



2.1 Where you were unable to accept a Participation Request, how did you address the community group's needs/ support them?

Not applicable in the reporting year

We actively encourage potential applicants to have an informal conversation with us by phone or in person at the outset to support them with a PR and, if relevant, signpost them to a more appropriate route for their contribution if one already exists. We offer to work with them on the wording of their Request before it is formally submitted to help ensure it will be effective and can be dealt with promptly. We advise them of the steps their Request will go through in accordance with the statutory guidance

2.2 Please provide details of participatory activities with community groups you have agreed/ undertaken during 2025/26. This can include Participation Requests and also any informal arrangements you have agreed that doesn't involve using Participation Request legislation that has led to improved local outcomes:

Participation in decisions through both traditional and innovative approaches is built into Service planning for front-line Services. We continue to involve service users in commissioning community-based services. Our Family Wellbeing Partnership and our Child Wellbeing Partnership continue to work creatively to involve people in improving outcomes for children and families. Our new "Transformation Space" puts local people at the heart of decision-making to solve local problems and enable funding to flow to solutions to homelessness and to mental health matters that mean most to local communities.

2.3 The recent Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 -Part 3 Participation Requests Findings Report which was published on 31 March 2025 showed that many Public Service Authorities believe that Participation Requests should only be used when informal engagement has failed and therefore do not proactively promote them.

In the report some Public Service Authorities highlighted alternative community engagement processes used which avoids the need for a Participation Request. Please provide information on your local community engagement strategies and your approaches to working collaboratively with your communities:

We welcome the clarity that the new overarching principles for PRs bring and we continue see Participation Requests as a useful tool for community groups who do not already have working relationships with Council Services and/or do not know how to make the first approach. Relevant pages of our website prompt the reader to make use of PRs.

A new Communications and Engagement Strategy is being developed based on consultation with key community stakeholders. It aims to set out approaches to participation and engagement with Council Services.

Our Be the Future Target Operating Model and Transformation Programme set out how we continue to support the development of collaborative approaches to improving outcomes in our communities

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