



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

APPENDIX 6

FOCUS GROUP 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.

BUDGET FOCUS GROUP FEEDBACK

Poverty and Inequalities Partnership

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
I would be uncomfortable at reducing spend in any of the proposals under this theme. It would be a complete lack of foresight to reduce on any of these
Ending funding for DAGCAS would be a huge loss - where would this be provided. if not by DAGCAS?
A charge should be made for Youth Beatz - say £5 which would bring in a lot of money
Reducing funding on any of these areas would have a significant negative impact on individuals
WHS have seconded Police Officers in our CIP Team to help address ASB across our communities. It would be concerning if school based police were removed. These help with youth disorder
The cuts that you are making, particularly across communities, is really short sighted. It will incur costs at the other end of the process. For example reduction in DAGCAS support will impact the NHS
Removing funding for DAGCAS would increase the reliance on public sector and therefore increase costs
The High Streets are already struggling and reducing Business rates relief would mean that many businesses would not be able to afford to keep the business open
There is a lot of money in the system but it appears detached and disparate and communities need to be at the centre of that.
If these cuts have been recommended by council officers, in what way did they establish which area they cut within. Have they evaluated the return on investment of the current funding provided.
We need to ensure that we can maintain and strengthen community based support and services and not further erode these
With the councils non compulsory redundancy policy all you are doing is protecting council jobs, but these savings options will impact jobs elsewhere, including the third sector
Lemon Aid receives money to provide fuel voucher support, last year £60k, but we then reduced fuel debt for those individuals by over £250k
As many of the Poverty & Inequalities Strategy actions are delivered by DAGCAS then removing this funding would mean that the council's strategy could not be delivered
Transformation and future planning requires our communities, our people, 3rd sector and public sector to invest rather than cut
Business rates, grass cutting and road treatments are potentially the only areas in this theme that have a lesser impact on our communities.
Citrus could save the council over £2 million on annual energy costs, however council staff wont even consider this as an option, simply to protect there own jobs only
Perhaps potential to seek alternative funding for a percentage of the festivals and events. But do not remove all.
cuts within these proposals will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable
These cuts will impact the most vulnerable people in our communities
Music is so important for childrens development and our heritage.
Nationally we are seeing third sector organisations getting into crisis, cutting third sector support organisations funding will significantly impact the ability to support them out of crisis
Saving money in the wrong areas could increase risk to communities, young people and those using our roads/public areas.
Many community based organisations are already disappearing in current financial climate - weakening this further is short sighted
Its worrying to think that 166M has already come out of the region and another 35M still to come

Moving to a paperless process for committees is not just a saving for the Council but also supports a net zero approach, which should be standard
Internal administrative savings are an obvious place to make savings and will help protect one the ground community supports
all of these will negatively impact residents wellbeing, cultural preservation , community stability, environmental health and youth opportunity

2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes

This theme offers most value when it comes to reducing costs. The admin procedures and burdens, moving forward digitally is where we need to make savings.
Improving many of these processes would have minimal direct impact on individuals but still reduce costs
Definitely stop live streaming all council meetings. All meetings should be paperless - admin costs should be looked at as a good chunk of money could be saved by removing these admin costs
A lot of these internal matters is where the focus should be when it comes to savings, which impacts less on individuals. These options should not have been consulted on or included in the process
Some cuts will directly impact families who require this kind of support - direct payment support for example
supportive of sharing resources for the betterment of our communities - what other organisations are carrying out a similar role and how can we work together
It's not helpful to have some of these options included when they don't impact on the public. They should be taken anyway as part of normal business
Review what the council is actually reinvesting back into the local economy and what is actually spend out with.
No requirement to live stream meetings.
Moving to a paperless approach should be standard not only for savings but also to support a net zero approach
Reduction of grey bin collection may have an impact on fly tipping and result in poor management of the communities
It is hard to believe we are not paperless for meetings already. It should not take a public consultation process to identify these changes
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3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities

It would be helpful to keep the options on screen while we are discussing these
Closing Hillview Leisure Centre will take a key, valuable community asset out of a community experiencing the high levels of inequality and social isolation
We need to reduce the assets. These are liabilities when thinking about maintenance and staffing. Why do we have buildings which is underused
All these areas should be looked at. Keeping schools open with less than 25 pupils is a waste of money. Council buildings should also be sold. All underused buildings should be got rid of.
supportive of reducing the number of assets - serious consideration to be given about those that have the least impact to the community
There is definitely room here to make savings. Although we need to understand the impact in local areas, for example with school closures
Hillview leisure centre is also used for many different community services so closing would have a larger impact than just access to leisure facilities
Review and reduce council buildings should be considered

Shutting Kelloholm Leisure Centre would seem to be taking away an asset for a part of our region that is already seen as an area of poverty
Do we really need as many council office buildings, as long as there is a customer point for customers to go to, there is opportunity to reduce the assets
Kelloholm community will be greatly impacted if Hillview leisure centre
better asset management is essential, it would be good to see the Council's Asset Strategy
To close a HWRC could have a greater impact on fly tipping in that rural area, than the reduction on bin collections
Buildings being sold at reduce prices has seen these lying unused and attracting ASB and increased crimes,
Hillview is central to most people in Kelloholm and is included in the Place Plan.
Fly tipping concerns for Whithorn area, very rural so where would those people have to travel to?
Could Hillview be run by the community - would need time to review options for this
these options again, would disproportionately affect the most vulnerable
closing community schools triggers a whole range of other social problems - travel, expenses, safety, removal of community assets
Keeping schools and nurseries in communities attracts families and economic development for the local area
its hard to comment when you don't have all the detail on impact - no impact assessments
In terms of museums, they are useful for kids learning, heritage, tourism, to close them all would not be right
Can permanent supply teacher pool be reduced rather than removed?

4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
again, these should be managed through efficiencies within the councils operational management process
What impact will each of these have? it is unclear to make informed feedback.
It's hard to understand if these are feasible options if we don't understand the impact. In terms of teacher options I don't have enough information although it could be feasible
Sharing management across small nurseries and restructuring management should be explored
Lack of Impact Assessments seems to be a recurring theme. Restructuring leadership roles is certainly the safest for our young people.
Reducing the number of resilience and community safety officers will result in increased ASB, dog fouling, fly tipping, environmental nuisance
If Council officers think this is feasible, then I would support as this is a business decision
These could be considered internal efficiencies within an operational setting without the need for public engagement. It very difficult to comment without impact assessments on these
its hard to comment without impact assessment information
surely these should be happening anyway
If we are using resources to cover absences then surely the answer is in absence management
in the short term the cost of condensing two headteachers to one would be more. I assume a redundancy situation would be involved, and one headteacher paid off?
Long term impact on education of our children and young people is important to investigate
Lifelong learning services for offenders, some provision needs to be retained. It's not clear if we take all support away from them or if provision would be retained partially
Youth Beatz increases education, reduces ASB (91% that weekend) and help the growth of the economy.

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions

With the exception of burial fees, which will impact those on low income or poverty, any attempt we can make to generate income in a reasonable way should be considered

I am supportive of these options

Supportive of some of these measures to generate more income for the council. The 'invitation to pay' scheme works well in other parts of the country

consideration should be given to ensure no impact for low income families already in crisis

some of these will impact on people on lowest incomes

Not supportive of increasing burial fees

All of these options should be considered. Those on the lowest income should get help with paying for school meals. An invitation to pay for parking will be ignored by the majority of people

Consideration should be given to increase fees but with protection available for those on low incomes

In relation to school meals, those on free school meals should continue to be protected

With a lot more working people in poverty, they may not qualify for benefits, and with the increased cost of living it is difficult for people when increasing costs.

Any increases should be reasonable and not have a major impact

Closing local activity and leisure facilities will impact on local peoples health and wellbeing

There is a high percentage of young people leaving the region, they are the future of this region.

A lot of these decisions will see demand increase on other organisations.

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6. Savings Options Previously subject to Public Consultation

Reducing ASL teachers in primary schools would put massive pressure on classroom teachers.

I would question closing public toilets - has consultation taken place?

Keeping pupils in S1-3 makes sense and would generate income

Again, these cuts will impact the most vulnerable and in particular marginalised groups

We should hang our heads in shame if we end Tackling Poverty Funding.

There is not enough funding in the area as it is to tackle poverty, to remove this would be counter-productive and catastrophic for the most vulnerable people in D and G who rely on support
Ending funding for all Tackling Poverty and cost of living projects would have a significant impact on the most vulnerable people
The Tackling Poverty fund is essential and must continue - it helps the most vulnerable in our region and those living in poverty
I do not support ending funding for Tackling Poverty and Cost of Living projects Cutting this support would severely harm vulnerable low-income families who rely on these services to manage COL
Closing toilets is alarming - what alternatives do people have?
Removing Poverty funding would be devastating for people
concentration should be on efficiencies and collaborative of investment
In relation to school meals, should we be lobbying Scottish government to provide more funding for free school meals
Young people are the future of the region....
Education and opportunities should be prioritised to keep them in the region.
In the current climate why would council officers feel that removing the funding for tackling poverty should be considered as an option. Are they so far removed from the crisis
surely review of assets should look at all public building including toilets, should be part of the Councils' asset strategy

7. OTHER COMMENTS

Carry out an organisational review and redesign of council staff to realise administrative efficiencies.
Collaborative commissioning should be the culture to include our communities in commissioning decisions and service redesign
The Council should perhaps look at themselves before trying to reduce funding from the most vulnerable. Restructuring the Council would save money
Build trust with our communities , respect community knowledge
Meal/Refreshment provisions to be stopped for those council employees in receipt of same and at meetings.
Shared buildings and community responsibilities.
Restructures required within the Council to see efficiencies
Review the number of councillors we have - and the number of committees they attend to attract extra salary payments - how often do they attend, where overall what return on investment are realising.
Absolutely support the need for collaborative working - what other partners are carrying out the same or similar roles
Citrus can save the council millions on their annual energy costs, but even having the opportunity to discuss this with relevant staff seems to be a closed door?
All staff costs/expenses should be under continuous review to ensure savings/efficiencies are continuous
Review of council employees that reside in D&G and therefore increases the reinvestment back into the local economy.
Work more with renewable partners to realise increased community benefit from local renewable projects..
the council in my vies hasn't met its equality duty by not having impact assessments for every proposal at the time of publishing
shared service redesign using with all stakeholders having a seat at that table
Impact of all decisions should start with impact on those experiencing the hard edge of poverty and inequality in our communities

