

## 2. AMENDMENT

### 2.1 The Council:

- a) Approve the revenue estimates for 2026-27 and that consequently the local tax requirement estimated at £74.870m is funded from Council Tax.  
Approve the following rates and charges for the year, 2026-27:
  1. Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in Band “D” of £1,705.30 representing a 4.9% increase.
  2. Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in each of the other valuation bands in accordance with Section 74(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended.
  3. Business Rates as determined by Scottish Ministers.
- b) Agree to increase the Council Tax premium on Second Homes and Long Term Empty Properties by 10% noting that if the Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2026 are not in force by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 the premium will remain at 100% and the shortfall in budget will be met through reserves.
- c) Approve the revenue budget for 2026-27 as set out in the revenue budget overview, subject to the decisions set out below and included in the opposition model outlined in the appendices.
- d) Approve an increase to School Clothing Grants of 6% from 1 April 2026 resulting in a payment of £127.20 for primary school children and £159 for secondary school pupils.
- e) Agree a further increase to the HSCP payment over and above the £2.872m noted in budget pack by £1.628m, taking the total additional allocation to the HSCP to **£4,500,000**.
- f) Approve a base allocation to the Health and Social Care Partnership of £93.455m for 2026-27. Approve indicative base allocations for 2027-28 and 2028-29 of £92.913m. The level of future years funding is subject to the level of Scottish Government funding and the Council’s overall financial position in future years.
- g) Approve that an adjustment will be made to the HSCP payment in relation to undistributed funding for Scottish Disability Assistance and Free Personal Nursing Care if the funding received is different to the estimate included within the base allocation.
- h) Approve the policy savings options for 2026-27 as outlined in Appendix 4 of the revenue budget overview report with exception of:
  - i) COM01 Live Argyll – Reject a 5% cut in Management Fee for 2026-27 - £156,000 and reject the deferred budget decision from 2025-26 of a 10% cut in Management Fee - £311,000. Further provide Live Argyll with an increase

to their 2025-26 Management Fee of £154,000. Total **£503,000** (adjusted for £118,000 Strathclyde Pension Fund)

ii) DEG01 - Strategic Events and Festivals – Reject stopping support to Strategic Events and Festivals. **£90,000**

iii) EDU06 - Early Years – Reject removal of Early Years Third Sector Grants allocated to non-statutory services. **Total £40,000 in 2027/28**

iv) RIS01 – Parking – Reject 15% Increase in Fees and charges for parking. **£22,000**

v) RIS02 – Bereavement Services – Reject 15% Increase in fees and charges Bereavement Services leaving only the standard inflationary increase. **£33,000**

vi) CSS01 – Customer Engagement Team – Reject closure of Customer Service Points to walk-in customers. **£224,000**

vii) RIS03 – Public Conveniences – Reject Closure, Sale or Transfer of Public Conveniences. **£100,000**

viii) RIS05 – Amenity Service Wardens – Reject Removal of Amenity Service Environmental Wardens. **£178,000**

ix) RIS08 – Parks – Reject Reduction to Parks operational budgets. **£88,000**

x) RIS09 – Street Sweeping – Reject 15% Reduction to Street Sweeping Budget. **£147,000**.

- i) Agree that any policy savings relating to 2027-28 onwards will be considered as part of next year's budget process, unless it is a full year effect of the 2026-27 saving.
- j) Approve the funding requests received as set out within Appendix 6 of the Revenue Budget Overview Report as part of the Oppositions Revenue Budget model:

AITC	<b>£75,000</b>
CHARTS	<b>£95,000</b>
MacTaggart Leisure, Islay	<b>£30,000</b>

- k) Agree that officers will undertake an exercise to review the Service Level Agreements of Community Pools to ensure parity between agreements. This will be reported back to Members during 2026-27.
- l) Note the proposal to establish a Programme Management Office (PMO) responsible for co-ordination and delivery of both capital and transformation projects and note the drawdown of up to £0.600m over a two-year period under the current delegation which set aside funding in the General Fund for

transformation/spend to save projects and required that officers provide reports on the drawdowns from the General Fund balance to be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee as part of the monitoring pack.

