

COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND

2024/2025

The closing date for applications is 11th September 2025.

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 31st March 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

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 £4,950	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Section 1: Organisation Details

Organisation Name	Adventure Centre for Education (ACE)
Organisation Address	Unit 4, 12 Ladywell Avenue, Girvan KA269PF
Type of organisation (voluntary organisation, charity, CIC, Ltd. by guarantee, SCIO, unincorporated association etc. or private sector)	Company limited by guarantee with Charitable status SC020728

If a charity or Limited Company please include your number	SC318178
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	Lead Contact
Name	Chris saunders
Position in Organisation	CEO

Section 3: Project Details

Project Title

Girvan Blue Health Hub

About your project/what are you seeking funding for?

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We are seeking funding to further develop the Blue Health Hub at Girvan Harbour and promote our unique Snorkel Trail, while making our activities more accessible, visible, and welcoming for the whole community. This funding will enable us to purchase:

A GoPro snorkel camera kit to capture and share underwater footage from the Snorkel Trail. These films will showcase Girvan's hidden marine life, celebrate our natural heritage, and be used in schools, community events, and online to inspire pride and participation.

A stock of adult and children's wetsuits, ensuring that families and individuals of all ages can take part safely and comfortably, regardless of the season.

Thermos flasks so participants can enjoy warm drinks after sessions, supporting wellbeing and social connection, especially during colder months.

Two sit-on-top kayaks, which are stable, versatile, and beginner-friendly, making them ideal for community groups, schools, and families to explore the River Girvan.

Large mesh banners to raise the visibility of both the Blue Health Hub and the Snorkel Trail within the town. These banners will act as a point of pride for the community while also attracting day visitors and tourists.

Together, these resources will allow us to strengthen Girvan's position as a hub for blue health, outdoor recreation, and community wellbeing. They will help us reduce social isolation, encourage healthy lifestyles, and promote Girvan as a welcoming coastal town where residents and visitors alike can connect with nature and each other.

By combining high-quality equipment with strong community promotion and storytelling, this project will not only improve the local offer but also showcase Girvan's unique blue spaces more widely, supporting both community health and the local visitor economy.

What community will this project be delivered in and what communities will benefit?

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This project will be delivered in Girvan, through the Blue Health Hub at Girvan Harbour and along the Girvan Snorkel Trail. The Hub is already a focal point for activity in the town, connecting residents, families, and visitors with the health and wellbeing benefits of being in, on, and around the water.

The immediate beneficiaries will be the Girvan and wider Carrick communities, where there are recognised challenges around health inequalities, rural isolation, and limited access to affordable activities. Girvan has areas ranked within the 20% most deprived in Scotland, and South Ayrshire overall has a higher-than-average elderly population, many of whom face barriers to staying active and socially connected. By providing wetsuits, beginner-friendly kayaks, and warm refreshments, we will make it easier for older adults, families, and young people—including those with limited resources—to take part in safe and inclusive blue health sessions close to home.

The project will also benefit communities across South Ayrshire, particularly those living in rural and remote areas, and groups who may experience exclusion such as refugees and new arrivals. Actively promoting participation from these groups will help reduce isolation, build confidence, and create a welcoming community atmosphere.

Beyond residents, the project will support day visitors and staycation tourists who are drawn to Girvan's coastline. The new GoPro snorkel footage and town banners will showcase Girvan's unique natural assets, raising awareness of the Snorkel Trail and the Blue Health Hub, and encouraging more people to explore the harbour and surrounding area. This will not only boost community pride but also contribute to Girvan's year-round visitor economy.

In short, this project is rooted in Girvan but designed to ripple outward—benefiting the Carrick and South Ayrshire communities, tackling health and social inequalities, and

positioning Girvan as a recognised destination for blue health, wellbeing, and community connection.

Please provide information you have about the need and support for the project, eg community consultation

Need and Support for the Project

The development of the Blue Health Hub in Girvan has been shaped directly by community consultation and ongoing feedback from participants. Since launching, we have delivered a wide range of activities including kayaking, paddleboarding, canoeing, snorkelling, wellbeing walks, and “Sea Tea & Me” sessions. Demand has been strong, with our wellbeing programme alone averaging 8 participants per session across 25 sessions. This demonstrates both the appetite for regular blue health activities and the potential to grow further with the right equipment and infrastructure.

