

**COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND**

**2024/2025**

The closing date for applications is 11<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](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 £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	Harbour Ayrshire
Organisation Address	6 Miller Road, Ayr, KA7 2AY
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	SCO51829
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	Andrew Downie
Position in Organisation	Funding Manager

## Section 3: Project Details

### Project Title

New Horizons
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### About your project/what are you seeking funding for?

We are seeking funding to support the development of our new Hospital Support Group based at Ayr Hospital. This group provides a vital safe space for people in hospital recovering from addiction, many of whom have also experienced involvement in the criminal justice system. By engaging with people at this critical stage of their recovery journey, we can begin to rebuild trust, create meaningful connections, and ensure they are not discharged back into the same vulnerable circumstances that contributed to their difficulties in the first place.

The Hospital Support Group is designed as a bridge between acute medical care and long-term community support. Addiction recovery does not stop at the hospital doors, and without the right interventions, many individuals relapse or reoffend. Our recovery practitioner and trained volunteers work directly with patients to offer compassionate, trauma-informed support, encouraging them to take the first steps toward long-term stability. The group provides a structured, welcoming environment where individuals can begin to develop new coping strategies, build peer networks, and connect to further support within the community.

Funding will allow us to provide the essential, practical supports that make recovery possible in the earliest and most fragile stages. Many of those we support leave hospital with little more than the clothes they were admitted in, and without resources to cover their immediate needs. With your help, we can provide:

- Emergency food supplies and clothing to ensure people can meet their most basic needs with dignity.
- Bus passes and train fares to enable access to recovery groups, medical appointments, housing services, and employment opportunities.
- Digital support so individuals can stay connected with services, family, and peer networks—especially vital in rural areas where isolation is a major barrier.
- Heating and essential household items over the winter months, preventing hardship and giving people a secure base to focus on recovery.
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These supports are not luxuries; they are lifelines that enable people to stabilise and build resilience while they engage with the services that will help them long-term. By meeting these urgent needs, we can prevent relapse, reduce the risk of reoffending, and promote healthier, more sustainable recovery outcomes.

The early stages of recovery are pivotal. Without immediate and tailored support, many individuals fall through the gaps—returning to addiction, homelessness, or crime. Our approach ensures that no one leaves hospital without a safety net. The trust built between our practitioner, volunteers, and beneficiaries is a foundation for continued engagement. Once trust is established, individuals are far more likely to access treatment, rehabilitation, education, and employment pathways.

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

The project will be based in Ayr Hospital and delivered across South Ayrshire wherever beneficiaries live.

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

The need for this project has become increasingly evident across South Ayrshire, with frontline NHS staff reporting a rising rate of hospital admissions linked to addiction, mental health crises, and related social issues. Doctors, nurses, and Community Link Practitioners at Ayr Hospital have expressed concern that, without joined-up follow-up support, too many patients are discharged back into the same circumstances that led to their admission. This revolving-door pattern places continued strain on Accident & Emergency departments and wider NHS services.

Through consultation with hospital staff, it has become clear that there is strong support for a dedicated Hospital Support Group at Ayr. Staff at every level—from A&E to ward-based clinicians—have recognised that Harbour’s person-centred approach offers something different from statutory services: the ability to engage people in crisis with compassion, lived experience, and immediate practical assistance. Many staff have seen first-hand how patients respond positively to our model, building trust with recovery practitioners and volunteers who understand their journey and can guide them towards sustained support.

The success of our initial partnership at Crosshouse Hospital has further evidenced the need for expansion. At Crosshouse, we demonstrated that early, person-centred intervention can break cycles of repeated hospital presentations. Patients engaged with Harbour have gone on to access community recovery groups, stabilise housing situations, and reconnect with family and support networks. Hospital staff there have provided strong feedback, noting that our involvement has not only improved patient outcomes but also reduced the burden on clinical teams.

The demand is also reflected in our growing work with the prison service, including Barlinnie and Bowhouse prisons. Many individuals’ leaving custody faces the same challenges as those discharged from hospital: homelessness, addiction, and lack of social support. Our engagement in prisons highlights the strong crossover between justice, health, and recovery needs, and reinforces the value of creating consistent, person-centred pathways into the community.

Community Link Practitioners have also welcomed this approach, recognising that it complements their own work by ensuring individuals have wraparound support that addresses both health and social needs. By meeting immediate needs—such as food, clothing, transport, and digital access—Harbour provides a foundation for engagement with wider statutory and voluntary services.

The strength of this combined evidence—rising hospital admissions, positive professional support, proven impact at Crosshouse, and growing demand from the prison service—highlights the clear need for this project and the unique role Harbour is equipped to play.

**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:

The project aligns strongly across all Locality planning partnerships under good mental health and wellbeing and in particular with Ayr North and Girvan with the added strong focus on drugs and alcohol.

<b>Estimated start date:</b>	2-11-25
<b>Estimated completion date:</b>	30-6-26 (longer, hopefully with more fundigng)

#### 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.

<b>Item/Activity</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Volunteer Expenses	£780
Marketing materials	£300
Food support	£750
Heating Support	£750
Clothing support	£500
Toiletries and other essentials	£500
<b>Total</b>	3580

#### 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 Andrew Downie

On behalf of: (Organisation name) : Harbour Ayrshire

Date: 8.9.25

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](mailto:grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

These include:

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

