



City Chambers
DUNDEE
DD1 3BY

1st May, 2026

Dear Colleague

You are requested to attend a MEETING of the **CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE** to be held in the Council Chamber, City Chambers, City Square, Dundee and also to be held remotely on Monday, 11th May, 2026 following the meeting of the Children and Families and Neighbourhood, Housing and Communities Committees called for 5.00pm.

The meeting will also be livestreamed to YouTube. Members of the Press or Public wishing to join the meeting as observers should follow this link www.dundee.gov.uk/live or alternatively they may attend in person.

Should you require any further information please contact Committee Services on telephone (01382) 434228 or by email at committee.services@dundee.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

GREGORY COLGAN

Chief Executive

AGENDA OF BUSINESS

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members are reminded that, in terms of The Councillors Code, it is their responsibility to make decisions about whether to declare an interest in any item on this agenda and whether to take part in any discussions or voting.

This will include all interests, whether or not entered on your Register of Interests, which would reasonably be regarded as so significant that they are likely to prejudice your discussion or decision-making.

2 COMMON GOOD FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2026/2027 - Page 1

(Report No 106-2026 by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, copy attached).

3 INCREASE TO SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANTS - Page 7

(Report No 95-2026 by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, copy attached).

4 HOSPITAL FUND AND JOHNSTON BEQUEST - Page 15

(Report No 44-2026 by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, copy attached).

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REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 11 MAY 2026
REPORT ON: COMMON GOOD FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2026/27
REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES
REPORT NO: 106-2026

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides details of the Council's Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for 2026/27 and makes recommendations for the disbursement of funds for the financial year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee: -

- 2.1 Approve the Common Good Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27 as detailed in Appendix A.
 2.2 Agree that the available funding be distributed as follows:

	£000
Festive Fund	50
Festival of Remembrance	3
Available via open grant application process	<u>102</u>
Total	<u>155</u>

- 2.3 Approve that the Executive Director of Corporate Services be delegated to approve any awards made through the application process following an assessment through the established process.
 2.4 Note that the Common Good Fund application process will be promoted via the DCC Website, DP E-Bulletin, DVVA weekly newsletter and via DCC social media.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Executive Director of Corporate Services has confirmed that the agreement of these recommendations will result in total one-off costs of £155,000 for financial year 2026/27. This will be met from surplus income from the Common Good Fund Revenue Budget. There will no direct financial implications for Dundee City Council.

4.0 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 Common Good is a term synonymous with the creation of Burghs as trading counties. A Burgh became a trading county when the King licensed that Burgh to have markets, and at that time a Burgh Fund was set up and is now referred to as the Common Good Fund. As indicated by its name, the Fund is to be used for the common good of the City. Under Section 222 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, it stated that the then District Council in administering the Common Good Fund must "have regard to the interests of all inhabitants of the district".

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 In the City Council's Financial Regulations, specific reference is made to the Common Good Fund as follows: -

"The Executive Director of Corporate Services will submit a Revenue Budget to the City Governance Committee each year. The Executive Director of Corporate Services will have authority to incur expenditure within the approved budget.

All investments of money shall be made by the Executive Director of Corporate Services in the name of the Council. Any investments made will be in accordance with the policy determined by the City Governance Committee.

All securities which are the property of, or in the name of the Council, shall be held in custody under the supervision of the Executive Director of Corporate Services."

- 5.2 It has been accepted as custom and practice that the Common Good Fund should not meet expenditure of a recurring nature other than the provision of a Festive Fund and Festival of Remembrance Grants and that it is solely for expenditure of a one-off nature. In 2025/26 there was £155k made available. The Common Good Fund grants totalled £108k, Festive Fund grants £44k and Festival of Remembrance grant £3k. Last year in 2025/26 the Common Good Fund contributed £108k to the following initiatives:

	£
Down Syndrome Scotland	£6,438
Dundee Age Concern	£3,500
The Community Impact Initiative	£3,000
	£2,850
Funeral Link	
Charleston Community Residents Assoc	£1,975
Victim Support Scotland	£3,675
Broughty Ferry YMCA	£719
Meeting Centres Scotland	£2,023
Global Village Development Centre	£2,772
Cake or Dice	£5,000
Dundee MMA Youth & Sports Assoc	£3,600
Eden Project	£1,990
Dundee University of the Third Age	£769
Dundee Pride	£1,000
Dundee Youth Music Theatre	£3,600
Central Baptist Church	£3,567
The Yard	£7,901
SAMH	£4,750
Broughty United Youth Football Club	£2,369
LGBT Youth Scotland	£7,441
Maggies	£7,000
Dundee Contemporary Arts	£3,000
Dundee Deuces	£6,813
Broughty Ferry Parkrun	£4,800
Dundee Changemakers	£3,650
Grey Lodge Settlement	£3,364
Menziesshill LMG	£1,397
Dundee Youth for Christ	£5,000
Central Library (Outreach Services)	£3,000
HMS Unicorn	£1,892
TOTAL	£108,855

- 5.3 The Common Good Fund assets are invested in Bond Funds, and the Council's Loans Fund. It is estimated that these will generate approximately £160,000 income in 2026/27.

- 5.4 After allowing for the ongoing operating costs of the Common Good, the draft Common Good Budget for 2026/27 shows a surplus income of £155,000 and consequently this will be available for distribution during 2026/27.

6.0 REVENUE BUDGET AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURE FOR 2026/27

- 6.1 The Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for the financial year 2026/27 has been prepared, based on the latest information available. Appendix A details the Common Good Fund Revenue Budget for 2026/27.
- 6.2 In 2026/27 it is recommended that the Common Good Fund awards £50,000 to the Festive Fund to support communities across Dundee to provide trees, decorations and activities during the festive period. It is also recommended that the grant to the Festival of Remembrance be awarded in 2026 for circa £3,000.
- 6.3 It is noted that the balance of £102,000 will be made available for an open grant application process and will be promoted through the Council Website, Dundee Partnership E-Bulletin, DVVA weekly newsletter and all relevant social media channels. These proposals will then be subject to an assessment through the Dundee Partnership process and approved by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

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

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None.

PAUL THOMSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Date: 20 APRIL 2026

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APPENDIX ACOMMON GOODREVENUE BUDGET 2026/2027

	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
STAFF COSTS	-	-
PROPERTY COSTS		
Christmas Lights	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL PROPERTY COSTS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
SUPPLIES & SERVICES		
Other Supplies and Services	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL SUPPLIES & SERVICES	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS		
Grants / Payments to Organisations	155	<u>155</u>
TOTAL THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS	<u>155</u>	<u>155</u>
SUPPORT SERVICES		
Recharge from Central Support Departments	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>160</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Interest and Dividends	160	160
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>160</u>
<u>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE</u>	=	=

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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

Lead Author:

Lynne Carr, Council Tax & Benefits Manager, Corporate Services,

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Director Responsible:

Paul Thomson, Executive Director of Corporate Services, Corporate Services

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Dundee House 50 North Lindsay Street Dundee DD1 1QE

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 Caring

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.

ITEM No ...4.....

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 11 MAY 2026
REPORT ON: HOSPITAL FUND AND JOHNSTON BEQUEST
REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES
REPORT NO: 44-2026

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report advises members of the additional income likely to be available this financial year from the above funds for distribution to pensioners in financial need and also sets out information relating to the Older People's Advice Service which is currently delivered by Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that elected members: -

- (i) note the information in this report;
- (ii) agree the post within the Older People Advice Service (OPAS) should continue to be carried out by Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and be funded via the Hospital Fund and Johnston Bequest for 2026/2027 financial year;
- (iii) note that the Lead Officer responsible for monitoring the outcomes of the Older Peoples Advice Service Project is the Senior Manager (Council Advice Services);
- (iv) note that officers will review this arrangement and progress on implementing the various recommendations noted in paragraph 4.0 and;
- (v) agree that individual lifetime grant payments to pensioners increase from £80 to £100 per year.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Executive Director of Corporate Services has confirmed that the agreement of these recommendations will result in total one-off costs of £31,600 for financial year 2026/27. This will be met from surplus income from the Hospital Fund and Johnston Bequest. There will no direct financial implications for Dundee City Council.

