

**North Lanarkshire Council  
Labour Group  
Budget Motion 2026/27**

1. We note the budget report provided by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology) and the update in respect of the Local Government Financial Settlement for 2026/27. *Local government finance circular 1/2026: settlement for 2026 to 2027 - gov.scot*
2. We welcome the UK Government's autumn budget in 2025 which delivered record investment for Scotland, and acknowledge that after considering ring-fenced funds, new commitments, and other directed expenditures, North Lanarkshire Council will benefit from an additional £18.176 million in core grant funding beyond the flat cash position expected.
3. However, we also acknowledge and strongly agree with the messaging in the Accounts Commission's Local Government in Scotland Financial Bulletin 2024/25 *Accounts Commission Jan 2026*, published in January 2026, which highlights Scotland's councils risk becoming financially unsustainable. The report also acknowledges Councils have made significant savings but the cost of delivering services is rising faster than available funding, with Councils facing a budget gap of nearly £1bn by 2027.
4. Therefore, whilst we reluctantly accept the inadequate level of funding provided, we do not accept the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Shona Robison's statement that it 'should also enable councils to protect family budgets by minimising any proposed increases in council tax'.
5. The Accounts Commission has also indicated that Councils have been 'largely successful in implementing action agreed to manage budgets', with the majority of savings targets delivered. Indeed, the Accounts Commission has commented positively on this Council's track record in financial management and sustainability. This budget aims to address, once again, the continued challenging financial position facing North Lanarkshire to ensure that the Council meets its statutory requirement to set a balanced budget and help ensure financial stability.
6. Despite another one-year settlement, this Administration remains fully committed to the key principle of the Revenue Budget Strategy to develop budgets over a three year period.
7. Therefore, we accept that the Council faces a budget gap of £19.273 million in 2026/27 and further gaps in 2027/28 and 2028/29 of £25.956 million and £25.355 million, respectively, which is a total of £70.584 million across the three-year planning period.
8. As advised by the Section 95 Officer we agree with the following savings solutions;
  - a) Loan Charges Reprofiting of £6.000m and acknowledge that these resources will require to be reinstated over the medium term.
  - b) Financial offset of £2.000m from monies received to support costs already incurred by the Council in managing packaging waste.

This reduces the 2026/27 budget gap to £11.273m.

9. We note the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology)'s Council Tax Strategy report to Policy and Strategy Committee in December 2025, outlining options for members consideration. We recognise that the Council Tax charge in North Lanarkshire for 2025/26 is the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest in terms of Band D charge across all 32 Local Authorities at £1,452.86. We also note that this is more than £90 per year less than the average charge across Scotland. And we acknowledge previous efforts of this Council to keep council tax charges as low as possible, however, it is vital to recognise that council tax charges represent the only significant means of generating income within council control.

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10. Therefore, against a backdrop of an extremely challenging financial outlook, we are proposing that Council Tax Band D is increased to £1,554.56, an increase of £1.95 per week. This represents a 5% increase to protect vital council services and a 2% increase as a capital investment precept to continue this Administration's track record of delivering key investment in community, family and person-centred services. This level of increase in Council Tax will generate additional income of £9.360 million over and above the 2% increase already built into the Medium Term Financial Plan.

11. We further note that the majority (69%) of all North Lanarkshire residents reside in properties banded A to C. This proposal would result in weekly rises as follows:

Band A	£1.30
Band B	£1.52
Band C	£1.73

12. In addition, it is essential to note that residents in receipt of Council Tax Reduction benefit, and therefore those with the lowest incomes, will not be affected by any increase in Council Tax.

13. Previous decisions by this Administration mean that this Council has one of the largest and most ambitious capital programmes in Scotland. The Administration reaffirms its commitment to progressing community hubs at **Abronhill, Ravenscraig and Glenboig** along with previously approved additional investment of £40.000 million in schools and facilities. In addition, we are pleased to announce that a further £1.872 million of funding will be made available to lever additional capital funding of £32.122 million to deliver for communities by increasing our commitment to invest in the Council's place-based transformation ambitions. This additional investment will be considered as part of the development of a new five-year capital plan from 2027/28 to 2031/32 and we instruct officers to bring forward a report to Policy and Strategy Committee in December 2026 to include investment proposals to allocate this funding.

