

ANGUS COUNCIL

SPECIAL CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 03 MARCH 2022

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING BUDGET EFFICIENCIES

REPORT BY KELLY MCINTOSH, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

ABSTRACT

This report summarises the proposed budget efficiencies for the Education and Lifelong Learning directorate for the Council's 2022/23 revenue budget.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Note and discuss the Education and Lifelong Learning budget issue in relation to the inflationary increase in the cost of school transport estimated at £105,000;
- (ii) Note and discuss the Education and Lifelong Learning budget issue in relation to the inflationary increase in unitary charges, estimated at £720,000;
- (iii) Note and discuss the Education and Lifelong Learning budget issue in relation to Angus Council's 'Holiday Food and Fun' programme at a cost of £180,000;
- (iv) Note and discuss the continuation of the ELL budget savings from primary staffing as detailed in paragraph 5.1;
- (v) Note and discuss the education and Lifelong learning budget savings as listed in Appendix 1 and detailed in section 5, paragraphs 5.3-5.9; and
- (vi) Agree that feedback and comments will be reported verbally to the meeting of Angus Council on 3 March 2022 following the meeting of this Committee by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning.

Recommendations (i) to (v) are before Council for consideration later today as part of the Council's overall revenue budget for financial year 2022/23.

2. ALIGNMENT TO CORPORATE PLANS

This report contributes to the following outcomes in the:

Angus Local Community Plan, 2017-30:

- Reducing child poverty
- The best start in life for children

Angus Council Plan, 2019-24:

- We want to maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities
- Create equity by focusing services on those who need them most

Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families, 2021-23

- Our children and young people growing up healthy, confident and resilient with improving physical and mental health and strengthened emotional wellbeing
- Our children, young people and families at risk, who face significant inequalities and disadvantage, having improved life chances

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Reference is made to [Report 79/21](#) which described budget efficiencies for the Education and Lifelong Learning directorate for 2021/22.

- 3.2 Proposals for addressing savings and budget issues were agreed as set out in the Minute for the budget meeting held on [04 March 2021](#).
- 3.3 The Committee is also referred to Report 62/22 – Provisional Revenue and Capital Budgets 2022/23 – Background Report which is part of the agenda for the Special Council meeting on 3 March 2022 which provides the context for the 2022/23 budget setting including why budget savings are necessary.
- 3.4 It is also important to note that a significant increase in government grant funding for specific policies and initiatives will result in the Education and Lifelong Learning budget for 2022/23 being just under £5 million (4.2%) higher than in 2021/22 once all additional investment, budget issues and savings have been taken into account. The largest uplift of £3.084 million relates to funding for additional teachers and support staff but there is also additional funding of £0.928 million to pay for the expansion in universal free school meals, £0.167 million for removal of curriculum charges, £0.251 million for removal of music tuition charges and £0.479 million of funding for free school meal holiday provision.

4. CURRENT POSITION

Budget Issues

- 4.1 As part of the cycle for budget planning Education and Lifelong Learning officers identified a number of budget issues.
- 4.2 Recommendations (i) and (ii) are in relation to inflationary increases
- 4.3 Recommendation (iii) is in relation to the provision of funding for the delivery of a programme of activities designed to engage our families during school holiday periods. The [evaluation](#) of the programme delivered in 2021 demonstrates the effective use of this funding.

