

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of **ANGUS COUNCIL** held in Angus House, Forfar on Thursday 2 March 2023 at 1.00pm.

Present: PROVOST BRIAN BOYD, DEPUTE PROVOST LINDA CLARK, Councillors CHRIS BEATTIE, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, DAVID CHEAPE, SERENA COWDY, LYNNE DEVINE, HEATHER DORAN, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, IAIN GALL, ROSS GREIG, MARK MCDONALD, IAN MCLAREN, GEORGE MEECHAN, LLOYD MELVILLE, GAVIN NICOL, LOUISE NICOL, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, JILL SCOTT, MARTIN SHEPHERD, LOIS SPEED, TOMMY STEWART, DEREK WANN and BETH WHITESIDE.

PROVOST BOYD, in the Chair.

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies intimated.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY**

Councillor Meechan declared an interest in Report No 43/23 as he was currently a kinship carer. He indicated that he would not take part in any discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

3. **REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2022/2023**

The Council resolved to note the latest positions were reported to the Policy and Resources Committee on 7 February 2023 (Reports 13/23 and 14/23 respectively).

4. **COUNCIL PLAN, FINANCE & CHANGE PLAN AND WORKFORCE PLAN**

The Chief Executive introduced the Council Plan, Finance & Change Plan and Workforce Plan which presented a new five-year Council plan outlining the Council's strategic direction, vision and priorities and actions for 2023-2028, together with the Finance & Change Plan for the three-year period from 2023-2026, and the Workforce Plan for the period 2023-2028.

The Chief Executive referred to the significant financial challenges that the Council had faced and the need over the next three to five years for the Council to transform, and that the Change Plan and Change Programme provided the strategic direction and mechanism for delivering that change. It provided the focus to support achieving a balanced budget for 2023/24 and set out the initial plans for years two and three, which would be subject to further development. She commended the report to members.

At this stage in the meeting the Council resolved, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 11(1), that the order of business be varied from that published, and was considered as follows.

Thereafter, having resolved to amend the order of business, Councillor Meechan left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

5. **PROVISIONAL REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2023/24 AND BEYOND AND SETTING OF THE 2023/24 COUNCIL TAX AND RELATED ISSUES**

2023/24 Revenue & Capital Budget Setting – Proposed Budgets for the Children, Families & Justice Directorate

Councillor Duff, seconded by Councillor Whiteside, moved that this Council note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report No 43/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Children, Families & Justice and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for Children, Families & Justice.

The Council resolved to approve to the motion.

Councillor Meechan re-joined the meeting.

At this point in the meeting, the Director of HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support reported on the discussions that had taken place at the meeting of the Central Consultative Committee held earlier in the day.

The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning then advised members that at a Special meeting of the Children and Learning Committee held earlier in the day members had considered Report No 72/23 summarising the proposed budget efficiencies for the Education and Lifelong Learning directorate for the Council's 2023/24 revenue budget, detailed identified budget savings for financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26 which were included on an indicative basis only, with final decisions on those savings being made as part of the budget setting process for those financial years. She indicated that the recommendations of the Report had been agreed.

Prior to consideration of Report No 53/23, the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform provided clarification and identified a correction to recommendation 1.1 of Report No 53/23.

The Director of Finance also provided clarification and identified a correction to the staffing figure contained within Appendix A to Report No 57/23.

Thereafter, there was submitted the following:-

- (i) Report No 40/23 by the Chief Executive being the Council Plan, Finance & Change Plan and Workforce Plan setting out the Council's strategic direction, vision, refreshed priorities and planned actions;
- (ii) Joint Report No 41/23 by the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning and the Director of Finance setting out the proposed revenue and capital budgets for the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate for 2023/24;
- (iii) Joint Report No 42/23 by the Director of Infrastructure & Environment and the Director of Finance setting out the proposed revenue and capital budgets for the Infrastructure and Environment Directorate for 2023/24 ;
- (iv) Joint Report No 44/23 by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform and the Director of Finance setting out the proposed revenue and capital budgets for the Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform Directorate for 2023/24;
- (v) Joint Report No 45/23 by the Director of HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support and the Director of Finance setting out the proposed revenue and capital budgets for the HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support Directorate for 2023/24;
- (vi) Joint Report No 46/23 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth and the Director of Finance setting out the proposed revenue and capital budgets for the Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth Directorate for 2023/24;
- (vii) Report No 47/23 by the Director of Finance setting out the proposed revenue and capital budgets for the Finance Directorate for 2023/24;
- (viii) Joint Report No 48/23 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and the Director of Finance setting out the proposed revenue budget for the Legal & Democratic Services Directorate for 2023/24;
- (ix) Joint Report No 49/23 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and the Director of Finance setting out the proposed revenue budget for Facilities Management Support for 2023/24;
- (x) Report No 50/23 by the Director of Finance setting out the proposed revenue budget for Other Services & Corporate Items for 2023/24;

