

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

SKYPE MEETING, 17 MARCH, 2021

Present: Councillors K Adam, W Agnew, A Allan, P Argyle, N Baillie, D Beagrie, L Berry, A Bews, G Blackett, R Bruce, A Buchan, C Buchan, M Buchan, S Calder, G Carr, R Cassie, J Cox, I Davidson, S Dickinson, A Duncan, E Durno, A Evison, M Ewenson, A Fakley, M Findlater, M Ford, A Forsyth, P Gibb, J Gifford, V Harper, A Hassan, W Howatson, J Hutchison, M Ingleby, J Ingram, P Johnston, A Kille, A Kloppert, J Latham, D Lonchay, L McAllister, R McKail, A McKelvie, D Mair, I Mollison, G Owen, G Petrie, C Pike, G Reid, G Reynolds, D Robertson, A Ross, M Roy, A Simpson, H Smith, N Smith, S Smith, A Stirling, I Sutherland, I Taylor, B Topping, I Walker, A Wallace, L Wilson, R Withey and J Whyte.

Apologies: Councillors D Aitchison, F Hood, S Leslie and H Partridge.

Officers: Chief Executive, Director of Business Services, Director of Education and Children's Services, Interim Director of Infrastructure Services, Head of Legal and People, Acting Head of Finance, Head of Customer and Digital Services, Partnership Manager, Health and Social Care Partnership (G Fraser) and Principal Committee Services Officer.

CHAIR

Councillor W Howatson, Provost of the Council, presided.

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Provost asked Members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. The following declarations were intimated –

- (i) Item 5 - Councillor Blackett, as her husband was Chair of a Rural Partnership, the budget allocation for which formed part of the considerations, and as the interest was clear and substantial left the meeting during consideration and determination thereof;
- (ii) Item 5 - Councillor Calder as a consultative member of Aberdeen Trades Union Council. The interest was considered to be remote and insignificant and he would remain and participate in the meeting;
- (iii) Item 5 - Councillor Cassie as a member of Unison and a consultative member of Aberdeen Trades Union Council. The interest was considered to be remote and insignificant and he would remain and participate in the meeting; and
- (iv) Item 5 - Councillor Evison as President of CoSLA, a member of the Aberdeen Trades Union Council and member of Unite Union. The interest was considered to be remote and insignificant and she would remain and participate in the meeting.

2. STATEMENT ON EQUALITIES

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Council **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) where an Equality Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching their decision.

3. MINUTES

(1) MINUTE OF MEETING OF ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL OF 14 JANUARY, 2021

There had been circulated and was **approved** as a correct record the Minute of Meeting of Aberdeenshire Council of 14 January, 2021.

(2) MINUTE OF MEETING OF ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL OF 11 FEBRUARY, 2021

There had been circulated and was **approved** as a correct record the Minute of Meeting of Aberdeenshire Council of 11 February, 2021.

4. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

There had been circulated a report dated 24 February, 2021 by the Director of Business Services on items of business previously scheduled to be reported back to Council and proposing action to be taken as a result of restrictions on travel and other activities implemented in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Having heard from the Director of Business Services, the Council **approved** the arrangements for dealing with outstanding business as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

5. REVENUE BUDGET 2021 – 2026

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Council of 11 February, 2021 (Item 3) when it had been agreed to freeze Council Tax for 2021/22 and accept the funding offered by the Scottish Government in return for doing so, there had been circulated a report by the Interim Head of Finance providing financial information to enable the Council to set its revenue budget for the financial year 2021–22 and indicative revenue budgets for the following four years up to 2025-26. The report (1) outlined the revenue budget setting process, (2) confirmed the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2021/22, which included several joint priorities expected to be carried out in return for the funding package including funding to support the final element of

the expansion in funded Early Learning and Childcare entitlement to 1140 hours, ongoing funding to maintain the pupil-teacher ratio nationally and secure places for all probationers, compensation for freeze of Council Tax and a requirement to allocate Integration authorities additional funding to their 2020/21 recurring budgets for social care services, as detailed in Appendix 1, (3) highlighted the risks associated with the budget setting process as detailed in Appendix 4, and (4) explained that settlement figures were not available for future years and this increased the level of assumptions required to produce future budgets which would be subject to change.

Councillor Kille, as Leader of the Council, made reference to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic over the previous year and thanked all staff, partners and communities for their continued efforts and resilience. He then introduced the budget proposals for the administration group which included additional investment in children's services, the rapid rehousing plan, early years and childcare to deliver the 1140 hours commitment, the Integration Joint Board, infrastructure and reserves. He also outlined service, cross council and financial savings expected to be achieved over the course of the forthcoming financial year and future years.

