

Dear Crookfur parents and carers,

I know that there are a lot of requests just now for parents/carers to complete questionnaires or surveys and this is yet another request. However, having looked at the ERC Budget Consultation documentation and having attended a budget briefing for Parent Council Chairs, I felt I had to write to you to outline what I believe is the **potentially devastating impact to Education** in East Ren.

The background

- The Scottish government indicated that the funding allocated to local authorities like East Ren is likely to stay the same until 2026.
- The funding received from the government makes up the majority of income for the council. Council tax only provides about 18%.
- High inflation and increased costs including public sector wages have driven costs up.
- It is likely that **savings of £30 million** need to be made over the next 3 years.
- Although Council Tax is likely to be increased, the majority of these savings will come from cuts to services.

ERC have set out all of the details in 3 budget briefings (click to read):



Impact on Education

- The Education Department is the biggest department making up 48% of ERC costs.
- Therefore, the potential cuts to Education are bigger than any other department.
- The Education Department have been asked to **identify £20 million of potential cuts**.
- If implemented, these cuts would substantially reduce the education service over the next three years, with lasting cumulative impacts in the future.

The cuts have been grouped into 3 categories:

1. Reduction in Devolved School Budgets involving teaching staff
2. Reduction in Devolved School Budgets involving other staff
3. Centrally based education staff

Category	Description	Potential Impact on Crookfur
Reduction in Devolved School Budgets involving teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the budget for teaching staff in schools. A certain number of teachers are legally required. Class teachers teach 22.5 hours per week (of 25 hours of total teaching) ERC provides budget for additional staff for target areas e.g. lowest performing 20%, pupil support teachers ERC provides budget to cover staff absences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the school week to 22.5 hours (i.e. Friday afternoon out of school) Removal of extra teaching staff to assist class teachers with lowest/highest performing pupils Removal of extra teaching staff to cover programmes like Reading Recovery etc Management having to cover staff absences Potentially no P7 residential or house reward trips due to lack of staff cover
Reduction in Devolved School Budgets involving other staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the budget for Pupil Support Assistants, Bi-Lingual Support workers, school office staff as well as classroom supplies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of bi-lingual support Significant reduction in pupil support assistants Reduction in office staff Reduction in classroom supplies
Centrally based Education Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the budget for the Education Department not based in schools. It includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Director of Education and his team Quality Improvement Managers and Officers Educational Psychologists Janitors, cleaning staff, catering staff Business/budget support staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in cleaning staff Less support from Educational Psychology Less support from the Quality Improvement team which helps to keep Education levels high supporting teaching staff and management Fewer school meal options

What can you do?

ERC has a Consultation open until 9 December to gather the views of residents. Responses to the consultation will be used by the Councillors to reach a decision on how the cuts are spread across the authority.

In order to minimise the impact of the cuts on Education, as many residents as possible need to respond to the [ERC Budget Consultation](#). The Consultation asks you to rank the cuts for each department individually. There is no option to rank the departments.

If you want to let the council know that you don't want to see cuts to Education, then I urge you to **add your comments at point 2 under the Education section to make your views heard**. You may also choose to contact your local councillor [directly](#).

Yours sincerely,

Denny Henderson
Crookfur Primary Parent Council Chair (CrookfurParentCouncil@gmail.com)