

Report

Report to: **South Lanarkshire Council**
Date of Meeting: **21 February 2024**
Report by: **Chief Executive**

Subject: **Overall Position of Revenue Budget and Level of Local Taxation for 2024/2025**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- ◆ update the Council on the 2024/2025 budget position, present the updated savings proposals and the Council Tax level for 2024/2025 for approval, and present the Revenue Budget for 2024/2025, including the base budget allocations to Resources, for approval.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Council is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):

- (1) that the Budget Gap of £20.570 million (section 4.1), be noted;
- (2) that the assumptions detailed at paragraph 7.2, used to arrive at the Budget presented in section 7, be noted;
- (3) that the amount of savings, the level of Council Tax and the Use of Reserves to be used to balance the 2024/2025 Budget (detailed in section 6), be considered;
- (4) that the budget figures detailed at section 7 (based on the assumptions in section 7.2 and 7.3) are to be updated following agreement of the Budget, be noted;
- (5) that the potential impact of savings beyond 2024/2025 (section 9), be noted; and
- (6) that the Revenue Budget for 2024/2025, including the base budget allocations to Resources, as shown in Appendix 3, be approved, subject to Members' decision on recommendation 3.

3. Background

- 3.1. At its meeting on 21 June 2023, the Executive Committee approved the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2024/2025. The Strategy assumptions resulted in an initial Budget Gap of £29.207 million. This Budget Gap was the result of a number of expenditure items including Pay Award assumptions and inflation on significant Council contracts, offset in part by some corporate solutions including Council Tax from additional property numbers and the one-off use of Reserves arising from the implementation of accounting for Service Concessions.
- 3.2. Subsequent to this, update papers have been presented to members, including the [2024/2025 Revenue Budget Update and Savings Proposals](#) (Executive Committee, November 2023), and most recently, an [Update on the Budget Strategy for 2024/2025](#) (Executive Committee, 24 January 2024). This latest paper revised the Budget Gap

to £20.570 million. This position reflects the impact of the 2024/2025 Local Government Settlement received in December 2023.

3.3. This report will cover the main elements of the Budget Process to date including an update to the 2024/2025 Revenue Budget Strategy (section 4) and a proposal to address the Budget Gap for 2024/2025 (section 5). Achievement of a balanced budget is covered at section 6.

3.4. Thereafter, the report will provide details of the position in relation to the total Revenue Budget and Council Tax (section 7) and section 8 provides details of the Budget Bill and Local Government Finance Order. Section 9 provides information on the potential impact of savings beyond 2024/2025.

4. 2024/2025 Revenue Budget Strategy – inc. Local Government Settlement

4.1. At the Executive Committee meeting in January 2024, Members were presented with an update to the Budget Strategy which resulted in a Budget Gap of £20.570 million. This position assumed no increase in Council Tax and was based on the Local Government Settlement received in December 2023.

4.2. Members will recall that the impact of the Local Government Settlement received in December 2023 was included in the Budget Gap position reported to the Executive Committee in January 2024. At that point, it was noted that the Circular was still under review and further updates may be received which changes the Council's Government grant allocation.

4.3. The 2024/2025 Finance Order has not yet been approved (refer section 8) so further changes could arise. Members will be notified on the final settlement value as appropriate.

4.4. **Social Work IJB:** The Council's proposed Revenue Budget for 2024/2025 includes a Budget for Social Work Resources. This includes budget for the delegated services of the IJB (Adults and Older People), as well as non-delegated services such as Children and Families.

4.5. As Members have previously been advised, the recent actuarial valuation of Strathclyde Pension Fund has meant that the level of Employer Pension Contributions will be reduced into 2024/2025. As is the case for the Council, this means that the IJB will not incur the same level of costs in 2024/2025. The total Social Work Resources Budget for 2024/2025 will remain the same, but funds released as a result of the reduced pension contributions for the IJB in 2024/2025 (£7.7 million) can be used to contribute towards continued pressures in Children and Families. This adjustment would be made between the delegated IJB budget and the Children and Families budget, on a temporary basis in 2024/2025.

5. Options to Address the Budget Gap

5.1. In order to eliminate the Budget Gap of £20.570 million, there are options available for members' consideration:

- to approve savings proposals from the savings package presented in the [2024/2025 Revenue Budget Update and Savings Proposals](#) (see sections 5.3 to 5.4 for an update), and
- to consider the Band D Council Tax level including the potential Council Tax Freeze (sections 5.9 to 5.12).

- 5.2. Each of these is taken in turn:
- 5.3. **Savings Proposals:** Budget savings totalling £18.589 million had been proposed for Members' consideration as detailed in the [2024/2025 Revenue Budget Update and Savings Proposals](#). This total includes Management and Operational Savings of £3.300 million along with Resource savings proposals of £15.289 million for consideration. That savings pack included a proposed reduction of £1.500 million in the Management Fee for South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture. Section 5.4 contains an update to this savings proposal.
- 5.4. **South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) Savings/Management Fee (CER11):** Work has been ongoing to identify efficiencies within the SLLC operations in order to manage the proposed reduction of £1.500 million in the Management Fee paid by the Council in 2024/2025. The work undertaken by SLLC and presented to Members, will mean that a £1.000 million reduction in the Management Fee is achievable. This position would therefore reduce the savings proposal by £0.500 million and take value of the savings pack in total to £18.089 million. Members are asked to note some edits to savings EDR06 and EDR08. An updated pack of savings proposals is included at Appendix 1.
- 5.5. **Teacher Numbers:** As noted in the 2024/2025 Revenue Budget Update and Savings Proposals (Executive Committee, November 2023), the package of savings includes two proposals that impact on teacher numbers. These are EDR10 – Extended Support Team (Inclusion Service) and EDR12 – Reduce Area Cover in Schools.
- 5.6. In 2023/2024, the grant settlement did include a holdback for Retained Teacher Support. This was on the basis that teacher numbers would be maintained. The 2024/2025 grant settlement received in December 2023 does not include any similar holdback. However, following the laying of the draft Order on 8 February 2024, the Council received correspondence from COSLA which highlighted that unlike the grant settlement received in December 2023, the Order does not include an amount of £145.5 million nationally in relation to funding for the school workforce and the maintenance of teacher numbers. No information has been received at a Council level however, the Order laid suggests that the Council's grant allocation could be reduced by £9.614 million. No account has been taken of this in this paper due to the uncertainty regarding the value and the expectations/sanctions related to this. An update will be provided to Members as it becomes available.
- 5.7. At this point last year, the Scottish Government did hold back an amount of £45 million in relation to teacher numbers. This amount was not distributed to councils, but was held as an allocation, and this Council sets its budget based on us receiving its assumed proportionate share. In setting this budget, the figures in the Appendix and in the tables in section 7 make the same assumption (that our proportionate share of the held back funding will be received).
- 5.8. The Council has now received notification that the allocation of funding for teacher numbers of £145.5 million for 2024/2025 will be distributed via Specific Resource Grants, and those grants will be conditional on councils agreeing at the outset to maintain teacher numbers. For that reason, I would have to advise that it would not be prudent to accept the savings that relate to teacher numbers (*EDR10 and EDR12*).
- 5.9. **Council Tax/Council Tax Freeze:** As previously detailed in the Budget Strategy report to Executive Committee on 24 January 2024, a national allocation of £144 million has been advised for a Council Tax Freeze. The Council's indicative share of

this national allocation of £144 million is £7.869 million. This was not included in the Local Government Settlement received in December 2023. Any allocation of these monies to the Council would be conditional on the Council approving a Council Tax Freeze. In arriving at the Budget Gap (section 4.1), no account has been taken of any increase in Council Tax nor of any Scottish Government Funding for a Council Tax Freeze.

- 5.10. Each 1% increase in Band D would generate successive amounts of £1.550 million, towards meeting the 2024/2025 Budget Gap. A 5% increase in Council Tax would generate £7.750 million.
- 5.11. Any increase in Council Tax Band D would mean that the Council forfeits the Scottish Government's Allocation of the Council Tax Freeze monies of £7.869 million but will generate additional income from Council Tax. Table 1 shows the impact of a range of Council Tax increases that could reduce the Budget Gap.