BUDGET FOCUS GROUP FEEDBACK

Regional Parent Forum

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
How have you prioritised savings in past years?
Why do they focus on the most vulnerable?
A recent MIT Study Science shows that music is essential for young people well-being and creativity etc.
Losing music service would mean no music in primary schools
Are the people who use the Information and Advice service people in poverty and need?
What impact would reducing spending on children's and families social work have on the most vulnerable children in our region?
For Citizens advice- is there a partial funding option?
Music should not be seen as a soft target. It's an important part of our cultural heritage and attracts people to the area.
Highly against removing instrumental Music instruction. Considering they removed music specialists. This for a lot of children is closing talent and expressive arts.
are there items on this list that will never happen? in which case why cause the stress and upset by putting them on?
We must remember to protect the children with the future in mind - this must include those with a less fortunate upbringing, who may need guidance of police in school
Is the Music Service not funded by the Scottish Govt? I understand they will not be cutting funding for it.
We must give pupils in our region, who have limited opportunities outwith school the broadest possible education, to include music
End funding for Representation and Engagement services provided by third sector groups - what are these? can you give me an example of a third sector group?
Why do we fund support for music festivals and events? Surely if they want to go ahead they should be self funded?
I don't know what 1.08 means
I respectfully request that the Budget Team provide a full and transparent breakdown of all costs, the effects towards children are nowhere accessed.
Inequality is only justified if it benefits those with the least - Rawles
Is this feedback likely to make any difference or is this intended to play lip service?
reducing access to music starts to create a class divide early on to those who can and cannot afford to learn arts
Music is vital for those who may not be academic. Our region has produced international musical and film stars - let's nurture that!!
The budgeting option regarding cancelling music just going to broaden the gap between the one can effort music and all the other. We divide society!
Children and Families services in Social Work (£239k-£479k across 3 years) -> What is this exactly? What kind of services in detail.
should citizens advice be funded centrally and not from the council level?
If i was moving to the region (dr, surgeon, head teacher) or person looking to move to the reason how are these cuts viewed in the eyes of potentially moving into region???
Police in school is a crucial way to keep that connection between authority and our children. They will listen and be able to work with officers better than teachers in many instances. Think of future
If we already have a problem to keep families in D&G why we are trying to make it even more difficult and cut on family / schools services?
THE United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child has been incorporated into Scottish law. It is now unlawful for the Council to act inconsistent with this. e.g Right to education, arts and play
Digital re-design £250-750K is a huge range, is this because there are options within it or because savings not scoped?

Fixed enrollements - what purpose does that serve - how is that a saving please explain.
Interested how anyone employed is affected is it council ran nurseries
What does Change how out of hours social work calls are handled (£117k-£235k over three years) means?
go paperless seems sensible
agree re bins - struggle already!

2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes

Fix enrollment dates are disadvantaging in particular mothers. Children are not born on fix dates, we need flexibility to keep families in D&G.
What are direct payments used for?
The grey bins are already overflowing , surley moving to collection every 3 weeks we will see more fly tipping , rodents, etc
to redesign processes and go paperless seem like option that would cause minimal harm - unlike many of the other barbaric suggestion!
Lots of these related to council efficiencies and modernisation seem to be obvious and clear cut savings opportunities that don't impact front line or vulnerable people
How can a 'review' of the customer experience deliver a cost saving? Surely without a review having been done we can know what any cost saving might be?
previous budget cuts agreed to make savings through the removal of some bin collections however according to a councillor this has never been done because 'noone could be bothered'
Instead of reviewing how we purchase staff training we should first check whether that training is really necessary
To what extent would a digital re-design involve chat-bots which in my experience have never once been of any actual use.
Same amount of rubbish, collected less frequently, will that really save time/money?
Paperless council is a great idea, Review how we purchase staff training (£20k-£50k across three years) as well
Collect general household (grey bin) waste less frequently (£60k-£120k across three years) great idea
Surely using the same IT system makes sense across the whole council system
So basically by removing direct payments you are increasing the burden onto working parents who perhaps use that funding to allow them to work
Review how we purchase staff training (£20k-£50k across three years) = should this not be done by default to save money?
Would paperless council be more vulnerable to cyber attack?
Agree less grey waste - recycle!
As a family of 5 our grey bin is already full to the brim after 2 weeks despite strict recycling and composting food waste. This is a terrible idea for anyone with more than 2 people living in a house
Why does the suggestion to go paperless even need a consultation?
How does fixed enrollements save money please?
Introduce fixed enrolment dates and capacities for nurseries (£46-£80k across three years) = would this impact families who move mid-year?
Would capital cost of supplying smaller bins be recovered by the small savings envisaged.
Increasing the collection of reclying bins and providing a garden waste bin to those who need it, rather than having to pay for it
Grey bin is a no. Bins are over flowing now for large families .
would fixed enrollements remove choice for parents to defer a child
Undertake a "Digital Re-design" to automate processes (£250k-£750k across three years) = big range of savings possible, why is this?
Paper less is a good idea for council 👍
We would need a family strategy in D&G - only cuts are not sustainable. Why dont we talk about investments here as you would in a normal company budgeting process?

how is reviewing how staff training is purchased a budget option and not just an every day process?
We dont need a review of customer ex as the council would only need to review the complains
As a predominantly rural part of Scotland I believe these schools are crucial for communities and the rural economy as the closure of rural schools promotes centralisation which reduces the workforce
How does any small school closure benefit the rural areas where these schools are? The community is in the country not in a large town where these children would be forced to attend

3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities
Use schools more effectively by bringing pupils into underused modern school buildings (£567k-2.4m), is this consolidation of schools (closure of some)?
Looking at pupil roles why is not the consolidation of senior schools in Dumfries in the options?
Council already consults annually on closure of/changes to schools with a roll of under 50, doesn't it?
Why do the costings not include additional expenditure as a result of some of the cuts/closures? This information is misleading at best
where does 'getting it right for every child' come in to these proposals?
What are the costs for mothballed schools? Do the savings include the ongoing costs of the mothballing or are closures different with different costs?
What impact would closing smaller schools have on the bigger schools and also what would be the plan for transporting these children to other schools, yet again potentially placing a burden onto paren
Closing smaller nurseries attached to smaller primaries is only likely to lead to a reduced role at that primary and thus make the primary role more even smaller
Where is the options to consolidate schools? we have 3 small schools in the area, but there is no option here to keep 1 of them...just close them all
NWCC is empty! Lets talk about the elephant in the room ?
Why is there no consideration in closing any secondary?
As a predominantly rural part of Scotland these schools are crucial for communities and the rural economy as the closure of rural schools promotes centralisation
Close Hillview Leisure Centre, Kelloholm (£68k from 2028/29), what would happen to this building and the facilities, e.g. football pitch, would a transfer be possible as Town Halls were?
It is deeply troubling that only rural schools have been targeted for potential closure, and that the basis for selecting these schools is solely the number of pupils,
We only have „modern school building“ in bigger cities because for dozens of years no investment was taken to rural schools - its a managed decline
Mothballing is closure via back door and is illegal as per school consultation Act
Would individual circumstances of a school be taken into account? E.g some get local benefits of windfarm grants through village projects or parent council grant applications.
rather than any meaningful analysis of potential financial savings. This approach creates the appearance of a biased and unbalanced budgeting exercise,
Would it be useful for parents to find out about the on costs of running smaller schools? Eg cost per head
Why did not the capital spend on schools reflect these type of cuts. Right hand /left hand?
We have just over half capacity in secondary's...why not con consolidate them and close 1?
Who is considering the impact of this consultation process on our children, teachers and the new enrolment by putting potential parents off regardless of the outcome this will have a negative impact
A safe modern school building with good facilities would be the dream for each child, but in a sparsely populated area we have to wear the fact that it's not possible.

Closing rural schools meaning even worse attainment rates, even more mental health problems etc.
Some schools are the only thing in a rural community that brings them together, if you lose the schools you lose the community?
closing rural schools removes families which in turn reduces the workforce available in rural areas and exacerbates the existing problem of having a high retiree population in these areas
Closing Rural Schools just leads to more transport issues when pupils are already struggling to get to schools from rural locations
Dumfries has four high schools! The west of the region has that across three regions!! Without even mentioning the ridiculous cost of running Dalry...
What about the children who are neurodivergent and just couldn't cope in larger schools? Where do they go?
Why is this an attack on rural Dumfries and Galloway.
Why are schools prohibited from recruiting while the consultation process is ongoing, more negative impact and constructive closure at best
The social contract between urban and rural areas is that each needs the other, kids in rural areas are more expensive per pupil, but rural communities are essential in D&G
Why is it only rural schools. We have a recently modernised building but it's still under threat. How much money will this actually save, transport costs to other schools, redeployment for staff etc.
What would the costs be for transport for all these children who are taken out of catchment?
Closing rural schools could discourage people from moving into the area which could impact on other services within the region eg NHS
Closing rural schools means more than 1,400 pupils losing their possibilities to participate in local clubs etc. Even more decline e.g. sport clubs closing
Where is the housing development in the region? Depopulation of villages with young families as retired couples move into the only houses available in our smaller villages. Build some houses
Closing Whithorn household waste centre along with possibly reducing grey bins is only going to lead to fly tipping on the Machars, more fly tipping that is
due to the cuts to learning support families choose to send their child to a small school as they have a chance to learn and grow in this environment, removing them removes this chance
At what point do these 'proposals' break the council's commitments and values to the point they have no credibility left
What form would the 'consult' on schools closures take? Would it be the views of local people only, or for elected members and full council?
do the people that enter these ideas into the budget take any consideration to the stress, damage to enrolment figures and distrust in the council into account when submitting them?
Why is it only small schools being discussed and none of the larger schools? Why should small schools be penalised
Dear God don't let's encourage fly tipping, have you seen the roadsides in Ayrshire?
the savings in closing the small schools is small pocket change compared to the money wasted in other areas of the community...Nith flood defences!! Locharmoss waste plant...Money money money wasted
closing museums and attractions surely acts directly against the current idea of earning money via a tourist tax
Rural schools should be consolidated under each other not used to fill half empty urban schools. Partnership schools should be able to merge and thrive - catchment areas should represent that!
With less than 30 students in the senior phase at NWCC and a head teacher who was supposed to be in charge of primary and secondary - Now only secondary. Mismanagement of HT staff is costing £100'00
A lot of money being spent on a new statue yet you want to close schools!

