

OPPOSITION GROUP
BUDGET AMENDMENT 2025/26

ANGUS COUNCIL

REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGETS 2025/26

Special Angus Council – 27 February 2025

ALTERNATIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL AS DETAILED IN AGENDA ITEM 7

AGENDA ITEMS 3 TO 5 AND 7 BY THE OPPOSITION GROUP

I formally move that the Council: -

1. Note the latest 2024/25 revenue and capital monitoring position as reported to the Policy & Resources Committee on 28 January 2025 as set out in Reports 19/25 and 20/25, respectively.
2. Have 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 for Agenda Items 3 to 5 and 7 for this meeting.
3. Note and approve the Council Delivery Plan as set out in Report 49/25 as submitted by the Chief Executive **as amended by Report 68/25, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 4.**
4. Note 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. Note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report 50/25 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the 2025/26 Plans and Budget Consultation – Results from Phases 1 and 2.
6. Note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report 51/25 as submitted jointly by the Acting Director of Education & Lifelong Learning and the Director of Finance relating to the Review of Charges within the Education & Lifelong Learning Directorate **as amended by Report 68/25, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 4.**
7. Note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report 52/25 as submitted jointly by the Director of Infrastructure & Environment and the Director of Finance relating to the Review of Charges within the Infrastructure & Environment Directorate **as amended by Report 68/25, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 4.**
8. Note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report 53/25 as submitted jointly by the Acting Director of Legal, Governance & Change and the Director of Finance relating to the Review of Charges within the Legal, Governance & Change Directorate **as amended by Report 68/25, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 4.**
9. Note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report 54/25 as submitted jointly by the Acting Depute Chief Executive and the Director of Finance relating to the Review of Charges within the Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth Directorate **as amended by Report 68/25, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 4.**
10. Note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report 55/25 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 2025/26.
11. Note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report 56/25 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Devolved Budget to Angus Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Joint Board for 2025/26.

12. Note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report 57/25 as submitted jointly by the Acting Director of Legal, Governance & Change and the Director of Finance relating to ANGUSalive Charges Review & Budget Settlement 2025/26.
13. Note and approve the recommendations as set out in Reports 58/25, 60/25 and 61/25 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Provisional Revenue & Capital Budget – Background Report & Setting of the 2025/26 Council Tax; the Provisional Revenue Budget Volume and the 2024/2029 Capital Plan & Provisional Capital Budget 2025/26 respectively **as amended by Report 68/25, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 4.**
14. Note the total net revenue expenditure to be met from Council Tax / Reserves for 2025/26 of £73.753 million **as set out in Report 68/25, the Opposition Group Budget Proposals published in terms of Standing Order 4.**
15. Approve the proposed 1.75% level for Council Tax non-collection in 2025/26 as set out in Report 58/25. This would result in a Band D equivalent tax base of 48,542 as set out in **Statement 1.**
16. Note and have due regard to the public sector equality duty, the Fairer Scotland Duty and the Children's Rights & Wellbeing duty in terms of the detail provided in Report 59/25 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Equality Impact Assessment: Setting of the 2025/26 General Fund Revenue and Capital Budgets and Council Tax.
17. Approve the drawdown of £2.002 million from Council Reserves to fund One-Off Budget Issues and Change Programme Savings Deferrals as set out in Report 62/25 and adjusted for the proposals set out in Report 68/25 as shown in **Statement 2**, noting this will be funded from the uncommitted General Fund Reserve.
18. Approve the use of £1.893 million of Council Reserves which, along with the proposed increase in Council Tax, will enable delivery of a balanced budget in 2025/26 as set out in **Statement 2.**
19. Approve the Council Tax Calculation Statement, which encompasses all the appropriate elements of this Amendment as set out in **Statement 2.**
20. Agrees an Angus Council Band D Council Tax Charge for 2025/26 as follows: -

Council Tax (Band D) £1,441.76 (as set out in Statement 2)
21. Note the Council Tax for 2025/26 for each valuation band as set out in **Statement 3.**
22. Approve the recommendations as set out in Report 62/25, 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 2025/26 – 2028/29, **as amended in Statements 4a & 4b.**
23. Note the impact on the level of Earmarked Reserves of the proposals detailed in this Amendment, as detailed in **Statement 5.**
24. Note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report 63/25 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Provisional 3 Year Revenue Budget Position for 2025/26 and Indicative Revenue Budgets for 2026/27 and 2027/28 **as amended in Statements 6a & 6b.**
25. Note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report 64/25 as submitted by the Director of Finance relating to the Capital Strategy 2025/26.
26. Note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report 65/25 as submitted by the Director of Finance regarding the Long-Term Affordability of the General Fund Capital Plan.
27. Note and approve the recommendations as set out in Report 66/25 as submitted by the Director of Finance regarding the Setting of Prudential Indicators for the 2025/26 Budget Process.