Table 1 – Council Tax Increases

Percentage Increase	Band D £	Annual Increase £	Monthly Increase (over 10 payments) £	Decrease in Budget Gap £m
0% / Freeze	1,300.81	-	-	7.741
1%	1,313.82	13.01	1.30	1.550
2%	1,326.83	26.02	2.60	3.100
3%	1,339.83	39.02	3.90	4.650
3.50%	1,346.34	45.53	4.55	5.425
4%	1,352.84	52.03	5.20	6.200
5%	1,365.85	65.04	6.50	7.750
6%	1,378.86	78.05	7.80	9.300

- 5.12. Members are asked to note that the Council's Band D rate at 2023/2024 levels (£1,301) is the lowest for a mainland Scottish council.
- 5.13. **2023/2024 Probable Outturn Underspend/Use of Reserves:** The 2023/2024 Revenue Monitoring and Probable Outturn paper to Executive Committee on 24 January 2024 sought approval to Transfer £6.000 million to Reserves. The report noted that this presented an option to help with the Council's Budget Strategy, bearing in mind the previously identified savings requirement of £95.8 million across the 4 years from 2024/2025.
- 5.14. Appendix 2 illustrates the budget gap over these next 4 years. When considering how this is used, Members should consider the need to make permanent savings in the short to medium term. As this funding is one-off, the use of this funding cannot be used to replace the need for permanent savings, however, it may help in phasing in the delivery of agreed savings or delay the need to make savings for a period of time. Any use of these one-off monies in place of making permanent savings would require to be reinstated in the Budget Strategy in future years. This would increase the savings requirement in those years where we are already facing significant savings requirements which may be exacerbated if inflationary pressures continued, and costs exceeded the levels currently built into our budget assumptions.

5.15. Members are asked to consider a need to use these Reserves as a contingency should cost pressures in 2024/2025, specifically Pay, be higher than we have included in the Budget Strategy. Recent Pay Claim figures presented have identified a risk that any pay deal for 2024/2025 will exceed the funding that has been included in the Council's Budget Strategy for Pay in 2024/2025. Members should give consideration to using these Reserves as a contingency in the event of higher than budgeted costs for Pay.

5.16. When considering the use of these Reserves, Members are also asked to note pressures faced in our Capital Programme due to reduced core and partner funding.

6. Achievement of a Balanced Budget

6.1. **To recap on what is said in section 5.1, in order to address the Budget Gap, there are options available for Members' consideration:**

- ♦ **to approve savings proposals from the savings package presented in Appendix 1 (see sections 5.3 and 5.4 for an update),**
- ♦ **to consider the Band D Council Tax level including the potential Council Tax Freeze (sections 5.9 to 5.12)**

6.2. **Members can consider the level of savings they approve from the overall savings package of £18.089 million. In relation to Council Tax, Members can choose to freeze Council Tax and receive £7.869 million in Scottish Government Grant or, increase Council Tax Band D and forfeit the Scottish Government Grant. The impact of a number of percentage increases is shown in Table 1.**

6.3. As noted in section 5.15, Members are asked to consider the use of the Reserves generated by the 2023/2024 underspend and set them aside as a contingency should cost pressures in 2024/2025, particularly Pay, be higher than we have included in the Budget Strategy. Recent Pay Claims suggest a pay award for 2024/2025 could be higher than is included in the Council's Budget Strategy for 2024/2025. Members should give consideration to using these Reserves as a contingency in the event of higher than budgeted costs for Pay. The use of these monies to support the Council's Capital Programme could also be considered (section 5.16).

7. Total Revenue Budget Summary 2024/2025 and Council Tax

7.1. Taking into account the Government Grant allocated to the Council through the Settlement and assuming no year-on-year increase in Council Tax (section 5.9), means that the total proposed Budget for 2024/2025 is now £956.076 million.

7.2. **For the purposes of this paper, in arriving at this position, the following has been assumed:**

- ♦ **that there will be no increase to Council Tax, meaning that the Council will receive Scottish Government Grant of £7.869 million,**
- ♦ **that there will be an acceptance of savings to a value of at least £12.701 million from the package of savings at Appendix 1, and**
- ♦ **that the £6.000 million from the 2023/2024 Probable Outturn (section 5.15) has been set aside as contingency against higher than budgeted costs including Pay Claims.**

7.3. In the absence of any decision being taken by the Council in relation to the savings, it is proposed that the full package of savings is taken.

7.4. The detailed allocation of the budget to each Resource is shown at Appendix 3. The main figures from Appendix 3 are summarised overleaf.

Summary of Council Budget 2024/2025

Current Year Base Budget £m		2024/2025 Proposed Budget £m
1,163.411	Total Services' Gross Expenditure * (<i>Appendix 3, page ii</i>)	1,215.987
(325.443)	Deduct: Total Services Gross Income (<i>Appendix 3, page ii</i>)	(331.907)
837.968	Net Service Spending	884.080
54.091	Add: Loan Charges	55.418
-	Add: CFCR	-
21.084	Add: Corporate Items inc. Service Concession Annual Benefit	29.279
-	less: 2024/2025 Savings	(12.701)
913.143	Net Expenditure	956.076

* Restated to show the Teachers Holdback monies as included.

- 7.5. Table 2 shows how this 2024/2025 budget is funded, resulting in the net Sum Funded by Council Tax, £158.043 million.

Table 2: Net Sum Funded by Council Tax

Indicative Budget for 2024/2025 (<i>Appendix 3</i>)	£956.076m
<u>Deduct:</u> Government Grant	(£750.533m)
<u>Deduct:</u> Use of Reserves / Underspends in the Budget Strategy	(£47.500m)
Resultant Net Sum to be Funded Locally from Council Tax	£158.043m

- 7.6. The 2024/2025 net Council Tax figure comprises the 2023/2024 budget of £155.824 million, increased to reflect the additional property numbers included in the Strategy (net £2.219 million net of Council Tax Reduction Scheme). It assumes no year-on-year increase in Council Tax Band D (section 7.2).
- 7.7. The Net Sum Funded by Council Tax (£158.043 million) is detailed in Table 3, showing the Council Tax Budget for the year 2024/2025. Table 3 also shows the estimated amount of income for each £1 of Gross Council Tax.

Table 3: 2024/2025 Council Tax Budget

Gross Council Tax 2024/2025	£181.587m
<u>Deduct:</u> Council Tax Reduction Scheme	(£23.544m)
Resultant Net Sum to be Funded Locally from Council Tax	£158.043m

Estimated Product of £1 Gross Council Tax at 97.125% collection £139,575

- 7.8. Should the Council approve the budget for 2024/2025, then the Band D Council Tax for 2024/2025 will be applied at the figure decided and necessary billing and collection mechanisms will be set in motion. The ten monthly Council Tax instalments will commence in April. Appropriate scrutiny will continue to ensure the process of reviewing budgetary performance is continued.
- 7.9. The level of Council Tax is property based. All houses are classified into eight bands, A to H, with band H properties paying more than three times the level of band A. The Council's declared tax is for band D and all other rates are fixed using the following scale:

Table 4: Property Ranges and Proportion of Band D Payable

Property Ranges in South Lanarkshire for Council Tax			
Property Value Range	Band	Proportion of Band D Tax Payable	Proportion of South Lanarkshire Property in each band January 2024
£27,000 and under	A	67%	22.69%
£27,001 to £35,000	B	78%	19.41%
£35,001 to £45,000	C	89%	17.02%
			(Total A to C: 59.12%)
£45,001 to £58,000	D	100%	14.07%
£58,001 to £80,000	E	131%	13.15%
£80,001 to £106,000	F	162%	8.79%
£106,001 to £212,000	G	196%	4.50%
Over £212,000	H	245%	0.37%

- 7.10. The Council's declared tax will be at the Band D level but only around 22,100 properties (13.98%) are in band D. Over the past few years, there has been an upward movement in the valuation of properties. However, approximately 59.12% of properties still remain in Bands A, B and C, so the effect of any increase in Council Tax is reduced by 33%, 22% and 11% respectively for most properties.
- 7.11. The number of houses in the tax base for South Lanarkshire exceeds 157,700 as advised by the Assessor for the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board. From this figure, an allowance is deducted for single person discounts, students, disabled, vacant premises etc. to produce an estimated yield for £1 on a Band D basis at 100% collection of £143,707.
- 7.12. The Council must set an appropriate level allowing for non-collection. Council Tax collection rates have improved markedly in recent years due to the number of changes initiated by the Council.
- 7.13. A yield of £139,575 for £1 tax at Council Tax Band D has been used in the 2024/2025 budget (an increase on 2023/2024 due to an increase in the number of properties). At an assumed 97.125%, this represents a continuation of the collection rate performance achieved in recent years.
- 7.14. This position assumes no year-on-year increase in Council Tax, as detailed in Section 7.2 and therefore sets/retains the Council Tax Band D at £1,300.81.
- 8. Local Government Finance Order / UK Spring Budget**
- 8.1. As has been the case in previous years, although the Council received its grant settlement on 21 December 2023, the level of grant may change as the Finance Budget Bill progresses through Parliament to the Finance Order: Stages 1 to 3 of the Finance Budget Bill will be presented to Parliament between 8 to 27 February with the Debate on the Local Government Finance Order taking place on 28 February 2024. Details of this are provide in section 5.6, however, as no formal information has been received to date and therefore no change has been made to this paper.

