

ITEM No ...3.....

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 11 MAY 2026
REPORT ON: INCREASE TO SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANTS
REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES
REPORT NO: 95-2026

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to recommend an increase in Dundee City Council's School Clothing Grant payments.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to approve an increase of £15 for every eligible pupil with payment to be made in July 2026 in time for academic year 2026/27.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Executive Director of Corporate Services has confirmed that the agreement of these recommendations will result in additional recurring costs of £79,000 for the Digital & Customer Services division within Corporate Services. These costs are already assumed within the approved Revenue Budget 2026-27.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In June 2021, Scottish Government and COSLA Leaders reached an agreement to increase the national minimum amount of School Clothing Grant. The minimum levels increased to £120 per eligible primary school pupil and £150 per eligible secondary school pupil.
- 4.2 Dundee City Council last agreed an increase to School Clothing grants in June 2024 following extra funding that was provided from Scottish Government. It is proposed that reflecting inflation since then and to continue supporting those families in most need, these grants be increased by a further £15 per eligible pupils from next academic year. Below details the current and predicted cost based on supporting 5,279 pupils.

	Current		Plus £15 each	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Number of pupils	3,036	2,243	3,036	2,243
Grant amount	£125	£155	£140	£170
Sub total	£379,500	£347,665	£425,040	£381,310
Total	£727,165		£806,350	

- 4.3 Reducing child poverty and inequalities in incomes, education and health is one of Dundee City Council's key priorities. By increasing school clothing grants, we are continuing to prioritise welfare support grants to children and families, which drives toward the Council's and Scotland's national mission to end child poverty.

4.4 School clothing grants provide financial assistance for families on a low income. Dundee City Council's eligibility criteria are entitlement to one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance – Income Based
- Universal Credit (where take-home pay is not more than £995 per month)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Reduction

4.5 The Council's Benefit Delivery Team support citizens by automatically awarding school clothing grants to eligible families. The team actively promotes Council Tax Reduction, which not only supports citizens with their Council Tax but allows for an automatic award for school clothing grant without the need for a separate application.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An impact, positive or negative, on one or more of these issues was identified. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment showing the impacts and accompanying benefits of/mitigating factors for them is included as an Appendix to this report.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Council Leadership Team were consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

PAUL THOMSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

11 MAY 2026

Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: 95-2026

Document Title: School Clothing Grants

Document Type: Policy

Description:

A committee report recommending an increase to School Clothing Grants

Intended Outcome:

To agree an increase of £15 to every eligible pupil

Period Covered: 01/07/2026 to 30/06/2027

Monitoring:

The Benefit Delivery Team will monitor this through monthly reports

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Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

Impacts & Implications

Age: Positive

The increase to the School Clothing Grant positively affects the age group of school aged children by enhancing fairness and equality through improved access to essential clothing

Disability: No Impact

Gender Reassignment: No Impact

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No Impact

Pregnancy & Maternity: No Impact

Race / Ethnicity: No Impact

Religion or Belief: No Impact

Sex: No Impact

Sexual Orientation: No Impact

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?

No

Fairness & Poverty

Geographic Impacts & Implications

Strathmartine:	Positive
Lochee:	Positive
Coldside:	Positive
Maryfield:	Positive
North East:	Positive
East End:	Positive
The Ferry:	Positive
West End:	Positive

Positive Implications: The proposal has a positive fairness and poverty impact across all Dundee ward areas, with families in every locality benefiting from the increased School Clothing Grant

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: Positive

Household Group Impacts and Implications

This increase will offer essential additional support to care experienced children, who may face multiple disadvantages, as well as to all other young people eligible for the grant

Carers: Positive

This increase will help ease financial pressures for families who may be experiencing difficulties as a result of their caring responsibilities

Lone Parent Families: Positive

Lone parent families will receive significant support from this increase, as evidence shows they are twice as likely to experience relative poverty after housing costs

Single Female Households with Children: Positive

Single female households with children will experience a positive impact from this increase, as they face similar financial pressures to lone parent families and are therefore likely to benefit significantly from the enhanced support

Greater number of children and/or young children: Positive

Larger families, who are more likely to rely on out of work benefits that may be capped, will particularly welcome this increase

Pensioners - single / couple: Positive

Although numbers will likely be low, pensioners who are responsible for the care of a school aged child will experience a positive impact

Unskilled workers or unemployed: Positive

Low income families most at risk from poverty will benefit from this increase.

