

## Participation Requests Reporting Template 2024/25 for Public Service Authorities

Section 32 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires Public Service Authorities to produce an annual report on Participation Request activity and publish this no later than 30 June each year. This template has been created to gather Participation Request data for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. Information provided will help inform policy and practice at local and national level as the data will be collated and shared by the Scottish Government's Community Empowerment Team. However, it is for each Public Service Authority to make their own annual report publicly available by 30 June each year, whether using this template or not.

**Please provide information in the sections below and email the completed template by 30 June 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter to [community.empowerment@gov.scot](mailto:community.empowerment@gov.scot).**

### **Section One – Public Service Authority Information**

Organisation: East Renfrewshire Council

Completed by: Christine Cairns                      Role: Strategic Services Officer

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Date of completion: 23 July 2025

Are you the Participation Request Lead Contact for the organisation? (Y/N): Yes

If not please provide the name, job title and email address for the lead contact for any queries:

**Section 2: Participation Request Data for 2024/25**

**Please complete following overview table:**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Outstanding applications received prior to 2024/25 and still to be determined at 31 March 2025	Applications received prior to 2024/25 and decided on in 2024/25	Applications received prior to 2024/25 and accepted in 2024/25	Applications received prior to 2024/25 and refused in 2024/25	Total new applications received in 2024/25	Number of applications received in 2024/25 which were decided on in 2024/25	Number of applications received in 2024/25 which were accepted in 2024/25	Number of applications received in 2024/25 which were refused in 2024/25	Number of applications received in 2024/25 which are yet to be decided on
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

N/A

**2.2 Please provide details of participatory activities with community groups you have agreed/ undertaken during 2024/25.** 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:

There has been several participatory activities throughout 2024-25 such as public meetings, surveys and information sessions for residents to identify key priorities in their community, particularly in relation to locality planning areas. Following several local meetings and drop-in events in Neilston, for example, residents have worked alongside Community Planning Partners to respond to some of the priorities identified. This included the creation of a local community directory providing information on the activities and groups which exist within Neilston and engagement with the community continues to identify the next steps.

A number of informal community engagement events were delivered throughout 2024/2025 targeted at our other Locality Planning areas including delivery of Democracy Matters Sessions, an Open Meeting in Dunterlie and an engagement survey with residents of East Arthurlie, Dalmeny, Dovecothall, Springhill & Dunterlie. There is a very active community-led group in Thornliebank and the Council works closely with the group to identify local priorities.

In 2023/2024 grant-making Participatory Budgeting (PB) was delivered in six areas within East Renfrewshire administering a total of £170,000 to 108 local community and voluntary groups receiving a share of the total funds available. Throughout 2024/2025 support for the steering groups has continued to help them monitor progress, build capacity, develop governance structures and identify local outcomes including support for :

- recreation, sports and fitness
- children and young people
- people with additional support needs
- arts and drama
- older people
- health and wellbeing
- early years

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:

East Renfrewshire Council and its partners, adopt an early intervention and prevention approach to ensure its residents have positive outcomes and this is reflected in the Community Planning Partnerships recently launched vision for 2040, *A Place to Grow*, which focuses on the following 3 pillars:

- Our children and young people flourish
- Our communities and places thrive
- We all live well

The successful delivery of this plan relies on the active involvement of local residents and in the spring a community conference was held bringing together over 100 people from local community and faith groups, the business sector, councillors, community planning partners, parent councils and youth activists. Discussion was focused on the way forward to deliver the shared aspirations set out in *A Place to Grow* and participants were invited to choose a pillar spotlight session where the following three questions were considered:

1. What part can you play to deliver *A Place to Grow* for your community?
2. What matters to you most for East Renfrewshire right now?
3. What would be the biggest change you would like to see happen through *A Place to Grow* vision by 2040

The contributions, ideas and suggestions provided by participants help the Council work with communities to achieve the *Place to Grow* delivery plan. All community members who provided feedback on the event either agreed or strongly agreed that the event had provided them with a better understanding of the *Place to Grow* vision. Comments from participants included:

- *“the workshops were great, so good to feel heard”*
- *“very inspirational event”*
- *“Thank you for organising such a really well-run event that takes the local community and our voices into account”*

The general consensus from those involved in the community conference is that they want to stay actively involved in delivering a *Place to Grow* and further events are planned along with a dedicated page on our Get Involved ER platform. While the Get Involved ER platform is primarily for consultation exercises we are also exploring thematic hubs that can be set up to allow communities to engage in ongoing discussions.

As part of the broader planning landscape there was a recent project of work called the Brighter Barrhead Masterplan where the Council along with external consultants worked with local residents, businesses, and groups to deliver an inclusive and collaborative place-making plan for the next 25 years. A series of engagement and consultation workshops throughout 2024/2025 led to residents identifying key priority outcomes and six strategic place-making schemes that will be used as a foundation for any future funding or investment.

In response to the UK and Scottish Governments capital regeneration funding opportunities the Council also launched a series of public consultations and engagement events to help develop Local Actions Plans with the aim to transform towns and neighbourhoods across the local authority. The Local Action Plans will again be used as a focus for investment where funding becomes available and have been fully informed by robust community engagement processes.

2.4 We are looking to gather Participation Request case study examples with a particular focus on the outcome improvement process. Please include a link to any examples or provide information here:

**N/A**

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If you have any queries please contact Malcolm Cowie, Participation Request Policy Manager at [Malcolm.cowie@gov.scot](mailto:Malcolm.cowie@gov.scot)

Community Empowerment Team, Scottish Government