

SNP Group - Budget Amendment 2023 – 2024

Proposer / Seconded: Cllr John Ross / Cllr Maureen Chalmers

As an amendment to Item 2 'Overall Position of Revenue Budget and Level of Local Taxation for 2023/2024', the Council is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):

Amend as appropriate

1. that the reinstatement of funding for 2021/22 teachers' Pay Award of £1.8 million be noted, and that this be used to benefit the Budget Gap (section 4.4), be approved;
2. that £5.7 million of the retrospective benefit released by Service Concessions be used to support the impact of the 2022/2023 Pay Award in 2023/2024 (section 4.6), be approved;
3. that approving the use of £1.8 million additional funding, and £5.7 million of retrospective benefit (recommendations 1 and 2 would result in a revised Budget Gap of £8.818 million (section 4.7), be noted;
4. that the use of money from reserves as detailed in sections 4.8 to 4.12 be noted.
5. that the level of Council Tax and the amount of savings to be used in this amendment be agreed;
6. that following the use of the service concessions retrospective benefit to fund the 2022/2023 Pay Award and the proposed use for Budget Strategies, the remaining £10 million of unallocated monies (section 7.2), be used for the investments as detailed in this amendment
7. That the current, unprecedented inflationary pressures facing the Council are noted, and that the budget gaps projected for Council in future years (section 10) are noted;
8. that the Revenue Budget for 2023/2024, including the base budget allocations to Resources, as shown in Appendix 3, be approved, subject to members' decision on recommendation 5.

Insert narrative on proposals

Savings agreed: £1.072m

Council Tax increase: 3.5% - £5.100m

Investments: (£7.354m)

| | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Supporting our Children and Young People | £0.100 |
| 1.1 Scope and pilot free breakfast provision in secondary school, in partnership with young people and third sector groups. | |
| 1.2 Bring free school meal entitlement into line with the School Clothing Grant in P6/P7 and Secondary Schools, including school holiday payments for all primary and secondary pupils entitled to school clothing grants. It should be noted this is single year funding – a recurring funding solution will require to be identified in future years. | £1.550 |

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1.3 Encourage school gardening initiatives and links for the Food Growing Network, to encourage children and young people to grow and learn about food, and care for local ecologies | £0.050 |
| 2. Supporting people with Cost of Living 2.1 Financial Wellbeing Support Fund Extend the scheme introduced in our 2022/23 Budget, which has been designed to specifically support households experiencing financial hardship. | £1m |
| 3. Supporting Our Communities 3.1 Community Managed Halls Reinststate the investment commitment in the 2022-23 budget to employ a community development worker (2years) to support management committees build capacity, develop local plans and access external funding sources 3.2 Provide a grant-based fund for community hall management committees to improve facilities e.g. access to the building, toilets, kitchens and address any safety concerns. | £0.110 £0.150 |
| 3.3 Supporting Winter Festivals Establish a new winter festival fund, to ensure all communities can plan, organise and celebrate events to bring communities of place and interest together, leading to greater equity across the geographical areas and better reflecting our multicultural community. To facilitate this transition to a new approach, the funding for current arrangements will be continued in 2023-24. 3.4 Supporting community-based arts, leisure and culture Ensure the sustainability of our local libraries, leisure and cultural activities and access to health and wellbeing provision | £0.150 £2m |
| 4. Supporting Community Priorities Continue support for the delivery of community priorities which have been identified through community led engagement and consultative processes. 4.1 Place based participatory budgeting programme, which support the delivery of priorities in neighbourhood planning areas. 4.2 Continue the Grants Scheme for other communities to access, recognising that across South Lanarkshire there are a range of communities which have carried out other consultative and engagement processes to identify their priorities. | £0.200 £0.150 |
| 5. Supporting our Environment | |

