

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY COUNCIL

**Administration
Group
Budget Proposal
2024/25 - 2026/27**

Administration Group Revenue Budget Proposal 2024/25

	2024/25 £000s	2025/26 £000s	2026/27 £000s	Notes
Uprated Budget	456,148	464,298	472,698	
Additional Investment				
Roads Improvement	1,050	1,050	1,050	1
Governance & Assurance Team	505	505	505	1
Procurement & Commissioning Team	255	255	255	1
Early Learning & Childcare Provider Rate increase	600	800	1,000	2
ASN Transport	750	750	750	2
Children & Families Social Work	1,490	1,490	1,490	2
Cost of Living support	1,742	630	630	3
Total Additional Investment	6,392	5,480	5,680	
Budget Total Prior to Savings	462,540	469,778	478,378	
Less Measures to Address the Funding Gap				
<u>Corporate Measures</u>				
Service Concessions	- 1,250	- 1,250	- 1,250	4
Council Tax 2nd Homes	- 1,660	- 1,660	- 1,660	5
Non-Domestic Property Relief	- 700	- 800	- 800	5
<u>Change & Savings Programme</u>				
Previously Agreed Savings	- 1,400	- 1,975	- 1,975	2
Fees & Charges additional specific savings options	- 528	- 1,000	- 1,500	6
Targeted Future Change and Savings Programme	- 1,250	- 7,250	- 13,250	6
TOTAL Measures to Address the Funding Gap	- 6,788	- 13,935	- 20,435	
Total Budget	455,752	455,843	457,943	
Less Government Grant	- 374,088	- 372,238	- 370,388	
Less Council Tax Income (net of Council Tax Reduction Scheme)	- 75,540	- 81,290	- 87,414	
Total Funding	- 449,628	- 453,528	- 457,802	
Budget Deficit/Use of Balances	6,124	2,315	141	

Council Tax Increase	0.0%	6.5%	6.5%
Annual Increase in Income	0	5,550	5,924
Cumulative Increase in Income		5,550	11,474

NOTES

- These allocations, totalling £1.81 Million, were previously agreed as part of the 2023/24 Budget agreed by Full Council on 28 February 2023.
- These amounts were reflected within the Updating of the Financial Strategy report agreed by the Finance, Procurement & Transformation Committee on 8 February 2024.
- The indicative allocation of these resources is provided within the attached template, with the formal allocations to be considered by the Communities Committee on 02 April 2024.
- Details on the revised approach and additional contributions available through the Service Concessions fiscal flexibility were presented to the Finance, Procurement and Transformation Committee on 8 February 2024.
- Supporting information in relation to these two measures is reflected within the Budget and Council Tax report on this agenda (Full Council 27 February 2024).
- Savings templates in respect of these savings options are appended to this Budget proposal for information.

**Administration
Group
Additional
Investment
Proposals
2024/25 - 2026/27**

Additional Investment Funding 2024/25

Policy Investment <i>(Title)</i>	Cost of Living Support
Directorate	All Directorates – Lead Communities Directorate
Responsible Head of Service	Director Communities
Investment required (£) <i>Amount (capital or revenue; recurring or non-recurring)</i>	1. Application of existing recurring revenue - £630k 2. Additional non recurring revenue investment – £1,112k in 2024/2025 TOTAL investment for 2024/25 of £1,742k
Narrative Description of Policy Investment	
<p>The 2023/24 Agreed Budget included additional non-recurring resources to support vulnerable people and mitigate the cost of living increases. These resources were allocated to a number of initiatives based on the application of a prioritisation criteria focused on the following approach:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuation or increase in support for interventions where there has been a positive impact - Gradual withdrawal from interventions where an immediate withdrawal would have a significant detrimental effect on vulnerable people and time is required to manage changes in staffing in line with Council procedures and policy changes to be agreed by Committee. - A ‘cash first’ approach, in line with national evidence that this is the most effective way of mitigating the impact of poverty. - Support for people with minority protected characteristics because they experience the greatest impact of poverty and inequalities - Stakeholder (citizens, staff, young people, third sector organisations and the Tackling Poverty Reference Group) research and engagement evidences priorities of children and young people, food, energy and transport. - Projects and initiatives that contribute to the emerging Council Plan outcomes and/or a partnership Plan or Strategy Action Plan. - Projects and initiatives that lever in external match funding or resources. - The level of Dumfries and Galloway Council’s additional investment for national initiatives being in line with the Scottish average - Evidence submitted from Third Sector commissioned and grant supported organisations, which are directly involved in supporting people experiencing financial poverty and inequalities, about increased demand and running costs due to Cost of Living increases. 	

While exit strategies have been developed to ensure that there is a managed and gradual approach to reducing the financial support available (a “tapering approach”), with an evaluation of impact of the investments recently undertaken by the Business Intelligence Team using a standard methodology, this proposal seeks to continue the majority of this non-recurring funding in 2024/25.

The end of year evaluation of these resources is due to be considered by the Communities Committee in June 2024 as part of the monitoring report on Poverty & Inequalities.

This proposal seeks to provide the indicative allocation of resources of £1,742k to continue to support mitigating the cost of living increases, subject to further consideration and agreement by the Communities Committee on 2 April 2024. This will be funded through the application of existing anti-poverty funding of £630k and additional non-recurring resources of £1.12 Million from the resources set aside to support the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Council Plan or Strategic Policy - Links

- Equality Outcomes
- Local Child Poverty Action Report
- Local Housing Strategy
- Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
- Locality Plan in Food Sharing
- People Strategy
- Poverty and Inequalities Strategy
- Regional Economic Strategy
- Regional Transport Strategy

Council Plan or Strategic Policy Outcomes Intended

Include details of the benefits to the Council and how these will be demonstrated/evidenced.

Cost of Living increases are impacting on all our stakeholders. The mitigations that have been developed are consistent with a number of the strategies and plans of our Council as set out in our new Council Plan and a range of strategies and policies and are consistent with the Fairer Scotland Duty

The primary Policy Outcomes are:

- Increased income

- Reduced expenditure
- Supported health and wellbeing, focussed on our Council's Equality Outcomes/Protected Characteristics, physical activity and mental health and wellbeing, including social isolation.

Project	Amount for 2024/2025	Narrative and Outcome	Link
Tackling Poverty Reference Group	£10,000	<p>Meetings and activities of people with lived experience of poverty.</p> <p>The outcome is that our Council decisions are informed by expert stakeholders and their voice is heard.</p>	Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Action Plan Equalities Outcomes
Welfare and Housing Options Team	£165,000	<p>Additional staffing resource to meet demand for people seeking Benefits and Homelessness advice.</p> <p>The outcome is the Council is able to support our most vulnerable people with benefits and housing solutions</p>	Local Housing Strategy Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Action Plan
Support to vulnerable people who are supported by Social Work	£64,000	<p>Social Workers give support to the most vulnerable people to address a variety of needs.</p> <p>The outcome is that our most vulnerable people (identified by professionals) are able to be supported</p>	Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Action Plan Health and Social Care Plan Cash first principle Protected Characteristics (age and disability)
Direct individual payments to vulnerable young people	£40,000	<p>Youth Workers give support to the most vulnerable people to address a variety of needs through emergency direct payments of up to £49 per young person. The outcome is that our most vulnerable people (identified by professionals) are able to be supported.</p>	Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Action Plan Local Child Poverty Action Report Cash first principle Protected Characteristic (age) Stakeholder priority

