

17/01/2018	Shaping Stirling Future	S/C Employee	PF/1	Suggestion		Alan Waddell	Fly tipping	Safer Communities		Lynne McKinley	31/01/2018
<p>Good morning, I am an enforcement officer and find that 9 times out of 10 any fly tipping we go to investigate can't be traced to the offender therefore no fines can be issued to cover the cost of the uplift. The process we have in place at the moment is one that not only double the work but also doubles the cost for 1 job. Currently we will receive reports of fly tipping then go and confirm that they are in the location stated, we then have to put a line o to get the item uplifted by land services, basically getting someone else out to lift items that we have just looked at. As you know Stirling council land covers a vast area and we can drive for hours at times to get to these locations.</p> <p>My proposal is to allocate a caged pick up truck vehicle to safer communities to lift any items that we have investigated and can't be traced. This will severely reduce the jobs that land services have to go to.</p>											

17/01/2018	Shaping Stirling Future	S/C Employee	PF/1	Suggestion		Alan Waddell	Fly tipping	Safer Communities		Lynne McKinley	31/01/2018
<p>Re: Income Generating option</p> <p>I have just read the interim report that outlines the measures being considered by the council regarding its budget. As someone who lives in a former council-owned property, I think there might be an opportunity for the council to generate income from homeowners.</p> <p>The council regularly provides seasonal upkeep on council properties on my street. I am thinking mainly of gutters being cleared, but if the council offered to clear my houses gutters for a fee, I would be willing to pay. Others might as well.</p> <p>If some sort of opt in programme could be offered, it could provide increased revenues (or at least some funds to offset the upkeep costs of council properties).</p>											

23/01/2018	Shaping Stirling Future	Member of the Public	PF/03	Question	SR063	Rosemary Williams	Smith Art Gallery	CCE		Fiona Robertson	05/01/2018	30/01/2018
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Stirling Council's budget proposals to cut the funding to the Smith Art Gallery & Museum is totally disgraceful. The Smith is a wonderful asset to Stirling and I certainly know of visitors from far and wide who have visited and enjoyed greatly over the years. I wonder who urgently needs the funding now being donated to the Smith?? SHAME ON THE COUNCIL!!

Thank you for your recent e-mail.

Like every local authority in Scotland, Stirling Council faces a highly challenging financial environment. We have reduced our spending and generated increased or additional income over the last four years by transforming service delivery, implementing efficiencies, reducing or stopping some services, and introducing or increasing fees and charges for others.

We have had to make lots of hard choices. Stirling Council's overall budget for 2017/18 is over £264 million, £30 million less than it was five years ago, and we rely on the Scottish Government block grant for 80% of our income. But, with austerity continuing, we still have more difficult decisions to make. Over the next five years between 2018/19 and 2022/23, Stirling Council has a projected budget gap of £17.3 million.

The PBB Options that are being consulted on are budget proposals developed by Stirling Council Officers to help bridge the budget gap. We have identified 42 Options which are projected to deliver savings of over £4.6 million between 2017/18 and 2022/23. Throughout January 2018, we will be engaging with our staff, trade unions, members of the public, stakeholders and other parties. The feedback we gather will be analysed and presented to senior Officers and Elected Members to inform their deliberations and directly shape Stirling Council's decision-making.

Elected Members will make the final decision on which budget Options to approve, or to reject, in February 2018. The work of implementing and delivering on each Option will then begin once the 2018/19 budget has been confirmed by a formal meeting of the Council.

As part of our considerations, it has been important to look at all sizeable contributions that Stirling Council is making towards non-statutory provision, and The Smith falls in to that category.

The rationale for considering this as a budgetary option is based on ongoing discussions with The Smith about its future operating vision. A great deal of work has been undertaken to include The Smith as part of the City Region Deal and we have made a case for significant capital investment. This would allow a new operating model for The Smith and to gradually reduce its dependency on Council subsidy.

Once the outcome of City Region Deal discussions is known we will be able to look at all options for The Smith going forward. Our intention is to continue to work closely with The Smith to ensure that this important cultural asset receives the necessary investment.

24/01/2018	Shaping Stirling Future	Member of the Public	PF/04	Comment	SR063	Sheila Brown	Smith Art Gallery	CCE		Lynne McKinley	No Response req
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I could not believe my eyes on seeing the front page headline in the Stirling Observer this morning and had to pinch myself that it wasn't the 1 April!

Stirling without the Smith would not bear thinking about. I have lived in Stirling all my life and remember when it contained skeletons, birds eggs and the Samurai warrior. I've followed its development into a fascinating and valuable resource to the local community. My family attend two groups who meet in the Smith regularly - the Literary and the RSGS Adventurers Club (the latter which is on this afternoon). OK, the seating in the little theatre is not the most comfortable, but the ambience and intimate feel of the meetings is unique.

