

Budget engagement 2023/24



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

www.clacks.gov.uk

Comhairle Siorrachd
Chlach Mhanann

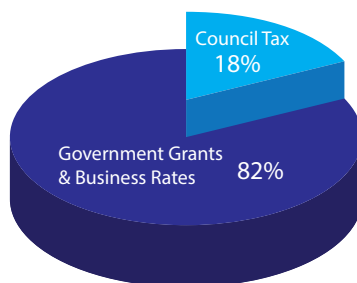
Budget engagement 2023/24 (Phase 2)

Local authorities have faced a challenging financial context for over ten years. Since 2013/14 the Council has approved savings of £45 million.

Clackmannanshire Council, like all councils, faces further rising costs, reducing budgets and increased demand for services. Just like your household budget, the Council is experiencing soaring inflation and rapidly rising energy, goods and services costs. For example, in March 2022 we had to budget an additional £877,000 for our annual gas and electricity, a rise of 63% on the previous year. And costs such as these continue to rise.

The settlement we receive from the government will not be enough to keep pace with inflationary pressures and we have limited ability to raise additional income in ways that will allow us to maintain all our current models and levels of service. For instance, each 1% increase in Council Tax raises about an additional £240,000 per year. To put this in context, the annual payment we make for our three academies is around £9m.

Our Income



The 2022/23 total budget is £142m

Annual Indicative Funding Gap

2023/24	£10m
2024/25	£5.4m
2025/26	£5.4m
2026/27	£5.4m
2027/28	£5.5m
Cumulative Indicative Funding Gap	£31.7m

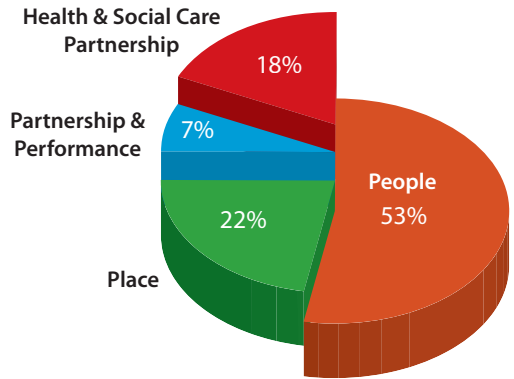
The consequence of continuing financial pressures is that we are facing a significant budget gap in the next 5 years.

The Council needs to prioritise services and budgets more than ever while continuing with transformation plans. Even where we are required in law to provide services, it is likely that the level of provision will need to be reassessed or models of delivery will look different.

Despite these challenges, through the Council's Be The Future programme, transforming our local economy and tackling poverty and inequality are driving long term sustainable change, ensuring financial sustainability.

How we spend our budget

To inform the process of budget setting by councillors, Council officers have put forward a range of options set out in this booklet which span many aspects of current service provision. Some of these options would result in a significant reduction from existing levels of service or removal of the service. There are also options to change the way in which some services are delivered in order to reduce costs, some of which involve working in collaboration with a range of partners.



People: Education, child care, criminal justice, sport and leisure

Place: Waste, roads, green space, property, planning and environmental health

Partnership & Performance: Legal, finance, HR and customer services

Health and Social Care Partnership: Adult care

The options are set out alongside an indication of the level of savings which would be achieved if councillors accepted them. Officers are continuing to work to identify any further options for the coming years, as well as considering other ways of generating additional income to bridge the gap. Your views are sought on the impacts any of the savings options put forward by officers would have on you or your community. No decisions have been made and none will be taken by councillors until after the engagement exercise is complete.

Nikki Bridle
Chief Executive
January 2023

Further efficiencies

In addition to these proposals, senior staff are considering a range of management efficiencies which will further support efforts to set a balanced budget. These efficiencies add up to £3.6m.



the cost of running a primary school each year is **£1.06m** (average cost) and we have 19 primary schools

Education

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Review of Early Learning and Childcare Centre provision	£483,333		
Banchory ELC class would not accept any new admissions for session 2023/24 and parents would be offered places in surrounding nurseries. Menstrie, Park, Tulach and Sauchie ELCs would offer families a more fixed pattern of attendance.			

	2023/26
Review of home to school transport	£147,000
Review of current home to school transport provision where the Council has invested in new walking and cycling routes.	

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Extending primary school lunch break	£73,999	£47,639	
This proposal would increase lunchtimes in schools by 6 minutes each day, without changing the start or end time of the school day.			



cost of providing an early years worker per year **£40,616**



cost of a supply teacher
for one week **£1,340**

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Review delivery of secondary education	£160,791	£96,475	
A review of the method of delivering subjects in secondary school where there is limited demand from pupils. Review of the secondary school library service.			

Our three academy buildings were paid for using public private partnership arrangements (PPP).

We pay **£9m a year** in repayments which is increasing by **£1m** due to inflation in 2023/24.



