



**Enabling and Customer Services Committee
10 February 2026**

APPENDIX 5

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION FEEDBACK

The following Appendix presents a redacted version of the consultation feedback received.

The full, unredacted responses were provided to Elected Members.

For publication, limited redactions have been applied to remove offensive language and to protect personal data or information that could identify individuals.

Ward 1 - Stranraer and The Rhins
Community Conversation 4 November 2025
Comments

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
Remove Instrumental Music Instruction Service
Against! Tremendous benefits for pupils including numeracy & literacy especially for those with ASN needs.
Reduce spending on external Children and Families services in Social Work
Return responsibility in-house ensuring suitably qualified people provide appropriate care.
End funding for Information and Advice services provided by Citizens Advice
Once again a cut for vulnerable members of the community when no alternative provisions are available or expertise within the council or local or national organisations.
2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
Change how out of hours social work calls are handled
What impact study has been done to assess capacity should this be done?
3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities
No comments
4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
Reduce staffing of Early Learning and Childcare support
Again our most vulnerable children are being hit!! What about G.I.R.F.E.C.?
Reduce secondary teaching staff to reflect falling pupil numbers
Reduce management in Education. Employ more teachers or SLAs to reduce class sizes.
5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions
Increase burial fees
Increase from £675 to £1,468 – too high!!
Pilot an Invitation to Pay scheme for parking
Lost opportunity to create revenue! Remove the 'invitation' and charge reasonable parking charges for day and night in council car parks.
6. General comments
Elected members should be here to discuss matters arising. Even if they arranged between themselves to come in stages.
New builds. If today's announcement of £4.5M for 9 homes (2 bed) & 1 office is representative it seems poor value for money. Better to invest & improve existing housing stock.
Look at the management structure within the council and administration reviewing wage bill and responsibility and avoiding duplication.

Electric vehicles. EVs on cheap rate tariffs can save £000s compared with peak rates // public charging. Ensure optimal charging & rates. Plus leasing used vehicles can save £000s per vehicle.
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Address “free” camping. Clamp down on “free” camping/motorhomes but introduce aires could generate additional income, lower impacts on existing private sites (increased rates) and address residents concerns (e.g. New England Bay)

Ward 2 - Mid Galloway and Wigtown West
Community Conversation 10 November 2025
Comments

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
End funding for Information and Advice services provided by Citizens Advice
Has no-one considered the ramifications for vulnerable people etc by ending the funding of Citizens Advice. This is horrendous. Totally disagree.
Citizens Advice pays for itself in terms of supporting local people stay out of poverty. A vital service that must be funded by council.

2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
Change how out of hours social work calls are handled
On call SW need to be handled by trained S Workers not untrained workers. If you call SW OOH it's because it is an emergency and should be taken seriously.
To change SW out of hours calls to Care Call is ridiculous. They have no knowledge and/or understanding of the complicated tasks required of Social Workers during out of hours.
Undertake a Digital Re-design to automate processes
Digital redesign & sharing services very important means of saving – but can be (a) overstated (b) unravel if not top quality.
“Digital Redesign” – this seems vague & smacks of getting rid of face-to-face workers. Many people locally esp elderly or with MH problems are not digitally online. Face to face is important for people's sense of community and reducing loneliness.
Review of customer experience across services
Reviewing customer services again sounds like removing face to face services. The most vulnerable in our society use the Customer Service Centres (i.e. Libraries) as places of safety, hope & support. DO NOT remove them as they are a vital role in reducing loneliness and community cohesion.
Collect general household (grey bin) waste less frequently
Collection of grey bins less frequently would be okay for a single household (probably) but not for a family.
What would the suggested smaller grey bins cost? New bins again!

3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities
Consult on the closure of small nurseries
Smaller nurseries are safer than larger ones.
Nurseries that could potentially be closed are not named – parents and staff deserve to know. Staff shouldn't have been told during the school holidays when they are off. School staff can't access Connect and council documents.
Use schools more effectively by bringing pupils into underused modern school buildings
How will students get there? Will the council provide transport??
Consult on school closures – 20 or less pupils
Small schools under 20 pupils are not economically viable & should be reviewed. They are also no good for children's socialisation & skills building (ex school nurse – mental health nurse) - children need access to same age peers.

Close Hillview Leisure Centre, Kelloholm
Hillview Leisure Centre is valued and achieves health outcomes. Can the NHS help?
Closing leisure centres is going to increase obesity & other health issues.
Close the Midsteeple Box Office, Dumfries
Local events and obituaries are posted here for the elderly who do not have the internet!! Alternative??
Reduce the number of council office buildings
Many council buildings are underutilised. Left empty in evenings when they could be rented out to groups. False economy to raise prices recently – this has seen a marked reduction in bookings for rooms in Wigtown County Buildings and probably others. Reduce prices and get more bookings – the Aldi model!
How much could we save by only opening offices 2 or 3 days.
Review local services and buildings in each area
McMillan Hall – please keep within the council. Asset / heart of the town, beautiful building.
Close Whithorn HWRC
Reduce days/hours not closure.
Closing Whithorn Tip will increase fly-tipping wiping out saving.
Closing Whithorn Tip means 40 mile round trip. Justify the saving £60k by not opening gate? Proof!
Do not close Whithorn Tip.
Closing Whithorn Recycling Centre would not be a cost saving as the amount of fly tipping would be huge and would be expensive for the council and also an eyesore for the residents & local community!
Closing Whithorn HWRC could lead to more flytipping
Fly tipping will become a bigger issue if the dump is closed. Harm to the environment from cars travelling more to go to Newton Stewart.
Opposed to closure of Whithorn HWRC this facility serves a lot of the smaller communities in the Machars.
Whithorn – fly tipping, distance to next dump, possible open less to save money.
Whithorn – query no. of uses & non booking figures. Higher costs elsewhere.

4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
Reduce the absence budget for teaching staff cover
The wording of the budget almost seems damaging to staff e.g. 'use attendance management more tightly' also some of the language is vague for members of the public not in the particular sector.
Reduce secondary teaching staff to reflect falling pupil numbers
Cutting teaching staff in secondary schools: where are these staff going? What does using teachers hours more effectively actually mean in a climate in which teachers are already stretched due to workload and teaching hours.
Remove Playground Supervisor roles at primary schools
Who/what are the alternative arrangements and other staff to cover some of the education cuts e.g. playground supervisor roles. Who also ensures S1-3 pupils remain in school during lunch.
Close three Inclusion Bases and shift to outreach support
You cannot close inclusion bases, many of those children have multiple complex needs that cannot be supported in the chaotic environment of general school

populations. This would result in more children not getting any education due to the added stress of attending.

Reduce strategic and support roles across Social Work services

To reduce strategic & support roles across Social Work would add to the workload of Social Workers which would add to their stress and increase the amount of computer work they have to do in place of legal reports.

Reduce Lifelong Learning services

Lifelong learning classes are vital and life changing. I would not be working for the council without the lipreading classes I attend. They pay for themselves by increasing community engagement & improving mental health.

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions

Increase primary school meal price

School meals should be free!

End free school & nursery meals for all – change back to means tested.

Also child benefit could be means tested.

Charge households for replacement grey bins

Punish victims of theft and vandalism?? Really?

If a household was charged for a grey bin replacement if theirs was stolen this would not be fair.

Pilot an 'invitation to pay' scheme for parking

Yes, so long as it remains voluntary!

Invitation to pay for parking would be a non-starter. No-one would choose to pay. Waste of signage etc

Invitation to pay for parking!! Enforce payment.

Payment scheme for overnight camper vans.

Invitation to pay looks like a slippery slope to England-style parking charges in a few years.

Introduce a charge for the Youth Beatz festival

Voluntary donation would be fine.

Youth Beatz is a successful event. Introducing a charge will discriminate against the poorest.

6. Savings options previously subject to public consultation

Close public toilets

Closing public toilets would significantly affect disabled peoples (and older people, those with continence issues, young children....the list goes on) ability to engage freely in our communities, charge a small 20p fee (optional perhaps) and keep the toilets.

Public toilets – believe there is a usage “count” in November? WHY? Count should have been in summer months and particularly in Wigtown during Book Festival.

Keep S1 to S3 pupils on campus at lunchtime to increase school meal uptake

Children go down to town and spend a fortune on terrible food. This fuels obesity and does not facilitate good learning due to low blood sugar after lunch. Hoards of school children in town is also intimidating to many people - keep children in school for lunch.

7. General comments

A revision of the political system is required. Funding going to non essential Levelling Up projects should be scrapped. All savings should be diverted to core services.

Why are there no cuts to non-essential services i.e. elected members salaries saving £1.07M

Has no-one considered reducing councillors expenses etc?!!!

Visitor levy good idea – income generation.

We need to record how many people object the specific cuts.

