

This is a screen-reader optimised view of Simulator. [Standard View](#)

Our Priorities

Angus Council Plan - Our Priorities

Angus Council has set out its priorities in our council plan which we update and refine every year. You can find the current Council Plan on this link on our websites: [Council Plan](#).

We are looking to refresh our plan for 2022 and we recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges and additional difficulties to many of our citizens.

The impact of COVID-19 has meant that some projects Angus Council hoped to deliver have been delayed and we think that the priority in which we tackle them has changed. For example, digital connectivity has become even more important as technology has been vital for business, education and staying socially connected while being physically distanced. Similarly, we know that many families are struggling financially, either because their business has been affected, their hours of work have been cut or they may even have been made redundant. This means that our citizens may need more support from our welfare and other frontline services.

There are many more examples and it means that we may need to refocus our efforts to best support the people of Angus.

To help us with this work, we would like to ask you for your views on where you think Angus Council should be putting its resources. Please help us to prioritise by indicating the planned programmes and projects that matter most to you.

This tool gives you a fixed number of points to allocate across the projects outlined. It does not matter if you do not manage to allocate all your points, or if you spend all your points on the first few items. Please submit your choices anyway because this gives us an idea of what's most important to you. There are also plenty of opportunities to make comments along the way too and we will be very interested to hear your views.

We have also opened a discussion board on our Social Pinpoint message board [\[include hyperlink\]](#) where you can ask questions and get involved in a discussion around the issues that matter to you. We are also going to be offering some opportunities to call us to have your say. You can find out more details on this link; [\[hyperlink to website\]](#)

To help you make your choices, we think it would be helpful to share some information on where the council's money comes from and how much choice we have on how we spend it, because it's probably less than you think.

More info

Our overall net revenue budget is around £289 million, which is a lot of money. Angus Council's total budget can be seen as three main sections:

- the statutory - this is money we have to spend, to meet our legal requirements as a council. We cannot change many aspects of this budget spend.
- the essential - this is the money that we spend on services which either support statutory services (like support staff who keep schools running) or are highly important to the people who need the services.
- the important - this is the part of the budget where we can change things, where we have more flexibility and discretion. However, we have already made many savings from changes that effected only a few people, or a lot of people, but not very much. Reducing this section of the budget is now far more likely to have a bigger impact when we reduce it.
- A further option is to raise more money from non-essential services, such as charging for garden waste collections, which is paid for by people who value that service.

To help a bit further, here is a short animation showing you where council money comes from and how we spend it: [Our budget](#)

Privacy policy

Please be aware that Angus Council is required to process personal information in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information about this please visit: [GDPR and Data Protection 2018](#)

Please be aware that all results from the simulator will be anonymised in reporting and your information will only be used for the purposes of revising our council plan.

Delib's Privacy Policy - Further Information

[Delib's privacy policy](#) explains how Delib will collect, safeguard and process your data on behalf of [organisation name]

- [Accessibility Policy](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Cookies](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)

Our Priorities

Allocate points to indicate the priorities which matter most to you

Points Remaining 40

Points Allocated 0

[Each slider has a scale from 0-5]

Group 1: Our Economy

Slider 1: Help businesses to succeed in Angus

We want to make Angus a great place to do business because without business and a strong local economy we won't be able to achieve many of our other priorities. We also want to promote local spending as part of a circular economy model in Angus. To achieve this, we must create the right environment to attract businesses to Angus and help them to be successful in the long term. We will achieve this by working with key partners to develop Angus' infrastructure. We will do this by:

- maximising the Tay Cities Deal which will bring £350m of additional resources to the Tay Cities region and create an estimated 6,000 jobs
- use the £26.5 million allocated specifically for Angus from the Tay Cities Deal to start our ambitious Mercury Programme which is focused on:
 - development to support low carbon technologies
 - developing technologically for the agriculture sector
 - 'clean' growth (economic growth with little or no environmental impact)
 - develop options for improved freight rail links, including use of the railhead facility in Montrose.
 - invest an additional £1.25m to open the new Zero4 Business Park in Montrose (matched by £1.5m from the Tay Cities Deal Industrial Investment Programme)
 - Create and develop the Angus Local Development Plan (Angus Plan) which is a master plan for Angus, making it easier for businesses to expand and locate here.
- Supporting businesses with pandemic recovery advice