FareShare memberships for community groups	£56,000	Continuation of support for 15 groups in our region with an increase to reflect an increase in the membership fee and expectation of another 4 organisations joining. The outcome is that people are able to have sufficient food, arranged by local third sector organisations.	Locality Plan on Food Sharing Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Action Plan Stakeholder priority
Taxi cards Transport Scheme	£100,000	Continuation of support for disabled people needing taxis with the additional funding required due to increased applications and increased cost of taxi journeys. The outcome is that people have the financial support to enable them to access suitable transport for their needs.	Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Action Plan Cash first principle Protected Characteristic (disability) Stakeholder priority
Emergency energy payment assistance programme for vulnerable and older people	£80,000	Emergency Fuel Vouchers of up to £147 per household to help any vulnerable residents who are struggling with fuel poverty. This is distributed via Registered Social Landlords and Citizens Advice Service. The outcome is that our most vulnerable people (identified by professionals) are able to be supported to have warm homes.	Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Action Plan Local Child Poverty Action Report Protected Characteristic (age) Cash first principle Stakeholder priority
Community transport – public social partnership	£53,000	This service supports particularly older and vulnerable people. This is the Council's contribution with other partners also investing. The outcome is that people are able to get to medical and other appointments, reduced social isolation and the Council is fulfilling its partnership commitment.	Local Outcomes Improvement Plan Poverty and Inequalities Strategy and Health and Social Care Plan Regional Transport Strategy Stakeholder priority
Additional funding for the Scottish Welfare Fund	£300,000	This covers a range of needs with food and fuel costs being the reason for increased demand.	Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Action Plan Cash first principle

		The outcome is that the Council can better meet demand from applications to this Fund and so people have enough money to pay for essentials.	Stakeholder priority
Holiday Food	£220,000	This funding is required to top-up the resources received from the Scottish Government to support the payment of £2.50, five days per week for each of the School holidays.	Locality Plan on Food Sharing Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Action Plan Cash first principle Protected Characteristic (age) Stakeholder priority
Holiday food payments – early years and nurseries	£90,000	DGC made the decision to fund holiday food payments for ELC as the initial funding from Scottish Government did not include this element within their criteria. The planned approach is to bring this in line with the Holiday Food Provision for Primary & Secondary.	Locality Plan on Food Sharing Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Action Plan Local Child Poverty Action Report Cash first principle Protected Characteristic (age) Stakeholder priority
Summer of Play	£264,000	This would cover events in every Council Ward, targeting children from low income and vulnerable households. The outcome is improved health and wellbeing in addition to reducing family expenditure & would specifically target those Children and Young People that are our most vulnerable & are identified in our local Child Poverty Action Plan including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lone Parent Families • Families which include a disabled adult or child • Larger Families (three or more children) • Minority Ethnic Families • Families with a child under one year old in the household 	Local Child Poverty Report Action Plan Protected Characteristic (age) Stakeholder priority

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families where the mother is under 25 years of age 	
Further allocation of funding in response to requests due to increased running costs of Third Sector	£100,000	<p>Additional 10% funding for organisations delivering Commissions for our Council who have requested this due to their increased running costs due to higher demand and energy increases and continued support for Credit Unions.</p> <p>The outcome is that local people are able to access the support that they needed at a cost effective way through third sector organisations.</p>	<p>Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Action Plan Equality Outcomes People Strategy Protected Characteristics (age, disability, race, gender reassignment, religion and sexuality)</p>
Grassroots tackling poverty projects	£20,000	<p>This covers the costs of the Warm Winter Clothing and School Uniforms projects. The outcome is that vulnerable people have access to free clothing in environments that are support</p>	<p>Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Action Plan Local Child Poverty Action Report Protected Characteristic (age)</p>
Area Committee Grants for priority projects to tackle poverty and inequalities	£180,000	<p>There is a need to continue additional funding to allow local priorities and projects to be supported.</p> <p>The outcome is support for specific projects that meet need in a particular geography</p>	<p>Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Action Plan</p>
TOTAL Funding	£1,742,000		

Investment Amount 2024/2025	Revenue Recurring funding £630k (from existing resources) Non-Recurring funding of £1,112k Providing total resources of £1,742k
Investment Amount- Future Years	It is likely that there will be an ongoing requirement for support for these groups but the monitoring and evaluation will ensure that needs are monitored by the relevant Committees and any future needs will inform future years' Budgets.
Timescales & Milestones – to be included in Council Plan deliverables 2024/2025	
<p>These projects and interventions would be for 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025. It is essential that the delivery plans are clear about their cessation from 1 April 2025 unless an alternative arrangement is made.</p> <p>The Poverty and Inequalities Strategy has a series of Action Plans and these interventions would be incorporated into them. An Evaluation and Monitoring Framework which provides a structured and consistent approach to assessing the effectiveness of interventions will be applied.</p> <p>Other Strategies and Plans also have associated Action Plans and performance frameworks which will inform the detailed timescales and milestones and assessment of these projects and support.</p>	
Impact Assessment <i>Narrative and assessment of impact (includes staff and service users) on:</i>	
9 Protected Characteristics	Potential Impact <i>Positive. Negative or None</i>
Age	Positive
Disability	Positive
Gender	Positive
Transgender	Positive
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Positive
Pregnancy and Maternity	Positive
Race	Positive
Religion or Belief	Positive

Sexual Orientation	Positive
Human Rights	Positive
Health, Health Inequalities & Wellbeing Inequalities	Positive
Economic & Social Sustainability	Positive
Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Energy	Positive
Summary of Impacts	
<i>This section should detail the total number of impacts, therefore providing an overall assessment for the savings/income generation option:</i>	
Summary of Impacts	
Positive	13
No Impact	0
Negative	0
Measures to Minimise Any Negative Impacts	
Exit strategies are already in place to mitigate any change/reduction in current funding levels.	

**Administration
Group Savings/
Change
Programme
Options
2024/25 -2026/27**

Savings Option 2024/25

Savings Option	Additional Specific Fees & Charges options
Directorate	Communities/Economy & Resources
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Neighbourhood Services Head of Roads & Infrastructure Head of Economy & Development
Narrative Description of Savings Option	
<i>This section should include a description of the current activity, highlighting how this will change as a result of the implementation of this savings option.</i>	
<p>The Finance, Procurement & Transformation Committee, at its meeting of 14 November 2023, agreed the overarching principles to be followed in reviewing the Council's approach to setting Fees & Charges as part of the Change & Savings Programme.</p> <p>As part of this approach the budget uprating assumptions, agreed by the Finance, Procurement & Transformation Committee on 8 February 2024, reflected an inflationary increase on services Fees & Charges budgets of 6.7% for 2024/25.</p> <p>As part of the agreed approach, further reviews have progressed to identify additional opportunities to increase the Council's Fees & Charges budgets beyond the inflationary increase with this proposal reflecting opportunities across three income streams which can contribute a further £528k to reducing the funding gap in 2024/25. The increased savings targets include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registrars £276k • Planning & Building Warrants £200k • Harbours £52k <p><u>Registrars</u></p> <p>A review of opportunities within the Registrars service has highlighted that the budgeted income target can be increased by a further £276k (beyond the 6.7% already reflected within the budget uprating assumptions). This encompasses a proposal to increase the Saturday civil ceremony fee and the recognition of the current over-recovery of targeted income levels (offset by a request to retain resources to support succession planning requirements).</p> <p><u>Increase Saturday Civil Ceremony Fee - £26k</u></p> <p>At present, the fee for undertaking a Saturday Civil Ceremony is £130. Benchmarking has indicated that Dumfries & Galloway has one of the lowest average fees for a Saturday ceremony in a registration office.</p>	

The current fee for providing a ceremony on a Sunday or Public Holiday is £196.