- 8.2. The Council has a statutory requirement to set its Council Tax by 11 March 2024. While the Council has not yet received final confirmation of its Budget as a result of the Finance Order, it can set its Budget for the coming year using the settlement information received to date, and it can set its Council Tax.
- 8.3. As noted in section 8.1, this budget paper is based on the Local Government Settlement received on 21 December 2023. As the Budget Bill process continues, there may be changes to the level of grant allocation. However, at the date of writing it is not anticipated that this will change the Council's Budget position.
- 8.4. For Members' information, the UK Spring Budget is set for 6 March 2024. There is a risk that this could affect the Scottish Government / Scottish Public Sector Budgets, if there are fundamental changes from those just agreed in the Scottish Budget (late 2023). There is no information available on this at present.

9. Position Beyond 2024/2025 – Impact of Savings

- 9.1. This paper focuses on financial year 2024/2025, however 2 savings presented in Appendix 1 could have an impact on future years' financial position: M&O06 Early Learning and Childcare Reserves (£2.150million) and EDR08 – Mentoring and Learner Journey Reserves (£0.380 million). These savings are achieved through the one-off use of Reserves. If a permanent saving is not progressed, then the one-off use of Reserves will need to be reinstated and will add to the 2025/2026 Budget Strategy.

10. Employee Implications

- 10.1. Any employee implications arising from the savings proposed in Appendix 1 will be managed within Resources, with any staffing implications dealt with through a combination of anticipated turnover and redeployment through SWITCH 2.
- 10.2. A full analysis of the proposed savings has taken place in relation to potential areas at risk and potential areas where employees can be redeployed to through the SWITCH2 process. Detail has also been gathered around current vacancies and any posts filled on a temporary basis to aid redeploying employees.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1. As detailed within this report.

12. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 12.1. As agreed at the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee (20 September 2023), a Sustainability Impact Assessment has been completed in respect of the Revenue Budget process and the Savings proposals themselves.
- 12.2. The impact assessment process aims to ensure that factors related to carbon reduction, climate change adaptation and the wider principles of sustainable development are included within Revenue Budget process. Elements feeding into this current Budget Strategy reflect increases in cost of current activity, rather than any change to existing practices and therefore should have no direct environmental impact change as a result.
- 12.3. Members have been issued with a Sustainability Impact Assessment for consideration in the decision-making process (5 February 2024).

13. Other Implications

- 13.1. The assumptions on which the budget is based are defined within the Financial Strategy for the Council as initially reported to the Council in June 2023 and updated during the year for additional pressures, corporate solutions and the Local Government Finance Settlement received on 21 December 2023. The Financial Strategy is a way of managing a number of key risks which directly impact on the funding available to deliver the Council's Objectives.
- 13.2. **Requirement to Set a Budget:** Under statute and internal governance rules, Council Members have duties around setting budgets. Failure to set a balanced budget would have serious implications, not just for the Council but also potentially for individual members who could incur personal responsibility for failure to comply with their statutory duty.
- 13.3. Any failure to set a balanced budget would almost certainly provoke intervention by Scottish Ministers and the Accounts Commission who have legislative powers to carry out investigations and make recommendations which could result in Scottish Ministers issuing binding directions to the Council. Under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, special reporting processes exist (Section 102) which, if the Controller of Audit is not satisfied with the Council's steps to remedy such an issue, then he/she can make a special report to the Accounts Commission on the matter.
- 13.4. The Commission can then recommend that Scottish Ministers direct the Council to rectify the issue. Individual members who unreasonably contribute to the failure or delay in setting a budget could be ultimately censured, suspended or disqualified from standing for election for a prescribed period of time by the Standards Commission.
- 13.5. If a new budget is not set, then the Council could not enter into any new unfunded commitments, including contracts, and spend would be restricted to meeting existing liabilities. As the Council's current position is that there is a budget shortfall that requires to be met through identified solutions, without Council agreement on a 2024/2025 budget, a gap in our budget would remain that has to be addressed before the start of the financial year.
- 13.6. **Expenditure Subject to External Influences Including Pay Award:** Whilst the budget for 2024/2025 can be set with certainty, there are areas of expenditure that are subject to external influences which we will continue to monitor as the year progresses. Most significantly, this includes the impact of potential pay awards. This should be considered when looking at the option available to balance the Budget and the use of reserves set aside for Budget Strategies which are covered at sections 5.13-5.16. While the 2024/2025 Budget Strategy assumes an increase in costs into that year, and no pay deal has been agreed for 2024/2025 as yet, given the most recent Pay Claim figures presented, there is a risk that that any pay deal agreed will exceed the funding that the Council has identified for pay. The Reserves generated through the 2023/2024 Probable Outturn Underspend could be used as a contingency in the event of higher than budgeted costs for Pay.
- 13.7. **Job Evaluations:** As part of normal Council processes, Job Evaluation exercises continue across a number of Services. There are currently 4 appeals to job evaluation outcomes and the outcome of these may have financial implications on recurring costs for the Council as well as the potential for back pay implications. Any back pay implications would be dependent on the outcome of these appeals.

13.8. If all appeals were successful, the costs of back pay could be significant however at this point in time, no funding has been included for these costs given the outcome of the appeals are not known. The initial outcome of the Job Evaluations was that there was no change to the grade, however, these outcomes have been appealed and the appeals are expected to be known by March. No funding has been included for these costs as the exercise is ongoing.

14. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

14.1. Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken for the Budget and Savings Proposals. These have been issued to members (5 February 2024) to assist in the decision-making process. In addition, an assessment has been carried out in line with the Fairer Scotland Duty and this has also been issued to Members (5 February 2024). For details of work undertaken, please contact the Head of Personnel, Finance and Corporate Resources.

14.2. Meetings have taken place with the Trade Unions. With regard to external consultation, the public and partners were invited to comment on two Phases of Budget Consultation. Members will be aware that initial Budget communications commenced on 16 October and ran until Friday, 10 November 2023, and these gave information on the Council's financial position and context to the level of savings required. Feedback on this first phase of the consultation was provided to Members (20 November 2023).

14.3. The second phase of consultation ended on Friday, 19 January 2024, and looked at the savings proposals specifically. Feedback on this savings consultation has been presented to Members for their consideration (6 February 2024).

Paul Manning
Chief Executive

9 February 2024

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Local Government Finance Circular 8/2023
- ◆ Council, 24 January 2024 – Update on the Budget Strategy for 2024/2025

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:

Jackie Taylor, Head of Finance (Strategy)

Ext: 5637 (Tel: 01698 455637)

E-mail jackie.taylor@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
Management & Operational Savings				
Council Wide				
M&O01	All	<p>Overtime</p> <p>Through converting time and a half overtime to plain time, a saving of around one fifth of the costs can be made.</p> <p>This pack does not currently pick up, as part of any other savings proposals, any apparent planned reductions in overtime.</p> <p>It is proposed that the level of enhanced rate overtime is reduced. An element of the overtime will be in relation to HRA and IJB, however, through targeting a reduction of other services enhanced overtime by around 60% an estimated saving of over £0.300m could be made. This assumes that all hours worked on overtime is required.</p>	-	0.300
M&O02	All	<p>Charging</p> <p>A 3% increase on all Council charges is proposed. This would generate additional income of £0.200m and would mean a 3% increase on all charges that the Council is able to change (and excluding charges for Adults and Older People Services).</p>	-	0.200
Total Council Wide			-	0.500
Community & Enterprise Resources				
M&O03	Grounds	<p>Alternative Working Patterns</p> <p>This proposal would see golf course grounds staff moving to contracts covering 7 days as an alternative to weekend overtime working. The saving would be in reduced overtime.</p> <p>Note linked to golf courses / SLLC savings.</p>	-	0.075

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
M&O04	Streets	Mechanical Sweeping – Large This proposal will see the introduction of alternative working patterns for staff operating large mechanical sweepers that are used on Class A, B and C roads, country roads and other main thoroughfare. The saving based on a reduction of fleet rather than reduced employee numbers. This would require a change to employees’ contracts.	-	0.150
Total Community and Enterprise Resources			-	0.225
Education Resources				
M&O05	Support Services	Central Administration Support Following a restructure of the central administration support service this proposal is to remove 11.9 FTE posts. There are already existing vacancies totalling 5.9 FTE. The remaining 6 FTE equates to 3 posts at Grade 2 and 3 posts at Grade 1 (non-teaching posts).	11.9	0.375
M&O06	Early Years	Early Learning and Childcare Reserves This proposal is specific to the utilising reserves for ELC currently held for pupil growth for future years. It may be possible to make this a permanent saving through looking at an option for flexibility including levels of parental choice and the service will consider options in the future. The permanent element of this is not yet quantified and will require a full review of ELC service provision to determine achievability. This proposal can be achieved in 2024/2025 as a one-off contribution from reserves.	-	2.150
Total Education Resources			11.9	2.525

