr, Prestwick, Troon, Maybole, Girvan and South Carrick who are preparing to enter Stage 5 of our innovative Bridge to Shore recovery and employability pathway. All participants have achieved a minimum of six months continuous sobriety and are now working towards long term positive life outcomes including education, skills training, volunteering and employment.

Your funding would provide targeted progression support to remove the practical and emotional barriers that often prevent people in recovery from sustaining change and accessing opportunities. Support will include trauma-informed therapy, driving lessons to improve employability and transport access across rural coastal communities, interview clothing and essential employability support. These interventions are designed to build confidence, improve wellbeing, increase independence and support individuals to become active contributors within their communities.

As part of the project, Harbour Ayrshire would also organise a therapeutic wellbeing retreat for participants, providing an opportunity to step away from the pressures and triggers of everyday life within a safe, relaxed and supportive environment. The retreat would focus on wellbeing, connection, reflection and peer support, helping strengthen

relationships and reduce social isolation. For many participants, this may be the only opportunity they have to experience a meaningful break away, free from crisis, stress and the challenges associated with addiction and poverty. The value of creating space for people to breathe, reconnect and feel part of something positive can never be underestimated and can often play a significant role in sustaining long term recovery and improving mental wellbeing.

Bridge to Shore is a unique lived experience recovery model inspired by the internationally recognised work of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles. Harbour Ayrshire has adapted this approach to meet the needs of vulnerable people across Ayrshire, particularly those impacted by addiction, trauma, poverty and social exclusion. The project combines peer support, recovery, employability and community integration within one structured pathway that helps individuals move from crisis to becoming self-supporting members of society.

The significance of the model has been recognised nationally, with Harbour Ayrshire's approach now incorporated within Scottish Government employability and recovery toolkits as an example of effective practice in supporting people with lived experience back into employment and community participation.

We have considered a number of risks including relapse, mental health challenges, transport barriers and financial hardship. To mitigate these risks, all participants receive intensive trauma-informed support, peer mentoring and regular wellbeing check-ins from experienced staff and volunteers with lived experience. Sustainability is strengthened through Harbour's established partnerships, volunteer network and ongoing funding strategy. By investing in individuals at this critical stage of recovery, your funding would help create long term social and economic benefits for coastal communities through reduced reliance on services, improved health outcomes and increased community participation, education and employment opportunities.

**c. What community will this project be delivered to and what communities will benefit?**

This project will be delivered across South Ayrshire coastal communities including Ayr, Prestwick, Troon, Maybole, Girvan. The project will specifically support individuals in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction who have achieved a minimum of six months sobriety and are progressing through Harbour Ayrshire's Bridge to Shore recovery and employability pathway. 3 come from Ayr, 3 from Prestwick, 1 from Maybole and 3 from Girvan.

The project will directly benefit our beneficiaries by improving access to therapy, employability support, driving lessons, education, skills development and pathways into volunteering and employment. It will also indirectly benefit families, children and the wider community through improved wellbeing, reduced social isolation, stronger family relationships and increased community participation.

Coastal and rural communities often face additional barriers including poor transport links, limited service provision and reduced access to training and employment opportunities. By supporting individuals to become healthier, more independent and economically active, the project will contribute towards stronger, safer and more connected communities across South Ayrshire.

The wider community will also benefit from reduced pressure on health, social care and criminal justice services, whilst increasing the number of people with lived experience contributing positively through volunteering, peer support and employment within their local communities.

**d. Can your project demonstrate that your project/organisation needs have been identified through consultation?**

Yes  No

**If yes, please include details of the consultation and a summary of the results.**

Yes. The need for this project has been clearly identified through ongoing consultation and engagement with supported people, families, recovery communities, partner organisations and frontline staff across South Ayrshire. Harbour Ayrshire works daily with individuals experiencing addiction, poverty, social isolation, unemployment and poor mental health, allowing us to identify barriers that prevent people sustaining recovery and progressing into positive destinations such as employment and education.

This proposed project has been shaped directly from the success and learning of a previously funded programme delivered in East Ayrshire, where targeted progression support including driving lessons, employability assistance and practical recovery supports produced significant positive outcomes. Through that programme, 5 individuals progressed into full time employment, 3 individuals successfully passed their driving tests and participants reported increased confidence, independence and engagement with recovery and employability pathways.

Consultation and feedback gathered throughout the delivery of the East Ayrshire project demonstrated that practical interventions such as transport support, therapy and employability preparation were often the missing link preventing individuals from progressing beyond early recovery. The evidence gathered showed improved attendance, increased motivation and stronger long term engagement when these barriers were addressed holistically.

As a result of these successful outcomes, Harbour Ayrshire has experienced increased demand for similar support within South Ayrshire coastal communities including Ayr, Prestwick, Troon, Maybole, Girvan and South Carrick. Supported people and partner agencies have consistently identified driving lessons, therapeutic support and employability assistance as key unmet needs, particularly within rural and coastal areas where transport and access to opportunities remain significant barriers.