The Service have indicated that the Saturday/Sunday/Public holiday ceremony fees should be aligned, increasing the current Saturday civil ceremony fee from £130 to £196, generating an estimated additional £26k per annum above the inflationary increase of 6.7%.

Over-recovery of targeted income levels - £350k

The current targeted income budget for registrars is £1.176 Million. As reported to the Communities Committee during the year, it is anticipated that this income target will be significantly exceeded in 2023/24 by approximately £400k.

The over-recovery of income is largely due to the volume of marriage applications being higher than anticipated. The volume of applications being received by the Council has remained high after COVID, generating additional income in excess of budgeted levels in both 2022/23 and 2023/24. Taking into account the potential fluctuation in income levels year on year, it is estimated that the registrars income target can be increased by £350k in relation to this over-recovery.

Succession Plan Requirements – (£100k)

The continued increase in marriages post-pandemic has added an extra short-term risk to the statutory service delivery, as there is no capacity within the current team to sustain these unprecedented levels. In addition, the age demographic of current service staff has highlighted a need for appropriate succession plan arrangements, to maximise the experience of the team and ensure knowledge transfer and support for new team members.

To support the recruitment a cohort of Trainee Customer Service Advisors resources of £100K have been retained by the Service, which will mitigate the risk of continued service provision.

Planning & Building Warrants

Members of the Economy & Resources Committee, on 15 November 2022, agreed the implementation of the Development Management review, with additional staffing resources of 6.5 FTE. These additional resources have been funded through the receipt of additional income generated within Planning Applications and Building Warrants, with the 2023/24 Income budget increased by £410k.

As reflected in recent monitoring reports to the Economy & Resources Committee during the year, it is currently anticipated that the revised income target of £2.5 Million will be exceeded by approximately £300k this financial year (2023/24).

The Scottish Government have recently advised that they are intending to increase Building Warrant Fees and that this will result in a 10% increase in funding to Councils. The application of the new fee levels is anticipated to increase the Council's building warrant income by £97k (with the uprating assumptions reflected in the budget model only currently reflecting £65k). Additional net income of £32k is

therefore estimated to be available to support the budget funding gap based on current budgeted levels.

Taking into account the above factors and providing an allowance for potential fluctuations in income levels of £132k, it is estimated that a further £200k could be applied to the Planning & Building Warrant income budgets to support the Council's funding gap.

Harbours

A review of opportunities within the Harbours service has highlighted that the budgeted income target can be increased by a further £52k (beyond the 6.7% already reflected within the budget uprating assumptions). This encompasses a proposal to introduce new charges and to increase current charges beyond the 6.7% inflationary level (excluding landing fees).

Introduce New Charges - £15k

Following a review of benchmarking information, it has been identified that there are a number of new charges that should be implemented to cover the cost of other services provided, including for conservancy and other direct charges e.g. waste disposal. These charges are summarised within the table below and are similar to those imposed by other harbour authorities.

	New Charge
Anchorage (vessels exceeding 25m in length)	£0.20 per gross tonne
Cruise Ship Tender landing charge	£30 / berthing
Waste collection and disposal Commercial vessels <13m Commercial vessels >13m and <20m Commercial vessels >20m	£50/quarter £10/visit £50/visit
Aids to Navigation (AtoNs) dues (maintenance charge to provide 32 x red and green floating buoys with solar lights and anchor systems and 7 x fixed navigation lights on posts) Commercial vessels >13m and <20m Commercial vessels >20m	£5 per visit £10 per visit
Material Storage (unapproved) - Harbour users	£5 / m ² or part thereof per day
*Hire and Contract crange site and management fee	£50 per half day
International ship and port facilities management fee	£75 per visit
**Passenger embarkation charge **Passenger disembarkation charge	£0.47/passenger £0.47/passenger
Stranraer electricity connection charge (annual charge at pontoons and hardstanding to replace metered charge. Only includes visiting vessels that stay for more than 2 weeks.)	£30

* Not applicable for Stranraer Harbour.

** no charges apply to any day trip/tour boats from Council harbours

The increased income estimated to be generated through the implementation of the above charges is £15k per annum.

Further increases to current charges (beyond the 6.7% inflationary increase)

There has been no increase in Harbours fees & charges since 2020/21. As this is a non-statutory function there is a commitment to reduce the level of subsidy, utilising the income generated to maintain and conserve the:

- o Harbour wall, quays and pontoon maintenance
- o bathymetric surveys
- o dredging,
- o buoyage,
- o signage,
- o life-saving apparatus
- o lighting

This proposal reflects an increase on current fees & charges (excluding landing fees) by 20%/30% as reflected within the attached Appendix, generating additional income of £37k per annum.

Further Savings opportunities for 2025/26 – 2026/27

A review of further opportunities to increase the Fees & Charges targets beyond the inflationary increase will continue to be progressed, with options from these reviews currently anticipated to deliver savings of £1 Million from 2025/26, increasing to £1.5 Million from 2026/27. Details on the options to deliver these increased savings will continue to come forward through the Budget Panel and Service Committees for Members consideration.

Stakeholders – who?

This section should outline who the key stakeholders are and who will be impacted by the savings option, including what will it may mean for them

Stakeholders impacted with increased costs to them could be:

- Customers
- Leisure users of the Council’s marinas.
- Developers and property owners

Savings

This section should quantify the current budget and the savings that will be delivered through the implementation of this savings option. It should include details of the calculations and where savings will be applied and which service area

Savings Amount 2024/2025 (cumulative)	£528K
Savings Amount 2025/2026 (cumulative)	£1,000K
Savings Amount 2026/2027 (cumulative)	£1,500K

Savings Calculation:			
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	£000	£000	£000
Registrars	276	276	276
Planning Applications & Building Warrants	200	200	200
Harbours	52	52	52
Further Options to be identified	0	472	972
TOTAL Further increased savings	528	1,000	1,500
Workforce / Staff Changes			
<i>This section must outline the impact that there will be on the workforce / staff levels, including how these will be managed and delivered.</i>			
Are there workforce/staff changes ? Yes or No			
Yes			
Current Workforce FTE Current workforce in Customer Services (where Registrars sits) is 73.25 FTE.	Estimated Staffing Reduction FTE N/A – workforce will increase		
Describe how staffing reductions will be managed and delivered?			
The Registrars proposal reflects a proposed increase in the workforce of 3 FTE.			
Workplan – when? <i>This section must outline the indicative milestones and timescales for implementation of the savings proposal.</i>			
The targeted income levels will be increased from 1 April 2024.			
The increased Fees & Charges within Harbours and Registrars will be implemented following the required notification processes.			
Impact on new Council Plan			
<i>What impact will this savings option have on Council Plan outcomes?</i>			
The aims and ambitions of the Council plan will continue to be delivered as currently.			
Risks/Issues/Barriers to Change – what if? <i>This section must describe the main risks in terms of savings delivery, project management, stakeholder engagement and communication. It should also describe what mitigating measures can be progressed to address these risks.</i>			
There is a risk that income projections/increased attendances do not meet the target levels. However, this risk is mitigated through allowances for fluctuations being			

included within the above targets, which will also be subject to detailed monitoring and review throughout the financial year.