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
Finance & Corporate Resources				
M&O07	Finance – Transactions	Additional Income from Statutory Additions The council receives income from summary warrants issued in relation to Non-Domestic Rates. Based on a review of the 2022/2023 position, additional budgeted income of £0.050 million is estimated from 2024/2025.	-	0.050
Total Finance & Corporate Resources			-	0.050
Total Management & Operational Savings			11.9	3.300

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
Savings for Approval				
Community & Enterprise Resources				
CER01	Facilities, Waste and Grounds	<p>Waste</p> <p>Bulky Waste - Remove Free Bulky Uplift South Lanarkshire residents are currently allowed one free bulky uplift per year which allows for the collection of up to 20 items. Subsequent requests are charged at £33.05. A benchmarking exercise has shown that most councils across Scotland now charge for all uplifts, with the average cost for a 10-item uplift at £61.32. This proposal is to remove the first free bulky uplift and introduce a £40 charge for all requests. The number of items per uplift will also reduce to a maximum of 10 at a time.</p> <p>Based on our current bulky uplift data and an estimated uptake of 25% for paid uplifts (based on other councils' experience), income of £0.415m is projected for 2024/2025. Future year income projections will be refined following the first full year of operation.</p> <p>Comparative charges from other councils are attached at Appendix 2b.</p> <p>Charging for Bulky Garden Waste Collection Currently, residents can request a free uplift of garden waste that is too large to fit into the household burgundy bin and there are no limits to the number of requests that can be made. It is proposed to introduce a £40 charge for this service. Based on an estimated 25% uptake of the current service users, income of £0.045m is projected for 2024/2025.</p>	-	0.460
CER02	Facilities, Waste and Grounds	<p>School Crossing Patrollers</p> <p>There are a number of options that could be considered for the school crossing patrol service, from full removal of service to removing crossing points that are located at assisted crossing points (zebra crossings). The responsibility for children safely walking to school is for parents – the school crossing patrollers are a non-statutory additional service.</p>	0.6	0.010

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
		<p>Current establishment of 126 (30.11 FTE) has 13 posts (3.7 FTE) vacant on average at any given time. There are 129 staffed crossing points.</p> <p>The proposal is to remove the 3 remaining crossing points that are co-located with zebra crossing (0.6 FTE at Grade 1). All staff would be required to be redeployed into a current vacancy. The standard contract for school crossing patrollers is 10hrs.</p> <p>The locations of the three crossing points are shown below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Blantyre Road/Udston Road (St John Ogilvie High, Glenlee PS, St Cuthberts PS), • Udston Road/Farm Road (same schools as above), and • Auchinraith Road (Holy Cross, Beckford PS). 		
CER03	Facilities, Waste and Grounds	<p>Countryside and Greenspace</p> <p>This will involve considering the range of activities undertaken by the service and may impact on level of external funding received from the Scottish Government.</p> <p>The annual budget is currently £0.663m and the saving equates to a reduction of circa 18%.</p> <p>Current establishment – 15.1 FTE and the proposed saving would mean 3 FTE would require to be redeployed (G2 L3).</p> <p>The proposal would require the reduction or cessation of activities in relation to the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Path Network • Countryside Access • Ranger activities • Projects with Community Groups and Third Sector • Volunteering/ Community Clean Ups • Advice and support for legislative duties i.e. Planning Applications. 	3	0.120
CER04	Roads, Transportation and Fleet	<p>Roads Spend (Investment / Reactive / Core Maintenance)</p> <p>The level of spend on roads and infrastructure investment including reactive and core maintenance would reduce. Overall spend in this area is focussed on a range of repair works including on</p>	10	1.800

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
		<p>carriageways and footways, drainage, lining and signing and safety defects. A 20% reduction in this investment area will see the network condition regress and an increase in the level of claims. Investment will require to be prioritised towards safety related defects meaning less proactive / preventative repairs are undertaken and more substantial investment required in the future.</p> <p>In addition, prioritisation of spend would be required to reduce the likely need for temporary or permanent road or bridge closures, increased risk of flooding, disruption for communities, business and public transport services due to unplanned restrictions and to minimise the impact of reduced wider support to communities (e.g. events) due to employee resources being directed towards managing increasing defects and complaints.</p> <p>This saving may impact on our ability to adequately fulfil our core statutory obligations in terms of safely managing and maintaining our network however the same position will be faced by all local authorities.</p> <p>The current Revenue spend budget is £8.879m, the current Capital budget for Roads is £10.4m (a core budget of £10m and a net carry forward £0.4m). £7.5m is being spent directly on Carriageways and the balance on other infrastructure projects including footways, structures, traffic signals etc.). An estimate of £10m has been included for planning purposes for 2024/2025. The saving would be a reduction of circa 20% and would mean an estimated reduction in Road Operatives of 10 FTE.</p>		
CER05	Enterprise and Sustainable Development	<p>Christmas Events</p> <p>This option would see a budget reduction due to removing the Christmas Switch-On events. The Council currently supports six switch-on events across South Lanarkshire, in Hamilton, East Kilbride, Rutherglen, Cambuslang, Lanark and Carluke. This proposal would remove the events programme. There would be no council provided Christmas events in town centres.</p> <p>This savings proposal would remove all the budget for this area (£0.045m).</p>	-	0.045
CER06	Enterprise and Sustainable Development	<p>Christmas Trees and Lighting</p> <p>The proposal is a budget reduction to rationalise trees and festive lighting to eight main geographical areas: Hamilton, East Kilbride, Rutherglen, Carluke, Blantyre, Cambuslang, Larkhall and Lanark.</p>	-	0.037

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
		There is expected to be an overall saving of up to £0.086m from this proposal – there may be other costs that would require to be confirmed therefore at present the value of the saving has been limited to £0.037m.		
CER07	Facilities, Waste and Grounds	Food Waste Liners This proposal is to cease the provision of food waste liners for food recycling. This would save the cost of the liners and associated staff costs (0.5 FTE).	0.5	0.100
CER08	Facilities, Waste and Grounds	Secondary Meals Price Increase The average charge of a school meal across Scottish Councils has risen to £2.40 and a proposal was put forward to increase charges by 40p. A 20p increase was agreed. The service has experienced exceptionally high increases in food costs and staff costs arising from pay awards – the increase in charges agreed is considerably lower than these increases. Comparative charges from other councils are attached at appendix 2c. This proposal would be to increase charges to the amount recommended last year (that is, a further 20p increase). Note that children entitled to free school meals will continue to receive these. Currently around 16.9% of secondary children are registered for free school meals.	-	0.177
CER09	Roads, Transportation and Fleet	Parking at Key Attractions This proposal is to introduce a £2 charge for parking at Tinto Hill, Chatelherault Country Park, Calderglen Country Park and James Hamilton Heritage Park. Any further charges at other attractions would be subject to further approval. Traffic Regulation Orders are required for any new charging proposals. Following approval of the saving there will be the requirement to develop systems and for a statutory period, (6 to 9 months) there will be the requirement to promote the necessary traffic regulation orders. There will therefore be partial implementation of the saving in 2024/2025. Falkirk and Glasgow City councils have adopted similar principles with Falkirk's Muiravonside Park charge rising from £1 to £2, and Glasgow's Pollock Park £2.50 for 4 hrs and £4.50 for all day parking. Many National Trust sites / Forestry Commission parks across Scotland charge for parking.	-	0.100