Customer Services

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Review of community access points and libraries	£18,000	£222,000	
<p>Service provision and resourcing needs to adapt to meet changing citizen need and demand. The pandemic has accelerated the demand for digital for some services, whilst placing higher demands on more complex support, and advice services, including in the context of the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>The long term trend of declining use of community access points and libraries has continued at a time when operating costs are rising unsustainably. This proposal seeks to set out a model for future face to face customer services that is better able to address citizen need and is more sustainable within a tightening financial constraint by investing in greater digital services and reducing the number of community access points and libraries to better align with demand.</p> <p>The proposal would maintain the Speirs Centre as a library, make more community services accessible at Kilncraigs; beyond that the proposal is to maintain one other community access point and library elsewhere in the county. Whilst modest changes at Speirs/Kilncraigs are proposed for 2023/24, decisions on any other changes would not be taken by Council until after a period of community engagement, which includes discussions on the potential for Community Asset Transfer.</p>			

Voluntary and Third Sector

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Reduce grant funding to the Third and Voluntary Sector	5%	£35, 262	£11, 754
	10%	£70, 524	£23, 508
	15%	£105, 786	£35, 263
	20%	£141, 048	£47, 017
<p>We currently provide just over £1 million in funding each year to the voluntary sector which provide a range of services in communities. This proposal is to reduce funding to all organisations which receive this funding by applying either a 5, 10, 15 or 20% reduction in funding subject to engagement and impact assessment. The list of organisations receiving annual grant funding from the Council can be found on our website: https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/meeting/127/1138/7304.pdf</p>			

Did you know that the Council has to pay **£100** per tonne in tax to landfill household waste? Sending 1,000 tonnes less waste to landfill would reduce this financial burden by £100,000 a year. In 2021 we sent **11,351** tonnes of waste to landfill costing us over **£1.1m**



Waste Service

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Increase cost of brown bin permit	£75,000		
Proposal is to increase the cost of the annual permit for the collection of garden waste from £38 to £45, an increase of 18%.			

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Charge developers for new communal bins	£3,000		
The Council currently charges developers of new build houses for the provision of a set of individual bins for each property. This proposal would see the introduction of a charge to developers of £500 for the provision of communal bins to new flatted properties.			

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Bulky waste collection charge	£10,000		
Proposal to increase the charge for the bulky waste collection service from the existing £42 for up to eight items to £50 for up to five items, an increase of 19%.			

Cost of disposing
of food waste is
£46,837 a year



	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Transition to Net Zero	£160,000		
<p>The Council is taking steps to reduce carbon emissions from waste and energy usage. These actions can also save money. Improved recycling can reduce landfill costs and also increase income from recyclable materials. We will also introduce charges for on-street electric vehicle charging, to support further investment to create new charging facilities.</p>			

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Reduce opening hours at Forthbank	£30,000		
<p>Forthbank Recycling Centre is currently open 7 days a week, from 8.30am to 6pm in winter and from 8.30am to 8pm in summer. Proposal to reduce opening hours to 9am to 6pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and to 9am to 4.15pm on Saturday and Sunday, all year round. The site would be closed to the public on Wednesdays.</p>			



Our electricity bill has increased
by **48%** in the last year

Fees and Charges

It is proposed we increase general fees and charges by 5%. This is below the current rate of inflation and includes sports classes, libraries, burial charges, licensing and other chargeable services. The revenue received from these fees contributes towards the cost of providing these services.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Roads Income	£5,000		
Increased and new charges for a variety of statutory charges for example, skips, scaffold permits, Mobile Radio Communication Systems, traffic lights and inspections.			

Income

		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Increase council tax by	3%	£733,000		
	or 5%	£1,221,000		
	or 7%	£1,710,000		
This is below the current rate of inflation. Each 1% increase raises £244,270 in income. The council tax collection rate is 96% which is above the Scottish average.				



cost of providing homecare
for one elderly person for a week
£200 (10 hours@£20/hour)

Phased Engagement

The Council is undertaking a 4-phase programme of engagement to shape its budget decisions for the next 5 years.

- **Phase 1**

Checking with you that our priorities remain the right ones for the next 5 years or whether they need to be refined – *6 December 2022 – to 8 January 2023*;

- **Phase 2**

In line with those priorities, engage on the changes to services for 2023/24 – *January - February 2023*;

- **Phase 3**

Budget setting - *spring 2023*;

- **Phase 4**

Annual engagement on the impact of budget proposals – *autumn/winter of each year*.

How You Can Provide Feedback

Please consider the information presented in this booklet and then go online to the Council's website www.clacks.gov.uk and tell us:

- what impact will proposed savings have on you and your community
- are there any amendments or mitigations to the proposal we should consider

An equality and poverty impact assessment has been carried out on these options and will shape the face-to-face consultation, which will target the protected groups identified through this assessment.

Deadline for responses is 11.59pm on Sunday 19 February.