Impact Assessment

Narrative and assessment of impact (includes staff and service users) on:

9 Protected Characteristics	Potential Impact <i>Positive, Negative or None</i>
Age	None
Disability	None
Gender	None
Transgender	None
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Negative
Pregnancy and Maternity	None
Race	None
Religion or Belief	Negative
Sexual Orientation	None

Human Rights	None
Health, Health Inequalities & Wellbeing Inequalities	None
Economic & Social Sustainability	None
Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Energy Management	None

Summary of Impacts

This section should detail the total number of impacts, therefore providing an overall assessment for the savings/income generation option:

Summary of Impacts

Positive	0
No Impact	11
Negative	2

There would be a small negative impact on those individuals wishing to undertake a civil ceremony on a Saturday. However, this reflects the alignment of current fee levels charged for a Sunday ceremony.

Measures to Minimise Any Negative Impacts

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Appendix 1

	Rate 2023/24	Option 2b	
Visitor day rate pontoon*			
Up to and including 8m (per vessel)	£21.50	30%	£27.95
8m to 10m (per vessel)	£26.50	30%	£34.45
10m to 12m (per vessel)	£32.50	30%	£42.25
Over 12m (per vessel)	£35.50	30%	£45.15
Annual Fee pontoon			
Kirkcudbright	£130.50 per metre**	30%	£169.65 per metre
Stranraer (pontoons 1-4)	£148.00 per metre	30%	£192.40 per metre
Stranraer (pontoon 5)	£89.00 per metre	30%	£115.70 per metre
Stranraer (walkway pontoon)	£65.00 per metre	30%	£84.50 per metre
Other moorings – pleasure craft for personal use			
Drying moorings – Kirkcudbright (annual)	£25.00 per metre	20%	£32.50 per metre
Drying moorings – Machars Harbours (annual)	£16.50 per metre	20%	£21.45 per metre
Machars alongside quay (daily)***	£14.00 per vessel	30%	£18.20 per metre
Machars alongside quay (annual)***	£22.00 per metre	30%	£28.60 per metre
Daily commercial quay			
Registered fishing vessels	£2.15 per metre	20%	£2.60 per metre
Other commercial vessels	£2.15 per metre	20%	£2.60 per metre
Annual commercial quay			
Registered fishing vessels	£21.50 per metre	20%	£25.80 per metre
Other commercial vessels	£21.50 per metre	20%	£25.80 per metre
Stranraer Only**			
Hard Standing Storage	£11.5065 per metre per month (An additional charge of 35% will apply to any vessel with a beam >4m in width)	20%	£13.80 per metre per month (An additional charge of 35% will apply to any vessel with a beam >4m in width)
Hoist – Lift Out and hold in slings/Wash/Return	£17.00	20%	£20.40 per metre up to 8m
	£19.50	20%	£23.40 per metre 8.1m to 12m
	£22.00	20%	£26.4000 per metre >12.1m

Appendix 1

	Rate 2023/24	Option 2b	
Hoist – Lift Out/Wash/Take to Store/Transporter/Cradle/Trailer	£15.50	20%	£18.60 per metre up to 8m
	£16.00	20%	£19.20 per metre 8.1m to 12m
	£17.00	20%	£20.40 50 per metre >12.1m
Hoist – Return to Water from Store/Transporter/Cradle/Trailer	£12.50	20%	£15.00 per metre up to 8m
	£13.50	20%	£16.20 per metre 8.1m to 12m
	£14.50	20%	£17.40 per metre >12.1m
Cradle Hire	£19.50	20%	£23.40 per month
Storage of Owners Cradle/Trailer	£45.00	20%	£54.00 per month
Hoist Hire	£67.50	20%	£81.00 per hour (minimum charge – 2 hour)
Labour rate for other activities	£47.00	20%	£56.40 per staff member, per hour (minimum charge – 2 hour)

Savings Option 2024/25

Savings Option	Targeted Future Change & Savings Programme
Directorate	All Directorates
Responsible Head of Service	All
Narrative Description of Savings Option	
<i>This section should include a description of the current activity, highlighting how this will change as a result of the implementation of this savings option.</i>	
<p>The delivery of the Council Plan outcomes will be dependent on the prioritisation of activity and resources on these. Focusing resources on outcomes and developing creative new models of service to achieve this, working with partners and communities, and with reduced funding, will be at the core of service change over the term of the Council. Supporting innovation and efficiency and recognising the importance of leadership of change by both Elected Members and Council officers will be a prominent feature in this Council term.</p> <p>A number of change & savings programmes have been progressed during 2023/24 aimed at delivering new service operating models within reduced resources and embedding existing transformation projects commissioned in the previous Council. The outcomes of these programmes will be brought forward for Members consideration during 2024/25.</p> <p>Services will continue to be supported to identify and develop change options based on the following approaches. This will ensure that there is a pipeline of change and associated savings over the term of the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus resources on delivery of Council Plan outcomes. • Manage demand through early intervention and prevention. • Work with communities and other partners to deliver outcomes. • Secure efficiencies in delivery of services • Maximise income, underpinned with fairness through targeted concessions. <p>An acceleration of the strategic change in the relationship with communities, partners, and customers and on how they, and the Council itself, sees service provision is at the core of this. In approaching this it is important to understand that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council Plan outcomes will focus the activity to be prioritised and as a result other activity which is not. • The Council will be unable to deliver the range of activities that it does currently and will achieve outcomes in different ways, in future. • The Council will maintain a presence in communities but in helping communities achieve their ambitions some outcomes will have to be delivered by other partners and local communities themselves. • Understanding and taking action to manage demand for services will mean 	

Template 2

<p>investing in preventative measures or mitigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers and staff must have access to services or resources they need, delivered in a sustainable manner that balances cost and outcomes. 	
<p>Stakeholders – who?</p> <p><i>This section should outline who the key stakeholders are and who will be impacted by the savings option, including what will it may mean for them</i></p>	
<p>The main stakeholders will be citizens and customers as well as Council staff.</p> <p>The changes to service delivery that would be likely from the approach to change and the scale of the savings required will mean that focused stakeholder engagement as part of service change development will be essential.</p> <p>This will be progressed for each change proposal developed.</p>	
<p>Savings</p> <p><i>This section should quantify the current budget and the savings that will be delivered through the implementation of this savings option. It should include details of the calculations and where savings will be applied and which service area</i></p>	
Savings Amount 2023/2024 (cumulative)	£1,250k
Savings Amount 2024/2025 (cumulative	£7,250k
Savings Amount 2025/2026 (cumulative)	£13,250k
<p>Savings Calculation:</p> <p>These are targeted savings estimates based on an assessment of work currently in progress, future funding gaps and the requirement to achieve financial balance over the term of the Council. Targeted savings for future change activity for the coming financial year and future years will require accelerated development.</p>	
<p>Workforce / Staff Changes</p> <p><i>This section must outline the impact that there will be on the workforce / staff levels, including how these will be managed and delivered.</i></p>	
<p>Are there workforce/staff changes ? Yes or No</p> <p>Yes - We will have fewer but more multi skilled staff and many staff will have to be supported and retrained to transfer into new or in-demand roles</p>	
<p>Current Workforce FTE Council workforce in FTE in January 2024 – 5,296</p>	<p>Estimated Staffing Reduction FTE Dependent on agreed changes</p>
<p>Describe how staffing reductions will be managed and delivered?</p> <p>The delivery of programmes of change and with the backdrop of reduced funding means that the Council will need to provide for a future where there is a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce. Through the delivery of the Council’s People</p>	

Template 2

Strategy, building capability and supporting the Council workforce, the underpinning conditions for change programmes is being established.

Workplan – when?

This section must outline the indicative milestones and timescales for implementation of the savings proposal.

