

**Local
Area
Services**



save our services

This year, all service areas must be considered as Councils look to address pressures of **£1bn**

Roads budget to be cut from over £20 million to around £9 million next year

This is just one headline which shows the pressure on neighbourhood services in Scotland. Councils spend around **£1.4bn** on neighbourhood services such as waste, planning and roads – that’s about 11% of all net revenue expenditure.

If these services take their ‘fair share’ of the financial pressures for 2023/24, they could have to find savings of about **£154m**. This is the equivalent of:



Neighbourhood services also spend about **£1.5bn** in capital funding on maintenance and new infrastructure. Programmes funded are at risk due to significantly increased cost pressures, with no additional capital forthcoming.

Together these pressures could mean:



Reduced road maintenance budgets



Less investment in recycling and fewer household waste recycling centres



Planning decisions taking longer

This is a minimum level of saving. If the £6bn Councils spend on education is protected from cuts, as has been the case in past, then the savings required in neighbourhood services will be even higher.

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 neighbourhood services delivers improved outcomes for communities across Scotland. You only need to look at the impact of recent strike action to see how essential these services are to local communities. Over recent years, councils have protected areas like childcare and education by cutting other services – roads, street cleansing, parks - but the scale of the financial pressures this year mean that everything need to be considered. ”

Councillor Gail Macgregor,
COSLA's Environment & Economy Spokesperson

“ We are at a crisis point like never before - the impact of this Scottish Budget for neighbourhood services is serious and needs 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.

info@cosla.gov.uk
www.cosla.gov.uk



@COSLA
facebook.com/CofSLA