

**Dumfries and Galloway Council
Budget 2020/2021 Response Forms**

PART A

Responses from Citizens and Customers

P1 - P73

Response Forms have been published in full where the respondent has given permission.

Data such as names, signatures and post codes have been removed.



Council Budget 2020/2021 Response Form

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG13
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

Dear Sir or Madam,

In the first instance, may I respectfully suggest that a meeting in Langholm is added to your dates. Langholm is often forgotten in these situations.

Further, I have no issue with an increased tax charge, but would require confirmation that the council have initiated cost savings and budgeted accordingly for the next three years. The question of costs should be addressed across all areas of expenditure, however basic needs have to be maintained, particular in areas where there is visibility, i.e waste collection and road maintenance, for example.

I would also suggest that a client council is set up to have its say at the budget meetings. I appreciate that councillors are elected by the public, but a client council would at least serve to offer checks and balances on a regular basis and the public would deem this as a positive development.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG12
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

Education cannot take any more budget cuts to support staff or teaching staff who are not promoted to PT or depute level.
It is time to cut the unnecessary duplicate management and higher paid duties posts in schools. The remits of higher paid management deputies are out of date and need revised to save money as they do very little of these duties now. Children's support is being cut and teachers are over worked as it is - any more cuts to them and further damage is done affecting my children's future.

The school day should not go to 4 and a half days which as a parent I am now hearing about . This will cause many families and employees stress with their child care and getting to work especially in a rural area when we have to travel 45 minutes to get to work at either end of our day. Children should not be in school any earlier or later just to save the council money -its about time money is taken from the management who care only about protecting their own jobs while stamping on the lower paid and lower skilled individuals. I will have to give my job up if this shorter day goes through just to accommodate this. The effect of my family will be devastating , Im sure that wont apply to the families of those managers making these decisions.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG5 [REDACTED]
Organisation (if applicable)	-

Please share your views in the space available below

Regarding the "tourist tax", I feel this should go ahead. It is not unusual for tourists to pay it - it would not be seen unusual to charge it locally.

The money could be spent on both ^{better roads/sinuse/parking} enhancing the tourist experience ^{and} ^{or} setting the impact of numerous holiday (and second) homes by building ^{more} affordable housing in Dumfries & Galloway.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG11
Organisation (if applicable)	

<p>Please share your views in the space available below</p> <p>I am fundamentally against the proposal to cut hot meal provision in small schools. This would be a prejudicial move against small schools, most of which are in rural areas. Poverty and hardship exists across our area and there will be children at some of the smaller schools who are affected by this issue and therefore would be seriously affected by such a move. Notwithstanding that, school meal provision should be the same whatever size of school and, for fairness, hot meals should not just be the full time preserve of the larger establishments.</p> <p>I would remind the council that they themselves operate a 'Getting It Right For Every Child' policy and this proposal is at odds with that.</p> <p>Furthermore, I would also oppose the plan to maximise class sizes in secondary schools and reduce the number of available subjects on the grounds they are not GIRFEC, nor are the plans for more digital learning in the senior phase.</p> <p>In fact, these proposals are the complete opposite and disadvantage our young people and could impact on their future choices and opportunities.</p> <p>Finally, it's shocking that DG Council is set to become the first local authority in Scotland to scrap music tuition. One of my children takes advantage of violin lessons purely because we couldn't get it in the community, so the argument to farm it out to community groups just doesn't make sense as there is not the availability in Annandale and Eskdale.</p> <p>I would suggest the above are all scrapped immediately and savings found elsewhere, a way from education, which must be protected at all costs.</p> <p>Stop subsidising so many events, scrap civic hospitality, halt any capital projects for a few years and get back to basics and look after education, roads and social work.</p>

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

Essentially the proposition would have the effect that only those school pupils who are going to sit SQA exams in music (i.e. S4 and above) will receive council funded instrumental tuition. That seems to me to be wrong.

Restricting tuition to pupils sitting SQA exams (only about 200 of them apparently) means that other interested kids will be reliant on their parents being wealthy enough to afford private lessons.

Restricting tuition in such a way will be a potentially self defeating gesture. If the local authority no longer provides tuition to primary pupils there is a danger that no (or few) young players will come up through the school system and sit exams. Unless sufficient youngsters wish to sit SQA exams there will gradually be no need for school instrument tutors.

I can see that restricting music tuition is a potentially easy budgetary win for the council, but given what we know about the transformative power of music and its ability to enhance the education of children across the curriculum it seems to me to be a very retrograde step.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I think cuts to education over the next three years are scandalous given that Dumfries has been branded the 'learning town'. Reducing School Crossing Attendants is likely to result in a RTA outside a school, given that they are there to reduce this risk.

A lot of DGC overhead could be saved by abolishing the economic development department at DGC. I note the current budget for this is £2.6M per annum.

Instead, set up not-for-profit trusts comprising local cross sector partnerships, similar to the Southern Upland Partnership or the Dalbeattie Community Initiative.

This would include town centre regeneration activities and other capital regeneration activities of a strategic nature, such as HLF bids and so on.

I believe this sits currently within the economy and development section of the council and encompasses the Economic Development Service, Employability and Skills, Strategic Projects, and Countryside and Environment. There is no need for any of these services to exist within DGC, no statutory requirement to do so, overlap of provision with other public agencies, DGC departments and third sector / business organisations.

I do not understand why DGC prioritise support for businesses over support for children and young people. Education is a core function of DGC, business support is not.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I do not agree with the proposed cuts to Housing Support Contracts with Bethany Christian Trust for supported accommodation. I volunteer at one of the Drop In sessions and have seen the difference this work makes to some very vulnerable people in Dumfries. The staff involved do an excellent job in offering practical support and showing that these people are valued. Cuts to this service would be short sighted as sorting out the problems that would inevitably arise would cost more money in the long run.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG7
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

The current public transport is inadequate and inaccessible. I propose that on the 500 route low floor accessible buses are used and NOT inaccessible rickety old coaches. Use the old coaches on say a Megabus route.

Implement a residents only parking scheme. 1 free parking pass per house, if they want more passes the household has to pay the council. Many councils I have seen implement this successfully and its profitable to the council.

Enforce parking laws, fining people for breaching those laws.

Make Every council owned car park charge to park.

Role out the recycling bins. Saving £100,000s in storage costs.

Don't use council staff to cut verges, parks, weed flower beds, plant flowers, etc use local offenders doing community service more.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I can not understand how the council can possibly believe they are 'Getting it right for every child' by considering even more cuts to the education budget. Why should we punish out children for the mismanagement of money by an incompetent council. Children who desperately need learning support are not getting enough just now never mind cutting Learning Support Teachers. Our high school children will be disadvantaged further by the poor choice of options available and maximising class sizes at one of the most important times in their education and to discriminate against children who go to a small school by not offering them a hit meal is ridiculous. The council have failed us as adults in the past few years please don't do this to our children too.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

Bethany Housing support individuals who have complex needs and who tend to be marginalized. Their approach is person centered. They provide housing with support and they also provide a drop in centre.
 If their funding is cut, the individuals they support may become even further marginalized. I have worked alongside this agency, in my role as a criminal justice social worker. I would have concerns about the reduction of support and housing to my service users if their funding is cut. they play a role in the rehabilitation of offenders. they provide stability which facilitates the rehabilitation of our service users. ultimately the role that they play is preventative. they play a part in preventing further offending by attending to the basic needs (shelter, food and care) of our service users. offending has a financial impact in terms of the use of public funds to pay for policing, courts and prisons. therefore this preventative work is important in reducing costs to the tax payer.
 I therefore do not support cuts to the funding of Bethany Housing.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I have first hand experience of the value of the work of Bethany Christian Trust (BCT).