ANGUS COUNCIL**OPPOSITION GROUP– REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26****COUNCIL TAX NON-COLLECTION LEVEL**

<u>COUNCIL TAX BAND D EQUIVALENT</u>	Yield for every (£1) Charge
100% Collection	£49,407
99% Collection	£48,913
98.25% Collection	£48,542
98% Collection	£48,419
97% Collection	£47,925
96% Collection	£47,431
95% Collection	£46,937
94% Collection	£46,443

Notwithstanding that a 1.75% non-collection allowance is recommended for budget setting purposes the Council is advised that all legal means available will continue to be used to collect all Council Tax due.

Opposition Group - Revenue Budget 2025/26

STATEMENT 2

Council Tax Calculation Statement

£m

Net Expenditure To Be Met From Council Tax (before Contributions to / (from) Council Reserves)	73.753
Add: Additional Expenditure Impact of Council Tax Increase on Council Tax Reduction Budget	0.128
Less: Drawdown from Council Reserves to Fund One Off Budget Issues and Change Programme Savings Deferrals	(2.002)
Less: Drawdown from Council Reserves to Balance the Budget	(1.893)
NET EXPENDITURE TO BE MET FROM COUNCIL TAX	<u>69.986</u>

	<u>Number</u>
Council Tax Base (Band D equivalent number of dwellings)	49,407
Less: Recommended Provision for non-collection (1.75%)	(865)
Revised Tax Base	<u>48,542</u>

Band D Council Tax 2025/26	<u>£1,441.76</u>
Band D Council Tax Increase	£125.08
Band D Council Tax Increase	9.50%

IMPACT OF 9.5% INCREASE ON COUNCIL TAX

Band	<u>Fraction of Band D</u>	<u>2024 / 25 Council Tax</u> £	<u>2025 / 26 Council Tax</u> £	<u>Impact of 9.5% Band D Increase</u> £	<u>Increase</u> %
A	240/360	877.79	961.17	+ 83.39	9.5%
B	280/360	1,024.08	1,121.37	+ 97.28	9.5%
C	320/360	1,170.38	1,281.56	+ 111.18	9.5%
D	360/360	1,316.68	1,441.76	+ 125.08	9.5%
E	473/360	1,729.97	1,894.31	+ 164.34	9.5%
F	585/360	2,139.61	2,342.86	+ 203.26	9.5%
G	705/360	2,578.50	2,823.45	+ 244.95	9.5%
H	882/360	3,225.87	3,532.31	+ 306.45	9.5%

Opposition Group Revenue Budget 2025/26

As a result of the proposals in the Amendment some of the recommendations in Report 62/25 need to be updated to reflect revisions to the figures.

The Amendment, therefore, amends the recommendations of Report 62/25 as follows:

i: unchanged

ii: unchanged

iii: approve the 4-year strategy for the use of the Uncommitted General Fund Reserve of £18.295 million over the 4-year period 2025/26-2028/29 as set out in **Statement 4b**;

iv: unchanged

v: note that the projected remaining Uncommitted General Fund Reserve position after all of the above recommendations are applied is nil as set out in **Statement 4b**;

vi: note that there is no remaining uncommitted reserve to be held as an additional contingency.

Opposition Group - 2025/26 Revenue Budget
Amended Appendix A to Report 62 / 25

GENERAL FUND RESERVE STRATEGY - 2025/26-2028/29

Summary of Existing General Fund Reserve Strategy						
2024/25 - 2027/28						
Core General Fund Reserve Uncommitments	Exceptional Cost Pressures Reserve	Severance/Staff Training/ Staff Redeployment	Spend to Save etc	Reserve Drawdown Strategy (2025/26-2027/28)	Total	
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Reserve Balance available per existing Reserve Strategy	7.119	1.556	4.157	1.060	7.000	20.892
Less Projected Net Overspend (Report 20/25)						(2.597)
Total Funding Available For New Reserve Strategy						18.295