Councillor Kille then moved, seconded by Councillor Argyle, that Council –

- (1) agree the funding package from the Scottish Government in Appendix 1 of the report, subject to final parliamentary approval of the Scottish Government's budget, and receipt of an updated Settlement;
- (2) agree the proposed changes to the 2021/22 indicative budget, provisionally agreed in March 2020, as set out in the administration budget presented at the meeting together with details on savings to be achieved and attached as Appendix A to this minute;
- (3) agree the updated revenue budget for 2021/22 and indicative revenue budgets for 2022/23 to 2025/26 on a provisional basis as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report;
- (4) note the financial risks set out in Appendix 4 of the report; and
- (5) agree that work continue to balance the future years of the revenue budget as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) development.

As an amendment, Councillor Evison, seconded by Councillor Petrie, detailed budget proposals and savings for the Partnership, being the main opposition group on the Council, which included empowering local communities, additional resource to Live Life Aberdeenshire for physical and mental well-being, support for the workforce and investment in tackling poverties and inequalities, maintaining primary and secondary staffing levels, instrumental music service, support for local businesses including local partnerships, current opening hours of recycling centres, and local bus services and prioritised delivery of 1140 hours early learning, road maintenance, development of footpaths, an active travel pilot in Peterhead and moved that Council

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- (1) agree the funding package from the Scottish Government in Appendix 1 of the report, subject to final parliamentary approval of the Scottish Government's budget, and receipt of an updated Settlement;
- (2) agree the proposed changes to the 2021/22 indicative budget, provisionally agreed in March, 2020, as set out within the Partnership's proposed budget and savings presented to Members at the meeting and attached as Appendix B to this Minute;
- (3) agree the proposed revenue budget for 2021/22 incorporating the Partnership's budget proposals and the indicative revenue budgets for 2022/23 to 2025/26 on a provisional basis detailed in Appendix 3 of the report;
- (4) note the financial risks set out in Appendix 4 of the report; and
- (5) agree that work continues to balance the future years of the revenue budget as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) development.

As a further amendment, Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Wilson, presented the budget and proposed savings of the Democratic Alliance which included increased emphasis on delivery of the rapid rehousing transition plans, children's services, early years in respect of the 1140 hours commitment, maintaining teaching and support staff levels in schools, development of the carbon budget, investment in community learning and development, consideration of an Aberdeenshire complementary currency and investment in tackling poverty and inequalities and moved that the Council –

- (1) agree the funding package from the Scottish Government in Appendix 1 of the report, subject to final parliamentary approval of the Scottish Government's budget, and receipt of an updated Settlement;
- (2) agree the proposed changes to the 2021/22 indicative budget, provisionally agreed in March, 2020, as set out within the Democratic Alliance proposed budget and savings presented to Members at the meeting and attached as Appendix C to this Minute;
- (3) agree the proposed revenue budget for 2021/22 incorporating the Democratic Alliance Group's budget proposals and the indicative revenue budgets for 2022/23 to 2025/26 on a provisional basis detailed in Appendix 3 of the report;
- (4) note the financial risks set out in Appendix 4 of the report; and
- (5) agree that work continues to balance the future years of the revenue budget as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) development.

At this stage in the proceedings the Council **agreed** to suspend Standing Order 2.1.2 to allow the meeting to continue beyond 1pm.

On a division between Councillor Evison's amendment and Councillor Johnston's amendment, members of the Council voted:-

for Councillor Evison's amendment	(20)	Councillors Adam, Allan, Baillie, C Buchan, Calder, Cassie, Duncan, Durno, Evison, Forsyth, Harper, Ingram, Kloppert, McAllister, Petrie, Reid, Reynolds, Robertson, S Smith and Topping.
for Councillor Johnston's amendment	(4)	Councillors Bews, Ford, Johnston and Wilson.
declined to vote	(40)	Councillors Agnew, Argyle, Beagrie, Berry, Bruce, A Buchan, M Buchan, Carr, Cox, Davidson, Dickinson, Ewenson, Fakley, Findlater, Gibb, Gifford, Hassan, Howatson, Hutchison, Ingleby, Kille, Latham, Lonchay, Mair, McKail, McKelvie, Mollison, Owen, Pike, Ross, Roy, Simpson, H Smith, N Smith, Stirling, Sutherland, Taylor, Walker, Whyte and Withey.
absent from the vote	(2)	Councillor Blackett and Wallace.