My church - Free Church of Scotland - runs a weekly Drop-in (volunteers with accommodation and food costs provided by the church). It is supervised by an employee of BCT who, from other work throughout the week, is familiar with most of our clients. This facility can be a rung on the ladder to re-integration with the community, towards the later and critical facility of supported housing.

If the Council were to withdraw this support, there will be consequential other costs: to the Council in Social Work and to the Health Board with increased use of services.

I also commend the important continued support of First Base, to which on occasion we refer clients.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG7
Organisation (if applicable)	Citizen

Please share your views in the space available below

Prioritise core subject offerings in Secondary Schools: Secondary schools to maximise class sizes and efficiencies through reduced number of subjects and combinations offered with resultant savings from fewer staff.

Risks:

- Further reduction in the variety of subjects available to pupils
- Limits career choices through loss of courses
- Reduces the capacity for the variety of occupations and positive destinations for learners
- Results in more pupils leaving without higher grades – pupils are unable to access courses which they excel at
- Forces learners to access additional education at colleges and online courses reducing their income and chances of employment

Change catering in small primary schools: Remodel the current 5-day hot main meal option to 2-days (Tuesday / Thursday) with the remaining 3-days offering of a premium cold deli provision including hot baked potato or a soup option in primary schools with a roll of 50 or below that will meet the new Nutrition Bill Legislation.

Risks:

- Fewer children access school meals placing the service under further threat
- This may be the only hot meal of the day for some of our poorer families
- For children with additional needs this could affect their choosing to eat and impact on attainment
- Providing baked potatoes and soup for 3 days out of 5 does not provide a nutritional balanced diet

Instrumental Music Service to adopt communities model: Remodel of service to provide for essential SQA tuition only (circa 200 students) and direct non SQA students to community groups and private tutors across the region. SQA tuition to be delivered by building capacity with teachers in Music Departments and individual experts in community based music organisations.

Risks:

- Limits the availability of musical tuition for poorest families
- Limits education in music for all learners

- Teachers are essential for the delivery of music education
- Music is a core curriculum area for all learners regardless of age or stage
- Less students will access music tuition
- Fewer school bands etc
- Creativity stifled

Deliver innovation in secondary school timetabling through networking and digital delivery: Use networking and digital delivery to increase minimum class sizes in the senior school phase of secondary. There will be resultant savings from fewer staff

Risks:

- Digital learning does not suit all students, some will be disadvantaged over this model of delivery
- In our rural area those students accessing education in Dumfries will have an advantage over those in small towns and villages through access to more subjects
- Direct contact with a subject specialist can not be matched by a digital delivery system
- Fewer students will choose digital delivery subjects and this will impact upon their life chances

Change how a portion of non-class contact time in primary schools is managed for teachers: Change how a portion of non class contact time is managed. This relates to a potential reduction of 1 hour per teacher covered by means other than direct one to one replacement - for 600 teachers, resulting in fewer staff.

Risks:

- This would effectively reduce teaching time by an hour a week for every primary pupil which spread out over the school year is a significant amount of time lost to teaching in an already crowded curriculum with pressure on to increase attainment and outcomes for children.
- Any model which does not replace a teacher with a teacher for non-contact time would undermine education for all children
- What would replace the direct one to one replacement for an hour? This is not made clear in the proposal. I would suggest anything which is about babysitting children for an hour is a loss of education for those children and detrimental to their educational attainment.

Implement a timetabling efficiency to maximise effectiveness of Secondary School day: Small reduction (10-15 minutes per day) on Secondary timetables options including registration, shorter periods etc which would result in fewer staff required.

Risks:

- Further reduction in teaching time will impact on all learners, but those who have most difficulty would find this hardest to cope with.
- Registration times allow staff to ensure the safety of pupils and the development of relationships which help pupils in difficult times.
- I understand aligning the secondary school s with regards to the number and length of periods but no to any reduction in direct teaching time.

Further development of class teacher roles and responsibilities for Additional Support for Learning: Streamline Additional Support for Learning teacher cohort taking account of need to retain sufficient number of specialists to support planning and advice for class teaching staff. This would result in fewer staff required.

Risks:

- With classes at the maximum already with many pupils with additional needs in mainstream unsupported this will add to the stress and pressure on teachers and pupils. How can you continue to support all children effectively with fewer specialist staff and continue to raise attainment?

- Children with additional needs are more at risk through class teachers being given additional workload without additional learning support assistants to support them.
- How would cover time be given for the consultation with additional support staff?
- What level is deemed “sufficient staff”? When we have seen an increase of 25% over the last few years of children with additional needs but have had cuts in the numbers of staff to support them.
- Class teachers are already working with bigger classes, less support and there are no longer third sector organisations to turn to for support. Indeed, identifying a need and knowing what to do are not the issue it is the long waiting times for access to specialists that impacts every day on the most vulnerable children.

Here are some alternative suggestions for the Council Budget:

- Access the council reserves to ensure that every child with an additional need gets the support as and when they need it and not let problems escalate, and to fund our council services.
- Lobby the Scottish Government to commit money to Local Authorities for essential services in rural areas. Bearing in mind we have a large geographical area and small population spread out.
- Reduce the number of councillors.
- Councillors to provide their own lunches the same as every other council employee.
- When selling assets work with the Scottish Government to ensure if the community buy them over the council no longer must maintain the asset.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG9
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I am responding to the proposal below-

Remodel the current 5-day hot main meal option to 2-days (Tuesday / Thursday) with the remaining 3-days offering of a premium cold deli provision including hot baked potato or a soup option in primary schools with a roll of 50 or below that will meet the new Nutrition Bill Legislation.

I do not agree with the above proposal being discussed as part of budget cuts. But I would like to raise the point and ask the question with regards to why you focussing on rural schools. If the above is meeting the new Nutrition Bill Legislation then why is it only schools with a roll of 50 or less being targeted. This is in effect discriminating against small rural schools and could have an impact on the children's well-being. If this was to be introduced it should be a policy for all primary schools

The smaller schools struggle in many other aspects and this would place another layer on to that. Has the option of providing hot food in the winter for the 5 days and lighter meals in the spring / summer months been considered.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG3
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I am an amateur musician (age 72) playing in various orchestras and chamber groups in D&G and attending musical events in the region.

I have for some time been concerned that state funded music teacher numbers have been reduced and was alarmed to read that further cuts were being proposed.

Playing music and singing afford people one of the most effective and enjoyable ways of co-operating to achieve a common goal and to entertain others. It is only as a result of having the chance to learn an instrument and/or to sing and play with others at an early age that it is possible in later life to maintain and improve these skills to create the valuable contribution to society that amateur and professional musicians offer and find worth living for.

Please reconsider the plan and, rather, explore ways to increase opportunities for young people to explore this vital human activity. This could involve retired people such as I who can contribute time to involving children in amateur music-making providing that suitable arrangements are put in place in conjunction with schools and active and retired professional teachers and professional musicians; this would increase the resources available in the area without significant cost.

[NAME REMOVED]

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG16 [REDACTED]
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

see document attached

Also:

Why do schools provide all these resources (jotters, pencils, pens, sharpeners etc) to all pupils for free?

Why do schools provide school books without a lending fee? Pupils/Families who cannot pay this fee should get books for free.

Query: What is a "core subject"?

