

Officer Budget Savings Proposals 2025/26

Consultation Programme

Detailed Feedback Report

This report supplements information contained within Council Budget – 2025/26 and Future Years report presented to Dumfries and Galloway Council on 12 December 2025.

This document is a direct copy of the comments left by individuals when completing the budget consultation. The comments have not been edited in any way other than to remove identifiable individual names and/or contact details and any offensive language. Where data has been removed, you will see the word REDACTED in its place.

CONTENTS	PAGE NUMBER
Chapter 1 – Responses to request for ideas, comments and suggestions on how to make the best budget decisions for Dumfries and Galloway from citizens.	2-187
Chapter 2 – all comments received by the council including emails to Yourbudget@dumgal.gov.uk email inbox and letters	188-196
Chapter 3 – all comments received by the Dumfries and Galloway Council Budget Challenge	197-199
Chapter 4 – Community Conversation comments	200-209
Chapter 5 – Focus Group comments received from: 5.1 Community Councils 5.2 Dumfries and Galloway Parent Council Forum (including additional feedback from the Rural and Small Schools Parent Council Alliance) 5.3 Equality and Diversity Working Group 5.4 Poverty and Inequalities Partnership 5.5 Tackling Poverty Reference Group 5.6 Youth Council 5.7 Youth Work Services community based youth work provision	210-311

Officer Budget Savings Proposals 2025/26

Consultation Programme

Detailed Feedback Report

Chapter 1 – Responses to request for ideas, comments and suggestions on how to make the best budget decisions for Dumfries and Galloway from citizens

Please do not touch anything to do with education particularly around children with additional needs.
Save the poverty funding, costs more to rehouse than it does to save a tenancy, food banks are so important in todays day and age as well
Savings could be made by bringing Headstone safety inspections in-house rather than using contractors. Vacant management and officer positions in community assets could be used as a saving as they have been vacant for years now. Invest in building a council crematorium in the west of the region perhaps adapt a currnet building that is marked for closure
Elected members need to start making the brave and difficult choices. We cannot keep delivering while spread this thin. The small schools are not good for anyone and need to be closed - this is having a catastrophic impact on learners. It's time to consider what's best for the whole authority, not just the tiny pockets of rural communities who are making the most noise. Members represent ALL constituents, not just the loudest and most opinionated ones.
scrap the hand outs given to parents during the holidays to "feed" their kids. They were the ones who decided to have the child and know full well that they have to feed their child during the holidays.
Surprised that those were the only options.
I have been using a public hall in newton stewart for 20 years with elderly friends on a Thursday for a Qi Gong relaxation class. I know that this hall is well used and it is an lcon of the Town. Please save this building if possible
Be more vigilant on 2 free 2 year old spaces as people are corrupting the system and getting places when they don't need it. Free school meals - lower this to Primary 4 or 3.
Reduce the number of management roles across all departments
No
Rather disappointed nothing was mentioned in the budget about the town centre , its a disgrace , owners should be financially penalized for having empty shop fronts, they should be made to keep them tidy etc, we should encourage seriously low rates/rents for new businesses for a few years , no one will want to visit a charity shop town, it feels like the town has given up.
Cut or redistribute buses across region. So much money must be spent running all these empty buses. Over 100 buses pass my house each day in Dumfries, most of which are very close to empty. Waste of money.
Cease maintenance of open space areas and play parks which are not owned by the council. Rationalise the number of play areas which the council are responsible for. look at new ways of working - work a shift system over 7 days reducing the quantity of vehicles and machinery required. Purchase machinery and equipment which can be used for multiple tasks reducing the number of pieces of equipment required. Full cost recovery for services provided.
Reducing teachers and staff who support our children and young people will be detrimental to their education. Support for children who find mainstream schools challenging is essential. If children do not feel nurtured and supported in educational settings, they are not ready to learn and achieve.
Generate more money from those with the broadest shoulders through things like parking charges, top band Council Tax etc.

There are a lot of retired people from elsewhere in the country moving to the region because of cheaper housing which has a massive impact on school roles and NHS services.
to be honest I find completing such forms as a waste of time. Nothing will change and the cost of living will increase which cause further poverty. People that seem to pay into the pot get nothing back in return and we are worse off than those who abuse the system. They have more help paying for living costs which give them more disposable funds. It is not right and frustrated me greatly.
I don't think drastic savings should be made in relation to any anti-poverty related services/services for low income families. Things are hard enough without taking away that type of support for the people that need it most.
I also think that internal savings could be made with regard to stationery, most people will just buy their own pens/notebooks so I think the stationery budgets should be removed and only basics like paper and staples/paperclips for services that need those facilities should be retained.
I'm not sure of the barriers of this or if we already do it, but would it maybe be possible to offer printing services to businesses through the print unit to generate some income?
Reduce the use of consultants. Use in house expertise
less middle management!!
Upper management within the Council staff should look at taking a pay cut, council staffing should be looked at & the levels of management reduce & roles merged. There is a shortage of Learning Support staff & provisions so proposing cuts in this are is scandalous these kids need more help not less.
Stop giving away Council assets to Community Groups. they can try for funds from the Scottish Land Fund.
Please do not make any more cuts to services for pupils with Additional Support Needs in our Primary and Secondary schools. Do not remove inclusion bases which do a vital job in supporting our young people with the greatest need. When children with Additional Support Needs are not properly supported by targeted services and remain in mainstream classes without the correct support the quality of education for all children suffers. This is false economy because the challenges and needs will remain and grow which will then lead to greater problems and challenges and costs in the future. We need to be nurturing and educating all of our young people to the very best standard so they grow to become happy, productive adults. If we fail our children now we will pay the price for that. Dumfries and Galloway Education system is already lagging behind the rest of Scotland and Scotland's Educational standards are declining compared to other countries. Don't make things any worse.
More efficient use of staff still working to job and finish routine - this should not be allowed. I have focused on education changes simply because it feels like they have very outdated processes and are overstaffed compared to other services
Avoid cutting services such as administrative staff in schools; Support for Learning teachers and learning assistants; facilities assistants. These are already overstretched.
Implementing charging of £20 per Blue Badge would be beneficial to raising revenue for the Council budget pot. The demand for a blue badge in Dumfries and Galloway has risen over the past few years and £20 per badge for 3 years is not a lot to ask from the BB users in the area.
There are some options where budget savings can be made without affecting large population. Charging for parking seems ridiculous as people will choose to come to Dumfries less, reducing the money spent in many other sectors. Cuts to teachers and any school staff seems absolutely ridiculous, there already appears to be a lack of support in schools, and many teachers struggling so much to get permanent work. We need to be able to implement GIRFEC in Scottish schools and this seems even less possible if cuts are introduced.
Education is our future. Ensuring appropriate support for children MUST be a priority. Cuts must not impact on the next generation.
Cut swimming lessons from schools, this will reduce bus travel costs, free up the swimming pools for paying customers to encourage them to attend while schools are not in, thus increasing revenue. This will also stop the significant disruption in classrooms and lost literacy and numeracy learning time. Financial support with means tested discounts could be issued towards swimming lessons instead. Additional Support for Learning Staffing in schools is already at a critical level, with many learners already not getting the support they require within mainstream classes. ASN staff in schools should not be further

<p>cut.</p> <p>Youth Beatz Festival could continue whereby the D & G resident young people would continue to be free, however people from other council authorities/regions who currently free tickets should be charged. This could significantly reduce costs.</p>
<p>Councillors instead of travelling and spending thousands on expenses, use technology more.</p> <p>Regarding Education the system is stretched to the limit and more support is required for behavioural and educational needs not less.</p> <p>Travelling Community support within the school environment should go since that is a choice!</p>
<p>I do not originally come from Scotland, but since moving here and observing how the council allocates money the biggest surprise to me was how many people in the region claim benefits from the council when they don't need them. There should be stronger review and decline of applications for those applying for benefits and disability pay (to people who aren't even disabled). I know of more people in Dumfries and Galloway who claim benefits from the council and do not work than I do people who are employed. The amount of money the council pays out under this category could be a massive saving.</p>
<p>The closure of inclusion bases at schools is a ridiculous idea! Learning support has already been slashed, meaning many children's needs are not being met. There needs to be MORE inclusion bases across primary schools and there should be inclusion bases also brought in to the associated secondary schools to ensure our learners with additional support needs are having their needs met. This does not happen in many secondary schools at the moment. Learners with additional support needs are being failed across the region!</p>
<p>Children are our future. Please don't cut services for them particularly learning support and inclusion. These services are already stretched far to thin. You will fail children if you do.</p>
<p>I think that if the council remove the fund for youth beatz a small charge can be added to the tickets to match this missing funding.</p> <p>Schools - teachers and support should not be removed as more should be done to keep learning support. the average age for reading in our area is age 8 and by removing learning support this will fall even further kids are struggling out there and they are not getting the support in school. Schools with low numbers should be closed what good is that for the kids when they have few friends the same age as them and its a bigger shock to the system when they go to high school.</p> <p>Waste - the amount of bins out there which shouldn't be is awful if these were removed and would also help with recycling. I don't think removing food waste bags is good as this will reduce people recycling food waste. again putting waste collections to 3 weekly is a good idea as this again will reduce costs and make people recycle more.</p> <p>I don't think increasing costs at leisure is a good idea, I think the council should promote more of their memberships and charges as they don't make it easy to find this information or make it clear.</p> <p>There was also nothing about roads (That I can remember) - pot holes need to be repaired properly to save on costs to stop the same potholes/ opening up and getting filled over and over.</p> <p>Council need to also look at get trainees through the door for all jobs. have more casual job pools to stop the use of agency staff which will lower costs.</p> <p>I also think the council has was to many managers and not enough staff in the lower areas where work loads and becoming too much for staff.</p>
<p>Hold all vacant posts. Look at staff that have asked for Early Retirement. Do not let services replace.</p>
<p>Education can't take any more cuts. So many schools are already at crisis point, more cuts would be unimaginable. As amazing as Youth Beatz is, it's a huge financial strain which our Council cannot possibly continue supporting.</p>
<p>Increasing the charge for waste bulky uplifts from members of the public.</p> <p>Offer commercial waste company's to tip at HWRC for a charge.</p>

<p>Buying newer vehicles and machinery every 2/3 years rather than repairing older worn out vehicles and machinery that end up at greater costs.</p> <p>Increasing council tax.</p>
<p>First observation: this is utterly ridiculous! The descriptors should be written in a way that gives the average person an informed idea of what the proposal looks like in practice. NO THEY DON'T. Some of them aren't too obtuse. For example - installing solar panels at Lochar Moss - yes I understand that. But 'transfer of employers superannuation & teachers maternity & SPPA' What the hell does that actually mean and what are the implications of it? And there are many others that I struggled to translate/interpret. And I'm a Council employee!</p> <p>And this brings me to my main issue. As a Council employee, I do see things in here that could affect people that I work with. You're talking about cutting people's jobs and trying to obfuscate this by hiding behind jargon about 'reconfiguration and restructuring'. Some of these proposals would not affect me personally, but they would affect the jobs of colleagues that I know, and respect, and who are dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable children, and I'm appalled by this. You are putting people's jobs out there on a public website with the option to slash them. But there doesn't appear to be any proposal on the table for asking staff about voluntary redundancy? I can't imagine how upsetting it must be for colleagues to see their jobs being presented as potential cuts. And what makes this even worse, is that you're doing this to people without first asking who would actually like to go and looking at how much money could be saved this way. I absolutely believe that you should not be looking at any options for cutting staff who support vulnerable children until you have first asked for voluntary severance.</p>
<p>We need to maximise use of external funding. if delivered in a different way some of these proposed removals of service can be delivered with external funding</p>
<p>Combine Services - Waste and Street Cleansing</p>
<p>Cut the top tier of management</p>
<p>Retention of the school estate that is not needed is insane.</p> <p>Retention of teachers against a falling school roll is illogical particularly given pupil numbers dictate the monies received from Scottish Government.</p> <p>Time to make hard hitting impactful decisions that result in an outcome in order to protect other services/facilities.</p>
<p>Re-introduce traffic wardens. The income in fines should pay for them and it'll stop the abysmal abuse of rules that currently exists because someone in the past thought it a good idea to get rid of traffic wardens.</p> <p>Allow as much working from home as possible and get rid of some old asbestos ridden buildings and save on property maintenance costs.</p>
<p>Bring forward the employment of traffic wardens to tackle the parking chaos that blights many towns but especially Dumfries. Get whatever paperwork that is required submitted and start generating more money through tackling selfish people who park as they wish. At £50 odd per offence of illegal and pavement parking the system would be self financing and encourage those offenders to walk more and improve the health of the region, so a win, win.</p>
<p>It seems very unfair to be axing low-paid jobs left right and centre while the council leaders are getting paid an enormous amount that increases each year, in some cases by £40k a year! We already have a poverty problem in this area and putting people out of work when they are already struggling to make ends meet will only increase our problems with anti-social behaviour and child deprivation, which will have a knock on effect in our schools, hospitals and other education and healthcare sectors. My suggestion is to axe a few council leadership jobs - the savings would be huge!</p>
<p>Start cutting management structures from the top instead of starting from the bottom of the workforce.</p> <p>Reduce pay scale increases and bring inline with the ridiculous 3.6% that the rest of local government front line workers receive, instead of 15% to £35% that top management receive when a re-structure takes place.</p>
<p>I made these choices through realisation of the task that lies ahead, the most striking thing that i think is a problem is the reduction of support staff for schools which are very low in this area. mainstream education should be protected at all costs as they have had dwindling budgets for many years now and resulted in having to reduce young peoples choice of subjects. These young people are our future.</p>

<p>Increase costs for Care Call service.</p> <p>Offer council staff memberships to Leisure and Sports facilities by salary sacrifice or reduced rate i.e. £15 to increase revenue.</p>
<p>Be brave with decisions around the number of schools we need/have in the region - why do we still have 4 secondary's in Dumfries etc?</p> <p>Ensure constant focus on value for money and best value across all council run/commissioned services</p> <p>Be clearer with IJB/NHS about what the council expect from transferred monies and ensure these monies are subject to the same scrutiny as council run services</p> <p>Be braver about communications to the public about challenges and the really difficult decisions that need to be made</p> <p>Review councillor numbers transparently</p> <p>Seek options to centralise some support services with other Councils</p> <p>Review management numbers in all non front-line services</p>
<p>As an employee, a review of causes and impact of system/network slowing/outage to minimise lost time and improve productivity. Also, a review of maximising attendance procedures to address recurring attendance issues with some officers that are left unaddressed and (potentially) passed on to different departments/teams following redeployment or internal move.</p> <p>As a resident, making a definitive and final decision on the Whitesands Flood Prevention scheme. It's a matter that has been going on for too long, and you're never going to be able to please everyone.</p>
<p>The cost of living crisis is impactful and therefore budget decisions should be made with that in mind so as not to increase the cost of living for those in D&G. In relation to reduction of resources, particularly in relation to professional people, support services and education resources, this would be a mistake and would ultimately end up costing more money in the future. Invest in people and resources, don't take away; especially from vulnerable people who need the most support. If you reduce the amount of staff (ie in education), this will likely cause issues with retention of staff due to increased pressure and stress (current staff are already feeling this) and could result in more sickness, absence etc which would cost the Council more.</p>
<p>Would a small team of council electricians/odd jobs men who would be called upon to change light bulbs etc around the region result in savings? - Would be interesting if this would significantly reduce costs rather than hire external contractors in to do these routine tasks at a vastly inflated price. It would be interesting to see how much is paid to external contractors region wide for changing lightbulbs and whether having someone in each of our 4 shires would possibly present a saving - after travel was taken into account?</p> <p>Council buildings should have regular maintenance. It appears that matters are not dealt with as an issue presents itself but left till the issues have further deteriorated leading to significant work needing done incurring higher costs for repairs.</p> <p>Teams calls should be the first port of call when having a meeting to limit the number of journeys in pool cars - this would probably save the council a significant amount of money.</p> <p>Could all schools have access to the same "revision" software for pupils studying for exams. Would the council's buying power mean that these packages could be cheaper if bought on mass - ie instead of schools using various packages could they all use the same and the council could potentially negotiate a better price. this would also mean that all pupils are getting access to the same resources no matter which school they attend and leads to a more even playing field for all.</p>
<p>Whilst it's a tough one remove the no redundancy policy and stop retaining staff on redeployment for several years</p>
<p>Education should be a priority, this is an area where cuts should not be occurring. This is our children's futures we are jeopardising. We are seeing higher numbers of children with additional support needs. Funding should continue to be provided to specialist teams who work hard to ensure they are 'getting it right for every child' - supporting children and families, as well as nursery/school staff, who are already at breaking point. Nursery staff and teachers need the support of visiting specialists to help them to cope with the ever</p>

<p>increasing demands on them, as well as the specialist advice they are given, to help them to meet children's specific needs. Early Intervention is key in the early years, which should continue to be delivered by experienced and knowledgeable specialist teaching staff who are trained to deliver specific interventions, aimed at having a positive impact on the children they are working with. A child receiving the correct support in the early years could result in them needing far less, if any, as they progress through school.</p>
<p>Stop maintaining areas of land not belonging to the council, unless owners are paying for it. Pass responsibility for all playgrounds on external land eg. Wheatly Homes, to the land owner.</p>
<p>One would imagine that all of the selected options presented would be considered as a matter of course in a well run and managed organisation !!!</p>
<p>I work in a school and see first hand how schools are already struggling with their already limited budgets and feel strongly that Education should not be a target of any of these cuts/cost savings. Children's education will suffer further, when their education has already been badly affected in recent years with Covid and the challenges and restraints schools have had with existing budgets they have had to work with. Further cuts will mean schools are unable to provide the level of care/support and attention that our children need. Reducing any support staff within schools will put more pressures on Teachers and remaining staff, which will ultimately affect the children's education.</p>
<p>Stop giving the teachers pay rises. Or make them performance related. There are many many inadequate teachers in our schools earning a fortune for poor work. Stand up to the teaching unions!</p>
<p>Stop maintaining land that does not belong to the Council and give responsibility back to the landowners. Current areas include Georgetown, Calside, Heathhall and Bloomfield.</p> <p>Close and sell depot at Castledykes, Dumfries. Staff there can easily work from the main depot at Cargen Tower.</p> <p>Remove sick pay entitlement for those abusing the system. Current Maximising attendance policy not working.</p>
<p>Compulsory redundancies amongst middle and senior management and keep front line services. There is no need for example for all the meaningless reports prepared for Committees</p>
<p>Closing leisure facilities in Castle Douglas would impact lots of people who need to swim for health benefits. Increasing costs to use leisure facilities would deter people from using the facilities. Rationalising school estate should be a priority and merging schools which are close together if the cost saving is not swallowed up by transport provision. Reducing general waste collections to every 3 weeks would result in more waste piling up in bags for some households and increasing pests, odours other complaints. Has removal of roadside bins increased the amount of verge cleaning required to collect rubbish. Adding a minimal charge to attend Youth Beatz should be trialled to raise funds. Community/environmental groups could take over the flower beds Introducing parking fees would deter people from entering towns and make out of town shopping the preference. Visitors have also expressed delight in not having to pay in towns so free parking encourages tourists to visit towns and spend in smaller local businesses.. Fix potholes properly the first time would reduce repeat repairs. Patting in tar with a shovel which will come out the next time it rains is pointless.</p>
<p>Proposals for reduction of services within education need to give consideration to the impact on our learners and on staff wellbeing. The reduction or withdrawal of services needs to be done with a clear plan in place ensuring we do not further impact the poor attainment in the region or already high staff absence rates.</p> <p>Although these proposals offer savings have the alternative consequences been considered, for example removal of the flu immunisations for school staff. What is the proposed cost of supply cover to cover the increased staff absence due to staff being absent because they have the flu? Has this been considered or examined?</p>
<p>No sorry I've no other ideas apart from my chosen options</p>

<p>The proposed saving in management is rather ridiculous when the recent restructure of senior management increased costs for no good reason. Heads of Service and the new Assistant Directors received between £7K-£15K in unsolicited pay rises with all incumbents being reappointed. This is a farce, reverse those pay rises and you'll have the money now being sought from lower level management.</p>
<p>I fully appreciate the council need to make savings and as you will see have shared my thoughts through this consultation. However, if trying to encourage families and people to move to Dumfries and Galloway(a wonderful part of Scotland) then the council needs to be considering very carefully what there is going to be left to offer them. If we reduce and cut services too much then we are making the region less appealing for people wanting to move here.</p>
<p>Many of my answers were made with the view that they weren't at all desirable, but that if cuts need to be made then said options were the best options available. I think that retaining 'community presence', such as the flowers, is important for community wellbeing and it just generally being a nice place to live for everyone. That said, some questions should have been broken down. For example, the question about flowers didn't say what the outcome of no in-house provision would be. Would flower displays be outsourced, or would there not be any flowers at all? I also don't support the closure of CD swimming pool, (I don't live there), but I would support facilities' closure during less busy times.</p> <p>NB I am recently retired but worked for DGC for 23 years (in Communities) so do have an understanding of the inner workings of the Council. It is my personal opinion that some roles are over burdened but some are definitely not!</p>
<p>With the youth beatz I would charge for a ticket if continuing</p>
<p>Please stop spending money on unnecessary consulting fees. It would seem that every time a proposal comes up you employ consultants at a vast fee instead of utilising the many employees you already have. You could also look at the number of management employees you have in relation to workforce employees and reduce where necessary</p>
<p>End un-necessary spending, money wasted on things not needed purchased unnecessarily. thorough look at every dept and what they spend there money on. True KPIs not manufactured.</p>
<p>I made the above decisions as it makes sense but the middle higher management needs drastically cut before targeting the lowest paid who keep schools open and operating - Shame on You</p>
<p>Council employees to fund their own mobile phones and not have them supplied by the council.</p>
<p>Another suggestion for saving would be Taxicard scheme.</p>
<p>I feel that D&G Council should be looking at their higher up employers who should be taking a salary cut. It is ridiculous that schools are most likely to be effected by cuts mainly the ASL classes which is completely unfair. When you have councillors who are earning way above anyone else and maybe have a look at the expenses that are claimed. The battery bins are another waste of money as are the food caddy bins. Majority of my neighbours do not use these and this is another waste of money. The chiefs of D&G won't be hardest hit it'll be the working class and low income families are per usual.</p>
<p>Further offering and extension of digital services so residents can conduct all interactions with council on line. Anyone digitally excluded to have library support. Transition away from costly face to face interaction Reduction of council asset base and co location with partner agencies to ensure sustainable building use. BMS, central management heating controls Solar panels on all possible council facilities / direct wire arrangements Stop all interdepartmental recharging Examine shared service potential with Scottish Borderlands Partners - at minimum deliver common process sets</p>
<p>Stop paying for costly consultations that don't go anywhere Make staff multi skilled to multi task across ALL departments Pay SSP rather than full pay for staff sickness/absentees as it is high. Reduced pay will encourage staff to work not call in sick</p>
<p>The Council is already frequently in legal breach of its obligations towards education employees due to the slashes in classroom and ASL support. This is already quite likely to result in legal action against the Council</p>

by affected employees with the backing of their trade unions. Any further cuts in service will turn this likelihood into a certainty.
Reduce fleet vehicles - now online meeting is the norm, much less travel is required.
I think some of them are really good options, I think reductions in management, streamlining and centralising services could potentially be a lot of savings. In relation to Youth Beatz, it is really something that helps our town. Brings tourists - we don't have firework displays etc so I think we shouldn't get rid of Youthbeatz. Instead, I think people would happily pay £2-£5 a ticket. It would then in turn, pay for itself.
Stop the maintenance of areas privately owned. I.e. grass cutting in private housing estates
Why so many cuts for teaching posts when there is already a teacher employment crisis
REDACTED
Over inflated wage structure is a scandal. Review the discretionary area committee funding, it is viewed as pocket funding for elected members to support their favourite projects. Ensure that common good funds are spent within the area. Give community funding to communities. You do not own communities.
I definitely think reducing the frequency of waste collections would make sense, as my bins are generally less than half full each week.
Close all libraries and transfer stock to community run libraries in other buildings, libraries are redundant and a drain on resources. Registration services can be done over the phone or in Stranraer or Dumfries or Gretna, absolutely no need for so many registration offices. Kiddy activities done in libraries in an attempt to boost customer figures can be done elsewhere, for example schools or community halls. All remaining customer services can be done on line. Utilise school buildings more that are sitting empty in the holidays, weekends and evenings. Buildings 'gifted' to the community that people protest over when the council tries to close them should be taken over by the community- why should the council have the costs of running them when they become superfluous. The council should have the guts to stick by cost saving decisions like closing Dalry High and not u turn when a few residents kick up a fuss. Charge for parking! Council should invest more in community safety teams and litter pickers. For a region almost solely reliant on tourism income the litter left lying about along road sides and in lay bys is disgusting. Should invest in bringing back admin staff for departments to operate more effectively and efficiently- these jobs went while all top heavy management jobs were kept with many of these managers being superfluous, ineffective and incompetent and promoted above their capabilities.
The question regarding community halls and public toilets - I support the transfer of community halls to community groups, but I do not support the closure or transfer of public toilets. These facilities are not adequate currently - this would not lead to improvement.
Invest in schools and young people don't penalize them. Don't introduce all those cuts that will have a massive impact on our future
Employ traffic wardens to enforce parking restrictions.
Yes, I would like to propose that the senior management at the council be cut. They have lead the worst education results of any scottish authority and yet have been promoted. Why is there salary not reflected on the website as teachers salaries are. The public have a right to know what they earn and what for.
Further cuts to supports for primary education are unacceptable. The service is currently not performing well and by removing SfL teachers and the inclusion hub will considerably worsen the issues and problems faced by schools.
Introduce a congestion charge zone within the town centre, promote the use EV's. Promote working from home for Council staff consolidating offices and sell off under utilised assets; results in reduced power usage, cleaning staff, heating, maintenance costs. Don't increase Council Tax but have a Council Tax revaluation to make it a fairer system, with a new tone date in the 2000's not at 1991 values.
I strongly disagree with the fact a lot of these suggested cuts are to education. Schools are struggling as it is, never mind making further cuts.
Highest paid in the council to take a 20% pay reduction with bonuses tied to success.
Review of employees earning over £100,000 a year.
There should be no cuts in education while vanity projects such as youth beats continue untouched. Charge

for tickets, a free festival that costs as much as it does in the current climate while children in education suffer is shameful
Redefine what poverty actually is. The Council focus too much on tackling poverty and throw money at projects that do nothing to eradicate poverty, they only tick the box that they've supported a 'tackling poverty' project. Give to them that need, not those who think they need and already receive all the hand outs going!
Please do not cut budgets relating to Education and Youth Work, young people have enough to contend with in 2024, reducing and removing their services will lead to further problems in the local communities, adding to anti social and criminal behaviour. Which manner communities are already struggling with in the main part due to a lack of services and facilities for young people in D&G in general.
Removal of corsa fleet, reduction in insurance, fuel and maintenance costs. There is no need to provide workers with transport to work. Majority of work force in the UK utilise own modes of transport, it it part of your job when you sign a contract that you maybe required to travel.
Removing anti poverty funding in the long run will cost the council more money through more people becoming homeless
Need to look at the number of libraries in region there is no need for 3 in Dumfries. These need rationalise.
Kids at school shouldn't be impacted by reductions same for disabled kids. Scrap youth beats. It's good but a total waste of money
Suggestion: New support packages for adults are currently being scrutinised. I would personally suggest looking at/reviewing existing support packages where there is a high element of non-personal care support.
Nothing here about libraries? They can't be sustainable any more. Better to keep the swimming pools and close the libraries.
Suggestion 1 - REDACTED
Suggestion 2- No savings should be made from frontline staff. Target senior management efficiencies.
Suggestion 3- stop all senior management working from home arrangements. Get them in their office to increase their productivity.
Suggestion 4 - do not try to make efficiencies from people who have disabilities/ additional support needs
Suggestion 5 - remove all duplication with SOSE and other economic development organisations. We've probably about 200 folk "facilitating" regional growth by "talking about it" and doing very little.
Suggestion 6 - adopt a subcontracting approach for leisure and sport, re-align active schools budget into deliverers rather than coordinators.
Suggestion 7 - Close libraries
Suggestion 8 - invest in council ran roads team, increase capacity rather than lining pockets of external contractors
Suggestion 9 - reduce number of elected members and their packages. Eg Wifi, Devices etc.
Suggestion 10 - Do not target education for savings unless it is to remove number of senior management posts.
Suggestion 11 - Charge £5 a ticket for youth beatz
Suggestion 12 - REDACTED
The suggestions made in the consultation are clearly derived from Senior Managers who ultimately would rather target frontline staff rather than tackle the inefficiencies within council operations.

I think the council should look at transport costs within schools. The number of children who are now ferried to schools out with their catchment is shocking. Also if parents wish their children to attend alternative schools they should have to cover the cost or arrange their own transportation.
More money needed for learning support staff, more staff are needed as behaviour so bad. The violence is rising and is taking all our support to crowd control these children. Learning support is being taken away from the children that need it. It's not fair on the ones they want to learn.
The anti poverty measure are not needed in council as DAGCAS can do this work.
Savings could be made by not employing consultants at astronomical costs...
Yes no need for all the managers as there is far too many doing the same job would free up a lot of money instead off targeting the workforce at the bottom of the pay scale
To follow on from the comments of my colleagues, I must ask that some time is taken to read the below budget consultation, with particular emphasis being given to the anti-poverty funding removal aspects of the proposal, I am currently part of a team within Dumfries and Galloway Council that aid and support tenants within the region who are struggling with rental arrears, the support and service we offer to tenants can make the difference between a family remaining in the home and a family becoming homeless, whilst saving a family from becoming homeless helps monetary wise, It is the anxiety, nerves and fear that I feel our team helps to support families with, stopping little ones having to move schools and question why they are moving home when they don't want to, our team is at risk of not being funded and I feel very strongly that we make a real difference to many families who are at risk of becoming homeless within Dumfries and Galloway.
Don't take resources away from the most vulnerable in our region. Taking away this kind of support will increase costs down the line. Schools are not capable of responding to the needs of children with autism and ASN in mainstream settings. Specialist expertise is needed to build awareness and capacity.
If community centres and leisure facilities are to be cut, third sector needs some funding to fill this gap. Same with youth work. They can do it cheaper but not for free.
Community planning has not worked for a long time - but working together better does need to happen. Perhaps this needs to be at an operational level - colocating council and third sector staff in third sector run facilities. (As well as health and social care staff).
Supporting the bid for a national park to bring tourist money into the region
Concentrate on core services.
Teacher numbers should not be cut. There are many challenges for the workload of teachers
Schools are already stripped back to the minimum and are massively struggling with the increase in violent behaviour and the reduction in support for learning.
Nothing here about reducing directors, heads of department and managers. This would save money.
Number of elected members? Why do we need three for each ward?
Reduce the top heavy management structure of the Council, it is long overdue. Consider changing policy on redundancy especially in relation to offering voluntary redundancy, that will clear some of the dead weight in the Councils management structure. A cost in the short term which will translate to future savings. Protect schools, social care and other statutory Council services fully. Protect the lower paid workers who do the day to day jobs and actually 'run' the council. Hitting the public pocket with increased fees never works, for example increasing the cost of Bulky uplift will lead to more fly tipping. Removing roadside bins equals more litter. Please use a more common sense approach when finally making budget decisions in February.
I think reducing tackling poverty funding would be very short sighted. In the current economic climate and support needed for people experiencing hardship and homelessness is vital, this would only create an increase in other services.
Council needs to be proactive and move with the times. Current management structures are top heavy, staff are not being allowed to retire instead they are being utilised in other roles following restructuring. Anyone not in a permanent role but filling in should be allowed to retire. This would free up funds. Also people who are not working but who are able could be used to provide services like gardening, litter picking. Benefits should be the minimum amount to live on you should not be better off not working than working. Although I

know this is not council led but may be an idea that could be put to the government as a way of making savings.
I've heard the Welfare and Housing Options team are under consideration of being cut and just think this would be an incredibly terrible decision. They have helped so many people and will continue to do so. It's a vital support service for so many and without it a lot of families and individuals will be left struggling. Please don't cut more essential services when there are so many non essential ones which could be cut instead.
Pay freezes on senior councillors, Money distributed equitably rather than equally.
Why is there no option of what I would like to save?
The regions schools are struggling and failing to adequately educate children with additional needs and behavioural problems already. Cutting funding will exacerbate this problem and lead to more issues further down the line.
Please reduce the excessive number of managers within the Council.
Remove Supporting Learners and Devolve responsibility to schools for ASN, Inclusion, and Support Staff.
Education is already on its knees. More cuts to education at school level will only cause burnout of staff, increased stress levels, loss of teachers & staff, as well as creating a future workforce not ready when they leave school. No more education cuts! Support for learning teachers are vital. When exactly will teachers/slt find time to write iep's, hold meetings with families? The 35 hour week is already ridiculous, very few teachers work less than 50 a week to do the best for our kids.
Some people are struggling to pay council tax and reduce cost of council tax
Council staff being more efficient is the best way to save money. In Thornhill, the same stretch of road was painted with double yellows, then completed removed, then one side painted with a single yellow all in the space of a few weeks. Complete waste of money and resources.
Reduce council staffing in all areas. Especially senior management. The salaries are ridiculous and lets be honest, a lot of the management are not needed. The amount of money spent on nonsense is disgusting. T shirts, hoodies etc for youthworks. The George Hotel is another disgrace. Council have no money but can fund that! Staff absence being paid. Its time to come into the real world.
Cuts to learning support is not a way forward. This will have a huge effect on the attainment gap. Also if you plan to close inclusion services what happens to the children that currently use these facilities? You say they will be managed in school but the reason these pupils are in these facilities is that the schools cannot cope with them when in school. A school is not a one size fits all and these children need to work within smaller classes with increased support and 1 to 1 support. If these closures go ahead then the council will be failing these children. They already feel that they are not wanted in their current schools and pulling a service that works for them is appalling. More money needs to be spent on these provisions to ensure that these children are not forgotten about or constantly excluded. They have a right to a full time Education provision which doesn't have to be in a main stream school.
Don't close Castle Douglas Swimming Pool!! It's such an asset for Castle Douglas and so many people depend on the pool as a place of relaxation and it's so good for people's mental health. What would happen to all the kids doing swimming lessons and all the gym users?
Schools are on their knees at the minute and further cuts will not be in the best interests of the children.
The proposed savings for education are absolutely ridiculous. There are not enough support staff in schools, children are violent and staff are being assaulted on a daily basis, any cuts to support for learning or inclusion are absurd. Schools are relying on pupil equity funding to operate as the cost of the school day is so high. There are a record amount of teachers on the supply list who can not get a teaching position. Quality teaching and learning can not take place due to extreme behaviour, lack of additional support, lack of support in class and increasing class sizes. I understand the council need to save money however they also need to raise attainment which can not occur with the current issues arising in schools.
I am actually astonished that the majority of these cuts are to Education and in particular, additional support for learning and our most vulnerable communities. It is absolutely abhorrent and given how badly D&G is failing its young people at the moment I find this an absolutely ludicrous approach!?
The budget decisions need to be based on the effects upon the people affected by the decisions - ie decisions about schools should be based on the effect it will have upon the children and the team around

<p>them. It is important that already vulnerable groups (and those supporting them) are not penalised by budget cuts (for example children, especially those with Additional Support Needs).</p>
<p>Reduce high numbers of senior posts ,work more closely with communities ... what do ward officers actually do ?</p> <p>Please do not lean on wind farm monies ,we don't want them !</p>
<p>As a parent of five children, some grown up I believe that Scottish education is already failing our young people and that cutting funding within education by reducing teachers and removing the vital supporting learners service which gives invaluable support and assistance to children with additional needs is definitely the wrong thing to do. This service does not just help these children but also their peers as by helping them to engage in school allows the rest of their peers to excel too. Without these dedicated teams and expertise these children will just fall through the cracks and become forgotten children. Can we really in all honesty allow this to happen?</p>
<p>This is really confusing</p>
<p>This was a very difficult form to complete - you asked if i support the theme - i have put what i think should go but if you are expecting me to say what should say then i have completed it wrong. I work for the council so know a lot of the services but with the descriptions so little it is hard to get a full understanding of the impact this will have on the service as a whole.</p>
<p>You might get increased response and engagement if your consultation questionnaire was written in plain English rather than local government jargon - many of those most impacted by some of the proposals won't engage with the questionnaire if they can't understand what they're voting for!!</p> <p>Some of the options seem so common sense that it's hard to believe there needs to be a consultation about them (for example, removing vacant positions that are no longer required - are you just hiring people for the sake of it at the moment?!). If all of these proposed restructurings will genuinely improve service provision in the way this consultation describes, then why haven't they been done already?</p> <p>It is nice to see some measures that will impact the council directly - I don't care if the windows get cleaned as often as they are now, if it means a disabled person gets the support they need.</p>
<p>please do not close Dalbeattie public toilet, library or waste recycling centre.</p>
<p>We need to maintain investment in our young people to ensure we have the skills for the future</p>
<p>You cannot continue to slash ASN support. Teachers are already at breaking point in the schools where the pupil to staff ratio is maximised.</p>
<p>Our schools need more money not less</p> <p>The schools in this area are failing our children due to lack of funding</p>
<p>Increase direct revenue from holiday makers, including increasing caravan pitches and motor home pitches in scenic areas. Agreed prices and online payments in areas with currant build up in peak season.</p> <p>Can be staffed by the current roads and maintenance department, as paid for pitches can be affordable at £30, but free loading an be fined £100.</p>
<p>I think the staffing maybe needs to be looked at as there will be some staff that have worked for the council for years taking a wage and doing bare minimum.</p> <p>More likely in the managerial side of things.</p>
<p>Don't shaft the teachers! They are already too few, with too much to do. Listening to the teachers I know, i do not understand how councils can attract anyone to do the job under the resources you leave them with.</p>
<p>Funding for maintenance in Secondary schools needs to be improvements. In the schools budgets and/or capital improvements, most notably for older schools like Annan Academy. You could try a trial on advertises sponsoring roundabouts for example to bring in money. Or look to what Newham Council in London have done and explore the possibility of selling unused IT IP addresses.</p>
<p>Schools are struggling with the current budget as it is. To consider reducing the teaching workforce further will create more stress on an already overworked profession. Class sizes are too large and there is not enough support to meet the needs of current learners. To consider cutting support further would seriously damage the quality of education learners in Dumfries and Galloway are getting. Schools need more teachers and learning assistants, not less!</p>
<p>Our education system must not be impacted adversely. Dumfries and Galloway Council are currently NOT meeting the needs of young people with ASN. Learning Centres are bursting with places limited, particularly in the Stewartry. Inclusion bases are in a similar situation and closure is not an option.</p>

Disappointed most with the proposal to close the garden nursery. This is the only department that is constantly and consistently admired across the region.
Cut the salary of those at tops, including the Director and Head of services who get paid to do very little.
I note from the introduction to the survey that cost of teachers salaries has been identified as a separate item? What is the reason for this? It does not state how many teachers this includes which is misleading to members of the public who may feel that this is a cut to be made as it is not value for money. Why is cutting teachers an option when the Scottish Government has provided I believe approx £149 million additional funds to recruit additional teachers, with the recent budget also allocating additional funding for teachers. Cutting class sizes should be the priority not teachers who are committed to teaching the future generation of our children. There is no mention of any proposal to cut posts at the top of the council? In particular the recently promoted posts for managers in the Education Department. If some of those posts were cut at the top we could recruit additional teachers and cut class sizes not reduce teacher numbers (maybe at least 10 teachers)? I have looked at statistics on pupil achievement and Dumfries and Galloway has the lowest achievement record in Scotland. Not sure this is public knowledge but something parents should be made aware of! Surely another valid reason for cutting these posts of the people overseeing and managing these results. If this council would stop wasting money on projects that don't work, there would be no need for any or little of these proposed cuts. However, my experience is that the decisions will already have been made and the survey information is just paying lip service. Cut the jobs and important services but keep a management structure that is failing the people of Dumfries and Galloway in every aspect.
Do what needs done to get the roads repaired
In the current climate where learners are struggling and behaviour in schools are becoming more violent and where there are hundreds of teachers struggling to find work I find it appalling that there are plans to reduce teacher numbers and support for learning further. The gap is widening and more and more learning is being lost in our schools because of behaviour and learners not being able to get the support they need to access their learning in the classroom. You should consider Getting it right for every child before even considering cutting teachers and learning assistants further. We are failing our children.
Reduce the cost of executive management at the council
Savings seem to be focused on specific directorates there doesnt seem to be savings options from Economy & Development are their sections value for money savings can be made there.
Need to stop wasting money on revamping offices
Reverse the decision to increase directors and heads service salaries the approx £400k a year wage increases members agreed for directors/heads service by 10k and 20k a year is unnecessary expense at a time savings and service cuts were needing made.
Cut back / stop functions, events, grants if communities wish to celebrate traditions, anniversaries etc they should raise funds to cover costs and not relie on council funding it.
CE, directors and heads of service reduce their working week to 3 or 4 days a week save at least £700k 3 day week 2.1M over 3 years or £350k a year £1.5M in 3 years this doesn't include on cost would help save services for the communities.
Introduce car parking charges even 50p up to an hour £1 for 1-2 hours etc all other towns charge parking.
Do not remove public toilets or recycle centres this will increase more fly tipping costing more to clear.
Plant bedding with perennials and not annuals
I cannot believe the proposed cuts to education when this is a service who is already failing to support the needs of the young people.
All children need the best possible start on their educational journey and the focus of that is a welcoming school with enthusiastic stress free teachers that have good support in class to enable them to do their job to the best of their ability. Less support in class will result in more teachers either leaving their profession or

<p>going off with stress. Early years particularly need support to deal with toilets accidents, unsettled children, children playing inside and outside at same time, children with emotional difficulties to feel cared for and supported To achieve the educational excellence the government looks for and to deliver targets and grades to be proud of all teachers needs to be well supported and this is why learning assistants needs to be increased not decreased in numbers. Councils will end up paying more if they decrease support in class for teachers as it will cost far more to pay for a supply teachers, who does not know class, than it does to pay for a learning assistant when teachers go off with stress. Health and education should not suffer with budget cuts. Increase council revenue by introducing a nominal £1 charge for parking apart from hospitals. When money is short save money not putting on in service training as it is mostly information you already know.</p>
<p>Close small schools. Far too many schools across the council area. Biggest saving here.</p>
<p>Reduce the number of senior management and employ more people to do valuable jobs and retain essential services. Recruit additional teachers, reduce class sizes and reduce number of probationary teachers. Dumfries and Galloway has the highest number of probationary teachers year on year and the lowest pupil achievement level in Scotland. Is there a relation to these 2 processes?</p>
<p>Not worth making comments none taken into consideration by this council</p>
<p>Some of these questions are difficult to answer if you are not familiar with the workings of council departments and implications for any proposed cuts. Cutting teacher numbers should not be an option as additional funding has been provided by the Scottish Government and in the recent budget.</p>
<p>Keeping people in their jobs should be paramount at service delivery level and direct consumer/customer contact point... less so with non-direct contact provision. Teachers are essential in maintaining education levels and withdrawing investment from schools by reducing support or teaching roles would be like shooting yourself in the foot - our children deserve better and their future is our future.</p>
<p>Education is already at an all time low. Reducing teaching or support staff in a world where we have a rise in children with additional needs or behaviour needs this can't happen. Teaching staff are already stretched and are feeling ill and over worked. Money needs to be put into education not removed. Street lighting could be monitored closer so there is less waste when the lights are not needed. More rehabilitation for offenders such as litter picking, care in their community.</p>
<p>Reducing the number of councillors would be a significant saving.</p> <p>Street lighting - have people out and about checking that lights aren't burning during the daytime or set up a report system.</p> <p>Reduce the number of leased properties.</p> <p>Turn heating down in customer service centres.</p> <p>Bring back Class Dojo or find a replacement for all schools to reduce staff time and resources printing things off and updating webpages so teachers can focus on teaching.</p> <p>Enforce fines for cars parked on double yellows and using bus lanes.</p>
<p>I am shocked at the level of reductions suggested that will affect education in D&G. I truly shocked that the council have suggested cutting additional support for children by 25 or 50% support for children and teachers in schools is already lacking. Getting rid of support staff and teachers is not going to get it right for every child.</p>
<p>Consider the number of secondary schools - does Dalry need a through school at such a high cost per pupil.</p>
<p>Youth Beatz - make it a nominal entry fee festival rather than free. With around an estimated 40,000 attendees at even £2.50 per head this would reduce costs by over 60%. Given the prices charged for fair rides and food and drinks an entry fee of £2.50 is relatively insignificant, and if attendees thus spend less on the rides and food then at least more income is being retained in the region. Charge a licence fee to the fair operator and the food & beverage vans. Encourage more use of local companies in the set-up, operation and break-down of the festival so more money is retained within the region rather than being exported to suppliers domiciled outwith the region. The festival should thus focus on maximising income retention within the region given the known multiplier effects of that income.</p>

<p>Parking Charges - with Dumfries being the largest town in the region would it not make sense to run the pilot scheme in a smaller town to gauge the impact on local businesses. If Dumfries has to be the location for the pilot we would assume the two fairs on the Whitesands would be made to pay lost parking charge revenue for their use of the parking on the Whitesands and Brooms Rd carpark.</p>
<p>Feel strongly that you should not reduce school staff flu jags, autism support or additional language support in schools. Please also don't make your office staff clean their own buildings.</p>
<p>Reduce senior management</p>
<p>Schools are already struggling with support . This area cannot be cut any further.</p>
<p>Although it is clear there is a clear drive to reduce it costs, I think there is still significant and widespread inefficiency- buffets at corporate events, over staffing from historic models . E.g Also the early years model for having the full cohort of staff in school nurseries even though the full complement may not be required to April.</p>
<p>Overall the proposed cuts appear to be reasonable options, apart from cutting front line services to educate our pupils. Cutting teaching staff and support for learning teachers would be detrimental to the pupils education. Cuts should be made to the management structure as it is very top heavy and I am certain losing a few at that level would be a good cost saving exercise and not a great affect on the pupils' education. Cut class sizes not teachers.</p>
<p>Difficult to select cuts to budget when you are aware colleagues and services will be affected. Cuts to number of managers would cover a lot of the other proposed budget cuts.</p>
<p>I work within the education sector and the need for extra support is highly needed within these settings. There are so many children with various additional support needs that require holistic support. Especially, now that 2 year olds can attend settings all day. This changes the dynamic in a Elc Education hugely and I feel they should be offered a separate setting/room or only a morning /afternoon session.</p>
<p>Difficult to select 3 weekly bin collection and at the same time a reduction in waste recycling centres. No reduction in teaching staff should be implemented as quality teaching is the basis for good learning and achievement</p>
<p>No reduction in teaching staff as funding provided by Scottish Government and additional funding by</p>
<p>Cuts should not be made to the posts that directly engage in and impact children and young people's education and wellbeing. Proposals on the restructure of the ELC, ASN, EAL and Autism outreach services will have a detrimental and long lasting effect on the outcomes of every child and young person within our region.</p>
<p>Everything possible must be done to reduce the workload on our schools. Many staff regularly work significantly above their contracted hours. Headteacher recruitment is in crisis and some if these proposals would make this even worse. Rationalisation of the school estate and reduction in teacher numbers is the only answer</p>
<p>There are hardly any teaching jobs and schools have little support for learning as it is so I strongly disagree with reducing this anymore and it is shocking you are even considering it!</p>
<p>Spend your money carefully and thoughtfully, you have consistently deemed some groups as more important than others, this is unfair and unjust. If everyone pays a share everyone should benefit from goods and services. Weekly bin collection is essential for EVERYONE, youthbeats is not essential to anyone. Street lighting is a requirement, unused community centres are not.</p>
<p>Reduce wages for council executives and stop using outside firms for consultation process</p>
<p>1/ Leisure centres and discounts , more can be done here, limit the youths timeline in facilities, this does affect adults attending the facility as there are so many of them, allow facilities to decide the best way to run their memberships (they know their clientele). 2/ Make all dept.'s pay for services from each other no exceptions. 3/ Parking charges- definitely charge for overstaying time limits- bring wardens back - especially for DG1. 4/ Generate income by fining shop owners who have empty shop fronts and derelict buildings, have a sliding scale. 5/ Have a better HR policy , there are lots of staff who take the mickey with sickness etc ,start making it unpaid for the 1st day or even 3 days of any sickness , this will save lots of money due to the fact people are at it, no more self cert .</p>

6/ Also implement a probation period for new starts -up to 2 years , can be let go more easily, this will help get rid of the (you cant get sacked from the council) .
Too much money wasted on projects or consultation for projects that don't go ahead. Use the money £145 million from the Scottish Government to recruit additional teachers and reduce class sizes. D&G has the worst attainment stats in Scotland! Something that I am ashamed of while people who were in charge of this get promoted!!!
Not sure why completing this as council will do as they want. There is no accountability.
We get a lot for our council tax compared to other areas, if you can increase it you should. Youth beatz is lovely but does it need to be free? Money spent on youth beatz could be better spent. Good luck!
Should be no reduction in teacher numbers but class sizes should be reduced to address attainment statistics. Dumfries and Galloway is worst in Scotland. Council has additional money from government to do this!
Reduce the amount of management who sit at the top in their offices and do nothing . Far too many chiefs being paid under ridiculous titles that aren't actually needed . If you got rid of most of them you would save a fortune
Stop wasting money and providing poor services. Cut top management jobs. Fewer staff and fewer services means fewer management.
You are asking people to help you make decisions on a budget that is going to affect all of us but most of us don't have sufficient background knowledge to make informed decisions.
Consult with employees before issuing survey. Some staff were not advised of proposed budget cuts/jobs
The education sector is already struggling enough. There are more and more children with additional support needs each year and with already high class sizes it is unmanageable, especially if there is talk of removing staff members. We need to make a drive to employ MORE learning assistants and ASL teachers, not reduce them.
It would have been helpful to have pros and cons associated with each option. Average reader not familiar with some of the job or department titles etc
EAL and ESOL support needs to be boosted, to help integrate professionals who have moved to the region as refugees and migrants. I see an acute need in a collaboration with the NHS Education to help with language training for medical professionals who have come to the region from Ukraine, Turkey, Syria, Poland and elsewhere, and could boost the work pool.
I was amazed at some of the questions and can clearly see why there is a funding issue. Money spent on things hardly anyone is aware of and benefit only a very small minority. The council has a reputation for self preservation for those at the top and those who have been there for so many years and have got so comfortable that all they care about is there guaranteed pay rises and fat pension pots. Many have no interest in the people of Dumfries & Galloway. Like the UK as a whole we have become too soft, pandering to the needs of multiple minorities who contribute nothing but get given everything.
The Management structure in D & G Council is excessive. Many are not even visible or effective. Where there is a Primary and Secondary in one campus, there should only be one Head Teacher. In some positions, I see people who are incapable of doing the job they are paid for. Some are earning a very sizable wage. It should be easier to re-deploy these people to a job more suitable to their capabilities and qualifications. If this is the case. their wage should reflect the new post. Where staff have been 'ineffective' they should not be promoted.
Cut the number of Senior Council Managers and reverse the recent Senior Manager pay rises. Start with 'Economic Development' as they are doing a terrible job and the vast majority of the public is unaware this department even exists.
Staffing is more managerial and needs end streamlined.
Hard choices need to be implemented as the current situation is unsustainable and as a D&G employee even I see wasted money on services and staffing that could be saved.
Cut top tier management salaries. Reduce number of Council buildings due to Working from Home staffs.
I would have selected more but the survey doesn't allow me as it says i have reached my limit. Funnily enough its the question on reducing management!!

Revise your vision and plan which are still unclear and wordy. Focus in what you must do.
<p>Consideration of impact to community as well as benefits.</p> <p>Considering whether short term reductions would create greater problems / cost at a later stage or to implement.</p> <p>Raised previously but considerable income could be generated through charging for blue badges. These are administered and issued by D&G council as a cost associated with no charge to the public, and most local authorities in Scotland charge for this.</p> <p>Demand for these will increase due to the older person demographic in D&G and approx 5000 are now issued / renewed per year. If chargeable significant income could be generated (approx £100k pa if charged £20 each which would not be unreasonable).</p>
Elected Officials are not given free food and and drink during their meetings- Why was the cost of catering for Elected members and paid officials not listed as a budget item?
Our kids struggle as it is for support in school with ASD eft and you're wanting to take more away! Absolutely terrible!!!
<p>Other ideas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximise income from Council's property portfolio. For properties being leased - charge commercial rents and review regularly. For properties being sold - do not give away assets but instead advertise for sale effectively on the open market and take to auction if necessary. 2. Maximise income from Planning. Monitor and enforce developer contributions and breaches of planning. 3. Common Good funds. Use these funds to maintain common good assets rather than the Council budget.
<p>It's a difficult one -the council has commitments it has to honour, everything is going up in price and it cannot keep dipping into reserves to keep things going as it's unsustainable.</p> <p>Consider how long a building is mothballed for before a decision is made on whether to sell it/community asset transfer. They seem to hang onto them, 'just in case'. They still attract repairs and maintenance costs, insurance costs etc. The longer they sit empty the become more at risk to vandalism, fire raising.</p>
stop paying people for being off sick, bring in a scheme to encourage staff to attend work
I think it is absolutely ridiculous trying to cut back on learning assistants in school when they are already pushed beyond limits as more and more children are relying on there support
<p>It seems schools will be the hardest hit in these potential savings plans. After spending 30 years in education in an administrative role in England, I understand all too well the pressures already faced in our schools.</p> <p>Admin staff are vital to the smooth running of the schools from admissions & exams to absence monitoring. I understand it is not cost effective to keep a school open with such low numbers, but here is D&G you have to also bear in mind the distance some pupils will have to travel to attend school and this can make for a very long school day, which will impact on their ability to keep up with their school work.</p> <p>I also do not agree with closing the swimming pool in Castle Douglas, as some residents will not be able to travel to Dumfries to use the facilities there.</p>
Cut higher up council employees wages, Look in house to what can be cut rather than affecting the people of Dumfries & Galloway.
Did not see the option of saving money by not squandering it on shoddy building contracts due to utter incompetence in your abilities.
I feel these cuts should not impact our children's education.
Disgusted to read the impact some of these proposals will have on children in D&G. The cuts to the additional support staff have already had a huge impact on schools, and further cuts of 25% or 50% would be detrimental to the education of these children. Facilities support staff and clerical staff in schools are also the backbone of successful establishments, teachers are pushed to their limits without having to take on additional jobs.
We need more help in our schools not less
Am sorry but this is disgusting, wanting to take money from our children with and without supported needs and to take away whatever clean up teams you have to less well, Have you actually seen the state of the streets and parks, makes me ashamed to stay in annan
Your questions display outrageous disregard for the education of the young; utterly shameful. I recently read that a well known Dumfries hotel got a grant of £400,000 and yet you are suggesting cuts to the most

vulnerable in society. Shame on you. Not one suggestion about reducing the salaries of well paid council staff. Everything is up for grabs. Does the Chief Executive really need more than £80,000 per year salary? Really?
Leaving the support teachers and anything to do with pupils not getting the support they need. There already isn't enough support for these kids who need it
Free school meals should only be for those that really need it not widespread to Primary five.
Get local school janitors to undertake maintenance + repair work rather than pay overpriced workmen from Glasgow.
Implement + update existing policy to remove disruptive pupils from school. Inclusion policy doesn't work & they need specialised services outwith mainstream school. Pupils should not be allowed to roam freely during class time. Take action where pupils are being disruptive & vandalising property.
Implement car park charges for pupils parking at school. If they can afford a car they should pay to park.
Sell empty council buildings when staff are relocated elsewhere.
Public toilet access are an asset to any rural town. Charities now need to become profitable especially longstanding ones. Must create their own profitable income to survive or close. Small schools need to amalgamate.
Making better use of the Council's existing estate in Dfs Town Centre and reducing use of rented premises (Cargen Tower) would gain benefits for businesses in the Town Centre, as well as on the the Council's purse.
I would be disappointed to see a rise in council tax. As a resident who lives in a higher band in a small village but doesn't have a high income, this would affect me and others like me. Especially as we do not have the access to services like those living in the larger towns. The food waste bin in a prime example - we pay our council tax but don't have access to this facility.
Reduce or pay off high level earners.
My son has autism and it affects him daily even at school. The schools are under staffed by people who has the qualification to work with people with all sorts disabilities. I do struggle with trying to get my son full time care at school as he jumping to teacher to teacher changes like that affects them massively. We need more support in schools even outside
As a parent of a child with additional education support needs .. I think some of the proposed cuts are ludicrous and obviously come from the mouths of people who do not care about the children/ parents in the community
Looking at the budget, it is obvious that council staff costs are extremely high. 178M if I remember right. For this region, although large territory but not large number of residents, the amount of council paid staff is ridiculous. Anyone that ever dealt with anything to do with council departments knows that 80% of staff work extremely inefficiently. Huge amount of the positions could be eliminated and the workload spread across other members of staff. There are hard working people but there is a huge amount that aren't even sure what the job description is (I've overheard the conversation myself). If the position isn't essential and workload isn't big, it should be closed. Try going to licensing department, for example, half the staff are walking around, sipping coffee, having great time of doing nothing but yet try to get a building permission or renovation, remodelling decision, you can wait for years! The responsibilities and work load for most council paid staff should be increased significantly. By letting go of non essential staff you could slightly increase the pay for those that are kept and still make a saving. Bottom line, efficiency is the key.
Taking technicians out of main stream school on a daily basis is a major concern due to health and safety in the work place . Teachers haven't the time to do these jobs like machine checks ,emergency stop checks ,emptying extraction bags, the workshop environment around the classroom being kept clean and tidy after every period for the next class, this is a major concern and won't be done by the teachers because of time scales. These are a few there are plenty more I could say but the health and safety of the kids is priority these cuts might hamper that I would think very carefully before this is implemented.

This choice is because I'm a technician and the day to day running of the school workshops has to be done on site to be safe I do lots more for the school when asked like fitting worktops noticeboards repairing pe equipment repairs in home ec driving the minibus all savings to the school and loads more all saving the school money.

Too much management in education - more teachers working with pupils, less PTs, less QIOs and less people making up training courses on Teams which are invariably a waste of time - education should include working directly with pupils, otherwise 'management' staff get out of touch and have unrealistic expectations. There is plenty of very well paid staff in Education Scotland to do all these types of jobs and ensure a consistent approach throughout the country. Also, how much money goes into SWEIC each year? Again, could be covered by EScot. remit.

School PCOS system means resources need to be bought from specific and very expensive suppliers. Many of these items could be bought for a fraction of the cost on Amazon etc.

3 weekly bin lifts are fine but keep recycling centres open otherwise it makes no sense! Also, significant increasing on council tax for less services does not make sense although a nominal e.g. £5 increase each year would hardly be noticed and still generate extra income.

Less money given out in benefits - disabilities aside - there is no way people should be better off financially not working than those who are working. Incentivise getting into work not pay for childcare so people can sit at home.

Less management in council also, too many chiefs across the board and not enough 'workers' on the ground.

The council is far too big. It covers an area bigger than Luxemburg and is very removed from the people it claims to serve. There is little or no local involvement. This is not just true of D&G but throughout Scotland we need a serious rethink on how democracy works and can really engage the population in the provision of all local government and not only its finances. This list is a shallow political move by the few elected to the council that does not address the real problem.

By reducing more support in most / all aspects of education and early years, it will have major implications for staff and children. There is already a need for increasing the support for additional needs and behaviours, which if removed or reduced will see more staff and children suffer mentally and physically - with a deterrent to their education not to mention their health and well being. This in turn will cost more with covering staff sickness and have more anti social behaviour in and out of schools. The levels of attainment of pupils will decrease and if less clerical and janitorial staff are also cut then teaching staff will be left to pick up the pieces of more and more. Some things need tackled there and then - no good having to log a call with a team who will then at some point come out to fix the problem.

The savings options are very limited towards certain areas of education and leisure. I would expect savings at customer service centres and reviews on staffing of these. A heavy reliance on casual staff for which is an extra cost on top of full time staff? Managers/team leaders etc should be used to cover staff holidays, within centres. Staff contracts should be looked at old models of Saturday only workers instead of using full time staff on a rota basis to cover the Saturday opening hours. Staff working on a Saturday during Easter holidays, perhaps a closure of libraries etc at the Easter weekend. Closing some facilities of libraries at Eastriggs, and Lochmaben why are these open when there is little use and the extra it costs to move staff around to cover these!!! These remaining open is glory hunting for those elected members in that community. If we can close schools for falling school role we can close these libraries. These libraries are also on good bus links to other larger libraries i,e Annan, Lockerbie and Dumfries? There should be a review on gyms in the region many private facilities provide this service most likely at a reduced cost to DGC and probably better equipment. Swimming pools should be the only facility to be provided. Let central/scottish government deal with poverty issues and funding this should not be taken from our core services. There has to be savings in the social services dept. We are now a retirement area, perhaps reducing the service will discourage people retiring here and provide economic growth for the area would perhaps encourage our young people to stay. Where are the jobs!! introduce parking fees, why? there is nothing in dumf high st area left to come shopping for, but you want to charge me parking. I would then just take a train out of the area for a better shopping experience and be happy to pay for parking!

I feel schools are being drastically underfunded especially in areas of high deprivation. Teachers should not be having to spend their own wages and fundraise to buy school equipment, because budgets can't stretch to cover basic course / SQA assessment related requirements. Stop wasting money on things like bins

changing every 3 years. If public gardens are costing so much to plant and maintain each year buy cheap plants like bushes or trees etc that return each year rather than spending Thousands on flower bulbs that need replanting. The pecos system is garbage. For example a drill bit needed for SQA woodwork is £40 through pecos. You can get the exact same product for 2 for £9.99 on amazon.

The number of young people with ASN diagnosis is being increased every year. The council is failing these children by attempting to cut ASN support for learning staff. You are not Getting it right for Every child. Meaning teachers are fighting a losing battle to meet GIRFEC standards.

Reducing technicians in large remote schools is a ridiculous idea. Teaching staff in under funded and understaffed departments are reliant on Technician staff, in order to deliver effective teaching. Removing woodwork technicians would result in classes having to be dropped so teaching staff can make up time needed to cut materials. Technical education is already at a national shortage of teachers and many students no longer get to experience BGE because of understaffing. This would almost close departments down. Tech is important. Without joiners you have no houses, mechanics no cars, plumbers, electricians, engineers, CAD, Architects.

Reducing science technicians will have a similar impact, especially in physics where there is also a national shortage of teaching staff.

Schools would be useless without on site ICT technicians. The amount of times the council network fails is beyond a joke. You switched us all to One drive , which is great if you can get on the network. Remote desktop, great if the network works. Same applies for phones, netbooks, Pc's email, seemis. The list goes on.

Maybe stop increasing councillors, wages especially upper management. Every other council employee is striking for better pay, but the bosses just seem to keep getting more while everyone else has to fight.

I appreciate this is not an easy task and that hard decisions need to be made. People need to pay more in order to receive better services and services need to be delivered efficiently. However as a mainstream class teacher of 34 years experience I can honestly say that I am the most challenged I have ever been. I have 33 learners in my class with diverse and challenging needs. There is little support available to help me provide targeted intervention. Children are not resilient nor are they well behaved and are not achieving in our schools. Even as a very experienced teacher there are many days that I only manage the class but I know that meaningful learning is not taking place. There is a real crisis in schools which needs to be addressed as schools are failing pupils and if this is not tackled now we are only shoring up problems for the future where we will have less people in our area able to contribute to our economy.

Get rid of the higher end payed council staff.

Feel options are more balanced and support can still be giving to local communities

School Estate - Look at School rolls 50 Pupils or less?

Increased income generation options bulky waste collection - A small increase would be acceptable, but to higher increase will cause more fly-tripping. Also the service needs to be widely advertised, with costs.

Free Annual Youth Beatz - Introduce a small charge for tickets? This event is fantastic for our younger generation and is so important for the interaction and wellbeing of our youth, we need more not less events like these, but ideally need to be self funding.

Cleaning Services - All staff should be responsible for clearing up after themselves but don't. The time cleaning staff have to clean the basics is impossible and nearly all cleaning staff I know do additional time without payment, so reducing their hours more, is criminal.

Clerical/Admin staff are key people in the smooth running of the offices and many other areas within the school environment, ie. trip support, facilities support, class support, catering support to name but a few roles that is out with their remit. Parents want to be able to call and speak to a person that knows their school.

Inhouse Garden Nursey - Is the proposal to outsource plants?
Are Upper and Middle Management reducing their hours / cutting jobs to cut costs?
Street lighting can sometimes be on when it's still light. A gradual decrease on timings they are I maybe help.
The use of free leisure facilities for those on benefits should be scrapped and opened to a more pay as you go enterprise. A role where those not contributing to the system through income tax, lose entitlement to facilities and that those on long term benefits should be used in a community capacity for clearing parks, street, etc. This would encourage a meaning to benefits entitlement. A look at the expenses paid to councillors and other staff in the council and a return to the workplace for all, rather than working from home as this clearly is detrimental to the level of service provided for the consumer. Introduction of working families first, for housing, schooling, leisure facilities. This should not be incurred for those that cannot work due to their disability, but for those choosing not to work. Cars that are provided through disability, this is huge and the overall costs to the country are immense. There is no service that cannot be provided to deliver from home. Only those with significant disability needs should have access to this facility.
Making cuts to education would further damage outcomes for the most important people in our society i.e. children. Children and the education sector have borne the brunt of the damage done by Covid and education requires more not less funding at this present moment in time.
Invest some planning time and strategy development on how to manage those council employees who are senior managers on long-term sick leave. Also, find a way to stop the practice of senior managers who apply for promotions and then go off sick and then retire due to ill health on higher pension levels.
Distribute the wind farm money given to local villages to the whole of the region. Certain villages are given too much money and don't know what to spend it on and the region in general is in financial crisis. Review costly overnight road closures and expensive night shift worker pays and wasted resources road materials.
1. Lease/Outsource the Activities at council run parks i.e.. Dock Park (Dumfries), Station Park (Moffat) and Agnew Park (Stranraer) 2. Look at High management structure.
Some of the suggestions are a bit too binary, all or not-at-all. For instance Youth Beats could be a half way house, don't pull the funding for it completely but I'm sure people would be willing to pay towards it. £5 per child and £10 per adult would surely go some distance toward reducing the costs.
Closure of The Bridge as it is not being utilised as it was intended to be.
Nurseries open till 6pm when children leave at latest some days at 4.30pm or most days 3pm. Then Management and another early years have to stay in building till 6pm. Paying two members of staff with no children in building.
Don't agree with reducing crossing patrol hours , job needed !! and would not be worth working
Do not have any further suggestions as to think we have to cut a huge amount of budget again is a despairing thought. Choices made linked to looking at costs and options providing alternatives to show how the money could be spent/implemented helped make decisions.
Why have you not looked at reducing the amount of CSC's you have, and look to expand on services available through the development of flagship customer hubs which can be developed to be staff base, community space and also have our partners in here, such as health, police. Identifying areas where revenue can be raised, being more visible in our communities, supporting small businesses, supporting our customers with our services - holding sessions on a wide range of things that support our citizens. Take the provision of adult learning away from the libraries - then look to review your library provision. Council Tax Bills - cheapest mailing cost i think a council can get on a framework is 59p for second class postage. Why are you not pushing online billing - would save you £90k a year. A full review of your mailing needs to be done. DG1 - has the opportunity to raise money from events. Why is this space now defunct?

<p>DG1 - maximise memberships - review your opening times for a start - service needs first, customer second. People want to keep fit at the weekends, but you want to close at 4pm</p> <p>Social work, a risky topic but there needs to be more transparency on where you are haemorrhaging money and looking for cheaper alternatives.</p> <p>Robotic process automation - why are you not identifying where automation could streamline high volume processes and reduce FTE - HR processes, payroll processes</p> <p>your contact centre - still behaves like a switchboard and there doesn't appear to be a strategy to try and reduce the demand here, through the introduction of self service and opening up new channels of interaction with our customers, eg whatsapp, social media. Also looking at where AI can reduce dependency on the contact centre and providing cheaper ways to interact that the customers prefer.</p>
<p>Stop wasting money on consultants get council staff (managers) to do what they are paid to do make decisions</p>
<p>I always feel its the lowest paid council members end up loosing jobs or reductions being made and these are members who's jobs are very important in the running of things and allow others to do there jobs, especially in schools,(ie...support staff) so it would be good to see reduction to unnecessary high paid jobs within school and council. Fair reduction across the board rather than it always affecting the lowest most important employees.</p> <p>School is the most important in educating young to set them up for jobs and careers and making a future and yet its always at the forefront of cuts and budgets and staff reductions making it more difficult to educate the young people. None of us would be where we are without being educated. cut backs should be made with common sense to what is important and sometimes this doesn't happen.</p>
<p>Don't buy farm land at great expense for a cemetery that isn't needed</p>
<p>Re-Introduction of EVRS/Teacher Refresh scheme (providing savings over 3 3-4 year period)</p> <p>Significant reduction in Secondary School estate through closures and mergers (eg. Dalry, NWCC (secondary) Kirkcudbright/Castle Douglas)</p>
<p>Reduction in Officers in the Central Education Team (numerous new posts were added in the recent past)</p>
<p>As an employee of the council I feel cuts are made in the wrong places . Cleaners catering staff janitors are the ones daily working under extreme pressure . More work and no more help takes it's tole</p>
<p>This is a nation wide idea.. ALL benefits, including free school meals, child benefit and winter fuel need to be means tested so that only the needy get! People that can afford to pay these things will not mind.. this would free up enough to make Britain great again! Schools SHOULD NOT suffer.</p>
<p>NO BONUSES FOR THE MANAGEMENT AT THE VERY TOP OF THE COUNCIL! Completely UNDESERVED. Cut the salary of them and you will be more than fine</p>
<p>Fewer meetings and fewer managers</p>
<p>I think our young people are a priority, and educational and youth services must be protected. I would happily pay more for council services, increased council tax etc than see a cut to children's services in D&G.</p>
<p>Remove Catering from Council meetings- bring your own lunches as all other Council employees have to do. Cut down on the glossy paper of any printed materials and keep to on line as far as possible</p>
<p>Watching my child struggle through primary school, he would not of managed to get to annan academy without the help and support of his amazing 1:1 we desperately need more of these people and help not taken away from our children who struggle</p>
<p>Sell The Bridge</p>
<p>Consolidate/reduce numbers of upper management, or ask upper management to take minor pay cuts.</p>
<p>How about maximizing co-operation with neighbouring Councils to reduce duplicate contracts and activities</p>
<p>Remove at least 1 level of administration from offices ,(aim for staff cost reduction of 10%</p> <p>Rationalize the asset portfolio. Caravan parks privatised. Sell off for housing redundant schools. Reuse other empty sites. Aim to reduce and sell off 10% of property assets of 1440 properties.</p> <p>Ensure replacement staff have financial targets (revenue and expenditure) to meet.</p>
<p>I would like to see the council enact measures to attarct more people to visit (and spend) money in the area, such as having markets in Castle Douglas and Stranraer, and encourage other regular attractions.</p>

<p>You need to look at paid overnight parking for self contained motorhomes in your car park. South Ayrshire have several sites that generate an income. These can be in car parks, also car parks at community halls, swimming pools etc. This would also bring welcomed money to local businesses as wellnas the council. There are several car parks that are suitable in our region and there is a high number of self contained motorhome owners who visit our area. I am on several social media groups in relation to motorhomes this region and Council gets nothing but praise for the welcome given. Please give this serious consideration and contact South Ayrshire who initially started as trials.</p>
<p>The council does an excellent job in these difficult times, and the cleanliness of the streets, grass verges etc. in Dalbeattie is a great credit to everyone involved. I would happily pay more council tax to ensure this level of service provision is continued.</p>
<p>Removing support from young people and those in the most need is absolutely disgusting. Pupil support has already been cut and pupils are not receiving a high level of education because of this. Teachers cannot provide high quality education with increasing class levels, increasing additional support needs and reduction of support for individuals in the most need. Families and young people rely on support in school and out with especially in the current climate. People are already struggling and these proposals will only make it worse for all involved, never mind the worry for staff who are at risk of losing their job, creating a higher level of people needing support. Education and support for young people should be of the highest priority and protecting staff already employed should be a priority.</p>
<p>Stop wasting tax payers money.</p>
<p>Having viewed the small schools programme, as a retired educationalist, I fully support a minimum number of 25 in rural schools. Children need to be able to work and socialise with children of their own age. I find it absurd that there are so many tiny schools within 5/6 miles of Dalbeattie. Even my neighbour whose son went to one of these schools agrees that her son lacked opportunities for both educational and social development. This is not to decry the efforts of the staff.</p>
<p>Establish greater control of subcontractor costs, and building developments.</p>
<p>I think by reducing learning assistants hours you're going to make the situation worse as teachers will all be off with stress and will still be getting paid sick pay on top of another teacher covering . Teachers cost way more than teaching assistants/learning assistants . You will also see the fall in decent grades as learning assistants work very hard to keep children on target . If the children loose that vital one to one then there's going to be an even bigger problem . Dumfries and Galloway already have one of the poorest rates for education so how is this going to help ?</p>
<p>Cut out the food waste recycling service.</p>
<p>Do not cut any education services! Schools are struggling enough without further cuts!</p>
<p>Cutting school budgets will directly affect our children. That is not Getting It Right for Every Child. Teachers, who are already under an increasing amount of pressure will have increased workload.</p>
<p>Review of leading council employee wages and halt any increases to those who earn an 'above average' wage for the region. We all need to make sacrifices in these circumstances</p>
<p>Council needs to look at the wages of top dogs in the office. Schools are already at breaking point and shouldn't be in the firing line for yet more cuts. You have to look after the future generations. Also, stop being greedy with £'s wanted for empty properties around the estates and more investors will buy them and put them back to good use - that along could make thousands of hundreds of £'s.</p>
<p>Education budget is shocking as it is nevermind reducing it even further. It cannot be possible to reduce teacher jobs as there are no jobs for our probations as it stands! The authority need to work on finding employment for our teachers to ensure we are getting it right for every child. Cutting out EAL, ASFL and the inclusion base is NOT getting it right for every child.</p>
<p>I feel the council needs to streamline staffing and implement performance management & absence management processes similar to those in private sector so that staff who are inefficient / regularly absent are weeded out. I also think the staffing structure is top heavy and management roles could be reduced and tasks delegated. This would ensure greater value for money to the public and inefficient/ regularly absent staff would not be able to 'hide behind' the 'safety' of working for the council!</p>
<p>How can you even justify taking away learning support teachers children on the spectrum already suffer enough without denying them the chance to learn people in power have no care in the world of kids with asd additional needs would love yo see any one of you live a day on our lives absolute joke!!!</p>

As Headteacher of a large Primary School, I do understand the need to cut costs. That said, I am concerned about the impact on our learners. I am a member of the Education Finance Group and we are trying desperately to prioritise budget cuts whilst every fibre of our being is focused on improving outcomes for learners. This is the first time in my 24 year career that we have had to face such challenges but we are committed to find way through.

Please understand that there is a need to close small schools to ensure better outcomes for all. I do not say this lightly given that I have spent many years working in small schools. I was also a pupil in a small Stewartry school. I understand how unpopular these decisions will be yet they are necessary. I hope councillors understand this too as they have the power to make life changing decisions for our children.

I have spent school holidays painting small schools, replacing blinds and floor tiles, and gardening/ cutting hedges. I know that my Headteacher and teaching colleagues go 'over and above' because we care! These goodwill gestures are now becoming an expectation and this is unsustainable. We care so much but we cannot sustain this. It is leading to higher absence due to work related stress.

I am a positive, solution focused person and I believe in our wonderful communities. We will get through this challenging time but only if we work together with councillors so that they understand the impact of their decisions and make difficult decisions to support our communities over time.

Why spend 18million on Annan harbour regeneration

Child poverty and inequality should not be affected. Any opportunity for the council to increase commercial revenue should be explored.

Reduction in council estate and energy costs by increased working from home opportunities for employees.

Please don't reduce anything for our children, most importantly disabled children in the area.

Our young people are our future and the council seem to consistently try and take away from them. Schools need to be looked at in more detail on all levels but we need to be adding to the school budgets not taking it away. Too many teachers are consistently absent - why? Teachers don't have enough support they deal with so much on a daily basis

All support staff eg Clerical, facilities, librarian, canteen staff, cleaners in schools play a very important roll in each school without them the teachers wouldn't be able to teach & who would run the school. A clean well organised and supported school/business will encourage and teach children / workers respect. Any facilities taken away or reduced will be detrimental to the growth and well being of young people. They need common sense role models first and foremost and this comes from the support staff ... showing the correct way in manners etc is first and foremost - how to behave and present life skills is utmost in today's school environment- today children lack respect for people, their environment and their behaviour is 'I know better' - 'you can't tell me what to do'. NURTURE & SUPPORT SHOWING CHILDREN THE WAY FORWARD TO LIFE IS ESSENTIAL.

Window cleaning - when were the windows in council schools last cleaned ?

Public toilets are essential - but need upgraded and upgraded in most places - Stranraer toilets are a rust bucket mess. 24 hour toilets are disgraceful and a drug/drink dens... must be some way of tackling this.

Education for rural area's - D&G need to provide a hostel for children to attend schools in Dumfries to take Highers / Advanced Highers and Standard Grades in some cases as they cannot access the subject at their local school due to a lack of teachers or subject not available eg: Douglas Ewart / Stranraer etc. This for of inclusive education needs to be rolled out for whole of D&G not just networking in Dumfries.

There is a clear lack of understanding of education services. Options provided clearly have no insight into how services run.

Centralising technical support for example - I am assuming nobody has shadowed/surveyed/discussed this with schools.

Clearly there is a strong focus on cutting education provisions and youth support which is deeply concerning.

ERVS for staff nearing retirement Approximately 60+ through all departments as lots of departments are over staffed

Energy use in council buildings - for example, being unable to turn off heating/air conditioning due to a 'cost-saving' motion sensor being installed. This was previously not an issue as the heating was never left on outwith working hours, but now have no choice but to heat a room and then cool it only to heat it again just to remain comfortable. Not great for expensive energy costs, nor the environment.

Understand the tricky situation all councils are in but charging parking costs will further deter people from coming into town. Town centre and business already suffering with footfall. More shops will close. Schools are under tremendous pressure with very little support outwith the confines of the building. Cutting school staffing will be detrimental to learning for our young people and will impact staff with many burning out! School estates with very small pupil numbers will need to be reworked. I wouldn't be happy with council staff losing hours / jobs when empty buildings remain open. I would be ok will paying a (little) more council tax but would need to see value for money which isn't always the case. Scotland is already a heavy taxed part of the UK. With rising rents / mortgages, raising CT will not be a popular choice.

As someone who works in education and has just had a baby, it is terrifying to see the proposed cuts in the education sector. I think the people who make these proposals need to go into schools and see the demand for support and actually evaluate what the children need. How can you build a workforce when you're damaging their education there won't be anyone to work and keep the country going soon unless you're privileged enough to be able to afford private tuition or are naturally smart. It's awful to think what kind of world my son will enter into as he grows.

Education needs to be protected and if anything spending/investment increased. The school estate is dreadful and money only seems to be spent in Dumfries, the rest of the region is ignored and schools left to rot.

Any move to reduce support in schools would be ill advised. Staff absence rates (particularly related to work related absence) must surely be at the highest levels ever known. Reducing support and provision will put further burden on school staff and likely lead to even higher absence levels, at great financial cost to local authority.

By not agreeing to the changes to asl education. If children given the opportunities to learn and life skills they will need less support as adults. If reduced education will have adults with asn needing more support as adults making social work budget go up

It would be an absolute atrocity if cuts were made to anything regarding schooling and education. The lack of support staff we currently have is appalling and to cut this further would be extremely detrimental to children's wellbeing and learning. We are aiming for the next generation to be ready for work and life in general and without support staff, this would not be possible. The number of children with additional support needs is rising annually and to meet these needs, we need the teachers, the learning assistants and the resources and environments.

Let's stop wasting money on town festivals, commercial events and pointless activities around D&G and put the money where it's actually needed.

Well it was difficult ..very hard choices . How about stopping cutting unnecessary areas of grass . I know graveyards is contentious. But there will be areas in grave yards that could be left long, without interfering with access to graves . Reduce cutting grass in areas like Ardwell picnic area . Just leaving cut bits to pic nic tables . Let the grass grow long on foreshore to protect from erosion . It is a big area . It does not need it all cut . It would also benefit councils carbon audit . Reduced mileage , fuel , time . More biodiversity . Also and this is a personal irksome. Abandoned road signs . Recently the road from clachanmore to low clachanmore was tarred . Signs were put up to warn of no give way markings. Its been a few months. Still no give way markings . Residents gave up after a couple of weeks of continuously putting the signs back up. So they've layen face down since . Not doing their job and ending up a dangerous addition to the long grass verges of a busy crossroads on a single track . I thought when I saw council a couple of weeks ago patching further east on the same road but they had used the crossroads to get there . Would pick them up . But no they left their own signs abandoned and now face down in the verge . I know signage isn't that dear individually but cumulatively they will contribute a large expense to the whole of DG . And when your asking us to decide on resources to cut saving as little as 20 thousand . Then you should stop being so wasteful of your own equipment . It's littering at best , fly tipping at worst . Dand G has a great reputation of doing its best with minimal resources for the environment . So it's strange that this waste seems acceptable to you and must add up in cost over the years . Could you also think seriously about the np proposal . I doubt any funding you receive from np will be enough

to cope with the 3 million visitors it's likely to attract . (going by the other 2) . You will be expected to pick more litter as more will be created . . You will be expected to introduce more elsan points, shower facilities, Aires, hard standings, carparks etc . I would be justifiable annoyed to find services being cut to accommodate the work needed for the np . Residents should come first over tourists as residents contribute year round.

I would like to say . I appreciate you . I think you cope amazingly. Your staff are a credit to you and you should feel proud, that this area reflects your staffs hard work under difficult circumstances. So thankyou .

REDACTED

I am concerned that the questions as presented as only presenting the optimistic aspect of the proposals and not fully sharing risk or co sequences. I'm v concerned to see you are proposing to keep S3 in school to get their lunch money. That is not honest and the underlying impact assessments should be shared.

Residents are already struggling with 2 weekly general waste removal. Dumfries has a terrible rat problem as it is and we are seeing more and more rubbish dumped in our area.

More support is needed in schools due to behaviour issues and also children with additional needs and disabilities. They should not suffer to save money and should be given all the help they need as they are often forgotten in later life. If there were less learning assistants teachers would become under more pressure as class sizes are large and they would find it hard to cope with a class full of students and a few children who need extra help. Everyone is entitled to a good education and especially at a young age when if a child is caught early enough that has difficulties it can make things easier for them ad they continue through their education.

I think your suggestions for reducing teacher numbers - especially Additional Support for Learning teachers, and the consequential reduction in expert support for kids with complex needs is ludicrous and it is obvious that the people coming up with these suggestions have not got a clue what these kids need, or what the implications of these cuts would be. These staff already work exceptionally hard providing many hours of unpaid support. A majority also use their own money to buy resources to use in school to help these young people.

School staff are already working at maximum capacity - any further cuts to staff numbers - teachers, support staff or admin staff would simply be catastrophic. It would also not be safe leaving the council open to litigation when something terrible happens.

Education works on the principle of GIRFEC but this is already impossible - you are setting up all our young people to fail. Think where they might end up in 10 years, 20 years when they are not able to achieve their potential in school due to lack of support...this is NOT a positive destination plan!

Why were the individual directors and the new council boss allowed to award themselves such a huge pay rise - I don't recall seeing any public consultation in regards to this! Maybe an option could be to see if they would 'volunteer' to forgo their pay rise!!

Reducing ALS staff is an absolute no, there are so many children that depend on these staff members. Reduce sick pay would be a suggestion

Cut Adult Social Service Budget dramatically

Change your wording for the general public to understand what they are reading and voting for. The wording is too professional/council chat for the normal working person.

Centralising school technicians will have a very negative impact on pupils & teachers alike. Teachers workload will increase to a point where teachers no longer want to be in the profession & staff absences will increase. The opportunities available to our pupils will therefore reduce massively.

Reducing the number of support for learning staff, at a time when pupils support needs are increasing & also after the pandemic is absolute madness!!

Getting it right for every child is at the heart of education and social services, therefore any cuts that directly affect child-focused services should be exempt from consideration. Our educational settings have already endured reductions in learner support, which have had a significant impact on young people. Contemplating further cuts would compromise our commitment to prioritising children's well-being and success. The curriculum for excellence states we should support learners to fulfil their full potential and any further considerations of a reduction of support, access to education, reduction in teachers will have a further negative impact.

<p>Secondary schools in my region are lacking learning support (langholm academy) my son is an S4 pupil and has ADHD. He has hardly any support to prompt him to do work in classes and i am worried that he will leave school with failed exam results. In my eyes the learning assistants in schools across the dumfries and galloway region are needed instead of being chucked to the side to cut costs!</p>
<p>Try putting people at the top of your agenda, rather than money.</p>
<p>Disappointed to see the closure of Castle Douglas Swimming pool on here, it is a great facility for the area for children's swimming lessons. There are so few alternatives due to travel and cost.</p>
<p>I think to take anything away from education is appalling as the needs of children and young people are becoming worse and they need all the support and learning they can get.</p>
<p>Don't make any cuts that will not help our children, children should be supported and the funds all should be used to help support our children giving them the education they deserve</p>
<p>I understand that savings need to be found and difficult decisions need to be made. I urge you to please consider that if these proposed cuts are made to education, this will have a detrimental effect on children and staff within schools. It seems almost impossible to expect schools to deliver a quality education to young people under the immense pressure they will be put under. Has an impact assessment been completed for the proposed cut to inclusion bases?</p>
<p>The fact that you are proposing to cut so much support that is so desperately needed and is already disgustingly short for learning support and additional needs with in schools in D&G is shocking.</p> <p>You are actively proposing to fail these children even more .</p> <p>D&G has one of the longest wait times in Scotland for diagnosis and then you are proposing to reduce any educational support they are legally entitled to !</p> <p>There will be generations of children who suffer from this proposal of it goes ahead.</p>
<p>You cannot get rid of more learning assistants from Primary schools. Primary teachers are drowning and CANNOT support the extremely wide range of needs in one classroom.</p>
<p>It's very difficult to say if any are valid options without knowing the full impact of these cuts. I do however believe that education should not face any more cuts. ELC staff are already pushed to capacity with the amount of work involved with no support given for children with additional needs, and the impact that previous cuts to funding is having a huge impact on children's education. Less and less support staff are being funded which means children are not getting the support they need to fulfil their potential. The children are the future and I have seen the impact of these cuts for both staff and children. We are meant to be 'getting it right for every child' and at the moment we are failing children due to a lack of funding for nurseries and schools! The children should not suffer anymore due to a money saving scheme. I am sure these are ways to cut costs without putting people out of jobs.</p>
<p>Education is struggling as is and I fail to see how any reduction would not cause catastrophic effects. I would suggest cutting council cars, where employees are given a car for trips. I know multiple case is DG9 where vehicles are given to go through to Dumfries.</p> <p>Also, leisure assistants getting time & a half for doing their job at a different location, i.e. Agnew park is not needed. Can this not be built into their contract?</p> <p>Can leisure centres be rented out at a reasonable rate and accessible manner. For example, no one has any idea if the tennis courts at stair park DG9 can be rented. This would be utilise and it would be great if schools were offered at a reduced rate.</p> <p>Council parking tickets would help bring income and address the ridiculous parking in the DG9 town area. Utilise technology to reduce on council members claiming petrol expenses.</p> <p>If Ryan centre catering is cut, can a new provider be put in place before closed before it lies empty for years. Perhaps offer subway it, as is the case in dgone.</p> <p>Finally, if you plan to cut teachers can less probationers be took? Probationers who tick the box end up within the region fairly often. I'm obviously not sure which budget this comes from, but people who tick the box do get an incentive of serval thousand (though I understand this may be gtcs).</p>

<p>I feel it's always kids that get effected by decisions about cut backs not fair they need a good education and guidance help of teachers and help for those that want to learn but also keep them safe Those that muck about and cause problems do something with them</p>
<p>Stop creating high paid managerial jobs with important titles -especially in Education.That would save a fortune all round!</p>
<p>Allow schools and nurseries to buy resources from cheaper outlets and not limit them to one provider</p>
<p>Absolutely no cuts should be made to schools and early years provisions. Also no cuts should be made for an additional support within schools already they are pushed the the limits if anything there is a need for more staff within schools and nurseries as there is such a high need of care needed towards children with ASN and SEN needs. How about all the councillors take a cut from their wages, bonuses and benefits. Why target the people who need the help and support the most!</p>
<p>Carry out a review of all council building to review their energy efficiency. A number of schools have faulty sensors which means lights are on all night</p>
<p>Makes sense to make savings through reducing waste capacity due to high cost of landfill tax. This will also increase recycling rates at the same time. Hope that parking wardens are also introduced as a way of generating income.</p>
<p>Schools would be hugely impacted by these choices. The education and wellbeing of our learners needs to be a priority</p>
<p>Take bus service back into public ownership and improve bus service - there are only 2 bus a day travelling from Dalmellington to castle Douglas at times when no one uses them. Service is abysmal for people living in north of county who are nearer Ayr than Dumfries</p>
<p>As I work in ELC in primary school nursery. I think some of these cuts are shocking. Our jobs are extremely hard currently and have a lots of strain on us then because of the cuts already in place we are expected to do more work such as do the educational visitors job or do TLQs because the speech and language waiting list is far too long, But get paid no more. We have so many additional supports need children that all need 1 to 1 to what leaving most staff doing one to one and no staff to deal with the other children but yet we have to fight for funding for these children, we have 56 children registered, can have 68 and they wanted to put us higher, to many children leads to a chaotic and unmanageable nursery and a lots of children needing support not just because of additional needs but have other aspects such as poor family life and social work involvement ,but there is just not enough of us and with fund being cut everywhere and exceptions getting higher we find it impossible to give the highest and best quality care we can. I am saddened that some days I feel like have not done everything but need to remember I'm only one person. I feel if this is to carrying on or get worse there could be alot of people who end up off sick with stress or leaving this line of work. I love the job and care for the children also find it very rewarding but this is the hardest I've found this job for over 13 years and I fear it's only going to get harder.</p>
<p>The option of removing staff vaccination has already been implemented for at least some staff. Would not count as a future saving. The option of redistribution of management shohi l'd be replaced by making cuts to top management who have been responsible for costing this council large sums of money due to their incompetence.</p>
<p>Please don't take funding away from schools - we are struggling as it is.</p>
<p>A number of these options require additional knowledge and understanding as people's jobs and services are being cut. Another example of this council passing the buck so they can blame stakeholders for options chosen. Cut people at the top which would save enough money to retain staff and services. .It is not as if we would be losing competent people.</p>
<p>The information from this survey will not assist in budget restructure as the council will do exactly what they want.. No-one is ever able uphold them to account. No one at the top will be able to implement any of these proposed cuts. Cut their posts.</p>
<p>Stop wasting money on the sands flood scheme.</p>
<p>End employing existing staff who have retired including teachers and employ if necessary new staff who are just starting their careers.</p>
<p>Focus funds on core areas such as education ,social work and transportation repairing roads including potholes and footpaths, better maintenance of road signage including road markings and street furniture.</p>

A full review of every thing the council is doing should be done led by councillors who were elected by and represent the residents and communities of this region. This should be a warts and all review not led by the chief executive or directors and managers of services. This is a radical step but in my opinion it is the only way for the council to get back to basics. For the last few decades the funding for essential services and infrastructure of this region have been cut and neglected despite them being the core purpose of the council while resources have been diverted to events such as youthbeatz. I have no objection to this event but those who attend should pay to attend it. Priority for the council should be to ensure that core services are adequately funded but also to start to make good the underfunding which has taken place for many years.