Managers and staff need the expertise and support to help them develop options and implement change in the scale required and within a complex operating environment, with competing demands. To ensure that Services continue to be supported with capacity and a skilled 'engine room' to work on change proposals Members agreed investment in an Enabling Team as part of the 2023/24 budget development process. This team is now fully in place and is progressing activities to that ensure there is a pipeline of change and associated savings over the term of the Council.

The development of options for change will continue to be discussed through the Budget Panel and presented to Full Council or the relevant Committee for consideration through the financial year to contribute to delivery of Council savings.

Impact on new Council Plan

What impact will this savings option have on Council Plan outcomes?

This proposal supports all outcomes in the Council Plan.

In delivering this the Council would:

- Address the climate emergency
- Protect our natural capital
- Put customers at the heart of services
- Support the most vulnerable and in need
- Address inequalities
- Offer digital services
- Empower local communities and individuals
- Work in partnership
- Invest to enable change
- Focus on local and place
- Communicate openly
- Maintain sustainable finances
- Make best use of resources
- Be organised to deliver

Risks/Issues/Barriers to Change – what if?

This section must describe the main risks in terms of savings delivery, project management, stakeholder engagement and communication. It should also describe what mitigating measures can be progressed to address these risks.

The main risks to delivery are:

- Achievement of revenue savings through change – the development of a pipeline of change proposals using effective programme management would help mitigate this and identify options for Member consideration.

Template 2

- Delivery of change– the support of enabling resources to help services identify, evaluate and develop clear plans to implement change will be critical to ensure pace and progression.
- Progression of decision making – through effective engagement through Budget Panel and Full Council/Committees during the year, savings can be secured throughout each financial year and ahead of budget setting.

Impact Assessment

Narrative and assessment of impact (includes staff and service users) on:

9 Protected Characteristics	Potential Impact
	<i>Positive, Negative or None</i>
Age	None
Disability	None
Gender	None
Transgender	None
Marriage and Civil Partnership	None
Pregnancy and Maternity	None
Race	None
Religion or Belief	None
Sexual Orientation	None
Human Rights	None
Health, Health Inequalities & Wellbeing Inequalities	None
Economic & Social Sustainability	None
Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Energy Management	None

Summary of Impacts

This section should detail the total number of impacts, therefore providing an overall assessment for the savings/income generation option:

Summary of Impacts

Positive	0
No Impact	13
Negative	0

Measures to Minimise Any Negative Impacts

As this is a proposal to establish programmes of change the specific impacts cannot be assessed for any change proposal which may emerge. An impact assessment would be carried out on each proposal as part of its development.

**Administration
Group
Capital
Investment
Strategy Proposal
2024/25 - 2033/34**

Capital Investment Strategy 2024/25 to 2033/34

The Administration Group Budget Proposal recognises the funding challenges and the limited flexibility within the currently approved 10 year Capital Investment Strategy. The key elements of the updated Strategy include:-

- Provision of an additional £11 Million to increase the Dumfries High School project budget to £56 Million to enable the project to progress to construction.
- An allocation of £7.6 Million to support the work required to remove RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) from all Council Buildings over the period 2024/25 to 2026/27.
- An allocation of £11.2 Million to enable a new Household Waste Recycling Centre and waste bulking facility to be created to support our agreed Waste Strategy and increase recycling rates.
- Increased investment in existing Council assets (including Roads, Schools, vehicles etc) of £10 Million over the 10-year period in addition to the £23 Million allocated as part of the 2023/24 budget. This will increase the allocations to asset classes by £3.3 Million per annum from 2024/25 as set out below:

Asset Classes	2023 Base Level £000	2024 Base Level £000
Property/ Buildings (Schools)	5,000	5,750
Property/ Buildings (Other)	3,700	4,070
Public Realm	9,900	11,870
Economic Development	1,900	1,950
IT/ Business Systems	1,075	1,125
Transport	1,460	1,570
Total Asset Classes	23,035	26,335

- Allocation of development costs in 2024/25 to support the progression of the following projects:
 - Whitesands Flood Protection Scheme
 - Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme
 - Borderlands Funded Projects Including Stranraer Marina, Chapelcross and Business Infrastructure

The detailed funding allocations totalling £465.8 Million over the 10 year Capital Investment Strategy period are set out on the following page.

Administration Group Budget Proposal

Capital Investment Strategy - Allocation of Funding Available

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	Grand Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£001	£000
Total Funding Available	36,895	42,091	50,697	43,842	34,647	35,147	35,647	36,147	36,647	52,681	404,441
Priority Projects											
Whitesands Flood Protection & Public Realm	1,632									20,116	21,748
Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme	200	3,000	8,000	5,681							16,881
Dumfries Zero Waste Park	4,000	7,197									11,197
DLT 2 - Dumfries High School	25,000	20,000	8,408								53,408
DLT 2 - Dumfries Academy Refurb / Loreburn Primary Relocation										22,920	22,920
DLT2 - Programme Management Costs	600	650	365								1,615
Borderlands	2,365	2,500	2,000	2,000	3,525	0					12,390
Regional Indoor Tennis Centre	375										375
Schools Autism Provision										3,150	3,150
Thistle Grove Gypsy Travellers Site (Development Costs)		700									700
Roads Improvement Fund	5,150	5,150	5,150	5,150							20,600
Further Corporate Priority Projects	0	0	0	0	1,250	2,500	2,500	5,000	5,000	5,000	21,250
Priority Projects Totals	39,322	39,197	23,923	12,831	4,775	2,500	2,500	5,000	5,000	51,186	186,234
Asset Classes											
Property/ Buildings (Schools)	7,415	7,750	7,750	5,750	5,750	5,750	5,750	5,750	5,750	5,750	63,165
Property/ Buildings (Other)	4,070	5,670	4,070	4,070	4,070	4,070	4,070	4,070	4,070	4,070	42,300
Public Realm	12,999	12,598	11,870	11,870	11,870	11,870	11,870	11,870	11,870	11,870	120,557
Economic Development	3,854	4,035	1,734	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950	23,273
IT/ Business Systems	1,125	1,125	1,125	1,125	1,125	1,125	1,125	1,125	1,125	1,125	11,250
Transport	2,082	1,820	1,570	1,570	1,570	1,570	1,570	1,570	1,570	1,570	16,462
Asset Class Inflation - To be allocated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allocation Totals	31,545	32,998	28,119	26,335	26,335	26,335	26,335	26,335	26,335	26,335	277,007
Allowance for over commitment	950	1,633									2,583
Use of c/fwd slippage											0
Programme Total	71,817	73,828	52,042	39,166	31,110	28,835	28,835	31,335	31,335	77,521	465,824
Carry Forward/ Shortfall	-34,922	-31,737	-1,345	4,676	3,537	6,312	6,812	4,812	5,312	-24,840	
Carry Forward/ Shortfall (Cumulative)	26,532	-5,205	-6,550	-1,874	1,663	7,975	14,787	19,599	24,911	71	

The funding allocations reflected above for the Whitesands Flood Protection Scheme, the Dumfries Academy Refurbishment/Loreburn Primary Relocation and Schools Autism Provision are currently shown in Year 10 to indicate that further work is required to establish the project details, costings and timescales. These details, costings and timescales will be revised once the projects have been further developed.

