

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CONSULTATIONS WORKING PARTY – October 2016

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

- a) **A consultation on Dumfries & Galloway Council Budget for 2017/18** – Dumfries & Galloway Council. Closing date: 19 October 2016

Dumfries & Galloway Council is inviting people to help them consider what further budget savings and/or service reductions to make. They say they'll listen to ideas and points of view so that they can do the best for the people of our region within the resources available.

This consultation is focused on what things they could stop doing and where they can increase charges and council tax. (see attached) They need to:

- concentrate on those areas where the need is greatest
- reduce and manage the growing demand for some services
- focus on prevention and early intervention - taking action as soon as possible to tackle social problems before they become more difficult to turn around
- deliver services in new ways, perhaps with greater community involvement
- identify those services which they should stop providing
- focus on results for our people and our communities

The online budget survey can be completed at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/budget1718>

Hard copies of the survey are also available to fill in at local Customer Service Centres and libraries. Other ways to respond to the consultation are:

- Email your comments and suggestions to budget@dumgal.gov.uk
- Join the conversation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- Attend a consultation event on Monday, 17 October from 4.30pm to 6.30pm at the Merrick Leisure Centre, Newton Stewart.

- b) **Supplementary guidance - wind energy development**– Dumfries & Galloway Council. Closing date: 7 November 2016

Dumfries & Galloway Council is currently consulting on draft supplementary guidance on wind energy development. The guidance outlines the main factors that will be taken into account in reaching planning decisions about wind energy development.

The purpose of the guidance is to provide further detail on the criteria in the Wind Energy policy (IN2) which is included in the [Local Development Plan](#).

- [Download the draft supplementary guidance on wind energy development \[10Mb\]](#)

Comments can be submitted by:

- Emailing LDP@dumgal.gov.uk
- Writing to Development Planning, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2HR

- c) **Consultation on the Relaxation of Planning Controls for Digital Communications Infrastructure** – Scottish Government. Closing date: 4 November 2016

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/planning-performance/planning-controls-for-digital-communications>

This consultation seeks views on proposed changes to planning legislation (permitted development rights) on electronic communications infrastructure (e.g. masts, cabinets and antennas). This consultation is for the general public, as well as from planning authorities, the communications industry and other businesses, and those bodies and groups with particular interests in the built heritage, natural heritage and the environment.

The Planning System has an important role to play in supporting digital connectivity and the rollout of electronic communication infrastructure (such as masts, equipment cabinets and antennas), and this is set out in the National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy. While permitted development rights already exist to remove the need for an application for planning permission for a range of such infrastructure, research has indicated there is scope to extend these permitted development rights. In taking forward such extensions to permitted development, the Scottish Government need to ensure an appropriate balance is struck between facilitating the rollout of such infrastructure and having appropriate planning controls on the impacts of such development on amenity and the environment.

- d) **Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity in education: A Governance Review** – Scottish Government. Closing date: 6 January 2017
<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/empowering-schools/a-governance-review>

This governance review seeks views on how education in Scotland – from early years to secondary schools – is run, including who should take decisions in relation to the education of children and young people, and how funding can be made fairer. It also asks about the support that teachers and practitioners need to do their jobs well and how this can be improved.

The Scottish Government want to hear from as many people as possible – from those with a formal role in Scottish education and those with a stake in its success.

They want to empower teachers and early years workers to make the best decisions for children and young people. They believe that decisions about children’s learning and school life should be taken at school level, supported by parents and the local community.

FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS

No Forthcoming Consultation

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Consultation on our Budget for 2017/18

Message from Council Leader, Councillor Ronnie Nicholson, to all residents of Dumfries and Galloway

It is well recognised that local government across Scotland is facing significant financial pressures due to a reduction in funding to Councils from the Scottish Government. While we do not know exactly how much we are getting until the end of 2016, it's likely that we'll need to find similar levels of savings as last year so we're planning on the basis of a further £20 million of savings.

There is one change this year however, and that is that Councils can increase their Council Tax by up to 3% following a freeze of 9 years. For an average property in our region that would be about £31 more over the year and raise an extra £1.8 million.

The scale of the cuts being imposed on our Council is such that we need an open dialogue which asks people directly what services they want the Council to stop doing. It is no longer possible to simply just keep trimming services year by year. Sadly the debate is now about which services will be axed. Local people

understand the cuts our Council faces are not of our making and, as we take those tough budget decisions, it means we won't be able to provide some of our Council's existing services. But whether it is child protection services, the schools that teach our kids and grandkids, the apprenticeships that give young people a future, the home carers that look after the infirm, we understand just how important Council services are to supporting local families from the cradle to the grave. That's why we are committed to working with the people and communities of our region to ensure that our shared Priorities are achieved and we secure the very best future for all. So please join with us and share your thoughts and views on our Council's future Budget.



To achieve our budget savings we will:

PRIORITISE

- focussing on our Council Priorities
 - build the local economy
 - provide the best start in life for all our children
 - protect our most vulnerable people
 - be an inclusive council

RESHAPE

- delivering our services in a more efficient and effective way
- designing and planning our services around the customer
- ensuring our management structure is simplified, flatter, streamlined (we have already reduced from 6 departments to 4 directorates) and fit for purpose

REDUCE

- the gap in our budget is likely to be £20 million. We had identified £10 million as part of our 1 year budget but now need to find at least another £10 million
- stopping or transferring some of our activities

LISTEN

- to the views of our customers, communities, staff and partners
 - what services should we protect?
 - where can we cut expenditure, increase income or provide a reduced service?
 - consider increasing Council Tax?

