
Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date:	16 September 2025
Report By:	Corporate Director - Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	PR/22/25/RB/MR
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Subject:	Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 ☒ For Decision ☒ For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the Scottish Government Programme for Government (PfG) 2025/26 and the implications for, and action required by, Inverclyde Council. More information is provided in the Appendix.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the publication of the Scottish Government PfG 2025/26.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Committee notes the implications of the Programme for the Council, together with what action is required in response to the publication.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the Committee notes that the relevant actions from the PgG 2024/25 will be incorporated into the Committee Delivery and Improvement Plans (CDIPs) 2023/26, as appropriate, and agrees to receive a report on the updated Policy and Resources CDIP 2023/26 for approval.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director - Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 On 6 May 2025, the Scottish Government published a document entitled 'PfG 2025/26 – Building the Best Future for Scotland'. It is available to view here: [PfG 2025/26](#).

3.2 The publication sets out the Scottish Government's policy and legislative goals for the parliamentary year 2025/26. The PfG 2025/26 is the final one of the current Scottish Government, given that the next Scottish Parliament elections must be held no later than 7 May 2026.

3.3 The Programme comprises four key themes:

- Growing the Economy
- Eradicating Child Poverty
- Tackling the Climate Emergency
- High Quality and Sustainable Public Services.

3.4 The Appendix outlines the Programme's initiatives which have implications for the Council, mapped against the Themes of the Council Plan 2023/28, together with details of the appropriate Council Directorate.

3.5 It should be noted that there are actions included in the PfG 2025/26 which will have a financial impact on the Council; examples include widening access to higher education for students from the most socio-economically disadvantaged communities; the recruitment, retention and training of the additional support needs workforce; the commitment to restore teacher numbers to 2023 levels; the introduction of the new Care Leavers payment; and the provision of person-centred alcohol and drug services. Further details of the financial impact of the Programme on the Council will be included in reports prepared as part of the forthcoming Budget-setting process.

3.6 Growing the Economy

This section of the Programme comprises 11 initiatives which will impact on, or require a response from, the Council.

3.7 Some of workstreams concern streamlining access to information; for instance, via the removal of dated national planning advice. Others support the delivery of one or more of the Themes of the Council Plan 2023/28, an example of which is the improvement of processes for communities to buy land and assets.

3.8 Eradicating Child Poverty

This section of the Programme comprises 41 initiatives which will impact on, or require a response from, the Council.

3.9 Some of the workstreams in this section comprise a number of projects grouped under a theme; for example, there are two sub-actions which aim to provide help with childcare costs and support parents to get on in work. Meanwhile, there are five sub-actions under the heading of 'safe, warm homes' including the provision of general housing adaptations to disabled tenants, and an investment in homelessness prevention pilots.

3.10 Tackling the Climate Emergency

This section of the Programme comprises 11 initiatives which will impact on, or require a response from, the Council.

- 3.11 The majority of the workstreams in this section relate to the Environment and Regeneration Directorate. Initiatives include support for households with energy bills, peatland restoration, and banning the sale and supply of single use vapes from 1 June 2025.

3.12 High Quality and Sustainable Public Services

This section of the Programme comprises 30 initiatives which will impact on, or require a response from, the Council.

- 3.13 Six of the workstreams in this section relate the Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership, examples of which include early intervention and prevention support for adults who are experiencing mental health issues, and three sub-actions which aim to reduce harm and deaths caused by drugs and alcohol.

- 3.14 Education is also a key focus in the High Quality and Sustainable Public Services section of the PfG 2025/26 with initiatives including an investment in the Scottish Attainment Challenge, plans for a summit on Additional Support for Learning, and a funding commitment to restore teacher numbers to those of two years ago, as mentioned in Paragraph 3.5. Meanwhile, all Directorates will be involved in the delivery of six actions in this Section, principally around the implications of the Scottish Government's strategy for Public Sector Reform which was published on 19 June 2025.

3.15 Legislative Programme

Prior to the Summer 2025 recess, the Scottish Government introduced two Bills. On 3 June 2025, The Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill was published, with the aim of simplifying legislation to make crofting regulation less onerous. The Building Safety Levy - which will provide funding to tackle unsafe cladding on buildings - was introduced on 5 June 2025.

- 3.16 Additionally, the Scottish Government intends to introduce the following Bills in 2025/26:

- Budget
- Children and Young People (Care) (Scotland)
- Contract (Formation and Remedies)
- Digital Assets
- Heat in Buildings
- Non-surgical Cosmetic Procedures.