Query: What parts are necessary for a school uniform? (blazer)

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Dumfries and Galloway Council

Budget 2020/21

Comments on Budget Options for Stakeholder Engagement

1. The staffing costs for Teaching Staff have been listed with £79.96 million. Does this include/exclude the 80% Scottish Government contribution to teachers' salaries? Please clarify to the general public.
2. Recycling and litter: "influence behaviour change to reduce littering and release resources from litter collection". Suggestion: Introduce fines for littering in the streets and enforce them on the spot (instant consequence).
3. "Prioritise core subject offerings in Secondary Schools": Please clarify the definition of 'core subject'. Please take into consideration that there is a national trend towards widening the curriculum again/reducing BGE to S1 and S2. Be mindful not to create another 'attainment gap' based on postcode rather than social background. Consider opening the education landscape in Dumfries and Galloway to private schools for those families who wish their children to have an all-round education and more opportunities post-secondary school.
4. "Reduce spending on roads maintenance": Please see A82 and the BEAR Scotland pay-out to drivers whose vehicles experienced serious damages due to lack of road maintenance.
5. "Change catering in small primary school": Rather than depriving some children of the possibly only hot meal they get in a day, Education Officers should work with parents to minimise the number of small primary schools in the region. These schools seem to have their advantages with regards to nurturing children, however, they might not be as beneficial for developing social skills, year group progression, group dynamics and teacher workload/lack of moderation opportunities/collegiate activities. Alternatively, the council could shorten the school day in primary school or raise the school entry age from 5 to 6.
6. "Prioritise funding for major festivals and events": Please define major festivals/events.
7. "Instrumental Music Service to adopt communities' model": There is a demand for private music tutors in Dumfries and Galloway. In what way is the council in the position to ensure a sustainable music service (staffing)?
8. Food Banks: Can food banks be allocated to churches in the region? They have sufficient space and facilities to provide a food bank service or even a clothes bank for those in need.
9. "Innovation in secondary school timetabling through network and digital delivery": This approach will work with self-motivated and focused young

- people. It will put those at a disadvantage who require support from teachers and especially those who do not experience education at home.
10. "Reduce Administration": Will the remits be covered by the remaining staff?
 11. Leisure Facilities: Review the quality of service and the opening hours. People who pay for gym membership usually work/pay tax. These people are restricted to use the gym during the week. To this end, the gym(s) should be open longer on a Saturday and also be open on a Sunday.
 12. "Manage non-contact time in primary schools": Please see union advice on this. Secondary teachers will not be available to cover/teach in the primary sector. This has been confirmed by the EIS, SSTA, GTCS via COSLA. Change the length of the primary school day instead starting as early as 8am and finishing at 13.30. This might also help the "lunch problem".
 13. "Maximise effectiveness of the secondary school day": Please refrain from shortening the 45 minutes period even further. Some staff teach a class one period a week only which has a ripple effect on assessing, recording, reporting as well as staff-pupil relationships (tutoring/frontline guidance). Please bear in mind that secondary staff prepare our young people to pass SQA exams at the end of S4. Teaching time has been reduced already, yet, the same results are expected.
Start the secondary school day at 8am and finish at 13.30 without a 45-minute lunch break in favour of a 30 minute mid-morning break.
 14. "Further development of class teacher role": Please specify the sector. There are currently no class teachers in secondary schools due to subject specialism of secondary teachers.
 15. "DG as a wedding destination": Please promote the region to all people. Not everybody wants to get married nowadays. Remain flexible and reach out.


Gretna



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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG10
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

This is a plea to Councillors of all political persuasions. The Council Tax was brought in as a quick response to the disaster of the Poll Tax. It was not, as I recall, seen as a permanent solution. The time to reform local government and its funding is long since past.

For as long as it's used as a political football, there'll never be a solution. So how about some grown-up politics. Stop guddling round the edges of a broken system.. There are a number of workable solutions out there - put pressure on all MSPs to sort this. Come up with agreed options. No one party can solve this by themselves. For what it's worth, I believe that a land value tax must be part of the mix.

And senior officers - you have a responsibility here too. It is no longer good enough to focus the pressure staff to find more and more cuts. You have influence with Councillors and with senior staff in other regions. Lobby harder for change.

The message - co-operate, compromise (no one gets everything they want) and, most of all, be brave. Things can't go on like this for any longer.

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Thank You.



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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG9
Organisation (if applicable)	[Responses captured from individuals attending the Stranraer and the Rhins Community Conversation]

Please share your views in the space available below
"Keep our Communities Safe" - Please disband /stop the community wardens. Little statutory function other than ASBO - which can be placed else where. Crime stats in D&G low especially crimes of dishonesty - not any evidenced needs - feeds into the fear of crime rather than actual... money could be used else where i.e Social Work
" maximising our income" - Dumfries and Galloway Council should charge for the purchase of PARKING DISCS at £1.00 or £2.00 per disc.
"Maximising income" - Reduce senior management wages
Why is the council so reluctant to charge for parking? Every other authority charge for parking - we need to charge per hour /per day
Better use of technology,
Why should all councillors get travel expenses to travel to committees in Dumfries, they should be able to use video conferencing, skype/facetime technology to stop/ reduce travel costs.
There should also be a rationalisation of the amount of committees and attendees required at committees
Councillors should not be allowed to travel on own and claim travel costs, for council committees the shared use of the council fleet cars or the use of a community transport bus that can collect members on route from various ends of the region. e.g bus leaving Stranraer collecting members from ward 1 , 2 ,3 etc.
Options available to enable the donation of good quality second hand books, (hard back and soft back) to the library should the proposed option to reduce stock be implemented.
Charging for town centre car parking, there are lots of free car parks around Stranraer yet some people have cars parked in town centre for days /weeks at a time.
The council had priorities regarding deprivation, rural deprivation being an issue in this area, and it is proposing to reduce the options of hot school meals for children in the remotest area of our region, for some of these children it may be the only hot meal they receive in a day. It is rural discrimination.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG9
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I am writing to express my views on the proposal to change catering in small primary schools with a roll of 50 or less. I am unhappy with this proposal as I feel it is rural discrimination against children who live in a village. It is unfair to say that children that attend a small school will not have the same entitlements as children who attend larger schools. Every message from the Scottish Government and the local Council promotes Excellence and Equity for all, yet this proposal is by no means equitable for the children in our schools. I have spoken to numerous parents who are unhappy about the situation and rightly so. I feel that implementing this cut would have detrimental impact on the wellbeing of the children in our schools and I would strongly advise you not to make this cut. If you look at the range of cuts that have been proposed, the £50,000 that the change to catering would save is a drop in the ocean compared to other cuts and I feel that it is not a cut worth making!

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	[personal name removed]

Please share your views in the space available below

The Bethany Christian Trust Supported housing on the Whitesands have been working for many years with people who are on the fringes of society. People who have become homeless and have been unable to sustain a tenancy. Who are vulnerable due to getting caught up in addiction or have mental health problems. Homelessness and addiction can happen to anyone in any walk of life and does. The Bethany team treat everyone with the same respect and are none judgemental. Looking to what the real needs of the individual is and helping them to gain confidence and skills to get their life back on track. They have been very successful in helping people move on and sustain their tenancy. I think it would be a tragedy for the people of Dumfries to lose this service and leave future desperate and vulnerable people without the opportunity of being on a Bethany Supported housing resettlement programme.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

You are proposing to make a saving by reducing the staff compliment by redesigning the service delivery of the Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Team. I believe the team you are proposing to reduce is part of the Financial Inclusion and welfare Support Team, the team that i believe that has recently won two awards for being the best in Scotland and Nationally.

The staff you are planning to reduce are the Visiting Officers from the Benefit Maximisation part of the team, who assist the people aged 60 or over of Dumfries and Galloway to claim their full entitlement to Welfare Benefits. The team brought in over £8 million pounds into the region last year, almost £90 million since the team started. The majority of clients they help are elderly or infirm unable to get out of their houses so would therefore be unable to go to DAGCAS for help as they do not have the capacity to do home visits and advise people to go into their office and sit and wait to be seen. This would mean these clients would miss out on benefits they are entitled to and could end up putting them into poverty which I thought was one of the strategies the Council was fighting against.