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
		Income of £0.100m is now proposed for 2024/2025. A further saving of £0.100m will be made in 2025/2026.		
CER10	Enterprise and Sustainable Development	<p>Business Support Programmes</p> <p>This proposal would see a reduction in the staff supporting business support and placing reliance on partners such as Business Gateway to provide business support. This will impact on the delivery of the Economic Strategy and specifically jobs created/retained. Both North Lanarkshire Council and the Council's Community and Enterprise Committee have now agreed to bring 'Business Gateway' in-house with NLC taking the lead role. NLC is working through TUPE issues with the existing provider but there may be an opportunity for some staff to be re-deployed to Business Gateway/NLC to serve the needs of SLC businesses. Delivery and operational structures are currently being developed.</p> <p>Due to the multi functionality of the teams, there would be other activities that would cease or be limited in their extent, such as providing advice to businesses, the assessment and monitoring of business grants and supporting third sector organisations. There will be less support for external funding programmes. These are non-statutory services.</p> <p>There is currently a Revenue budget of £0.187m within Economic Development for Business Support Grants and £0.089m for Tourism, Supplier Development Programme (SDP) contribution and Business Development Initiative (BDI). The saving would remove 37% of spend in each year. The staff reduction would be 2 FTE being, 1 Grade 3 post and 1 Grade 2 post.</p>	2	0.070
CER11	Leisure and Culture	<p>Leisure and Culture</p> <p>The Council currently pay a Management Fee to South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) to deliver leisure and cultural services.</p> <p>This budget currently totals £21.3m and it is proposed that this is reduced commensurate with the level of savings that the Council is required to make from its budget.</p> <p>The saving would remove c5% of the Council contribution to SLLC. This will have an adverse impact on SLLC's income generation as well as an impact on its expenditure budget. As a result, it could mean that the level of service reduction could be more, and this is in addition to their current budget pressures.</p>	tbc	1.000 (reduced from 1.500)

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
		Any proposal to balance the SLLC budget would require to be agreed by the SLLC Board.		
CER12	Grounds	<p>Grass Cutting</p> <p>This proposal would see a reduction in the grass cutting specification.</p> <p>Low amenity areas – 14 cuts to 7 cuts per year High amenity areas – 18 cuts to 14 cuts per year (Low amenity includes public open space. High Amenity includes cemeteries, high footfall areas, public buildings)</p> <p>This will reduce costs by £0.900m. It will mean that grass will be much longer between cuts and the general maintenance appearance will differ from current specification. Grass arisings will be left on the surface of those areas cut as grass collection will only remain in cemeteries.</p> <p>In additional to the 17 FTE affected, there will be a reduction of 20 FTE seasonal staff.</p>	17	0.900
CER13	Grounds	<p>Weedkilling</p> <p>This proposal will reduce weedkilling from 2 applications to one per annum.</p> <p>The reduction applies across all current areas of hardstanding, shrub beds and grass edges. There will be greater weed growth over the growing season.</p>	14.5	0.550
CER14	Grounds	<p>Winter Shrub Beds</p> <p>This proposal will see the removal of over mature winter shrub beds and reduced maintenance on those remaining. The removed shrub beds will be grassed over, and the remaining shrub beds will see a reduced maintenance regime.</p>	25	0.700
CER15	Grounds	<p>Bedding and Hanging Baskets</p> <p>This proposal would see the removal of all summer bedding and hanging baskets.</p>	-	0.144

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
		Current summer bedding areas will be grassed over, including war memorials and baskets removed including parks. There will be a reduction of 3.5 FTE seasonal staff.		
CER16	Grounds	Support for Gala Days This proposal would see the removal of grounds staff supporting gala days. This includes costs of bunting and the costs of overtime for staff supporting gala days.	-	0.055
CER17	Streets	Mechanical Sweeping – Small There would also be a reduction in the number of smaller Swingo vehicle used on footpaths, shop fronts and town centres and some roads within housing areas and industrial estates. (27% reduction in vehicles). This will mean less street sweeping. Remaining vehicles will be targeted to high footfall areas. Smaller fleet will mean means less resilience in ad hoc / urgent response situations.	6	0.300
CER18	Streets	Litter collection This proposal would see a 10% reduction in litter picking and bin emptying. The saving would include staffing and fleet vehicles. Bin infrastructure is being looked at to reduce numbers of bins but increase capacity.	10	0.280
Total Community and Enterprise Resources			88.6	6.848

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
Education Resources				
EDR01	Support Services	<p>Librarians</p> <p>There are 11 FTE school librarians working across our secondary schools who operate a library service ranging between 2 to 5 days per week, based on the size of the school.</p> <p>The proposal is to reduce the service by approximately 50%. This would be undertaken by moving to a reduced service for all schools of 1- 2 days per week.</p> <p>This saving would start from April 2024 rather than the academic year, and a 50% reduction would equate to 6 FTE posts at Grade 2 (non-teaching posts).</p>	6	0.240
EDR02	Support Services	<p>Secondary Schools Technician Service</p> <p>Cluster Team Technicians support the delivery of the curriculum within the secondary sector. This is carried out in 3 distinct disciplines, Science, Technical and Audio Visual.</p> <p>The are approximately 54 FTE school technicians and the proposal is to reduce the service by 25%. This would be undertaken by implementing a partial reduction in staffing across each secondary school based on size.</p> <p>In order to minimise disruption in supporting learning and teaching and protect the health and safety aspect of technical support, it is expected that the discipline of audio visual may be proportionately higher affected by this saving than the areas of science and technical.</p> <p>This saving would start from April 2024 rather than the academic year, and a 25% reduction would equate to 15 FTE posts at Grade 2. There are currently some temporary positions.</p>	15	0.590
EDR03	Support Services	<p>Period Poverty (Flexibilities)</p> <p>There is a legislative requirement to ensure that sanitary products are available free of charge for those who need them within schools and the wider community.</p>	-	0.080

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
		The spend over the last 2 years has been less than the funding awarded by the Scottish Government. This funding is now part of each council's financial 'flexibilities' as agreed between the Scottish Government and COSLA.		
EDR04	Support: ELC	<p>ELC Quality Support and Service Delivery</p> <p>This proposal will see the removal of 2.5 FTE clerical support from Personnel Services supporting the recruitment for expansion, as the expansion is now in place. These are Grade 1 Level 3 from April 2024 (£75,000) (non-teaching post).</p> <p>In relation to the Equity and Excellence Leads (EELs) There are currently 26 FTE. These posts were identified in 2018, to support Local Authorities to close the poverty related attainment gap. The priorities for these posts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIMD • Higher concentration of vulnerable and in need families • High level of multi agency input • Eligible 2-year-olds • Free school meal entitlement • Early Intervention • Rurality <p>The EELs are placed within Local authority and funded provider settings for a period of time to work alongside the manager and staff to provide very targeted support to upskill practitioners and support capacity for improvement.</p> <p>At this time, we have 2 FTE posts vacant, and 13 term time posts. We propose to remove 3.8 FTE providing a potential saving of approximately £170,000 at this time. These are grade 2 level 4 posts from April 2024 (non-teaching posts).</p> <p>In addition, the proposal is to remove a post supporting the development of Seemis NAMS Early Years system. This activity will need to be managed from within the remaining be Education central admin team when the project goes live. This post is currently vacant (£45,000). This is 1 FTE grade 2 level 4 post from April 2024 (non-teaching post).</p>	7.3	0.300

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
		Also, proposed is a £0.010 million saving in relation to contribution to SPELL (Support for Play and Early Learning in Lanarkshire). SPELL provide support to the parent and toddler groups and voluntary sector playgroups. This includes training and development which complements the training that is delivered centrally.		
EDR05	Support: CQIS	<p>Delivery of the Curriculum Quality and Improvement Service (CQIS)</p> <p>This may impact on school improvement and inspection, literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, parental engagement and involvement, attainment including qualification, digital learning and leadership development.</p> <p>The consequences of this saving will be a reduction in the resource available from officers to support schools and the services described above.</p> <p>Proposed measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in supported study programme (£0.005m) • Recharge copyright licences to schools, currently paid for by CQIS. This is an essential service but the costs going forward will need to be met by schools from existing budgets. (£0.120m) • Remove funding to support Outdoor learning risk assessment (£0.010m) • Remove power language support to schools (£0.005) * • Remove support for career Academy (£0.002m) * • Recharge Scholar Programme* This is a 1 year contracted service currently paid by CQIS which will need to be supported by schools from existing budgets in 2024/25 and will be removed permanently thereafter. (£0.040m) • Phase out consortium transport support (transport for Advanced Higher pupils) in favour of virtual academy (£0.003m) • Cost recovery for CPD, catering and lets associated with training events delivered by CQIS (£0.105m). • Remove 1 Mentoring post (£0.060) <p>* These are optional services for schools, and should they wish to continue, schools will need to fund directly from devolved budgets which are also subject to a saving in this pack.</p>	1	0.350