- (xi) Report No 51/23 by the Chief Officer, Angus Integration Joint Board setting out proposals to revise Support and Care and Residential fees for services provided by Angus Health and Social Care Partnership through Angus Council with effect from April 2023;
- (xii) Report No 52/23 by the Director of Finance summarising the proposed revenue budget being devolved to the Angus Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board for 2023/24 which had responsibility for the delivery of Adult Care Services;
- (xiii) Joint Report No 53/23 by the Director of Finance and the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform presenting the proposed 2023/24 budget settlement between Angus Council and ANGUSalive, along with the review of ANGUSalive charges for services delivered and their Business Plan covering 2023/24 to 2025/26;
- (xiv) Report No 54/23 by the Director of Finance apprising members of the background to setting the Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2023/24 and setting out the summary position of the 2023/24 Provisional Revenue Budget and the 2022/2027 Capital Plan. The report also apprised members of the further steps that were required with regard to the setting of the Council Tax for 2023/24;
- (xv) Report No 55/23 by the Director of Finance presenting a proposed amendment to the Council's accounting policy in relation to service concession arrangements which would provide significant ongoing and one-off financial benefit to the Council's General Fund budget, as detailed in the report;
- (xvi) Report No 56/23 by the Director of Finance presenting the equality impact assessment and fairer Scotland duty assessments which had been undertaken while considering the various changes required to support the Council setting a balanced budget for the financial year 2023/24;
- (xvii) Report No 57/23 by the Director of Finance updating members on the General Fund Reserve position post the position reported in the Council's 2021/22 Audited Annual Accounts and setting out a proposed budget strategy for the use of the General Fund Reserve over the 5 year period from 2023/24 to 2027/28;
- (xviii) Report No 58/23 by the Director of Finance apprising members of the 3 year revenue budget position for the council starting with the 2023/24 provisional revenue budget position plus indicative revenue budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 for members to note;
- (xiv) Report No 59/23 by the Director of Finance presenting the Capital Strategy for the financial year 2023/24;
- (xx) Report No 60/23 by the Director of Finance summarising the outcome from an assessment of the long-term affordability of the 2022/2027 Capital Plan carried out as part of the council's longer-term financial management strategy; and
- (xxi) Report No 61/23 by the Director of Finance advising members of the prudential indicators which the Council was required to consider and approve as part of the Budgets setting process;

Councillor Duff, seconded by Councillor Whiteside, moved that this Council:-

1. notes the latest 2022/23 revenue and capital monitoring position as reported to the Policy & Resources Committee on 7 February 2023 as set out in Report Nos 13/23 and 14/23, respectively;
2. has due regard to the public sector equality duty and the detail provided in the equalities impact assessments and the Fairer Scotland Duty, and the detail provided in the relative assessments related to reducing inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions, all in terms of accompanying the reports as detailed within the agenda for this meeting;
3. approves the Council Plan, Finance and Change Plan and Workforce Plan as set out in Report 40/23 as submitted by the Chief Executive;

4. notes the views of the Trade Union representatives on the Central Consultative Committee arising from their meeting earlier today as per the verbal update provided at this meeting by the Director of HR, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support;
5. notes the views of the Special Children & Learning Committee arising from their meeting earlier today as per the verbal update provided at this meeting by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning;
6. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 41/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for Education & Lifelong Learning;
7. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 42/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Infrastructure & Environment and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for Infrastructure & Environment;
8. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 44/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform and the Director of Finance, relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform;
9. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 45/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support;
10. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 46/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth;
11. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 47/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for Finance;
12. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 48/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Legal & Democratic Services and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue Budget for Legal & Democratic Services;
13. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 49/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Legal & Democratic Services and Director of Finance relating to the Revenue Budget for Facilities Management;
14. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 50/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue Budget for Other Services & Corporate Items;
15. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 51/23 as submitted by the Chief Officer, Angus Integrated Joint Board relating to the Review of Angus Council Charges for Support and Care Services and Residential Fees 2023/24;
16. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 52/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Devolved Budget to Angus Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Joint Board for 2023/24;
17. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 53/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Finance and the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform relating to ANGUSalve Charges Review & Budget Settlement 2023/24, subject to the following additional wording to recommendation 1.1 – ‘subject to ANGUSalve adhering to the change process already agreed’.
18. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 54/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Provisional Revenue & Capital Budgets 2023/24 – Background Report and Setting of the Council Tax 2023/24;