I believe the council has or is going to be appointing an Older Persons Champion yet you are thinking of dispersing one of the teams that assists them? This does not make sense.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG4
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

THINK THAT THE RECYCLING
CENTRE SHOULD STAY
OPEN Fulltime

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG4 [REDACTED]
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

DO NOT AGREE TO SANQUHAR
RECYCLING CENTRE BEING CLOSED 2 DAYS
THIS WOULD GREATLY IMPACT THE WHOLE
COMMUNITY IN RESTRICTING THEIR OPTIONS
OF DISPOSING WASTE
ALSO FEEL IT UNFAIR THAT SANQUHAR
SACRIFICE OPENING HOURS TO
COMPENSATE OTHER SITES

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I disagree with the budget cuts to Housing Support. The Housing Support Duty for Local Authorities relates to those assessed as unintentionally homeless or threatened with homelessness where there is a reason to believe customers need a Housing Support service which is often to those who are vulnerable and chaotic.

Housing Support Providers offer housing support in supported accommodation and/or outreach services. They provide support to a range of client groups including domestic abuse, mental health, alcohol & drugs etc across the region. They are regulated by the Care Inspectorate and employees are registered with the SSSC. They are trained to deal with customers complex needs as well as those who have suffered adverse childhood experiences. Their services help towards the prevention approach Scottish Government is working hard to put in place to end homelessness in Scotland, which costs the Local Authority in the region of £12k per each homeless person. They assist individuals with maintaining as well as the rights and responsibilities of a having a tenancy and any service which provides support, assistance, advice & counseling to enable the individual to occupy or continue to occupy their tenancy. Housing support services help up to 8000 vulnerable people per year and tool them with lifelong skills to develop resilience and self-efficacy improving their quality of life and having a safe environment to live.

Housing Support services are part of the Financial Inclusion & Welfare Support team who have just won a national award for excellence in social inclusion in October 2019, yet the Council is proposing to make savings from this team.....

To continue to cut these services goes against the Council's priority of protecting our most vulnerable as well as limiting options to fulfill their Duty!

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG12
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

Cut the number of Councillors as this would bring a saving and probably streamline the service.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG 12
Organisation (if applicable)	Member of Public

Please share your views in the space available below

- 1) Develop a DGC card with chip & pin for services which can be allocated to each individual
 - Parking charge
 - Leisure services (free)
 - other
- 2) Develop electronic charging for DGC car parks say £2 per day / visit
- 3) Raise Council Tax by 5% per annum for next 5 years.
- 4) Develop Long Distance (SKYPE) teaching for specialist school subjects
- 5) Utilise Retired people to support school subjects.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG12
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

*Transportation - agree remove intenal mail
- disagree rural transport subsidy-

*Concentrate on spending properly
(eg. whitesands) - Pet Projects

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG12
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

If the Warden Service is too diluted - better to take as a complete saving - than half (or less) of a Service!

Need to enable our Community to do more before you-Expect!

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG11
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I seriously disagree with education being cut. You are planning on cutting our subjects, our class time & maximising class sizes. If you make classes any bigger, pupils will struggle more because they get less time with teachers, especially if you cut our class time. Different careers need certain qualifications so by cutting subjects you are jeopardising young people's futures. Pupils need to spend quality time with our teachers so that we can get help and understand better, this will get us past our exams and into uni. If you take this away, young people will certainly suffer because we won't have the qualifications we need so there will be shortages of the jobs our limited qualifications can get us. We are the future. Don't take that away. If anything we need more money for

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can return the form to your local Customer Service Centre Thank You. time.

~~Agenda~~
The young people of today need more education. Longer class time. Please don't cut our class subjects, or our time in class and with teachers. We need it.



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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG7
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

Any reduction in learning support teachers or support staff will bring schools to breaking point. Teachers can not be expected to teach an already wide variety of learning abilities and pupils with severe learning and behavioral needs.

Hot meals are essential each day of the week not just the two days proposed.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG8
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I realise the Council is very pressed financially, and there has been a lot of effort to cut costs over recent years. Large scale dramatic changes are likely to be needed to save enough in future - these are long overdue and doubtless politically undesirable.

Most of the proposals in the consultation make sense. Education cuts will cause uproar, and reducing choice for secondary pupils is especially undesirable, since it risks reducing both engagement in education and resultant future skills and knowledge that could benefit this region. Education is investment in the future so it must be valued, however there are a number of small primary schools, and savings could be made by taking a harder line on these, closing them down.

Communities like Xmas but D&GC should stop funding Xmas lights for communities, apart from larger towns which provide main shopping areas.

It may be wise for Council to maximise opening up leisure facilities in schools to other (paying) users, and to stop providing stand alone leisure facilities where independent provision could reasonably take over. Festivals draw in tourists who spend locally, but they are expensive to put on; could Council develop a strategy of forcing reduced reliance on council funding and increased sustainability through greater efficiency, changes to pricing policy and other funding sources.

Roads maintenance is a challenge and its funding should not reduce, as poorer maintenance encourages more rapid deterioration; evidence shows that compensation costs increase and savings are lost. This is a small part of Council budget which a huge impact on all, and it has been squeezed a lot already.

Council should maximise use of technology to reduce the need for travel across the area.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I understand that the council is considering cutting their grant to Bethany Christian Trust. This has a high success rate in helping disadvantaged people. Having lived in an area where the council was in denial about a similar situation it resulted in people sleeping in shop doorways begging shoplifting and overstretched soup kitchen of which I worked in one for a number of years. This resulted in a drastic reduction in tourism with subsequent knock on effect to local businesses and employment.

The area very quickly became derelict. It would seem to be a very short sighted move on the councils part to terminate funding when this trust is doing so well and you therefore risk a similar situation to the one I have experienced.

[NAME REMOVED]

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG11 [REDACTED]
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I AM RESPONDING TO THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL TO REDUCE HOUSING SUPPORT CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORTED TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR BETHANY CHRISTIAN TRUST. HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN MANY SUCH CASES OVER A PERIOD OF 35 YEARS, I AM CONCERNED AS TO WHO WOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH PEOPLE WITH THIS SUPPORT REMOVED? WOULD IT BE THE COUNCIL? CAN THE COUNCIL THEN OFFER THE SAME DILIGENCE OF CARE FOR LESS MONEY THAN BETHANY DO? OR, WOULD THEY NOT CARE AT ALL? I THINK THE COUNCIL IS UNDERESTIMATING THE AMOUNT OF VERY STRESSFUL AND DIFFICULT WORK WHICH BETHANY STAFF GO THROUGH, IN ORDER TO SUPPORT OTHERWISE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS TO REPAIR THEIR POTENTIAL, NOT ONLY OF TAKING ON THEIR OWN HOMES, BUT ALSO MAINTAINING THEIR OWN HOMES! AS WELL AS THAT, INDIVIDUALS ARE ENCOURAGED, AND SUPPORTED TO ADDRESS ANY MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, WHICH ASSISTS THEM TO A LIFE OF CONTINUED WELL-BEING!! P.T.O.

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SURELY THIS SERVICE HAS TO BE RECOGNISED
AS BENEFICIAL FOR BOTH COUNCIL AND INDIVIDUAL,
BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND HOLISTICALLY!

TO REMOVE THIS SUPPORT WOULD ONLY
PROVE TO BE DETRIMENTAL FOR ALL INVOLVED,
AND I THEREFORE URGE D+G COUNCIL TO
RECONSIDER THESE DRABSTIC CUTS TO BETHANY
CHRISTIAN TRUST, SUPPORTED TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION.

