



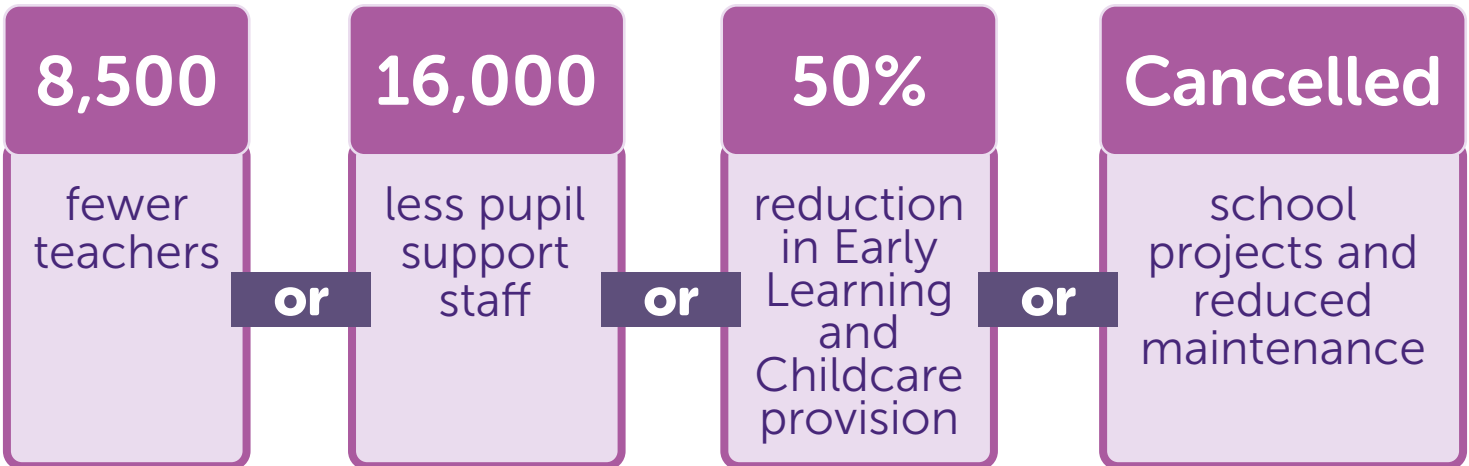
This year, all service areas must be considered as Councils look to address pressures of **£1bn** – that’s the impact if Scottish Government does not change its current spending plans

New school building plans ‘no longer affordable’

‘Significant risks’ to education as council agrees cost-cutting measures

These are just two examples of headlines prompted by councils that are having to consider really tough choices in areas like education and early learning and childcare - areas that have remained protected until now.

Councils spend around **£6bn** on education and related services – that’s 50% of all net revenue expenditure. If current spending plans don’t change and education services take their ‘fair share’ of the financial pressures for 2023/24, they could have to find savings of around **£500m** – that equates to:



Clearly, Councils will take locally appropriate decisions in an attempt to minimise the impacts across all services and protect the most vulnerable, but this will be challenging.

“ Money invested in education directly supports improved outcomes for children and families, leading to longer term work prospects and economic growth. Over recent years, councils have protected areas like childcare and education by cutting other services – roads, libraries, street cleansing, parks - but the scale of the financial pressures this year mean that everything needs to be considered. ”

Councillor Tony Buchanan,
COSLA's Children and Young People's Spokesperson

The impacts of this year's cuts will mean:



More families living in poverty,
as childcare and family support services are cut



Risks to attainment and achievement,
as classroom support is reduced



Poorer learning environment,
as councils struggle to keep up with maintenance and repairs of schools

“ We are at a crisis point like never before - the impact of the Scottish Government's current spending plans for children and young people is serious, and they need to be reconsidered. ”

Councillor Katie Hagmann,
COSLA's Resources Spokesperson



Your local MSP has a key role to play to support Local Government during the budget process – please feel free to contact them to highlight the essential services your council delivers and the need for the Scottish Government to provide Councils with a fair settlement.

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