

Inverclyde Council 2023/25 Revenue Budget - Fairer Scotland Duty Statement

While an impact assessment has been carried out for each individual savings option, as appropriate, in relation to both Equality Impacts and the Fairer Scotland Duty, a wider assessment is also given in relation to the Revenue Budget proposals for Inverclyde Council covering the period 2023/25.

The Budget Gap in 2023/25 is intended to be partly funded through the use of Reserves. This recommendation is based on a desire to see the setting of the Council Budget 2023/25 have as minimal a negative/detrimental impact on the local population as possible, particularly in relation to the ongoing cost of living crisis and those who experience socio-economic disadvantage. Overall, the December Budget 2023/25 proposals includes the reduction of 15 jobs, all of which are either currently vacant or can be achieved via voluntary redeployment.

The Council is aware of the importance of physical activity for all Inverclyde residents, with the aim of improving their health and well-being so that they live well, and for longer. Mindful of the significant funding gap faced by Inverclyde Leisure – which delivers sport, leisure and health activities with financial support from the Council - a number of proposals have been developed to reduce the gap which will be the subject of a public consultation exercise in January 2023.

Finally, it is noted that the Council's 2023/24 Revenue Budget and the level of Band D Council Tax 2023/24 will be approved a meeting of Inverclyde Council on 2 March 2023. Any further savings which are required to balance the 2023/24 Revenue Budget will also be considered at this meeting.