Cuts affect the most vulnerable in society. Cut from the top.

We can't afford a no redundancy policy.

The elderly are not online. How will they contribute?

Flyers in shop windows for these events.

Weekend sessions for those who work.

Communication of these events could be better. Not just use Facebook for advertising these events – use email, papers.

Income from selling on garden waste as mulch.

Introduce more wild flower areas for insects & wildlife.

Bring in a land tax, but think about charging windfarm companies for using the regions roads.

The process and data should be independently audited by an outside body i.e. forensic accountant.

Council Tax – also charge working children staying in parental home.

Can we buy local rather than using national procurement framework? Sometimes it costs more and takes longer.

Ward 3 - Dee and Glenkens
Community Conversation 19 November 2025
Comments

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
Remove Instrumental Music Instruction Service
Learning an instrument is about more than music – confidence, meeting like-minded people, a career.
Lobby S Govt re funding this (music lessons).
Could a small charge be made to those who can afford it. Music tuition.
End funding for Information and Advice services provided by Citizens Advice
Can we work with CAB to find other sources of funding. Business fund.
2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
No comments
3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities
Close four seasonal museums and attractions.
Small fee would maybe be an option. In Greece it was €4 per adult & free for under 12's.
Nominal entry fee to visit museums, galleries etc.
4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
No comments
5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions
Pilot an Invitation to Pay scheme for parking
Overnight okay but not for general parking.
Other comments
Introduce the tourist tax.
6. General comments
Enforce fines for litter.
Audit/review of spend to make sure no wasting money.

Ward 4 - Castle Douglas and Crocketford
Community Conversation 11 November 2025
Comments

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
Remove Instrumental Music Instruction Service
For music teaching in Secondary Schools
I don't support the cutting of the music instruction service savings
Save music instruction
Keep music tuition
Save music!
Reduce the council's subsidy of business rate reliefs
Protect businesses – <u>do not</u> reduce business rate reliefs!
Don't make it harder for small businesses
End funding for Information and Advice services provided by Citizens Advice
Save our Citizens Advice!!
Need to keep citizen advice as they are needed at the way the country is with everything being expensive. People need their help.
CAB rep in attendance – profit of return is greater than investment. Against end of funding
Reduce DAGCAS – not remove!
Keep Citizens Advice
End funding for Representation and Engagement services provided by third sector groups
Def <u>do not</u> remove funding for these groups (Engagement and Representation)
Community cohesion is at risk – we need them more than ever (Engagement and Representation groups)
Reduce funding support for major festivals and events
Arts Festival and other arts organisations bring equivalent amounts of money into the Region
2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
Reduce spending on children's direct payment support
Don't reduce child's direct payment support
Don't cut Social Work
Don't cut Social Work Services
Undertake a Digital Re-design to automate processes
Digital Re-design sounds a good idea
Reduce live-streaming of council meetings
Don't reduce live-streaming of council meetings. People who work can't attend in person!!!
Review of customer experience across services
Keep using people for customer service centre
Collect general household (grey bin) waste less frequently
Keep our bins empty!
Do not reduce bin collection!!!

3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities

Use schools more effectively by bringing pupils into underused modern school buildings

Do a proper review of schools not just roles – see Place based review on next board

Close four seasonal museums and attractions

Run museums and galleries differently – don't close them!

Keep Museums open

Save CD Art Gallery!!!

4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future

Remove permanent supply teacher pool

Supply teachers should be based in schools to avoid travel

Share headteachers between schools

Sharing HTs (Head Teachers) in support of

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions

Increase burial fees

Don't think they should increase the burial fees. Where are people going to go to when the cemetery is full?

Do not increase burial fees

Increase could have effect on families (burial fees)

Can we build a crematorium?

Increase fee to "lower" average – not such a big jump

Charge households for replacement grey bins

Charge for bins reasonable

Pilot an Invitation to Pay scheme for parking

Should be a charge for parking - for visitors and locals

Be clear about what the parking donations would pay for e.g. pothole, flowers, litter collection

Try honesty box for 1 or 2 car parks – not 150!

Voluntary parking charge will not work – make it compulsory or not at all

No invitation to pay for parking. Stick to council commitment to free parking

Introduce a charge for the Youth Beatz festival

Youthbeatz was successful an introduction of a charge reduces uptake by 20%

Happy to pay for tickets for kids to go to Youthbeatz

6. Savings Options Previously subject to Public Consultation

Reduce Additional Support for Learning (ASL) teachers in primary schools

Do not agree with getting rid of the learning support teachers as the kids really need them. Please think about it

Not supportive of staff reductions ASN especially – completed online too

Close Castle Douglas Swimming Pool and Fitness Suite

Keep gym and pool open

Is CD pool losing more money than other facilities? Would be good to see your working!

In favour of CD pool staying open. Staff are doing a great job. (Named staff member) especially with obesity and health needs. Valuable service e.g. learning to swim. Treadmill is being used for recovery.
Don't close pool – better promotion and encourage greater use
Early bird always busy. Holiday makers use too, and the gym. Getting to Kirkcudbright or Dumfries would not be easy
<u>Invest</u> in CD pool – do not close it!
Save CD Town Hall and Swimming Pool!!
Mother and Toddler group is well used at CD Pool
Keep CD pool and gym open
Close public toilets
Don't think Public Toilets closed as they are needed. Visitors, People out walking. Where are they meant to go? It keep visitors away. How will you know if the sensor will be working? Disabled people may become isolated
Don't close toilets but invite groups to consider it
Do not close toilets – this will isolate people with health conditions
Please don't close public toilets they are essential!!

7. General comments
Say what the C. Tax increase will be used for – potholes, poverty are priorities
No more than 5% increase in Council Tax please!
Online grants system is essential – would save groups lots of time
No redundancy policy is not affordable
Non-redundancy policy does not appear on savings
Reduction of staff numbers is paramount to realise these savings
Thought all of these internal things would be already looked at!
Children's rights are impacted negatively
Cuts are against council policy and statutory obligations
More efficiency by working with others

Ward 5 - Abbey
Community Conversation 12 November 2025
Comments

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
Reduce winter road treatment
European countries – homes are responsible for the path and to the middle of the road for clearing snow etc. We can adopt this and grass cutting.
Reduce the council's subsidy of business rate reliefs
Business rates relief. Reducing business rate discounts – would this not chase businesses anyway?
End funding for Information and Advice services provided by Citizens Advice
Not all towns have CAB anyway. Where is the £906K spent? We need the service delivered differently, but maybe more could be looked at across D&G.
End funding for Representation and Engagement services provided by third sector groups
Representation and Engagement – can amount be reduced?
Council Tax
Concerns that some council tax debt is being written off. Does this mean our own council tax will go up as a result.

2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
Reduce emergency assistance payments through the council's Children and Families service
Reduce emergency assistance payment – alternative support from where?
Undertake a "Digital Re-design" to automate processes
Digital re-design. Will it <u>really</u> save money?
Use AI to reduce admin but not to replace people contact.
Review of customer experience across services
Review of customer experience – would the review not cost more than any savings?
Collect general household (grey bin) waste less frequently
If bins are not emptied for 3 weeks, they could be too heavy to lift or the lid might not shut.
Collect general waste. Definitely NOT reduce the frequency of collection.
This will lead to more fly tipping as bins fill up.

3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities
Consult on school closures – 20 or less pupils
Under 20 pupils – close!
Close four seasonal museums and attractions
Closure of museums – we need tourist attractions.
Close Hillview Leisure Centre, Kelloholm
Kelloholm folk are isolated enough. Can't close this facility if well used.
Close Whithorn HWRC
Closing Whithorn recycling will result in increased fly-tipping.
Close Whithorn recycling – where is the nearest? 22 Miles away?

4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
Remove permanent supply teacher pool
Supply teachers are essential. Schools can't cover absence! We'd have to shut schools or send year/class groups home.
Remove permanent supply teaching pool – "use of existing staff" poses more problems than it solves.
Reduce the absence budget for teaching staff cover
Absences are high because council saved money by not giving flu vaccine – spend to save.
Share headteachers between schools
Head Teachers share is already in place? Why is this in it?
Reduce the number of education officers. They are paid too much to do little and take no responsibility.
Generally sharing headteachers causes administrative issues. What about travelling – a waste of school contact time.
Sharing head teachers between large and smaller schools – most need a constant presence. Each school has its own ethos and practices tailored to its students.
Reduce secondary teaching staff to reflect falling pupil numbers
Falling student numbers and teacher pool should balance itself out – be more efficient.
Remove Playground Supervisor roles at primary schools
No playground supervisors is a health and safety breach.
Playground supervisors essential in an age where so much anti-social behaviour occurs. Teaching staff are just that – teaching staff.
Other comments
No euphemisms! Workforce = people having jobs. <u>No reduction of staffing!!</u>
Reduction of staff needs to be considered and not pushed onto third sector groups that are also struggling with funding.
Elected Members cost us £1.5k per year. Why is this not on the table?