Live streaming and you tube videos of council meetings is our way to keep up with the council's business, I'd hate to see that gone
Reduce the number of council office buildings (£60k-£480k) - rent out empty offices at the council building because lots of people working from home
Are teachers not already working at capacity?
is there a way to keep teachers off of long term sick ? better occ health across the council as a whole?
The summer play team came out to us this summer and commented how well attended it was first our wee area but they might not be back next time as its too far away! But not too far for our children to travel to primary school if closures go ahead.
It is deeply troubling that only rural schools have been targeted for potential closure, and that the basis for selecting these schools is solely the number of pupils, rather than any meaningful analysis of potential financial savings. This approach creates the appearance of a biased and unbalanced budgeting exercise, rather than a fair assessment of the entire school estate.
Furthermore, the financial information presented provides only headline figures, with key costs missing or unexplained. For example: transport implications, · staffing and redeployment costs, · continued maintenance of empty buildings, and · wider social and economic impacts on rural communities are not accounted for.
A budget consultation that omits essential cost data, targets only one type of school, and bases decisions on pupil numbers rather than comprehensive financial analysis cannot be considered transparent or fair.
I respectfully request that the Budget Team provide:
1. A full and transparent breakdown of all costs associated with the proposed closures;
2. Clarification on why no urban schools—many of which operate far below capacity—have been included in the options; and
3. An explanation of how these proposals align with the Council's obligations, including the Rural Schools Strategy.

4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
Statutory sick pay is a thing what else do we fund if sick??
Reduce the absence budget for teaching staff (£220k/year), is sickness pay not nationally set for teachers?
These savings over a 3 year period are pitiful PA given the knock on impact on our young people.
Who would pick up the playground supervision - would this fall onto our hardworking teachers who are already using their breaks to plan their lessons?
Making D&G a less attractive place to raise a young family right now doesn't seem like a winning strategy
is there an option for savings for reducing/ condensing council management roles?
What does mean in detail: Restructure of management in large primary schools (£104k–£178k over three years)?
Stretching Head Teachers to perform more across diverse areas will surely lead to further recruitment and retention issues
Has shared head teacher, as in partnership schools not already happened? It has worked well in Wigtownshire
Plyaground supervision - what happened to "in loco parentis" and enforcing anti - bullying policies?
Playground supervision is for the children's safety. Hopefully, this does not go ahead. How can teaching staff do this role if they are also entitled to lunch
It sounds like if there is less slack in the system. Schools need cover and always will so the cuts will lead to more stress and illness and increased requirement for cover. Very short sighted

How do you suggest you will attract and retain teaching staff if you put even more on them? Rolling blind into another disaster
How would sharing headteachers work? How would this be decided and what progression options would then be available for young teachers in the region ?
How can you share head teachers even more? We already are a shared head teacher (who has a new post so we won't have anything permanent until after this consultation is over) between two small schools
We already have shared headteachers in rural partnership school? They are already overloaded
HT's already so stretched and under so much pressure - how will we recruit and retain quality HT's with 2 schools and 2 communities at secondary level
Shoe leather always required in more challenging areas. That support is vital
What about our young folk who we are encouraging into teaching roles who wouldn't have the option of joining a supply bank? Do our children just go without a teacher if there is no supply
We must ensure that the breadth of education in our secondary schools is maintained, with access to all main curriculum subjects. It's not the case already so don't reduce more!!
Do we really need to reduce secondary teaching staff to reflect falling pupil numbers (£255k-£1.7m over three years) or dont we not just merge schools and even save more?
Reducing the workforce in education will only reduce attainment and increase other problems
I can't count the amount of times a playground supervisor has picked up an issue with my child in the playground and sorted it, including a medical emergency!
better occupational health across the council as a whole would reduce the money spent on long term sick
Once again, the most vulnerable take the biggest hit.
Can these people actually be made redundant anyway?
We have a shared headteacher and while it does work well, with a principle teacher in both schools, I again wonder how much this actually saved.
Falling numbers in pupils across D&G make for very difficult/sometimes unpopular developments, could the council make a focus on generating income to support positive changes.
We are no longer entitled to a playground supervisor due to low school numbers. Must less risk of harm or escape with fewer kids!
Reorganising responsibilities in larger primaries would seem to make sense
No future for our children in D&G. The budgeting consolidation sounds like the plan to create a retirement paradise for rich people (from abroad!). We need to attract families.
Would options to consolidate the school estate also lead to staff reduction, how can they be separate options?
Why is the new and massively underutilised school in Dumfries not being reviewed to question why so much money was wasted and can it be merged with another making savings?
Reducing Playground supervision will put on staff more and child safety will be compromised
Would this result in redundancy? Surely this is a bigger cost? Especially if they have long service?
Agree with the retirement paradise but other services within the region can't keep up there used to be headteachers that would also teach a class, why did that fall out of favour?
Having a headteacher or depute available to answer queries and questions of parents is invaluable
We should maybe think about shared leadership roles in the council
We need to increase burial fees (£449k/year) - we have a huge amount off older people when all the baby boomer dying as well. This should not be paid by then future of our children's education/wellbe

We have a whole department called regeneration? If this is the list of how to increase income - is a better saving not to shut that if this is the list?
Increasing school meals might impact working families yet again, but something has to be done to raise some money
Use your own lawyers - why wouldn't you
Developing a smaller workforce is going to reduce attainment rates in an already underperforming region

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions
I thought primary school meals were meant to be free to all children up to P7, is this never going to materialise
Is it worth increasing primary school meals if it only going to save £14K
I think before providing a large free festival we should be able to accomodate our children in their right school.
Increasing school meal prices is a direct hit onto working parents across the region!
Proposed burial plot cost rise is quite a jump!
Youth beats should have a charge, if people really want to go they'll pay it anyway up to a point
I've heard that youth beats is also free for folks outside the region, if so they should be paying to come in
Before paying for a festival can we prioritise the education of our young people
Interesting how you predict how many will die!
People can hardly afford to live but now apparently we can't afford to die either
Having s1-s3 pupils stay within the school then raise the price is harsh, how can vulnerable pupils afford this cost? And local businesses will lose money, do we want more local businesses to close?
People should be paying for youth beatz
Same meal more money?
use in-house lawyers.....why on earth is this even on the budget consultation!
How about D&GRC become the first council in the UK to introduce Composting burials! Would bring in business....
What about the funding that has been recently publicised for events in the region?
No "invitation to pay" - Charge for car parks.
can youthbeatz not offset costs by doing merch or food sales on the day
I pay the council (more than other providers) for my 2 year old nursery place, my closest childcare is a 40 mile round trip away. Her school lunch is £3 for a smaller meal than the primary meals. Why
Education must be prioritized over festivals.
Stop plastic use at school meals and bring down costs by offering a water fountain instead of bottled water
I'd pay for Youth Beatz, I think it's mince but my daughter enjoys it
We need higher burial fees. The amount of old people dying within the next 30 year are enormous and would be paid by the future of children.
a whole to department called regeneration(if this is about maximising income) - shut that!
Ban the junk food vans outside schools.
No one wants to pay in car parks but we should be making something off all the campervans
increase the burials fees
Raise school meals if inflation dictates that but don't try to cream more money off working parents by putting them up for income purposes
They need the junk food vans as the capacity of the school kitchens cant acomodate the capacity (go figure)
Safe money on food means even worst nutrition for our children
School meals could be healthier, the choices on offer don't often reflect a good diet. If kids are trapped in school lets at least nourish them

council pool car parks could charge a service for staying overnight and getting use of pool and facilities
Food provision in schools appears to be subject to price gouging. Reduce that
Charge a fee for Environmental Information Requests (£3k/year) -> no as we try to go net zero and improve
Can the play based learning share principal teachers?
We have an increased number of pupils with additional support and it's an option to remove their support , what about the safety and education of those pupils
Remove Principal Teacher roles for play-based learning (£21k-£141k), should this not be part of the job of early learning teachers anyway?