I feel this is a much more worthwhile resource than the likes of the Engine House which appears to be a bit of a white elephant!

24/01/2018	Shaping Stirling Future	Member of the Public	PF/05	Comment	SR063	Alex. R. Campbell.	Smith Art Gallery	CCE		Lynne McKinley	No Response req
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I am appalled to hear that Stirling Council is even considering financial cutbacks which could lead to the closure of the Smith. This Museum and Art Gallery is one of the gems which make Stirling a fine place to live and is a real attraction to the visitors who bring business and money to the City.

No Councillor, of whatever political party, who supports such a proposal will ever get my vote in any future Council election.

25/01/2018	Info@	Member of the Public	PF/06	Comment	SR063	Henry Quinn	Smith Art Gallery	CCE		Lynne McKinley	No Response req
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Comment - general enquiry, request or suggestion

Name: Personal information removed

Email: Personal information removed

Telephone:

Personal information removed

Address:

Personal information removed

Contact Destination:

Contact Centre - Enquiries, compliments, complaints & comments

Details:

Please record my opposition to the proposed withdrawal of funding to the SMITHS INSTITUTE.

25/01/2018	Info@	Member of the Public	PF/07	Comment		Laura Fyfe	Adult Education / Smiths/ Schools and Learning	CCE		Lynne McKinley	No Response req
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Comment - general enquiry, request or suggestion

Name: Personal information removed

Email Personal information removed

Telephone:

Personal information removed

Address:

Personal information removed

Contact Destination

Contact Centre - Enquiries, compliments, complaints & comment

Details

Stirling Council have some good ideas in their recent budget report, especially the installation of solar panels and the repurposing and sale of items that would otherwise go to waste...

but suggestions such as the reduction of Adult Education provision, the reduction of funding to the Smith and the sharing of head teachers between primary schools are amazingly short-sighted and harmful!

And increasing/introducing parking charges might surely mean a reduction in their overall income when people stop using certain Services (such as the Peak)?

25/01/2018	CCEenquiries	Member of the Public	PF/08	Question	SR063	Gary Meekin	Smith Art Gallery	CCE		Fiona Robertson	07/02/2018	30/01/2018
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Name: Personal information removed

Email: Personal information removed Telephone:

Personal information removed

Address: Personal information removed

Contact Destination:

Contact Centre - Enquiries, compliments, complaints & comments

Details:

Hi,

I'm led to believe that the council is decreasing the funding given to the smith museum by 90%. I have a number of queries on this.

- 1) what is the rationale behind this?
- 2) what is the money previously earmarked for the smith going to be used for?
- 3) Where does the council suppose the smiths funding will come from in the future?

Regards

Personal information removed

1) what is the rationale behind this?

As part of our considerations, it has been important to look at all sizeable contributions that Stirling Council is making towards non-statutory provision, and The Smith falls in to that category.

The rationale for considering this as a budgetary option is based on ongoing discussions with The Smith about its future operating vision. A great deal of work has been undertaken to include The Smith as part of the City Region Deal and we have made a case for significant capital investment. This would allow a new operating model for The Smith and to gradually reduce its dependency on Council subsidy.

2) what is the money previously earmarked for the smith going to be used for?

Like every local authority in Scotland, Stirling Council faces a highly challenging financial environment.

We have reduced our spending and generated increased or additional income over the last four years by transforming service delivery, implementing

efficiencies, reducing or stopping some services, and introducing or increasing fees and charges for others.

We have had to make lots of hard choices. Stirling Council's overall budget for 2017/18 is over £264 million, £30 million less than it was five years ago, and we rely on the Scottish Government block grant for 80% of our income. But, with austerity continuing, we still have more difficult decisions to make. Over the next five years between 2018/19 and 2022/23, Stirling Council has a projected budget gap of £17.3 million.

The PBB Options that are being consulted on are budget proposals developed by Stirling Council Officers to help bridge the budget gap. We have identified 42 Options which are projected to deliver savings of over £4.6 million between 2017/18 and 2022/23. Throughout January 2018, we will be engaging with our staff, trade unions, members of the public, stakeholders and other parties. The feedback we gather will be analysed and presented to senior Officers and Elected Members to inform their deliberations and directly shape Stirling Council's decision-making.

Elected Members will make the final decision on which budget Options to approve, or to reject, in February 2018. The work of implementing and delivering on each Option will then begin once the 2018/19 budget has been confirmed by a formal meeting of the Council.