I'm sorry but for the last few decades it seems to me that the focus of the council has not been on the cake but the icing on top.

The last thing we need to do is be cutting any budgets to school provision. Teachers are on their knees, learning is suffering, as is the wellbeing of our young people. This consultation has highlighted the many other ways in which we can save money, without negatively affecting schools. Here's hoping our councillors make the right decisions for the young people of D&G!

Not really qualified to make judgements on the affect cutting some of these options would have. Cutting number of teachers and support for learning is criminal. Class's sizes should be cut in view of the fact that our attainment is the lowest in Scotland. We still replace experienced teachers with probationary teachers every year and take the highest number in Scotland! Maybe someone will work out the link!

There should be no increase to council tax, not value for money at the level set at moment.

You need more learning support teachers

Definitely reduce management could result in savings of over £500,000. No brainer can then employ additional teachers not reduce.

With all the cuts, surely the council cannot still, even "in principle," support the designation of a Galloway National Park that may also have planning powers over (and the relevant revenue from) a huge swathe of the council area? How will the council pay for increased local road maintenance, since all the projected tourist traffic WILL increase crashes and closures of the A75 and A77, resulting in traffic being rerouted around the backroads?

Reduce management not staff or services.

Maybe the way this is written could be made easier to understand. There seemed to be a lot of corporate speak.

Less bosses more staff on ground cut out the high earners wages save you millions

No children. Already disappointed in the low level of service provided by DGC in respect of unfinished (public) pavements, blocked drains, street lights out, bins not emptied, unable to book a tip slot on a weekend. What exactly am I paying my council tax for?

Thank you for allowing this type of consultation.

Reduce unnecessary management in all departments usually more management than workers. Cut councillors wages and expenses. Leave schools and children's services alone as there is less and less for children who need the support in schools Say No to wasting money on a National Park which will destroy Dumfries and Galloway

Children and tourism are the future for D&G, invest in these. The elderly, especially in rural areas, also deserve increased support.

Implement charges for travelling motor homes.

Do not support the national park, we don't have the funds for existing projects, so why take on way more visitors.

Sack and re employ an entirely new roads team, sitting in vans waiting for good weather in Scotland doesn't happen. Having to get someone to come out and review a massive creator from dumfries to newton stewart is beyond a joke. You have a reporting pot holes site, so use it. Don't ask folk to report holes and then require a multi review team. Fix all the pot holes in the given bit of road not just the big ones to come back weeks/months later and fix the others. It's a total waste of resources having to go back.

Youth beatz could run well without funding, charging families a nominal amount. Its a well developed event and likewise funding should only be available for such projects as start ups and not long term.

<p>If kids are old enough to leave school at lunchtime and go home/out, then road crossing staff are not required! I think they should be stopped completely, parents drive kids to school and or kids are out and about at night crossing roads, it played a part years ago but is now a waste of money, they cross more adults than kids often.</p> <p>More money is needed for social care, so more cuts elsewhere are required.</p>
<p>Get rid of management</p>
<p>I have no detailed knowledge of council finances. This survey is not helpful as it does not make it possible in itself to provide proper feedback. As a consequence I respectfully regard it as non-productive / unhelpful.</p>
<p>Great to have this offered and the detailed information.</p> <p>I would like to suggest a dial a bus approach for public transport as our bus service is not Meeting the needs of the people.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
<p>money used within school based ELC is hugely misspent. Procurement does not work, savings are more easily made by using local suppliers.</p>
<p>instead of targeting the lower paid jobs look at reducing the management at the top scale, this is where a lot of the spending goes.</p>
<p>Very thorough survey, useful to see amount of money things would save. Knowing that ASN is increasing in schools, do not reduce support for these further, or cut sfl teachers.</p>
<p>No further comments but on your poster showing spending I am interested in the thinking behind why staffing costs had to be split between teachers and other council staff. That shows no support towards teaching staff who already get the brunt of bad feelings from adults in the authority. Highlighting that, along with the 4.5 week consultation is further adding to the feelings and atmosphere teachers have to deal with on a daily basis.</p>
<p>ELC settings who are open until 6pm but have no children after 3.30/4pm and are still paying 2 members of staff to stay at the nursery until 6pm. The money those staff are being paid, could be put towards employing 2 increasing hours of LA's during the day.</p> <p>The ELC settings who are open until 6pm have NEVER had a big uptake since its implementation in 2020. A handful of children, at most, have stayed after 3.30/4pm. This is a complete waste of money.</p>
<p>End policy investment funding for the Youth Beatz festival. Savings - If this option were taken and it meant Youth Beatz could no longer run this would be such a mistake as this event is one of the highlights of the year that the Council actually gets right. Instead could the tickets not have a small charge attached to them, even just £5, for what is offered at this event this charge is still nothing.</p>
<p>The schools cannot afford to make any more cuts. Particularly with regard to ASL provision and behaviour and languages support. Our children are suffering immensely.</p> <p>We should be increasing support to help them thrive because at the moment the approach is 'sink or swim' with less resources in the last five years. We expect pupils to manage in mainstream classes and teachers to differentiate their lessons to an untenable level. Many young people need 1:1-1:4 support and yet class sizes are having to expand to accommodate cuts to staffing meaning that teaching has to take a 'reactive' approach as we deal with the ratio of demands meaning a loss of learning among those in the middle or higher abilities as we cannot sustain stretch of pace and challenge on all when behavioural Patterns, learning difficulties and ESL needs are more apparent and demanding of our time. Our attainment is suffering and the mental health crisis of pupils and staff is growing exponentially.</p>
<p>I am a principal teacher of 6 years. I've been teaching for 13 years having joined the profession as a second career bringing lots of industry experience and creativity which I believe has enhanced my pedagogy. I am a good teacher, a good leader and I love the role. I enjoy supporting my team and I nurture our pupils and have a great rapport with a firm respect for learning and managing behaviour. However, I plan on leaving the profession in the next year or two because it's making me miserable to see the cuts diminish our provision. I'm tired of seeing children suffer. I'm tired of working on a shoestring and producing rabbits of hats. Every year I think it will get better again: that we can't keep going down and that it will be seen that investment is required to ensure our children have a chance of success in life. But no, here we go again.</p>
<p>Cut directors /ceo's wages (High Council positions) Theres no need for their salary to be as high as it is. The council would save alot of money if this was implemented.</p>

<p>My concerns are mainly based around education and the removal of support if services within education. This is because I work within the education sector and see first hand the increasing needs of the children and young people in our region and the additional pressure education staff and teachers are facing, schools are not coping at the moment with the additional needs of pupils, there is a bare minimum of support for these children and behaviours in some cases are under control. If anything support to schools does need reviewed but additional support rather than removing.</p> <p>To close inclusion bases would be catastrophic to schools, to the community and to the young people and their families. Young people who attend the inclusion bases can't cope within main stream education for a variety of reasons but mainly because schools do not have the experienced staff and/or time and facilities to support their needs and to manage their behaviour. If anything inclusion bases need to be made larger as after working in a mainstream school over the past few months, I see every day children they aren't coping, who's needs can't be met and who's behaviour is disrupting other learning and causing distress not just for themselves but for all. We are setting these young people up to fail and face difficulties in later life and probably at to more cost to the community. Why are we not focusing on prevention to save the council money long term!! Spend now, save later!!</p> <p>On a personal note I have 2 children who are faced with many years left within education and I am scared for them. Luckily they are both educationally capable, supported and nurtured. My concern is if you close inclusion bases and reduce support it will affect my children's learning as their learning will be disrupted as teachers and school staff with be busy supporting those with additional needs and difficult behaviours. I also think my children would become distressed, upset and become school avoidant if they were faced with having to witness these behaviours every day.</p>
<p>As a parent of an ASN pupil who does not receive the correct amount of support it is ridiculous that you are thinking about reducing it further.</p>
<p>The children suffer enough, especially ASL children. It is ridiculous that some of these have been proposed.</p>
<p>How on earth at DGC supporting a national park proposal whilst looking at the lack of funds, closure of toilets, schools, removal of bins and WRCs. The roads are shot. There is no money, no council or government or schools funding and yet the prospect of inviting an additional 450k tourists to the area is a good idea! How will the council cope with the extra demand on its services then not to mention the hospitals, ambulances, mountain rescue. Let sense prevail, if the SG have funds for a NP they should be giving them to the council and letting them do their job properly, not imposing a £30m saving whilst paying over £10m per year for a NP 80% of which goes on salaries. NO GNP</p>
<p>I believe leisure facilities play a big part in the community. Keeping kids healthy and active. Removal of these would have an impact on children's health and long term obesity would increase placing a strain on the NHS.</p>
<p>Don't take any money away from the children first and foremost. Dumfries and Galloway have nothing for children compared to other local authorities nearby.</p>
<p>Re-introduce Traffic Wardens. Review teaching standards and remove the "woke" element creeping into our education system. Concentrate on repairing our road system.</p>
<p>Any cuts in educational services, in particular ASL in schools I strongly disagree with.</p>
<p>Reduce upper management in all areas to save hundreds of thousands</p>
<p>when it comes to council staff at the start of their employment with Dumfries & Galloway Council, create an option for a probationary period of 6 months, with option to extend up to 1 year if needed, allowing to truly monitor a new member of staff on their job role, not just in an interview setting. this will allow for higher productivity from staff and option to re-advertise the job if the employee is not meeting expectations in the job role.</p> <p>and at the other end of the employment journey, when someone has handed in their resignation letter and given their 4 week notice, remove the right to self certify absence to reduce the amount of sickness cover needed, allowing staff to think twice about "clocking out" in their last month of work and taking unnecessary days off putting strain and extra costs on services.</p>
<p>Stop this National Park nonsense. You have stated you want to close public toilets, swimming pools, introduce parking charges etc. All of which impacts those of us who live and work here. The money that is</p>

available for a NP should be spent on improving our infrastructure not wasted on encouraging millions of visitors who will increase sewerage, rubbish, road congestion. Invest in the people for gods sake.
Review of carers visiting elderly or disabled (temporary or otherwise); review of what these people actually do, and increase their duties; review of the supervisors of these carers. Have seen some of this in action, where a carer arrives in a D&G vehicle, enters home, sits down, fills in form, leaves. Subsequently, a supervisor arrives in a D&G vehicle, enters home, sits down, fills in a different form and leaves. Neither has done anything useful for the individual needing help. Multiply this over the entire region, there must be millions wasted. Stop grants given to "charities" and "action groups" or "event organisers". If their supporters want a specific group to lobby for or against something, run an event or perform some service, it should be up to them to fund it, not the Council.
Schools need access to equipment that is safe and practical for pupils to use. Dumfries and Galloway is far behind this and pupils are missing out on that aspect of their education , therefore, they cannot compete with pupils across Scotland for further educational posts. Investment in Education is investment in our young people being the future of D&G. We need to do something.
You forgot to mention about cutting counciler numbers and wages and review their expences. Not to mention the freebies they get. Some of these are only there for the money and nothing else. A full review of counciler attendances and their time doing council work should be looked at. There I think ypu would find the biggest saving. But will you look at it? Not a chance
Far too many council managers on inflated wages for very little outcome. Many happy to receive pay rises above the rate of inflation.
School nurseries open after children have left for the day and are still required to be open until 6pm. Basically paying council staff wages for tending an empty nursery.
A far more competitive way of contracting work. It seems like a 'jobs for the boys' approach and not necessarily the most cost effective.
Remove amount of staff sitting round tables discussing nothing important. Meeting culture. The old adage of too many chiefs not enough Indians. Council been top heavy for years.
Income from road closures and charges for using public facility from greedy entrepreneurs such as car parks and public parks, public roads for cycle races, car rallies, etc. Catering licences for public roads and facilities.
Hire out staff for gardening, any other service such as pavement crossing and surfacing private gardens. At a realistic charge.
Stop paying public money to immigrants and that will stop them coming to our country and being a dead weight on public resources. Time to change
Cut managers but don't cut employees on the front line. The ELC support, supports families of disabled and most vulnerable children so it is essential that this remains
Cutting ELC or school budgets would reduce the availability of highly skilled, imperative support for the children and young people of the future. Whatever budget cuts are made, ELC and schools should not be affected. It is unfair to punish our future generations for the current mess of the system
It's already so difficult to access swimming lessons for children across the region. A region full of water/lochs. Swimming is such an important life skill and we're already failing at teaching anyone that wishes to learn to swim ample opportunity to learn. Please prioritise keeping leisure facilities functioning. It's such a vital aspect of all our rural communities.
Stop sponsoring events across the region
I think it is very irresponsible to be consulting to cut the role of support for learning teachers and facilities especially when there has never been a greater need of those skills and experiences and there is a lack of learning assistants in class.

Closing Public toilets would be a disaster for tourism and the elderly. These are a necessity in towns and villages
I am all for streamlining areas but without anyone missing out. I believe there are too many supervisors and managers where new job titles adding further responsibilities would suffice. Dumfries and Galloway has always been poor at advertising events and facilities so funding to ensure news gets out there would be good and could generate more income. Things like halls for rent, concerts, children's activities, old council buildings for sale and volunteering opportunities.
We do not need fewer Additional Support for Learning teachers or fewer staff in ELC support. These staff work with disabled and vulnerable children and their families - we need more!! Those teams need to remain centralised so Line Managers direct staffing to where it needs to be. But you could reduce costs if the number of managers or layers of management in education was reduced.
If central teams in education are to be re-structured and made better for all learners it should be through reduction of duplication, reduction of management and fewer posts in central teams who make decisions and update policies from central offices but never / hardly ever have any contact with children or their families.
maybe if the council stopped blowing our money on hair brained ideas and pushing the stupid earth bund idea ah mean how much has been spent defending that and trying to push it through and don't get me started on the fountain
I think toilets should be kept but this question was included with another unrelated issue.
Schools in the region are already struggling to provide the excellent education that they do due to cuts and lack of staff.... Kids are the future yet it's them that will suffer if we cut schools money any more. There is no way learning support should be cut!! We need more as it is!!
Cut pay and expenses for senior management.
How do we expect to be a successful region with quality services when we cannot provide basic services . Instead of coming up with budget proposals to reduce services which will enhance our communities not only for residents but also for visitors why not look at making services more efficient. As an ex council worker I have seen for over 20 years the opportunity to make services more efficient by looking at staffing. Go back to the basics of looking at job evaluation for every single job in the council. We need toilets, leisure facilities, parks and gardens , waste disposal otherwise our region will become undesirable to live in and visit. The people of Dumfries and Galloway need to feel proud of their home and the council should have a central role in fostering and nurturing that pride. The services and facilities you continue to cut will never be reserected.
Charge for Youth Beatz - even a small amount pp.
As a Parent and also a health professional working with children with additional needs across DnG the current level of additional learning support is worrying. Despite note of falling school role intake there are many large classes in the region with numerous children with additional needs that do not have the right/safe level of learning support in place. This area should be further funded not cut.back more.
Also managing a household of 4 with fortnightly bin collection is already difficult even with a high level of recycling. 3 weeks would only result in people dumping rubbish more- for example at the road side and next to the already overflowing lay-by bins!
Management wages could be cut. Also consider closing libraries that aren't open that often (e.g 2 half-days a week)
Cut the bosses at the top of education. Too many bosses, not enough teachers and support staff working IN schools WITH children, where we really need it. Children need quality experiences so they need quality teachers and support in the schools. Fill the current schools we have eg Northwest Community Campus. Close some small schools, where children can fill other schools. Better utilise The Brigde..or sell it!!
I think big savings could be made with marketing. One option is; There is many missed opportunities to make revenue from derelict buildings. Offer short leases, reduce rates and encourage bigger companies to come back to Dumfries.

<p>While another is capitalise on the footfall that Burns celebrations or Youth Beats brings to Dumfries. Extend these celebrations to the town centre and offer smaller retailers outwith the town an option to rent a town centre shop for a weekend or week to increase footfall to town and generate income from our empty shops. Why not consider a Christmas Market, keep locals in Dumfries and Galloway rather than encourage them out of town.</p> <p>Could carboot sales be alternated within the town or Broomsroad car park. Invite people to our town and make Dumfries booming again.</p>
<p>Removing or restructuring education support will have long term impact on the ability of schools to support all young people and their families which is a legal obligation in Scottish law and UN rights of a child. The council has a large number of management levels who could be streamlined to make out of date processes more efficient and cost effective. Rural areas rely on a local recycling centre, toilets and parking to support their community, an aging population and tourism.</p>
<p>I note in the analysis of the budget there is indication of individual department management costs but the amount is lumped together with councillor salaries. Stop taking the high number of trainee teachers as the majority of them are out of a job after their probation year.</p>
<p>This council needs to stop wasting money on failed projects e.g front page of the Courier. Not sure how £130 million has been saved over past 15 years as we continue to see headlines like "not thought through". There would be little need to cut staff or services!!</p>
<p>I am not convinced that some of these proposed cuts would lead to savings. It is likely that this council would increase costs trying to reduce costs going by evidence in the public domain.</p>
<p>The spend to save suggestion for Lochar Moss is risky as it could lead to increased costs taking into account the track record of this council.</p>
<p>The proposed cut to teachers is quite shocking considering it was recently published that all staff within the education services have been promoted. This despite the fact that they don't seem to be able to issue a survey correctly? Management cuts please in this department.</p>
<p>Cut management and this will protect services and the jobs of staff who do the work!</p>
<p>Use waste plastic for filling in potholes.</p>
<p>The attainment level for our children is the lowest in Scotland so what does this council do to address this disgrace. Propose cutting the teaching and learning support for them. Well played.</p>
<p>You have an impossible task and appreciate the opportunity to voice my support and thoughts. Many options are about modernisation and reviewing which I see as an opportunity to innovate. You need to find a way to protect the most vulnerable while reducing impact to as many as possible in d&g while keeping our towns a place we are proud off - clean and safe. My main concern is with large reductions in budgets how would thousands of additional tourists due to national park impact be mitigated ie to our failing and dangerous infrastructure, and lack of traffic and parking management.</p>
<p>DO NOT CLOSE CASTLE DOUGLAS SWIMMING POOL. A great asset for the whole family at a time where mental health is so important</p>
<p>Reduce transport costs in education, either by ensuring families with cars take their own children to school or use council workers to transport in pool cars. Taxi companies are deliberately charging schools and the council high charges for use of transport.</p> <p>Too many middle managers in supporting learners services.</p> <p>Stop promoting to levels of incompetence.</p>
<p>Get traffic wardens back on the streets to able money from those who park illegally. Don't think away our only leisure facility for families in Castle Douglas our swimming pool is so valuable in teaching a life saving skill.</p>
<p>It would be hugely detrimental to close castle Douglas swimming pool, which is a valuable resource to our children and learning a life saving skill of swimming. Without this facility, my children will not be able to partake in this invaluable life skill.</p>
<p>Do not close Castle Douglas Swimming Pool</p>
<p>It is clear that the people making these choices are out of touch with what goes on in schools. Children are struggling in the current system and need the additional support resources and more teachers to help close the attainment gap and make schools accessible and inclusive for all learners.</p>
<p>Castle Douglas Swimming Pool is an asset to our town. Closing it would have a huge impact on children's health!</p>

<p>Cut management wages. Introduce parking wardens to all areas with a no excuse approach, fining all breaches. Make traveling in your own car part of the job and don't give staff hired cars for local work. Don't touch education services or there will be uproar.</p>
<p>The Youth Work Service is essential for young people. They provide many opportunity's that young people would not be able to access without it. Reducing youth work provision would only destroy the little hope young people have to gain access to many events/ and regional projects that aren't available for them elsewhere. From youth council which allows young people to have a voice and have the ability to choose and have an opinion that will be listened to and passed on to the full council. Through Young Eyes, which highlights young people experience of poverty and be able to share it with professionals to hopefully bring about change. Young Womens Network which gives young women a platform to make our community a better place for them and future generations to grow up in, and work with groups from the rest of the UK to give them a peer group of support. And so many other amazing opportunities such as a meal for young people who may not get one otherwise. A community of role models for young people to look up to and gain key skills such as confidence, resilience and self esteem in a safe and welcoming environment you can't create the same elsewhere, similar yes but not close to the Youthwork Service we have!</p>
<p>I think closing Castle Douglas swimming pool and fitness suite would be a mistake and a facility greatly missed by the town and surrounding areas. Especially when there is money to be spent on the pool to update the building and maintain the effective running of the pool. With this money could make a huge impact on a more energy efficient way of running the building, as well as increasing the foot fall of customers. The pool is used by all ages and provides necessary life skills for many adults and children. It would be a travesty if the pool was to be put forward as an option to save money.</p>
<p>Keep CD Pool open. It's an incredibly vital service!</p>
<p>There should be a focus on cutting management costs and raising productivity. Stop wasting money on failed projects.</p>
<p>Please do not cut CD Swimming pool, it's one of the main resources we use.</p>
<p>Employ more Indians and get rid of the Chiefs. In general staff are being paid too much for the job they are doing. Make the staff feel valued. No more home working or flexible working it's being abused.</p>
<p>This would need to be Scotland-wide but reduce the amount of funded hours given to ELC - allow the working parents to have the 1140 hours and allocate a reduced number of hours to parents who aren't working. This would free up childcare spaces to working families who need the childcare (in the Stewartry it can be a problem trying to get spaces) and ensure the hours were being used properly.</p>
<p>No spending on DEI</p>
<p>There is still an unspoken bully boy culture which is detrimental to the honest,hard working employees who don't have a chance.A previous temporary director commented on losing 70 percent of managers and the service would be no worse,why is nothing done about this?Please see previous comment!!!</p>
<p>The council should take cuts first. Your middle managers and pointless employment roles should be cut first before communities see potentially vital services removed or massively reduced. The suggestion of removing support staff in schools is ridiculous, maybe some of the people in pointless jobs in the council could go to a support role in a school and see what real work is.</p>
<p>Reduction of the civic hospitality budget: The council funds or supports a number of civic hospitality events across the calendar. These can no longer be justified when we are facing significant cuts and closures across the council. Examples are twinning events, gala events and one-off anniversary events.</p> <p>In addition, it is time that catering for councillors at committees, and others meetings, is dropped. All staff pay for their own lunches, councillors should now do the same. When councillors are making decisions about where to reduce cost across services and cut staff, they should consider where they can make their own cost reductions. It may only make a small saving, but politically it would show our citizens that the councillors are doing their bit.</p>
<p>If we have too many schools why not close them</p>
<p>PLEASE DON'T CLOSE CASTLE DOUGLAS SWIMMING POOL. I live in Castle Douglas and use the pool 3 times a week. It is a great facility for Castle Douglas and has been for the last 50 years.</p>

If you close castle Douglas pool and leisure facilities be prepared for a massive community backlash. The amount spent on DG1 is a joke and would have been better released to other facilities to modernise and improve.

Reduce the amount of managers across the entire council. You have high paid people doing nothing! Everyone knows it, this is no secret and a running joke at this point.

Change youth beats to a paid ticket event with free things inside to cover some of the cost.

Employ a parking warden across Dumfries and castle Douglas. They will pay for themselves quickly.

Have the drains across the region cleared by a gully cleaning company or invest in your own. The drains DO NOT take any water, cause flooding and deaths across the region. This is something that should have been addressed years ago.

Implement more services like I have described above and people may be more open to an increase in council tax as we are actually paying for a service to the region.

Hub the whole of the council staff in one building and reduce the number of buildings used or not used by staff. Use office rooms as hubs with computer stations 6-8 available per room.

Reduce number of management positions with duplicate roles.

Employ CEO that resides in the region and is present and has interest in improving the regional wellbeing and reputation.

Reduce number of Councilors per region as 4 per region is completely unnecessary.

Stop unnecessary councillor expenses and use a centralised hub for office sundries and office use.. centralised stock. Hub.

Only provide grant funding to organisations that provide cooked food free to community, foodbanks and organisations that provide this to large numbers of public. eg Summerhill community centre , provides for the wider community.. others don't and only serve themselves and pals and not the community where they reside..do not benefit for any funding they receive.

not to small groups that provide play groups to the same group of people who attend as this is not utilised appropriately and only serves to provide for the organiser and their pals!!

Stop unnecessary award ceremonies and functions at easterbrook hall.

Reduce the number of secondary schools . Especially very small ones that have limited subject choice but get a lot more money per pupil.

Castle douglas swimming pool

There should be an urgent review of management salaries. No one in Dumfries and Galloway Council should be paid more than £70,000 per annum. I was disgusted at the pay raises given to the top of the Council. I do not see this in any of the choices given to help reduce the budget. Most members of the public do not have enough knowledge of the budget options you have given and therefore I believe this survey is a waste of time.

*Simplytoo many high heid ones hanging onto huge annual wages, and actually achieving very little in £ for £ value for money. Talkers, not doers.

Bin wagons and the current roadend collections must continue as are. There's too much fly-tipping already.

I do not see mention of the increase in tourists should the Galloway National Park go ahead, and how our current services will accomodate the 500 000 annual estimated visitors?..... Our infrastructure, sewerage sites, public toilets and refuse employees are under enough pressure, without it being implemented. Be warned,

Finally, cuts must come. Cuts will come. We will accept that.

But the final responsibility lies with you.....

*Beware the high heid yins. Are they really value for our monthly money???

Please do not cut ASL assistants . The number of needs in a classroom has risen substantially , we need them especially now.
Mothball small primary schools. We need the money in larger school for resources and teachers
Oppose the creation of a galloway national park. A park would put extra strain on council resources and is very unpopular with most of the electorate
I feel very strongly that Galloway is should not become a national park as it would ruing the countryside. The other 2 national parks in Scotland have been disastrous for nature and are deeply unpopular with the residents. Also, I believe second homes should be discouraged so that more housing becomes available for locals.
Yes - it is my view that 'climate emergency' and 'net zero' ideologies are very debatable at the very least, and not helpful to the framing community and indeed, to the Region's economy in general. Similarly, recent promotion of 'equality and diversity' (sic) could be at least reduced to save unnecessary expense. All these are controversial political mstters.
Can't believe that there is a reduction in Afditional Support Needs even on the table!! These kids need loads of help!
Empty council buildings should be reused for community led local housing to protect the legacy of our built heritage and provide settlement centre homes. The council should create an income stream for its finances through shares/ ownership of community energy schemes (such as wind power). A lot of duplication of services such as Business Gatway when we already have SOSE, SSSA and TSDG and an environmental team talking about the council buying a farm to protect the Annan merse?! Let's stick to the basic core services that councils need to deliver on.
We did not realise quite how much money is currently spent on schools and youth related programmes of work. We do not have any children or grandchildren and keeping things like refuge collection is therefore more of a priority for as otherwise it feels like we get nothing from DGC for what we pay and the lion's share goes to those with children or those in poverty
Shutting Castle Douglas pool and fitness centre would be a huge loss to the town and detrimental for all those that use it. With increase in child hood obesity and increased mental health this is one of the main resource that can help that. Also all children would miss out on learning to swim. My son uses the gym to undertake extra training for his judo for which he is competing internationally if he didn't have this we would have to travel to Dumfries which at present is not an option
Reduce the number of Councillors for each area,possibly the number of Directors for various services,managers are sufficient to do the job if employed with the right qualification.Better to have less facilities for the same use but financially manageable than have too many.Basically less politics and more efficiency.
Tough decisions to be made and cuts will affect everyone. However, money is wasted on consultations which produce no results, nothing concrete. There are many employees within the council who earn handsome salaries however I'm unsure what they actually do. Are we getting value for money? Productivity?
There are many staff reductions across the council including management. This follows on from the senior management salary increases. Why have we not been given the option to give our opinion on that level. Consideration to reduction of Senior management as well as management.
Remove lunch provided for elected members - they get paid like all other employees - this includes tea and coffee facility. Key focus of budget should be to increase not decrease funding to our schools - they provide a key service of educating our workforce who in return will have roughly 75% of young people gaining employment in our region which increases our economy and can generate greater chance of investment with skilled employees. Invest in electric vehicles, phasing out ICE cars to reduce overall maintenance costs. Further investment into Electric charging points which could be funded locally and used to generate income for Dumfries and Galloway. Do not focus on increasing charges to citizens - this does not showcase to Holyrood that they must provide proper realistic funding to each council. Sell council assets that are not being used or invest to repurpose these buildings. Possible charge to use Waste Recycling Centres - may increase fly tipping but could potentially generate income. Youth Beatz - could this move to being charged - £10/20 per ticket if sold to same amount of attendees would generate between £400,000 to £800,000 minus cost to run event - possible weekend tickets are less or individual for dates. Teacher/pupil ratios are already

quite high across the region especially in larger schools like Gretna and Annan. We should be aiming for this to be more equitable by increasing teacher numbers in these schools not reducing - we want to improve our young peoples experience not detract from it. There MUST be no removal of school technicians from current sites as well as clerical. Schools do not operate or run without these staff. You would find an increase in staff absence from areas that have a technician if this was removed, would also detract the experience our young people receive as preparation, correcting and marking time would be reduced. This would have an impact on our young peoples attainment! Alternative provision must remain in place, actually increase to ensure we are catering for our more complex individuals. We are directly failing these young people and others in their class by not delivering a more tailored experience for these individuals - utilise The Bridge better? If we continue to cut across the board, it is going to become more difficult to attract potential citizens and employees to our region. Greater investment in local businesses to further enhance our local economy and increase citizen welfare. By increasing council tax you would directly put more families into poverty - this must be avoided! If moving forward with implementing charges for parking and increasing charges for facilities, you cannot also raise council tax! Use these changes to support council tax being frozen which would encourage more families to use these facilities. Implement a more sensible pay rise scheme for all public sector employees - I understand this is above our council but the message can be sent to COSLA and the Scottish Government that with a clear road map/agreement for pay rises would make budgeting for councils significantly easier. This could in effect be pay rises are at least 0.1% above the rate of inflation meaning employees are actually getting a pay rise, which ensures staff welfare and not increasing the desire to move, as well as ensuring more spend is available to be spent on our local economy.

No kids so paying for any of the current schools stuff isn't in our best interests

As a young person , i feel some of these proposals will be detrimental to young people throughout the region , to take one example, axing youthbeatz funding, 1. This attracts 40,000 people over the 2 days , bringing HUGE economic benefit to dumfries town 2 . over the last 6 years of volunteering at youthbeatz , there have been Duke Of Edinburgh volunteers who have completed their residential section of their awards at youthbeatz, THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE ANYWHERE ELSE IN D&G . 3. Youthbeatz isnt just a music festival, its a vital opportunity for us to get together, its a chance for young folk to unwind on their doorstep. Without having to travel for multiple hours to major cities .

Another example would be the reduction in youth services , as a former Youth Councillor and Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament, i am a champion for the work of our regions Youthwork service, the hard work and dedication of youth services staff is what has made me the young woman i am today , they helped me through very difficult times in my life, where i could have easily have taken a different path , having the support there in my community of Wigtownshire, by a Worker who lives and breathes youthwork daily , is what got me through. Youthwork DG is at the calibre it is because of each and every worker in each and every corner of our region putting their heart and soul into making the young people thrive . Through my volunteer roles above , i sat in many council meetings with the leader / depute leader at the time , local councillors , council officers & committee clerks & external partner organisations, all of which had a immense appreciation and thanks for all the work of the youthwork service , always offered their full backing for anything we suggested , but now these same people are being asked if they would support a cut to youthwork budget / workforce- framed as a streamlined service... there is no way to streamline youthwork , youthwork is fluid , getting rid of any part of it , would cause severe disruption to young people, routines gone , safe places gone , their safe person gone . I really hope the elected representatives of Dumfries and Galloway will vote thinking of their people .

Thank - you for giving us the platform to share our opinions on this .

Please, please, please do not reduce any services directly related to our children. Our children have suffered badly enough through recent years. Reducing Additional Support for Learning Teachers, support staff and EAL teachers only hurts the children. Children with Additional Support Needs are already being badly let down. We need much more support for these children not less. My child has lost so much support despite having a wide range of additional support needs that I fear she will become a non attender of school. She is a bright girl with excellent behaviour. However, the lack of support for her has totally dented her self confidence, school is too overwhelming for her, it's loud it's noisy and class behaviour is poor, she has been bullied (which will only get worse if you don't have the inclusion base), and she is totally unsupported, not because of her needs which are vast but because there already isn't the support available. She is well

behaved so isn't problematic enough to demand attention. My bright, happy child who was keen to learn is now disappearing before my eyes. She could have left school with good exams results and been a success but the current failures and lack of support in schools is "killing" her. It breaks my heart and there are many others like her. Don't take the support away from our children - they can do well, they can be successful, but you must put the support in place to allow this to happen. I beg you not to take it away.

I find the questions that are being put forward utterly bizarre! Assuming there has been a long process of meetings and discussions about what questions you wanted to include, these are the best you could come up with? You are asking questions about savings the council should be making as part of the course of council budgeting and operations and do not need the public to give an opinion on, eg, implement council policy on removing bins households shouldn't have. If it's already council policy, then the council have been incompetent or remiss in not having done this already, you don't need to ask the public if you should do it! Why ask about doing something that makes a saving, but has absolutely no affect on the service or staff? Isn't that already a no brainer that should be done anyway? Asking if people want public toilets closing? Really? Of course public toilets shouldn't close, they are a vital public service. Interestingly, no questions asked about closing libraries/customer service centres. The region has all but redundant library buildings that should have been closed years ago. Whithorn, Port William, Dalry, Gatehouse, Kirkcudbright, Dalbeattie, FOUR libraries in Dumfries. If these are being kept open because of a belief that they are vital in providing a port of call for the disadvantaged and vulnerable in society to obtain food parcels, report homelessness or apply for crisis funds then I would suggest this needs challenging, and a thorough and vigorous review & investigation to support this belief. What do these people do when the libraries are closed? What actual, reliable stats, records and logs are available to support the need for ALL of these libraries to stay open? Surely the council could provide a more tailored, economical, streamlined, focused service for the vulnerable by using joined up thinking and working in conjunction with the CAB, charity/community projects and food banks to create a 'one stop shop' access centre, open 7 days a week. Would this not provide better help to the vulnerable instead of having to try to access several different services at different locations? If libraries are being kept open because the council shrinks from having a handful of locals protesting and running to The Galloway News with 'sad face' photos then library collections could be donated to community groups to run, eg Balmaclellan already has a successful community library in the community centre. The Johnson Centre for a Kirkcudbright Community library. Donate Dalry library to the community. There is a plethora of books available at a wide range of charity shops and supermarkets these days. The region has too many unnecessary registration offices. No doubt these were needed years ago in rural locations with restricted access to cars and buses, but those days are long gone. A majority of registration services can be done over the phone, or at main central locations, Stranraer, Newton Stewart, Castle Douglas, Dumfries, Annan and Gretna. If Gretna were better staffed and managed, all wedding registration processes could be done there, a majority are processed on line, by phone or post anyway. Better to have fewer customer service centres that are open longer hours, seven days a week and fully staffed than more that are under used, under staffed and closed half the week.

I feel there is a lot of funded school and early years activities e.g. active schools programme, summer roadshow, early years activities, youth work, delivered at what seems like huge cost with little or variable benefit and engagement and huge inequality in access across the region. This provision could absolutely be met in private sector for most children, and support could be targeted to areas of greatest depression. I am a mum to a 3 and 5 year old.

How about we don't give council staff 6months of full pay when they are off sick. Just do what everyone does and give sick pay. This will make a huge saving.

Prioritise young people; they are the future of the region. If you want to retain them, give them the best education, particularly secondary education. Ensure they have the best choices in terms of subjects, and the best teachers delivering these subjects. Assess progress more frequently in terms of student performance and give them guidance in relation to career pathways/university/college options.

Although tough decisions are required, as long as the public are kept updated and informed then it will make the job easier. Too many people think that the only funding the Council receives is Council Tax and an awareness exercise of how the Council is actually funded should be presented along with the Budget Consultation and following Budget communications.

I believe that one of the weaknesses that we have as a Council is the lack of education within the local community. We receive a lot of negativity for things that we may not be responsible for, primarily due to the

fact that people are unaware of this and assumptions are made. We must provide local people with the education and information on the running of the Council. As well as this, there must be detailed explanations available for the difficult decisions that will be made to 'soften the blow' to those in the local community. If there is transparency between the Council and the people, although there will still be negative opinions they will be more open to the reasoning for the decision made.

Castle Douglas Swimming Pool is more than just a facility; it's a cornerstone of our community's health, well-being, and spirit. For so many of us, this pool is where we go to feel strong, connected, and alive. Losing it in the budget cuts would take away a vital lifeline for countless people—from seniors who rely on it to maintain their mobility, to kids learning to swim and develop life-saving skills, to individuals recovering from injury or illness who find low-impact exercise in the water transformative.

This pool is not just a leisure facility but a place that fosters community and brings people together. I've met friends here, shared stories, and seen people who might never cross paths otherwise. In a world where it's all too easy to feel isolated, Castle Douglas Swimming Pool provides a space for us to connect and belong. The health benefits alone are undeniable. Regular swimming can improve cardiovascular fitness, mental health, and overall well-being. The pool isn't just a place to exercise; it's essential to keeping us healthier, happier, and more resilient as a community.

Closing this pool would be a short-sighted decision that would hurt far more than it would save. By cutting its funding, you're not just reducing access to a facility; you're pulling apart a vibrant, health-focused community that relies on this pool to thrive. Please, keep Castle Douglas Swimming Pool open. For the regulars who rely on it, for the future swimmers finding their confidence, and for the well-being of Castle Douglas as a whole. This pool is essential to us—don't take it away.

Not sure if this applies, STOP the whitesands project and re-invest in services. as Floods happen. By building the brems, we are only moving the problem downstream.

front line workers should be protected and the council should raise Council Tax immediately.

I have strong feelings that Castle Douglas Swimming Pool should be kept open. If closed there is no council facility between DG1 and the Merrick Centre; I feel this is far too big of distance and people would not travel. In this day and age we talk about keeping people as healthy as possible, this would be taking away an option for this.

I also feel additional support for learning teachers should not be cut. We all want children to get the best start possible in life and for many ASL teachers play a key part in this. By cutting these it's the next generation will miss out and be affected.

Unable to make valid assessments as there was not enough information relating to each of the savings options.

Seems like another paper exercise.

As both a staff member and Castle Douglas resident, I have strong feelings that Castle Douglas Swimming Pool should be kept open.

If closed there is no council facility between DG1 and the Merrick Centre; I feel this is far too big of distance and people would not travel. We have many locals use the pool regularly and my fear would be they just being active all together. In this day and age we talk about keeping people as healthy as possible, this would be taking away an option for this. For older residents and users the pool is both a way of being active and staying social and meeting people. The pool could well be some peoples lifeline.

I know there is money agreed for a refurbishments, I feel the sooner this is done the better. As no work has been done for so long, there will be a real buzz around the town and this will help increase both pay as go users and memberships in the long run, thus increasing the money the pool takes in.

Sell Council buildings that are not used to capacity eg Daar Road, Kirkcudbright, Castle Douglas Abercromby Road site, Buccleuch St Dumfries.

Rationalise library provision based on usage.

Give administration of all educational trusts to relevant headteachers to allocate funding to whom/ where it

is most needed.

Reduce the number of committees and committee meetings where possible.

Bring in parking charges and parking enforcement officers.

Dumfries and Galloway seem to diagnose everyone and their dog with Autism, ADHD, CVI. This enables a level of entitlement like no other and payouts left right and centre. Pupils accessing private school transfer contracts when they live 200 yards from the school is a joke. The absence policy is pathetic, allowing staff to take copious amount of time off work with no consequences to employment. Restorations made to fountains at massive cost when the town center is dead. Ruining lovely places to live by filling them with social housing, filled with the unemployed and immigrants. Working people very aware that you get way more if you do less.

The increases are always aimed at hard working people to pay for everything and everyone else in the community sitting in new detached 4/5 homes laughing at the general workforce. The government and local councils are a joke.

When/if streamlining staff, consider retention of those staff with bespoke specialisms/skillsets as these will be harder to retain going forward due to higher reward available in the private sector e.g. fire safety, NEBOSH qualified, architectural

Our children's education should not suffer for the lack of money within Dumfries and Galloway Council. Learning support have already been cut which directly impacts our children who needs extra support, please do not attack other areas of school support . Children need more not less ! Target areas where we can all support - bin collections, less energy to run refuse centres etc.. Schools have already been cut back over the years, please no more!

Some of the language used is extremely impenetrable and therefore not really suitable for a survey - perhaps consulting the consultations team would have helped. A lot of assumptions are made in terms of the knowledge of Council economics and funding generally. There is no total of the selected savings given. A lot of conjunctions between the cost saving proposals which the reader cannot quite follow unless they work in that area. If you want community groups, parents and carers to be engaged in this process you need to explain what solutions there may be to alternative provision. People need to work, not just volunteer. To save money it would be good to have a more careful oversight of some of the products purchased and distributed through the poverty support funds as in my experience, some of those things purchased were not suitable or ideal for that funding, ending up not being taken up. Discussion and decision and central purchase may have ben better organised. While it is good to be consulted, bulk survey approaches would be better replaced with a few engagement sessions across council staff, residents and volunteer groups with reality checks. An area omitted is the holiday let market which could be subject to a local tax of some description within the bounds of what is legal.

Reduce the number of people in the comms/marketing unit and allow councillors, council departments, schools, sports and leisure/museums to do their own publicity for the media/public; get rid of the mobile library service as everyone has online access now to book (Kindles etc; reduce the number of council cars - too many sit on the car park near the swimming pool in Annan all day doing nothing; get rid of Youth Beatz. Instead protect frontline services, save teachers and assistants jobs in primary and secondary schools, waste collections, pot hole filling, poverty-ending schemes, sports and leisure (helps mental health) and the kids summer and breaks sports and activities) and do same for older people and those in need.

I am concerned that a number of the proposed budget savings potentially adversely affect young people in DG, and conversely there are few budget saving options in relation to adult provision. The adult health and social care provision is a significant portion of the budget and there are limited options made available to either rationalise or modernise how support is provided for adults.

This was incredibly difficult as it shows how important services are and to cut any is a difficult decision. I definitely like the ideas of restructuring and modernising services to get the best use for money.

Axe catering for councillors and consider how many civic receptions the council hosts going forward. Re-introduce library fines. Stop writing off so many council tax debts etc. Reduce council input on events and funding for events. Council funds and focus should be on roads, schools and social care.

Why not hand the leisure centres DG1 over to private companies or trusts

As someone that works in a leisure centre, I do not agree with allowing 14 year olds to be able to use the gym, I believe unless in a competitive sport they should not be allowed to use the gym - they do not use appropriately and staffing doesn't allow constant monitoring of the children, they use social media and phones taking videos and pictures in the gym while making others feel uncomfortable, even in the changing rooms. I believe that age for gym use should be 16 and no lower (have 16 to 18 year olds have to be a member to use and 18+ can start pay as you go if needed). If not this then make regulated times for 14 - 16 year olds to use the gym facilities between 3pm and 5pm. This ensures customers who would prefer no children are able to exercise comfortably. I believe the closure of Castle Douglas makes sense and would allow funding into the facilities that have a lot of members.

I really think we should be looking into some sort of machinery that can separate the waste from General waste bins. Go back to weekly collections and start advertising to get more businesses back to D@G Council. We pass every business that pays for general waste uplifts from outside company's. Surely the council can charge less than these other collection company's as the council don't need to travel for these bins. Other waste collectors are making money from only doing Trade Waste only. Another idea would be a 4 Day week in the waste department, as you would get more done within 9 hour days, as there is about 3 RCVs from Stranraer covering Newton Stewart and surrounding areas. these RCVs would have more capacity on a 9 hour days to do more than they can over 5 days at 7.2 Hours.

Rural people receive far fewer services but pay the same. Rural roads are neglected even when huge potholes are reported. Benefits from wind farms do not go to those worst affected in terms of noise and visual impact and property devaluation. Council could address this issue with wind farm companies. Travel to and from hospitals is an issue for elderly in particular.

It is time to cut down on middle management rather than seeing that area grow.

update schools heating provision thereby ending practice of opening windows to cool overheated schools from september on.

I think that the rationalisation of management structures is important.

The council's main priority should be to provide high quality services which people need (e.g schools. roads, waste disposal) and to protect the vulnerable in our area.

It would have been helpful to have had a summary of the services that facing significant financial pressures over the next 3 years and the impact these pressures will have on the budget projections. The majority of the savings/income generation options presented appear to be sensible and manageable however the framing of these within the overall delivery requirement of the Council could have been made clearer. It would have been of value to have an info-graphic on what services are statutory requirement for the Council to deliver and what are discretionary etc.

Reduce the number of Councillors. Based on population per ward there should be a reduction of councillors to a maximum of 3 for larger wards and 2 for smaller wards. There should also be no more than one councillor per political party per ward.

Abandon the Whitesands flood prevention scheme. A massive outlay for very little actual benefit to the vast majority of people in the region. Those who have spoken out against it can claim some kind of victory. The majority who do not care if it floods or not can be happy knowing the money required to be outlaid from DGC will not be adversely affecting future budgets.

Proceed with the decriminalisation of parking and thereafter actively enforce parking violations. This includes ANPR for the Glasgow Road bus lane Burns Statue and the High Street to allow fines to be issued to those who ignore the regulations.

Charge for parking in all council owned car parks within the town centre from 6:00am to 6:00pm

End the funding of Youth Beatz festival. A huge outlay of money for a once-a-year event. Again this only really appeals to those in Dumfries and the immediate surrounding areas. If it was to continue, then seek corporate sponsorship.

End funding for external arts projects which have been going for more than 5 years or make a profit within 3

<p>years. If their business plan has not allowed them to make a profit in that time then they have misjudged their market.</p>
<p>Buy a number of disabled friendly vehicles and drivers to deploy across the region. These can be used for necessary social services contracts and then made available for hire (like a taxi service) by members of the public at other times.</p>
<p>Seriously review the internal Procurement process within DGC as it does not always provide best value for money. Multiple cases of regulations being too stringently applied by those with a lack of understanding, leading to increased staff costs and delays, which end up costing projects more in the long run.</p>
<p>Stop buying the latest iPhones and look to re-use existing technology wherever possible. Consider whether iPhones really are the best option for council communication or could cheaper alternatives be used.</p>
<p>Stop the obsession with buying electric cars. Our region is nowhere near ready in terms of charging infrastructure. These vehicles have little or no resale value and a questionable battery life and are a false economy when compared to 'environmental benefits'. Return to more reliable diesel fuelled cars wherever possible.</p>
<p>Introduce admission charges for museums! Let kids in for free - but Stranraer Museum and the Castle are wonderful, would happily pay to enter.</p>
<p>No cuts that would harm those in poverty or those with ASL or family, educational services.</p>
<p>Make free school meals means tested. Employing a traffic warden to give fines for parking on yellow lines etc, will provide the council with a fortune. Reduce budget for youth work to exclude sugary drinks and food as well as unhealthy food. Increase practical work force and reduce office based staff</p>
<p>Although our council has been required to save millions of pounds over the last 15 years i believe there is still a lot of money wasted in the delivery of some services. Instead of asking services what could be cut or changed ask what do we need to keep this service operational. I would be happy to pay more council tax if the services available actually delivered what the public wanted not what managers think is needed. More public consultation should be available and Elected Members should be asking to speak with front line workers not just management and the public.</p>
<p>Look to bring back traffic wardens Install cameras to fine cars jumping red lights/using bus lane on Glasgow street</p>
<p>Reduce the number of outsourced contracts. Outsourcing appears cheap on paper but when the job has to be done twice over because of shoddy workmanship it really isn't worth it. Best example is the roads in the area. Contracted jobs equals poor quality and worse value for money. The Council needs to get better at procuring services. Opt for in house and local rather than giving contracts to businesses in Glasgow and further afield. Companies are available locally they never get offered work. Ask staff where savings and cuts could be made. They are the best people to ask. Empower them and you will get your answers.</p>
<p>there are difficult decisions to be made, but raising council tax should not be part of this. DG already have higher council tax comparatively, and for fewer services.</p>
<p>For those who do not have children/grandchildren, it is not clear what our council tax actually pays for that actually benefits us (other than bin collections). We have pavements in a state of disrepair DG12 6GY (never completed yet council took them over from developer anyway and now dragging their heels on bringing them up to standard), similar for street lights out and blocked drains. We do not attend the leisure centre or local libraries either so the key options which are relevant to myself and my partner are related to refuse collection or public toilets.</p>
<p>Maintain teacher numbers.</p>
<p>DGC has to maintain services, but accepted that this has to be a no frills service. Revenue needs to increase without putting undue burden on residents. Further review on Social Care and retiring to D&G should be undertaken given %age of budget on social care</p>

Savings clearly can and must be made and I agree with most of those listed in the survey. A plan to reduce the number of Elected Councillors in the Region should be considered. A rise in the Council Tax rates is a priority in my view.
A package for teachers with a lengthy service to be able to retire to allow some of the many many probationers a chance of a permanant job within DGC. The cost to allowing time served teachers to retire could be offset by the newly qualified teachers being paid at bottom of the teachers payscales.
Need to keep support for young people, especially in schools. No mention of reducing council buildings? Why not? get rid of Oasis, you have 2 youth centres within metres of each other. Put the teams on rural areas to support rural schools
Evening Bus services in Dumfries which were removed post COVID without consultation should be reinstated.
We simply cannot afford to reduce the numbers of support or teaching staff in schools. Learning needs and behavioural mgt have never been more intense in our classrooms. As a parent, I am already fearful of the aggressive and disruptive behaviour being reported by children and staff across the region: it is NOT restricted to a single school or postcode. Many children and teachers are merely "surviving" their school days and returning home in a state of exhaustion. If we do not value the funding of education then we do not value any of the workforce for education and teaching is the discipline that ensures all the others which hold up our society. We need safe, adult-led classrooms in this region where pupils feel welcome and protected. We have lost sight of this over the last decade and more cuts will only leave our children and their teachers further disenfranchised. Frankly, I am shocked and disgusted that reducing support staff is even an option for saving money. It suggests that many councillors don't appropriately understand just how dire the staffing situations are in our schools.
Move Social Work Services out of Irish Street into Mountain Hall Treatment Centre. Close and sell off Irish Street
Increase council tax for all Dumfries postcodes. This is where all the services are - bedding flowers and hanging baskets in the summer, DG One, Ice Bowl, public transport etc. People who live in Dumfries should have a premium added to their annual council tax bill.
Charge those Councils who transport coach loads of kids to the Youth Beatz festival to pay a contribution towards the cost of staging the event .
Allocate motorhome parking spaces to all our towns and popular villages (New Abbey , Kippford , Port Patrick) etc. installing waste and water facilities, charging £10/night , encouraging spending in local businesses. This has proved extremely popular in Hawick (which we use often) , there is no charge there but the majority of motorhome owners are only too willing to pay a nominal charge for parking and use of services .
Scrap the idea of a Galloway National Park . This will only encourage over tourism which will be detrimental to our beautiful area with more traffic on the roads ,creating the need for more maintenance , increased litter , more demand on our already dwindling public toilets . All of these resulting in more expense to the Council . There are already numerous agencies and organisations in our area that the money for this park should go to in order to continue the excellent work they do. We do not need a National Park encouraging the wrong type of "tick box" tourist who don't know how to behave in the countryside and appreciate our wildlife and open spaces. I can't understand why the Council would endorse a National Park while asking residents for ideas of how to make budget cuts affecting our young people and education!
Close The Bridge!
Please make this more widely available
I do not agree with mothballing of smaller schools, the threshold should remain at 10 and not 25, some children require that intimate support with education and these schools are creating confident and vital members of the upcoming society
No
They say education is the future for our children, why is there so many proposed cuts that will affect their future. Also as a parent of a child that has additional needs it's scary that this is also being reduced. Education is always the first to be affected and that's wrong.

As someone from England why not implement parking fees like every other council, that surely would generate an income.

Stop paying sick pay to people on sick all the time. Most people who don't go to work don't get paid. There are people seriously abusing this.

Do not take anything else away from schools... they are already struggling so SO much. More money needs to go into schools and learning support. The whole school system does need re-doing. The only thing that could go is the improvement officers. Let the people on the ground decide what needs improved.... they are the ones who live and breathe it. School staff are almost as broken as many of the kids these days. So much more funding is needed to make this work.

Services for those with disabilities and autism should not be touched either- these numbers are rapidly increasing and there needs to be more services to help accommodate them. Youth work has done some amazing things with my 3 autistic kids. It's almost like youth work have been picking up the slack from schools and those who come out of there broke due to all the cuts. Id save youth work over youth beatz. Youth beatz is a huge chunk of money.... but this could be supplemented/contributed to rather than being free for all to attend.

Council tax is already crippling our family.

And I cannot see how we could survive hygienically if the bin emptying was reduced further. We *just* manage as it is and no more.

I believe you will find big savings through modernising, automation, increasing efficiency, finding better ways of working or delivering the same service at a lower cost eg. through re-procurement. I also considered the perceived relative value for money of each, and the impact it would have, and if I thought it was good/bad/neutral for the community.

Tbh, i dont support any further cuts to our local services. I do support increasing revenue, speculate to accumulate.

Pretty uninspiring proposals no innovation or real fuallenge to several areas of service!!

Either reduce number of heads of service or reduce their recent pay rise. They also get pay rises higher than everyone else. Maybe consider fixing their pay at only 1% increase for the next 5 years.

Why have they not been part of the consultation of savings after they were all given increases last year.

Review job gratings across management staff as many jobs are not the original rules which were assessed.

Remove Yourh Beatz funding and put in place a minimal charge

Review of the poverty funding is having an impact, currently just funding council services. The budget is managed by a service that claims the funding, split up who administered the funding and who is allocated funding

cut the amount paid to staff sick days, make it the same as private sector where you get statuary sick pay instead of full pay

Having just viewed the council's latest video on where money is spent, it is hard to see what people with no children actually get back for council tax paid, other than bin collections which you are proposing to reduce to 3-weekly. Seems an unreasonable proportion of money spent on schools and a couple with no children pay the same as families?

If our voices are heard instead of decisions being made. There is not enough support for children with additional needs. If they are in mainstream classes it disrupts the learning of all. Behaviour support also takes a lot of time staff resources If a pupil is in crisis. They need help not it taken away.

In my view, food caddy's do not need emptied every week. This could be changed to every second week.

Would be helpful to know if the £100k saving in solar panels on the locharmoss is after the cost of them has been deducted

Stop ploughing money into the arts sector in Dumfries and Galloway, i.e J M Barrie's house was a complete waste of money. Please prioritise essential public services until we are financially viable again.

If you implement 1 time every 3 weeks general waste collections people will riot, and rubbish will fill the streets.
difficult and hard to be consistent but trying to weigh-up pros and cons of each proposal as they affect people in the community and the capacity of services to adapt to the change
small schools are the back bone ,better learning dedicated staff dedicated parents
I am outraged by the proposals for cutting ASfL teachers and by such a large percentage. This is incredibly short sighted and will have an enormous impact on children, parents and other school staff. With increased demands on mainstream teachers and the huge upsurge in young people with additional needs (including mental health support needs) it is the pupils who would ultimately suffer and this could have longer term consequences for attainment, positive destinations, absence rates, mental and emotional wellbeing as well as teacher absence and staff turnover. Learning assistants have already been cut and please do not underestimate the profound impact our Learning Assistants have on pupil performance, emotional and mental wellbeing and behaviour as they support teaching staff. Further cuts in this area would be terrible. Those with additional needs are amongst our most vulnerable pupils. How can we carry out the presumption of mainstream education and inclusive practice while potentially removing resources that attempt to ensure that there is equity of provision? The proposals for cutting support for young people with additional language and Gypsy travellers is also a worrying proposal, resulting in potential cuts for potentially vulnerable young people and could, in practice (although probably not in intent) be discriminatory.
I don't think it's acceptable that only public facing council offices should be cleaned. As an employee I'd like to think that my employer is taking care of my work space and at least cleaning the toilets and communal areas such as rest rooms. With many council offices now being open plan and with hot desking, in my opinion not cleaning is not an option.
I would not support the reduction of any services that provide for people with Learning Disabilities, or any policy that targets the provision for any vulnerable group. A focus on reducing waste and duplication across council services, as well as looking at procurement practices (which are often not best value for money) would be well supported by the community in Dumfries and Galloway, and would provide some savings. Re-using, refurbishing and recycling old equipment would also create some savings. Also a root and branch review of the efficiency and cost effectiveness of current council contractors should be considered as there is a great deal of economic waste in this too. I note that you used the term 'Gypsy travellers' which can be offensive to travelling communities, and would like to point out that it's not appropriate.
i would have like a box underneath the questions to be able to ask a question or have a clearer explanation how you propose to save . for example how would changing from a 2 week to 3 week bin delivery save money? lay off drivers, reduce the working hour's that they do how would the savings be achieved
Remove some of the management levels
Youth Services are essential, the youth work teams you have at present are worth their weight in gold - don't cut these services.
The model in Newton Stewart at DEHS, which is basically a community hub with partners in the one building works well, saving money on other buildings, could this be adopted across the region?. I am concerned that although council has committed to GIRFEC and the promise, support for our most vulnerable young people may be reduced which may have a financial impact longer term, The council no longer appears to be using early and effective intervention due to lack of resources especially in the West of the region.
In the current economic environment we need to consider not just savings but what are we going to stop providing as a result of the savings. Management capacity is at an all time low and considering the savings templates submitted, managers will be required to deliver on any which have been agreed. To ensure we are considering all potential savings, the new Senior management structure could be reviewed again as this did incur an additional cost to the council with the introduction of Assistant Director roles. Communication relating to ERVS for all staffing teams would also be helpful.
I think it is vital to protect the services and departments who support our region's vulnerable young people.

<p>Too many layers of senior managers. Close more offices as no reason as to why most jobs cannot be done from home. Put our children first and protect our rural schools. Do more work to encourage more people to move into Dumfries and Galloway.</p>
<p>The Council's self imposed ban on no compulsory redundancies of staff must be removed</p>
<p>Tell the govt that more money is needed and threaten bankruptcy of the council if this is not done. It's to me the [eople stood up to central govt who are lying about the amount of money available. Don't cut any jobs or services that are necessary but stop free concerts for kids etc.</p>
<p>Bring back traffic wardens and design their work around fining people who drive and park illegally.</p>
<p>Our children and young people are the future for D&G and so many need extra additional support within Education. Cuts in education would be detrimental to children, families, carers and staff. Many children have Additional Support Needs and are on waiting lists for help. I can't imagine what would happen if we didn't have the current specialist resources in place to support in the community and in schools. We have a Promise in place in Scotland to support our most vulnerable and our children need more learning opportunities, flexibility to be taught out with school possibly due to trauma in their past. Staff are currently being as creative as possible with limited resources. We need better facilities to support our children with autism, children who are Care Experienced and more staff to support children to come to school when families are struggling. Schools need help and staff in the community to be able to go out to homes to visit and ensure children are safe and getting the opportunities to learn. Many of our children are isolated and vulnerable and may live in Kinship care with elderly grandparents who aren't able to cope. It is vital that we put support in to education and ensure staff are equipped in school with vital support services that are based in our communities. Due to poverty in the region and the geographical landscape in D&G we need to ensure our educational provision is equitable and inclusive.</p>
<p>Stop cutting services and things to do for our youth. Our youths need reason to want to stay in the area and your cutting it. Even the one event for them you're cutting by stopping youth beats. What about all other events for adults? Not even mention.</p> <p>Also it's really poor that your not giving us the chance to say what we want to keep from the options- seems very biased and like decisions have been made already .</p>
<p>Without clear guidance of how the savings will be made this is a difficult survey to complete. Councillors should be reduced to a maximum of 2 per ward.</p>
<p>Did not realise quite how much funding was being spent on schools (we have no children in our household).</p>
<p>Review how council operates between departments and how much savings could be made from better time management and use of staff cover and when its best used. Look to review the billing within council departments ie how much staff time is wasted and the cost this causes. Could it be better managed by creating a computer system for this. Also how much of repairs etc is outside contractors, could be done by council employees or by creating a maintenance team.</p>
<p>I think Youth Beats is an excellent opportunity for teenagers in D&G. Is it possible to charge for tickets? I am aware many private catering company's make money from this event. I think opportunities such as clubs and groups for teenagers need to be increased as they need a focus.</p>
<p>Close libraries where visitor numbers are reduced. No requirement to have three libraries in Dumfries. Why is there an office for enquiries and a library in Dumfries all enquiries should go to the Ewart library.</p>
<p>The fact that some of the most significant savings are education related, particularly with regards to their staffing and the way schools operate is staggering. It goes to show that over the last 10-12 years too much money has continued to be taken up/spent on things that are not actually necessary. The figures at the start show education is still accounting for nearly 40% of the budget so why should other functions which have been cut to the bone (but are just as important to local ratepayers) be expected to keep making cuts when they only get 1% or 2% of the budget?</p>
<p>Dumfries is an absolute disgrace, regarding weeds, overgrown vegetation and dog mess on pavements. More people are desperately needed to be employed to clean this town up. Areas not always frequented by visitors to the town but used continuously by residents are being left to turn into wastelands with overgrown weeds</p>

and broken paving stones and steps. Also the excessive bins on pavements. These could be greatly reduced if there was a decent recycling plant in Dumfries. The implementation of the three bins per household is a ridiculous waste of resources, as most people don't have very much to put into the paper and cardboard bins or the metal and plastic bins every fortnight. If weekly collections of general household waste bins was reinstated and a collection for red and blue waste bins once a month this would be a more cost effective way of refuse removal and would also stop the placement of bins completely blocking a majority of footpaths in Dumfries.

Please do not shut the leisure centre in castle Douglas. It is a an asset for the town. So many children will miss out on swimming lessons with many parents unable to travel to alternate pools.

Why are we building schools in Dumfries that are not required. Not completing the Loreburn/Dfs Academy project would save so much money. Pupil numbers dictate that we do not need these two schools. It seems such a waste.

Avoid investing in war criminals like Israel. Only invest ethically.

Cut the staff posts who aren't doing anything that directly makes difference in a community or delivers services. An example of this is the Ward Workers- absolutely no need to have one per Ward. A vanity project from day one and instead of cutting services and frontline staff cut posts like that.

Council appears to be top heavy with managers and middle managers - could these be reduced in numbers?

Less travel by managers - virtual meetings should be standard - this would reduce time wasted travelling and also save on fuel.

Allow public to turn up without booking at the regions dumps - this would reduce fly tipping which would potential avert resources of council staff having to be deployed to clean up after illegal disposal of items.

Update heating systems in some of the councils older buildings. Some facilities have old style radiators which have no thermostatic control, resulting in no way to regulate the temperature. Too many occasions, where windows are open during winter months because heat is pumping out without no means of regulating it - waste of money especially with the price of heating. Appreciate this may involve an initial outlay but could potentially save thousands of pounds going forward. Would also help with environmental targets.

Allow public to turn up on spec at Dumfries Swimming Pool without the need to book. Also allow cash to be taken and not insist on card payments or prior online payments. Not every parent wants their teenager to have online banking, but without this they are penalised. Would allowing the opportunity to turn up and at least enquire if you could use the pool without prior booking mean that usage could potentially increase should capacity be available at that time?

Would reducing the charge for room bookings to the public actually increase revenue - by reducing the cost would more groups/organisations be attracted to use the facilities therefore more income would be received. Increasing the prices would force groups to look for cheaper options elsewhere and therefore income would actually decrease.

Decrease the "extras" given to "visitors" to the region. If these residents are being housed by us and are in employment do they contribute towards accommodation costs, food costs etc. I would like to think that this is the case - this would reduce the burden on tax payers and be a fair reflection on how they would normally contribute towards cost in their own country. I am all for helping people in need but it must be fair.

Make free school meals targeted and not include all families - many are very capable of paying. There would be means of doing this anonymously ensure no stigma is attached to the children identified. This would reduce costs.

Is there the need for the Art Galleries around the region - could these be put out to trust. Would imagine the majority of clientele visiting these facilities would be quite financially comfortable.

A small increase to each household in their council tax would be perfectly fine to safeguard services and I

speak as someone who is a very low household family who receives no additional benefits. Local services are vital, they just need to be ran efficiently and we the public need to be confident that the budget is being used wisely with no wastage!

Increase taxes on those with second homes.

I strongly believe that funding cuts to education and the school estate should not be an option, young people should be given every chance to succeed, reducing the school estate, or cutting ASL provisions for example, will be wholly detrimental to the future of our children.

Education Education - The education budget is out of control, too many Education 'Managers' getting massive salaries for doing what?. not teaching for sure.

Give the responsibility of running a good school to a good headteacher, give them a nationally competitive salary, and let them get on with it!

And yes, keep the 'learning assistants' who are on lower salaries but do a great job and enable the teachers to teach.

Child Protection MUST remain a priority along with tackling poverty and inequality.

DONT CANCEL YOUTHBEATS - the young folk in D&G don't get much, its the one thing the council does for them.

More Pot hole fixing! Pot hole team - Go big, invest in an efficient, hard working team with the right equipment to do the job right! Make us the best in the country at doing it - and then charge neighbouring regions for our top team to fix their roads too.

DON'T SHUT THE SWIMMING POOLS etc,-

They are central to the populations access to healthy activities. Make them a hub for all kinds of activities, fitness classes and groups.

Instead Maximise their potential for locals and tourists alike. Make the most of what we have. DG1 is diabolical - FREEZING cold, why do you still need to book a swim?? puts folk of just going, and you can NEVER get anyone to answer the phone.! ever. Bring back 2 reception staff you walk up to and say 'can I have a swim please?' - it was sooooo much better. And that is the opinion of everyone I know ! old folk, teenagers and mums with kids alike.

A National Park with no public toilet facilities?? - that would be madness - need to be building and maintaining the best in the country to encourage repeat visits from tourists, alongside car parks and motorhome parking etc where needed. go mad, and get it on the national news - D&G is the new place to come.

STOP spending money on things like Whitesands flooding that has went on forever, focus on what can be done NOW.

Make what we have just 'nicer'. Please keep the flower budget. Put in electric charging points for Motorhomes and charge per night. When it floods its shut, when its open it is bringing in money and tourists to use the restaurants bars and pubs in that area. This could be replicated across the region at other 'scenic' area's.

Refuse - its boring, but so important to folk. Closing, cutting down on, or making it difficult to use the dump, or have your waste collected leads to fly tipping. Fact. The recycling scheme is good, build on it without cuts.

THE 'ARTS' - forget it, those who attend the arts can afford to pay for them, middle class older population with plenty of money.

A good gallery space with a good cafe and shop selling local artists work should not need public money in an area mostly populated by the over 65's. Make it useable at nights by groups such as choirs' or band practice for a small fee, or classes on the arts or music that people would pay to attend? (Income to be more than the expense)

Put up the charges and start making some money out of them. GRACEFIELD ARTS CENTRE etc.. make them

pay their way. 'Peter Pan house' a perfect example of how this council wastes money on the middle classes fanciful idea's - it was never going to work.

In fact, move Gracefield to the Peter Pan house (before it gets into disrepair, not in 10 years time) , and sell the whole Gracefield/Woodbank estate for private building land, and for goodness sake make the planning department have an imagination! No 'Grand Design's' will ever happen in D&G with our rules!

Spend the income raised on new affordable, cool 'council houses' - that are only eligible to people who were born in D&G, or have lived/WORKED here for more than 30 years. Spread across the whole region including rural area's.

Simply be sensible far too many managers etc that do very little for the wages they earn and dont manage , children are the future but education should mean getting taught not all the nonsense about assistants etc , have teachers that teach . Cut out all the nonsense jobs and yes we all know what ones are in that range. Too many people not doing a REAL job. Get people that work not talk about it. And stop hiring vehicles we dont need that must run into hundreds of thousands i can see a few from where i sit right now. Only my opinion obviously (and you did ask)

Charge for certain services - charge for issue of blue badges

Reduce management employee costs . Reduce street cleaning at weekend (double time) switch off street lights between midnight and 5 am . Close libraries reduce staff . Bin lorry's do not require 3 men ! Run an older fleet of vehicles . Repair uniforms reduce allocation of uniforms

Review allocation of disability vehicles and selection of vehicle allocated , stricter criteria.

More support for elderly eg warm spaces, companionship increase care at home to reduce cost in NHS .

Spend money training carers to look at those receiving care holistically again reducing NHS costs .

Cut costs in council offices by switching of lights ! Cut heating by 1 degree . Encourage wearing more clothes !! Seems obvious but not everyone needs to just wear a shirt in the office !! Etc etc etc .

Too easy to say just reduce admin staff, but they are often stretched as it is and are needed to let professionals get on with their jobs.

Need to keep spending on leisure and youth work, to avoid health problems and disaffection down the line.

You must close Dalry Secondary School.

The council tax for the higher bands should be raised to the levels it would have been if it had been index linked to inflation for the last decade and should be raised for the highest two levels to whatever it takes to balance the books. It should not be the lowest in the country for the very wealthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed budget for Dumfries and Galloway. I have concerns regarding the planned cuts to education and supporting services, as they may significantly impact our community's future and the well-being of its young people.

Impact of Proposed Cuts:

- **Education Services:** Reducing staff and resources in primary and secondary education, closing small schools, and cutting support for students with additional needs may disproportionately affect rural and disadvantaged areas. Education is foundational, and even small reductions in support can impact student outcomes, teacher effectiveness, and overall community cohesion. In a largely rural area like Dumfries and Galloway, where school closures can mean long travel times and limited access to educational facilities, these cuts may place additional strain on students and families. Furthermore, a lack of accessible educational resources could lead to population decline as families seek areas with stronger support for education.
- **Support Services:** The cuts to support services, such as youth work, community engagement, and inclusion programs, could lead to wider social implications. These services are essential in building resilience, especially among vulnerable groups. In a community where young people already face limited employment opportunities, cutting education and youth support could reduce their chances of personal development and economic stability.

Alternative Investment Opportunities:

To address these budget challenges and potentially generate revenue, I encourage the council to consider innovative investment opportunities that have been successful in other regions:

1. **Community-Owned Renewable Energy Projects:** Councils like Aberdeen and Stirling have invested in community-owned renewable energy projects, such as wind farms and solar panels. These initiatives provide long-term income for the council and support sustainability goals. Dumfries and Galloway, with its open spaces, could explore similar projects, allowing the council to generate revenue while supporting the environment.
2. **Green Bonds:** West Berkshire Council has introduced “green bonds” that allow residents to invest directly in local renewable energy projects. These bonds engage the community and provide funding for environmental initiatives, such as the Chapelcross Green Energy Hub. This approach could generate revenue and build community support for sustainability.
3. **Visitor Payback Schemes:** In high-tourism areas like the Lake District, councils have introduced voluntary “visitor payback” schemes where tourists contribute a small amount toward local conservation and infrastructure projects. Implementing a similar scheme in Dumfries and Galloway could help fund infrastructure and conservation efforts, particularly as tourism grows.
4. **Agri-Tourism Initiatives:** Perth and Kinross Council has partnered with farms to promote agri-tourism, attracting tourists to farm stays and educational tours. Expanding agri-tourism in Dumfries and Galloway could provide supplementary income for local farmers.

Implementing a mix of these ideas could help Dumfries and Galloway balance its budget while fostering long-term growth, community engagement, and environmental stewardship. Thank you for considering these suggestions.

REDACTED

I made my choices based on the fact that, as an 80 year old pensioner living alone, I feel that older people are sometimes forgotten by the Council and the difficulties we face are often exacerbated by cuts to council services and increases in demands for more money for much reduced services. I live in an older house that requires high maintenance and heating costs, so any increase in, for example, council tax, would be a hard hit. I also think education for young people should not see reductions in investment, it is so important to give everyone a good education. I am also against any reduction in bin collection frequency. A longer time between collections would possibly mean that I would find it more difficult to haul my heavier bin over the 100 yards to the kerbside. I can just about manage two weeks worth of waste but three would be near impossible for me. Also, I do feel there are efficiencies that could be made around numbers of council employees and expenses paid to them and to Councillors. I think we urgently need to stop spending money on vanity projects that benefit nobody and start to seriously spend time and money on our disgracefully decaying roads infrastructure.

Reduce wages for teachers especially at CDHS due to some not being able to teach children at different levels of learning which they should be trained to do. Being paid when they aren't working

In order for Dumfries & Galloway Council to make significant cost savings, I propose that a thorough cost/benefit review of executive-level management across all departments should be undertaken. This could lead to significant savings on wages annually, as opposed to the lower level of savings that would occur from making redundant higher numbers of low paid and middle income council employees.

Reduce the number of managers & ANYBODY earning over £100000 per year ,also stop taking backhanders from Consultation companies eg the King Canute flood defences & closing Braidmyre/langlands so the councillors can build their own expensive houses on that land

Feel the consultation is heavily weighted in terms of wording to persuade people to select the preferred option!

Why is there no option of cuts or privatisation of burial service when news has come out of a £60000 shortfall in expected income?

Surely there needs to be a look at waste management being run as a 7 day service considering the costs of

leasing vehicles, especially when all employees have 5 out of 7 as a standard part of their contract under single status?
Stop paying for consultants
Stop paying for immigrants to come to our towns.
yes better cleaning of drains and picking up grass cuts would reduce flooding on roads better training for waste management most of all if you want to increase recycling remove useless booking system for dumps so as to allow more access like pre covid 19 therefore reducing fly tipping reduce the size that holes in roads to be so filling quicker saving money from public wanting to claim on council for damaged cars saves money
Instead of providing endless funds towards people who refuse to work and contribute their share to the community deduct rent/community charge at source before they are issued it with no intention of making any payments. Deport all illegal immigrants immediately as they are overrunning our local community.
Regeneration of the region and development of youth services that safeguard future income for the local area should be prioritised. Having come from a disadvantaged background to now be in a fortunate position the need for financial support and services for young kids is necessary. Things like youth beats allows kids to experience things they never would. Implement paid for parking and this would generate income and reduce unnecessary carbon emission. Support for vulnerable or disadvantaged kids needs to be the absolute last resort for savings within the budget. It's a short term win but a long term loss. Increasing council tax would make more sense than that. Even if only by 1-2% as an alternative to safeguard services that kids get.
Staff working in education are already struggling. Schools are far too important a place for even more money to be taken from them. Additional resources such as ASL staff, inclusion bases and learning assistants are crucial to meeting the needs of all learners. You will see an increase in staff absence levels due to stress at work if more money is cut. More money should be given to schools, additional support provisions and partner agencies (such as social work) to ensure future generations are getting the best education possible.
If there is no Community Council in the area the residents are limited to information like this - which is very important. Should the Resilience Team be placing the information here on their sites? Otherwise, how do we get this information out to the public?
Why is DGC still funding 2 Public Health Improvement posts within the NHS regional Public Health Team. This team is awash with staff with no clear function, DGC funded post is managing PHI resource in Home Teams - it doesn't work.
Parking enforcement needs to be progressed at pace. This should be combined with an annual charge for residence permits. Lancaster city council several years ago brought in a £25 charge for residence permits which seems successful; this was combined with parking enforcement meaning you could always get parked on your street. This should be combined with better advertisement of the free car parks in town which should remain free as a great incentive to visit the town. Household waste every 3 weeks seems sensible, with the other recycling opportunities, the household bin is hardly full. A review of the recycling bins distribution should be considered. There are many many bins around town due to each property having their own bins. In many areas, such as terraced houses, communal bins would be more appropriate taking up less space on pavements.
There needs to be more of a focus on raising money for services than cutting services
REDACTED. Don't destroy education and early years education.
Youth beats is a great annual event for the area . Could u not charge £5-£10 for each day ticket ? £10-£20 for the weekend that will generate income . Parking charges on white sands etc most places u need to pay for parking now so why not . Bin every 3 weeks will just come to fly tipping if you're thinking about closing recycling centres . Public toilets going to a group would be good or close then . Charge more for services gym member actives at dock park .
Please don't reduce anything for inclusion (for any age) , disability, etc. these services are already not the best and can't take the hit. Don't increase things like gym as meant to be promoting health which is hard to do if exercise is pricey (as is healthy food).

<p>I like the idea of things like spend a little to save a lot (like the recycling centre), s1-3 paying for meals at school.</p> <p>As for the bin reduced to once a month general waste perhaps somehow make a system to choose how often general bin is collected? Maybe people can pay to have general collected twice a month. Maybe there is a tag which can be put on the bin to show extra collecting has been paid for (twice month) and obviously a register for the collection people to know where to go and tag proves payment?</p> <p>Others who don't have tag only get it collected once a month? (Hope that made sense!) but like only £5 a month or deal like £50pa. I know we'd pay to keep the general bin being collected twice a month. We already hate it not being weekly (two dogs, two cats and a newborn!)</p> <p>Good luck! You have such a job on your hands!</p>
<p>Target savings in Education, where demand for the service is falling and in the past the department has failed to deliver savings.</p>
<p>Some of these suggestions have already been implemented without consultation</p>
<p>Disappointing to see the extent of money that goes to schools - we don't have any children so preference would be to keep the bin collections fortnightly please and avoid fly tipping and littering by not removing lay-by bins</p>
<p>Why no option to remove overpaid chief executives and directors saving 6 figure sums and increasing productivity by reducing bureaucracy?</p>
<p>Rather than taking a bottom up, outward facing approach to cost cutting - always primarily and negatively impacting upon community facilities and front line staff it would be more impactful and productive to review the salaries and numbers of senior management positions - commencing with the CEO. Additionally review of the use of consultants and other external companies within the council for 'staff development and training' or 'projects'.</p>
<p>The current waste management system is ridiculous . The streetscape and peoples' gardens are littered with tens of thousands of ugly domestic waste/ recycling bins - many of which are seldom used , and presented for collection only half full , It would be far more efficient to introduce larger " euro bins " at strategic locations. Especially in conservation areas such as Whithorn.</p>
<p>Try to focus on sustainable travel options particularly employment commuting for lower paid workers.</p>
<p>Start a community wealth fund and/or tax in lieu fund for community rights management</p>
<p>Can we ask cost of installing solar panels at Locharmoss. Food bins here often don't get emptied - happy to purchase own bags if we were guaranteed the service! A food bin that's been sitting for over a week isn't the most pleasant smell and this cancellation of service happens often</p>
<p>I think the suggestion of cutting ASN staff is very short sighted, education is at breaking point with current numbers and this will put added pressure, causing harm to the the most vulnerable. It would be negligent to do so. The suggestion of cutting admin support staff would make building unsafe, it is not in the contract of teachers to take on admin duties with a cut in this support staff this is what would be expected and can not happen. Support staff are also often the First Aider in the building, the region are already well below where they need to be on the provision of First Aiders this cut will only further exacerbate this problem if it were to go ahead. There is also a question about cutting the flu vaccine program this is something we were informed has already happened so I would question why it is in here as a suggestion when frontline staff are already not getting the flu vaccine this year?</p>
<p>It would be an awful choice to remove the Cafe in the Ryan Centre - numerous over 50s group use this facility on a regular basis!!</p>
<p>If less money was wasted by the council we maybe wouldn't have the short fall we now have.</p>
<p>Reduction of senior management. If the one working in social services has time in her working day to straighten her hair then she isn't performing properly. Just an example</p>
<p>Strip back council services to provide core statutory functions only. Reassign finance to these services eg Roads maintenance</p>
<p>Remove provision of meals/catering to elected members at committee meetings.</p>
<p>Reduce top heavy management and get rid of all woke departments</p>

<p>I certainly can't see any benefit for cutting back on schools and education especially for additional support needs this is essential for many and if anything must be improved to help our children become responsible caring able adults.</p>
<p>Reduce top management roles across the county, they are just sitting behind a desk making useless decisions. Let's streamline D&G council and make it a lot more efficient, let's employ people who actually know what is needed.</p>
<p>My choices were based on the grass root effect and the ability for those affected to improve their own life choices. For example, where services are needed to support less fortunate residents i.e those living with physical or mental disabilities, these absolutely must be protected. However, if finances are being spent to support residents who could work for a living and improve their own standards of living, then these must be looked at.</p> <p>Every action has a reaction, for example if bin collections are extended to 3 weeks and recycling centres closed, a consequence could be increased fly tipping which has an overall negative effect on whole communities as well as the nature and the environment.</p> <p>Cutting council staff at the point of service delivery has already gone too far and further cuts would be detrimental to our communities. The council should look at mid and senior management positions on an individual basis to ensure they are contributing positively and that their input is essential for service delivery.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
<p>We live in an age of austerity so must tighten belts! But infrastructure is vital and investment into small businesses to support place plan success which is vital if we are to host the next national park</p>
<p>I voted for options that stopped wasting money and streamlined services. But not for options that will make life in D&G worse for the majority.</p>
<p>The number of children with apparent additional needs needs to be investigated. D and G has the highest number of diagnosed autism and cerebral visual impairment by far in Scotland This is due to mis over diagnosis. The teachers for visual impairment service needs reviewed. The cost of this service cannot be justified</p>
<p>I would just like to raise my concerns over ERVs. The last time we let staff go in Education on ERVs, the majority of staff are now back working. Posts were ended and then recreated again. I feel that requests to leave should be managed at a higher level, not by the service.</p>
<p>as an employee of Dumfries and Galloway council for over 22 years i see a great deal of Middle managers that pass their workload onto lower level staff cascading their own work on to others increasing animosity and exhaustion in the lower ranks. middle management demanding triplicate recording of figures and stats while working from home and not seeing the pressures of lower paid staff in fulfilling unreasonable requests. removing stagnant managers and replacing them with enthusiastic new faces will surely only benefit the service and by updating the antiquated attitudes and practices of paper recording that's then transferred onto 2 - 3 different platforms to one central hub would cut unrequired management who are unaware of what is going on in their offices regarding workload and morale while pushing numbers - embrace the enthusiastic lower supervisory positions and replace costly and lazy management with staff who are vibrant and wish to promote the council service as it should be to move forward in a streamlined and lower cost with a modern workforce whom can support the new technologies and embrace and encourage new employees. the saying you only get out what you put in would improve services throughout Dumfries and Galloway by Tidying up the middle managers band 7-10</p>
<p>I would like the council to stop suggesting spending thousands of pounds on changing the road layout in Castle Douglas which would have a devastating effect on the businesses in the town. Castle Douglas is a thriving town, unlike many others in the region and does not need the proposed changes to the roundabout and road system.</p> <p>The money spent on the new road around Park Farm in Dumfries is an example of money not well spent in my opinion and that of many others I have spoken to. Why have the pavements been made so wide and include benches around the junction of New Abbey Road and Park Road. Who wants to sit there breathing in fumes from the traffic? And I have rarely seen anyone walking along the pavement there. Also, it is impossible to take the left turn off New Abbey Road into Park Road without driving onto the paved area. If you don't do this,</p>

when you turn left and try to stay fully on the road, you end up turning into the oncoming traffic on the other side of the road. Maybe the people who draw up these plans and make these decisions are not drivers, hence the above problem.

Also I live in a village where the street lights are on all night, at this time of year, some from about 4pm until 7am. Why do we need so many streetlights in small villages that are on all night long. Does the council pay for the cost of these and if so perhaps we could have all street light switched off between certain times of the night to save money. People might then get a better night's sleep without streetlights shining into their bedroom all night long.

I'm sure there are many ways in which the council could save money. For example, when I worked at a local secondary school. From about October until April, the heating as on full blast, even if the weather was mild. So, the windows would be open letting all the heat out because it was so hot in the classrooms. We were told the heating was managed centrally and there was nothing that we could do at the school to turn it off. Thus, wasting money heating buildings when it was not necessary.

There needs to be a TOTAL review of all staff costs lead by example from the top. The review can look at staff levels, overtime costs, expenses for unnecessary work, meetings conducted by Teams, should councillors be paid expenses - is there income not sufficient to include expenses? ALL local authorities are legally bound to achieve best value for money by operation of Section 1 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. Is this properly enforced and monitored? There is a range of means to make the savings required to satisfy staff, communities and the public purse. Cutting services is not always the answer. Libraries for instance, are these used? Mobile libraries can be exciting and encouraging in equal measure.

Cutting schools should not be an option. However, all schools should be managed in an efficient and cost effective manner. Perhaps schemes of work need to be measured in a different way. More partnership working with communities may be an option here.

These are difficult economic times, more efficient working is fundamental. That will be an onerous and difficult fix but it will bring the gap between public and private employers closer together. Work together to make sure this can happen. Together DGC can be a force again.

The Community Assets Team should be invested in - please increase their number. They do a great job within our communities.

Its not more management structure that is required but less! People on ground are invaluable and they are struggling. Please manage your staff in an efficient and cost effective manner. Look after their mental health

Stop dragging heels over parking wardens- should have been employed and generating income by now. This Council works far too slowly.

Revise lighting around schools, one of our primary schools has so many lights around it nowadays that is using a lot of power during evenings and through the night (a lot could be switched off as no-one is using the pedestrian access at these times). Consider reducing the street lighting in the early hours of the morning. Street lighting was recently installed out the Craigs road to the maiden bower area, this isn't used by very many and leaving it on all night is a poor use of council money, reduce it in the early hours so those working late shifts or heading in for early shifts can still benefit from this. Greater use of unpaid work, not visible, the courts appear to issue these community based sentences but few people know what they actually do and how they are serving the community or making reparation.

Reduce the recycling waste collection to every 4 weeks. Would it be more cost effective to collect all on the one day and sort at the recycling centre rather than send a team out as often.

Encourage more tourists to come to the area. Make the people that own the high street responsible for the maintenance of the buildings or have them subject to a CPO

What exactly does the restructuring of the ELC delivery model look like???

REDACTED

Also the proposal to take even more support staff from schools is not a saving, but will increase staff burn out and not meeting the needs of children.