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
		The post would need to be removed from the service from April 2024 to achieve these proposals. This is a post is a grade 3 level 8 (non-teaching post).		
EDR06	Early Years	<p>Early Learning and Childcare Food Provision</p> <p>This relates to the provision for children attending morning only and afternoon only ELC settings where food provision (brunch and afternoon tea respectively) is in addition to Milk and Healthy snack.</p> <p>Children will still be offered snacks, brunch and afternoon tea (where applicable). There will be a reduction in food choice, with a view to reducing the service marginally to align to hours in attendance, overall food provision and budgets available.</p> <p>Any revised arrangements will be fully compliant with nutritional standards.</p>	- (reduced from 1.5)	0.150
EDR07	Primary	<p>Remove SLC Summer Programme Provision</p> <p>This option would see a removal of the councils funding that has contributed holiday play club provision from 2024/2025. This is a continuation of programme reduction following a reduction in Scottish Government funding in Summer 2023. The saving would remove the remaining element of Council funding and the programme would only continue if Scottish Government funding was provided and would be scaled accordingly. If no Scottish Government funding is received, then no provision will be provided. If the Scottish Government continue to provide funding then we will continue to provide clubs.</p> <p>Clubs were provided last year in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halfmerke Primary School, East Kilbride West Mains School, ASN, East Kilbride Greenburn School, ASN, East Kilbride Douglas Universal Connections St Mary's Primary School, Lanark St. Athanasius Primary School, Carluke Neilsland Primary School, Hamilton St. Paul's Primary School, Whitehill, Hamilton Cairns Primary School, Cambuslang Burgh Primary School, Rutherglen Craigbank Primary School, Larkhall (run by Machan Trust) <p>Parents of any child entitled to a free school meal will continue to receive a payment of £2.50 per day during school holidays.</p>	2.8	0.143

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
		This proposal reflects a reduction in non-teaching posts of 2.8 FTE posts (1.8 FTE at grade 2 and 1 FTE at grade 3) as well as funding for food provision and resources.		
EDR08	Secondary	<p>Mentoring and Learner Journey Reserves</p> <p>This proposal is to utilise reserves that were identified for mentoring support and improved learner journey experience for vulnerable young people as a saving.</p> <p>This proposal can be achieved in 2024/2025 as a one-off contribution from reserves.</p> <p>A permanent saving will be considered around mentoring support and other support available within schools.</p>	- (reduced from 9)	0.380
EDR09	Youth, Family and Community Learning	<p>Payments to RegenFX</p> <p>Remove Council support to RegenFX for youth services. RegenFX (Youth Trust) was established as a charity in 2007 and aims to identify, design and deliver solutions to ease youth poverty, associated anti-social behaviour and provide youth diversion activities within the regeneration areas of South Lanarkshire.</p> <p>The organisation directly delivers youth projects and recruits, trains and supports volunteers. It helps to administer funding streams for groups and individuals and provides several youth work training courses.</p> <p>The payments to RegenFX total £0.115m and are made up as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Costs Contribution - £0.031m • Youth, Family and Community Learning Contribution - £0.020m • Universal Connections Contribution - £0.064m <p>Note link to FCR04.</p>	-	0.115

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
EDR10	Inclusion	<p>Extended Support Team (Inclusion Service)</p> <p>Propose reduction in teacher staffing of Extended Support Teams. This is a locality based peripatetic teaching support service for children and young people with additional support needs attending mainstream primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>The service delivers advice, training and guidance to schools on a range of additional support needs including English as an additional language, dyslexia, autism, mental health and wellbeing and distressed behaviour and provides direct teaching support to children and young people.</p> <p>The Service is an element of Stage 3 (out with school and within education authority) of the staged intervention of support for children and young people with additional support needs. Reduction in the service will require capacity building in school-based staff in the development of knowledge and specialist understanding of the nature and range of additional support needs and deployment of school-based teaching resources to provide additional support to children assessed as requiring it.</p> <p>The current proposal relates to removal of 8 FTE teachers with a full year saving of £0.520m and £0.320m from August 24 to March 25.</p> <p>This represents a 15% reduction in teacher numbers in the service.</p> <p><i>Note teachers' impact.</i></p>	8	0.320
EDR11	Early Years/ Primary/ Secondary/ ASN	<p>Per Capita / Devolved School Management Spend</p> <p>This saving proposes a reduction in the per capita allocation to Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) / primary and secondary schools (i.e. the amount we provide to establishments to spend per pupil). Total "per capita" spend is £3.6m. This allowance has been subject to savings in recent years, particularly as part of procurement efficiencies. The consequences would be that the ability for establishments to spend on classroom materials and resources would be reduced.</p> <p>A 13% reduction in per capita allocation of £0.480m will give a per pupil allocation of £21.71 primary, £91.96 secondary, £745.97 ASN and £74.34 ELC based on census 2022 pupil numbers. Any further reduction to schools' budgets will be additional to this saving proposal.</p>	-	0.480

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
EDR12	Primary / Secondary	<p>Reduce Area Cover in Schools</p> <p>This proposal is a reduction of 18FTE teachers in each of both the primary and secondary area cover pools. This relates to 36 FTE with a full year saving of £2.304m. £1.477 from August 24 to March 25 and the remainder in the following year (£0.827m).</p> <p>This will result in up to 18 further absences in each sector not being covered on a daily basis with a reduced number of cover teachers available. This will impact on learning and teaching in schools and management time support. This may result in Managers / Head Teachers and Depute Head Teachers having to cover classes.</p> <p><i>Note teachers' impact.</i></p>	36	1.477
Total Education Resources			76.1	4.625

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
Finance and Corporate Resources				
FCR01	Admin, Legal and Licencing	<p>Community Grants, Civic Events and Gifts</p> <p>This budget covers grants to national, regional and local voluntary organisations, community grants and gala grants. The recipients have mainly been in receipt of the grants for a number of years although they have to apply annually and satisfy the criteria. The budget also covers civic events and gifts.</p> <p>A review has been undertaken re the current use of the budget alongside the grants criteria and whether it continues to meet the council values and objectives and the needs of its residents, in order to determine whether better use could be made of some or all of this budget in service delivery.</p> <p>This has resulted in a proposal to either reduce some grants or remove some grants altogether as well as a reduction in civic events and civic gifts. The staffing impact would be a reduction of 0.5 FTE (Grade 1).</p> <p>The overall budget of £0.685m includes community grants, civic events and gifts. £0.211m is payments to Citizens Advice. The saving will reduce the budget by 50%.</p> <p>Appendix 2d provides information on the grants allocated in 2023/24 and the impact into 2024/25.</p>	0.5	0.340
FCR02	Finance – Transactions	<p>Council Tax and Benefits Call Centre</p> <p>This proposal will reduce the establishment working in the Council Tax and Benefits call centre. This would reduce the current establishment of 11 FTE by 3 FTE and would result in callers waiting longer to speak to an operator. Average call waiting times are likely to increase from the current 2 minutes to approximately 5 minutes with the longest waiting times increasing from 21 minutes to over 30 minutes. There are online alternatives for contacting the service.</p> <p>The staffing impact would be a reduction of 3 FTE (at G2 L1).</p>	3	0.096

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
FCR03	Comm's and Strategy	<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>The Council engages in community planning including a formal Community Planning Partnership that involves and engages communities. There also has to be a Local Outcome Improvement Plan - focussed on inequalities and looking at the Scottish Government National Outcomes. Within that we have a formal duty to report on priority areas as identified through the SIMD and therefore our 10 priority areas that we have local neighbourhood plans for. Other statutory work relates to the Child Poverty Act 2010.</p> <p>There are 19.5 FTE in this area and a budget of £0.868m. The saving would be a 50% reduction in budget. The staffing implications would be a reduction of 9.5 FTE across all grades. This unit delivers work beyond the minimum required to meet those statutory obligations so this saving will result in a reduction in the work we do with communities.</p> <p>Statutory obligations mean it will be impossible to withdraw or reduce from some specific areas of service, notably support provided for Community Asset Transfer (which is also a priority in terms of rationalising of council assets), work in support of the Community Planning Partnership and period products. For this reason, the saving would be required from community engagement activities – in essence, reducing this to core activities such as neighbourhood planning, with fewer non-statutory engagement projects.</p> <p>A consequence of this could be reduced engagement and consultation with communities.</p>	9.5	0.430
FCR04	Comm's and Strategy	<p>Payment to Regen:Fx</p> <p>The Service currently contributes £0.394m towards Regen:Fx youth trust, which provides diversionary activities for young people. This proposal would see a reduction of £0.200m in that contribution. Regen:Fx are a charitable organisation and they would require to look to other external funding sources to enable current activities to continue.</p> <p>(Note the link to saving EDR09 where reduction in grant is also proposed).</p>	-	0.200
Total Finance & Corporate Resources			13	1.066

