

**TOUGH CHOICES FEEDBACK RESPONSES
FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER GROUPS**

EDUCATION (2) - 24 AUGUST 2010

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
1	Longridge Parent Forum	<p>Under Cfe children are entitled to education. The proposal regarding replacing teachers with nursery nurses is unsettling. We do not have enough information in the document, it is unclear what ratio of teachers to children would be provided in the future. Provision for nursery education is of great concern especially under the life stages model. We feel that as a council we should totally remove the private partnerships with nursery and service the need in house. We would also look to wrap around care being self funding.</p> <p>The reduction being made to BSM support is worrying with the impact on extra workload in school. The reduction in maintenance support also has repercussions on school budgets. The general effect of reduced clerical, management and maintenance support leaves worrying consequences. The reduction in ICT support will impact strongly on teaching and learning. There will be no money to replace laptops and smartboards and so education for the 21st Century will become impossible.</p>	<p>ED2</p> <p>ED5 ED19</p> <p>ED23</p> <p>ED24 Not a specific Proposal</p>

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
2	West Calder High School Parent Council	<p>I am writing to you as the Chair of the WCHS parent council to provide you with feedback on the Tough choices ahead for West Lothian document and the supplementary head teachers briefing provided by Gordon Ford on 18th May 2010.</p> <p>There are numerous aspects of the cuts detailed in these documents that cause alarm and concern to both staff and parents at WCHS however this document focuses on areas that are of particular concern to the parent community and we leave the feedback on the areas of teachers and learning in the capable hands of our head teacher Mrs Fiona Rowland.</p> <p>Review of the Delivery of the Instrumental Music Service (Culture and Leisure CU2)</p> <p>The document suggests a cut of approximately one third in relation to current budget over 3 years. A 30k reduction, for 2011/12 and an alarming 280k for 2013/14. While it is not clear precisely how these 'efficiencies' will be made there is an inference that there will be considerable impact on the current level of music tuition offered to pupils and young people with the phrase 'changes in delivery, tuition in larger groups, funding models/charges' being noted.</p> <p>WCHS has a rich tradition of excellence in music across the school with the senior band this year alone gaining Gold at Scottish level and Platinum at National level, identifying them as one of the best wind bands in the UK. With similar accolades in 2009. Many of the pupils currently in school bands and in the wider music programme at WCHS also play in West Lothian groups such as the West Lothian Jazz, West Lothian Concert Band, West Lothian Wind Ensemble and the Little Big Band. The foundation of this level of excellence is the highly committed staff and instrument teachers who are funded by the music programme in West Lothian.</p> <p>Being part of the music programme is not just about learning to play an instrument it provides a rich range of learning opportunities that fulfil a number of the Principles of Curriculum for Excellence e.g. Challenge and Enjoyment; Progression and Personalisation and Choice.</p> <p>Being involved in the bands and ensembles at WCHS develops young people who are effective contributors, confident, successful learners and responsible citizens all core</p>	CU2

	<p>West Calder High School Parent Council Contd.</p>	<p>elements of the Curriculum for Excellence.</p> <p>If charges are introduced for music tuition there is the added concern that those talented young people without the same financial means as others will be excluded from the programme. This will result in inequity and a loss in diversity of individuals across the programme.</p> <p>We feel that the impact on the music programme in order to delivery this level of savings will have a deleterious effect on a significant number of young people at WCHS and across West Lothian as well as diminish the excellent reputation of musical achievement across the school and county.</p> <p>Cluster Resource Group Funding (Education ED15)</p> <p>Currently the Cluster Resource Group funding provides vital support for young people who have personal and behavioural challenges allowing them to take part in main stream classes at WCHS. Support such as counselling and activities such as music and sports therapy are vital for such young people. A reduction in this funding is a concern as this would reduce the ability to buy in this specialist support to help these young people manage their difficulties. This in turn is likely to result in more instances of disruption and behaviour issues in the class room with non-specialist teachers feeling out of their depth in coping with such challenging individuals.</p> <p>The document mentions a change in provision in relation to implementation of an Integrated Assessment Framework, we would be keen to know exactly what this means in relation to the Cluster Resource Group funding and its impact on provision at WCHS.</p> <p>School Transport (Transport DT9)</p> <p>While removal of non-statutory school transport for fare paying pupils is unlikely to have a significant impact on the young people at WCHS there is a general feeling by Mrs Rowland the Head Teacher from previous presentation from Gordon Ford that the amount of money available for transport at the school is likely to be reduced over the next 3 years. The following areas are likely to be effected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transport to curricula extension and 'travel column' learning, currently there are indications that young people will have transport to the activity and not back resulting in young people relying on public transport or parents to pick them up. Not practical if the caring adults are at work during this time. ➤ WCHS has its own minibus and qualified drivers. The minibus is used to support 	<p>ED15</p> <p>DT9</p> <p>Not specific proposal</p> <p>Not specific</p>
--	--	---	---