19. notes the total net revenue expenditure for 2023/24 of £332.446 million as set out in Report 54/23;
20. notes the total net capital expenditure for 2023/24 of £43.470 million as set out in Report 54/23;
21. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 55/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Amendment to the Service Concessions Accounting Policy;
22. notes and has due regard to the public sector equality duty and Fairer Scotland Duty in terms of the detail provided in Report 56/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Equality Impact Assessment & Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment – Overall Revenue & Capital Budget 2023/24;
23. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 59/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Capital Strategy 2023/24;
24. notes the proposed 1.75% level for Council Tax non-collection in 2023/24 as set out in Report 54/23. This would result in a Band D equivalent tax base of 47,957 as set out in **Statement 1**;
25. approves the drawdown of £0.200 million from Council Reserves for the Other Budget Proposals as set out in Report 57/23 and **Statement 2** noting this would be funded from the uncommitted General Fund Reserve;
26. approves the drawdown of £5.005 million from Council Reserves for One Off Budget Issues and Investments as set out in Report 57/23 and **Statement 2**;
27. approves the drawdown of £2.000 million from the Exceptional Cost Pressures Reserves as set out in Report 57/23 and **Statement 2**;
28. approves the use of £1.294 million of Council Reserves which along with the proposed increase in Council Tax will enable delivery of a balanced budget in 2023/24 as set out in **Statement 2**;
29. approves the Council Tax Calculation Statement, which encompasses all of the appropriate elements of this motion as set out in **Statement 2**;
30. agrees that the Angus Council Band D Council Tax Charge for 2023/24 be as follows:-
Council Tax (Band D) - £1,316.68 (as set out in Statement 2);
31. notes the impact of the 6% increase in Council Tax for 2023/24, as set out in **Statement 3**;
32. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 57/23, as submitted by the Director of Finance, relating to an Update on the General Fund Reserve and the Proposed Budget Strategy for the Use of the Reserve Balance over the Period 2023/24 – 2027/28 as amended in **Statement 4 a & b**;
33. notes the impact on the level of Earmarked Reserves of the proposals detailed in this motion, as detailed in **Statement 5**;
34. notes that £23.019 million for the proposed reserve strategy draw down for financial years 2024/25 & 2027/28 remains committed against the projected Uncommitted General Fund Reserve at 1 April 2024 as shown in **Statement 5**;
35. notes the recommendations as set out in Report 58/23 submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Provisional 3 Year Revenue Budget Position for 2023/24 and Indicative Revenue Budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 as amended in **Statement 6 a & b**;
36. notes and approves the recommendations of Report 60/23 regarding the Long Term Affordability of the General Fund Capital Plan; and

37. approves the recommendations of Report 61/23 regarding the Setting of Prudential Indicators for the 2023/24 budget process.

At this stage in the meeting, the Council resolved to adjourn for 30 minutes to allow the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to provide advice to members.

The meeting resumed at 14.25pm.

Councillor Wann, seconded by Councillor Gall, moved in accordance with Standing Order 27, as a procedural motion, to suspend Standing Order 26(1) to revoke the previous decision taken in relation to Report No 43/23 as detailed above.

On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For revocation of the previous decision:-

Provost Boyd, Depute Provost Clark, Councillors Beattie, Bell, Braes, Cheape, Cowdy, Devine, Duff, Doran, Durno, Fairweather, Fotheringham, Gall, Greig, McDonald, McLaren Melville, Gavin Nicol, Louise Nicol, Proctor, Scott, Shepherd, Speed, Stewart, Wann and Whiteside (27).

Against revocation of the previous decision:-

None.

No Vote:-

Councillor Meechan (1).

The motion for suspension of Standing Order 26 was declared carried and the decision taken in terms of Report No 43/23 revoked.

The Council thereafter resolved to consider Report No 43/23 following conclusion of the remainder of the business.

