

North Ayrshire Council submission of 11 February 2022

PE1912/D - Funding for Council Venue

I am writing in support of Petition 1912- Funding for council venues. North Ayrshire Council has repeatedly called for fair funding for local authorities in partnership with other councils and COSLA.

North Ayrshire Council is faced with financial challenges in setting the Budget, having made approximately £118million of cuts over the 12 years and pressures of rising demand and cost of services. Council budgets contain difficult choices.

Cultural, community and leisure services are highly valued by communities and demonstrably contribute to mental health, physical fitness and community wellbeing. These Council venues provide local access to spaces and support for community cohesion; vital meeting space for those addressing addictions, fitness and health; and access to learning, reading and digital services.

North Ayrshire Council has recognised the need to change and modernise services with the partnership and consent of communities. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 has seen the successful community asset transfer of centres and library services have been refreshed to adjust to changing needs and habits, with the introduction of multi-service, community hubs and improved digital library services. Community facilities work in partnership with Community Associations through a Community Contract to increase their ability to operate buildings independently.

In conclusion, North Ayrshire Council calls for additional funding to support the continued operation of these facilities whilst recognising the opportunities through the community empowerment act and changes in societal behaviours to evolve provision that meets the needs of our communities and residents.