

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SCOTLAND – 2018 AND BEYOND...

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Local Government in Scotland

- 32 Unitary Local Authorities
- £9.6bn revenue budget in 2017/18
- £2bn council tax - 3% cap
- Vital in every community:
 - 244,000 staff – 10% of working population
 - £6.3bn annual procurement
 - £250m annual investment in local economic growth
 - Support for 17,000 local businesses



What COSLA Does

- **Voice of local government in Scotland**
- **Political leadership on national issues**
- **Work with councils to improve local services and strengthen local democracy**
- **Engage and lobby Scottish, UK and international governments**
- **Specialist shared services for councils and their partners**

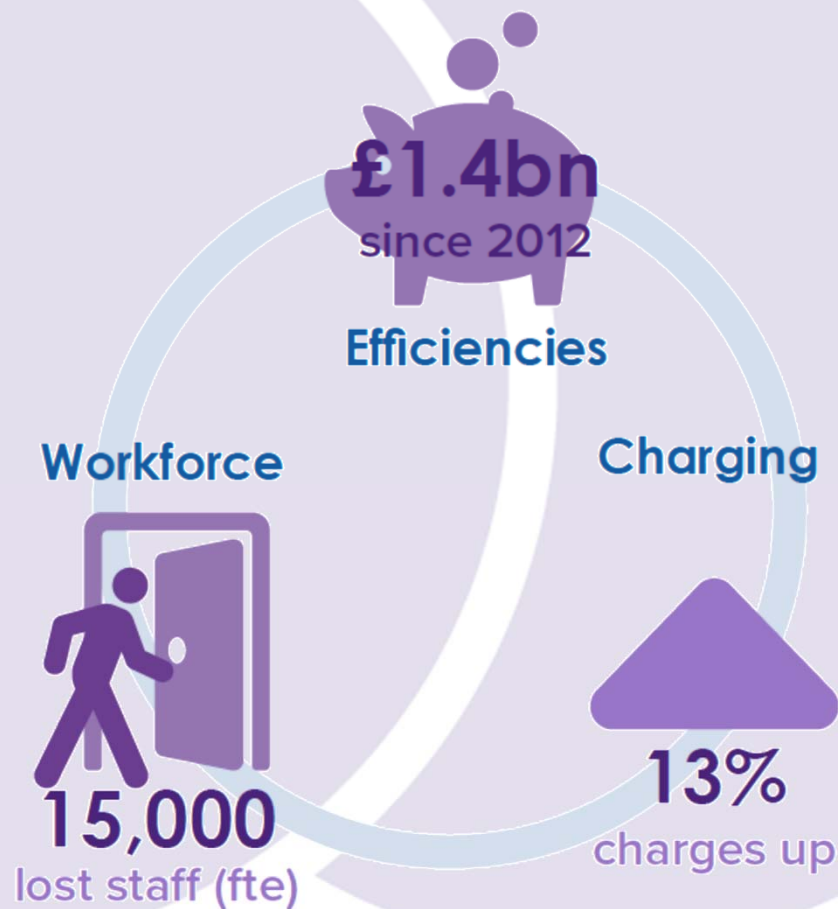


Financial Outlook

- Overall funding: 8% real terms decrease since 2010/11
- 58% of council budgets cannot be reduced: 42% absorb cuts
- Resources focused on early learning, free school meals, Scottish Welfare Fund – core budget down £590m since 2010/11
- 2018-19 Draft Budget – Real terms reduction of £153m



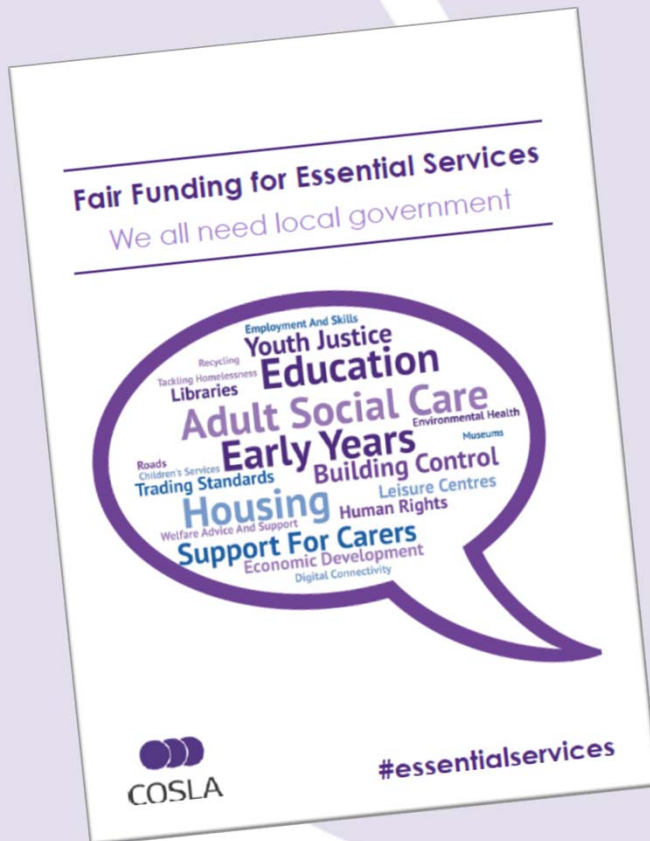
Managing the Impact



- £1.4bn efficiencies since 2012
- Collaborative working, streamlining, procurement and asset management, charging
- Benchmarking - core performance improving in many areas
- But “increasing signs of financial stress” - Audit Scotland



#EssentialServices: Key Goals



- **Flexibility:** multi year budgets, more freedom over budget priorities
- **Investment in the local government workforce**
- **Full funding for Scottish Government initiatives**
- **Local tax reform including discretionary taxes**



Policy Challenges

- Education Reform and Governance
- Early Learning and Childcare
- BREXIT
- Health and Social Care
- Inclusive Economic Growth
- Pay



Review of Local Governance

- “Strengthen local decision-making and democratic governance in ways that improve outcomes in local communities”
- **Background**
 - New powers for Scottish Parliament
 - Islands Bill, City Deals, Community Empowerment
 - Work to date such as:
 - Local Democracy Commission
 - Community Empowerment Act



A new way of thinking ?

- **Local governance- all public services NOT just local government**
- **Bottom up NOT top down - decisions at right level of place**
- **Variation NOT one size fits all – different solutions for different places**
- **Local AND national - both spheres of government**



How will it work?

- **2 Phases**
 - Phase 1: Engaging with people, communities, and local groups
 - Phase 2: Councils, CPPs, and other local services
- **Enabling Group**
 - Guardians of the engagement process
 - Wide membership across national and local government, community organisations and other expertise
- **Evidence subject to democratic renewal ‘tests’**
- **Joint political oversight group – Cabinet Secretaries and COSLA Presidential Team**



What do we want to achieve?

Better local outcomes by:

- **Empowering communities** – improving democratic participation and elected representation
- **Pushing down powers and resources** – supporting local choices and priorities
- **New governance or ways of working**– different governance, accountabilities and structures based on what works locally

... improving not removing local democratic accountability



Next Steps

- Review process
 - Phase 1 : January to June 2018
 - Phase 2 : May to November 2018
- Early 2018 – start building the local government case for change
- Legislation: potential Bill beginning late 2018



Find Out More

- **WEBSITE:** www.cosla.gov.uk
- **DROP US A LINE:** info@cosla.gov.uk
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Questions?