SINCERELY



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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	Bethany Christian Trust - Whitesands

Please share your views in the space available below

Bethany in Dumfries provides a number of flats for homeless people who are trying to get themselves back ~~into~~ as contributing members of society. This is a very valuable resource for some ~~on the~~ in suffering considerable hardship. In addition the Drop in which Bethany runs ~~is~~ provides a very welcome safety net for homeless people for two days a week and enables them to enjoy a little socialising with friends and volunteers. It would be a disaster if Bethany in Dumfries were forced to close down due to Council Budget Cuts.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1 [REDACTED]
Organisation (if applicable)	BETHANY CHRISTIAN TRUST

Please share your views in the space available below

I have volunteered at the Bethany Drop-In for several years now and have seen how much it has been able to help less fortunate people in Dumfries. I have seen people come through the door in tears of misery or rage, and, after being able to relax in the safe and loving atmosphere here, go on their way with renewed hope and a fragment of peace and strength with which to face the world. Many visitors need food and drink, often the first and only meal they will get that day. Removing this service, which is supported by so many volunteers and local businesses who can see its value, would not only ~~be~~ increase hardship but would also be perceived as a cruel and callous act towards already vulnerable people.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1. [REDACTED]
Organisation (if applicable)	[REDACTED]

Please share your views in the space available below

I dont think I would be here
without the Bethany.
They helped me in 2003 and I stopped
drinking.
I am not afraid to ask for help from
them. They are very helpful.

[REDACTED]

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I submit this response in support for continued funding toward the Bethany Trust charitable organisation a much needed resource within the Dumfries & Galloway region.

Firstly from my own personal family circumstance. My son had been since his late teens to his early forties an habitual drug abuser, this continued drug abuse caused initially, untold misery pain and suffering within our own family home, then as he grew older and then married, within his own family home. The involvement of Police, Sheriff Court hearings resulting in hundreds of pounds in fines, threats of imprisonment, interventions from the Social and Family Welfare Unit, the endless loss of employment (including in his earlier years from the Armed Forces) beatings and assaults visits to A&E then finally expulsion from his own home. Firstly separation then divorce and almost total loss of contact from his children. Now finding himself homeless unemployed and in a continual downward spiral of despair and helplessness, with all the love and trust from anyone who new and cared for him in the past, long since destroyed. We as parents had on many occasions conversations around the subject of his premature death as a result of his lifestyle, often accompanied by sleepless nights with tears of worry and prayers for help. Then from seemingly out of nowhere he came into contact with the Bethany Trust. A real God send, with their advice, care and encouragement he indicated his desire to turn his life around, they with the contacts they had found him a placement within a drug rehab unit out with the region. Now after almost two years of being drug free his life is back on track, he is once again back in regular contact with his children has his own rented accommodation out with the Dumfries and Galloway area attending college learning a construction based skill, employed part time in order to financially support himself. A real turnaround.

Secondly as a recently retired career Prison Officer working with both male and female offenders, I have witnessed first hand the devastation and chaos caused by homelessness and addiction, initially, but not solely linked to the individual involved, but also to often now broken families and communities associated with the offending homeless or addicted person. Increasing levels of debt, poverty, neighbourhood disorder, crimes of theft and violence, prostitution are often a direct by product of such a lifestyle. Now factor in the ever increasing cost of the agencies Its here at this point we should be grateful for the support of organisations such as the Bethany Trust, here they are dealing

with those who for whatever reasons have slipped through most if not all the safety nets on offer, they have in the past - are at the present - will in the future, with your continued financial support challenge, offer change for the better to those like my son like our regions sons and daughters, family members. Helping lift someone out of these circumstances is the right and moral thing to do and must be overall financially better for the region in the long term. Thank You

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG6
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

As D & G has declared a climate emergence on 27 June I am surprised and greatly disappointed that there was nothing in any of the many proposed areas about the action we have to take on climate change mitigation.

I was led to believe that every aspect of Council spending and policy was to be considered in the light of its sustainability and contribution to CO2 reduction. There was no evidence of that in the many proposals - nor were any of your very helpful staff able to give me any explanation for this when I visited Kirkcudbright on the Thursday evening.

Another area of concern to me is mental health: In the light of the cuts over many years in mental health in D & G within In-patient as well as out-patient care my fear is that even if spending is keep at the same level we are greatly failing and the consequence even in purely economic terms is a very damaging. We have now got a big new hospital caring for our physical health, surely we should all have an equal access to be cared for when it comes to mental health.

I believe that the Scottish government has pledged that we should all have such equal access to mental health care.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG7
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

You have asked for ideas on how to reform the council so that it does what is desired by the citizens under its jurisdiction. A lot depends on how serious you, as a council are in seeking reform. The reality is that, as a whole the council has become bloated, indolent and remote. I would almost go as far as saying that it despises the citizens under its control. The folk who look to the D&GC for their governance and welfare are treated as an annoyance rather than as their Raison d'être. For the last 30 years the council has not encouraged them to take any interest in its' affairs.

It is trying to do too much and to interfere with every aspect of our lives. It's policy of being a "No Blame" council has done it no favours. No one will now take responsibility for anything! There is far too much Government. Far too much of the nanny state trying to regulate everything! To the extent that almost 70% of the work force in D & G is now government (or at least non wealth producing in one form or another). Whether you dispute this figure or not it is far too high a percentage of the wealth creating workforce and is not sustainable. You, the council, seem to be trying to recreate the worst excesses of the Soviet communist era of the 1960's and 70's which ended in the collapse of their economy. The present situation will end in your collapse as well if you do not reform. The elected representatives have been persuaded to give away all their powers to the non-elected overpaid employees of the council. These people have voted themselves vast salaries and pension pots without a murmur from our elected councillors. They are the masters; the elected representatives are now little more than puppets.

It used to be that a council employee traded security of employment for a high wage. Today those same employees not only earn higher wages than those in the private sector but they also get higher benefits in the way of pensions; all plus the better security. This is particularly marked amongst the higher paid employees whose salaries are unjustifiable and unsustainable. Pensions are another major problem which can only be solved by root and branch reform. Overall taxes need to be lowered not raised; to incentivise, not stultify.

No one trusts the council to do anything properly. The council's own costs are out of control. Partly because their wage bill is far too high but also because no one will take responsibility for what is going on. It is always someone else's fault. There is no

meaningful budgeting within departments. The method of not rewarding thrift is absurd. Taking away unspent money at the end of each period is just nonsensical

To give a small example of what I mean. The council used to run the caravan park in Kirkcudbright. They said it was making a loss and offered it to the town to run it themselves. The folk in Kirkcudbright asked for accounts. There were none! But it was claimed that the cutting of the grass cost several thousand pounds a year! Once it was being properly run (Under the council even the site fees were not being collected) it immediately started to make money. This is the sort of incompetence that has to end. The council needs to change. It needs a root and branch reform. First and foremost it must TAKE RESPONSIBILITY for its actions. At the moment it has no concept of using money wisely. It spends borrowed money on new capital projects (new schools and hospitals) which it can't repay. It has wasted millions on waste recycling and pedestrianisation. Why? Because perhaps no one would take responsibility for those actions. It is effectively bankrupt NOW. It may still have a little time to decide how it is going to reform or it will disappear out of existence leaving debts for its tax payers which they should not have to honour as they had no part in saying whether the council should have been allowed to run up such debts.

THE COUNCIL HAS TO DECIDE THE REASON IS FOR ITS EXISTANCE? WHAT IS ITS' PURPOSE?

IT MUST TO LEARN TO LIVE WITHIN ITS MEANS!

The council has to decide what are essential services and what are peripheral. That is not something that an outsider can reasonably be expected to determine as the elected council members should have their ear to the ground and know what is required and what is or is not possible. We all have our own ideas but we are not close enough to know what is or is not possible.

The council needs to create an environment where wealth creation is not only possible but paramount. We now live in an incredibly fast changing world where given norms are changing. The High street and shops may never be the same. Where folk are becoming ever more isolated. Where the average individual dwelling now contains only 1.3 people. All the factors which govern our modern world need to be learned and digested by the council so that they can make informed decisions for the future. Is this something that they are doing or are they just rabbits caught in the headlights?