Would be terrible for me if the cafe in the Ryan Centre closed, it is a social gathering for me after Easy Tone. Live by myself and love my Monday & Wednesday morning chat
a flatter, leaner management model with fewer middle management positions between senior managers/ heads of service and frontline delivery of services.
i enjoy using the café when i am at the Ryan centre i also take the kids in after using the Ryan's den after it as a fun day out so i don't want that to be effected, i also use the Merrick leisure centre regular and enjoy the facility's there
All budget cuts need to take into account that by reducing/removing resources/services the impact this will have on service delivery and quality.
It's important to maintain core services and reduce the "nice to haves". Easy win to reduce duplication
I am resident of the region and I am a Council Employee. Savings must be made but if there is a threat to my employment, how can I contribute to the economic growth of the region and afford my Council Tax and any proposed increases? Also review and avoid poor decisions on unnecessary financial waste by the Council - eg. resurrecting the Fountain in Dumfries, proposed monies towards the erection of the Star of Caledonia...
In The Ryan Centre, the staff are very welcoming and the café is a plays a good part in the facility with very nice welcoming staff and the food is good
Start charging for blue badges. I think we're one of only two LAs who don't charge. Even £10 per badge would cover our costs, as we have to pay to have badges made; £20 would give an income. We currently issue around 4000 badges each year, potentially £40-£80k income
Sort pot holes and more support for schools.
Children and grandchildren are over school age so personally the proposals that affect us most relate to bins and community halls
Having visited the cafe at The Ryan Centre, I believe that it is a facility worth keeping. It is well used and appreciated by customers so would be a big loss losing it.
Why have you brought charging for parking up again, when you had a referendum last year and it was voted against. If you want to encourage people into the towns and visitors keep the parking free and we certainly don't need to waste money of Parking attendants.
Introducing a £5 charge for youthbeatz
Teachers already don't get a flu jag - this policy has started and will lead to increased teacher absence and higher costs
Children need support in school and access to leisure opportunities. The consequence of not providing this is going to cost more in the long run.
Focus on statutory services, increase front line staffing, invest in community based organisations rather than highly paid middle management, reduce hybrid and home working to improve productivity and responsiveness.
So much money spent on schools - no everyone has kids??
Please continue to support schools with the rising number of children with ASN and all the impacts that this rise has. Extremely concerned that support will decrease while demand increases.
There is already far too much illegal parking in Dumfries Town centre, causing inconvenience to law abiding legal drivers. Introducing parking charges would exacerbate the problem - traffic wardens would reduce it greatly- and would be virtually self funding.
Review management structure within council and those who are under performing. Focus on maintaining buildings, roads etc rather than reactive work. Make use of current school buildings by enforcing catchment areas rather than allowing parents to pick and chose where their child goes to school in Dumfries causing traffic congestion, under use of facilities ie: NWCC and encouraging children to be healthy and walk to local school rather than being driven across the town.
Allow schools to source resources and equipment themselves rather than only through council approved suppliers. With far cheaper suppliers and sources available I feel that schools should be given an annual budget to spend on what they need and source those things themselves.
The focus should be on reducing spending rather than constantly raising income. We have reached a point where we simply cannot afford to provide all the support that society seems to demand - the definition of who and what needs support has exploded and we simply have do say "enough".

These ideas are awful. Here's a saving, get rid of the person coming up with these ideas.
I know it is tempting to introduce parking charges, however, I used to live in a town that introduced charges. This resulted in less footfall for the businesses in the town centre, not great in the current climate and several shops closed as a result. The winners were the retail parks with free parking.
This is disappointing that most of these savings are all front facing services direct to the public. Why has the savings been allowed to go forward with no savings from back of house services that directly affect savings- this looks like lack of leadership to review internal services. I would suggest things that could be considered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Customer Services - Communication Service - Finance - Property Services - Ward Officers - libraries - Human Resource - Policy - Equality and Diversity
These are just some examples that everyone of us who work here can see is being protected and not being permitted to be put up as savings options- it is grossly unfair that it all frontline services.
I would like more money spent on mental health in Dumfries and Galloway especially for care experienced children and young people. Hospitals that treat cancer patients with their chemo etc in Dumfries rather than having to travel to Glasgow and Edinburgh.
Nothing to add
To work in Dumfries and Galloway as a whole and not just in the big towns of area, also remove admin where not needed.
The instrumental music service is a huge drain on finances due to the small number of pupils receiving tuition on a slightly lower salary than class teachers! They instrumental staff mainly teach one on one which is appalling when class teachers work with 30 per lesson the salary difference is so slight! The service also doesn't run along the curriculum not following E's and O's but working with external exams like associated board so in effect the council are paying over inflated salaries to private music teachers. This should be outsourced like Highland Highlife!
I am not in support of reducing teachers. Digital learning should not replace face to face teaching. Health, Education and Wellbeing via leisure provisions should be prioritised to support NHS. Leisure Facilities should consider local company memberships. Engage with employers & staff. A multipurpose sports centre that runs alongside schools in some areas could reduce costs, increase income and create support for departments. Digital posts for promotion for sites. More training opportunities and consider staff skills and strengths.
Castle Douglas Swimming Pool provides a facility not just for leisure but also allowing rehab for people recovering with health issues and/or injuries. It serves a large area of the Stewartry and is used by many residents in Dalbeattie which has no pool.
Retired and often volunteer to collect litter on a Sunday as part of a community group. Preference would strongly be to retain fortnightly bin collections as I can only envisage that removing lay-by bins and reducing number of collections to weekly will increase fly tipping and littering which undoes all the good work of the volunteers.
Education is already on its knees. Further reductions would make it almost impossible to meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners.
Glad to see you are finally considering ending the funding of Youth Beatz. Public health must be prioritised. Please consider the effect of reduced kerbside collections on the occurrence of overflowing bins and its impact on the gull and vermin populations.

<p>' 1.06 End policy investment funding supporting Tackling Poverty and Inequality measures' . I do not feel this budget proposal header is open and transparent as you do not actually state what specific Projects, staffing are funded under this heading. I feel these should have been listed to give the reader a full idea of what projects/staffing are funded from the Anti Poverty Fund. These Projects then possibly should have been listed for the reader to then support or not, rather than just carte blanche. As it stands a reader could vote to support this budget proposal without actually knowing what project/staffing they support to get rid of. For example this budget proposal header does not state that the Council's Welfare and Homeless Prevention Team are funded from this anti poverty funding. A Team in place since 2018, won 3 National Awards and who daily support the residents of D & G who have a threat to their Tenancy, save their tenancy and stop them presenting to the Homeless Service and costing the council money by not having to put them in Temporary Accommodation, (which there is an extreme shortage of). This Team is an actual spend to save (spend on their wages and they save the Council millions). The demand for this Team and their results are the highest they have ever been. This is a Team that you can't do without. I also query where the saving is, as all the staff on this Team have rights of permanency and will still need to be employed by the Council. As stated I do not feel this budget proposal header is open and transparent. The very small narrative only states projects, it does not mention actual staffing. Funding an event is different to paying wages of staff. In relation to how I voted, I have not selected some options as there just isn't enough detail. I hope the member are provided with a lot more meat on the bones rather than just Headers and a small narrative.</p>
<p>How do people know that the proposal is to cut the WHO team? This is not clear what services will be cut and what staff are at risk of being affected. The WHO team have been in place for 7 years, the team have won 3 National awards. The current demand for the team is at its highest level. The WHO team stop people becoming homeless, this in turn reduces the number of people presenting to Homeless Service. The amount of monies that this team saves the Local Authority is more than the wages of this team. Therefore, it does not make sense to cut this team, if this team is it cut it will increase the costs to the Homeless team and more people will be made homeless.</p>
<p>A number of staff have delayed their retirement as they were waiting for this to receive a package. Packages should not be offered as it did not work the last time, more staff in services now following the last ERVs. Surplus staff on templates should be relocated to vacant posts within the Council to save valuable public money rather giving out additional pension years.</p>
<p>Spend more money and time collecting rubbish on all our roads.</p>
<p>Parking charges should be introduced to manage parking effectively, deliver money to invest in public transport and support town centre visits and trade. I hope councillors know that teacher numbers isnt the only factor or measure of successful outcomes for children and young people - there are more factors and other staff that do and can contribute to positive outcomes for children and young people and educational attainment - other staff have value and contribute to vital services but get less consideration. The council also cannot continue to use its resources to supplement decisions made by both Governments -on income support or welfare - we need to look to ways we can help people mitigate the impact of this not replace this.</p>
<p>Other ideas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Close The Bridge - why do we need it? 2. Stop funding Dumfries Ice Bowl - transfer ownership to private or third sector or close 3. Stop sending me letters and slips from school - in this day and age why can't I complete a form online?
<p>Look to reduce the number of managers amalgamate departments where possible. Stop wasting money on vanity projects. Look at value for money before agreeing to do something. Cut down on consultants</p>
<p>Protect ASN provisions in school, including SfL teachers and staff.</p>
<p>Some of these proposed cutting options do not save sufficient money. It may cost more to implement the savings. It seems like a way to detract from highlighting the number of directorate and the savings to be had by cutting these posts.</p>
<p>Why does this survey identify the teachers salaries in the introduction to the survey? Is this a way of the council sharing this information with people completing the survey so they feel this is reason to cut posts. It does not state how many staff this amount covers? Either incompetent or deliberate?</p>

<p>If you move to a 3 week waste collection service then surely there would be more need for waste recycle centres but again not though through as usual. It's one or the other! Cut number of managers and protect our children's education.</p>
<p>You should not cut basic cleaning services for council staff? Also staff vaccinations have already been cut! Cut management at the top and keep public services. The cost of management and numbers is increasing year on year. How did the council save £130 million over 15 years. Certainly not by cutting expensive management costs!</p>
<p>too many highly paid officers - need to streamline</p>
<p>Youthbeatz could be free for all children in the region to attend but you could charge for adults so it pays for itself or reduces the costs. Not all school children need free meals, there are so many families can afford to pay for them. Close small schools with low registration as it's not viable to keep them open, running costs and staffed. Stop paying for staff to be off sick all the time, if they didn't get payed or their pay was reduced severely after being off for a week they would soon drag themselves into work. I don't mean serious illness that requires someone to be off for long term but those who just have random weeks off regularly.</p>
<p>This council should stop wasting public money on employing people/consultants to come up with projects that don't work! Money could be put towards improving public services and road conditions.</p>
<p>Some of these proposed cuts are difficult to understand the implications of cutting them. No cuts should be made in the support and education of our children. We already have the lowest attainment in Scotland. Not something to be proud of!!</p>
<p>Reduce numbers of managers and keep front line services</p>
<p>REDACTED. The cuts to ASN provision in our school have had a SEVERE impact on our ability to meet the needs of ASN pupils within mainstream. REDACTED. There is NO additional support available to me or my class, which is outrageous. There is no capacity within the school to provide any SLA (classroom assistant) support to these pupils in English. Inclusion is not just about pupils being in the room. The council needs to understand that many of the pupils denied ASN support have needs which go well beyond merely adapting a worksheet or simplifying a task - many of my pupils do not have the literacy skills to even read the differentiated materials I'm creating for them. I've often been asked to lead training on differentiation strategies and successfully accommodating ASN pupils in mainstream learning, and yet, here I am, unable to support the children in front of me because despite my best efforts (and extensive differentiation) the expectations are utterly unrealistic without the provision of SLAs. In addition, massive cuts to ASN staffing mean many of my pupils are sitting in mainstream lessons without a diagnosis or ASN assessment, despite having very obvious and significant ASN needs. Meanwhile, there are schools in the area with more teachers than there are pupils. I have been a teacher for 20 years now and feel the decimation of our ASN budget (and the decision to prioritise keeping tiny schools open) is scandalous. We are failing pupils on a massive scale. How can it be ethical or equitable to allocate so much of the council's budget to a handful of pupils - particularly, when this comes at the expense of large numbers of vulnerable children elsewhere? I teach a shortage subject, in a school which serves a remote area. If there is one thing which is likely to make me want to leave my job within the next 18 months, it is the spectacular failure of the council to provide equitable support to ASN pupils sitting in mainstream classes.</p>
<p>Save Youth Services and their budgets. They are crucial. Thanks</p>
<p>In Japan they do not have any waste bins at all and there is no littering or rubbish as the people respect their land and are expected to take their rubbish home. Can we educate the young and older generations to do the same and get rid of public waste bins. Also can we try to implement a squad of road workers to work on road works at night to have the least amount of disruption as possible. Also, can the road works be removed as soon as no-one is working on them and/or the job is complete. Thank you, budget cuts are never easy and you cannot please everyone. I appreciate you taking the time to listen to our views.</p>
<p>Young People are our future, damaging their development or education will lead for a worse off future, we should be doing our best to ensure they grow and develop in a safe and supported system, be it through youth work, education or public resources. We should be supporting low income families and encouraging people to use services within their community like libraries, swimming pools and youth services.</p>

Raising the cost of petrol and fuel would encourage more people to take public transport
Introducing solar panels to cut electricity costs on schools and public buildings.
I feel that the Council Management Structure within the Council is very top heavy. This should be subject to review to ensure that the focus is very much on front line services. The continual drive for digitisation of everything, pushes the recording duties down the chain, while this has reduced the Admin Support workforce, thereby saving, it does in effect reduce the productivity of those at the sharp end doing the work. It forces staff to carry out duties they never wanted to do and were most certainly not within their skill set. This demotivates and demoralises staff, you end up with supervisor acting as data inputters, instead of supervising and managing, motivating and developing staff, ensuring both the quantity and quality of the output. I feel there needs to be a review done to ensure that constant drive for computerisation does not have a negative impact of how things are done. Similarly it is important to use the skill that staff have effectively, people who are invested in the outcomes and the communities they work for. Use of both consultants and outside contractors should be minimised and the focus made in growing and developing our own and making best use of skilled and valuable people we have.
Don't assume our population will drop, don't cut youth services, don't make people redundant unless you never needed them in the first place.
Surprised to note so much money being spent on schools. Children are adult age now so these proposed changes would not affect me
Review council staffing and wages before you try to Review others.
None.
Stop appointing so many managers within the Authority and wasting money! Prioritise the Promise and Getting it right for EVERY child, not just Care experienced/ children with Disabilities.! Cut back on authority buildings and associated costs.
Taking staff out of ELC and schools is going to be detrimental to both staff and pupils. We are already stretched and low on funds as it is.
I have not completed this, as I would want a lot more details of each of the suggestion, re staffing structures, their pay, management costs allocated to them, plus all other associated costs with each one etc. How can you reduce services without this details? Running a complex business requires this sort of scrutiny. I feel this is again a tick box exercise.
Retired
Cuts to schools have already been drastic and had a negative impact on staff and pupils. Further cuts to the staffing in schools (teaching and non-teaching) would be more devastating. The option of not paying into teachers pensions while on maternity leave feels as those women are being punished for having children. In seems to not be in line with the issues currently facing our region and country due to an ageing and slowly growing population.
Public toilet closure should NOT be up for discussion. During COVID when local toilets were closed the amount of human excrement deposited on verges, driveways and the beach was appalling. It created a MAJOR health hazard. Installation of card payment devices to allow access to the toilets as I've witnessed in many areas, may help offset some of the costs. Tickets could be sold for the Youth Beatz festival...not certain why it has to be free. Car parking charges should go direct to the council...not to some third party agency that dictates the price and reaps the profit. Just park in the Whitesands is an example.
A full review of the council's property portfolio would be beneficial with the sale of empty or underused property prioritised (eg Woodbank). Building maintenance should be carried out regularly so that ridiculously expensive new-builds or relocations are not required.
A much needed review and reduction in the number of managers and middle managers in the council is required. I am aware of an employee on at least a band 9 salary who manages only one member of staff and who fills their time doing manual handling tasks, moving boxes, furniture and IT equipment from one location to another.

Ending funding for Youth Beatz would be most welcome. A reduction in funding for other arts and cultural events should also be considered.

No further investment in electric vehicles or charging points. These are too expensive.

A reduction in the number of fleet cars. Far fewer vehicles are need due to so many managers shirking from home.

Procurement is a massive waste of money, when ordering our procurement it is quite often 4 x more expensive than the exact same item is elsewhere. When these items have arrived they are of very poor quality.

I feel strongly about certain things being cut

I support adults with learning difficulties and we use the Ryan Centre for lunch regularly as we use the facility for swimming etc, it would have a huge effect on our users if they couldn't go to their regular safe space for lunch

One thing I noticed is you do not include the implications of some of the services you are proposing to cut - eg removing bins from lay-bye's - this will probably result in more rubbish which will either cost more in clean up and / or fly tipping which will cost more.

Similarly closing public convinces will result in human waste in places where there are no other options - this is a problem they have round the nc500 and will impact tourism which will impact the whole region.

I think this could be true in many areas so there should be a cost benefit analysis of every proposal before deciding on where you implement cuts.

Several options refer to reductions in staffing as a saving, until the Council changes it's 'no reduncies' policy it is not going to produce any saving. For example, if the number of ASL teachers is cut but they all retain their positions as they won't be made redundant then they still sit on the council's payroll. This has already happened with some previous 'savings' where staffing costs have simply been moved from a central budget to schools' budgets.

I am against changes to school technicians at a time when you are considering reducing the number of teachers. Reducing technicians simply means teachers end up having more work to do in preparing for lessons - this will not become any easier when there are fewer of them.

I am in favour of closing Dalry School.

There seems to be more move to devolving school budgets - I am against this as it does not allow for efficiencies of scale in purchasing. Teachers are not purchasing experts or accountants and shouldn't be expected to be.

I am in favour of cancelling Youth Beatz.

If you reduce the number of collections of excess waste, then closing HWRCs does not really help households. Do one or the other if you really must.

The closing of Castle Douglas swimming pool/leisure centre would be detrimental to the area. This facility is used by children and adults from who travel to the facility, ie New Galloway, Dalbeattie. In an area surrounded by water, sea and lochs, it is imperative that this facility is kept open in order that our young ones are taught to swim. This is especially important with rising cost of transporting school children to Dumfries for school curriculum swimming. The facility is also used regularly by older members of the community such as myself, keeping ourselves fit and with regular exercise helping our mental health. Surely a freshen up with new cubicle curtains and a lick of paint will keep this facility open rather than the £1m makeover that was previously proposed.

Sometimes organisations are top heavy with managers...

I'm glad you did not suggest cutting the budgets for health and social care.

Why did you not mention increasing the council tax on second homes and holiday lets?

<p>Regarding Castle Douglas Swimming and Fitness Centre. If the Council decides to close this facility then many people, including ourselves, will feel it's loss. We attend regularly and find the staff are always polite, professional and very friendly. Like other people who attend the swimming, we always feel positive and uplifted as a result of our regular swimming. Lack of public transport will make it difficult for many people to attend other facilities and, at a time when there is so much said about a person's wellbeing, this would be a most detrimental action to take.</p>
<p>It would be beneficial if the Authority utilised some of its empty buildings, sold these to generate income or did not complete refurbishments of buildings or departments for these to be then left empty our unused, there are particular buildings in the NHS that this applies too.</p> <p>It would be very short sighted to continue to make cuts to staffing in schools especially for Additional needs, most of these services are already stretched to the point where they are not getting in right for every child.</p> <p>I understand that things can not continue but the continued slicing off of services every year is counter productive and short sighted and creates longer term problems.</p>
<p>I tried to focus on essential services etc which during our currant financial status must in my view take priority. As a 'new pensioner' who has worked, saved & payed tax since I was 16, I am having to make very difficult decisions in my own life style/priorities etc so I believe the Council needs to focus on similar essential issues. Fortune always favours the Brave so I hope all involved in the decisions will avoid 'being 'afraid of what other people/certain groups may think/voice when decisions are finalised.</p>
<p>If you reduce bin collections, remove lay by bins and close dumps, expect to see an increase in fly tipping</p>
<p>Experienced and specialist ASN teachers who advise and guide parents, ELC practitioners in school and private nurseries, or advise and guide class teachers in primary and secondary are needed more now than in the past, as the level of ASN has increased significantly in recent years, so the proposals to reduce these posts are not good.</p> <p>Practitioners and Class teachers don't have that same level of knowledge of ASN or interventions, or knowledge of such a wide range of ASN and interventions so they need to call on these specialists for advice. No amount of training or policy documents can provide class based staff with that level or range of knowledge.</p> <p>Education created new 'PT inclusive practice' posts in 2022 when there was already PTs and Managers in Supporting Learners who have been supporting and promoting inclusive practice in their posts for several years. Those newer posts should be considered for removal /reduction before suggesting cutting ASN teachers who directly support ELC or school staff or cutting posts of experienced ASN PTs and Managers with years and years of experience and knowledge.</p>
<p>1) 'Reduce the School Estate - Option 1'. The closure/mothballing of schools with 10 or less pupils must now be mandatory and no longer optional.</p> <p>2) The future of the Cargen Towers workshops and offices, which are currently Private Sector rented by the Council must be immediatly considered in favour of relocation to an expanded Wayside Depot and existing Council offices.</p> <p>3) Significant savings are to be made to the Council's Energy Budget and power consumption, however this does not appear to have been considered in the Budget Savings Options</p>
<p>Removing the pool at Castle Douglas would leave the Stewartry without a local authority pool. Learning to swim is such an important skill this would be a poor decision.</p>
<p>Absolutely do not lose more schools the smaller schools are so close and family related we thrive with wonderful happy confident children from them!</p>
<p>I pay for my boat berth kirkcudbright marina by direct debit yet I get a MONTHLY invoice through the post! This isn't required at all and certainly not through the post</p>
<p>Increasing council tax and other chargeable services will be deeply unpopular, but is sadly necessary. The councillors should be brave enough to vote for these measures (including the introduction of parking charges across the region). If enough can be raised in certain areas, it might be possible to not raise fees for things like swimming pools and fitness centres.</p>

One thing that seemed to be missing was a proposal for a visitor levy in DumGal. If there isn't one already then I feel very strongly that one should be introduced as soon as possible. Something in the region of £2 to £5 per person, per night seems like a reasonable starting point.

The council should also massively increase council tax on second homes by immediately increasing the rates to 5x the highest possible banding.

Also up for consideration should be introducing business rates for all AirBnB style holiday lets.

Closing (NOT mothballing) schools will be another very unpopular decision but, again, it should be done and done much more quickly than at present, as I believe was the case with Borgue primary school.

Raising taxes and reducing the work when we receive the bare minimum as is. Asking for a reduction within schools is appalling, maybe the council can take pay cuts to help them save money?

My preference would be an increase in the Council tax

Please get rid of dead wood and get staff on board who actually want to work

Reduce the number of managers, QIOs, EOs etc in education. Cut councillors salaries and ensure no more renaming / rebranding exercises across the authority. Find a way to end PPP contracts, saving council tax payers a fortune.

Stop wasting money on art projects

If more council staff 'front line works ' are reduced, then more managers need to go. Top heavy management is a poor economic choice, when there are less workers to actually do the job. No one needs 6 managers.

Cuts to schools is already effecting the way in which children are supported and all to access education. Further cuts is appalling and especially to additional support for learning - thought needs to be on improving support and education within D&G to get it from being one of the lowest achieving regions in school to higher in the scale. Cuts will in turn reduce attainment

This was a very interesting survey.

Firstly, I would reduce the management team of Dumfries and Galloway Council. It is a conversation which is often heard throughout the region that some of the management team have walked into the jobs rather than being suitable candidates. They have started off manual workers and ended up in shirt and tie jobs! Another point which is raised amongst the communities is the time that is wasted by workers. A more streamline system to monitor time keeping for remote workers should be looked into. Schools with less than 25 pupils should be mothballed. This should be for a financial reason but also development and wellbeing of the children. Parental input in schools should be encouraged. I for one wanted to provide playground duties for my child's school and it was dismissed due to paperwork. I think a working group from the 4 regions including parents and everyday people would be extremely helpful. You need the views of the people in the communities and you need to give them the opportunity to express their feelings and opinions.

It is essential to invest in education, our schools already struggle compared to other areas of the country due to the challenges posed by the rural nature of our region so smaller but more expensive schools are essential. Quit the flood defence nonsense and invest in roads in our rural region. Drop any stilly ideas behind parking charges, Dumfries high street is already awful and is only going to get worse. Stop all unnecessary spending and reduce council assets. Sell buildings that are not essential. Get the borrowing level down year upon year and then the budget will be much easier.

Cut services, stop giving illegal immigrants hotels/ bikes / money / access to free healthcare. Stop putting care experienced children up in hotels - stop putting unaccompanied children in hotels, stop giving thousands of pounds in 'start up funds' to care experienced children.

Would be interested in knowing how much the solar panels on Locharmoss are going to cost.

Efficiency at management levels are required to make the council more sustainable and effective

More money needs to be invested in the Street Scene team, to improve weeds etc, which will help keep the town clean and buildings safe, this will be cost effective in the longer term eg weeding Nith wall, so it doesn't need repaired again due to weeds damaging the structural integrity. We need to make towns more appealing to businesses and tourist which will improve the town moral and in turn make the council more money

Buisness rate relief could be used to encourage businesses to look after store fronts, e.g 10% discount for Weeding, painting, gutters. If this isn't followed then a rates increase of 10% to compensate for this
Should make job in the region
Cut the number of management in council offices and the number of councillors across the region
Last to go in terms of cuts should be support for learning in schools with increasing numbers of children having learning and/or behaviour issues, along with support for vulnerable families with children in the community. Why are public toilets lumped in with community halls? Keep toilets (with a facility for payment) but if public halls are not being used, they should be disposed of.
Too many managers, keep all front line staff. More access to dg1 as really hard to book a swim which is madness!! Remove any duplication of services with charity/other organisations if someone else is doing it, do you need to? Remove canteens - who has a staff canteen anymore. Move the council to a streamlined private model rather than a fat lazy service that does very little bar schools who really should get more money.
Youthbeatz and youthwork show, on a national level, that you care about your young people. Cutting the budget for these provisions will only serve to sour this view of the region, as well as leave the young people of the region feeling forgotten and betrayed.
Do not pay travel expenses to staff. Give them free bus pass.
Scrap the flood protection project in Dumfties which saves millions
Please have nothing to do with the White Sands Flood Prevention Scheme or the Green Sands Car Park construction. Stop all Local Authority staff "working from home", have them return to the office and sell off all vacant Council properties*. Repurpose Dumfries and Galloway as a global tourist destination capitalising on our rich architectural, cultural and industrial history. *There is a need for more student accommodation and hotel capacity - redundant Council property such as the one next to Gracefield could be developed be developed as an hotel. We need to stop navel gazing and develop the many assets we have in Dumfries and Galloway and stop moaning about the fact that retail has left the High Street - for this to happen, we need people of vision - hopefully, the recently created Dumfries Town Board with their significant resource will re-energise the town.
There is a lot of items being transferred to schools and reducing support. Are our schools not already overworked? There also seems to be a lot of reduction in manages, is there a package now on offer so managers have put themselves forward as a saving? So highly paid staff benefit even more leaving lower paid staff to pick up the work.
Reduce full sick pay for employees from 6 to 4 months
No drop-in session in Lockerbie, disappointing
Introducing different variations of memberships within the leisure industry. For example, 1 month membership that can be paid as a one off payment, instead of a direct debit. As people come to the area for work and don't require a long standing payment of a direct debit and maybe are only in the area for 6 weeks. Not practical for 3x gym sessions at £7 each for that length of time and therefore it isn't being utilised . Or having area specific memberships.
As regular users of the Ryan Leisure Centre, myself and my son regularly use the cosmic cafe while attending Ryan's den. This would be a great loss to everyone attending. Also to the lovely staff who work in the cafe, and all the regulars that attend for there daily/weekly coffee visits and chats.
Some of the cuts could lead to increased costs and legal issues for the council. Particularly support for learning cuts - these would affect the most at risk learners and reduce attainment further. Instead teachers could be retained to reduce class sizes where there are rising additional needs and behavioural issues. I'd rather pay more council tax than lose recycling centres, youth workers, teachers etc

<p>I understand it is the councillors are driving the cuts in education. Maybe a reduction in the numbers of them and increased effectiveness maybe a starting point, it is at the detriment of the future generations to cut education support. No mention in the the survey of removal of the fleet of cars used to transport individuals to and from work, this is seen as an entitlement and not required to reach your place of work like majority of the rest of scotland use own or public transport.</p>
<p>Concerned about risk of increased fly tipping and littering if you proceed with the options around waste collection/lay-by bins/closing tips etc. members of the community work hard on collecting litter in their own free time, please do not make this unpaid job any harder for them. Have no kids so schools options do not affect us</p>
<p>I think it would be daft to close cafes in leisure centres as when you come out of swimming you want something to eat like chips ,hot bowl of soup and have a nice hot cup of coffee and a chat with friends .</p>
<p>Definitely need to close a few schools, sad if been there for ages but population is falling. Not good for pupils in school with very few children . Some schools have children coming from other areas to keep numbers up ,not viable as fewer young families in villages to keep momentum going .</p>
<p>I believe that cafes in leisure centres shouldn't be closed down and should remain open</p>
<p>Make use of Criminal justice unpaid work, to litter pick, grass cutting, graffiti removal, closed cemeteries, core path and cycle ways as per previous years 2010 - 2016. this was a successful partnership ,with both parties reaping the rewards, testimonials available at King St Dumfries; with thousands of hours of unpaid work outstanding , this would be a valuable asset to the local council tax payers and serve the governments expectations of the unpaid work programme.</p>
<p>You should be using full powers you have as a council. You should be increasing council tax by 4/5%, introducing car park charges (every other town has them to bring in income) you should use the visitor levy- this wouldn't even affect locals so make use and bring more income in so you do not have to keep cutting things. Its a dereliction of your duty as councillors not to be doing these things just to stay popular and in power</p>
<p>pay for parking in d&g public car parks and town centres. pay to use public toilets to keep them open</p>
<p>No kids of school-age</p>
<p>Sell the many council buildings no longer in use. Top management in the council could take a pay cut. Definitely close very small schools and Dalry Secondary School.</p>
<p>Involve more public in consultation, this survey was a good idea. Maybe get private managers to look at this as they are used to cost cutting. Involve midsteeple quarter/project.</p>
<p>Reduction on money spent on migrants.</p>
<p>I Think the Scottish Govt. should give more to the Regional Councils, making a secure base at home, this would give them something credible to work with rather than trying to play on the international stage. In other words use the money from central Govt. to keep the Regions afloat.</p>
<p>The phrasing of some questions suggests that efficiency reviews and reorganisation of some services could have been done sooner, some existing rules are not adhered to, and some impact options were not particularly clear.</p> <p>With regard to waste and road services, further reductions will have knock on effects for residents, businesses, and particularly plans for developing tourism, and investment. Street cleaning is already largely done by volunteers in this area, but places where it is not appear dirty, run-down and unattractive. This encourages more fly tipping and littering-for example the areas round Chapelcross, and Ecclefechan lorry park slip roads.</p>
<p>Stop paying for illegal immigrants adults and children being kept/fed in hotels and giving them money/free travel/gym passes etc.</p> <p>Stop highly paid council workers giving themselves huge pay rises and bonuses that they certainly haven't worked for or deserve.</p> <p>Introduce parking wardens-at this time at least £1,000 could be generated by patrolling the High Street and English Street alone every day....the illegal parking is a dangerous problem.</p> <p>It's nice to see all the lovely flower beds around our deserted town.</p> <p>It's a pity most buildings are covered in seagull droppings - more could be done to get the seagulls removed and their mess cleaned up. I very seldom go into town because of them.</p>

Most of the options are a total no-brainer.... you don't need a consultation to make these savings....you should have made the savings already...just get on with these things! You folks need to understand you are spending my money... stop throwing it away!. How much has this exercise cost? I notice your customer and Digital services cost as much as waste collection and disposal? how on earth can that be???? How can your senior management look at those headline numbers and think that is acceptable? They want to try working in the commercial world where we have to earn what we spend.... no business in the country would burn through money like this... look at what your spending on HR & Admin support, then contrast and compare to what you're spending on roads & infrastructure... how can that be justified? hang your heads in shame!

Sorry can't help further, but I do agree that you have a rotten job ahead. There's no way you are going to please everyone at the same time. Good luck.

I am an experienced primary school teacher, currently working as an ASLT. It is so distressing that we are not supporting the needs of our learners or meeting them due to cuts already never mind those proposed in Education on this list. Teachers and management staff are already on their knees. My Head has already said she could simply not manage without me. (I do work way over my paid hours as do most others by the way). Waiting lists for referrals are outrageous- an absolute embarrassment in fact.

As for moving inclusion bases into mainstream- this is totally unmanageable and MUST NOT be allowed to happen. Mainstream are already trying to deal with children who arguably should be attending an inclusion base. We do not have the capacity or resources.

Can I suggest the schools that have been closed are ultimately sold? Some would make lovely dwellings once converted and this could bring in some serious money.

I do think keeping a school open with very few pupils is not only a waste of money in terms of managing the building and heating it etc, but not healthy for the learners or staff. Children will not be sufficiently socialised and it is alienating for staff and potentially unsafe if only one adult is in the building. Not good for overall wellbeing.

Regarding Quality improvement officers, it surprises me that some are not actually qualified teachers and yet they come into school to advise very experienced teachers on how to prepare for an inspection.

Our children MUST NOT BE TARGETED in these cuts. They are our future and removing the LA hours has had a HUGE impact on them already.

Thank you for reading. This is a very sad state of affairs.

Seems to me that the council needs to look at ways of generating income and not cutting front line services. Spend money on our children.

Cutting class sizes would help to increase attainment, not cutting teacher numbers

Stop outsourcing any consultations these should be completed in house.

Some of these options do not lead to a large amount of savings and !at cost more to implement.

Reduce management in all departments, including schools if school roles are falling but also in the Education services.

Better admin support across council to free up others to undertake work.

Spend to save for staff wellbeing - reduce sickness

Reduce numbers of senior managers where roles could be at a lower level and supported by admin.

Actually close schools with low pupil numbers - nice to have community schools but unrealistic in current economic climate

Councillors need to take difficult decisions and be honest with public rather than make it look like the failure of already overworked staff. They are elected not Officers and there are insufficient resources to meet demands of public - let them know!

ERVS for staff - register of staff across the council whose roles are going so they can be moved (subject to skill set) to posts that need to remain and staff want to leave.

There are posts at too high level for role. Review these to reduce costs.

Restructuring eg Public Protection team. SW management. Education management.....

Advertisement of bulky uplift plus a rise in cost as a lot of people don't know and I would think a slight increase wpyld still keep it competitive and not cause any additional risk of fly tipping, more focus needs to be put on income rather than cutting services, i also think maybe a rethink on council tax reduction even if people on low incomes paid a very small amount say £5 per month (I am in receipt of tge reduction and wouldn't mind paying a little but can't afford the full amount).

As a regular user of Castle Douglas swimming pool I know that it would be a great loss to the large number of retired people like myself who use the pool as their main form of fitness. When older and frailer, water based activities are kinder on joints and help recovery from injury. With a growing number of elderly residents in the region we cannot take away facilities which support their health.

There is a lot of duplication of effort between SOSE and economic development team on major projects, this does seem counter intuitive.

there is an opportunity in procurement to give more responsibility to officers to make decisions, currently procurement processes are inefficient, officers should have the capability (with training) to carryout procurement, but with guardrails on the largest and more complex tasks.

There should be a more concentrated effort to support staff to work from home, enabling a reduction in the council estate running costs (also reducing the carbon footprint of multiple commutes.

More work could be done on making departments work with other departments, there is still a silo mentality.. That this has not happened yet is a poor leadership issue as most officers would be keen to cooperate but senior leadership needs to be less protective of their departments budgets, roles and responsibility, directing people to work together.

None

Agree that small schools, primary etc., should be closed; adequate and better teaching in larger schools.. Swimming pools improved and kept open to assist in community health and safety (swimming lessons in schools).

Remove the need for staff on 'garden leave' (redeployment) and remove the old practice of moving management staff to a higher paid job just before they retire.

Are benefits part of the council or are they under the Scottish government- a great saving would be to get those not working into community based roles such as cleaning and repairing road signs, litter picking, filling pot holes. There are people not contributing when they could be. Don't take money from teachers and staff in schools I see daily how they are stretched already. So many are off ill stressed because of bad behaviour and lack of support it's horrendous that you can ask people who may have no idea how essential it is to get more help in schools not less, whether we should take away any support from them! Our schools are drowning they must be supported.

There are not many public toilets. Removing more and cutting opening hours will impact negatively on tourism and facilities which D and G visit across the region. They are essential, particularly for childrens' park areas.

As a previous employee of Dumfries & Galloway Council, both in Education and Leisure & Sport, it's abundantly clear that the council has lost touch. We need a complete reform - especially of services that can generate revenue. Our Leisure & Sport teams focus on cutting or saving, where we should be looking at simple and effective ways to generate revenue - the demand for fitness classes, one to one coaching , swimming lessons , one to one lessons is huge and the profit margins can be significant if planned well.

We need to prevent going from one extreme to another when it comes to service - seeing ALL or nothing. We can make small, marginal changes. Some changes may have to be unpopular, but through time become the norm - again considering how we implement changes without huge notice to our community - good example would be parking. We've seen free parking for years in towns like Stranraer. With small investment in terms of cameras / parking payment apps you could implement free parking for 30 mins , then charges there after - small but progressive changes. Tourism wouldn't be impacted as they would see this as the norm, and most likely comment on the low prices.

We need to multi-skill the councils workforce , streamlining responsibilities - one example was the removal of road crossing patrols - another example of "all or nothing" - could janitors be multi skilled ? Remove the unnecessary lunch patrols , and ask janitors to do 30 mins AM and 30 mins PM - an already familiar and trusted face in the school to children but streamlining a service. The public will also notice little to no difference , and will applaud the council.

Waste - remove the food service. For the size of the small bin it appears to be high cost or little return. Removing this service will not add too much additional waste to standard grey bin.

<p>Fleet / garage network. Could the garages open up their services to other fleets? The company I work for , used to have a contact with the Stranraer garage - but we quickly dropped it as the manager admitted they weren't driven for revenue so it wasn't a rush. I could have moved a 30 van fleet at that garage. This may make use of the large facilities you have and encourage further recruitment - including apprentices. Creating jobs and the higher spend on FTE will be offer by profits</p>
<p>Concerned about the impact on the landscape of the changes related to reduced waste collection, removing lay-by bins and closing dumps - will start to see a marked increase in rubbish dumped around the country.</p>
<p>Review various teams within social care, example children and families, barely have money for anything. Leaving care team - hand out ten of thousands of pounds, it unfair and disadvantages families that are struggling and seeking support.</p> <p>Revise care leaving bursaries, noone needs £225 per week for a 2 day a week life skill course, bursaries should be paid per day not one overall cost.</p> <p>Utilise hope place. Stop paying for empty rooms at the waverly, they are disgusting and not fit for purpose. Stop giving leaving care kids UC equivalent weekly when they have no bill to pay, not only are you setting them up to depend on this money they are not learning about bills / budgeting and so on. Give them pocket money of £20 pcw.</p> <p>Slash the pay increase for top management and instead support front line staff getting a fairer pay deal.</p>
<p>I don't beleive in reducing any services to our children. Investing in them is investing in our future.</p>
<p>My son is in primary education, I want the money to remain in schools as much as possible to support our young people</p>
<p>Shocked at the amount of money currently been spent on schools (not all council tax payers have children). Given the weekly struggle to get the food bins emptied in DG11 and DG12, I would not back anything to do with reduction of waste collection services. Lay-by bins are always full, people will just dump bags there anyway if you remove the bins and then our beautiful area will be an eyesore.</p>
<p>Saving bureaucracy</p>
<p>Cut higher management</p>
<p>Money is wasted on council suggestions which are then discussed for years with nothing happening. Opening up out of town vacant properties to suitable companies eg. Next who would bring employment, council tax etc to the region.</p>
<p>Cut as many none essential / not legally obligated services as possible</p>
<p>Don't put any idiots in charge of monetary investment ideas</p>
<p>Cut the salaries of "high management" - like Director of Education - for example. Their salaries are ridiculously high.</p> <p>Also - stop re-branding/changing departments about. There are never savings in doing this unless posts/salaries are cut.</p>
<p>My book club use the Ryan Centre Cafe for our club meetings as there are no other facilities that support us. If the cafe were to close, we would have nowhere to hold these meetings. The staff are fabulous - it would be such a shame for it to close.</p>
<p>Please note that the option of 'reducing teacher numbers in line with falling school rolls' lacks detail. There are currently too many primary teachers nationwide and most likely in Dumfries and Galloway. However, in the secondary sector, the picture is very different: DG Council should make every effort to retain (and recruit) secondary subject specialists, especially for academic subjects such as English, Maths, Modern Languages, Sciences. Asking primary qualified staff to take on secondary is unhelpful. Thank you.</p>
<p>-Push for early information on increased budget settlement following increased funding from UK government budget</p> <p>-Be bold and decisive and close schools - Dalry, Hottsbridge primary, etc rather than salami slicing</p> <p>-Increased management of services with key aims - following years of cuts a lot of services have lost site of their goals in my opinion</p> <p>-Review all corporate pay grades - 2009 single status review mk2 - with cuts in salaries of up to 20-25% in real terms recruitment has wandered off so new posts and old posts pay don't seem consistent across services -</p>

there are definitely staff paid band 8 for a job level I did 12years ago on band 7 for example. Assuming some pay restitution at some point some staff will be overpaid for what they do, if there's no restitution it's probably less of an issue but there may be loss of good staff over a medium time scale due as a result
CD swimming pool is an essential service and promotes healthy lifestyle it would be very short sighted to close it.
We've already started to see an increase in fly tipping due to bins not being emptied or charges for waste collection services, including a freezer dumped in Annan with a duck in it. If the number of bins collections reduce and the cost for bulky collections increases, sure this is just going to increase the dumping of rubbish
We (30 ladies) attend an over 50s class at the Ryan Centre 3 times a week, we use the cafe for socialisation after every class. It would be devastating for us to lose this.
We (30 ladies) attend an over 50s class at the Ryan Centre 3 times a week, we use the cafe for socialisation after every class. It would be devastating for us to lose this.
We (30 ladies) attend an over 50s class at the Ryan Centre 3 times a week, we use the cafe for socialisation after every class. It would be devastating for us to lose this.
Go back to basics - provide only the core services
Reduce council SJC staff working week by 1 hour (and their pay), reduce working week to 4 days for SJC staff Mon to Thu and close buildings to save on energy costs
We (30 ladies) attend an over 50s group 3 times per week in the Ryan Centre. We always use the cafe in the Ryan Centre for some socialisation - for some of us, it is the only social life we have! We would all be devastated to lose this.
Referring to road maintenance in particular, there is a lack of quality control and wasted money through this. Work on the roads are being completed (at times) to an unsatisfactory standard which are not lasting requiring additional maintenance soon after.
Further cuts within secondary schools in particular would compromise pupils learning and wellbeing.
When laying new astroturf across the regions schools, give brushes to the schools to sweep them weekly to prevent moss build up and make them last many years longer than they currently are.
Rather than cutting services to vulnerable individuals a targeted approach to review senior and middle managers in the council needs to be progressed under best value.
Services should be focused on the poorest in society. People who can afford to look after themselves should be expected to do so.
Stop using deep fat fryers in school kitchens. This would reduce direct costs for energy, cleaning, maintenance and equipment replacement. It would also reduce insurance costs in relation to premiums and required fire prevention measures given this is seen as a high risk area by insurers. It would mean healthier school meals.
Raising council tax and costs for leisure centres will raise cash. Less admin and councillors would save money. Schools of less than 10 not viable, socially or educationally good for pupils. Secondary school with less than 50 pupils should also go. Need youth groups as little for teens in the area and we need them.
There is a lot of youth funding available via private enterprises, having witnessed the amount of events, and facilities being used and the equipment provided to enable these events to go ahead then they are disposed of.
So much money being spent on schools. Our children are grown up
Close some libraries. Easttriggs and Lochmaben are not required as they have a library close by at Annan and Lockerbie or Dumfries. To have these open is a luxury we cannot afford. I'm sure there will be good bus links to those other libraries and could increase the bus usage. Close small rural schools. Reduce the sport and leisure active schools this should be teacher lead and already within the curriculum or there are other avenues outwith local government where kids can get sport and play. Poverty issues should be central gov lead and not local government. Increase fees from road permits /planning apps / registrations. Reduce staffing in social services. Council seem to have a lot of people in high paying jobs who do not seem to warrant the pay/responsibility. There should be a fresh check on current job responsibilities v actual job, some areas of responsibilities have shifted but not reflected in pay!! I work in the private sector and have dealt with people who are processing/ admin but have a technical job title really!! Are they being paid higher wages but are really admin! Recently top brass were told to pay themselves more as per whatever governing

party but that seems unfair when asking for savings and usually on lower paid staff!! Something not right there!!

Elected members this should not be a paid role. It needs to go back to voluntary and paid expenses. Elected members haven't got a clue, that they are the decision makers but then shy away when public moan abt some of the budget decisions they make. Its like they have 2 roles elected member at committee decisions but then act like they weren't part of the decision when council cannot do something but the elected member wants it done for their own agenda. Elected members only lobby council staff never any other bodies ie Utilities, trunk road, police any outside agency i see facebook pages where an issue is clearly an outside agency but elected member always say i will speak to council officers and they will contact (which ever other service). What a waste of dgc resources!! Elected members do your job!!

How many staff are still working at home really!! Savings on buildings doubtful staff are most defo skiving 100% I see known home working staff out all times of the day and defo no working or making up time. Feel sorry for those that do go to an office everyday or work outside on the bins etc no choices for them and less work/life balance. Heard some staff cant come to work because they have a dog now as got during covid. Yet poor folks before covid had to get to work when they had kids and pay for child care!!

No drop in session in Lockerbie???

Reduce travel by staff with work vehicles, working from home to close offices, pay for parking at council offices to encourage use of public transport, rent out roof space to generate electricity/phone masts.

No kids of school age

I believe that the Council need to make many efficiencies throughout all council departments as soon as possible and also introduce performance related pay to every employee to ensure that everyone is working efficiently and effectively

Quite surprised to see so much money being spent of school staff

Cut management pay and consider raising wage for those lowest paid. Introduce late-fee charges for people who return books late, increasing the fee after so many months. Close libraries that are open 2 half days a week. Introduce blue badge charges

You mention several times that you will pass on responsibility for things you would save money by stopping onto schools. How would you balance this whilst also reducing teacher numbers and clerical staff? School staff are at breaking point. Surely a high staff absence rate due to stress is also costly? You have not given us flu vaccinations this year. Will you release the comparison of staff absence rate and how much this has cost to cover?

Difficult choices prioritizing early years and learning through play, empowering Schools

I would support increasing Council Tax if the Council adopted a policy of actively seeking a revaluation of council tax bands based on current property value.

I have chosen various options that implement reductions in spend based on currently projected reductions in service levels (for instance, reducing teacher vacancies based on falling rolls). I only support these options if the trends are monitored on an ongoing basis and spends would be increased should the falling trend reverse.

Several options appear to involve implementing agreed policy that has presumably not been implemented to date. This is indefensible in the circumstances and priority should be given to ensuring that agreed policy is implemented within approved timescales and the results fed back to Council. Clearly many activities result in unforeseen consequences but there is no excuse for not following through on approved decisions, for good or ill.

Education is a vital service within any authority and on the whole has experienced numerous cuts that has led to increased referrals to various services. As a mother I would hate for any education services cut. Perhaps if managers that were employed across the authority were trained accordingly to do their job so that there were not multiple levels of management of people trying to do the same job.

There are many opportunities for spend to save options already proven in other councils. Tayside contracts are arms length providing roads services to PKC and Angus councils. This kind of model should be explored.

DGC is in a difficult position due to geographical location meaning fewer and higher bids for contract work. This problem could be removed by increasing skilled workforce in arms length organisation which would charge fair rates for work but not have the associated pension cost to the council and provide skilled employment retaining and enticing people of working age in the area. This would allow the generation of additional income being able to bid for work for external contracts, private civils works such as resurfacing works, drainage etc and being based locally should provide a distinct advantage in costings.

Stirling council compost garden waste and use in their own gardens and beds offering excess from compost/mulch to the public meaning they do not pay for compost, bark, fertiliser etc. The option to close the plant nursery is a missed opportunity. This again could be made arms-length and extended, it could also provide employment for individuals with physical and learning disabilities. This could also provide fuel for biomass.

Use of criminal justice for free labour to carry out maintenance works that the council do not have resource and funding to do. This is carried out in Clackmannanshire council where they are used to clear drainage assets, ditches and flood prone locations and has been risk assessed.

Provision of a full time grant officer whose sole purpose is to seek grant funding both internally and for partner community organisations to reduce burden or find match funding.

Opportunities for arms length charity or business to look after greenspaces - this model has been undertaken in Plymouth council to self-generate funding to maintain greenspaces such as parks, community woodlands, shorelines etc.

Monthly grey waste collection - Falkirk council have had this in place for around 5 years but had to ensure all of the recycling services were in place prior to instigating this.

Dewatering of gulley waste at council facilities to reduce cost of disposal of gully arisings.

Large drive for asset management - if we know what assets we have, we can rationalise work carried out and put out targeted contracts. Stirling council have had this in place for gulley cleaning for at least 10 years, the money saved through the contract was used to fund drainage investigations and replace broken or faulty assets. Analysis of data over time allowed more targeted cleaning and ultimately proving a better service. Significantly reduced out of ours call outs and clean up operations, reduced impacts to property and infrastructure and disruption. Glasgow city council are now starting this process.

Upsizing and upskilling the engineering design team would allow them to bid for internal work from other services such as education keeping the money within the council.

reduction in council assets - hybrid and homeworking has been proven through the pandemic, therefore some buildings could be sold/rented/sublet.

More cross team and service working to create joined projects which can create efficiency savings and attract investment.

Spend to save needs to be prioritised more as each and every cut has knock-on impacts for employment and service provision facilitating a vicious cycle. Consider borrowing e.g. Stirling council borrow money from Prudential. Moray council took out an extensive loan to cover the costs of their contribution towards the construction of a number of flood protect schemes.

Review the Senior Management Structure including Directors, Chief Officers, Heads of Service, Managers. There are so many managers and not enough feet on the ground. Stop 'creating' posts that do not exist. Allow the Business Support Service Hubs to go back to being a dedicated and direct admin service for the essential services they support- offering streamlining opportunities.

The council spends too much money on PPP schools. Paying for low quality building work needs to end.

Schools sharing recourses, i.e., sports/music equipment. We need all the support we can get in schools. If children's needs are met attainment will increase, fewer exclusions, more time spent on teaching. Use people on community payback orders for gardening, litter picking, recycle centres etc. Reduce individual school transport if parents claim disability allowance and/or have a disability car/ don't work because they care for young person, they could use public transport.
Why are large areas of green spaces continuing to be cut by council staff when the council is not responsible for the land, for example, Georgetown? Not only maintaining grass but shrubs and trees etc.
High ranking council officials i.e. Dawn Roberts should take a pay cut.
Do not reduce the bin collection time - it is already an issue for most homes.
Prime reason for completing was the suggestion of moving household waste to 3 weeks. DO NOT DO THIS - PLEASE
Some of the budget options have a disproportionate impact in the more rural areas, and this should be carefully considered. There are several options which may be reasonable in Dumfries, but are not in Stranraer as a 'centralised' service can mean just no access at all for the West.
Improve training of Managers/Senior Officers in financial management and scrutinise spending more (e.g. are things value for money - new staff badges, subscriptions to professional journals, etc.) and encourage more applications for external funding, along with people management training for Managers to ensure staff time is used wisely.
Charge for a Blue Badge. We are the only local authority in Scotland that does not currently charge. Blue Badges can be used anywhere in UK and abroad. Can be used to get free parking in charged car parks. Maximum charge of up to £20 per badge. Badges last for 3 years.
Any contract work being carried out. ie tree felling, adaptation work.....two quotations must be obtained.
Stop hot drink and snack provision at all council meetings, including elected members
Creation of bank staff employment for Occupational Therapy to help fill gaps in staffing during maternity leave/sickness.
Allocate staff resources to the busiest offices/department.
I don't feel penalising mothers on maternity leave is the best way to save money!
Share buildings and resources with different services. Longer opening times at leisure facilities ie Dgone perhaps at school holidays or weekends to encourage more people to attend. Change the culture, the public sector workforce is often lazy in comparison to a private workforce as if private companies don't work they don't get paid. Review council tax how it is set, based on people in property rather than cost of property as there this disadvantages people that have worked hard to get a nice home. Renewable energy.
Get rid of as many top paid managers as possible. Too many at the top means less on the ground to actually do the work required.
We have too many overpaid members of staff, especially in management. There are far too many empty buildings that just need sold, mothballing needs to be stopped. Parking charges for all car parks, with discounted rates for residents of D&G Charges for motor homes/caravans that free camp Young Scot cards should be changed to end a year earlier, a saving to be made there.
Scrap the role of an assistant CEO, not required. Save £80k pa?
Insert camera into bus lane in Glasgow St Dumfries and local fine car drivers who contravene the time slots.
Pleasantly surprised to see no proposed cuts being made to roads funding. Cannot back anything to do with reduced waste services though as this will only increase littering and dumping in the countryside
Work on poverty, equality, community integration across region. Categoric no to introduction of parking charges.

Also no do not close our swimming pools or public toilets. Maintain arts programmes eg lifelong learning.
My waste collection doesn't last 2 weeks never mind 3
More focus must be given to getting economic regeneration kick started across our region, more business more support more push to getting planing moving and we will generate more revenue for council more jobs for our residents and improve our area.
Much needed investment in our atrocious public transport network.
Councillors get paid too high wages and allowances, they used to just get expenses now earn more than a lot of your employees! Charge for car parking in car parks in towns, issue fines to farmers who damage roads with water, mud, heavy farm vehicles, this would generate extra income to help maintain roads. Carry out a review and De- list / give rural single track roads that lead only to farms back to farmer and let them have the cost to maintain them. Charge utility companies more to work on Council roads. Stop using sub contractors from central belt to carry out work, should be local contractors used or up numbers in Council own workforce . Up fees for Planning applications. Close and sell mothballed school buildings within shorter time scale instead or sitting empty for years. Some departments (mainly your Communities) seem to be top heavy with high earners (Managers) in all 4 regions when other departments are lacking managers, or not having staff replaced, should be same level of managers across board/ in all areas. Up burial fees, Stop employing expensive consultants. Stop using expensive agency workers for drivers.
My child has additional needs . Primary Schools are on their knees trying to support all of our children. Please - no more cuts at the classroom level.
Education should not be cut in any way
It seems education is the big target here. We need to, and should be looking after and protecting our young learners. They need access to quality education, accessible leisure facilities and safe spaces. The significant rise in ASN numbers over the past few years means we need skilled, knowledge staff in schools, staff to support these learners and better access to technology for all. The demands on class teachers is horrendous. PTs inclusion - was a secondment, then extended - impact of this? Inclusion lead? Boxall - only given access for one year, no time to make proper use. Clicker licence - one year then cancelled, this is no good to a child who needs it. Some schools can't afford to buy it, only those with PEF budget. What about benefits, people abusing the system - housing Roads - money is needing to be spent improving the quality of local roads. Council buildings - Woodbank etc NWCC?
Please do not reduce anything within our schools. Children and young people should always be our priority and their education is most important. All children should receive the education and support they require, whatever their ability or disability.
Dumfries & Galloway Council is to top heavy with management. More people required on the ground to carry out the services we have.
The Ryan centre cafe is in a great area and brings in community spirit and customers to the area , which should not be considered to be shut
The Ryan centre cafe should not be considered to shut. Why would you close something that is making money? Therefore there will be no saving. The cafe is both a service and a place for people to meet others.
encourage/ensure more efficient management and increase productivity of individuals on all levels (including managers), reduce hybrid working (including management) as productivity not guaranteed and difficult to measure. The Council is a customer based service and that can not always be done proficient from home.
No cuts to education as this area struggles already. Anywhere there is duplication should automatically be reassessed. This entire plan of cuts should be reassessed after the 3 year period if things are financially better.

Libraries should be minimised but have a streamlined customer service which concentrates on digital as main public access point. Reduce the council estate, concentrate resources on frontline delivery and not keeping buildings open for offices - many are underused and vacant a lot, e.g. Daar Rd, Buccleugh St.
Not always clear what's involved in these options without further information/specialist knowledge. The High Street looks so dingy these days - maybe half of it towards the Burns Statue could be given over to a grassy area and paint or repurpose the buildings.
It is disappointing to see how many of these are targeted to reducing budget, staffing and support in schools. Schools and staff are already struggling with little support, reducing budget for what they have is going to have a major impact on the young people of Dumfries and Galloway. Services for young people and the staff who support young people are vital if Dumfries and Galloway care about their residents.
Why don't you use the money that you have floor the river nith to help
<p>1.05 – End policy investment funding for the Youth Beatz festival</p> <p>On the one hand this event provides excellent opportunities for our staff in almost every rank in terms of the planning, policing of same and overall event overview and will result in the removal of opportunities to be involved in such a large scale event when opportunities such as this in division are already scarce.</p> <p>On the other hand this event proves extremely challenging in terms of deploying the required number of staff to deliver a safe event whilst also maintaining sufficient numbers of officers on the frontline to deal with business as usual matters.</p> <p>Looking at this more widely in terms of discussions we've had recently within our own organisation around reducing our own footprint at events, the Council's decision to consider this as a cost cutting measure is certainly in keeping with our own approach.</p> <p>3.04 – Reduce number of Household Waste Recycling Centres</p> <p>This will very likely result in an increase in fly tipping which, should in the main be dealt with by the Local Authority Environmental Health team. Fly-tipping is hugely impactful and we consider one that will rise if more of the recycling centres are closed; there has already been a noted rise in the amount of fly-tipping following from introduction of a booking system which has made using the service potentially less convenient or accessible.</p> <p>Due to the prevalence of agricultural and forestry land in our region, much of the illegal dumping occurs on such land and has featured as a priority issue over several years now at the Dumfries & Galloway Rural Crime Partnership.</p> <p>5.11/12 – Review of parking charges</p> <p>Decriminalised parking is well established in most Local Authority areas and would undoubtedly be an avenue for income generation for the Local Authority and Police Scotland would welcome a move to expedite this matter.</p> <p>The last point of consideration we would wish to highlight and which does not feature in the consultation is investment in town centre CCTV systems. We would emphasise the importance of having access to a quality fully operable CCTV system in our communities as it provides us with an unrivalled prevention and evidence gathering tool not just for serious crime matters but all crime matters. If it is allowed to deteriorate or is not repaired/replaced when required, it will hamper our ability to detect some crime and keep the public safe.</p> <p>I don't think we should be cutting services for young people in any form. It may be there should be restructuring of services to best use staff and resources but working in that sector more staff and more resources need to be committed.</p> <p>I don't think mass Schools should be closed but it could be streamlined. A school role could go to at least one composite class so around 20-25 children- but there should be a number of years a school is allowed</p>

under that number.

A secondary school should have at least one class per year group with maybe a composite situation at two stages if required. It should have 25 children for years 1-4, and then 10 for years 5th and 6th year.

We should be investing in young people (schools/ festivals/ benefits).

Cuts should come in layers of management.

Charge or increase charges for council tax on holiday homes and caravans. Charge motor homes and caravans for parking a local beauty spots (Charges to include waste disposal costs). Introduce fines for incorrect disposal of toilet waste onto land and into rivers/burns (I suggest £1000 for first incidence rising there after). Look at introducing parking costs for tourists. Pay and display machines could be used and locals could be given a code (could be a barcode) that gives them free parking. We are a rural area and there is no option but to drive much of the time as public transport is non-existent for many and therefore not an option.

You could also consider a tourist tax for hotel and B&B bookings.

Planning for new business builds and for businesses that will employ more people should be expedited favourably and quickly. Schemes like the Stranraer water park should be encouraged and blocks not put in place. Schemes/bids should be sought from investors and should be invited to redevelop areas like the old Stranraer ferry terminal to boost the economy and provide more better paid jobs (Just invite tenders in the national press, it doesn't need to cost the council much to do this). Bids should be looked on favourably, possibly with reduced council tax in the first few years. Waste removal would need to be fully funded.

Drove from Eaglesfield to Lockerbie today and every single layby was full. Where is this rubbish going to go if the layby bins are removed - people will not take it home, it will instead be dumped across the countryside. Same goes for reducing waste collection to 3-weekly, people will just flytip what they don't have room for in their bins

1/ Primary Schools In the likes Of Stranraer, Using Stranraer As a Starting Model. They all Should be brought into one Super Primary School. This Model should then carry on throughout Dumfries and Galloway where practical.

2/ All Main Street Car Park From Stranraer To Dumfries Should Have Barriers up, And Be Pay And Display.

Our regions children have little enough support as it is, especially those who need extra support. Please do not cut education further.

Please introduce food caddies to the whole region. That way we could consider reducing collections of general waste.

Spend more money on the empty shops in Dumfries as less and less people visit there's days

Dumfries & Galloway is already one of the poorest performing areas for Education. This section is already under funded. Therefore any further reductions in this sector will be even more detrimental to the attainment within this sector. Increase to charges for use of sports and leisure facilities will ensure that those using these facilities will be the people paying for them.

We need to be considered what is essential and what is nice to offer. The current budget constraints mean nice to offer is not feasible. A free music event for young people for example is a nice thing to offer but increasing care at home or residential places is a more important way to spend £160k.

we have a top heavy council with too many highly paid office based staff and not enough manual employees for maintaining/ cleaning and enhancing our towns and villages.

We should buy or lease plant rather than hire it in.

I don't think cutting budgets to the schools and staff and I even think closing schools is a terrible idea when the kids are struggling as it is. Schools are one of the things that should be supported and not penalised. Schools should be supported better as they are on their knees at the moment with the funding and support staff as it is now never mind making it worse for them by closing more schools and cutting staff. With the amount of kids nowadays with needs they should be supported far better than they are currently especially smaller schools as some of them have no support at all and this should be a priority in helping them as the

<p>smaller schools especially can be the heart of a community and taking this away would kill some communities as they are.</p>
<p>My answers centre around the importance of health, both mental and physical of young, old , disadvantaged and those with additional needs. Swimming is the healthiest of exercises that help to keep us fit and agile into old age ; good for mind and body not to mention safer in the water. To close Castle Douglas swimming pool would be an abdication of the councils responsibility towards the health of it's citizens.</p>
<p>Prioritising the learning and development of and support for our children and young people is, in my view, extremely important and therefore I would not support further cuts in schools. I would support staff efficiency savings in the central education team and other council departments.</p> <p>We do want to encourage people to learn, live, work and visit our region so a level of cleanliness, free parking and leisure facilities etc is important.</p>
<p>There is too many managers in each department. People in hubs is there to many in them what to they actually do. To many receptionists in each council building. Wasting money on to many consultants..why do we have to have so many top people that do not stay in dumfries and Galloway. And why in dumfries and galloway would the chief executive and manager employ someone to give them a pay rise knowing that there was major cuts needed .to many people in top jobs do we really need them . I know councillors must have other jobs but why are we paying for councillors we do not see or help the public .Too many empty buildings why the people that own them forced to keep them maintained. We need more shops .</p>
<p>Perhaps those at the top can stop taking large yearly bonuses and the money be given to schools for more learning assistants as this is what's needed.</p>
<p>Reduce the size of the corporate centre to reflect that the Council delivers less day to day services and strategic projects that it has historically yet the directorate continues to increase in size. It should be a much smaller minimal support function only.</p> <p>More funding options from the corporate centre should be provided to allow these to be considered against the savings suggested from education and public facing services.</p> <p>The council is benchmarked as operating some of the most inefficient services in Scotland hence outsourcing more services to the private sector would provide better value for money and budgetary savings.</p>
<p>Reducing the number of HWRCs to save 40-60k per year is the wrong answer, everyone is supposed to be doing their bit for the environment and this sends the wrong message. Considering as per the numbers presented charging for Youth Beats for 1 day can save 160k per year, this would cover 3 years of HWRC costs by making changes for 1 day of free entertainment. All negative changes to the handling of waste in the region should be minimised, this also goes for reducing numbers of bins in laybys which will just create an eyesore and harm the environment. If you end free food carry liners people will just chuck it in the general bin which completely defeats the purpose of the whole scheme. Most families with more than 2 children can hardly make the general bin last 2 weeks let alone 3 with the proposed change.</p>
<p>Absolutely, stop the politicians expenses and astronomical wages saving millions!!</p>
<p>Ask the Royal family for a (huge) discount on any rent that that they take for land that schools/ hospitals or any other public buildings are located on.</p>
<p>As someone who worked at the Ryan Centre previously I can say losing the cafe would be a massive blow. During my time there it was consistently one of the best performing areas of the building and a massive positive to both staff and members of the public.</p> <p>The theatre on the other hand, a huge money sink. I don't understand how the costs can be justified and they should be reviewed.</p>
<p>More local procurement - using the Preston Model as a basis for keeping the Council spend in the region as much as possible.</p>
<p>I was going to take the budget challenge until I saw the flaws in your allocation of budget. Primary 64.1 million with over 9,000 pupils. Early Learning and Childcare 41.3 million with approx 3,000 pupils. Surely Primary Budget should be three times the amount? Are these figures correct, if yes, why is ELC so expensive? A closure look at how this budget is spent is needed, maybe you have big savings here.</p>

<p>Schools should be protected from cuts given the poor educational attainment in this region. This must be increasingly due to the disintegrating behaviour in classrooms and lack of discipline. This needs addressed urgently. A further scandal is the substantial number of newly qualified primary school teachers who are unable to get permanent jobs and who end up on temporary contracts or supply. After four or more years of training this is unacceptable and very unfair.</p>
<p>Please do not close Castle Douglas Swimming Pool it is important for our community</p>
<p>Councils could 'advertise' local/corporate businesses by putting there name/details on the side of council vehicles for a fee. I used to see bin Lorry's with Specsavers adverts on the side of them all the time years ago. This could be used on any council vehicles driving round the region from refuse vehicles to small white vans. Great advertising for the business and the council gains income from sponsors.</p> <p>Management needs to be streamlined drastically, far too many 'bosses' on £40 -£90k meanwhile the lowest salary's are the ones who have to face cutbacks the most.</p> <p>Also the use of council vehicles to commute to work for 'bosses/managers' needs to be drastically looked at.</p> <p>I'm quite sure that if there were a reasonable entry fee to Youth Beatz people would still go, even if it were £5 per head.</p> <p>Education needs to stop being prioritised above all other services, who are now taking the hit in budgets while providing equally essential services. Wages in education are massively disproportionate compared to other council roles.</p> <p>I am disgusted that mangers in education awarded themselves a 33% pay rise last year and we are now looking at cuts to education at the chalk face, all of these suggestions of cute will have an adverse effect on all pupils, schools are struggling enough with behaviour, needs, the presumption of mainstream with no support and this outdated idea that one teacher can be in charge of a group of 30 pupils alone. Can you as elected members explain to me how that teacher can keep their pupils safe when one or more dis-regulated child starts to verbally or physically abuse others or the teacher? It is little wonder we have such high staff absence rates. We are being taught about the dangers of childhood trauma and the impact it has on later life, yet we are allowing our pupils to be terrified in their classrooms, to have to put up with constant disruption so much so that their education is impacted. To make cuts to any services that are directly linked to children, young adults and the elderly is a travesty. Our elected members should be scrutinising what the management in education actually do and how that impacts on the children, we have no need for strategic vision, education is not a business, our priories are set by the Scottish government and I can see no need to have a 'middle man' in the mix putting (or in our case several of them) their own spin on these and adding to workload whilst having no positive impact on pupils learning what so ever. I repeat education and social care cannot be run as business, if money is spent in early years interventions like we did in the past then far less needs to be spent on mopping up all the issues in later years. Children are arriving at school now hardly able to dress and toilet them selves let alone be ready to learn yet you expect them to survive, or in fact thrive in a class of 25 then 30 others all with their own issues. It is not possible and it is getting worse, we will soon have a generation of individuals who cannot work, do not pay taxes and then who will support them? I think you need to look again at how many years you have held off raising council tax at the behest of the government and the impact that has had on services, the elected members should be brought to task about this fact and should now make hard decisions to save our services. the amount of money that is wasted by the council is spectacular, will this stop? I think not.</p>
<p>Stop children going to non catchment schools and requiring additional staff. Although the policy is not for this to happen, it most certainly does. Too many layers in the council. No capacity within the council to get rid of those not performing, often moved from department to department and others doing their work.</p>
<p>I would question the savings for Quality Improvement Officers. Being aware of their salaries, the savings would be considerably more than stated. There needs to be clear out of executive staff. Also, there are far too many councillors.</p>
<p>No school age children so proposals not affecting us</p>
<p>As a young person who accessed DG Youthwork services, I believe having these on this budget cut proposals is really detrimental to young people, youthwork is a safe space for many young people and losing or not having enough access to the service would have a devastating effect on young people's mental health. The</p>

<p>effects of youthwork services is seen all around the country with many young people being more confident and being able to speak to someone without the fear of being told you shouldn't be feeling that way, many young people access these services when they are at their most vulnerable and where they can't seem to get any other help, I completely understand that cuts have to be made but in this instance I believe that this is one would have a devastating effect on the mental wellbeing of young people in the region.</p> <p>I would love to hear back regarding this and if I could speak to someone in more detail, REDACTED</p>
<p>I think removing funding from youth beats will be at the detriment for the area, this event pulls in youth groups and families from all over Scotland, whom then stay for the weekend or longer, spending in local businesses etc</p>
<p>I think there are too many managers they don't need as many the biggest saving there. Makes sense</p>
<p>Too many managers with too high wages no need I worked for 60 years and never got anything like them managers shocking as they don't have a clue about what's going on down the line, don't care about the children or other staff dumfries is ruined. I'm embarrassed</p>
<p>Why is Education being hit again what about the children with asl that need Inclusion and play pedagogy. Do the big managers, ceo and under need such a big wage. Look around at poverty in dumfries and the state of the roads what happens with the money we get from the Scottish government? Don't think this is an automatic payrise for the management. As it seems to be, Education is poor and children deserve better management is way forward too many chiefs not enough indians, the teachers and learning assistants don't get near as much money as they deserve.</p>
<p>Reduce the number of management roles within departments. Condense teams to be managed by fewer managers, who are paid significantly higher than anyone else working for the council. Disproportionately so. Pay freeze for all directors and top earners in the council for the next 3 years.</p> <p>Also to mention it is counter intuitive to reduce commercial waste collection to 3 weekly and also close Household Recycling Centres, this would lead to potentially accumulating waste risking fly tipping and rats! Could possibly review the hours of business of the recycling centres and reduce them but not close them indefinitely. Redeploy the recycling centre staff to your cleaning department on the days recycling centres have closed to save costs and keep places of business clean.</p> <p>I would urge not to reduce teachers, number of learning support assistants and funding for additional needs support in schools. This could lead to further strikes from Teaching Staff which disrupt children and families.</p>
<p>I have ticked the majority - as far as I can tell most don't actually affect me or my wider family. I don't support the waste 3 weekly pick ups, this isn't workable for large families regardless of how much we recycle.</p>
<p>Dumfries disgusting, what will we have to show for these cuts? Children are failing and the council Education are letting them! What's dumfries got nothing no shops no Entertainment, rubbish roads, rubbish road layouts that cost millions, why not reduce lower costs on highstreet units to regenerate. But no, how much was spent on that blooming fountain and it's an eyesore again. The council do a job then do it again instead of properly once, also do Education managers need so much money when the rest of us work for nothing, also I see kids are affected again, small schools are vital in some kids education and wouldn't manage bigger schools you don't think this, also managers get paid way too much for sitting behind a computer trying to guess what's best instead of getting out there and working and seeing what the kids need, also a C.E.O from Carlisle hopefully we don't subsidise her fuel or travelling when noone else gets paid for travel to work, wonder how much this costs. I'm beginning to think let's just let everything go council is done think it needs a whole regeneration and management redundancies, but with no redundancy policy how are you going to house all staff in jobs if Inclusion closes how is this going to save money 1 management head of education is more than 3 LA's wage I'll leave it there.</p>
<p>Strongly in favour of 3 week refuse collection frequency.</p>
<p>I honestly think taking away ASL teachers or assistants is a ludicrous idea. So many options for cost savings are hitting those vulnerable. Taking away summer programme for disabled, education support for additional needs, English for second language, autism - nothing like saying you are NOT an inclusive council or adhering to GIRFEC and Scottish Government policy. How about: Review of council and councillor expenses? Requirement for so many pool cars, ensuring, a reduction in youth Beatz funding and implement a small fee for tickets to subsidise the event. Reduction in amount of council buildings?</p>
<p>Reduce street lights 2am-6am, monthly domestic waste collection, cheaper sports-improve community health.</p>

My local Colvend school should be closed as soon as possible and toilets in kippford Rockcliffe and Sandhills should remain open and improved as number of tourists visiting area in on increase. Car park in Rockcliffe should not be free and paid for . Ice cream van should not be allowed to take up a parking spot on the front in Rockcliffe should be in council car park
We support the majority of proposals however would foresee a detrimental impact on the landscape should existing waste collection arrangements change. Reducing waste collection or increasing charges will lead to fly-tipping and littering. Dumfries shops struggle to get people to shop there as it is, adding parking charges will not support their cause.
Ideas: reduce the school fees, don't spend money on anymore bins and reduce the council tax because there's more people in poverty in the UK than we think.
Reduce the wages on the top level staff at the council to save more than you will ever need. Invest in our young people as they are our future.
We need to reduce the number of schools..there is a real inequity in costs per pupil and also experiences.
Focus on modernising and treating the council as a viable business.
Reintroduce the EVRS to save staff costs
Stop wasting our money on implementing 20mph zones it's a useless idea as it's not policed so is utterly pointless
To many top people with to high wage especially giving them self a pay rise when there lots of cuts. Do we need as many councillors especially when you don't see half of them .do we need all the lights at northwest campus school.
I do not believe that any cuts that involve our children's education should be made. Our small schools have already seen too many cuts. Transport needs to be more affordable to ensure children get the best opportunities in our rural communities. Stop wasting money on road repairs that don't last. Cut down the choices on school lunch menu. Centralise procurement to be dramatically improved and local services utilised.
Management cut backs staff held responsible for major mistakes and not given new positions or big pensions ie dg1 the bridge to name a couple cut back on flowers and xmas decorations in dumfries the new school at dumfries isn't utilised enough why not ????? 27 kids in first year is an absolute joketechnicians should be on the shop floor not in a hub this will put kids at risk health and safety first will someone be held responsible if this so called hub goes ahead and there's a bad accident??? Think about it very carefully 🤔
Reduce the tiers of management and cut 6 figure salaried managers. Managers should have work experience within the areas of their departments so they can properly understand them and run them efficiently.
For a fairer budget to be divided amongst the communities equally
My daughter with ASD needs attends the Ryan Centre swimming regularly and uses the cafe after every swim - the kids love the cafe! It would be a huge shame to lose it!
Switch off street lights on Dumfries bypass REDACTED
Reducing the number of trained adults in schools will go against schools aims to improve attainment and decrease the number of young people who leave to a positive destination. All learning assistants, librarians and technicians are vital members of a school and a decrease in their numbers would have a lasting negative impact on all learners.
The council cannot continue to cut front line services! this is the bread and butter of local democracy and what citizens pay for, stop transforming and get a grip of the here and now! creating more useless management positions that are contributing nothing for the tax payers of Dumfries and Galloway We need to get back to basics, cut your management level or at the very least stop creating positions! Needless waste of money and paying lip service to groups that can and could self fund. Get your house in order.
Swimming pools can reduce heating costs by using the covers at night. They're routinely not used even though they're in place. Small things add up.
Roads need to be made a priority- too many pot holes, signs in disrepair Signage of farm traffic/mud on road need prioritised Social services need more money for children - why is adults budget so much more Traffic not aware of speed limits for horse riders need to be prioritised

<p>Concerned that some of the savings options are guestimates rather than absolutes and are any being double counted. For example savings figures for best value procurements, if this has been put up by the procurement service, is there clarity that the department who actually have responsibility/carry out the work hasn't also put up as savings?</p>
<p>Sort the potholes!!!</p>
<p>sell off council assets where possible be more robust in absence management policy for staff at Council - too many staff are off sick for over 1 year - should be dismissed quickly Instead of increasing Council Tax automatically ensure those households who are on an incorrect Band are increased</p>
<p>Leisure facilities in the region are underused with no to little availability for disabled or visitors to region to just turn up and pay to use swimming pool at times convenient to them. It is run under a booking system with slots, once full then there is no chance to just turn up and use. The facility is not used to its full potential and at no time is it ever full to capacity. Personally have not been able to use DG1 due to disability and not being able to turn up, unbooked and access pool or gym, as no one makes executive decisions based on capacity at any given time. Have seen 4-5 customers in pool yet unable to access as that is a booked slot with set times..and session for that hour has already started.. ??!! Bring back the days when you just went regardless of time and were given a coloured band.... Run now without any flexibility Easier and more convenient to go to Carlisle, Ayr or Glasgow swimming pools where you just turn up and pay. HUBB all council employees under one building. Single rooms with 4-6 bus computer stations per room. Central supplies of stock for office sundries and supplies. Mothball surplus council buildings and use one centralised building for all services and restructure workforce to share (HUBB), office space, supplies, sundries, computers. Reduce number of regional councillors per region. Hubb all sundries and supplies, office space used to one regional building, already in use for council business, to be used by regional councillors for meetings and business.</p>
<p>I feel strongly that we need to keep the support available to children within our schools, to allow them to develop and achieve.</p> <p>Youth Beatz is absolutely fantastic but I think charging a small fee per family would be appropriate. The event is free but most things when you are there, food, Ice Cream etc is very expensive so I'm not sure the main event needs to be free.</p> <p>Support people to become more involved in childminding. Currently we have less than 5 childminders in Stranraer - not much help to working families, who then need to rely on family members.</p>
<p>Cut the amount of highly paid council managers.</p>
<p>Recently the council implemented at least 2 jobs or more that were over £100k salary. That is over £8k a month to whoever holds that post. There is no one in the council that can justify that salary. A person I know who works for the council has, 4 line managers/supervisor. Those 4 line managers have a manager, that manager has a manager and then that manager's boss is the person on over £8k a month. There is no need for that many bosses in any sector and again for simplicity, how can someone justify that they earn £8k a month before tax. What do they do that constitutes that pay. It's actually madness. Instead of cutting essential services look at your management pay. While the grunts who actually make your council work and do the jobs you need done make peanuts.</p>
<p>Invest in officers to investigate fraudulent claims of people claiming for false disabilities e.g. people who only use sticks on their claimant days!</p> <p>There are jobs out there that even disabled people currently do. Fraudsters should be challenged and made to work for their money the same as other hardworking people have to do.</p>
<p>Halt all job promotions for the next 24 months, and stop colleagues working from home which will help staff efficiency.</p> <p>My choices are based on residents' affordability for example offering a free Youth Beatz is a nonsense in this day and age.</p> <p>The council should also be looking to outsource departments like Valuers Department.</p>

<p>Would it be possible to work with other agencies force.g job centre plus, to identify those able & willing to work to complete gardening, pavement maintenance etc? Based on Austrian model where unemployed have to complete certain number of community upkeep hours.</p>
<p>I can't understand how you can stop superannuation fees during a woman's maternity leave - this appears to be going back in time and an infringement of woman's rights.</p>
<p>The importance of investment in the early years is well evidenced and must be protected during budgeting decisions.</p>
<p>What about the potholes</p>
<p>As always the best way to reduce labour costs is take out more higher paid roles. Rather than reduce headcount drastically you take out less people but save more money. So less management and peripheral roles and more responsibility lower down the chain. People at £40K upwards a year are well paid and need to make decisions.</p>
<p>get rid of the Labour Party</p>
<p>Let's not cut our existing council but by 10million just to enable the creation of a national park at a similar amount that is being cut.</p>
<p>Fill in the potholes in the road</p>
<p>The worst proposal here is the car parking charges. Dumfries town centre is obviously struggling and any parking charges would just keep people away, especially in such a rural area where car use is so prominent. It does not seem to create much income for the harm it would cause. It would also be an egregious charge on many low paid retail and hospitality workers who need to use a car, with no alternative forms of transport available.</p>
<p>I think this is stupid.</p>
<p>Do not close the Learning Centres. This will disadvantage the most vulnerable children.</p>
<p>Keep youth works stuff :/</p>
<p>Keep youth services</p>
<p>Don't make cuts</p>
<p>Do not make any cuts</p>
<p>The youth work options need to stay including youth beatz and other activities because they help kids to socialise and feel more included in their groups</p>
<p>The council should stop trying to do everything and then doing it poorly There are far too many schools - surely we could save and give children more experience of working with others if we closed the smallest 1 and 2 teacher schools</p>
<p>Don't cut funding for youth work</p>
<p>Streamline management before cutting r The services to children, families and vulnerable adults.</p>
<p>I think it's important to keep D&G looking beautiful to attract tourists (in-house garden nursery), school crossing patrols and window cleaning people, need jobs even if not paid much in them, keep uplifting bulky items and additional waste (to stop flytipping), children who are disabled and those with needs still need to be supported in schools and in the holidays, parking P free, to encourage more visitors to 'a town on a knife edge' and, small schools in rural areas do not need to be mothballed unless absolutely necessary. Communities still need to be kept alive with families and younger adults to pick up all the jobs older residents need, cleaning and caring. Thanks.</p>
<p>Freeze councillors wages/expenses</p>
<p>We have elected members to the council make decisions for us and this process indicates a reluctance to take responsibility for these decisions therefore making me question why these paid employees are in office and why they are not doing the role they are employed to do.</p>
<p>I seriously believe there could be cuts made by reducing the many layers of management in the council</p>
<p>I do think the only places to have libraries should be Dumfries and Stranraer and this should go as far as Council employees as well as this is where most people live.</p>

Review all salaries over eg 50k for freeze on increase. Review expenses for all council employees. Can car sharing when eg attending meetings/ conferences etc. Can internal catering be provided for council offices by school kitchens etc to save money and extend staff hours/ opportunity.
Offer teachers nearing retirement an incentive to retire earlier, without penalty. Teachers with less experience cost less and this would also allow NQT's and other unemployed staff to gain permanent posts and experience. Hopefully this would enable teachers to stay in the profession, using the four years training the government has paid for rather than them having to find alternative employment outwith teaching.
No session in Lockerbie? Given how full the lay-by bins all are driving towards Lockerbie from eagles field side I would worry what would happen to the waste if bins removed - would just be discarded all over country
Working households are already being stretched to the limit financially without yet another increase to council tax. It is simply not fair for those who work hard for their income and don't receive any benefit money.
There is no easy answer to the budget only that cuts must be made and community council taxes must rise to enable the council to continue to support most services.
Use all libraries much more for other things..half the time they are completely empty..eg.allow community groups to use spaces,organisations like U3A groups,after school groups art groups ,particularly Heathhall and Georgetown,Ewart which has no one in it half the time,and so on.It is a complete waste of space which is heated anyway.Use the rooms above the Midsteeple in the same way. Encourage the public to view the publicly owned art works at the Buccleuch Street offices which are virtually impossible to view.Perhaps listing what is actually on the walls,and times when they can be viewed by the public. Update the core paths in Dand G and improve the website which is dire.Let the public know where they are and advertise this online. Encourage more participation from public groups and clubs and schools in the usage of Gracefields and all museums. Sell off all redundant Council buildings asap. Encourage Council staff to actually work in the office,particularly the Planning Dept which is a joke.
Budget in such a way as to reduce consumption and waste, and private vehicle use.
Increase the opening hours of the DG1 facility, particularly at the weekends, run more swimming lessons. Only cut the grass on verges near junctions and other safety areas, this will save money and increase biodiversity. Reduce the amount of council vehicles taken home by employees, implement a more productive and efficient culture within the council particularly around Friday afternoons actually being worked.
Cannot support the waste removal options as these will lead to increased littering and we already see lay by wheelie bins overflowing every week. Lorry drivers will not take their rubbish home if there's no bin there - they'll just leave the bag in the lay by or put a makeshift bin there which will never get emptied. Please save our beautiful area and avoid taking away waste collections
Please do not change waste collection to every 3 weeks my bin is full after a week as it is as I have a family of 5 this will cause major fly tipping in the region. Schools are struggling with budgets as it is so do not cut them any further.
Please quit wasting taxpayers money on failed consultancy proposals, failed infrastructure builds. Please be accountable
The leisure facilities in Newton Stewart would make more money if open earlier and later. I work full time and can't access services due silly classes like nifty fifty and school Access. Expect council employees to do cleaning in there areas of work to a high standard. Fines for persistent abscess and truants.
Anything that can save money is a good thing as long as it does not affect life in general,I notice that nothing was mentioned about the state of our roads potholes .
Education in Dumfries is a huge cost which could be far better managed
I think it is vital to protect education, and to look at ways of generating extra income. Reducing management, and involving communities more are two way to make further savings. Could the council introduce a paid after-school service using the school estates and potentially creating extra jobs? I would also pay for services such as bulky waste pickup - I think this is very good value. I support a rise in Council Tax.
No

<p>Youth Beatz festival is a vital event for young people in our region. Youth work service is also already stretched so a reduction in staffin number would not be viable</p>
<p>Youth Work plays an important role in many young peoples life's</p>
<p>Youth Work is an essential part of Dumfries and Galloway Council. Without youth work, youth beatz, etc, the crime rates would soar and there would be nothing for young people to do. It is an incredibly important workforce.</p>
<p>The majority of these saving options have a detrimental impact on children and young people. Youthbeatz for example Is much more than a music festival, and cutting the youth work service when it is needed now more than ever would be a grave mistake.</p>
<p>Youth work across Dumfries and Galloway is outstanding. Getting rid of anything to do with Youth work should be stopped and not even considered, weither it be removing Youth Beatz, reducing staffing numbers, removing The Toon.</p> <p>None of these should even be considered.</p> <p>The council are idiots if they even consider chatting about removing any of these.</p>
<p>You should be investing in our young people and youth work service- not cutting it. It's a disgrace this is an option for youth work and yet other services don't have any cuts proposed.</p> <p>Also why stop funding out youth beatz when it's only event specially for youth. This should be protected.</p> <p>This budget is totally unfair that it targeted at children and young people. They are our future so why are you cutting it.</p>
<p>Don't cut youth beatz</p>
<p>Cutting youthwork services and poverty services will affect young peoples opportunity to thrive, without these supports working together then young people are the ones who will suffer</p>
<p>REDACTED, that they would consider any of these, especially the services that help the young people across Dumfries and Galloway. REDACTED</p>
<p>I feel that our children and most vulnerable are being most impacted within the budget. It is important that we invest in our young people's futures</p>
<p>Place a charge on youth beatz say &2 provides an income and savings without shutting it down! Provide a family ticket ! All contracts for youth beatz for various business should be local!</p>
<p>Youth beatz is more impactful than just a weekend with the toon going on tour in schools and the fringe hitting hard to reach areas. Youth development workers cannot be reduced, they are already at the top of their capacity to reduce would see a downfall in provision and support to young people and staff in D&G.</p>
<p>Cutting youth work services can have significant negative impacts on both individuals and communities. Here are several reasons I feel need to be considered</p> <p>Support and Guidance: Youth work services provide essential support and guidance for young people, helping them navigate challenges such as education, mental health, and relationships. Without these services, many may feel lost or unsupported.</p> <p>Skill Development:These services often offer programs that teach valuable life skills, including communication, teamwork, and leadership. Reducing access to these programs can limit young people's opportunities for personal and professional growth.</p> <p>Prevention of Issues:Youth work services play a crucial role in preventing issues such as delinquency, substance abuse, and mental health crises. Early intervention can mitigate problems before they escalate, saving resources in the long run.</p>

Community Engagement: Youth work fosters a sense of community and belonging among young people. Engaging them in positive activities can reduce antisocial behavior and promote social cohesion.

Diverse Needs : Young people come from diverse backgrounds and face unique challenges. Youth work services can tailor support to meet these varying needs, ensuring that all young people have access to appropriate resources.

Future Leaders: Investing in youth services is an investment in the future. Empowering young people today equips them to become responsible and engaged citizens tomorrow.

Mental Health Support: Many young people struggle with mental health issues, and youth work services provide critical support and resources to help them cope and thrive.

Education and Employment Pathways: These services often connect youth with educational and employment opportunities, helping them to build a successful future.

In summary, cutting youth work services can lead to a cascade of negative outcomes for individuals and society. Investing in these services is crucial for the well-being of young people and the overall health of communities.

Youthwork as a service is something that should not be considered as an option to cut based on the concrete evidence of how much of a positive and effective impact it makes on young people and communities as a whole. Ranked with the most of 2 best practices compared to every local authority in Scotland should say exactly how much of a positive this is and why it shouldn't be diminished.

The Youth Work service provide integral support to young people across the length and breadth of the region. By reducing the workforce, you not only risk reducing the frequency of service provision, but the range and quality on offer.

Why is the council looking for management savings when they just increased senior management levels and gave heads a significant pay rise. Blind leading the blind! Some of the savings are based on decisions that should be taken as part of the normal day job, and shouldn't even be appear on potential saving, they should just be done.

Council tax should rise

The council tax should be increased by the legally possible maximum each year. The council should push for council tax to be replaced in due course by local income tax, on a progressive system with graduated bands so that all households pay: lower for low income households with higher and higher bands for higher income households.

Reduce costs by stopping elected members receiving lunch at council meetings.

ASL teachers can be hugely beneficial to vulnerable young children with special needs. Any cuts to this programme would in my opinion result in massive negative impacts upon the most vulnerable of these young children whilst also impacting all other young children with whom they may share a school with. Other options should definitely take priority.

Reduce the number of councilors and management staff in the council. More robust procedures for dealing with staff who do not perform well.

I think most of these proposals are sensible but the one that really doesn't sit comfortably with me is reducing support and learning services. Kids in primary schools have yet to have a full, uninterrupted year of education due to the pandemic and strike action. These services are essential. Removing vaccines is a false economy because you're going to have to pay for more sick days. The closure of household recycling centres and moving to a three week collection cycle will lead to more fly tipping. Closing or reducing leisure centres is a bad idea but there is certainly an opportunity to charge more for their use.

The council needs to review all its management within all departments to ensure money is being well spent. Run the council as if it was a private company that had to make a profit at the end of the day, otherwise inevitably you will end up giving everything up anyway to cut costs and letting private companies run the services anyway.