3) Where does the council suppose the smiths funding will come from in the future?

Once the outcome of City Region Deal discussions is known we will be able to look at all options for The Smith going forward. Our intention is to continue to work closely with The Smith to ensure that this important cultural asset receives the necessary investment.

26/01/2018	Shaping Stirling Future	Member of the Public	PF/09	Suggestion	SR063	Andrew McPhee	Smith Art Gallery	CCE		Fiona Robertson	08/01/2018	30/01/2018
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Dear Sir/Madam,

I understand that Stirling Council is seeking to remove funding over a period with a view to closing the Smith Gallery.

If this is the case, I would urge you to reconsider. This wonderful (in the the truest sense - literally, full of wonders) museum has art of national importance and artefacts of local, national and international importance.

If a reduction in its costs are to be realised, I would urge you to consider other avenues - perhaps seeking sponsorship, using volunteers instead of paid staff, or reducing its opening days. The point is, to allow it to close now would display a sort of cultural short-sightedness that would reflect badly on Stirling

both here and abroad.

I ask you to put these points to anyone who has the power to influence the consultation on this matter. My family and I would be deeply upset to be unable to visit its calm, beguiling atmosphere.

As an education professional about to take 20 primary school children to the Smith, I cannot countenance a time when these children's experiences would be reduced to classroom-only learning because the best single source of artefacts is about to close.

Please consider other avenues of keeping this fine institution open.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew McPhee

Thank you for your recent e-mail.

As part of our budget considerations, it has been important to look at all sizeable contributions that Stirling Council is making towards non-statutory provision, and The Smith falls in to that category.

The rationale for considering this as a budgetary option is based on ongoing discussions with The Smith about its future operating vision. A great deal of work has been undertaken to include The Smith as part of the City Region Deal and we have made a case for significant capital investment. This would allow a new operating model for The Smith and to gradually reduce its dependency on Council subsidy.

Once the outcome of City Region Deal discussions is known we will be able to look at all options for The Smith going forward. Our intention is to continue to work closely with The Smith to ensure that this important cultural asset receives the necessary investment.

30/01 /2018	Shaping Stirling Future	organis ation/C ouncil or	PF/10	Ques tion	SR0 54	Alasd air Tolle mach e	reducti ons to the third sector	CCE		Alan Milliken	12/0 2/20 18		
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Please could you give me a breakdown of the third sector organisations facing a possible cut in their funding through the proposals

31/01/2018	MpandMSPenquiries/ Letter	MSP	PF/11	Question	SR054	Bruce Crawford	Callander Youth Project Trust			Alan Milliken	12/02/2018
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Callander Youth Project Trust

I have been contacted by Chris Martin of the Callander Youth Project Trust. I understand that the CYPT currently receive £10,000 per year in funding from Stirling Council. However, I am led to believe that a current budgetary option would see £200,000 reduced from third-sector investment and this has caused great concern for those who work hard to deliver important organisations such as CYPT.

I am told that CYPT has raised much of its own revenue through social enterprise in recent years, and that it is around 70% self-sustainable. However, it does rely on a number of smaller grants in order to deliver effective services in partnership across the rural area.

I gather that CYPT is the only youthwork organisation in the Stirling area to be acknowledged by the National Agency for Youth Work, YouthLink Scotland, and as Youthwork Provider of the Year.

I am told that the CYPT would have no option other than to reduce the services it offers if

31/01/2018	Landlenquiries	Councillor	PF/12	Question	SR058	Alastair Majury	Deep Clean within Communities	L&I		Craig Gardner	12/02/2018	31/01/2018
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I understand that stopping Deep Cleans is a possible option under the PPB options.

I also understand that assuming this service isn't cut, that Dunblane would be due to have a Deep Clean in 2018.

I am looking to understand what other communities are due to have a Deep Clean in 2018, 2019, and 2020 if this service isn't stopped.

REF:101000458303

Cllr Majury,

Yes completely removing Deep Cleans within Communities is a "stop" option under PBB5, I understand that this will be from 1st April 2018 if accepted. Dunblane is due in April 2018, and would miss out in this case.

I attach the programme as requested

31/01/2018	Corporate Complaints	students studying journalism	PF/14	interview	SR063	Courtney Bierman	Smith Art Gallery	CCE		Graham Gibson	
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My name is Courtney Bierman, and I'm an exchange student at the University of Stirling studying journalism. I'm currently in a radio feature production class, which requires us to work in groups to find stories in and around town to record and edit.