2024/25 Development Costs funded from current approved project budgets:

Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme		
Activity	Cost (£)	Comment
Project Management	95,000	
Hearing Costs inc legal costs	30,000	Includes legal, technician support and admin costs.
Sweco	25,000	Includes additional reports and Hearing support
Detailed Design	50,000	
Total	200,000	

Whitesands Flood Protection Scheme		
Activity	Cost (£)	Comment
Project Management	95,000	
Specialist External Advisors	261,000	Technical Advisors/Cost Consultants etc
Ground Investigation /Utilities	480,000	Work required by specialists to help inform detailed design
Detailed Design	396,000	Initial work on detailed design, further work will be undertaken in 25/26.
Ancillary Costs/Contingency	400,000	
Total	1,632,000	

Borderlands – Stranraer Marina		
Activity	Cost (£)	Comment
Project Management	50,000	Top slice from PMO on costs
Design Team Fees	1,570,000	Design to RIBA 4 / Tender Readiness
Pre-Construction Contractor Fee	80,000	Pre-Construction Fee for D&B Contractor Early Engagement
Business Case Consultant Fees	125,000	Preparation of Full Business Case
Legal Fees	70,000	External Legal Support
Planning Application /Building Warrant Fee	140,000	Estimated fee – Still to be confirmed
Total	2,035,000	

Borderlands – Business Infrastructure		
Activity	Cost (£)	Comment
Legal/Advisor Fees	200,000	Including potential costs if CPO is required
Total	200,000	

Borderlands – Chapelcross		
Activity	Cost (£)	Comment
Engineering Change	5,000	PM and Technical Support
Legal Advice	10,000	
Residual Strategic Development Framework	14,500	
OBC – Economic Impact Evaluation/Carbon Accounting	20,000	
Design Team Fees	80,000	
Total	129,500	

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COUNCIL

Meeting of Tuesday, 27th February, 2024
at 10.30 am in Council Hall - English Street, Dumfries

Present**Members**

Malcolm Johnstone (Convener)	– Nith;
Gail Macgregor (Depute Convener)	– Annandale North;
Graham Bell	– North West Dumfries;
Tony Berretti	– Mid and Upper Nithsdale;
Ian Blake	– Abbey;
Richard Brodie	– Annandale South;
Dougie Campbell	– Dee and Glenkens;
John Campbell	– Nith;
Ian Carruthers	– Annandale South;
Karen Carruthers	– Annandale East and Eskdale;
Ben Dashper	– Stranraer and the Rhins;
Lynne Davis	– Annandale North;
Jim H Dempster	– Mid and Upper Nithsdale;
John Denerley	– Dee and Glenkens;
Linda Dorward	– Lochar;
Archie Dryburgh MBE	– Annandale East and Eskdale;
Pauline Drysdale	– Castle Douglas and Crocketford;
Andy Ferguson	– North West Dumfries;
Andrew Giusti	– Stranraer and the Rhins;
Katie Hagmann	– Mid Galloway and Wigtown West;
Chrissie Hill	– Stranraer and the Rhins;
Iain Howie	– Castle Douglas and Crocketford;
Ivor Hyslop	– Lochar;
David Inglis	– Mid Galloway and Wigtown West;
George Jamieson	– Annandale South;
Maureen Johnstone	– Lochar;
Emma Jordan	– North West Dumfries;
Tracey Little	– Lochar;
Kim Lowe	– Abbey;
Jackie McCamon	– Mid Galloway and Wigtown West;
Andy McFarlane	– Dee and Glenkens;
Denis Male	– Annandale East and Eskdale;
Richard Marsh	– Mid Galloway and Wigtown West;
Sean W Marshall	– Annandale South;
Willie Scobie	– Stranraer and the Rhins;

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- David R Slater – Nith;
- Paula Stevenson – North West Dumfries;
- Davie Stitt – Abbey;
- Stephen Thompson – Annandale North;
- Keith Walters – Nith;
- Carolyne Wilson – Annandale North;
- Andrew S Wood – Mid and Upper Nithsdale;
- John Young – Castle Douglas and Crocketford;

Officials

- Dawn Roberts – Chief Executive
- Vlad Valiente – Head of Governance and Assurance
- Nick Evans – Democratic Services Manager
- Paul Garrett – Head of Finance and Procurement
- James Little – Strategic Housing and Regeneration
Investment Team Leader
- Stuart McMillan – Strategic Economic Investment Manager
- Stewart Clanachan – Human Resources Manager

Derek Crichton
Director Communities

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1 SEDERUNT, APOLOGIES AND CHAIR'S APPROVAL OF MEMBERS' REMOTE PARTICIPATION

PROCEDURE – On behalf of the Council the Convener paid respect to two former councillors.

Former Councillor, the late Lorna McGowan who had sadly passed last month. She had served as an SNP Councillor for Lochar Ward from 2007- 2012.

Former Councillor, the late Tom Russell who had represented the community of Lochmaben as both a Liberal Councillor on Annandale and Eskdale District Council, and then as a Councillor for Annandale North Ward on Dumfries and Galloway Council, for a number of years.

43 Members present.

35 Members present in the Council Hall and 8 Members present via MS Teams being:- Ian Blake, Richard Brodie, Karen Carruthers, Lynne Davis, Andrew Giusti, Jackie McCamon, Andrew Wood and John Young as agreed by the Convener.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Katie Hagmann provided a Statement of Connection with regards to item 5 – “The Budget and Council Tax 2014/25 – 2026/27” and item 8 – “Collective Agreement Proposed Amendment – Public Holiday Working” on the agenda by virtue of her national role as COSLA Resources spokesperson, and had determined that this did not amount to an interest which would require her to leave the meeting for consideration of these matters.

2.2 Andy Ferguson declared an interest in item 9 – “UK Government Levelling-Up Programme: Dumfries Long-Term Town Plan” by virtue of the fact that he was personal friends with a number of the candidates, including one as a former neighbour, and had determined that he would leave the meeting for consideration of these matters.

2.3 Malcolm Johnstone, John Campbell, Tracey Little and Keith Walters provided Statements of Connection with regards to item 9 – “UK Government Levelling-Up Programme: Dumfries Long-Term Town Plan” as a number of candidates were known to them in their roles as Elected Members and had determined that these did not amount to interests which would require them to leave the meeting for consideration of these matters.

3 MINUTE OF MEETING OF 14 DECEMBER 2023

Decision

APPROVED.

4 COUNCIL TAX RESTRICTIONS ON VOTING - REPORT BY HEAD OF GOVERNANCE AND ASSURANCE

Decision

NOTED the provisions of Section 112 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which removes a Member's voting rights on Council matters in certain specified circumstances and places the onus of disclosure on individual Members.

5 THE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2024/25 - 2026/27 - REPORT BY HEAD OF FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT

Decision

5.1 **CONSIDERED** the information reflected in the report as part of determining a balanced revenue budget, associated council tax level and updated Capital Investment Strategy for the financial planning period 2024/25 to 2026/27; and

5.2 **AGREED**, following the agreement of the Council's budget, to review the budget setting process, including the budget panel, leaders panel and business bureau.

6 PRESENTATION ON BUDGET PROPOSALS 2024/2025

PROCEDURAL VOTE

6.1 **MOTION** proposed by **CAROLYNE WILSON** seconded by **LINDA DORWARD** that there had been a material change in circumstances in terms of Standing Order 15.4 in respect of the Council's agreement of the Chief Officer Structure on 4 October 2023, particularly as the budget settlement was worse than expected and the announcement by the Scottish Government of the council tax freeze.

6.2 **AMENDMENT** proposed by **GAIL MACGREGOR** and seconded by **IVOR HYSLOP** that there had been no material change in circumstances since the decision of 4 October 2023 on agreement of the Chief Officer Structure.