14. The net impact on the revenue budget gap as a result of the above decisions reduces the gap to £3.785 million. Therefore, in following the key principles of good governance in presenting a balanced budget a number of savings will be required for the 2026/27 budget. These are outlined in Appendix 3 totalling £3.785 million across the three-year planning period. Officers have confirmed that any workforce impacts will be managed through the Council's approved workforce change policies. Due to the timing of delivering savings this requires use of balances totalling £2.855 million. These savings require a review of the policies in respect of Empty Property Rates Relief and Council Tax on Second/Empty Homes.

15. We welcome the £10m of one-off investment monies. Appendix 4 summarises the investment proposals.

16. The motion put forward by the Labour Group is bold and aspirational for the communities of North Lanarkshire. It will bring investment in North Lanarkshire and continue the delivery of the Council's strategic vision and meeting the needs of communities. Whilst adhering to previous commitments of no compulsory redundancies.

17. This Administration continues to take a strategic approach to managing the challenging financial position in order to ensure the Council remains financially sustainable. Therefore, given the scale of challenges that continue to lie ahead it is recognised that further action will need to be identified to address significant forecast budget gaps in 2027/28 and 2028/29. To

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address this, we request that the Chief Executive instructs a series of reviews, which should include identifying savings options or income generation opportunities:

- Next phase of the Council's transformation journey to redesign all services to maximise effectiveness and efficiency.
  - Review of utilisation of Producer Extended Responsibility for Packaging monies
  - Review of approach to grant award programme and potential synergies with community solutions approach in the IJB
  - Review of historic underspends budget adjustment
  - Review of service delivery models for early years and breakfast clubs in light of Scottish Government funding
  - Next steps review of depot estate with a view to considering additional asset rationalisation opportunities
18. After reflecting the above proposals, the Administration's budget for 2026/27 is summarised in Appendices 1 & 2, which outlines total available resources of £1,182.575 million after accounting for use of balances of £2.595 million to support the timing and delivery of 2026/27 approved budget savings, and £10.000 million for one-off investment. The total expenditure budget is also estimated at £1,182.575 million reflecting the actions outlined above, including the cost of capital investment and savings decisions. This therefore meets the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget.
19. As indicated in the Section 95 Officer's report, we acknowledge the change in policy around the General Fund Contingency and confirm that this fund be topped up by £3.800 million to be £11.800 million.
20. Finally, we acknowledge that the grant settlement may be subject to change as the Finance Budget Bill progresses through Parliament, and agree that should further undirected funds be received on a recurring basis as a result of this process, they will in the first instance be used to mitigate against other budget risks and challenges, on a one-off basis, and ultimately will be available to mitigate future years budget gaps. This is in line with previous years' practice.

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**Appendix 1**

	<b>2026/27 £m</b>	<b>2027/28 £m</b>	<b>2028/29 £m</b>	<b>Total £m</b>
Budget Shortfall per the Budget Report	19.273	25.956	25.355	70.584
<b>Managed by:</b>				
S95 Officer Identified Savings Solutions	(8.000)			(8.000)
Increase Council Tax Income; to close the gap	(9.360)			(9.360)
Additional CIF Investment; Increased loan charge expenditure	1.872			1.872
2026/27 Revenue Savings Decisions	(1.190)	(2.335)	(0.260)	(3.785)
Agreed one-off use of balances	(2.595)	(0.260)		(2.855)
Reversal of Use of Balances; Estimated/ Unresolved Budget Gap B/fwd	0.000	2.595	0.260	2.855
<b>Recurring Surplus/ (Shortfall)</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>25.956</b>	<b>25.355</b>	<b>51.311</b>
One-off Investment Balance from reserves	(10.000)	10.000		0.000
New One-off Investment ( Appendix 4)	10.000	(10.000)		0.000
<b>Net One-off Budget Implications</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>25.956</b>	<b>25.355</b>	<b>51.311</b>