Cannot support any of the waste options, lay-by bins always full and rubbish will just be discarded there regardless. If 3 weekly bin collections we will see more flytipping
Implement more vigorous system for the recovery of arrears of council tax, poll tax and even previous rates.
Sell some assets, and not for £1.00. Re introduce ERVS to get rid of some staff.
Close council buildings with reduced occupancy or reduction in days open.
Reduced salaries and expenses for elected members
Some really good budget savings ideas in the proposal
Review the times when street lights come on and go off. There is a lot of waste in this area. Give the refugees jobs in the waste management area - i.e. litter picking. Reduce the number of people working in council offices - commission an outside review. Cut the expenses of council members (especially for food and travel). If the council introduce parking charges it will kill the footfall in the town - see other towns that have done similar.
Council tax increases are unaffordable in the current climate. Also families who do recycle still have a dull black bin every 2 weeks, changing this to 3 weeks would be unattainable.
Bring back the Traffic Wardens ASAP. the illegal parking is a joke and so much money could be made from parking fines!
As a former member of the Educational Directorate of Strathclyde Regional Council I am concerned that the Council has yet to close small schools and those in the secondary sector which provide a restricted curriculum which provides insufficient challenge to pupils and consumes disproportionately high overheads. I anticipate this will generate criticism of the Council's leadership in future audits/ inspections because it does not serve the needs of young people I consider the Council requires redirect resources from quantity to quality of provision and confront the reality that many professionals choose not to come to the region because of the issue of school performance which currently is well below the standard of other local authorities.
Please do not target front line staff - this impacts children and learning. There are so many quality improvement officers who are paid so much and have no real impact on our children
Support for education should be a core focus, particular for ASL and children with mental health issues as they are very vulnerable.
Please DO NOT close Castle Douglas pool. This is such a vital asset to our small town. The number of children working through the Learn to Swim programme is huge. I know many families, similar to ours who just wouldn't be able to get their children to lessons anywhere else and so would not learn this vital life skill. The staff there are fantastic, they give so many people so much enjoyment and confidence in the water. The pool is so important to so many, for fitness, community, rehab, so many reasons. It is so important.
I do agree on stopping the free support for youth beatz. Currently people can gain access to several tickets for both days and may not attend both days. Others are unable to get tickets for even one day. tickets should not be free and should be sold as day or weekend tickets to allow everyone the chance to get a ticket while providing vital funds to the local community.
A link alongside the option to find out more information would be helpful next time.
Start charging for Youth Beatz. Madness that it has been free for so long.
The booking system for HWRC centres has been a totally idiotic system and should be scrapped so that ordinary people can bring items which have value such as batteries and metal and enable the Council to sell them on rather than have them strewn over the countryside - what happened to taking in tyres as well. Also, no money should be spent on the crazy Galloway National park idea. Closing public toilets is one of the quickest way to keep us at home and not out and about and spending money throughout the region. Install no more speed humps anywhere, complete waste of money.
Youth work services and any school support services are vital in this region and should be protected at all costs. The youth beatz festival is an incredible opportunity available to the young folk in our region, not just for the concert experience but the many volunteering opportunities it brings and the skills gained from it.
The closure of public toilets in the beach areas would lead to a repeat of the horrendous contamination of beaches that we experienced during Covid. This is completely at odds with trying to encourage tourism and

the possibility of a National Park.

The proposed change to a threshold of 25 pupils in schools is purely budget based and takes no account of academic achievement, which must be the primary objective of any educational establishment. A threshold of 25 would instantly result in almost all the village primary schools in D&G closing. This is unacceptable in a predominantly rural community.

Closure of Colvend school should happen immediately as perfectly good school in Dalbeattie this would surely save money. Charge for parking in Rockcliffe this would generate a lot of money which could be spent on maintaining toilets. Closing toilets in Rockcliffe, Kippford, Sandhills is not an option as this happened in covid and was not good for environment !!! Ice cream van in Rockcliffe should be allowed to operate from council car park as it takes up a valuable place in front that could generate some income for the council. Staffing levels in council far too high people should be made redundant to save money

1. Introduce a local lottery
 2. charge for use of public toilets
 3. allow social workers to make their own decisions without having to ask a senior all the time
 4. introduce a scheme making it easy to donate to the council in a will
 5. look at what kids are spending their money on at lunch time - many are going to sandwich shops - introduce vans selling sandwiches outside school with an ordering system that pupils can order on the phone - use these at seaside villages weekend and holidays - selling sandwiches, soup, hot and cold drinks, crisps, tray bakes
 6. introduce a service where schools can be let out at the weekend / holidays for large scale conferences by looking at what can be provided that would enhance major events being attracted - priced competitively
 7. market DG1 more
 8. charge £5 a car for using refuse centre
 9. introduce showers at beach side villages that have toilets payable by card - £5 encourages tourism - I'd pay it!
 10. we currently have one big bin for 9 people and struggle with waste - whereas a single person has a large bin to themselves- is it worth having larger bins for a small community to make better use or encouraging bin sharing
 11. charge people quite a lot -£260 a year to have an extra bin -£5 a week
 12. stop homework- would cut down teacher time but teach studying skills
 13. introduce some video teaching - say of maths - some excellent schemes - to save teaching costs
 14. introduce more free time for pupils during the school day meaning could save on management costs as more time for meetings and teaching
 15. introduce a scheme which makes it attractive to fundraise for your local council
 16. run cinema clubs in school halls where refreshments are served
 17. run a reward scheme for council staff if they can suggest a way to save / raise money
 18. when a vacant occurs introduce a period of time before it can be filled (unless classed as a critical service.
 19. use parents as volunteers to support children with additional needs or to teach subjects - we ran two ukulele groups a week - one in Colvend for the whole school and one in Dalbeattie for a whole class- freeing up teacher time. We did this for several years - parents could volunteer to do some of the clerical work
 20. reduce teacher stress (reduce sickness and money spent on supply staff) and time spent on dealing with difficult behaviour by introducing a trauma informed approach for all children - will improve outcomes for children- and cut down need for support staff - I'm happy to help implement this -(voluntary) we have a group of trauma informed nurseries and I'm a professional with experience of raising 6 adopted children. I helped the school with a trauma informed approach - REDACTED
- Also refer to National Framework for Trauma Training

Have members of the public involved in the cost saving process. They are householders and used to economising, thinking of ways to make money going further

Mabay cut back on councillors that get paid for sitting doing nothing would save a whack of money. Too many top roles, that are not needed. Invest in the schools

Stop cutting funding for ASL in schools - this is a vital service and has already been devastated by cuts. Teaching staff are already taking on additional responsibility for this, so the suggestion of cutting teaching staff as well will have an incredibly negative impact. Education has already been stripped back to the bones,

<p>so the majority of these suggestions are out of the question in terms of their impact. Get rid of visiting inclusion teams and seconded positions rather than in-school staff.</p>
<p>Waste management needs to be considered carefully - bin collections cannot be reduced to three week rotations while also closing waste centres.</p>
<p>Please don't close Castle Douglas pool and fitness centre</p>
<p>With a background of being a very senior procurement executive in local and national government, I am sceptical as to how £1.4m can be saved through best value procurement. It is usually the case that savings can only be delivered by not procuring or paring back what is procured. Hoping that procurement can deliver savings through tendering in isolation is usually folly.</p>
<p>Increase energy saving measures across all council managed properties.</p>
<p>Review the council staff sickness policy and introduce a policy more similar to the private sector</p>
<p>Education and reducing teachers in my opinion is one of the most important things to consider in this budget. I agree some services need to be cut but as long as the extra staffing/help is then put into schools as teachers are already doing more than what they should. Education and our young people is the future any cuts to education/teachers will be detrimental to the next generation.</p>
<p>No cuts or reductions mentioned on the Cheif execs within the Council. Instead new positions have recently been created. More people on the ground and actually in the schools for example to see what is actually happening and is needed is more important.</p>
<p>As for procurement and purchasing items for school. More flexibility to schools to purchase stuff outwith procurement would help them stretch their budgets further. Budgets for schools are already minimal.</p>
<p>Stream line the management system "too many cooks spoil the broth".</p>
<p>Concerned that with education the majority of these savings are coming from supporting learners - with many supporting our most vulnerable children and young people. Where are the other education options?</p>
<p>No Galloway National park</p>
<p>There are many options which will result in job loses and therefore increase the number of unemployed in an area that already has acute problems with unemployment and poverty. While the council do not directly pay benefits, there will be knock on impacts such as reduced generation of income from council tax, reduced spending and a poor local economy. The council should consider more income generation opportunities, are there options to transfer staff to other organisations from which we receive services? There are pension savings to be gained through that method and reduced cost of external services if there are partnership agreements in place. There are many services which could be outsourced to a newly created linked organisation where staff move over to a new employer but are still providing services to the council. This would provide the potential for growth and additional employment opportunities, especially in areas such as elderly care, and roads and transport. We are a very rural area and need to be more self-reliant rather than paying exorbitant fees to private companies who undertake work for the council. Interrogate spending figures on external services to ascertain what areas could realise the most immediate benefit. D&G needs to be more self-sufficient and the council are in a unique position to help develop businesses from which it can utilise services at a reduced cost.</p>
<p>It would be costly in other ways if the Castle Douglas Pool is closed -HEALTH AND WELL BEING!</p>
<p>Closing public toilets proved disastrous during the pandemic with people defacating on the beach where children play etc and it is not feasible to expect communities to take on this burden with no income to employ cleaners. As a tourist area it is essential to keep these facilities open.</p>
<p>If you close Castle Douglas Swimming Pool there will be no public swimming pool in the Stewarty. Would you not save more money if you closed DG One? Also your charges for use of leisure facilities are already too high particularly at Schools which I suspect has resulted in a dramatic reduction in users and income. Certainly 2 groups I am involved with have stopped using such facilities because of cost</p>
<p>Definitely introduce car park payments. This would stop firms from blocking parking spaces for days on end. There should also be a warden to monitor car parking ensuring disabled spaces are only used by those with blue badges. Why not charge £5 for admission to Youth Beatz? The cost is minimal to those attending but</p>

would raise funds for the organisers. Do people pay a fee to put in planning applications? If not, then there should be a fee. If there is a fee - is it high enough?
Reduce so called councillors wages and expenses! They really don't deserve all they get, it's a joke.. I don't get subsidies for my work, so why should they! Especially when it's just to line their own pockets and not actually do much for their area!
Close and sell school when pupil numbers fall below 25
I would suggest the council STRONGLY considers the removal of inclusion bases and ASL teachers within schools/nurseries. School and nursery staff are only just coping and parents take on a huge amount of stress due to a service already lacking! I'm disgusted that these are even down as options!
More money needs to be spent on maintaining our roads which are a disgrace
Additional thought should be given to removing/restricting the current ability to access health and social care support within the D&G region where retiree's (or others) move to this area from other parts of the UK to gain free access to health & social care support having not contributed to the local or Scotland's economy in the past, this current trend simply puts undue and unwarranted stress on our local health and social care systems which are already far too stretched.
Enforce car parking charges region wide asap. We have all been subsidising car owners for far too long. Introduce 'red light cameras' at all junctions controlled by traffic lights and speed cameras in town centres this will generate thousands of pounds monthly. Also re-introduce parking wardens/parking fines. Target transport spending on public transport rather than roads, particularly on the currently not-fit-for-purpose region-wide bus services (bring the bus services back in house rather than paying privateers to run the services?). Could invite-to-pay charity-type collection tins not be introduced at all chemist shops in the region? Prescriptions are currently free but many folk would happily put in a pound or two (or more) in such tins; the money could be spent on local health services?
Closure of small schools where others are located nearby eg Shawhead, Colvend, Nethermill, Brownhall, Hardgate, Crossmichael, Leswalt, Portpatrick.....all these schools have adequate coverage a few miles away. Reduction in hours of street lighting. Reduction in opening hours of council based service centres eg rather than opening at nine am til five they are ten til four or reduction to three days per week instead of five days. Increased video conferencing eg councillors attending meetings from home via computer to reduce travel expenses etc Improve council tax collection Charge for collecting union subscriptions if this is done via payroll Reduce translation service costs of printed material. No bottled mineral water / juices at meetings. Stop local traffic calming schemes and 20mph limits. Increase costs for burials, wedding licences etc. Scrap private residential child care accomodation and adopt collaborative programmes with neighbouring councils for joint provision of in house care Charging for services for care at home eg chairs, toilet risers etc etc where people can afford them
Review productivity levels within staff and in turn, staffing levels e.g Planning! Rate of response abysmal. Local businesses amd other local professionals suffer as a direct result of their inefficiencies and time delays.
Cut the layers of Management within the council and concentrate on increasing the number of staff on the ground carrying out the day to day work required.
Essential castle douglas swimming pool remains open for health and well being of people in area. Children taught to swim and people keep up their fitness and rehabilitate from injury using pool. Not realistic to rpxpect people to travel to Dumfries to swim.
Reduce the salaries of the collar and tie jobs ... that goes for all sectors
Reduce the money that councillors get paid and what they claim in expenses.
Reduce number of councillors no longer a need for 3 or 4 per ward with resultant savings in expenses and salary. Surely potential to make decent savings here without having any major impact. D and G is also one of

the most litter strewn areas in the UK especially along the main arterial routes why not start an enforcement programme which could become sustainable through fines
Cut councillors salaries!! They get to make all the big decisions without even stepping into the schools!
Stop wasting money on stupid I'll thought out projects.. and forget about supporting a national park
Reintroduce parking wardens. This will bring several benefits including income generation, reduction in illegal and unsafe parking, and providing employment opportunities.
Taking away facilities such as CD swimming pool gives children less opportunity to learn life saving skills. It's a well used facility
There are opportunities to increase income within Social Work. 1. Increase the fees charged to Care Call clients. The current charge of £3.60 per week is very cheap and about the cost of one coffee in the high street. Care Call also have increasing costs due to the roll out of the digital project and ongoing costs due to SIM cards. 2. Sensory Support team provide equipment to clients in a similar way to the Care Call team. This is currently free, it should probably be charged, or Care Call provided free. It makes little sense for them to be different.
Maybe a restructuring of the whole council to be more stream lined with still meeting the community s needs! Also handing more ground maintenance back to community payback members.
I am concerned about cuts to Learning Assistants at both primary and secondary schools. My daughter, currently in primary, has a range of additional learning support needs. Any cuts in LA's would mean many schools, especially the smaller primaries, would struggle to support her needs and the increasing numbers of children with additional needs attending mainstream education.
The review of the use of AI to help reduce costs Eg translators
Dumfries and Galloway Council has too many top tier managers. Reduce the management structure and the council would save thousands. Reduce the bonuses given to top tier managers because let's face it that in itself is a joke to national minimum wage earners.
No job losses ,no parking fees ,did not understand some of the options No school closures but better use of schools, did not understand questions/ options, maybe encouragement of community to look after small park / verge areas , nursery at Dumfries too good to close but better utilisation of service ,feel good community to encourage community engagement ,cut red tape and streamline services
No more bonuses for top level staff
Start at the top sack all those who have make very expensive decisions claimed high expenses and this includes all elected and non elected members Make all those employees who work from home come into the office everyday and stop engaging so called experts coming up with stupid idea CastleDouglas roundabout) at least £50000spent and all that was needed were fresh white lines which now you can't afford to do
Castle Douglas Swimming pool should definitely NOT be closed. This is a vital service in CD.
Rationalise the ground maintenance teams eg in recent weeks the grass around Castle Douglas library has been trimmed mowed, leaf blown, mowed again, it's only about 1 cm high. Cut down on un -necessary floodlights
People above my pay grade making wrong decisions they should be held accountable
The council spends an eye watering amount on taxis moving children about. This is because of the huge sums private taxi firms charge, thousands a week. They are clearly enjoying a gravy train of council cash out of a lack of choice for the council in terms of travel arrangements. There is no insurmountable reason why the council could not provide their own taxis and drivers through re training staff, licensing and training and the use of council vehicles. Any costs would very soon be recouped in extremely large savings for that part of supporting learners. Elected members would certainly support this and I will be writing to a number of them on this issue.
I'm sure savings could be made by getting rid of some middle management roles. There are too many.. you have the worker.. then you have the supervisor.. then the line manager .. then the line managers manager etc etc..

Review the benefits system, more people working more money paid into the pot, less expense else where.

Remove free child care to individuals who don't work for children under 4, support parents working.

Look after your building to make them more attractive to rent.

Tidy up the region focus on walking tours bringing in more tourism

Provide better support to organisations supporting the vulnerable, how they can be funded less than council management?

It's a really difficult question but there seem to be outsourced services that do nothing at all. A man sits in a van doing nothing all day if traffic lights are in place. He goes away at 5 until 8 next day and no one is there all weekend. How much does this cost the council. The team working could do his job.

Why is everything written in two languages? Lapland Scot's is this regions lost tongue.

I think the number of reductions considered towards Education in Dumfries & Galloway immensley alarming! The fact the number of children with ASN is increasing and the number struggling to attend mainstream schools is also increasing yet this budget focusses on cutting all support currently in place, which is already significantly poor compared to other local authorities I think is an absolute disgrace. I am deeply concerned about the education and opportunities for children and young prople growing up in D&G.

I have just seen on BBC news that this council plans to stop the youth beatz event for teenagers. My son was severely isolated and rarely takes part in anything and in the last year he volunteered with the festival and the difference it has made in his life through making new friends and genuinely finding something interesting to take him away from his Xbox. We had tried everything as parents to get our son to come out of his shell and leave his bedroom and if it wasn't for his involvement in youth beats it would still be the exact same. You need to reconsider taking this as a budget cut as You have no idea the difference It makes to some of those young volunteers and I can see it myself through how much it has benefitted my son. The cost of the festival is pennies compared to the overall money that the council spends and that money I can truly say is worth of the penny for the difference it has made him.

Please keep youth beatz to keep making a difference to those volunteers life's

Turn off every other street lights

I don't agree with reducing ASL as the rise of ASN is on the up throughout D&G. They need extra support

A focus of the budget seems to be cutting essential support for the future generations and their families. How are we to enable a reliable and trustworthy work force if we can't meet their needs in school. The core of life is the future. We need to have teachers in school to spend time with pupils, encourage them to deal With their issues and anxieties to enable them to work and thrive in the future. NOT create a generation of school refusers that get no support so end up on benefits and do not contribute to the local economy. We NEED teachers and learning assistants.

Get council workers back into the office by ending home working (started during Covid).

Will increase productivity and efficiency, and improve communication so save money.

Put a moratorium on wind farm planning applications as they take up a disproportionate amount of time for the Planning Department staff to process. Focus on the needs of residents of the area.

Provide smaller bin Lorries for narrow or hard to access, and private roads. This will improve waste collection and make the larger Lorries more efficient.

Stop hedge and verge cutting (except on sight lines at junctions) until after birds have fully fledged. This will save money.

Allow grassed islands and pavement dividers to become wildflower meadows by sowing indigenous wild flower seeds. Once implemented this will save money.

Regenerate Dumfries town centre by giving limited speed, vehicle access to pedestrian zone for blue badge

<p>holders, families with young children, the elderly, and disabled people. Provide an area of wide space, short term parking bays. This will create jobs, provide a valuable social benefit, and bring life back to the town centre.</p>
<p>Instead of fighting nature, embrace it. Scrap the ludicrously expensive flood scheme for White Sands. Build an inner flood defence barrier (to protect property), and create a flood friendly area with drainage outwith it as a place for nature and recreational space. The White Sands has always flooded, it was a dock and market area, and the heart of the cultural heritage of the town, so embrace that.</p>
<p>Raise the rates on holiday homes</p>
<p>Youth Beatz costs a lot more than that</p>
<p>You seem to be slashing ASN in schools. This is already underfunded and staffed. The more vulnerable children of this region are going to suffer greatly and the cuts you're planning to make. These children are already suffering due to cuts. This saddens me.</p>
<p>I feel the information provided in many cases, is insufficient to allow for an informed and meaningful response. The lack of clarity regarding the potential impact of these decisions, both on an individual roles and the broader organisation, makes it challenging to provide thoughtful input.</p> <p>The vagueness of information raises concerns about the transparency of information provided to council employees and the real impact of these measures.</p> <p>This lack of clarity could be perceived as a way to limit meaningful input or to advance pre-determined decisions.</p>
<p>Reduce the wages of the Council Management. Stop wasting money on consultations that go nowhere (flooding at the Whitesands). So much money is wasted as you do not pull resources or look to be efficient. No one wants reductions to public services and no one wants to pay higher tax anymore - funding is not the tax payers problems, it's how badly the finances are managed/debts written off.</p> <p>If a job is not done correctly (DGOne) then the contractor should rectify any issues for no extra charge or money should be held in a holding account until full inspections are carried out over a 3 month period.</p>
<p>I find the proposed cuts to Education deeply worrying and in particular the cuts affecting Additional Support for Learning departments and support agencies. Cutting support for these most vulnerable of learners seems to be a huge step backwards and one which will only add to the pressures our schools currently face. In these uncertain times, surely we need to support those who are most vulnerable instead of removing essential support.</p>
<p>Understand the need to make savings but the anti poverty strategy must continue to be supported to help those most vulnerable in our region. Some community centres and the Third Sector of Volunteers are the lifeline in our communities. The Council need to recognise their value and their partnership working to support the Council reaching their outcomes.</p>
<p>Savings from using a third party to order parts in workshops where the workshop employee's could easily order the parts themselves. Especially on run of the mill parts like service items. This would save potentially 30% on all parts going through workshops.</p>
<p>There appears to be an increase of children and young people with additional needs so I would not like to see this funding reduced. Likewise, children with disabilities with families who are struggling.</p> <p>The funding required for health and social care for adults is only going to increase. Lack of services to meet this is a concern as is the wellbeing of staff working in this area. I note there is consideration in reducing management, when in social work there are more management posts being introduced.</p>
<p>Council Tax calculation is on an outdated model. Is there an option for this to be looked at, taking into account rural properties who do not have all the facilities that are available closed to town.</p>
<p>Parking charges increase for tourists resident parking levy and tourism charge for hotels with more than 25 rooms</p>
<p>1) Closing leisure facilities, reducing opening times of leisure facilities, and increasing price of leisure facilities, while simultaneously attempting to increase membership through marketing and promotion seems contradictory and questionable. Many council facilities already have restricted access eg Newington is closed on Sundays, has restricted hours at Christmas, making them less attractive compared to private gyms, and it's no surprise then that numbers are down and some facilities are now being considered for</p>

closing completely. Taking further decisions of this kind will only result in more people either giving up the gym completely or moving to a private gym with better access. Very short sighted, continue along this path and you are only guaranteeing increased health and social care costs in the future. Work should be getting done to market and promote facilities while also improving access to them. Eg consider key fob access for "out of hours (Sunday) access" if you're determined you will not fund staffing costs.

2) Reducing number of lay-by bins will inevitably increase littering which can impact tourism and attractiveness to visit the region.

1 - Cut down on money given to community groups like for example the Multicultural Association and others and encourage them to fund themselves through membership fees and/or donations from businesses, etc.

2 - Reduce highly paid top managerial posts by merging them.

3 - Instruct managers and staff to not attend in-person meetings or events outwith D&G to reduce travel costs and non-productive hours while travelling to meetings and events.

4 - Encourage online meetings and events as this will reduce costs i.e. venue hiring, travel, pool car use.

5 - Encourage home-working as much as possible as this will reduce office use and consequent costs relating to heating, air-con, lighting, cleaning, maintenance, etc.

6 - Sell as many council buildings as possible (this is linked to suggestions 5 above).

7 - Terminate leases at Crichton Campus and move Technology Support Staff and Webteam to home-working.

Please do not cut funding to smaller charities, supporting communities whilst actively engaging and working with them day to day, to provide an irreplaceable knowledge of the communities needs and vulnerable persons.

I am totally opposed to closing any public toilets. I live in Rockcliffe which, as you know attracts a lot of visitors. Closing the toilet facilities would be a disaster as there no alternative options for people. During lockdown, when they were closed, there was human waste all over the place including on the beach! would not like to see a repeat of this.

I strongly support the introduction of car parking fees in the larger town centres, especially Dumfries. I can think of no other town of equivalent size in Britain that does not have charges on publicly owned car parks, and it is arguably a dereliction of the duty on local authorities to make best financial use of its resources. It is not as if parking charges would be a radical or unusual intervention - they are commonplace and expected across most of urban Britain. Continuation of free parking is a hidden and unnecessary subsidy of town centre businesses, for whom town centre parking charges could well be beneficial by deterring all-day parking at sites that are more valuable to the community for short-term parking. I further believe that parking charges should deliver far more than £167000 per annum, and see no reason why they should not be introduced by 2026-27 at the latest, even allowing for consultation.

I have supported some other measures subject to the proviso that the devil is in the detail. In principle, changes should result in efficiency savings rather than diminution of service provision.

consolidate schools, libraries,

I think it is absolutely barbaric that the council is even CONSIDERING reducing supported learning assistance in school when the education department are literally crying out for more of these roles. As a parent of a child who has been identified as needing additional support with reading and currently cannot receive this support as the learning assistants don't have the time to help him, I think it's disgusting that your not putting more funding into this area.

Youth beatz brings in tourism, which brings the council money.

The council needs to take note that the current aging population here does not bode well for finances. The need for families and young people to stay and move to the area is much more prevalent. They will spend more on facilities than older generations. Starting to pay more attention to what young families need is much higher priority

YOUTH BEATZ IS SO BENEFICIAL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ASWELL AS ADULTS!

YOUTH BEATZ IS A SAFE FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO ACCESS, THE TOON IS ALSO PART OF YOUTHBEATZ WHICH IS very BENIFICAL. DO NOT CUT YOUTHBEATZ OR I WILL CRY

Reduce the pay that the higher up council members are paid. Reduce the number of managers for each department.
Reduce middle management who can't/wont do their job not just shuffle them so they are another departments problem. Too many having endless meetings but not actually doing or achieving anything. Stop using companies that rip you off use local companies where possible, makes sense economically and environmentally.
I would like to suggest that the refurbishment of the Castle Douglas pool is given priority. This is a much used facility and I have witnessed its poor investment over the past 20years. As a regular swimmer the benefits to all ages cannot be disputed. As a person now considered to be elderly I cannot think of anything that is more beneficial to retaining my health. The NHS is struggling to manage care of the elderly with less and less care provision in the area, Surely by allowing and encouraging the population to continue using this much loved pool would be advantageous to everybody. I realise temporary closure would have to be accepted but can I suggest that during the closure an arrangement with some financial support to Kirkcudbright pool and allow for those regular uses like myself that pay monthly to use my council pass which will then continue to generate monies for the council. It is not only the local supporters of the pool but during holiday time visitors too enjoy having this facility. Also as both my children through the school benefited from this facility would it be fair to deny the local children the same option. Transporting children to other facilities in its self will incur costs which must also be taken into account when forming your decision. I believe that investment now would see long term benefits for the future of the town, local people, tourism and the health and well being of the Dumfries and Galloway population.
Pot-hole filling much appreciated! No to Galloway National Park
Can't support waste collection proposals due to impact they will have on littering, sorry
No cuts to services please. Don't remember any of these proposals when councillors stood for election.
Don't take youth beatz away please I love it And so does my family I have grown up up on this and I can't lose it it has is an opportunity for young children to experience a concert if they can't afford going to one that cost money and all together youth work services have helped me so much it is on of the best thing a child could grow up on as there is not much for children to do in Dumfries
I feel like the youth groups including youth beatz has helped me be myself. Because of these people I have made a new image of myself, I've never felt better please don't take this away from me and other young people that need these opportunities.
Don't get rid of any youth work services, or youth beatz. Both directly impact positively on young people aged 12-25 as well the communities that surround the whole of Dumfries and Galloway. The region suffers a lot from the lack of things that are offered to young people with no cinema, no bowling alley no nothing. Why would the council want to get rid of the one thing that young people actually both look forward to coming too as well as want to come a long too. The youth work services and youth beatz provide a space and event for young people to thrive and show that this region is a positive place to be in Scotland
Your proposals look like disproportionately affecting our young people through cuts to education services, particularly those for children with additional support needs of various types as well as the staff who support them. This will ultimately affect our children's ability to thrive and contribute towards our communities. It is scandalously short sighted.
The task is to increase income and reduce costs - choices were made to try and balance across the council services whilst trying to maintain services for those who need them most. Strategies which streamline management or services would seem the most palatable as no actual service is lost and resources can be targeted at those who need them most. Reducing wasted resources would be best, and making better decisions about spending would be a good place to start.
Single no children. Can't see any good coming out of removing lay-by bins and reducing waste collections
Keep RC cafe

<p>Due to the amount of illegal parked cars in the area I would suggest introduction of parking tickets may generate some income and make roads safer .</p>
<p>There should be no additional costs added to local businesses who are struggling to survive in this cost of living crisis already. So no increase on liquor licences or forcing them to pay for waste removal of they are a small business. Bigger reductions could be made by stripping out a lot of management roles that aren't part of our essential services, and cost savings could be made in many of the community consultations which are often very poorly executed. Definitely do not close our swimming pool in Castle Douglas. Exercise is vital for good health (which reduces the financial impact on our NHS). It is also great for mental health. Additionally, do not close our public toilets - they are essential to many people and not having access to them will cause isolation in vulnerable members of our community. It is unfair to expect local businesses to provide toilet facilities instead and often these places aren't open all day anyway. It appears that in Castle Douglas you want to close our swimming pool, our Town Hall and our public toilets - what are you planning on leaving us with?!</p>
<p>I think getting rid of the café facilities within the Ryan Centre would not be a good choice. I use this facility 3-4 times every week after my fitness class to catch up with friends that live outside of town. I also use the café when my granddaughter is playing in the soft play area.</p>
<p>Youthwork DG and Youth Beats provide a vital service to young people all around Dumfries and Galloway. Taking away the funding for youthbeatz would have a detrimental impact on lots of organisations and people from all around Scotland. It has been named Scotlands number 1 free festival and without that, the organisations who attend youthbeatz to sell food or with fairground rides would lose a lot of income. Taking away the funding for the staff team would have a massive impact on all the services within Dumfries and Galloway, if they were to lose members of staff it would not only affect the young people but also the staff who already work tirelessly hard to keep the service running.</p>
<p>Please don't cut the services in school. Children with Additional Support Needs are already being badly let down, don't let them down any further.</p>
<p>I think any more decentralisation of additional learning support into schools would be of further detriment to our existing learners. By having more children who are unable to learn in the traditional classroom environment you are just causing more disrupted learning for the other children. In turn if these children are poorly educated they are less likely to get jobs to be able to pay their taxes and support council provisions for the growing elderly population in D and G. I can't stress highly enough how important I feel education is to retain young adult workers in this area.</p>
<p>Missed the session this evening, will there be another?</p>
<p>I love living in D&G. I hate the way some aspects of our council do not seem to work efficiently. As an example, there are management positions within each department silo that don't appear to deliver anything - plenty of performance management responsibility with nothing to show (the public) for it. Could you publish those KPI's so we know you're actually measuring the things that could deliver value or savings? I'd like to see some thought going into how we can all benefit from the renewables boom that continues across this area, either at the planning stage through increased fees or maybe after, through some kind of a levy on the huge profit they make for developers & landowners despite their impact on our communities. I'd love for the A75 to have 'time over distance' cameras introduced in the most accident prone areas. I'm sure that could pay for itself and become an asset within a short period of time while improving all our lives. How about we actually start policing prolific dangerous parking on double yellows and pedestrian crossings etc. before we start looking to charge for parking? I reckon it could make thousands a day in fines and start to challenge some of the selfish entitled behaviour we have in our towns (CD & NS esp.) Could we make some more provision/empowerment for volunteers like me? I'm always litter picking and fixing issues in the street - can we extend this to things like issuing cold roll tarmac so I can fix my own potholes in my (very minor) road rather than chasing for months to get dangerous defects fixed by you guys? Finally; Well done for launching this consultation - this really is something you do well.</p>
<p>I believe the Council should stop funding/spending any money through its Social Care and/or training departments on illegal immigrants. Illegal immigrants being bought mobile phones, free accommodation in hotel's and English lessons among other freebies that they receive should be stopped immediately.</p>
<p>Furthermore, the Council should prioritise the decimation of the unnecessary top heavy management within</p>

Waste/Recycling and Communities as a whole. This should include supervisors, especially ones that are clearly untrained, unfit, and incompetent within their role.
As a teacher of a small school whose children are very very much attaining and enjoying life thanks to those that support us, I am absolutely not in favour of the school estate being reconfigured.
Top heavy management and use of consultants
The in-house garden nursery strikes me as an opportunity for training young folk in horticulture through schools. I don't know if the location would mean that's possible. Less frequent bin collections would be fine with me. Reducing the number of household waste centres however, may lead to increases in fly-tipping and reduction in recycling of bulky materials.
Increase charges for services and increase council tax to the max- I will pay more to get decent quality services.
This region is bad enough for quality of services so investing in it is a priority and save our ASN techers, youth workers and Autism support and our events like the youth festival
Start charging for issuing of disabled badges for parking. Increase care call charges slightly
Stop wasting money on fountain and stuff no one needs. Focus on the youth and what it's like to live here.
I think the council need to prioritise early learning and schools support. We currently are not getting it right for every child due to cuts in services particularly ASN.
Maybe cut the wages of the big wigs sitting in offices making these decisions, making it harder for every other council worker increasing work load for them.
Do schools have the space and time to feed S1-S3 at lunchtime? I don't think so. I think the council should stop spending money on LGBT, Pride, diversity projects etc. I would rather retain support for pupils.
Schools are already struggling. I don't see that any further cuts can be made.
No mention of cutting
I feel this is a very vague consultation. There is a significant lack of information as to how people will be impacted by the cuts. It is difficult to make an informed decision when there is a lack of information. I also feel that it is written in jargon, which many people will not understand. I feel it should have been written in layman's terms to ensure a more accurate and balanced response. I am an educated person and have absolutely no idea what some of the suggestions mean. It's not an easy exercise, and ultimately people are going to be affected by the cuts and their livelihoods impacted. I don't believe closing everything to make savings is a long term solution to the problems - I think it's rather short sighted. Closing Castle Douglas swimming pool for example: how many people use that for their health and wellbeing and how many kids learn to swim there? It serves a whole community and I think even the suggestion of closing such a facility is dreadful. If we're not careful, there will be nothing left in Dumfries & Galloway.
I strongly disagree with closing the castle Douglas swimming pool. It has value way beyond it's cost. Children learn to swim engendering healthy habits and preventing drowning. Every child should learn to swim. Adults use it to keep well and healthy and keeps them from the doctors saving NHS costs. It is a social space - regular attendees get to know each other. And it is well run and friendly
Instead of stopping the free tickets for youth beatz. Charge people for the tickets even if it's £5.
The top bosses of the council shouldn't be paid the amount they are over 200'000 is ridiculous
Cut management staff. Cut Counselor expenses. cut all these diversity positions. stop all these consultations on projects as people in the council are paid to do this job. Less council meetings as zoom can be used now. stop asylum people being brought here. Don't know how with these proposals any money can be saved as they all would affect people when times are very tough. The cuts should come from the top spending by Council. - staff
Other Local Authorities are looking at implementing a 4 day week. The school week consultation was valuable in demonstrating four longer days is enough to deliver the curriculum. Surely much bigger savings could be made if the whole Council staff moved to a 4 day week!
closing of schools in particular Colvend school should happen as soon as possible to save money. good and modern school in Dalbeattie which would be good for local children which unfortunately not very many !!

Parking charges should be applied to Rockcliffe car park it must be one of a very few in Scotland not to charge . Money generated could help to pay for upkeep of toilets in Kippford, Rockcliffe and Sandyhills for the tourists and locals visiting. It was not very pleasant when toilets were closed during Covid
My child attends swimming lessons on a Saturday morning and always goes to the cafe with her friends afterwards. We would be gutted to lose the Ryan centre cafe.
A group of us attend an over 50s class at the Ryan centre and use the cafe afterwards for some socialisation. It would be devastating for us to lose the cafe.
A group of us attend an over 50s class at the Ryan centre and use the cafe afterwards for some socialisation. It would be devastating for us to lose the cafe.
A group of us attend an over 50s class at the Ryan centre and use the cafe afterwards for some socialisation. It would be devastating for us to lose the cafe.
A group of us attend an over 50s class at the Ryan centre and use the cafe afterwards for some socialisation. It would be devastating for us to lose the cafe.
A group of us attend an over 50s class at the Ryan centre and use the cafe afterwards for some socialisation. It would be devastating for us to lose the cafe.
A group of us attend an over 50s class at the Ryan centre and use the cafe afterwards for some socialisation. It would be devastating for us to lose the cafe.
A group of us attend an over 50s class at the Ryan centre and use the cafe afterwards for some socialisation. It would be devastating for us to lose the cafe.
A group of us attend an over 50s class at the Ryan centre and use the cafe afterwards for some socialisation. It would be devastating for us to lose the cafe.
I am a widow who uses the Ryan centre cafe 3 times a week. Some days the people in the cafe are the only people I get to have any normal conversation with. I would be very sad to see it close.
No
Youth work has helped me and I don't want to get rid of youth beatz because so many people enjoy themselves
Don't get rid of youth work services across the region. I think it's time to start taxing the rich more and the poor less. People on upper class incomes should pay more towards council tax as well as other tax options , this would bring in more money that can be put towards other sectors to help those people in struggling communities and areas of Dumfries and Galloway. Youth Beatz and Youth Services and Staff all contribute massively towards the learning and supportive environment for young people across Dumfries and Galloway. Don't do this to us!
I attend over 50 classes at the Ryan centre and use the cafe regularly. We do not want to lose it!!!
I use the cafe at Ryan centre regularly. It would be a huge shame to see it go
I dont think this a very good consultation as it is asking us to make decisions but not giving us enough details about various roles etc so that means we cant make informed choices.
End the council DB pension scheme for new employees like 97% of the private sector has done.. Taper off accruals to existing scheme then switch to a DC scheme like 75% of the private sector.
Find ways to increase income and reduce spending on leisure centres through sponsorship etc
I think that the cafe in the Ryan Centre is crucial to have in our wee town stranraer, it has good food and it's some where to take your kids of all ages and meet up with friends for a coffee and a chat .
School technicians are often an invisible force within schools, working behind the scenes to facilitate practical STEM work within the classrooms. Even our colleagues and line managers have little understanding of what they actually do. Essentially Technicians in Science and Technical departments prepare materials to be used in practical classroom activities, but this involves so much more than following a scheme of work and delivering resources. Technicians research new techniques, update outdated protocols, maintain and repair equipment, undertake stock control of controlled hazardous substances and requisition materials,

<p>ensure safety is foremost, and protect the environment. H&S within STEM spaces is managed by technicians and many SQA mandated practical activities could not go ahead without them being present in the building. Technicians are a skilled workforce trained to respond effectively in incident management, they train teachers in practical skills, advise on safe working practice, support National 5 and Higher practical assignments, lead Advanced Higher project work, and manage the practical spaces within their schools. Technicians also add value to the wider school on a voluntary basis, being involved in: STEM clubs, class demonstrations and teaching skills to students, behind the scenes in school shows and building sets and props, chaperoning residential and day trips saving schools on cover costs, driving a mini-bus to support extra-curricular, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid duties, repairing equipment from other departments such as Music and PE, they may also provide reprographics and admin support when necessary. This is incredible value goodwill, that will be lost if Technicians are centralised this could result in more expensive teaching staff or external agency involvement to cover this work. It should be highlighted that Technicians in schools facilitate the Scottish Government STEM Strategy. Without quality, consistent, and present Technician support in Science and Technical departments, D&G Education will be unable to achieve the government agenda of increased practical activities within STEM subjects and attainment will suffer.</p>
<p>Everyone should have a decent job and all people who are in great need of help should be helped. For such a small town, we can make a lot of achievements together</p>
<p>To many bosses to many concessions for drug addicts and alcoholics</p>
<p>Get rid of them bosses on big money who probably do not much. Would love to see how much money is getting wasted on immigration policies..</p>
<p>Paying for immigrants being put up in hotels and gave all benefits and houses that local people can't get and they belong to the uk</p>
<p>Point 1.06 I work for a charity that supports homelessness and people in poverty. Last year we helped 309 people with the basic essentials to start a home, Fridge, Toaster, Kettle, crockery, cutlery, bedding, cleaning materials and chemicals, sanitary products. to name a few. So far this year we helping over 10% more people than last year. All these people we help are referred to us via housing officers from the housing associations, woman charities, social services, domestic abuse support agencies. We help anyone when requested. Last year we helped 500 people through this scheme and so far this year we are currently helping an extra 43 people more than same time last year. There is recognised need that this help is needed and only growing year on year, without our service then there is no-one else that provides the starter packs that are needed. The agencies that support new tenancies will have no one to call upon to provide the essentials that people need to start a home. Without this support will mean more people starting homes with bare walls and cupboards, likely to resort to crime to get the items they need which is a social impact that does need to be encouraged. Tenancies will be given up or lost as people will have the items we provide to ensure a basic standard of living. For cost saving value compared to the benefit it gives to so many people, the saving would be negligible but the cost of not providing this service would be exponential in other areas, Policing costs, Re-homing costs into furnished properties buying new products,</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>Reduce the support for all sports centres and make them financially viable to be self sustainable without funding from the council.</p>
<p>You should look at decreasing transport costs within education. If children wish to attend schools other than in their catchment they should have to pay for transportation.</p>
<p>Increased littering and dumping of rubbish is a concern is waste collections change or costs increase for bulky waste collections</p>
<p>Focusing in Focusing on building projects to provide large, spacious homes that accommodate families and provide them with enough space for family members' is a decision that is seriously needed. There is a lot of large, empty land in Scotland that is not being used well.</p>
<p>Reduce funds for gender equality projects as it is not essential, food banks and surplus given away to poor people is crucial. Hope common sense will prevail.</p>
<p>Cut back on management in waste including tsos</p>

Learning support and number of teachers shouldn't be reduced or the children with special needs won't cope, the other children won't be able to learn and the teachers will leave. There are quite a few children that need the base separate from their schools. Leisure centres are important for health. If not being used should explore groups/ health partnerships to use facilities better.
All proposals are to education leisure facilities and services. These should all be kept at certain level for the people who need them and who live in Dumfries and Galloway and pay council tax
The old Council model is outdated - some services have been proven, historically, not to work so should be discontinued; some service provisions are luxuries rather than necessities. Staffing levels in some quarters of the Council are excessive when other departments are understaffed; areas of top-heavy management throughout the whole establishment need to be closely re-examined and pruned.
Doing the best you can. Appreciate the consultation and realise increases in council tax are necessary.
I urge you not to cut any funding related to schools. I have a degree in Childhood Studies with a specialism in primary school and attainment; cutting funding is detrimental to the region in every which way imaginable!
Reintroduce support schools, in doing so, increasing attainment in both settings. Win- win. Introduce parking payments, this will more than pay for traffic wardens. Put the museum in the centre of the town, this would instil pride in the population. Current position of the museum is inaccessible to most of the public. Sell the current museum.
It is stupid to close down the cafe at the Ryan Centre, my grandkids go to swimming and the Ryan's den and they love going to the cafe for food and the older ones love meeting up with there friends so I beg you please don't close the cafe it's a vital part of the local community.
Most of these proposals should be implemented as a matter of course, what I don't see is a reduction of your largest cost, council employee salaries. You need to drastically cut the number of non essential roles in the council run departments. Just reading these proposals tells me you have little idea how to run any organisation efficiently.
Closing public toilets would be detrimental. I'm a local buisness owner and do not agree with closing all public toilets. I also do not think closing our townhall is in the best interest of our town.
Do not increase acupuncture license costs. In England this is a once off fee. In Scotland it is payable every 3 years, enough income generation is being made
Think it's a good idea to close smaller schools when it falls below 20 as they did at st peters which was a excellent school
Replace expensive teachers with cheaper newly qualified ones through offering older teachers retirement incentives.
The sheer waste at D&G council is epic, all while the regions infrastructure descends into almost third world status.
A serious look at how things can be so mismanaged is long overdue, less talk for talks sake and more action might be beneficial.
Please tighten up management/line managers focus on what their staff spend their time doing! Monitor the efficiency/time management of street/litter collection staff who spend an amazing amount of time chatting to general public. Years ago street sweepers did a great job multitasking as sweepers, litter pickers, weed maintenance, cutting back shrubs etc as they went about their daily routine, it's so annoying to see the waste of resources ie the Council paying staff to stand and chat for more than half hour on many occasions! Make sure staff are doing their job seems an easy and efficient way of saving loads of money! Also, Leisure Centre staff could do more multitasking instead of sitting using their phones! When they are not on Lifeguard duty surely they can do other jobs like cleaning, maintenance, etc. there is so much waste of money because no one monitors staff efficiency and quality of work. More efficiency could be achieved in schools by adjusting the curriculum to have less ancient history (Romans, Vikings etc) where a whole term can be focussed on a project and making a models! Surely Teachers should teach, spend more time and attention to spelling, writing, reading, counting less time on ancient history, less time on arts and crafts. Sorry, that's my rant over other than I hope you can see where the Council is wasting an awful lot of money. Good luck.
For sick days,full pay for 1 month and half pay after that for 6 months,then send to occupational health,you have too many managers to supervise, go down the leasing road for vehicles as the council are still running about in 2010 vehicles that are costing a fortune to fix,the chief executive of d&g council is on more money

<p>than the British prime minister the directors are on an obscene amount of money aswell,consultants are costing a fortune ask the workforce what they need,contractors are a license to print money use your own workforce and finally put the workforce in the correct positions that they are trained for and mibby you'll save some money, use common sense. The more mistakes the management make yous promote them,that needs to stop</p>
<p>Hello I see you say there has been no increase in licensing I apply for an entertainment licence which increases from 2023 - 2024 by £110</p>
<p>Making the best of a bad government</p>
<p>Logical solutions to decrease expenditure</p>
<p>Absolutely notorious for wasting money that does not belong to you. There is no government money, only taxpayer money. Absolutely embarrassing country we live in & local councils are the worst for it. You do absolutely nothing for people locally & need to be much more disciplined in your allocation of capital. As Ronald Reagan said there is nothing more terrifying than the phrase 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help'</p>
<p>I support the ideas I have marked, especially mothballing schools with under 10 children. Teachers could be redeployed to support the nearest larger school and the buildings repurposed or sold to generate income. I do not support the closure of Castle Douglas swimming pool, on a personal level it is my local pool and if it were to close would not travel to Dumfries pool. In a time when we are promoting health and exercise we should be promoting our leisure facilities not closing them. With more advertising and restructuring the timetable more people would be encouraged to attend the facilities. I use the waste recycling centre at Dalbeattie almost weekly as it's easier than trailing bins down the lane, I like the structured time slots and would like to see them remain. Working for the NHS I totally understand the financial constraints and cost saving exercises you will have to undertake and do not envy your decision making. On a personal level I hope we can keep Castle Douglas pool open to keep me active.</p>
<p>Too many chiefs!</p>
<p>The biggest cost is always wages/salaries, and frankly there are too many nugatory jobs in the council. It's across all departments, and usually involves middle management. These people have meeting, circulate memos and minutes, consume resources and achieve precisely nothing. In any commercial organisation, they'd be long gone.</p>
<p>Charge for youth beats instead of cancelling it. Good for the youths</p>
<p>Stop the council tax freeze and up the criteria required for council tax rebates. Services must be payed for fairly by everyone who uses them not just those who the council assume are able to pay.</p>
<p>Invest in support in education and the community for the elderly and children with send needs.</p>
<p>The current free parking in the centre of Dumfries is probably the only thing keeping the few remaining shops open.</p> <p>A flat charge on tradesmen in the region for waste disposal should be levied to reduce fly tipping.</p>
<p>Have a look on Gumtree for local unregistered dog breeders.</p>
<p>We live in a rural area, collection of waste food caddies was terminated some time ago. Collections in urban areas could be, similarly, discontinued. Collection of general waste should remain as is, but the period between collections for recyclable waste could be extended. The provision of Council services direct to rural areas is extremely poor. It is the comparison between rural and urban areas that has influenced the answers I have provided in the survey.</p>
<p>Every cut you make will seriously affect someone. For me the simple act of closing public toilets will be dreadful. As a Crohn's sufferer toilets and easy access are absolutely vital. For other people other cuts will have equally as devastating effects. Some of your proposals are just plain crazy, particularly around waste. If you make it harder to dispose of waste, people will simply flytip.</p>
<p>Implement higher council tax for second homes/holiday homes. Cut down on council middle management. Parking charges will only put people off going to their local towns and using the shops and facilities, it doesn't work.</p>

<p>There is no mention of funding for arts projects. This is fine when there is plenty of funds available but right now schools, roads and bins should come before book festivals.</p> <p>Stop spending money on national park consultations and support/promotion. There is clearly not enough support for this.</p>
<p>I would like to add that I'm strongly opposed to the idea of closing schools if attendance drops below 25. These are essential spaces for local children to learn and develop in their local environment with teachers and peers they know and trust. If the school closed in my village because of this potential implementation it would have dire consequences to a wide range of elements of village culture and wellbeing.</p>
<p>Vastly increase the council tax charged on second homes and holiday homes. Others areas of the uk are already doing this. Restricting Youth Beatz to residents of D&G, so our young people get the full benefits of attending, volunteering etc and not those from other areas. More investment for young people, to encourage them to stay in the area- not just to socialise but also as they grow up to live here as adults. If a young person from the Dalbeattie area wants to go bowling or a multi screen cinema they need to go to Carlisle. That's not just leaving the town to spend their money elsewhere but leaving the country! Also any money set aside for national park consultation/ planning etc should be scrapped and the council should focus on other priorities. Avoid short term wins, if you close castle Douglas swimming pool how can money be raised from leisure facilities? Attract a big retailer into Dumfries, such as Primark, with favourable rent etc, to attract shoppers, which will benefit other shops with increased footfall, cafes etc and hopefully create a snowball effect. Only when Dumfries is more bustling and prosperous can you justify implementing car parking charges. Period of reduced shop rates to encourage new shops to open.voluntary severance scheme for council staff.</p>
<p>There seems to be a lot of money wasted on consultations that come to nothing (school day etc). There seems to be a lot of people working for the council in promoted posts/ managerial positions which are not needed. Free school meals, while a great idea if the council can afford it, they can't afford it and lots of children waste their food and many parents can afford to pay. Procurement in schools is shocking- we have to buy from specific companies which are usually more expensive than if we were allowed to shop around. The Education department lets schools fall apart before they are forced to spend millions refurbishing them rather than maintaining these buildings regularly and when needed.</p>
<p>Look at the schools you have mothballed and utilise equipment that is sitting unused in them and redistribute to areas where needed to save on expenditure.</p> <p>Consider the significance and impact of our rural geography when proposing school roll numbers change to 25 for mothballing</p> <p>Dalry secondary school being accessed by a very small number of pupils with a reducing population.</p> <p>The Bridge - not utilised and intended.</p> <p>Education should not be the focus of your cost cutting - this had an impact on other services recruiting professionals to the area (eg NHS) bringing skills and expertise and young families.</p>
<p>Education staff within schools are already working at capacity trying to support pupils that have very complex learning needs. This is having a huge impact on the other children within our schools as well as the mental health of the children with needs and staff members. Any further cuts to ASfL will lead to us NOT getting it right for ANY children nevermind Getting It Right For Every Child!</p>
<p>REDACTED</p>
<p>I made the choices based on the little information on the survey. If after receiving more information and clarification and the probable effect of my choices, I might change my view.</p>
<p>Please do not remove funding for our children with additional support needs. Families are struggling and have few resources. Educational Visitors are an amazing support to children and families in the West, please keep them in post. They support transition home to nursery and nursery to school.</p>
<p>Every child has a right to an education. Some children require additional support so to reduce learning assistants and learning centre resources would be to deny a lot of children an education. This shouldn't even be a consideration. Change should start within. The council, streamlining management and therefore reducing costs.</p>
<p>Please do not centralise technicians we could not run a science dept in Annan without a full time technician. schools have suffered enough with cuts to our budgets. Freeing us up to do more cover in schools rather than</p>

teaching our specialisms is demoralising. Less staff In all areas of the school means more stress on everyone.we can't meet the needs of children without more ASN assistants and teachers.
Suggestions on saving money is an absolute disgrace. Appalling.
If adult care is the single biggest element of the council's spend, why have no potential savings been identified in this area?
Bring back traffic warden to Stranraer town centre
It's disgusting that you're targeting ASL teachers when there is a cry for there to be more of them due to more and more children having learning difficulties. Children will be affected
There are too many high level earners in the council a region where ordinary people earn a fraction of what they do. I would like to have concrete evidence of value for money here.
If someone as a head of a department is failing what approaches are taken to retrain them?
Please keep youthbeetz i rellay like the festvial
All the proposals relating to education are frightening. In particular, the removal of inclusion bases (more provision is needed for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties). Reducing ASN is already having a negative effect. Please don't pass on any more to schools!
Education cuts must not occur. Reduce council staff. Reduce pay. Do not affect children.
The answers available for selection were couched in "local authority" speak, using buzzwords and key phrases that were largely unintelligible to the general public. As a result the budget consultation survey is hugely flawed and seems to have been designed to prevent meaningful engagement by the general public.
I strongly believe that we need to continue to invest and support education and youth work, as well as social care. These areas should not be considered as potential budget cutting areas. Investment in children, young people and the care of vulnerable people is an investment in the future wellbeing of a society. I am horrified by the suggestions the council has proposed regarding cutting funding for autism support measures, additional support for learning funding, teaching and youth work. Our young people deserve better than this. They already face huge disadvantages compared to other generations in this current social climate; facing rising child poverty rates, expensive further education costs that leave many unable to access university, a cost-of-living crisis, climate change and environmental uncertainty, housing shortages, poor employment prospects, and a woeful lack of appropriate social care, including a crisis in social worker recruitment. I sincerely hope these proposals are not supported by the majority of respondents. We risk creating a generation of disenfranchised and impoverished young people. More investment is needed, not less.
The council could save money by handing back some of the cars (usually on long term rental contracts) that sit in council car parks and rarely used. The council can also save money by not renting EVs which has higher rental costs.
I work as a class teacher and have noticed that education has been cut significantly over the last few years, especially with regards to support staff and the budget for classroom resources. Many teachers now pay for their own resources which shouldn't be the case. Classes now have many more children with additional support needs yet there has been a significant cut to learning and support teachers and assistant staff in schools. Meeting the needs of learners should be a priority and the quality of education is suffering due to constant cuts. In my opinion quality improvement officers could be cut so that many more support staff can be employed. Head teachers are more than capable of managing the delivery of quality education in Dumfries and Galloway schools.
It feels like the kids are going to suffer with the amount of trying to save money ideas. It should giving them more opportunities. Having a child who needs help at school needs help at school. The staff needs more hrs or keeping the same then cutting them. There's nothing much for the older kids to do in dumfries and galloway. Also the town there's nothing really up town besides bookies, banks, charities shops, hair cuts places there's hardly thing up town
There is no need for Youth Beats to be paid for through council tax when tickets could be sold for a reasonable price to those wishing to attend.
Do not go to 3 weekly bin collections it is stressful enough with 2 weekly general waste collection. Also keep secondary nutritious meals so important for healthy eating.
Having voluntary donation facilities at some public services such as libraries, public toilets etc.

<p>I work for Cumberland Council and have insight into comparable council costs and wastage. One thing to look at is your mobile phone provision to staff. You'll be paying monthly SIM contracts and buying devices but at least 40% of devices will be virtually unused and a complete waste of money - review mobile phone provision to all council staff and remove where usage is sporadic.</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>I understand the predicament the council is in but considering further budget cuts to education is ludicrous. Education is struggling as is. Teacher workload increases every single year yet resources and school budgets are decreased every year.</p>
<p>Do not touch the education / teachers / staff, if anything these budgets should be increased as the schools / school attainment levels are poor atm as is the behaviour, these kids are our future, and we are failing them as it is, Leisure facilities, with what I see our local leisure / fitness centre, is under used, with the majority of people using private gyms, which cost more to use but are available 24hours, why is this? Do the gyms need to be staffed? I'm sure that there are alot more issues to write but those are my main ones</p>
<p>Yes, sorry... top tier staff require to be reduced and/or wages reduced. We have councillors to make some of these decisions. ALL bonuses need to be stopped - if you're being paid to do a job, you don't also need a bonus! Too many council workers saying they can't do their job because of x, y and z. Fly tipping? No. Streetlighting? No. Potholes? No. It's JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH!</p> <p>Parking MUST BE charged. There are too many cars parked all over the place, legally and illegally. People are getting away with it. Paid parking, wardens, and FINES!</p> <p>While we're at it... a review of policing would be beneficial - centralisation has not worked. It doesn't feel safe walking around Dunfries a lot of the time. Is that your responsibility? You could say no, but community safety is your responsibility so you'll need to get on it!</p>
<p>Do not home and give money to imagrants .problem solved.people that are from area can't get any housing or jobs.</p>
<p>Cut Councillor expenses, the council is very quick to try to cut costs everywhere but do not look at those at the top who know nothing about communities when they put forward ideas for cost cutting. They are the biggest drain on the budget and only seem to look after themselves. Also, specifically the proposal to close Dalbeattie Town Hall is ridiculous, the town hall is utilised by many groups in the community, where would they go? Many events take place there throughout the year, where would they take place? There is a project to bring tourism to Dalbeattie, but at this rate, there will be nothing for the community. Have you considered closing Castle Douglas Town Hall? It is not utilised in the same way as Dalbeattie Town Hall is! It is always Dalbeattie that is targeted.</p>
<p>I think the proposals for education are awful when schools across the region are already stretched for resources and supporting ALL children.</p>
<p>Yes cut the cost when it comes to chief executive . managers etc salary and or reduce the amount of middle management. Also do away with and spending money on Diversity, equity and inclusion and the waste or do away with that role and save money</p>
<p>School technicians are often an invisible force within schools, working behind the scenes to facilitate practical STEM work within the classrooms. Even our colleagues and line managers have little understanding of what they actually do. Essentially Technicians in Science and Technical departments prepare materials to be used in practical classroom activities, but this involves so much more than following a scheme of work and delivering resources. Technicians research new techniques, update outdated protocols, maintain and repair equipment, undertake stock control of controlled hazardous substances and requisition materials, ensure safety is foremost, and protect the environment. H&S within STEM spaces is managed by technicians and many SQA mandated practical activities could not go ahead without them being present in the building. Technicians are a skilled workforce trained to respond effectively in incident management, they train teachers in practical skills, advise on safe working practice, support National 5 and Higher practical assignments, lead Advanced Higher project work, facilitate primary transition events and open evenings, and manage the practical spaces within their schools. Technicians also add value to the wider school on a</p>

voluntary basis, being involved in: STEM clubs, class demonstrations and teaching skills to students, behind the scenes in school shows and building sets and props, chaperoning residential and day trips saving schools on cover costs, driving the school mini-bus to support extra-curricular, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid duties, repairing equipment from other departments such as Music and PE, they may also provide reprographics and admin support when necessary. This is incredible value good-will that would be lost if Technicians were peripatetic, and could result in more expensive teaching staff or external agency involvement to cover this work. It should be highlighted that Technicians in schools facilitate the Scottish Government STEM Strategy. Without quality, consistent, and present Technician support in Science and Technical departments, D&G Education will be unable to achieve the government agenda of increased practical activities within STEM subjects and attainment will suffer.

Roads seem to be a bug bear for the council in my view instead of patching, on a long term basis why not renew the road altogether and it will last several years without maintenance and constant filling of manholes.

School technicians are often an invisible force within schools, working behind the scenes to facilitate practical STEM work within the classrooms. Even our colleagues and line managers have little understanding of what they actually do. Essentially Technicians in Science and Technical departments prepare materials to be used in practical classroom activities, but this involves so much more than following a scheme of work and delivering resources. Technicians research new techniques, update outdated protocols, maintain and repair equipment, undertake stock control of controlled hazardous substances and requisition materials, ensure safety is foremost, and protect the environment. H&S within STEM spaces is managed by technicians and many SQA mandated practical activities could not go ahead without them being present in the building. Technicians are a skilled workforce trained to respond effectively in incident management, they train teachers in practical skills, advise on safe working practice, support National 5 and Higher practical assignments, lead Advanced Higher project work, facilitate primary transition events and open evenings, and manage the practical spaces within their schools. Technicians also add value to the wider school on a voluntary basis, being involved in: STEM clubs, class demonstrations and teaching skills to students, behind the scenes in school shows and building sets and props, chaperoning residential and day trips saving schools on cover costs, driving the school mini-bus to support extra-curricular, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid duties, repairing equipment from other departments such as Music and PE, they may also provide reprographics and admin support when necessary. This is incredible value good-will that would be lost if Technicians were peripatetic, and could result in more expensive teaching staff or external agency involvement to cover this work. It should be highlighted that Technicians in schools facilitate the Scottish Government STEM Strategy. Without quality, consistent, and present Technician support in Science and Technical departments, D&G Education will be unable to achieve the government agenda of increased practical activities within STEM subjects and attainment will suffer.

The lay-by bins are always full so it is a concern if these were to be removed - rubbish would still be dumped there and elsewhere.

More funding must be given to social care services delivered by the local authority. Carers need to be given more status in terms of their profession and be more valued. If this means extra wages for them in order to attract new staff or just to retain the staff they have then this must be looked at. We are in an increasingly older demographic in this region and these people must be given the care they deserve.

An improvement in the provision of statutory services via sufficient resource and capacity is crucial for the protection, safety and wellbeing of the people we serve in D&G. This includes economic protection. There are hard decisions to be made but it seems sensible to consider the services provided to date which aren't statutory. Therefore we need to enable our communities where we can no longer provide the same level of services that we currently are doing. This of course is a current issue to date and so we must be realistic with our communities as to the level of services we can provide. Risk must surely remain key in this process and engagement with service managers and other managers under their control is vital to the process also.

Review of staffing and wages. Are people fit for the jobs and payments etc? Look at how top heavy departments are...

You presumably have large estate holdings of buildings and land and could utilise these for energy generation (solar panels/ground mounted solar/air source and ground source water source heat pumps) and reduce your energy costs etc. and income. There are commercial partners out there who will do the capex for you for nothing on a partnership basis, similarly for electric car charging points. Good income streams from this. I suggest you also consider crowdfunding options for new community projects/infrastructure. Or you could

consider sharing back office services with other councils to reduce head count (through natural wastage obs). You could repurpose mothballed council buildings as airbnb/bunkhouse etc for visitors etc etc. Your biggest underperforming asset is your estate. It's worth looking at how other big landowners like National Trust for Scotland make their assets sweat. A wee council run pop up cafe at some of the beaches would bring in income also and enhance the visitor experience. There are lots of ideas out there. If you need capex to invest in new revenue producing things raise it by issuing bonds that the public can buy into. And so on. Proper savings and revenue increases come from clever medium and long term plays, not panic cutting and price increases (which often are too much for the market to bear and don't produce the anticipated revenue gains...). REDACTED

We need to think ahead, so must maintain all waste removal/ recycling. There are probably savings to be made in the layers of management, so tackle this rather than the people doing the actual hands on jobs.

As a micro business, we spend c£500 pa on occasional licences. We would support an increase in fees but only if a simplification/relaxing of the system as it affects ourselves came along with it.

Reduce the number of council offices, use hub based approach with other organisations. Encourage more "home working" for staff which will both reduce need for offices and also reduce carbon footprint of travel (especially as public transport is poor, therefore, most use cars)

when it comes to saving money re the restrictions on rubbish, stop punishing those trying to dispose safely of rubbish, stop the production of waste with the removal of plastic and paper wrapping on fruit and veg and the over packing on goods bought online.

If you go for upping charges on sports and leisure make sure its fair across the region, you can't up charges for the likes of the Ryan Centre when the provision is so poor both from staff and the facilities.

Why are we using teachers to deliver programmes that have previously been delivered by the behaviour base. The council are guilty of spending money training staff and then not using their skills.

If charges are to be made to parents by way of a subscription to education the pressure will be on schools to improve what they offer children and how their staff manage many aspects of school life. I am not saying this is wrong but schools and council will need to factor this into improvement plans.

Schools are already running in incredibly difficult circumstances due to budget cuts/ constraints and many of these proposals seem to directly impact them further.

School technicians are often an invisible force within schools, working behind the scenes to facilitate practical STEM work within the classrooms. Even colleagues and line managers have little knowledge or understanding of the extent/scope of the work carried out by technicians.

Essentially, Technicians in Science and Technical departments prepare materials to be used in practical classroom activities, but this involves so much more than following a scheme of work and delivering resources. Amongst other things, Technicians research new techniques and methods, update outdated protocols, troubleshoot practical issues, maintain and repair equipment, undertake stock control and ensure the security of controlled hazardous substances, ensure safety is foremost and the environment is protected, carry out mandated inspections on equipment, requisition materials and arrange for and sort departmental reprographic requirements.

Health and Safety within STEM spaces is managed by technicians and many SQA mandated practical activities could not be carried out without them being present in the building. Teachers are not trained to the necessary level to carry out many of these mandated tasks, some of which are also time-consuming.

Technicians are a skilled workforce trained to respond effectively in incident management. They train teachers in practical skills, advise on safe working practice, support National 5 and Higher practical assignments, lead Advanced Higher project work, provide assistance, guidance and troubleshooting expertise, manage the practical spaces within their schools and facilitate and help at primary transition events and open evenings thereby helping to enhance the relationship between primary and secondary schools and giving transitioning pupils an opportunity to interact with the new environment.

Technicians also add value to the wider school on a voluntary basis, being involved in: STEM clubs, class demonstrations and teaching skills to students, Welcome Evenings, behind the scenes in school shows and

building sets and props, chaperoning residential and day trips saving schools on cover costs, driving the school mini-bus to support extra-curricular, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid duties and repairing equipment from other departments such as Music and PE. They provide equipment for Learning Support/ASN activities and may also provide reprographics and admin. support when necessary. This is incredibly valuable goodwill that would be lost if Technicians were peripatetic and could result in more expensive teaching staff or external agency involvement to cover this work.

It should be highlighted that Technicians in schools facilitate the Scottish Government STEM Strategy. Without quality, consistent, and present Technician support in Science and Technical departments, D&G Education will be unable to achieve the government agenda of increased practical activities within STEM subjects and attainment will suffer consequently.

This survey, whilst a good opportunity to view and comment on proposals, is being sent out when people do not fully understand the full impact that some of these changes will have across the board.

Management restructure and pay rises prior to this budget which created higher salary and more layers of management! Budget options given by management who would not be missed!

No 3 weekly bin collection it won't work it's bad enough every 2 weeks

I have not agreed to any of the proposals due to a lack of information of the impact they will have on the community. It would be easy to tick things that don't affect me personally but that is unfair on those who rely on those services.

What I would prefer to see is a business plan for growth not cuts. Reducing jobs and services only puts us in decline with reduced opportunities. The focus should be on creating employment and the benefits of what that brings. Give the community something they want to invest in, instead of asking for money to fall into an ever growing blackhole, with undoubtedly more cuts in jobs and services next time round.

You would think by now the Council would realise that running its' business and trying to balance the books by making cuts does not work. No business can survive with that kind of strategy. There are councils all over the UK that are in trouble because of accountants running the show instead of business entrepreneurs providing growth through development and having a Council that the community are proud of.

Review the staffing levels of the higher paid council management to save a lot of money maybe upwards of 500k

Big bins at the end of country lanes where there are only a few houses up there saving time and fuel.

Less management!

Please do not take so much away from schools and for those with additional needs. We rely on the autism services, small schools and summer activities fund, our children just would not manage without these and it would cost a lot more with worsened mental health, isolation and carer burn out requiring social work provision if these were taken away. It is cost effective to give people with disabilities the support they need rather than leading them into crisis and requiring more support due to that. I strongly opposed the removal of the summer activity fund and the school estate reduction alongside any changes that take away from additional support for those with disabilities, it's already all over the news the failings for those with disabilities so it's bizarre that these changes are being proposed.

I think it would be a bad idea to cut anything to do with ASD in school they are already struggling with you going to do anything to cut costs can't even get in to see a specialist these schools are the only things good for them. Best thing would be to cut down on staff that isn't actually needed why not get prisoners to help while they are inside to clean up to plant flowerbeds get them giving back to the community and it cuts down cost they have that in other parts of the world why not try new ways to cut down costs.

As a teacher I see an already struggling education system. Reducing teachers and wellbeing support for children will put more pressure on everyone and will in my opinion incur costs later on. We are also in danger of losing our sense of community by removing or reducing community services, which is having a negative effect on wellbeing and citizenship.

I understand savings have to be made, but I fear for the impact these savings will have on real life families over the next 3 years.

The chief Exec, directors of council sectors, or anyone earning over £80,000 take a pay cut/freeze for 3 years. All council owned car parks in Dumfries and Galloway and street parking apart from residents all become

<p>pay and display. Must be the only main town in Scotland that doesn't charge.</p> <p>Modernise Dumfries High street and shops, make it appealing to visitors of all ages to visit the town and locals to shop in the town, rather than visit other regions to shop. The high street is only appealing if you like to drink, bet and pawn jewellery. Get young people on the council board, who are in touch with moving with the times. Modernising the high will bring visitors in and help spend money in the town</p>
<p>The proposed cuts are top heavy in regards to Education unfair and education should be considered a priority. I would like to have seen the council take a harder look at their own infrastructure in regards to potential savings. There is a long standing issue within the council where unqualified lower level staff are promoted to roles outwith their capabilities rather than attempt to attract qualified individuals outwith the council which in turn leads to an increased workload (leading to further staff being employed to cover the productivity shortfall).</p>
<p>As a teacher and parent myself, I am in complete shock and despair at the suggestion of further reduction in services for support for learning in schools. Whether the council wants to believe it or not, staff and services within our primary schools are stretched WAY beyond capability and children's needs quite frankly are NOT being met. We cannot possibly provide the level of education that our children deserve if resources continue to be obliterated the way that they are. We will soon be unable to keep children safe, let alone work towards them achieving academically.</p> <p>The removal of the clerical assistant at my school would be catastrophic. We literally cannot keep the school running without her.</p> <p>Staff health and wellbeing in education is on the floor. With the cuts that these budgets propose, there will certainly be a knock on effect with staff absence due to being off with stress and mental illness.</p> <p>I understand that these savings have to be made, but implore you to avoid any more impact on education as much as possible.</p>
<p>Cutting services in schools and support for disabilities/vulnerable people and children really is not the way to go, it's already a struggle in this area</p>
<p>Any further reduction to waste collection or recycling centre provision will only increase fly tipping, I would be very opposed to that. Youth Beatz seems an obvious cut as it costs a lot and is open to anyone to attend, not just local youths. We are paying for people from Glasgow and further afield to attend this local event.</p>
<p>Extremely worried about the proposals for Education. As a teacher, we are already stretched. Removing admin staff, reduction in teachers, inclusion base and additional support for learning. How are we meant to teach?</p>
<p>Don't cut back education any further in important areas, our kids are the future of this area and deserve the best educational experience. Rural schools might be smaller, but as long as they are big enough to offer a good social experience to kids they should be supported.</p>
<p>Get rid of ward worked what do they do?</p>
<p>Reduce roles for council employees who get paid to do no job, I know of two people who openly admit to being in this situation.</p>
<p>Give free tickets for YouthBeatz to kids on free school meals. The rest could pay up to about £20 for a ticket.</p>
<p>Please DO NOT shut CD swimming pool. My son goes twice a week and without it, he would do do very little exercise. It needs investment, not closure. I can't get him to DG1 during the week as I'm working and I'm not keen to let him get the bus to Dumfries alone after dark.</p>
<p>Learn from mistakes as stated in the local Annandale Herald today in which the Council can't manage the funds they have properly and if this was a going concern business then the people in charge certainly shouldn't be in charge. The Council Accountancy department certainly needs looked at ...</p>
<p>Please don't introduce parking wardens in the region.</p>
<p>Learning support and support for children with autism or other conditions should be increased if money is spent helping children with additional needs get an education savings will be made in the long run as these children will have a better chance of gaining employment if they get the support they need now. Also every child has the right to an education that fits them.</p>

<p>Making bin collections every three weeks will be a complete disaster, two weekly bin collections can be a struggle as is. There will associated rodent and smell issues as well.</p>
<p>There is a lot of waste regarding council services bring back traffic wardens get rid of community wardens which is paid for through our council tax and let the police do the job they are paid for</p>
<p>I strongly disagree with reducing teachers, LA's and inclusion bases. I am a teacher and see firsthand the struggles that schools are going through. This would only lead to more teachers off with stress due to an unmanageable workload.</p>
<p>The last thing this region needs is to reduce the number of teachers or support workers in schools. We need to INCREASE the availability of support workers in schools to meet the needs of the increase in ADHD/ASD diagnosis - our children need the support to ensure they are not falling behind and right now they are being let down because there just isn't enough support.</p>
<p>The council need to stay away from trying to make extreme cuts in schools - it's one area that we just cannot afford to make any more cuts to without it impacting on our children's education even more so than things are now.</p>
<p>It would be better to look at areas where cuts can be made with the least impact to the residents of D&G. Getting rid of gapped positions in the council is a good way to start; if the jobs have been gapped for 6+ months and the roles & responsibilities have been distributed amongst others and being done with no drop in performance then do you really need to have someone doing that job full time?!</p>
<p>Essentially the cuts need to be made where they affect the few, not the many.</p>
<p>This stuff is hard, but I get it, it's necessary. Thank you for your efforts.</p>
<p>All Education Support Staff are vital. Top tier management, within all council depts should be looked, no need for several layers. Try looking at the top first and not some of the lower paid staff.</p>
<p>Having recently attended a presentation about the visitor accommodation levy this seems to be a good way of raising funds to support local infrastructure and services. A lot of the impact of local roads arises from heavy forestry and farm vehicles and these sectors should pay for maintenance accordingly.</p>
<p>I am hugely disappointed to see so many proposed cuts to services affecting children with additional needs. These children are not less than anybody else in society and shouldn't be treated as such, yet the proposed budget cuts don't reflect this and feel somewhat overwhelming to read.</p>
<p>I find proposed cuts to ASL teaching staff abhorrent when often as much as 40% of school pupils are seen as having additional needs in any given school. And that's only additional needs that have been recognised or diagnosed. Whilst I understand not all those pupils may need or get additional support for learning, certainly the staff at my child's school do a fantastic job but could easily benefit from MORE additional support staff and funding rather than potential cuts. Many children are supported and speaking personally my child would not have settled into academy as positively as he had without support that is being potentially going to be cut.</p>
<p>I do question whether such cuts would safeguard THEIR future, support them as citizens, that of their families and communities in general who will also be negatively affected, and strongly suggest that the council cannot be seen as responsive. This does not to me feel like it is based on fairness, does not offer opportunity or quality services and lastly I do not feel that such cuts will enable many children with additional needs to prosper in education and life. Greatly saddened at this.</p>
<p>Not enough detailed information provided on options. Potholes should be fixed properly first time, rather than a poor patching job which opens back up again within weeks/a few months - this would be more efficient in the long run. Also pro-actively going out and inspecting roads and dealing with all the potholes in one area rather than just reacting to individual reports of 1 or 2 potholes by a member of the public but leaving other potholes nearby unfilled - again not very efficient.</p>

The council should not be funding a music festival i.e youth beatz - this should be run by other private organisations.

The 'bund' i.e. whitesands flooding project should have been included as a savings option to be cancelled given the high costs involved. Why has this not been included? Cheaper flooding prevention options should be looked at again - including dredging the river nith and working with landowners to allow areas upstream to flood to reduce pressure further downstream at Dumfries.

The bin collections should not be reduced further as this will just lead to environmental and health issues of overflowing bins. Existing layby bins should not be removed for the same reasons.

Public toilets and HWRC's should not be closed as they are essential for recycling/environmental reasons and the toilets for tourism in particular.

Phased retention of S1-S3 pupils at lunchtime is a really good idea as it will help ensure the pupils are getting a healthy lunch rather than eating junk food in town and will also help reduce litter/antisocial behaviour, whilst bringing more income into the council via money spent on meals by pupils.

Introducing parking charges would be a terrible idea and would likely finish off the town centres as a viable place to come and shop/socialise/eat and drink - at a time when they already struggling badly.

Make all the car parks in Stranraer so you need to pay. You don't need to pay to park anywhere and you're missing out on loads of money.

Instead of having two cleaners at Glenluce primary school just have one! The school is filthy and my son hates using the toilets as they stink! I have complained many times and those two old women still 'work' there!

Please minimise cuts to schools; they are under enough pressure. Our children deserve the best opportunities we can give them.

Charging more for council run leisure facilities is in no way helping keep the region fit, active and healthy. Dumfries and Galloway is a low earning area, therefore this needs to be reflected in hiring fees. I also play for a ladies football team in Dalbeattie, as well as coaching an under 12 girls football team, that is all self funded and we use council facilities for this. The council recently increased the prices for all school let hires, which has taken a toll on funds for our girls and ladies football club.

For the last year we have been paying for a grass football pitch at the school through the council to save money. However this pitch was not lined, the grass not maintained and barely cut. Forcing members of our club to maintain the pitch ourselves to make its passable to play league games on (which have strict rules) Yet the council received full payment for the allocated time slot. Absolutely not acceptable. Never mind raising the price yet again, paying for a pitch that is barely passable without extra work from the people hiring it. Many groups of people that just want to keep fit and active and participate in sports, which is what we want to be promoting in the region, not putting financial obstacles in the way.

Please support the most vulnerable - particularly children with ASN and families in poverty. Focus on benefits of green solutions such as encouraging recycling, charging businesses for waste disposal, etc. and streamlining middle management in services across the council.

My 4 children will be attending our rural school and their wellbeing is significantly at risk if moved to a larger town school. Our family would be devastated by this and I feel there is a significant amount of other ways we can find this money. This does not involve jeopardizing the education and childhood of our rural families.

Please do not even think about considering 3 weekly general waste uplifts that is an expense you simply have to grin and bear. We barely manage with 2 weeks and 4 inbetween recycling, the plastic one is always full before its time to collect and there are no available big plastic bins like paper and bottle collection ones - I still do not understand why you have not included a plastic one. You have an obligation to look after your residents welfare and health and safety and 3 weekly general waste would mean more infestations, more pests, more stink -especially summertime- and what happens when your wagon breaks down? Happens here in Moffat quite often and all you then say to the residents is to somehow keep it all and it will be uplifted NEXT time. That would then be 1.5 months inbetween. How do you think that is in any way acceptable? We pay our council tax for a reason and we actually do pay it so i am finding it seriously unfair that this is even

<p>considered. Or that you want to close public toilets?? And then what, de-criminalise peeing in the bushes as that is the only option left? Madness. Recycling in the recycling centres has been made difficult enough with that book a slot system. And even considering taking any funds from schools is absolutely appalling. I would recommend re-structuring, re-training and utilising your workforce. Being employed in the private sector i am always shocked at what the public sector gets away with. But through our council tax etc we pay for what seems less and less value for our money. Re-allocate from your wage increases that are always ahead of private sector - we get the minimum - and maybe have a proper look at what your employees are claiming expenses for? For once stop lining your own pockets and do what you are meant to do, help out your residents.</p>
<p>If the financial situation is as bad as stated then it's common sense to stop the youth beatz festival</p>
<p>Shocked to see that nearly 40% of spending is on schools (primary, secondary and early learning). We don't have children.</p>
<p>As always with these consultations, the devil is in the detail and the general public don't fully understand the implications of the survey. My belief is the decisions have already been made and the survey is looking for justification from survey completers to justify part of that decision making. I strongly believe that education and its services are being diluted and in particular those with additional needs are most affected. It seems to me that classroom teachers are having to bear the brunt of draconian cuts to children's education and well being by having to adapt to cost cutting services. Inclusion does not work for a lot of children but yet they are forced into mainstream education.</p>
<p>Not the primary schools, they are unique to the countryside way of life and should be ring fenced</p>
<p>Schools and support to prevent poverty need to be a priority for the old and young</p>
<p>The budget options affecting education will once again put increasing demands on staff in schools which are already understaffed, from teaching to all the support staff the proposed budget cuts would have a detrimental impact on the education of our regions children. Schools are already underfunded, lack resources and equipment, as well as having outdated IT infrastructure and devices. Staff absence will only increase with the proposed budget cuts. Which has a significant negative impact on our children's education. To ensure we create the best possible environment for our children schools need investment not budget cuts. These children are our regions future earners and to encourage them to remain in the region we have to provide services they see fit for purpose. Also reducing waste collection and recycling centres will just increase the amount of waste that is dumped out into our rural area.</p>
<p>The introduction of traffic wardens to ensure shoppers can park in the streets close to shops especially so for disabled/elderly/people who cannot walk a distance. Shop owners & workers are parking outside their place of work all day resulting in non-movement of vehicles. This would not only benefit footfall as well as the fines collected would pay for the attendants wages plus extra income. Stranraer is particularly bad for this. The parking attendant could work across the various towns swapping days.</p>
<p>Scottish education, and education especially in D&G is on its knees thanks to years of the SNP and lack of funding from the council. It is ludicrous that you would even consider taking a single penny away from education. Absolutely shocking! GIRFEC is an absolute joke. We are getting it wrong for almost every child. I am a teacher who is totally fed up with people who have no experience in education making these decisions.</p>
<p>Children's education and those who provide the education service should not suffer or be made to pay the price of council overspends/budget cuts. Teachers, educational support staff and support services for ASN are already under pressure, therefore making cuts in these departments just lay the foundation for disaster. Our children really are the future of our region and we should do everything in our power not to fail them at the first hurdle.</p> <p>By reducing the funding of Youth Beatz each year, by even half, would save the region an immense amount of money. It is definitely not unreasonable to ask festival goers to pay for tickets. I have taken my children consecutively for the last 4 years and I would be happy to start paying for tickets.</p>
<p>We should not be reducing the numbers of teaching staff/ASL staff in schools. Our children need support.</p>
<p>How about reducing how much council staff/ teachers are paid including hefty bonuses and pensions?</p> <p>How about reducing paid sick leave for council staff= teachers? How many weeks paid does it sit at just now?</p>

<p>How about reducing How much planning time school teachers get allocated per week on the understanding they stay at school till say eh 5 o'clock so they can do their planning time then instead of when they should be teaching the children!</p>
<p>How about stop wasting money on these stupid surveys and do the jobs you are paid well to do! Do we need so chief staff who in my experiences have little knowledge on the department they appear to be working for?</p>
<p>How about stopping from home working so there is a better use of time made of the hours they are paid to do...don't kid on you don't take advantage of not having a supervisor in your home 🤪...cause quite often that phone rings and rings and no one answers 😞</p>
<p>Tried to think of savings without effecting employment too much. I don't think the region needs more redundancies and unemployment. I've also tried to think about the community as a whole and not just the issues that affect me and my family. Encourage local business by having reduced rates in empty shops. I think now is the time to get creative and innovative to generate more income as it's getting harder to keep cutting and saving.</p>
<p>Additional needs support is already at an all time low for the demand. This just can not afford to be cut</p>
<p>Fix roads properly rather than patching multiple times.. make sure all people are working not one person working 10 people standing around watching</p>
<p>Based on the increased level of need for young people, removing SLAs or any inclusion provision will have a detrimental impact on the health and well being as well as educational progress of many young people.</p>
<p>Education must be protected at all costs. Making cuts to an already underfunded education service would have catastrophic consequences for our young people. The number of Learning Support staff should be increased as schools are already understaffed in this area and our young people are not receiving the support to which they are entitled. Education needs to be looked at on a school by school basis and not just by people who are crunching numbers and applying a formula to save money. You cannot make budget decisions about education if you do not understand the impact it will have on what happens in classrooms on a daily basis.</p>
<p>N/a</p>
<p>A quality Education system is paramount. Without quality Education you end up paying extra in other services, especially in Social Care, further down the line. Overhauling ASN support, with improved training for teachers will save money in the long run.</p>
<p>Any savings must not be at the expense of residents/ business being forced to pay extra for licences allowing them to trade or by paying for parking etc.</p>
<p>Closing public toilets while wasting money on a refurb of the Ewart Library? Seriously? When Aberdeenshire Council has taken the decision to close 13 libraries, D&G council approve spending money on refurbishing ours? Aberdeenshire Council have clearly moved into the 21st Century and recognise that libraries are becoming all but defunct when a majority of the services they offer can be accessed on line. People will always need to access a public toilet, especially if the National Park status goes ahead and there will be a greater influx of tourists. People need not physically access a library/customer service centre now, let alone in the future when everything can be accessed digitally. Time to drag the customer services department into the modern age, or are the managers just keen to safeguard their own jobs?</p>
<p>It's already impossible for sports clubs to survive on the current prices never mind increase. Without these clubs there would be a big effect on mental health and success within the area. More funding should be spent especially on getting women and girls into sports such as football and rugby. Gyms are vital for mental health and prices should not be increased and gyms should not be shut at any cost</p>
<p>When the number of pupils in mainstream school with additional support needs is increasing why do we continually try to cut funding to this area?</p>
<p>Do not mothball schools with roll of 25. This is a rural area and we need our rural schools.</p>
<p>Emails about this consultation have been received after many of the face to face have already taken place and after the local consultation which I would of been keen to attend. No efficiency savings can be made in relation to additional support services in schools. There is an increasing number of children and young people with additional support needs moving through our</p>

<p>education systems and therefore any reduction in financing of this essential area should not be an option. Children and young people are more complex than ever before given the changing society we live in, and must be protected and supported through education and into adult life and positive destinations.</p>
<p>Please don't close Castle Douglas swimming pool, it's so important to so many people</p>
<p>I would suggest looking at the number of high earning managers and review whether they are all necessary. I would also look at their salaries and scrape some money off the top. In education for example, I'm guessing a part time learning assistant might earn 10 grand a year, a high earning manager or officer might earn 5 or 6 times that. Redistribution of some of these funds could mean that pupils and teachers get the support they desperately need. Children's wellbeing (and that of their families and teachers) and education is the most important thing a community and society can provide.</p>
<p>Removing lay by bins - please don't remove any more bins. Lay-bys are disgraceful as is and do not need more litter.</p> <p>Pupils cannot fit in stranraer academy lunch hall as is so please do not cause more issues by forcing them to stay in school.</p> <p>How can it be moved to three week uplifts if you close our recycle centre?</p> <p>There are not enough high quality teachers as is so leave teachers alone</p> <p>Bring back traffic wardens and issue fines in stranraer for parking on pavements and double yellow lines, start on high street and the deficit will be cleared</p>
<p>Please do not remove ASL assistants in schools. The lack of support for ASN pupils at the moment is horrific. There should be absolutely no reduction in this service.</p>
<p>The council tax is already very high, any higher and people will go out on the streets. The education is the most important thing where money should not be saved, as is all learning challenges/ disabilities support. Leisure facilities keep people off the streets and give them something to do. We understand that cuts have to be made somewhere, but not in those .</p>
<p>Schools and teachers are already under so much pressure to deliver quality and should definitely not be influenced by budget cuts. Local school autonomy should be encouraged.</p> <p>Cuts should be made on central management level by creating efficiency.</p> <p>Savings concerning waste disposal has to be approached carefully as otherwise illegal dumping will increase and adversely affect any cost savings.</p>
<p>Please do not cut learning support for children in schools, this affects all children. Dumfries and Galloway has a reputation for poor education provision, compared to the central belt and highlands for example.</p>
<p>Please do not make cuts to supporting vulnerable people, education, or leisure facilities - being able to access things like swimming pools is so important for peoples health. I would support a rise in council tax rather than cuts to any of these.</p>
<p>Stop wasting money on consultations for flood defences, sack all management and let the running of the council go back to business people in the town wanting to improve our town not just line their own pockets. Have all council workers return to the offices to work rather than work from home meaning the shops and cafes will have more footfall.</p>
<p>Removing funding from schools, disability or youth services is never going to improve that service on the ground. Invest in your young people and the most vulnerable.</p> <p>Rural schools are critically essential to the families that rely on them. If you want more students then you need to invest in the infrastructure that would support more families living in rural areas. It is completely unreasonable to expect 5 year olds to travel 30 minutes+ in a taxi each morning just to receive an education.</p>
<p>I do a lot of lollipop man services around Dumfries. Why can't they spend a bit of money in installing speed cameras outside school implementing fines. I've seen a lot of drivers driving over 30mph. This would make money for the council. Making cuts to things can only happen for so long until nothing else is available to cut. To make money you must spend first. Also the proposal of the regeneration of the whitesands is a waste of money. If a 40 tonne tree comes down the river and hits this stupid glass wall it'll be damaged and also it'll</p>

flood troqueer cemetery and Kingholm Quay also further down too. Maybe get rid or reduce some of the management that'll save money. It's always the workers at the bottom that suffer while the management sit back and line there pockets for doing next to nothing.
Get rid of half the people at the top and hire more workers and the lower end and make life better for the people that turn up to work and actually do work. They pay far to much for the management that are not needed and they are happy to collect the wage knowing they are REDACTED useless
REDACTED
Too many chiefs not enough Indians. Away she goes...!!!
There are far too many middle managers doing jobs that are not making a difference. Put more learning assistants into schools. Some of the managers in the council could take a pay cut because some of them are on ridiculous salaries.
Tried to engage with this but difficult because not enough information in each suggestion. If you added a link for more detail to each suggestion it would help. Consider not using Microsoft for local government IT. In France it is mandatory for govt. departments to use open source software.
As a second home owner I completely disagree with the doubling of council tax. I barely use the council services and the bin men won't even take the bin out if the bin shelter when I'm not there. So rubbish sits in the bin instead.
Reasons for responses - safeguard educational provision and the local environment. Re the latter - proposed closure of toilets in coastal areas that have substantial visitors is a disaster environmentally as experienced during the Covid lockdown periods when public toilets were locked.
Whilst I appreciate tough decisions have to be made, some of the options seem to be quite short-sighted; maybe making a quick buck but having financial consequences down the line. For example, parking charges will deter people from visiting Dumfries, particularly given the ease of online shopping. Increasing the cost of leisure facilities and removing the PAYG option will discourage people from attending the gym and lead to a less healthy population. Longer term vision is required for a number of the potential options.
Procurement certainly needs looking at, there are better value options - schools should be given their own budgets and able to shop locally to find the best prices - it would make more sense if Headteachers were more entrepreneurial, possibly less education focused and more business/finance managers with knowledge of the education system. Essentially each school is a business with the "product" being the children's education/ability increasing upon leaving school. Business managers know their market (they would easily learn the education system), how to manage teams of people and work within budgets.
Youth Work is a major part in my small community that has only just got a youth group in the past few years. Cutting the costs to this would take away our group again leaving us isolated once again. Youth Beatz also needs to be saved. It has given me opportunities I would never have had if I hadn't taken part in it. Youth work and Youth Beatz is a lifeline for so many of us. We also need to save Castle Douglas swimming pool. There's already not much to do, taking away the pool would increase anti social behaviour and vandalism in the community. Therefore causing more cost to the council. All swimming pools must be saved!! If it's not getting used give free admission with bus passes for older and younger people or at least discounted!!
Review the wages of your staff.
*Teachers flu vaccine- need to check if this has made a difference to staff absences, if the scheme reduces staff absences it may be worth spending the money on the vaccine in order to save having to pay supply teachers. Could a part-pay scheme be offered where teachers pay privately for the vaccine but get a small subsidy from the council? Or could the council arrange for a private company to hold a vaccine clinic in schools (teachers would pay for the vaccine) but ease of availability may mean they make use of the vaccine which would reduce Staff absences?
*Ryan Centre Stranraer / leisure facilities - reduce admin staff/ leisure assistants in favour of more trained staff who could offer a wider range of classes that you could then charge for. I have 4 children, 2 of whom were enrolled in the gymnastics programme, and i would have enrolled the other 2 had the programme continued. It was cancelled due to not having enough trained staff - despite there being at least 2/3 staff

members who could regularly take the class. Why not put the class at a time when one of them was going to be available? Or manage the rota where 2 staff members took turns leading the class - week about, and could swap to cover if they were going to be off?