This consultation process and the evidence from the successful East Ayrshire programme have directly informed the development of this proposal and demonstrate both the clear need and the potential long term impact of the project.

**e. Which of the following Council plan priorities most aligns with your proposed project:**

Priority 1 – Spaces & Places

Priority 2 – Live, Work, learn

Priority 3 – Civic & Community Pride

**If linking into a place plan or a community action plan, please detail which priority it will be achieving. See [here](#) for local plans.**

Our project aligns most strongly with South Ayrshire Council's Live, Work, Learn priority by supporting vulnerable individuals within coastal communities to rebuild their lives, improve wellbeing and progress towards education, volunteering and employment. Harbour Ayrshire's Bridge to Shore pathway supports people impacted by addiction, trauma, poverty and social isolation to move from crisis towards becoming active, self-supporting members of society.

The need for this support is best reflected through the voices of the people we work alongside every day. One beneficiary stated:

"Harbour has saved my life. I could not leave my house due to my anxiety and addiction. After they gave me a tablet to access online recovery support, I slowly regained confidence and managed to finally get outside to peer support groups. I have recently celebrated one year of sobriety—and it's all thanks to Harbour." Aligning with Civic and community pride.

Our project also supports the Council's commitment to reducing inequalities, improving mental health and wellbeing and strengthening communities by helping people with lived experience become positive contributors through volunteering, peer support, training and employment. Through early intervention, compassionate support and meaningful progression opportunities, Harbour Ayrshire is helping transform lives whilst creating healthier, safer and more connected coastal communities across South Ayrshire.

--

f. Please select the grant you are applying for and the relevant priority (you can select more than one priority, if applicable).

**For small grant only:**

- To assist with barriers to sustain the group
- To develop new projects/ideas

**For development grant only:**

- Deliver improvements to public places that will increase the number of visitors
- make coastal communities more attractive places to live and work
- demonstrate a strong link to local strategies and local place plans

<b>Estimated start date:</b>	<b>1/7/26</b>
<b>Estimated completion date: (must be by 13<sup>th</sup> November 2026)</b>	<b>30/10/26</b>

g. If your project relates to a property or land, please confirm whether you own, or lease the property or land  
own  lease

If lease, an indication that the owner is supportive or aware that plans will be required. Please detail how you will provide evidence of support, ie long term lease.

If lease, then a copy of the lease needs to be provided.

h. Please tick/populate as appropriate:

Are you aware of the appropriate consents required for this project? Yes  No

**Do you have:**

- Statutory consents for your project in place
- Planning, including listed building and conservation area consents
- Building Warrants
- Evidence of Pre application discussion  Please include your reference number
- ---

Not applicable

Copies of any of the above need to be provided.

#### Section 4: Project Costs

How much funding are you requesting from the Coastal Communities Fund?

£ 6590

Are you applying for Revenue or Capital costs, or both?

Revenue  £

Capital  £

Please provide a full break down of costs for your project for your application to be considered.

If applying for both revenue and capital, then please detail costs separately.

Item/Activity	Cost
Therapy sessions 8 people @£450	£3600
Driving Lessons 4 people @ £500	£2000
10 people for retreat @£99	£990
<b>Total</b>	£6590

For development grant only:

**\*3 quotes need to be provided for proposed works over £1000 (individual item), quotes need to be dated within last 6 months – if relevant quotes are not provided when submitting application, it will not be considered.**

#### Section 5: Checklist

Please confirm you have the following documents:

Constitution/Memorandum & Articles

Audited or independently verified accounts

Last 3 months bank statements

#### Section 6: Declaration & Conditions

I, on behalf of, (organisation name):

- Certify that to the best of my knowledge the information contained in this application is true and accurate and will adhere to the following terms and conditions;
- Understand that making this application does not entitle the organisation to funding as a right;
- Will not commence or commit any expenditure before receiving approval of the funding;
- Confirm that the quotations are bona fide competitive quotes;
- Will provide the External Funding officer with digital colour photos of the work, both before and after the work has been completed. I understand that these images will be kept on record and used for future publicity;
- Understand that this funding award does not cover retrospective work;
- Understand that to make any misleading statement in relation to this application could make the application invalid, or may mean the organisation has to repay the funding;
- Understand that this application is subject to appropriate checks and meets appropriate conditions such as planning, procurement guidelines, and other statutory consents; and
- I Have read the associated guidance before completing and submitting this application form.
- Understands that if I do not provide satisfactory evidence of spend then the council may request I repay the grant

Failure to return or complete and return any evaluations requested then I may not receive any future funding from South Ayrshire Council. I may be asked to repay the funds if I cannot provide evidence that they were used for the purpose intended.

Name of Person Completing Application: Andrew Downie

On behalf of: (Organisation name) : Harbour Ayrshire

Date: 22/5/26

Completed applications only should be saved as a PDF document and uploaded to [Your Area Your Voice Your Choice](#)

Supporting documents should be e-mailed to [grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

These include:

- Constitution
- Last 3 months bank statements
- Independently verified accounts
- Quotes (where required)