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**Appendix 2**

**Summary Budget for 2026/27**

	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Expenditure Budget 2026/27 per Budget Report		1,179.893
Additional CIF Investment; Increased loan charge expenditure		1.872
Approved Savings		(9.190)
New One-off Investment		10.000
<b>Revised Net Expenditure 2026/27</b>		<b>1,182.575</b>
 <b>Available Resources:</b>		
Resources Budget 2026/27 per Budget Report	1,160.620	
Increased Council Tax Income	9.360	
One-off use of balances to support the budget	2.595	
New One-off Investment; use of balances	10.000	
<b>2026/27 Available Resources</b>		<b>1,182.575</b>
 <b>Recurring Budget Shortfall/ (Excess)</b>		 <b>(0.000)</b>

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**Appendix 3**

			26/27	27/28	28/29	Total	FTE
Reference	Summary Saving	Description	£m	£m	£m	£m	
<b><u>Chief Executive Service</u></b>							
02CEXA	Finance Employee Budgets	Review of staffing structures across Finance.	0.086	0.311	0.000	0.397	8.00
02CEXB	Increased Council Tax collection	Increased Council Tax collection through review of discounts and exemptions.	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.500	0.00
02CEXB	Insurance provision	A review of the Insurance Provision.	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.00
10CEXA	Legal, Democratic and Strategy Employee Budgets	Review of staffing structures across Legal, Democratic and Strategy function.	0.000	0.055	0.117	0.172	4.50
13CEXA	Strategic Communications; Structure review and operational budget reduction	A review of staffing structure which ensures the focus remains on the effective delivery of external communications, effective content and campaigns.	0.033	0.042	0.065	0.140	2.30
16CEXA	Customer Services Hub; Staffing Review	Review of staffing structures across the Customer Service Hub.	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.057	2.00
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>0.319</b>	<b>0.908</b>	<b>0.239</b>	<b>1.466</b>	<b>16.80</b>
<b><u>Enterprise &amp; Communities</u></b>							
14ECSB	Building Cleaning Trading Income	As a Trading Operation, income is required to at least match expenditure. Target increased trading income.	0.000	0.000	0.016	0.016	0.00
16ECS	Facilities Support; Lunch clubs	Reduction to Supplies & Services budget.	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.00
19ECSB	Muirfield Centre; Income Generation	Increases to tenants in addition to the Council's Discretionary Fees and Charges policy.	0.000	0.000	0.005	0.005	0.00
21ECSA	Estates Employee Budgets	Review of staffing structure/ costs and recharges.	0.031	0.000	0.000	0.031	1.00
23ECSA	Procurement and Support: Income Generation	Income Generation from Spend with 3rd Party Framework Agreements.	0.030	0.000	0.000	0.030	0.00
49ECSA	Infrastructure & Transportation Staffing Costs	Review staffing costs and proportion charged to capital.	0.040	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.00
55ECSB	Growth Programme	Budget reduction associated with the delivery of the ERDP.	0.026	0.000	0.000	0.026	0.00
58ECSA	Reduce the delivery of Business Gateway services in North Lanarkshire	Reduce the operational overheads linked to the delivery of Business Gateway services.	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.00
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>0.182</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.021</b>	<b>0.204</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b><u>Education &amp; Families</u></b>							
13ECFA & 15ECFA	Education and Families HQ and back office staffing review	Review of staffing structures and expenditure budgets.	0.157	0.057	0.000	0.214	5.0
20ECFA	Reductions to non-staffing budgets within the music service.	Savings achieved via reducing budget lines such as orchestras/band equipment and supplies, hall lets and transport.	0.217	0.000	0.000	0.217	0.0
23ECF	Children & Families - Family Placements	Removal of underspend.	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.0
26ECFA	Community Learning & Development	Review of staffing structure.	0.214	0.214	0.000	0.428	7.0
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>0.688</b>	<b>0.271</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.959</b>	<b>12.0</b>
<b><u>Additional Savings</u></b>							
	Council Tax on second & empty homes		0.000	0.756	0.000	0.756	0.0
	Review of Non-Domestic Rates Empty Property Relief		0.000	0.400	0.000	0.400	0.0
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>0.000</b>	<b>1.156</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>1.156</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>1.190</b>	<b>2.335</b>	<b>0.260</b>	<b>3.785</b>	<b>29.75</b>

