



Section 32 - Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
Part 3 – Participation Requests
Annual Report 23 January 2019 – 31 March 2020

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Section 32 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires the Council to publish an participation request report for each reporting year. This Annual Report covers the period from 1 April 2019 through to 31 March 2020.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 came into force on 1 April 2017 and part 3 of the Act provided a framework for the use of participation requests by community bodies, the intention being to enable communities to have more influence over services and decisions which affect them.

2.2 In line with the requirements of the Act, the Council has put in place a procedure which allows consideration of any requests made community bodies. The procedure and further information can be found on the Council's website at:

<https://www.argybute.gov.uk/find-out-more-about-participation-requests>

3.0 DETAIL

3.1 The Act requires the Council to publish an annual report setting out

- The number of requests received
- The number of requests agreed and refused
- The number of requests which resulted in changes to a public service provided by, or on behalf of, the public service authority
- Any action taken by the public service authority to promote and support the use of participation requests

3.2 During the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, the Council received 1 participation requests, all were agreed and details can be found on our website at the link detailed

at 2.2

Received From	Request Details	Outcome
Oban Community Council	an increase in the use of Council car parks and on-street bays. A decrease in inconsiderate parking around the town and a better flow of traffic as a result	Discussions are ongoing to facilitate further discussion on how the aims of the group might be achieved.

4.0 PROMOTION AND SUPPORT

4.1 Promotion and Support - All information relating to participation requests is available on the Council's website <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/find-out-more-about-participation-requests> and internal guidance was prepared for services who might receive requests, this is available on the HUB <http://intranet.argyll-bute.gov.uk/participation-requests>

4.2 In addition, the Scottish Community Development Centre have been commissioned by the Scottish Government to develop resources for communities around Participation Requests. They held the first of three focus groups in Oban on the 25th March – the others had to be rescheduled due to Covid-19 and will take place in July. Participants attended from Oban, Mull and Campbeltown. The next two sessions will take place online.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The Council has met its obligations in relation to the implementation of part 3 of the Act.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – Statutory requirement to publish annual report
- 6.2 Financial – None
- 6.3 Legal – Statutory requirement to publish an annual report
- 6.4 HR – None
- 6.5 Equalities – None
- 6.6 Risk – None
- 6.7 Customer Service – None

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Executive Director of Customer Services

Policy Lead – Cllr Robin Currie

Date of report – 17 June 2020

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