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions
Increase burial fees
Burial fees. Far too big an increase buying plots it is more than double and not acceptable.
Increase primary school meal price
School meals are free for primary – increasing cost makes no sense!
Increase secondary school meal price
Kids will spend over £2.60 on "chippy lunches" from cafes in town.
Pilot an Invitation to Pay scheme for parking
Why not charge for parking as most people do. Also employ a traffic officer to patrol towns in a random order for fines for parking on double yellows.
Introduce a charge for the Youth Beatz festival
Definite NO to reduce or end council funding for Youth Beatz. The young people need this as the number of attendees shows.
Keep Youth Beatz free – it brings in money as it is. If charge then may lose income.
A voluntary charge would be acceptable (Youthbeatz).

6. Savings Options Previously subject to Public Consultation
End funding for all Tackling Poverty and cost of living projects
Removing Tackling Poverty would increase pressure on community intervention which would still need funding.
Reduce Additional Support for Learning (ASL) teachers in primary schools
ASL are needed now more than ever with more than 30% children now having additional need.
Close Castle Douglas Swimming Pool and Fitness Suite
Must keep swimming pools open. Our kids need to learn to swim if possible.
Swimming pools to remain open. Children need to learn to swim. Re-look at costs as schools don't offer this.
Close public toilets
Tradesmen in the region rely on public WCs across the different areas. Where do these trades people go?
DO NOT CLOSE PUBLIC TOILETS – We need tourists, tourists need loos!
Closing public toilets – where do tradesman go? Bikers, walkers, when travelling between towns.
Keep S1 to S3 pupils on campus at lunchtime to increase school meal uptake
School meals are not substantial. Queue time at school is bad enough for S1. Lunchtime would not be long enough.
Can you force pupils to stay in school?
Breakfast club and after school club with snack option would increase uptake of school meals. Helps with hungry children too.
7. General comments
Evaluate property services utility procurement. SAVINGS COULD BE MADE.
Would like to see our councillors here so we can talk to them in person.
Consider delivering tourist attractions, leisure facilities and public amenities through a different model. Do not get rid of them, just deliver them differently, more efficiently and think outside of the box.

Ward 6 - North West Dumfries
Community Conversation 6 November 2025
Comments

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
Remove Instrumental Music Instruction Service
The usage of music has been linked to a variety of positive benefits, for example the usage of music to assist with mental illness (Golden, T.L. et al 2021) and that music engagement shapes our mood regulation (Gustavson, D.E. et al psychiatry 11,370 (2021).
Learning music should be available to all not just those who can afford private tuition.
Consider charging a minimal amount for those that can afford it.
Music important for good mental health.
Music tuition is essential to cultural life of D&G – the next generation of musicians from ALL backgrounds.
Re music tuition – both my boys receive music instruction and attend regional events at The Bridge held by the service. As a child I also had instrumental lessons. My boys enjoy their lessons, music is a big part of their life and identity and it plays an important role in how they express and socialise as well as mental well being. It would be a shame to further impact the expressive arts in schools.
Daughter very happy to attend group.
Thank you to people from Ukraine & her daughter very happy about this and possibilities.
End funding for Information and Advice services provided by Citizens Advice
Removing funding to Citizens Advice will hit the poorest and most vulnerable people in D&G. Provides 50% of total CAB budget so the service would fold completely.
Reduce funding support for major festivals and events
Stop some not all events.
2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
Cutting help for the most vulnerable in our communities is not progress.
This will negatively impact families.
Collect general household (grey bin) waste less frequently
Collect grey bin more frequently.
3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities
Review local services and buildings in each area
But must not reduce rural services.
4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
Remove permanent supply teacher pool
Thought of by people not in classroom - don't have direct experience of what is happening.
Impossible to cover in-house – limited numbers already.
Share headteachers between very small and larger primary schools
Are they not already in shared headteacher arrangements? E.g. Dunscore & Moniaive, Penpont & Closeburn.

Remove Playground Supervisor roles at primary schools
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What alternative arrangements??

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions
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No comments

6. Savings options previously subject to public consultation

No comments

Ward 7 - Mid and Upper Nithsdale
Community Conversation 11 November 2025
Comments

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
Remove Instrumental Music Instruction Service
Music is an art. One of the few we get taught in school. I play guitar and I really enjoy it. The music service have really great opportunities to learn instruments. DO NOT REMOVE IT.
Instrumental music lessons are so important in this area as not many children can afford private lessons. This allows them to experience different instruments & music, opening up opportunities. Music helps mental health & wellbeing!!
KEEP MUSIC!
No way.
Where is the column to say I don't support this measure – I don't support a cut in the music service. It is essential for GIRFEC!! This survey is full of dark patterns and is a disgrace.
Instrumental music service supports essential life skills & social interactions as well as building skills and resilience in creative endeavour. I do not support this.
Reduce winter road treatment
Reduce winter road treatment: Really?
Reduce grass cutting on 60mph roads
Great for wildlife. Reduce verge cutting where foot traffic is not present on 60mph roads.
End funding for Information and Advice services provided by Citizens Advice
Would impact the most vulnerable members of society. CAB is an essential service.
Cut by 25%? One staff member?
Maintain Citizens Advice funding.
End funding for Representation and Engagement services provided by third sector groups:
Many local groups and charities rely on third sector funding to operate – losing this funding will create voids in much needed areas of support.
I don't understand this. More information?
Council support is vital for many areas of the community to run organisations – free groups, free classes, free event space – losing these means those less fortunate are left behind.
Reduce funding support for major festivals and events
Please don't cut festival funding it's hugely important (Oyster Fest!)
Other comments
Ideas: Rural/remote roving recycling centre. Community resilience (voluntary) in relation to gritting – DGC provide equipment for rural locations.
Council Tax: I could pay a bit more to sustain essential services, perhaps a small rise would be palatable?
Don't throw the past under a bus could lead to non-investigation important sites.

2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
Introduce fixed enrolment dates and capacities for nurseries
I don't know what that would mean.
Change how out of hours social work calls are handled
Social work out of hours still needs some support. Maybe reviewed not removed.
Not appropriate, care call staff are not social workers
Reduce live-streaming of council meetings
Recordings should be available. Would a step back from live streaming really save £50k?
Collect general household (grey bin) waste less frequently
Collect general household (grey bin) waste less frequently: Bigger bin, once per month.

3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities
Use schools more effectively by bringing pupils into underused modern school buildings
Get it on with this you already know the buildings that should be closed. You've consulted and consulted, action is needed!
Close Hillview Leisure Centre, Kelloholm
The closure of Hillview would be a tragedy for the whole of Upper Nithsdale. This should not be allowed to happen, pull funding from elsewhere.
Hillview is used every night. We need to keep it open. It's the only thing we have left; I am very angry at this.
Hillview is not just for physical fitness its for mental health too. It has helped me with my mental health a lot. Keep it open!
Hillview – Hub of the community classed as a deprived area so why deprive children and adults more?
Please do not close Hillview
I would refuse to pay my council tax if the closure of Hillview goes ahead it's all we have
Hillview is not only a leisure centre but a community hub. If this was closed there would be an increase in anti-social behaviour due to kids having nowhere to go. There would also be a decrease in people's health and wellbeing.
The closure of Hillview leisure centre would have a devastating effect on the local community as it offers various fitness classes proven to help mental health, provides a meeting place for locals to chat in their various organisations and is a well-used hall for children's parties not forgetting the employment it brings.
Hillview closure – Do not do this.
Hillview Leisure Centre is the heart of the local community, most of the population here has and always will use it. Personally, the centre has been a huge part in my family's mental health, this would be a devastating loss if this was to close.
Hillview shouldn't be closed as it is used by all members of D&G we will soon have nothing in our village as the facility is used for birthdays, youthwork and loads more. It shouldn't be closed.
Save Hillview Leisure Centre which is the only one between Kirkconnel and Dumfries and is in use every day. It would be a great loss to our village which has lost enough over the years.