Councillor Duff clarified that the administration group's budget motion was contingent upon the recommendations in terms of Report No 43/23 being agreed in a subsequent vote.

Councillor Gall, seconded by Councillor Wann, moved as an amendment, that this Council:-

1. notes the latest 2022/23 revenue and capital monitoring position as reported to the Policy & Resources Committee on 7 February 2023 as set out in Report Nos 13/23 and 14/23, respectively;
2. has due regard to the public sector equality duty and the detail provided in the equalities impact assessments and the Fairer Scotland Duty, and the detail provided in the relative assessments related to reducing inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions, all accompanying the reports as detailed within the agenda for this meeting;
3. approves the Council Plan, Finance and Change Plan and Workforce Action Plan as set out in Report 40/23 as submitted by the Chief Executive;
4. notes the views of the Trade Union representatives on the Central Consultative Committee arising from their meeting earlier today as per the verbal update provided at this meeting by the Director of HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support;
5. notes the views of the Special Children & Learning Committee arising from their meeting earlier today as per the verbal update provided at this meeting by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning;
6. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 41/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for Education & Lifelong Learning **as amended by Report 62/23, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 8(5);**

7. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 42/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Infrastructure & Environment and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for Infrastructure & Environment **as amended by Report 62/23, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 8(5)**;
8. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 44/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform;
9. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 45/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support;
10. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 46/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth **as amended by Report 62/23, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 8(5)**;
11. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 47/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for Finance;
12. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 48/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Legal & Democratic Services and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue Budget for Legal & Democratic Services **as amended by Report 62/23, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 8(5)**;
13. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 49/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Legal & Democratic Services and Director of Finance relating to the Revenue Budget for Facilities Management;
14. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 50/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue Budget for Other Services & Corporate Items;
15. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 51/23 as submitted by the Chief Officer, Angus Integrated Joint Board relating to the Review of Angus Council Charges for Support and Care Services and Residential Fees 2023/24;
16. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 52/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Devolved Budget to Angus Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Joint Board for 2023/24;
17. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 53/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Finance and the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform relating to ANGUSalive Charges Review & Budget Settlement 2023/24, subject to the following additional wording to recommendation 1.1 – ‘subject to ANGUSalive adhering to the change process already agreed’.
18. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 54/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Provisional Revenue & Capital Budgets 2023/24 – Background Report and Setting of the Council Tax 2023/24 **as amended by Report 62/23, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 8(5)**;
19. notes the total net revenue expenditure for 2023/24 of £329.148 million **as set out in Report 62/23, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 8(5)**;

20. notes the total net capital expenditure for 2023/24 of £43.720 million **as set out in Report 62/23, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 8(5);**
21. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 55/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Amendment to the Service Concessions Accounting Policy;
22. notes and has due regard to the public sector equality duty and Fairer Scotland Duty in terms of the detail provided in Report 56/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Equality Impact Assessment & Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment – Overall Revenue & Capital Budget 2023/24;
23. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 59/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Capital Strategy 2023/24;
24. approves the proposed 1.75% level for Council Tax non-collection in 2023/24 as set out in Report 54/23. This would result in a Band D equivalent tax base of 47,957 as set out in **Statement 1;**
25. approves the drawdown of £0.200 million from Council Reserves for the Other Budget Proposals as set out in Report 57/23 and **Statement 2**, noting this will be funded from the uncommitted General Fund Reserve;
26. approves the drawdown of £2.105 million from Council Reserves for One Off Budget Issues and Investments as set out in Report 57/23 and **Statement 2;**
27. approves the drawdown of £2.000 million from the Exceptional Cost Pressures Reserves as set out in Report 57/23 and **Statement 2;**
28. approves the use of £1.692 million of Council Reserves which, along with the proposed increase in Council Tax will enable delivery of a balanced budget in 2023/24 as set out in **Statement 2;**
29. approves the Council Tax Calculation Statement, which encompasses all of the appropriate elements of this Amendment as set out in **Statement 2;**
30. agrees an Angus Council Band D Council Tax Charge for 2023/24 as follows: -
Council Tax (Band D) £1,304.25 (as set out in Statement 2)
31. notes the impact of the 5.0% increase in Council Tax for 2023/24, as set out in **Statement 3;**
32. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 57/23, as submitted by the Director of Finance, relating to an Update on the General Fund Reserve and the Proposed Budget Strategy for the Use of the Reserve Balance over the Period 2023/24 – 2027/28 **as amended in Statement 4 a & b;**
33. notes the impact on the level of Earmarked Reserves of the proposals detailed in this Amendment, as detailed in **Statement 5;**
34. notes that £25.721 million for the proposed reserve strategy draw down for financial year 2024/25 to 2027/28 remains committed against the projected Uncommitted General Fund balance at 1 April 2024 as shown in **Statement 5;**
35. notes the recommendations as set out in Report 58/23 submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Provisional 3 Year Revenue Budget Position for 2023/24 and Indicative Revenue Budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 **as amended in Statement 6 a & b;**
36. notes and approves the recommendations as set out in Report 60/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance regarding the Long Term Affordability of the General Fund Capital Plan; and
37. approves the recommendations as set out in Report 61/23 as submitted by the Director of Finance regarding the Setting of Prudential Indicators for the 2023/24

