

Culture  
& Sport

SOS

save our services

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

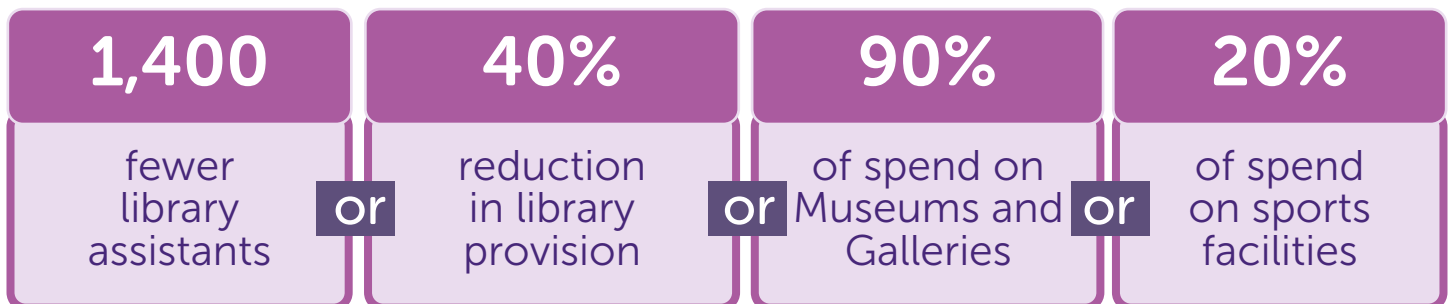
**Temporary or permanent closure of some culture and sport facilities has to be considered**

**Charges will need to be reviewed to accelerate recovery and increase income**

These are just 2 examples reported recently of the decisions that Councils across Scotland are having to consider in areas like culture and sport.

Councils spend around **£570m** on culture and sport services – that’s around 4% of all net revenue expenditure.

If current spending plans don’t change and culture and sport services take their ‘fair share’ of the financial pressures for 2023/24, they could have to find savings of around **£40m** – 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.

“ These services are critical to a ‘whole systems’ approach to physical and mental health and wellbeing – cutting funding in sport and culture will mean more costly interventions elsewhere, for example in the NHS when ill-health has to be dealt with. Over recent years, culture and sport have already been subject to cuts as Councils have protected other areas like education. These services are reliant on income and facilities are huge users of energy – rising inflation and energy costs, alongside reduced visits and memberships all add to the pressures already being felt and affects the sustainability of these services. The sector may be forced to introduce or increase charges, and this sits uncomfortably when family finances are under pressure. ”

Councillor Maureen Chalmers,  
COSLA’s Community Wellbeing Spokesperson

The impacts of this year’s cuts will mean:



**Less families able to access culture and sport services and facilities during a cost-of-living crisis**



**Library closures or reduced opening hours with implications for those who rely on these as safe, warm spaces**



**Organisations who deliver services on behalf of Councils handing back contracts due to cost pressures**

“ We are at a crisis point like never before - the impact of the Scottish Government’s current spending plans for culture and sport 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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