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
Housing & Technical Resources				
HTR01	Housing (non HRA)	<p>Community Safety Budget</p> <p>This proposal will reduce the level of funding currently used to support Community Safety initiatives. It would remove funding for partners and community safety initiatives that could be sought from other sources. In recent years, this has involved the 'Move the Goal Posts' initiative, therefore the consequence of this is that communities would not have the opportunity to commission any youth diversionary scheme.</p> <p>All consultation and bids from Joint Problem-Solving Unit partners will cease this year in line with the removal of this funding.</p> <p>The current budget is £0.101m and the saving would reduce this by 45%.</p>	-	0.046
HTR02	Housing (non HRA)	<p>Housing Strategy Service</p> <p>The Housing General Fund currently makes a contribution to the Housing Revenue Account for the Housing Strategy Service, in line with current work undertaken. It is proposed that this approach changes which will result in a different model for Housing Strategy Service and financial implications for the Housing Revenue Account.</p> <p>The savings into 2024/2025 are estimated at £0.113m, which will be realised by increasing the HRA contribution from 73% to 78% of the cost.</p> <p>The implications of this continuation of savings will be minimal for General Services Housing. The increase from 73% to 78% in monetary value equates to £0.113m. This would prevent any job losses and ensure that the high levels of service are maintained particularly at a time when the Affordable Housing Supply Programme is a key priority along with the development and implementation of the integrated housing management system. HRA will require to make a compensatory saving.</p> <p>The current service budget is £0.677m.</p>	-	0.113

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
HTR03	Property Services	<p>CCTV We currently operate a fully staffed 24-hour service. We will move to night-time only staffed service with 24-hour recording. This will require a change in supervision arrangements, hours of operation and staff shift patterns. Assessment would include considering the implications of increased cost of communications lines and stability of current Police Scotland contribution.</p> <p>The consequence of this would be the Council no longer providing a fully staffed 24-hour service, however the service would be more sustainable and focused on peak demand. The current budget is £0.464m. The saving would reduce the FTE by 2 posts.</p>	2	0.039
HTR04	Property Services	<p>Scheme of Assistance (Housing) This saving will be achieved by reducing the budget available for grants to be provided to homeowners and those who rent a private property, to repair, maintain, improve, and adapt their homes. Requests for funding would be prioritised within the remaining budget.</p> <p>There is also an element of capital funding provided for Scheme of Assistance (£1m per annum) – it is proposed that 50% of that funding is also reduced.</p> <p>There is a statutory obligation to provide advice and assistance in relation to tolerable standard and disability. Other forms of assistance however are optional and can be provided through advice etc. Updated guidance is awaited from Scottish Government.</p> <p>The consequence of this saving is that there would be less funding available for scheme of assistance grants going forward, and there could be consequences in terms of people continuing to live at home independently and potentially on the delivery of the Housing Investment programme. The current budget is £0.707m plus £1m capital.</p> <p>The proposed savings would remove c80% of Housing Revenue Budget and 50% of capital. The £0.500m capital saving would be released by funding a lower level of capital spend from the Revenue budget.</p>	-	1.052
Total Housing & Technical Resources			2.0	1.250

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
Social Work Resources				
SWR01	Adult and Older People	<p>Reduce the Subsidy of the In-House Residential Care Home Services</p> <p>It is proposed to increase the charge for in-house residential care services. The charge for in-house residential care services is currently based on the national care home contract rate of £762.62 per week. It is proposed to base the charge on the average unit cost of in-house residential care services of £1,469.73 per week. The charge made will increase from £762.62 to £1,469.73.</p> <p>The contribution made towards residential care service costs, both in-house and external, is subject to ability to pay.</p> <p>The proposed increase would only be paid by self-funders i.e. individuals who have capital in excess of £32,750.</p> <p>As the contribution is based on ability to pay, in-house care-home residents who are not paying the full charge will not pay any more under this proposal. Also, residents for whom the Council currently pays the cost of the service, will not be affected by this proposed increase.</p> <p>This saving assumes an average of 42 self-funders with the ability to pay the full amount.</p> <p>The projected increase in income is £1.580m per annum. This will be shared 50% to the Council and 50% to the IJB</p>	-	0.790
SWR02	Adult and Older People	<p>Increase the Taper for Non-Residential Care Services from 60% to 70%</p> <p>This proposal covers all services chargeable under the non-residential charging policy and includes home care, supported living and day services.</p> <p>The charging policy for non-residential care services will continue to be based on an assessment of the service user's ability to pay towards the cost of care services. In line with previous years, the charging policy in respect of non-residential care services will be amended to reflect the thresholds</p>	-	0.147

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m																		
		<p>recommended by COSLA for 2024/2025, effective from April 2024. If the income of service users falls below this threshold, no contribution would be required.</p> <p>In arriving at the contribution payable by service users towards the cost of their care services, a calculation is completed to determine their assessable income (leftover disposable income) to which a percentage taper is then applied. In line with the COSLA guidance for charging, Local Authorities can set the percentage taper. This then determines the maximum level of contribution that the service user will make.</p> <p>The taper is therefore the amount that the Local Authority will take as a contribution from the assessable income towards the cost of care services.</p> <p>The proposal is to increase the taper to 70% (from the current 60%). This will only affect the service users who are assessed as having the ability to pay. 574 service users (85%) would be affected by the increase in the taper.</p> <p>The impact of the increase would range from £0 to £34.03 per week and only affects those people who currently have the ability to pay a higher percentage of their disposable income to the Council for services used, up to the value of the services they receive.</p> <p>The impact of the increase is shown below:</p> <table><tr><th>Increase of Between</th><th>No. of Service Users</th></tr><tr><td>£0 to £5</td><td>243</td></tr><tr><td>£5.01 to £10</td><td>100</td></tr><tr><td>£10.01 to £15</td><td>154</td></tr><tr><td>£15.01 to £20</td><td>63</td></tr><tr><td>£20.01 to £25</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>£25.01 to £30</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>£30.01 to £35</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>574</td></tr></table> <p>Based on the current financial profile of service users, the average increase would be £8.31 per week. The projected increase in income is £0.294m per annum. This will be shared 50% to the Council and 50% to the IJB.</p>	Increase of Between	No. of Service Users	£0 to £5	243	£5.01 to £10	100	£10.01 to £15	154	£15.01 to £20	63	£20.01 to £25	10	£25.01 to £30	3	£30.01 to £35	1		574		
Increase of Between	No. of Service Users																					
£0 to £5	243																					
£5.01 to £10	100																					
£10.01 to £15	154																					
£15.01 to £20	63																					
£20.01 to £25	10																					
£25.01 to £30	3																					
£30.01 to £35	1																					
	574																					

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
SWR03	Adult and Older People	<p>Reduce the subsidy of the In-House Day Services</p> <p>The current charge for day services is as follows:</p> <p>Older People Services £34.98 per day Adult Services £36.45 per day</p> <p>It is proposed to increase the daily rate by £3.40. The revised charge for 2024/2025 would therefore be as follows:</p> <p>Older People Services £38.38 per day Adult Services £39.85 per day</p> <p>Access to day services is based on assessed need and self-directed support arrangements agreed with the service user. There are currently 184 service users accessing day services. The charge applied to access day services, and other non-residential care services, is based on an assessment of the service user's ability to make a contribution towards the cost of care services. The projected increase in income is £0.040m per annum. This will be shared 50% Council, 50% IJB.</p>	-	0.020
SWR04	Adult and Older People	<p>Introduce a New Charge for the Installation of Key Safes at each Service User's Home</p> <p>The installation of a key safe gives carers and community alert alarm responders access to the service user's home.</p> <p>This would be a new one-off charge of £97 to cover the cost of installation of the key safe. The average number of key safes installed each year is approximately 887.</p> <p>The projected increase in income is £0.086m per annum. This will be shared 50% to the Council and 50% to the IJB (SLC - £0.043m, IJB - £0.043m).</p>	-	0.043
Total Social Work Resources			-	1.000

Reference	Service	Name and Brief Description of Saving	FTE (24/25)	Saving 24/25 £m
		Savings for Approval		
		Community & Enterprise Resources	88.6	6.848
		Education Resources	76.1	4.625
		Finance & Corporate Resources	13.0	1.066
		Housing & Technical Resources	2.0	1.250
		Social Work Resources	-	1.000
		Savings for Approval (before Council Tax)	179.7	14.789
		Management & Operational Savings	11.9	3.300
		Total Savings (before Council Tax)	191.6	18.089

Bulky Waste Charging Data Across Councils

Local Authority	Uplift Services - Oct 2023 info
Aberdeenshire	£31.47 up to 4 items / £62.94 up to 8 items / £40.42 Individual items (priced per item).
Aberdeen City	£33 up to 4 standard items / £16.50 for 4 standard items if you receive Housing Benefits. Council tenants are entitled to have 4 standard household items collected for free each year as part of their tenancy agreement.
Angus	£30.70 for up to 3 items each additional item thereafter £9.40 / £40.10 x 4 / £49.50 x 5 / £58.90 x 6 / £68.30 x 7 / £77.70 x 8 items / £87.10 x 9 times / £96.50 x 10 items and so on to £190.50 x 20. Up to 20 items at one time.
Argyll and Bute	£76.30 per 10 minute collection (longer than 10 minutes may be charged for additional time).
City of Edinburgh	£5 per item, max 5 items.
Clackmannanshire	£50 per uplift (up to 8 items).
Dumfries & Galloway	£13.95 up to 3 items or up to 10 bags (quote required for further items, dependent on size/type).
Dundee City	£29 up to 6 items £50 x 12 items outside your property at ground floor level.
East Ayrshire	1-3 items £15:93 / 4-5 items £29:21 / £3:49 per additional item with a maximum of 10 additional items allowed per uplift. Resident in receipt of benefit relating to Council Tax or Housing Benefit are eligible to a 50% discount on published charges.