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
3	Member of the Public	<p>Further to the article on £45m shortfall in our local paper Linlithgow Gazette at the weekend and the suggestions on making savings by Graeme Morrice and others. My suggestions are as follow: DO NOT cut ANY teaching posts, yes charge for pest control, yes cut opening hours for council tips. DO NOT CUT BACK ON ROAD SWEEPING AS THIS AT PRESENT IS NOT OF A GOOD STANDARD AND SEEMS NOT TO BE DONE ON A VERY REGULAR BASIS IN THE LINLITHGOW AREA. I understand that around 25% of ALL council tax money collected is going straight to pensions for retired council employees. Is it not about time that council employees are treated the same as private industry and the expensive pension scheme now in existence is brought into line as is now almost the case for everyone else!!!!!! This change WOULD give the local authority the savings required in ONE FOUL SWOOP.</p>	ED2, ED3, ED 13

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
4	Member of the Public	<p>A few comments on some of the changes to West Lothian Council's budget which are under discussion They are in no particular order, but I have tried to group them in common themes.</p> <p>1. Leisure</p> <p>(a) Closing/reducing hours at swimming pools or leisure centres could have more costly consequences for the health service later on if people are not able to keep themselves fit.</p> <p>(b) Swimming should remain part of the school curricular PE program as this provides some children with a life saving skill they might otherwise not get. Parents who do not take their children swimming are unlikely to take advantage of vouchers.</p> <p>2. Schools</p> <p>(a) If pupil:teacher ratios have to increase, either the ratio of support staff:problem pupils also needs to increase or children with support needs must be removed and taught separately. You cannot increase the number of children in a class and decrease the support staff, if the children needing additional support are left in main stream education, without impacting the education of all abilities.</p> <p>(b) Cancel the £1.5m changes planned for Linlithgow Academy. The council's own data shows that there is enough capacity at Armadale, Bathgate and Deans High School, so the expansion at Linlithgow isn't needed. Contract developers in Winchburgh to build a new secondary school as part of phase 1, to ensure they meet their commitment to build a new school and solve the placement capacity issue posed by the Winchburgh development.</p> <p>(c) West Lothian's school music service today is superb. I would prefer to see charges for music lessons and instruments, than have music dropped altogether</p> <p>(d) Drop foreign languages at primary school. There are benefits from learning a foreign language early, but children need to be given extensive teaching for this to work. A little teaching by poorly qualified teachers or teachers with poor accents can actually do more harm than good.</p> <p>(e) Stop funding expensive outdoor activities for the badly behaved children at secondary school.</p>	<p>ED13, ED8</p> <p>New Suggestion</p> <p>CU2</p> <p>ED12</p> <p>New Suggestion</p>

