

Participation Requests Reporting Template 2020/21 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 2020 to 31 March 2021. 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 2021, whether using this template or not.

Please provide information in the four sections below and email the completed template by 30 June 2021 to community.empowerment@gov.scot .

Section One – Public Service Authority Information

Organisation: Midlothian Council

Address :Fairfield House, 8 Lothian Road, Dalkeith, EH22 3AA

Completed by: Annette Lang

Role: Education Manager, CLL and Employability

Email: Annette.lang@midlothian.gov.uk

Telephone: 07880279937

Date of completion: 18.06.21

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 2020/21

Please complete following overview table:

Total new applications received in 2020/21	Total applications received prior to 1 April 2020 which were still to be determined at 1 April 2020	Number of accepted applications in 2020/21	Number of applications agreed in 2020/21	Number of applications refused in 2020/21
0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a

2.1 Please provide details of Participation Requests received using the legislation and outwith the legislation in 2020/21 which resulted in changes to public services provided by or on behalf of your public service authority and tell us about those changes:

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.
n/a					

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) and how the community participation body was involved in it, or details of any wider benefits, such as improved community engagement and ongoing participation.

Section Three – Partnership Working & Promotion of Participation Requests

3.1 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?

In 2020-21 a new COMPACT was agreed with the Third Sector which includes promotion of participation requests. During the Covid pandemic Midlothian Council has had a strong partnership with the Third Sector and the Federation of Community Councils to provide a collective response to Covid community resilience. There has been no additional promotion during this period however the information on the application process is available on the Midlothian Council website.

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).

Wherever possible we try to support community groups to participate in our decision making without the need to pursue a formal Participation Request. Communities and Lifelong Learning (CLL) continue to encourage groups to initially discuss their request with a senior worker. This has been limited due to covid. We have had two informal requests to participate in the scoring panels for the enhanced summer programme and town centre regeneration programme which were going to progress to a formal status, however we were able to accommodate these prior to this happening.

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.

Within the CLL service we have a dedicated Equalities Engagement Officer to support wider engagement.

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).

2 training sessions on the Community Empowerment Act have been offered for staff, partners and community groups. We are planning to hold training between September and December 2021 to raise awareness across the Council and the Community Planning Partners.

We will update our LearnPro module and promote this post Covid pandemic.

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.

We are working with planning colleagues to review the use of the Place Standard as a tool for wider engagement with our communities.

Through the CLD Regulations consultation an outcome has been identified; to increase the voice of learners, their families and community members.

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?

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

No

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

No

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

No

Any other information:

Completed by: Annette Lang

Role: Education Manager

Email: Annette.lang@midlothian.gov.uk

Tel: 07880279937

Date of completion: 18.06.21

Subject to the pressures of responding to the Covid-19 emergency situation and recovery – if possible please email the completed template by 30 June 2021 to community.empowerment@gov.scot

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

Thank you!

Community Empowerment Team, Scottish Government