Summary of Proposed New General Fund Reserve Strategy												
2025/26 -2028/29												
Core General Fund Reserve Uncommitted	Exceptional Cost Pressures Reserve	Severance/ Staff Training/ Staff Redeployment	Spend to Save etc	Reserve Drawdown Strategy (2025/26-2028/29)	Graduate/ Modern Apprentice Programme	Roads/ Property & Parks R&R Funds	One off Budget Issues / Investments 2025/26	Increase Contingency	One off budget Issues 2026/27-2028/29	Allocation to Change Fund	Total	
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Proposals For New Reserve Strategy per report 62/25	0.242	2.750	1.500	1.000	7.350	1.500	1.000	0.803	0.500	1.500	0.150	18.295

Impact of Opposition Group Amendment												
Deferred change programme saving								0.450				0.450
Additional One Off Budget Issues / Investments								0.749				0.749
Amended reserves drawdown strategy	(0.242)											(1.199)
Revised New Reserve Strategy - Opposition Group Amendment	0.000	2.750	1.500	1.000	6.393	1.500	1.000	2.002	0.500	1.500	0.150	18.295

Total Funds Available	18.295
Amendments Proposed per Opposition Group budget proposal	18.295
Uncommitted General Fund Reserve Balance per Opposition Group budget proposal	0.000

**Opposition Group - 2025/26 Revenue Budget
Statement of Earmarked Reserves**

Reserve	Minimum Balance	Actual Balance 1/04/2024	Contributions to/(from) during 2024/25	Estimated Commitments at 1/04/2025	Estimated Uncommitted Balance at 1/04/2025	Decomit Balance of Current Reserve Strategy per Report 62/25 (Appendix A)	Proposed Use of Reserves per Opposition Amendment Statement 4b	Proposed Reserve Strategy for 2025/26-2028/29 per Opposition Amendment Statement 4b	Estimated Uncommitted Balance at 1/04/2026
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
General Fund	n/a	60.703	0.000	(56.181)	4.522	13.773	(2.002)	(16.293)	0.000
<u>Memorandum Purposes</u>									
Other Reserves included in the General Fund)									
Car Parking Reserve	n/a	0.188	0.000	0.000	0.188	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.188
Arbroath Harbour Reserve	0.100	0.208	0.000	0.000	0.208	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.208
Devolved School Management	n/a	0.374	0.000	(0.374)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
<u>Special Funds</u>									
<u>Renewal & Repair Fund: -</u>									
Roads & Transportation	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.500
Property	0.150	0.272	0.000	(0.075)	0.197	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.597
Information Technology	0.100	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.088
Recreation (Angus Alive)	n/a	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Recreation (Parks)	0.015	0.016	0.000	0.000	0.016	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.216
Capital Fund	n/a	1.538	0.000	(1.538)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Insurance Fund	n/a	0.684	1.000	0.000	1.684	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.684

(Note 1)

Note 1 - It should be noted that the IT Renewal & Repairs Fund has gone below the minimum balance.

Opposition Group Revenue Budget 2025/26

As a result of the proposals in the Amendment some of the recommendations in Report 63/25 need to be updated to reflect revisions to the figures.

The Amendment, therefore, amends the recommendations of Report 63/25 as follows:

i: unchanged.

ii: unchanged.

iii: note the projected funding gaps for 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28 that will need to be addressed as set out in **Statement 6b**.

iv: note the budget savings and the use of reserves for financial years 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28 amended as per **Statement 4b** as set out in **Statement 6b**.

v: note that Council Tax increases of 9.5% have been assumed in each of the 3 years 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28.

vi: note the potential path to a balanced budget for the 3-year period as set out on an indicative basis only in **Statement 6b** which shows a gap remaining of £0.678 million even after increases in Council Tax, significant savings and the use of reserves on a substantial scale.

vii: no longer required.

viii: unchanged.