	<p>Member of the Public Contd.</p>	<p>If they are disruptive, or cannot learn in a normal class environment, remove them and teach them separately. Ensure they get some basic maths and english, rather than skiing at Glenshee, quadbiking or power boating!</p> <p>(f) The required teaching skills & experience profile must be defined based on the cuts made, and then the actual staff resource managed to meet this. This cannot rely on just voluntary redundancy. You might end up with more english teachers than you need and no maths teachers; teachers are not an interchangeable resource</p> <p>(g) Retain as much subject choice as possible. For subjects with small numbers of pupils at a single school, share teachers across schools. Make use of technology and have some virtual teaching via video/web links across multiple sites. There may an initial investment for new teaching material, but there would be a saving in the long run.</p> <p>3. General services</p> <p>(a) Continue to subsidise facilities for after school clubs on council premises. Many parents will be unable to pay increased fees if the club fee has to cover an increased rental charge. This could have two consequences - fewer parents able to go out and work, or even worse, if the club has to fold it will impact an even wider group of families.</p> <p>(b) keep recycling facilities - vital to meet environmental targets. Hours could be reduced, but must cover at least one evening or weekend opening slot to allow people who work Mon - Fri 9-5pm access to the tip.</p> <p>(c) outsource road maintenance for more efficiency - I have observed crews taking much longer on small road repairs than is necessary</p> <p>(d) drop '20 plenty' signage in estates, especially if other road calming measure are in place such as speed bumps. There is no speed monitoring in estates, so it is a waste of money; drivers will drive as they see fit - hopefully slowly to allow for children, but if they don't appreciate the danger, an unenforceable road sign isn't going to make a difference.</p> <p>(e) I would be in favour of charging for bulky uplifts, but would fear an increase in fly tipping</p> <p>4. General comments</p> <p>(a) share services with other councils</p> <p>(b) freeze wages - many private sector companies have already done this</p> <p>(c) do not engage in expensive consultation exercises if the council's mind is already made up.</p>	<p>ED13</p> <p>ED13</p> <p>ED6</p>
--	------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------

	Member of the Public Contd.	It is a huge waste of money and raises people's hopes that they may be able to influence the outcome, which is not my experience to date.	
5	Member of the Public	A few weeks ago you said that if I could find any areas of waste within the council that you would investigate them. Here are a few thoughts which I hope you will look at. With the cuts that are coming it would be tragic if the wrong things were cut to save money. I believe that as much resource as possible should be directed to the Education budget as I believe that WLC has a very high reputation and stands head and shoulders above most other councils in the provision of education, and I believe that those standards should be maintained.	General Comment
6	Delta Design Ltd	In November 2009 Professor David Bellamy visited schools across the UK and Ireland to help plant some of the 50,000 trees sponsored by printing.com as part of our trees for schools campaign. The tour celebrated the achievement of reaching our 50,000 tree target. "By planting trees in schools, Printing.com are not only creating wildlife habitat, promoting biodiversity and making a greener world, they are also providing outdoor learning resources for local school children; helping future generations to understand the natural world", he commented. Staff from local printing.com stores were on hand to help the children plant the trees while Professor Bellamy answered questions and passed on a little of his vast knowledge of trees and the natural world.	General Comment not related to specific proposal

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
7	Armadale Community Council	<p><u>Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You suggest cutting teachers from Nursery Schools. This goes against all educational thinking which says that the first years of learning are essential. (What will the new appointee at the Scottish Government tasked to look at this area of learning think of this move?) You are not meeting the early years class size target across West Lothian, again think of the long term benefits and savings in learning support, future ABE needs etc. Consider the number of initiatives keeping primary teachers from the classroom which were normally undertaken by the Depute e.g. supervising probationary teachers. Returning these duties will save hours and return teachers to the classroom, so saving on the teachers' budget. Review the number of promoted posts on a pro rata basis on the number of children across Primary and Secondary. Review the hours of attendance of children to aid working mothers in line with your policy for decreasing wraparound options. (COSLA and EIS long term decision) Consider the cost in the longer term of home teaching of "truants" and "excluded children" against the cost of enforcing parental responsibility. No-one asks to have additional needs; therefore we should not further disadvantage these young people by removing additional support. This is one cost we as a society should continue to bear (especially as we fund those who choose not to attend) Evidence is available which shows juvenile crime increases in an area in direct relationship to the number of school truants and exclusions. Again positive action to enforce attendance, through parental responsibility, will reap society benefits and cut costs. Return to school attendance on a Friday afternoon to aid working mothers, cut down on underage drinking etc. Stop free milk and fruit in schools unless within a designated disadvantaged area. 	<p>ED2</p> <p>General Comment</p> <p>ED9</p> <p>New Suggestion ED19</p> <p>New Suggestion No reduction proposed</p> <p>New Suggestion</p> <p>New Suggestion ED20 ,21, 22</p>