6. Savings Options Previously subject to Public Consultation

Why not keep s1-s3 on site at lunch. When I was at secondary it was only s5&6 allowed off site
Teachers struggling already with providing a good education, attainment rates are low - why we try to make it even worse?
Isn't having public toilets a human right ? Are the council not responsible for this? Holidaymakers come for the day, Where do they go to the toilet? This would put me off visiting a town
We need Principal Teacher post in Sensory Services (£49k-£83k) to ensure a good education
Are the education representatives on the call going to comment with their views on any of the proposals/responses and engage with us?
Public toilets could have a choose to pay option?
As an avid runner the toilets must remain
Removing public toilets would cause serious environmental issues and put visitors off visiting
It's outrageous that the Autism and ASL items are still on the list given the statistics about our children.
The summer play team came out to us this summer and commented how well attended it was first our wee area but they might not be back next time as its too far away!
But not too far for our children to travel to primary school if closures go ahead.
Keeping pupils on site would have a significant detrimental affect on local businesses in some towns in the region
Are we getting to ask [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] any questions?
there should be more motivation to try and get kids to stay at school for lunch but forcing some to stay may make them feel trapped and not want to attend school
Some schools don't have the capacity to keep S1-S3 in at lunchtimes
Why are autism and ASL considered good bedfellows?
What is the total effect on families if all/most of this budgeting suggestions come through?
No civilised society fails to provide public toilets.
How is ending funding on tackling poverty and cost of living a fair option, attacks on a vulnerable group again
Public toilets are a must. Where will people go when caught short? In big towns there are other options (supermarkets ect) but rural there is not
No public toilets discriminates against and the elderly people with disabilities
If its published in February how can we all comment again on that when at the end of Feb the council is deciding already??
Aren't Traveller children protected from reduction in provision. They're vulnerable already
kirkcudbright pool seems to have better attended since becoming owned by the community group, could castle douglas do the same?
We don't have all information in this consolidation, e.g. real cost of school closures
We need a second consolidation when the full costs and investments are available. Why is that not wanted?
Introduce a tourist tax

7. OTHER COMMENTS
Management savings should be considered first
What about management savings?
My suggestion is that independent executive directors should review comments before decisions are made
In relation to UNCRC, some of these proposals are unlawful
Good schools and a brilliant rural environment are what we have to offer people considering amove to D&G.
there are some large price tag things not mentioned on the savings like the white sands flood prevention which would fund schools for years
Introduce a tourist tax
Introduce a tourist tax
Introduce a tourist tax
Introduce a tourist tax
Introduce a tourist tax
Introduce a Tourist tax indeed
What would a tourist tax even look like?
We never have had a little amount of children as we have right now. And even try to create the worst environment based on a failure of the D&G council own review of positions, management cuts etc.
What about a tourist tax?
why are there 4 heads to departments on high pay? surely this should be reduced
Sponsor more wildlife and rural lifestyle celebratory tourism opportunities. We' re not capitalising o our strengths
How the savings are framed will affect their adoption
We need to be able to see full data, full savings options, investings. We need a detailed 2nd consultation based on facts not on saving headlines
most cuts seem to focus on the young, it seems unfair
This is easy 12 M and 166M already gone - its tough choices
It feels like education and young people are being made take the brunt of the budget savings.
councils current focus is on cuts instead of growth and some innovation is maybe needed but there see a lot of money being wasted on things like "feasibility studies"
Closing 36 rural schools saves £1.6–£3.5m over three years, while under-used urban schools costing £3–£4.7m annually stay protected. This imbalance raises serious questions about fairness etc.
It's brilliant to be able to do this online, what an excellent place to have this input. Thanks to all .
Introduce a tourist tax
Please look at secondary they have a low rate of attendances but nothing is offered to look at them!
Could we bin the Whitesands bund proposal? Forever?
Ask FIFA for some cash for sport promotion in our schools given last night's performance?
In a real company the top management would not get bonus, taking a payment cost as failing of a company means in particular a failure of the management team. Where can we see that in D&G?

BUDGET FOCUS GROUP FEEDBACK

Tackling Poverty Reference Group

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
Council tax affects everyone but the majority of people in poverty it will increase anxiety and the wider impact on those people
We've just written off council tax debt, so if you push it up more people could be unable to pay the bills
historic property bands affecting council tax needs to be refreshed and up to date for modern housing
property prices are going up in this area, which will affect council tax.
increased council tax could affect families on low income
music instruction service is important for young people to express themselves. my daughter is shy and it brings out her personality, young people rely on it the service. i dont agree with it
could they not remove the music service but just not spend as much money?
with regards to citizens advice, there are a lot of crossover with other services. that funding could be spent by other services
there are some cross over services doing the same thing, so that money could be better spent
i think children and families external funding should be retained
duplication needs to be considered with children and families external groups
we are concerned that there has been step forwards in relation to poverty and some of these cuts may take us a step back
i experienced school based police officers. There funding could be better utilised in schools
why can't Police Scotland fund their police officers rather than the council
we had a recent incident with school lockdowns that it is a concern
grass cutting could be reduced
in Sweden they grow different colours next to the roads and it reduces accidents, that should be considered
doing beach cleans, the grass cutting could be taken because it could be left to be wild
grass cutting at junctions needs to be maintained for visibility
its difficult to consider cutting events because they generate money for local businesses. could part of the money they generate go back to the council?
could retailers be charged a fee to attend events
2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
yes to reducing live streaming and going paperless at committees
training is vital for staff working for the council. its important for the community, especially for young people
do not change the bin collections
most people grey bins wouldnt be so full if it was easier to recycle glass bottles
there's only limited places to recycle glass bottles
get rid of live streaming and paperless committees
we need our bins emptied every two weeks as it works just now
it makes sense to fix the enrolments at nurseries
don't see the out of hours call centre being an issue to take
yes to sharing services with other organisations
yes to review of customer services
if the council could train internal staff instead of paying externally for that
there may be problems in getting the training support for such a small populated region
could you live stream for a set time instead of streaming constantly
how many people actually view the live streams of council meetings

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

keep hillview leisure centre please. so many people need that facility
 is closing nurseries cheaper than sending them in a taxi?
 is closing nurseries making a small problem a big problem for those in poverty to travel further
 close the nurseries if there is less than ten children
 close schools with less than 25 pupils if they can access buses to other schools
 i agree with closing schools of less than 25 pupils
 closed schools could be closed and used for other services
 will children have access to school transport to go elsewhere.
 could consider closing schools with 50 or less
 if two schools are close together they could be closed
 would it impact tourism by closing museums
 keep hillview open. kelloholm needs it to stay open
 close midsteeple box office
 could hillview leisure centre be more community focused?
 mid steeple box office is already not open enough. it needs to close
 the shopmobility service could be moved elsewhere in the town centre
 reduce council office buildings
 services should be amalgamated and close unused buildings
 what is the distance between whithorn HWRC and the next nearest service
 other services can facilitate waste collection
 instead of having whithorn HWRC could they have more recycling stations in local areas and then lifted and taken to the nearest recycling centre

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

why do they have the permanent supply teachers?
 permanent supply teachers might be needed
 you could make the permanent supply teachers saving, but it is a concern being able to have enough teachers in classrooms
 it sounds like you could remove the permanent supply teachers
 if there is no impact on the child then teachers absence budgets could be taken
 share head teacher being small and large primary schools could be done
 no cuts for secondary schools
 dont cut teachers
 head teachers are managers and so they could be reduced
 keep playground supervisors
 need to keep playground supervisors to help children in the playground
 inclusion service outreach is happening already so the bases could be closed
 closing inclusion bases could be closed
 get rid of community safety officers. we dont see them about in our area
 keep lifelong learning service in the prison
 is social work staff not overtaxed already? why is that an option. nobody wants to cut a social work budget
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5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions

could residential social placements be provided in house, rather than private providers
no increase to burial fees
no increase to school meals
don't see an issue with increasing burial fees
it is a stressful time when considering burial fees
school meals is only going up 30p, so it is a small increase that could be managed
the biggest percentage of people in poverty are working so may not be entitled to free school meals help
roads fees and charges could be increased for companies
EIR's could be increased for organisations
yes you could charge for replacement of grey bins
it would cost too much to put the invitation to pay scheme in
we need to charge road users across the region more
don't charge for parking
parking charges could go back into the council and could help pay for the roads
a very small 20p per hour fee for parking could generate an income and not put people off coming to the town centre
would invitation to pay turn into mandatory charges?
its not realistic not to charge for parking anymore
i think youth beatz should still be free
young people from outside of D&G should be charged for youth beatz
youth beatz should adopt an invitation to pay at the entrance
keep youth beatz free for those on universal credit
donations bins at youth beatz is a better idea

6. Savings Options Previously subject to Public Consultation

cant end funding for tackling poverty projects, although there could be a reduction
keep ASL teachers in schools. it is vital
no to reducing ASL teachers
dont close Castle Douglas Swimming pool
dont close public toilets
some public toilets could be closed but not all
close castledykes public toilets
keep the community halls open
keep specialist play teachers
keep EAL and Gypsy traveller team. they are in need of help
keep sensory services teachers. they are needed
it is a good idea to keep S1-S3 in school at lunchtime

7. OTHER COMMENTS

staff from the west all come in their own pool cars seperately without coordination. they could share pool cars
dont waste money on the boards, use the same from last year
could standard parking fees or tolls be considered for the roads, especially those going to the ferries
lorries using the roads could pay a toll

transport scotland should turn a75 into a dual carriageway
increase the speed limit for trucks on A75 to 50 mph
how does the council pay for pensions? are they defined benefit or defined contribution?
how much money could the council save by transferring pensions to a different scheme
the impact on staff must be difficult when they are constantly being asked for savings year on year
once the fat has been trimmed, this is like taking blood from a stone. it is incredibly difficult to do, especially for council staff, and people living in the region can see the impact
travel expenses for people leaving the region should be considered to reduce or stop
there must be places where expenses could be cut, including working lunches
could we centralise funding for foodbanks. the council are funding every organisation and it could be done differently to save money

BUDGET FOCUS GROUP FEEDBACK

Youth Council

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
Closing the Instrumental Music Instruction should not happen - it is one of the amazing opportunities YP get in D&G and should be protected
None of these are suitable. Definitely can't cut on the roads as we already have extremely frequent issues with them, it's a short save that will cause a longer issue.
School based police officers are required in schools, particularly with the rise in potential knife crimes. Having police officers in schools helps with young peoples perceptions of the Police.
Cut that part of the grass and citezadvice is a good thing i have done some sort of organisstion skills with threcitizenadvice and they are kind an nice to work with and they are a good people to talk
Don't think closing the Information & Advice Service is a good idea -the service is needed. A reduction in funding could be a potential option.
Personally most of these are vital services that cannot be cut. Especially police involvement in school and major festival funding seem incredibly vital for young people
A lot of young people might fail music exams without this support. The class teachers don't have time for 1:1...
..It's more important for pupils sitting exams / secondary school, although there is an argument that the earlier young people get this support they longer they have to develop their talents & skills.
Reducing external social work aspects may be an option - but obvious this will impact the most vulnerable YP.
Reduce funding for major festivals and events is the most suitable, followed by REDUCING music instruction, rather than removal, thirdly grass cutting
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Reduce funding for major festivals and events is the most suitable, followed by REDUCING music instruction, rather than removal, thirdly grass cutting
2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
The one about the bins are very good
Go paperless is very suitable as long as sufficient provision of electronics is guaranteed.