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**Appendix 4**

Theme	Project Title	Description	Est. Cost £m	Area	Council Priority
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	<b>Cumbernauld/St Andrews Pitches (School)</b>	2G surface replacement; current pitch is far beyond its natural life expectancy and beyond meaningful repair. Essential for user safety and playability.	0.300	North	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	<b>Taylor High School Pitch (School)</b>	2G pitch replacement. Existing surface has exceeded life expectancy; full renewal required to meet safety standards and educational requirements.	0.300	South	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	<b>St Ambrose Pitches x 2 (School &amp; ACC)</b>	Triple pitch of 2 x 3G replacement. Existing surfaces are approaching non-maintainable due to age and high usage. Renewal ensures safe, continuous provision for school and community.	0.600	Central	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	<b>Caldervale Pitch (School)</b>	3G pitch replacement. Current surface is beyond the scope of routine maintenance programs; requires full renewal to restore safety and performance.	0.275	Central	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	<b>Coltness Pitch (School)</b>	3G pitch replacement. Total replacement required to ensure a safe environment for local clubs.	0.275	South	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	<b>Calderhead Pitch (School)</b>	3G pitch replacement. Total replacement required to ensure a safe environment for local clubs.	0.275	South	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	<b>Wishaw Sports Centre Pitch (ACC)</b>	3G pitch replacement. Surface is approaching end of life. Investment is critical to maintain safety and prevent facility closure.	0.275	South	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pavillion Replacement	<b>Cleland Football Pavilion (ACC)</b>	Demolition of dilapidated, beyond-repair changing building. Replacement with modern modular changing facilities to restore welfare standards for local sport and supporting new 3G pitch.	0.270	South	Transforming Places
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pavillion Replacement	<b>Gartferry/Moodiesburn Pavilion</b>	Replacement of end-of-life changing unit with new modular welfare facilities, ensuring safe and accessible community sports provision and supporting new 3G pitch.	0.120	North	Transforming Places
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pavillion Replacement	<b>Harthill Pavilion</b>	Demolition of unsafe, beyond-repair structure. Installation of modular welfare unit to support the continued use of new 3G pitches.	0.200	South	Transforming Places
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pavillion Replacement	<b>West End Pavilion - Sir Matt Busby SC, Bellshill</b>	Replacement of high-maintenance, dilapidated pavilion with modular unit, reducing operational costs and improving user experience supporting 3G pitch users.	0.220	South	Transforming Places
Service Development	<b>Time Capsule Service Development</b>	Strategic investment to complement the current Wet side and Dry side facilities by modernising the other venue offering to increase footfall and ensure long-term community and commercial viability.	2.500	Central	Transforming Places
Service Development	<b>Colzium House, Kilsyth, Restoration</b>	Restoration of historic hall and hospitality functions, including the creation of Kilsyth Heritage Museum to preserve this significant historical and local cultural asset.	0.845	North	Transforming Places
Service Development	<b>Four Isles Community Centre, Airdrie</b>	Transfer Four Isles Community Centre into ACC's portfolio to convert into a modern Training/Art/Music venue in an area of high deprivation (Top 5% SIMD).	0.820	Central	Resilient People
Country Parks Enhancements	<b>Country Park Investment</b>	Additional infrastructure, features and signage at the country parks	0.510	Authority wide	Transforming Places
Land & Waste	<b>Environmental Enhancements</b>	Investment programme to enhance roundabouts at key locations / arterials routes in and out of North Lanarkshire	0.400	Authority wide	Transforming Places
Land & Waste	<b>Public Parks and Open Spaces Enhancement</b>	Additional investment and enhancement to public parks and open spaces	0.240	Authority wide	Transforming Places
Welfare	<b>Cost of Living Financial Supports</b>	Additional financial supports to address cost of living pressures to identified residents	0.200	Authority wide	Resilient People
Communities / Land & Waste	<b>Town Centre Improvement</b>	Additional investment programme to enhance appearance of town centres to promote regeneration and growth	1.375	Authority wide	Transforming Places
<b>Total</b>			<b>£10.000</b>		