As far as im aware there was a good waiting list for this class. All the equipment is sitting there not being used. If there was a staff member to run the class it could easily be restarted and bring in money.

Despite having to cancel classes due to not enough highly trained / skilled staff there are always lots of leisure attendants standing around the front desk chatting any time you go in, which seems a waste to pay them to stand and chat! Perhaps they could be offered some sort of courses to improve their skill set so they could become class instructors?

There are lots of children in the region - as evidenced by the percentage of the budget paying teachers! Why not make use of that and run more specialised classes for children like gymnastics or trampolining etc? Generalised classes like multi sports dont seem as popular. Parents want their children to learn a specific sport or skill (not just play games) and are happy to pay for it.

*Poverty reduction- winter clothing and free school uniform events have made a huge difference to my family. We would really struggle without them having four children to kit out. If the council is not longer able to fund these events could they work to find local charities who might be able to take over running the important event? Or the council organise the event but ask for more involvement from local groups and charities? Such as local foodbanks helping with food rather than the council catering lunches for days like this.

Museums and art galleries are open far too often in the winter, closing them on more days would save money.

These are really strange proposals hitting children mainly, especially those with special needs. There will be greater cost if you deprive children with special needs the support they require like their smaller schools, summer funding, learning support. It is a really strange budget consultation where you have clearly not had anyone with lived experience supporting and showing the greater costs and risks associated with these cuts.

Car parking charges in particular stand out as a really bad idea. I have witnessed the impact that has had on other towns and it isn't good. I would no longer go to Dumfries to shop, I would use out of town and/or online services. Dumfries town centre needs footfall to keep it afloat and a short walk around shows me its only just there.

Parking charges will likely impact the revenue from council leisure services as I'd avoid those and no doubt business rates as some of them close. Parking charges would be a very shortsighted step to take and the idea of starting with optionality is just a sales ploy, who would do that? Once the infrastructure was in place the ratcheting would begin. Please do not consider that as the downstream implications are significant.

Another option for funding should be to get some of the community funds available from wind farms to use them to provide some of these additional services. Are we certain these funds are always well spent? Do we have an indication of the volumes of these? Could charity provision be sought for some edge services around education and well-being?


Well done Dumfries and Galloway Council!! Even something as potentially worthwhile as a "Set the Budget" calculator is beyond you...forcing people to achieve the full £30M of savings before allowing them to submit their proposal...a cynical person might consider that you were channeling this debate the way you wanted it to go rather than allowing a full and frank exchange of views! Surely not....!!

Anyone with a brain in their head can see the leading nature of this entire "consultation". The council have things they are prepared to cut and everything else is not up for discussion. Bravo!!

In case it needs spelled out, you appear to have omitted any ability for individuals to reduce budget elements representing over 50% of the total budget. It is plainly absurd to ring fence Central Support Services, Corporate and Democratic Core and the swollen ranks of Other Council Staff (excl. teachers). The fact that council staff excl. teachers account for almost double the budget allocated to teaching staff at a time when our education services are stretched to their limit reflects the priorities of our Council leaders very well. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Frontline education services need to be protected. No reduction in teaching numbers.
The amount of management positions within the council needs to be cut NOW. Reduce councillors pay, they should have a mandatory voluntary period before they are paid to ensure they are committed to the role. Leave schools alone, support school staff, they are being verbally and physically abused, staff are leaving with no exit interview offered. If you don't invest in schools and provide more staff you will end up with very poorly educated adults. More discipline and less staff in useless pointless jobs. Our community of Annan needs protected, it feels unsafe to be out after dark.
D&G provides a good range of services to people living in the region. This is valuable, and worth paying for, Our council tax seems to be very low for the benefit that we receive from it. I strongly believe that raising council tax and other sourced of income to the Council should be prioritised over cuts to services. However, parking fees should be avoided, since this could severely impact the prosperity of our vibrant towns.
Frontline education, such a teachers need to be protected. It protects the future of our area.
Making any changes to existing waste provisions will only increase the littering and fly tipping issues
I appreciate that there are very difficult choices to make.
There are difficult decisions . There are some I would have ticked but also there are some I have that might not make a big difference to the overall budget .EG community handover of halls and toilet facility's could be difficult to implement with community groups not wanting the responsibility of policing it . EG tourists in the Summer period will require them. And D&G wants tourists to come to the area. Car parking charges for carparks alone will push users to streets so it difficult to implement
Fire middle management, end the endless paperwork shufflers and managers who do nothing except manage people who manage people who manage people who manage the people that actually do the work...
The council is obese, asthmatic, unfit for purpose and a disgrace. Upwards of ninety percent of our managers would be fired rightly so in the private sector. End the waste in middle management. And don't you dare try raising council tax!!
Even taking all these options you won't make the savings
Pay yer employees mare pls I beg
Pay the waste team more
Get ready some of the manager that would save money
Interesting to note that reductions to the "Customer and Digital Services" budget (£11M) are not clearly identified in any of the options?
3.05/6 Really! .. and yet seeking approval of a National Park in the area?
Many of the options are not fully explained on the consultation eg 4.04Remove the current English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Gypsy Traveller Team, retaining reduced provision to maintain a critical focus on authority planning, professional learning and development and quality assurance. 4.10Changing the procedures to the approach to absence management in schools to provide more targeted support. 4.07Restructure of the current Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) delivery model to meet all learners'needs.
Perhaps reducing the number of costly errors of judgement made by the Council over previous years would help to improve the overall financial position (Recycling bins, Refuse incinerators just to mention a couple of expensive mistakes)
Get DG1 Leisure Centre run like a business - people just seem to be able to walk in for free and use the gym, no checks so no incentive to pay a membership fee. Direct Debit bounces but doesn't cancel your membership etc.
I am personally involved in other English LAs in income and revenue generation through the development of Pyrolysis plants to assist with both Carbon benefits as well as Waste use & in particular income generation. I can see no reference in here to such projects & would welcome the opportunity to discuss with my local

council the income benefits which are significant in a rural community with significant cheap / free feedstock potential
Cost saving: senior council management to take a pay cut and Review senior managerial roles to ensure they are still effective. Following this clear and concise appraisals for all staff to filter out staff who are not contributing 100%.
Community payback orders, should be seen on the streets as a deterrent to committing a offence, not taken away to Woods chopping down trees, bringing them back to the premises to sell them; Unless the profits go back to the council. Unsure what is The current policy regarding this.
There are so many empty commercial properties and domestic houses in Dumfries, council tax And business tax should be Chased followed up and Reclaimedto support the town to become more prosperous with residence; Even if this does mean second homes or holiday lets, This is bringing tourism and money into our community.
Budget should be spent on making the town centre a safer place to be, Get community policeman out in the community, knowing the people, Understanding the issues that young people face hence building better relationships with the authority and hopefully stopping incident antisocial behaviour and making the town safer.
Court fines which are published in the courier, Should be put back into the community if not to the victim.
Make use of empty council property, these could be food hubs, health visitor locations to wear babies, droppings for help and support with council tax and other issues, even swimming world are hobbies, prostate buddies location. Use council properties more effectively , therefore free up other locations to be used as commercial to bring people back into Dumfries. Support action for Persistent drug dealers and also users, look at other places London what are they doing to deter them? Let's bring Dumfries back to life without drugs and with people communities that thrive.
There is a lot of reductions in education. By reducing them more how are all young people's needs to be met?
Cut down central management officers ie. Chief executive(who is only apart time attendee in Dumfries).
Rather than plant annuals in flower beds plant perennials. Centralise support services for schools. Reduce heating in all council buildings. Buy cheapest soaps and cleaning products for buildings. Reduce all bin collections to monthly but introduce large bins for household and garden waste in available spaces.
Services have to be cut as council income cannot cover all due to government cuts.
Get rid of the snp as they waste £M's on vanity projects and overseas pretendy embassies
Reduce the number of managers in all departments with in the council .Top Heavy
Be brave members. Make decisions that yes may lose you small numbers of voters but will save key services. And remember a 'small school' is not a school of 25 or less kids in most other UK areas.
Rationalise management at higher levels of numerous departments to reduce duplication/unnecessary job roles. consider reducing pay for top levels of management rather than cutting staff/services at lower levels for the betterment of d&g!
Raise council tax to avoid having to keep cutting service. Start soending miney on things that benefit d&g, more things for kids to do/places to go as an example!
Ensure staff are doing jobs and not time wasting. Stop regime of being able to hide in council and not doing any work. Stop flexi time. Support staff to stop them going off with stress. Stop outsourcing jobs/roles to other councils!
Stop selling community buildings for £1 and sell them at proper market value to obtain funds to support services.

As a person who works in a school, if you make further cuts to school support such as Learning assistants, Learning Support Teachers and Gypsy Traveller teachers then it will be an absolute disaster.
Front line services have already been massively cut. Review management and staffing structures. Could some layers of management be removed. Have staff return to working in council buildings. So no working from home allowances paid as well as running costs of the buildings.
As a rural area with rural needs it's imperative that our communities are safe and protected. If they are not it becomes incredibly apparent to anyone outwith the region visiting or considering living in the region (not including those that use the region for 2nd homes that do not directly support communities). It does not seem that you fully understand education in this region based on some of the points raised. You do not seem to have a finger on the pulse of the issues faced by education staff on a daily basis and the work that it often done "for free" by the teaching and non teaching staff in our schools.
There are lots of children at school who get free items and services, restrict this to children who have parents that couldn't pay for these. Why do all children get free swimming lessons ? Clampdown on the 'box-ticking' woke jobs. We don't seem to have this as a cost cutting option to select!!
Under no circumstances can you remove the flowers an hanging baskets from the town centres. They are the only thing that brighten up the rather dull high street. They bring joy and a smile to everyone
Close Dalry secondary school
Cut the amount of senior council position
I feel strongly that Colvend school should be shut as soon as possible as this must save a considerable amount of money. It is pointless keeping it open as all primary children end up at Dalbeattie Learning campus which is a good and modern school. Car parking in Rockcliffe should start from April as this would generate a considerable amount of money even the Forestry Commission charge now. Money generated could be used to maintain toilets in Kippford and Rockcliffe which should definitely not be closed. Being a resident of Rockcliffe in covid when toilets were shut it was disgusting what the general public would do and not very good for environment
We are failing the children. D&G are 32/32 ranked within education, this is going to get worse by taking funding away from schools. The children deserve the best education, they are the future.
Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. We felt that the questions were very vague and missed detail that would enable us to give a fully informed answer.
There has been a blatant waste of money in the coucil over the last 40 years. Its about time this waste is addressed and action taken to minimize it. Please keep toilets open as this is a human necessity (not a luxury!). Local communities could be given the role of cleaning and looking after the toilets (maintenance only done by the council).
Need to do more fundraising in the town to get money for funding instead to putting prices up. Speak to the people about there bins some people have bins that they don't use and others like myself are struggling my red and blue could go every 2 month before getting emptied where as my normal bin is full within 1 week and that's with my doing dump runs and recycling 
Too many chiefs and not enough indians .too many managers jobs and councillors . Money should not be taken away from Disabled families either . Do not do 3 weekly bin collections as that will be a disaster people everywhere will be dumping rubbish and will start to get rats everywhere. More money will need spent with fly tipping and pest control and also a potential to bring disease back into towns.a big no no. Charge for tickets to youthbeatz in fact that should have been implented years ago . We also need to keep our public toilets although munches street toilet in need of an upgrade also the disabled toilet is in dire need of an upgrade. We need accessible toilets. The disabled toilet in munches street there is no night light to put on when it gets dark been like that for years. Definatley need to keep the toilets ,people may stop shopping in the town and not stopping in dumfries for events for example christmas light switch on etc people need to pee and they have to do it somewhere and its also goes against human rights as well. Bring back the traffic wardens and start fining people who park illegally. Charging for parking you will scare people away from Dumfries .Dumfries aint worth coming into town and paying for parking .No shops and nowt to do
Additional support for learning should be the last place to think about cuts
I work in a Nursery as a Nursery Nurse/Early Years Practitioner. If cuts continue to be made for additional support staff in ELC/mainstream, this will not be getting it right for any of the children or staff. Nursery

<p>Nurses will be giving the additional support to a rising number of children that require it and all other children will not get the same attention/opportunity to thrive and grow if this is the case. Additional support staff is a necessity. Especially considering the number of children needing additional support is rising - so this will absolutely not getting it right for any of the children. We already struggle with the support we have never mind doing more cuts! Mainstream is even more of a worry in the early years - there is no way one teacher can meet over 20 children's needs without additional support staff when there are many children at different stages and also children that are genuinely in need of support. My daughter is going to Primary 1 in August next year, I have had to fight for additional support for her as myself and the EV know she will not cope in a mainstream setting without support, but also there's no where that she fits. The learning centre has a lot of children with very complex needs, where's the place for my child I just don't know. There needs to be a class made in every school for children on the autistic spectrum that are able to learn but will not cope in the demands of mainstream. Right now the education system is not getting it right for every child, and if these cuts are made in those crucial early years, that will show - closing the gap in attainment will not be possible. Staff will be burnt out, children will not be able to thrive to the best of their abilities. Do not make additional support staff cuts - cut elsewhere and please consider increasing these staff members.</p>
<p>I am disgusted with the amount of cuts you are considering for education, particularly to support our most vulnerable learners (ASL, inclusion and support for disabled children. The level of need is increasing not decreasing and support is vitally needed. Teachers are struggling to cope as it is. If further cuts are made, schools will simply not cope. How can this be considered "getting it right for every child?"</p>
<p>Education, learning support and teachers should not be reduced in any way during this budget exercise-they are already at breaking point as seen by the increased violence of young people, antisocial behaviour and lack of employment in d and g.get rid of the numerous managers in the council and the education management posts of people who dont teach in schools.</p>
<p>Being a parent of a child who requires support for learning, I can't understand why these teachers aren't being increased instead reduced. The number of children who require support for learning is increasing every day. This is our children's futures right now is when they need the highest level of support</p>
<p>Education should not be cut. Considering D&G sits with the worst attainment in Scotland and with the lack of teaching jobs in comparison to how many students are coming through the universities, there is a major problem. The university course entries for teaching should be halved as a result of this and the terms of gaining permanency need re-evaluated as there are 0 permanent jobs on offer.</p>
<p>I am deeply concerned about the proposed cut to additional support for learning services. As a person with an additional support need who has experienced the education system locally, it was already significantly challenging during my time at school. Reducing these services will reduce standard of living, and will result in people with additional support needs being at a significant disadvantage in the future. This does not promote fairness.</p>
<p>As a resident of Castle Douglas I strongly oppose the closure of the swimming pool and gym. I have teenagers who regularly use the facility along with their friends. It's the only thing for them to do in this town and it keeps them healthy and out of trouble.</p>
<p>Schools don't need the best and most modern technical equipment. What counts is the quality of teaching and education. 'Yes' to quality education in your own community, in an inclusive and nurturing setting. Public Services are essential to keep rural communities alive, and to improve quality of life. They safe money in the long term: if people have better mental and physical health, they will need fewer nhs services; Children who received good education will contribute to the economy in their community as adults, And will need fewer additional services</p>
<p>As a Learning Support Assistant , qualified Autism Specialist and ABA therapist I fully support no cuts to Learning Support. Children need targeted , structured learning with people who are trained and knowledgable instead of staff unqualified and "winging it". Ive saw kitchen staff employed in Learning Centres with no training or qualifactions. This needs tailored and structured for these students.</p>
<p>Use need more Learning teachers in kelloholm primary</p>
<p>I made my choices through schemes that would generate more income,whilst protecting vital services. I think we need to look at staffing levels,and maybe look at revising the ERVS scheme across all services,not just the ones that you are currently targeting. I feel that up skilling existing staff to take on a more defined roll</p>

is a cop out, as it may also lead to putting more demands on a workforce that in some departments are already overloaded?
Withdrawal of "in principle" support to the proposed Galloway national Park which is likely to increase the burden on public services which D&G council will need to find funding to cover e.g further degrading of the roads not maintained by Amey, increased litter
I work in early childcare and education I feel very strongly and actually worry about the cuts across education. We are a big nursery with lots of children with additional support needs and I feel these cuts are letting the children down putting staff under pressure and not getting it right for every child.
Protect all primary schools from closure and protect all school and learning budgets
Leave support in school. Don't keep discriminating disabled kids by removing support. These kids could be the future to make things better. A lot have great potential to achieve high things but need a bit of support to help achieve these things. Cutting teachers all the time, means subjects are not getting taught in schools as no teachers and no budget to hire them. Stop hitting education for a change..
Bring back catchment areas to enforce kids to attend catchment areas to fill schools that need it.
Consider money given for free lunches in holidays. Maybe give to family's who school or social work know who really needed. Family's survived before covid so not all need it.
Council management do without a pay rise for a 3 years will make a huge difference.
Do not remove any bins from laybys, this only leads to more litter, it was tried years ago and didn't work then, these bins need to be emptied more often. Stop cutting hedges and grass not belonging to the council, most of the hedges cut in Gatehouse belong to farms, make them cut these.
If you could see what was going on within education, for the children's sake you would not be making any cuts. Our schools are not safe, our support for learning TEACHERS are doubling up as learning support assistants to support the number of children who can not be in class. Cutting inclusion bases, and leaving budget for 'extreme circumstances' is a huge misjustice. The council needs more places like this to tackle the 'extreme behaviors' we are seeing in the school. We need more staff and resources, the presumption of mainstream education does not fit all. Dumfries and Galloway do better.
Education is paramount you can not reduce ASfL teachers or assistants, clerical staff that work in schools or close inclusion bases! Reduce number of clerical/ admin within other areas of the council. Raise prices of school dinners/ use of leisure facilities. Wage DECREASES for management. No wages above £100k are needed in an area like Dumfries and Galloway. Look at management structures and reduce and amalgamate roles.
Cuts towards anything to do with children with additional needs/disabilities should not even be an option at all. The numbers of children with additional needs/disabilities has increased tremendously and there isn't enough provision as it is for them and children are suffering because of it. Everyone has a right to an adequate education
Schools are struggling enough as is. My kids are all entitled to free school meals meaning the schools get additional funding for them. Until last year none of the money has been spent on my children and I've had to fight for additional support for one of my kids. After years of blaming covid/lockdowns they've finally admitted I was right and they are in fact dyslexic.
You need to do the following and stop putting off hard decisions as I want good quality public services but the council funding is not right so needs to change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - get rid of non redundancy policy and accept we need less staff - let staff retire early who want to go - reduce the ward officer team that deliver no direct public services but cost a lot to run- the model is not sustainable in current model. - maximise income- myself and many friends are willing to pay 5/10-% more for council tax if it goes to saving services. - close some primary and secondary schools- no need for so many and no need for 4 secondaries in Dumfries.

- use all major income streams including visitor levy and parking charges. Don't be put off introducing them due to a loud and noisy minority of people (most of whom have a vested interest)

Overall I say that you need to bring in more income and not shy away from those descions and reduce your staffing numbers.

Senior members of our council should only be hired if local. There is an increasing number of higher payed council employees that are not local and don't even stay in our region and choose to work from home. it makes those that are local and are dedicated to our council look like they are not good enough.

Working from home should be stopped and offices utilised properly and travel expenses should be restricted to travelling within the region.

Investment is needed in our fleet of essential vehicles ASAP. There are almost as many hire vehicles being used because our own vehicles are getting run into the ground and breaking down putting our fleet management under unnecessary strain. Departments with what seems unlimited budgets should not be allowed to have council vehicles sitting around not being used and should have to book vehicles through a new fleet management program where vehicles can only be used for a purpose more than running around between buildings.

Investment in our buildings to bring them back to a better condition so in the longer term they will save us money and not waste it patching things up and hoping it will get better itself. Hire more in-house staff and stop giving ludicrous amounts of money for below standard contractors that are not interested if the job is done correctly or not. Not there buildings so not that interested.

Dumfries is being run into the ground because everything that would be bringing people into our beautiful region is being stopped by greedy councillors that look like they are protecting the large land owners. There is no advertising for our local area. The lakes get thousands of visitors everywhere through there region but they have no idea we are here.

Council tax must be put up to cover the basic running costs of our council and those staff that are the lowest payed need to be given the pay rise they deserve for all there hard work. Without them we will have no council and will end up bankrupt like so many other councils throughout the country.

Stop wasting money and start investing in what we already have.

A great team of hard working dedicated staff that will always go beyond for the area. Look after and invest in those you already have.

I think the fact that there is even a option to reduce the support or staff for disabled children in schools is disgraceful. The finding for the school support staff has already been cut enough, there is barely any staff in schools as it is, I notice there is lots of things wanting to be cut for children with additional needs but no mention of council bosses taking pay cuts or having to pay extra. Children with additional needs will take the brunt of the cuts as usual. It's shameful how we look after everyone else first and put children with additional. Needs last

I strongly oppose option 2 mothballing schools with 25 or fewer pupils, and also the option to reduce learning support. This is crazy and will have massive implications for every single pupil in the region. Every pupil would be negatively affected by this option. The learning support is far too low already to cut it further would be disastrous.

The Education service is already on its knees from repeated budget cuts. It is ridiculous to think that changes you are proposing would still allow for the needs of all learners to be met. Children in this region already suffer from a lack of opportunities that other councils provide. The IT service is absolutely woeful and our children are consistently disadvantaged by their remote location and your inability to offer them the experiences they deserve.

I am wondering why this email was only sent out to parents of school children after the majority of the opportunities to attend the in person meetings are over? My decisions on cost savings have focused on protecting the most vulnerable, providing teachers with the support they need to do a very difficult job and to support rural communities and schools

Common sense approach to be used for major spending eg. Flood Prevention Scheme.

No more spending on quangos for issues that have already been 'quangoed'!

Joined up thinking when planning.

Reduction in number of councilors.

Putting interests of people of Dumfries and value for money before political aspirations.

Accountability by all.

Am disappointed by descriptions in some options as to why they have not already been curtailed if they are current policy. Where is value for money in this?

Retention of the school estate and education provisions is a priority deliverable from Dumfries and Galloway Council. Reduction in services will impact the futures of 1000s of individuals. As stated by the council D&G budget the region has a substantial rural population, therefore it is inevitable that there are small schools to maintain. The council needs retain school schools, and other rural services, as a priority and to fully represent the demographics of the region. I strongly disagree with the proposal to increase the roll level for mothballing of small schools from 10 to 25 students, this will impact several young lives, families and rural communities. I understand reductions need to be made, but impacting young lives is not the primary way of achieving this.

Turning off Street Lighting during the early hours, midnight - 4.00am

Reduce the number of council vehicles on the roads, many only have one person in them. Reduce the frequency of renewal of council vehicles.

A reduction in management across all services would contribute largely to necessary budget cuts. Although experienced, knowledgeable, qualified 'on the ground' staff MUST be retained to deliver quality services and this can be done effectively with reduced management. A concerning number of managers, particularly within education and ASN, are not qualified within their role managing more knowledgeable staff than themselves in an overly complicated management structure; retaining key staff will allow direct impact and an improvement in quality of service delivered to our children and young people.

Another suggestion would be around travel. Many employees within the local authority both live and work in Dumfries. This allows them to collect a pool car within Dumfries with no commuting costs, leaving many employees travelling far with no available pool cars, therefore claiming travel expenses and costing more money. A minimum necessary commuting mileage for each employee, regardless of location, would reduce the number of council staff using pool cars unnecessarily, reduce local authority fuel consumption, wear and tear and repairs on vehicles, and would allow other council employees travelling long distances to access pool cars, thus also reducing travel claims. For example, a flat '10 mile commute' rule per council employee would mean many would use their own cars for shorter journeys rather than unnecessarily booking a council pool car.

Please enforce parking and driving rules. People are not adhering to the highway code, or the law. I think a substantial amount of revenue could be raised this way by employing at least two people in Dumfries town centre alone. It would make roads and pavements safer for people.

School technicians are often an invisible force within schools, working behind the scenes to facilitate practical STEM work within the classrooms. Even our colleagues and line managers have little understanding of what they actually do. Essentially Technicians in Science and Technical departments prepare materials to be used in practical classroom activities, but this involves so much more than following a scheme of work and delivering resources. Technicians research new techniques, update outdated protocols, maintain and repair equipment, undertake stock control of controlled hazardous substances and requisition materials, ensure safety is foremost, and protect the environment. H&S within STEM spaces is managed by technicians and many SQA mandated practical activities could not go ahead without them being present in the building. Technicians are a skilled workforce trained to respond effectively in incident management, they train teachers in practical skills, advise on safe working practice, support National 5 and Higher practical assignments, lead Advanced Higher project work, facilitate primary transition events and open evenings, and manage the practical spaces within their schools. Technicians also add value to the wider school on a voluntary basis, being involved in: STEM clubs, class demonstrations and teaching skills to students, behind the scenes in school shows and building sets and props, chaperoning residential and day trips saving schools on cover costs, driving the school mini-bus to support extra-curricular, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid duties, repairing equipment from other departments such as Music and PE, they may also provide reprographics and admin support when necessary. This is incredible value good-will that would be lost if Technicians were peripatetic, and could result in more expensive teaching staff or external agency involvement to cover this work. It should be highlighted that Technicians in schools facilitate the Scottish

<p>Government STEM Strategy. Without quality, consistent, and present Technician support in Science and Technical departments, D&G Education will be unable to achieve the government agenda of increased practical activities within STEM subjects and attainment will suffer.</p>
<p>Libraries and swimming pools are a nice to have but not essential. Education is critical but should be run more efficiently. Focus on essential services, waste, recycling centres, litter, carers, cooks, caretakers, keeping our spaces beautiful.</p>
<p>Allow all public sector bodies to purchase goods and services from the best value source rather than force procurement through a limited number of companies and vastly inflated prices, I have seen the waste of being forced to purchase through these systems and its a huge waste from what I can see.</p> <p>Sort out the number of secondary schools in Dumfries, its insane the policy we have seen over the last decade, building of the bridge etc.... close one of them and consolidate. Close Dalry secondary fully. Redistribute the money back into supporting SEN and specialist centres.</p> <p>Invest in child support homes so we don't get ripped off by the private sector with extreme amounts wasted on a few truly troubled children, its tragic and not for the good of the whole.</p>
<p>Sort the roads out disgraceful, potholes everywhere. Parking wardens to sort out illegal parking everywhere.</p>
<p>I have based my decisions using the information that I am an employee in D and G but live in another authority where council tax, parking and other items have already increased in value. Therefore those who can afford to pay, pay more eg. council tax. We should be minimising the impact of these budgets cuts on young people in particular not cutting education and teaching, supporting education at school level and LA staff and school support staff. Essential vs luxury services. Protecting staff at the face to face end. Those at the top of the chain at the council earn much more and often work from home, could they take a small reduction in pay rather than affecting low to middle earners doing essential and more grass root services.</p>
<p>AS D&G is a magnet for Wind farm developers a more proactive arrangement with developers to directly fund the Council only, would give access to a welcome income that would benefit all constituents. I believe Scoop Hill alone would generate £5 Million a year to D&GC. 50% mitigation in one package. And your woke councillors are objecting. Crazy. Businesses (what's left of them) and Taxpayers have reached their limits.</p>
<p>ERVS</p>
<p>I believe that increasing the cost of uplifting bulky items and cutting down the number of domestic waste collections would result in an increase to fly tipping. As a former Council employee I know there are too many levels in management across the Council.</p>
<p>Please don't rely on SOSE providing support to Stewartry. They've demonstrated little understanding of our issues to date and have not supported to the same level as they have in the Borders. They seem more interested in new, large, visible projects rather than supporting smaller, local, organisations with a track record of success.</p>
<p>I strongly believe that it is highly detrimental to focus cost savings on the regions young people either through education or through leisure and youth services. The retention of young people and young adults in Dumfries and Galloway is dire and the region needs to do more to keep a focus on them and to make them a priority not make them feel devalued and displaced. Summer of Play has been key to children over the last few years and Youth Beatz is the one big thing that makes this Council different to anywhere else and should continue to be celebrated - a small nominal charge to this could make a difference (£5-£10 per ticket) - the increase in children requiring additional support for learning needs to be recognised and not recognised through education services being cut here - this is imperative if we are to support the younger generation.</p>
<p>It is vital that funding to tackle poverty and inequalities is at least maintained at current levels (or increased), jobs protected and community facilities retained. Opportunities for recycling should be made easier (ie: removal of booking systems at recycling centres) and cheaper. This will save money in the long run spent in clearing illegal dumping.</p>
<p>Better use of local contractors or businesses to help with council properties or local events to help reduce travel and time</p>

Any further cuts to education are horrific. It is already cut to the minimum. It is exclusion with inclusion of children that are not properly supported. It is embarrassing the state that education is in our schools with all the cuts already.
Sack manangement and get rid of pool cars
Cut the dead weight in the council Management staff. Plenty in high positions that are just riding the boat to retirement while doing as little as possible. Removing highest earners make better savings that removing many more useful low end staff.
Reduce Museum staff particularly in winter. Also, smaller venues (Old Brigde house, Burn's house) should be open to visits based on booking. Increase access to the countryside (Mabie, Ae, Dalbeattie) by providing transport service to people for a small fee (ideally with bike transportation allowed). REDUCE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: switch the light off, making a very environmental friendly style of non-illuminated signs. Check the competency of your employees and use those fair grounds for dismissal.
Please don't cut the number of teachers or support staff in schools. We are struggling to meet the children's needs on a skeleton staff already.
The potential for re-structuring at management level should be considered. Too many Chiefs springs to mind!
I made these choices as I strongly believe the Council should be supporting our residents to exit poverty including in work poverty. I also believe that resource commitment needs to be maintained for those that require additional support to provide equity of opportunity and a quality of life.
Can I also suggest that the Council develops more effective ways of addressing underperformance in their own ranks and does away with the no compulsory redundancies policy. Doing this would ensure that the Council is more efficient and effective with our money.
In my dealings with the council, I have always found them to try to find why something isn't possible and only to accept it is after expensive and lengthy 3rd party consultations etc. (Planning is a case in point). Instead, let's have a council that takes a proactive approach to enabling what residents want to do. I understand that the council is very very risk averse, but find a way to transfer that risk to the private sector if it's too much for your level of comfort rather than stop or delay and increase the costs to others. Stop doing everything that is outside your minimum legal requirement. Don't get involved with activities that are not directly delivering your minimum contract/legal obligations
Keep toilets public to ensure cover of all areas. Everyone needs toilets and especially important for visitors. Bin provision is important to keep our area tidy and reward those who choose to use them. Reducing residual bin collection unlikely to increase recycling bin use. However increasing what can go in recycle bins might make it a possibility. Other Scottish councils allow much more in their recycle bins. Introducing parking charges: a. Disadvantages rural visitors to towns who have limited transport options. b. Disadvantages town centre businesses with public more favouring free out of town parking. c. Some argue if they were forced to pay to park for shopping, they would go elsewhere where the shopping has more to offer eg Carlisle. d. Other Councils report very little profit from parking charges once equipment and staffing taken into account. e. Why do we want to chase away visitors from our area with parking charges.
We are aware that teachers in schools are on their knees, please do not cut the education budget. D&G education is falling way behind other areas in Scotland and the UK
Review support for the Galloway National Park proposal. The money spent by Scottish Government to set up a new public body would be better spent on existing public services.
the council spend too much money on consultant fees when nothing is ever done! the state of the weeds round the town is awful they need to spend more money tidying up the town and making it look good for visitors and locals
Scrap the giving of public funds to feed kids during school holidays. Parents are well aware there is school holidays when deciding to have children.
Withdraw support to Scottish welfare fund. It is a system full of liars and cheats who make up stories to cheat the system out of money.
1 thing I would NOT like to happen is, that general waste collection was moved to once every 3 weeks. Now that you have stopped collecting food waste, so food waste now goes along with the general waste, during

<p>the summer the bin is stinking after waiting 2 weeks to be emptied. I can only imagine how smelly it will be if it has to wait 3 weeks to get emptied!!</p>
<p>Duplication of services needs sorted. If you're doing anything other agencies are doing you should not be using resources to duplicate this work, just madness!!!</p>
<p>Have 2 shifts per day for waste collection and share the vehicles for doing so therefore reducing the number of vehicles/costs of vehicles. If you currently have 120 waste Lorries you could easily reduce to 60 with maybe additional 10/20 to cover increased maintenance on the "60" vehicles in daily use. With 80 vehicles you would be saving 33.33% on vehicle costs. This could also be true for many services delivered.</p>
<p>Please reconsider removing any youth work. Youth work saves lives, and provides a safe place for our young people with trusting relationships, and with the high levels of poverty, youth work provides food and a warm hub for our young people. For Youth Beatz, why don't you increase sponsorship and have donation buckets for money?</p> <p>With leisure centres, increase opening times on the weekend. More people will access the centres. If you expect your workers to work in the office, then review who could work from home to reduce costs. Expand transport like a Langholm to Dumfries bus route. Consider bringing a council bus route to the Crichton from Dumfries because Stagecoach's timetable is too small. You can take advantage of the growing businesses on the campus and expand the time to get back into town to 10pm</p>
<p>Close St Johns Town of Dalry, it's a disgrace that you have let this remain open for so long given the staff:pupil ratios.</p> <p>Reintroduce the idea of an asymmetric week but instead of trying to be unique from other authorities, copy their model. It's a great plan that should have been approved and I believe would have been approved if the council had considered things properly and used other models which have worked.</p> <p>Look to reduce the number of small schools and reduce the school estate.</p>
<p>Reduce departments like employability and skills service, seem to employ more and more staff and dont put customers first. Support in place already with other agencies- Job centre, skills Development Scotland careers advisers.</p>
<p>Stop paying sick pay to council staff when they go off sick for one to three days only. Could introduce a new scheme where they only get paid for the 7th day onwards. Or they get paid for the first and second lot of sick days but not the third spell (over a 12 month rolling period) this would make staff think before they phone in sick at a whim. The cost of covering sickness then paying additional overtime to cover that sickness is a huge drain on our Care and Support Service.</p>
<p>The challenges that Dumfries and Galloway Council faces are either identical to or very similar to those faced by councils all over Europe. Do what businesses do - benchmark and learn from other Councils that have developed innovative solutions to the same problems faced here in D&G. I made the choices that I made because I believe the true measure of a society is how it cares for the young, the old and the most vulnerable - those who cannot completely fend for themselves. I am in favour of anything that involves better planning and greater efficiency. I do not know this for certain but my perception is there is a lot of money wasted because the public sector works very differently from the private sector. If you simply applied the same standards in the private sector, I believe you would save a ton of money.</p>
<p>Please do NOT reduce waste collection times from 2 to 3 weeks. This would be a disaster and lead to illegal bumping of waste.</p>
<p>As a region which has just announced child poverty amongst highest in Scotland I believe no cuts should be considered which impact on support in education, health, leisure and wellbeing.</p>
<p>Schools need more funding not less. Children are the future. You are losing experienced staff due to poor policy and management. Bring back traffic wardens and parking charges so people can navigate the town centre without issue. This is a rural area with rural issues, funding comes from multiple sources can the council not see that? Spending money on consultations are not the answer.</p>
<p>Focus on the essentials and remove nice to have initiatives. Reduce number of Councillors.</p>
<p>The bridge building at Cuckoo bridge not being fully used, have made suggestions to convener of council that langlands school be moved to that building as it can be used properly by them and as there pupil numbers increase they will have space required.</p>

Learning assistants should not be reduced as the system is not working properly now. Council allocate hours for children and the school spread the allocation about as they see fit, but children are loosing out due to this and it doesn't give the council education department a true picture of what is going on in schools. Have spoken to Malcolm council convener and said this needs to change , the best best way to do this is allocation of hours for each child depending on their needs and the school use the hours for the child, that way the council has the exact picture of every childs allocation and how the school is using the hours. They then allocate staff to those hours, this works better that any ratio and gives the child the best opportunity to excel in their own IEP. The system needs to work this way to give these children the best start and if the council puts this method in place now , in 30 40 years the council will have less of these children coming back using council social care support services . I am a support worker by profession and I see the mid - later results of people how had good and bad education, this system would save on future council budgets. Autism outreach team should be cut back as they are basically doing the same thing almost as the educational psychology team , but through experience I can tell you educational psychology team are far better at what they do . Closure of Dumfries ice bowl would be beneficial due to poor construction and very high electricity costs to run, it is no longer popular with crowds of people like it was in the late 1990s. David Keswick athletic track . This is under used poorly maintained, throwing cage a mess, out of date throwing and jumping equipment, not generating a lot of money, other athletic tracks in the region are used more. I have relayed this information to the convener of the council and I will be standing as a councillor at the next election.

We pay our Councilors to run D&G Council , Lean , Mean and Efficiently ! Get on and do it 1

Good luck

Turn off village streetlighting between midnight and 7am

Get rid of all the woke nonsense funding like the Immaginarium , where adults are paid to dress up at castles. LGBT funding for two people etc. All the snowflake funding is a waste of money.

Please focus on educating, inspiring and creating jobs for the younger generations.

Reduce the number of middle managers- they haven't been looked at for a long time and there is savings to be made there.

My child attends a learning centre and whilst there are programmes that can be cut, I do not agree with reducing staff and overwhelming teachers in mainstream classes who would quite frankly not be able to manage. My child has a basic right to the same level of education as everyone else. By forced integration in mainstream and reducing ASL teachers, it would be disrupting the children in mainstream and the children with additional needs. I will fight tooth and nail for my son to have the best education and he is currently receiving this at Lochmaben learning centre.

I agree with a lot of the waste proposals except for 3 weekly general waste. There is no way that a family can go 3 weeks with one of the normal bins, this will encourage people to fly tip.

Youth beatz funding being removed, I agree with as many people would prefer to pay a small charge to attend, if it means that their child's education is protected.

Do not remove any support in schools, they are teachers/support staff are spread thinly enough already.

Very worrying how much is focused on education cutbacks

It's your JOB to run the council and fix the budget. The people can have their say at an election.

School technicians are often an invisible force within schools, working behind the scenes to facilitate practical STEM work within the classrooms. Even our colleagues and line managers have little understanding of what they actually do. Essentially Technicians in Science and Technical departments prepare materials to be used in practical classroom activities, but this involves so much more than following a scheme of work and delivering resources. Technicians research new techniques, update outdated protocols, maintain and repair equipment, undertake stock control of controlled hazardous substances and requisition materials, ensure safety is foremost, and protect the environment. H&S within STEM spaces is managed by technicians and many SQA mandated practical activities could not go ahead without them being present in the building. Technicians are a skilled workforce trained to respond effectively in incident management, they train teachers in practical skills, advise on safe working practice, support National 5 and Higher practical assignments, lead Advanced Higher project work, facilitate primary transition events and open evenings, and manage the practical spaces within their schools. Technicians also add value to the wider school on a voluntary basis, being involved in: STEM clubs, class demonstrations and teaching skills to

students, behind the scenes in school shows and building sets and props, chaperoning residential and day trips saving schools on cover costs, driving the school mini-bus to support extra-curricular, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid duties, repairing equipment from other departments such as Music and PE, they may also provide reprographics and admin support when necessary. This is incredible value good-will that would be lost if Technicians were peripatetic, and could result in more expensive teaching staff or external agency involvement to cover this work. It should be highlighted that Technicians in schools facilitate the Scottish Government STEM Strategy. Without quality, consistent, and present Technician support in Science and Technical departments, D&G Education will be unable to achieve the government agenda of increased practical activities within STEM subjects and attainment will suffer.

"Council tax for those in non-fixed abode"

Could be paid by people wishing to access council services like waste/education but cannot pay tax due to having no fixed address (or using parent address). We know there is a huge housing issue in the region. We know many people and families are forced to find alternative accommodation (e.g. living with family or friends/ living off grid/living in homes with wheels/temporary accommodation). By introducing a council tax for these people it means their home is validated as being just what everyone else has just in a different shape or form and also earns the council more money.

Almost 60% of the budget goes on salaries/wages which is a lot! And it seems the ones that we want to speak to we can never get hold of them! Roads department springs to mind... Or they don't exist. D&G Council needs to revert back to providing a good service. When people phone up they should be put through to the Department and there should be someone there to take the call and not have it answered by the switchboard. The Council taxpayers are frustrated. Once the service is improved people will agree to the raising of the Council Tax. A couple of other things: -

- i) don't touch the collection of the bins - that is one of the good services that are provided!!
- ii) Gretna Registration - so much more income and revenue can be got from that without having to raise marriage licence fees

It is time council staff were reduced especially at the top level where salaries are extremely high.

I want the Council to be more efficient. They have wasted a huge amount of money over the years, including fancy plans demonstrated at Whitesands to protect against flooding then never implemented.

As an older second home owner the most pressing issue for me is the potential (indeed actual) closure of public toilets. I have already been inconvenienced by the partial closure of the toilets at the Whitesands and the apparently complete closure of those at Sandyhills. As an area which aims to increase its attraction to visitors and holidaymakers this seems a step too far.

I feel very strongly against any cuts in services that affect children with additional support needs and the support they receive in schools. From my own experience, we need more support and definitely not less support in schools for these children. Teachers are faced with very real challenges, where often the health and safety of the individual as well as that of their peers can be significantly impacted. It is putting teachers under too much pressure and this will lead to staff absences and the costs of covering a class. I work in a nursery where we have several staff working with the children and have areas where we can remove a child too when challenges arise. The thought of being a lone teacher in a class which includes children with additional support needs is unfathomable to me. I really believe the decision makers need to spend time in the classrooms to see for themselves the reality of working with ASN children before deciding to make any cuts to this service.

I also do agree with the closure or mothballing of small school. It costs a huge amount of money to open, fuel, cater and maintain schools and it does not make sense to have all these costs for really small numbers of children. I also do not feel it is in the children's best interests to be in such a small peer group.

Turn off street lighting in suburban housing areas between midnight and 5am

Schools need more crossing patrols, not less. Also need more classroom assistants to help with children. Perhaps not to spend obscene money on painting fountains, and more on the regions roads. The council tax I pay, I cannot see where it's going. Ridiculous.

It is difficult to really comment on some of these proposals as it is not clear what the implications will be, if any. And how some if it will work in practice e.g. centralising the technicians (what if the technician lives in Stranraer but needs to give support in Dumfries?).

I am writing regarding your current mothballing policy (10 pupils) and proposed expansion (25 pupils), which represent both a legal breach and a systematic attack on rural education provision.

Legal Framework Violations:

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 explicitly prohibits:

Automatic closure/mothballing triggers based on pupil numbers

Financial considerations as primary drivers

Bypassing statutory consultation requirements

Predetermined outcomes without individual assessment

Both policies fundamentally breach these requirements and are ultra vires because:

They create arbitrary numerical triggers

Bypass mandatory consultation processes

Fail to prioritize educational benefits

Ignore individual school circumstances

Misuse mothballing as a de facto closure mechanism

Rural Impact Analysis: your policies disproportionately target rural communities through:

Direct Impacts: Forced family relocations

Community service reduction

Population sustainability threats

Cultural heritage erosion

Intergenerational connection breakdown

Economic Consequences:

Reduced local employment

Decreased property values

Limited business development

Service provision decline

Population reduction acceleration

Hidden Costs:

Increased transport expenses

Environmental damage

Road safety concerns

Child wellbeing effects

Community cohesion loss

Legal Vulnerabilities:

Both policies are particularly susceptible to challenge because they:

Target protected rural provision

Ignore statutory safeguards

Bypass consultation requirements

Prioritize financial over community benefits

Fail to consider alternatives as required by law

Mothballing Definition:

Scottish Government guidance explicitly states mothballing:

Is for temporary, emergency situations only

Cannot be used as a pre-closure mechanism

Must not be policy-driven or systematic
 Requires individual justification
 Must follow consultation requirements

Required Considerations:
 Any school change proposals must legally assess:

Educational benefits (as primary consideration)
 Community viability impact
 Alternative provision quality
 Transport implications
 Economic sustainability
 Social cohesion effects
 Rural protection requirements

Recommendations: Immediate Actions Required:
 Withdraw both current and proposed policies
 Review all ongoing mothballing cases
 Reset consultation processes
 Engage with affected communities

Develop Compliant Approach:
 Individual school assessment
 Full statutory consultation
 Educational benefits focus
 Community impact evaluation
 Alternative option exploration

Consider Alternative Solutions:
 Digital learning hubs
 Community facility integration
 Shared service provision
 Flexible staffing models
 Inter-school collaboration

Rural-Specific Approach:
 Support rural sustainability
 Protect community assets
 Consider seasonal variations
 Enable population growth
 Preserve educational access

Your proposed policy change would be subject to immediate legal challenge as it appears to:

Bypass statutory consultation requirements
 Prioritize financial over educational benefits
 Create an automatic trigger mechanism not permitted under the Act
 Potentially misuse mothballing as a de facto closure mechanism
 Disproportionately impact protected rural communities

I strongly recommend immediate withdrawal of both policies and the development of a legally compliant

<p>approach that considers schools individually, prioritizes educational benefits, and protects rural communities as required by law.</p>
<p>You must keep youth services as they are and find ways to enhance using community development because these people are the only ones dealing with the realities faced by our youth CAMHS is failing so many our region is revered across Scotland for its mental health and wellbeing support especially this can't be lost</p>
<p>Given the strong evidence that children with a poor start in life can add considerably to later social and economic costs, and that improving that start can reduce those costs, it would seem sensible to invest in those early years. This is a long term view, so often missing in public expenditure.</p>
<p>I certainly support an increase in council tax if this were to alleviate some of the pressures the council faces; however, I would expect the council to streamline it's own efficiencies if this were to be the case. I particularly support the retention of primary schools in rural communities that are able to maintain a roll call of greater than 10 pupils, as the closing/mothballing of these facilities instigates a downward spiral of families leaving or not moving into rural communities. Rural primary schools are often the lifeblood of the community. An exodus of rural families creates a housing gap often filled with incoming retirees who bring little into the area in terms of contributions through employment, but drain resources through increased healthcare needs, and ultimately push up rural property prices.</p>
<p>Given the level of investment from the private sector in renewable energies and supporting infrastructure, local authorities should be able to benefit from these developments in much the same way as community councils. There are often multi-million, multi-year funding pots available and it would only be fair that a proportion of this is re-invested for the benefit of ALL the residents of Dumfries & Galloway, not just those communities within a certain area. Natural Capital is another area that should bring revenue into the area that is only currently being whispered about: liaison with SOSE to draw in investment in services is an area the council should be exploring.</p>
<p>There's money out there... please don't start closing schools.</p>
<p>Had the impact on littering and fly tipping been considered if the waste proposals were to be approved?</p>
<p>I tried to eliminate the expenditure that I thought unnecessary, but I realise it is not an easy task.</p>
<p>The impact on schools if you reduce the support will have a significant impact on the children and staff's wellbeing. The children are requiring additional support to help them be able to be in a classroom not take that away.</p>
<p>Do not commit funds to a Galloway National Park. A National Park will increase the need to fund enhanced local services to benefit non residents and add additional layers of bureaucracy, all while we are looking for ways of cutting spending on these services. Doesn't add up.</p>
<p>I would suggest you look at council procurement policies- costs could be reduced if ridiculous prices weren't being paid for average service. I would also suggest that the proposed cuts to Education are ridiculous- how is it possible to cut ASL teachers when need is increasing? Why would you take away inclusion bases when you offer no real specialist provision across the authority? Why would you remove PTs of Play Pedagogy when this is something that is most definitely not embedded and staff still require support with in order to meet the expectations of Education Scotland? I appreciate these potential savings seem like they could work on paper as it doesn't technically increase pupil/teacher ratios etc but these changes would lead to the children in this authority receiving a significantly worse educational experience and staff would be pushed to breaking point. I do appreciate that the budget is a real challenge but you cannot simply cut and then not expect there to be consequences. I found it interesting that some of the options were to start enforcing rules that already exist e.g. about commercial waste. How has this not already been enforced? How much potential revenue has been lost over the years and why was it deemed unnecessary to bother enforcing these rules? The budget should be considered from the perspective of the future we want to create. We need high quality services to attract people to the region. I would focus on a strategy to increase revenue by increasing the population and encouraging families to settle here.</p>
<p>Why not charge for youth beats ? £5 to £10 . Family ticket? Things don't need them to be free to be accessible to all.Are there empty properties that the council own? If so sell or use them. Copy the planting at the Cuckoo bridge in other areas, saving on buying plants and the time on planting .</p>
<p>It looked amazing.</p>

<p>Please limit cuts to education. Its already at breaking point and it will just end up costing more in the long run with kids having to be educated outwith the region, increased challenging behaviours and staff sick leave as a result.</p>
<p>I appreciate this suggestion is probably a national decision for local authorities - How about cutting the number of councillors in each ward? Do we actually need four in each ward? Quite a saving to be had per year in wages and expenses. I think this would be more popular with the D&G residents than making cuts in Education, especially to ASfL and Inclusion.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the staff that you have employed and stop paying for consultants. 2. When people buy or rent property whether private or commercial, there should be a clause/agreement that they are responsible for the maintenance of that property and land if they fail to do that, three letters will be sent out to adhere to their agreement or the Council will repair and do the necessary and a bill will be sent to the owner. I am disgusted with the amount of tree's and bushes growing out of the guttering's and rotten windows and as for the Uniroyal factory on the Edinburgh road you should be embarrassed letting a listed building get in that state, it should be demolished.
<p>There is so much duplication of provision that could be streamlined. As a parent of an autistic child I had no idea who the autism support care experienced team are or what they do. Utilise the third sector and stop trying to do everything in house for far higher wages than those in the 3rd sector. Also do you still have a no redundancy policy? If so, why? It makes no sense.</p>
<p>I think it is completely bizarre that during the consultation on the school day one of the positives was it would encourage teachers to our area and then a month later to save money one of the options is to reduce the number of teachers already here.</p>
<p>Have a serious review of your workforce from the bottom to the top and ensure all are effectively deployed and working to capacity. Remove home working to get staff back into offices thereby creating better and more efficient work environments to actually then undertake some work. Make staff accountable. Encourage staff to work because they want to work or should work.</p> <p>Impose a council tax charge on those on benefits and actually enforce it.</p> <p>Reduce benefits / universal credit so that a household can not received any more than minimum wage equivalent of two working adults.</p> <p>Improve the appearance of principle towns by engaging the outdoor workforce to be more proactive in keeping the streets tidy and town walking trails (Burns Walk for example) clear of rubbish/ vegetation and give visitors to the town somewhere nice to explore.</p>
<p>A team should focused on looking into increasing the efficiency of licence applications and the number of stages required to approve requests/ licences (every time someone deals with a stage of the process there is an additional cost be it ££ or time - there appears to be far too many unnecessary stages in multiple procedures (similar to a lean manufacturing team)</p>
<p>I attend a Rehab session in the Ryan Centre once a week and we would be devastated to lose the cafe. Missing out on this socialisation would have a detrimental effect on our mental health.</p>
<p>I attend a Rehab session in the Ryan Centre once a week and we would be devastated to lose the cafe. Missing out on this socialisation would have a detrimental effect on our mental health.</p>
<p>The Ryan Centre cafe is an excellent community hub for all ages. It would have a devastating impact on the facility if it were to be closed - directly impacting on memberships, party bookings and the social value it provides to the Town. A more in depth analysis of the facility in terms of costs should be sought before making any detrimental decisions that could negatively impact the facility in the future.</p>
<p>You should consider adopting more environmentally friendly procurement policies within the council, particularly in relation to procurement of Technology services. Where possible council services should be provided by local companies to reduce the cost and environmental impact of the support of those services and their delivery.</p>
<p>The whole council set up is financially cumbersome. The council should be run as a business and not a club. Current officers could not run a bath. Totally ineffective and disgraceful.</p>

<p>Education should not be cut. Education is so important, there are more SEN children than ever and if this was cut it could be very harmful. There is also a rise in bad behaviour. Learning assistants are paramount in the classrooms. Schools need these assistants to function. It is a total joke that education should even be considered for cuts. Cut the wages of the people at the top that make all the stupid decisions!!!! They are obviously not in the real world!</p>
<p>I really feel for you all having to find this shortfall, having worked in local government I know this isn't easy and it is a travesty that you have been put in this position.</p>
<p>I eagerly watch the council tax charges. I feel that my house is unfairly high probably by 2 bands, I did ask for an assessment but now it cannot happen as I have lived in it too long. My partner died and although I now get the 25% discount, I have to find the cost of paying it rather than it coming from his pension. To increase it further would further my financial hardship.</p>
<p>The inefficiencies of these services are a prime reason for my reasoning to support savings. Just as obvious, is the recent management restructure, creating new jobs, despite the impending budget cuts. Another example, in the education sector, there are less jobs forecast in education and yet, there is not a proportionate amount of cuts to positions (of senior ex-staff) within the council education department. Far too many layers of management and not enough base-line workers to justify these layers of management.</p>
<p>I strongly feel that reduction in education service is a poorly thought out idea after seeing countless newspaper articles, Facebook media posts and negative press I believe a lot of others agree. It certainly not promoting Getting it right for every child.</p>
<p>There are not enough people working at ground level and an overload of Management in Council Departments. The department I am in has halved in numbers but the number of management posts has not reduced. We still have the same if not more work to carry out which leads to more complaints from members of the public when we have to take longer to carry out their complaints/requests. There are too many departments with ever changing names which are confusing to members of the public too.</p>
<p>Abolish working from home Abolish the ability to compress working hours into 4 days. Scrutinise the use of flexi investigate thoroughly the implementation of chief officer wage increase/review. elected members should be voluntary council chief officers/managers who make decisions should reside within Dumfries and Galloway and ideally understand the needs of the region. More opportunities for career pathways within the council. no need to hire from outwith the region. (Knowledge and experience would remain) cleaning of pavements etc outside residential homes should be the stopped and responsibly of this should lie with the homeowners council departments should be allowed to make in income as a trading arm through charges for services, providing staff etc.</p>
<p>Rather than this being the only option for comment I feel for each topic there should have been an opportunity to comment. Please try not to cut any future education budget. It's only through children being educated educating that we have any hope for the future generation that the local!! A few less management (why the need for so many?) and more people in jobs would help local people. it wasn't all bad in the past so why not try and look back and see what worked in the 70', 80's and 90's and adopt the best practice from them. A manager of a department should come from that background at ground level so they have a real understanding of the job they are trying to do!</p>
<p>It's very disappointing to see schools, school staff and rural schools taking a huge hit on a majority of your budget saving proposals. Children attend school for more than just "to learn", it is a safe space, a hot meal and so much more, and to see the staff and support be cut down even more is really disheartening. These proposals do not consider the children within our region. Who are in-fact the future of our region.</p>
<p>School support/clerical/admin staff may be able to be reduced in certain schools/situations however on the whole I believe there is a misunderstanding of how valuable school clerical/admin staff are to their respective schools and this should not be overlooked.</p>
<p>Pay decrease for councillors in charge</p>

My main thing I think is the biggest waste of money on is youth beatz awful how much money is spent on it . I think schools like St Teresa's should be closed the children could go to north West and save some money there's not many pupils there half of the building is shut down such a waste. I was surprised to see how much is spent on social work I don't know what the money goes on because I've had social work a few times for petty reasons and I think they are the biggest waste of space and do nothing apart from waste time they stay around longer than they always say was told would have a 12 week assessment it lasted over a year they done that so many times if they get people assessed then they go away it would help their load cases.

Review what work is done in certain jobs to see if they are needed, try to use local contractors and businesses as much as possible to save on time and travel, better use of wind farm money to benefit whole area instead of just spending money on projects in villages that are not supported and just spending for the sake of spending and wasting money

Disappointing to see DGC proposing to reduce waste collection services when we drove from ecclefechan to Annan today and see bin lorries stationary in every lay-by, including lay-bys with no DGC bins. Do they all take their lunch between 1 and 2???

It is beyond belief that an area considered for cutbacks involve special needs education and youth projects. Perhaps the council needs to look at its own expenditure? Red tape along with staff who are clearly incompetent are the problem!

Don't cut back on special needs education and support!!! I have a disabled brother and he needs all the support he can get. This is unfair to all special needs children and their families. Please consider inclusion and diversity. What you are suggesting is not inclusive and fair practices!

Reduce the costs associated with Council Members. Reduce travel costs. Hold salaries at current levels. Reduce the number of Committee and Council meetings,

Delegate more to officers.

Reduce the costs of meetings management and administration.

Leave our services alone youthwork is a big part of the region and would be Ashame to lose any staff

the reason why i made those choices because loads of people enjoy youthbeats and youthwork, people with additional support needs, need help, there are loads of people who needs jobs to pay their bills and there are people in need such as poverty who are struggling to provide a living to support their family. so anything with equality and those who are less fortunate than others, i will advise you to keep.

You should be looking at getting rid of unnecessary management positions. Also stop wasting money on ridiculous things i.e. Dumfries Fountain, Dock Park etc

Minimise cuts to education as much as possible as schools have suffered enough cuts and are barely managing with the resources they have. Any further cuts will greatly affect the quality of education that is able to be provided. Schools are providing massive amounts of support outwith education, in particular they are helping to offset great levels of poverty by providing meals, warm spaces, pre loved clothing etc. They are also providing family support that would have been provided by the social work department, but is no longer due to severe cuts in that department also. The real cuts need to be made within council management roles which are often duplicated. Antiquated council buildings which are costly to heat and maintain. Encourage working from home where the service allows and will not be negatively affected. Review long term sickness in council employees. Council run gyms and pools etc could be charging more to generate income. Parking wardens are greatly needed in the region and have the potential to generate a high amount of income. Parking charges of even £1 per hour would be sufficient in raising income. Stop hitting the tax payer by raising council tax again. We are paying enough for the minimal service we receive. Roads are worse than they have ever been, bins are emptied 2 weekly, which cannot increase. The streets are a mess with weeds and moss covered pavements. Grass in communal areas is barely cut. Council tax should not be raised until the level of service can be improved. Rates should be reviewed urgently and made more competitive to encourage business back into the town centre. Our massively under populated town centre is a huge symbol of the councils failure to move with the times. More people are online shopping. If you fail to be more competitive with the rates to encourage a greater of variety of businesses into the town. The high street will be even more vacant than it is. It can be done, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright, Gatehouse of fleet and lockerbie high streets are thriving. Dumfries town centre is dying and crumbling due to poor maintenance. Stop blocking out of

town retail applications that public actually want, this is how people wish to shop now. I cannot see why these are blocked (next) they would be a large employer and generate income and increased visitors to the town. Everyone in my age group 30-35 and younger are travelling out of town every other weekend for clothes shopping, to the cinemas and lesiure facilities we lack here. Please consider a fresh approach to what the town needs and wants. Otherwise no amount of council tax rises will fund the gap of young people leaving the ghost town as soon as they are able!!

Dumfries and Galloway Council is uniquely positioned to capitalise on the immense value of data as a strategic asset. By strengthening its data capabilities, the council can achieve efficiencies, realise meaningful savings, and improve service delivery without compromising quality. A dedicated Data Team would represent a forward-thinking investment, empowering the council to innovate, collaborate, and excel.

Key Focus Areas for a Data Team:

System Integration: Unify multiple systems into a central data repository to streamline operations, improve accuracy, and eliminate duplication.

Business Intelligence: Provide actionable insights for evidence-based decisions and performance improvements across departments.

Predictive Analytics: Anticipate service demands in areas like social care and education, enabling proactive and efficient resource allocation.

Revenue Generation: Explore dynamic pricing for services and secure data-sharing agreements with partners to generate additional income.

Strategic Partnerships:

The Data Team would collaborate with The Data Lab and The Digital Office to access cutting-edge methodologies, drive skills development, and align with Scotland's "Once for Scotland" initiatives, ensuring Dumfries and Galloway Council remains at the forefront of innovation.

This approach directly supports council priorities, including enabling business growth, optimising waste and infrastructure management, supporting vulnerable residents, and improving community outcomes. A Data Team would complement existing savings proposals by identifying cost reductions, streamlining procurement, and achieving efficiencies while enhancing service delivery.

A dedicated Data Team would not only deliver tangible cost savings but also drive innovation across all aspects of council operations. Its ability to forecast needs, engage communities, and optimise resources aligns perfectly with Dumfries and Galloway's strategic goals, ensuring the council is both efficient and future-ready. This team would transform challenges into opportunities, providing an invaluable foundation for a thriving, data-driven local government.

Schools are already running thinly on the ground and the prospect of losing clerical, ASfL teachers and inclusion bases will have a negative impact on those teachers in schools.

I think even the idea of raising council tax is an absolute joke. Our household already pays £200 a month!....and for what?

Funds are hugely mismanaged by most local authorities and the government who are all run by people who have never lived in the real world and are happy to claim expenses and take home big wages (and pensions) while everyone else suffers.

We are taxed in every single thing we do and the country has had enough. This country is a joke.

I do not agree to school pupil numbers being increased from 10 to 25 when schools are being considered for mothballing. Thats a large increase 150%

Review staff in redeployment pool, setting a 2 years maximum time in this pool.

Too much money wasted on layers and layers of staff sitting in non existent meaningless jobs. Money wasted with staff running all over region fuel and staff time. Staff in Stranraer running to Dumfries staff in Dumfries running to Stranraer fuel staff time and vehicle maintenance. More control needed in this area as its been going on for years. All travel should be more closely scrutinised including Councillor expenses as it could all be done on teams. Cut back on all additional ecpenses for councillors sitting on various committees and pay them basic councillor wage. People are visiting librarys and half dozen staff sitting doing nothing. Still far too many managers sitting in nothing jobs that could be done away with. If you looked at all management posts

throughout council and trimmed them back there would be enough money to deliver services that are doing work. Councils wasting millions pounds doing buildings up next thing selling them off for peanuts. public toilets and community facilities should be protected as should all vital services like SW Education Waste collection and Grounds maintenance etc Cleaners and Toilet attendants Leisure attendants. Cut back on all the nothing jobs mid management and above and you will probably find you have plenty of money to protect vital services. When cutting back on Community facilities make sure you keep them in areas that have nothing eg Cairnryan third biggest port in country and could be used in Councils Emergency Plan after all its in between two major ports. Look at closing them in areas that have multiple buildings that can be used eg Newton Stewart Wigtown Dumfries etc instead closing brand new facilities and spending millions on McMillan Hall and Wigtown Hall to name a few start being fair for change. Cairnryan has two biggest employers in area and millions visitors year going through it start having proper think about this as this could be only impression visitors have off the D and G. Area that you want to encourage people to visit etc

I have particular concerns about item 4.07, the restructuring of the Early Years Support services. It appears very likely that this 'budget saving' would involve the loss of a significant number of front facing jobs, most notably within the Educational Visiting Service. This is not clear from the wording of the proposal document and I have concerns about the impact this lack of clarity will have on the legitimacy of this consultation, as stakeholders are not fully aware of what they are agreeing to. The Educational Visiting Service are a team of specialist teachers who support children aged 0-5 with complex additional support needs and their families. The number of children with complex needs continues to rise and these children and their families are already among the most marginalised in our communities, particularly in rural parts of the region. Further cuts to the service they receive would be, in my opinion, devastating. The work of this team is carried out in Early Learning and Childcare settings - predominantly nurseries and childminders - and within homes and is highly valued by stakeholders whenever service evaluations are conducted. In addition to supporting caseload children and their families, the service offers a well used and highly regarded Virtual Consultation system which allows professionals and parents to access a specialist teacher via Teams regardless of where they are in the region. The service also offers comprehensive training packages for staff, including the therapeutic intervention VIG/VERP which has a strong evidence base and is recommended by NICE guidelines. I am extremely concerned that none of this information is widely known and of the potential impact should the service be significantly reduced or lost altogether.

Don't take support teachers away. I have two autistic kids and they simply wouldn't be at school with out learning support teachers.

Councilers should cut their own pay before schools are touched.

From a mother of three who is dyslexic and knows how important school, teachers and supportive staff are in schools.

N/a

Reduce number of Managers and middle Management staff in all departments and invest in more frontline staff.

In the roads department stop spending £46000 on jet patching works per week which is a total waste of money and buy a spreader to carry out works. Also stop putting works out to contractors and keep it in house as the men are more that capable on doing the works.

Any existing Council property should be taken into consideration for disposal, to raise as much capital as possible.

Licence local windfarms with a local tax to support communities and ensure funds are not frittered away on non essential ideas of local community councils.

There are some short term gains for long term loss. Eg making the place more unattractive to visitors investors, less preventive in social health and well-being rebounding on other services
Leave the leisure facilities alone they are crucial to health and physical and mental well-being

Having worked in a school, I am aware of the daily struggles for pupils and staff alike, but monies were going to the wrong places. Classes like Home Economics, where pupils are taught how to cook a healthy, quick meal, couldn't afford to teach cooking as the budget to buy the ingredients was almost nil after funding went into PE or other classes deemed more important. I understand the need for equality in that some pupils

<p>couldn't afford to pay for the class but surely there is a way for those who can afford to subsidise the class to pay for theirs, either per class or as a one off at the beginning of the term. They always managed to come up with the funds for a trip if they wanted to go.</p> <p>Teachers were not always able to keep pupils in class. In primary schools, that usually meant a member of the ASL team had to go with them to make sure they were safe and not "making wrong choices". This is disruptive and unfair to all involved. Schools are no longer seen as a place to learn, but glorified babysitting for a lot of families. At this point a message should go to the parents to come and collect the disruptive young person so the staff can be where they need to be.</p> <p>Clerical/Admin staff on Band 2 wages do a power of work and, unless the post is no longer required, these posts are essential. They are the backbone of the school as all staff and pupils use the school office daily.</p> <p>Council Buildings - Any empty buildings, or those that are beginning to cost more money have to be either let out or sold on. Any land that is sitting unused, listen to the community round about instead of a blanket response to any queries on using it. Then let it to communities, charities or businesses. It will bring in some revenues - better than nothing.</p>
<p>I have read over the summary templates. In my opinion, the only savings that should be presented to members is when a service is being removed or reduced to the public. Where the templates are talking about a reduction in staff, Senior Managers have then agreed that the service can run without these staff. This should be implemented now and then revisit what savings are still needed and any impact on services to the public. If Senior Managers are saying a reduction in staff, then lets do this now. Or are all the staff on these templates looking for an enhancement to their Pension.</p>
<p>Shocked that so much £££ being spent on schools not all of us paying council tax have children or even grandchildren</p>
<p>Reduce employee numbers collecting small bins, remove booking system at HWRC, get workers back in the office and increase production, working from home is a sham and closer to semi retirement, get employees back to work who are consistently off sick, monitor social media accounts used during the working day on council computers.</p>
<p>Don't close the Castle Douglas pool. We're surrounded by water, kids need to be able to learn how to swim.</p>
<p>Increasing costs within children's sports is not the way forward when trying to encourage children to be active, healthy and physically fit. Increasing the costs to lessons such as swimming may force the parent to withdraw a child/children from the groups they attend due to affordability. It would be a shame to see a child miss out on a class due to the never ending increase of costs for parents.</p>
<p>Use of wildflowers for bedding plants rather than having to have a nursery, this should be easier to maintain and better pollinators for bees.</p>
<p>Remove layers of management from a top heavy Council and make efficiencies within staff/payroll. It is well known that tax payers are not getting value for money in terms of the efficiency of the Council and its staff. Maybe also actually fixed roads properly rather than doing sub standard temporary repairs that need re done time and time again. Would save money doing it right from the beginning and only needing to do it once. Also, what about stop waste small fortunes on brain dead recycling schemes like the one with black boxes. Not only were the boxes wasted after being purchased but the trucks sat hidden in Currie European hangar for god knows how long and at god knows what cost to us tax payers. The answer is not increasing council tax - we are already getting the least value for money we have ever had in this area. You wouldn't get away with it in the Private sector by charging more and providing less and less.</p>
<p>Stop promoting council officials as away of giving them a pay rise. Most so called management have been promoted well beyond their abilities. It's not what they know that counts, it's who they know. The workforce is top heavy.</p>
<p>Pupils school transport could be means tested as opposed to receiving a free bus ticket if they fall within the travel range. Many people who receive free school transport can afford to pay for their child to travel to school on the bus.</p>
<p>Keep castle Douglas swimming pool. Vital for the community</p>
<p>As a pensioner who regards it as his own responsibility to keep as healthy as possible I use the discounted rates at the Ryan Centre. Removing this facility will make it more economic to use private facilities. This would be an extremely short sighted measure and will drive me into the private sector.</p>

Review and streamline your upper management structure across all areas. Don't reduce services in areas that depends on increased tourism
Reduce expenses entitlement for all council staff. Reduce expenses around Christmas lighting and let communities do this, it may bring them together. Encourage community groups to do more with very small targeted grants. Properly oversee the use of companies outsourced by the council.
Please do not refuse investment in leisure activities as this creates a health timebomb with a hugely increased cost to the council longer term
No cuts for schools as you can see from my answers. Parking charges & FINES. Keep access to exercise and it's affordability where possible. You are all doing a good job wish it were easier. TAX THE RICH.
Some of the management roles within the council need reviewed and streamlined so that more people can be on the floor in schools and supporting children.
Elected member at various Council meetings bringing their own lunch instead of lunches being provided for them. Huge amounts of waste, both monetary and food. Council senior leadership structure is ridiculous. There are so many "layers" all doing exactly the same thing. Posts created that didn't exist before. Too many chiefs and not enough Indians.
Education and youth services must continue to be supported. I would be in favour of a local income tax model.
Don't spend money on projects that nobody wants. le flood defence plans. Just dredge the river. Worked in kendal and it'll work here
Sad to see removal of what I would see as core responsibilities, glad to see what I consider to be waste of money when finically strained
Reduce government expenses by reducing MPs salaries, therefore freeing up extra money for councils to provide the services needed locally
Electric car charging stations for income generation
There are lengthy waiting lists for many children's leisure classes, including gymnastics and swimming. I have been advised that this is due to a lack of coaches/instructors. This has been an issue for many years. There is potential to generate income if the number of coaches/instructors is increased. If it is difficult to attract staff, then 'grow your own' should be considered.
My point is simple. Nearly all of the Scottish governments funds are calculated as a percentage of residents earnings, spending or service use (e.g. road tax). I'm failing to see where that revenue stream has reduced. That being the case, the amount necessary for us to continue to fund services as we did a few/many years ago should still be available, unless government are spending it on something else. So, use our money wisely, instead of trying to make this a better country by giving its residents less! I don't want less, I don't want to pay more, i want the same as I paid for last year and the year before and
You mentioned in your infographic a total of £18 Million spent on "council assets" but this was not on the form as a selection. Also roads and transport maintenance could save money by using the recycled plastic pellet to fill potholes like other towns. It is more hard wearing and would cost less in the long run. It says a lot of money is being spent on communities and leisure but I fail to see where. There is next to nothing left in the town in the way of activities for teens/young people as it is
This survey raises concerns about how council cuts are being prioritised. It is essential to consider cuts that do not harm essential services or negatively impact people's lives. Starting with management costs rather than frontline education should be the priority. Proposals to close smaller rural schools, remove inclusion bases, or reduce the number of teachers and additional learning support would have a devastating impact on education, especially for vulnerable learners and communities that thrive in these settings. Similarly, increasing charges for health and fitness services undermines efforts to encourage healthier lifestyles. These measures risk creating long-term harm rather than improving the lives of those in our communities.
I strongly oppose the suggestion to close castle Douglas swimming pool. Swimming lessons are provided to a large number of children for the locality and there is no clear plan to transfer provision of this to an acceptable alternate location. Many of the children attending these lessons will simply not be able to afford to travel to DG1 or kirkcudbright for weekly lessons.
The Castle Douglas pool has clearly been neglected for many years and is in need of modernisation -

investment in this building would likely bring savings in years to come rather than losing the valued local amenity forever.
Stop wasting money in Dumfries town centre, drop the rates and let smaller businesses be able to afford premises
The deficit in the purse to fund our public services is outrageous. Key services that keep the area clean, tidy and well kept alongside services that provide access to health, well-being and community in my view must be preserved and prioritised alongside education. I am disappointed that there is such a deficit in our local authority run services and must question how there is such a misalignment/lack of balancing the books. A grim outlook with no upside.
My home town of Castle Douglas struggles to provide any form of extra curricular activities for our young people therefore closing the swimming pool and leisure suite would be catastrophic to the town as not everyone can afford to travel to other facilities. I feel other more cost effective savings could be made not at the detriment of our community.
If savings can be realised by not necessarily taking away a service but making it more efficient then that has to be for the best - we must support the more vulnerable folks with additional needs but also encourage everyone to stay healthy and happy in their work environment as well.
Encourage more tourism. Open leisure centre/Swimming Pool car parks in evenings as Aires for motorhome and campervans extra income and they will use facilities for shower additional fees. REDACTED
Please do not close the Castle Douglas swimming pool.
I have noted other ideas at a face to face meeting, but omitted to mention that discouraging keeping fit and healthy into old age, while it may be a short term saving, might ultimately increase council costs elsewhere as the aging population both increases and doesn't stay as healthy as it possibly could be. Maybe increase Prime membership fees if you must, but don't remove it! It might be argued that projects designed to encourage good health and retaining independence longer would be a 'spend to save' investment.
Dumfries town is fast becoming a ghost town we no longer have anything to offer tourists, no shops, a high street full of barbers and empty buildings, this town cannot exist on Robert Burns fame alone, locals will soon be outnumbered by illegal foreigners.
Swimming pool and gym in Castle Douglas must be retained. This is a valuable health and wellbeing resource essential for all ages but especially those of more advanced age. Schools must continue swimming lessons for the future safety of children in water. I would happily pay another £5 a month for my membership as would my husband and friends.
I am particularly concerned that the plan to close castle douglas swimming pool should NOT go ahead. When i moved to Dalbeattie 5 years ago, having a pool closeby was one of the things that attracted me to live here! I am a keen swimmer and like to go swimming at CD twice a week. This is a short drive from Dalbeattie for me and i find swimming very relaxing and good for my mental health as well as great for my physical health, keeping muscles strong and i like to stretch in the water for flexibility also. If CD pool closed i would have to drive twice the distance, to Dumfries or Kirkcudbright. This would not be a short easy drive like CD, instead- to Dumfries it would be a long drive with stressful traffic, etc for the last few miles so it would undo the relaxation benefits of the swim and reduce my motivation to go. Also the cost of petrol would double as it would be a 30 mile round trip and a swim would become very expensive. I would rather drive to Kirkcudbright pool than dumfries- Driving to Kirkcudbright would also be a longer journey and expensive, and i would have to join that pool instead of D&G leisure, so the council wouldnt be getting any money off me!. So please dont close CD pool! Both from a personal point of view and for all the local kids who learn to swim there & use it for leisure it would be a bad move, and would have health implications for the other pool regulars that i see every week- some are elderly and would find it difficult to go swimming elsewhere. Please close a few recycling centres instead- i dont mind driving further to dump rubbish! REDACTED
Charge for car parking in town centres

Back the SNP and all who argue for Scottish independence within the EU. Within an independent Scotland, not hamstrung by Brexit, the Council will have far more money to spend on our services.
Reduce the electricity bills by using solar panels etc on all council properties, use of batteries and selling unused electricity back to the grid will not only cut electricity bills but also generate income, especially in schools which are closed through the sunny summer months
Many of these savings seem to affect the disadvantaged or those who may be struggling, which is a concern. Also raising leisure prices would be counterproductive, in that it would make people less likely to participate and gain the health benefits of exercise, especially in an aging population. This may lead to increased morbidities and pressures on the NHS. Any merit in opt-out schemes for leisure as part of council tax? What about a D&G lottery scheme, again an opt-out from the council tax?
Don't stop the youth work funding and youthbeatz funding - it helps so many young people get to do amazing things that they wouldn't get to do otherwise.
Reduce council management numbers and the use of council vehicles for management to go home with.
Closing inclusion bases in schools is unacceptable. There are already many pupils in mainstream classes who need more help yet don't receive any. How will these children receive a suitable education in mainstream? How can that be achieved when there is also suggestion of cutting additional support for learning staff?!
Feel strongly that cuts should not be made at the expense of our children. A lot of these proposals seem to be at education and support roles. Can't understand the amount of money that seems to be wasted on consultations?
We feel the catering cafe at Ryan centre Stranraer is not utilised well and a waste of space and funds for staff. Food options available is a lot of fried food . Quality is poor. The kids chicken nuggets aren't fit to be fed to a dog let alone a child. We no longer use it after witnessing a female "chef" employed here outside the building smoking a cigarette, dropping the butt and walking inside to start a shift!!!! Close the cafe and save some money please!!!! I think there is money to be saved from not giving food waste liners. They don't get used effectively and you see them strewn on streets on delivery days. I like living in D&G but do despair at some actions from the council and what they see as a priority.
Do not bring in parking charges to Dumfries it is one of the best things about Dumfries and means I use the parking to access services in town, via the ability to park easily. Public transportation is too expensive and not an effective use of time to utilize and we have seen other town centers destroyed with the introduction of parking charges.
Stop making people book everything on line and limiting numbers the swimming pool are empty now COVID IS OVER let people walk up and pay
Completely remove the free gym memberships for the illegal migrants, people on benefits and any other free loaders that get the gym, swimming pool, sauna etc for free. They already get enough of the taxpayers money.
My concerns would be the closure of castle Douglas pool this is a life line for a lot of individuals in the stewardry area It would be detrimental to physical and mental wellbeing for many individuals. Especially my husband's rehabilitation
Increasing prices and entry to already under used leisure facilities will discourage anyone from using it altogether . Booking system does not work and ensures that staff only have limited number per hour . No promotion or flexibility for anyone just to turn up and use facilities as it's rigid in entry to hourly slots ! Turn up 15 mins into slot, you don't get in.. having to wait, which no one does for next hour to begin . You can go to Ayr, Carlisle , glasgow , anywhere else and just turn up pay, get a band and go for a swim, which we do out with Dumfries, due to lack of flexibility and rigid rules . There should be no need to book for anyone .
I feel in many areas there are too many managers and not sufficient workers and savings could be made in that area...
As a rural community it is imperative that we support rural schools so I do not support any changes that will increase the likelihood that small schools will close against the wishes of parents
Accessible sports health centre facilities are currently very good. I use both DG1 and especially Sanquhar 'Fun Pool'. Any reduction in provision here I believe would be short sighted. The current charges allow for participation across all income brackets ie monthly membership fee represents good value for money.

Fitness and good health go together and ultimately reduce the financial burden on the medical service provision.
Education is heavily affected in the proposed budget. This is not the right decision. Admin, technicians, learning support and inclusion officers all have massive roles within schools. Retention of teachers, particularly in secondary schools, is dropping. Implementing more cuts to staffing and management would be detrimental to teacher retention. Additional support needs in schools are continuing to increase, not reduce, yet the proposal is to reduce support for pupils with additional support needs. Stress amongst education staff is also increasing which has a negative impact on absence due to mental health. The proposed cuts would likely increase classroom teacher stress.
Castle Douglas swimming pool is an asset to the town and is used by many. It should not be closed.
Budget cuts on education would be a disaster
It would be extremely unfair to close Castle Douglas swimming pool and could spark protests.
I work in healthcare. Key priorities must be basic human needs such as health and wellbeing.
Please retain all leisure facilities and opening times. These are places for people to gain or maintain fitness and health, a social place and a community hub. Removal of provisions may lead to health issues, isolation and lack of community support and engagement
I do understand that money is tight but a long term view is needed and if you take the money away from education and youth work etc you will have much less money in the future as young people who would then be your earners will not be able to earn the same. There should be more investment in education of all!
The fact that you want to increase council tax and reduce so many services is vile
How about reducing illegal immigration for starters and handing these people free housing whilst working class families have to wait years for a starter . Getting rid of half of these managers on over 70k a year doing absolutely nothing to benefit Dumfries and Galloway . Creating jobs in the region for locals creating more taxpayers . Wasting money on I pads that nobody uses .
Public health is one of the key regional and national targets. It's difficult to understand how increasing barriers through reduced opening hours and increasing costs to the public is going to help achieve this. Dumfries and Galloway is known for having a population with poor physical health, council facilities should help support the local population to improve and maintain their health and meet government guidelines for physical activity. Some of these proposed budgets are very surprising and give the impression that the council has little consideration for their local population and the long term regional and national goals.
Please don't increase parking charges.. we need to find ways to encourage people to stop and visit the town. Find ways to divest empty and decaying old buildings. Charge property owners who don't look after their properties or leave them empty additional maintenance.
Ask community groups to help with voluntary keeping streets / property clear of weeds and other debris. Enforce building owners to maintain their property Sell off plethora of council owned buildings lying empty
Some of these proposals are counter intuitive. A short term saving but a longer term cost...please think about this, example closing lay-by bins will lead to more garbage on roads, especially A75 which has a shocking death rate already. Having rubbish blowing about the roads is hardly going to help and will cost more in cash and in human suffering. Plus the image of the region will be adversely hit. Reducing bin collections will increase vermin, increase fly tipping etc etc...again this is ridiculously short sighted and easily predictable to what will happen. Please consider taking on the government allocation by simply not producing a balanced budget, saying it is impossible to do so. I doubt councillors went into the position to take away services, stand up for the region and make sensible savings. The proposals to take away services, reduce or increase costs for pensioners,

children and the disabled should NOT even be negotiable....DO NOT remove services for the vulnerable. Be brave as a council, do not accept ridiculous cuts to service.

When I read this I fear for the region. I appreciate the predicament....but simply accepting is not an option...please be brave, you will be judged on how you manage this.

The rural landscape across Dumfries & Galloway needs its roads infrastructure/repairs prioritised above non essential Dumfries work.

More focus on environmental sustainability - you will save money and resources by making sure the council employees, schools, contractors, amenity sites etc have fully implemented ethos of reuse and repurposing of items and composting systems.

The Council needs to have a county- based facility where all food and green/garden waste is composted. This matter can then be returned to those residents that want it (by having, for example one or two open days where people can collect it) as well as provide income generation by the Council selling this as soil improver. See York and other local councils which already do this. It is ridiculous that you have no facility to process our food and green/garden waste and it is instead transported hundreds of miles away and used in a different county.

The Council should be empowering local communities also to compost as communities.

Council parks, managed green spaces and flower beds should be planted up with more perennial plants, edible herbs, fruit trees etc to decrease resources used for wasteful annual bedding schemes. Focus can also be shifted to community engagement using these resources with a view to the availability of accessible, local food this way too.

Schools, nurseries and other educational facilities as well as any care homes etc. run by the Council should have better food policies and provision which would include:

- premises having resources to grow some of their own food/fresh ingredients which are used within their kitchens to feed the children/ people
- engage and increased educational opportunities regarding health food and better nutrition as well as being resilient in growing your own food (which will also affecting health and well-being positively)
- enabling catering contracts to be more accessible to smaller scale growers - allow for more options for local provision, low food miles etc.

Cut back Council Middle Management Costs and no more 10% Annual Salary increases that are currently in place for Managers

Look hard at management levels in all council departments as too much middle management is a dead cost that depletes resources. Also to educated planning and financial staff to treat all finance as if it were their own.

Reducing recycling centre provisions and household waste collections as well as increasing bulky waste prices will encourage fly-tipping.

The consideration to close Castle Douglas swimming pool and fitness facilities is flawed, we will have kids who can't swim! It needs modernisation not closure, the residents of the Stewart's have little in the way of facilities like this in the first place.

We don't all live in Dumfries.

Waste collection to a 3 weekly period would work but first you would need to provide bigger bins especially plastics and general refuse, the current sized ones are not suitable for such a big change. I fear this would lead to an increase in fly tipping.

Parking for free is such a major plus for our region that meddling will cause huge resentment and drive footfall away from our towns

Stop subsidising those who are members of fitness facilities and make unemployed, under 18 and asylum seekers pay the full amount for membership.

Have different memberships for the gym, swimming, classes and sauna. If customers want all of these they pay more. For instance:

<p>Gym only - £30 Gym/swim - £35 Gym/classes- £35 Gym/swim/classes - £40</p> <p>And so on.</p>
Re introduced traffic wardens
<p>There are too many higher Management posts which are not productive and do not help workloads, having meetings about meetings..</p> <p>Closing offices that are not used sufficiently by the public and are only open because local councillors want votes, if there is no or little footfall the services should be consolidated into fewer facilities to allow the council to provide a better less watered down service with fewer staff.</p>
<p>Implement ERVS with compensatory added years to reduce staff costs rather than targeting a specific team / service where younger people affected by the budget may lose their job through efficiencies putting further hardship on families. ERVS as natural process to make way for younger generations with fresh ideas to modernise the council. Hearts and minds - win / win</p>
<p>Too many of the options suggested are focused on Education an area that is underfunded and requires investment and not having money taken from it. How else will standards and attainment be raised?</p>
<p>Removal of the Household Waste Recycling Centre booking system, thus removing the need for constant staff presence, have a set time and day schedule which allows for people to access the centre whenever its open.</p>
<p>You need to keep service for the young people and the very limited leisure facilities available. Young people are our future, prioritise them please.</p>
<p>Reducing learning assistants will have a hugely negative impact on schools for individual pupils and whole classes alike.</p>
<p>I think that functioning of "Leisure centres ' should continue perhaps with reduced hours as they have an enormous benefit for physical and mental health. My grandchildren are learning to swim at Castle Douglas and would lose this important facility.</p> <p>This survey is over inclusive and I gave up half way through</p>
<p>So I think a better approach on how money is thrown to consultations such as the 4 for the future of the cottage hospitals could have been spent better. Was it really necessary to £100,000 to inspect the bridge in Kirkcudbright or where there better and cheaper alternatives available these huge amounts of money being thrown about but is there better cheaper ways of doing things. Councillor receive reimbursements for many things you add up if every Councillor or member of management claims £20 for fuel £20 for lunch and £5 coffee for just doing their job that's a lot of money in a year these expenses need examine as well. Why aren't all community buildings solar powered as you say about lockermoss spend to save and generate a little cushion. The reinstatement of parking wardens would generate significant income but in order to this all painted lines within d&g would need repainted</p>
<p>There are still a lot of people working from home. Either bring them back to work and use the relevant buildings or close the buildings. Cargenbridge is an example. Too much money wasted on things not needed eg The Bridge. This money would have been better used elsewhere. Too many managers making decisions but not actually aware of ground level tasks and responsibilities</p>
<p>Some of the proposals were ambiguous from the brief description included. I did not tick any of those as I was unable to make an informed decision from the information provided.</p>
<p>Make better use of Digital Infrastructure to reduce emissions with fuel, travel, time, resources.</p>
<p>Cuts to education staffing (both teaching and non-teaching) inhibit what schools can do for pupils and are hugely detrimental to young people in our schools. These should be avoided at all costs. There are Education Officer roles that have little to no impact on schools, pupils or families so what are they for?</p>
<p>STOP USING THIRD PARTY STORES/PARTS COMPANY FOR PURCHASING GARAGE PARTS AS THEY CHARGE A PERCENTAGE ON EVERY PART EVEN IF IT IS ALL ON ONE INVOICE IE 1 PHONE CALL = 1 CHARGE NOT 1 CALL = % ON 10 ITEMS</p>
<p>I do not believe there should be any further cuts in Education. I can fully understand closing primary schools that have such a small roll and the large costs of keeping these schools open. It is also in the children's best</p>

interests long term if they are attending a larger school.

One of my main concerns with these potential cuts though is when it comes to support staff working in schools. The number of Support staff working within schools has been cut back significantly over the years and any further cuts I believe would be a step too far and disastrous, having a significant impact on our children's education and causing more pressure on Teachers who rely on the support from all school support staff. One example is School Technicians.