Our Region

- How we get and spend your money

Income for 2016/17 is almost **£337 million**

This money comes from

Scottish Government Revenue Support Grant

70%
(£234M)

Local Council Tax

16%
(£55M)

Non Domestic Rates

14%
(£48M)

Expenditure for 2016/17 is **£337 million**

top 10 areas of spend by service

Education and Childcare (including Primary/Secondary Schools)	£120,355,536
Adult Health & Social Care Services (including Home Care)	£60,539,000
Infrastructure and Transport (including Waste Disposal & Roads)	£34,747,887
Social Work (including Childrens & Family support)	£23,403,991
Corporate Support Services (including Finance & Property)	£16,621,732
Schools for our future (including PPP Schools)	£15,062,138
Customer Services (including Libraries)	£12,891,729
Civic and Local Services (including Grass Cutting & Burials)	£8,227,979
Lifelong Learning & Well Being (including Leisure & Sport)	£7,517,906
Grants to Third Sector (including Area Committee Grants)	£2,534,513

Staff costs represent

59%
of the Council's
running costs.

Where we have already made savings



Our future - we need to find £20M of savings in 2017/18

So far we anticipate achieving savings of £10 Million in 2017/18, our plans include:

- Continuing to reduce our management and staff costs (**£2.5 million**)
- Implementing the recommendations from service reviews taking place this year which will produce reductions in costs. Reviews include:
 - Customer Services (**£0.1million**)
 - Services for Young People (**£0.25 million**)
 - Council administration and support (**£0.85 million**)
 - Education Services for Children (age 2-18) (**£1.6 million**)
 - Fleet, Vehicle & Maintenance (**£0.35 million**)
 - Reviewing our fees and charges across all services to ensure that we are in line with the rest of the country and so that concessions are available for people who need that support (**£0.9 Million**).

For full details of all savings go to www.dumgal.gov.uk/budget

If we increase Council Tax by 3%

Council Tax Band 'D' (used as the average) would increase by

£31 from **£1,049** to **£1,080**

A 3% rise equals an increase in **£2.62** per month for the average Band D property

Increasing Council Tax by 3% would raise in total **£1.8M**

Council Tax Reform

The Scottish Government is considering changing how council tax is calculated on the largest homes ie properties in Bands E, F and G. They anticipate this will generate an additional £100 million of revenue across Scotland.

They will allocate this money to Local Authorities for investment in raising educational attainment.

If we raise council tax locally by 3%, it will be in addition to the proposed change from the Scottish Government.

Our Choices - Have Your Say

We are listening

For further information and to complete our short budget survey visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/budget or your local Customer Service Centre or library.

You can complete the survey any time from 23 September to 19 October 2016



Email your questions to the Council

We have created a dedicated email inbox so that you can email your budget questions. You can also send us a message from the Council's facebook page. We will reply to these emails directly.



budget@dumgal.gov.uk



follow 'Dumfries and Galloway Council'

www.dumgal.gov.uk/budget

Facebook Session Speak to us!



There will be a dedicated session on the Council's Facebook page with immediate answers to questions you have, asking you for ideas on where the Council can save money, and finding out what services are important to you.

This session will be held on:

4 October 2016 3pm to 7.30pm

Our timetable is

- Public consultation
- 23 September to 19 October 2016
- Public feedback on all information gathered
- 16 November 2016
- Dumfries and Galloway Council considers a report on the consultation feedback at Policy and Resources Committee - 22 November 2016
- Scottish Government funding announcement
- expected December 2016
- Dumfries and Galloway Council considers the 2017/18 budget - February 2017

If you would like some help understanding this or need it in another format or language please contact 030 33 33 3000

During September and October 2016 we are coming to talk to you in communities across our region.

Date	Time	Venue
Thur 29 Sept	2pm-4pm	Newton Stewart Library
Fri 30 Sept	11.30am-1.30pm	DG Customer Services - Dalbeattie, High Street
Fri 30 Sept	1pm-3pm	Moffat Town Hall
Fri 30 Sept	3pm-5pm	DG Customer Services - Castle Douglas, King Street
Mon 3 Oct	11am-1pm	Glenluce Village Hall
Tue 4 Oct	11am-1pm	The Loreburne Centre, High Street, Dumfries
Wed 5 Oct	1pm-3pm	Kirkconnel Resource Base
Wed 5 Oct	4pm - 6pm	Town Hall, Langholm
Wed 5 Oct	4.30pm - 6.30pm	Ryan Centre, Stranraer
Wed 5 Oct	6pm - 8pm	Loreburn Hall, Dumfries
Thur 6 Oct	1pm-3pm	D&G Royal Infirmary Reception, Dumfries
Thur 6 Oct	6pm - 8pm	Ryan Centre, Stranraer
Mon 17 Oct	4.30pm - 6.30pm	Merrick Leisure Centre, Newton Stewart