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| <p>5.1 Extend the Climate Emergency Fund to investigate energy saving / generation opportunities or service changes to help meet net zero ambitions and save on energy costs.</p> <p>5.2 Pavements and Footpaths Continue to invest in improving pavements and footpaths support using a participatory budgeting approach.</p> | <p>£0.150</p> <p>£1.5m</p> |
| <p>6. Supporting our Voluntary Organisation Provide a 5% increase to Grant Payments</p> | <p>£0.120</p> |
| <p>7. Supporting Transformational Change in Council Services It was recognised in the Budget Strategy in June 2021 that a more fundamental transformation would be required to ensure sustainability of services but also to meet the expressed needs of our communities. The approach taken to developing the new Community and Council Plans provide the basis for a deeper and more deliberative discussion on what our Council should look like in 2027.</p> <p>While the governance of this work may be provided by a cross party working group of senior elected members, we need community leadership and participation to provide ideas, solutions and advice.</p> <p>We propose a two year programme of intense and deliberative discussions using a 'citizens assembly' approach.</p> | <p>£0.124</p> |
| <p>8. Climate Impact Assessments in Budget Proposals</p> <p>1. Notes that the annual Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting to the Scottish Government requires the Council to explain how spending plans and use of resources is aligned to emissions targets</p> <p>2. Agrees that, in relation to the Council budget setting process and medium term financial plan, Councillors and the public should understand the climate impact of spending proposals</p> <p>3. Therefore requests that Officers provide high level guidance for political groups to complete a climate impact assessment of proposed budgets in the run up to the Council's budget setting process in February 2024; and recommends that all budget motions should include an accompanying statement to their proposals which sets out how their spending plans align with the Council's climate strategies, including this as an appendix.</p> <p>4. Ensure all budget proposals which have been identified as having a negative environmental impact are subject to a more detailed climate assessment / carbon budget and ways to reduce the impact on emissions are put forward (e.g. embedding low carbon methods of construction, amendments to the project) and that this is presented to councillors before final budget decisions are made.</p> | <p>£0</p> |

Appendix – Balanced Budget Reconciliation

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------------|
| Budget Gap from Officers' Report (Section 4.7) | | (£8.818m) |
| Savings Accepted: | | |
| CER01 | £0.072m | |
| SWR01 | £1.000m | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Total Savings (A) | £1.072m | |
| Proposed Council Tax Increase 3.5% | <u>£5.100m</u> | |
| Total savings and increase from council tax | | <u>£6.172m</u> |
| = Balance after savings and council tax (Budget Gap) / Investment Opportunity | | (£2.646m) |
| | | |
| Further investment proposed: | | |
| Extending Free School Meals Entitlement | (£1.550m) | |
| Free Breakfast Funding | (£0.100m) | |
| Financial Wellbeing Support Fund | (£1.000m) | |
| School Gardening Initiative | <u>(£0.050m)</u> | |
| Supporting Community Managed Halls (1) | <u>(£0.110m)</u> | |
| Supporting Community Managed Halls (2) | <u>(£0.150m)</u> | |
| Supporting Community Led Festivities | <u>(£0.150m)</u> | |
| Supporting Community Priorities | <u>(£0.350m)</u> | |
| Supporting community-based arts, leisure and culture | <u>(£2.000m)</u> | |
| Supporting our Voluntary Organisations | (£0.120m) | |
| Supporting Transformational Change in Council Services | <u>(£0.124m)</u> | |
| Climate Emergency Fund | <u>(£0.150m)</u> | |
| Pavement & Footpath Investment (PB) | <u>(£1.500m)</u> | |
| | | |
| Total Further investment proposed (B) | | (£7.354m) |
| | | |
| Add: Use of Reserves proposed (C) – <i>provide details</i> | | <u>£10.000m</u> |
| | | |
| Budget Gap – should be zero | | £0.000m |

Restatement of Net Expenditure Figure (report section 8)

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Net Expenditure figure within Revenue Budget Paper (sections 8.2 and associated appendices) – <i>assumed £8.818m of savings</i> | £895.702m |
| Add back assumed level of savings in Budget Paper | £8.818m |
| Adjusted Net Expenditure figure (before savings) | £904.520m |
| Deduct: Actual Savings taken from table above (A) | (£1.072m) |
| Add : any further investment proposed (from table above (B)) | £7.354m |
| Revised Net Expenditure figure for Revenue Budget (D) | £910.802m |

Restatement of Net Sum Funded by Council Tax (report section 8.3)

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Revised Net Expenditure figure for Revenue Budget (from D above) | £910.802m |
| Deduct: Government Grant | £702.856m |
| Deduct: Use of Reserves / Underspends in the Budget Strategy (£45.572m plus C from table above) | £55.572m |
| Resultant Net Sum to be Funded Locally from Council Tax | £152.374m |