6.3 In a vote taken by roll call Members voted as follows:-

6.4 **Motion** – 24 votes being:-

Tony Berretti, Richard Brodie, Dougie Campbell, John Campbell, Ben Dashper, Jim Dempster, Linda Dorward, Archie Dryburgh, Andy Ferguson, Katie Hagmann, Iain Howie, George Jamieson, Emma Jordan, Tracey Little, Kim Lowe, Andy McFarlane, Sean Marshall, Willie Scobie, Paula Stevenson, Davie Stitt, Stephen Thompson, Keith Walters, Carlyne Wilson and John Young.

6.5 **Amendment** – 18 votes being:-

Malcolm Johnstone, Gail Macgregor, Graham Bell, Ian Blake, Ian Carruthers, Karen Carruthers, Lynne Davis, Pauline Drysdale, Andrew Giusti, Chrissie Hill, Ivor Hyslop, David Inglis, Maureen Johnstone, Jackie McCamon, Denis Male, Richard Marsh, David Slater and Andrew Wood.

6.6 **Abstention** – 1 being John Denerley.

6.7 The motion was not passed as the two thirds majority, of those present and voting, as required by Standing Order 15.4 was not reached.

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PROCEDURE – An amendment to the Labour Group budget was circulated to those present at the meeting (**Appendix to minute**).

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING – The meeting adjourned at 11.20am and reconvened at 11.35 with 43 Members present.

VOTE

6.8 **MOTION** proposed by **GAIL MACGREGOR** seconded by **IVOR HYSLOP** to (1) agree the Administration Group Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax Proposal for 2024/25 and indicative Budget Plans for 2025/26 and 2026/27 as published on 20 February 2024 including investments, savings and fees and charges; (2) the 100% increase in the Council Tax Levy on second homes from 1 April 2024, reflected in the Administration Group Budget and Council Tax Proposal; (3) agree the application of the Service Concessions fiscal flexibility and gradual release of the School PPP Sinking Fund in line with the approach outlined at Finance, Procurement and Transformation Committee at its meeting of 8 February 2024; (4) agree that the budget be delegated to the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board for Adult Care Services for 2024/25. Will be the 2023/24 recurring budget level, plus the full share of the additional funding reflected in the 2024/25 Local Government Funding Settlement for these services; and (5) agree to review the impact of the potentially significant additional funding that may come to this Council following the UK Government's Spring Budget and details of any distribution agreed between COSLA and Scottish Government, with a view to minimise the impact on our teacher numbers, and other impacts within the Council, in light of ongoing wider discussions nationally. This would be taken at Full Council or Finance, Procurement and Transformation Committee, or whichever is the appropriate committee.

6.9 **AMENDMENT** proposed by **STEPHEN THOMPSON** seconded by **GEORGE JAMIESON** to (1) agree the SNP Group Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax Proposal for 2024/25, and indicative Budget Plans for 2025/26 and 2026/27, as published on 20 February 2024, including investments, savings, and fees and charges; (2) agree the 100% increase in the Council Tax levy on second homes, from 1 April 2024, reflected in the SNP Group Budget and Council Tax Proposal; (3) agree the application of the Service Concessions fiscal flexibility and gradual release of the School PPP Sinking Fund in line with the approach outlined to the Finance, Procurement and Transformation Committee at its meeting of 8 February 2024; (4) agree that the budget to be delegated to the Dumfries & Galloway Integration Joint Board for Adult Social Care Services for 2024/25, will be the 2023/24 recurring budget level, plus the full share of the additional funding reflected in the 2024/25 Local Government Funding Settlement for these services; and (5) agree to review the impact of the potentially significant additional funding that may come to this Council following the UK Government's Spring Budget and details of any distribution agreed between COSLA and Scottish Government, with a view to minimise the impact on our teacher numbers, in light of ongoing wider discussions nationally. This would be taken at Full Council or Finance, Procurement and Transformation Committee, or whichever is the appropriate committee.

6.10 **COUNTER-AMENDMENT** proposed by **CAROLYNE WILSON** seconded by **LINDA DORWARD** to agree the Labour Group Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax Proposal for 2024/25, and indicative Budget Plans for 2025/26 and 2026/27, as published on 20 February 2024 (subject to the amendment in the **Appendix of the minute**), including investments, savings, and fees and charges; (2) agree the 100% increase in the Council Tax levy on second homes, from 1 April 2024, reflected in the Labour Group Budget and Council Tax Proposal; (3) agree the application of the Service Concessions fiscal flexibility and gradual release of the School PPP Sinking Fund in line with the approach outlined to the Finance, Procurement and

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Transformation Committee at its meeting of 8 February 2024; and (4) agree that the budget to be delegated to the Dumfries & Galloway Integration Joint Board for Adult Social Care Services for 2024/25, will be the 2023/24 recurring budget level, plus the full share of the additional funding reflected in the 2024/25 Local Government Funding Settlement for these services.

6.11 On a vote taken by roll call between the Counter Amendment and the Amendment Members voted as follows:-

6.12 **Counter Amendment** – 10 votes being:-

John Denerley, Linda Dorward, Archie Dryburgh, Emma Jordan, Sean Marshall, Willie Scobie, Paula Stevenson, Davie Stitt, Keith Walters and Carlyne Wilson.

6.13 **Amendment** – 13 votes being:-

Tony Berretti, Dougie Campbell, John Campbell, Ben Dashper, Andy Ferguson, Katie Hagmann, Iain Howie, George Jamieson, Tracey Little, Kim Lowe, Andy McFarlane, Stephen Thompson and John Young.

6.14 **Abstentions** – 20 being:-

Malcolm Johnstone, Gail Macgregor, Graham Bell, Ian Blake, Richard Brodie, Ian Carruthers, Karen Carruthers, Lynne Davis, Jim Dempster, Pauline Drysdale, Andrew Giusti, Chrissie Hill, Ivor Hyslop, David Inglis, Maureen Johnstone, Jackie McCamon, Denis Male, Richard Marsh, David Slater and Andrew Wood.

PROCEDURE – The Amendment progressed to the next stage of the voting process.

6.15 On a vote taken by roll call between the Amendment and the Motion Members voted as follows:-

6.16 **Amendment** – 22 votes being:-

Tony Berretti, Dougie Campbell, John Campbell, Ben Dashper, Linda Dorward, Archie Dryburgh, Andy Ferguson, Katie Hagmann, Iain Howie, George Jamieson, Emma Jordan, Tracey Little, Kim Lowe, Andy McFarlane, Sean Marshall, Willie Scobie, Paula Stevenson, Davie Stitt, Stephen Thompson, Keith Walters, Carlyne Wilson and John Young.

6.17 **Motion** – 20 being:-

Malcolm Johnstone, Gail Macgregor, Graham Bell, Ian Blake, Richard Brodie, Ian Carruthers, Karen Carruthers, Lynne Davis, Jim Dempster, Pauline Drysdale, Andrew Giusti, Chrissie Hill, Ivor Hyslop, David Inglis, Maureen Johnstone, Jackie McCamon, Denis Male, Richard Marsh, David Slater and Andrew Wood.

6.18 **Abstentions** – 1 being John Denerley.