Going paperless makes the most sense - Council papers often are hundreds of pages from personal experience and most can now find things more accessible online.
Should not reduce bin collections - grey bins are the ones the fill up the fastest and sometimes when it is missed (by for example strikes) means we've got overflowing bins.
I think going paperless would be positive due to less paper waste and also is a small concession compared to other cuts
In more rural areas, less bin collections may encourage more fly tipping as they are further away from a HWRC
live streaming can be reduced, but some provisions must be made
I think if we review how many people are watching the live streamed council meetings we can see if live streaming is necessary
To much paper in area committee meetings
Cant remove homelessness services, Collection of household waste is suitable only for central locations, more rural regions cant make the travel to otherwise dispose of it usually
I have far too many Council papers from just attending the occasional meeting. Its not sustainable nor useful when I have a stack of papers taller than my desk from attending 8 or 9 meetings in 4 year
This year alone I have enough committee papers that it goes from the floor to my shoulder, and I usually opt for online copies instead. Go paperless
Cutting support for Children and YP will impact some of our most vulnerable.
Cant reduce emergency assistance
Most suitable to change are digital re-design, paperless, and live streaming.
sharing services should absolutely be done
Reducing Live-streaming is a good idea, so long as committees that aren't live-streamed are eventually uploaded.
If money can be saved by sharing services between public authorities then it seems obvious to do
Digital Re-design will probably have an upfront cost - could this cost of setting up systems may not have much of an impact as stated.
concerns over AI Usage, and its accuracy- is this an unsafe option?
It would be best to avoid using AI because of the potential for 'jail break'. For a government body using AI may not be the safest route to take
Shared management of schools is a good idea - it has worked in some of the smaller Primary Schools and has not to my knowledge had a massive impact on the quality of education.

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

Recognise that there is an impact on the children that attend these small nurseries/schools, but the cost of running them is huge and the money could be better spent on the wider education issues.
If bins are reduced, cant close the waste recycling centre as it will become more key to the community
I support consulting closures with 20 or less, but any more and it is risking targeting or isolating rural communities
Why would they like to close a recycling centre in whitehorn like why would u like to close recycling centres
Seasonal museums/attractions- we need to retain our tourist attractions and preserve the history of our region
Closing dumfries box office, and hillview leisure centre seem suitable
While closing schools sounds great - there is an extreme concern about depopulation and the distances to the nearest schools from those that close.
I think school closure can impact an entire community and should not be considered, rural schools open up options for young people around the region that they deserve just as much as those in the town

The effective use of modern schools sounds great, but this will result in closures and impact many in our very rural areas.
Hillview is a community hub- it would be a great loss to the community
Closure of Midsteeple Box Office is a good idea - but provisions otherwise provided at the Midsteeple both for the public & community (eg. Guid Nychburris) must be retained.
I think if we were to close seasonal museums and attractions, an assessment has to take place to see how the community use those facilities and whether their resources can be placed elsewhere.
School closures keep getting discussed. We have to protect these schools and would take time to close, but we also have to be realistic with our regions depopulation, especially in relation to YP.

4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
cluster approaches are already working well where they are currently in place
I support the sharing head teachers at all levels for primaries, however I dont support sharing head teachers at a secondary level
Closing the inclusion hubs cannot happen - they provide vital support to those who otherwise may not be able to access education.
Sharing a head teacher at a primary level can be beneficial in linking communities and creating relationships beyond your school at a young stage
Life long sevice are alot of doffrent snd the head teacher 1 in secondary i would lime to knoe ehy we need s teacher i secondary schools
Sharing headteachers around Primary Schools has worked well in the past and been applied well - no reason why this can't happen at other Primary Schools.
least suitable options are reduction in inclusion, community safety, health and safety, and teacher absence budgets
this would only work if it meant that the classes were still being taught by teachers that specialises in the topic – we don't want drama teachers teaching history for example. But if there is excess
Most suitable are primary headteacher sharing, shared management of nurseries, and lifelong services supplies
Playground Supervisors- quieter children might miss the relationships with a consistent person who is there to support them during breaks
Removing Supply teacher pool could work well, but if issues occur in absences this could leave schools understaffed.
removal of permanent supply teachers seems suitable
Removing the Education H&S team makes some sense, however specialist knowledge on education requirements would need to be found elsewhere.
large primary management- there is a lot of complex issues to deal with and needs that level of service- shouldnt be restructured/reduced
Sharing Headteachers around Secondary Schools might not work as well - especially with usually far larger school rolls than primary schools.
Reducing social work support could put extra strain on already overworked social workers. While pooling from a central service could work, social work is so important that specific focus may be needed
Lifelong Learning proposal may have a small saving, and prison officer could be rolled into the responsibilities of another officer. However wider impact has to be considered in detail.
Reducing secondary teachers would save a lot, but putting a strain on already overworked teachers is not a good solution and could lead to further absences/resignations putting more costs on schools.

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions
the price at the moment is fair. However, we feel that the criteria for free school meals needs to be reviewed and extended to up the threshold to ensure young people who are coming from homes where

I support using in house lawyers
charge for YB- Catastrophic! This would be hugely detrimental to young people.
Using in house lawyers is a no brainer.
Why should we charge people for the youth beatz event and like people might not want to go if they have to pay to get to the youth beatz music festival it should stay as a free festival for everyone
Charging for YouthBeatz should not be done - the council continues to recognise the importance of YB and education committee recently recommended that it remain free.
The amount of money we pay for YouthBeatz generates tons in economic impact - charging for it could bring risks especially if ticket sales are not at the numbers we've previously seen.
support the invitation to pay model
School meals should not be for profit-making. School meals should be as cheap as possible to keep YP in schools (earning more money) and ensuring everyone gets a healthy meal.
Raising archaeological services fees makes sense.
Should be encouraging more YP to have school meals, not raising costs which could push people away from using school catering.
marmite thought process on school meals- either love them or hate them, those in more central schools often see more value/preference in the shops nearby schools
having the option to pay by card has made eating in school easier
Invitation to Pay sounds great, but could admin costs and lack of enforcement make income generation minimal to very little?

6. Savings Options Previously subject to Public Consultation

I support the keeping students (S1 to S3) on campus
absolutely cant remove the EAL or gypsy traveller support
Keeping S1-3 in Schools sounds great and would love to see it - but how will this be enforced?
dont close the community halls
impossible to enforce the s1-3 lunchtime option
Closing public toilets is a horrible idea, with significant impact on rural regions, use of bus services, and additional tourism in the area
Must protect tackling poverty funding - Through Young Eyes was just over a year ago and we can't forget that work. Poverty remains a key issue and any support is needed.
Reducing ASL teachers should not happen - these experts have knowledge that means everyone gets an equal education.
Merging Education Outreach Teams sounds good and good idea to reduce overhead costs.
Removal of Play-Based Learning Principal makes sense if the costs can be outsourced to save money.
Closing Community Halls should not happen unless there is already groups in place to be able to provide stable governance and financial stability.
No further comments
Options once again aren't massively great for YP. We need to be exploring ways to keep YP in D&G, not cutting services which means they could end up leaving our region.

7. OTHER COMMENTS

We should be looking to keep YP in D&G, not cutting services that many may directly or indirectly use that could lead them to leaving the region.

BUDGET FOCUS GROUP FEEDBACK

Community Councils

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
No need for grass cutting. Winter road treatment should be targeted rather than blanket coverage.
CAB is a vital source for members of public
Education should be the last thing to be comprised
This is a wide range of options, some would have higher priorities than others
Remove music tuition
No cuts to education, certainly not instrumental music service!
Remove music tuition.
Reducing grass cutting is regarded as a positive thing by many people - as would be the associated use of weedkiller on verges
I would be in full agreement with the comments about winter Road treatment, grass cutting and CAB. and education should be last thing to be compromised
In rural areas it is vital that rural roads are gritted, especially for children getting to school in the morning.
It's important that grass cutting of junctions remains for visibility
Reduce grass cutting
Many children are travelling early in the morning during winter and roads should be treated
Citizens Advice is regarded as essential by many constituents - especially in the current circumstances. It may even be more necessary if these cuts go through...
Is it possible to charge more for major festival and events rather than seeing it as a cut
Citizens' Advice is important for those who cannot afford legal advice
Do not remove music tuition, extremely beneficial to young people.
We need to continue to grow major festivals in Dumfries and Galloway for tourism in our hotels and cafes. It will keep the rural economy healthy
Festivals policy is there to grow festivals and we need to continue to grow festivals in the region that attract tourists who come and eat/stay and build our local economy.
Do not reduce the use of children and families services.
We would like to support small businesses where we can, especially in rural areas
Reduction in services for external children and families etc - if there are no places locally do you not have a legal obligation to provide this option?
Citizens Advice is a high cost service. Is it currently fully utilised or could the funding be reduced rather than removed, without significant impact to the service?
Reduction in services for external children and families, if there are no places locally do you not have a legal obligation to provide this option?
How beneficial or effective is the police officers in secondary schools?
Citizens advice is a vital service and should not be removed.
The saving for business rates appear low for the region and may not apply to very many businesses.
Tourism does bring in revenue so it has to be a balancing act. If we cut festivals, amenities like toilets and museums then we could be losing an important revenue stream,
Business rate relief, is quite a small amount and doesn't appear to apply to many businesses
Welfare cuts are difficult to support
We should not take away resource from the most vulnerable in our society
Music instruction is very important, but maybe parents could begin to pay for that service
With the amount of youth vandalism that is going on, I feel we should be maintaining the school based police officers
If a business is to be successful, it should be able to pay its bills in full
In our area a lot of the shops would not exist if they had to pay the full business rates, especially in hospitality and tourism in the west of D&G.

