

**Participation Requests Reporting Template 2022/23 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 2022 to 31 March 2023. 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 2023 to** **community.empowerment@gov.scot** **.**

**Section One – Public Service Authority Information**

Organisation: Fife Council

Completed by: Zahida Ramzan Role: Policy Co-ordinator

Email: Zahida.ramzan@fife.gov.uk Telephone:

Date of completion: 26th June 2023

Are you the Participation Request Lead Contact for the organisation: 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 2022/23**

**Please complete following overview table:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Total new applications received in 2022/23** | **Total applications received prior to 1 April 2022 which were still to be determined at 31 March 2023** | **Number of accepted applications in 2022/23** | **Number of applications agreed in 2022/23** | **Number of applications refused in 2022/23** |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Where you were unable to accept a participation request, was an alternative process put in place to discuss the group’s issue and work with them or support offered to help them consider how to address their identified need? Please provide details: NA |

2.1 Please provide details of Participation Requests received using the legislation and outwith the legislation in the reporting year which resulted in changes to public services provided by or on behalf of your public service authority and tell us about those changes. Please also include details of requests received prior to 2022/23, which resulted in changes to the way of working being implemented in 2022/23.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Community Participation Body | Was the Participation Request successful? (Y/N) | Previous way of working | Way of working following changes | What difference did those changes make for the users of the service? Did they improve service user experiences or outcomes? | Details of any participation requests considered outwith the formal process e.g. agreements reached that resulted in changes to services. |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**2.2 Please use this space to provide any further comments relating to the above data, such as:**

* **describing the outcome improvement process (whether or not it resulted from a formal participation request)**
* **how the community participation body was involved in designing the outcome improvement process**
* **how the community participation body participated in the outcome improvement process including taking part in decisions and delivering actions**
* **details of any wider benefits, such as improved community engagement and ongoing participation.**

**Section Three – Partnership Working & Promotion of Participation Requests**

**3.1a Please provide details of any engagement with support organisations such as local Third Sector Interfaces and public sector Community Learning and Development staff or national organisations such as the Scottish Community Development Centre.**

*For example has any new practices to support Participation Requests been developed from working with other bodies, or any learning gained?*

Services across the Council undertake engagement and consultation on a range of services on an ongoing basis. If these engagement processes are working well, this may explain the very few participation requests being received by the Council. The Policy Co-ordinator is also a member of the Community Engagement Network which comprises members of other Councils including community engagement staff. Whilst the focus originally has been to share experience in relation to community asset transfer, going forward there will be discussion around community engagement including supporting participation requests.

**3.1b Please tell us about any challenges you have had in accessing support.**

**3.2 Please provide details of action taken to promote the use of Participation Requests or support Community Participation Bodies in making a Participation Request.**

*For example this could include: Support before making a request, such as to determine whether a participation request is the most appropriate route; Support to make the request such as assist groups to complete forms, or identify appropriate outcomes; and/or Support to take part effectively in outcome improvement processes (whether or not they resulted from a formal participation request).*

Council officers will support any organisation wishing to submit a participation request and all information, including guidance and application is available online.

**3.3 Please let us know what actions you have been taking to ensure that your processes are inclusive.**

*For example, this could include accessible information and other support, which enable wider use of participation requests by all population groups including those with protected characteristics. We are particularly interested in any ways you have targeted those with protected characteristics to raise awareness of the PR process or support request submissions.*

The Council continues to provide information in alternative formats to anyone who requires it. In addition, any relevant information is circulated through Fife Centre for Equalities which works with all protected characteristics.

**3.4 Please outline any plans you have to continue involving local people and local groups in outcome improvement processes as a result of your Participation Request policies (and also outwith formal participation requests).**

The Council has developed a community engagement toolkit to support Council Services to undertake effective community engagement. A community engagement officer is working with Services to support and advise on improving their community engagement practises to ensure they are inclusive.

**3.5 Please provide details about any work undertaken to consider wider reviews of participation practice, and any such methods used to engage with communities.**

**Section Four – Additional Information**

**4.1 Please use this space to provide any further feedback not covered in the above sections.**

***For example, we are interested in your reflections about what has gone well and what has gone less well in relation to Participation Requests over the past year?***

As mentioned earlier, it is possible that Council engagement with groups and individuals is working well that which has led to no Participation Requests being received this year.

***Is there any aspect of the process that you intend to adapt or change in the year ahead?***

***Have you identified any needs for guidance or support that would support the process?***

***If you have developed any case study material or published new information about Participation Requests please share links to those with us here.***

*Any other information:*

|  |
| --- |
| **Section Five – Community Empowerment Act Review***The following questions relate to the Scottish Government review of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. We would value your feedback as a public service authority concerned with part 3 (participation requests) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Please note, any comments provided here would be anonymised, and would only be used in the context of the review.* 5.1 Has the legislation made it easier or more difficult to work with communities to improve services? Please provide some comments on your experiences as a public service authority engaging with this legislation. The legislation has not had any particular affect in terms of involving people in decision making. 5.2 Where can things be further improved, and what needs to change?5.3 Are you aware of what support is available to you e.g. [Scottish Government advice and resources,](https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/participation-requests/) [SCDC’s Participation Request pack](https://www.scdc.org.uk/participation-requests), Social Studies PR Toolbox, when engaging with this legislation, and how you can access this? Is there any support you think you would benefit from when engaging with this legislation. Please provide comments where possible.Yes 5.4 What would you like to see now, to further empower Scotland’s communities?  |

Completed by: Zahida Ramzan Role: Policy Co-ordinator

Email: Zahida.ramzan@fife.gov.uk Tel:

Date of completion: 26th June 2023

**Please email the completed template by 30 June 2023 to** **community.empowerment@gov.scot**

If you have any queries please contact Malcolm Cowie, Participation Request Policy Manager at Malcolm.cowie@gov.scot

Community Empowerment Team, Scottish Government