Suggested reforms

In no particular order

ROADS & TRANSPORT

- The most important thing is maintenance. In order to maintain enough money to achieve proper maintenance it is vital that the help of the citizen is not only sought but welcomed. For instance, On minor roads (C & D class) the routine maintenance should not be done by the council but by those that are the main users of that road. The list of approved contractors for such works as snow clearance should go. The council should set rates for the various operations such as culvert clearing, hedge cutting, snow clearance, salting and the like for which local farmers can indent to allow the council to concentrate on those areas where the level of equipment and expertise is not available.
- There are far too many road signs. These need to be rationalised to only those that are essential for public safety. Road signs cost several £000's each!
- Speed limits need to be rationalised along with the signage associated with them. Many of the rural ones are largely ignored

- Speed bumps need a lot of maintenance and signage and in reality, do very little for road safety. When they need maintenance, careful consideration should be given to whether they are really doing any good and if not if they should be scrapped.
- Street lighting. I've no idea who pays for this but someone must. Over the past few years this has been hugely increased. Thought should be given to switching off these lights between the hours of say 11.00pm and 6.00am.
- There is a huge increase in road usage by very heavy farm traffic. Along with this increased usage comes increased wear and tear especially with ever larger tractors and other machinery using roads which in the main are only 2700mm wide. (9') Thought needs to be given as to how the increased maintenance of these roads can be achieved economically. This is especially true around the large number of mega dairies in the area some of whom are carting silage and slurry for 20 miles or more on the public roads.
- Road verges and roundabouts should be let out to whoever will pay for the space either to grow vegetables or flowers.
- The automatic cutting of roadside verges should cease with only the safety sight lines being cut near corners

Schooling

- I have little to say on this most complex of subjects except to say that overall the standard of education is abysmal. There are many children leaving school who can hardly write their names. They in the main have no life skills. Many children are monosyllabic and can't hold a conversation. I don't know how many can't use a knife and fork but I suspect quite a sizeable proportion. Also, the general fitness level and strength of school leavers is extremely low. Our state education system needs root and branch reform.

Housing

- I'm aware that central government has imposed the latest legislation in a series of landlord bashing schemes. Most of these have just increased rents to pay for them. There are at least as many bad tenants as there are bad landlords and some thought should be given to dropping the landlord registration scheme which benefits no one. It is a cost to the ratepayer and of no benefit to the tenant. It's only effect as far as I can see is that it has put up rents as an additional cost to be found.
- On social housing provision I'm not qualified to know what is either being or should be done by the council.

Planning

- Planning in D&G is a mess. It is falling into such disrepute that it is starting to be bypassed. The council have deemed it is something that they can cut; but that decision will come back to haunt them if something is not done so that there are proper long-term policies in place for such things as supermarkets; industrial parks and the like.
- Careful planning of the D&G council's own estate needs to be made and parts that are no longer required need to be sold off. Where possible with maximum flexibility for their future use.
- Change of use and multiple uses in town centres might go some way to mitigating the abandonment that is currently taking place. This needs some really imaginative thinking by the council before the buildings fall into such disrepair that the town centres become urban deserts.

Rubbish and Waste Collection

This essential service is not one I envy the council. It has been allowed to grow out of proportion and is now a major headache. It needs some very careful thought and a very high level of expertise. Probably higher than what is available to the council locally. D & G is by no means be the

worst affected area but that does not mean sitting on our hands. Complex engineered solutions are needed to recycle very complex compound materials. This is essentially beyond the council's level of expertise. When entering into contracts with private sector solutions great care needs to be taken so that the council does not expose itself to risk which it does not understand. This is one of the reasons that this service is in the mess that presently exists.

Social Services

- This is a very wide collection of societies affairs which have over the year's been assumed to be the council's remit. There's no doubt in my mind that some are needed if for no other reason than to keep the public safe. These probably need to be kept, as far as possible. I have in mind here secure homes for young and old and homeless.
- I do not know whether it would be possible or desirable to privatise the library service but as far as possible it should be modernised and if possible amalgamated with other local authorities so that there was as wide an access to as large a range of printed matter as possible including an easy to use (possibly remote) e-book service. With access to technical and scientific papers, government bills and the like. Some of this is already there but most people don't know about what is there or what is available. Some of this could I'm sure be charged for not to make a "profit² but to defray reasonable expenses.
- There are 2 aspects of social services which in my view are unhelpful. One is the use of charities to supply many of the services. This in my view is a misuse of the charity system. The other is to use government money for businesses. The council has neither the skills nor the expertise to run businesses or to say what might or might not work. Organisations like D&G Enterprise should be closed. They will not be missed.
- Sporting facilities is another area that needs some very careful thought. They might be better provided by the private sector and the council's role should be to facilitate that but not to own and run such facilities. There are plenty of private charities which would do that for them.

I'm well aware that this is just scratching the surface of the council's remit. But this essay may give some flavour of how the general public think and what they think of the way that the present council is run. My last thought is not a happy prospect; I suspect that it may be that the council's best way forward is in fact to file for bankruptcy and then start again with a clean sheet.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

Coming from a small rural community there are three key areas that are of most concern to me and my family.

Modernising and prioritising of the delivery of school crossing patrols:

This states that the delivery of service will be achieved while still maintaining safety. How will this be achievable when the current thoughts are to remove crossing guards from schools that do not have the required amount of foot traffic? Does this mean that the children attending smaller schools have a lesser requirement for this service? Although the numbers of cars and/or children may be smaller given the areas that these smaller schools reside in typically the speed limits in these areas are on the cusp of B roads where the national speed limit applies and can categorically without argument be deemed far more of a hazard regardless of any additional road safety education you may provide to the children.

Change catering in smaller schools:

Once again the smaller school environments are being unfairly targeted with this particular budget cut. Are children who attend these smaller community schools dietary requirements less of those that attend some of the larger schools in the region? Understandably there may be a higher concentration of children who are identified under tools such as SIMD (Scottish Index Of Multiple Deprivation) of being at risk or are actively deprived but this does not lessen the fact that there are children in all areas that suffer or are at risk of this. Again, how is this Getting It Right For Every Child? The Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) Scotland Act states for example that school lunch menus must be developed to encourage the uptake of school meals. With the removal of 3 day's worth of hot meals this will achieve the exact polar opposite and runs the great potential risk of increasing levels of deprivation across the whole region which in turn will add increasing pressures in already pressured areas of the service you provide such as social care.

Development of class teacher roles for Additional Support For Learning:

Not only will this take away an excellent service this will also have a detrimental effect on not only the children who utilise this service to supplement and assist with their learning but will also play a pivotal role on the effect of successful delivery of teaching to all of the class. If a class teacher is having to provide more effort on specific children who are perhaps having greater difficulties than others then this takes away his or her efforts on the other children. While provisions are being made to have a reduced service this will ultimately dilute the service for the children directly affected while proving detrimental to all other children while also placing additional pressure on staff particularly when composite class numbers have been recently increased already.

Although not specifically written this way within the Budget Options document the areas above are specifically targeting smaller schools. Why is this? Do the children that attend these schools have needs that are deemed lesser than those that have a larger population? How does this comply with the principles of GIRFEC? Explain to me how this is getting it right for every child when decisions are being made to purposely detriment children whose families have decided that for many reasons their children may thrive better in a smaller community environment. Something that I have direct experience in. Also given the principles of SHANARRI that underpins the wellbeing aspect of GIRFEC how can the proposed budget options adhere to these elements:

- Safe - The removal of crossing patrols will directly go against this principle
- Healthy - The dilution of hot food provision will go against this principle
- Achieving - How will kids who require but no longer receive additional support achieve the best that they can?
- Nurtured - How will the children feel nurtured when their food provision has been diluted and they have to cross roads to school without the comfort blanket of a crossing guard?
- Active - Nutrition is key to staying active. How will this be achievable without a hot meal where in many cases this may be the only hot meal some children receive in a 24 hour period?
- Respected - Children cannot possibly feel respected when the above services are being diluted or taken away from them while their friends who attend other schools tell them that they still receive these benefits just because of the locality of their chosen school
- Responsible - While the removal of school crossing patrol services may heighten responsibility for the children do you think it is an appropriate level of responsibility to ask a primary school aged child to cross a road where drivers far exceed the 30 limit alone? I think not!
- Included - Children will feel very excluded when they talk to their friends about the lack of some excellent services that they do not receive compared to them

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG8
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I Disagree with most of the changes to the secondary schools and youth work as they are both vital to children.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG8
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

No more cuts to front-line Children & Families Social Work - the risks associated with this to our most vulnerable people in society are already beyond the realms of safety.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	OGP
Organisation (if applicable)	- N/A.