2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes
Fully support paperless meetings (I believe councillors have IT equipment provided and surely staff are...)
Introduce fixed enrolment dates for nurseries
Most councils are paperless. All the emails coming from the council tell people not to print anything. Councillors shouldn't have printed materials or if they do, it should be at their own cost
Fixed enrolment dates would help for staff planning.
Go paperless for council committees
Is it not making some services more difficult to access services for older no computer literate users?
all of part two can be implemented . part one has much higher impacts to individuals and should be retained where possible
Digital redesign could save money but how much would it cost to implement. These costs always seem to spiral and could negate any savings.
So I do support the change to social work out of hours support if it was implemented as described
Any reduction in budget for vulnerable children with disabilities or additional support needs should not be reduced or in any way compromised.
Many households would need bigger bins if the service is less often
Is the digital redesign that might take place in Dumfries and Galloway happening nationally. Instead of re-inventing the wheel locally could this be a national project?
Share services with other organisations
Public sector history of catastrophic IT projects
Should the digital redesign be done nationally. Public sector history proves that millions could be lost and this should be treated very carefully so that mistakes are not made
Surely the system of live streaming exists, how would reducing the number of broadcasts saves little if the system exists?
Grey bin collections have been discussed in local papers recently - it appears that several councils have already implemented three weekly collections with an improved recycling rate as a consequence.
Undertake a digital re-design to automate processes
how do you ensure any "digital re-design" will save money
There is no guarantee that you will make the digital redesign saving of 750k. I'm having difficulty in seeing how you could save that much budget
Agree with part 2 savings but they are very small amounts and will not help much.
HMRC have gone through this process and 65 million calls have gone unanswered
HMRC have gone through this process of becoming more digital and 65m calls have gone unanswered
Struggling to see how going digital would make a saving.
Surprised there have been no comments on reduced spending on child payment support
The most vulnerable people should be supported
There doesn't seem to be much concern about reducing emergency payments. Surely the most vulnerable people should be supported.
Unfortunately central government or other institutions that provide financial support to facilities for young people with additional needs, the funding is getting smaller and disappearing quickly
Family member works with children and young adults with learning difficulties and the cake is getting smaller and slices smaller still, this isn't somewhere we should make savings
Consult on the closure of small nurseries and schools with less than 25 pupils.
Child support payments and emergency payments can not be supported
Paperless council committees and ending live streaming could be good options
Reducing waste collections could cause some trouble for local people
Separate IT system seems like a no brainer

Are the reviews going to save the money you need to save
It is a concern that council committees would not be live streamed so we can see how decisions are made
It is scary to see the options to reduce child payments and emergency assistance
It appears logical to introduce fixed enrolment dates for nurseries
Can we be assured that the digital redesign will actually save money

3. Maximise use of fewer assets, working with and within communities
Consult on the closure of small nurseries.
Encouraging pupils to go to more modern schools, surely that is the same as shutting smaller schools aren't you counting the same money twice
Consult on school closures - 20 or less pupils
Closure of nurseries and small schools mostly impacts rural areas. Transport becomes a big issue, and impacts parents ability to work
Why Whithorn HWRC? Does it stick out as underused.
Whithorn recycling centre is very close to Newton Stewart
Close Whithorn Household Waste Recycling Centre
Several of these options would have significant local opposition. Difficult for me to give feedback on these options as they don't apply locally. ie. our primary school has over 50 pupils.
closing small nurseries - if there are easily accessible alternatives then we would agree, similarly with the small schools - children within these small schools must be able to be transported safely
It's difficult to give feedback on local options identified that don't apply to our area. We would welcome more investment in a school in our area but it doesn't fall into the options available
Surprising these choices are very local/specific
The options under 1.2.3 is it suggesting that all these options will apply?
reduce office buildings where possible.
Use schools more effectively by bringing pupils into modern buildings.
Would communities be able to buy out /manage buildings such as castle Douglas art gallery?
Has the Scottish government given any indication as to what rates councils can raise council tax by
Scottish government given any indication of what councils can set their council tax increases by?
Do the seasonal museums bring in tourism?
I understand why they have picked Whithorn when Newton Stewart is so close. But why choose Kelloholm? Is there another facility close by?
Why mix in such local things like the Midsteeple would it be kept up to a good standard if it's not being used for ticket collections?
It makes it difficult to decide what to recommend when some of the options are so local and we don't understand why some of these options are decided
The selling of surplus assets is not much use cc cannot own assets
I am strongly against the HWRC closing in Whithorn, although I'm sure it could be more efficiently staffed
It worries me that we are considering closing nurseries in such a rural area, for moving children around the region
HWRC closures appear like a backwards step in recycling
Closing buildings could be saving but you have to sell them to realise true savings and who is that going to be
Parents are frustrated at school closures being an option again
We need to see children being consulted on school or nursery closure options as it affects them

It should be questioned why we have built modern buildings so large and they are underused
The example of Dalry school is ridiculous in relation to school closures
The Scottish government make final decisions on school closures so it is frustrating for the council to continue pushing school closures as options
The survey on the four and a half day week surveyed children directly but you are not surveying children on school closures and that doesn't make sense
I think members should be aware that if they go after school they will struggle to be re-elected
At a time when we want to attract people to the area it would be a shame to lose the seasonal museums and attractions. They are well thought of
Attractions need to be spread out across the whole region to encourage tourism across the area
Even speaking about closures will put people off coming to this area, especially with small families. Every house near us that goes up for sale is families moving in but they will be put off if

4. Develop a smaller more flexibly skilled workforce for the future
Supply teacher pool. Are the 16 teachers paid if they are not allocated to a school?
Pupil ratios would be harder to manage daily in nursery schools with shared heads??
Supply teachers are available without being on-call. If we remove this pool would supply teachers be able to be engaged from the open market.
There is also a question as to whether the 16 supply teachers at present are used fully?
if a retainer is being paid to be on standby, then this should be removed and use the casual pool
There is a list of casual supply teachers who only get paid when they are in a school.
A significant proportion of options are education related, is that because they have a higher percentage of the salary base
Significant proportion are education related is that because significant costings are salary based?
Sharing of Heads is only possible if you have deputies and principal teachers to step in.
Many of these options appear to be supportable if they are done intelligently - but there are too many cases where such reductions are simply done without the required care...
Small schools are already sharing heads.... Not sure why but if it works ...especially if the schools are nearby , a good idea?
Sharing heads also allows for best practice to be shared.
agree to restructure management of large primary schools and share head teachers across primary schools.
remove playground supervision - should be done by the teachers
It should be easier to plan in education for class sizes, but the problem would be with moving people around
One thing you can say with certainty is how many 5 year olds you will get or p7 to s1. This should help with planning.
Our experience of the resilience teams have not been good ..not sure we get value for money or just a paper shuffling exercise
Early learning, childcare and inclusion bases are very important
LA's do the playground supervision in our school. This works very well.
Sharing of heads will leave areas of concern where they are at other schools when issues arise.
Not all schools have learning assistants. The size of the school can influence resources but surely it should be the same across the board.
DGvost was not working during storm erwin, where you live in an area where resilience is required
Inclusion bases need to be retained to give those that need them the best start. Prison learning needs retaining to rehabilitate on release

Sharing headteachers is already happening, there is no consistency in this proposal
Theme 4 looks like an all out attack on children.
Where are teachers coming from to cover staff absences. Teachers are already stretched and we may work them into the ground. This will not attract staff to the area
What happens in school playgrounds without supervisors? Is this for the teachers
Some of these seem obvious but it seems ridiculous to target frontline staff and services for children. When we want people to move to the area
How do you make savings with a non compulsory redundancy policy? Are the council planning to change this? You are just moving staff around and not making savings
Officers appear to be proposing to making staff redundant without the support of elected members, who made a decision not to have compulsory redundancy
This looks like an attack on services for children. I noticed that education haven't proposed to make savings at management level with this.
The CEO makes more money than a lot of these savings
I find it difficult to comment when it's people's jobs. Teachers in particular are stressed as it is

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions

In house legal services should be used unless specialists required
The two school meal price increases. Will the additional price just become council income? It would be great to do it if the increase went back into the actual school meals
Use in house lawyers
agree with all of the points with the exception of the increase to cost of school meals across both primary and secondary
Do invitation to pay schemes actually work !
Wouldn't an invite to pay carpark scheme have a cost implication? Signs, etc.
Using the in house legal team should be used unless very specific circumstances arise requiring specialist legal services.
Charge for Youth Beatz.
Invitation to pay will not work, no reason to pay when shopping is so limited in Dumfries
pilot an invitation to pay scheme for parking
Increase burial charges.
Use in house lawyers for certain planning agreements
An invitation to pay scheme would be a reasonable means to generate income.
Review roads fees and charges
youthbeatz is the largest free festival so it would useful to charge for this as it is attended not just by people from D&G
I think there must be an argument for most of these charges to be looked at, though I would prefer school meals charges not to be affected
Increasing burial fees. I understand, we have an aging population and if it is done with respect it could be ok
If the prices haven't gone up with inflation then most people should be able to afford it
Roads charges, absolutely charge the national companies more,
I'm not sure invitation to pay will work. Maybe we could do a one off fee, with an annual pass that would depend on where you are in the region
There are too many external agreements for legal fees and so this should be supported
I support the introduction of a charge to youth beats as it may encourage more people to get tickets
Increase archaeological services doesn't seem worth it
I've never seen an invitation to pay scheme so I imagine most won't do it if they have a choice
Parking charges have been tried in this region in the past but it didn't generate enough money for the staff. It s a difficult one to do

Invitation to pay does open up the potential for fraud with fraudulent companies taking advantage with QR codes being manipulated in car parks