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
8	Member of the Public	Further to the article on £45m shortfall in our local paper Linlithgow Gazette at the weekend and the suggestions on making savings by graeme Morrice and others. My suggestions are as follows: DO NOT CUT ANY teaching posts	ED2, ED3, ED13
9	NHS Lothian	<p>NHS Lothian welcomes the open and constructive approach being taken by West Lothian Council in progressing discussions on the financial challenges facing the public sector in Scotland. This is particularly important within the context of our joint commitment through the Community Health and Care Partnership to ensure we deliver high quality health and social care services. As a member of the West Lothian Community Planning Partnership, we recognise the interdependencies between agencies on delivering outcomes for people and communities. In sharing this approach, we have presented an honest assessment of the proposals and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these further as the process develops over the coming months.</p> <p>In section 3.6 on Additional Support for Learning and Pupil Support it is reassuring to see a stand still position, which, given current pressures is in essence an ongoing investment.</p>	No reduction proposed
10	Blackridge School Association	<p>Maintain current staff and support staff levels.</p> <p>Scrap the proposed initiative for Breakfast Clubs for all P1 - P3 pupils.</p> <p>Remove free fruit and milk for P1 - P3 pupils - too much waste (except to those on free schools meals).</p>	ED2, ED3, ED23, ED8 New Suggestion ED20, ED21 and ED22
11	Member of the Public	I strongly believe that Education should be ring fenced as this is the future for the area. I also strongly believe that there is the opportunity to develop the Education system to provide more effective "output" than the current processes. It is a case of meeting targets for the numbers and bits of paper to come out of the "system" but there needs to be some level of Holistic review of what is being done as the current method seems to have everyone doing the "right" thing to meet their metrics but overall there is not the best output.	General Comment

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
12	Livingston Village Parent Council	<p>I write to you following your letter dated 17th May 2010 requesting comments on the Tough Choices document. The Parent Council at Livingston Village Primary School have met and discussed this document specifically in relation to Section 4 - Education and have the following comments/queries:</p> <p>Generally - Our initial observation is that all the items listed in the document will have an impact on the school, but have acknowledged that proposals suggested by WLC are out of necessity and we have prioritised what we feel is acceptable in relation to our school.</p> <p>ED1 - We were unclear if this is linked to ED23 - please advise what reductions are proposed.</p> <p>ED2 - We do not accept this as a suitable proposal, we feel this would be detrimental to the pupils education.</p> <p>ED3 - Accepted.</p> <p>ED4 - We were not clear if this was similar to ED5 - please explain the differences</p> <p>ED5 - See ED4 comments above</p> <p>ED6 - Accepted</p> <p>ED7 - Unsure what the impact represents - please clarify how this affects Educational Attainment</p> <p>ED8 - See comments on ED7</p> <p>ED9 - Accepted as long as the measures are tailored to the speed of the deliver of Cfe</p> <p>E10 - See comments for ED9</p> <p>ED11 - Accepted</p> <p>ED12 - Accepted</p> <p>ED13 - Accepted</p> <p>ED14 - Accepted</p> <p>ED15 - Agreed - from LCPS point of view, this should be a saving in 2010/2011 as well</p> <p>ED16 - Accepted</p> <p>ED17 - Please clarify what this means - are you suggesting that Head Teachers carry out this role.</p> <p>ED18 - Accepted - implement now to maximise savings</p>	<p>ED1</p> <p>ED2</p> <p>ED3</p> <p>ED4</p> <p>ED5</p> <p>ED6</p> <p>ED7</p> <p>ED8</p> <p>ED9</p> <p>ED10</p> <p>ED11</p> <p>ED12</p> <p>ED13</p> <p>ED14</p> <p>ED15</p> <p>ED16</p> <p>ED17</p> <p>ED18</p>