Impact statement:

We must support existing businesses and attract new businesses to Angus to ensure economic prosperity for our residents through skilled, well paid and secure jobs. The best way to secure this is to ensure that Angus can provide what businesses need quickly, efficiently and at the right price. Without the proper funding, we may not have:

- the right facilities and land for business development
- the right transport links
- the right planning policies
- the right capacity in place

Slider 2: Invest in low carbon transport and technology

We want to preserve the environment in Angus while supporting transport links and encouraging economic growth.

- We will continue to invest in more sustainable transport infrastructure including more electric vehicle charging points across Angus and a possible hydrogen facility in Brechin to support the A90 corridor. The council will continue and extend its Agile working approach with fewer people based in large central

offices, working instead from local bases nearer to their service users and at home. This will reduce our overall carbon footprint in mileage travelled and heating and lighting - especially with COVID 19 when ventilation of shared buildings is vital to ensure staff safety.

- We will continue to develop infrastructure to support the Offshore wind sector by exploring new land and properties at the Zero 4 site in Montrose. This includes supporting the supply chain and innovative technologies such as large drones which can deliver supplies to offshore platforms.

Impact of keeping the points for Invest in low carbon transport and technology the same

If we do not act now to build infrastructure (such as more sustainable transport infrastructure) that supports low carbon growth, we will not be able to make the changes necessary to our transport and energy systems in time to impact on climate change nor will we be able to meet Scottish, UK and World carbon reduction targets, without massively impacting on:

- our economy
- our people
- our environment

Slider 3: Invest in skills and employability, particularly for young people

We will support people who are most in need to move into work or training in growth sectors of the economy. By doing this we will be:

- giving people hope and optimism for a successful future where they can provide for themselves and their families
- meeting the needs of local businesses and encouraging a focus on Fair Work - that is work which is fairly paid, offers holiday and sickness pay and offer long term contracts,
- creating more opportunities for young people, including investing £652,000 to increase the number of apprenticeships in Angus Council across a range of services over three years

Impact Statement:

The main reason for bringing businesses to locate and grow in Angus is to provide fairly paid, skilled and long-lasting jobs for the people of Angus. We need to make sure that our citizens are trained appropriately to benefit from these opportunities.

This is especially true for those who:

- are not trained in work in growth industries
- have been unemployed for some time
- are just leaving school and need to acquire skills and experience

Your comments on Our Economy (Optional blank space for comments)

Group 2: Our People

Slider 1: Schools for the Future

We continue to progress Angus Schools for the Future, the council's ambitious 30-year strategy which will develop our learning estate to meet the needs of all our learners and deliver our ambitions for the curriculum. We have now committed to a new Learning Campus for Monifieth. However, we will also seek to achieve:

- developing our digital learning and supporting as many children and young people by providing high speed digital connectivity for all Angus schools, including rural and small schools to level the attainment gap as much as possible
- Evaluation and focus on educational engagement, participation and performance
- creating a 'learning town' in Montrose by investigating more creative uses of council and community buildings for more learning opportunities for a diverse range of learners
- developing more outdoor classroom opportunities, for both physical and mental health reasons

Impact statement:

Impact of keeping the points for Schools for the Future the same

By not resourcing this programme effectively, we will not be able to:

- deliver the development of our learning estate
- meet the needs of all our learners ensuring that lost learning is addressed
- deliver our curriculum, preparing our children for the world of work in the future.

Slider 2: Tackling Child Poverty

Since the publication of our Local Child Poverty Action Report in 2018 we have made many changes to the way we are working with partners and our communities. We are working to reduce child poverty by:

consulting and working with our multi-agency working group, the Child Poverty Working group, to develop actions that will make a difference to those experiencing poverty, who need it the most.

We propose investing a further £180,000 to address child poverty in Angus. COVID-19 restrictions may mean changes to how we deliver this project. However, we will continue to work in partnership with other services and external organisations.

