

**Record of Votes Taken at the Meeting of Falkirk Council
on Thursday 5 March 2026**

Councillors not in attendance:- Baillie Kerr (at time of vote only) and Councillors Mackie-Brown and Robertson.

Agenda Item No. 3	Revenue Budget & Financial Strategy 2026/27
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Motion

Council is asked to:

- 1 Recognise that this year's settlement for Falkirk Council from Scottish Government is better than has been anticipated with Falkirk Council receiving the third highest percentage increase in revenue;
- 2 Acknowledge that there has been £11.2m savings identified the majority of which are operational with a limited number for members approval and that based on a 7% Council Tax increase reflecting the Council's Financial Strategy there will be a surplus of £3.150m which will enable Council to balance its budget without the use of Service concessions and have the ability to provide some investment in priority areas for the benefit of communities;
3. Agree the investment proposals and fee increases in the Administration Budget as set out in paragraphs 4.116-8 of the report but now exclude all three savings proposed (for the avoidance of doubt these are discretionary school bus routes, grass cutting in private estates and grass cutting in Zetland and Callendar Parks) and in addition exclude the increase in brown bin charges but subject to the following adjustments, firstly, to take account of funding made available to support the payment of the real living wage in adult social care of c.£0.420m:-
 - a) a reduction of the £1.5m for the IJB in the investment proposals to £1.3m noting that there will still be £1.72m of additional funding for the IJB; and
 - b) with the £0.2m freed up £0.100m to generate £1m for capital for investment in the Grangemouth Sports Complex and the Mariner Centre and £0.100m for feasibility works on the Braes Sports Wing: and

secondly, by reducing the proposed investment for the first year of the Clean Green Team to £0.800m and funding the La Scala feasibility study and additional unplanned revenue costs in relation to Maddiston Primary School for 2026/27 from reserves, in total £0.675m, all as reflected in the appended budget model.
4. Agree additional 2.5% council tax for capital allowing the full list of capital projects set out at 4.38 of the report to proceed including the Denny Gym and further agrees that of the funds generated for learning estate modernisation £200k should be allocated for road safety measures around schools, resulting in an overall Council Tax increase for 2026/27 at 8.77% with Band D at £1,715.09;

5. Agree to the use of service concessions and moving these from in principle allocations to committed funding for the Town Hall, Grangemouth Stadium and the Capital Contingency Fund as set out in para 4.46 of the report and in addition agree that the £2m in principle for Town Hall Modernisation be moved to committed funding to be used across Bo'ness Town Hall, Grangemouth Town hall and the Dobbie Hall in Larbert at the discretion of the Director of Place Services on the basis of need and on the understanding that match funding should be sought where available; and further that within the remaining service concessions £6.6m is allocated in principle for the Braes Sports Wing;
6. Agree to the IJB payment of £146.464m including the additional £1.72m as detailed in the administration investment proposals, acknowledging that any service changes as a result will be decided by the IJB;
7. Note and support the application of the COVID reserves as set out in para 4.56 of the report;
8. Agree the reserves policy included at Appendix 5 to the report;
9. agree to amend time off for TU duties Policy by increasing facility time by 0.4FTE to those TU's awarded an allocation under members-base facility time;
10. agree that no change is made to Falkirk Council's public holiday arrangement;
11. Note that the Financial Strategy will be updated and presented to Members in Autumn 2026;
12. Agree that the meeting scheduled for 2nd April 2026 move to 26th March 2026, and
13. Note the significant progress made following the concern noted in the 2025/26 agreed budget motion in relation to matters around Equalities, most notably the previous lack of information within the revenue budget report on the impact of proposed service cuts, including a lack of consultation and the confident demonstrate of compliance with General and Public Sector Equality Duties; commends officers for their work in this regard and the continuing programme of planned improvement, recognising the very different position outlined in this budget report and further instructs officers to continue apace with this work, in conjunction with all relevant members of the council, including the Equality and Human Rights Champion.

REVENUE

	£m	Notes
Gap (to be confirmed)	14.45	
Council Tax @ 6.27%	(5.80)	1
Savings, Fees & Charges	<u>(11.20)</u>	
	(2.55)	
Investment Proposals:		
Additional Allocation to IJB	1.72	
Gender Based Violence	0.05	
Child Poverty (Inclusion Officers)	0.15	
Family Support Officers (Weekend & Evenings)	0.15	
Green and Clean team	0.80	
Support for the Learning Estates Strategy	0.13	
Supported Borrowing for Mariner & Grangemouth	0.10	
La Scala Feasibility Study	0.08	2
Braes Sports Wing Feasibility Study	<u>0.10</u>	3
	3.28	
Adjustments:		
Funding for Real Living Wage (ASC)	(0.42)	
Funding from Reserves for La Scala	(0.08)	
Funding from Reserves for Maddiston	(0.60)	
Discretionary Bus Contracts	0.09	
Grass Cutting - Zetland & Callendar	0.08	
Private Estate Grass Cutting	0.12	
Increase in Brown Bin Charges	<u>0.08</u>	
	(0.72)	
Remaining Funding	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	

Notes

- 1 Additional Allocation for Capital thru CT to be added = **8.77%**
Stage 1 & 2 studies covered; this is non-recurring funding; from
- 2 reserves
- 3 Funded from additional revenue following agreement of the real living wage.