My group is working on a story about the Stirling Smith cuts being voted upon by the Stirling Council next week, and we'd like to know the logistics of what the cuts would mean for the gallery as well as the Stirling community as a whole. Is there a Council representative who'd be willing to do a quick interview sometime before next Tuesday? Our deadline is that morning, so sometime before this weekend would be ideal.

Just to clarify, the story wouldn't be for broadcast. The only people who would hear it would be my classmates and professors if that's a concern.

Thanks so much, and I look forward to hearing from you.

-Courtney

31/01/2018	Phone Call	Bridge of Allan/Resident	PF/15	Comment		Mhairi Jarvis	Dial a Journey	CCE		Lynne McKinley	No Response req	I need this service (Dial a Journey). I can't do without it, I use it to get to my hospital appointments.	
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I need this service (Dial a Journey). I can't do without it, I use it to get to my hospital appointments.

31/01/2018		Councillor	PF/16	Question	SR054	Martin Earl	External organisations to which the Local Authority is a member			Jim Boyle	12/02/2018	
<p>Can you please advise the number of external organisations to which the Local Authority is a member and the costs to Stirling Council for being involved in each one ?</p> <p>What is the total cost of our involvement in the joint valuation board ?</p>												

31/01/2018		Councillor	PF/17	Question	SR054	Martin Earl	Third parties purchasing council assets			Jim Boyle	12/02/2018	
<p>I forgot to add this one :-</p> <p>Can you advise how much is outstanding in money owed to the local authority by third parties purchasing council assets. A list of what is owed and for how long in each case.</p>												

01/02/2018	Shaping Stirling Future	Organisation	PF/18	Comment	SR054	William Simpsons	Dial a Journey	CCE			No Response req
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01/02/2018	Shaping Stirling Future	Organisation	PF/18	Comment	SR054	William Simpsons	Dial a Journey	CCE			No Response req
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Good afternoon Our residents have used dial-a-journey on numerous times over the years and will be very upset if this service is taken away the staff have been very helpful every time you require a service so please think again about removing this dial-a journey is part of stirling.

Regards,
Activities Co-ordinator

01/02/2018	Letter to elected members	Member of the Public	PF/19	Suggestion	SR063	G.P Archibald	Smith Art Gallery	CCE			
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See Letter attached

01/02/20 18	Webmaster	Member of the Public	PF/20	Question		Michael Burt	Scotgov budget	L&I		Jim Boyle	14/02/20 18
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Hi there,

I wonder if somebody could advise me as to what impact yesterdays Scotgov budget proposals will have on the proposed PBB process? i.e. will you have more money now?

Regards,

Michael

05/02/20 18	Shaping Stirling Future	Chair of the Friends of the Smith	PF/21	Comment	SR063	Chris Kelt	Smith Art Gallery	CCE			No Response req
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See Letter attached

05/02/2018	Shaping Stirling Future	SC Employee	PF/22	Comment	SR054	Ann Marie Sinclair	cut to third sector organisations	CCE			No Response req
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The various grant arrangements and Service Level Agreements that Stirling Council has with third sector partners reflects the essential part they play in allowing the authority to meet the complex needs of communities through the Community Planning process.

Our local third sector partners offer a depth of specialist expertise not often available in statutory multi-disciplinary teams. They are regularly the preferred first point of contact for vulnerable people in need or crisis because they are independent, specialist and not a statutory provider. The level at which local long-standing partners like Women's Aid, Rape Crisis and Victim Support are known, trusted and integrated within Stirling gives Stirling Gender Based Violence Partnership a reach and capability to combat violence against women and girls that statutory or generic providers could not achieve without them. They are front-line services in their own right as well as regularly supporting our own front line service activities, such as in education, housing and social work.

Demand for third sector services are growing year on year and will continue to do so with the recent publication of the Equally Safe Delivery Plan 2017-21, the enactment of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill and other legislation and campaigns to combat violence against women and girls and the inequality that perpetuates attitudes and abuse.

There are a range of further local third sector GBV partners whose participation is critical to Council and partnership objectives to combat violence against women and girls, who have not yet sought Council funding, but may require for survival to seek a contribution in the future.

Partial operating costs of several third sector GBV partners are met externally through repeated competitive funding applications to Scottish Government or external funding bodies, but this is often 'one off' in nature and organisations are increasingly required to demonstrate as a pre requisite that local government are contributing to or in some way matching the operating costs of the services they are benefiting from.

It is therefore concerning that under SR054 there is an option to review all Communities and People Payments to third sector organisations with a view to achieving a £200,000 reduction in costs over 4 years. There is no detail of the total funding pot that this reduction will be applied to or the number of recipients that it will impact. There is also no rationale as to why these savings will be sought from only the Communities and People budget, rather than from across the Council as a whole, thereby potentially lessening the impact on individual organisations. While it is welcome that the reductions do not apply to the next financial year, it is nonetheless the case that the option will be decided on at the next full Council meeting, leaving no time to explore alternative options. As lead officer for the authority on GBV and coordinator of Stirling GBV partnership, I therefore strongly disagree with the option.