Budget Process, as amended by Report 62/23, the Opposition Group Budget Proposal in Terms of Standing Order 8(5).

Councillor Gall clarified that the opposition group's budget amendment was contingent upon the recommendations in terms of Report No 43/23 being agreed in a subsequent vote.

The Council resolved to adjourn for 15 minutes to allow the opportunity for members to consider the contents of both the motion and the amendment.

The meeting resumed at 15.02pm.

Members took the opportunity to ask questions and make comment in relation to both the motion and the amendment.

At this point in the meeting (the time being 15.55pm), the Council resolved, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 21(8), that the meeting continue to the conclusion of the business.

The Council also resolved to adjourn for a 5 minute 'comfort break'. The meeting resumed at 16.06pm.

Having heard further from a number of members, Councillors Doran and Speed gave notice of two further amendments.

Councillor Duff then summed up.

Thereafter, the members voted:-

For the motion by Councillor Duff:-

Provost Boyd, Depute Provost Clark, Councillors Beattie, Bell, Braes, Cheape, Cowdy, Devine, Duff, Durno, McDonald, Meechan, Melville, Shepherd, Speed and Whiteside (16).

For the amendment by Councillor Gall:-

Councillors Fairweather, Fotheringham, Gall, Greig, McLaren, Gavin Nicol, Louise Nicol, Proctor, Stewart and Wann (10).

No Vote:-

Councillors Doran and Scott (2).

The motion was declared carried.

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 16(11)(ii), Councillors Fairweather, Fotheringham, Gall, Greig, McLaren, Gavin Nicol, Louise Nicol, Proctor, Stewart and Wann requested that their dissent be recorded in relation to the foregoing decision.

Thereafter, Councillors Doran and Speed having previously given notice of two further amendments, circulated the contents of both the amendments.

The Council resolved to adjourn for 20 minutes to allow the opportunity for members to consider the contents of the further amendments.

The meeting resumed at 16.52pm.

Councillor Doran, having given notice of a further amendment, seconded by Councillor Scott, moved that this Council resolves that, in relation to the Update on the General Fund Reserve and the Proposed Budget Strategy for the Use of the Reserve Balance over the Period 2023/24- 2027/28 (Report 57/23):

(i) recommendation B of Report 57/23 be amended as follows:

recognise that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are still ongoing, particularly in schools, and that the £1.458 million be used to retain current class sizes and to provide support for schools in getting learners back into the classroom. The Director of

Education and Life Long Learning is requested to bring a report to committee detailing how the funding could be used to deliver these objectives; and

- (ii) recommendation C of Report 57/23 be amended as follows:

approve the proposed use of the Council's uncommitted General Fund Reserve for the purposes set out in Section 5 (Table 2 of £5.205 million) and Appendix A as amended in Table 1 below

Table 1 – Amendment of Appendix A to Report 57/23

Project / Proposal	Report 57/23	Amendment	Increase / (Reduction)	Note
	£m	£m	£m	
Investment in Climate Change /Net Zero / Biodiversity	1.000	0.661	(0.339)	
Montrose Port / Zero4 Links	0.075	0	(0.075)	
Anti-social Behaviour	0	0.134	0.134	A
Revenue & Benefits Cash2	0	0.050	0.050	B
School Meal Charges	0	0.130	0.130	C
Bus Transport	0	0.100	0.100	D
Total	1.075	1.075	0	

Notes

- A. Deferral of the £0.134m saving in Appendix A of Report 46/23 from 2023/24 to 2024/25.
- B. Deferral of the £0.050m saving in Appendix A of Report 47/23 from 2023/24 to 2024/25, being £0.25m in Finance and £0.25m in Other Services.
- C. Deferral of the increase in Primary & Secondary School meal charges in Appendix C of Report 41/23 from 2023/24 to 2024/25.
- D. Deferral of the £0.100m saving in Appendix B of Report 42/23 from 2023/24 to 2024/25 and thus retention of contracts A670 and A673.