Councillor Evison's amendment was carried.

On a vote between the substantive motion and Councillor Evison's amendment, Members of the Council voted:-

for the motion	(39)	Councillors Agnew, Argyle, Beagrie, Berry, Bruce, M Buchan, Carr, Cox, Davidson, Dickinson, Ewenson, Fakley, Findlater, Gibb, Gifford, Hassan, Howatson, Hutchison, Ingleby, Kille, Latham, Lonchay, Mair, McKail, McKelvie, Mollison, Owen, Pike, Ross, Roy, Simpson, H Smith, N Smith, Stirling, Sutherland, Taylor, Walker, Whyte and Withey.
for Councillor Evison's amendment	(20)	Councillors Adam, Allan, Baillie, C Buchan, Calder, Cassie, Duncan, Durno, Evison, Forsyth, Harper, Ingram, Kloppert, McAllister, Petrie, Reid, Reynolds, Robertson, S Smith and Topping.

declined to vote	(5)	Councillors Bews, A Buchan, Ford, Johnston and Wilson.
absent from the vote	(2)	Councillor Blackett and Wallace.

The motion was carried and the Council:-

- (1) **agreed** the funding package from the Scottish Government in Appendix 1 of the report, subject to final parliamentary approval of the Scottish Government's budget, and receipt of an updated Settlement;
- (2) **agreed** the proposed changes to the 2021/22 indicative budget, provisionally agreed in March 2020, as set out in the administration budget updated and recirculated at the meeting together with details on savings, attached as Appendix A to this minute;
- (3) **agreed** the updated revenue budget for 2021/22 and indicative revenue budgets for 2022/23 to 2025/26 on a provisional basis as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report;
- (4) **noted** the financial risks set out in Appendix 4 of the report; and
- (5) **agreed** that work continue to balance the future years of the revenue budget as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) development.

6. CAPITAL PLAN 2021 – 2036

There was circulated a report dated 4 February, 2021 by the Interim Head of Finance seeking approval of the Council's 15 year Capital Plan, as set out in Appendix 1. The report explained (1) that the Council's Capital expenditure was money invested by the Council on buildings, land, roads, bridges and equipment either by acquiring or constructing new assets or extending the life of a fixed asset and was linked to the Revenue Budget and Reserves as key sources of funding for the Plan, (2) that the nature and scale of the Capital Plan was such that timelines and costs for projects within the programmes could vary and processes for managing and monitoring both at an individual project and programme level were in place, (3) financing arrangements and Revenue Budget pressures arising from the Capital Plan, and (4) the projects expected to be progressed in the forthcoming financial year.

The Council heard from the Leader of the Council introduce the administration group's Capital Plan proposals and from the Partnership, being the main opposition group, and from the Democratic Alliance.

Thereafter, Councillor Kille moved, seconded by Councillor Argyle, that the Council -

- (1) agree the 15 Year Capital Plan as set out in Appendix 1 of the report together with additional proposed investment in estate and infrastructure and a commitment to providing two new primary schools, one in Fraserburgh and one in Stonehaven;
- (2) agree the funding of the Capital Plan as proposed in the report and to reserve 0.5% of any Council Tax rise every year for the next 10 years to provide a further £700,000 investment per annum to service Capital, including a commitment to provide the funding in the 2021/22 financial year despite there being no Council Tax rise;
- (3) note the financial implications on the Revenue Budget;
- (4) instruct the Director of Business Services to undertake a review of the Capital Plan linked to the Estate Modernisation Programme; Service Strategies and the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy; and report back to Full Council; and
- (5) instruct the Director of Education and Children's Services to develop the detail in the form of a Business Case for the new primary schools in Fraserburgh and Stonehaven and report back to Full Council following consultation on the proposals with the relevant Area Committees and Education and Children's Services Committee.

As an amendment, Councillor Petrie moved, seconded by Councillor Evison, that Council support the addition of the two new primary schools, one in Fraserburgh and one in Stonehaven, to the proposed 15 Year Capital Plan circulated and request that officers rework the Capital Plan to include those and report back to a future meeting.