Best regards

Ann Marie



RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE SMITH
Registered Scottish Charity SC016450

In relation to the draft Budget Proposals being considered in February 2018 by Stirling Council and their potential impact on the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum we, the six hundred members of the Friends of the Smith, ask elected members and Council officials to look beyond short term challenges and consider the following:

Stirling's key assets are its built and natural environment and its people. Our cultural heritage is internationally recognised and marks Stirling out on an international stage. We encourage elected members to recognise the cultural and economic contribution the Smith has made, and aspires to make in the future, to Stirling's success. The Smith makes a vital contribution to Stirling as a "must visit destination" for tourists from the UK and the world. Significant budget cuts in the support given to the Smith would have an adverse affect on a range of Council objectives and damage a high quality cultural and economic asset.

One example:

If Stirling aspires to call itself a city, it invites comparison with Glasgow and Edinburgh, where the universities provide rich and diverse programmes of lifelong learning for their residents. When the University of Stirling withdrew its "extra-mural" adult learning programme some time ago, the Smith took on the challenge with no funding provision. In the words of one resident "If the Smith closed, I'd move back to Glasgow".

The Stirling Smith has developed a new vision for the future which will enhance its contribution to the cultural and economic wellbeing of Stirling. It has created an ambitious development programme and has been identified as a key project as part of the Stirling City Deal. This could in turn pave the way for a Heritage Lottery bid. Thus the Smith has significant un-tapped potential with prospects which are not just wishful thinking.

The Vision of the Smith is *"to serve the people of Stirling and further afield by conserving and managing its collections, providing access to them and acting as custodians for future generations"*.

To deliver this Vision the Stirling Smith:

- wants to share the collections and make it easier for people to gain access to them; it needs more space and to make better use of the space it has;
- needs to bring the building into a better state of repair and to have the correct climate control and security provision to enable other collections and exhibitions to be brought to Stirling;
- aims to deliver an excellent education service to all age groups, which is at the heart of what we do, but is constrained by the existing facilities;
- aspires to continue the great artistic and creative energy that Stirling has shown for hundreds of years and create an environment where the energy of the present sits comfortably alongside the objects of the past.

The Stirling Smith has been supported by its Friends ever since 1973, when it was rescued from demolition by them and nurtured back to health. It is now a vibrant, thriving community hub for the artisans of Stirling as Thomas Stuart Smith always intended. The Friends give more than 3000 hours of volunteer time every year to the Smith and we look forward to welcoming and working with the newly appointed Director when the time comes.

Dr Chris Kelt, Chair of the Friends of the Smith

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ELECTED MEMBERS AND OFFICIALS OF STIRLING COUNCIL
from supporters of the Stirling Smith

25 February 2018

In relation to the draft Budget Proposals being considered in February 2018 by Stirling Council and their potential impacts on the Smith Art Gallery and Museum we, the supporters of the Smith, ask elected members and Council officials to consider the following:

The Friends of the Stirling Smith and other supporters accept that Stirling Council has difficult budget choices to be made and that the Smith has to play its part. However, supporters wish to draw the attention of elected members to the following and to ask them to think beyond short term challenges:

- In delivery of Stirling Council priorities the Smith provides high quality education to the people of Stirling through free entry and a significant outreach programme to schools and community groups across Stirling.
- The Stirling Smith is a significant cultural asset which in itself attracts over 40,000 visitors each year but also forms part of the unique cultural offering Stirling has for tourism - a key contributor to the economic, social and general wellbeing of visitors and residents alike.
- The Smith has a vital part in delivery of the sixth Council objective: *"We will commit and coordinate our resources to ensure that Stirling becomes a "must visit" destination with heritage, culture, environment and economic strategies working hand in hand to encourage tourists to stay for prolonged overnight stays"*.
- The Stirling Smith has developed a new vision for the future which will enhance its contribution to the cultural and economic wellbeing of Stirling. It has created an ambitious development programme and has been identified as a key project as part of the Stirling City Deal. It has significant un-tapped potential. Significant budget cuts will put this at risk.

The Vision for the Smith is *"to serve the people of Stirling and further afield by conserving and managing its collections, providing access to them and acting as custodians for future generations"*.