Decision

AGREED

6.19 the SNP Group Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax Proposal for 2024/25, and indicative Budget Plans for 2025/26 and 2026/27, as published on 20 February 2024, including investments, savings, and fees and charges as the Council's Budget;

6.20 the 100% increase in the Council Tax levy on second homes, from 1 April 2024, reflected in the SNP Group Budget and Council Tax Proposal;

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6.21 the application of the Service Concessions fiscal flexibility and gradual release of the School PPP Sinking Fund in line with the approach outlined to the Finance, Procurement and Transformation Committee at its meeting of 8 February 2024;

6.22 that the budget to be delegated to the Dumfries & Galloway Integration Joint Board for Adult Social Care Services for 2024/25, will be the 2023/24 recurring budget level, plus the full share of the additional funding reflected in the 2024/25 Local Government Funding Settlement for these services; and

6.23 to review the impact of the potentially significant additional funding that may come to this Council following the UK Government's Spring Budget and details of any distribution agreed between COSLA and Scottish Government, with a view to minimise the impact on our teacher numbers, in light of ongoing wider discussions nationally. This would be taken at Full Council or Finance, Procurement and Transformation Committee, or whichever is the appropriate committee.

MEMBER – Richard Brodie left the meeting – 42 Members present,

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING – The meeting adjourned at 12.23pm and reconvened at 1.00pm with 42 Members present.

7 HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006 SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE 2024/25 - REPORT BY DIRECTOR ECONOMY AND RESOURCES

Decision

AGREED

7.1 to remove delegations from the Economy and Resources Committee to consider funding allocations to the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board;

7.2 the transfer of £948,000 from the Council to the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board to support the delivery of the Care and Repair service, as detailed in section 4.1 of the report;

7.3 to transfer £149,000 from the Council to the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board to fund the Small Repairs and Home Support service, as detailed at section 4.2 of the report;

7.4 to transfer £15,000 from the Council to the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board to fund the Dementia Friendly Design project as detailed at section 4.3 of the report;

7.5 to transfer £37,400 from the Council to the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board to fund Food Train at Home as detailed in section 4.4 of the report; and

7.6 the allocation of £35,000 for the Council's Trusted Trader Scheme as detailed at section 4.5 of the report.

8 COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT PROPOSED AMENDMENT - PUBLIC HOLIDAY WORKING - REPORT BY DIRECTOR ECONOMY AND RESOURCES

Decision**NOTED**

8.1 the discussions and formal consultation with the Scottish Joint Council (SJC) Joint Trade Unions with the aim of securing agreement to amend the Collective Agreement for Public Holiday Working set out at paragraph 4.14 of the report;

8.2 the formal responses to the consultation from the Joint Trade Unions included as Appendices 1,2 and 3 of the report; and

8.3 **AGREED** the proposed amendments to the Collective Agreement as outlined in Appendix 4 and paragraph 4.18 of the report which enhance public holiday working for the Council's SJC workforce, and which would take immediate effect.

9 UK GOVERNMENT LEVELLING-UP PROGRAMME: DUMFRIES LONG-TERM TOWN PLAN - REPORT BY HEAD OF ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

MEMBER – Jackie McCamon left the meeting during consideration of this item – 42 Members present.

Decision**NOTED**

9.1 the information contained in Section 4 of the report regarding the UK Government's announcement of its "Long-Term Plan for Towns" for which Dumfries would benefit from £20 million of funding over 10 years from 2024/25;

9.2 the requirement and timescales to appoint a Chair, establish a Town Board and prepare a Long-Term Plan for Dumfries, as set out in section 4.5 to 4.8 of the report;

9.3 the consultation with political groups and the community engagement activity, undertaken to draw up a longlist of individuals to be considered for the role of independent Chair of the Town Board, set out at paragraphs 4.5.6 to 4.5.7 of the report; and

9.4 **AGREED** to delegate the remaining recommendations in the report to Nithsdale Area Committee to make the decision being:-

"2.4 consider the nominations for Chair of the Town Board, set out in Appendix 4 to the report and invite a preferred candidate to take up the role of Chair;

2.5 agree that as required by the UK Government guidance local MPs are consulted on this decision and in addition to consult local MSPs set out in paragraph 4.5.7 as recommended by Economy and Resources Committee; and

2.6 agree the nomination of two Elected Members and two nominated substitutes to represent Dumfries and Galloway Council on the Town Board, as set out in paragraph 4.5.8."

9.5 **AGREED** that further written information be provided to Nithsdale Area Committee in order

Minutes		Minutes
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that consideration of the candidates be carried out in a clear and consistent manner.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIR DUE TO THE NEED FOR A DECISION

Decision

NOTED that there was no item of business deemed urgent by the Convener due to the need for a decision.

11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973

Decision

AGREED to adopt a resolution to exclude the public from the meeting in terms of Section 50A (4) paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

12 CHIEF OFFICER RETIREMENT - REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Summary of Report – In accordance with Council Policy Members are required to be involved in the proposed early retirement of any Chief Officer. This report provided Members the information to comply with those requirements.

Summary of Decision

NOTED and **AGREED** the recommendations as set out in the report with regards to the early retirement of a Chief Officer.

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Minute Item 6

Labour Group Revenue Budget Proposal 2024/25

	2024/25 £000s	2025/26 £000s	2026/27 £000s	Notes
Uprated Budget	456,148	464,298	472,698	
Additional Investment				
Roads Improvement	1,050	1,050	1,050	1
Governance & Assurance Team	505	505	505	1
Procurement & Commissioning Team	255	255	255	1
Early Learning & Childcare Provider Rate increase	600	800	1,000	2
ASN Transport	750	750	750	2
Children & Families Social Work	1,490	1,490	1,490	2
Cost of Living support	1,887	630	630	3
Total Additional Investment	6,537	5,480	5,680	
Budget Total Prior to Savings	462,685	469,778	478,378	
Less Measures to Address the Funding Gap				
<u>Corporate Measures</u>				
Service Concessions	- 1,250	- 1,250	- 1,250	4
Council Tax 2nd Homes	- 1,660	- 1,660	- 1,660	5
Non-Domestic Property Relief	- 700	- 800	- 800	5
<u>Change & Savings Programme</u>				
Previously Agreed Savings	- 900	- 975	- 975	6
Fees & Charges additional specific savings options	- 528	- 1,000	- 1,500	7
Targeted Future Change and Savings Programme	- 1,000	- 7,000	- 14,000	7
TOTAL Measures to Address the Funding Gap	- 6,038	- 12,685	- 20,185	
Total Budget	456,647	457,093	458,193	
Less Government Grant	- 374,088	- 372,238	- 370,388	
Less Council Tax Income (net of Council Tax Reduction Scheme)	- 75,540	- 81,290	- 87,414	
Total Funding	- 449,628	- 453,528	- 457,802	
Budget Deficit/Use of Balances	7,019	3,565	391	

Council Tax Increase	0.0%	6.5%	6.5%
Annual Increase in Income	0	5,550	5,924
Cumulative Increase in Income		5,550	11,474

NOTES

- These allocations, totalling £1.81 Million, were previously agreed as part of the 2023/24 Budget agreed by Full Council on 28 February 2023.
- These amounts were reflected within the Updating of the Financial Strategy report agreed by the Finance, Procurement & Transformation Committee on 8 February 2024.
- The allocation of the Cost of Living resources is provided within the attached template.
- Details on the revised approach and additional contributions available through the Service Concessions fiscal flexibility were presented to the Finance, Procurement and Transformation Committee on 8 February 2024.
- Supporting information in relation to these two measures is reflected within the Council Tax report on this agenda (Full Council 27 February 2024).
- The previously agreed savings have been amended from that reported to the Finance, Procurement and Transformation Committee on 8 February 2024, as set out within the attached note.
- Savings templates in respect of these savings options are appended to this Budget proposal for information.

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