- m) In agreeing to PMO proposal Option 1, agree to establish an Appointments Panel for the recruitment to the new post of Head of Transformation; and nominate 3 elected members and substitutes to the Appointments Panel: two from the Administration and one from the opposition.
- n) Approve the following in relation to fees and charges with effect from 1 April 2026 unless otherwise noted:
  - 1. Approve the proposals for the fees and charges inflationary increase of 6% and approve the charges that are over and above inflation. Note that this would generate additional income of £0.440m in total.
  - 2. Approve all other charges as noted within the Fees and Charges Schedule.
  - 3. Note that formal Council approval may be required at a later date for further changes to the Social Work Fees and Charges.
  - 4. Notes that formal Council approval may be required at a later date for further changes to Environmental Health Fees and Charges.
- o) Approve **£460,000** allocated to a number of Community Priorities as set out as part of the Oppositions Revenue Budget model as set out in section 2 in appendix A.
- p) Note the financial risks analysis.
- q) Approve the Opposition Model as detailed below and the consequent impact on the Revenue Budget, Capital Budget, Reserves, Unallocated General Fund, and level of council tax required for 2025-2026. (Appendices A-C below)
- r) Approve the contingency level for the General Fund balance at a level of 2% of net expenditure, equivalent to £7.099m and note the report on reserves and balances.
- s) Approve the capital plan as set out in Appendix 3 to the Capital Plan report, noting that this incorporates the red risks (£3.385m) and proposed recharges to capital (£0.604m).
- t) Note the capacity within available resources to meet new capital investment, after providing for the funding shortfall of £1.407m on the current Capital Plan and agree how these available resources are directed:

Agree:

- i) Additional 2-year Roads Reconstruction Investment of **£18,000,000** to preserve a steady state of repair, bringing the total provision to **£22,000,000**.

ii) Additional provision of **£7,000,000** for the Mull School to ensure equitable educational opportunities across Argyll & Bute, bringing the total provision to **£15,000,000**

iii) Depot Rationalisation **£2,500,000**

iv) A816 Millbrae Landslip – use of existing Severe Weather Earmarked Reserves **£1,900,000**

and;

iv) Reject Provision for Kilmory Redevelopment, returning this to the general fund. **£1,800,000**

- u) Release £1,500,000 of capital earmarked reserves returning this to the General Fund to use as part of the budget proposals and replacing with borrowing which will cost £98,000 for a full year (only half of this cost requires to be provided in 2026/27).
- v) Endorse the approach to capital for the 2026-27 budget process, pending the outcome of the wider review of capital arrangements.
- w) Endorse the revised corporate approach to the management of property repairs, maintenance and renewals, and approve the redirection of £8m reserves earmarked for capital purposes to a new Repairs and Renewals Fund.
- x) Agree that the Section 95 Officer will continue to exercise flexibility within the capital funding framework, including the use of the Strategic Capital Finance Reserve, in order to manage the impact of capital investment on the annual revenue budget and support long-term financial sustainability.
- y) Note the Capital Review progress to date and note that further recommendations arising from the future workplan will be brought back to members in due course.