They are often an invisible force within schools, working behind the scenes to facilitate practical STEM work within the classrooms. Even our colleagues and line managers have little understanding of what they actually do. Essentially Technicians in Science and Technical departments prepare materials to be used in practical classroom activities, but this involves so much more than following a scheme of work and delivering resources. Technicians research new techniques, update outdated protocols, maintain and repair equipment, undertake stock control of controlled hazardous substances and requisition materials, ensure safety is foremost, and protect the environment. H&S within STEM spaces is managed by technicians and many SQA mandated practical activities could not go ahead without them being present in the building. Technicians are a skilled workforce trained to respond effectively in incident management, they train teachers in practical skills, advise on safe working practice, support National 5 and Higher practical assignments, lead Advanced Higher project work, facilitate primary transition events and open evenings, and manage the practical spaces within their schools. Technicians also add value to the wider school on a voluntary basis, being involved in: STEM clubs, class demonstrations and teaching skills to students, behind the scenes in school shows and building sets and props, chaperoning residential and day trips saving schools on cover costs, driving the school mini-bus to support extra-curricular, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid duties, repairing equipment from other departments such as Music and PE, they may also provide reprographics and admin support when necessary. This is incredible value good-will that would be lost if Technicians were peripatetic, and could result in more expensive teaching staff or external agency involvement to cover this work. It should be highlighted that Technicians in schools facilitate the Scottish Government STEM Strategy. Without quality, consistent, and present Technician support in Science and Technical departments, D&G Education will be unable to achieve the government agenda of increased practical activities within STEM subjects and attainment will suffer.

I feel that we should also be looking at top line management pay scales. We are no longer in position, to justify the payment of £500K to the Chief Executive, their senior management team also need to look at taking a pay cut. Lead by example. It is not good business practice to take from the bottom of an organisation, in doing so the foundations will crumble and the whole organisation will fall. This seriously needs to be addressed.

More money required for education, at the present we are ranked the lowest area in the whole of Scotland for Education, this is shocking, we need to invest in tomorrows future now.

More teachers, more LA,

We need to stop wasting funds on the Whitesands Flooding Issue, dredge the River Nith, the wildlife will relocate and eventually return. The small businesses located there need a break from the flooding.

Promote DnG, better Marketing, we are an area steeped in history, this needs to be marketed much better, (overseas too, not just UK promotions) increase foot fall, visitors, clean Dumfries up campaign. People will come, spend money, generate more jobs..

We should charge for parking.

We should charge for Youth Beatz, people will pay to come, family tickets etc.....

Stop paying councillors, look for people to volunteer to be on 'make Dumfries better' people passion.

Fewer managers; they are expensive and seem to give little benefit. More front line workers in all sectors

Lay-by bins and household bins full as it without removing them or reducing collections

Castle Douglas Swimming Pool is an important facility to enable users to remain active and to improve mental health issues. Active participation helps reduce possible pressure on NHS It is important that the schoolchildren are given the opportunity to learn to swim in an area with easy access to beaches. Reducing waste collection to 3 weekly is not acceptable. Bins generally are full after 2 weeks and rotting food would create abnoxious smell after 3 weeks. Could consider 3 weekly collection of plastic and paper collections!

Removing roadside bins would result in even more rubbish being deposited on our roadsides!!

Reduce Middle / Higher Management . Investee in a more modern fleet this would save on fuel and reduce breakdown costs .

I am deeply concerned about the potential for the summer play scheme to be ended. I have seen first hand that tis is a life line for some families. I would anticipate that this would only serve to put undue pressure on other services such as the social services dept who will be forced to try and find respite for families (of which resources are extremely limited/ non existent at times).

I believe that as a region we are not making the most out of the potential to generate tourism. Dumfries and Galloway is one of the most historically significant local authorities in Scotland. The fact that the killing of the Red Common is commemorated by a plaque in Greggs is so frustratingly saddening. Castle Hill where Robert the Bruce raised his standard becoming king of Scots. nothing. Recently on a holiday we visited the battle of Bannockburn experience which was busy and incredibly engaging. So much so that we will go back one day - as a region we could have many such experiences/ museums to generate tourism. We do not promote our region enough. We are "The Queen of the South" and yet, there is so little being done to celebrate the enormous impact we have had on not only Scotland but the world!

Furthermore, Dumfries is the birthplace of Peter Pan which as we know was made into a Disney film that is much loved- have attempts been made to link in with Disney to perhaps save Moatbrae or develop other tourist attractions? It feels like there is so much we are not tapping into.

In terms of current events - we are also the home town of Calvin Harris, I wonder if there is a way for him to support Youth Beatz? Could we perhaps honour him in some way that would encourage him to take a real interest in his home town?

In terms of Youth Beatz, I wouldn't be opposed to there being a small charge for tickets - even if it were £10 adult £5 child (and some tickets reserved for our local looked after children) this would perhaps be a way to cover some costs?

If you look at Inverness as an example - it is very similar in size and geography to Dumfries. It is a very busy place with lots of nightlife and a busy high street. We are not taking advantage of the beautiful town we have. It should be the hub of the region but it is not. smaller towns like Castle Douglas have a better high street with local businesses being supported. I believe that we should be encouraging businesses into the high street by making it more affordable to do so. Currently the high street is dominated by vape shops, news agents and barbers.

It may be prudent for the Local Authority to look into purchasing some of the empty shops and leasing them to local businesses (if this is possible) im thinking for example of the empty Dorothy Perkins shop, it could be turned into a place where multiple business owners could be in the same space. I fear we are in a position where we need to spend some money to revitalise the town and make people take pride in it again.

review staff sickness and those that abuse the system

School technicians are often an invisible force within schools, working behind the scenes to facilitate practical STEM work within the classrooms. Even our colleagues and line managers have little understanding of what they actually do. Essentially Technicians in Science and Technical departments prepare materials to be used in practical classroom activities, but this involves so much more than following a scheme of work and delivering resources. Technicians research new techniques, update outdated protocols, maintain and repair equipment, undertake stock control of controlled hazardous substances and requisition materials, ensure safety is foremost, and protect the environment. H&S within STEM spaces is managed by technicians and many SQA mandated practical activities could not go ahead without them being present in the building. Technicians are a skilled workforce trained to respond effectively in incident management, they train

teachers in practical skills, advise on safe working practice, support National 5 and Higher practical assignments, lead Advanced Higher project work, facilitate primary transition events and open evenings, and manage the practical spaces within their schools. Technicians also add value to the wider school on a voluntary basis, being involved in: STEM clubs, class demonstrations and teaching skills to students, behind the scenes in school shows and building sets and props, chaperoning residential and day trips saving schools on cover costs, driving the school mini-bus to support extra-curricular, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid duties, repairing equipment from other departments such as Music and PE, they may also provide reprographics and admin support when necessary. This is incredible value good-will that would be lost if Technicians were peripatetic, and could result in more expensive teaching staff or external agency involvement to cover this work. It should be highlighted that Technicians in schools facilitate the Scottish Government STEM Strategy. Without quality, consistent, and present Technician support in Science and Technical departments, D&G Education will be unable to achieve the government agenda of increased practical activities within STEM subjects and attainment will suffer.

REVIEW THE AMOUNT OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN DUMFRIES , PERHAPS LOOKING TO MERGE SOME OF THEM .

Surely school support staff on 52 weeks contract could have their contracts reduced to 40 weeks , rather than losing their jobs , these folk are essential in the running of schools , eg science technicians .

There are many points that have been suggested that are about re organizing and restructuring to make efficiencies - I think these should automatically be carried out on a regular basis and not in a budget looking at savings. The suggestion to remove funding from Youth Beatz - I have ticked, but actually feel you could charge a subsidized fee which I doubt very much would affect the attendance/ impact on young people. The suggestion of reducing lay by bin and other refuse collection is absurd, if anything it needs increasing. Back to my original point though if something is not cost effective, then change it - if the cost of growing plants in house is significantly more than if you outsourced, then ask the questions why - and change it. The public do not have these figures, so this is not something we can accurately comment on. Finally, if unused council properties are no longer needed/ schools closed - put them up for sale - rather than keep them until they become unfit, and un cost effective. Demographics change - the council need to too.

I do not feel that reducing Additional Support for Learning Teachers/ Staff and closing inclusion bases is a positive way forward.

I understand that education is viewed poorly in modern society with most governments and local authorities viewing education as a money pit. But, education is so vital to the economics and security of rural areas. I find it really disheartening that about 75% of all these questions and aimed at cutting school budgets. You should be ashamed.

I am concerned that a few of these proposals involve children, young people and families either through leisure or school. I do agree that the leisure centre cafe could be run by a private company my other proposal would be maybe charging for ' youth Beatz' as I believe this is a well supported event .

As a parent of children with additional needs I am deeply concerned about the proposed cuts to staffing and support. I agree that the school estate should be reduced - it would be far more effective and efficient to bus children from smaller villages to one facility, provided that facility has excellent support services and teaching staff rather than spreading resources thinly. Arrangements could be made to have additional supervision on buses if necessary, there are ways to make travel for younger children more palatable. Rather than reducing staff numbers, staff should be provided with additional training to be able to teach additional subjects (in terms of secondary education), this would make subject choices more flexible for students who are currently limited by staff shortages. Staff could be redistributed to different schools, or split time between different schools to maintain staffing levels but importantly make that resource more effective.

I believe the council should be looking at longer terms goals rather than immediate cuts over 3 years. Each and every cut will have a knock on impact in communities, and it is highly unlikely a sudden surplus and increased funding will be allocated after these cuts. Budgets appear to be ever diminishing and the council need to look at how to be more self-sufficient and have a stable income out with the council grants as the price of everything increases and the the budget decreases.

The council need to think more like a business and create far more income generation opportunities.

Increasing council tax will generate some funds but not employment opportunities. The council should

consider borrowing as other councils do to undertake a transformation which sees our unique and rural region become less dependant on government grants. The council could boost local economic development by becoming a partner in businesses or providing finance or other support in exchange for lower rates for work etc. More working people means more council tax, more money being spend and reinvested into the local areas. The region is for the most part largely run down and in need of investment which will only come with good skilled employment opportunities.

Second Home/Holiday Home Council Tax - this should be increased for owners who have a first home outwith Dumfries & Galloway. Also, second home owners should pay the full council tax whether or not they have a tenant. And this should be increased for landlords who do not live in Dumfries & Galloway.

Procurement of goods and services within schools - as a teacher I am restricted to buying items (with my dept. budget) from a fixed number of suppliers. I can invariably buy them cheaper elsewhere - this is plain crazy when we are penny pinching.

Speed cameras: the A75 is packed with cars going over the speed limit. More speed cameras on all roads are required and these would generate extra income.

My views are based on what is relevant to myself and family. Obviously others will have different views because of there own circumstances so not all these recommendations will be agreeable to everyone. I don't know about the rest of the region, but in Stranraer there are empty former council offices which have been closed for several years and are falling into disrepair. Could these buildings not be sold off, even at a discounted price before they end up like the George Hotel. Dunbea House being a prime example.

As a teacher I have always been concerned with the efficiency of the procurement process. While I understand that using selected partners for this can offer savings in some areas on the whole giving management more freedom to source items from out with (particularly with PE equipment) would offer further savings.

I'm also concerned that education is being used as an easy option to make savings. For the general public they will notice no/little change (as they're not in the classroom or their children are not in need of additional support). It doesn't effect the services they actually see e.g. bin collections, litter, bus services or parking costs but the reality is far from that.

Cutting support for children across the education sector whether it be Behaviour Specs or Learning Assistants (who I believe we should be investing more money in and paying them a salary that reflects the job they do and not the derisory amount they get now) effects every child not just those with additional needs.

The above also has a knock on effect on the teaching staff as the extra workload and need this creates amounts to more absence through illness and stress related issues. Again the majority of general public don't actually see this so its a free hit for the council. Many times the lack of funding in schools to even purchase the basics (paper and pencils) is hidden by the fact that teachers will purchase these out of their own pocket.

The time and money spent on pushing for an early finish on a Friday was laughable. It received resistance from the start was poorly put together and didn't really offer a big enough change to even convince people who do feel a restructure is needed. Its fanciful ideas like this (that essentially amounted to finishing just over an hour earlier) that frustrate the public and staff within education as it's time and money that could have been spent on real issues (or at least buying paper and pencils).

Now we are aiming to standardise the secondary day which comes across like management feel they need to be seen to do something after the failure of 'early finish Friday'. The reality is every school is different in the same way every child is different and have different needs. This should be left to the management within the school who are best placed to make this decision based around the demographic and travel needs of the children (as we all know one size does not fit all).

If changes like the above are going to have council funds spent on them they need to be meaningful and offer real change not a token gesture or just to be seen to be doing something. For example if you're going to push for an early finish on a Friday why not include the option of moving to a 4 day week? This is the type of

change that although far greater, has the chance to be transformative and has been proven to have positive outcomes in other countries. You would still have the issue of child care but in the long term other companies may see the benefit and choose this route. Allowing parents to spend more time with children, be more active, play more sport, join clubs (which long term lowers the need for spending on health care) and give local people time to spend more money in the local area which helps the economy and local businesses. Yes a longer day might tire children out but they have 3 days to recover and be ready to learn.

Essentially I guess it feels like council spending is often wasted on ideas that although look good and may work in the short term are very rarely transformative which often results in the same issues later down the line. For real change we need to stop looking 12 months to 3 years down the line and look to more transformative change that other countries have or regions have had success with. This is by far not the easiest option but to avoid the same consultation in 3 years time we to change how we operate.

4.02 Create a centralised School Technician Team

I strongly disagree with the proposed consideration above. Having taught in a DG school for the past 8 years, the technicians role is vital to the daily successful running of Learning & Teaching within a department such as Design & Technology. Their incredible wealth of knowledge and expertise can allow the efficient completion of tasks such as fixing machinery, preparing materials/resources and ensuring that workshops are suitably prepared for classes. A technician who is not on hand (having had experience of one only coming on a weekly basis) can have a huge impact to courses we teach and the lessons we deliver. The downtime of a vital piece of machinery could be significant if this was to be made central. A scenario where a machine breaks, technician doesn't come to the following week, checks and realises it needs a part, comes back the week after to fix it. This could lead to several weeks before things could get fixed. Given the fact we already only have a limited number of machine tools/resources in operation could lead to significant disruption to normal class. Not to mention, senior phase pupils sitting N5 D&M and N5 Woodwork - two majority practical based subjects. Having a technician on hand to cut necessary resources/prepare tools for completion of their courses can be vital.

Plenty of other cost effective measures which I agree with but the removal of school technicians towards a central approach is not a feasible one that has longevity. Anyone who has actually worked in a school will know that the role they play (along with other key staff) are actually hugely influential to the successful running of a school. I hope the person tasked with the inevitable decision on this area has experience of being in a school as they will realise the importance of a technicians role within a school and how the removal of this provision to a centralised approach would be a bad decision.

As a secondary school teacher, removing technicians, office/admin staff and ASN teachers/autism support is insane. We could not function as a school without these people and our jobs are becoming more difficult the fewer teachers there are. We cannot reduce these numbers further as integrating these children into mainstream teaching means other learners are impacted - it isn't just a case of saving money but a case of how can we improve our children's education which isn't possible with the proposed changes.

All the savings options need to be implemented to avoid raising council tax at a time of cost of living hardship.

N/A

Substantially increase council tax for second homes and holiday accommodation providers so it will put people off buying properties for holiday use. We already have more than enough provision. Many properties are only used for a few weeks a year. They are adversely affecting our communities, leaving areas with few permanent residents and with the impact that our young people struggle to get on the property ladder.

I completed this with my situation in mind. Also that of the wider community. I use Dumfries carers centre and my granddaughter is a young carer. My grand son has autism. At the moment he doesn't get much help. I would hope with my choices and specialists in schools this would change. I would also like DG carers centre to keep any funding they receive as their job in supporting carers and young carers is vital.

My wife and I are regular attendees of Castle Douglas Swimming Pool and find the staff very friendly and professional. We experience a very positive and beneficial "uplift" in our mental well-being as a result of this regular exercise which I firmly believe to be felt by all who attend. To close this facility will be an extremely detrimental move and will have extremely negative consequences and will reflect badly on the Council at a

time when the importance of a person's mental well-being is receiving so much attention including from such persons as H.R.H William and Catherine .
Please protect agency funding for SOSE & SSDA, please ensure community mental health & wellbeing funding continues.,
I believe some of the proposals could prove even more costly in the future. Schools are challenging and some changes proposed in Education I believe will have a negative impact in the future. I am worried that Attainment across the whole region will suffer even more.
Education is important in levelling up children. Yet the service is top heavy and more Education Officers should be cut from the service. Teachers are needed as they are core to the service. Senior managers - less so! Cuts are being made in core areas such as Learning Support despite higher numbers of pupils with needs and to office staff - who cost very little but provide a very necessary service in supporting the school and the school community.
Currently, the school estate has too many diseconomies of scale. Very small rural schools - while transportation to a larger close school is possible - most people drive and bus services operate. This would mean that larger schools might benefit from a better pupil-to-teacher ratio - since smaller classes enable better behaviour management of marginal students, higher attainment, and less need for additional services such as attendance officers that are so few and far between they are unable to make a difference, less stress among staff - therefore fewer teacher absences. I believe a much more sensible look at education and needs of the children should be carried out looking at the saving that could be made by simply reducing class sized to a more manageable level and at the same time accepting we no longer need to have small village schools.
This budget while providing a range of economic savings seems to be cutting services that employ people leading to more economy in the region - more taxes etc as a consequence and ignoring that there is a very expensive and unnecessary layer of management across the Authority and in education.
I am particularly concerned about the proposed Education cuts as I feel they are setting you up for a future of demoralised workforces and young people with increased emotional needs. The 'perfect storm' combination of reducing support staff and increasing pupil/teachers ratio seems to be incredibly short sighted, especially as the number of pupils with social, physical and emotional needs has in fact risen in recent years. Teachers across Scotland are struggling to support pupils in mainstream settings and it seems like the exact opposite is needed, ie more support staff and lower class sizes. Numbers of additional support staff (classroom support, EaL, etc) in D&G have already dramatically decreased over the last 10 years, and further cuts would be extremely detrimental. Indeed, you might actually be setting yourself up for increased costs because of this. More children will be facing exclusion, needing mental health support, specialist CAMHS teams, and have physical illness, putting strain on other services such as the NHS.
Another area you might reconsider is the closing of public toilets. Having clean and safe public toilets is a disability and inclusion necessity. Many people need to use facilities like this in order to lead a normal life without worry. For some people, the lack of toilets would prevent them from being able to visit certain towns, go on a drive anywhere, or simply live their life in a positive manner. There is also another group of people who rely heavily on places like this. Delivery drivers of all genders across the country need to know where there are WC's that they can use, and many navigate their routes to take this into account. A reduction in such facilities will mean more will be forced to use unsafe and unsanitary places like public laybys and private woodlands, leading to waste on the ground, contamination concerns and safety issues. This is at a time where delivery services are on the rise.
Both of these areas, in relation to cuts, seem to directly contravene the 2010 Equality Act where organisations must ensure that disabled people are not disadvantaged or discriminated against. Both would have negative impacts both disabled and non-disabled people, and both could actually lead to greater costs (in cleaning up the mess, figuratively and literally) in the long run.
Stop giving support workers 7 hrs pay a day when they sometimes only work 2-3 hrs a day Make sure roads are maintained to a high standard to save them keep coming back and ensure that they aren't standing looking like there working when there's nothing for them to do go back to the old ways

<p>Create a system in D&G that allows people to be able to live and work here. I have not got access to enough child care to work full time even though I work for the council. I have found the recruitment process extremely wasteful through poor advertising, vetting of candidates and effective interviews. Short term contracts do not lead to a sustainable work force. This is a lovely area and we need to encourage everyone to feel proud of their area and want to look after it rather than penalising people who are already struggling by taking away services like sports and ASN support. The issues have been emerging for decades. We need more realistic future planning, training and recruitment.</p>
<p>Please do not cut on anything relating to education! We need MORE ASN staff not less. As a teacher our technicians, janitors and admin staff are so important to us. If you cut the budget for them you would put too much pressure and stress on teachers that would make alot of people very unwell. Closing any additional support centres for pupils and placing them back in mainstream is another added upset. We do not have the support, staff or facilities in schools to accommodate this.</p>
<p>D & G Council is Management top heavy. Far too many Teachers now managers who are ineffective. People in posts that cannot do the job should be redeployed to a job more suitable to their skills and qualifications.</p>
<p>Review Dumfries and Galloway council in house spending to ensure money is not been wasted. Ensure any changes do not effect low income families within Dumfries and Galloway. Venue hire at leisure facilities is expensive. I am not in favor of increasing the price of venue hire in leisure facilities.</p>
<p>I feel that too much money is wasted by Dumfries and Galloway Council i.e. recent reduction of school hours survey, huge salaries given to Heads of Service, Whitesands flood prevention programme - this has gone on for years and things are still no further forward!</p>
<p>Cancel the booking system within recycling centres as this will cause less fly-tipping thereby free-ing up resources.</p>
<p>Proposed cuts seem to impact particularly badly on young and vulnerable people. This should not happen - things are tough enough already, especially given increasing levels of ASN and deprivation, especially in Galloway. I question why any money in this country/area is going to be spent on a national park, or why the council is supporting something that will drain our limited resources further, for nebulous, dubious 'gains'.</p>
<p>You cannot take away any of the resources/staff within schools and expect to raise attainment. Schools are already struggling with what is provided - a real reason why schools are behind all other local authorities. How many decision makers are within the council on large wages and are all of these required? Could this be streamlined to create a more efficient workforce with the top earners?</p>
<p>Cut down bonuses paid to council management and cut down their expenses and cut down on events where lavish meals are provided.</p>
<p>Definite review of the organisational design and potential for staff reductions. There is much duplication across teams and many opportunities for efficiencies.</p>
<p>I did not make comments on schools as I don't know about the education service and how it operates. I believe that services tackling poverty are crucial at this time. I also think that charging for carparking doesn't stop people particularly visitors from coming to towns as they pay parking charges across much of the UK and are used to it. Pay levels are low in our area though and so maybe thought could be given to allow local people, particularly those working in towns to pay a lower rate.</p>
<p>Sick of tax payers money getting wasted on useless brain washed ideas spend money on housing & getting roads upto standard</p>
<p>I feel that considering school closures at a school roll of 10 pupils or less is reasonable as I would question what standard of education can be sensibly delivered at, or below, that number. / On Youth Beatz I have always worried that young people may fail to value something they get for free and feel that a real-world, but modest, fee of £5-10 could and should be levied both to save costs and as a means of encouraging a realistic approach to money e.g. saving for things you REALLY want (however old fashioned that sounds these days!) / I was minded to agree to the removal of lay-by bins but figured that the clear up costs of unbagged refuse that might result as a consequence of this decision might well be more. / On waste recycling sites - reduce Dumfries to Locharmoss only.....is Lincluden really that necessary or Locharmoss that hard to get to as an alternative? Arguably Aucheninnes-bound refuse could be similarly redirected to CD instead. / I sometimes watch Council Committees.....they seem to occur rather often, take ages to complete and there seems to be</p>

lots of reports about, arguably, somewhat inconsequential topics. Could these be reduced by adopting a cabinet/executive board approach instead, like some other Councils have done? It must tie up a lot of staff time researching, writing, presenting and following up existing Committees as they are operated right now.
Charge for Blue Badges - this would provide an income and Dumfries and Galloway are one of the few Local Authorities that do not charge.
Increase the cost of Care Call - £3.60 per week is one of the lowest charges across Scotland.
I work in education and feel cuts here would be a false economy.
Stop supplying lunch for elected members and scrutinise expenses. It is a child's right to access education. A reduction that would impact this would be detrimental.
So many of these suggestions hit the vulnerable. Resources for those with physical or learning difficulties are hard enough to find in this region, especially in the West. There is a lot of waste: the recent proposal, now abandoned, for the asymmetric school week cost time and money which could have been put to good use elsewhere. Reducing the school estate for those schools with very low numbers but are within a reasonable distance of an alternative surely has to be a logical step. Not just mothballing - these properties could be sold, reducing ongoing maintenance costs. Furthermore, staff could be redeployed to fulfil shortages in other schools, particularly in secondary where there are real recruitment challenges. The application of common sense would be welcomed.
All services need to be made more efficient. In particular Refuse Collection appears to operate on a morning only model. You never see a Refuse van after 1pm. Gossip says that as soon as they are finished the workers are off to another job. This may be untrue but contracts maybe need to be tightened up as they have been with many other Council employees.
Get rid of the many chief's and concentrate on the workers. Too many people walk around and think they are important. They also produce very little for my county.
Retain additional support for learning services for pre-school settings in order to provide intervention at the earliest opportunity.
The bosses who think they are all for you yet not at all. Only there to criticise and bring you down. Not good for people with mental health, families etc. being able to take time out to feel better yet be punished so you can better yourself. Unfortunately no one cares about mental health or what you are dealing with behind doors. Some find coming to work a distraction from abuse/hell conditions at home. Yet come to work and it's like not being away from home. Very unhelpful to be honest.
Can't speak to your boss without getting criticism or being made to be small. Very unprofessional
Please protect the already struggling schools and teachers here in the Machars. More support is needed not less. You're letting this generation down!!
Carry out feasibility study into costs and benefits of fitting solar panels on all council properties that are facing the right direction. This will score on your greener energy policies.
For you to consider...the incumbent Scottish government are passing on their debt to all councils in Scotland by requiring councils to make cuts to their budget, so that they can balance their books. They blame UK govt for not giving them enough money when they are wasting money hand over fist. They are making all of us pay for their incompetence. If they were in business , they would be sacked. Think of this, £400 million to pay for a ferry that is 15 years late in delivery! Your budget was for this year £481 million!! Good Luck, I wouldn't like to do it.
Review how council elected members are remunerated for attending council meetings. I was on Sports council sub group, where elected members receive a remuneration for attending the meeting, sadly many only stayed less than 15 minutes and qualified for remuneration, only to attend an other meeting, to qualify for a second remuneration. It is sad that the Council have a flag ship building at DG1, and are reviewing the costs, for members and other bodies. Surely the benefits of health promotion and wellbeing at DG1 out weight cost increases. Does the Council wish to see another unused building?
A healthier community relies less on the NHS therefore increasing the charges to use DGone etc. will result in less people using the facilities and becoming unhealthy, bringing more of a burden on the nhs.

There is also the prospect of losing members to cheaper gyms like PureGym and having no customers therefore no income, especially if you get rid of the discount for elderly users.

Castle Douglas pool/gym can't be closed. There is too great a distance for families to travel if they want their children to learn how to swim. The cost of driving through to Dumfries or Stranraer is too much to ask of parents.

We have the best ice rink in the Scotland and one of the top 5 in the U.K. More should be made to promote this and the good work it does both on the ice and off it. The community greatly benefits from it before socially and economically and we should be promoting things like it rather than reducing its use/increasing costs

Press the Scottish Government to lift the blanket on the ability to raise council tax. There thinking is flawed and it is obvious there's is crisis management of the economy. No planning for the future!

Cut councillors wages and expense rate freeze the pay rise for councillors

In a rural areas we need to keep leisure and sport facilities and where possible facilities for children
People dont want to pay more council tax and in return be offered a lot less

Education appears to have deviated from basic levels of learning to muti function ways of learning .

Cutting back on teachers and additional support staff adds additional pressure on them and will inevitably lead to increased sickness levels

The paper waste collection service is the only bin service I would suggest reducing,not general waste.Large bins like bottlebanks could be situated in all towns for recycling

Do not reduce recycling centres as they are well used and will only lead to fly tipping .

If you suspect you are funding anything that is driven by activism then cease doing so immediately. D&G residents and council tax payers will suffer as a result of these measures. Their money should not be wasted on activities that do not benefit them.

Pool cars must be addressed only use from place of work .These should not be used as an access to your work.You take a job miles from home you know at that stage that you have to get there

The school in the area are in dire straits I say this as a mum and as a supply LA. Teachers don't have the support they need and it's impossible to get it right for every child. We should be investing in the young they are our furture not taking away from the little that is already provided to them. Charge pensioners more that want to keep fit - we should encourage them to keep fit to cost the nhs less not penalise them. In relation to the landfill, lay by bins and 3 weekly collection. The whole of D&G is a disgrace roads poorly maintained, rubbish everywhere and weeds everywhere. Taking these away would just make more fly tipping happen. Also your the only council still requiring people to book the dump - no reason why and living rurally I've noticed people fly tipping more probably due to this. I would love to know why this is, so the staff can sit and do less than they already do? You wouldn't be in this situation if you hadn't messed up so many projects over the last 10 years. In any other line of work people would lose their jobs over the millions that was lost on muck ups DGone being an example. Why should the public pay for someone not being able to do their job?

Reduce management and ensure all public service employees are working to full potential not on own phones half the day

I have just found out about the fact that Dalry High School has been voted to be kept open. Having been a part of the consultation process on the school model from the beginning, as Chair of a local Primary Parent Council, I am in absolute shock and quite frankly, disgust. When I attended the first of the meetings, I felt that the consultation process was interesting but that there were several VERY clear and obvious decisions to be made based on the bare financial facts. The most glaringly obvious of which was the complete nonsensical continuing operation of Dalry as a High School. This financial catastrophe is not only not a positive place for senior pupils to receive a rounded education but even in times of financial flourish is not a sensible expenditure of financial resources. Given that we are experiencing a huge demand and stretch of financial resources, how on earth can anyone see the data on this council financial burden and feel that it is a wise decision to continue to support that. I am utterly disgusted by this decision. I also feel that my attendance and support as a volunteer over the course of the School Model consultation is a complete waste of time when such decisions are completely removed from anyone bar a handful of council politicians. It's abhorrent. It's beyond ridiculous and shows no common sense at all. Please make sure that this decision

is publicised widely to show what an embarrassment those that vote on D&G Council matters are.

The money that could be saved could resolve many of the issues that are outlined in this survey. Furthermore, teaching vacancies that are struggling to be filled across other schools across the region could be assisted by the staff that are released by the closure of Dalry High School.

My decisions otherwise largely support the streamlining and improving of efficiencies within management, reducing elements that will not directly impact to the detriment of the individual. Working smarter not harder.

The council has no idea what is happening in Education. Children need support in all avenues. The smaller schools help children that can't cope with a busier environment. I also think that across the region there is a massive behavioural problem that as a teacher we need the extra support from learning support to help us. I can't imagine having my grandson in my class who has autism and can't speak but has one to one attention in another school. I really don't know what the answer is but I do feel that too much has been given to outwith Scotland.

School support staff should remain as it , and in some cases should be increased rather than decreased

Reduce the ratio of councillors in each ward to 1 only. Reduce salary scale for chief executive and assistant chief executive positions to no more than £75k a year. Review all senior salary scales to a cap of £50k a year maximum. Review council tax and implement a charge per working age person in each household. Abolish current council tax reduction cap and base a new scheme on income not savings. Set a new council tax based on individual income not house value. Reduce and remove street lighting looking at schemes being trialled in the UK presently.

I strongly disagree with any proposals to reduce all forms of additional support for learning in our schools. School staff are already on their knees attempting to deal with increasingly complex children who are dysregulated and unable to cope with mainstream provision. This is clearly having a knock on effect to learners without ASN as the attainment of children in D&G is the lowest in Scotland. The LA should be utterly ashamed. D&G's Presumption of Mainstream policy is harmful to all involved in Education and something the LA must take action for. It is my opinion that support for these pupils should be centralised into purpose built schools to support their needs eg. behaviour units, language units, SLD and MLD schools with access mainstream peers at appropriate opportunities. This would avoid harming the already stretched ASN services further, allow pupils without ASN to focus on their learning and achieve better outcomes, get it right for those for whom mainstream is just not right. This could be in partnership with health services. These are tried and tested methods which work well in many other parts of the UK. Staff will not need to be spread so thinly. Shoehorning children into mainstream classes is not working for anybody. Simply being under the same roof is NOT inclusion. Whatever happened to GIRFEC? If proposals to reduce ASN support are acted on by the council, this will be a ticking timebomb for the whole of society in D&G. The fact that this is even under consideration shows how little the powers that be really understand the situation. For shame. By the way, the fountain in town is looking great. 🙌

Do not cut support in schools. The lack of the support is making the job harder

Keep health centres open and allow people the chance to keep fit and healthy reducing the strain on the already struggling NHS. reducing waste collection will encourage fly tipping. Review business waste collection. I have been reliably informed of a pub landlord who puts their bottles in the local bottle bank and doesn't pay for removal. I appreciate the difficulties facing you re funding. The money being offered for a national park could be better put to use for yourselves when evidence shows that tourism is growing organically without the need for a national park and the pressure this would place on already overloaded services and resources in the region. We have so many other charities and groups working on improving tourism and promoting us as a holiday destination that we don't need another.

I think the ones higher up should have a pay cut instead of giving them pay rises, that would make a massive saving. It's ridiculous the pay rises these people are getting when all they are doing is sitting around a table making decisions about our council services and schools. They need to be actively visiting these places and speaking to their staff before making decisions about cuts and how these will impact the staff running the places. I work in primary school and a very challenging one at that. We are failing out children because decisions are being made above the headteachers who know the children. Counsellors can't make decisions

about cuts without actually seeing what the impact on the children will be, for example changing the way the children learning, since changing to learning through play this year we are seeing a massive dip in the children's behaviour and learning they are gaining nothing anymore. Working with highly autistic children who don't know how to play never mind learn through play and actually focus better whilst sitting at a seat with an adult helping is invaluable. I agree they need play within a day a school, but these kids need to be learning. Again decisions made by a council who haven't set foot in a school to see the impact. Get the counselors away from the office, get them into the workplaces and speaking to staff. They should take a cut in their wages to save money. See who deserves pay rises and then make a decision based on this, it's common sense!!

Transfer Business Gateway to SOSE

Close The Bridge. I understand that this facility lies empty for most of the week. My grandson was recently taken by bus (3 needed) for a STEM event which could have been held in school. Another red herring for this council!

Some of these options have already been implemented. No reduction in teacher numbers should be considered as Dumfries and Galloway has lowest level of attainment in Scotland. This is shocking while people in charge of Education receive promotion!

Charge for all public car parks.

Increase number of parking wardens.

No need to consider many of these savings if council stops wasting money on projects that turn out not to be viable. Cut number of executive managers who are paid highly for their incompetence.

It is not clear how much would be saved for each option as the range is for example from 25k to 350k over 3 years. This is very misleading!

I think the cuts need to start from chief exec coming from Carlisle. Paying transport and travelling, also 5k a week salary is that necessary also the under dogs under her any need for 3-5k per week, what does the rest of the staff get? Absolutely disgusting stop the bonuses as they aren't openly available to all employees just select few, there a saving of nearly 440k per 3 year or more money ridiculous. What do these people do to warrant this amount of money?, Education is a mess, d&g is a disaster and in the stoneages, prehistoric roads, no shops, no entertainment no jobs no money. But pay the big wigs this stupid amount of money for failing. Ridiculous. 75 years I've seen this and it's now stupid

Lay by bins always full Lockerbie to Annan people will still dump bags of rubbish there if no bin

The senior staff leading the proposal to restructure and reduce ELC support have withheld information from the public by not providing more detail on their proposals in the public consultation. They should have been clearer that this proposal would /could reduce the number of specialist ASN teachers in the Educational Visitor Team who play a vital role in meeting the needs of some of the youngest and most vulnerable children in D&G. Other proposals are specific about the staff group that the proposals relate to but this one does not so someone took a decision to withhold details from the public and key stakeholders, including parents of ASN pupils, and ELC managers who will be directly impacted by a restructure of the teams who advise and support them.

Service users of leisure services have been contacted by letter and given details, so when they complete this survey they know how those cuts would impact the service user. The key stakeholders who will be impacted by the proposal to reduce and restructure ELC support have not been provided with details of the proposed cuts or how they might impact them so are not completing this with the type of detail they need to make informed choices.

The council needs to look at areas that do the same kind of job and all the waste of money different bits of the council spend.

You also need to look at the area that Dumfries and Galloway covers. You can't cut waste collections if you plan to shut recycling centres.

If you planning to include more children with additional needs into main stream classes then those of us who work in learning support need proper contracts.

Hello, I filled this survey in once but I'm not sure if my phone submitted it properly so sorry if you get 2 replies from me.

The main thing I'm personally concerned about is that you don't close Castle Douglas swimming pool

PLEASE!!!!

One of the reasons i moved to Dalbestie 5 years ago id that theres a pool at CD which is an easy drive away. I like to swim twice a week and find it great for relaxation, mental health, keeping muscles strong and syretching in the pool to keep joints mobile.

If CD closed i would have to drive to dumfries or kirkcudbright.

Dumfries is twice the distance and the last bit if the drive is stressful through busy traffic, lights etc, so it sould cancel out the de- streszing aspect of the swim and de motivate me from going.

Also the petrol cozts would double.

I would prefer the drive to Kirkcudbright- but this would be 3 times the distance of CD so it would be 3 times the petrol costs! & twice a week that would be tol expensive.

Also Id be joining kirkcuxbright pool, so the council wouldnt be getting any leisure club money off me.

I knoe there are other regular swimmers at CD who are quite elderly & probably couldnt make the journey to anothr pool.

Think of the health implications for myself and these folk if the pool closed- we are supposed to keep fit and exercise to stay healthy and save the nhs money- but this opportunity would be removed.

Also where would local kids learn to swim? Which is vital in an area with so many lochs and so near the sea (when the tide is in 😊).

Kids would have to be bussed from local schools to kirkcudbright or dumfries and im sure this would cancel out a lot of the savings!!

What i dont understand is why cd pool is closed in the afternoons at weekends?? Surely this would be prime time for families and kids to go swimming for leisure??

Anyway, ease dont close the pool, i would rather pay a bit more in entry fees than pay £15 a week extra in petrol to get to kirkcudbright.

And youd be better closing a few recycling centres as folk only go to them occasionally. Also layby bins just cause more rubbish as theyre always full do folk leave stuff piled up by them- wheras they dont if theres no bin. Just put in cctv & fine people that litter!!

Anyway please dont close the pool, or i might have to move house actually as i dont think i could stand not swimming- its something i lovr and have always done.

REDACTED

Not sure the projected savings figures come from. Too wooly

Not sure who chose the options for saving but only 2 areas for savings are needed. Cut number of managers and stop wasting money on surveys

Be honest for once this council has no idea of actual savings that would be made for each option? Close The Bridge and admit it is another white elephant that is freezing inside and only used for meetings despite the technology in every room.

This is a waste of time as the decisions are already made. Top heavy incompetent management need to go if they need people in Dumfries and Galloway to advise them on saving money.

The s a kings to be made by closing the council plant nursery is less than the director of Education salary! Reduce the number of promoted posts in schools, e.g. deutes if school numbers are falling! Class sizes should be reduced and teacher numbers retained or increased to improve attainment.

Reducing cleaning of offices is probably against health and safety. Start with the offices of managers or save money on salaries and cleaning, heating etc by reducing numbers

How much did it cost to come up with this survey which is not based on factual evidence of savings that will be made? Some of the savings will cost more to implement.

Why would anyone vote to increase council tax? It is not value for money at the moment. Stop wasting tax payers money on failed projects.

The only option needing cut is managers

Redeploying principal teachers play will only shift the problem down the line to teacher numbers. Stop recruiting the number of probationary teachers to save money at the expense of children's attainment

I used the introduction to your Councils Budget Consultation to clarify some of the issues and assist my answering the questions. Also general public well being, health and safety had high priority in my decision making.

As a Council consider designing a "model' to enlist local people under the auspices of Community Councils to be volunteers as parking wardens able to issue tickets and thereby generate income x
I note that Financial Commitments are 7.6% of expenditures. This should clearly be a target for deduction to release these funds for constructive use
Anyone could be completing this survey. No statistics on age, gender etc are requested.
Not sure why I took time to complete this survey. It will never see the light of day.
Fewer Councillors
Elements of tackling poverty are keeping people afloat but not empowering them to change their opportunities. Children with additional needs require more support in education not less. No parking charges we are a rural area with poor transportation so need to recognise this if revitalising towns. Be more creative, stop spending money on old councillors who are against change, Dfs has such potential we need action not lots of talking shops eg what to do with whitesands. If people say no, then listen ! Why fight nature when it would be better to work WITH nature. Sorry to end on a negative.
Stop using expensive consultants. Staff in senior positions are paid to make these decisions! Double costs are not cost effective. Manage staff absenteeism more effectively.
I believe the facilities offered by Leisure Services, such as fitness classes and gym sessions contribute greatly to the health of members and users. As a senior member of the Ryan Centre, the Easy Tone class provides exercise which promotes circulatory health, prevention of osteoporosis (weights exercises) and joint health. The social benefits are also extremely important as a vital opportunity is presented to users to meet with others on a regular basis enhancing their sense of wellbeing.
Make cuts from higher paid posts too many senior management posts and not enough on the ground frontline staff who get paid a fraction of senior management salaries
IF THE REGION IS TO BECOME A NATIONAL PARK THERE CANNOT BE A REDUCTION ON PUBLIC BINS, TOILETS ETC. - THE AREA MUST BE ABLE TO PRESENT WELL WE CANNOT REDUCE RECYCLING FACILITIES AT THE SAME TIME AS REDUCING WASTE COLLECTION PROVISION - IF WE WANT PEOPLE TO RECYCLE AND REDUCE WASTE IT MUST BE EASY FOR THEM EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IS KEY TO IMPROVING THE REGION. THERE ARE INADEQUATE NUMBERS OF LEARNING ASSISTANTS AT PRESENT AND INTEGRATION OF SPECIAL NEEDS PUPILS INTO MAINSTREAM REQUIRES MORE NOT LESS PROVISION. LEISURE COSTS IN D&G ARE ALREADY HIGHER THAN OTHER COUNCIL AREAS EG N AYRSHERE (£20/MONTH OVER 60'S V £26.50 IN D&G); GLASGOW (£6 FOR ADULT SWIM) AT PRESENT THERE ARE ALREADY LIMITED OPEN PUBLIC SWIM SESSIONS
Don't spend any money on staff to promote/support/monitor equality, diversity and inclusion
My choices are based on the future of my child. They are our future and we should be investing in them. GIRFEC, UN Convention on rights of a child - these are all too often forgotten about, when it suits. Class sizes need to be smaller. ASN needs have more than doubled in the last few years. Teachers have a far more challenging job meeting all learner needs and ensuring inclusive education for all.
122-124 Irish Street must cost a fortune to power. 80-90 per cent of staff leave their monitors on overnight and some of the rooms in Floor One in Irish Street are unnecessarily heated overnight, when they are empty. This situation is probably replicated across the Council's estate and a systematic detailed review of the heating programmes all the Council's buildings may well result in substantial ongoing savings. An ongoing or regular campaign raising awareness/ encouraging all staff to switch off their computer monitors each night with eco prizes for / competition about which floors do best in relation to this problem.
Money is wasted in so many areas of Council when they knew all these cuts were going to have to happen. Rebranding of workers badges, good furniture just thrown away, working IT equipment thrown away, contracts for maintenance work not managed properly, too many senior staff within teams. The list goes on, but now current employees and public will suffer because of poor management. It's a disgrace.

<p>No more pay rises for ALL over next 3 years</p> <p>Pay to park across the region in council car parks</p> <p>Less food waste in the delivery of school meals</p> <p>Staff absences monitored more closely</p> <p>More stream lined council platform for accessing ALL services</p> <p>Definitely not closing or reducing leisure facilities as these allow people with less money to access healthy life styles (saving nhs) in future</p>
<p>Regarding Prime Membership of Leisure/Sports: it has already increased recently, and access to it helps older people with health issues, however, perhaps there could be a two-tier Prime Membership, i.e. pay more if using sessions more than for example, 3 times a week?</p> <p>Regarding out-sourcing the maintenance of roads: the Council should be assessing the quality of the work they are buying in far more closely. e.g. potholes have to be filled in more than once a year as the workmanship is shoddy.</p> <p>Re maintenance of council owned buildings, including cleaning windows: to reduce this will simply mean mold and rot will proliferate, and cost more in the long-run.</p>
<p>As the top officials in different departments have really good salaries I feel that expertise from outside agencies should be stopped.</p> <p>Building works should also have a council official to manage costs, planning rules etc.</p>
<p>I would prefer cutbacks to be made only where logically effective and not to pass burdens on to others. I would also be mindful of retaining critical services that have an impact. I do not agree with car parking charges in areas where shops are already struggling. I personally have no direct services as I live in a rural area, no bins, streetlights etc. so see little in return for my money but would still accept a reasonable increase. My personal complaint is the condition of the roads.</p>
<p>The use of consultants is a major concern as they are telling you the exact same problems the workforce have been telling the management for years. Have a word with them and they'll tell you how to solve the problems for free. Stop the big pay offs for management staff that have been in the job for less than 5 years, reduce sick pay to full pay for 3 months and half pay for 3 months 6 months on statutory. That will reduce the cost as some of the workforce are at it. In house training as some companies see the council as cash cows, vehicles should be leased and returned with in 3-5 years as we're still leasing 2010 plate lorry's that we have spent more on repairs than the actual cost of the lorry's. I really hope you read the reply's that people have took the time to write and this is not just an exercise as you have all ready put in place the measures already</p>
<p>must explore the charging for carparks before any reductions, the potential income in some carparks will be considerable.</p>
<p>I tended to support proposals to increase efficiency and better use of existing resources. For example, using council funds to support commercial events such as gravel cycling events seems wasteful when money is so short.</p>
<p>Please don't take money from schools and education</p>
<p>Education wise in support bases. Lack of experience heads in council. Bring back area managers to over view running off bases.</p>
<p>Many of your very specific proposals are based on a fundamental misunderstanding. The basic truth is that the single biggest outgoing is staff salaries. This is a basic fact about running organisations, and you must surely know it.</p> <p>Take, for example, your proposal copied below:</p> <p>"Reduce the school estate – Option 1. Savings: £406–623k across 3 years. Description: Our council has an existing policy whereby when a school roll drops to 10 pupils or fewer the school can be considered for mothballing (subject to approval through the Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing committee). These savings are based on the implementation of the existing policy and approval being sought to mothball those schools where it is anticipated that the school roll will drop to 10 or fewer over the upcoming 3-year period, based on projected school rolls."</p> <p>This won't save anything like the approx £0.5m that you quote. The vast majority of that money is being spent on salaries for permanent staff that you can't (or won't) get rid of, and it will continue to be spend on them. So the "savings" will be made on not heating / lighting empty buildings (although you'll still need to maintain</p>

them, so even that notional saving will be minimal if any). And, until the buildings are sold (if anyone would buy them) for conversion to another use (which you may well end up subsidising), they will be of no monetary value. So you've lost a service, and saved no money.

If you ACTUALLY want to make savings, it needs to be in the staff: a leaner, more efficient workforce. And that starts with the management. Fewer offices, fewer administrators, fewer consultants: fewer managers. But we all know that the people who will read and consider this are themselves managers, and would never suggest such a proposal. This so-called consultation is therefore a total nonsense, and only supported by those who lack either the moral integrity or the intelligence to see this fact. If you work for the council and you don't think the managements structure needs massively reducing, it's because your fingers are so deeply in that lucrative, self-replicating pie that you can't see the truth.

"O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us

To see oursels as others see us!

It wad frae monie a blunder free us

An' foolish notion..."

If you can't take it from some who lives and works here, who volunteers and strives for the place and the people here, then take it from one of its most famous sons, and have a long hard look at yourselves.

Your policy for using external consultants constantly for the same thing, e.g. the whitesands flood prevention, needs to be reviewed or stopped. A complete waste of public money. Consult with the people of D & G with a simple yes/no with all the options given along with the approximate costs.

Also, with the budget busting procurement process during the initial build of DG1 and the Moat Brae scandal I feel you really need to improve your procurement process to ensure that there is no possibility of 'favours' and everything is checked and rechecked by a procurement specialist, rather than a procurement administrator/manager.

You need to try and not effect the young of this town. the Oasis, the Youth Beatz - it is all the children have to keep them off the street causing trouble.

Please also leave the pensioners alone and do not increase their Prime Membership - for some it is their only social activity.

It looks like lay-by bins have already stopped being emptied over the last few weeks, yet bin Lorries parked in lay-bys chatting to each other.

Review budgets held within councils on Block hours/ health and social care provisions.

Withdraw support for the National Park Proposal to enable the funds allocated for it to come back to D&G council instead.

Not employing any more consultants for schemes and making sure all management are skilled and experienced in the related posts they are in !!!!!!! ,and be able to make decisions themselves!!!!!! ,without having to spend more money on consultants!!!!!!!

Generating income from providing extra affordable beneficial services/opportunities (sport, leisure, other would be more preferable to most, than cutting services that are essential (ie all education services) and those that would undoubtedly create additional unintended outcomes/costs (eg removal of layby bins - will increase fly-tipping; closure of public toilets/community halls, will result in vandalism and loss of community wellbeing). This approach would also help demonstrate DGC's commitment/reputation to 'supporting' it's residents and communities to 'provide opportunities' i.e. not to 'take things away' that people feel is important.

One of my main issues is the option of a Community facilities review – transfer/closure of public toilets and community halls. Savings: £703k–709k over 3 years. Description: Discuss transferring remaining council-operated public toilets and community halls to community groups, and where it is not possible close the facility. We are supposed to be encouraging tourism to the area and with the possible National Park in the area, we need more public toilets not less or shutting them. Also, Newton Stewart only has one Community Hall, McMillan Hall, so where are people supposed to go to hire a good size floor? It is used for all sorts of activities from special needs to ballroom dancing and also for large events at Christmas as well as throughout the year.

We pay a substantial council tax due to our property location and size (granted this our choice). However the use of the money does not seem well proportionately spent. We a working couple with no children so do not benefit from a lot of council services but would like to see more thought put into the budget.

Is there an option to charge a nominal amount for Youth Beatz? A fantastic event for Dumfries, surely £1-5

<p>per ticket would generate a huge amount whilst still being affordable.</p> <p>The Whitesands and fountain expenditure seem phenomenal for no great gain.</p> <p>As an NHS employee, I fully understand the “top heavy” management structure and would like to see it redistributed fairly and evenly to ensure services are provided with less management.</p>
<p>I don't think you should close any public toilets as they are essential and a necessity for disabled , ill and elderly. There are few enough as it is.</p>
<p>Stop using consultants, reduce the amount of managers, end diversity jobs, stop paying ridiculously high wages to upper staff!!</p>
<p>Stop making cuts to education. Children are struggling and will continue to struggle.</p>
<p>Reducing services within the education sector inevitably increases the workload for mainstream educators, which will adversely affect both staff and student wellbeing. If the goal is to raise attainment, this approach is counterproductive. Teaching staff are already under immense pressure, and further burdening them risks exacerbating an already critical situation within the sector. Additional responsibilities without adequate support could lead to a full-blown crisis in an industry already stretched to its limits!</p>
<p>I wish to express my deep concern regarding any considerations about closing town and village halls and in particular the McMillan Hall in Newton Stewart. This particular building is not only an architectural delight but the only suitable facility in the town for many activities such as dancing classes, large public meetings etc. If an unwise decision is made to close this very important,heart of the town building, it will rapidly deteriorate ,become a potentially dangerous eyesore and Newton Stewart will be degraded by its demise. Our town and village halls facilitate gainful community activities, bringing us together, without them our communities will decline .Please maintain these halls.</p>
<p>Reduce the number of properties owned by D & G C, this will save in running and maintenance costs</p>
<p>Do not reduce opening times of leisure services. Do maximise participation through directed marketing. The cost savings in health and social care, mental health will enable greater social prescribing and fiscal contributions for leisure centres from NHS services.</p>
<p>Enforce current significant breaches of planning and building warrant responsibilities. Currently buildings are being erected in full view without any Planning or Building Warrant consent. By continuing to ignore this practice, the council would appear to be missing out on a significant income. The practice is common in the Agriculture and their supply chain sectors and the businesses that follow the guidelines are continuing to be financially penalised.</p>
<p>Layby bins not being emptied as it is and rubbish bags left lying. What do you expect to happen to the rubbish if bins? Lorry drivers will not simply take their rubbish home just because there's no bin - and if reduce waste collections of home bins, they won't want to take bags of rubbish home</p>
<p>Stand and declare against the proposed National Park as this will undoubtedly put greater financial pressure on the Council, through increased waste collection, toilet provision, traffic damage, planning, etc, etc</p>
<p>Anti poverty work is done by DAGCAS so remove this service provided inhouse DAGCAS do a full benefit health check too so there is no need to duplicate the work. Also DAGCAS can assist those over 60 so no need for council to be doing this work too.</p> <p>Reduce teacher numbers, look at the waste within schools. Reduce libraries there are four in Dumfries which are not required and not used ie Georgetown.</p>
<p>I think reducing opportunities in leisure and education is a very bad idea, these are so important to young people, often giving them a focus and helping keep them out of trouble</p>
<p>Cut backs on Learning Assistants in schools is not going to work. Already schools and classes are struggling with the number of LAs that are in school, and its the pupils that are going to suffer in the long run.</p> <p>Cut back on making new positions up . In the past we have coped without these people. There are too many managers at the top, cut back on these and spend on what we really need!</p>
<p>I think we need to look at our own structure, organisation, contracts, tenders first before taking away things that benefit the public - why should teachers have more responsibility stacked upon them yet we have offices cleaned everyday? Surely we're capable of emptying some bins at the end of the day and giving our desks a wipe down - basic hygiene. Why should children with learning difficulties be given less support but we can't consider providing our own food waste bin liners that you can get for £1 in shops. We want people to lead fit and healthy lifestyles, so we'll charge more to use such services, we want to tackle perceived 'youth</p>

<p>troubles' and nothing for our teenagers to do, yet we look to chop some of the best and well received initiatives in youth beats and youth services.</p>
<p>There are lots of people who travel alone to single meetings in Dumfries - lots of cars and lots of cost. This needs to be considered.</p>
<p>Remove the primary curricular swimming programme for primary school pupils.</p>
<p>Continue to digitise services and also reshape the procurement of digital solutions Lobby SG for a proper revaluation, so that current asset values (and therefore wealth) are more accurately reflected in what councils can charge and what people pay in council tax. Lobby SG to allow the council to charge full council tax to property developers on uncompleted building projects, from the point that the original planning permission expires. Not only would this bring in a little more revenue, it would also incentivise developers to complete building projects quicker – delivering more housing and reducing the number of incomplete building sites in communities.</p>
<p>There are too many people on 100k+ salaries. Ridiculous frivolities.</p>
<p>As a mother to a young child, I am very concerned that many of the proposals put forward take services away from our children and young people. I am aware that teachers/nursery staff are already under a huge amount of pressure. Please make sure that their views are taken into consideration as they are the ones that fully understand what is required on a daily basis to give our children the best possible start in life. Ultimately they are the future generation of D&G residents.</p>
<p>If you reduce the number of/ remove Inclusion teachers and bases it will have a significant impact on children's health and wellbeing and learning.</p>
<p>DO NOT cut the support for learning teachers as they play a vital role in supporting our most vulnerable children.</p>
<p>Support staff within schools provide vital support that ensures learning and teaching can continue with the least disruption possible, teaching staff cannot take on any more tasks than they already have. Targeting these areas of school support staff will impact greatly across the school, and given they are some of the lowest paid staff I fail to see how real savings can be made here.</p>
<p>A consideration that has not been proposed within the main content of this consultation is reducing the number of borough schools to 3, it has long been discussed for many decades that Dumfries does not need 4 schools and in this climate when we are in dire need of finding savings and doing things differently we have an option that would offer a workable solution. The Dumfries Academy Tower building is not fit for purpose, and much of the rest of the building is needing investment to make it suitable. Having featured on national television and in the news it is clear the reparatory work needing done to continue the use as a secondary is extensive and beyond our Council's budget. We should be prioritising people and the workforce and redistributing the staff and pupils at Dumfries Academy amongst the other three borough schools.</p>
<p>I think many of these suggestions are practical and in line with an increasing modern council. However, I think it would be short sighted to not ensure the council remains an attractive employer to good high quality staff, and ensure that they see opportunities for progression, for example the management's roles. Thus keeping good high quality staff to lead the leaner, focused council of the future</p>
<p>Some of the options given are very unclear what they mean, for example what does retention of s1-3 pupils mean? What vacant posts no longer required do you mean? Closing a school with a roll less than 10 makes sense if there is a nearby school, but I also think closing that school if for example a p1 child then had to travel a significant distance to get to school isn't okay and you don't allow for that.</p>
<p>I think our educational provision is very poor for children with ASN and we need to reconfigure to have increased specialist provision especially at secondary school which would reduce costs by having provision that actually met the children's needs.</p>
<p>I didn't see any options for reducing social care or adult social care needs offered to choose.</p>
<p>I cannot vote for "Release of vacancies across Education, Skills and Community Well Being: Removal of vacant positions no longer required" as I know this item refers to a post within the Educational Psychology Service that absolutely is required and whilst it is fair to propose a reduction is is deeply unfair to not be clear what the proposed reduction is and to frame it as a post that is not required when this is unfounded and was</p>

literally the only way our service could offer a 10% budget reduction as all our costs go on staff.

I think the Educational Psychology Service could be used far better to meet a wide range of training needs particularly within education rather than paying for external providers.

I think that if we had inhouse transport for pupils needing especially taxi transport this could be a very significant saving using pool cars and employed drivers - this has to be cheaper than the thousands paid out at the moment.

I think we could save money by creating better provisions within education that meet young people's needs better such as an autism provision - this would save staffing costs overall and could be accommodated within the current estate.

I am not against closing small schools where there is a viable nearby alternative as transport costs also need factored in as well as children's wellbeing/tiredness if long journeys required. However it also needs considered that these schools are also used as informal specialist settings to meet the needs of children who struggle in larger settings.

I am not convinced pool cars are cost effective when you take into account the number of hours wasted by expensive staff going through booking each event separately, driving to get pool cars, driving to fuel, driving to put air in tyres etc.

There could be less managers at the top of the council.

Supporting learners services could save money and be more effective with a proper reorganisation which better makes use of staff skills but I don't believe this is best served by simply delegating all of them out to schools.

I think that closing the swimming pool in Castle Douglas would be a very bad idea. It helps peoples' health and well being.

I also think that cutting support teachers and assistants would be detrimental to all schools.

Every cut has consequences but budgets are necessary evils

Budget cuts are necessary evils but some have extra impact. As a regular user of the CD pool, along with many other older users, closing the pool for us would be a catastrophe. Keeping active in later years is crucial for staying healthy and being less of a drain on the NHS. Also closing public toilets is uncivilised in this day and age. These facilities are crucial for keeping town centres viable.

The proposition to close small rural schools is of particular concern as they provide interaction with the local communities through various activities, small schools are a good selling point for small local communities and provide a great facilities to have (football pitches etc used in evenings for kids to play football etc)

Stricter criteria for and monitoring of council staff sick leave to ensure genuine.

Costs of supporting drug addiction victims and families to be paid by convicted drug suppliers.

Relax planning permission policy to allow building of quality houses for occupation or holiday homes in attractive locations eg next to coast and beaches - to attract high worth individuals to live or holiday here and spend their money here.

Charge council tax for fixed site mobile homes which are used as someone's only or main residence for the majority of the year.

Maintain roads in a good state of repair to reduce claims for damage to vehicles or people.

Those who wish to serve their communities as councillors should do so voluntarily and not for payment unless their council duties would require them to work full time or nearly so.

Older people should be required to plan for dealing with increased infirmity as they age to reduce the need for crisis interventions - eg moving to suitable accommodation in accessible locations. The retirement village concept is particularly desirable in a rural community as it would enable carers to care more and travel much less.

Stop putting christmas lights on to council buildings. Get rid of useless/second raste council staff.

<p>Ward workers should be cut by 50% and have 1 per 2 wards. There isn't need for one per Ward when they mainly are supporting Councillors and the role didn't exist 6 years ago. I calculated it is cost nearly £900k by having them so receive by 50% and save £450k. Am easy saving to make that won't directly affect communities.</p>
<p>I have seen first hand how childcare and education is struggling without learning assistants and 1:1 for children who would benefit from extra support. Children have the right to be supported in early years and with learning and development in their pre-school years.</p>
<p>Hard decisions need to be taken, so this wasn't an easy task. Schools and welfare are overfunded and central govt should step up their support instead of relying on the ratepayer. What's needed now is actual implementation and progression of agreed policies, not woke words and policies and jobsworthy attitudes leading to little support or progress (action on Council unruly neighbours, anti social behaviour and difficult, expensive and intrusive planning and building permission) on policies which improve the lives of the majority, not the minority, of D&G residents.</p>
<p>Help protect vulnerable children by keeping support for learners</p>
<p>Working in a primary school I can say whole heartedly that ASL teachers are absolutely vital to children's attainment and progression.</p>
<p>Support staff must not be touched, our SEN children suffer enough!</p>
<p>How can the range of financial savings be so wide for many of these options? Has no detailed work been undertaken by management to actually focus on realistic savings for the at least the main savings under consideration. This is what management actually does. Why pay managers for lists of options not fully costed ?</p> <p>If the council is serious about raising attainment levels across all levels of education, then the existing education budget and staffing levels cannot be further decimated. What consideration; is given to the future of the many small villages across the region when they lose their school. How many possible families will be dissuaded from setting in D&G within communities that no longer have a school at the heart of the village ?</p> <p>Rather than a target to simply aspire to cut the sickness absence in education surely a strategy for tackling the causes. Where is the classroom support, learning support and the region wide focus on behaviour management currently non existent. Where is the often talked about but yet to be delivered strategy to reduce the ever increasing teacher workload ?</p> <p>Either the council has a proper pension provision for teachers and ALL it's council staff or it doesn't. Discrimination against employees while on maternity leave is unacceptable. Already an increasing number of teachers are failing to find full time (5 days a week) employment as it is and this already has an impact on their final pension.</p>
<p>We need ASL teachers be ridiculous to even think about reducing when the need is clearly as high.</p>
<p>My suggestion is that there are too many chiefs and not enough indians within the council and all other government offices. Reducing how many "supervisors" you have and working with more people who are actually doing the work are one thing. Secondly, Do Not cut schools in any way as they are the way forward for the future generations, by cutting programs, staff, school maintenance you subject the future generations to a "dumb down" group and that is NOT acceptable. I used to run a business and the council employee that visited my business was only one person for all of the Stewartry but yet he had 9 supervisors.....maybe like I said with number one, too many Chiefs!!! I am sure there are a lot of pay cuts that could take place and stop minimizing what the communities already pay council tax for but yet get more things accomplished. You need to look in house and start from there.</p>
<p>I'm keen to see vulnerable individuals, especially children, with additional educational support requirements be continued to be supported.</p>
<p>End sick pay for council workers.</p>
<p>no sorry</p>
<p>The Council is having to make vast savings with potential cuts to jobs, not long after a restructure of the top tier which resulted in some substantial wage increases. Serious questions have to be asked about that.</p>

My suggestion would be to look at generating more income via in house services. Offer our services externally at competitive rates in order to generate income and profit.
Surely we want our beautiful area to remain that way? Removing any waste collection services will only lead to increased littering and fly tipping.
Why is the Council providing a FREE youth festival when they have no money. If a festival is a priority then you have to start charging for it. And how many hours of staff time are wasted on that.
Reduce energy bill across the school estate and council estate by lowering temperatures in the evenings and weekends. Tighter control over establishments that do not follow guidance with regard to when heating systems should be switched on / off over the year.
The children are the future of this region WHY and how can you possibly suggest further reductions which will limit their ambitions and futures. Reduce the pay of the people on the Council, reduce the number of people higher up in the Council who do not directly impact the region. The proposals are disgusting. Children already struggle in class with the reduced support staff. You are already failing to meet the needs of the children-Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) is non existent in this region. The needs of the people are not being placed at the centre of the needs of the region. STOP advertising for more teaching staff, STOP taking on more probationers and employ the already qualified teachers in this region. Children have increasing needs, you cannot remove any more support if you want to have increased levels of academic achievement. You cannot remove support if you want to increase literacy and numeracy levels in this region. Currently children are coming to school struggling with basic needs, no breakfast, no regular sleep. Teachers are already feeling the stress and strain of trying to help these children, children with additional support needs are not being fully supported, children that need stretched and challenged are being let down as teachers are trying to meet the needs of ALL in the class and it is really challenging, Teachers are stressed and are ill because they already are being let down and are not receiving the support in class that is needed. Teachers do not need more training but more support in class. Removing any kind of support from schools is unacceptable. Removing bins-do you want the whole region to look like a rubbish dump? Closing recycling centres will result in more fly tipping. Stop giving pay rises to people on the Council-close council buildings (non-educational), remove subsidies from Counsellors, stop giving them cars/petrol/lunch allowance. You have chosen to attack the most vulnerable in society which is despicable.
Needs must!
1. Remove protected no redundancy from The Council and remove carrying staff when unallocated to roles. 2. Look at flexible model for Childcare to meet demands by outsourcing to private / third sector rather than expanding or building own costly Council provision.
Revise housing benefits, a number of those in receipt of this are cohabiting with others (also in receipt of this benefit) and this then adds to the cost and reduces the availability of properties. Revisit community payback, unpaid work to utilise this for the benefit of the community and reduce council costs. Ensure those who have not paid their council tax are liable for these payments, do not write off their debt and/or pass on the costs to those who pay.
Stop paying staff for being sick .if someone is absent you have to cover with supply at more cost .
So, my thoughts regarding the cuts are to prioritise child support and services. I agree when school numbers drop below 25 then shut the school unless very remote. Please keep or enhance (whilst optimising efficiency) in support for children who experience life/school challenging. The children should always be the priority. Keep Youth Beatz, it is marvelous, maybe £10 ticket price, something which is still very affordable, with concessions for the very hard up. Reduce management in all areas where possible and services which households can do themselves or pay a bit more for. Good luck!!
Reduce number of managers
Save money by not wasting it on keeping The Bridge open
A number of these options don't save a great deal of money

The choices are based on using staff and resources in a more flexible way to ensure the service users lose as little as possible while staffing and management are more responsive and flexible within their working practices.
Does the council really need people to advise them on savings to be made. If he's then they should not be employed.
Services provided in this region are bad enough without cutting them
Reducing number of teachers would be a disgrace for our children's education. Take note worst attainment figures in Scotland!
Filled in the survey but don't expect responses to be considered.
The closure of Castle Douglas swimming pool would be a massive loss to the community. It provides a social place for all ages, mainly the elderly to come in for some exercise and also a blether with the other users. Money has been set aside to upgrade and maintain the pool now for the last 3 years, it makes no sense to have the pool as an option to close. It also provides over 200 children with swimming lessons, which is a life skill as well as providing them weekly exercise. The pool is a massive part of the town and I'm sure the whole community and visitors of the town would be deeply saddened to hear that this was the decision that was taken as the money saving option, when there are other choices that make more sense ie closures of schools with only 25 children. Closing a pool that serves over hundreds of people every week, or a school that has only 25 children? Please take the consideration of the pool closer off the list.
I work in a school and I strongly disagree with the education based cut options, of which there are a lot, particularly proposals to close small rural schools with a set pupil roll, reduce teacher/school staff numbers and ASN staff. The EIS have recently stated that "ASN is up by 10%, 37% of pupils now have additional support needs and there currently is a 1/89 ASN teacher/pupil ratio" as it is. A lot of the proposals suggest re-routing them back to within school settings, but then to reduce school staff numbers? What happens to the GIRFEC model of getting it right for every child? This also comes to mind when considering the end of funding of schemes that support families with disabled children and tackling poverty. Regarding Leisure centres - I do not see how removing discounted price memberships and increasing coach assisted activity fees will then increase footfall/income through marketing. There is of course a cost of living crisis happening everywhere just now.
Increase our council tax to pay for decent services. Cut the things that are a waste of money- I sit on Community Council and our Ward Officer does nothing so cut the jobs like that. No need to be paying people to just attend meetings.
Why are non front facing services not facing any budget saving? Surely they should be the first to go rather than the ones we see in our communities? Ward workers are something I would have expected to see here. They are overpaid unqualified community workers - at least when we had community workers they done work and were always seen delivering services in community centres for elderly, unemployed, people in need and young people. Community workers were also better value for money. Life long learning is another service I would have expected to see here - they used to deliver some great programmes in our centre and haven't been seen in years I believe they only deliver in schools training nursery staff! I think to be putting the money from poverty up as a saving without all these useless services being considered is shocking! The money from poverty makes a massive difference to the people who need it!
Drastically reduce the number of part time councillors and replace with full time councillors.
I'm extremely disappointed in the grouping and vagueness of some of these proposed savings. The fact my head of service was unable to provide any detail around the aspect which will have a direct impact on my role is concerning. How the 'general' public and elected members expected to make informed decisions with this level of information, I do not know. For this survey to be used to make the drastic changes required this level of clarity is questionable.
As a parent I'm also worried about the impact of the cuts to education and proposed leisure cost increases. What chances are we offering children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway?
Has funding been considered rather than cuts? In schools we are down to the bones already. There are no jobs for trained teachers. Without vaccinations teachers will be off sick, they will also be exhausted from

<p>lack of support and extra workload. With schools covering absences in house. When are management expected to undertake their own workload? The support staff cuts after the summer have seen children who need support go without. Some playgrounds are unsupervised and more is being placed on clerical staff whose hours are also under threat. These cuts may seem appealing now but the majority will cost more due to the cuts!</p>
<p>I find it absolutely horrifying to think that you would consider reducing budgets for children that need supported both in school and outwith. Maybe making reductions in the team management that are tasked to come up with new ideas to reduce an already stretched education system.</p>
<p>Set the expectation that parents living in rural villages should support their local school instead of sending their children to mega school complexes miles away. Promote the benefits of: 1. Further integrating local country schools within their actual community 2. Starting the movement to grow and secure the rural skills needed for D & G's countryside stewardship 3. Aiming for 'real rural' not the 'Disneyland countryside' being ever promoted through internet platforms. 4. Turning 'costs to be reduced' into 'investments in differentiators that enable rural sustainability'</p>
<p>Don't take any more money away from schools. Especially those at or near capacity, if anything they need more budget to educate our young people in preparation for their futures which directly benefits the area through employment etc.</p> <p>I work for DGC and the sheer number of management is ridiculous- they are not performed managed albeit lower level staff are constantly told to do more with less.</p> <p>Extend DG1 opening hours and advertise it more. It's a fabulous venue and it closes at 3pm on weekends which is a shame. Open up the leisure pool after school every day, encourages parents to take children swimming since the waiting list for lessons is years long.</p> <p>Provide care to adults but make sure where they are assessed to pay for their care - they do! Social Work management (not social workers) should do more in this regard.</p> <p>Reducing black bin uplifts to every 3 weeks will encourage fly tipping.</p> <p>I have children of school age and I see the struggle the headmaster has with a limited budget in a very diverse school with children requiring additional support yet his budget was cut this year for additional support teachers. Crazy!!</p>
<p>Forget pipe dream ideas of Marina expansions in Stranraer which will only benefit those with disposable income to play with their boats.</p>
<p>Put the council tax up, this will surely save jobs and reduce debt</p>
<p>How much did this survey cost? Will you take any heed of the answers or just do your usual, and ignore them?!</p>
<p>Support staff to return to work sooner following sickness. Lower management wages. Look at free prescriptions over the counter medicines should not be included they should be paid for. Any school who's numbers drop the community and any upcoming new housing which has the potential to increase numbers into the school be taking into consideration before mothballing procedures are started</p>
<p>Review the structure of the staffing at the council. Far too many costly layers of management particularly in some departments. Extensive cost savings could be made through streamlining so that no budget cuts have to be made to the services for the most vulnerable in the region. No confidence in the officer led proposals.</p>
<p>Far to many people in management getting paid a fortune for nothing, and far to many in management</p>
<p>Stop the consultations for the flood defences in the Whitesands.</p> <p>Review senior management job roles in the council and look to reduce the amount to save money.</p>
<p>I would protect the money for tackling poverty, more than anything else. Focus on young children, give them as much support as possible to help their families overcome all the challenges that are constantly thrown at them. Please please please protect teachers including ASL and clerical staff. They already do so much and need more resources not fewer to help the children of D&G flourish.</p>
<p>It is good to see that many options for making savings are being considered, but much of these seem to be 'fiddling while Rome burns' !</p> <p>When I look at the senior posts in the council, there appear to be a large number of very highly paid people who have been promoted to positions of total incompetence.</p> <p>What on earth do they all do all day and what do they deliver that benefits the region.</p> <p>It appears to me that there is a lot of navel gazing going on, with minimal benefits.</p>

When I read some of their job descriptions and responsibilities, I either can't fathom what on earth their role is, because it appears to be completely pointless in the real world.

The council seem to have created a large number of 'made up' jobs and roles for high level executives, to give them a cushy few years before retirement and getting their fat pensions.

The council should be getting rid of these costly chiefs rather than penny pinching of grass roots delivery of vital services.

I would suggest an in depth review off all high level jobs of staff with salaries over say £60k, and see what they actually do all day. Yes they have endless meetings and discussions, but what do they actually deliver that is of any benefit, and is it value for money?. Can their inflated salaries be justified in any way?

I suspect most of them deliver very little, and their highly paid jobs are completely pointless.

I feel that reductions in education spending would be very short sighted.

The curriculum for excellence has been a disastrous program which has hampered schools for many years, the fact that many children moving from primary to secondary are barely literate, as well as a large number with major behaviour problems and learning difficulties.

Even with a falling school role, this is not the time to be cutting back on support for education.

On another note there is currently a huge issue with fly tipping and general littering around the region, so the is not the time to cut back funding for waste management, or make it more difficult or costly for people to dispose of waste properly.

Review funding of Third Sector Interface / dont provide the support our sector needs - hands in - deliver it directly by council!

Youth beatz is nice but not needed unless wholly funded externally - staffing too!

Public toilets are needed!!

Community Facilities are needed!!

Dumfries and Galloway Council have an absurd amount of managers and managers managing managers, each one earning obscene amounts of money for no obvious contribution to their Departments (which often struggle for day to day staff) perhaps this can be reviewed?

With regards to town halls , and in particular The MacMillan Hall in Newton Stewart as it is my town hall, the retention and use of these buildings is so important to maintain and enhance community activities whilst ensuring these buildings are retained as enhancing, historically important features. To ensure the above, I would like to suggest that the availability to hire rooms is advertised more clearly and widely (a large, strategically placed poster in a window of the building itself would be a starting point) and that charges are VERY reasonably priced to encourage much greater use. Far better to encourage the use of these wonderful architectural assets than to let them fall into ruin .

Re structure the council, trying to save money with a top heavy system of over paid workers will not work, and many under paid staff and teachers will suffer as a result.

Stop wasting money by hiring inadequate companies to carry out works

Very important that small schools are allowed a chance to remain. The benefit of these to children is massive and should be made a priority in regards to protecting and developing our children's future.

I want to respond specifically to the idea of rationalising / cutting the technician support services in schools. Clearly this has looked at the age structure of the current technicians and the thinking has been that when the existing staff retire or leave, they will not be replaced, and the remaining staff can cover the vacant posts.

I am the technical technician at Dumfries High School, and from experience, I have to say a centralised team of fewer technicians supporting more schools is possible, but in reality will provide a very poor service to the schools.

I work part time, and on my days off try to provide support to Lockerbie and Dalry schools who don't currently have technical technicians, and I have to say it doesn't work at all well. This is because when they need me because of an un planned problem, I'm not available.

In theory provision of materials for teachers can be planned well in advance, as long as the teachers are good at forward planning, but in reality some are very good at planning, and some are not.

However, most of my job is reactive rather than planned. I would say at least 75% of my day is unplanned, and involves reacting to something that has broken and needs repair at that moment, or providing last minute materials that haven't been planned.

In addition to providing materials and support to Technical, I also do a lot of repairs and technical support

around the school, supporting the janitors and repairing and making things for Science, PE, music, art, drama and even maths.

I also do a lot to support school shows, making props and making the sets.

I support STEM events, and training of other technicians.

I suspect a centralised technician service would not provide good support to the wider school community, and could not provide the instant reactive support that I provide through out the school.

Additionally I do not need managed, I just get on with the job and what needs to be done.

I manage my own time, and at the end of the day, I am one of the lowest paid staff in the school, so getting rid of me would generate a minimal saving.

Also I would assume that a centralised technician service would require a new management and admin structure, that would cost much more than the savings associated with reducing the technician numbers in schools, while providing a much poorer service to the affected school.

Much the same is true of science technicians, as much of their jobs are reactive rather than planned. For example, reacting immediately to a chemical spill, and knowing how to deal with it.

It's a bad idea, which won't provide any real savings, and which would provide a much poorer service.

I would suspect a higher cost, because it would require additional admin staff and a new management structure.

4 day week would save on fuel costs also wear and tear on vehicles

Try stop wasting tar on the roads with taking out a lot more than required. Ie where a patch is 400 by 400 you don't take out 30 mtrs so to keep Stranraer foreman happy getting 2 full loads. Time to get the senior tech out of his warm office to stop this

I have filled in this form but I am under no illusion whatsoever that anyone's views will be considered.

Dumfries and Galloway Council have no idea how to run the region. All they seem to be good at is making bad decisions and wasting people's hard earned money. It is such a shame that our region is falling into a state of total disrepair.

Don't build an unnecessary car park at Castle Dykes.

Don't build flood defences at the sands.

Waste collections, keeping our area tidy and keeping community halls open are all important to us. Dumfries struggles to attract shoppers to the high street so enforcing parking charges there will not help the cause.

I will pay more council tax too help others lam working my granddaughter gan too a special school for special needs and will need help all her life I wish you and the council all the best in the coming year 2024..to 2025 REDACTED

The following comments are based upon some of the suggested savings:

Has it been considered the cost of staff absences if the immunisation programme stopping leads to more people off sick?

Why are our in house catering services losing money hen an external company will apparently pay us ? consider a review of how we deliver commercial activities.

need to consider whether policy investment for Tackling Poverty is being spent correctly. it is not right to lump it all together. Where are our reviews of success in policy implementation

Why is a in house nursery costing us £120k per year, yet buying plants will be cheaper? not enough detail in the statement - are we getting rid of the bedding plants altogether?

School mothballing should be part of a pro-active plan and not reactive to pupil numbers. Where are the best locations for schools and consider how they combine. the population is declining and the continual removal of facilities from communities in decline is exacerbating the situation.

The saving of £200k is on-going, however most of that is consumed by the pool and the gym may be useful to retail for public health and wellbeing. the cost of heating water and air is the expensive part.

<p>I note that there is no consideration to the reduction of consultants. The continual decision to reduce staff and then state that there is not time for them to do roles and employ consultants. There should be consideration to an agile team that can support the work of Directorates and Services where capacity issues are recognised. these specifically normally relate to project management, strategy development, research and implementation and review of performance. The council currently spend £2.3million. £600k could create a team able to provide the necessary support. The more you cut staff the more spend on consultants.</p>
<p>Do not support the proposal for a new National Park in Galloway. The Council will end up picking up the costs for resources to support the extra burdens on existing infrastructure, caused by the increased visitor numbers. Examples being roads maintenance, public toilets, litter uplift.</p>
<p>Reduce staff in Human Resources by outsourcing services under a competitive tendering process. Outsource Health and Safety management too which is likely to provide a better managed service at reduced costs. Do not reduce services at leisure facilities that sit in the heart of communities and provide activities for children and the elderly too. Do not reduce waste collection services as this will encourage fly tipping and perceived savings would not be met.</p>
<p>Youth work is not a universal service, we get hardly anything compared to young people in Dfs it's not fair. If it were commissioned there could be more opportunities in smaller rural areas.</p>
<p>Get rid of Youth Beatz - it is an utter waste of money... I've attended with my children in the past and genuinely do not see what benefit this is. It's maybe a nice to have, but a 'freebie' of that nature is total waste and the amount of staff time this must use is horrific. We see little or no youth work service in Annan and you should spend money on staff</p>
<p>We provide all of our youth activities at a local level through Xcel with no help from the Council - our model works and should be replicated so commission services and help us out. Better support for John Muir / DofE over here would also be welcomed - we get no support at all. Finally I think Youth Beatz is a waste of money and that money would be better spent on local services for young people 365 days a year!</p>
<p>Youth Beatz - WASTE OF MONEY!</p>
<p>If any of these savings relate to our Ward Worker I couldn't agree with them - she's been the best support to our organisation and town we have had for years!!!</p>
<p>School technicians are often an invisible force within schools, working behind the scenes to facilitate practical STEM work within the classrooms. Even our colleagues and line managers have little understanding of what they actually do. Essentially Technicians in Science and Technical departments prepare materials to be used in practical classroom activities, but this involves so much more than following a scheme of work and delivering resources. Technicians research new techniques, update outdated protocols, maintain and repair equipment, undertake stock control of controlled hazardous substances and requisition materials, ensure safety is foremost, and protect the environment. H&S within STEM spaces is managed by technicians and many SQA mandated practical activities could not go ahead without them being present in the building. Technicians are a skilled workforce trained to respond effectively in incident management, they train teachers in practical skills, advise on safe working practice, support National 5 and Higher practical assignments, lead Advanced Higher project work, facilitate primary transition events and open evenings, and manage the practical spaces within their schools. Technicians also add value to the wider school on a voluntary basis, being involved in: STEM clubs, class demonstrations and teaching skills to students, behind the scenes in school shows and building sets and props, chaperoning residential and day trips saving schools on cover costs, driving the school mini-bus to support extra-curricular, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid duties, repairing equipment from other departments such as Music and PE, they may also provide reprographics and admin support when necessary. This is incredible value good-will that would be lost if Technicians were peripatetic, and could result in more expensive teaching staff or external agency involvement to cover this work. It should be highlighted that Technicians in schools facilitate the Scottish Government STEM Strategy. Without quality, consistent, and present Technician support in Science and Technical departments, D&G Education will be unable to achieve the government agenda of increased practical activities within STEM subjects and attainment will suffer.</p>

Working with young adults with disabilities, the Ryan centre and the cafe are an essential part of our community and would be a great loss in terms of socialising
I work with adults with learning difficulties and we use the Ryan centre cafe for group socialisation weekly. It would be a huge shame for the service users to miss out on this.
REDACTED
I work with adults with learning difficulties and we use the Ryan centre cafe for group socialisation weekly. It would be a huge shame for the service users to miss out on this.
Review the need for leasing a fleet of vehicles and costing huge amounts of money and time to repair to meet road legal requirements vehicles that are leased should be kept for no longer than 5 years including waste vehicles.
We use the Ryan centre and cafe on a daily basis as childminders,, Ryan's den and the cafe are excellent
I work with adults with learning difficulties and we use the Ryan centre cafe for group socialisation weekly. It would be a huge shame for the service users to miss out on this.
I think parking charges should be introduced and traffic wardens employed to stop the illegal parking such as next to traffic lights, on double yellow lines, on the side of roads where there are no parking signs. This would hopefully generate income for the council to use.
I work with adults with learning difficulties and we use the Ryan centre cafe for group socialisation weekly. It would be a huge shame for the service users to miss out on this.
We use the Ryan centre cafe regularly and it's great for socialising
I take my child to Ryan's den regularly and we always go to the cafe in the Ryan centre. My son loves going there for his lunch
Please do not shut the Ryan centre cafe
My son loves going to the Ryan centre cafe for lunch after his swimming lessons. Please don't close it
We always attend the cafe for lunch after swimming lessons. It would be a shame for it to close
Keep the Ryan centre cafe open
Mental health need to meet with others in cafe
Don't cut school related budgets. More support for teachers and Learning assistants are needed.
The cafe is a godsend. It provides a place for me to meet up with friends in what is otherwise a very lonely week.
The Ryan centre cafe is an asset and should remain open
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
We use the Ryan centre cafe when the kids are at swimming lessons... at least twice a week and it would be a huge shame to close it
The Ryan Centre Cafe needs to remain. Our group of 30 all have memberships and if this provision was removed, I'm not sure all would continue to attend the classes. It's more about the company and cake than it is the class. No other building in Stranraer offers this service.
We are a karate group that use the centre twice weekly.... We use the cafe regularly
As an avid user of the facility and the cafe please do not close this
My child attends multi sports and badminton in the Ryan centre.... We use the cafe a lot to talk to other parents etc and we love it
Any reductions to schools will have significant impact on meeting the needs of learners whether it may be the proposal to reduce clerical staff or reduce class teacher to pupil ratios, these will both be detrimental to the wellbeing of all learners in a world where we aim to 'Get It Right for Every Child' to meet their wellbeing indicators.
As a avid user of the Ryan centre with children it would be a massive blow to shut the cafe
Who gets paid the most take a reduced wage!

A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
Please do not shut the Ryan centre cafe
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
I have chosen to remove funding for Youth Beats but I believe it is an asset to the region and partial funding should be available while charging a small fee to attend (no more than £10). Would both raise funds, and prevent those who get tickets just because they are free and then don't attend because they aren't losing money, another child misses out.
Schools / council buildings that are mothballed should be sold much quicker and with potential planning options in place to prevent the buildings becoming derelict and worth less down the line.
Just last week I seen a council employee going round emptying the roadside bins on a Sunday, I would assume on an overtime rate - employing an extra team member or two even on a part time basis would potentially be cheaper than paying these overtime rates?
I would be happy to pay a few pounds to park in a council run car park in town rather than they are sold off to become impossible to pay at app only unmaintained car parks.
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
We have children at swimming lessons at the Ryan centre and would be a great shame if they shut the cafe
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
Save our cafe at the Ryan Centre, it's my lifeline
Yes cut councillors wages. We need the funding for schools as they support is next to non existent as it is.
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
A group of us attend easytone every week at the Ryan centre and use the cafe for a coffee afterwards ... we would hate to lose it
Without the cafe, the Ryan Centre is not the community hub it currently is
We go to Gymnastics as part of a private hire within the Ryan centre and use the cafe regularly
Every lay-by bin on the B7076 from Lockerbie towards eaglesfield full - where do you think the rubbish is going to go if bins removed and 3-weekly collections at home??

