



Shona Robison MSP & Ivan McKee MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Minister for Public Finance  
By Email

27th January 2025

### **Agreement on Scottish Budget 2025/26**

Dear Shona and Ivan,

I am pleased to confirm that the Scottish Green MSPs will vote for the 2025/26 budget on the basis of the revisions agreed during our recent discussions, namely:

- The expansion of free school meals to thousands of S1-S3 pupils who receive the Scottish Child Payment, starting with those in eight council areas in August 2025.
- A year-long regional trial whereby bus fares will be capped at £2, starting January 2026
- A record £26 million allocation for the Nature Restoration Fund established by the Scottish Greens during our time in government, with a stated intention to at least maintain this level of funding in the following financial year

In addition I welcome your agreement to our proposal for a public consultation this summer on devolving the power to set parking fines to local councils and to further engagement on the Infrastructure Levy sunset clause.

These latest points of agreement build on the considerable package of Scottish Greens proposals agreed to ahead of publication of the draft budget, including:

- A record £4.9bn of funding for climate action and nature restoration
- Increased tax on the purchase of second/holiday homes, to help even the playing field for first-time buyers
- Free ferry travel for young islanders and free bus travel for asylum seekers
- Moving forward with proposals for a Cruise Ship Levy, the consultation for which will launch this February

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- A real-terms increase to council funding, as defined by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre
- No repeat of the Council Tax freeze or cap
- £10 million for the Bus Infrastructure Fund
- Publication of the A96 Climate Compatibility Assessment ahead of the budget process
- Adequate funding to progress the rollout of 20mph speed limits on those roads where it is appropriate to do so
- Restoration of funding for affordable housing following the impact of the previous UK Government's 20% cut to capital budgets in 2024/25

As your letter notes, restoration of the Scottish Winter Fuel Payment and mitigation of Westminster's cruel two child benefit cap are also areas in which our parties are in agreement.

Our discussions and the resultant improvements to Scotland's budget for 2025/26 demonstrate the value of collaboration and I am grateful for the constructive approach you have taken throughout this process.

We will of course continue to advocate for those Green policies which do not feature in this budget agreement, but on the basis of the improvements secured, our parliamentary group will vote for the budget.

Yours sincerely,



Ross Greer MSP

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