Members of the Council voted:-

for the motion

(39)

Councillors Agnew, Argyle, Beagrie, Berry, Bruce, M Buchan, Carr, Cox, Davidson, Dickinson, Ewenson, Fakley, Findlater, Gibb, Gifford, Hassan, Howatson, Hutchison, Ingleby, Kille, Latham, Lonchay, Mair, McKail, McKelvie, Mollison, Owen, Ross, Roy, Simpson, H Smith, N Smith, Stirling, Sutherland, Taylor, Walker, Whyte, Wilson and Withey.

for the amendment

(22)

Councillors Adam, Allan, Baillie, Blackett, C Buchan, Calder, Cassie, Duncan, Durno, Evison, Ford, Forsyth, Harper, Ingram, Kloppert, McAllister, Petrie, Reid, Reynolds, Robertson, S Smith and Topping.

declined to vote	(3)	Councillors Bews, A Buchan and Johnston.
absent from the vote	(2)	Councillor Pike and Wallace.

The **motion** was carried and the Council:-

- (1) **agreed** the 15 Year Capital Plan as set out in Appendix 1 of the report together with additional proposed investment in estate and infrastructure and a commitment to providing two new primary schools, one in Fraserburgh and one in Stonehaven;
- (2) **agreed** the funding of the Capital Plan as proposed in the report and to reserve 0.5% of any Council Tax rise every year for the next 10 years to provide a further £700,000 investment per annum to service Capital, including a commitment to provide the funding in the 2021/22 financial year despite there being no Council Tax rise;
- (3) **noted** the financial implications on the Revenue Budget;
- (4) **instructed** the Director of Business Services to undertake a review of the Capital Plan linked to the Estate Modernisation Programme; Service Strategies and the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy; and report back to Full Council; and
- (5) **instructed** the Director of Education and Children's Services to develop the detail in the form of a Business Case for the new primary schools in Fraserburgh and Stonehaven and report back to Full Council following consultation on the proposals with the relevant Area Committees and Education and Children's Services Committee.

7. COUNCIL RESERVES

Consideration was given to a circulated report dated 4 February, 2021 by the Interim Head of Finance, which (1) explained that the Council held financial reserves for a number of reasons including to provide a working balance to smooth out uneven cashflows, protect against the financial impact of unexpected events, as well as to enable funds to be built up for known financial commitments, (2) advised that the Council held a General Fund balance of £9 million, the agreed level since 2017/18 in accordance with the Usable Reserves Strategy, and that this level continued to be considered adequate for 2021/22, (3) provided further information on earmarked reserves available to meet Service priorities, as detailed within an appendix to the report, and confirmed that no changes were proposed for those reserves in 2021/22.

The Council heard from the Interim Head of Finance who introduced the report and from the Leader of the Council who advised that in addition to the current general and earmarked reserve fund allocations it was proposed to move an additional £9.9m of funding in to reserves to focus on key areas and address a range of issues including tackling poverty and inequalities, winter maintenance, roads maintenance, repairs and maintenance fund, education and children's services holiday recovery

programme, and to create a rural development partnership fund and, in addition, to allocate £10.8m from one off monies to create one further reserve fund for resilience and recovery to provide additional flexibility to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic.

The Council **agreed**:

- (1) to the proposed reserves as set out in the report including the additional transfer of funding to reserves and allocation of funds for the purposes outlined and as circulated at the meeting;
- (2) to a minimum working balance of £9 million; and
- (3) that Reserves would be reported quarterly as part of the Financial Performance Monitoring.

8. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL BUDGET 2021 – 2026

There was circulated a report dated 5 March, 2021 by the Interim Director of Infrastructure Services which (1) explained the background to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), designed to record expenditure and income associated with Council-owned dwellings, and (2) detailed the proposed HRA Capital Budget for financial year 2021/2022 together with indicative budgets for 2022/23 to 2025/26, within an appendix to the report, including £93,400,000 for the HRA capital programme which would deliver planned stock improvement works, works required by the Scottish Government to attain the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (ESSH) and funding to complete the current new build programme and deliver 700 units over the next four years.

The Council heard from the Chair of the Communities Committee, who introduced the administration proposals and commended them to the Council and from Councillor Reynolds in support.

The Council **agreed** the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital budget for 2021/22 as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report, including indicative budgets for 2022/23 to 2025/26.

9. CARBON BUDGET 2021 – 2022

There was circulated a report dated 3 February, 2021, by the Interim Director of Infrastructure Services which (1) explained the requirements placed upon public bodies by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, aimed at reducing carbon emissions, (2) outlined the Council's annual carbon budget setting process, responsibilities and monitoring arrangements, (3) referred to the targets set by the Council to reduce its own emissions by 75% (2010/11 baseline) by 2030 and become Net Zero for carbon emissions (CO₂e) by 2045 following approval of the Council's Climate Change Declaration on 18 March, 2020 (Item 9), and (4) detailed the Council's Carbon Budget for 2021/2022 in respect of each of its Services, based on the previously approved reduction targets.