The cafe in the Ryan centre is used by customers and staff. elderly members of the community use the facility to meet friends regularly
Reduce cost of Pool cars by removing ones only used by managers to commute to their base of work from other areas
<p>This questionnaire is a little unreasonable as most folk will not have an in-depth understanding of the costs of each item itemised above, especially in relation to education and staffing structure/costs etc.</p> <p>I would hate to see parking charges across the region. I would hate to see closures of well used public halls, toilets etc, unless they are poorly used. It is important to maintain the integrity and structure of sites like the MacMillan Hall as it is a focal point and prestigious building in Newton Stewart. Increased usage of these buildings is to be encouraged, possibly through better advertising, lower hourly hiring rates etc. Well used will lower admin/staffing costs and help with heating and therefore reduce long term maintenance costs.</p> <p>Similarly sports halls are a great facility to maintain public health. Similarly Libraries are a brilliant facility, although I have been on occasions when the heating has been over the top and local staff have complained they can't control it.</p> <p>Cutting recycling centres and waste collections would lead to increased fly tipping.</p> <p>Kind regards</p>
The Ryan centre cafe is a social hub for many many people, please don't remove it.
The Ryan centre cafe is a social hub for many many people, please don't remove it.
The Ryan centre cafe is a social hub for many many people, please don't remove it.
<p>Although not directly related to the budget consultation exercise and its costed proposals.</p> <p>Over the last 19 years I have spoken to various people in D&G council about developing a hydro scheme on the caul in Dumfries.</p> <p>My first approach to the council was in 2005, and then again in 2009 and 2010, when we (myself and REDACTED) discussed the proposal in some detail with REDACTED.</p> <p>There was no further response from the council, but then in 2011 they announced that they would be building the scheme in house, but clearly nothing more happened.</p> <p>More recently I have been discussing the potential for the scheme with councillor David Slater, and with REDACTED, who has been making similar proposals to the council over recent years.</p> <p>Our original proposal to REDACTED back in 2010, was to install two 50kW archimedes screw hydro turbines at the Robert Burns Centre end of the caul.</p> <p>The installation cost would be repaid from income from the feed in tariff scheme, which ran from 2010 to 2019.</p> <p>This opportunity for funding ceased in 2019 when the feed in tariff ended.</p> <p>So to make the proposal financially viable today, we would need a heavy energy user to sign up to a long term supply contract (10 to 15 years) to buy the energy that the hydro scheme produced.</p> <p>The obvious local heavy user of electricity is Dumfries Ice Bowl, which I estimate will be using nearly 2M kWh of electricity per year, (less the 12% savings made with their voltage optimisation system and 7% from their PV panels).</p> <p>The 100kW hydro scheme should produce about 800000 kWh of electricity per year, which would cover about 40% to 45% of the Ice Bowls energy requirements.</p> <p>Ayrshire council have recently taken the lead in south Scotland, when they installed a slightly smaller hydro scheme in Ayr in 2022, which supplies Ayr college</p> <p>If this proposal is of any interest, and you wish to discuss it further, please feel free to get in touch.</p> <p>REDACTED</p>
There is not currently sufficient admin/clerical support. This results in highly-paid managers spending time doing admin tasks. Do not reduce admin/clerical any further.
Modernise internal systems so that efficiency is prioritised, this saving on wages and resources
A number of templates from Education have a reduction of staff on these. Why are we not transferring these staff to current vacant posts now? Senior Managers are paid significant salaries, they should be reducing and transferring staff now and not waiting for Elected Members to make the difficult decision. There are several permanent posts for Education on line now for external staff. Chief Executive Unit should be driving

<p>this from top down. Or maybe all these staff on the templates are waiting for ERVs, a joke. This is public money and ERVs should not be offered.</p>
<p>I'm a disabled person that loves to attend the easy tone and then coffee and something to eat in the Ryan centre</p>
<p>Do not centralise technician support - IT technician support has been a disaster since it was centralised, doing the same with Science and Technical would completely cripple teacher's ability to carry out lessons effectively.</p>
<p>Cut Education Officers and send them back to the classroom, especially those in shortage subjects.</p>
<p>There are several areas of large budget savings that we think you should be implementing as a matter of course, using sound business sense and without any need for consultation. We think you should reconsider the measures that were brought in for registration of accommodation providers which is having a significant downward influence on tourism and therefore an effect on the whole economy of the region.</p>
<p>Spend less on education. collect garden waste without charging £40</p>
<p>Charge people a small fee for Youthbeatz tickets £5 or £10 not expensive but not free Charge people a small fee for their parking disk - North Berwick for example charges £1 for these - nothing to the person that needs one, generates some funds and makes sure people are still going into town and parking to access the shops Definitely reduce number of HWRC depot - I visit these frequently and they are always dead Summer Fund - review the activities to more cost effective things - I've seen these being trips away and horse riding for example</p>
<p>Stop carrying out lengthy consultations - recent school one to change the structure of the week was clearly a bad idea before the consultation</p>
<p>The Council has difficult choices ahead, but the priorities should be to protect services, to insulate residents from broader financial pressures (especially vulnerable or almost-vulnerable residents), and to shift both public and Council behaviours. The use of parking charges, for example, should be accompanied by encouraging active and public transport. The use of external service provision to meet Council needs should be reduced as much as possible, bringing in-house as much as possible. Ideally, this would include a uniform approach to public transport with the Council operating all routes, rather than contracting them out. On Council Tax, a progressive approach is required: the disabled, A, and B bands should see reductions in the amount due by 10%, 9%, and 8% respectively. Bands C and D should be maintained at current levels. All higher bands should see an increase in council tax of 6%. This will provide residents of lower-value properties direct relief, enabling more spending in the local economy.</p>
<p>Nope</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>Youth work is important</p>
<p>1. 4.5 working day for schools this would allow Education to save money by not paying Learning Assistants or RICCT teachers less disruption to class if teachers had their RICCT on a Friday afternoon 2. Schools need more support with children with behavioural or ASN not less Education and attainment would improve if there was a specific base with experienced staff or support for parents from nursery to improve when starting school. More LAs to support teachers 3. School budgets are stretched to the max so no funding for extra resources or furniture since that is expected to be paid out of DSM budget. PEF budget is being used for extra staff to support PEF children but what happens if the Scottish government do not extend this budget in 2026? No LAs to help attainment 4. Clericals were advised that we need to prioritise our work if the formula changes. Clericals are paid the same as a Facilities Assistant however to become a Senior Clerical Assistant we need to have a lot more qualifications than a FA or even a LA. Workload in a school office is completely different to an office in Finance for example Not sure how we can prioritise without impacting relationships with parents</p>

<p>You really need to stop focussing cuts on children with additional needs. There are many savings to be made that would not have such a devastating impact on children and families. How many DEI officers do you employ? Why are there so many unelected officers on massive salaries? Why do we not raise Council Tax so those who can afford to pay are asked to pay? You are clearly going to hammer vulnerable children and families so expect a severe backlash from those of us who are hurt most. #TerfIsTheNewPunk</p>
<p>The MACMILLAN HALL in Newton Stewart is a valued key community facility and must not be closed</p>
<p>I feel that whatever the cuts made (and I appreciate that it is not an easy task) the cuts should not be made in education. The research and evidence strongly states that if we get it right in the early years then outcomes are better and there is less reliance on services in adulthood. From the figures it is clear that a huge amount is spent on adult care. Building strong resilient children would improve these costs in the future. Forward plan. Think of the future. Cost cutting in education now will cost more year on year. Prioritise our young people. And also do something more about benefit fraud. It's horrendous and getting worse. The systems in place are definitely not working. Stopping families from claiming 2 lots of benefits across 2 houses when the parents are together would also help the so called housing crisis! As would making it harder for people to have a second home!! Plenty of houses just half of them in this area are empty the majority of the time. Tourist tax like is charged abroad would also help lift the load in the summer too!</p>
<p>Mothballing small schools is short sighted and not good for long term sustainability of rural areas, and doesn't factor in benefits of small schools to meet diverse needs of school estate and of pupils and their families.</p>
<p>Keep the rural schools open, there a huge benefits for children who attend a smaller school giving them the best start possible. Children are the future of this region.</p>
<p>It is extremely hard to choose where to make cuts. Some of the options are quite vague as to what they really mean. Obviously any cuts made will have a negative effect on people in our area.</p>
<p>Do not centralise school technician services it won't work too many schools too few full time staff</p>
<p>Very much in support of mothballing schools under 25 children. We have too many small rural schools running well below capacity, thus costing more per capita</p>
<p>Small schools, with less than 25 pupils should be mothballed. Try combining Stewartry secondary schools</p>
<p>Consider freezing the salaries of all the people in the council who earn over £100k pa</p> <p>Consultancy and agency spend Council currently spends circa £1.2m per annum - this needs to be reviewed for potential reductions. Although capacity in council staffing has been reduced no projects should be taken on that involve outside consultants unless it is proven that there is not capacity within the council itself.</p> <p>On the choices in the consultation there seems to be an over heavy emphasis on cuts in education which will impact on young people of D&G. There seem very few savings targeted at the continuing reduction of the non school estate (apart from toilets and community halls) when with the advent of working from home surely there should be opportunities to reduce the council footprint in terms of properties.</p> <p>Finally on a smaller note you could look at the admin costs of the printing and posting out of council papers to councillors. This needs to be done digitally in the 21st century with the possibility of selected printing out at customer services centres and the training of councillors so they are no longer reliant on printed copies.</p>
<p>Pull funding for the Thistle Grove gypsy traveller site project (immediate multimillion pound saving - plus avoiding hugely unpopular PR)</p> <p>Reduce funding for the Council HQ refurbishment project (immediate multimillion pound saving - plus bad PR investing in the "ivory tower")</p> <p>Invest in planned maintenance (window painting, gutter cleaning, vegetation removal) on the building estate to avoid large repairs/refurbishment costs further down the line (recurring £10's of thousands per annum saving)</p> <p>Invest on spend-to-save projects (replacement lighting, heating and services controls) to improve efficiency,</p>

reduce energy consumption and therefore bills - align with green credentials. (Reducing £10's of thousands per annum saving)
I feel not cutting things in schools is important as educating kids well improves the future of D & G. I feel it is very shortsighted to target leisure facilities as keeping residents healthy surely reduces health spending in the long term.
I believe education has to be protected and more importantly the reduction of ASN staff over the past 10 years has had a significantly detrimental effect on those children requiring additional support, not to mention the stress it puts on staff. I would go as far as saying that the council are in breach of providing appropriate education for some of our children, particularly those with ASN. If you wish to continue with an inclusive policy for all children, which I fully support, you need to provide better provision. Mothballing those schools whose rolls are significantly low needs to be done sooner rather than later. I appreciate that it's not a popular choice, particularly in smaller rural communities, but it is necessary. The suggestion regarding reducing some of the leisure facilities in one part of the review and then suggesting increasing the admission costs to these facilities, appears to contradict itself. Taxation is a necessary evil, however there has to be an increase in our council tax in order to pay for facilities. I think the suggestion to look at bin collection times increasing to every three weeks, could potentially cost more. We already have a fairly good recycling bin service; to increase household waste collection to every three weeks, has an implication that bigger bins may be required for households. If the cost to the council to buy larger bins for household can be offset by a reduction in the collection time then so be it, however I suspect in the summer and much warmer weather this could create more problems.
I ticked the option to 'strongly agree' with increasing Council Tax, however, this is on the assumption that the additional income would lead to greater investment in local services. I also believe there should be a charge for prescriptions, this is not an option within this survey.
Concerned that it is not clear which teams/posts are included in the budget saving proposal not to fill vacancies if no longer required. Which teams? Who decides posts not required.
Stop new school buildings or moval of school in bigger cities, reduce payment of council employees
Review staff with high level of absence and get rid, there are doing nothing anyway. Combine staff to multi task in other roles/departments to deploy when needed due to increase or decrease in their current roles to get maximum staff efficiency which could also boost staff moral giving them fresh & new challenges in other roles offering a varied workload
Education appears to take a huge hit in this budget- and I appreciate it is a large cost to the council. However what needs to be looked at in regards to Education is providing more support. Council Sick Pay needs to be reduced!!! Teachers get 6 months full pay and then half pay. Which is absolutely appalling. So many teachers abuse the system. So many teachers are unable to get jobs or longer term contracts because of this. Statutory sick pay should be the standard across all council employees!! Disgusting that the proposal includes reducing pensions on maternity pay - where women are already at a disadvantage due to gender. Please take a indiscriminate approach and reduce sick pay for any and all employees.
Closing the Ryan Centre cafe would effect a large number of regular users to the centre
Reduce high earning management
Managers and directors could maybe take a reduction in salary because some of them seem to earn a lot of money
N/A
Please think of the likely impact of increased littering and flytipping if implementing the waste services options
Second homes and short term ie holiday lets should be taxed significantly.
Less management
Ensure that EVERYONE using leisure facilities pays for their use, either through membership fees or by PAYG on entry.
My family use the Ryan centre cafe regularly. We would hate to see it go
We always go to the Ryan centre cafe for lunch after swimming lessons.

We always use the Ryan centre cafe when at Ryan's den with the kids... it is a great facility that will be missed if taken away!
My kids love going to he Ryan centre cafe after swimming... surely it makes more sense to keep it open when so many people use it
I work with children with learning difficulties and we use the Ryan centre cafe regularly as a group. The cafe is a great place for us to spend time with all the kids together.
I work with children with learning difficulties and we use the Ryan centre cafe regularly as a group. The cafe is a great place for us to spend time with all the kids together.
School technicians are often an invisible force within schools, working behind the scenes to facilitate practical STEM work within the classrooms. Even our colleagues and line managers have little understanding of what they actually do. Essentially Technicians in Science and Technical departments prepare materials to be used in practical classroom activities, but this involves so much more than following a scheme of work and delivering resources. Technicians research new techniques, update outdated protocols, maintain and repair equipment, undertake stock control of controlled hazardous substances and requisition materials, ensure safety is foremost, and protect the environment. H&S within STEM spaces is managed by technicians and many SQA mandated practical activities could not go ahead without them being present in the building. Technicians are a skilled workforce trained to respond effectively in incident management, they train teachers in practical skills, advise on safe working practice, support National 5 and Higher practical assignments, lead Advanced Higher project work, facilitate primary transition events and open evenings, and manage the practical spaces within their schools. Technicians also add value to the wider school on a voluntary basis, being involved in: STEM clubs, class demonstrations and teaching skills to students, behind the scenes in school shows and building sets and props, chaperoning residential and day trips saving schools on cover costs, driving the school mini-bus to support extra-curricular, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid duties, repairing equipment from other departments such as Music and PE, they may also provide reprographics and admin support when necessary. This is incredible value good-will that would be lost if Technicians were peripatetic, and could result in more expensive teaching staff or external agency involvement to cover this work. It should be highlighted that Technicians in schools facilitate the Scottish Government STEM Strategy. Without quality, consistent, and present Technician support in Science and Technical departments, D&G Education will be unable to achieve the government agenda of increased practical activities within STEM subjects and attainment will suffer.
We love the Ryan centre for a coffee and a cake.
Less passing the buck of responsibility onto surveys and consultations and more efficient management in a common sense fashion of all services with people who know the service managing so they know where changes need made. I see learning assistance in schools as vital ,as 1 disruptive child affects the whole class I think charging more for halls etc is counter productive as people who are keeping fit will stay healthier therefore cost the Nhs less Closing small rural schools has an extreme knock on effect on the communities as people are forced to move nearer to towns. Also these schools are much more suited to children who need a bit more help so they don't get lost in the system and have bigger more expensive problems later in life.
Closing the cafe in the Ryan Centre makes no sense it's a central part of the facility and closing it would effect a large proportion of members. The saving would be offset by loss of these members so wont be a saving at all
Some of these are not really savings, they should be being done as part of the day job! The council needs to stop asking officers to make the savings, our councillors need to give clear direction on what they want within the region and what they are willing to sacrific.
I feel the further cuts to education, disability, third sector and community services will further impact the community that is already disadvantaged. The economics of Dumfries is depleted and without a future work force there will be no one to fill the posts highlight in this survey. The cost to create the surveys and make these decisions has not been included into this survey, that is a huge oversight.
Closing the cafe at the Ryan centre will come with a greater cost to the facility

<p>None of these cuts will be popular. Personally, I think Education funding should be increased. Savings made on the closure of small schools would be better diverted into the existing larger schools, improving facilities and providing more support staff. That way all our children would benefit.</p>
<p>Do not reduce any facilities relating to schools and nurseries, they are under funded and understaffed. Children are the ones who are going to suffer and become more dependent on councils and the government in the future.</p>
<p>One thing that concerned me about some of the options available was that there was no indication the choices would have on employee numbers. Also the removal of bins for example, what is the likely impact of doing so? In cases where bins have been removed from some laybys there is obvious littering in many cases, what are the likely or actual associated costs and additional risks of staff caused by the need for more litter picking?</p>
<p>achieve best value and maximise capital opportunities for sale of council assets</p>
<p>Can't agree more with not funding Youth Beatz - I cannot for the life of me see why the Council is spending on a free music festival it is bonkers! The layby bins should go as well as they are a total mess. More local grants for communities to use on things they actually want in their towns would be better.</p>
<p>Under no circumstances should toilets be closed, should be trying to encourage visitors, parking charges won't put people off but no toilets will cause lots of problems. Also bring back Traffic Wardens and parking tickets especially in town centres as getting a parking space is nearly impossible.</p>
<p>This is a very difficult questionnaire to answer, partly because of the knowledge required to answer questions intelligently, and partly because of its phrasing, which frequently demands double, or even triple, negatives. However the main principle in my answers has been to maintain support for disadvantaged people - or that was at least my intention.</p>
<p>Dumfries and Galloway is a widespread rural area. Primary schools no matter how small the school role is are the heartbeat of these communities. They attract and retain families to live these rural areas. This allows for the healthy 'walk or cycle to school' to be achieved reducing the number of cars and congestion on our roads. To many rural schools are being closed! I strongly disagree with the proposal for small school closures with over a pupil role of 10!!!</p>
<p>we need to make sure we have enough capacity in our teams to deliver on these savings as these will take time and effort</p>
<p>all staff meetings/training to be held on teams - there is no need for staff to be travelling to a central location from across the region to attend meetings or training when it can all be held on teams (shown to work during Covid). This would save on fuel costs and utilises staff time better. Allow staff to work from home full time if they so wish (shown to work during Covid). This will allow less need of office space.</p>
<p>Dumfries and Galloway council needs to ensure that they are investing in schools and teachers (including support staff) to ensure that young people can contribute to society when they are school leaving age. Furthermore, the Council needs take a look at the management structure and get rid of unneeded persons and departments that just add to the bureaucratic dirge and waste money. The council, as a whole, is pretty poorly run and makes poor decisions.</p>
<p>Money has been spent on unnecessary "improvements" in education - new phones for every classroom, new Promethean boards that do not function as intended, etc. There should be greater consultation with education staff on the use of funds. Additionally, the push for Digital Schools is a financial abyss that is an impossible goal - and an ill advised one, given the mounting evidence that says that digital learning is ineffective at best and detrimental at worst.</p>
<p>Stop using agency staff - they are inflated prices that doesnt even get paid to the worker - agency only. Also - rather than cutting the back bone workers of the community e.g. cleaners / admin staff who make the Council run - ask Management to reduce their pay grades - highly unfair that they agreed to give themselves a pay rise when the schools were striking!</p>
<p>At DG1 leisure centre large amounts of hot water run to waste because the shower units run for longer than necessary and in many cases the intended fairly lengthy cut off mechanism has essentially failed. A spend to save measure to put in more modern flow and cut off controls would generate substantial savings and would make the Council greener!</p>

<p>Personally, I think that reducing the support staff within schools is going to have a devastating affect on our young people - there is already a lack of support for children with additional support needs and this affects not only those children, but this disrupts the other children in the class and I can only imagine that this is having a negative impact on the mental health of teachers. Children should be a priority!</p>
<p>You can't put a price on the social value that the Ryan Centre provides for the community in the town</p>
<p>Any proposals to reduce or remove services within education is despicable. As a parent and a education professional we are understaffed, underpaid and under supported which most importantly is failing so many children withing dumfries and galloway. Abhorrent.</p>
<p>Please let the 'child' be at the centre of your decisions regarding additional support teachers, teachers, inclusion, early years provision (also many children with additional support needs) etc. and not the budget. Budget priorities need to focus on maintaining and increasing funding for the most vulnerable in our region e.g. babies/young children/young people. The number of children with additional support needs, adverse childhood experiences, trauma etc. has increased so please do not cut the specialist services/professionals who support the children with additional needs etc and their families e.g. Educational Visitors, Additional Support for Learning Assistants, Additional Support for Learning Teachers, Educational Psychologists, Teachers of the Visually or Hearing Impaired....</p>
<p>Youth Beatz is a valued event and although I voted to remove funding I would hope that sponsorship and charitable bodies could provide more support with council only providing emergency cash if absolutely necessary. Max £50,000.</p>
<p>I travel 3 times a week to the classes in the ryan centre and am a frequent user of the cafe. If the cafe closes I'm unlikely to keep using the centre. The chat and cuppa after is more appealing than the class itself.</p>
<p>Reduce the number of Directors within the organisation. The cost for recent restructure and pay left a lot to be desired.</p>
<p>Learning support has had enough cuts over the years and need a huge increase of funding to make sure girfec is being implemented.</p>
<p>Some of these options may cost more to make savings</p>
<p>End lunches for elected members</p>
<p>I am a teacher who has a big workload.</p>
<p>Reduce number of managers</p>
<p>As a teacher in a small rural school, it's important to ensure that staffing changes do not overly impact the day-to-day running of these schools. Especially when staffing can already be tight.</p>
<p>Council wasted too much money on failed initiatives e.g. The Bridge. Used for staff training I believe was supposed to be part of Learning Town?</p>
<p>The money spent on youth beats should be cut. .why should Dumfries residents pay for people outside region to party?</p>
<p>Why reduce teachers when the attainment rate for our children is the lowest in Scotland!</p>
<p>Number of executive management needs to be reviewed.</p>
<p>It is a disgraceful suggestion to reduce office cleaning. Does the council not remember Covid</p>
<p>The challenges people face across the region is significant and the large geographical spread is a challenge. Transport costs are high, services low and large rural environment all are different to a city. Cost cutting is needed and is partially caused by public sector raise increases over the past few years - it is disappointing that the whole region will now suffer as a result.</p>
<p>One area that is not mentioned in all of this is to increase tourism to the area - having recently moved here, I have been amazed by the lack of promotion from the council as well as other government and non government bodies. This needs to change and can bring a much needed income to the region - I would like to see some proposals on how that could be part of your plan. It seems much easier to ask for opinions than generate new and increased income. The Galloway National Park seems an obvious solution to get behind - while the no campaign has been incredibly vocal, this is much needed in the area. The council has the opportunity to push and develop tourism across the region. Similarly there is no mention of transport links - these need to improve if you are going to draw individuals and businesses to the area - again, no mention on business growth and development either. Rather than maintain or reduce the status quo, it would be much more energising to see the possibilities and the improvements to bring changes to a very beautiful but</p>

<p>unsung area of Scotland. Please think bigger, brighter and better - D and G needs it in the long term, otherwise the decline will increase.</p>
<p>Restructure the staffing within the council and only employ staff that were required. The council have too many bosses that are not required, therefore wasting budget on wages that are not required.</p>
<p>Council management needs to be reduced high costs and little gain.</p>
<p>Reduce number of agency workers employed at high costs.</p>
<p>It is shocking, despite years of savings, that there is still so much waste and inefficiency in this council. For every single taxpayers' penny spent the question should be asked - is this good value for money? Only when elected members can look their constituents in the eye and say there is zero waste in our council and services cannot be provided any more efficiently should they even consider raising the already unfair council tax, especially when so many are struggling with the impact of long-term inflation and high energy costs, not to mention the removal of the winter fuel payment.</p>
<p>You can't reduce the waste collection dates to every 3 weeks and at the same time reduce the number of recycling centres?</p>
<p>I would hate to see the Ryan Centre cafe change as its an important place for me to meet with friends after our class/swim/gym and spend time together. The staff in the cafe are lovely and its a welcoming space for vital get togethers for people who may live on their own and need company and socialisation.</p>
<p>use IT equipment for team meetings rather than wasting travel time, we are beginning to go back to what we did previously but so much working time is lost due to travelling.</p>
<p>The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) is not mentioned by name, yet other Supporting Learners' teams are. I believe it comes under the category of non-essential vacancies (4:12). This is a misnomer. At a time when ASN figures are increasing exponentially year on year, no-one should be in favour of cuts to any Supporting Learners' Services. It is unfair that those completing this survey are being lured in by disingenuous wording about 'vacancies' which currently do not even exist in that service, I understand. There are many disadvantages across all levels (young people and families/ school/ universal) and stages of intervention 1-4 by considering a cut to Educational Psychology. I understand that some of those disadvantages are covered in the response from that service. There is a specific risk to our neurodivergent young people and families of cutting Educational Psychology capacity. Not only is over half of EPS casework dedicated to supporting schools to support the needs of autistic/neurodivergent (ND) pupils better, but that service LEADS ND/autism strategy. By cutting the EPS, there is a real danger that capacity for this strategic input diminishes. In real terms, this means that we move further and further away from our classroom environments and classroom practitioners offering a consistent and targeted approach to meeting the diverse needs of this huge group. And this is just one area in which Educational Psychology leads strategy! Please don't cut a service which is trying to impact change at the systems level - where a real difference can be made for D&G's neurodivergent population.</p>
<p>The priority for D&G council surely must be what is best for the D&G residents? Sadly, many of these questions are worded in a "loaded" way. If a respondent isn't familiar with a certain sector they are led to a particular answer. I wonder how much of the money that needs to be saved could have been brought forward if the 20mph scheme through villages had of been abandoned or the recent restructure of the council? What is the true cost of a round of meetings where council employees are required to attend, but have very little input in the decision making? The council is there to manage resources on behalf of the tax paying residents. This requires leadership not a consultation.</p>
<p>I think it's really important that Dumfries and Galloway Council employs a substantial number of staff, at many different pay-grades, to support communities to achieve their aspirations through community development work.</p>
<p>Centralising the use of school technicians would increase the risk of health and safety issues within schools. School technicians play a key role in ensuring a safe working environment for our Science and Technical students which would be diminished if they were centralised. It would also mean significant travel between schools which would be an inefficient use of a technicians time.</p>
<p>The council need to focus on providing their core services keeping their staff bill under control and cutting out pointless pet projects, consultations and meetings .Levelling up, some departments are top heavy with management, some working from home ,they should be in their place of work and support the short fall on</p>

the shop floor. No job should be beneath anyone.

If council tax has to rise it should be at an affordable rate for households.

Removing dedicated technician support from schools is unrealistic. Science subjects rely on in-house technicians to provide support for lessons and the operation of the curriculum. It is difficult to see how this could be achieved without compromising safety.

The Council needs to adopt a more business-like approach, with a greater focus on efficiency and accountability across all levels. At present, there appears to be little consequence for underperformance, which not only impacts productivity but also discourages hardworking staff. A cultural shift is urgently required, moving away from endless discussions and towards taking decisive action. Processes need to be streamlined, reducing unnecessary red tape and making it easier to get things done.

It's also important to strike a balance when it comes to staff management: good performers should be rewarded and incentivised to stay, while underperforming staff must be dealt with promptly, including their removal if necessary.

A full review of upper and middle management could be particularly worthwhile, as this is likely where the biggest savings and improvements in efficiency can be made. In addition to this, the Council should focus on hiring more skilled workers who actively carry out the work—such as roads workers, software engineers, or frontline staff—rather than increasing the number of middle or upper management roles whose primary function is to allocate or report on tasks rather than perform them. The emphasis should be on boosting capacity where the work is being done, not where it is being discussed.

The Council also needs to be much smarter about how public money is spent, ensuring resources are used effectively to achieve the best outcomes for the community.

Furthermore, many of the budget-saving ideas in this consultation seem like common sense and should already be implemented, rather than requiring public consultation to address basic inefficiencies. These should be standard practices for a well-run organisation.

Finally, I cannot support an increase in council tax due to the poor allocation of spending currently evident. I am unwilling to contribute more money for it to continue being mismanaged as it has been for a long time. Without a significant culture change, I believe this pattern of inefficiency will persist.

I chose to fill in this feedback form as I am horrified at the amount of suggestions for cutting funding in the already limited resources for disabled children in our community. As a parent of a disabled child in D&G we are already dealing with drastically underfunded resources and it's clear the council want to take away what little help our children already have. I think the discrimination that our local council is showing towards the disabled community is quite frankly disgusting. They should be looking into how to make support for disabled children and their families better not taking away the scraps that we are left with already

Cuts to teacher numbers and ASL staff are cuts to the future opportunities of all young people in our region. I notice our region is already lagging in various aspects of education compared to the rest of Scotland, choose wisely.

Are the ward workers being considered as a budget saving.

Your consultation wording is not clear or in depth enough to give residents the chance to properly consider savings options

Why are you considering reducing youth work staff and not ward workers

Am disappointed in the level of detail included - would have expected better of D and G council

This is so important- why is it not clearer to understand - there is no detail in relation to what posts are being considered for reduction - how can we vote for something if we don't know which jobs these are

Poor, poor, poor

Centralising the use of school technicians would increase the risk of health and safety issues within schools. School technicians play a key role in ensuring a safe working environment for our Science and Technical students which would be diminished if they were centralised. It would also mean significant travel between schools which would be an inefficient use of a technician's time.

School technicians facilitate practical STEM work within the classrooms, this involves so much more than

following a scheme of work and delivering resources. Technicians research new techniques, update outdated protocols, maintain and repair equipment, undertake stock control of controlled hazardous substances and requisition materials, ensure safety is foremost, and protect the environment. H&S within STEM spaces is managed by technicians and many SQA mandated practical activities, e.g. microbiology in lab Skills, could not go ahead without them being present in the building. Technicians are a skilled workforce trained to respond effectively in incident management, they train teachers in practical skills, advise on safe working practice, support National 5 and Higher practical assignments, lead Advanced Higher project work, and manage the practical spaces within their schools. They often have to be reactive when these projects are being undertaken and prepare extra chemical at short notice and/or be available when AH students have free periods in which to do their practical work i.e. without scheduled lesson times for that particular subject. . This would be difficult/impossible if they were centralised

Technicians also add value to the wider school on a voluntary basis, being involved in:
STEM clubs,

class demonstrations and teaching skills to students,
behind the scenes in school shows and building sets and props,
chaperoning residential and day trips saving schools on cover costs,
driving a mini-bus to support extra-curricular activities

First Aid and Mental Health First Aid duties,
repairing equipment from other departments such as Music and PE, they may also
provide reprographics and admin support when necessary.

This is incredible value good-that will be lost if Technicians are pulled out of schools and could result in more expensive teaching staff or external agency involvement to cover this work. It should be highlighted that Technicians in schools facilitate the Scottish Government STEM Strategy. Without quality, consistent, and present Technician support in Science and Technical departments, D&G Education will be unable to achieve the government agenda of increased practical activities within STEM subjects and attainment will suffer.

Closing Castle Douglas Swimming pool is extremely short sighted. It is a valuable and essential part of the community, without it rehab and older people will lose the opportunity to keep fit causing a bigger financial cost to the COUNCIL.

How can you suggest ending funding for tackling poverty & inequality measures?do you not understand that this will increase your costs due to your responsibilities as a local authority for your care to the people most in need?

Why is the Budget listed £630,000? Your last allocation for this was £1,827,000 - why is there no information on which projects the £630,000 includes?

Will the removal of this budget include support to the Foodbanks? Why is this even being considered
Can't believe that anyone would put this forward as a budget saving when there is so much else that you could consider reducing - do you not understand the huge negative impact that this will have?

Why would you want to consider removing the catering within the Ryan Centre? This is essential for kids parties without it you would reduce the number of bookings within the Centre. This is an incredible asset & we would never want to lose it the staff are incredible & so helpful

Close Dalry Secondary School - pupils at Eton pay less per year per pupil than what it costs your Council to keep this facility open - this would surely be a Budget Savings but not sure if this has been included as there is not enough information included to know.

How can you consider bringing in traffic wardens? People don't have the cash to pay a fine of £100 - are you going to waste our Council Tax Payments to take people who have no money to court to chase unpaid fines? Really hope that this isn't the case.

Feel for your staff who are involved in Budget Saving Options- this process is very unfair & goes on for months - what support is available for staff during this time? Mental anguish for all involved

Could you remove all Community Planning activities to save money?

Review the management structure to make sure that we need all the people that seem to be involved at that level. Are they all needed and what do they really do?

Please think very seriously about the cuts to education. As a secondary teacher I can assure you we do not need education officers. In my 7 years of teaching, I am yet to see the benefit to having any of them. On the other hand support staff are invaluable and we are at breaking point with classes up to 30 with such diverse

needs of pupils.

The council must bring back more additional support schools. At the moment I am expected to teach 11 pupils in S1-3 who are illiterate along side those who could pass higher.

my advice is as follows:

cut all education officers (who cost significantly more than support staff)

cut youth beats and any other leisure activity- people can pay to attend these events

reduce free school meals (only 40%) of our kids use their fsm entitlement

we need more teachers, support staff and resources and less management and close the poverty gap initiatives. The poverty gap will continue to grow if teachers cannot educate our pupils because of large class sizes with polarising needs and limited support.

I would suggest reducing the costs of vehicle use of pool cars. During Covid meetings were held via Teams and all service areas continued to perform at a satisfactory level, I feel this should be reintroduced and more training and meetings held via Teams. I live in the West of the Region and on every occasion I travel east for meetings or training I meet several pool cars, generally with only one person within. This would provide a saving to the need for the number of vehicles, their maintenance, fuel, fleet management involvement and also the reduction in staff time used up on travel. As an example 4 staff members travelling from east to west or vice versa takes up on average 4 hours travel per person which amounts to over half a working day for a full time member of staff. This in turn adds pressure to that member of staff to catch up on their work the following day which increases stress which has the knock on effect of absences, more time for implementing maximising attendance procedures and on occasions the involvement of Occupational Health which again has a cost implication.

To perform to the same standard and provide the same service I feel this is a crucial saving which appears to be overlooked.

Schools are facing dramatic cuts. Closing inclusion bases/special provision and reintegrating into school would be a disaster. This will lead to increased teacher absence and recruitment issues.

Reducing bins would increase litter we can not afford to pick up.

Flower nursery reduction could be done cheaper, but not for free, using community volunteers and groups.

Council pay for plants and materials.

Do not reduce to number of recycling centers. This will increase fly tipping.

Encourage/force S1-3 to stay in school and have a school lunch. This will decrease litter and help pupil H&W.

Close schools with fewer than 20 pupils (projected).

Do not reduce school clerical time. These people are vital to running schools. Being the poorest paid they are the best value for money in school.

How about a return to means testing for free school dinners? Lots of families can afford them and are happy to pay.

focus groups involving all the stakeholders to give the decision makers an insight into the real impact each of these cuts will have on different groups of people.

We need small, regular annual increases in council tax to cover inflation and increasing costs, rather than getting to 'crunch point' then imposing large (and unaffordable) increases to save vital services. Second homes should be taxed more heavily, to counteract the loss from not having full-time occupation by people contributing to the local and regional economy. Car parking charges will destroy what is left of the economy of our towns, and push people further into dependence on retail parks and internet shopping.

Proposed education cuts (especially mothballing of schools) have a disproportionate affect on our rural schools and the wider rural community. Villages die when you take away their schools. Likewise, with an ageing population, cuts to support for the elderly will invariably have a knock-on effect, and end up costing more further down the line, especially for rural communities with little or no public transport or local support services.

This is an impossible situation. People need to have a better understanding of where their money goes, before they realise why regular increases to council tax are necessary to support the services that they now

deem vital and expect to see available. Privatisation of services since the 1980s has enabled a handful of people to become obscenely rich, at the expense of the wider population. It is only when people can see how much a particular service would cost them to obtain privately, that they will realise the true benefits of council owned and controlled services.

I don't feel there is enough information to be able to make informed decisions on most of these services. In almost all the areas of consideration a reduction in spending will cause adverse effects on communities or workers; that is always the problem with having finite resources. The details of the payoffs have not always been stated or acknowledged – I suppose that is the purpose of this consultation: for the people making the decisions to gain understanding from the people who are doing the job or will be impacted by the reductions. Some of the reductions will have payoffs that may end up being more expensive, a simple example being that getting rid of layby bins may increase the need for litter picking (a more laborious task); or getting rid of plant nurseries, buying plants in will surely be more expensive, unless the eventual aim is to not have plants at all, which would be regrettable (beautiful spaces are important for wellbeing).

There are some areas where investment absolutely should not be reduced, an increase in spending is in some cases what is required to allow departments to function at all. I feel very strongly that ASN spending should not be cut further at a time when need is greater than ever and schools are struggling to get it right for every child with the resources they have. There is a push to have all pupils in mainstream schooling, but the resources needed for this to work are being stripped away. This affects all pupils in school regardless of whether they need ASN support themselves. Teachers are having to divert attention towards pupils who require more intensive care to the detriment of the whole class. The same goes for the proposal for the Autism team. We cannot have inclusion without investment in support for schools which the council is proposing being cut as well.

Speaking from my own experience as a science technician with my role potentially being affected by the redistribution, I will echo the words of my colleague when describing the role of science technicians in D&G: School technicians are often an invisible force within schools, working behind the scenes to facilitate practical STEM work within the classrooms. Even our colleagues and line managers have little understanding of what they actually do. Essentially Technicians in Science and Technical departments prepare materials to be used in practical classroom activities, but this involves so much more than following a scheme of work and delivering resources. Technicians research new techniques, update outdated protocols, maintain and repair equipment, undertake stock control of controlled hazardous substances and requisition materials, ensure safety is foremost, and protect the environment. H&S within STEM spaces is managed by technicians and many SQA mandated practical activities could not go ahead without them being present in the building. Technicians are a skilled workforce trained to respond effectively in incident management, they train teachers in practical skills, advise on safe working practice, support National 5 and Higher practical assignments, lead Advanced Higher project work, facilitate primary transition events and open evenings, and manage the practical spaces within their schools. Technicians also add value to the wider school on a voluntary basis, being involved in: STEM clubs, class demonstrations and teaching skills to students, behind the scenes in school shows and building sets and props, chaperoning residential and day trips saving schools on cover costs, driving the school mini-bus to support extra-curricular, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid duties, repairing equipment from other departments such as Music and PE, they may also provide reprographics and admin support when necessary. This is incredible value good-will that would be lost if Technicians were peripatetic, and could result in more expensive teaching staff or external agency involvement to cover this work. It should

Remove support for the proposed Galloway National Park which will bring with it added financial demands on the Council and request the money from ScotGov which would have gone to fund the National Park

Request more block grant from ScotGov now that they are getting £4.3 billion more from Westminster than they anticipated when they set the block grant requiring these savings

Tackle the extremely high number of long term sick absenteeism of council employees through reduction of long term sick pay to full pay for a maximum two weeks per annum and statutory sick pay thereafter

Review why construction projects for the council are so much more expensive than if they were for a private company or individual whilst often to a poorer standard and implement efficiencies and best practice to address this

Remove financial support for events such as the Gralloch cycling event as these are entirely commercial and so should be profitable without support (and substantiate the fanciful claims of how much they bring to the local economy)

Bring social care in house rather than using private providers (who seek to make profit) and make saving through economy of scale

Sell off or utilise empty council buildings that are left to rot

Incentivise staff to provide efficiency and value from the bottom up

Where there are budget constraints, schools with small roles which are within sensible travelling distance of a larger school, should be closed. To do otherwise is unfair to the majority of the Region's school children and a dereliction of the Council's duty to those pupils.

The council needs to push back to central govt to describe why there is no capacity for cuts. Education appears to have been identified as an area where cuts will be made.

If you reduce waste collections in summer there will be public health issues. Reducing or charging for collection of waste will increase fly tipping.

I strongly disagree with any cuts to ELC support or additional support teachers in schools. We have to get it right for the youngest in our communities and the elderly.

I do strongly agree with reducing duplication in council departments, having more cost efficient procurement, and reducing council management costs.

I strongly agree with the increase revenue proposals, more cost effective procurement and reduction in council management costs.

I strongly disagree with any cuts to ELC support or ASL teachers. We must value ELCs and ASL to get better outcomes for all of our young children and support those who have ASN.

Commission your Youth Work activity rather than having all of those staff. The service is not universal - only focusses on Dumfries!!! The service in Annan is especially poor - no Duke of Edinburgh, no John Muir Trust Awards. There's better organisations out there delivering so commission them and save a fortune!

I would like to thank our Ward Worker Jamie for all that she does for us and our wider community. She has explained the budget process and all of these savings to us and we have learned a lot. She is a credit to your organisation, approachable and always goes above and beyond - if only you had more people like her. Thank you.

Do not cut rural school and youth provisions.

Really difficult choices to save money. Need to look at soing more with less. Ward Working team can empower our community and support us to navigate the system to encourage other teams to help us! Saving money and true partnership. Yourh works great - but coupd be done in our communities not a sattelite In dumfries

Leave the small rural schools alone. By increasing the mothballing number to 25 pupils will NOT save money, it will only push families not to send their children to these schools for fear of closure. The cost of transporting children 19 miles to another primary is not saving money and for me I would be forced to move closer to my child's school and leave my elderly parent. This will then cost more money as I will increasingly have to rely on other council services to fill the gap in care that I currently cover. How is this cost effective. Also will the schools projected school till be taken into account for the future years or will it be purely based on that one years intake. NOONE will enroll their child in a mothballed school and I am informed that not one school in d&g has reopened after being mothballed. You will kill small communities. Why not look at the 4 main schools in Dumfries itself, which are all currently under occupancy. By making changes here you would not impact community way of life.

Schools are increasingly under pressure and as an active parent council we are always helping to support

<p>the school for things that they request, by reducing the roll to 25 you are making out school even smaller by putting off potential parents sue to threat of closure. We therefore would have a smaller parent council and would struggle to make money for the things that matter.</p>
<p>GET RID OF YOUTH BEATZ - BIGGEST WASTE OF MONEY EVER!</p>
<p>RADICAL REVIEW OF YOUTH WORK REQUIRED!!!!</p>
<p>This was really difficult - can you somehow work more locally and go back to districts and let communities decide how to spend their local budget. Might get more buy in from all of us volunteering to do good if we knew the money locally was being spent on stuff we want and can actually see.</p>
<p>Everything should be done by the Ward Worker who actually gets what is going on in communities. There's so many things and services delivered in Dumfries but not outwith and across D&G. You have to ask why we have a massive youth centre in Dumfries and not a single other facility like this elsewhere in our region? Outsource youth work.</p>
<p>My experience as a parent of Youth Work in D&G is not good - I know on the surface it looks good. Everything that is helpful to young people is delivered in Dumfries and this has forced us to transport kids through to try and do their DofE - there's little help, encouragement or tracking and our young people eventually gave up and so have we as parents. Langholm have a great Youth Work set up and its run by a community organisation. I would get close the Oasis Youth Centre and ask community organisations to deliver - atleast then we might get something worthwhile in Annan.</p>
<p>Everything needs to start to be done at a Ward level. Ward Working has been hugely successful and if there were four 'Areas' re-established with a small corporate centre I think we would see significant improvements across our Council.</p>
<p>Never been more important to bring residents with you / the only contact we have is with ward worker and odd councillor. they get us and help. Focus on the need to do not photo opp projects. Save schools they are our future.</p>
<p>Employ more Ward Workers or get other staff to think like them - gold dust!</p>
<p>I would like to thank Stuart our Ward Manager for highlighting this opportunity to us and taking the time to explain the savings to us.</p>
<p>Combine Youth Work, Active Schools and Leisure and Sport - they all do very similar jobs so there must be efficiencies there!!!!</p>
<p>Use your engagement team earlier to ask us for ideas for savings ideas - too late decisions made! They have a difficult job on the frontline as it is - so ask us earlier! Keep our area tidy create that civic pride</p>
<p>Review actual need and reduce number of managers across all departments.</p>
<p>Cut the wages of the highest paid staff members in the council! The cutting options for education are ridiculous, this is a place money should be getting spent not cut!</p>
<p>I realise cuts must be made, it's the reality in many councils across the country and some difficult decisions will need to be made. However you cannot slash funding for schools, particularly in support for learning, and expect D&G to rise from where it currently sits at the bottom of the education league table of Scotland.</p>
<p>Education is a priority for me (as a teacher) and also trying to support most vulnerable in society. Cut of centralised and unnecessary management costs.</p>
<p>Many matters can't be decided on without more information and better understanding of the background. With so many houses being built in areas of D & G, there should be an increase of income from Council Tax. Rather than reduce the important benefits or increase costs, why can't we cut waste as it arises.</p>
<p>More local decision making - devolve power from Dumfries and we all might buy into the challenges of the Council... if we feel part of it... at the moment we dont sorry</p>
<p>The anticipated savings from the ideas proposed are very small considering the amount of money that needs to be saved. This council has famously wasted money on several occasions in the past, the largest being DG1. Millions of pounds were spent on this building and it was never fit for purpose. In my experience, the council also often pays for consultancy reviews, paying external agencies when current staff would be better placed to give their opinion on matters. I currently work at Annan Academy as a teacher. A colleague of mine had been on long-term sick for over 2 years. This was a person in a promoted position, costing the council over £60000 per year in a wage bill. However, as far as I know, they were refused medical retirement for a long time. This was a savings</p>

opportunity missed. I am sure there are plenty of other employees in the same situation in the council. As a teacher, I am expected to perform my job with a very tight budget, and like a lot of teachers, I often provide my own materials in class to ensure each child gets the equipment they need to benefit from their lessons.

Our school is an old building and in some parts the temperature is very extreme. In some areas of the school, it can become cold very quickly and the heating is put on to ensure the comfort of those in cold areas. However, in the department I work in it is very warm. In the summer it is almost unbearable, and sometimes the heating is on even when it is pleasant outside. Pupils often ask to leave my room to refill water bottles or go to the toilet after drinking a lot of water. This disrupts theirs and others education, and is not limited to my own class. This could be avoided if the heating system were improved. The fact that it is on so hot unnecessarily is wasting money and having a negative impact on the environment.

Making further cuts to the education budget or schools is only going to do more damage to pupils retention and stretch budgets to breaking point. As much as I would like to support small schools, the money that it is costing to keep Dalry Secondary School open is surely far too much considering the school has 21 pupils? These pupils could be relocated by bus to nearby Castle Douglas at a tiny fraction of the current cost. This school of 21 pupils has 1 Head Teacher, 3 Deputy Head Teachers, a Principal Teacher Pupil Support, twelve teachers, five support staff and three catering staff. I do not want any of these professionals to lose their job and I know they could be relocated, but the pupil to staff ratio is ridiculous.

Proposed cuts to other school support staff would be hugely detrimental to pupils and staff. On the rare occasion I do actually get a Learning Assistant in my classroom, it is a huge help and much appreciated. And it does help alleviate the stress of the classroom.

Technicians also play a hugely important part in their schools. It would be unfeasible for a Science Technician to work in more than one school each day. They need to be on site to ensure experiments are carried out safely and for the enhancement of our pupils learning experience. We cannot hope to produce Scientists in future if they are not provided with the correct practical work in their lessons.

I personally would be willing and happy to pay for parking in the region, to pay more Council Tax, and pay more for any other facilities I use. In return, I would expect our roads to be maintained properly and our children's future and education protected.

As a parent of an S3 pupil as well, my priority is his learning and ensuring he gets the best possible education available.

I certainly think that schools need to be a priority for more funding. The level of support for children in schools has dropped too much already. We have a child with additional needs, the school have been accommodating and supportive, however he has missed out on the extra support he has needed within the class.

Don't waste money on The Sands flood defense scheme. The Government and council funding for this would be better spent on the health service . It's bound to run over budget just like the ferries for the islands.

Please maintain and continue the effective transport services for those pupils that need it, in order to continue their learning and education. This is a crucial service, especially if there are school closures due to low roll numbers

I seriously think the Council needs to look at both the primary & secondary estate across D&G. 4 secondaries are not required in Dumfries. 4 secondaries in Stewartry are not required. SHUT DALRY HIGH SCHOOL. Are 2 secondaries across Sanquhar/Thornhill required? Shut low attended primaries to reduce costs. Enforcing a model where people should be at their catchment school would give a truer reflection of demand.

Very surprised in the options presented there is no mention of libraries. Is there still a demand? Surely more modern approach. Consider reducing/closing. Also no mention of Arts & Museums, again consider reducing provision.

Unsure of the Elected Member requirements and salaries, but does D&G need so many? Likewise other than sporadic mentions of Ward Workers in press, not aware really of what they contribute? Consider reducing.

Finally, I have children at school and aware of Active Schools (think they are funded) but again, not sure what

they contribute? My children do many sports but Active schools haven't inspired/been a pathway in. Even if are funded must still be costs to Council? IT, travel etc
If you start mothballing schools with a roll of less than 25 rural communities will die on their feet. No young families moving in to rural areas due to no schools. who is going to support and pay for the vast and increasing amount of geriatrics in this region
Youth Beatz is the biggest waste of time and money ever - what I have witnessed over the last few years is disgusting. It isn't youth work it is literally a free party for the great unwashed. Get this kicked into touch and stop wasting valuable staff time in putting this stuff on! It is absolutley scandalous!!!
I based my choices on my experiences of living and working here, also of having children in the family of school, age and with special needs. Being disabled myself I can see both sides of the argument, I hope my survey is of some help.
Please consider the long term effects of removing support services within schools for our young people with asn and in adverse circumstances. Many of these support services are a lifeline and many other things could be reduced before this.
I found it difficult to gather enough information to answer most of these questions properly; especially theme "Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future" where I wasn't sure of the function of all roles described.
I understand that difficult decisions need to be made, and that it is inevitable that people will be unhappy with the decisions that are taken. I am saddened however, that there aren't more forward thinking income generation ideas put forward. I suspect that you'll need to continue to find cuts, for many years to come, not just the next 3. Putting yourselves in a more self sufficient position will protect against this. Why are you only discussing solar panels at Lochar Moss recycling centre for example? Why not put solar panels or wind turbines on every building or bit of land that you own? Sell the energy to the grid/subsidise low income households bills. Don't sell your buildings and land, find out who needs them, develop them accordingly and rent them out - attracting businesses to the area and creating jobs, as well as another income stream.
Please don't make leisure facilities more expensive for people, this is short term thinking, and an unhealthy population will cost you more in the long term. Children need safe/clean/creative places to meet and play for the same reason.
I believe strongly also, that enforcing parking measures and restrictions already in place will generate income only by taking away from people who choose to break the rules. With regard to planning, I feel that stopping allowing the developments of big businesses and out of town retail parks will help local communities & businesses to thrive.
It would be detrimental to reduce Leisure and Culture which would make for poorer outcomes for people trying to live a healthier lifestyle (both physically and mentally), thereby leading to increased costs for Adult care etc.
I am concerned that insufficient information is available to enable enable an accurately informed view. My understanding is that 4.12 applies to the Educational Psychology Service but I am concerned that this is not explicit, and also that the wording implies that there are vacancies within the service that are 'no longer required'. This wording feels misleading and unfair given existing workloads, significantly increasing demands, staffing ratios relative to other local authorities, and given that there are no current vacancies or positions that are surplus to requirements. I am very concerned about the potential impact on service capacity, staff wellbeing, and both learning and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people should the service be reduced - rather than increased - at this time. I do feel also that the impact would likely be much more costly to the local authority longer term.
Elected Members - please do not remove the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Measures. Thesesupport the ones in most need, the families who are dreading christmas, who can't afford to heat their homes, feed their kids, cloth their kids & feed themselves, the ones who need the vital services this funding supports, who without it will fall further into poverty, into deprivation and taking ever more desperate choices ever single day - choices which we would never want anyone within our Region to make. If you can save one thing, please let ot be this one - thank you all.

<p>Why have youth work services been included as a saving? They deliver exceptional services to young people who are struggling- why have this Service been targeted? Appears to be vastly unfair given the inefficiencies in so many other Services of Council - why not put in Tea,s who aren't delivering in their communities?</p>
<p>Improve efficiency within the council workforce and remove numerous levels of management to cut costs. Review procurement process to ensure council pays normal rates rather than inflated prices due to being local government</p>
<p>With the cost of living causing so many issues , most of our neighbours are unable to cut back anymore. All of whom I have spoken with who are unable to fill out this on-line have expressed their worry about the Council tax and worrying if it is going to increase again. We will all have to wait until the decision is made. We all know savings have to be made but if the council is cutting more services and can make savings, then staff should be redeployed in areas where you have not been able to recruit if it makes a saving in the long run.</p>
<p>D and G is already performing terribly across Scotland in attainment and you want to reduce teachers, close small school with small class sizes and hit ASL? Not a great idea at all is it. As for closing Castle Douglas Swimming pool, where will those children learn to swim? With years long waiting lists elsewhere. Ridiculous. Strongly oppose the closure of rural schools, rural communities cannot survive without them.</p>
<p>The children and schools need to take priority and be protected as they are our future and failing to provide for them now fails them(and us) for the future.</p>
<p>Repair potholes properly so the same holes don't need doing several times each year. That team is a joke. Stop staff using tax payer funded cars to drive to their work bases. Stop wasting money on expensive procurement options when we have fab charities and independent suppliers we should be supporting. Consultations waste a lot of money. Just get on with it and make our lives better, that's your job.</p>
<p>I've attempted to read the information provided and attended a drop in event. Some of the words used are lost on me, in my opinion its not easy to decipher some of the proposed savings. Appreciate its hard with such a wide ranging documentation.</p> <p>Just read that the DG1 venue is being revamped, that's great but how much has been spent on this facility? I'm not in favour of closing the Castle Douglas swim and gym facility without a local alternate solution being proposed. This has health and wellbeing benefits that cannot be measured easily.</p> <p>The removal of waste bins from lay-byes for me is a false economy, the amount of waste lying in these where there are no bins is disgusting. Maybe this responsibility could be transferred to a national body? I'm sure there is an environmental impact with the removal of bin policy.</p> <p>If you know you need £30M saving why not go for £15M in year 1 and £10-15M in year 2?</p> <p>Good luck</p>
<p>I do not understand why Central Support Services and Corporate and Democratic Core are completely protected from any budget cuts. Surely these departments could suggest some efficiency savings that could be made in their departments, especially with budgets of £8m and £11M.</p> <p>Also, who has actually been in charge of council finances to get the council into this financial mess in the first place. Surely they need to be held accountable, and their wage could help to offset some of this black hole.</p>
<p>The council needs to look into phasing the 4 high schools into 3 in Dumfries town centre. According to council data, Dumfries Academy has an occupancy rate of 54% (current spaces 512), Dumfries HS has an occupancy rate of 57% (current spaces 556), Northwest Campus has an occupancy rate of 63% (current spaces 178), St Joseph's College has an occupancy rate of 98% (current spaces 15). If there are two schools under 60% occupancy and the Education Department want to review schools under 60% then surely a better cost cutting activity would be to reduce the schools who are within a few miles of each other, instead of closing the rural schools and needing to pay for more transport (this will also avoid huge impacts on rural communities, especially with rural depopulation being a current problem.)</p>
<p>I think the big chiefs should take a drastic pay cut!</p>

<p>There is a HUGE demand for after school activities, such as gymnastics , swimming and football. Why can't the school buildings be used after 3 to generate income ? And why do collage students not run these groups? (Free of charge to you and experience to them) . There are cars parked on double yellows constantly , why is there no traffic warden ? . Charge for parking ! Instead of making cuts, generate more income. If you lowered the rent on the high Street more shops would be full and the local economy would have chance to prosper. Give each child £1 and see how much money they can make, go into schools and teach children about the importance of money. Reducing any additional support needs is utterly outrageous.</p>
<p>You can't cut teachers and ASLs although you've already that ASL cut in place. Autism outreach is NEEDED. The pissa report reflects you can't cut education budgets! Stop your fancy gatherings at the Easterbrook, lighting up the English Street building.</p>
<p>Stop spending money to help people who don't help themselves. So much money goes in to no real reward. Help those who put in make those who don't earn it by supporting their local community in some way.</p>
<p>Potential budget saving 4.12 : Release of vacancies across Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing: Removal of vacant positions that are no longer required.</p> <p>I was unaware that this reduction encompasses Educational Psychology, which plays a crucial role in our education infrastructure. Currently, there are only seven full-time equivalent Educational Psychologists serving the entirety of Dumfries and Galloway, covering early years, primary, secondary, and post-school education. This number is below the recommended ratio set by the Association of Scottish Principal Educational Psychologists for our authority, indicating that we have one of the lowest ratios of Educational Psychologists to pupils among Scottish Local Authorities. Reducing this team would severely limit their capacity for training, necessitating the allocation of our budget towards outsourcing training, ultimately resulting in higher costs for the authority. Furthermore, these professionals are vital for the fostering, adoption, and kinship panels, ensuring educational support for our vulnerable children and young people. If cuts to Educational Psychology are implemented, we will likely experience a significant negative impact on our schools' ability to address mental health issues, manage distressed behaviours, and reduce non-attendance.</p>
<p>It has come to my attention that the proposed reduction 4.2 affects Educational Psychology, a vital component of our school structure. Currently, Dumfries and Galloway has only 7 full-time equivalent Educational Psychologists serving the authority. This number falls significantly short of the recommended ratio; placing us among the local authorities with the fewest Educational Psychologists per pupil in Scotland. Reducing this team would severely limit their ability to support our learners and ensuring that our most vulnerable children and young people receive the education they deserve. If cuts to Educational Psychology proceed, we will undoubtedly face dire consequences, including an increased struggle for our schools to address mental health issues of learners and staff.</p>
<p>Cut staff budget by 10%</p> <p>Sell redundant buildings cheaply for enterprise or accommodation projects.</p> <p>Leanly remodel the administration team to improve up dawn and dow up communications.</p> <p>Cut the number of Councillors.</p> <p>Have measurable targets and hold those responsible to be accountable.</p> <p>Cut outside consultancies.</p>
<p>Consider externalising roads service and integration with trunk road operators for savings based on shared service</p> <p>Integration of other services such as HR with other local authorities to reduce costs</p> <p>Centre of council seems to be avoiding saving options. There seem to be vast numbers in the main council office doing what compared to the numbers cutting grass or fixing roads and all saving seem to target education.</p>
<p>Good luck - not an easy task</p>
<p>The choices I made were to support local residents, families and communities. D&G is a large rural authority which will always present challenges in delivering sustainability but budget reductions should not be at the expense of our rural communities and the way of life which attract and retain people in our region. My</p>

choices have been made primarily to support and empower sustainable rural communities and to get it right for our children. We need to build on the assets of our region, create fairness and opportunity for residents. There needs to be a shift away from D&G being a place to holiday / have a second home or retire. Reducing the school estate, teachers and support staff for purely financial reasons is fundamental wrong, contrary to the core principles of the Council and would contribute to an acceleration of the declining and aging population. The Council should instead be investing in education, schools and teachers given the recognised challenges in attainment. Our larger towns are struggling on all levels to compete with better cities and towns elsewhere but we have thriving smaller communities which need to be supported.

Given that the bin Lorries are currently parked up having a chat in a lay-by without a bin at the bottom of the breconbeds/kirtlebridge hill (whilst other lay-by bins remain unemptied), I don't think you need to be removing waste services do you??

I dont agree

Stop providing free catering for councillors at meetings. Etc....

No alcohol to be used regarding hospitality

Ensure that the burial service is self financing.i.e income covers expenditure.

Cease grass cutting in all burial grounds.

Enforce parking restrictions.

R

Most of the proposals are targeted at the poorest people and our children- you cant keep cutting the things our most in need require. I you cut everything for children what will be left for them and why would they stay?

council tax is already so high for us to pay it

Loreburn Housing Association's Response to the Council's 2025-26 Budget

Consultation

Loreburn Housing Association has reviewed the Council's 2025-26 budget proposals and shared feedback on key issues that may impact local communities, particularly vulnerable groups. As a community-based organisation, Loreburn emphasises the importance of direct communication with stakeholders like themselves and suggests:

- 1. Improved Stakeholder Engagement:** Loreburn requests inclusion in official consultation mailing lists and proposes regular meetings between the Council and key stakeholders to discuss budget issues and community impact.
- 2. Transparency in Housing Budget:** The Association seeks clarification on housing funding within the Council's budget and urges a commitment to addressing the affordable housing crisis.
- 3. Support for Vulnerable Populations:** Concerns are raised about how budget cuts might affect vulnerable groups, including those facing poverty, mental health issues, and social isolation. Loreburn advocates for a vulnerability assessment and calls for the protection of essential community services.
- 4. Impact of Budget Proposals:**
 - o Tackling Poverty and Inequality:** Loreburn calls for alternative funding options to continue anti-poverty initiatives.
 - o Closure of Leisure and Community Facilities:** The potential closure of leisure facilities and community spaces could harm residents' health and social well-being. Loreburn encourages the Council to explore alternative solutions, including partnerships with local providers.
 - o Youth Services:** Reductions in youth services may have long-term social consequences. Loreburn suggests exploring alternative funding models and strengthening partnerships with youth organisations.
 - o Waste Collection:** Proposed reductions in bin collections could impact waste management, especially in communal housing areas. Loreburn recommends larger or additional bins to ensure effective waste disposal.
- 5. Windfarm Revenues for Community Regeneration:** Loreburn proposes that windfarm revenues be allocated to support community regeneration, housing, and services, particularly in areas hit hardest by budget cuts.

Loreburn urges the Council to consider the impact of these budget proposals on local communities and work with housing associations to protect vulnerable residents. The Association is committed to continuing engagement to ensure that the needs of its tenants are prioritised in the budget planning process. For further information or updates, please contact Loreburn Housing Association's CEO, Kirsteen McGinn, at KirsteenM@loreburn.org.uk.

Alan Sandey, Convener, Loreburn Housing Association

tel: **01387 321300**
email: **Customerservice@loreburn.org.uk**
web: **www.loreburn.org.uk**

   Keep up to date with us on social media

Registered office: **7 Giffhorn House, Shakespeare Street, Dumfries DG1 2JB**

Registered Scottish Charity No SC029917. Scottish Housing Regulator No HAL 153 • Financial Conduct Authority No: 2110R(S) • Property Factor Registration No. PF000938



Creating Great Places to Live

Chapter 2B

I'm curious as to what criteria went into selecting options for the budget criteria. Take Castle Douglas as an example. In a small area we have public toilets, a swimming pool and a library. The first two are options for consideration in the budget, but the library isn't. If we look at where we might want to be in, say, 10 years, people will still need to go to the toilet and do more physical exercise, but it's difficult to image libraries being used at all. Even today, I doubt the usage of the library comes close to that of the swimming pool.

Specifically on toilet provision, I really wish we'd commit to keeping, or even expanding, our public toilet provision. It's a basic human need, very important to tourism (albeit often overlooked in that equation), and closing them would disproportionately disadvantage women so is understandably considered to be a sexist policy by many.

So why are the swimming pool and public toilets open for consultation, but the library isn't? How much would we save if we closed all but 4 or 5 libraries in the region and why isn't that in the consultation?

Your wonderful Budget Balance website does not work! It will not balance at £30 Million. Wasted 2 hours.

Why were the buildings containing all or part of the integrated customer, registration and heritage service not part of officer proposals?

I was thought that "The Most Dangerous Kind of Waste is the Waste we don't Recognise." Which got me thinking about what isn't in the consultation.

Excess inventory of property and people?

Creative ideas for property disposal - like reuse of sites for affordable workshops, housing or commercial local offices.

Consideration that the no redundancy policy is non sustainable. Ideas for administration streamlining should be encouraged.

I have already stated the need to realign personnel inventory and the importance of dismissing the no redundancy policy. To support this position I offer the following observations and quotes. "The purpose of bureaucracy is to compensate for incompetence and lack of discipline." - James C. Collins (particularly relevant to council reform)

John Swinney (former Deputy First Minister) said: "We need local government that is efficient, that is focused on delivering for communities rather than sustaining bureaucratic structures."

Current D&G Council Structure Analysis:

Current Layers:

- Chief Executive
- Directors (Corporate)
- Heads of Service
- Service Managers
- Team Leaders
- Operational Managers
- Front-line staff

Key Points:

- More management layers than comparable rural councils
- Higher ratio of managers to frontline staff compared to Scottish average
- Overlapping responsibilities in some service areas
- Multiple reporting lines creating complexity
- Higher administrative costs per capita than similar rural authorities.

D&G Council's Current Management Structure Issues:

1. Excessive Management Layers

- D&G: 7 layers from frontline to Chief Executive
- Comparable rural councils average: 4-5 layers
- Each additional layer adds approximately £0.8m-£1.2m in annual costs
- Highland Council functions effectively with 4 layers, covering larger geography

2. High Manager-to-Staff Ratios

- D&G: Currently 1 manager per 8 frontline staff
- Scottish rural average: 1:12
- Best practice target: 1:15
- Potential annual saving of £1.4m by meeting Scottish average
- Additional £1.1m saving possible by reaching best practice ratio

3. Overlapping Responsibilities

- 22% of management roles have duplicate functions
- Multiple managers overseeing similar services
- Example: Communities Services has 3 layers managing similar community functions
- Estimated £0.9m efficiency loss through duplication

4. Complex Reporting Lines

- 65% of staff report to multiple managers
- Average decision needs 4 management approvals
- Comparable councils average 2-3 approvals
- Decision-making delayed by average of 15 working days due to structure

5. Administrative Cost Comparison

- D&G: £142 per capita administrative costs
- Scottish Borders: £118 per capita
- Highland Council: £124 per capita
- Potential saving of £2.8m annually by matching Scottish Borders costs.

Here's a detailed service area comparison across similar councils, focusing on management structures and outcomes:

Social Work/Social Care Services:

D&G Current:

- 6 management layers
- Cost: £2.8m in management
- 1:7 manager-staff ratio

Comparable Councils:

- Highland: 4 layers, £1.9m cost, 1:12 ratio
- Borders: 4 layers, £1.7m cost, 1:11 ratio
- Potential D&G saving: £0.9-1.1m

Education Services:

D&G Current:

- 7 management layers
- Cost: £3.2m in management

- 1:8 manager-staff ratio

Comparable Councils:

- Highland: 5 layers, £2.4m cost, 1:13 ratio

- Borders: 4 layers, £2.2m cost, 1:12 ratio

- Potential D&G saving: £0.8-1m

Infrastructure/Roads:

D&G Current:

- 5 management layers

- Cost: £1.9m in management

- 1:6 manager-staff ratio

Comparable Councils:

- Highland: 3 layers, £1.2m cost, 1:10 ratio

- Borders: 3 layers, £1.1m cost, 1:9 ratio

- Potential D&G saving: £0.7-0.8m

Customer Services:

D&G Current:

- 5 management layers

- Cost: £1.6m in management

- 1:6 manager-staff ratio

Comparable Councils:

- Highland: 3 layers, £0.9m cost, 1:12 ratio

- Borders: 3 layers, £0.8m cost, 1:10 ratio

- Potential D&G saving: £0.7-0.8m

Finance/Corporate:

D&G Current:

- 6 management layers

- Cost: £2.1m in management

- 1:5 manager-staff ratio

Comparable Councils:

- Highland: 4 layers, £1.4m cost, 1:9 ratio

- Borders: 4 layers, £1.3m cost, 1:8 ratio

- Potential D&G saving: £0.7-0.8m

Key Findings:

1. D&G consistently has more management layers across all services
2. Manager-staff ratios significantly higher than peers
3. Largest savings potential in Social Work and Education
4. Corporate services show highest disparity in management ratios
5. Infrastructure services show most immediate restructuring potential.

I hope this gives you some more meat to my proposal to cut staffing but 15%.

I am an employee with the Council and will be impacted by the decision if cuts are made to the youth work service.

I am writing in regards to the completion of the consultation and would like to raise a few concerns that I have with the form. I am unsure if any amendments can be made this early on but I wanted to raise them:

1. "Please select all potential budget savings options you support under this theme" - This sentence is very misleading, am I supporting the decision to cut it or to keep it? Why is there not an option under each heading asking whether they would like to keep it or get rid of it, or agree to budget cut or should remain etc?

2. The descriptions are not descriptive, working within the council I was able to put pieces together based on what I know about the teams, however areas I was unaware of I was guessing from the description what the impact would be on my home, my job, my lifestyle and my family. My husband was sat beside me and stated if I wasn't able to inform him on the impact cutting some of the services would be he would have ticked them to go based on the description.

3. It is a long process, very wordy and it is not accessible to young people or those who struggle with academia.

I am disappointed that I have worked with the council for nearly four years, not as long as my colleagues I may be competing with in March for my position, is not advocating for every individual who may lose their job/be displaced and that they are not indicating the impact of losing each of the proposed cuts may pose on the people who live in Dumfries and Galloway. I appreciate it is a hard decision to put this consultation out to the public and the savings have to come from somewhere, but I do feel there is a disservice to the employees when all the facts are not accessible and easily readable.

Could you clarify please the budget savings item on "domestic residual waste collection".....is that the regular two weekly cycle of waste collection from homes or something different. If that were to be implemented how would that sit with the other proposed saving of reducing the number of recycling centres??

We asked some very specific questions tonight in relation to where the figures in the budget consultation in terms of anticipated cost savings on items 3.01 and 3.02, because from our reading of the annual school budgets for the schools that might be affected, and allowing for ongoing / transferred staff costs (? permanent contracts) per pupil funding, and transport costs to re-aligned schools we don't see how these numbers have been derived. Clarity would be very much appreciated.

Do you not think schools have had enough cuts!? Barely fit for purpose as it is!

I would like to express my concerns regarding the email with proposed budget cuts for across Dumfries and Galloway. My main concern is regarding the reduction of additional support teachers. My son's school - Glenluce has already faced significant reductions this year with the school having to resort to seeking support from unqualified volunteers. I can only presume that the additional reduction of teaching staff will impact negatively on the children's development and progress, especially since the coming years of early education will be children who were isolated due to covid restrictions. Perhaps reducing the government paid early education for 2 year olds should be reviewed instead.

Don't think you can because the schooling in this area is absolutely disgusting my non verbal son is lucky if gets an hour a week so maybe get the government to sort them self's out before and the educational board that hires useless teachers I am a REDACTED mother and that head teacher needs fired REDACTED you can't cut anything because there is nothing to cut children nit getting the help they need as it is maybe put teachers wages down because they get paid to much for doing NOTHING there's a start for you plus the holidays they get paid is a joke

I have a child at annan at Annan Academy and SHE can't wait to leave. The female toilets are smeared with very unsanitary products and they're closed to students most of the time. Ive been told that there's a tampon "just hanging there"and when my daughter complained, SHE was told by your staff that the cleaners were not paid enough for that Situation... staff paid by our council tax!! Our kids were fine up until lockdown! Parents tried.. I tried! We were facing doomsday!! It was horrible!! For everyone!!We came back from that... ish Our kids found some sort of normality... ish Went back to school and THEIR teachers went on STRIKE!! And I don't think one of them has cared since!! So basically what I'm saying is that I've got two children that I feel have been failed by our education system and me as a parent. I'm to blame too. In my day you went to school, you learned, you didn't like it but you had to do it. It wasn't a choice. That was supported by the authority that was the teachers!! You've asked for my opinion on how our local council is going to find "£30 million savings in the next... Dumfries and Galloway has 43 councillors!! What are they paid for?? Local swimming pools have umpteen staff just hovering about looking good and doing little! As a social support worker I think that the benefits system should be reviewed... I work for a private care company in and I'm on minimum care wage. I work upwards of 50hrs a week in a stressful job and I'm supporting people on a daily basis to do things I can't afford to do myself. Supporting people to get their nails done, hair done. Brand new cars on mobility and their families asking us to "spend" some money, when their savings exceed the mark and threaten their benefits!! So if our local council is really committed on listening to the views of the public, as asked, this is my opinion to you. Also... side note! Stop saying we have a black hole to fill or we're in 30million debt!! Dumfries and Galloway constituents are not clowns. Sack your councillors!!

I have a suggestion. Sack all your staff and get a new more reliable team to care for our community.

Having read this, I can't believe some of the actions proposed. Nowhere does it mention stopping the tens of thousands (perhaps even millions)spent on needless consultations and reducing the number of highly paid councillors. The expenses should be looked at very carefully too. Cutting costs on school assistants, closure of Castle Douglas pool, waste to be every 3 weeks and possible closure of recycling depots (will encourage more fly Tipping) are ludicrous!!! Cutting the paltry couple of pounds pensioners receive on DG1 membership!! These are the only things I've highlighted as I'm getting angrier as I write this. I am so disappointed with this council and every one before this!! Our town is dying and you're adding to it.....stop now. Angry constituent.

Why is the biggest expense not even a subject of discussion?
40% of the budget is salaries - suggested areas of savings are minimal to this Titanic cost. Is there evidence that existing staffing structures efficient, effective and VFM? What other evidence is there for maintaining the administrative levels of the Council?
What work has been carried out to ensure existing staff performed to their targets (eg Education Quality Improvement Managers target unattained in 2023/24)?

Why are Capital assets and their returns not under review (P&L accounting for Leisure facilities, Camping facilities, surplus office space, redundant buildings, Educational assets like the Bridge?

Have these issues been in open forum discussion?

Overall, I have a lot of comments however I will try to summarise:

Vision

“Our ambition is to be a successful region, with a growing economy, based on fairness, opportunity and quality public services, where all citizens prosper. Working in partnership, with connected, healthy and sustainable communities. The region will be the natural place to live, work, visit and invest.”

To have a vision is good, but some words could be better directed, for example “successful region” – this could be applied to any region. Others however are specific:

1. *“based on fairness “ & “where all citizens prosper”*
2. *“Working in partnership, with connected”*
3. *“sustainable communities.”*

I look at these statements but they seem not reflected in the budget that you have provided.

Item (1), there 55% of the cost reduction items that are either for schools, young people or family. This is disproportionate to the overall population distribution. These are the people that you want to stay, grow the economy and pay tax, although perhaps less likely to vote. If there are to be reductions I suggest that you look at the overall population/ strategy and reallocate - that would be fair.

Item (2), Dumfries and Galloway has an abundance of natural resource and individual companies that are playing their part to promote the region. I do however see a massive opportunity to connect them and create a Dumfries and Galloway network. This way it would be possible to have a growing economy. By network I mean things like shared logistics, complementary offerings and marketing – an example of this is for mountain biking: while we have some of the best mountain biking in Scotland, it is not linked to holiday accommodation, to restaurants & cafes, transport. If there was a single driver for integration businesses would see synergy and customers would have a much better experience (missing from budget).

Item (3), sustainability I think is more of a theme for the council and the region rather than the 4 listed. In any case the 4 are too broad. Themes need to be derived from the vision (to which I can't work out). I think that the council could build a plan (a "mission") for the future around sustainability that would then drive the economy, social services and also education etc.

Approach and recommendation.

The reductions that I have read seem to be items that a consultancy firm has reviewed and highlighted where a cost saving can be made. They don't seem to be aligned with a strategy and are approached from the negative.

My suggestion is to reverse the question and ask, given our vision: what services to we want to keep and improve. If we do improve what services will they also be money generators to increase the budget in the future. By changing the perspective, we can focus on those (reducing the rest) and the discussion moves

to what the future of Dumfries and Galloway could be, rather than what it was and how to slowly reduce.

The above being said, if you take anything from this, please do look at the distribution of cuts as I assume that you still want Dumfries and Galloway to be a good place for the young and it would be a shame if that was not possible any more.

[ADMIN - grouped table of savings options removed]

I see there are a number of long term vacancies that have been hard or impossible to fill. Removing vacant posts which have not been filled for more than a year, is a housekeeping measure that would remove how much from the staffing budget? This is a strategy used by many other UK Councils at present.

Here are some categories found from vacancy records for you to investigate and calculate.

1. Planning Team: 5+ advertised roles with hybrid work and full/part-time options.
2. Teaching: Multiple permanent positions across schools.
3. Social Work: Several ongoing vacancies in justice and child services.
4. Administrative Support: Consistent postings across departments.
5. Community Facility Cleaning: Regularly required roles.
6. Teachers for primary and secondary schools.
7. Social Worker (Justice and Children Services).
8. Cleaners and Caretakers for community facilities.
9. Administrative Assistants.

Clearly these too should be subject to a Scrutiny Committee review on their value for money and alternative ways to perform these tasks (if they are really essential).

As also previously pointed out, 2 senior roles (Education Quality Improvement Managers) have their very focused prospective - yet results call into question their value. These too might be eliminated without damage to the present fallback in competitive educational standards.

Are these a significant budgetary start to reducing the largest area of the Council Budget?

I have completed the consultation but there is no means of adding a suggestion spreadsheet. As such I have attached my suggestions.

All suggestions depend on legislation

Charge each car for dumping at D&G recycling depots.

Suggest this charge gives payees/users "recycling" access to things dumped.

No of depots in D&G=12. Say an average of 100 cars/day for every 5000 population. At £1 day per car = $360(\text{days open}) \times 100 \times 150000 / 5000 \times £1 = £1,080,000$. Say uptake of 25% = £270,000.

Introduce tourist tax. TT

Charge a fee for staying in region. Circa 1.5m overnight stays. £1 per night. This needs to be creatively developed. Tourists need to perceive they are getting something for their payment.

Use this income to reduce Summer activity scheme, Event support, etc. One third of all TT generated to be directed to area in which it was generated. £4.5m-£3m. E.g Castle Douglas would get ?? Based on bed nights, caravan stops, etc.

Pass ownership/operation of Castle Douglas toilets to third parties. Invite local agencies to run these. E.g British Legion for MH toilets and permit charging.

Saving in management and operational cost. Estimated at £50k/year

Reduce single person allowance on council tax for STL operators. , Currently this is a legal means to reduce the CT. As these house units are not single person for 50%? Of the year why?, , Saving would be an average of £350? Per household. No of STL's single occupier? Sat 150.

Introduce car parking charges., The disk system is familiar and works. Charge £1 week for the disk. Where else in UK can you get unlimited 2 hour parking for free across a region. Charge over stays at car parks not as a fine but as a fee. Say 1 hour over the two a £1, 2hours £2, 3 hours £3 etc. Parking all day would be £4 or £0.50 an hour. , , Say 33% of all D&G cars at 75,000 take up disk system this would generate alone. $75,000 \times 33 \times £1 \times 52$.

STL properties registered as business should not have to get separate commercial contracts for water and waste disposal. , These STL's should pay the council directly through the established council tax structure. , , Say 1000 STL's have registration as businesses. Income would be $1000 \times £350 + 1000 \times £100$?

Total £4,659,500

Chapter 3

<p>Charge for parking - we are the only region in Scotland that doesn't.</p> <p>Reduce number of Elected Members by 50%.</p> <p>Charge (a lot) more for second homes/air B&Bs.</p> <p>Reduce 'red tape' i.e. let council officers spend approved budgets and not have every piece of work approved by Elected Members.</p> <p>Dispose of more buildings and let staff work from home.</p> <p>Stop paying someone to publish &#34;it is whatever day&#34;; on social media!</p> <p>Ensure capital gets spent each year.</p> <p>One final note how about asking our chief executive to actually live in D&G?</p>
<p>Review staff contracts ,modernised to reflect public sector statutory sick psy rates. Cut light used bus routes. Better management of assesrs ,how many roads signs are discarded at side of road for example.</p>
<p>Instead of cuts, maybe the council should look to spend the money more wisely as a lot is wasted - extortionate charges for simple tasks and amount of money given out in welfare. Clamp down on those who do not contribute to society, yet feel entitled to be given free money to live.</p>
<p>Balanced cuts while preserving as much of the education budgets as possible</p>
<p>It is essential that children and ypung people are provided for properly and that the budgets affect them as little as possible. This generation are struggling enough with the pressures of the digital world, the long term societal changes of covid, the cost of living etc. Young people struggle with school a d education as it is, please don't make it any harder for them. We adults got into this mess it is our responsibility to sort it out.</p> <p>It is a Shame that in order to keep their budgets untouch young children, leisure etc have to suffer.</p>
<p>Tough choices ahead and there are no easy deductions as all our current services are required. It would be a great shame to see any of the current budgets reduced as there just isnt a way to do it that is going to be good for the general public.</p>
<p>You should stop protecting schools and make reductions there</p>
<p>My budget is in most departments cutting back on admin and unnecessary staff. By cutting back on assets (buildings) means we can simplify the Councils estate and make it cheaper in years to come. Cutting back on childcare and Health and Social care isn't an easy thing to do, but in order to have a Council which provides a service to the most people and the most important things in our region and for the country, like preserving education and having good quality roads, some services must be cut, to help the region in the long run.</p>
<p>I think what people care most about locally is the quality of the roads, there is also a lot of annoyance at the public investment such as whitesands flood defence project.</p> <p>Energy investment is a great idea, the increases in fees shouldn't cause an issue. Most of these departments will need a reasonable reduction in budgets.</p> <p>An idea i had was standardisation of the suppliers used by the council, a lot of the departments have their favourite suppliers and i dont think they get best value from these suppliers. A reduction of petty cash and imprests would be useful as social work uses alot of small spending on things which may not be necessary.</p>
<p>if you add income though registration fee increase you can only balance your budget by investing in the community transfer fund due to not being able to adjust the sliders by 50k increments</p>

1 on 1 care is not necessary for a large portion of the vulnerable adults. A single carer could be responsible for meeting 2 or 3 individuals at once, giving them social experiences with others, rather than just with a carer.

Nobody is in support of you spending £4 million pounds to put up 20mph speed limits which the police won't even enforce and are unnecessary.

A large portion of council workers now work from home or hybrid work. The use of commercial property can be reduced or could be rented out to earn income.

A.I. can be implemented to take over a large portion of enquiries and reduce the need for call centre operatives.

Start encouraging families to be responsible for the various branches of their off-spring and elders.

reduction on councillors wages should be considered

Target savings in education department, which has falling demand and yet has failed to deliver their share of savings over repeated years. Close schools with very small number of pupils e.g Dalry Secondary - completely ridiculous that it is still open

Older people outnumber the young in D&G, we have to budget for an aging demographic.

Perhaps the SNP government could spend taxpayers money in Scotland, for Scotland!

I think it is essential to maintain and increase the funding for education as D&G are already falling behind other areas of Scotland academically. Shut Dalry High School and invest that money in other schools in the area. The roads are in a poor condition and the budget should be spent more effectively by using contractors that do a better job, the quality of work is very poor this past year and they don't care about road users giving them no notice of roadworks. I think the grey bin should continue to be collected every two weeks, three weeks would be too long and result in rats. I do not agree with shutting Castle Douglas swimming pool, it is a great wee pool with lovely staff. Youth Beatz isn't essential so could be cut.

I made decisions as if it was my money, that I'd worked hard to earn..... oh wait, it is! I think its very telling that it wouldn't let me submit my "budget" if it saved more than £30m... a budget saving of more than required wasn't considered balanced.... tells you all you need to know about the mentality of this mob!

Difficult choices to make....

Too much money spent on Early Learning and Education Support Staff .

Shut some small schools etc and join then with other schools to reduce running costs and staff wages, sell unused buildings and land. Join multiple council buildings together. Encourage working from home. Do not reduce roads they're the worst they've ever been

Sdhsh

Increasing council tax must be considered, although that might impact the funding from Holyrood?

No easy decisions, but, a start has to be made somewhere. I think that the additional income categories could seek to earn more than is targeted in the Budget model. Please leave the Planning Budgets decent as speedy planning outcomes will deliver more approved projects/jobs/economic prosperity to the region which is heavily dependent on tourism. More needs to be done in driving forward commercial development in the area.

Trim the fat.

we have no choice cut the service and trim the excess fat from services. On top of these cuts consolidating secondary schools in Dumfries is a no brainer, why we have so many schools at low numbers and then went and built the bridge seems to be from my perspective a huge

waste of money. Also allow the public sector to source goods and services from any source rather than a few expensive providers, we get ripped off in these monopolies.

Monies should be found by restructuring the council executive departments. Far too many people doing jobs that have no immediate impact on the council so why are they in place. Budget cuts are immediate so get rid of the newly appointed positions where there is absolutely no need. You cannot cut education or where will the future be for our young people? Compared to other young people across the country this region is handicapping our young people. Such a ridiculous notion that education is the place to make savings when more money is required to bring our children up to date. Here is an example; new IT was brought into schools that isn't fit for purpose. The people who made that decision should be removed from their posts as they are incompetent, simple as that.

I feel we need to support the schools and the health of young and old. I feel very strongly that Castle Douglas pool remains open as it benefits all age groups and it would be a major loss to Castle Douglas. If the funds that were for the upgrading of the pool are not now available then surely some compromise could be found. To keep it open but with modest refurbishments?

Close schools with less than 25 pupils and sell buildings. Reduce number of council buildings. Reduce number of days council buildings are open. Reduce full time working week by 1 hour and reduce pay by 1 hour, better to have a lower salary/wage than have redundancy.

Letting go of a lot of top Council staff would be one way to increase the savings, too many people are being paid and only a few are actually doing the work. When 8 guys show up to do a job for the council and all but 1 is leaning on a shovel or taking a break is a waste of money.

We need more shops with a less rent rate that will actually stay due to lower rent prices. And there for increased employment as Dumfries has a pretty high unemployment rate.
We need more affordable housing.
More pot holes filled in

this doesn't take into consideration the possibility of increased funding from Scottish government after the UK budget settlement.
It also isn't specific enough on things like spending on teacher numbers where money is ringfenced from the SG.