MUGA used frequently, already very few options for young people to keep active. Upper Nithsdale has been neglected long enough.
Hillview is the heart of Kirkconnel community on which the youth rely. The buses are already not working for them to get out of the village on evenings. They cater for all ages from the very young to the oldest.
There are so few amenities available in Upper Nithsdale. This would be a disgrace if it were to close.
Save Hillview Leisure Centre! It's the only Leisure centre between Kirkconnel & Dumfries. Our village has lost a lot of amenities over the years. We don't want to become a ghost village. Our residents of approx. 2,000 need a hub and Hillview is used by many. What would we all do for exercise etc.
Hillview is used by many groups as well as being used for fitness.
Hillview Leisure Centre is an asset to the local community it's a well-used facility with various activities, fitness classes, gym, youth group, gymnastics, dance classes, MUGA, football, community hub and café. Why try to close it?
I can't get my head around this as a man in his fifties I used this centre all my life and still use it this day for walking football. There are over 25 men there on a Tuesday night that come from all over and the place is heaving. It's so busy the car park is always full and cars line the streets with people using the facility. This proposal is crazy.
Our Sunday league football team trains here and uses it for our matches we can't possibly lose this facility there is nothing else! And no buses to get to anywhere else!
Save Hillview!
Hillview is all we have
As a resident in Upper Nithsdale there isn't a week goes by where me or my family members are not in Hillview is a well-used and respected centre. We would all be lost without it!
Close four seasonal museums and attractions
Don't close the museums! Backwards step.
No museum closure – tourism, falling visitors.
As a small town Sanquhar needs facilities like the Tolbooth museum to encourage people to visit and stay in the local hotels. The local craft shops, multiverse and pool would benefit too.
Tolbooth is a tourist attraction – we need visitors to attend. We have little else.
Reduce the number of council office buildings
Reduce staff in council office buildings.
So many buildings are under used as people now work from home.
Review local services and buildings in each area
Transfer assets like toilets to CCs? Would need to provide help.

4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
Remove permanent supply teacher pool
Small schools can't cope without supply staff - you've already made it so they don't get someone til a staff members is off for more than 10 days that's 10 days off my child's learning – disgraceful.
Reduce the absence budget for teaching staff cover
Schools are already covering for this with inexperienced staff it's terrible.

Reduce staffing of Early Learning and Childcare support
Cutting staff - has the impact assessment said what would be the effect of this massive 50% cut in staffing?
Restructure of management in large primary Schools
Every time they re-structure it costs more money then they seem to employ more managers.
Share headteachers between smaller and larger secondary schools
Share headteachers with secondary and primary schools in some areas where necessary.
Reduce secondary teaching staff to reflect falling pupil numbers
No - your pupil/teacher ratios are already poor.
Sanquhar is short enough of teachers.
Close three Inclusion Bases and shift to outreach support
Increase this service to protect teaching staff and pupils at regular school who just want to learn and be the best they can be.

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions
Increase primary school meal price
If you have children, you can pay for their lunches (there are some exceptions but majority of parents can afford it).
Pilot an Invitation to Pay scheme for parking
It's strange that car parking doesn't attract a small payment!
Introduce a charge for the Youth Beatz festival
Youth Beatz - maybe charge £5 each would help, most could afford this.

6. Savings options previously subject to public consultation
Close public toilets
Public toilets important, improve signage
Keep S1 to S3 pupils on campus at lunchtime to increase school meal uptake
Only if food doesn't run out over a lunchtime and meals are healthier i.e. less UPF used.

Ward 8 - Lochar
Community Conversation 7 November 2025
Comments

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
Remove Instrumental Music Instruction Service
I think a small charge sounds reasonable but no more than £10
Means test? Do not remove instrumental music tuition
Do not remove this. It is not all about academic learning. This would help a future star.
Reduce not remove – contribute means test
Reduce winter road treatment
Some communities don't have capacity to assist with this in their areas
Use community payback to reduce costs and retain services - on pavement
Reduce grass cutting on 60mph roads
Only do what is necessary for safety – road junctions. Allow larger verges better for insects
And when it encroaches onto the road making a two lane road go down to one!
Reduce the council's subsidy of business rate reliefs
Consider on a reducing basis
Make empty shops pay double rates like council tax on a second home
End funding for Information and Advice services provided by Citizens Advice
Strongly oppose (x2)
Valuable service – support people when in need of help. So necessary.
Citizens Advice provide service for carers – it is over subscribed. Extremely important for sharing info.
Against
Strongly oppose – advice services help most vulnerable and bring money into region
End funding of Representation and Engagement Services provided by Third sector groups
Can be reduced a bit but not fully
Important
Council Tax
Need to see impact if Council Tax increases
Don't get the same as larger towns so maybe (increase) if provided same services

2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
Change how out of hours social work calls are handled
Would this have a negative impact on child welfare issues? Children at risk, etc?
Improve Carecall so they can triage cases like receptionists in doctors' surgeries
Telecall? already at capacity – often no one at end of phone and have to leave a message
Undertake a digital re-design to automate processes
As long as AI is kept behind the scenes, not front line
Only if done properly and with back up power due to IT failures. Needs careful oversight.

Review of customer experience across services
How can a better service be provided for this – If it is already known that its presently inefficient it is a consideration - but yes!
More user friendly – yes, but do not force or expect people to go digital as you are excluding people who can't use the services. Phone lines are needed. One stop portal efficient and easy, yes.
Not a bigger emphasis on digital options but certainly streamline things.
Collect general household (grey bin) waste less frequently
No, fly tipping. Rubbish in streets already a problem – agreed
Fly tipping in my area is at an all time high. Get rid of booking system
Amass lots of bulky waste so no drop in frequency of collections – fly tipping challenges
Consider introducing more communal waste bins

3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities
Consult on the closure of small nurseries
Nursery closure – support but need to ensure other providers can support it closed – look at options – early discuss with private sector
Use schools more effectively by bringing pupils into underused modern school buildings
Consult on small school closures
Consider parental choice offer and what offering parents – need to go to own catchment
School suggestion loaded – who would not want it? Small schools are very important to rural communities closing them should be a very last option
Close four seasonal museums and attractions
Against hold on to heritage – discuss with 3 rd sector to try and reduce cost and retain service - Encourage those interested to participate
Generate income to cover costs rather than close
Close Hillview Leisure Centre, Kelloholm
Leave alone. There is nothing else in community. No transport (bus) to get to other facilities
Close the Midsteeple Box Office, Dumfries
Look at opening times
Reduce the number of council office buildings
How many council buildings are there?
Not old chambers office – steeped in history – find another use for it – prominent location – review of places
Close Whithorn HWRC
Where is the closest option if Whithorn were to close? Would opening for only 2 days be an option?
Where is the nearest?
Would we see an increase in fly tipping?
Reduce opening hours

4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
Reduce staffing of Early Learning and Childcare support
Strongly oppose – liaise with partners to understand impact

Remove dedicated Education Health and Safety team
Reduce down to 2 or 1 – do not fully remove
Share headteachers between smaller and larger secondary schools
Oppose strongly – need strong leadership and relationship in that area and teachers
Remove Playground Supervisor roles at primary schools
Strongly oppose – this is minuscule in comparison – would disproportionately affect women!
Close three Inclusion Bases and shift to outreach support
Strongly oppose - more imperative
Teachers are beleaguered with problems
Against – cause disruption amongst those who want to learn

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions
Increase burial fees
Would support increase just not as much
Increase slightly burial plots do not double costs
Increase primary school meal price
Would support this if can guarantee value for money and decent portion sizes for money paid
Charge households for replacement grey bins
If deliberately broken by householder by overfilling it, etc.
Pilot an “Invitation to Pay” scheme for parking
Charge for blue badge – small admin (£30 for 3 years) for example – charge for motorhomes
Introduce a charge for the Youth Beatz festival
Support a partial charge towards £5
Maybe a small charge like £2/£3
If putting tickets to other councils why not charge them as well – limit of £15 I would impose
Possible small charge £10 / £5 suggested
Small payment for Youth Beatz entry – small charge would be okay x 3

6. Savings Options Previously subject to Public Consultation
End funding for all Tackling Poverty and cost of living projects
Need to properly assess the need – are some treating it as a must not a need? Not against reducing – but most vulnerable must be supported – review
Reduce Additional Support for Learning (ASL) teachers in primary schools
Review should be led by teachers not councillors
Close Castle Douglas Swimming Pool and Fitness Suite
Need provision for tourists but a review rather than blatant closure x 2
Keep S1 to S3 pupils on campus at lunchtime to increase school meal uptake
Would need to ensure that meals are value for money and that options are varied frequently