4.0 BACKGROUND

The Hospital Fund and Johnston Bequest were vested in and administered by the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of Dundee under a special Act of Parliament entitled "The Dundee Churches and Hospital Act 1864" for the benefit of the poor of the town. The funds are currently vested and administered by the City Council under the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994.

The income from the capital assets held by these Funds has been utilised principally for distribution to pensioners in financial need. The Fund's income is derived from a combination of interest on temporary loans and rental income on property owned. The Fund's capital account currently stands at £850,833 and annual rental income was £40,775 and interest received was £35,132 during the year ended 31 March 2025.

Expenditure for the year to 31 March 2025 was £40,303 comprising rates and utility charges (£8,543), payment of pensions to beneficiaries (£1,760) and contribution towards Older People Advice Service (£30,000).

Approval was first given in January 2013 to allocate £25,000 from trust funds to pilot a welfare benefits advice service for older people. The pilot was extended several times, most recently in May 2023, when members agreed to increase the annual contribution to £30,000 and extended the project to March 2026. The dedicated advice post was anticipated to generate between £200,000 and £250,000 in additional annual income for older residents.

During 2024/25 and it was reported that 273 new clients have engaged with Dundee CAB with 517 issues having been identified during this period. Following a statistical review by Council Advice Services in November 2025 the work of OPAS was deemed satisfactory and of sufficient quality in terms of the original specification of the service, however client gains in 2024/2025 have been lower than in previous years which has prompted a review of the service operations.

Recommendations have been discussed with the Dundee CAB to further enhance the service which include: -

- Reviewing their income maximisation processes and offering to clients to ensure best value.
- Co-ordinating the service more closely with other agencies providing support to over 60s within Dundee.
- Improving the links to the Council Advice Services for non-residential and residential charging assessment teams.
- Aligning OPAS practice more closely with that of the recent successful and ongoing Pension Credit take up campaign Dundee CAB has been partnering.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and 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

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

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

PAUL THOMSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

DATE: 18 APRIL 2026

Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: 44-2026

Document Title: HOSPITAL FUND AND JOHNSTON BEQUEST

Document Type: Other

Description:

This Report advises members of the additional income likely to be available in 2026/27 from the above funds for distribution to pensioners in financial need and also sets out information relating to the Older People's Advice Service which is currently delivered by Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau.

Intended Outcome:

Strengthen the support to pensioners and older people in financial need.

Period Covered: 05/02/2026 to 09/02/2026

Monitoring:

Through monitoring and compliance of the Older Peoples Advice Project by the Council's Lead Officer, namely the Senior Manager (Council Advice Services).

Lead Author:

Craig Mason, Senior Manager (Council Advice Services), Corporate Services,

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Floor 4 Dundee House

Director Responsible:

Paul Thomson, Executive Director of Corporate Services, Corporate Services

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Corporate Finance, Floor 4 Dundee House, 50 North Lindsay Street, Dundee DD1 1QE

Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

Impacts & Implications

Age: Positive

These proposals will have a positive impact on older people. Firstly, the report recommends increasing individual lifetime grant payments to pensioners from £80 to £100 per year, providing enhanced financial assistance to older residents experiencing financial hardship. This uplift directly supports older people by helping them meet essential living costs and reducing financial strain, particularly for those on low and fixed incomes. Secondly, the proposal includes continued funding for the Older People's Advice Service (OPAS) delivered by Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau. This service offers tailored welfare rights and income maximisation advice specifically for older people, ensuring they can access entitlements, manage financial challenges, and maintain independence. Sustaining OPAS strengthens preventative support and reduces the risk of financial crisis among older age groups. Overall, the combination of increased grant payments and ongoing specialist advice provision represents a clear and targeted benefit for the protected characteristic of Age, improving financial resilience, wellbeing, and access to support for pensioners.