To deliver this Vision the Stirling Smith:

- wants to share the collections and make it easier for people to gain access to them; it needs more space and to make better use of the space it has;
- needs to bring the building into a better state of repair and to have the correct climate and security provision to enable other collections and exhibitions to be brought to Stirling;
- aims to deliver an excellent education service, which is at the heart of what we do, but is constrained by the existing facilities;
- aspires to continue the great artistic and creative energy that Stirling has shown for hundreds of years and create an environment where the energy of the present sits comfortably alongside the objects of the past;
- wishes to deliver this Vision in partnership with Stirling Council.

Stirling's key assets are its built and natural environment and its people. Our cultural heritage is internationally recognised and marks Stirling out on an international stage. We encourage elected members to recognise the cultural and economic contribution the Smith has made, and aspires to make in the future, to Stirling's success. Significant budget cuts in the support given to the Smith will have an adverse affect on a range of Council objectives and damage a high quality cultural and economic asset.

Forth Valley Rape Crisis Centre: Response to Stirling Council PBB5 2018/19 –

SR054 Review Communities and People payments to third sector organisations

We are concerned that the proposal does not provide enough information to make a meaningful response possible. In terms of the money, what is the total third sector budget involved, and is a £200,000 saving a large or a small proportion? There is no detail available about the review process, the engagement of the organisations and which organisations are included in the scope. We have been encouraged by Stirling Council to attend the public meetings but have not been informed if we are included. It seems safest to assume that we are included but feel strongly that it is wrong to have to infer or assume such a thing.

Forth Valley Rape Crisis provides free and confidential information, advocacy and support to anyone, over 13, in the Forth Valley area (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling) affected by sexual violence. This includes survivors of sexual violence and their friends and families. We also provide advice, support and training to staff in other agencies who are working with survivors so they can provide a good response to survivors of sexual violence when they handle disclosures.

Whilst there is insufficient information available for us to meaningfully assess the impact of the proposal in relation to FVRCC and service users, any reduction of services for survivors of sexual violence will have a significant impact on women, but also LGBTI survivors, young people and disabled people. Our service also supports men who have been affected by sexual violence at any point in their lives.

In addition to direct support work FVRCC provides specialist services through Prevention and Advocacy workers funded by the Scottish Government. For these services to be effective and safe survivors must be able to access person centred support throughout the disclosure, reporting and court processes. Stirling Council's funding is vital for contributing to the costs of support workers, for ensuring that we meet the running costs of the centre for it to stay open and enabling us to take referrals from Police Scotland. Any reduction will at best mean a longer waiting list for survivors in Stirlingshire, hence reducing the ability to keep survivors safe and increase the likelihood of further abuse, as well as self-harm and suicide. At worst, the future of the centre and its services are at risk.



Forth Valley Rape Crisis Centre

22 Millar Place, Stirling FK8 1XD

Tel: 01786 439244

Email: contact@forthvalleyrapecrisis.org.uk

Web: www.forthvalleyrapecrisis.org.uk

Twitter: @fvrapecrisis

Scottish Registered Charity: SCO48252

At a time where the capacity of our service is already stretched by both a lack of resources and an ever increasing demand for our service we do not believe it is possible to cut funding from women's services without it resulting in serious harm for survivors in Stirlingshire. We have a positive relationship with Stirling Council, which has funded FVRCC since it was founded in 2016, and without continued funding from Stirling Council the safe and effective services we provide will be seriously threatened.

We raised our concerns about the lack of information in relation to this proposal at the public meeting at Raploch Community Campus, and are seeking:

- confirmation about whether or not we are included in this review, as soon as possible
- the Equality Impact Assessment undertaken for this proposal



Forth Valley Rape Crisis Centre

22 Millar Place, Stirling FK8 1XD

Tel: 01786 439244

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Web: www.forthvalleyrapecrisis.org.uk

Twitter: @fvrapecrisis

Scottish Registered Charity: SCO48252

ORDER OF MALTA DIAL-A-JOURNEY TRUST

Response to Stirling Council Priority Based Budgeting (PBB5) Consultation

February 2018

Dial-a-Journey door to door passenger transport and Shopmobility services are delivered by Order of Malta Dial-a-Journey Trust (a charitable organisation founded in 1986) with Financial Support from Stirling Council.

Our client group are the elderly, infirm and individuals with disabilities (including hidden impairments) that make it impossible for them to use conventional public transport services or access services without the specialised services provided by Dial-a-Journey and Shopmobility.

The Trust has a Board of Trustees (approximately half of whom are service users). Service user representation on our Board and it's Committees is essential in influencing the shape of services, and determining future needs.

The Trust recognises the financial pressures our local authority partners face in making financial ends meet, and have worked with officers over the years to maintain services at levels customers need, but it is felt that there is a need to respond to the current consultation in order to raise awareness of the impact changes in funding support (positive or negative) would have on our customers and as an employer of approaching 30 staff.