Local Authority	Uplift Services - Oct 2023 info
East Dunbartonshire	£24:22 per uplift. Sometimes your uplift is not eligible for the standard charge. In this instance we will contact you with the cost.
East Renfrewshire	£51:85 per standard request.
East Lothian	£5 per item
Falkirk	1 free uplift / additional uplifts £35 max 5 items.
Fife	Free uplift for max of 18 items
Glasgow City	£5 per item - £50 for up to 10 items / £80 per special items
Highland	£25.75 up to 3 items / £51.50 up to 6 items.
Inverclyde	1/2hr charge £92:65 / 3/4hr charge £139 / 1hr charge £185:25 / Fridge disposal £46:60.
Midlothian	£27 up to max 7 items / £27.00 for a fridge/freezer / £40:00 for a bespoke quote for items such as bathroom suites and fitted furniture.
Moray	£28.80 for 5 items plus max 2 black bags.
Wester Isles	£30.50 for 5 items / special collection/hr (1 man + pickup £63.55.
North Ayrshire	£26.46 up to 5 items / additional items £5.29 each.
North Lanarkshire	£36.75 for max 10 items or x 20 bags

Local Authority	Uplift Services - Oct 2023 info
Orkney Islands	Mainland and Linked South Islands Up to 5 items £65 / 6-10 items £273 - Non linked North & South Isles up to 5 items £24 / 6-10 items £101 / Lorry Load £204
Perth & Kinross	£35 up to 5 items (3 bags=1 item) / additional items may incur further charges.
Renfrewshire	£37.15 for 1-20 items / white goods £37.15 each.
Scottish Borders	£45 for up to 5 items.
Shetland Isles	£40 up to 6 items / 7-12 items £80 Concession of £16 for 6 items if receiving certain benefits.
South Ayrshire	First item £25 / further 6 items can be added @ £5.00 each.
Stirling	£48.80 up to 5 items, 6 if including a fridge/freezer. If all members of your household are over 60 years council will collect up to 2 special uplifts free of charge per year.
West Lothian	£36.58 up to 5 items.

School Meal Comparative Charges

	Secondary £
East Ayrshire	1.08
Dumfries & Galloway	2.00
Glasgow City	2.00
North Ayrshire	2.05
Falkirk	2.05
South Lanarkshire	2.20
Angus	2.20
Perth & Kinross	2.30
Fife	2.40
Argyll & Bute	2.40
Midlothian	2.40
West Lothian	2.43
South Ayrshire	2.45
East Lothian	2.50
Scottish Borders	2.50
East Dunbartonshire	2.54
Highland	2.55
East Renfrewshire	2.60
Aberdeen City	2.65
Renfrewshire	2.70
Shetland Islands	2.75
Orkney Islands	2.80
Edinburgh, City of	2.80
Aberdeenshire	2.85
West Dunbartonshire	2.92
North Lanarkshire	3.15
Clackmannanshire	1.35*
Inverclyde	1.50*
Moray	1.70*
Dundee City	2.50*
Stirling	tbc

* Main meal
only

Grants Information

Budget Type	Grant Awarded 23/24	Potential Grant Award 24/25
Voluntary Organisations		
Spell	£28,263	£14,130
Cash for Kids	£19,570	£0
Voice	£13,930	£0
East Kilbride Community Transport	£5,552	£2,780
Lanark YMCA	£5,451	£0
Cargill House Club	£5,047	£0
Coalburn Miners Welfare	£2,060	£0
Thornton Road Community Centre	£7,066	£0
Family Mediation	£6,561	£3,280
Particip8 Overton	£3,000	£1,500
Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust	£7,571	£3,790
Lanarkshire Rape Crisis Centre	£7,167	£3,580
Childcare in the Community	£2,221	£1,110
Eastfield Physically Disabled Club	£404	£0
Hamilton Churches Drop In	£505	£0
Milan Centre Social Club	£2,019	£1,010
Play care out of Schools Care - Parent Action Group	£3,028	£1,510
Special Needs Adventure Playground (SNAP)	£3,533	£1,770
Clydesdale CAB	£52,118	£46,900
East Kilbride CAB	£52,118	£46,900
Hamilton CAB	£54,539	£49,090
Rutherglen CAB	£52,530	£47,280
Hamilton Information Project for Youth	£56,650	£28,330
Lightburn Elderly Association Project	£55,368	£27,680
Unspent in 2023/24	£83,229	£0
Gala Grants		
Lanark Lanimer Day	£4,635	£3,360
Rutherglen Landemar Day	£4,223	£3,000
All other Gala Grants	£15,842	£0
Community Grants		
Community Groups/Playscheme Grants	£103,000	£44,000
Civic Hospitality		
Civic Events	£22,600	£11,300
Civic Gifts	£5,000	£2,500
TOTAL	£684,800	£344,800

Appendix 1 of report to Executive Committee, 24 January 2024

Use of Pension Contribution Benefit

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	Total £m
Remaining Budget Gap before use of Pension Fund Benefit	26.7	41.4	16.7	11.0	95.8*
Use Pension Fund Benefit – Temporary	(4.0)	(23.5)	(17.7)		(45.2)
Requirement to Re-instate Temporary Use of Pension Fund Benefit		4.0	23.5	17.7	45.2
Remaining Budget Gap after use of Pension Benefit	22.7	21.9	22.5	28.7	95.8*

Use of Probable Outturn Monies

Use of Probable Outturn Monies	(2.0)			2.0	0.0
Remaining Budget Gap after Use of Pension Benefit and Probable Outturn Monies	20.7	21.9	22.5	30.7	95.8*

**Note that the remaining Budget Gap of £95.8m over the 4 years is the same before and after the use of the pension fund benefit and probable outturn monies.*

South Lanarkshire Council
2024/2025 Revenue Budget Summary

	2023/24 Base Budget	2024/25 Rollover	2024/25 Proposed Base Budget
	£m	£m	£m
Community and Enterprise Resources	128.909	4.774	133.683
Education Resources	433.558	33.145	466.703
Finance and Corporate Resources	40.202	(2.242)	37.960
Housing and Technical Resources	13.630	1.546	15.176
Social Work Resources	219.616	9.040	228.656
Joint Boards	2.053	(0.151)	1.902
Total of all Resources plus Joint Boards	837.968	46.112	884.080
Other Budget Items:			
Loan Charges	54.091	1.327	55.418
CFCR	-	-	-
Corporate Items inc. Service Concession			
Annual benefit	21.084	8.195	29.279
2024/2025 Savings	-	(12.701)	(12.701)
Total Base Budget 2023/2024	913.143		
Total Proposed Budget 2024/2025		42.933	956.076

The 2023/2024 base budget includes adjustments approved during 2023/2024.

South Lanarkshire Council 2024/2025

Revenue Budget Summary

Budgetary Category	2023/2024 Base Budget £m	2024/2025 Proposed Base Budget £m
Employee Costs	589.143	628.095
Property Costs	53.501	66.564
Supplies and Services	62.516	63.524
Transport and Plant Costs	43.124	44.563
Administration Costs	15.803	16.075
Payments to Other Bodies	72.008	71.271
Payment to Contractors	251.777	255.823
Transfer Payments (Housing & Council Tax Benefit)	72.339	67.153
Financing Charges (Leasing Costs)	2.345	2.919
Total Expenditure	1,162.556	1,215.987
Total Income	(324.588)	(331.907)
Net Expenditure	837.968	884.080
Other Budget Items:		
Loan Charges	54.091	55.418
CFCR	-	-
Corporate Items inc. Service Concession Annual Benefit	21.084	29.279
2024/2025 Savings	-	(12.701)
Total Base Budget 2023/2024	913.143	
Total Proposed Budget 2024/2025		956.076