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**inequality**



**BUDGET CONVERSATION**  
for glasgow





# BUDGET CONVERSATION

for glasgow



## **Glasgow's budget for local services remains under substantial pressure..**

The amount of money set aside for local government has fallen – and the share of that national budget that is then allocated to Glasgow has also declined.

As a result, the council has had to both reduce its spending and try to increase its income in order to balance the city's budget; which it is legally required to do.

Despite this challenge, the council is committed to improving services on which you and many others depend - and working with communities to make Glasgow a healthier, wealthier and fairer city.

Earlier this year, we asked people across Glasgow to take part in a budget conversation as it became clear reductions in the city's settlement from the Scottish Government, combined with unavoidable costs, would mean services faced a £130 million shortfall over two years.

People from every community across the city had the opportunity to identify the services they most valued – and also discuss ideas on how to save money, or generate more to invest in their priorities.

Those contributions were taken up by officials as they developed proposals for the new budget; reported to elected members charged with making decisions on how to prioritise spending, and are now firmly embedded in our budget.

Now, as Glasgow approaches the second year of this budget challenge, the council is asking people all over the city to continue that discussion about how to deliver the best services for our city and its people - and how to fund them.

Although we do not yet have final settlement figures from the Scottish Government, the council expects the city will have to save around £72 million during the next financial year.

Together, we have already identified how to make many of those savings – with the majority being met through a major service reform programme – but there is still a spending gap of around £34.9m to be closed.

It is important individuals, families and communities across Glasgow have their say and you can find out more about how to get involved later in this budget guide and at [www.glasgow.gov.uk/budget](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/budget)

The elected members of Glasgow City Council will take decisions on setting the budget before the end of the financial year – taking part in this conversation will ensure they know your priorities.



## WHERE GLASGOW'S FUNDING COMES FROM...

The money we spend to deliver local services comes from many sources, but can be split into four main groups.

### SERVICE INCOME



There are a number of other ways the council family generates income to support local services. The ones most people will be familiar with are charges for services – for example, parking, building warrants or providing residential care.

### GOVERNMENT GRANTS



Funding provided by the Scottish Government to all 32 councils across Scotland includes a revenue grant and some additional ring-fenced grants, worth just under £847m in Glasgow.



### COUNCIL TAX



This tax is levied on individual homes in the city. An increase or decrease of 1% changes income by around £1.7 million. However, any changes in the rate at which Council Tax is charged are tightly controlled by the Scottish Government.