	Livingston Parent Contd. Village Council	<p>ED19 - Accepted</p> <p>ED20 - Accepted</p> <p>ED21 - Accepted</p> <p>ED22 - Accepted - implement now - there is a huge amount of wastage on this as many of our children take fruit to school as part of their lunch/snacks.</p> <p>ED23 - See comments for ED1 - are you suggesting that the Business Support Managers role will decrease and Head Teachers take on more responsibility?</p> <p>ED24 - Accepted</p> <p>ED25 - Please expand on this, cannot comment on the descriptions provided.</p> <p>We have written to all parents in relation to this document and urged them to review and comment directly to you. I am aware that some parents will be doing so and making reference to other areas of proposals contained in your document.</p>	<p>ED19</p> <p>ED20</p> <p>ED21</p> <p>ED22</p> <p>ED23</p> <p>ED24</p> <p>ED25</p>
--	--	---	---

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
13	Blackburn Community Council	<p>Although there are fewer educational cutbacks compared to other services there are some significant proposals being considered by the Council.</p> <p>These include - Nursery and pre-school education in section 3.1.</p> <p>There is a proposal to reduce £1.2m (note wraparound proposed care cut of £120,000 and childcare proposed cut of £140,000 in section 3.7). Wraparound cut proposal has serious implications for Hopefield Nursery.</p> <p>Primary education in section 3.2 proposed reduction of £3m and secondary education in section 3.3 proposed cuts of £3.3m. All the above proposed reductions would have a major impact on communities.</p> <p>Additional learning - no cuts, however, the effect of inflation could make 'frozen budgets' much tighter, inflation concerns can aggravate problems with any budgets that are proposed for reduction as it could cause a 'double whammy' effect as prices rise in general so real budgets being reduced become greater in general terms after inflation. Also UK Government spending may reduce further causing more cuts proposals later in the period being considered.</p>	<p>ED2, ED3</p> <p>ED19</p> <p>General Point</p> <p>General point</p>
14	EcclesMachan & Threemiletown Community Council	<p>Whilst we realise that on the whole Education Group relates to less than 10%, the local community have the following concerns:</p> <p>Many proposed cuts seem to have an impact on Education attainment. This is not good for the future of the young people. After all the push and money already spent on the Curriculum for Excellence. Why slow down the process now. We found the budget for Additional Support Needs staggering and no cuts planned. Whilst everyone deserves the same chance in life, considering the impact the cuts will have on main stream education, would there not be some savings found in the Additional Support budget to help reduce the effects on main stream education.</p>	General Point
15	Broxburn Academy Parent Council	No contingency savings against school placements - is this protected by statute? Can this be looked at?	

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
16	East Calder Parent Staff Council	<p>General point - we felt that proposals are still at a high level and it is hard to understand what they will mean for our school. Also felt that we could not judge how some proposals, e.g. ED23 would affect delivery of education. On the whole the proposals appear to be sensible. Would have been good to have cross reference from section 3 (activity level) to section 4 (proposal numbers). In particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pleased to see no cuts proposed for additional support needs. 2. ED18 (reduction in swimming - issues noted against CU16) 3. ED24 concern that currently there are delays before maintenance is undertaken, sometimes there have been issues with the work, therefore need assurance that this cut will not be to detriment of the current service. 4. ED8 - concern that this will lead to reduction in support. 5. ED9 - concern that this will impact implementation of improvement plan following HMRC inspection. 6. ED12 - concerns over non-specialist teaching foreign languages. Specifically have experience that pronunciation is inaccurate, less use of songs/games/role play, tendency to teach lists of words rather than develop conversation, We believe that teaching foreign languages badly is worse than not teaching them at all. 7. Staff reductions will save money in the budget under discussion, however any increase in unemployment and/or early retirement will cause some other budget to be impacted - social security/payment of pensions. 	<p>ED23</p> <p>ED18 ED24</p> <p>ED8 ED9</p> <p>ED12</p> <p>ED2, ED3, ED8, ED13</p>

