



**To:** Education and Children's Services Policy Board

**On:** 15 January 2026

**Report by:** Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Children's Services

**Heading:** Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring as at 14 November 2025

## 1. Summary of Financial Position

- 1.1. The projected Revenue outturn at 31 March 2026 for Children's Services is an overspend of £1.061m (0.4%) against the revised budget for the year.
- 1.2. The projected Capital outturn at 31 March 2026 for Children's Services is a break-even position.
- 1.3. This is summarised in the table below and further analysis is provided in the Appendices.

<b>Table 1: Revenue</b>				
<b>Division</b>	<b>Revised Annual Budget £m</b>	<b>Projected Outturn £m</b>	<b>Budget Variance £m</b>	<b>Budget Variance %</b>
Children's Services	278.118	279.179	(1.061)	(0.4%)

<b>Table 2: Capital</b>				
<b>Division</b>	<b>Revised Annual Budget £m</b>	<b>Projected Outturn £m</b>	<b>Budget Variance £m</b>	<b>Budget Variance %</b>
Children's Services	53.194	53.194	0	0%

## 2. Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- 2.1. Note the projected Revenue outturn position for Children's Services detailed in Table 1 above;
- 2.2. Note the projected Capital outturn position for Children's Services detailed in Table 2 above; and
- 2.3. Approve the Premises Related budget virements totalling £0.110m set out at section 6.3.

### **3. Children's Services Revenue Budget Projection - overspend of £1.061m by 31 March 2026**

- 3.1. The Revenue Budget Monitoring report at Appendix 1 identifies a projected annual overspend of £1.061m (0.4% of total budget).
- 3.2. It should be noted that the projected outturn position reported here is based on the latest information available, which is subject to change during the financial year. The impact of any change on this projection will be updated at each board cycle. Budget holders are obliged to seek mitigating action to minimise significant budget variances.

### **4. Objective Analysis - Significant Variances**

#### **4.1. Early Learning & Childcare - £0.450m underspend**

Employee Costs are currently projected to underspend, mainly due to vacancies. This is partly offset by a projected overspend in Transfer Payments, due to projected payments to partner providers. These will continue to be reviewed throughout the year with management.

#### **4.2. Primary Schools - £0.536m overspend**

Employee costs, Premises costs and Transport costs are currently projected to overspend. The Employee costs overspend relates to teaching staffing, the overspend in Premises costs is due to janitorial supplies being greater than budget and the Transport costs overspend is due to the SPT school transport contract being greater than available budget.

#### **4.3. Secondary Schools - £0.588m overspend**

Employee costs, and Transport costs are currently projected to overspend. The Employee costs overspend relates to teaching staffing and the Transport costs overspend is due to the SPT school transport contract being greater than available budget.

#### **4.4. ASN Schools - £0.233m overspend**

Employee costs and Premises costs are currently projected to overspend. The Employee costs overspend is due to teaching staffing and Premises costs overspend is due to janitorial supplies being greater than available budget.

#### **4.5. Additional Support for Learning - £0.598m overspend**

Employee costs are currently projected to overspend, mainly arising from an increase in demand for Additional Support Needs Assistants (ASNAs) within mainstream schools. Transport costs are currently projected to overspend, partly due to demand and partly due to increased cost of provision.

#### **4.6. Children & Families - £0.416m underspend**

Employee Costs and Third-Party Payments are currently projected to underspend, and these are partly offset by projected overspends in Supplies and Services and Transfer Payments. The underspend Employee costs is mainly due to turnover and the underspend in Third Party Payments relates to

Fostering & Adoption, where the number of fostering and kinship arrangements is less than previously predicted. The Supplies and Services projected overspend mainly relates to demand for both Care at Home for children with additional support needs, and payments to care leavers. The overspend in Transfer payments relates to Direct Payments and Section 22 payments across localities.

## **5. Subjective Analysis - Significant Variances**

### **5.1. Employees - £0.429m overspend**

Overspends are currently projected in teaching staffing across Primary, Secondary and ASN schools, and are partly offset by underspends in Early Learning & Childcare and Additional Support for Learning. The cost impact of the Scottish Government's commitment to reduce class contact time has still to be factored into the projections, and this will be kept under review as the year progresses and the actual impact on teacher numbers becomes clear. Projected overspends arise in non-teaching staffing in Additional Support for Learning due to the demand for Additional Support Needs Assistants (ASNAs) and are partly offset by projected underspends in Early Learning & Childcare and Children & Families, mainly due to vacancies and staffing turnover.

### **5.2. Premises Related - £0.380m overspend**

The overspend in Premises costs is mainly due to increased janitorial costs across the school estate.

### **5.3. Transport Related - £1.077m overspend**

The overspend in Transport costs is due to SPT contracts for both mainstream school transport and ASN transport being higher than available budget, predominantly caused by price inflation and, to a lesser extent, by an increasing number of children requiring transport.