Ward 9 - Nith
Community Conversation 4 November 2025
Comments

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
Remove Instrumental Music Instruction Service
Disagree with removing Instrumental music instruction. Children gain wider knowledge and have a head start for high school
Disagree – this is valuable to children as an outlet. Teaches social skills. The future of brass band/orchestras/pipe bands, will be threatened!
Removing music instruction removes £915,000 of Scot Gov funding for free music lessons. 21 people lose position, redeployed and salaries still need paid at current rate. 2000 children lose their lessons.
Access to music services is the only saving grace my teenager has had during 10 months of bullying by so-called friends. Without friends made in choirs and music groups, she would have been alone with no-one. I worry that others may not be as resilient as her.
Strongly disagree with removal of the music service, it provides a vital outlet to children who enjoy it. It is also the only way some children have access to learning a musical instrument. It would be a travesty to lose it!
Removing the music service will have a huge impact in our kids creativity. Having this service available to all allows those who may not have opportunities. It should not be about academic subjects. The Scottish government support music services. Removing music will not good for future kids.
Disagree. Removing the music service removes a budget from central of £915,000
Not all kids are academic and cutting access to music or other artistic subjects can only have a detriment to their learning. Kids would have to seek private tuition which would further cripple access to the music services.
I would be very much against the music instrumental service being removed. It brings a huge set of soft skills development to people of all ages. This would also lead to a less rounded education.
Our music service is excellent and is available to all children regardless of background
I would be against the music instrumental service being removed as I think it brings so much to our local kids – confidence etc.
Music is a lifeline to so many
Really disagree with this as music is vital to creativity and learning
St. Joseph's are up for an award which only happened because of the music services
Do not agree with the removal of instrumental music instruction lessons for P5-S6
Remove funding for school-based Police Officers
School based Police Officers are a lifeline/vital service for Young People, especially those with protected characteristics, who often have nowhere else to turn.
Even if funding is cut there should still be police officers coming to schools as recently there have been more cases of violence and hate crime recently among young people so having officers visiting may help.
With increased violence, abuse of staff, issues, weapons etc, this is NOT A SERVICE that can or should be REMOVED! SAFETY MUST COME FIRST! We cannot wait until a serious situation occurs!!!

Do not support removing funding for school based Police officers. In the current climate of crime and abusive behaviour towards teachers and children that are vulnerable this is not going to be acceptable.
Reduce spending on external Children and Families services in Social Work
LESS support services for vulnerable children and families, when across the region MORE support is needed.
Reduce winter road treatment
Reduce winter road treatment - disadvantage to rural people could result in other resource being utilised police, fire, NHS. Life could be lost. Do not agree with reducing winter road treatment.
If the Council goes through with this, the number of road accidents and fatal injuries will skyrocket as without proper gritting, the roads will be slippery and dangerous to drive on.
This is asking for accidents, deaths and misery for many plus increased dangers to safety, COMMON SENSE MUST RULE! HUGE PRESSURE (EXTRA) ON NHS/HOSPITALS!
Disproportionately affects disabled people and those living rurally.
Reduce grass cutting on 60mph roads
Please reduce grass cutting for wildlife habitats and wild flowers.
Reduce the council's subsidy of business rate reliefs
Business rate reliefs are vital to small businesses. We need more help to keep our town thriving. This will not help.
Do not agree with reducing Council's subsidy of business rate reliefs.
Need to reduce business rates to encourage businesses in the town.
End funding for Information and Advice services provided by Citizens Advice
This cannot be allowed to happen – the income generation that DAGCAS brings is far greater than the amount they receive. It is a lifeline to many.
Although I understand the big saving where do thousands of vulnerable, worried and desperate, individuals and families go when they need advice and support if you close Citizens Advice!
A lot of people go to Citizens Advice for help and support this should not be cut.
As a couple with various disabilities, (Registered Blind) we could not have managed without the help and support offered by Citizens Advice.
End funding for Representation and Engagement services provided by third sector groups
Representation services – together they do valuable work supporting some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.
Save DGMA
Regarding DGMA – this is an important service offered to the WHOLE town, including Scots and British. It helps people with disabilities, LGBT+, minority groups and others, and is a welcome base and source of employment for many too. It will be a great loss if it closes.
Keeping the funding for the various places will help all of us to help the communities, especially DGMA as we are part of a foodshare hub. Poverty in Dumfries needs to be tackled and with DGMA's Food hub we are doing our bit. We also tackle various other things
We must keep this funding as like DGMA and others the funding helps with FoodShare Hub. DGMA have other activities that DGMA does throughout the year including help with mental health and free school uniform.

DGMA is getting £22,333 per year currently which helps with electricity bills, ongoing costs, to be able to serve thousands of people locally. Without the funding, the DGMA will not have a place for all.
DGMA community centre helps many individuals and families with food and work experience. DGMA's surplus food project helps hundreds of people in the town with an aim to reduce food waste and tackle poverty.
DGMA doors are open to people of all nationalities, races and genders. You'll always be greeted with a smile and helped in any way you can.
DGMA helps people with mental health to communicate. They organised various activities and events giving possibility to people with mental issues feel themselves much better.
Reduce funding support for major festivals and events
Activities for children, events and the burns supper night, lose the funding or even cut a small part of it would mean it is unable to hold these events. Funding is Essential.

2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
Reduce spending on children's direct payment support
STRONGLY DISAGREE. Direct payments are vital for families of children with disabilities / ASN. They pay for vital support and services.
This decision would potentially have a bigger financial impact on the unpaid carer family members that rely and need this level of support to sustain family life.
Share services with other organisations
Has this worked with the Care and Repair service? Managed now by Lanarkshire is there learning there?
Go paperless for council committees
Are you able to review what and who are printing. Do you rent photocopiers – has this been scaled back. Less copiers, people may think twice.
Review how we purchase staff training
Can one person be trained as a designated trainer. Create inhouse training – invest now will release budget later.
Collect general household (grey bin) waste less frequently
Increase bin collections for general waste for families it is not sustainable.
If nappies and other medical conditions requiring large volumes of waste
3 week for grey bins will adversely affect disabled people with inconvenience / those with young children / medical / ASN.

3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities
Use schools more effectively by bringing pupils into underused modern school buildings
Close small schools to put children together in bigger classes.
Some of the most modern schools have the most damage.
This one needs more explanation. Do you mean close a school? What will happen to surplus school buildings?
Consult on school closures - 20 or less pupils / 25 or less pupils
We need to be making brave decisions around this.
Consult on school closures - 50 or less
If the small schools close where would the pupils from the small villages go as schools in Dumfries are already at capacity! And will the Council provide transport??

Close four seasonal museums and attractions
Keep these open. Important our employment and attracting visitors who then spend in our region.
Close Hillview Leisure Centre, Kelloholm
Same as CD facility HWB of rural communities are important.
Kelloholm Football Club. Kelloholm United would like to see keep the facilities.
If used adequately, wrong to close any Leisure Centre that supports adults or young people.
Close the Midsteeple Box Office, Dumfries
Very against closing this essential service which is used for all sorts by many of us. Combine more organisations and services to make it viable. But do NOT close this VITAL asset to the town!
As partially sighted, and registered blind, this venue is essential to do face to face bookings and get advice.
Where will mobility scooter hire go? Pretty important for disabled people and visitors.
Reduce the number of council office buildings
Yes, if not needed sell off like police stations.
None of the above/other comments
Need to reduce waste in the Council and employ fewer people.
No-one will listen. It's all cut and dried already. It could be the best town – use the river and encourage businesses.

4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
Remove permanent supply teacher pool
Permanent supply staff are vital for the running of all schools. It is hard enough to cover internally.
If more than 1 member of staff is off it is often permanent supply staff that are recruited.
I feel it is a very bad idea to remove permanent supply teaching staff pool. Existing supply cover is already stretched to its limit with existing schools.
A pool should continue what level ie how many, what absence level is there, what average does this run at approx. over the year. This pool should sit at this average level.
Staff cover is essential for schools to stay open! Would parents be happy if whole classes were sent home due to absences? We had 3 staff off today, only 2 management available to cover. Thank goodness for permanent supply!
Permanent supply staff are vital for covering staff absences boosting attainment for children through small focused interventions.
We could use other teachers and save money which could be used on learning resources.
Restructure management in large primary schools
These large primary schools are already stretched with head teachers provide 1:1 support due to other cuts!
NO THANKS
Share headteachers between small and large Primary schools
What about the travel for the heads? What about the rest of the school management structures?
Share headteachers £109 - £187K = Seems a good idea for savings.
Share headteachers between smaller and larger secondary schools

Secondary schools need their own dedicated headteacher. They are the head of the school – they need to be available at all times.
Reduce secondary teaching staff to reflect falling pupil numbers
This is already happening with staff being made surplus. Secondary does need specialist teachers in specific subjects not moving forwards.
Do not reduce Secondary teachers. My daughter is S1 has no Home Economics.
Potentially if realistic.
More general staff teaching multiple subjects.
Remove Playground Supervisor roles at primary schools
I would be highly against this, playground supervision staff are essential for keeping children safe in the playground.
Playground supervision is essential! Smaller schools have no other staff to cover. At least do this on a need basis in schools not a blanket removal. Schools will suffer! Kids will suffer.
Teachers are entitled to lunch and breaks.
Playground supervisors are vital! Give them a pay rise!! School staff need breaks too!
Playground supervision is vital for kids with visual / social / emotional needs.
What other staff? Small schools are already skeleton staff. L/A's cut every year so can't depend on them. Teachers need breaks and no spare teachers in a school. Headteacher not always in school. Minimum wage job for consistent staff.
No - too much bullying and injuries.
What about the children with medical or other supervision needs?! Staff need lunch too!
You have not consulted with trade unions on "alternative arrangement".
This is not value for money. This makes it sound like it's a not an important job – it's a living wage job – no-one else can do it at those wages.
Playground supervisors are vital in keeping kids safe at lunchtime.
Close three Inclusion Bases and shift to outreach support
If a child needs an Inclusion base, then clearly school based support will not work.
Closing Inclusion bases pushes bigger issues into the class. Children in the bases can't cope in a mainstream class which is why they are in the bases in the first place!!
Secondary schools are really struggling with Inclusion this will cause more strain.
Moves the problem to mainstream who already do not have enough support!

