

Local Government Finance 2023-2024 - Council funding allocations

Scottish councils face enormous funding challenges this year and beyond, with real fears for the impact on vital services. This briefing looks at the Scottish Government's 2023-24 Budget provisional [funding allocations](#) to councils and the context in which differing claims are made about funding; e.g. the Scottish Government says funds to councils are up by more than £570m, with COSLA insisting the cash increase is £38m due to previous policy commitments on areas including free school meals, early years and childcare. Details of the provisional revenue funding allocations to councils are on page 2.

UNISON has continually warned over many years about the devastating impact of austerity and cuts to council budgets and the threat to democratic accountability. But under the Tory Government at Westminster and the SNP/Green Government here, local government is under pressure as never before, with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) [warning](#) last week in a leaked document of potentially 7,000 job losses over the next three years. This is consistent with the Scottish Government's June 2022 '[Resource Spending Review: Plans to 2027](#)' which suggested reducing the public sector workforce by 30,000. UNISON is fighting to protect jobs and services and campaigning against the [threat to local government](#) from proposals in the National Care Service Bill, including up to 75,000 council staff at risk of TUPE transfer, and the end of publicly run and delivered democratically accountable social services.

Last month's Accounts Commission [Local Government Finance Bulletin](#) said councils face "the most difficult budget setting context seen for many years with the ongoing impacts of Covid 19, inflation and the cost of living crisis."

The table below shows provisional revenue allocations to each council and real terms changes from 2022-3 to 2023-4. It is from the 31 Jan, updated 3 Feb, Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) [briefing](#) 'Local government finance: Budget 2023-24 and provisional allocations to local authorities'.

The SPICe briefing also shows that Scottish Government revenue funding to councils has gone up in real terms by 4.3% in ten years, while the Scottish Government's own revenue budget rose by 8.3%. COSLA says any increase is heavily ring fenced with no increase for core services and local priorities and that the 17.8% increase in total capital allocations is largely to meet free school meals policy commitments. Branches looking for further details can find many other useful tables there and in the [Local Government Finance Circular](#) 11/2022 published in late December, and revised in January. See also the December 22 SPICe briefing on [the budget](#) for 2023-24.

Provisional individual revenue allocation in 2022-23 and 2023-24 and real terms changes

Local Authority - Finance circular, Annex B, Col 13	2022-23 (from 9/2021)	2023-24 (from 11/2022)	Real change	Real change %
Aberdeen City	390.6	418.6	28.0	7.2%
Aberdeenshire	499.6	518.0	18.4	3.7%
Angus	237.9	245.1	7.1	3.0%
Argyll & Bute	219.7	223.7	4.0	1.8%
Clackmannanshire	110.2	114.0	3.8	3.4%
Dumfries & Galloway	329.0	340.5	11.4	3.5%
Dundee City	338.0	345.9	7.9	2.3%
East Ayrshire	268.7	279.4	10.6	4.0%
East Dunbartonshire	217.7	223.5	5.8	2.7%
East Lothian	203.6	212.2	8.6	4.2%
East Renfrewshire	205.5	213.6	8.2	4.0%
Edinburgh, City of	872.9	910.7	37.8	4.3%
Eilean Siar	103.7	104.9	1.1	1.1%
Falkirk	327.6	338.1	10.5	3.2%
Fife	760.8	787.9	27.0	3.6%
Glasgow City	1,407.9	1,471.1	63.3	4.5%
Highland	523.6	538.0	14.4	2.8%
Inverclyde	187.8	192.9	5.1	2.7%
Midlothian	190.3	196.8	6.5	3.4%
Moray	188.9	196.5	7.6	4.0%
North Ayrshire	314.5	324.5	10.0	3.2%
North Lanarkshire	719.4	744.6	25.2	3.5%
Orkney	83.9	86.3	2.4	2.8%
Perth & Kinross	294.8	307.3	12.6	4.3%
Renfrewshire	365.2	377.6	12.4	3.4%
Scottish Borders	243.0	249.7	6.7	2.8%
Shetland	98.8	99.5	0.7	0.7%
South Ayrshire	235.8	245.5	9.7	4.1%
South Lanarkshire	651.9	675.0	23.0	3.5%
Stirling	196.1	201.6	5.5	2.8%
West Dunbartonshire	213.5	219.9	6.4	3.0%
West Lothian	369.7	386.9	17.2	4.7%
All Scottish local authorities	11,370.7	11,789.9	419.2	3.7%

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