Impact statement:

In Angus more than 4,000 children live in poverty which can have a profound and long-lasting impact on their lives. We believe that by helping children out of poverty, we can help them to become healthy, active and valued members of our community.

Slider 3: Invest in the Angus Health & Social Care Partnership

Angus H&SCP) is one of our key partners and its new strategic plan for 2019 – 2022 has three key priorities:

- Promote the wellbeing of the people of Angus by supporting approaches to prevention
- Support people to be independent for as long as possible, as we see a demand for care at home increasing, both pre and during the pandemic
- Shift the balance of care from hospital to home, supporting more people in our communities

The plan shows how the Angus H&SCP will continue to integrate health and social care services and encourage people to improve their health and wellbeing.

Impact statement:

Without investment we may be limited in our ability to:

- invest in more care at home services for those who need support to stay in their own homes
- maintain community-based care for those who need it
- continue to integrate health and social care to provide the best services we can offer
- support programmes that encourage people to improve their own health and wellbeing

Your comments on Our People (Optional)

Group 3: Our Places

Slider 1: Community Empowerment and Participatory Budgeting

The Community Empowerment Scotland Act 2015, supports moving greater responsibility to our communities, including allowing communities to decide how to spend money in their own area – this is called Participatory Budgeting. This was first introduced in 2019/20 but COVID has impacted on how it can be delivered. We now want to roll-out PB further and increase community involvement in taking more decisions about spending in their local area. However, this takes time and council resources to set out options and help people identify and decide on viable and worthwhile local projects.

Participatory budgeting is not about spending new money but about increasing the involvement of local communities on how the Council's existing budgets are used.

Impact statement:

If we do not spend time in working with local communities, they may miss out on using funds that will really change lives for the better. To date, Participatory budgets have been relatively small sums, but the Community Empowerment Scotland Act 2015 requires that the proportion of our existing budgets which should be covered

by a participatory process be much more significant – more than £2m p.a.- and it must be used to have the biggest positive impact possible.

Slider 2: Invest in our council housing stock and build more homes

Everyone needs a safe, warm, affordable home. In Angus, we have delivered award-winning housing and we are committed to providing homes that our citizens are proud to call home. We want to invest £86m in the council's housing stock over the next five years to:

- build new, well designed homes
- make our existing homes more energy efficient with the aim of being carbon zero by 2045
- ensure that everyone has fair access to all our homes
- keep the cost of running our homes down for their residents

Impact statement:

We believe that good housing is vital because it has so many important benefits:

- it keeps people healthy and improves wellbeing
- it reduces child poverty
- it keeps people out of fuel poverty
- it allows people to live in the communities where they feel valued, welcome and safe

Slider 3: Invest in our pathways and roads, particularly to encourage active forms of travel

Roads and transportation are an essential part of our daily lives and we will maintain these services as best we can with our available budget. However, there has also been a significant increase in walking and cycling during the pandemic and the reduction in car usage has improved air quality and reduced pollution. There is a necessity to build on this to support further active travel alternatives. In order to achieve sustainable transportation, we will:

- continue to invest in the repair of our roads in urban and rural areas taking a risk-based approach to support rural businesses and communities and facilitate tourism
- work to reduce road traffic collisions in partnership with other public sector bodies with initiatives such as School Exclusion Zones trials at three locations and the introduction of temporary speed limits of 20mph in many of our settlements
- deliver our programme of Cycling Walking and Safer Routes supported by Scottish Government funding and will continue to develop the Arbroath A Place for Everyone project to encourage the use of alternative forms of transport

Impact statement:

Angus is committed to supporting our existing transport infrastructure while developing alternative and more sustainable forms of transport. Failure to support this work could lead to:

- not meeting our low carbon targets which is bad for the environment
- marginalisation of rural communities and a reduction in tourism and leisure for Angus residents and beyond
- Further eroding access to jobs and education for those without cars
- ensure active (walking, cycling etc.) and public transport options allow people to feel safe

Your comments on Our Places (Optional)