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
17	West Lothian Credit Union Forum	<p>Several recent Scottish Government reports have recognised the need for financial capability for all ages, but also a lack of teachers with the time, expertise and confidence to deliver the programmes. West Lothian Credit Union Forum (WLCUF) can help young people and adults to achieve financial capability skills recognised nationally as vital, particularly in areas of high multiple deprivation. WLCUF is also in a position to work with national agencies such as SCFE and CFEB to deliver such programmes.</p> <p>WLCUF's financial education activities aim to achieve outcomes for all ages to acquire the literacy and numeracy skills to make informed choices about their personal finances. Achieving these outcomes will be jeopardised if WLC completely removes funding from WLCUF, meaning that every year up to 100 adults at risk of financial exclusion and hundreds of children could lose the opportunity to have access to financial education and credit union services. For adults, they are more likely to turn to extortionate sources of finance and increase the pressure on WLC's Advice Shop and other agencies.</p> <p>Young people would have less opportunity to build up savings and to learn budgeting skills that would reduce the financial pressures on their families. Listed below are the main activities and outputs achieved by WLCUF with the support of WLC core funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2006 WLCUF has worked with local credit unions to help launch and maintain savings schemes in 15 primary and 3 secondary schools. Over 1,400 children have joined a credit union in West Lothian. • WLCUF has developed financial education programmes to enable over 2000 young people in the last 2 years to meet the money outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence at all stages - nursery, primary, secondary and post-school. • WLCUF is in the process of developing toolkits for teachers to deliver financial education programmes and also workshops to support the use of the toolkits. • DOSH is a financial education programme for the 16+ age group, particularly those at risk of financial exclusion, developed and delivered by WLC Adult Base Education (ABE) and WLCUF for the last 3 years. It covers various aspects of personal finances and includes an incentive of up to £50 in a credit union account for each attendee. 	General Point

		<p>WLCUF provides all the administrative services required to open and finance the credit union accounts. 230 people have completed DOSH since May 2007 and 80% of these have joined a credit union. In the 12 months to May 2010, 26% were saving regularly 3 months after completing the course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Money Minefield is a financial education board game developed by ABE and WLCUF to be used within financial education programmes for all age groups from age 10. 100 copies of the game have been distributed to schools and community groups throughout West Lothian. This award-winning game (see partnership section for details) has attracted a lot of interest from other parts of Scotland and the UK and several other local authorities and other public sector bodies are liaising with a view to producing their own copies of the game under licence from WLC.WLCUF. <p>WLCUF is working towards a social enterprise model to sell financial education products and services through out Scotland to support its work in West Lothian. However, some level of support from WLC in 2011/12 would give WLCUF the time to develop a sustainable model.</p>	
--	--	---	--

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
18	Toronto Parent Council	<p>Toronto Parent Council have been deeply concerned about the proposed budgetary cuts in relation to primary school education as discussed in the "Tough Choices ahead for West Lothian" document. Having taken this information to our May 2010 meeting it was decided by those present to filter the information down to every parent/carer with a child at the school in the form of a letter and response sheet. We asked parents to indicate in order of importance which areas they felt were the priority to save.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery Teachers pupil contact time will be reduced. • Free Milk provision for P1 - 3's will cease • Free swimming lessons during school time stopped • Provision of topic boxes by library service will end • Free specialist music tuition will become chargeable • Pupil support services will be reduced • Cluster initiative funding will be cut - P7 Cluster camps and the P7 to High School transition programme. <p>We had a 13% reply rate and of the parents who returned their forms in order of importance. The results are as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nursery Teachers pupil contact time will be reduced 2. Pupil support services will be reduced 3. Cluster Initiative funding will be cut - P7 Cluster camps and the P7 to High School transition programme. 4. Free swimming lessons during school time stopped 5. Free Milk provision for P1 -3's will cease 6. Provision of topic boxes by library service will end 7. Free specialist music tuition will become chargeable. <p>Parents offered the following comments - "Keep swimming lessons as not all parents can afford to pay. These are the only lessons that some children may get".</p>	<p>ED2 ED20, ED21 ED18</p> <p>ED8 ED15</p> <p>ED2 ED8 ED15</p> <p>ED18 ED20,21</p>