CAPITAL

Service Concessions:	£'m	Notes
Town Hall	16.40	Actual Allocation in March 2026
Capital Contingency	11.00	Actual Allocation in March 2026
Grangemouth Stadium Upgrade	1.00	Actual Allocation in March 2026
Bo'ness, Grangemouth & Dobbie Hall Modernisation Fund	2.00	Actual Allocation in March 2026
School Modernisation	12.90	In Principle
Braes Sports facility	6.60	In Principle
	49.90	
Council Tax:	2.5%	
Learning Estate Modernisation	5.00	
Roads	4.00	
Lighting	1.50	
Dilapidation and Refurb Commercial Units	1.40	
Grangemouth Sports Complex	0.77	
Essential Building Upgrades & Compliance	0.70	
Vehicle Replacement Programme	0.70	
Gym Equipment	0.23	
Carrongrange	5.70	
Denny Gym	5.00	
	25.00	
Other Investment:		
Mariner Centre & Grangemouth Sports Complex Refurb	1.00	
TOTAL CAPITAL ASK	75.90	

Moved by: C Meiklejohn
Seconded by: P Garner

Amendment

Council:

1. agrees a balanced budget for financial year 2026/27 as appended to the Amendment noting that this does not take forward the proposed savings for Grass Cutting in Private Estates, Discretionary Bus Routes or the increase in Brown Bin charges and includes £1.5m for investment in the IJB;
2. agrees a Council Tax charge for 2026/27 of 8.06%, including 2.5% ringfenced for capital. This will result in a Band D Council Tax of £1,703.84;
3. agrees that the proposed non-recurring spend related to a feasibility study for the La Scala (Grangemouth) building, be taken from reserves;
4. agrees to an allocation of Service Concessions as set out at paragraph 4.39 of the report;
5. agrees the payment to the IJB of £146.244m for 2026/27, noting that any service changes as a result of this payment will be decided by the IJB;
6. notes the application of £1.871m of Covid reserves as set out at paragraph 4.56 of the report;
7. approves the Reserves Policy included at Appendix 5 to the report;
8. agrees to amend the Time off For Trade Union Duties Policy by increasing facility time by 0.4 FTE to those Trade Unions awarded an allocation under the members-based facility time;
9. agrees that no change is made to Falkirk Council's current public holiday arrangements;
10. notes that the Financial Strategy will be updated and presented to Members in Autumn 2026;
11. agrees that the meeting of Council scheduled for 2 April 2026 move to 26 March 2026.

REVENUE - ORIGINAL

	£m	Notes
Gap (to be confirmed)	14.45	
Council Tax @ 5.56%	(5.17)	1
Savings, Fees & Charges	(11.20)	
	<u>(1.92)</u>	
Additional Allocation to IJB	1.50	
La Scala Feasibility Study	0.08	
Support for the Learning Estates Review	0.13	
	<u>1.71</u>	
Adjustments:		
Grass Cutting in Private Estates - PS257	0.12	
Discretionary Bus Contracts	0.09	
Increase in Brown Bin Charges	0.08	
Funding from Reserves for La Scala	(0.08)	
	<u>0.22</u>	
Remaining Funding	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	

Notes

- Additional Allocation for Capital thru CT to be added =
1 **8.06%**

CAPITAL

Service Concessions:	£'m	Notes
Town Hall	16.40	Actual Allocation in March 2026
Capital Contingency	11.00	Actual Allocation in March 2026
Grangemouth Stadium Upgrade	1.00	Actual Allocation in March 2026
School Modernisation	19.50	In Principle
Town Hall Modernisation	2.00	In Principle
	49.90	
Council Tax:	2.5%	
Learning Estate Modernisation	5.00	
Roads	4.00	
Lighting	1.50	
Dilapidation and Refurb Commercial Units	1.40	
Grangemouth Sports Complex	0.77	
Essential Building Upgrades & Compliance	0.70	
Vehicle Replacement Programme	0.70	
Gym Equipment	0.23	
Carrongrange	5.70	
Denny Gym	5.00	
	25.00	
TOTAL CAPITAL ASK	74.90	

Moved by: Baillie J Kerr
Seconded by: J Bundy

VOTE

For the motion (23)

D Aitchison	P Garner
C Aitken	A Hannah
M Anslow	A Kelly
Depute Provost D Balfour	B McCabe
L Binnie	C Meiklejohn
Provost R Bissett	L Murtagh
G Bouse	A Nimmo
Baillie W Buchanan	S Paterson
F Collie	J Redmond
B Deakin	I Sinclair
S Devine	R Spears
G Forrest	

For the amendment (3)

J Bundy	S Patrick
J Flynn	

Abstention (1) – A Ritchie

Decision: The motion was carried.

Notes

1. This voting record is subject to approval of the formal minute at the meeting of Falkirk Council on 26 March 2026.
2. Only those items where a vote was taken are recorded here. For information about decisions reached on any other items considered at this meeting, please contact Brian Pirie, 01324 506110.