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions
Increase primary school meal price
Could school meals go back to being means tested for P1-P5?
Pilot an Invitation to Pay scheme for parking
How much will this cost to implement? In this financial climate who is really going to volunteer to pay?? Big variant in income £80k - £400k. Where did these numbers come from. Could be a big fat £0. Actually a loss and there will be a cost.
Invitation to pay should be either free, or pay! Doesn't make any sense otherwise.
I think this should not be for local residents only those visiting.
Use in-house lawyers for certain planning agreements
This should not be under question. Why is this not being done now.
Introduce a charge for the Youth Beatz festival
No.

Minimal charge only as we need to have things focussing on young people in our region – any charge would probably cost more to administrate. Charge out of region people?

£10 a head would generate revenue for youth/fringe events and parking charges.

Young people in our region have very few opportunities for events such as these. For most, this is an opportunity to express themselves.

6. Savings options previously subject to public consultation

End funding for all Tackling Poverty and cost of living projects

Tackling Poverty and Cost of living projects = Food bank funding, food vouchers, and help for people in need.

Loss of services to those struggling without money, jobs, food is inconceivable!

People need help for food – this should be maintained. A lot of local people are struggling with cost of living.

Cutting funding will have a knock effect especially for DGMA. As we help a number of people from all communities and our food share hub.

Tackling Poverty – These projects help people to survive!

Reconfiguration of support for the Autism Attendance Care Experienced Team

These are very different roles and specialisms. Asking teams to wear too many different hats and less support for kids who need it and are the most vulnerable.

Reduce Additional Support for Learning (ASL) teachers in primary schools

Reducing ASL teachers increases workload for class teachers. I currently work 50+ hours a week but paid for 35! What would you like me to stop? Reading?!

Children need more time. ASL teachers in school. Currently they are filling in paperwork and not able to work with children due to previous cuts.

NO! There is already not enough support due to previous cuts! Stage 4 children being allocated 16 hours per week is not enough already!

Close Castle Douglas Swimming Pool and Fitness Suite

Health and wellbeing of our rural communities needs a focus – public transport not good enough for this closure.

Close public toilets

Consider charging a few pence rather than closing toilets.

Closing public toilets is a breach of human rights.

Where do pensioners, babies, young children go to use toilets, the town needs a facility near to amenities, shops, closing them all would cause so much hardship and problems for many folk!

Completely against closing public toilets as lots of people have issues with incontinence urgency etc often widdul!

Some locations should be kept as people will still need them.

Remove Principal Teacher roles for play-based learning

Play Principal teachers are vital for supporting teachers to include play pedagogy for young learners.

Remove central English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Gypsy/Traveller support team

Children with language barriers currently get 1 hour per week support. How is that enough to support their learning? They need more support!

Keep S1 to S3 pupils on campus at lunchtime to increase school meal uptake

Totally disagree. Pupils will not eat food they don't like. So they will be hungry the whole day. It definitely doesn't support healthy eating. The children S2-S3 need to feel independence, at least in choice of food.

7. General comments
Must be better ways to generate money instead of constant cuts.
Art work at Gretna (Gretna Star) is a huge waste of money. The money could be spent better elsewhere.
1.2 million on new windows in council HQ but losing and removing essential staff. Ridiculous!
Reduce number of consultations – waste of money. E.g. £250k consultation on bus services.
This needs more info to enable people to decide.

Ward 10 - Annandale South
Community Conversation 10 November 2025
Comments

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
Remove Instrumental Music Instruction Service
The opportunity that learning a musical instrument can provide young people is incredible, mental health, social skills etc are all so positively affected by this
Does DGC fund music in schools or is it funded by government
Arts based subjects are proven to aid wellbeing and wider transferrable skills
By removing this is will reduce attainment in music qualifications for all due to limiting the opportunity to play anything other than a classroom instrument
Art based subject such as music are a wide contributor to mental health and wellbeing. Also, with the reduction of the IMS SVQ music number will vastly reduce.
This is the most short sighted proposal. People need music uptake in our region is above the national average. Removing something that is so popular is inconceivable. Do you want to end every local music group because that's what will happen.
Could lesson not be offered at a subsidised price by DGC
If this is a cut we will be the only local authority in Scotland not to offer this to our kids, our children have some of the worse opportunities in Scotland and this is a diabolical cut to make.
Disaster for our children in the region if this is to happen
Deeply concerned over 2000 pupils will be affected, 750 on a waiting list. Scottish gov. funding has not been cut. Will be the only DGC in Scotland not to have this service.
This would affect so many children learning to work in team/groups, practise being so important. Listening skills, confidence performing. Also loss of instructor's jobs, members joining town bang, musical events would be non-existent with music brings income in the region
ABSOLUTY NOT
We receive £305,000 per year from Scottish Gov so actually not saving money but losing it.
The council would not be able to draw down £305k per year - £195 over 3 years from Scottish gov specifically for MS open access.
Rock on Kids, need music in their schools
Removing musical instruments lessons shouldn't be on the option list. The impact goes much wider than just the schools.
Job Losses, these staff support pupils with exams, trips, music groups Who will do this if this. This service is NOT a luxury it's a vital part of education.
Music tuition draws from the Scottish government removing it will be a financial loo not saving. More important our young people would be more disadvantaged against all other regions. They would miss out on very important skills and music teacher themselves would be a struggle and hard to recruit and retain.
There is money to provide free music tuition from SG. This would be an awful loss for pupils, families and the wider community. Would be hard to maintain school music departments without tutor input, orchestras/ music groups will not be able to continue. Tragic.

We want our music tuition.
As students we should be provided music instructors to make our learning more effective and make more students willing to learn something new.
Keep music instructors they are useful.
My daughter loves her flute lessons and after hearing her free lessons may be taken away fills her with so much anxiety. Flute is a release for her. When she is happy she plays, when sad she plays. She has met old and new friends, built confidence, learnt to read music and is enjoying her lessons and her teacher. This being taken away would effect her mental health.
It has improved my life by letting me have so many opportunities by learning how to play the flute, I play in the school band and have gone on multiple trips with it, I have also played in the regional youth orchestra which is a great experience and is also funded by the music service.
Free drum lessons has improved my life by giving me more opportunities to be social and have an output for my feelings.
Music lessons have been extremely useful for lots, it's improved my life by helping me get involved with after school activities like band, it helps with confidence and playing an instrument is a good thing to keep kinds busy and make more friends.
Free music lessons have helped me become more confident in my musical knowledge. These lessons have improved by life also by giving me lots of different opportunities as well as helped me make new friends.
Remove funding for school-based Police Officers
After lockdown in both Annan and Stranraer in just 2 days – reducing this funding is inconceivable
School security is more needed now as behaviour and anti social behaviour, bullying is increasing
2 recent lockdowns in schools show that this is needed and police is essential. Needs to be funded not out of local funding
Only if it could be funded centrally
Reduce winter road treatment
Actually
Reduce grass cutting on 60mph roads
Don't cut the grass on some public spaces such as the Everholm – better for nature too!
Reduce the council's subsidy of business rate reliefs
Reducing yes it needn't be completely free to businesses but kept competitive to encourage enterprise.
End funding for Information and Advice services provided by Citizens Advice
Should be means tested
Reduce not remove
AI technology can be used instead
Vital service as most support services have already been cut. Keep this service
Reduce funding support for major festivals and events
There has already been a large cut on Scottish and UK basis for arts and culture
Its great that Youthbeatz is free but I do think tickets should be sold to help target anti social behaviour
Charge a fee most people will pay
Charge a small fee for these events. Especially those outside the region travelling to the event like this

Council Tax
The price we currently pay is far too expensive for what is included. Definitely not increase.
Banding for council tax should be revised so hat it is equitable. Those underpaying should be revised not CT raised for everyone (x2)
CT should never have been frozen for several years. Cost/wages etc go up and CT should too to cover this