Group 4: Our Council

Slider 1: Targeting services to those most in need

We believe that we must work closely with communities if we are to deliver effective and enduring solutions to local problems. We want good community engagement to tell us how we should be delivering our services. It adds value by offering better outcomes for people and by targeting our limited resources to exactly where it's needed. It also helps us to really find out what the root problems and barriers are for people. Community empowerment and better community engagement is essential for creating stronger communities. In order to do this successfully, we must:

- Train our staff to develop skills for collaborative diplomacy and help them to better understand the benefits of community participation
- Developing the skills required to support effective decision-making in localities, and for enabling leadership at all levels
- Ensure we respond to community members on how their opinions have influenced the final decisions and of the next steps. This is essential to maintain a momentum of connection and accessibility.
- Encourage cross departmental work to improve engagement and sharing of best practice.

Impact statement:

It is estimated that up to 60% of public service resource is taken up by processing people rather than actually helping them. It's called 'failure demand'. We want to reduce failure demand, focusing instead on the real issues people have and looking at the best ways to meet their needs.

Slider 2: Preserving non-digital methods of communicating with us

Over the last five years, we have been working on making digital services more available. We have been doing this because:

- it allows people to transact with us at a time convenient to them

- it allows us to process more requests more quickly
- it can be more accessible to people with disabilities such as hearing loss, mobility and whose first language is not English
- it takes fewer staff to process digital requests so we are saving money that we can spend on people who cannot transact with us through digital methods

However, we have had feedback, particularly during the pandemic that some people find this a barrier, so we would be interested in whether we should continue to be committed to transitioning to digital channels.

Impact statement:

We want to make sure that 'digital first' does not mean that we put non-digital people last. We want to offer other methods of sharing information and communicating with us that are not digital too. To achieve this we will:

- encourage anyone who is digitally enabled to use digital channels
- listen to people who don't or can't use digital channels about what works for them
- work closely with our front-line staff and our third sector partners to build more opportunities for non-digital communication
- use more traditional communications such as radio and posters in communities who value these channels.

Slider 3: Using our spend locally

We spend a lot of money in the course of providing services for Angus. All this spend is very closely monitored and we must make it fair for anyone to do business with us. This means that we cannot preferentially spend money with a company just because they are based in Angus. However, we can support local businesses by:

- making sure that local companies are aware of our needs and helping local suppliers follow our procurement processes

Impact statement:

We want to continue to buy locally where it offers us the best value, to maximise the benefit to the local economy. We will:

- work with local suppliers to help them win more contracts
- support the development of local skills and training.

Your comments on Our Council (Optional free text box)

Group 5 Raising Income by increasing fees, charges and/or Council Tax

Slider 1 – Increase Council Tax

Most council services (around 80%) are paid for with grants from Scottish Government. However, we also raise some of our own income through fees, charges and Council Tax.

Council Tax contributes around 20% of the Council's budget and Angus currently has the second lowest Council Tax in mainland Scotland.

Raising additional income from increasing Council Tax would give us more money towards delivering the other priorities we have outlined in the other groups.

Council Tax provides about four times the income that fees and charges do, so we've increased the percentage increases for fees and charges (Slider 2) to give a similar level of income.

- A freeze on Council Tax = 0 points
- A rise on Council Tax of up to 1% = 1 point
- A rise on Council Tax of up to 2% = 2 points
- A rise on Council Tax of up to 3% = 3 points

Impact statement

By choosing to freeze or increase Council Tax you will affect how many points you have to spend on the other priority projects within your budget.

Slider 2 – Fees & Charges

In addition to Council Tax, we also already charge for some services which people value, as a way of covering some or all of the cost. Examples include charges for garden waste disposal, special uplifts of bulky waste, school facility hire, pest control, various permits, etc.

The council also re-introduced parking charges as a way of paying for additional road repairs, although these are currently suspended.

- No increase in Council fees and charges and no new charges = 0 points
- A rise in Council fees and charges of up to 4% = 1 point
- A rise in Council fees and charges of up to 4% plus resumption of parking charges = 2 points
- A rise in Council fees and charges of up to 6% plus resumption of parking charges and some new charges = 3 points

Impact statement:

By choosing to freeze or increase fees and charges you will affect how many points you have to spend on the other priority projects within your budget.