

# BUDGET ENGAGEMENT 2026–27

## YOU SAID, WE DID

Thank you to everyone who took part in Argyll & Bute HSCP's budget engagement in Feb-March 2026. Over 600 people shared their views through local events, surveys and online sessions.

We committed to listening, using your feedback, and reporting back on how it influenced decisions. This summary tells you what was said and how this shaped what happened next.

# “YOU SAID”

## Local services are important

Services like responders, telecare, care at home, day services, carers' support, community transport and third sector services were described as lifelines that keep people safe, independent and connected.

## Reductions in social work

Most respondents opposed this, telling us services are already stretched and delays would increase risk.

## Cuts to services will have impacts

You warned that reducing social care services could increase crisis calls, hospital admissions, delayed discharges and carer burnout.

## Rural and island challenges

Distance, ferry disruption, limited alternatives and small workforces mean changes here can have much bigger impacts.

## Affordability matters

Some said they would pay more to help protect services given financial pressures, but others could not afford higher charges and feared this would reduce access to support. Affordability, fairness and means-testing were key concerns.

## You want redesign not cuts

You asked us to reduce bureaucracy, avoid duplication, protect frontline services and work more closely with communities and partners.

# “WE DID”

Your feedback was used to complete our statutory Integrated Impact Assessments that were used to refine our budget saving plans discussed by the Integration Joint Board (IJB) on 25 March 2026.

See here - [Agenda for Argyll and Bute HSCP Integration Joint Board \(IJB\) on Wednesday, 25 March 2026, 1:00 pm - Argyll and Bute Council \(Item 8b\)](#)

As a result, the IJB:

- Listened and recognised the worries you identified
- Used engagement evidence to amend, mitigate or phase savings proposals
- Giving consideration to further work based on your responses

Some difficult decisions still had to be made to set a balanced budget, but your views directly shaped the final proposals. These included:

- Budget savings of £2.319m (reduced from proposed savings of £3.4m due to increased investment from Argyll and Bute Council)
- A balanced budget for 2026-27
- Charging policies for additional social care services including the Responder Service.

Further details are published here - [ARGYLL & BUTE CHP FINANCE DEPARTMENT](#)

# *THANK YOU*

Like other HSCPs in Scotland, the HSCP remains in an unsustainable financial position and is spending more on services than the budgets available. We will continue to discuss this with you during 2026.

There is a need to transform how we deliver health and social care in Argyll & Bute.

Thank you for taking the time to share your experiences, concerns and ideas. Your contribution mattered and helped the IJB's decision making.