In terms of service usage, the mainstream passenger transport sector has witnessed a decline in patronage in recent years, as has Dial-a-Journey, Shopmobility and the Taxicard Scheme.

When we surveyed our users, we learned that people are using transport less due to the following reasons;

- Reductions in disposable income that previously funded discretionary Social activities such as going out for meals, visits to the theatre, cinema etc
- Reductions in Day Centre support and services provided by local authorities
- Reductions in activities and services provided by voluntary sector organisations due to funding reductions
- Improvements in online services such as banking and internet shopping

There are numerous examples of why demand has decreased, however an equalities survey by Falkirk Council in late 2016 comprehensively reported high satisfaction with the services provided by Dial-a-Journey, but robustly stated that for most that currently use the services, in the event that funding to support the services was curtailed further or removed, the impact on them would be devastating, and in many cases, they had no practical alternative. **This was likely to result in them not leaving their homes, thus increasing social isolation.**

In part, the success of Dial-a-Journey and Shopmobility services stems from the "add ons", where our staff go that little bit extra in not only providing transport, but pay particular attention of customer assistance, such as seeing customers to their final destination and regard our services not as door to door, but "door through door".

In terms of PBB5, the current consultation document is not detailed enough, making it impossible for third service provider readers to identify possible implications for themselves. While we understand there is the benefit to individual departments of having the discretion to manage their resources as need dictates, it does not help provide any continuity or stability for service providers.

The ability to be able to forward plan financially is essential in stabilising the organisation and can result in improved economies of scale that can be re-invested in improving services

Future funding

In order to preserve services at the current level of demand, the Trust has in recent years underwritten shortfalls in the funding of services from its reserves, which in the long term is no longer sustainable. In other Council areas, agreements with local authorities have been reviewed in recent years, resulting in service levels being adjusted to reflect the cost of delivering them. The Trust believes this is a retrograde step, and additional investment should be considered in order to preserve services. The Trust has endured cuts in funding or standstill budgets, that effectively become cuts in real terms, while costs continue to rise that are preventing the sustainability of service levels and restricting future development opportunities.

The Impact on Service Users of Funding Reductions

It's clear that any reduction in funding levels would impact on the Trusts ability to continue sustaining services at current levels. What is often overlooked, is that in terms of the door to door service, the current funding only provides 2 vehicles to cover the entire Stirling Council operating area from Strathyre to Plean. Dial-a-Journey regularly provides additional vehicles to supplement this provision at peak times. Possible impacts of any funding reductions or continued standstill budgets may be that we will be unable to continue to bolster vehicle provision at peak times midweek, and this may mean the possible need to withdraw services at weekends.

On weekdays, this may result in the loss of out of area journeys (including journeys to day centres, education, work and other support services). At the weekend, this may result in the inability of service users to use the service for social purposes, but in particular the loss of the choice of attending Church services on Sundays. The withdrawal of the former is likely to increase the users reliance on other council provided services, decrease mobility, impair general health and wellbeing and increase social isolation. The withdrawal of the latter is vital to some users in maintaining their faith and wellbeing.

The Impact on Dial-a-Journey

Dial-a-Journey Trust is a Stirling based third sector charity with a long established base in Stirling. Any reductions or withdrawal of financial support for the provision of door to door and Shopmobility services would have a direct impact on the organisation's future survival.

Since 2009, the Trust has adapted to the economic recession by integrating services in order to reduce its overheads, and we are now in a position where we are so finely balanced that if any piece of the rationalised infrastructure was to lose financial support, it would induce the domino effect potentially resulting in collapse of the service.

We have also taken steps to diversify our work in order to improve services, and generate additional income that in turn supports our core services. For example, we are a significant provider of wheelchair accessible transport services for Stirling Council, and should we have to cease or curtail schools operations, there are future cost implications for the Council in re-tendering contracts held by us.

The Economic Impact

As stated earlier, if Stirling resident service users are unable to lead active independent lives, there may be possible increases in support costs for Stirling Council, however, there is also the financial impact on the local economy.

For example, in an informal exit survey of Shopmobility users, they were asked how much money they spent on their visit to Stirling that day. Collectively the spend was typically anywhere between £200 - £400 per day. Extrapolating this represents between £50-100,000 spent each year that may be lost to internet transactions affecting local traders and other businesses.

Dial-a-Journey is a local employer, employing 30 full and part time staff (many residing in the Stirling area), and any loss of funding could result in losses of jobs and a contribution to the local economy of almost £250,000 per annum (plus future support costs of re-training and deploying an ageing workforce – assuming they ever work again).