### **5.4. Third Party Payments - £1.451m underspend**

The projected underspend in Third Party Payments relates mainly to fostering, adoption and kinship, and will be kept under review throughout the year.

### **5.5. Transfer Payments - £0.906m overspend**

The projected overspend in Transfer payments relates to Early Learning & Childcare in relation to payments to partner providers, and to Children & Families in relation to Direct Payments and Section 22 payments, which are demand-driven. This will be kept under review throughout the year.

### **5.6. Income - £0.278m over-recovery**

An over-recovery of income is currently projected within Primary and Secondary schools, in relation to insurance premium rebates within schools PPP contracts.

## 6. Revenue Budget Adjustments

- 6.1. Under the Council's financial regulations, Directors and their nominated officers, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources, have certain delegated authority to transfer sums between subjective budget headings within a service division to enable budget management throughout the financial year. This is known as 'budget virement'.
- 6.2. Transfers between divisions of the same service / department in excess of £100,000, and transfers between services / departments must be authorised by the respective service Director and the Director of Finance and Resources for submission to the relevant policy board for approval.
- 6.3. The Director now seeks approval from the Board for the following affected virements since the last report:

<b>Revenue Budget Adjustments</b>			
<b>Objective Heading</b>	<b>Subjective Heading</b>	<b>Amount (£m)</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Children's Services	Premises Related	(0.110)	Corporate Landlord transfers to Environment, Housing and Infrastructure relating to small repair projects

- 6.4. The remaining budget adjustments are either within delegation, or in line with the earmarking of funds set aside in the 2025/26 budget motion and the allocation of centrally held budgets already approved.

## 7. Capital Budget Projection - break-even position by 31 March 2026

- 7.1. The Capital Investment Programme 2025/26 to 2029/30 was approved by the Council on 27 February 2025. Education and Children's Services' revised Capital spend for 2024/25 is £53.194m.
- 7.2. The in-year Capital budget is forecast to break even by 31 March 2026. However, this will be monitored as the projects progress. Further details of the programme can be found in the Capital Monitoring report at Appendix 3.
- 7.3. There are no budget adjustments to report since the previous board report.

## Implications of this report

### 1. Financial

The projected budget outturn position for Children's Services' Revenue budget is an overspend of £1.061m. Income and expenditure will continue to be monitored closely for the rest of the financial year and steps will be taken to mitigate any overspend, including virement, applying flexibility within specific grant funding as permitted by the Scottish Government, and potential use of earmarked reserves.

The projected outturn position for Children's Services' Capital budget is a break-even position. The Capital programme will continue to be monitored closely for the rest of the financial year.

### 2. HR and Organisational Development

While staffing budgets form a significant proportion of the Council's revenue budgets, there are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### 3. Community/Council Planning

<b>Community Plan</b>	
Our Renfrewshire is thriving	The Council's revenue and capital spend ensures that its facilities are fit for purpose and safe for the community, to maximise accessibility.
Our Renfrewshire is well	
Our Renfrewshire is fair	
Our Renfrewshire is safe	
<b>Council Plan</b>	
Reshaping our place, our economy, and our future	The Council's revenue and capital spend ensures that its facilities are fit for purpose and safe for the community, to maximise accessibility.
Building strong, safe, and resilient communities	
Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all	
Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy	Ongoing revenue and capital budget monitoring is a tool to enable good financial management so that the Council has resources now and in the future for continued service delivery.
Working together to improve outcomes	

### 4. Legal

There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**5. Property/Assets**

The capital expenditure noted in this report will result in lifecycle maintenance improvements to existing properties and replacement of ICT assets and infrastructure.

**6. Information Technology**

While ICT assets and revenue costs are included within these reported budgets, there are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**7. Equality and Human Rights**

While new areas of spend may impact on particular groups, any such impact would be assessed prior to the spend being incurred, therefore there are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**8. Health and Safety**

The capital expenditure noted in this report will result in lifecycle maintenance improvements to existing properties and replacement of ICT assets, which may in some cases improve health and safety arrangements.

**9. Procurement**

While Procurement is an important consideration prior to the Council incurring any revenue or capital spend, there are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**10. Risk**

The potential risk that the Council will overspend its approved budgets for the year will be managed at a Council-wide level by the Chief Executive and Directors.