6. Savings Options Previously subject to Public Consultation

Tell Councillors to leave them all alone again this year - not a good idea
Keep pupils in school for lunch. Tesco's are getting the extra money when the school meals actually give far better value for money to parents.
Keep S1-3 pupils in school at lunchtime to increase school meals income.
The only one of these I would support is to keep S1/S3 pupils on campus during lunchtime. Having said that, I do think that public toilet provision has some mileage in being looked at
There is a fair bit of political motive behind not selecting the options shown, don't agree with any of these cuts.
public toilets are essential , In Girvan , there are toilets with a contactless payment system - could this be implemented here ?
Have any cut backs to senior management staff at d and been considered ? The chief exec gets paid more than the prime minister ?
Regular teaching staff should incorporate play based learning, it shouldn't need extra teaching staff
Would agree that senior manager staffing and wastage should be looked at.
S1-S3 pupils kept in schools will be very unlikely to purchase school meals .
Public toilets are essential this could turn visitors away
Why no senior management savings to be considered?
Funding should remain in place for most of these items, many of which are essential services.
Why do D&G insist on appointing consultants to make options that they could make themselves
289, 415, 540k Mgt saving over 3 years
Do we really belief the CEO should earn more than the PM!
Voiced my concern on these last year. Without public toilets people will be peeing in the streets
We need public toilets, people need this or they will do it in the street
Council run community halls is a concern, these are for the community and for those that pay taxes on the county these are places for entertainment or public meetings, including CC meetings
Community halls can be the heart of the community
Some halls in the region are owned and managed by the community and that can help with attracting funding, but understand the concern if in a rural area
Wigtown county building could not easily be used by anyone else because of its conditions and it would not easily be used by the community without the council
Voiced my concern on these last year. Without public toilets people will be peeing in the streets

7. OTHER COMMENTS

Thank you [REDACTED] and team
It is a shame that more people did not attend to listen and have their voice heard
All STL accommodation fees should be enforced !
I think it's fair to say that this on-line process with Menti alongside the Teams meeting has been very good for me...
if the vacancy in the Educational psychology is not having a detrimental effect on the service, then this should be removed
Thanks to [REDACTED] and team, also good to meet and participate with other CC representatives.

The Scottish government provides the vast majority of funding. They give SOSE get £30m funding and gave public money to a spa instead of essential local services, especially those for children

Public money given by SOSE should be considered for more essential local services. Councillors should consider lobbying government to make better use of that funding

It's incredibly difficult decisions to be made

Are councillors allowed to ask why certain proposals were brought forward? There are not options looking at senior management salaries and positions

It begs the question that I don't think it's realised that community councillors are volunteers and we are the first one in the firing line when local people don't like decisions

These decisions reflect back on community councillors when we don't have any role in the decision making process. We do get a lot of criticism

It is concerning that only three community councillors attended this specific focus group.

Thank you for taking us through this

BUDGET FOCUS GROUP FEEDBACK

Equality and Diversity Working Group

1. Sustained focus of resources on our Council Plan Priorities outcomes
These cannot and should not be cut
All of these will affect people with protected characteristics negatively
Early intervention and Youth engagement is key to prevention and intervention of potential future criminality. Funding the School's officers should remain.
Reducing the School based officers would be detrimental to both partners, LA/Education and Police Scotland - the role is fundamental to the learning of children, cohesion and sharing of information.
I don't see any mention of wage cuts or hiring freezes. I understand the Chief Exec earns more than the Prime Minister. That can't be right.
start charging for youthbeats
Protected characteristics will be affected negatively, any support should be maintained or maximised but not reduced to none.
There has also been no discussion of reducing costs for non-essential staff training.
As the whole process is already not accessible, it is vital that third sector groups supporting them do not see their funding cut, options 1.09/8 and 1.07 need to be protected fully.
nothing should be cut
Reducing funding on winter roads will increase more accidents / fatalities on our roads !!
where are the efficiency proposals?
1.05 grass cutting can be cut without too much negative impact
Creative services are important to all people, especially during formative years
Engagement services in the Third Sector are absolutely essential, particularly for disabled people who will be hammered by these cuts.
If it has to reduce; the grass cutting on the 60mph would potentially affect less people, however the tourists use the A roads predominantly, and scruffy look might put off visitors
Funding for music should not be cut - key point in education of our children/learning
Who decided who is performing the impact assessment? Winter road treatment affects disabled people but we haven't been asked.
reduce the councils subsidy of business rate relief
I think Youth Beatz should not be provided free of charge - I don't think it provides much in terms of long term positive outcomes or opportunity for young people - it's a costly day out in reality
A lot of options that will have an impact on elderly and disabled people and us a stakeholders have not been included in impact assessments.
Citizens Advice funding must not be cut - this will have significant impact on the most marginalised people in communities.
YB should be a reasonable charge to those attending.
1.06 business rate relief could be cut as long as small businesses and charities can have exemptions
This is a token gesture. Without equality impact assessments you cannot make a decision. Any budget proposals should have the detail around the impact.
Could representative groups apply for funding individually as opposed to the whole fund being cut - some groups may provide better 'value for money' than others
This consultation seems to be a complete charade.
Funding for representation and engagement groups have to be protected and not being cut.
Individuals from ethnic minorities groups would be impacted to not able to participate in any engagement services and will not have their voices heard.
we should be able to view impact assessments for all budget proposals the public cannot be in any position to make choices and decisions without the transparent of data detail and impact,

For public to make decisions the impact assessments should be done first. So they can make an informed decision.
It's difficult to give feedback on the likes of police in schools without knowing what that looks like and data on how effective that is
Disabled people will be negatively affected by most of these
Businesses will continue to local economy and working with them is best for the region. Do not reduce subsidy
EQIAs should be carried out or at least started before these proposals come forward
DGCAS - should remain - valuable service
youth beatz is a major success introducing a charge affects the poorest people
OOHSW should remain - valuable service to partner agencies
from an accessibility point of view, even in this presentation it would have been helpful to keep the consistent numbering for ease of discussion
1.08 has to stay in place and should have more funding allocated, as there is a much greater need
you are already not meeting the equality duty through this process. Removing funding from these organisation will further impact those unable to access
DGMA should remain- valuable service for the amount they received.
EIAs have to be done on ALL options and we have to be invited to all and the public needs to see the IAs
The council is not meeting their Equality Duty by this consultation
DG Voice should be involved from the very beginning of the planning stages of the consultation to ensure accessibility
waste bins are health and safety issue leaving it 3 weeks increase this

2. Modernise how we deliver some services to meet our outcomes

Why is it costly to have face to face council meetings? We all do this on Teams every day. It should save money on travel expenses
How can live streaming save £50k implying that it currently costs that much? Why is it so expensive?
These proposals will have no impact at all as they are changing efficiencies. Surely these should not be a decision for the public. The council should be as efficient as it can be anyway.
Household general waste bins needs to go at least every 2 weeks, but the other blue and red bins could be reduced.
OOHSW should remain - valuable services for partner agencies. reduction/changes in this area would be detrimental
just do it if it has no impact on policy or the public
Some of these are not decisions for the public - some of this makes sense to just do, for example, going paperless
2.03 direct payments should not be cut I. The basic social care needs are often already not being met for disabled people
Is there training that can be developed in house or jointly with other public bodies to save money
People with continence issues will really struggle if the household waste is not collected regularly. It's bad enough at the moment.
2.04 emergency payments these are for EMERGENCY people already decided between eating and heating. People will starve if this is cut
The cost of changing the bins to smaller bins would outweigh the saving, leave the collections as is. less frequent uplift would increase flytipping
council efficiency should be always on the agenda, why is there no plan for reduction of this in the plan we need a plan from the council
If waste bins are being collected less often then there needs to be better access to the dumps as bins get full quickly for many people

Grey bins to remain every second week.
Paperless is good for environment but considering using technology to support disabled people and ethnic minorities with languages and easy read.
Any digital redesign will exclude some of the most marginalised groups even further especially disabled people and elderly and those with language barriers
review of customer experience across services, what does that actually mean, no detail and no background, shocking
LA should be paperless already for the positive impact on environment.
no redundancy policy is unaffordable and should be part of the savings plan
Grey bins cuts would affect disabled people massive and can create health hazards especially for medical waste and human waste e.g. for people with incontinence issues.
technology change is inevitable but must be done with alternatives for non-technological users to have the same access.
Council Directors also needing to reduce their efficiency spending maybe reduce their wages to think about others impacted.
it would be interesting to see the council's workforce plan and how you manage efficiencies when you have a no redundancy policy
Council staff needs to be cut and be part of the discussion when you propose to cut lifelines to people. No redundancy policy can't stay especially as their costs are half of the budget
Has the Council considered checking how many staff are already receiving a public sector pension already.
how can live streaming cost £50k a year ??, and what is the engagement with community from thissurely this can be reviewed.
Chief exec's package is worth £200K?? how is this sustainable
doesn't feel equitable when the proposals will cut jobs across other sectors
I'm no maths expert but 298 of 512 is nearer 60%, is it not?
How much has already been wasted on the flood prevention scheme that absolutely nobody wants? We should not spend another penny while Children's social work is under threat.
I don't think it's prudent to have excluded some council services from these options, when commissioned services are included in proposals. It doesn't seem fair
Community safety team is a valuable team of the council, reduced to 2 members to taking care of all region is undoable. There will be more doggy poo issues all around the region. Forest are most impacted
not balanced cuts affects people with disabilities. we need an increase on the Health and social care budget
2.12 bins need an impact assessment for disabled people
again, you cannot make a choice without visibility on impact.
Small schools and under utilised schools does need looked at. While there is potentially significant impact on children and families, it's about being realistic and considering what's sustainable

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

agency should be looking to discuss assets in the wider sense, this is being done in isolation and consideration of other cuts should be clear on impact assessments and visible to the public
closing withern waste dump will result in an increase in fly tipping this will cost more to clean up. Nearest dump is 22 miles away in Newton
The midsteep is also our registered office and same for PIN, parents inclusion network. SO more negative impacts on disability and carers
Catchment areas to be defined to ensure that children attend their local / nearby school rather than parents choosing to attend a school of their choice....?
Closing the 4 seasonal museums and other council run centre, would there be talks with the local community groups to help them with asset transfer options

