

Renfrewshire Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers

To: Renfrewshire Joint Negotiating Committee for Teachers

On: 22 March 2022

Council Budget Report by Joint Secretary (Teachers' Side)

The Teachers' Side welcomes some of Renfrewshire Council's proposals contained in the recent budget which was passed on 3rd March, 2022, particularly in relation to commitments to increase teacher numbers in line with Scottish Government national commitments which are referenced as follows from the budget statement:

Page 5 Local Government Settlement

The core local government revenue settlement reflects a flat cash position, and therefore a real terms reduction. There is additional funding transferred to the local government settlement from other portfolios, which increases the overall settlement; however, the majority of these transfers relate to Scottish Government priorities in relation to teacher numbers.

And

1.6 (ii) Critically however, the Council's settlement includes approximately £4.006 million of resources for Scottish Government priorities and commitments, which drives a corresponding growth in Council spending (most notably in relation to funding for teachers). These resources are not therefore available to support existing council service levels.

And

3 Grant Settlement

3.2 Circular 9/2021 confirmed Scottish Government revenue grant funding in 2022/23 for the Council of £365.154 million. The Cabinet Secretary outlined associated conditions in a letter to all Council Leaders that set out specific commitments that should be read in conjunction with the detail of the financial settlement that make up the provisional funding allocation and which constitute: -

- a) Maintaining at a national level the overall pupil teacher ratio (PTR) and providing places for all probationers who require one.

c) Within the grant settlement there is also £145m in relation to additional teachers and support staff, in effect baselining within the settlement additional funding received on a non-recurring basis to increase teacher and support staff numbers as a result of the pandemic. £68.2m was also allocated in relation to child bridging payments. These allocations will fund the additional costs associated with the implementation of these priorities and are not available to support core budget pressures.

3.4 The Council's settlement figure includes a number of adjustments for new spending burdens, responsibilities and conditional funding, totalling £13.473 million, linked primarily to the move to a formula distribution of funding supporting Early Years Learning and Childcare; a direct pass-through of funding to Integration Joint Boards; and the baselining of funding for additional teachers

And

4.6 In relation to Children's Services, sufficient resources are available to manage core demographic and socio-economic pressures after the impact of ongoing demand and cost mitigation strategies are taken into account. Increased funding in relation to teacher numbers has been included within the grant allocation from the Scottish Government and this resource, along with education-specific reserve balances, will be utilised flexibly to address both additionality and roll related increases over the medium term

There are however some areas of concern from the recent Budget that need further discussion. Particularly at Page 28 of the budget papers. See attached.

PAPER 1

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF 2022/23 REVENUE ESTIMATES
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

| | £ | £ |
|---|-----------|--------------------|
| Analysis of Change between 2021/22 and 2022/23 | | |
| 2021/22 Estimates | | 219,620,777 |
| Adjustment to Current Year Estimates | | |
| Unavoidable Increase (Decrease) (PAPER 2) | 2,675,710 | |
| Transfers (PAPER 3) | 117,000 | |
| | | 2,792,710 |
| 2022/23 Estimates | | 222,413,487 |
| (Before budget decisions) | | |

PAPER 2

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF 2022/23 REVENUE ESTIMATES
UNAVOIDABLE INCREASES (DECREASES)

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

| ED | | £ |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1 | Settlement adjustment: Funding for teachers | 2,695,000 |
| 2 | Settlement adjustment: Early Learning Childcare expansion | (1,026,000) |
| 3 | Settlement adjustment: 1+2 Languages | (41,000) |
| 4 | Settlement adjustment: Mental Health Recovery and Renewal | 115,000 |
| 5 | Annual Contractual PPP Contract Indexation Adjustment | 830,000 |
| 6 | Loomwalk Respite Contract Price Increase | 50,000 |
| 7 | Dargavel PS support staff | 38,710 |
| 8 | SEEMIS development costs | 14,000 |
| | Total Increase (Decrease) to Budget | 2,675,710 |

- The Teaching unions are seeking urgent discussions about the cut of £1,026,000 to ELC expansion particularly in the context of the statutory commitment to increase ELC from 600 to 1140 hours which was reinstated and came into effect in August 2021 details of which are as outlined in the Scottish Government publication: *Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare – Reinstatement of 1140 statutory duty Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment (FSDA) January 2021*.
- Similarly the cut of 41,000 to 1+2 languages is a concern and we are seeking a meeting to discuss how this will impact on pupils and teachers.

Action

Members of the JNC are asked to note the content of the paper and arrange an urgent meeting with the Teaching unions to discuss:

- the cuts to Early learning that have been highlighted and referenced in in the Budget paper.
- increases in teacher numbers and support staff and how these will be achieved
- The impact of budget changes in relation to 1+2 Languages
- How the statement:
“... will be utilised flexibly to address both additionality and roll related increases over the medium term will be managed”
 will be managed.