**11. Privacy Impact**

There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**12. Children's Rights**

There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**13. Climate Risk**

The Council aims to reduce its carbon and other emissions to net zero by 2030, however there are no direct implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**14. CoSLA Policy Position**

n/a

**List of Background Papers:**

- Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2025/26, Council 27 February 2025
- Capital Investment Programme 2025/26 to 2029/30, Council 27 February 2025

**Authors:** Richard Conway, Finance Business Partner  
Linsey McGregor, Capital Accountant

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2025/26**  
**1 April 2025 to 14 November 2025**

**POLICY BOARD : EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Objective Summary	Annual Budget at Period 6	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget at Period 8	Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Previous Projected Outturn Variance	Movement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Directorate	1,453	9	1,462	1,463	(1)	(0.1%)	(2)	1
Early learning and childcare	36,552	(235)	36,317	35,867	450	1.2%	677	(227)
Primary	71,840	(463)	71,377	71,913	(536)	(0.8%)	(590)	54
Secondary	97,369	446	97,815	98,403	(588)	(0.6%)	(97)	(491)
ASN Schools	8,552	67	8,619	8,852	(233)	(2.7%)	(84)	(149)
Additional support for learning (ASL)	20,704	165	20,869	21,467	(598)	(2.9%)	(441)	(157)
Psychological services	1,423	0	1,423	1,423	0	0.0%	0	0
Education development	2,195	2	2,197	2,166	31	1.4%	0	31
Attainment Challenge	(702)	(1)	(703)	(703)	0	0.0%	0	0
Facilities management	532	(27)	505	507	(2)	(0.4%)	43	(45)
Children & Families	38,271	(34)	38,237	37,821	416	1.1%	340	76
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>278,189</b>	<b>(71)</b>	<b>278,118</b>	<b>279,179</b>	<b>(1,061)</b>	<b>(0.4%)</b>	<b>(154)</b>	<b>(907)</b>

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2025/26**  
**1 April 2025 to 14 November 2025**

**POLICY BOARD : EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Subjective Summary	Annual Budget at Period 6	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget at Period 8	Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Previous Projected Outturn Variance	Movement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Employees	197,854	284	198,138	198,567	(429)	(0.2%)	233	(662)
Premises Related	12,506	(57)	12,449	12,829	(380)	(3.1%)	(355)	(25)
Transport Related	7,285	24	7,309	8,386	(1,077)	(14.7%)	(807)	(270)
Supplies and Services	30,993	12	31,005	30,973	32	0.1%	(102)	134
Third Party Payments	17,818	0	17,818	16,367	1,451	8.1%	1,522	(71)
Transfer Payments	17,000	(103)	16,897	17,803	(906)	(5.4%)	(1,243)	337
Support Services	1,103	0	1,103	1,133	(30)	(2.7%)	(49)	19
<b>GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>284,559</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>284,719</b>	<b>286,058</b>	<b>(1,339)</b>	<b>(0.5%)</b>	<b>(801)</b>	<b>(538)</b>
Income	(6,370)	(231)	(6,601)	(6,879)	278	4.2%	647	(369)
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>278,189</b>	<b>(71)</b>	<b>278,118</b>	<b>279,179</b>	<b>(1,061)</b>	<b>(0.4%)</b>	<b>(154)</b>	<b>(907)</b>

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY - NON-HOUSING SERVICES**  
 1st April to 14th November 2025  
**POLICY BOARD: EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Project Title	Prior Years Expenditure to 31/03/2025  £000	Current Year 2025-26						Full Programme - All years			
		Approved Budget 2025-26  £000	Budget Adjustments since previous Board report  £000	Revised Budget 2025-26  £000	Projected Outturn 2025-26  £000	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Total Approved Budget to 31-Mar-30  £000	Projected Outturn to 31-Mar-30  £000	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
<b>EDUCATION &amp; CHILDREN SERVICES</b>											
Primary Schools Estate Programme(SEMP)	10,544	80	0	80	80	0	0%	10,623	10,623	0	0%
Paisley Grammar New Campus	34,582	42,000	0	42,000	42,000	0	0%	85,600	85,600	0	0%
Thorn PS New Build	309	273	0	273	273	0	0%	14,000	14,000	0	0%
Dargavel Extension (Modular Units)	2,237	12	0	12	12	0	0%	2,250	2,250	0	0%
Thistle Primary School	1,116	7,634	0	7,634	7,634	0	0%	45,000	45,000	0	0%
Other Schools Investment Programmes	0	95	0	95	95	0	0%	95	95	0	0%
Total Schools Estate(inc Early Years) Programme	1,553	270	0	270	270	0	0%	1,823	1,823	0	0%
PMHS Extension	672	1,750	0	1,750	1,750	0	0%	36,894	36,894	0	0%
ELCC Improvements	6	82	0	82	82	0	0%	88	88	0	0%
Technology Replacement Strategy ICT	0	998	0	998	998	0	0%	4,998	4,998	0	0%
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION &amp; CHILDREN'S SERVICES BOARD</b>	<b>51,019</b>	<b>53,194</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53,194</b>	<b>53,194</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>201,371</b>	<b>201,371</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>