Dial-a-Journey is a provider of Midas Training and self-drive minibus hire providing training, support and self-drive minibus hire for many 3rd sector organisations and schools throughout Stirling Council operating area (including rural areas such as Balfron and Callander). This resource would be lost to communities, who are benefitting from their availability, where no other exists. This is an area of potential growth, as we began to witness during 2017.

Statistics

The following statistics are examples of our engagement in local communities in 2016/17

	Members	Trips/Loans/Candidates
Dial-a-Journey Door to Door service	202	5846
Shopmobility	222 residents 972 visitors	3588
Self-Drive Groups	10	2086 (5000 plus in 17-18)
Other Organisations supported	14	(inc in D2D total)
School Journeys	17	3230
Training	n/a	55

We urge Councillors and Officers to consider these issues carefully when making recommendations and decisions, and are keen to continue dialogue with you to ensure the service we provide as partners continue to survive.

Duncan Hearsum
Chief Executive
Order of Malta Dial-a-Journey Trust
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RESPONSES FROM SERVICE USERS

Duncan Hearsom
Chief Executive
Dial-a-Journey
17 Munro Road
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FK7 7UU

31st January, 2018

Dear Duncan,

Here are my comments regarding the proposed cuts to Stirling Council's budget.

I am a blind person who works some hours a week in a Nursing Home as a complementary therapist. Transport there and back is vital for me. Without this excellent organisation helping me to get to and from work, I would probably have to give up the hours in the Nursing Home. My clients, the residents, value and look forward to my visits. I believe that they and I would both lose something which is enjoyable and which also promotes wellbeing.

I use Dial-a-Journey on other occasions such as doctor's appointments and visiting friends. I find the door to door service is very helpful and convenient and I can travel safely with peace of mind rather than using public transport which would make me feel very stressed. The service gives real independence and an opportunity to make a small but worthwhile contribution to the local community.

If the Dial-a-Journey service was not available I would be very disappointed and would feel that an excellent source of independence had been taken away from me.

I hope these comments are useful and appropriate.

Yours Sincerely,

Hilary Russell

From Rose McRone via Facebook

Hi I would just like to say on behalf of my husband Campbell. Mc Crone who uses this service to and from respite in Strathendrik care home without this service which he depends on he would not be able to go to respite as he is wheel chair bound and your service is excellent if the charge for this was to be increased I would not mind paying extra . I tried getting on to the survey site but was unsuccessful also I am my husbands carer and if this service was withdrawn I wouldn't get respite for myself so can you please enter This for me thank you

Rose

Dear Sir,

If the wonderful service of Dial-a-Journey was reduced or even withdrawn for me and many others would be devastating. I would not get out very far. I have no access to a car.

I am in my 87th year, have a heart condition, asthma, a pacemaker and use a wheelchair. My daughter is 63, has spinabifida, but fortunately can manage to walk to push me. So we both need the service.

Dial-a-Journey means we can go to the town, we can meet people, attend hospital appointments and generally live our lives.

Reduced or no service would mean all this would be taken away!!

Please try to keep Dial-a-Journey and Shopmobility alive

Yours sincerely

Patricia Inglis

Dear Sir/Madam

We have been extremely grateful over 6 ½ years to have had your help to get to the dentist and hospital appointments. My husband is very disabled and life would be very hard without your help.

He loves the journey – seeing the countryside etc. Drivers are always really nice!

I pray that you can continue . I would be happy to pay a bit more

Yours sincerely

Eva Thake

Dear Sir/Madam

Following receipt of the Priority Based Budgeting consultation document that I had only recently become aware of, I've asked Dial-a-Journey to submit a response on behalf of myself as a carer, and my husband as a user of Dial-a-Journey's transport service, as we don't have access to the internet to submit an online response. I feel that the consultation document was very difficult to understand and didn't find it easy to identify what services could be affected.

What I can say is that my husband is severely disabled but goes out twice a week with Dial-a-Journey and finds the experience invaluable, allowing us some freedom from the confines of our home and ensuring that we're not isolated from others.

Dial-a-Journey's drivers go that extra mile to be friendly and helpful and their approach to their work is exceptionally helpful in making us feel that we're not inconveniencing them.

I believe that if Stirling Council was to receive additional funding from central government as suggested in last weeks Scottish Government budget, some of these could be used to support the continuation and development of services such as Dial-a-Journey, Shopmobility and other organisations that support the disabled and vulnerable.

Dial-a-Journey and Shopmobility services are invaluable to their users, and we must fight to make sure they continue to be available to us at the level we need.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Tocher