The Interim Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the report and the Council heard from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Sustainability Committee in support of the proposals.

The Council **agreed**:

- (1) to a total Carbon Budget of 48,744 tonnes CO₂e for 2021-22, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) to approve the Directorate proposals for CO₂e savings for 2021-22 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report and the Directorate commentary as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report;
- (3) to instruct Directors to each develop a Carbon Reduction Plan – setting out how their Directorate would reach 75% emissions reduction by 2030, and Net Zero by 2045 – and present this to their relevant Policy Committees by 31 October 2021; and
- (4) to instruct the Interim Director of Infrastructure Services to develop a Medium-Term Carbon Strategy, based on the four Directorate Carbon Reduction Plans, to be presented alongside the Carbon Budget 2022-23.

10. QUARTER 3 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

There had been circulated a report dated 5 March, 2021 by the Director of Business Services (1) on the Council's financial performance position in respect of the revenue budget for the period from 1 October, 2021 to 31 December, 2020 (Quarter 3), (2) providing an overview of predicted year end performance figures, and (3) seeking approval of transfers from reserves and virements as set out in Appendices 2 and 3.

The Director of Business Services introduced the report, confirmed that each Policy Committee had received the financial performance information at previous meetings, highlighted the forecast position at the end of the financial year and the measures planned to balance the projected outturn.

The Council **agreed**:

- (1) the Quarter 3 financial performance position for revenue expenditure to 31 December 2020 as detailed in the report; and
- (2) to approve the transfers from Reserves and virements set out in Appendices 2 and 3 of the report.

11. COVID-19 UPDATE

The Council had before it a report by the Chief Executive providing an update on the Council's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as a Category 1 Responder and work being done on the recovery phase. The report highlighted key areas for consideration including impact on staff availability, prioritisation of services, virus suppression, the delivery of the vaccination programme, a new community testing facility in Peterhead, stay at home restrictions and impact on communities, the

continued focus of recovery activity on living with COVID-19 and provided a timeline of key events and milestones relating to the pandemic.

The Chief Executive introduced the report and provided further updates on the percentage of residents who had received the vaccine, the return to schools, the low level of cases and outbreaks particularly in the residential care setting, the Scottish Government timetable for easing of restrictions and the significant work ahead.

The Council **agreed** to note the ongoing response of the Council as a Category 1 Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act and work being done on the Recovery phase.

12. NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of 18 May 2017 (Item 8) there had been circulated a report dated 2 February, 2021 by the Director of Business Services seeking consideration of two new requests from Formartine Partnership Rural Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and Uryside SCIO for the nomination of a Council member to each of those bodies in an observer capacity.

The Director of Business Services introduced the report and advised that following more recent discussion with Uryside SCIO, further engagement was required to clarify the nature of the appointment requested.

Following discussion, the Council **agreed**:

- (1) that the Council be represented on Formartine Partnership Rural SCIO and Uryside SCIO in an observer capacity and to note that the relevant Area Committee would now be authorised to approve the appointment of members as requested; and
- (2) that they were in principle content to approve the appointment of members as outlined in the report but in light of questions around what was currently already in place, to note that further discussion would take place with the Uryside SCIO to clarify the nature of the appointment required and, only if a change to decision making capacity was requested, that a report would be presented to Full Council for determination.

13. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES – CHANGES TO POLLING PLACES FOR SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Council of 16 January, 2020 (Item 9), there had been circulated a report dated 1 March, 2021 by the Chief Executive, providing an update on the ongoing review of polling districts and polling places in the Aberdeenshire Council area and necessary changes to the existing polling places for the upcoming Scottish Parliamentary Election on 6 May 2021.

The Chief Executive introduced the report, advised that Glass Village Hall would now be used in place of Cairnie School, confirmed the ongoing commitment to minimise the use of schools as polling stations and responded to Members questions on possible alternative provision for pupils of Westfield School, Fraserburgh, potential

changes to polling places for West Kincardine, voters access and distance to polling places for Peterhead Central and options available for postal voting.