2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
Reduce spending on children's direct payment support
Shocking suggestion
Sounds like a bad idea
Reduce emergency assistance payments through the council's Children and Families service
There are no alternatives
By definition these are Emergency assistance, it cannot be removed or what happens
Seems wrong to take money from families in crisis - is there money to support elsewhere?
Undertake a Digital Re-design to automate processes
Any review should also include a review of staff, processes and in particular staff who deliver and not fully engaged with their role.
Reduce live-streaming of council meetings
Meetings should be broadcast in the interest of transparency
Teach the minute taker to record
Go paperless for council committees
No due to brain injury, no memory unable to use or afford computer need printed
Review how we purchase staff training
Training should be relevant to the persons job, not just a tick box exercise
Review of customer experience across services
Still needs to be face to face option
Please never remove the option to speaking with a humans, unless there is a good reason for having separate systems ensure you all consult the people actually doing the jobs
Why is this not already being done
Collect general household (grey bin) waste less frequently
In rural area it would not make sense to reduce the size of bins when a large cost is the running of the vehicle
Have you considered family size, waste and infestation

3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities
Consult on the closure of small nurseries
Close the mothballed schools and sell off assets
Does this mean young children will be degraded with their neighbours and or those they will start school with
Yes 10 children is a very small nursery so efficiencies can be brought in here

Use schools more effectively by bringing pupils into underused modern school buildings
Do you mean shut dumfries academy and move them into NWC
Close four seasonal museums and attractions
It would be such a shame if local museum closed but I understand the rest implications
Close Hillview Leisure Centre, Kelloholm
Why just Kelloholm and what about the rest of the facilities
No, while not local to Kelloholm health and fitness is important to have access too.
Absolutely not people visitors disable need these facilities
Close the Midsteep Box Office, Dumfries
What about people who don't and cant use the internet
Closing these facilities removes identity and close nature to DGC, consider more options not less
Event organisers can sell their own tickets
Could be done on line
Reduce the number of council office buildings
Council buildings need reduced but not removed from communities e.g Annan still need the Town hall but maybe not other building
Keep Annan Town hall
Review local services and buildings in each area
By repurposing of the use council building and selling the surplus building
Stop using private providers like Aberlour for council
Close Whithorn HWRC
Only if appropriate nearby facilities otherwise fly tipping will increase
Only consider this if there is evidence its not used

4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
Remove permanent supply teacher pool
School staff stretched enough
Annan Academy already has one of the lowest staff pupil ratio in D&G. They CANNOT do without supply, and we are already at a huge disadvantage with incredibly low staffing and ageing building not to needed standards
Schools especially secondary school are not able to fill permanent positions; supply teacher are essential
Nonsense - schools don't have enough teachers to cover absences
Schools are already stretched for cover
Investment in permanent posts and staff retention to assist staff/pupil ratios and teacher numbers
Remove dedicated Education Health and Safety team
This could be treacherous
In doing this you lose a lot of experience & therefore efficiency. H&S requirements won't disappear someone will have to pick up slack
Safety should always come first and if we lose the H&S dept no one will take the responsibility
Share headteachers between smaller and larger secondary schools
Bad idea shut small school and more pupils into the large schools.
Council has tried various partnerships schemes which have not worked out

Partnership schools in different clusters, where is the research which supports this barmy idea
Doesn't seem practical
Absolutely not. HT are always away to social work meeting or partnerships schools. Depute heads especially in secondary are a necessity
Reduce secondary teaching staff to reflect falling pupil numbers
We need equity amongst schools and staff
Commit to standard staff pupil ratio
Annan academy already has only bare minimum staffing. The only others at the same levels do have brand new building, whereas Annan are fighting the building degrading Aswell as low staffing. Annan Deserves Better!
Some schools are already operating on reduced staffing compliments
Staff stretched enough already
Volunteers
Using someone on a teacher salary to fill the gap
Vital, unsung heros within the schools
Will this leave teachers further pushed with a bigger work load
Really bad idea, the most vulnerable pupils should have a service fit for purpose not have a service that is reduced.
These pupils need specialist support. What happens when their support teacher isn't present schools do not have the budget or support to deal with this. ASN is already stretched too thin affects all pupils
Close three Inclusion Bases and shift to outreach support
This would save transporting these pupils to a base at a huge cost. Keep them in their area
Reduce staffing in Resilience and Community Safety team
Not sure what service they have provided over the past 10 years
Reduce Lifelong Learning services
this is vital to a small minority
I wouldn't to lose this but I'd be more than happy to pay and for there to be more options (BSL was great)

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions
Increase burial fees
This would put a pressure on the families at the hardest time of their lives
A huge increase which could financially affect and put pressure on families at an upsetting time leading to debt to bury loved ones
Some can't afford burial plans increasing these would add more pressure
Generate additional income from a review of Roads Fees and Charges
Utility companies should already be fined for such things
Charge households for replacement grey bins
Will encourage fly tipping and build up of rubbish
All it needs is a few disputes about who damages it and you've lost the saving probably not worth the extra admin
Pilot an Invitation to Pay scheme for parking
Charge to park
As long as it doesn't stop being optional

You can invite them but they won't pay
Introduce a charge for the Youth Beatz festival
Start charging people outside the D&G a fee for Youth beatz as people are travelling to it
A small fee would be much less than other similar events and would stop people snapping up unneeded tickets and those going to waste.
100% charge
The whole point of Youth beatz is that it is free way for young people to get involved with music

6. Savings options previously subject to public consultation
Close public toilets
Powfoot toilets need to be kept open and retained, this is a small village that 1000's of tourists visit weekly during the summer months and this is a vital asset to the village.
Remove Principal Teacher roles for play-based learning
Teachers deliver play daily – esp in early years and understand the benefits
Remove central English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Gypsy/Traveller support team
Support staff are already far too stretched. If support for additional languages is removed the stretch is further the whole class suffers
Keep S1 to S3 pupils on campus at lunchtime to increase school meal uptake
I think by S2 children should have the option
Children in secondary schools need to be able to access lunch quickly for this to be a success. The wait times are currently too long, hence why they go down the street.
School meals shouldn't be about raise profits it should be breaking even and providing a service and feeding the kids

7. General comments
Have it so teachers can control their room temperature to help with utility costs
Shut down migrant hotels
Stop giving them monthly pends to come and live here
Stop all foreign aid and focus on the UK

Ward 11 - Annandale North
Community Conversation 7 November 2025
Comments

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
Remove Instrumental Music Instruction Service
The music instruction service adds a lot of richness to the school experience. Living in a rurally remote area, this is our only option to access high quality music tuition. All students benefit, not just the academic ones.
Must be retained
Do Not Support This. Music Tuition is so important to overall educational attainment
Good and very professional and organised it will be really missed in our small community
Music Instrument Service is valuable as it is inclusive and not reliant on parents having the funding, transport and time or even understanding to take children to private tuition. It's part of our rich culture and enjoyed by children
Whilst this is nice to have it is not necessary
Music is therapeutic can be good for a child's self esteem and instruments and music should be available to all children. A lot of children have a gift but not financially able that should be available to all the children.
If you have a child with poor esteem, difficulties in personal life, maybe not as academic as others – music can be their release. It certainly helped me many years ago. I would urge you to keep this music service.
Instrumental Music Instructors – 2000 children currently using service would lose this teaching. 750 on waiting list 1400 more than last year. Demand for service is in the region.
Good for morale. Friendship. Skills for life. Discipline. Children in school were overlooked during Covid affecting mental health. Music good for health.
Other localities in Scotland run instrumental music. Music shouldn't be only for those who can afford it. Skills from music. Team building. Confidence.
Remove funding for school-based Police
An in-town police officer responsible for town school would be better.
There are police resources and facilities available already. Better use of these in schools may buffer the need to reduce fusing but still provide interaction for children.
Important for children to see community officers as someone they can talk to. It is important to keep good relationships between the next Important generation and the police.
This will have a detrimental effect on behaviour in the community
Reduce spending on external Children & Families services in Social Work
Youth work – too many staff and not effective, too many fat cats and ground staff needed to be more effective
This could put vulnerable children more at risk
Reduce winter road treatment
Need more spent on repairing potholes to make roads safer
Reduce grass cutting on 60mph roads
Bring back weed kill
Environmental benefits as well

Reduce the council's subsidy of business rates reliefs
Don't save enough here and need to support small business or town will die
End funding for Information and Advice Services provided by Citizens Advice
Poverty is a too broad word now, having a holiday & ipad phone and car is not poverty
People are all covered on "no win no fee" Solicitors running the country so they will be we covered
Maybe reduce rather than end eg 50%
Important for families to have an organisation that will provide help and advice when they need help
Reduce funding support for major festivals and events
Yes, Yes, Yes. Nor necessary "Youth beats is free" Why!!