Councillor Doran clarified that the amendment as detailed above was contingent upon the recommendations in terms of Report No 43/23 being agreed in a subsequent vote.

Following a number of questions, and having heard from a number of members, the members voted:-

For the motion:-

Provost Boyd, Depute Provost Clark, Councillors Beattie, Bell, Braes, Cheape, Cowdy, Devine, Duff, Durno, McDonald, Meechan, Melville, Shepherd and Whiteside (15).

For the (further) amendment:-

Councillors Doran, Scott and Speed (3).

No vote:-

Councillors Fairweather, Fotheringham, Gall, Greig, McLaren, Gavin Nicol, Louise Nicol, Proctor, Stewart and Wann (10).

The motion was declared carried.

Councillor Speed, having given notice of a further amendment, seconded by Councillor Scott, moved that this Council resolves that, in relation to the update on the General Fund Reserve and the Proposed Budget Strategy for the Use of the Reserve Balance over the Period 2023/24-2027/28 (Report 57/23):

- (i) Recommendation b. of Report 57/23 is amended as follows:

- b. recognise that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are still ongoing, particularly in schools, and agree that £0.180 of the £1.458 million COVID-19 Contingency Fund balance be used: -
- (i) to defer the £0.050m saving in Appendix A of Report 47/23 (Revenue & Benefit Cash2 £0.025m and Other Services £0.025m) from 2023/24 to 2024/25; and
 - (ii) to defer the increase in Primary & Secondary School meals charges in Appendix C of Report 41/23 from 2023/24 to 2024/25 at a cost of £0.130m.

Councillor Speed confirmed that the amendment was the budget as agreed being in effect the motion by Councillor Duff but subject to the amendments outlined above, which was contingent upon the amendment to the recommendations in terms of Report No 43/23 being agreed in a subsequent vote.

Following a number of questions, and having heard from a number of members, the members voted:-

For the motion:-

No Votes.

For the (further) amendment:-

Provost Boyd, Depute Provost Clark, Councillors Beattie, Bell, Braes, Cheape, Cowdy, Devine, Doran, Duff, Durno, McDonald, Meechan, Melville, Scott, Shepherd, Speed and Whiteside (18).

No Vote:-

Councillors Fairweather, Fotheringham, Gall, Greig, McLaren, Gavin Nicol, Louise Nicol, Proctor, Stewart and Wann (10).

The amendment was declared carried and the Council resolved accordingly.

Having declared an interest at Article 2 above, Councillor Meechan left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

2023/24 Revenue & Capital Budget Setting – Proposed Budgets for the Children, Families & Justice Directorate

Councillor Duff, seconded by Councillor Whiteside, having noted that the administration's budget was contingent upon the recommendations as detailed in Report No 43/23 being agreed, moved that this Council note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report No 43/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Children, Families & Justice and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for Children, Families & Justice.

Councillor Gall, seconded by Councillor Wann, having noted that the opposition's budget was contingent upon the recommendations as detailed in Report No 43/23 being agreed, moved as an amendment, that this Council note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report No 43/23 as submitted jointly by the Director of Children, Families & Justice and the Director of Finance relating to the Revenue & Capital Budget for Children, Families & Justice, **as amended by Report No 62/23, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 8(5).**

On a vote being taken, the members voted:-

For the motion by Councillor Duff:-

Provost Boyd, Depute Provost Clark, Councillors Beattie, Bell, Braes, Cheape, Cowdy, Devine, Duff, Durno, McDonald, Melville, Shepherd, Speed and Whiteside (15).

For the amendment by Councillor Gall:-

Councillors Fairweather, Fotheringham, Gall, Greig, McLaren, Gavin Nicol, Louise Nicol, Proctor, Stewart and Wann (10).

No Vote:-

Councillors Doran and Scott (2).

The motion was declared carried and the Council resolved accordingly.

The meeting concluded at 17.30pm.