5 PROPOSED SAVINGS

- 5.1 [Report 79/21](#) detailed staffing budget efficiencies from both the primary and secondary sectors since August 2019. Approval was granted to postpone previously agreed staffing efficiencies for one year in recognition of the mitigations required to support our children and young people at that time. This decision saw the agreed saving be recalculated over the period 2022-2025.
- 5.2 Reference is made to Appendix 1, which sets out proposed savings for the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate in 2022/23.
- 5.3 Item 1 refers to the redistribution of funding from the Early Years budget to cover the cost of four school and pupil support assistants (SPSAs) and an increased contribution to the per-capita in our primary schools. This redistribution more accurately reflects the targeting of early years support and services.
- 5.4 Item 2, reduction in budgets allocated for 'supplies and services', includes the cessation of free fruit in our primary schools, a reduction in funding allocated to the storage of ASN materials, a reduction in budget allocated to support the work of the Angus Virtual School, a saving in respect of BT line rental and alignment of our job advertisement procedure.
- 5.5 Item 3 refers to a reduction in the staffing complement of the Angus Virtual School. A post which will become vacant due to retiral in August 2022 will be removed from the structure.
- 5.6 Item 4 refers to the differential in the funding provided for free school meals and the estimated cost of providing the meals due to actual uptake. This saving is a risk should grant funding eventually be brought into line with actual costs at some future point.
- 5.7 Item 5 refers to the saving available due to the differential in funding provided by Scottish Government for additional support staff and the actual costs we will incur locally.
- 5.8 Item 6 refers to a 1% reduction in the part of the secondary devolved school management (DSM) budget that can be directly controlled by Head Teachers. The calculation of FTE includes teaching and support staff.

- 5.9 Item 7 refers to one off savings from the additional funding for permanent teachers generated when some teachers are at the lower end of the incremental pay scale. This saving will not impact on the number of additional permanent teachers we can employ.
- 5.10 All proposed savings have been recommended for approval by Angus Council.
- 5.11 Within the context of the Council's overall budget pressures combined with the additional ring-fenced funding provided for Education and Lifelong Learning services, all of the above savings proposals are achievable with limited impact on the learning outcomes for children and young people. Similarly, while some of the savings carry an element of risk this is within an acceptable appetite.

6. PROPOSALS

- 6.1 The Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate will continue to monitor the effective use of budgets and consult with Head Teachers and setting managers to evaluate the service provided to our children, young people and families.
- 6.2 The budget efficiencies contained within this report should be considered in conjunction with the additional funding for permanent staff and the Scottish Attainment Challenge funding that will form part of the Education and lifelong learning budget moving forward. The Director of Education and Lifelong learning will report to the Children and Learning Committee in June 2022 on the planned use of those additional funds.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 It is important to stress that savings from the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate have been necessary due to continued pressure on the Council's finances and real terms reductions in government grant funding for core services.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Equality Impact Assessments have been carried out and are attached.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The Director of Finance has been consulted in the preparation of this report. The proposals outlined in this report have been subject to discussion with teacher trade union representatives and a representative group of Angus head teachers. Statutory officers have also been consulted.

NOTE: The background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report are:

- [Report 79/21 – Staffing Budget Efficiencies](#)

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Appendix 1

	Description of saving	Saving category	Base budget (£000's)	22/23 saving (£000's)	Staff impact (FTE)
1	Utilise Early Years Expansion revenue grant monies through apportionment of Early Years costs currently being contained within other sectors & the core budget.	Transformation	10,067	107	0
2	Reduction in various Supplies & Services budgets, including free fruit, storage of ASN educational materials, Angus virtual school resources.	Reduce	Numerous budgets	183	0
3	Service Contraction Angus Virtual School	Reduce	503	58	1
4	Free school meals funding is currently received on the assumption of there being a 100% uptake. As previous years trends have shown this is unlikely to be the case and therefore is potential for a saving.	Reduce	4,509	60	0
5	Saving on additional school support staff. Scottish Government funding to recruit additional support staff provides a natural saving as the SPSA's in Angus are paid less than the national average used to determine additional grant funding.	Reduce	691	260	0
6	A 1% reduction to the element of budgets devolved to Secondary Schools that can be directly controlled by Head Teachers	Reduce	87,720	244	8.8
7	SG Funding for Additional Teachers. Projected saving from the August start date and placement on teacher salary scale. This saving will gradually be reduced to nil in future years as additional teachers employed progress along the salary scale	Reduce	1,335	303	0