Opposition Group - 2025/26 Revenue Budget
Amended Appendix A to Report 63/25

NET EXPENDITURE SUMMARY STATEMENT	Remove One Off							
	Provisional Budget 2025/26	Budget Issues 2025/26	Budget Growth 2026/27	Savings 2026/27	Provisional Budget 2026/27	Budget Growth 2027/28	Savings 2027/28	Provisional Budget 2027/28
	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m
SERVICE								
Education & Lifelong Learning	160.113	0.000	0.551	(0.900)	159.764	0.551	(0.500)	159.815
Infrastructure & Environment	39.269	(1.028)	0.806	(0.672)	38.375	0.806	(0.267)	38.914
Children, Families & Justice	29.356	(0.354)	0.374	0.000	29.376	0.374	0.000	29.750
HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support	10.185	0.000	0.000	(0.200)	9.985	0.000	0.000	9.985
Legal, Governance & Change	9.661	(0.140)	0.000	(0.510)	9.011	0.000	(0.010)	9.001
Vibrant Communities & Sustainable Growth	5.671	(0.030)	0.100	(0.010)	5.731	0.100	(0.010)	5.821
Finance	4.054	0.000	0.000	(0.020)	4.034	0.000	0.000	4.034
Chief Executive	1.798	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.798	0.000	0.000	1.798
Other Services	6.840	0.000	0.506	(1.000)	6.346	0.235	0.000	6.581
SERVICES SUB-TOTAL	266.947	(1.552)	2.337	(3.312)	264.42	2.066	(0.787)	265.699
Corporate Items								
Capital Financing Costs	10.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	10.500	0.000	0.000	10.500
Provision for Pay award (2024/25, 2025/26 & 2026/27)	5.600	0.000	4.847	0.000	10.447	4.428	0.000	14.875
Provision for Employers NI Increase	5.000	0.000	0.100	0.000	5.100	0.102	0.000	5.202
Provision for Employer NI Increase - AHSCP Share	0.357	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.357	0.000	0.000	0.357
Contingency for Budget Risks	1.448	0.000	2.000	0.000	3.448	2.000	0.000	5.448
Corporate Change Programme Savings to be allocated	0.911	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.911	0.000	0.000	0.911
Corporate Change Programme Savings	(2.551)	0.000	0.000	(0.450)	(3.001)	0.000	(0.200)	(3.201)
CORPORATE ITEMS SUB-TOTAL	21.265	0.000	6.947	(0.450)	27.762	6.530	(0.200)	34.092
ASSUMPTION - PREVIOUS YEAR BALANCED BUDGET	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	(8.707)	0.000	0.000	(14.051)
Others								
Surplus Local Tax Income	(0.234)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(0.234)	0.000	0.000	(0.234)
Income from Long Term Empty Properties	(0.500)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(0.500)	0.000	0.000	(0.500)
Specific Grants Netted off Within Services	3.944	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.944	0.000	0.000	3.944
OTHER SUB-TOTAL	3.210	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.210	0.000	0.000	3.210
Tayside Valuation Joint Board	0.931	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.931	0.000	0.000	0.931
Tayside Contracts (Net Surplus - Angus Share)	(0.250)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(0.250)	0.000	0.000	(0.250)
	0.681	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.681	0.000	0.000	0.681
Angus Health & Social Care Partnership	78.640	0.000	0.000	0.000	78.640	0.000	0.000	78.640
NET EXPENDITURE	370.743	(1.552)	9.284	(3.762)	366.006	8.596	(0.987)	368.271
General Revenue Grant	(263.742)	0.000	0.274	0.000	(263.468)	1.097	0.000	(262.371)
Non Domestic Rates Income	(29.304)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(29.304)	0.000	0.000	(29.304)
Specific Grants	(3.944)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(3.944)	0.000	0.000	(3.944)
TOTAL GOVERNMENT GRANT	(296.990)				(296.716)			(295.619)
NET EXPENDITURE TO BE MET FROM COUNCIL TAX	73.753				69.290			72.652
COUNCIL TAX (2024/25 BAND D CHARGE)	(63.494)				(63.946)			(64.046)
PROJECTED FUNDING GAP AFTER CHANGE PROGRAMME SAVINGS	10.259				5.344			8.606
PATH TO A BALANCED BUDGET								
INDICATIVE INCREASE IN COUNCIL TAX BASE INCOME	(0.452)				(0.100)			(0.100)
INDICATIVE INCREASE IN COUNCIL TAX INCOME (9.5% 25/26 and 9.5% for 26/27 & 27/28)) Net of Council Tax Reduction Impact	(5.912)				(5.973)			(6.492)
GENERAL FUND RESERVE DRAWDOWN STRATEGY (on going)	(1.893)				(2.000)			(1.500)
USE OF GENERAL FUND RESERVE - ONE OFF BUDGET ISSUES	(2.002)				(0.500)			(0.500)
OTHER USE OF RESERVES (IF AVAILABLE)	0.000				0.000			0.000
ADJUSTMENT FOR PREVIOUS YEARS ONE-OFF SOLUTIONS	0.000				1.893			2.000
PROJECTED REMAINING FUNDING GAP/(SURPLUS)	(0.000)				(1.336)			2.014
CUMULATIVE REMAINING FUNDING GAP/(SURPLUS)					(1.336)			0.678