Disability: Positive

Since older people are statistically more likely to live with one or more disabilities these proposals will have a positive impact on disability groups. Disability is nearly twice as common in pensioner age adults compared with working age adults and much of the work of OPAS will serve to mitigate the impact of disability and co-morbidities in older people. This especially the case in the work of income maximisation which routinely identifies those with disabilities where their functional ability to manage their mobility and care needs has been compromised. Work by OPAS identifying and claiming benefits such as Pension Age Disability Payment will serve to alleviate the impact of pensioner poverty which is especially prevalent in those with disabilities.

Gender Reassignment: No Impact

Marriage & Civil Partnership: No Impact

Pregnancy & Maternity: No Impact

Race / Ethnicity: Positive

Since households headed by someone from a minority ethnic group are more than twice as likely to be in relative poverty (38%) than households headed by someone from a White British background (18%), older people from ethnic minority backgrounds will statistically be more at risk of falling into pensioner poverty. The work of OPAS will serve to mitigate the impact of this structural inequality.

Religion or Belief: No Impact

Sex: Positive

Older women are more likely to have low incomes than older men From the Independent Age Older People's Economic Wellbeing Index (Scotland): 24% of older women have an income below £15,000 compared with 13% of older men. Access to a service such as OPAS helps strengthen the support available in Dundee to female pensioners struggling with the cost of living. In Council Advice Services' Older Peoples Pension Credit take up campaign it was established that female pensioners over the age of 75 were especially vulnerable due to comparatively lower incomes when compared to their male counterparts.

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: These proposals will have a positive impact on older people in all communities across Dundee. Continued funding for the Older People's Advice Service (OPAS) delivered by Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau will serve to offer tailored welfare rights and income maximisation to older people regardless of their geography in Dundee. Sustaining OPAS strengthens preventative support and reduces the risk of financial crisis among older age groups, especially in the more deprived wards but also in more affluent wards where pensioners may be "asset rich but cash poor".

Household Group Impacts and Implications

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: No Impact

Carers: Positive

As well as wider family members serving as carers, older people themselves often serve as carers for their partners. An income maximisation service such as OPAS offers such carers tailored support to understand the benefits system and what can be claimed to increase income and ensure that the additional costs of disability and caring responsibilities are met through the various state benefits available. This in turn serves to reduce pensioner poverty amongst those being cared for and their carers.

Lone Parent Families: No Impact

Single Female Households with Children: No Impact

Greater number of children and/or young children: No Impact

Pensioners - single / couple: Positive

As previously mentioned these proposals will have a positive impact on older people. Firstly, the report recommends increasing individual lifetime grant payments to pensioners from £80 to £100 per year, providing enhanced financial assistance to older residents experiencing financial hardship. This uplift directly supports older people by helping them meet essential living costs and reducing financial strain, particularly for those on low and fixed incomes. Secondly, the proposal includes continued funding for the Older People's Advice Service (OPAS) delivered by Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau. This service offers tailored welfare rights and income maximisation advice specifically for older people, ensuring they can access entitlements, manage financial challenges, and maintain independence. Sustaining OPAS strengthens preventative support and reduces the risk of financial crisis among older age groups. Overall, the combination of increased grant payments and ongoing specialist advice provision represents a clear and targeted benefit for the protected characteristic of Age, improving financial resilience, wellbeing, and access to support for pensioners.

Unskilled workers or unemployed: No Impact

Serious & enduring mental health problems: No Impact

Homeless: No Impact

Drug and/or alcohol problems: No Impact

Offenders & Ex-offenders: No Impact

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Employment Status: No Impact

Education & Skills: No Impact

Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications

Income: Positive

These proposals will have a positive impact on older peoples' incomes in Dundee. Firstly, the lifetime grant payments to pensioners will be increased from £80 to £100 per year, providing enhanced financial assistance to older residents experiencing financial hardship. Secondly, the proposal includes continued funding for the Older Peoples' Advice Service (OPAS) delivered by Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau. This service offers tailored welfare rights and income maximisation advice specifically for older people, ensuring they can access entitlements, manage financial challenges, and maintain independence. Through this approach pensioner poverty and indebtedness can be reduced and incomes increased to lift pensioners out of poverty. By linking into Council Advice Service's Older Peoples Pension Credit take-up campaign the impact of OPAS can be enhanced. Results from this take-up campaign so far have yielded £4.5m in benefits for 739 Dundee Pensioner households since February 2024.

Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): Positive

As well as wider family members serving as carers, older people themselves often serve as carers for their partners. An income maximisation service such as OPAS offers such carers tailored support to understand the benefits system and what can be claimed to increase income and ensure that the additional costs of disability and caring responsibilities are met through the various state benefits available. This in turn serves to reduce pensioner poverty amongst those being cared for and their carers.

Affordability and accessibility of services: Positive

These proposals serve to increase older peoples' incomes generally, making essential services, including heating, energy, healthcare costs, and daily living more affordable.

Fuel Poverty: Positive

Increasing lifetime grant payments to pensioners will provide annual financial assistance to older residents which may alleviate the costs of energy. Secondly income maximisation services such as OPAS increase income, strengthening pensioners' ability to meet fuel costs. Raising income is one of the single most effective protections against fuel poverty. Pension Credit, in particular, not only increases weekly income but also unlocks additional support such as:

Warm Home Discount, Cold Weather Payments and Energy-related assistance for vulnerable households. Local campaigns linked to OPAS have already returned over £4.5 million to older people in Dundee, including an average increase of £71.54 per week per household, with direct relevance to meeting rising fuel bills. As a result Pension Credit also confers access to energy-related benefits and concessions, significantly reducing the risk of energy rationing, cold homes, and fuel debt. OPAS provides access to energy advice and fuel poverty-related supports since income maximisation work in Dundee is structurally linked to energy advice and fuel poverty services: This dual approach, increasing income and improving access to energy support, is essential during a period when many older people face increasing energy costs.

Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: Positive

The proposals will have a strong positive impact on older people by significantly increasing household income and reducing the Poverty Premium. OPAS will play a critical role in targeted outreach, supporting pensioners experiencing digital exclusion, stigma, or complex claiming processes. Accessing Pension Credit, Pension Age Disability Payment and Council Tax Reduction reduces the Poverty Premium by lowering essential costs such as Council Tax, energy bills, dental and optical care, NHS charges, and access to winter heating support. The proposals ensure that older people on low incomes receive the full range of financial supports they are entitled to, improving affordability, reducing fuel and food stress, and preventing pensioners from falling further into poverty during sustained cost-of-living pressures.

Connectivity / Internet Access: Positive

These proposals serve to increase older peoples' incomes generally, making essential services, including connectivity and internet access, more affordable.

Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation Positive

As a result of the proposals in this report income inequality and pensioner poverty are addressed squarely through income maximisation via OPAS. OPAS will offer a full range of support in relation to benefits advice including support to claim where entitlements are identified.

Employment Opportunities: No Impact

Education: No Impact

Health: Positive

Income maximisation and access to benefits such as Pension Credit confers access to energy-related benefits and concessions, significantly reducing the risk of energy rationing, cold homes, and fuel debt which can have detrimental impacts on older peoples' health.

Life Expectancy: No Impact

Mental Health: No Impact

Overweight / Obesity: No Impact

Child Health: No Impact

Neighbourhood Satisfaction: No Impact

Transport: Positive

These proposals serve to increase older peoples' incomes generally, making essential services, including transport costs, more affordable.

Environment

Climate Change Impacts

Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: No Impact

Adapting to the effects of climate change: No Impact

Resource Use Impacts

Energy efficiency & consumption: Positive

Due to the structural links between benefits advice and energy efficiency advice and support these proposals will have positive impacts as those receiving income maximisation support from OPAS are offered energy efficiency advice as standard.

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: No Impact

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.