### NON-DOMESTIC RATES

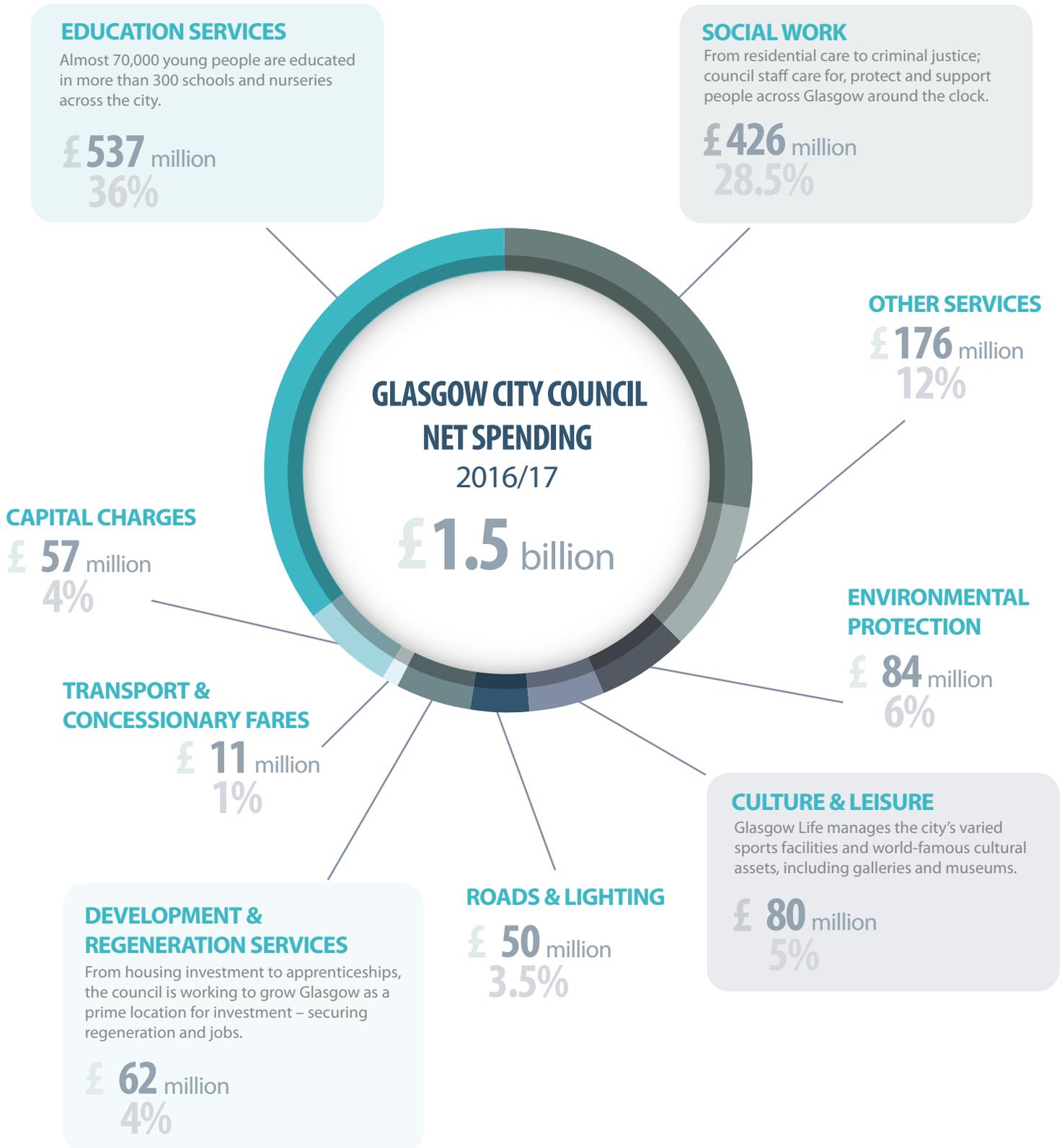


Non-Domestic Rates is a tax levied on business premises in the city.

**LIKE EVERY OTHER COUNCIL IN SCOTLAND, WE ARE HEAVILY RELIANT ON FUNDING FROM THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – SO ANY REDUCTION IN THAT SOURCE OF INCOME HAS A MAJOR IMPACT.**

## ... AND HOW WE SPEND IT

The vast majority of Glasgow's income is spent delivering two key groups of services. Together, Education and Social Work account for close to two thirds of the city's budget.



## ACTING ON YOUR FEEDBACK

Our last budget conversation saw groups and individuals across the city raise scores of questions, suggestions and challenges.

Some were focused on saving or raising money, but others looked at the role communities and the third sector could play in delivering services.

Responses were brought together in a report that all members considered before coming together to set the city's budget.

Below are just two examples of how your feedback shaped city services.



### ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE

Two strong messages that emerged during the last budget conversation were a desire to protect the local environment – and involve the community through volunteer clean-ups.

Both ideas are central to the city's new Environmental Task Force, which makes use of social media to communicate with the public and respond fast to fly tipping, litter and dog fouling.

Unemployed people of all ages from across the city have been trained up as ETF officers – and we are also recruiting an army of Neighbourhood Improvement volunteers to work with the task force and drive forward improvements in their communities.



### INTEGRATED GRANTS FUND

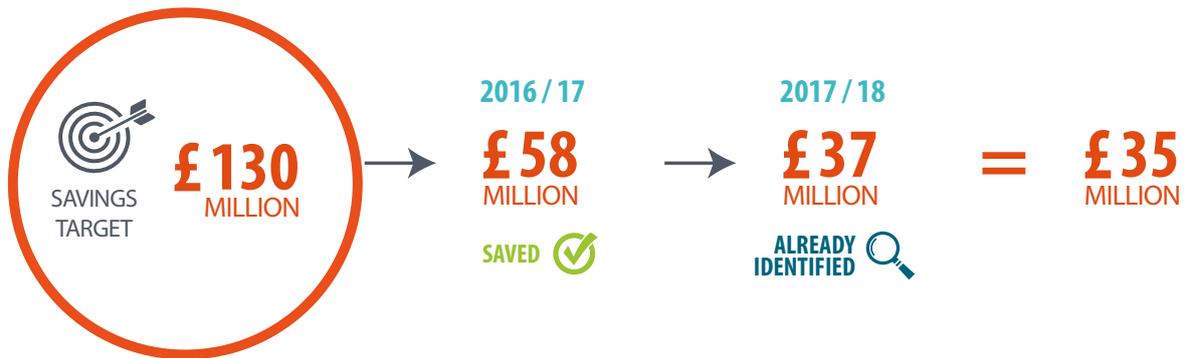
Many of the city's smaller community groups are heavily reliant on the money they receive through the Integrated Grants Fund – and called for awards to be protected.

While it wasn't possible to maintain every penny of funding, elected members were able to respond by overhauling the scheme to benefit the smallest local projects first.

By reducing grants to a range of public sector partners with broader shoulders and access to other sources of funding, we refocused the IGF and its resources on third sector groups and those that most need its support.



## OUR CURRENT FINANCIAL CHALLENGE...



## GET INVOLVED



The easiest way to have your say on services and how they are funded is to join the conversation on our [Dialogue website](#).

Submit your ideas to kick-off a new discussion; or add your voice to any topic that is already up and running.

Although the city has savings to make, we're not simply asking you where to make them. We want to know what services you really value – and where you think we could do things differently.

You don't have to be an expert and you don't have to have all the answers – any constructive suggestions, views or questions are valuable.

If we think the council can provide additional information to support a discussion, we'll chip in.

You can also email us directly at [budget@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:budget@glasgow.gov.uk)

[glasgow.gov.uk/budget](https://glasgow.gov.uk/budget)