Summary of Community Conversation Comments

Theme	Many comments related to:	Some comments related to:	Few comments related to:
1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes	<p>Schools do not have enough ASL at present</p> <p>It is not the right time to cut funding for tackling poverty initiatives.</p>	Supporting the ending of funding for Youth Beatz (it's run its course) or charging for tickets (say £10 to £20) or restricting attendance (to Dumfries Galloway only residents).	<p>Policy development funding – support for Fareshare subscription needs to continue.</p> <p>The loss of this funding would have significant impact.</p> <p>Finding this funding from other sources would be incredibly difficult.</p>
2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes	Do not cut additional support for learning staff.	Significant concerns about any reductions and reconfiguration of additional support for learning (ASL) services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaners – are they working to capacity? • Bring in a external company to do monthly deep clean. • Would support 3 weekly collection if food waste was implemented. • Pilot modernise learning and development on specific things to see if it works. • Outsourcing services doesn't always work. • Middle management could be thinned down.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council structure – a lot of very senior largely invisible managers and not enough managers supporting front the staff and empowered to make the efficiency savings that they can see that they need • Ensure that all verge cutting is restricted to essential areas only. Would reduce costs to enhance biodiversity. • Reducing funding for Additional Support for Learning will delay major problems for the future
<p>3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities</p>	<p>Community Facilities review - NO</p> <p>Closing public toilets will be a disaster for our region and does not consider citizens who are elderly, disabled, those with bladder or bowel issues or illnesses, families with small children and visitors. It does not consider the impact on the</p>	<p>Keep smaller school open</p> <p>The closure of public toilets will be a disaster for our area when these were closed during the pandemic people used surrounding areas and left mess everywhere</p> <p>Closure of toilets will lead to bigger problems in</p>	<p>Discussing with communities what can be transferred to their trusts or setting up trusts before cuts.</p> <p>Household waste recycling centres remove the requirement to book allowing people to just pop in when required as more efficient</p>

	<p>environment if there are no toilets for people to use. The town hall needs a lot of investment and this in turn would increase bookings. Local groups could not take on the town halls or public toilets without funding. The town hall is needed for lots of groups from toddlers to friendship club.</p>	<p>communities – especially when trying to promote tourism.</p> <p>Community Halls and Public Toilets should be considered separately.</p> <p>Review of parking fees. Review of leisure facility, estate & review opening times. No. of household waste recycling centres.</p>	<p>Agreed with the invitation to pay for public facilities ensuring that the toilets are still council run but generating income. Secondary schools in Dumfries – 3 operating at 57%, why don't we shut one as occupancy target is 60% Community facility review – transfer/closure of public toilets & community halls.</p> <p>Supporting the reducing of the school estate by having fewer Dumfries Burgh schools, specifically by closing Dumfries Academy and better utilising Dumfries High School and North West Community Campus, which is significantly under capacity.</p>
<p>4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future</p>	<p>Reduce top level management.</p>	<p>Concerns if Crossing Patroller not in place – issues with traffic flows.</p> <p>Agree with crossing patrols but not at lunch.</p>	<p>Concern over any reduction in teacher numbers.</p> <p>Supported the removal of unnecessary posts.</p> <p>Concern that education officers are overpaid and teachers/</p>

		<p>What's the evidence around reducing Inclusion Bases?</p> <p>Protect ASN & behaviour support in schools.</p> <p>Autism support proposal if taken needs to be decentralised across region – especially rural schools – then can support.</p> <p>Supporting the reduction in senior council management positions (chief officers)</p>	<p>headteachers already know how to do their job.</p> <p>Remove the central school team for ESOL & gypsy travellers. End policy investment funding for Youth Beats.</p> <p>Supporting the introduction of parking charges.</p>
<p>5 Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions</p>	<p>Facilities need to be open to generate more income instead of closing or reducing? Implement better council tax recovery</p> <p>Increase income through tourism.</p> <p>Supportive of parking charges targeted to visitors and exemptions / reductions for local workers.</p>	<p>Increased charges only to marriages not on pubs/clubs as they are already struggling</p> <p>Charge for car parking discs. Car parking – not in support as would impact on people visiting and managing it would be costly. May be in support of “invitation to pay” but not convinced it would be popular – could pilot it.</p> <p>£ Parking not in favour of, “death to town”.</p>	<p>Waste Recycling – Charge commercial vehicles to use facilities, rather than no use to prevent fly tipping (monthly fee)</p> <p>Locharross – Do not spend huge capital cost investment if you are not prepared to fund the ongoing maintenance.</p> <p>Wouldn't support liquor licenses – pubs struggling but would support marriage license increase</p>

	<p>Invitation to pay – not an app! All different apps! Allow money / card.</p> <p>Modest increase to Council Tax if Council can demonstrate greater productivity.</p> <p>Increase tax further on second Better Comms & Marketing of Services (Leisure) to increase income!</p> <p>Market all services – Eskdale Leisure – waste of time, when's it open? What's on?</p> <p>Agree review Leisure opening times – but cannot take a view on CD Pool specifically as from Langholm.</p> <p>Look at how more efficiently leisure can run – open the Eskdale Centre more & might get more people.</p>	<p>Parking charges – to area delegation, especially for events.</p> <p>Easy access membership and subsidised lessons for non D&G residents e.g. those living in New Cumnock who travel to Upper Nithsdale to use the leisure facilities – would impact on use.</p>	<p>Maximise income from Wind Farm Companies – but keep Community Engagement Teams engaging is important!</p> <p>Easy Access discounts should take into account Carers Allowance / PIP for eligibility.</p> <p>Support small increase (marriages) so not to be off putting & counter productive homes.</p> <p>Support for the invitation to pay for parking but not mandatory charging for parking, especially for residents and traders.</p> <p>Invest to save – what do we need to do re staffing levels to jump us out of a perma-crisis and into scanning for opportunities.</p> <p>Tourism tax – introduce to fund an app to communicate events that are happening locally locational/Interest.</p> <p>Pro-parking charges – hot topic but in favour of parking fees.</p>
--	--	--	---

			<p>Electronic, easy - tourists ask "where do I pay"? Council is missing a trick.</p> <p>Invitation to pay – could be used for toilets, core paths, etc if money is then reinvested into local community assets.</p> <p>Have we renegotiated the loans as low as possible? 8% of total budget is high, in Scotland range (2-9%).</p> <p>Increase fees - Marriage & civil partnerships, yes. Liquor & non-Liquor licence, businesses, no.</p> <p>In favour of £1 per visit to HWRC as a proposal commercial, can't do domestic. Why not? Legislation Council Tax discount 25% should be taken away if renting out a room/ AirBnB.</p> <p>Legal fee subsidy – Community Asset Transfer group been asked to pay both their own and the Council's legal fees. If this is an option</p>
--	--	--	---

			<p>presented today, does that mean there is no mandate to do so already?</p> <p>Waste – AMP reading £1 per visit to generate income.</p> <p>WCs interested in CAT but would introduce a fee per use</p> <p>Support for introduction of parking charges</p>
<p>Other comments or suggestions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This budget consultation, along with the four day school week and school model consultation all seems like an attack on young people how is this fair? • Why don't we advertise D&G to the UK factor we have schools at 50% capacity this brings in workers who pay tax. • Most suggestions affect the young especially children whose voices are harder to hear I think this is unfair they are the future. • there is no budget suggestion on our old population they have had their entire life and had their entire life to plan. Children have not yet most suggestions are against them. • Libraries are slowly becoming a relic everything is online why no suggestions to cut them? • Wind farm benefit can the council purchase turbines and reap the benefit from direct contributions. • Council needs to focus on attracting people mainly workers target home workers with our excellent schools cleaning our countryside and FTTP broadband most importantly how cheap our houses are compared to the rest of the UK • encourage procurement using local companies • the appearance of the towns and villages is important to encouraging tourists and making residents take a pride in their environment. • Not enough information on each proposal 		

- Council tax increase – depends on how much
- Council tax should be income based
- Council tax review of deceased for bereaved families - 6 months is not long enough to make big decisions
- Shame suggestions from Council Staff have not been accepted already & acted upon. Useful to see a breakdown of staff costs. Suspect high management costs. Please reduce consultant costs.
- D&G Council have moved steadily away from their Council tax payers over the years & they need to re-connect. They can start by having someone at the end of the phone rather than talking to the switchboard. Take the Council Services back to the people & the people will be more accepting of an increase in Council taxes. P.S. More can be done with Gretna Registry to increase revenue
- It is important that the Council engages with communities about any changes and opportunities.
- Should be thinking about increasing productivity – making Officers more efficient rather than cutting services make better use of technology to increase productivity.
- Proposals are not understandable – Plain English?!
- The event wasn't well publicised.
- The term "CSC" is not well known by members of the public
- Not feasible for disabled/ elderly to travel regularly. Swimming pool/missed the gym if went.
- Every 5 years the pool is in jeopardy. Council has health & wellbeing as a priority. The pool provides people the opportunity to participate in physical activity which help individuals' health & wellbeing.
- Travel from Dalbeattie, use CD pool twice per week. Recognise that it is costly to maintain. Is there option to use Kirkcudbright pool during CD closure. Would increase journey time if had to use Kirkcudbright.
- CD swimming pool closure no x2 & Management costs agree x2.
- Closing the pool would be such a negative thing to do. Council should be proud of the facility provided currently in Castle Douglas
- Perhaps consider fees increase for pool running. Great use of facilities. Staff listen, are attentive, very welcoming, could be better advertised

- Only able to access CD pool due to accessibility challenges. Able to access independently, attend twice a week. The only exercise I do, would be happy to pay more, rather than it close. Considered a “life saver” as significant impact on H&WB if closed
- (Swimming) keeps people away from GP’s, hospitals & clinics
- How would schools access swimming lessons?
- Is there Scottish legislation as to requirements for a swimming within a certain number of miles/radius? Guidance only? – 20 minute neighbourhoods.
- The budget simulator was difficult to use.
- The council should focus on income generation rather than cutting jobs and services. People need jobs to have income to spend in our towns.
- You can’t ask people if they support an increase in council tax if you are not telling us what that additional money will be used for, i.e. will it be for saving services or go into a central pot of funding.
- You can’t propose to reduce waste collections and at the same time reduce recycling centres.
- Some of these options should not be presented as savings as it is obvious, they should be implemented i.e. savings through best value procurement, re-procurement of caddy liners or the release of vacancies. This shouldn’t need to be discussed.
- Have you considered the impact of the proposed national park especially when considering closing toilets.
- Use plain English. Some of these proposals are difficult to understand unless you know more about the service.
- The option to reduce the school estate (option 2) has had a direct negative impact on our planned actions which are currently part of our place plan.
- Don’t build any more secondary schools after the High School, send pupils to NWCC who are under capacity
- Camera enforce on bus lane on Glasgow Street, this can help pay for pot holes
- Review staff sickness policy and self-certification process.
- Agree Council tax needs to be increased but 20% is too much and could severely impact people. A 2% increase over the last few years would have been better
- Put up all fees and charges that are optional

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top line councillors? Salary• Shave down management tiers• ASL is needed more in schools. It can't be reduced. Children are so important for the future.
--	--

Chapter 5 – Focus Group comments received from sessions with:

- 5.1 Community Councils
- 5.2 D&G Parent Council Forum (including additional feedback from the Rural and Small Schools Parent Council Alliance)
- 5.3 Equality and Diversity Working Group
- 5.4 Poverty and Inequalities Partnership,
- 5.5 Tackling Poverty Reference Group,
- 5.6 Youth Council
- 5.7 Youth Work Services community based youth work provision

Community Councils Focus Group

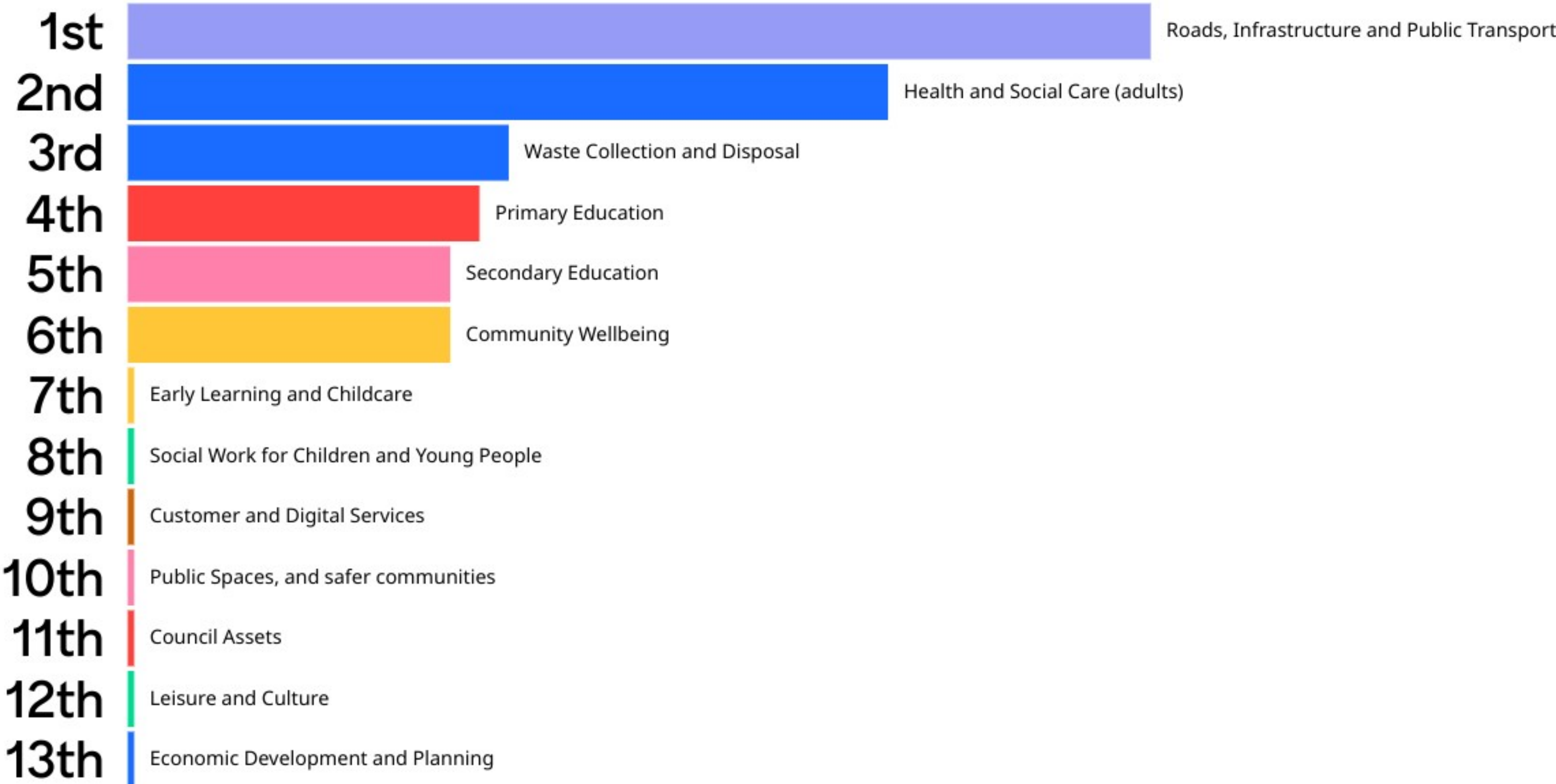
[Budget Consultation 2025/26 - Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)

WELCOME

Kirsty Peden - Community Engagement Manager

Scott McMeeken - Community Engagement Ward Officer

Top 3 priority areas



1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

is it better to ask what do you give absolute priority to in your community eg get our roads fixed

it is difficult to give the view of the CC when we have not had time to ask them and share their views

we do not feel supported by DGC eg recent floods, no support with sand bags etc

I think working parents will really struggle during school holidays if summer activity scheme ends.

some of the CC have different opinions based upon their individual circumstances, education, health and social care etc. It is very difficult to represent the whole of the CC.

In current times, really important that vulnerable groups, or families on poverty line are supported.

some proposals look minor, how much will be saved, blanket approach is not always the best - needs to reflect individual circumstances and community needs eg school crossing patrol

Agreed on roads. Although in our community we do have a proportionately high number of children with no transport aside from a few times per day bus

1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

no activities for young people and young people displaced due to closure of the village school.

maybe people could compost or a community compost bin

what is the cost of the bin caddy liners at the moment? what is the saving?

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

word savings is not a true reflection of what is happening - this is a cut in service and use of the word saving is disingenuous. This is cutting services and we're being asked what do we want less o

use a different quality of language

Reduce office cleaning, are staff still working in a hybrid way and not all offices are used daily?

Id appreciate an idea of the costing of these services, in order to understand the cuts that are proposed

Reconfiguring asl teachers/ services will detrimentally affect the educational attainment of all students within the classroom if children are situated in a class that is inappropriate to their need

it seems to trivilalise the needs of children with ASL needs - proposed services cut alongside reduction in office cleaning. By all means stop washing the windows.

Moving to 3 weekly waste collection will increase fly tipping

efficient and effective mgt and the quality of the service we are getting - should council workers be back in the office ? there is a real concern of the variability and quality of the service recevi

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

Stop washing windows. Do we need to have everyone in the office? Please don't cut services for the most vulnerable children.

is there cost savings by the way in which people are managed and supported?

some staff work very hard for D&G and others are less motivated

I have recently moved from the Midlands where the LA is subject to section 114, bankrupt. So, quality is through a different lens.

Reduce schools that have 10 students and invest the money saved into existing schools and education services.

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

Have council offices been considered?

it appears that children and young people have been particularly targeted

Granted those ASC is overspent but i think some assurances that efficiencies have been made in that area are required.

I am disappointed that you people and their education are being targeted.

What would be the plan for toilets, CAT?

education cuts will adversely affect the future population within D &G.

Is it the case that the population off DG is already skewed towards the elderly.

Theme 4 - Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future

What happens to teaching staff that are displaced. Surely this is going to add to a workforce that is highly skilled being made unemployed.

each community will have its own needs and its own priorities - should decision be devolved to communities eg schools?

Inclusion hubs and additional needs provide support that is needed for the educational attainment of students.

placing children with significant ASL needs into mainstream whilst losing ASL support in schools will mean schools won't have staff and resources to manage those - very difficult in small schools

small rural schools most adversely affected by proposals

Again main cuts are to education.

budget allocations need to reflect need of communities eg town / rural

Concerned cuts to education services will invariably lead to increased costs to children's MH/ wellbeing services.

Theme 4 - Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future

Also, if school staff cut to the bone, what happens when a member of staff is unwell or dealing with a crisis especially if you are cutting the number of supply teachers too.

do parents of ASL children know about these proposals - are they aware of the implications of these proposed savings? what are their views?

what is phased retention?

Theme 5 - Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions - Please share your feedback on the options

would this be means tested? dont want to be charging people who cannot afford - charge those who can afford to pay

Again in the midlands it is generally the norm for even small towns to have paid for parking.

Parking charges exist elsewhere i would rather pay parking than cut education

Paid for parking- enforced but only in the centre of towns, free parking would therefore still be available a little further away if small amount is a barrier. Disability parking in town remains!

can we charge large vehicles eg wood, transport and agricultural lorries? they are often the cause of detrimental impact

disability parking should continue

charge the feed lorries and wood lorries that destruct the roads

Agree, the road from A701 to the village can see 40 log trucks a day and do cause significant damage.

Theme 5 - Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions - Please share your feedback on the options

tourists - can they be asked / encouraged to pay

Overnight stops, we are seeing more motor homes.

Could parking be linked to the tourism industry

can there be a charge for lorries using roads during anti social hours

windfarms - can they be charged for the damage caused to communities - roads etc

rather see charges to parking than see education services cut

Community Councils Focus Group (2)

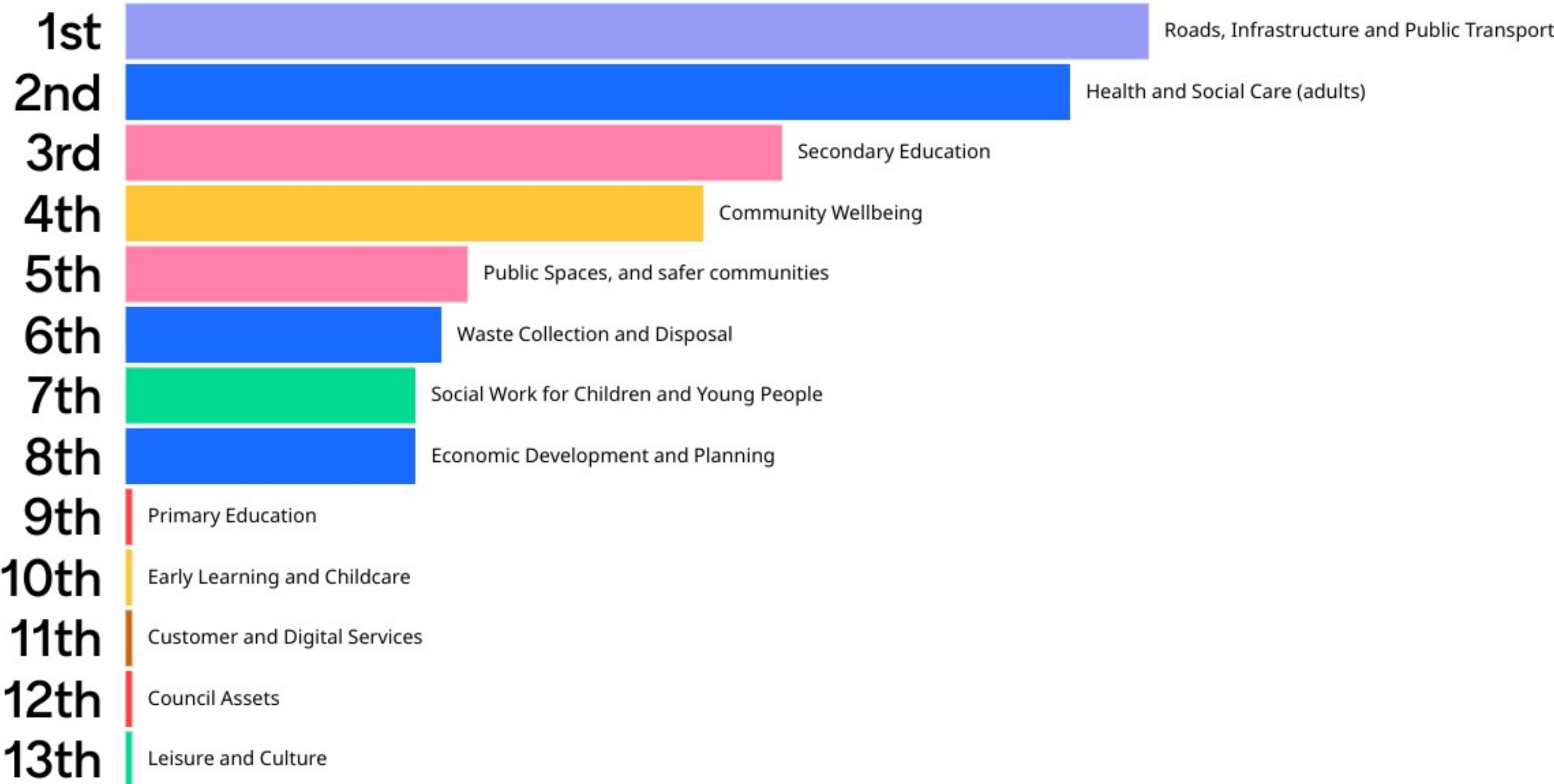
[Budget Consultation 2025/26 - Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)

WELCOME

Kirsty Peden - Community Engagement Manager



Top 3 priority areas



1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

Bin emptying - some time does not get emptied - most households only have 1 general waste

Wouldn't support closure of in-house garden nursery - Glasgow did that some years ago with really detrimental effects on appearance of public spaces/knock-on effects on training of apprentices

withdrawing funding - some things not necessarily a priority as local orgs help deliver projects - foodshare for example

Not to lose the crossing staff. Not to close the in-house nursery

could catering in leisure centres not be done by some sort of franchise?

Foodshare - something short of a riot if that ends - works well and a lot of folk depend on it

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

Bin collection - grey bin always most full. Plastic and Tins - most weeks limited use. Paper bin full. - reduce collection of recyclates - general waste most bins are full - no reduction

Not reduce the number of layby waste bins - would only increase littering

No layby bins in our area - experience littering so this is not a good idea

Bin collections can not go to 3 week collections as the general waste bins are the fullest usually. Loss of layby bins would agree in an increase the level of waste

Bin fill rates known? Would allow a more informed decision

very happy to go to an extended rate for regular bins - need more info for recyclates though.

Blue bins can get full - more online deliveries, lots of cardboard and packaging - more use than cans and plastic

reluctant to reduce superannuation if that really means moving backwards on things like maternity pay

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

Used batteries - delay in implementation was an issue - did what was asked and couldnt be taken.

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

Protest against closure of Sanquhar Tip - well used - only encourage fly tipping - no other facility near by Sanquhar or Kirkconnel. Enough fly tipping without encouraging!

If your are thinking of a 3 weekly bin collection then we need to keep the tips open.

Don't think either Household Waste Recycling Centres or leisure facility should be cut - both would cause problems in the longer term

Support HWRC = well spread out - working well through booking - quiet and accessible. If had to go Dumfries, people would not go - end up in layby

Schools - just had ours mothballed. Cant see economic case for 10 or fewer pupils but depends on local circumstance and where nearest one is. Prefer a local school

agree that schools with 10 pupils can't be supported

If schools were to close how will the pupils be able to travel to schools, this would increase traffic

Toilets - opposed any closure. Only public toilet on main road between Ayr and Dumfries. Bus users make use of it and drivers. huge loss in village if lost. very well used.

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

Closure of public toilets is also short-sighted - D&G depends on tourism - need these facilities

Town Hall and Miners is well used - could look at other facilities in the community

Theme 4 - Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future

Reduce work force - grass cutting etc volunteers do a lot - how can they cut any more in Upper Nithsdale - sparse at moment

No reduction of Ward Officer - ours is absolutely brilliant. if reducing anything, it would be some of the councillors

If losing the Ward Officer - lots of angry people. Do a very good job.

Agreed trim council managers and increase the folk how are at the main customer contact roles ie grass cutters

Keen on education - very important. Disturbing hearing young people leave not being able to read and write - need to support in school before leaving - RRR is important

Not to cut teachers who help the children learn better

Adult Education important - use modern technology, computers, go to classes to use competently - but still remain a number of people find it difficult - banking etc - facilities to learn basics

It's difficult to agree with the education programs being cut - agree with other contributor that lack of educational support only causes future problems - unemployability

Theme 5 - Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions - Please share your feedback on the options

if increasing charges to leisure it may discourage people to go and wont help. If small increase may be ok to hold on to customers - too much may be detrimental

Would increasing parking charges it can hurt businesses

Car Park - other towns charge, not many have free parking. Ayr does over Xmas period.

2 hour parking disc - fine getting a disc if you know where to go - used up time getting one. Not much time for shops and eating - time to go before time up. Put people off going to Dumfries

Few debates about charges (Kbt - CD) generally in favour keeping it free - visitors expect to be charged, ask where is parking meter - free resident permit? Charge visitors who expect it?

Few way of generating income without raising fees

encourage leisure use - to save money in health service

Have to pay in other town centres, everyone accepts a couple of pound. Can be done with card at machine.

Theme 5 - Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions - Please share your feedback on the options

Small car parking charges are fine ie £3.00

Enforcement of parking - huge opportunity to charge for parking where you are not supposed to

Any other comments on the savings options?

Difficult to give an informed view with the limited info available

Community Councils were re-establishing during this time.

Hard to comment at the moment , will there be an email for this sent out so i can report back to the community council

Parent Council Forum Focus Group

[Budget Consultation 2025/26 - Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)

John Thin - Head of Education Resources

Scott McMeeken - Community Engagement Ward Officer



1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

I think all of these options reasonable

None of these are too alarming

Reasonable options which have evenly spread impact

Understandable that cuts have to be made somewhere

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

Reducing ASL is a really bad idea.

Not enough ASL as it is

ASL shouldn't be reduced further

I dont think there is enough info with respect to asl for public for this to be informed, hard to conceptualise what those proposals mean.

Getting rid of lay-by bins makes sense; if people have brought it, they can take it away

Again, some reasonable but some will impact specific groups (such as teachers maternity) I don't know what this is currently but cutting this seems harsh

would like to see no reduction in the Autism or ASL

Proposed cuts to ASL teachers quite worrying.

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

ASL must not be impacted

ASL has already been cut

Does facilities management include ongoing maintenance of buildings?

Can you not save far more money by amalgamation of larger schools in Dumfries? This would have less impact on communities whilst also having a larger budgetary impact

Village schools are the heart of a community and offer such a valuable service to all families and wider community members.

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

Are elected members looking at pupil numbers at one point in time, or at the trend of numbers?

Are you saying that there will be no teacher redundancies as part of these proposals?

Terrible idea to mothball at 10 or 25. This needs to be the very last option in any of the council cuts because of the long term costs to our children

The cost of transporting all these children won't be insubstantial

Agree with Mhairi that I haven't been able to follow the numbers and I'd appreciate a detailed breakdown of the costs to be saved and the cost of moving them to a new one

Once the consultation closes: if there is little to no public support for everyone of these options, are they removed from the proposals set before elected councillors to vote on?

All current research shows that larger amalgamated schools are not best for the children

if they are not removed, but still have little to no public support, is this information presented to elected councillors alongside the proposals to inform their decisions?

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

If staff are protected closures wouldnt save much,

It you can't reduce the teacher numbers for 3 years, is that correct?

Where there are 2 schools with low numbers in the same area, I assume the lowest number would close to then boost numbers at the next school

what is the time frame for considering mothballing a school? 3/5/10 years?

How are you reducing teacher numbers if teachers are on permanent contracts? Have the teachers been consulted?

Is there's an impact assessment/report of the potential knock-on effects to a community when it's school is mothballed.

If closing small school where do pupils go as our area ai believe most other schools are at or near capacity

The numbers presented to the public in terms of cost saving are completely misleading, this consultation is not informed and not valid.

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

I agree with Tom, larger undersubscribed schools in Dumfries being amalgamated would have less impact on communities

The school model that we're working towards seems fundamentally wrong

Is there any consideration regarding the quality of teaching at the smaller schools, or any school, or are decisions based purely on numbers? If so, who is considering what is best for our children?

Agree with the comments about the positive externalities that the other people are mentioning: in small communities the schools have a wide range of intangible benefits

There are clearly larger savings to be made by amalgamation of schools in Dumfries. This would not only save more money but have far less impact on communities.

Best value seems much more important than best education

Small schools offer such an essential service to families and communities.

Parents know their children. Reducing smaller schools eliminates their choice to find the right fit. How does the council value the chance to choose a good fit ?

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

Our smaller schools are our best assets in terms of quality of education and important for our rural communities. I oppose all mothballing

That's a great point Sarah- fear of closures has a huge impact

You have presented a budget which suggests closing small schools as presenting the biggest cost saving, with limited no engagement with rural school communities or teachers

Why are we talking about closing existing schools to save money at the same time we are investing many times the potential saving in new school buildings ?

the reduction of small rural schools out pushes familys out of the areas and ends up as a modern version of the clearances

We should re look at the catchment areas. I'm geographically closer to 2 rural schools, but catchment is a large school- further away

Having families living rurally Aus ports the aging population

Having families living rurally supports the aging population, if all families move away to be closer to their children's school the cost to the council to support the elderly will be vastly more

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

How many mothballed schools have ever been reopened in this area? It feels like a one-way street if it happens

Village schools can be the heart of the community and have a wider benefit to many people, other than the pupils.

Who's going to enroll in a mothballed school?!

D&G council are not maintaining schools that are currently well used , so I doubt mothballed schools will be maintained in case pupil numbers should increase in the future.

should new housing be built in rural areas to encourage people to live in these areas

If staff are protected and scholl mothballed yet retained for 3 years where is the saving as a retained school will still need maintained

Very well said Mhairi

Given the costings you've presented, it feels like decisions have already been made

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

Would also like clarification on what numbers will be worked with, with regards to school role. Surely this can't be taken from a consultation done two years ago, particularly if there an upward trend

rural schools provide a calmer environment for children with sensory needs without segregating them

I think our consensus here is against 3.01 and 3.02.

The framing of the option creates a snowball effect as parents value continuity. If a school roll falls, it may be better to merge two smaller schools. This is not being considered or communicated

If there are no rural services, there will be no rural communities.

Equality and Diversity Working Group

[Budget Consultation 2025/26 - Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)

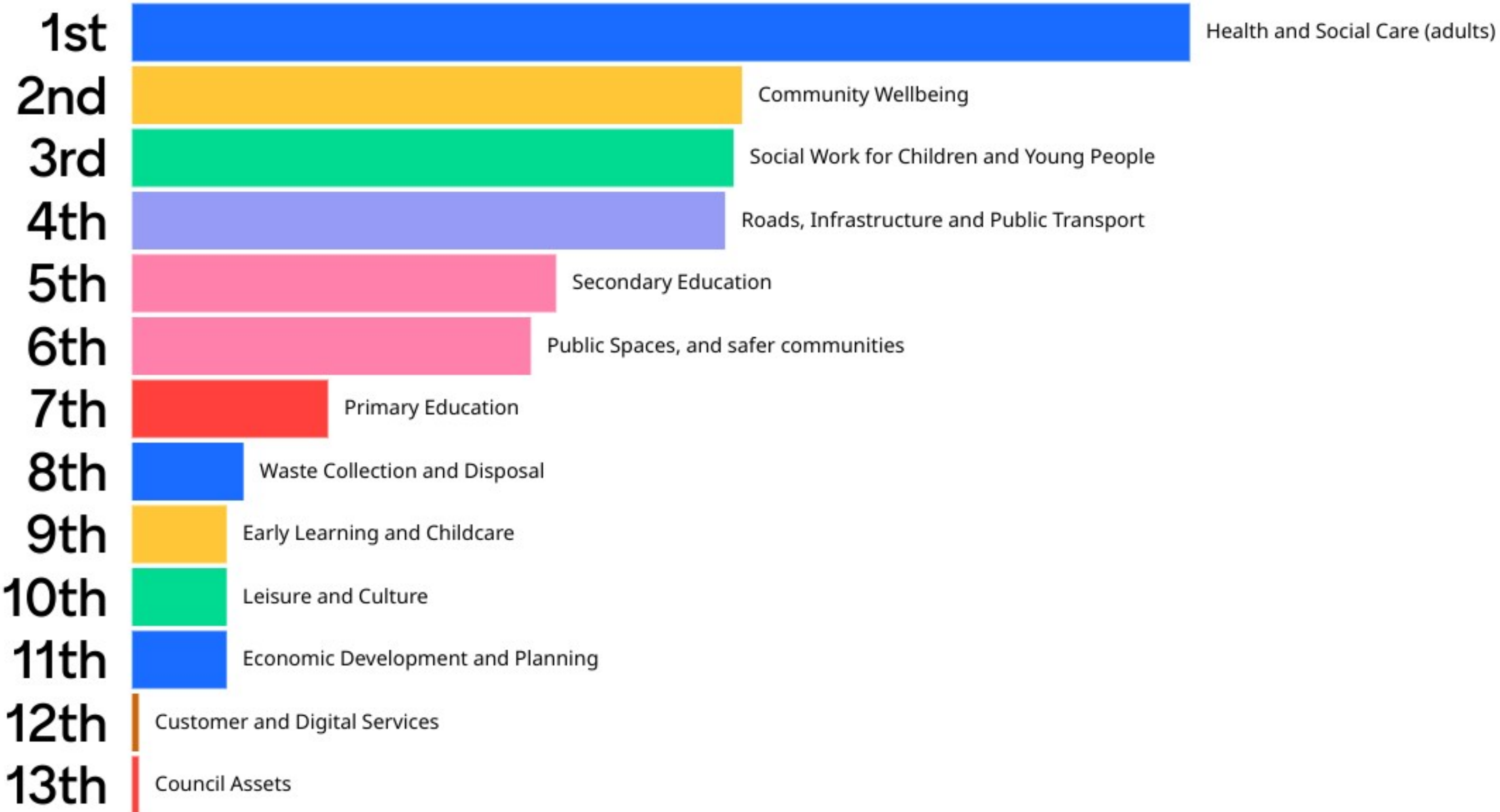
WELCOME

Kirsty Peden - Community Engagement Manager

Scott McMeeken - Community Engagement Ward Officer



Top 3 priority areas



1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

Could the inhouse gardens be used for income generation?

Surely in house catering in leisure centres should be income generating?

End funding for Youth Beatz, make it a paid ticket event, with a option for discounts for those on benefits.

When we have 1 in 4 residents/ Children and Young People living in poverty, it would be absolutely detrimental to end funding to Tackling Poverty and Inequality

If Council policy is to remove unauthorised waste bins surely this should just happen rather than be consulted?

Nominal charge for youthbeatz or corporate sponsorship

Removal of bins, reprocurement of caddies and rationalise school crossings seem to reasonable savings

review school crossings

1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

options should be considered for private sponsorship of Youth Beatz, and other ways to generate funding to support that event

could the garden plants be supplied from the likes of Veterans Gardens, Men shed's or external sponsors.

School crossings - there's no need for a lollypop person where there are traffic lights

Keep youth beatz - beneficial. Have to offset any income generation with administrative costs of charging. Sponsorship more beneficial

The anti - poverty funding is a vital support for many communities and groups across the region, please continue the support in this already very difficult circumstances; rise of living costs, food..

teach in school how to cross the road, then remove crossing guards at existing crossings

Support plan to rationalise school crossing patrol provision
Also efficiencies for from re-procurement of food caddy liners

Reduce waste - across the board

1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

Review on duration of youth beatz to allow external funding already in place to go further? (EG- drop back to 1 day event + the Toon and reduced Fringe event)

I think Youth Beatz is beneficial on the weekend of events but not sure the longer term impact is there - money better spent on activity through the year

Supportive of reducing office cleaning.

I would support reduce cleaning in offices reduce layby bins collection

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

Reduce office cleaning

Start a new culture of everyone help in keeping the office tidy.

removing the over payment on superannuation should be a given- why continue to over pay especially if no impact on the payment received for teachers on maternity pay

Best practice procurement is a basis necessity. re-negotiate old expensive contracts

Reduce layby provision BUT this may lead to increased littering

Office cleaning reduction seems an easy win alongside a culture of keeping offices tidy.

combined effort to keep the office spaces tidy by all staff, tidy, neat workspaces.

Reduce costs at landfill site

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

please don't reduce additional support in schools - although perhaps it could be run in a far more efficient way?

Reduce office cleaning.

remove duplication by other agencies

Support reduction in office-cleaning, Also implementation of 3 weekly collection of residual waste.

Creating priorities on where most needed for school petrol, and many schools may able to find a parent helper to be a Lollipop person.

How would we reduce superannuation costs?

Additional support for learning is vital - would want to hear a bit more as to what these options would look like. Potential for the most vulnerable children to be worst affected

ASL support still very needed- we are seeing an increase in neurodiversity among our children and young people

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

Agree that Additional Support for Learning support in schools is essential. Schools require the support as we know that some are already far behind. We need to protect that service

Has office cleaning not already been reduced?

Support removing economic development support if now provided by other agencies

Don't cut any tackling inequalities fund please.

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

Reduce school estate below 25 pupils.

Support the transfer community halls/public toilets to community groups.

don't close public toilets - they are essential

Closing amenities which people use to get/stay healthy could be absolutely disastrous

Reduce school estate (Option 2) This is now a luxury that cannot be funded in current circumstances.

Support closure of community halls if not used but transfer if there is a demand.

Support option 2 for reducing school estate.

Leisure centre opening times are already extremely limited. if there is nothing for young people to do, along with cuts to youth work funding - it has quite an impact on our young population.

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

will mapping exercise be completed to ensure no single community is negatively impacted (eg if toilets and community hall are both being closed/transferred in one area? Alot for community to lose!)

If public toilets are to be closed alternatives will be needed (so will this be a real saving?)

support option 2 for school estate

If lack of demand supports reduction in leisure facilities then yes, but only if there is hard evidence to support this.

its imperative to keep halls and toilet provision. Community involvement and ownership, most are at the heart of communities, those not used should be closed. But toilets are important.

Closure of CD pool will leave limited access to swimming across Stewartry (Kirkcudbright is private and travel costs)

Close community halls, but also sell them/ remove them from the estate so that the council is not also left with a closed rotting building that require to be maintained

Transfer of Community assets supported

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

leisure facilities- closure could be isolating/ negatively impacting those where it is only socialisation they get daily- may not have means to travel to other areas to access

Perhaps more investment needs to be put into buildings so they become more cost effective...solar, wind etc

Private sector taking up the running of swimming pool

Observation of general waste bins should kept 2 weekly, due to pest control is getting out of control in Dumfries, rats everywhere in the street. But other blue or red bins can be reduced

Reduce Council managers - needs to be done carefully (impact on already stressed workforce) but this is interesting when Directors and Chief Officers have recently been awarded high pay increases

Theme 4 - Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future

Reduce council managers

Supportive of releasing vacancies.

modernise L&D training. Everything should be as up to date as possible.

inclusion bases provide essential support to children and young people

Please support the English as an Additional Learning and gypsy travelers, don't cut all of it if have to

It shouldn't be about reducing support - it should instead be about reducing waste (of time, people & resources). Let's make our public services more efficient, rather than just cutting them.

Many Council staff are already working over and beyond. This needs to be recognised!

With the exception of reducing council management and releasing vacancies I would not be supportive of the reductions suggested. We just need to operate more efficiently.

Theme 4 - Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future

If school rolls are reducing the number of teachers should reflect that, but finding efficiencies in resourcing rather than cutting

reducing number of YDWs might only be 1 person- but would have a massive impact on the support provided to our regions young people

But...are staff who are working above and beyond having a positive impact in the right places?

Perhaps closing underpopulated schools would then reduce staff numbers

absolutely agree its about becoming more efficient rather than reducing further!

Review youth work and how to partner with third sector more efficiently, tackling youth anti social behavior and somewhere to hang out safely

Keep youth development workers

support the removal of vacancies if the post is no longer necessary

Theme 4 - Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future

keep ESOL support!

Chief Officers have recently had big wage increases but there are some efficiencies that could be made. Not good for morale

Theme 5 - Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions - Please share your feedback on the options

Absolutely agree on the maximisation of income generation activities - taking a business focused approach

Agree income maximisation but recognising not all can afford costs

young people should be free to leave for lunch in s3 if they want.

Public transport infrastructure needs to be improved if its then going to be made harder or more expensive to bring a car to town. Could be detrimental to what's left of the current town centre.

Parking charges are not going well in Dumfries. Already the Loreburn car park failed. Also the town centre business and community offices needing footfalls, not empty shop on high street.

Increase revenue in leisure and Sport services by streamlining staffing and finding efficiencies in procurement and staffing.

concern that schools wouldnt have the infrastructure to support the retention of pupils... but also how many of these pupils would be entitled to FSM- is it really going to generate income?

Supportive of increased charges for commercial and bulky waste however may impact fly tipping which then creates increased cost.

Theme 5 - Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions - Please share your feedback on the options

Needing innovative school meals, not same as the school lunch menu if becoming commercially attractive to S1-S3. Needing to be competitive with the shops across the schools.

increase in some of the coached activities through leisure and sport may exclude children and families from gaining important life skills- (water safety taught through swimming)

Commercial waste already at high prices

Any other comments on the savings options?

Save by making efficiencies. Public services should be run like businesses

The "easy" things have already been done

Elected Members need to be prepared to stand up and make hard decisions eg closing local schools

Poverty and Inequalities Partnership Focus Group

[Budget Consultation 2025/26 - Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)

WELCOME

Kirsty Peden - Community Engagement Manager

Jim Brown - Assistant Director Schools



1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

In difficult time anything focussed on the health/wellbeing/safety of the wider population should be prioritised

Actual savings against Poverty is £1.8 Million, that is a significant loss against what has been required this financial year

Consider the wider impact on other sectors/orgs - public sector savings might have a negative impact on other sectors/orgs

With limited resources in the future, are programmes targeted correctly at people in most need, there is a need for a strategic longer term view.

We should avoid the 'sticking plaster' approach to poverty and inequality projects, with funding being allocated on a year by year basis

Longer term interventions are difficult decisions to make, but multi-year funding approach would help

The process is not allowing us to identify creative solutions to improve efficiency and delivery of projects. a longer term view is required

The savings proposed are catastrophic.

1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

The human impact for some these projects will be significant for those most in need.

Less money in peoples pockets has a detrimental human impact but there is also a knock on impact where the council is proposing to save money but other services will be burdened by that choice

People in poverty access Youth Beatz and Summer Activity Scheme and other projects listed in the savings and benefit greatly from those projects too, so there will be a wider impact

other sectors are already facing increasing costs and these savings may result increased pressures on them - particularly the third sector

ceasing funding to the tackling poverty ref group funding would end the opportunity to have lived experience of poverty contributing to service design and delivery

DGC will spend more on temp accom if more people present as homeless and create burdens of wider services if funding is reduced

Indirect impact is greatest from end of interventions taking place with those who are homeless - this is necessary in order to have longer term impact

Need to balance crisis intervention with early intervention and prevention. Ringfence and protect an element of budget to focus on longer term gain.

1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

Experience tell us how catastrophic the ending of this funding would be.

How much of this funding levers in funds from outwith DGC? Direct payments can avoid crisis, stigma for people & is really important that it remains as an option for youth workers and social workers

If supports are removed the voluntary sector can be expected to step in and its not acceptable to assume the vol. sector can do that - direct payment options need to remain

Outside direct poverty intervention protect activity that increases opportunity. This can be the obvious education/employment opportunity but must not lose sight of activity than broadens horizons

Fareshare - if this is removed then community shops / pantry's will reduce and burden wil' increase on foodbanks and Scottish Welfare Fund

use of taxi card scheme - improved community transport may be a more cost effective way of deliveirng, spend to save and thinking long term is necessary

lets engage windfarm partners and others in creative conversations - timeline of this process doesnt allow that. Lets talk about what we really want in the long term

recognise this is not a DGC onyl issue - Scot Govt play a role and reduction in Scot Welfare fund will have a significant impact. Those seekign help from this fund will seek help elsewhere

1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

Capitalise on private sector investment in the region, for example, windfarms, to benefit the region more widely not just individual communities. Importance of lobbying a change in this investment

warm winter clothing and school uniform projects have been valuable - its important young people dont face the stigma of going without the correct uniform. need to think of alternative provision

Tackling Inequalities and Poverty partnership support ceases as part of this proposal - without it there will be less understanding of poverty issues and impacts

1.8 M reduction - how do we decide which of the 1.2M ends? it is not clear what ends

Area Committee Funding £180k - retention could mean more focus on TPI Partnership identified priorities and outcomes in communities

Will have wider impact on how other (external) activities are delivered - communities, organisations and services.

This is much more than public sector cuts - the wider impact is significant across other organisations and communities

Protecting activity that promotes opportunity and gives people access to things they dont normally have is important.

1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

Could indirectly affect people in poverty by not bringing money in to our region.

recognise that this is a hugely difficult decision to make and that there is a need attract investment into the area whilst balancing impacts on those most in need.

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

Organisations working with people living in poverty need access to community facilities, some of these facilities are crucial to that delivery

some of the council's leisure facilities will be the only accessible leisure facility for people in a local area. travel is not always possible for people in poverty

Some of these options appear to risk the achievement of education service

Theme 4 - Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future

some of these options appear to risk achievement of education service as a whole.

any option that restricts opportunity for people will have an impact on people, particular concern around youth work services and English as an additional language as well as many more proposals

so many of these proposals impact on opportunities

The services listed here are an investment in people in poverty and these cuts are deep in peoples prospects

these do not plan for longer term impact 30, 40 years down the line. These are desperately deep impacts on people

These are all investments - any reduction is a reduction on the future - prospect, opportunity, hope

Theme 5 - Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions - Please share your feedback on the options

we can support ways to increase income for services where people can afford to pay for them, as long as protection for people that cant afford it is maintained

dont lose sight that there is wealth in the region and options for those that can afford to pay should be considered as long as those unable to pay are not disadvantaged.

cheap access may increase income and improve wellbeing

can flexible options for charging at non-peak time be considered in leisure facilities

consider times of usage, targeted groups, cheap rates at certain times for certain groups in leisure

DGC leisure may be the only affordable option to individuals - need to ensure those who can pay and those who cant are least impacted

Any comments on the consultation process?

Thank you. Really useful session and i hope we have further opportunities like this in the future - well done

APPENDIX

Chapter 5.5 TACKLING POVERTY REFERENCE GROUP

Increase Council Tax	
Strongly Agree	0
Agree	1
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	4
Not Sure	1

Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities	Number who supported proposal
End funding of the Summer Activity Scheme. Savings:	0
Re-prioritise funding for secondary schools' Scholar subscriptions.	6
End enhanced Staff Immunisation Programme. Savings:	4
Remove remaining in-house commercial catering provision within leisure centres.	1
End policy investment funding for the Youth Beatz festival.	0
End policy investment funding supporting Tackling Poverty and Inequality measures. Savings:	0
Implement existing council policy on the removal of unauthorised additional residual waste bins. Savings:	4
Rationalise school crossing patrol provision. Savings:	1
Close in-house garden nursery. Savings:	2
None of the above.	0

Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes	Number who supported proposal
Reconfigure support for the Autism Attendance Care Experienced Team.	0
Reduce Additional Support for Learning (ASL) teachers and reconfigure service – Option 1 (25% reduction)	0
Reduce Additional Support for Learning (ASL) teachers and reconfigure service – Option 2 (50% reduction)..	0
Remove economic development support now provided by other agencies.	5
Reduce office cleaning, including windows, focussing on a reactive cleaning provision.	2
Implement a one-stop shop facilities management model for schools.	2
Implement 3-weekly collection of residual waste.	2
Reduce the number of layby bins.	3
Reduce energy costs at Locharmoss landfill site through installation of photovoltaic panels.	7
Reduce employers' superannuation costs (teachers' maternity).	5
Savings through best-value procurement activity.	4
None of the above.	0

APPENDIX

Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities	Number who supported proposal
Reduce the school estate – Option 1.	6
Reduce the school estate – Option 2.	3
Reduce the leisure facility estate and review opening times.	3
Reduce number of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).	2
Community facilities review – transfer/closure of public toilets and community halls.	2
None of the above.	0

Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future	Number who supported proposal
Phased reduction in number of play pedagogy principal teachers.	3
Create a centralised School Technician Team.	1
Reduce the number of school-based clerical/admin staff.	1
Remove the central schools team for English as an Additional Language and gypsy travellers.	3
Reduce management resources in Sensory Services/Additional Support for Learning teams.	0
Restructure Early Learning Centre (ELC) support.	0
Reduce number of quality improvement officers – Option 1.	6
Reduce number of quality improvement officers – Option 2.	6
Revise the approach to absence management in primary and secondary schools.	4
Rationalise Support Services Team. Savings:	3
Release of vacancies across Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing.	6
Review of Community Planning and Engagement.	3
Review youth work services.	0
Reduce number of teachers to reflect falling school rolls.	0
Remove inclusion bases to mainstream provision	5
Modernise Learning and Development training.	6
Reduce council management and other staff-related costs.	8
None of the above.	0

APPENDIX

Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions	Number who supported proposal
Increased income generation options across Leisure and Sport services.	4
Phased retention at school canteens of S1–S3 pupils during lunchtime.	6
Increased income generation options – commercial and bulky waste collection.	6
Increased income generation options – marriages and civil partnerships, and third-party legal charges.	6
Review of parking charges.	6
None of the above.	0

Theme	Feedback
1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes	<p>Most support was given to re-prioritising funding for schools Scholar subscriptions, ending enhanced Staff immunisation programme and removing unauthorised additional residual waste bins.</p> <p>There was strong support to maintain funding for tackling poverty and inequality projects. There was also strong support for keeping Youth Beatz.</p>
2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes	<p>The most support was given to reducing energy costs at Locharmoss landfill site, removing duplication of economic support and achieving procurement savings.</p> <p>There was no support for reductions in Additional Support for Learning and Autism Attendance care Experienced Team with participants feeling that impacted on the most vulnerable and that decisions should be needs based.</p>
3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities	<p>There was general support for all options in this theme with most support to Option 1 for reducing the school estate, schools of less than 10 pupils.</p>
4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future	<p>There was a high level of support for reducing council management in this theme. Participants also supported a reduction in quality improvement officers, releasing vacancies and modernising learning and development training.</p> <p>There was no support for a reduction youth work services with participants believing it was an important service for young people. There was also no support for a reduction in management resources for sensory services or additional support for learning.</p>

APPENDIX

5 Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions	There was a strong support for all options that could generate additional income, as long as people who can not afford it were protected and still able to access and afford vital services, and those that can afford it asked to pay a little more. Consideration could be given to further means testing when charging for council services.
--	---

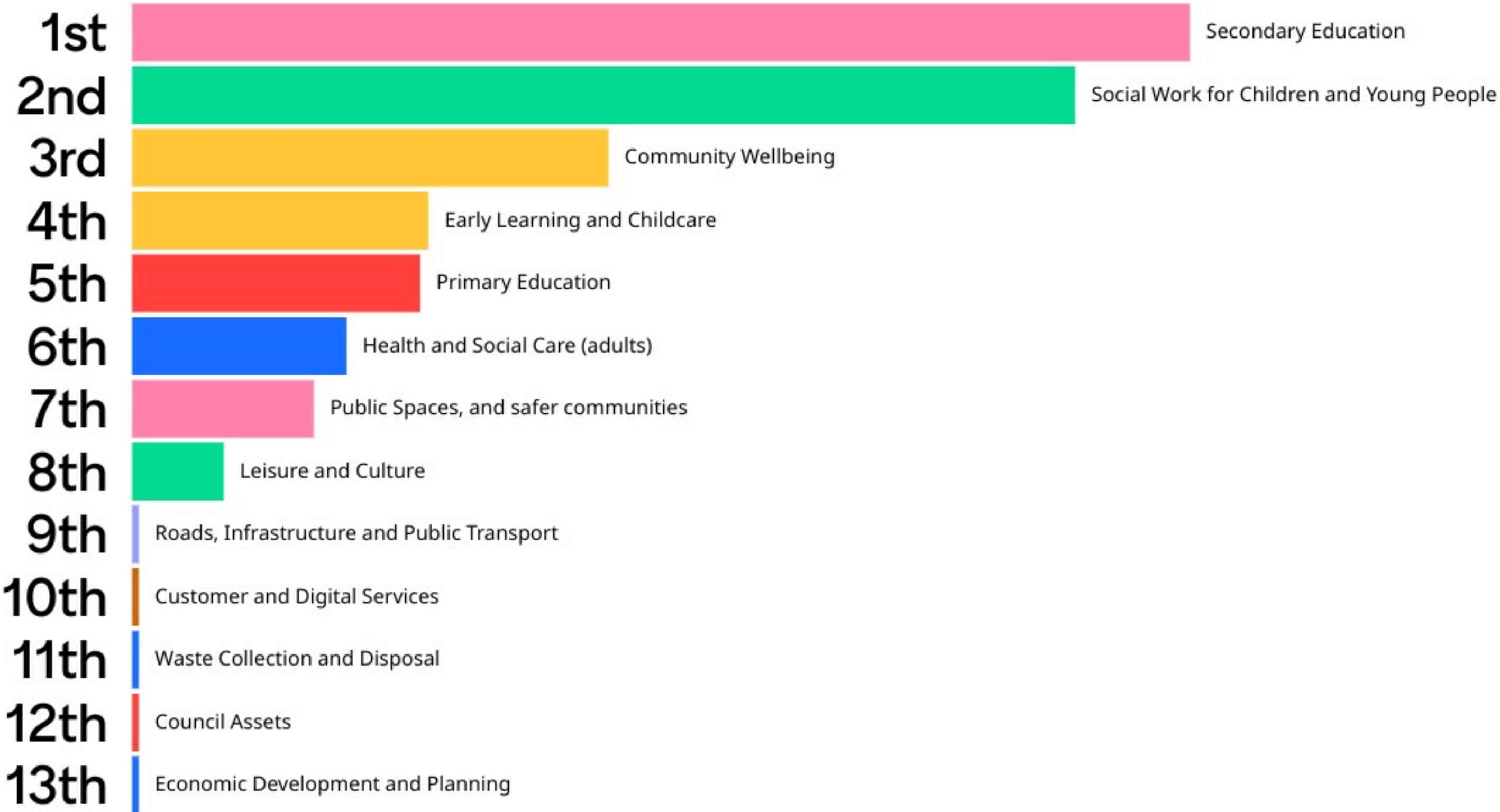
Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council

[Budget Consultation 2025/26 - Dumfries and Galloway Council](#)

WELCOME

Scott McMeeken - Community Engagement Ward Officer

Top 3 priority areas



1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

I think ending youth beatz would be terrible for young people around D&G maybe we could just find cuts instead of ending it

funding on Poverty is vital as each and every day we're seeing more and more family's struggle to feed their children, buy them warm clothes for winter etc

Ending poverty tackling measures is ridiculous due to the significant disparity in household income around D&G

You shouldn't cut off summer activities or youth beatz as it is as young people get opportunities to gain skills and make friends which is good for communities and young ppl's wellbeing.

Ending youth beatz would be terrible for young people- has a paid ticket option been considered or brought up in discussions already

the summer activity scheme is important as young people with disabilities are able to go out and make good memories

Rationalising school crossings makes sense but suggests the obvious idea of increasing the number of automated crossings in order to further cut costs in the long run

it's silly that the schools have to pay themselves instead they should keep the scholar subscriptions for the schools but ask which school actually use it/ want to use it

1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

I feel like since the recent push around Poverty (such as Through Young Eyes), reducing or ending any provisions around preventing such would be entirely against the success of everything done so far.

For staff immunisation cuts, the issue with it lies with cover teachers will need to be brought in or over working teachers who have to cover teachers who are ill.

secondary schools already suffer with their budget and reducing it any more would be catastrophic almost

investment fundining of tackling poverty- The removal of this would have a massive impact on young people in the area as this covers many resources that are widely used by young people

Most proposals would have impact, but may be reasonable.

Youth Beats and the Summer activity scheme are very important to young people and ending them would be terrible.

Youthbeatz festival would be good to have ticket fees in place or donation availabilities in place instead rather than the cancellation of it

end funding for youth beatz- vital for many young people as it gives many young people volunteering experiences and poorer people who cannot afford a festival or an experience like youth beatz

1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

Youth beatz charging a ticket fee would impact young ppl and families as of the living crisis and also imunisations are able and free to all people in Scotland so teachers can get it off their gp

ending the funding of the summer activity sheme is a ridiculous idea as people with disabilities barely have the ability to do things never mind do things like other people especially in the summer

Reducing the in-house catering provisions at the Ryan could work like it has at DG1

Youth beats is more than a festival to young people.

ending policy funding for youthbeatz would take a huge impact with young people, as it gives young people a voice to be who they want to be.

So the flu one to teachers should be cut as teachers get them from gp

If youthbeatz is changed perhaps ticket fees could be waived depending on financial sittuation

Tackling poverty cuts would be detrimental to children and families in poverty. The effect this would have on people and the experiences they could have even to the basic needs they require.

1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

Why not charge for youth beatz as the end of it could be catastrophic if it ended as it is soo important to young people it doesn't have to be a lot but something as I think it would have to much

School Crossing reductions make sense.

Taking away the poverty budget during a cost of living crisis is absurd.

summer activity scheme -this would have a large negative impact as many people who access this are people who need it desperately as it's access to relaxation and support for families who need it most

Of a bad impact on loads of problems (youth beatz)

ending youthbeatz is a horrible idea as many children don't have that many places available for them to go out and have fun but also make friends

we shouldnt cut off summer activites or youth beats because it helps people get outside and learn new skills and meet new people

Tackling poverty should stay in the council especially as living crisis and with young people too

1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

Could the in-house garden nursery be taken on by community or another organisation

ending the investment funding support tackling poverty and inequality services is quite ridiculous

stopping the policy investment supporting the tackling poverty and inequality measures, i feel would be extremely unhelpful to those who are in need of emergency fuel vouchers, and discretionary grant

tje end of poverty funding thing is unthinkable at this time of poverty

Gardens from nurserys can go to cummmunity funds and be funded by the cummmunity

Reducing tackling poverty budget is not a good option considering some areas of d and g are very poverty stricken

Staff immunisation programme is required in a large amount of areas as it is a matter of public health and safety especially surrounding youth and those whose imune systems aren't fully developed yet

poverty project and other projects like that have a great impact on people and it would be terrible to remove it

1 Sustained focus on our Priority Outcomes - share your feedback on the options proposed

Reduction of Summer Activity provisions and Poverty Funding will impact our most vulnerable people in our region, and especially when families struggle around childcare and food while schools are off.

staff in schools see multiple children a day, then children then go onto see their friends and families. COVID never went away and the number of cases are rising again.

take half of the 120k from the close in house garden save one half give the other half too other communities that would be willing to do it with youth etc

reducing crossing patrol staff members would benefit where there are automated crossings

Will staff have a redirect job and what would that be

youthbeatz cuts would be a disaster for young people especially in deep poverty taking some money out is understandable but not all

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

Support the photo voltaic panels at Lochamos landfill site

Reduction of ASL teachers would impacted our most vulnerable inside schools, especially when these services provide so much valuable help to those pupils in school.

i support the reduce office cleaning, including windows, focussing on a reactive etc...

reducing ASL staff by any amount is beyond absurd seeing as they're already way too understaffed, as a generation we're supposed to be a lot more well knowledged on disabilities, clearly not

ASL teacher reduction - this would be disastrous to young people as asl teachers are already thin and with many young people calling for more ASL teachers after covid this would be an injustice

U shouldnt remove asl workers or cut it AT ALL some schools even struggle to support asn students so no u shouldnt cut that as some schools are struggling to provide to support those students already

Removing Economic support makes sense as SOSE and SSDA has been receiving more funding and publicity.

I think reducing ASL teachers and support workers would be detrimental to those he need and rely on it. Right now we are providing a service but I think we could do even better

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

The cut to ASN workers would terribly impact to a child throughout their school life, as without enough support, they may struggle to complete tasks and get through day to day life

Support best value procurement scheme, with reservations to vital resources which are best obtained as soon as possible

Autism attendance - this would not be beneficial as many schools may not follow recommendations which could lead to more young people falling by the wayside as schools are already not attentive enough

I think reductions are a good idea as long as it doesn't have a bad impact on people they help and they can still get support

One stop shop for schools should be kept as it helps young people

Bin collection is an issue as depending on a number in a household, general waste makes up for most of wastage, and will be made either way even if recycling and has to go somewhere

i do not support the 3-weekly collection of residual waste, the bins are already bursting at the seams with the 2 week collections

Solar panels u should do i agree

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

i dont support but i dont oppose the reconfigure for the autism attendance care experience team

Reducing General Waste Bin collections could impact the often fastest filled bins in our communities - could lead to waste being on our streets and overflowing bins (Dumping waste on side of roads)

reducing asl teachers would make it harder for people that relay on them struggle at schools

I think the introduction of photovoltaic panels at locharmoss would help achieve environmental goals and also reduce costs

Lochsrmoss installation - supported as running costs for the building are already high and earning money while using renewable energy would be beneficial

Reducing teaching staff for asn young people does not align well with the councils aim to give children and young People the best start in life

i dont think youd be able to save enough money over free years to make profit from the solar panels over a bigger time frame yes but not 3 years

If not effecting maternity pay for teachers, I agree that it would be a good idea to save money while not being at the expense of the teacher

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

i think the photovoltaic panels would overall have a good impact on the town

Savings in best-value procurement seems to have a massive reduction and I don't see a reason why it shouldn't happen.

i believe the solar panels on lockermoss is an amazing investment in the long run and more sustainable, along with being a benefit to the environment

Bins cannae go to 3 weeks! It's bad enough just now.

The weekly bins would cause more litter as if bins are overflowing it will cause more litter in the streets

Superannuation reductions could be a wise decision - but could this create future disadvantages?

the council should already be saving the extra money payed to the maternity leave

Savings - maternity pay? Why is that a savings option when it should happen anyway?

Theme 2 Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes - Please share your feedback on the options

The superannuation should be an automatic saving if it is already being overpaid

Procurement?

Would the photovoltaic panels really be a saving bc a lot can happen in 3 years and for 100k is it really a saving

Would layby bin reduction not result in a greater need for litter picking on roadside?

in the procurement saving we should be wary. the last government had a deal over prison maintenance which has resulted in the provider offering too low and going bust. This cost the government a lot

rubbish needs to be picked up as it can cause accidents, not to mention the bins outside houses would also smell quite bad attracting little insects and possibility of rodents

Reduction to any waste disposals could potentially lead to Fly-Tipping.

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

Reduction of the Schools Estate while the largest cost saving could badly impact the rural communities in our area.

closure of these facilities such as swimming pools can lead to communities needing to travel to access these resources which may not be a realistic choice for many young people and families

mothballing should not be an option, if you are going to mothball a building get it sold

Against closure of public toilets due to simple hygiene requirements, and the poor transport to allow people home/to other facilities with access

by removing community halls, many children won't have a place to go and meet their friends, youth groups may have to be cancelled in a certain area causing some children to also go hungry

no

Do not shut down community halls as youthwork and community groups run and they impact young people as if those halls arent funded then shut down those groups wont run meaning that young pplcant go ou

Reducing HWRC's while a good solution could result in communities being incredibly long distances away - increasing pollution and potential fly-tipping.

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

Places where smaller schools are, if closed, would require for children to travel far which may be detrimental, especially if they are younger in age

reducing school estates will affect rural communities badly and cause daily struggles for young people going to school

Would need to be something in place to protect council things that happen in the buildings such as youth groups

mothballing of small role schools while it seems a good idea may leave poorer families stranded as they may not own a car or be in a rural area where there is no or non adequate access to transport

CAT could work really well for Town Halls - especially where there is a strong community body to take over and could work really well in saving costs.

Get rid of the hwrc booking system.

Support reduction of school estate, perhaps some of saved money can be re-allocated to the closest nearby (larger) school to help cope with increased attendance

removing community halls would be horrible to this generation as many young people are going down the wrong path and struggling with life and how to cope with it and turn to youth work to help

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

mothballing primary schools due to low enrolment rate is terrible due to loads of small primary schools going through highs and lows of new people. I think if necessary a long term plan could be used

closure of facilities such as swimming pool could mean that people will struggle to go swimming with friends or keep their hobbies doable

Public Toilets could potentially be hard to transfer and maintain.

community hall can be very important in rural communities and closing them would cause a negative impact on the towns

Save the halls!!

Closure of Leisure Facilities will it could be good could result in some vulnerable people unable to access some Council Services available at these locations.

Reduction of HWRCs makes sense IF the increased efficiency of landfill is implemented. If increased efficiency is not implemented it could be detrimental and increase costs for sites.

To save money, transfer of community halls is a good idea however to make sure all keep open, it could be that if some are to be transferred and if any community can not transfer to keep them open

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

if the toilets or halls cant be transferred rhey should most definitely not be closed the council should still keep them running but have the option for commuties to take them over

Buildings that are left will be broken into by young people and then become a bigger problem and it will have a negative affect

Before long, closed buildings will become an eyesore.

Mothballing could work, but sending kids to other schools could result in long trips with additional costs on the Council/Parents, problems for parents and mean closest school is many miles away.

instead of waiting for the schools roll to increase, it might be cheaper to financially support a bus for children to go to a larger non mothballed school

Closures of leisure facilities like swimming pool in Castle Douglas would impact young people and puts people who are less fortunate in a position of disadvantage to the rest of the region

Distance of rural children to available education centres is already massive. I think an increase in minimum is not a good idea unless it is in a longer term time criteria

The moth ball school could local village schools be joined together and make up the numbers to save primary kids a rather large school drive

Theme 3 Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities - Please share your feedback on the options

i think as long as people still get the support they need and there is support available it would be a good idea.

Theme 4 - Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future

Dont cut any of these. As these help young people and children grow and decelop and build confidence

Support modernisation of developement training

Reducing Youth Work would be a betrayal of the Council's commitment to YP throughout the years and could mean projects like Through Young Eyes would never happen.

please dont get rid of a YDW

all of thes help young people to build cofendence and being able to make there decsion and develop

administration staff in schools are already struggling as major schools already have an increase in students and students who may need extra processing and admin is just vital to the school ecosystem

With how much the council has put into the youth work service, it would be difficult to cut as young people are so involved with it and rely on having a safe space

Removing pedagogy teachers could work - and if support needed the Council could look to using other support (Like Community Learning or external trainers) to provide such as and when needed.

Theme 4 - Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future

i think a central team available to support teachers to help all learners is very important

Classroom teachers already have pressure and it has been seen with the influx of asylum seekers that it does not benefit young people to not have specialised language support separate

School administrators cut would not work well due to the number of the secondary school students across the region

Reducing Teachers could work, however once again could impact the most rural communities in our region.

removing the central school team for English as additional language and gypsy travellers will have a huge negative impact on the school and more pressure

A centralised support team could work, especially meaning that demands can be better met.

some children will need people to help them learn english as it is vital to their overall education and consequently their future

The reduction of teachers would work for larger schools, however more rural schools that are not in the main towns across the region would be impacted the most

Theme 4 - Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future

Reducing teachers due to falling school rolls has a terrible impact upon schools and pupils. Through personal experience merging of classes reduces ability and potential of individual pupils

There should be no cuts to the youth work service. If anything, they need more money.

The tech teams - will the resources that can be used to reduce there workloads of these staff be used before cuts if not the cuts will cause more problems than good

Removing Inclusion Spaces could mean that tailored support to the most vulnerable that need the most support from the council could end up getting reduced support due to a stretched service in school.

Removing inclusion spaces means that children who truly need help with behavioural issues and support needs could be disadvantaged as well as students who have to deal with these behavioural issues

If elc is cut out or any support ur gonna have allot of pupils not getting their qualifications

Releasing Vacancies could work as a good savings - but could potentially stretch staff further than if they had additional members on team.

The council going into this should have a full background on the pros cons and what would happen to everyone that this cuts concerns

Theme 4 - Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future

this is saying that they need people to cover teachers when their sick, however your also proposing an idea to cut down the amount of teachers

Revising absence management could reduce costs, but could impact staff time to prep for their own classes and could decrease quality of education if cover is reliant solely on staff covering others.

Management reductions could work, but would need to know the wider impact on the services and whether combining services could reduce impact of service to the public.

its ridiculous to even consider reviewing rhe youth work services as they are such an important part for young people and fpr such a smal amount

i think reducing the management resources in sensory services etc is a good idea

Theme 5 - Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions - Please share your feedback on the options

Retention of s1-3 pupils could not be enforced easily in schools and would be a struggle to implement

Leisure facilities are expensive enough without increasing charges even more.

people aged 65+ should remain entitled to their discount for many reasons such as they will have reduced mobility anyway due to them no longer working

School canteens - are not big enough for that many pupils.

Forcing S1-3's to remain in building could work, but could have problems around enforcing such and ensuring that they can only get food internally.

If all of s1-3 were to stay in school at lunch. There would be no room for them.

How will they fit everyone into canteens when they're not built for capacity needed.

schools would struggle to keep s1-s3 as not all lunch all a big another for all pupils

Theme 5 - Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions - Please share your feedback on the options

Leisure Facilities payments could work - but impacts on the most impacted.

keeping s1 to s3 inside is not so good as school food is gross and people would rather be able to go somewhere else

s1 to s3 for school lunches is a terrible idea due to not good food choices for those wanting nutritious food or vegetation, vegan and other needs. Space just non existent in some schools

Leisure facilities are already expensive, and it will impact younger people most as their families will pay for them to go to different sports clubs

was it taken into consideration or conversation that its not realistic to put up prices of leisure and sport services at this time of poverty where people struggle to afford healthy food never mind...

.....afford to keep healthy physically, leisure services are expensive enough

A review on space, food quality/availability and ability to make/ buy enough food would be essential for each school individually

Parking Charges should be mandatory if introduced. However costs/staffing could outweigh savings if proposal is taken.

Theme 5 - Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions - Please share your feedback on the options

Leisure centres / not realistic to put up prices. In a time of poverty and cost of living crisis, it hard enough for people to eat healthy and live healthy. The negative impact for people is huge.

someschool dont have the capacity to keep 1 to 3rd years in the canteen nevermind considering the senior years, some school have even 'vans' outside of other small business where pupils can buy food

Increasing revenue gathering (through waste and other costs) could work the best out of all these options as its achievable and could be done relatively easily.

for lunches many of the younger pupils will encouraged to find ways to get out for lunch

the school meals should be more reviewed and the prices should be lowered before they force kids to eat in the canteen instead of riseing them

To force young people to eat in school, the whole school meal system would need to be reviewed. It's not good enough as it is.

Any other comments on the savings options?

a lot of these ideas are kind of ridiculous

So many proposals that affect children and young people

It needs to be looked at how children and young people will be affected if these options were picked to reduce budgets

Concerns around impacts around CYP as a lot will impact them massively - implications around UNCRC?

if your wanting s1 to s3 remain in school for their lunch, wouldn't the money they pay for the dinner just go towards the increase in demand for food supplies?

For the future generations I believe this is making it much more difficult to make a good happy life in D&G as a lot of the things has to do with young people will be heavily affected

if we are supposed to be the future generation alot of these proposals are ridiculous to bring up as they would very highly negatively affect us in the future

A lot of these will affect our most rural communities in D&G.

APPENDIX

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIEWS ON BUDGET CONSULTATION

1.1 Our Council has a legal obligation to formally consult and engage with Children and Young People to ensure compliance with the Scottish Law in relation to the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) Our Council also made commitments around how we would consult and engage with young people in our Youth Participation and Engagement Strategy which was agreed by Full Council.

1.2 To ensure full and meaningful engagement, our Council carried out the following engagement with Children and Young People:

- Focus group run specifically with Youth Council
- Specific information issued to all pupil councils in all secondary schools
- Workshops delivered within 46 youth work groups in the Region
- Information on the budget consultation sent to all Third Sector organisations working with Children and Young People

1.3 The findings from the focus group with the Youth Council are presented separately within this report.

1.4 The feedback from pupil councils and Third Sector Organisations are presented within the online feedback as they had the opportunity to use the online consultation so their feedback is incorporated into the wider views presented separately within this report.

Feedback from Workshops held within Youth Work Services

1.5 Dumfries and Galloway's Youth Work Service supported young people to complete the budget consultation at 46 groups across the region between the 14th November and 5th December. A total of **473 young people** aged between 11-25 were in attendance across the groups. Engagement took place within a range of services including; school wider achievement sessions, junior provisions for primary 7, Additional Support Needs and Disabilities groups, general drop ins and focused/issue-based groups.

1.6 Young people were engaged in workshops which followed our Council's guidance on budget consultation and where the young people had the opportunity to discuss all the options, not just those that directly affect Children and Young People.

1.7 In some groups the young people completed the discussion boards (in the same format as the community conversations)

APPENDIX

1.8 The Children and Young People who participated are from the following areas;

Area	Number of Group	Number of Individual Young People
Annandale and Eskdale	5	49
Stewartry	6	63
Wigtownshire	17	192
Nithsdale	15	125
Regional	3	44
TOTAL	46	473

1.9 The summary of the feedback on the proposals are;

Saving proposals with the most support from Children and Young People (ranked in order of support with Number 1 being the most supported)

1. End enhanced Staff Immunisation Programme.
2. Reduce employers' superannuation costs (teachers' maternity)
3. Close in-house garden nursery.
4. Reduce energy costs at Locharmoss landfill site through installation of photovoltaic panels
5. Release of vacancies across Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing

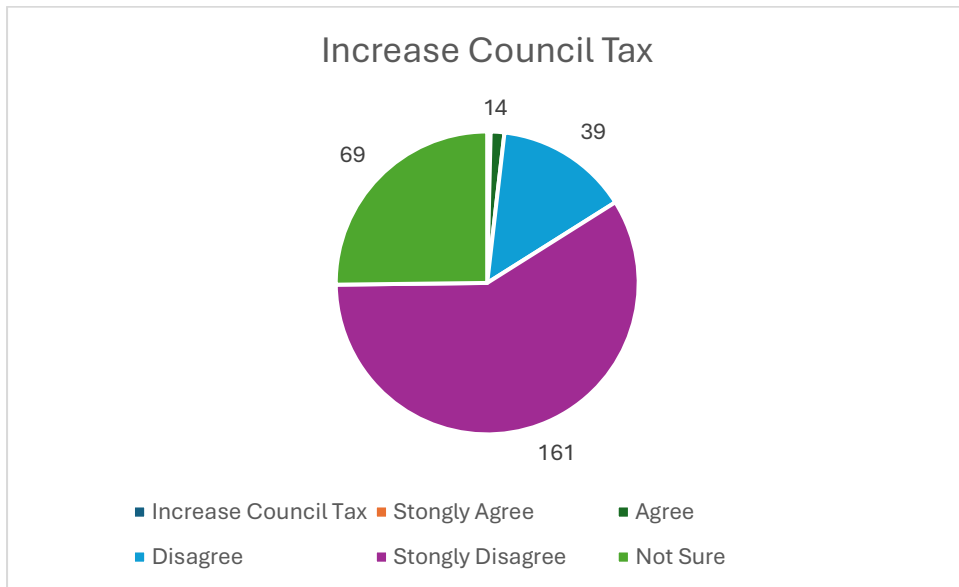
1.10 Saving proposals with the least support from Children and Young People (ranked in order of support with Number 1 being the proposal with least support)

1. Review youth work services
2. End policy investment funding for the Youth Beatz festival
3. Reduce Additional Support for Learning (ASL) teachers and reconfigure service – Option 2 (50% reduction)
4. End policy investment funding supporting Tackling Poverty and Inequality measures
5. Reduce number of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

APPENDIX

DETAILED FINDINGS FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WORKSHOPS

Increase Council Tax	
Strongly Agree	1
Agree	4
Disagree	39
Strongly Disagree	161
Not Sure	69



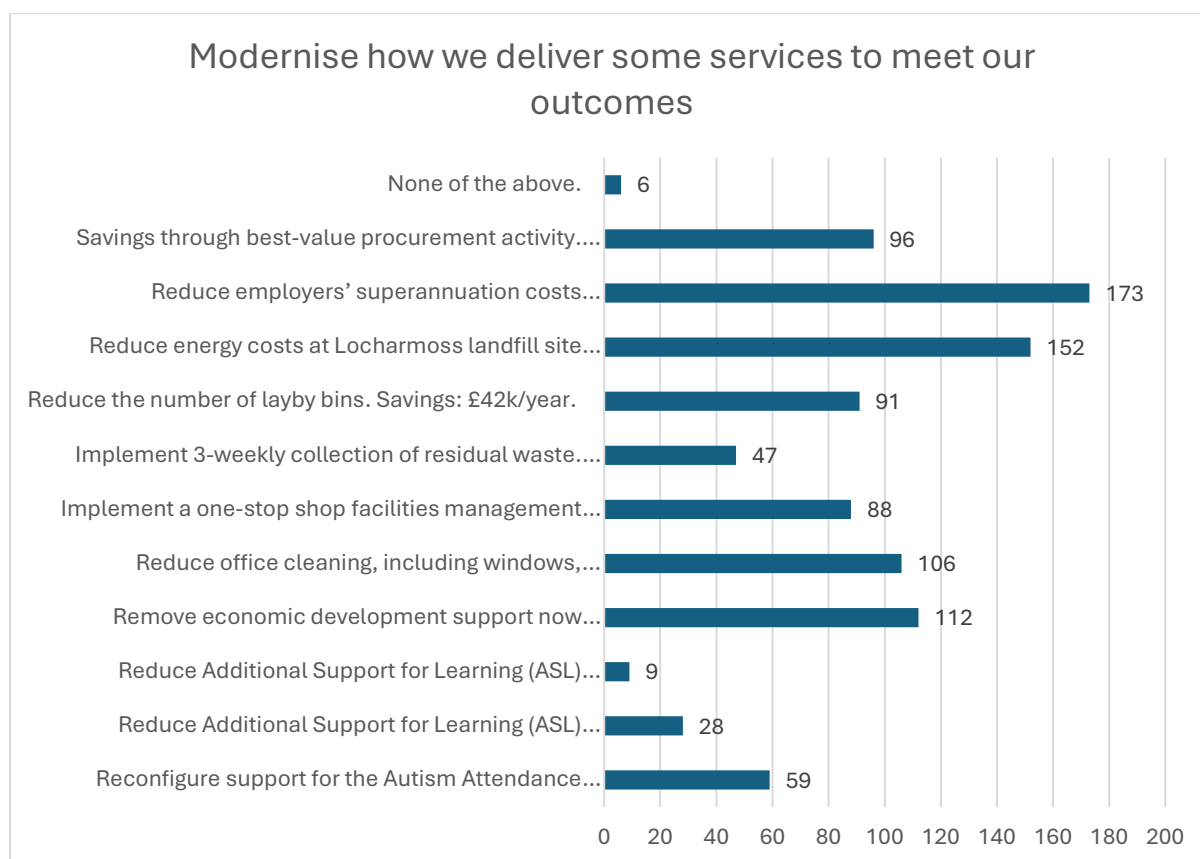
APPENDIX

Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities	Number who supported proposal
End funding of the Summer Activity Scheme. Savings:	31
Re-prioritise funding for secondary schools' Scholar subscriptions.	96
End enhanced Staff Immunisation Programme. Savings:	181
Remove remaining in-house commercial catering provision within leisure centres.	103
End policy investment funding for the Youth Beatz festival.	7
End policy investment funding supporting Tackling Poverty and Inequality measures. Savings:	16
Implement existing council policy on the removal of unauthorised additional residual waste bins. Savings:	131
Rationalise school crossing patrol provision. Savings:	128
Close in-house garden nursery. Savings:	153
None of the above.	10



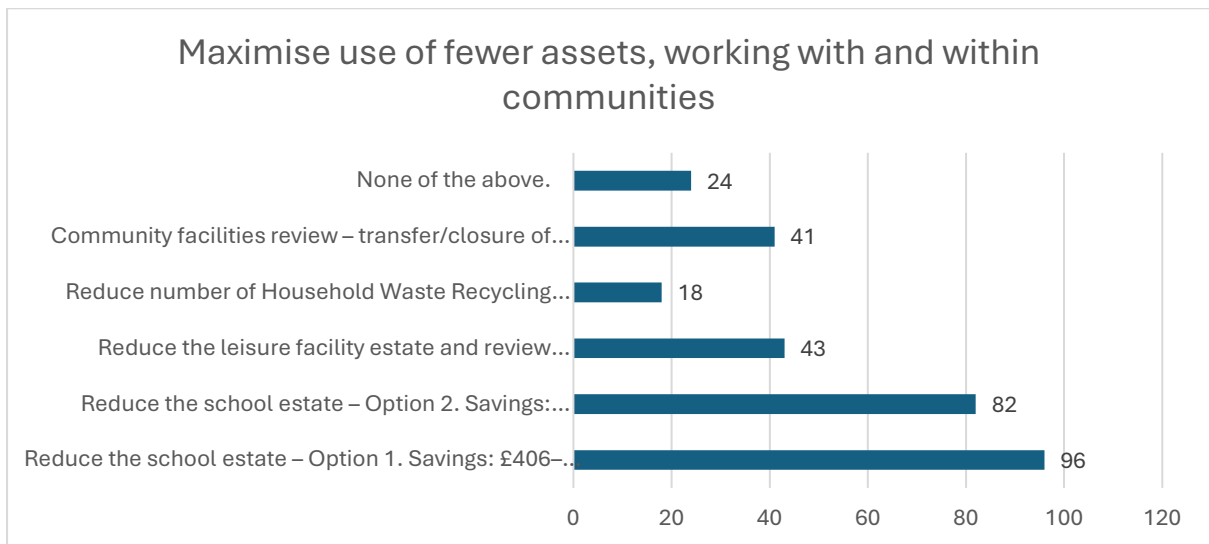
APPENDIX

Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes	Number who supported proposal
Reconfigure support for the Autism Attendance Care Experienced Team.	59
Reduce Additional Support for Learning (ASL) teachers and reconfigure service – Option 1 (25% reduction)	28
Reduce Additional Support for Learning (ASL) teachers and reconfigure service – Option 2 (50% reduction)..	9
Remove economic development support now provided by other agencies.	112
Reduce office cleaning, including windows, focussing on a reactive cleaning provision.	106
Implement a one-stop shop facilities management model for schools.	88
Implement 3-weekly collection of residual waste.	47
Reduce the number of layby bins.	91
Reduce energy costs at Locharmoss landfill site through installation of photovoltaic panels.	152
Reduce employers' superannuation costs (teachers' maternity).	173
Savings through best-value procurement activity.	96
None of the above.	6



APPENDIX

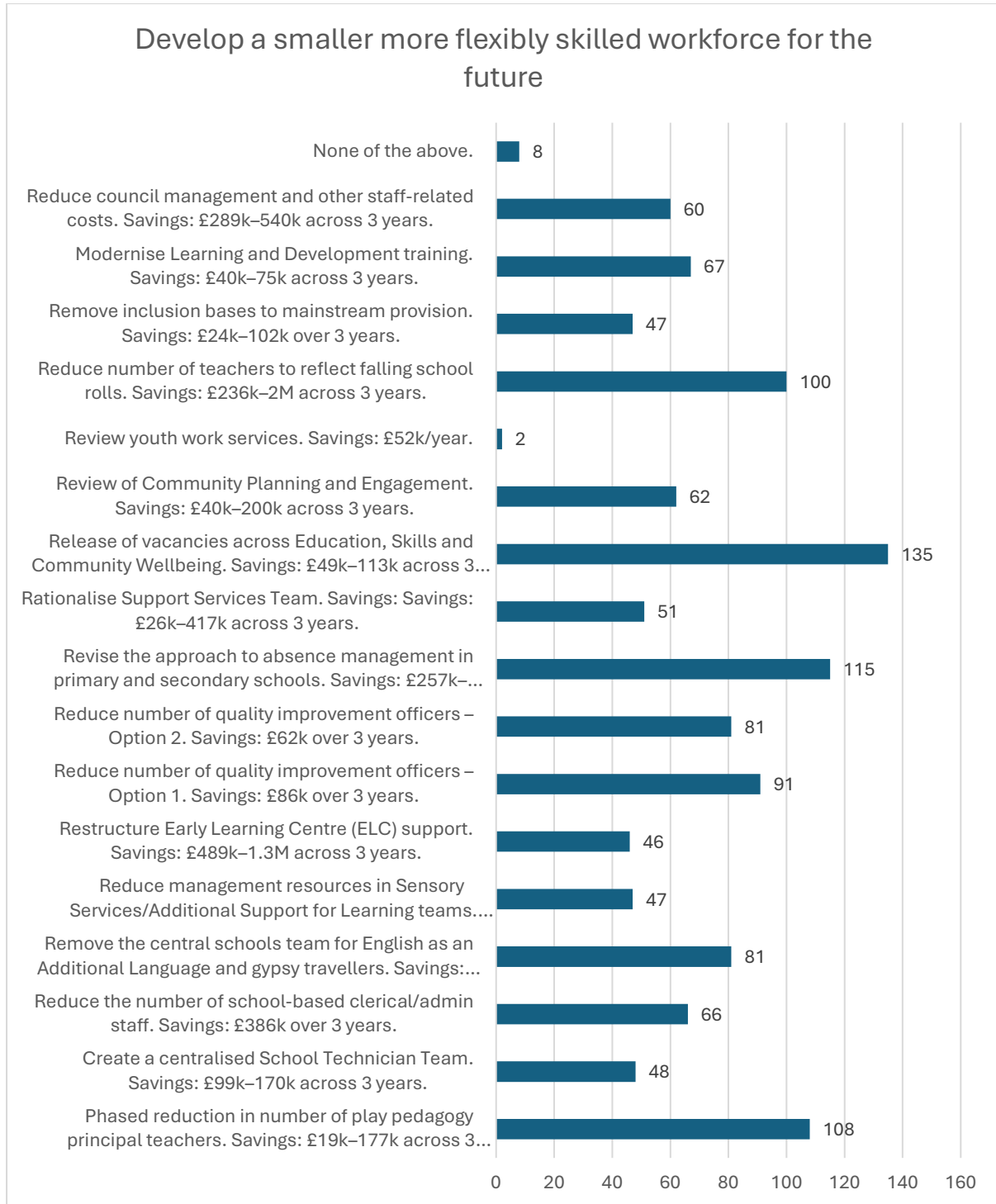
Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities	Number who supported proposal
Reduce the school estate – Option 1.	96
Reduce the school estate – Option 2.	82
Reduce the leisure facility estate and review opening times.	43
Reduce number of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).	18
Community facilities review – transfer/closure of public toilets and community halls.	41
None of the above.	24



APPENDIX

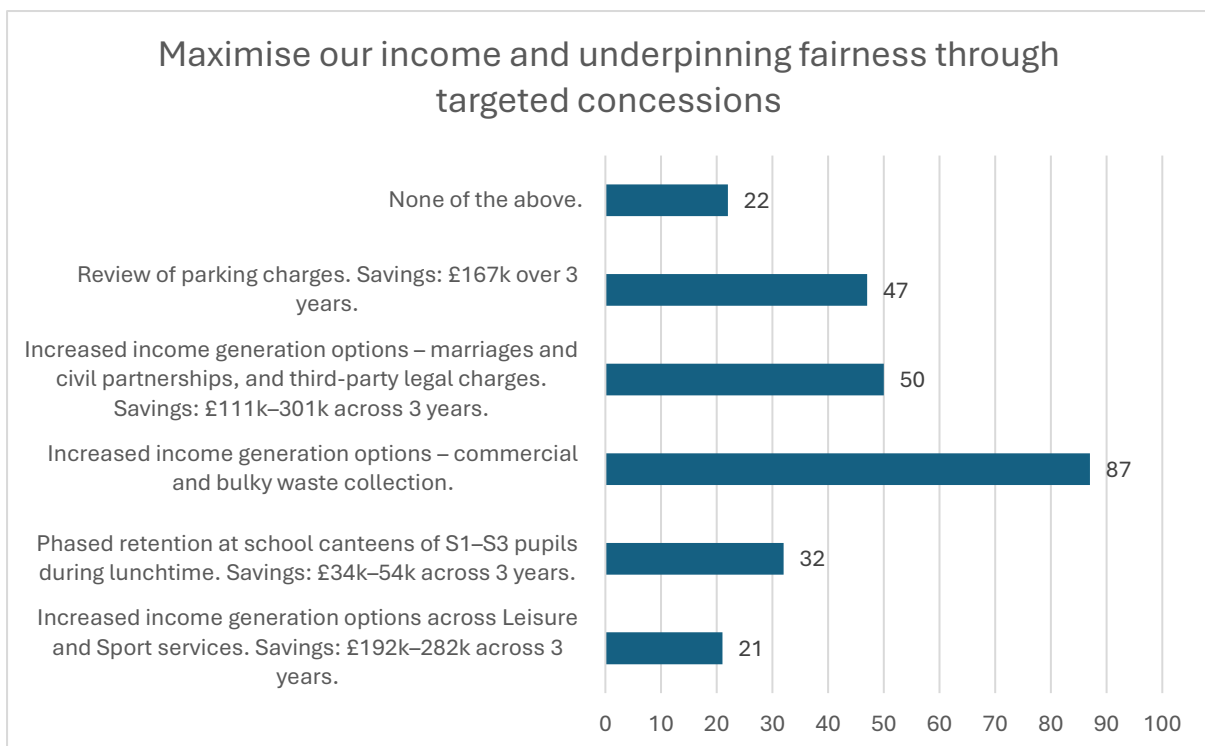
Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future	Number who supported proposal
Phased reduction in number of play pedagogy principal teachers.	108
Create a centralised School Technician Team.	48
Reduce the number of school-based clerical/admin staff.	66
Remove the central schools team for English as an Additional Language and gypsy travellers.	81
Reduce management resources in Sensory Services/Additional Support for Learning teams.	47
Restructure Early Learning Centre (ELC) support.	46
Reduce number of quality improvement officers – Option 1.	91
Reduce number of quality improvement officers – Option 2.	81
Revise the approach to absence management in primary and secondary schools.	115
Rationalise Support Services Team. Savings:	51
Release of vacancies across Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing.	135
Review of Community Planning and Engagement.	62
Review youth work services.	2
Reduce number of teachers to reflect falling school rolls.	100
Remove inclusion bases to mainstream provision	47
Modernise Learning and Development training.	67
Reduce council management and other staff-related costs.	60
None of the above.	8

APPENDIX



APPENDIX

Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions	Number who supported proposal
Increased income generation options across Leisure and Sport services.	21
Phased retention at school canteens of S1–S3 pupils during lunchtime.	32
Increased income generation options – commercial and bulky waste collection.	87
Increased income generation options – marriages and civil partnerships, and third-party legal charges.	50
Review of parking charges.	47
None of the above.	22



APPENDIX

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMENTS - BUDGET CONSULTATION:**OVERALL PROCESS:**

- The range of money on some of the proposal was quite large which made it difficult to make decisions as it might only have a tiny impact if at the lowest saving, but could also be quite a large sum of money
- The language used in the proposal was not easy to understand
- It was hard to make decisions on some of the options as there wasn't enough information for each proposal

THEME 1:

- It is really difficult to decide because you want to stick within the budget, but you do not want decisions to impact on young people, especially those with disabilities.
- I don't want Youth Beatz to go – it is so good for young people.
- Some schools use Scholar a lot, some don't use it at all. This option makes sense to me.
- Why would the Council cut something that so many young people look forward to in Youth Beatz?
- There's going to be nothing left for young people in this region.
- Only support cutting automated crossings
- Can you fine people littering unauthorised
- A lot of towns grow their own flowers and have groups that volunteer.
- A lot of people depend on the summer scheme because there's nothing for ASN young people to do in the holidays.
- If people have extra bins they should be charged for it
- Poverty is a huge thing and cutting the money would mean a lot of people would be left with no help or support and people who get help would be further into poverty. A lot of the money helps children young people and families.
- Please please don't cut youth beatz, we would never get the chance to go to things like that.
- I know youth beatz seems like a lot of money but if you think about the number of people who go it's not really.
- How can you think about taking away something like youth beatz when you could save more money by being stricter with people's bins! That's really rubbish!
- Pay £1.20 for ticket to Youth Beatz

APPENDIX

THEME 2:

- Maybe moving the Autism Team to schools would mean better support for autistic young people?
- I don't have learning support in all my classes because there is not enough ASL teachers. If it is reduced, I would be scared I wouldn't have any.
- Please don't change support for learning.
- People with a family of 4 only have one black bin, lifting it every three weeks would be disgusting, especially if you had baby nappies or something like that.
- Bins are always full when people do actively recycle.
- Layby bins are always overflowing so just get rid of them.
- Support reduction in layby bins if some are kept
- The bins are not emptied enough just now, waiting longer is rank.
- I get why tourism is important to the region, but why should we spend money on that when we need to look after the people living here.
- We need teachers to help young people with additional support needs that cant access mainstream education.
- Office Cleaning and Window Cleaning- do it yourself

THEME 3:

- Smaller schools are less profitable due to a smaller teacher to pupil ratio. It also makes it more difficult when you go to high school, so it makes sense for them to close to save money.
- Depends is there is another school within 5 miles (10pupil or less school role)
- Support closure of townhalls but not toilets
- Some of the proposed halls and facilities closures will affect important services like youth work and social work, which will then have an impact on young people. How do you even decide which ones to close?
- I get if schools have low numbers then closing them makes sense, as long as the children are getting an education that's what matters.
- A lot of the proposed cuts have already previously taken place in Moffat- it feels like it no longer affects us

APPENDIX

THEME 4:

- If the Inclusion Bases are removed, I will go back to not going to school because its too difficult.
- Why should you close our youth groups when they are the only thing I have to do at night?
- You should be having more youth workers, not less!
- I think that changing the absence support would be good because it is difficult to understand at the moment.
- Additional support learning staff should not be cut- it isn't fair to expect these children to slot straight into mainstream education.
- It makes sense if there are jobs that people have that are no longer needed to get rid of them. Also, jobs where people are not working face to face with people will have less impact.
- ESOL- worth it for secondary not primary

THEME 5:

- Most places charge to park a car. Why don't we?
- School canteens aren't big enough to hold all S1-3 pupils at lunchtimes? Some young people also benefit from going a walk down the street to clear their heads and to get some exercise.
- Gym and swim prices are okay at the moment, but putting them up means some young people might not be able to afford it. If people keep pushing for kids to do other things rather than hanging round the streets it needs to be affordable for us.
- People don't have enough money, don't charge them (in relation to parking)
- Only support invitation to pay- not mandatory payment
- People shouldn't have to pay to park
- I use the pool when it is free on a Saturday and sometimes at night when I have to pay but its really expensive.
- It wont work to keep S1-3 in school for lunch. The canteens aren't big enough and the food isn't good enough. And also, what happens to S4,5,6 – do they not get fed? Because there might be people in those years that get free school meals that wouldn't get into the canteen. Or what else could happen is that the people on free school meals get stigmatised because priority would go to them and then people would know.