Please share your views in the space available below

* NEXT ROUND OF EDUCATIONAL CUTS
WILL DO DAMAGE TO A GENERATION OF
CHILDREN IN DTG.

* DIGITAL LEARNING IN ~~VENTURED~~ CLASSROOMS
IN 2 SEPERATE SCHOOLS FOR CORE
SUBJECTS SHOULD NOT HAPPEN WHILE
~~SCHOOLS~~ SMALL SCHOOLS ARE BEING
KEPT OPEN AT 4X THE COST OF
EDUCATING PUPILS.

* NEED TO CLOSE SCHOOLS TO MEET
TARGETS + KEEP VIABLE SCHOOLS FULL
+ OFFER A FULL CURRICULUM.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1 [REDACTED]
Organisation (if applicable)	[REDACTED]

<p>Please share your views in the space available below</p> <p>I would ask that D&G Council reconsider its proposal to Reduce Housing Support contracts for the provision of Supported Temporary Accommodation with Bethany Christian Trust for (£81k)</p> <p>Bethany has been actively supporting vulnerable tenants locally for many years showing tremendous commitment to the local Dumfries community, especially the marginalized in society.</p> <p>Removal of this council funding would put at risk much of the ongoing work that they do and support that Bethany provides, potentially resulting in service users having to instead access other council departments and thus negating any proposed saving.</p> <p>Former service users who have greatly benefitted from the work that Bethany Christian Trust has done in the region have spoken of the tremendous benefit provided via Bethany, 'the kind of support that does not judge or condemn you for your past.'</p> <p>Any reduction of funding from the Council, or even worse the total withdrawal of all Council funding will have a detrimental impact on vulnerable adults in Dumfries and could result in Bethany CC being no longer able to sustain work in the region, or at a much reduced level.</p> <p>Councillors must also consider how they would deliver support to those in need of it if Bethany were no longer here, and where would the funds come from and what would the cost be?</p>

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DA2 [REDACTED]
Organisation (if applicable)	[REDACTED]

Please share your views in the space available below

I am currently a resident in one of the flats Bethany Christian Trust provide young people that are going through tough times and getting re-settled into the community. They have helped me for around 7 months and I have received the skills I need to sustain a property. They have helped me in more ways than one. I don't know where I would be without the help probably in Prison still and shoplifting to maintain a drug habit that I no longer have. They are the only service that does this type of work in the community in their own way which really helps young people. They listen to the needs of young people and do their best in the interests of the service user thanks!

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	BETHANY CHRISTIAN TRUST

Please share your views in the space available below

Cuts in Housing Support, and support in the Community, would have very obvious effects on homelessness, and the number of people living rough in Dumfries & Galloway -

It is very unlikely that the Bethany Trust, or other voluntary groups would be able to fill the financial gap - The Drop In on the White sands would also have to close -

For one reason or another the people who benefit from these services, are also some of the most vulnerable in our society - Surely as civilised people we are in duty bound to help shelter, clothe and feed our less able brothers and sisters -

SO PLEASE THINK AGAIN, BEFORE YOU VOTE UNFAVOUR OF THESE CUTS

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DA1
Organisation (if applicable)	BETHANY

Please share your views in the space available below

The Bethany must stay open because during the past I was so social and wanted to die, but I started speaking to someone at the Bethany trust spoke to me and helped me through a tough time and they need more places like this not to shut down because the good that they do for people and will continue to do for people. I think it is one of the worst decisions the council have made trying to save money from something that has saved my life and probably many more lives can be saved.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG1
Organisation (if applicable)	BETHANY

Please share your views in the space available below

I would not agree about fundings People are struggling
to make ends meet dont cut back on fundings
Please.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG2
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

It is really important to preserve services for the most vulnerable and I would much rather pay more Council Tax than see cuts in service delivery.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DGS
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I would wish to emphasise the importance of evaluating council activities not only in themselves but in relation to broad economic objectives.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG2
Organisation (if applicable)	Public

Please share your views in the space available below

We've been told by our government that 'austerity is over'. Why then do they continue to underfund councils annually? Councils need to protest collectively against these needless cuts, and not savings as they're wrongly termed. Where's COSLA's voice in this? And where are the joint unions when they're needed? They should make common cause to defend services, while there are still services to defend.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG8
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

Overall Comments

- NONE of the savings options listed in the document supplies enough detailed information to allow outside organisations or a member of the public to give a considered view on the options shown.
- Of the 24 outlined cuts 11 also propose further cuts in 2021/21, with no details included.
- At least 9 of the outlined cuts expect the Third Sector or community groups to “do more” yet, at the same time there being no funding available to them, or what funding is available being cut. Just as the Council cannot continue to carry out services on a reducing budget, neither can the Third Sector or community organisations. If the Council truly wishes the Third Sector or community groups to ‘take up the slack’ being left by the outlined cuts, then funds need to be made available NOT CUT or does the Council merely expect the Third Sector etc to produce funds ‘out of thin air’ to “do more”.

Comments on individual options

- Change Catering in small Primary Schools – This proposal would affect 44 of the 99 Primary schools in Dumfries and Galloway, that is over 40% of all schools, most of which, if not all, are in the rural areas.
Basically, all of the above ‘outlined cuts’ are treating people of all ages who live in the rural areas of the region in a less favourable manner than residents in urban areas. Council Officers and elected Councillors, quite rightly, regularly state, that as far as the central governments are concerned, Dumfries and Galloway is the forgotten land, yet ALL of the above proposals show, that as far as the Council is concerned, they are quite prepared to forget their own rural areas.
These proposals are nothing less than discrimination against all of those who live in the rural areas of Dumfries and Galloway who are still expected by the Council to contribute their taxes at the same level as urban residents, for a far worse service.
- Reduced Housing Support – This proposal comes in top of a £120,000 cut made in the last budget and, once again, targets vulnerable individuals.
- Social Work reduction – This proposal will reduce, year on year for the next 3 years, the number of frontline Social Work staff, while, at this time the current level of staff are struggling to cope with the workload, which will only increase in future years

In my opinion these proposals are in direct opposition to the Councils declared priority of "Protect our most vulnerable people" (Help older or vulnerable people live healthy and independent lives and Ensure older or vulnerable people receive the care and support they need)

- Reduced Winter Service Treatment to Roads - this will lead to more roads being affected by ice/snow, which, if you were to be honest, will be mostly in the rural areas.
- Reduced Verge cutting - this will lead to more road encroachment by verge growth affecting driver vision, again most likely in the rural areas.
- Reduced roads maintenance - this will lead to poorer road surfaces and poorer road drainage on what is an already deteriorating road network and, yet again, most likely to affect rural areas.

As outlined, it is my opinion that these cuts will result in rural residents being affected to a greater degree than urban residents.