Thereafter, the Council **agreed**:

- (1) to note the changes to the existing polling places (as designated for the UK Parliamentary General Election on 12 December 2019) for the upcoming Scottish Parliamentary Election on 6 May 2021 as outlined in the report including the use of Glass Village Hall in place of Cairnie School and that Inverurie East, as shown in the report, should be Inverurie North;
- (2) to approve the recommencement of the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places following the conclusion of the Scottish Parliamentary Election and premises being accessible for assessment; and
- (3) to note that the Chief Executive would –
 - (i) in respect of Westfield School, Fraserburgh, consult with colleagues on alternative options available for affected pupils with a view to providing educational services at a nearby school;
 - (ii) continue to actively promote the availability of postal voting options to those who might find it challenging to attend/access polling places, particularly in Peterhead Central, and
 - (iii) provide a briefing note to members on any changes proposed by Aberdeen City Returning Officer to polling places for West Kincardine.

APPENDIX A

Administration Budget 21-22 Summary

	<u>21/22</u>
	<u>£(000)</u>
<u>2021/22 Budgetary Pressures</u>	<u>23,895</u>
<u>Additional Funding in draft Settlement</u>	
RSG	(1,901)
Business Rates	(12,360)
CT Freeze payment	(4,715)
	<u>(18,977)</u>
<u>Additional Funding - share of the £275m consequentials</u>	(11,000)
<u>MTFS Efficiencies and Savings</u>	
Service Efficiencies and Savings	(9,628)
Cross Council	
Capital Plan	(1,000)
Workforce	(1,000)
Voluntary Severance	(3,000)
Procurement	(2,000)
Corporate Savings	
Treasury Management	(3,499)
Bad Debt Provision	(1,000)
Funding available	<u>(27,209)</u>
<u>MTFS Allocations</u>	
Revenue Budget	
Infrastructure Services Fund	700
Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans Homelessness	350
Children Services Spend to Save	500
Early Years	3,000
Integration Joint Board	1,454
Landscape Services	500
	<u>6,504</u>
Reserves	20,705
Funding allocated	<u>27,209</u>

APPENDIX A

**Aberdeenshire Council
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2022 - Savings Proposals**

Service	Budget Page	Proposed Savings 21/22 £'000	Detail
Business Services	Customer and Digital	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in cost of contract. • Increased digitalisation and automation • Removal of vacant posts and service redesign • Estate rationalisation
	Finance	106	
	Legal and People	277	
	Property & Facilities Management	526	
Education & Children's Services	Education Admin & Management	1,400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricting recruitment, restructuring teams and the implementation of School Support Model • Increasing charges for Out of School Care. • Implementation of the planned 1140 staffing model. • Ongoing review of management arrangements in primary schools including opportunities for the appointment of shared Head Teachers. • Full year effect of previous year's reduction in secondary teaching staff. • Remove provision of ALEC in schools. • Redesign of the instrumental music delivery model including an adjustment to staffing, re-charging transport and revised fees for the Music Centre whilst maintaining current exemptions for free school meals, SQA and siblings. • Recruitment freeze • Reduction in staffing
	Early Years	1,200	
	Primary	50	
	Secondary	745	
	Community Learning & Development Children's Community Care	50 90	
Live Life Aberdeenshire	Admin and Management	171	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructure of service management team • Service redesign • Vacancy management and reduction in seasonal staff • Engage new organisations and use funding to provide new activity delivering on health and wellbeing. • Expansion of click and collect at the expense of the Mobile Service, reduction in library buildings, replace existing systems with open-source products to provide access to a wide range of digital services and materials.
	Arts Development	56	
	Visitor Attractions (Aquarium)	17	
	Grant Aid	70	
	Libraries and Museums	210	

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Service	Budget Page	Proposed Savings 21/22 £'000	Detail
Live Life Aberdeenshire	Live Life Outdoors	76	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reorganisation of management and align with colleagues with a similar remit
	Halls	70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of underutilised Halls and Community Centres
	Sport and Physical Activity	250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructure of Teams with a reduction in the use of relief and agency staff
Infrastructure Services	Improvement and Repair Grants	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in care and repair costs
	Building Standards	80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of 2 posts within the staffing structure
	Homelessness Persons	38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service redesign
Infrastructure Services	Planning Admin	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacancy management
	Development Management	235	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify budget savings in respect of the Development Management function this will be based on an overall reduction of staffing levels (5 posts)
	Environment	83	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacancy management, service redesign and re-prioritisation of work
	Economic Development	179	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacancy management and increased focus on assisting businesses to secure alternative funding.
	Protective Services	71	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacancy management 1 vacant post to be removed and 1 vacant post to become self-financing through income generation.
	Flood Management	282	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce flood investigation works, stop minor coastal works from revenue, • Reduce flood risk planning consultee role and stop minor flood protection works from revenue.
	Burial Grounds	515	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase fees by 10% to increase overall income from burials by circa £250,000. • Stop all non-routine maintenance work, such as lair levelling and path restoration
Parks and Open Spaces	500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop all non-routine work to a value circa £500,000. 	