2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
Introduce fixed enrolment dates and capacities for nurseries
Strongly disagree!
Strongly disagree! These kids need support from the right people at a young age in order that they develop and thrive. The wrong support can lead to catastrophic effects on kids.
This is not as black and white as this appears. Children and families move settings for a variety of reasons. People move to our area because of the high quality education & ELC.
Change how out of hours social work calls are handled
Virtually impossible to get out of hours social work support. Expecting Carecall to know when a social worker is required will result in crisis client slipping through the net.
Reduce spending on children's direct payment support
Families and Children with SEVERE disabilities need all the help they can get! However, some system of assessment is required.
These families get support from all areas some cuts could be made here.
Families with disabled children struggle at this time. Parents know what their child needs. If allowed to use this payment it can be handled properly. As council support can be poor.
Reduce emergency assistance payments
What are the alternatives for a family in crisis?
What other networks would be available? If not these families will not have any support.
Undertake a digital redesign to automate processes
If this introduces work from office and clock in & out or is this another let's create a department that's not needed for people moved sideways.
AI take away jobs of the future killing society.
Share services with other organisations
This is a great theory, but agencies are very diverse and this would potentially cost more trying to sort it out.
Is this region too big for this to be done effectively?
Reduce live streaming of council meetings
Stop live streaming altogether

Go paperless for council committees
What about the oldies.
Review how we purchase staff training
On job in house training saves a fortune no need for external agencies or should have better managers!
Review of customer experience across services
D&G have a large older population. Not everyone is tech savvy.
Not everyone has the tec savviness or equipment or the brain capacity.
Not sure this would really produce savings.
Collect general household (grey bin) waste less frequently
Creates problems ie costs elsewhere
NO - Two weekly service works well. Will lead to more fly tipping.
No – we have seen rat problems elsewhere through already fortnightly
This is the only service we get for our money.

3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities
Consult on the closure of small nurseries
If nursery is closed would children be offered transport to the nearest nursery if parents were unable to drive.
Financially most couples have to work. Nurseries are important. They need to be looked after. There are too few now.
This is worrying for our youngest children. We are not getting it right for every child not meeting needs of vulnerable families.
Closing small local nurseries will have a knock-on effect for the small local primary schools that they feed into. What happens to existing staff?
Use schools more effectively by bringing pupils into underused modern school buildings
What will happen to these buildings?
Consult on school closures
Cannot continue to ignore falling school numbers!
Strongly disagree. Shutting all small schools is awful. Where would all these pupils go?
Please No! Value smaller learning experiences where do the locals go that don't fit the bigger school model!
We would lose all of our small schools in the area, not all children can cope with big schools. What would happen to these children.
Has travel for parents been considered.
Has the % of poverty been taken into consideration.
This would mean local Beattock Primary would close. After all the money spent on building it and then repairing its roof. What a shame! Beattock is a lovely lively school at the heart of the community. I'm guessing the 35 other schools of 50 or less are the same.
Close four seasonal museums and attractions
Just charge for entry
Close the Midsteeple Box Office
Booking on-line is the norm for everywhere
How many people use the scooter?
Alternative provisions for mobility scooter hire!

Reduce the number of Council office buildings
As long as work from home stops. Too much waste. Need to be in the office to be productive.
This is being done in other agencies where hubs are provided rather than full office space.
How many council buildings are there in these locations?
Review local services and buildings in each area
Need to support buildings otherwise fall into decay and require demolishing at a cost.
Close Whithorn HWRC
Not consistent with reduced bin collections
How often is this used?

4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
We need more ASL teachers NOT less as children have more complex needs
This needs to increase not reduce!
Reducing ASL teachers will cause huge problems – This is for all pupils and current staff.
I can support re-organising across cluster schools if this meant the support remained!
Remove permanent supply teacher pool
Disagree need to have good supply staff.
Covid no longer an issue
Reduce staffing of Early Learning and Childcare support
Need more intervention earlier to ensure children reach potential
Share management for very small nurseries
A recipe for burn-out for managers and then extra funding needed to provide the “super-managers” with extra support staff
This will remove the heart of these nurseries who are managed by caring dedicated staff
This would possibly reduce opportunities for staff progression. Did the council not recently review and change their disastrous policy in Primaries where 1 HT oversaw 2 or 3 schools? Why try the same failed experiment in nurseries?
Absolutely Not!! There is enough pressure to meet the needs of the service without adding the pressure of moving between two settings under 12 children does not mean there is no support needs
The Quality of provisions will decrease
Not supported. Where is staff wellbeing considered and resources stretched
Share headteachers between small and large Primary schools
This was tried a few years ago and didn't work
Share headteacher – smaller and larger Secondary schools
This can only work if there is sufficient support in schools for the management
If a headteacher is running 2 or 3 secondary schools could they co-ordinate children attending classes in to other schools if they can't take a subject in their own school
This has been tried to no success and led to burn-out of staff
Reduce Secondary teaching staff
We need everyone to realise that fewer teachers has an impact on subject choices. Already challenging our poor children!

This is an extremely difficult position and cutting resources doesn't work with increased needs.
As long as pupils still able to study subjects they need to. To enable them to pursue their future higher education or career options.
Remove Playground Supervisor roles a primary schools
What other staff are you talking about? Management? Class teachers? Dinner ladies?
Sorry but strongly disagree not enough playground supervision
Close three Inclusion Bases and shift to outreach support
This is not necessarily the best thing for the child! And the other children in the classes
We need more! It is a long way for children to travel to access this provision and more children could benefit if IB closer to home. A growing need.
Reduce strategic and support roles across Social Work services
More Social Workers less Upper Management
Reduce Lifelong Learning services
Lifelong Learning should be a priority as not everyone accesses education at the same time.
Creates cost and issues elsewhere

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness though targeted concessions
Generate additional income from a review of Roads Fees and Charges
Should already be fining utility companied for poor repairs
Pilot an Invitation to pay scheme for parking
Motorhome overnight parking on the street or car parks should be charged (not voluntary)
Use in-house lawyers for certain Planning agreements
It should be used in every instance

Council Tax
We get very little for what we pay for
If the council tax was used for Moffat pavement roads etc Yes if not No
Agree if spent wisely
Only as a small percentage

General comments
Think that cuts should come from the top. Not from the much needed services, for the young, OCD and sick at the bottom. It will cause irreparable damage.
These look like short term savings with huge long term costs.
We all get old and lose our abilities and it is a fast moving product which requires expensive equipment and a certain mindset.
Society is being forced into a direction and AI and robotics cutting the earning capacity for future generations.
Our children are our future – the next generation. We need to invest more in them and not cut provisions!

How about reducing the numbers of Q10's EO's and management in Education Services. That would save a lot.
Bring back local Councils. Get rid of D&G.
Our children are being penalised for parents choosing to live in rural locations closing.
All rural schools is a mistake. Investment should be in our children. They are our future.
Do people actually understand the cuts? And what they mean.
If you cut a tree at the bottom it will fall apart but if you cut it from the top it will grow back.
The costs might be felt in a different part of the system eg healthcare – but it is <u>all</u> public money.
If you cut services for those who are struggling the most it will end up costing the system <u>so</u> much more in the long term.
Those with the broadest shoulders should pay the most.
Staff mental wellbeing should be considered for shared management.
Head of Education Resources PA cuts should be considered.
Middle management inefficiencies within organisations should be tackled too. Think how much this would save as opposed to workers on the 'coal face'.
Working from home should stop – we have more council staff per head than England. So much waste.

Ward 12 - Annandale East and Eskdale
Community Conversation 18 November 2025
Comments

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
Remove funding for school-based Police Officers
Evaluate impact first
Reduce spending on external Children and Families services in Social Work
It would be good to know how this money is currently spent?
End funding for Information and Advice services provided by Citizens Advice
We don't really see this service in Langholm
2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
Reduce spending on children's direct payment support
Do not support when funds are being used correctly
Undertake a "Digital Re-design" to automate processes
Success dependant on skills of programmes – AI could get it wrong.
Collect general household (grey bin) waste less frequently
Minimal saving but considerable disruption possible
3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities
No comments
4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
Remove permanent supply teacher pool
Schools often run at an understaffing to afford basic resources – carpets, fixing windows, etc. Staff do not have the working hours to cover this.
Reduce the absence budget for teaching staff cover
Reducing absence budget makes it very hard to cover classes consistently which impacts on teaching and learning.
Share headteachers between smaller and larger secondary schools
Diluting Head Teacher expertise will negatively impact attainment. It will impact career progression opportunities for promoted teachers meaning the best school leaders will look to progress outside of D&G.
Close three Inclusion Bases and shift to outreach support
Inclusion bases are very much needed!
Outreach support is not reliable in remote places like Langholm
5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions
Increase burial fees
Cremation?
Pilot an "Invitation to Pay" scheme for parking
"Cave to Pay"? rather than invitation.
Use in-house lawyers for certain planning agreements
Inconsistencies with in-house legal department decisions need to be addressed.
6. General comments

Erskine Church – Compulsory purchase the church – demolish and save future expenditure on making safe.