## Appendix A – Revenue Budget

### 1. Revenue Budget

	2026-27 £000	2027-28 £000	2028-29 £000	2029-30 £000	2030-31 £000
Budget Gap as per Budget Pack (5% Council Tax)	-703	-11,790	-17,604	-24,004	-30,776
Estimated Share of Additional £20m SG Funding announced on 12/02/2026	352	350	348	346	344
Reject Kilmory Redevelopment	1,800				
Transfer from Unallocated General Fund	300				
Additional 10% on Council Tax on Second Homes and Long Term Empty	541	568	596	626	657
Released from future Years capital	1,500				
Borrowing in relation to £1.5m capital works no longer funded by Earmarked Reserves	-49	-98	-98	-98	-98
Reject the following savings options:					
COM01 - 15% Saving Live Argyll	-156	-156	-156	-156	-156
DEG01 - Strategic Events and Festivals	-90	-90	-90	-90	-90
EDU06 - Early Years Third Sector Grants	0	-40	-40	-40	-40
RIS01 - 15% Increase in Fees and Charges for parking	-22	-22	-22	-22	-22
RIS02 - 15% Increase Bereavement Services	-33	-33	-33	-33	-33
CSS01 - Close Service Points to Walk-ins	-224	-224	-224	-224	-224
RIS03 - Close, Sale or Transfer of Public Conveniences	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100
RIS05 - Removal of Amenity Service Environmental Wardens	-178	-214	-214	-214	-214
RIS08 - Reduction to Parks operational budgets	-88	-106	-106	-106	-106
RIS09 - 15% Reduction to Street Sweeping Budget	-147	-176	-176	-176	-176
Rejects all Live Argyll Red Options	-347	-347	-347	-347	-347
Further increase to HSCP payment over and above the £2.872m noted in budget pack to take additional allocation to £4.5m	-1,628	-1,628	-1,628	-1,628	-1,628
Funding Requests:					
AITC	-75				
CHARTS	-95				
MacTaggart Leisure, Islay	-30				
Community Priorities (detail in table below)	-460				
<b>Revised Budget Gap</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>-14,106</b>	<b>-19,894</b>	<b>-26,266</b>	<b>-33,009</b>
Reduction to Council Tax	-68	-71	-75	-79	-83
Revised Budget Gap (Cumulative)	0	-14,177	-19,969	-26,345	-33,092
Revised Budget Gap (In-year)	0	-14,177	-5,792	-6,376	-6,747
<b>CT Revised Increase</b>	<b>4.90</b>	<b>%</b>			

## 2. Opposition Community Priorities (funded from one-off Unallocated General Fund)

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>All one-off allocations £000</b>
Citizens Advice – CAB Argyll	In recognition of the cost of living crisis and the excellent work undertaken for communities across Argyll & Bute	50
Bute Advice Centre	In recognition of the cost of living crisis and the excellent work undertaken for communities across Argyll & Bute	50
Foodbank Contingency Fund	Allocate £7,500 each to the twelve foodbanks ( 5 in MAKI, 3 in OLI, 2 in H&L and B&C)	90
Inveraray War Memorial	Allocate funding for repairs to the war memorial and adjacent sea wall.	50
Argyll and Bute Women’s Aid	To support this group in tackling domestic abuse in Argyll and Bute.	20
Area Committee Priorities Fund	Allocate £25,000 to each of our Area Committees for local community priorities with criteria for allocations to be developed by officers and submitted to Members for final approval.	100
Play Park Renewal	Allocate additional funding for play park renewal, complementing the existing renewal programme, to be allocated in line with the original distribution agreed previously by Committee.	50
Helensburgh Skate Park Association	Allocate additional funding to assist the development of permanent site with improved equipment.	50
<b>Total Community Priorities</b>		<b>460</b>

## Appendix B – Capital Budget

	Budget Pack £000	Opposition Proposal £000	Variance from Budget Pack £000
Net Funding Shortfall	-1,407	-1,407	0
Roads Reconstruction Investment	18,000	18,000	0
Depot Rationalisation	2,500	2,500	0
Kilmory Castle Redevelopment	1,800	0	-1,800
Mull School	7,000	7,000	0
Millbrae Landslip £1.9m - fund from existing weather reserve (£900k in capital plan and £1m from storm cost provision)			0
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,893</b>	<b>26,093</b>	<b>-1,800</b>

## Appendix C – Unallocated General Fund

	Unallocated General Fund £000
Opening Position	481
Maintain 2% contingency	-75
Transfer to Revenue Budget	-300
<b>Closing Position</b>	<b>106</b>