- 3.17 It should be noted that the Scottish Government has indicated that the proposed new misogyny law will not now be progressed and will instead be incorporated into hate crime legislation; the following text on Page 6 of the Appendix refers: 'Legislating to add the characteristic of Sex to The Hate Crime Act to ensure that women and girls have the same protections in law as other groups covered by the Act'.

- 3.18 The relevant actions from the PfG 2024/25 will be incorporated into the CDIPs 2023/26, following which the documents will be submitted to the appropriate Service Committees for approval.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee considers the details included in the Scottish Government PfG 2025/26, as well as the implications for the Council and action required in response to the document.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial			X
Legal/Risk			X
Human Resources			X
Strategic (Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023/33/Council Plan 2023/28)	X		
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X
Environmental and Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

5.2 Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/(Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Strategic

The matters referred to in this report are of relevance to a number of Themes of the Council Plan 2023/28, as outlined in the Appendix.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Corporate Management Team was consulted on the contents of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26
mapped with the Council Plan 2023/28 Themes

Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26	Council Plan 2023/28 Theme(s)	Directorate
1. Growing the Economy		
Delivering affordable homes across Scotland	Place	Environment and Regeneration (ER)
Investing in a fair social security system and helping people into work	People	ER
Funding the Small Business Bonus so that thousands of small businesses pay no business rates	Place	Chief Executive (CE)
We will boost planning capacity and reduce barriers to delivery , by:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing local authorities, through the Planning Hub, with additional capacity and expertise, prioritising action where evidence shows they are having challenges with meeting timescales or where there are delays in producing local plans 	Place Performance	ER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing all dated national planning advice to declutter the system 	Place Performance	ER
Supporting our rural community - We will support farmers, crofters, and fishers to capitalise on Scotland's unique position, by:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help improve the processes for communities to buy land and assets, launching a consultation on proposals from the review of community right to buy powers and deliver £7 million through the Scottish Land Fund, enabling more community groups to purchase assets 	Place Performance	Education, Communities and

Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26	Council Plan 2023/28 Theme(s)	Directorate
		Organisational Development (ECOD) CE
Skills for success – We will work with partners to secure a long-term and sustainable future for further and higher education , developing our skills system for the future, including by:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening access to higher education for students from the most socio-economically disadvantaged communities – towards our goal of 20% of all entrants being from the 20% most deprived communities by 2030 	People	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a national Recognition of Prior Learning system - formally acknowledging an individual's skills and knowledge gained through work experience, training, or other learning outside of formal education 	People	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing a new Scottish Government-led approach to national skills planning, and strengthen regional skills planning, to ensure that post school provision becomes more responsive to Scotland's strategic skills needs and priorities 	People	ECOD ER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing and improving school-age and adult careers support, including better information on career choices, job prospects and earnings 	People	ECOD ER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting schools to access film and screen learning – so Scotland has the workforce to meet the demands a £1bn film and screen industry will create 	People	ECOD
2. Eradicating Child Poverty		
Delivering a £2 million national pilot to support free bus travel for people seeking asylum	People	HSCP
Delivering £1 million to all local authorities to deliver holiday playschemes and activity provision for disabled children	People	ECOD
Helping hard pressed families with the costs of childcare , supporting more parents to get on in work including:		

Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26	Council Plan 2023/28 Theme(s)	Directorate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing and delivering childcare services for priority families working in 23 'Early Adopter Communities' across six LA areas 	People	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding our 'Extra Time' programme, providing funded breakfast and after school and holiday clubs across Scotland, supporting 5,000 children families most at risk of poverty 	People	ECOD
Helping people with advice to reduce their costs and increase their incomes from social security – with increased investment to over £15 million for free income maximisation and debt advice , including:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting 105 organisations, in 33 partnerships, to provide financial advice for people in accessible settings like hospitals and community centres 	People	CE HSCP
Working in partnership with COSLA to empower Councils with the information they need to improve recovery of CT debt – strengthening data sharing so they can act earlier to identify households which may be eligible for CT reduction and wider support	People	CE
Whole-family support – Our commitment to increase funding flexibility to better enable partners to deliver whole family support is being rolled out initially to a core group of local authorities , with the intention of extending to other parts of Scotland quickly thereafter. We will build on this over the coming year so more people benefit, including:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding Fairer Futures Partnerships to Shetland, North Lanarkshire and Fife – alongside eight existing partnerships – and work to identify further adopters, to maximise incomes and support people into sustained employment or education 	People	CE ER ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding the Wise Group's relational mentoring programme, providing wraparound support to an additional 2,000 low-income households 	People Place	ER HSCP
Helping people into work – We will help people remain in work and strengthen pathways into employment for those furthest from the labour market by:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing the delivery of employability programmes to maximise their effectiveness and bring forward proposals ahead of the Budget 2026/27, including consideration of a national model 	People	ER ECOD

Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26	Council Plan 2023/28 Theme(s)	Directorate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting disabled people to move into sustainable employment through Specialist Employability Support from Summer 2025. This will ensure 'place and train' models are in place across all 32 LA areas, supporting closer working between employability provision and employers 	People	ER ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in Parental Employability Support in every LA area, with over £40 million made available to Local Employability Partnerships in 2025/26 	People	ER ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding pilot projects that will develop actions employers can take to implement inclusive recruitment practices – including flexible working, support for disabled employees, and supporting people at risk of economic inactivity 	People	ECOD ER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with schools during the academic year 2025/26 to amplify good practice that supports school leavers to enter positive destinations, piloting with local authorities that have the lowest rates of school leavers entering positive destinations 	People	ECOD ER
Safe, warm homes – ... we will ensure more people can access good, affordable homes including:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than doubling the budget – from £8.25 million to almost £21 million – to deliver around 8,500 general housing adaptations to disabled tenants, so they can live independently in their home 	People Place	ER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering an equivalent of Awaab's law in Scotland – ensuring landlords promptly address issues that are hazardous to tenants' health. Subject to the passage of the new Housing (Scotland) Bill, we will bring forward secondary legislation to develop timescales for investigation and commencement of repairs that are hazardous to tenants' enjoyment of their homes, starting with damp and mould. 	Place	ER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling homelessness by implementing the new Housing (Scotland) Bill which, if passed, will improve outcomes for those at risk of homelessness and strengthen tenants' rights, including through the introduction of a system for longer term rent controls, and removing the legislative constraint on the level of CT premium that can be applied to second and long-term empty homes 	People Place	Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) CE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing £1 million in a fund administered by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and Homeless Network Scotland, bringing together registered social landlords, third sector organisations and community partners to prevent homelessness and protect tenants' rights 	People Place	ER

Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26	Council Plan 2023/28 Theme(s)	Directorate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investing £4 million in homelessness prevention pilots in 2025/26, helping duty bearers to prepare for the new legislation and to implement the 'ask and act' duties effectively 	People Place	HSCP
Early child development – ... supporting babies, children, and young people through the early, formative years of their life, including:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedding early conversations on preparing for pregnancy into routine health care, to optimise preconception health and care 	People	HSCP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of 2025, meeting our breastfeeding stretch aim to reduce drop off at 6-8 weeks, with babies in Scotland now being breastfed for longer, and inequalities reducing 	People	HSCP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving take-up of Child Health Reviews and developing a health visitor learning site 	People	HSCP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on initiatives which supported the creation of over 40 new childminding businesses in 2024/25 – expanding this across 28 local authorities, backed by £1.6 million 	People Place	ER
Keeping The Promise – We will ensure that we meet the ambitious outcomes set out in The Promise progress Framework, including:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing a new Care Leavers payment from 1st April 2026 – a one-off £2,000 payment to help improve the financial security of young people leaving care 	People Place	HSCP ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bringing forward The Children and Young People (Care) (Scotland) Bill that will support delivery of The Promise 	People	HSCP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishing a new vision for kinship care by the end of 2025 	People	HSCP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upating of the Scottish Recommended Allowance for eligible foster and kinship carers, providing an extra £1.9 million, which is expected to benefit more than 9,000 children 	People	HSCP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to the Reimagining Secure Care report by June 2025 - setting out the Scottish Government's future vision for secure care 	People	HSCP

Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26	Council Plan 2023/28 Theme(s)	Directorate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing our approach to Bairns' Hoose across ten areas – providing safe, trauma-informed environments for child victims and witnesses to get the support and recovery services they need – ahead of incremental national rollout from 2027 	People	HSCP
Ensuring equality – We will take action to make Scotland a fairer and more equal country for everyone, including:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating safe spaces for the LGBTQI+ community - funding work that tackles discrimination and upholds the human rights of this group, including through the Equality and Human Rights Fund, and progressing actions within the Non-Binary Equality Action Plan 	People	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying fair work principles – including provision of flexible and family friendly working practices and actions to address workplace inequalities – to public sector funding 	Performance	All Directorates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring a whole Government programmatic approach to tackling gender inequality through development and delivery of an Equality Strategy for Women and Girls 	People	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching the Anti-Racism Observatory for Scotland which will work with Government, public bodies and communities to deliver on our vision to tackle systemic racism in Scotland 	People	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepting the recent UK Supreme Court judgment, a Scottish Government working group is considering its impact on policies, guidance and legislation to ensure we are ready to take all necessary steps when the Equality and Human Rights Commission publishes its revised Code of Practice and updated guidance 	People	All Directorates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislating to add the characteristic of Sex to The Hate Crime Act to ensure that women and girls have the same protections in law as other groups covered by the Act 	People	All Directorates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking forward the actions in the Hate Crime Strategy Delivery Plan until May 2026, protecting against the spread of hatred and prejudice 	People	All Directorates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having guaranteed the Access to Elected Office Fund in law, supporting people with disabilities to stand for election, we will work with electoral administrators to deliver improvements in accessibility for those with sight loss voting in elections, in time for the 2026 Scottish Parliament elections 	People	CE

Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26	Council Plan 2023/28 Theme(s)	Directorate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing our commitment to embed equality and human rights across the Scottish Government and the wider public sector we will publish our mainstreaming framework which will include an action plan and toolkit, setting out practical steps to achieve this ambition. This will be complemented by enhancing the effectiveness of the Public Sector Equality Duty as it operates in Scotland. 	People	ECOD CE
Upholding and promoting rights – We will work with partners on specific, targeted actions to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop counter interventions to the threats to our democratic system 	Performance	CE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create positive relationships and engage people across society on the issues 	Performance	CE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to engage their own networks to strengthen democratic (foundations) 	Performance	CE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the Scottish Government's convening power to advance the dialogue around, and progress the solutions to, the issues identified 	Performance	CE
3. Tackling the Climate Emergency		
Working with the UK Government to reform the consenting process through the Planning and Infrastructure Bill – reducing timescales to make decisions about whether large scale energy generation and network infrastructure can proceed and how communities can engage earlier in the process	Place	ER
... support transport services, people and business to reduce their emissions and adapt to climate change, including:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing a new pilot grant scheme to help households without off-street parking to install cross-pavement electric vehicle (EV) charging solutions 	Place	ER
Supporting 20,000 households to save up to £500 on energy bills per year, by investing £300 million in 2025/26 to help households and other building owners install energy efficiency and clean heating measures	Place	ER

Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26	Council Plan 2023/28 Theme(s)	Directorate
Introducing a Heat in Buildings Bill , setting targets for installing clean heating systems by 2045 – giving a clear signal to home and buildings owners to act when upgrading their heating system, including provisions to support development of heat networks	Place	ER
Improving our public-facing schemes , by simplifying the application process and ensuring that Home Energy Scotland is recognised as a single access point – streamlining the process and making it easier for households to access support	Place	ER
Establishing statutory targets to improve biodiversity	Place	ER
Increasing the scale and pace of peatland restoration to at least 12,000 hectares, up from a current target of 10,000, this year and creating at least 10,000 hectares of woodlands - which will include over 4,000 hectares of native woodland	Place	ER
Through our Adaptation Scotland programme , starting adaptation training services for sectors particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change	People Place	ER
Providing training, resources and support through our Climate Action Schools	People Place	ECOD
Using Scotland's Climate Week to celebrate and showcase climate action from government, business and individuals to build a sense of community, collaboration and agency in tackling the emergency	People Place	ECOD ER
Banning the sale and supply of single use vapes from 1 June 2025 to reduce vaping among non-smokers and young people and tackle their environmental impact	People Place	ER ECOD
4. High Quality and Sustainable Public Services		
Continuing to build on the offer of adult mental health early intervention and prevention support in local communities , through our Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults	People Performance	HSCP
Doing all we can to reduce harm and deaths caused by drugs and alcohol - developing a longer-term approach:		

Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26	Council Plan 2023/28 Theme(s)	Directorate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full implementation of the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards and the development of a national specification 	People	HSCP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing residential rehab capacity by 50%, to 650 beds, and being ambitious beyond our publicly funded placements to 1,000 per year by 2026 	People	HSCP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investing a further £2.5 million in person-centred alcohol and drug services, including £1m to provide specific support to develop services for mothers who use drugs and their babies 	People	HSCP
Our Accelerated National Innovation Adoption pathway , and working in partnership with the NHS, universities and industry, establishing:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding the payment of at least the Real Living Wage to all adult and children's social care workers who are delivering direct care in commissioned services, and early learning and childcare workers delivering funded hours, backed by £950 million 	People Performance	All Directorates
Investing up to £200 million in 2025/26 in the Scottish Attainment Challenge programme – with an aim to see the poverty related attainment gaps in primary school literacy and numeracy narrow by around 30% over 2016/26	People Performance	ECOD
Supporting the recruitment, retention and training of the additional support needs workforce , backed by an additional £29 million in 2025/26 in local and national programmes	People Performance	ECOD
Holding a data summit with all local authorities in Scotland on Additional Support for Learning focused on recommending actions for improving consistency of identification, support and reporting of children's needs at a local level	People Performance	ECOD
Providing local authorities (with) £186.5 million to deliver our joint commitment to restore teacher numbers to 2023 levels , freeze learning hours , and reduce class contact time	People Performance	ECOD
Working with the teacher unions , and COSLA to agree our approach to delivering a reduction in class contact time at pace – helping to ease teacher workload and create space for them to drive improvement and reform and improve outcomes	People Performance	ECOD
We will drive improvement in relationships and behaviour (in schools) by:		

Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26	Council Plan 2023/28 Theme(s)	Directorate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching a national campaign on attendance in autumn of 2025, to support improved attendance at school 	People	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting high expectations for all for learners, publishing new national guidelines on the use of consequences as part of positive approaches to relationships and behaviour 	People	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Time for Inclusive Education, including their new Digital Discourse Initiative – supporting schools to equip children and young people with skills to navigate digital media and counter the impacts of disinformation and online hate 	People	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the Relationships and Behaviour in Schools Joint Action Plan 2024/27 with local authorities, and report annually to Parliament on improvement 	People	ECOD
Reforming the curriculum, qualifications and assessment – We will set out a single combined timeline for this reform in June 2025, providing clarity about next steps for the education system, as well as:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing Qualifications Scotland and His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education, subject to passage of The Education (Scotland) Bill 	People	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing the Centre for Teaching Excellence, hosted by the University of Glasgow, and deliver its full offer to teachers in the 2025 school year 	People	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing the Curriculum Improvement Cycle to update and strengthen Scotland’s national curriculum for every child and young person 	People	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the removal of written exams in more practical subjects and the piloting of digital onscreen assessment from 2025/26 	People	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Qualifications Scotland to rationalise the qualifications offer in the senior phase 	People	ECOD
(To reduce the) level of anti-social crimes ... we will do more by:		

Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26	Council Plan 2023/28 Theme(s)	Directorate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspending use of concessionary travel cards on a temporary and potentially permanent basis as a result of anti-social behaviour when using the card 	People Place	ECOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing year three of the Violence Prevention Framework 	People	ECOD
A safe, sustainable transport system ... we will support our network to become more available, affordable, and accessible ...		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to deliver the major vessels programme with MV Glen Rosa at the Ferguson Marine shipyard, MV Isle of Islay and three other vessels at the Cemre shipyard expected by Summer 2026, and beginning work to deliver seven new electric ferries 	Place	ER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making it easier for people to walk, wheel, and cycle on everyday journeys by delivering projects through our 2025/26 sustainable travel programmes, including the new Bus Infrastructure Fund 	Place	ER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making our roads safer and reducing the numbers killed or injured, through delivery of 20 mph speed limits on appropriate roads by the end 2025/26 and of road safety funding for road authorities 	People Place	ER
We will publish our strategy for Public Service Reform in June 2025 which will set out the actions we will take, with local government , public bodies, the third sector and trade unions, to improve public services .		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitisation, automation, sharing, and reduction of back-office functions and estates, and leveraging procurement opportunities 	Performance	All Directorates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public bodies working closer together through our clusters programme and, where appropriate, starting consolidation of public bodies through our review of the service delivery landscape – ensuring we protect resources that support front line services 	Performance	All Directorates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlining service delivery, using data and evidence, to join up services, reduce duplication and make it easier for people to access the services they need 	Performance	All Directorates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering staff and organisations to remove barriers and deliver more effectively including supporting the third sector as a key delivery partner 	Performance	All Directorates

Scottish Government Programme for Government 2025/26	Council Plan 2023/28 Theme(s)	Directorate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shifting focus and expenditure towards agencies and services which take a prevention-first approach 	Performance	All Directorates
<p>We will ... make it easier for communities to make decisions about the places they know best and empower local systems to integrate and transform services in line with local priorities. As part of the conclusion of our joint review of local governance with COSLA:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ... we will ... undertake a further public consultation exercise in Summer 2025 on devolving parking fines to local authorities 	Place Performance	ER