APPENDIX A

Service	Budget Page	Proposed Savings 21/22 £'000	Detail
Infrastructure Services	Waste Collection	1,140	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in use of agency and relief staff, changes to opening hours and increase in charges. • Increase fees by 10% to increase overall income from Trade Service by £190,000. • Optimise site opening hours to meet demand based on evidence provided by the current booking system that has been in place since June 2020. • Reduce the use of agency staff covering for sickness and holidays on waste collection by £350,000.
	Waste Disposal	150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in use of agency staff to backfill waste disposal work in the operation of the household recycling centres and waste transfer operations.
	Street Cleansing	175	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in use of agency and seasonal staff by £25,000. • Review the use of community orderlies and mechanised street cleansing in order to make a saving of £150,00
	Transportation	701	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service reduction, re-prioritisation of services and increase in charges. • Supported Bus Services – achieve a 10% (£245,000) budget saving in financial year 21/22 through reduced level of support services. • Road Safety Budget Reductions – reduce traffic calming and spending reduction revenue budget by 50% (£50,000) and remove vacancies in the team. • Withdrawal of Taxi Card Scheme which provides disabled and elderly residents with discounts on taxi and rail fares (£147,000 saving in 21/22), • Increase in car park tariffs. • Withdrawal of Concessionary Travel to achieve £51,000 saving in 21/22 would impact under 21-year-olds and community and dial a bus services used by elderly and disabled for no charge.
Proposed Service Savings Total		9,628	

APPENDIX A

Cross Council Savings	£'000
Reduction in the revenue costs arising from capital projects	1,000
Workforce	1,000
Voluntary Severance (of which Business Services - Customer and Digital confirmed £403,000)	3,000
Procurement	2,000
Total Cross Council Savings	7,000

Corporate Savings	£,000
Treasury	3,499
Review of Bad Debt Provision calculation	1,000
Total Corporate Savings	4,499

APPENDIX B
Partnership Budget - 2021/22

2020/21 Year end forecast

	Revised Budget 20/21 £(000)	Proposed Savings 20/21 £(000)	Potential Year end 20/21 £(000)
Service			
Education and Childrens Services	365,783		365,783
Integration Joint Board	120,714		120,714
Infrastructure Services	70,746		70,746
Business Services	87,372		87,372
Other Expenditure	32,377		32,377
Transfer to reserves			
Fiscal Flexibilities		(14,000)	0
Scottish Govt Cash		(6,646)	0
Scottish Govt Loss of Income		(3,434)	0
Corporate Savings			
Total Expenditure	<u>676,992</u>	<u>(24,080)</u>	<u>676,992</u>
Revenue Support Grants	(427,202)		(427,202)
Business Rates	(80,116)		(80,116)
Council Tax	(145,594)		(145,594)
Council Tax Freeze			
Total Income	<u>(652,912)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(652,912)</u>
Deficit	<u>24,080</u>	<u>(24,080)</u>	<u>24,080</u>

Reduction in forecast (3,080)

Revised deficit 21,000

20/21 Agreed solution

Funded by

Scottish Govt Cash	(11,808)
Scottish Govt Loss of Income	(3,434)
Additional Scottish Govt Loss of Income	(4,180)
Reserves	<u>(1,578)</u>
	<u>(21,000)</u>

21/22

Summary of changes

Expenditure	627,972
PEF (ECS Budget reduced)	(181)
Trf to Reserves (Working Balance back to £9m)	<u>1,578</u>
	<u>1,397</u>
Revised Expenditure	629,369
Income	(605,474)
RSG	(1,901)
Business Rates	(12,360)
CT Freeze payment	<u>(4,715)</u>
	<u>(18,976)</u>
Revised Income	(624,450)
Budget Deficit - 21/22	<u>4,919</u>

