COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND

2026-2027

The closing date for applications is 29th October 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 30th June 2027.

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

Amount of grant requested

TYPE OF GRANT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE	SELECT ONE
*Development grant	Up to £15,000	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.	☒

Section 1: Organisation Details

Organisation Name	**Stinchar Connections**
Organisation Address	**C/O Barrhill Memorial Hall, Main Street, Barrhill, KA26 0PP**
Type of organisation (voluntary organisation, charity, CIC, Ltd. by guarantee, SCIO, unincorporated association etc. or private sector)	**SCIO**
If a charity or Limited Company, please include your number	**SC054850**

Does your group/organisation have a bank account?	Yes ☒ No ☐ In progress ☐

Section 2: Contact details

Contacts	Lead Contact
Name	Jen Williams
Position in Organisation	Development Officer

Section 3: Project Details

a. Project Title

Stinchar Connections Community Bus Service and Additional Transport Services

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

What risks have you considered, and what steps will you take to keep the project sustainable over the long term?

Stinchar Connections is seeking funding to continue the Community Bus Service it provides to the rural communities of Ballantrae, Barrhill, Colmonell, Lendalfoot, Pinmore and Pinwherry and additional transport services of occasional timetabled routes and trips. The organisation launched a new timetable on 1st September 2026 which extended the routes from the Pilot project to provide more connections to services eg. Shopping at ASDA and attending Girvan Hospital and more onward transport links eg. Meeting trains at Barrhill Station, Girvan Station and Buses to and from Ayr and Stranraer. The timetable provides services on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. The Tuesday service is popular for travel to Ballantrae for GP appointments, pharmacy and social events. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday provide travel home from after school clubs at Girvan Academy and travel to youth clubs and Carrick Rugby diversionary Friday training. Sunday is a popular service when there is little to no other public transport locally. Over the last 6 months Stinchar Connections has been developing the service it provides and has created a Family of Services to meet local needs from the feedback received in an evaluation carried out by NHS Ayrshire and Arran. Connect and Explore Trips have been well attended and additional occasional timetabled routes particularly on a Saturday have been implemented which allows transport to local events. We have improved how we share information with the launch of a new website and increased social media coverage.

With this we intend to not only support residents from the villages to travel elsewhere, but encourage more visitors to the villages to support local businesses and community enterprises.

Stinchar Connections is seeking funding to support this service by providing the cost of 2 months of the regular timetable, 4 additional timetabled routes and 2 Connect and Explore Trips.

We receive donations from passengers on some of our additional services ie. Connect and Explore Trips which allows us to provide more of these services than applied for through grant funding. We are also exploring funding from other funders to avoid heavily relying on support from one main funder. Stinchar Connections is implementing a subgroup to look at future sustainability and generating revenue to support the Community Transport Service it provides.

Transport is hired from South Ayrshire Community Transport, but as well as providing the buses and drivers for the service Stinchar Connections benefits from the support of the Manager and staff team at SACT.

Funding has been secured for our own 9 Seater vehicle and building up a team of volunteer drivers which will reduce the cost of future additional services eg. Event Links and Village Links.

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

This project will be delivered to the rural communities of Ballantrae, Barr, Barrhill, Colmonell, Lendalfoot, Pinmore and Pinmore and Girvan will also benefit.

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.

An evaluation was carried out by NHS Ayrshire and Arran Health Improvement Team and the report from this was available at the end of March 2026. Feedback from the survey told us the community transport -
Helps people to connect with family and friends, reducing loneliness and isolation and improving mental health
helps people to get to social activities, access services and clubs, including health services
Helps young people and older people who use the service to be more independent
Recommendations from the evaluation to improve the service were -

Improve access for people with disabilities, people who need assistance to travel and people who aren't near a bus stop
Have more buses, quicker routes and a better, easy to access timetable to make the bus easier to use
Share more information on where the bus goes and when
Connect the bus with trains and other bus services to help people travel further eg. Stranraer and Ayr.

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.

Stinchar Connections supports Priority 1 – Spaces & Places by improving transport connections between rural villages, Girvan and onward public transport services. The Community Bus and additional services help residents access healthcare, shops, social activities, sport and youth opportunities, particularly where public transport is limited. By addressing gaps in provision, the project reduces rural isolation, supports independence and wellbeing, and enables more people to participate in community life.

Stinchar Connections links to village place plans as follows-

Ballantrae key objectives -
Rural isolation and the challenges of getting around
A priority to look after people as they get older
The need for things to do, to keep active and to come together as a community

Colmonell highlighted issues with public transport - Bus every 2 hours and none on a Sunday Not frequent or reliable Too many connections to get to desired destination No buses to Ballantrae. Facilities and amenities difficult to access due to poor public transport

Barrhill -
11.1 Improve safe, inclusive, and year-round access to Barrhill railway station for residents of all ages and abilities by enhancing the quality, safety, and continuity of the walking environment.
12.1 BCC will engage with transport providers (bus service providers, ScotRail, and community transport including Stinchar Connections) to:

12.1.1 Identify solutions to gaps in provision, particularly weekday services after 5pm and the lack of Sunday services.
12.1.2 Explore the feasibility of link buses, community transport, and demand -responsive transport options.
12.1.3 Promote the use of community transport where available to support long-term viability.

Pinwherry & Pinmore highlighted issues with Public transport - Frequency of buses – every 2 hours, no Sunday service Taxis don't cover area or are too expensive – rural discrimination Difficult for those who commute or need to get somewhere. Suggestions were to Improve transport options (rail) and discourage car use

f. Please select the relevant priority (you can select more than one priority, if applicable):

- 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 ☒

Estimated start date:	**1st Feb 2027**
Estimated completion date: (must be by 30th June 2027)	**1st June 2027**

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:

Is the property a listed building? Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes:

☐ I acknowledge that works to a listed building may require Listed Building

Consent and that it is my responsibility to ensure all necessary permissions are obtained prior to commencing works.

i. **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?
£11,347.14
Are you applying for Revenue or Capital costs, or both?
Revenue ☒ £11,347.14
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**
2 months of Regular weekly timetable	**£9796.74**
Additional Timetabled Runs x 4	**£950.40**
Connect and Explore Trips x 2	**£600**
Total	**£11347.14**

For development grant:

***3 quotes need to be provided for proposed works/items over £1000, quotes need to be dated within last 6 months – <u>if relevant quotes are not provided when submitting application, it will not be considered.</u>**

South Ayrshire Community Transport are the organisation that the bus service is hired from. Costings for 2027 from SACT will be provided. There are no other similar companies/organisations to receive quotes from.

Section 5: Checklist

Please confirm you have the following documents:

Constitution/Memorandum & Articles ☒

Audited or independently verified accounts ☐ ***Stinchar Connections only became a Charitable organisation in December 2025 therefore no annual accounts are yet available. Confirmation of Charitable status is attached with the application.***

Last 3 months bank statements ☒

Section 6: Declaration & Conditions

I, on behalf of, Stinchar Connections:

- 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: Jen Williams _____

On behalf of: (Organisation name) : Stinchar Connections_____

Date: _____29/10/2026_____

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

These include:

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