Closure of household waste recycling centre - increase in fly tipping .
this feels very tokenistic given the absence of detail, data and impact
If the midsteeples reception desk is closed, then we may not be able to receive our mail. The public can't make an informed choice because there is not enough detail provided
There's bound to be alternative inclusive methods of selling tickets at one of the many other public facing council desks which should already be accessible.
Any changes to schools will have a big impact on disabled students and parents
Rural communities would be hit hard
Its not just ticket sales that they do in Midsteeples Box Office. Description doesn't give enough information on what groups will be impacted.
£38 million could be saved if the Council abandons the very unpopular flood prevention scheme.
Small and underutilised schools do need to be looked at as this doesn't feel sustainable
your missing a trick here by not having all of the detail to present the impact , that builds trust and provides transparency, which this consultation does not provide
unacceptable hit on our culture and heritage
There's Council staff who can do their jobs at home, and indeed do better at home but who are forced to work in the office - need to reduce estate and staff being in when not needed to be.
Museums and measure centres are often warm safe spaces people can go to, closures would hit poor people hardest. The buildings also often have disabled toilets in them, which disabled people need
Closure of schools / nurseries detrimental to those families who have limited funds to travel etc..again hitting those with poverty issues and our local transport services are not sufficient
Hillview closure would be catastrophic for a deprived rural community. the knock on effect and future costs would be significant given the community would be isolated and detached
why does the council not save on the current budget. They need to reduce spending on consultants and waste
Rural areas might see more population decline especially of younger economically active people
The Midsteeples is also our registered office and same for PIN, parents inclusion network! SO more negative impacts on disability and carers
This process clearly protects council services and not our communities
reduce council office building would have the least effect on the public. there are empty rooms in the various buildings a review and consolidation of buildings should be considered.
Schools are often the hearts of communities, helping people and keeping villages alive. Closing them damages everyone
Has anyone considered overall combined impacts?
co location would be more effieient
Rural communities would be impacted adversely with these proposals. Again council should look into own efficiency savings, stationary and office furnitures and subscription fees should be reduced.
Kids with ASN will be hit hard if smaller schools close, a disproportionate impact on disabled people
Councillors and staff travel expenses should be reduced with online facilities for most of the meetings in the region or outside of the region.
Not knowing the cuts for ethnic minorities due to language barriers and it's harder to understand all the cuts are coming in rural communities
council staff should use public transport more
The local economy would suffer if schools museums pools etc close. It's jobs, income etc also lost

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

Most of these savings options will have a big negative impact on disabled people and need to be avoided
o Closure of Inclusion Bases (Option 4.12) and reduced Additional Support for Learning (previous consultation). This is not acceptable negative impact on Disabled pupils.
an absence budget? that's totally inefficient
Reduced staffing in primary schools is already affecting disabled kids. Support has been withdrawn almost completely except for those with complex needs. This could result in parents removing kids.
ASN teachers are necessary not optional
surely the education in prisons is the responsibility of the SPS and not the local authority. I'm not saying prisoner education should be cut but the responsibility should be on the custodians (SPS)
The proposals around management restructuring feels like an internal discussion and decision that is taken internally
Staffing should be reviewed in full within D&GC as clearly 40-60% of budget is spent on this aspect..
a lot of impact on education in this list, what about streamlining HQ services and reviewing management portfolios to cost save
again, no impact assessment we can only surmise the impact . that's not good enough for organisations or the public to make choices or decisions or to agree or disagree
Inclusion bases and early learning and ASN support help disabled people getting the same access to education, removal would create more inequality
council management of the education budget needs to be looked at how much does this cost?
Teacher pools necessary for absence etc...., maybe a review required not a removal..
Community safety team should be saved.
With the level of cuts we've already faced surely the no redundancy policy has to go? There must be highly paid staff doing next to nothing.
Community Safety team to remain....an increase in staffing not a reduction.
take the council out of the equation and award budgets directly to head teachers this would save money and target the funds more effectively
In category 4 we are only invited on 1 IA for option 4.11 that's not good enough, as many of these proposals would have negative impacts on projected groups
Sharing of HT between smaller schools ...probably a logical saving
devolved budgets in education shouldn't require the additional management staff in headquarters, it would be good to see that split
Council should look into all the departments and ask their members of staff to help with where to make savings as a team
I think it's easy to make comments about 'staff doing nothing' - with the level of cuts in recent years that should not be the case.
Closing of inclusion bases is not the one, its a significantly smaller cost, over the three years, compared with some of the wages paid to management in the council
Removal of playground supervisors would add to the duties of teachers, who already work in excess of their paid hours.
Management wages are shocking.
HMP to fund prison services
All staff already receiving public sector pensions should go immediately.
Councillors are not visible to be seen until the election time, they should be going out and actively engaging with public regarding the budget proposals

5. Maximise our income and underpinning fairness through targeted concessions

I am not sure charging households to replace bins that are perfectly fine is a good idea.
Burial Fees to be increased to those that can afford it

Same as category 4, for cat 5 we are only invited to 1 IA for 5.10 although several of these options have negative impacts for protected characteristics groups.
There must be a token charge for YB or the decision not to run it at all. It takes up so much staff time and resource for very little output
I agree with increased charges, for those who can afford to pay
Increase council tax by 15% and avoid all cuts
just get on with operational efficiencies
School meals again to be increased as system in place for free meals to those requiring them
Youth Beatz is a great event but it should be able to cover its own costs by now.
Most of these options would hit people who live in poverty already very hard. When people have to choose between eating and heating this is unacceptable
A small nominal fee would encourage people to actually attend who reserve tickets.
Instead of charging for parking, deal with people who are parked where they shouldn't be and make money from tickets
Hard agree on ticketing illegal parking.
It's getting too expensive to die which more people forced to be cremated, but for some religious reasons, burial is a must. Increasing the burial fees would make a huge impact on minority families.
Increase school meal rates is negative for disabled kids with special dietary requirements
Implement parking charges and parking wardens again ...would stop alot of parking on double yellows etc..
Youth beatz is one of the only safe and accessible festivals for young disabled people. Charging for it or stopping it would have a disproportionate negative impact on disability and poverty
'Invitation to pay' parking is ridiculous, either charge or leave as is. Adding meters and methods of payment would cost a lot and not many people would pay when 'invited' to do so.
I worry about the ability our protected characteristic groups to make any positive influence on the entirety of the suite of proposals.
Voluntary donations should already be accepted anyway
Introduce a Local Income Tax to abolish council tax increase tax for big earners over £40K no charge for anyone under model as per Finland and Sweden
Charge for grey bin replacement....
Using in house staff is a no brainer. Why would we Pay more for someone externally if we have the skills internally already what a waste of money.
YB should be a fee !
Sadly there is such little understanding of poverty in this region that Council workers don't see £40k as a high wage.
If youth beatz has a few, disabled kids and carers and poor people should get free tickets
Youth Beatz is a successful event we need to invest more not cut
Youth Beatz should be addressed the ticketing issues, arrange free tickets for high priorities groups ie. Disabled and disadvantaged youth groups
YB also attracts people into the area, huge boost for the economy
Why don't they charge of environmental / archaeological information requests anyway ? same saving but it adds up
to retain vibrant communities and reduce child poverty will be difficult were the council to consider these cuts

6. Savings Options Previously subject to Public Consultation

We rejected them last year for good reasons, all IAs showed negative impacts. They shouldn't even be presented again. The negative impacts remain the same
previous attempts a cutting budget should not be tabled again.
Keep S1-S3 at school for lunches - revenue increase
Most of these have a negative impact on disabled people

Absolutely keep - End funding for all Tackling Poverty and cost of living projects (£630k/year) The negative impacts are the same as reviewed last year
Closing public toilets would be devastating for disabled people. It's already hard enough to find suitable facilities, often the only options are in Council buildings.
Public toilets are essential for those with medical issues
Public toilets - remain
It isn't fair to repeat our arguments against these, adding to our struggle with capacity, when we already did IAs on these and they were all negative
Tackling poverty and costs of living projects should be kept as it impacted the most people in the region.
Toilets are a human right. Removing them will hot disabled people, but also other groups as we showed last year and keep them from taking part in society equally
What is a principle teacher in play based learning?
All of these options have a negative impact on protected characteristics groups. Why are the people who are already disadvantaged and the most marginalised in society the ones facing most cuts?
Remove play based learning principle teachers if that is already being done by conventional teachers
The whole list reads like an attack on disabled people. Does the council want disabled people to just not exist? We need support, not exclusion
S1-S3 if they have choices, it would be better, the school meals are not tailored to some students needs, so maybe looking into training for cooks and consulting with the school pupils
savings are based on reduction of staff wages. However with a no redundancy policy how are the proposed savings targets going to be achieved?
Gypsy/traveller support team necessary for partnership working.
We need IAs for all options and the public needs to see them

7. OTHER COMMENTS

The whole process is completely unacceptable and inaccessible. Disabled people face disproportionate negative impacts but many disabled people still can't even read what is being proposed.
The council is failing in their public equality duty
It is very upsetting to see how badly this process has been handled. People see out towns falling apart while public sector jobs are protected from any accountability. Shocking.
partners should be involved from the beginning, not after these themes have been agreed by managers
DG Voice needs to be involved much earlier in the process and be properly funded to make sure we can help the council get it right for all people in D&G including our many disabled people
Council officers clearly don't understand impacts on protected characteristics groups and therefore we as the experts should be able to input into everything
90% of these cuts affect 21% of the population
IA should have a grade from 0-10 to properly gauge impact
The consultation itself has created a lot of anxiety with no additional support available leaving it to already stretched third sector orgs to deal with it
How the council would engage with representation and engagement for minority communities if the funds are not available anymore! It would not be having all of us on the table like today.