APPENDIX B

Partnership Budget - 2021/22

	<u>21/22</u>	
Budget Deficit - 21/22		4,919
<u>Directorate</u>		
Education and Children's Services		
Service Efficiencies and Redesign	(1,978)	
New Spend for Recovery		
Children's services - spend to save	500	
Early Years	3,000	
Education & Children's Services Holiday Recovery Programme	3,000	
	6,500	
Education and Children's Services		4,522
Infrastructure Services		
Service Efficiencies and Redesign	(1,555)	
New Spend for Recovery		
Road Maintenance - post-winter targeted recovery	2,000	
Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans - Homelessness	350	
	2,350	
Infrastructure Services		795
Business Services		
Service Efficiencies and Redesign	(677)	
Integration Joint Board		1,455
		11,014
Transfer to Reserves		
Winter Maintenance Reserve	1,000	
Covid Recovery. Resilience and Workforce Reserve	3,085	
		4,085
PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES		
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES		
Digital Opportunities	300	
LOCAL VOICE SHAPES RECOVERY		
Empowered Communities	1,800	
Universal Basic Income Officer	50	
Active Travel Peterhead Pilot	50	
Live Life Aberdeenshire - physical & mental wellbeing	3,000	
Tackling Poverties & Inequalities - Equalities Projects	200	
	5,100	
		5,400
		20,499

Funded by:-		
<u>Cross Council Savings</u>		
Capital Plan	(1,000)	
Workforce	0	
Voluntary Severance	(2,000)	
Procurement	(2,000)	
		(5,000)
<u>Corporate Savings</u>		
Treasury	(3,499)	
Use of reserves	0	
Bad debts	(1,000)	
		(4,499)
		(9,499)
Additional Income for 21/22		(11,000)
		(20,499)

APPENDIX C

Democratic Alliance Budget - 2021/22

	2021/22 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2021/22 £'000
2020/21 Budget deficit as per Full Council March 2021			21,000
2021/22 Budget deficit as per Full Council March 2021			22,498
Total Budgetary Pressures 2021/22			<u>43,498</u>
To balance 20/21			
<i>Funded by</i>			
<i>Scottish Govt Cash</i>		(11,808)	
<i>Scottish Govt Loss of Income</i>		(3,434)	
<i>Scottish Govt Loss of Income</i>		(4,180)	
<i>Reserves</i>		<u>(1,578)</u>	
			(21,000)
Additional Expenditure			
<i>PEF (ECS Budget reduced)</i>	(181)		
<i>Trf to Reserves (Working Balance back to £8m)</i>	<u>578</u>		
		397	
Total additional expenditure			397
Additional Income			
<i>Additional Revenue Support Grant</i>	(1,901)		
<i>Business Rates</i>	(12,360)		
<i>Compensation for Council Tax freeze</i>	<u>(4,715)</u>		
		(18,976)	
Total additional income			(18,976)
Additional SG Funding - Share of £275m (TBC)			(11,000)
Savings			
<i>Directorate (per attached schedule)</i>			
<i>Education and Children's Services</i>	(2,029)		
<i>Integration Joint Board</i>	0		
<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	(1,437)		
<i>Business Services</i>	<u>(954)</u>		
		(4,420)	
Cross Council			
<i>Capital Plan</i>	(1,000)		
<i>Workforce</i>	(1,000)		
<i>Voluntary Severance</i>	(3,000)		
<i>Procurement</i>	<u>(2,000)</u>		
		(7,000)	
Corporate			
<i>Treasury Management</i>	(3,499)		
<i>Bad Debt</i>	0		
<i>Use of Reserves</i>	<u>(1,000)</u>		
		<u>(4,499)</u>	
Total savings			(15,919)
			<u>(23,000)</u>

APPENDIX C

Democratic Alliance Budget - 2021/22

	2021/22 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Additional Expenditure			
Officer Recommendations			
Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans - Homelessness	500		
Children's services - spend to save	500		
<i>To support vulnerable children, young people and their families</i>			
Early Years	3,000		
<i>1140 Hours commitment</i>			
Integration Joint Board	1,454		
		5,454	
Funding - Covid Recovery and Build Back Better			
Reinstatement of ECS Posts removed 2019/20			
<i>Secondary Education - 17 FTE Teachers</i>			
<i>Secondary Education - 17 FTE Pupal Support Assistants</i>	2,081		
<i>Special Education - 20 FTE Teachers</i>			
Development of the Carbon Budget - Spend to Save	200		
Community Learning & Development			
<i>Led/co-ordinated additional activities for young people</i>	100		
Aberdeenshire Complementary Currency	60		
Tacking Poverties & Inequalities - Equalities Projects	200		
		2,641	
Balance remaining			8,095 (14,905)
Transfer to Reserves			14,905