Community Need

Deprivation: Girvan has neighbourhoods ranked within the 20% most deprived in Scotland (SIMD). Many families have limited access to affordable recreation, and local young people often face barriers to opportunities available elsewhere.

Rural and Remote Access: Carrick’s rural nature means transport and cost can prevent people accessing activities in larger towns. Having high-quality provision in Girvan is vital.

Ageing Population: South Ayrshire has a higher-than-average elderly population, and older residents in Girvan have told us they want accessible, low-cost ways to stay active, social, and connected.

Social Isolation: Locality planning consultations highlight loneliness and social isolation as key issues. Our activities provide safe, structured ways for people to meet and connect.

Inclusion: Refugee families and people with SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) challenges are already engaging with us. They report feeling welcome and supported, and more targeted resources (wetsuits, beginner kayaks, warm drinks) will make participation even easier.

Community Consultation and Feedback

Through surveys and informal feedback, participants regularly tell us that confidence in accessing the water is a barrier. Many feel anxious about getting cold, about kit costs, or about safety.

Parents have asked for children’s wetsuits so their families can take part together.

Older adults and beginners highlight the need for stable sit-on kayaks to feel safe.

Participants and partners have requested better visibility and promotion of the Snorkel Trail and Hub within the town. Mesh banners and GoPro footage will allow us to showcase Girvan's blue spaces and increase uptake.

Wider Support

The project also aligns with:

Girvan Place Plan priorities around sport, recreation, and empowered community action.

South Ayrshire Council's Plan commitments to improving "Spaces and Places" and promoting health, wellbeing, and tourism.

Girvan & South Carrick Locality Planning Partnership priorities around reducing social isolation and improving mental health.

Ongoing collaboration with Girvan Town Team, the Community Garden, refugee networks, and schools, all of whom are supportive of increasing inclusive access to blue health.

The need is clear: people in Girvan want more inclusive, affordable, and visible opportunities to connect with the water for health, wellbeing, and community connection. The support is equally strong, with individuals, families, local groups, and partners consistently encouraging us to expand what we can offer through the Blue Health Hub and Snorkel Trail. This project directly responds to that consultation and will deliver tangible benefits for the community.

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 ☒

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 ☒

If linking into a place plan or a community action plan, please details which priority it will be achieving:

This project aligns closely with local strategies and place plans. It supports the Girvan Place Plan 2021 by expanding inclusive sport and recreation opportunities through kayaking and the Snorkel Trail, and by engaging the community through GoPro content, banners, and promotion, strengthening community pride and involvement. It contributes to the South Ayrshire Council Plan 2023-28 by enhancing public spaces at Girvan Harbour, improving health and wellbeing through accessible water-based activities, and boosting the town's appeal to visitors. The project also addresses priorities in the Girvan & South Carrick Locality Planning Partnership, reducing social isolation and promoting physical and mental health for residents of all ages and abilities. Additionally, it supports SURF's regeneration strategy by improving public realm, increasing visibility of local blue health assets, and attracting tourists, thereby contributing to both community cohesion and the local visitor economy.

Estimated start date:	4th October 2025
Estimated completion date:	March 29th 2026

Section 4: Project Costs

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

£

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

Revenue ☐ £

Capital ☒ £

Please provide a full break down of costs for your project.

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

Item/Activity	Cost
Hero 13 snorkel bundle	549.99
Floating Hand Grip	29.99
Charger + Enduro Batteries	79.99
Lomo sigma sit on top x 2	710

Feelfree paddles x 2 with delivery	179.85
Stanley flasks 2L x 2	109.98
Large mesh banners x 3	522
Childrens wetsuit x 7 circle one	909.93
Adult wetsuit x 5 circle one	849.95
Total	3941.68

For development grant only:

Individual item costs over £1000, 3 quotes need to be provided – 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: Chris Saunders_____

On behalf of: (Organisation name) : Adventure Centre for Education

Date: 10.09.2025

Completed application only should be saved as a PDF document and uploaded to the [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)