Serious & enduring mental health problems: Positive

Individuals experiencing serious and enduring mental health problems may benefit positively where they are responsible for a school aged child, as the increased grant can help reduce financial stress and support stability within the household

Homeless: Positive

Homeless families will experience a positive impact from this increase, as their often unsettled living situations can require multiple sets of school clothing throughout the year, making the additional financial support especially valuable

Drug and/or alcohol problems: Positive

Households affected by drug or alcohol misuse may experience a positive impact from this increase, as the additional financial support can help reduce pressures that often undermine stability and wellbeing for school aged children in their care

Offenders & Ex-offenders: Positive

Offenders and ex offenders who are responsible for school aged children may experience a positive impact from this increase, as the additional financial support can help reduce financial strain and contribute to greater household stability during reintegration

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Employment Status: Positive

Individuals who are unemployed or in low paid, insecure work will benefit from this increase, as it provides additional financial support to households most at risk of poverty

Education & Skills: Positive

Reducing child poverty and inequalities is one of the Council's key priorities, and by increasing School Clothing Grants we continue to prioritise welfare support for children and families, helping to remove stigma and enable children to achieve their full potential

Income: Positive

Low income households will benefit positively from this increase, as it provides essential financial support to families most vulnerable to poverty

Responsibilities (including Childcare): Positive

Families with caring responsibilities will benefit from this increase, as the additional financial support can help ease the heightened financial pressures often associated with providing unpaid care

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Affordability and accessibility of services: Positive

The increase will support the affordability and accessibility of essential services for low income families by easing financial pressure, helping them better meet school related costs and engage more fully with available support

Fuel Poverty: Positive

Households experiencing fuel poverty may benefit from this increase, as the additional financial support can help ease overall cost of living pressures and free up income for essential energy costs

Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: Positive

Most families on a low income will benefit from the increase to the School Clothing Grant, as it provides additional financial support to those most at risk of experiencing poverty

Connectivity / Internet Access: Positive

The increase may help improve connectivity and internet access for low income families, as easing pressure on household budgets can free up resources to maintain essential digital access required for education and daily life

Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation Positive

The increase will support income maximisation for low income households, complementing existing benefit advice services by reducing financial pressure and helping families make the most of the support available to them

Employment Opportunities: Positive

Employment opportunities can be strengthened over time, as an improved school experience helps equip young people with the confidence, skills, and stability needed to achieve better future outcomes

Education: Positive

The increase may encourage better school engagement, which in turn can contribute to improved life outcomes for children and young people

Health: Positive

The increase may have a positive health impact by reducing financial stress within low income households, helping to create a more stable and supportive environment for childrens overall wellbeing

Life Expectancy: No Impact

Mental Health: Positive

The increase may have a positive impact on mental health by helping to reduce financial stress within low income households, creating a more stable and supportive environment for children and families

Overweight / Obesity: Positive

The increase may help reduce the risk of overweight and obesity by easing financial pressures, enabling families to prioritise healthier routines and improve overall wellbeing for school aged children

Child Health: Positive

The increase may have a positive impact on child health by reducing financial stress on low income families, helping to create a more stable environment that supports childrens overall wellbeing

Neighbourhood Satisfaction: Positive

The increase may help improve neighbourhood satisfaction, as reducing financial pressures on families can contribute to greater household stability and a more positive sense of wellbeing within the community

Transport: Positive

The increase may help families better manage transport costs associated with school attendance, as reducing financial pressure elsewhere in the household budget can support more reliable access to education

Environment

Climate Change Impacts

Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: No Impact

Adapting to the effects of climate change: No Impact

Resource Use Impacts

Energy efficiency & consumption: No Impact

Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling of waste: No Impact

Sustainable Procurement: No Impact

Transport Impacts

Accessible transport provision: No Impact

Sustainable modes of transport: No Impact

Natural Environment Impacts

Air, land & water quality: No Impact

Biodiversity: No Impact

Open & green spaces: No Impact

Built Environment Impacts

Built Heritage: No Impact

Housing: No Impact

Is the proposal subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Corporate Risk

Corporate Risk Impacts

Political Reputational Risk: No Impact

Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: Not Known

Although the number of eligible pupils varies year to year, consideration has been given to the potential for an increase in applications for school clothing grants that could exceed the available budget. While this scenario is considered unlikely, modelling indicates that an increase of approximately 500 additional applications for secondary pupils, or around 600 for primary pupils, would be required for demand to surpass the current budget allocation

Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients: No Impact

Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact

Environmental: No Impact

Legal / Statutory Obligations: No Impact

Organisational / Staffing & Competence: No Impact

Corporate Risk Implications & Mitigation:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are "business as normal" risks and any increase to the level of risk to the Council is minimal. This is due either to the risk being inherently low or as a result of the risk being transferred in full or in part to another party on a fair and equitable basis. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times before without significant impact.