It should be noted that the proposed cuts are in addition to the net reduction of £278,000 for 2019/2020 in the roads budget as a result of the 2018/19 budget

- Schools - Despite these cuts being spread throughout the published document the Council cannot hide the fact that these proposals would result in cuts of over £2.3 million in the Education budget and the loss of numerous members of staff, including teachers.
- Target youth work and lifelong learning - exactly what definition is being used for 'most vulnerable community' and who produced this definition.
- Reduced Transportation costs - what 'current subsidised transportation service' is being targeted.
- Reduced Administration and Support costs - support/administration of what exactly.
- Reduced funding for Library stock - This funding was cut in the last budget from £164,000 to its present level and this further cut would only leave a budget of £13,000 yet there is no information as to the actual ratio of books lent versus digital lending that takes place. How can the public give any sort of considered view in this proposal without such information being provided?

SAVING SUGGESTIONS

Remove Dumfries Gull Project

This project was introduced in 2009 with the evaluation of the success of the project being that, as the town centre gull population had been decreasing by approximately 10% each year prior to the introduction of the project, a positive result would be that the number reduced by greater than 10% per year.

Research on the project shows that between 1999 and 2008 when there was no Gull Project in existence the number of nesting pairs in Dumfries town centre fell by an average of just under 6% per year. The number of gulls

During the same period the number of gulls out with Dumfries town centre increased by 443%.

Between 2009 and 2018, while the Gull Project has been in operation, the number of nesting pairs in Dumfries town centre fell by an average of 4.7% per year.

During the same period the number of gulls out with Dumfries town centre increased by over 255%.

Research also shows that since its introduction in 2009 the project has cost, up to and including 2019, a total is £298,243, an average of over £29,500 per year.

Given that the Task Forces own measures of success have been missed by some considerable margin, is costing an average of over £29,5000 per year and the fact that this service is only available in Dumfries, why should the project be funded from the central budget.

Should the elected members from Nithsdale area, and in Dumfries in particular, wish to continue with the project it should be funded from Area Committee funding and not centrally funded.

Youth Beatz Festival Charge for Tickets

The above festival has always been a ticket only entry with tickets being free to those that are attending the festival.

Up to and including the 2018 festival the source of Council funding was from the Nithsdale Area Committee Discretionary Budget, which for the 2018 event awarded £50,000 funding. As a result of the event being 'Area Committee' funded the decision on whether to charge for tickets was, quite rightly, left to that Area Committee.

However, in the 2019/20 Budget a three-year funding package, from central funds, was put in place for the 2019 event. This funding was £161,000 per year.

In 2018 for the main 2day Youth Beatz event there were a total of 40,000 free tickets issued, enquiries have established that the full breakdown in attendance for the 2018 event was

Nithsdale	-	16,980 - 42.45%
Annandale and Eskdale	-	5,629 -14.07%
Stewartry	-	3,662 - 9.16%
Wigtownshire	-	3,009 - 7.52%
Rest of Scotland	-	10,388 - 25.97%
Rest of UK	-	172 - 0.43%
Abroad	-	160 - 0.4%

The above figures show that, in 2018, attendees, from Dumfries and Galloway but from out with the Nithsdale area, numbered 12,300 or 30.75% of the total.

In 2019 for the main 2day Youth Beatz event there were a total of 40,000 free tickets issued, enquiries have established that the full breakdown in attendance for the 2019 event was

Nithsdale	-	17,304 - 43.2% - increase of 324 people
Annandale and Eskdale	-	5,652 -14.13% - increase of 23 people
Stewartry	-	3,540 - 8.85% - decrease of 122 people
Wigtownshire	-	1,624 - 4.06% - decrease of 1,385 people
Rest of Scotland	-	11,680 - 29.2% - increase of 1,292 people
Rest of UK	-	200 - 0.5% - increase of 40 people

The above figures show that, in 2019, the first year of the 3 year centrally awarded budget, attendees, from Dumfries and Galloway but from out with the Nithsdale area, numbered 10,816 or 27.04% of the total.

The Council has now arrived at the ludicrous situation that they are subsidising more young people from out with Dumfries and Galloway to attend this event than attend from the other areas of Dumfries and Galloway.

Why should youths in the rest of Scotland benefit from the free entry into this event than young people from Annandale and Eskdale, Stewartry and Wigtownshire, when the event is fully

funded by Dumfries and Galloway and, therefore, by all 4 areas in Dumfries and Galloway. In effect, the people of the 3 areas out with Nithsdale are paying for young people from the rest of Scotland to attend this event for free, a situation that is, quite frankly, a nonsense.

Given the above, would it not be unreasonable to charge a small amount for the tickets in the future with the resultant saving made returned to the Council budget.

Income from ticket sales could be

£2 per ticket - £80,000

£3 per ticket - £120,000

£4 per ticket - £160,000

A charge of £3 per ticket, which given the standard of performers at the event is a very small charge, would, effectively, remove the need for one or more of the proposals outlined.

As stated previously, should the elected members from Nithsdale area, and in Dumfries in particular, wish to continue with the project it should be funded from Area Committee funding and not centrally funded.

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YES

NO*

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG3
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

I appreciate the extreme difficulty ~~the~~ Council is under. However I have major concerns in 3 areas:

1) Instrumental tuition. The proposal to limit provision to pupils taking SQA music courses is short-sighted and disadvantageous to pupils from lower-income families. The opportunity to play music is a fundamental skill and should remain within the core curriculum. The Council has invested in the cultural life of the area and it is a major attraction for new residents and tourists. Developing home-grown talent - as exemplified by musicians + artists produced by my local school Wallacehall - should be a major priority. Removing school-based tuition from the vast majority of pupils will mean only those with parents who can afford private fees will have the opportunity. Consequently the only pupils who will reach SQA standard in

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performance will be those from higher-income families.
This drastic reduction will also impact on the supply of instrumental tutors in the area.

COSLA guidance is that no charges will be levied on pupils on free school meals. Is this the case for D+G and if these restrictions are made will SWA pupils be charged if on free school meals?

The Scottish Parliament's Education + Skills Committee report in January 2019 recommended that tuition be made free for all. Clearly this could not be funded by local authorities. Is the Council lobbying for funding to be found from Scottish Government.

Has the option of increasing tuition fees been considered (undesirable as this would be)?
Range of fees across Scotland range from zero to £524 with D+G currently charging £200

2) Roads - £1/2m cut of each of next 3 years would reduce current roads budget by 8%-10% with D+G already being the lowest spending authority in Scotland. It's short-sighted as low investment in maintenance will see roads deteriorate requiring much higher spending 67 in
(see P2)

P2

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG3
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

cont. from P1.
future. In such a rural community good
connectivity by road is vital.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG11 [REDACTED]
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

Please could you reconsider the proposal to reduce the Housing Support contract for the provision of Supported Temporary Accommodation with Bethany Christian Trust. Any reduction of funding from the Council will have a detrimental impact on vulnerable adults in Dumfries and could result in Bethany Christian Trust being no longer able to continue to work in the region.

Bethany has been actively supporting vulnerable tenants locally for many years showing commitment to the local Dumfries community, especially to homeless people. The service which Bethany provides is described by former service users as 'the kind of support that does not judge or condemn you for your past.'

Removal of this council funding would result in service users needing to access other council departments which would ultimately incur greater costs to the council.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG7.
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

Why can't any financial surplus be carried over to the next financial year? ~~without~~ Rather than spending for the sake of spending. Shouldn't be penalised for saving money, instead of wasting on unnecessary/minor jobs eg. kerbs at roadside.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG7
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

Increase biodiversity by cutting
verges + open areas less
frequently.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG7
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

- I suggest we get rid of free transport (buses) for pensioners - but make all bus journeys cost £1.50 whether it is Stranraer to Dumfries or just a mile or so. This might encourage more people to use buses, and hopefully increase the money coming in.
- Use the Scottish Parliament legislation to charge for parking at workplaces - only in bigger towns where there is a decent bus service.

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District Postcode (For example DG1)	DG7
Organisation (if applicable)	

Please share your views in the space available below

Sell dog poo bags
 ① Advice & info not accessible

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