

**SPECIAL ANGUS COUNCIL
2 MARCH 2023**

**2023/24 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET SETTING
PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND JUSTICE DIRECTORATE**

**JOINT REPORT BY KATHRYN LINDSAY, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND JUSTICE
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ABSTRACT

This report sets out the proposed revenue and capital budgets for the Children, Families and Justice Directorate covering the 2023/24 provisional revenue budget, budget savings from the Council's Finance & Change Plan, and budget issues proposed to be included in the budget. Equalities impact assessments for these proposals are also provided. Proposed budget savings for financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26 are included in this report on an indicative basis only – final decisions on those savings will be made as part of the budget setting process for those financial years.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Council:

- a) note and approve the budget issues contained in Appendix A for inclusion in the Directorate's 2023/24 provisional revenue budget;
- b) note and approve the budget savings contained in Appendix B for inclusion in the Directorate's 2023/24 provisional revenue budget;
- c) note and approve the 2023/24 Provisional Revenue Budget for the Directorate as set out in Appendix C;
- d) note there is no 2023/24 Provisional Capital Budget for the Directorate;
- e) note that the 2023/24 revenue budget set out in this report forms part of the Council's total budget for determining the 2023/24 Council Tax.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

2.1 This report contributes as a whole to the delivery of the Council Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Reference is made to Report 225/22 and Report 406/22 submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee in August and December 2022 respectively which set out the approach and timetable for the preparation of the 2023/24 revenue and capital budgets.

3.2 This report and its appendices sets out the proposed 2023/24 provisional revenue budget for the Children, Families and Justice Directorate which along with the proposed budgets for all other Directorates and corporate budget items will make up the Council's total budget so that the 2023/24 Council Tax can be determined by elected members.

4. 2023/24 PROVISIONAL REVENUE BUDGET

4.1 The proposed 2023/24 revenue budget for the Children, Families and Justice Directorate comprises the following:-

4.2 Budget Issues (see Appendix A for details)

Through the budget setting process each Director identifies areas of their budget where specific issues are expected to arise which will mean that the current budget provision is inadequate and may need to be increased e.g. due to inflation or increased service demand. Some budget issues need to be taken at risk due to affordability constraints but those which are considered to be unavoidable are recommended for inclusion in the proposed revenue budget.

Budget issues in the Children, Families and Justice Directorate result from the combined effect of increased need, and inflationary cost pressures.

4.3 Budget Savings (see Appendix B for details)

The Council's financial challenges mean that savings in existing budgets must be made to achieve a balanced budget overall. Budget savings help to offset the additional costs arising from budget issues and other cost increases such as pay and general inflation.

The Council's Change Programme as set out in the Finance & Change Plan (Report 40/23 refers) covers all of the savings being proposed in the Council's budget over the financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26. The budget savings proposed to be applied to the Directorate's 2023/24 budget and which elected members are being asked to approve are set out in Appendix B. The proposed budget savings for financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26 included in Appendix B are indicative only at this point – final decisions on those savings will be made as part of the budget setting process for those financial years.

Savings proposed for the Children, Families and Justice Directorate have been identified through the ongoing realignment of budget headings as a result of a previous restructure.

4.4 Directorate Net Expenditure Summary (see Appendix C for details)

An overall summary of the proposed 2023/24 revenue budget for the Directorate is included as Appendix C to this report. This includes the budget implications from the budget issues and budget savings in Appendices A & B and represents the proposed 2023/24 Provisional Revenue Budget for the Directorate.

4.5 All of the 2023/24 revenue budget proposals set out in this report have been incorporated into the Council's overall budget for the year, a summary of which is included in Report 54/23 – Provisional Revenue & Capital Budgets 2023/24 - Background Report and Setting of the 2023/24 Council Tax.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no additional financial implications for the Council beyond those set out in the body and appendices of this report. Members should however note that any changes to the budget proposals set out in this report which have financial implications will impact onto the Council's overall budget and the basis for achieving a balanced budget.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 An equality impact assessment has been prepared covering the proposals set out in the report as follows:-

EIA covering Budget Issues – Appendix A1
EIA covering Budget Savings – Appendix A1

NOTE: The following background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 were relied on in preparing the above report.

- Finance Circular 11/2022 issued by the Scottish Government

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Directorate Budget Issues

Appendix B – Directorate Budget Savings

Appendix C – Directorate Net Expenditure Summary - 2023/24 Provisional Revenue Budget

Appendix A1 – Equalities Impact Assessment – Budget Issues and Savings