	<p>Toronto Parent Council Contd.</p>	<p>"Free swimming lessons are available from most West Lothian swimming pools outside school hours so I don't see them being necessary during school hours. But I see Nursery Teacher contact, Free music and Pupil support as essential services2. "Remove the free breakfast club".</p> <p>"I don't think the cluster camp is important but the high school transition is a big help for settling into secondary. Milk, swimming, music not so important. Have more bingo or disco's to raise money for school twice a month maybe".</p> <p>"Expand fund raising events. Volunteer for sporting activities. Extend school recycling. 1 Newsletter per household rather than 5 in my case. Friday free school meals optional to parents to reduce costs".</p> <p>"I marked my top 3 as I feel the one that would have most impact is pupil support. The milk/swim/music I would be prepared to pay for. If my child was still in nursery then I would be very concerned about cutting teacher contact time".</p> <p>"I am extremely concerned about the potential loss of pupil support in the classroom as my daughter requires extra help in the classroom for reading and spelling. I feel that her education will suffer if this support is withdrawn from the classroom".</p> <p>"As my children are in Nursery I obviously have grave concerns about the proposed reduction in nursery teachers pupil contact time. Whilst I have every faith in the nursery nurses, the team is excellent as it works at the moment with 100% pupil teacher time".</p> <p>"Seeing the excellent progress my children have made in 6 months of ante-preschool, I would worry greatly if nursery teachers contact time is reduced. The first years of education are so important and these proposed changes could have serious implications on a significant number of children".</p> <p>"I think 1,2,3,4,5 & 7 are all equally as important as each other".</p> <p>"When it comes to the children I don't think there should be any cut!! Especially when it comes to their education".</p> <p>"I would be willing to pay for swimming lessons".</p> <p>"I would not like my child to miss out on the P7 camp and high school program as this helped my other child to fold in the transition to high school".</p> <p>"Cutting in the investment of our children and their development is a poor option. We are asking for our health and education professionals to further stretch already over-extended services".</p>	
--	--------------------------------------	---	--

	<p>Toronto Parent Council Contd.</p>	<p>"As my daughter is going into p7 I feel that it is important that she is allowed the transition to high school time as this is a major step from primary to high school.</p> <p>The cluster camp is a great idea and is a nice to have but if I am allowed a choice it would be the transition program. The cluster camp does allow an easier transition. All in all I feel it is a great pity that we are in this position where we need to make choices as more money should be invested not less".</p> <p>"I don't agree to having a breakfast club when you are going to be taking other things away that are more important than this. Children need to get milk, music and swimming as some parents might not have the money to pay for it."</p> <p>"The Nursery and pupil support for the children that need extra support with some subjects or general understanding of a topic do they just lose out, this could lead to low self esteem or being made fun of by other pupils this could be damaging to their early years at school. Milk is also very important in the early years especially when they drink lots at home. All other points equally important to the children who have been using these services".</p> <p>"I feel it is unfair to ask parents to choose between areas that they would all feel are important. I'm sure there are areas of council spending that could be cut before the education budget and areas that would be better value. For example, Council expenses claims and the trade visits abroad. How much did West Lothian make directly as a result of these trips abroad? This is money that could be diverted to education services".</p> <p>As the Parent council we feel that cutting areas where personnel are involved is very short sighted as these cuts may result in the services being lost altogether to the detriment of the educational experiences of all the children. Once services are lost they may never be reinstated even if the financial situation is resolved. West Lothian has had a very good reputation throughout Scotland for it's innovative music programme and to jeopardise this at the very grass roots of the service would have a knock on effect to the future success. Although this was the least rated option it was also the option that parents seemed most likely to contribute financially whether in the form of materials, nominal fee or means tested charging.</p> <p>The education budget is an emotive subject and we hope that by feeding back our parents views you will be able to consider how these budget cuts can best be achieved</p>	
--	--------------------------------------	--	--

	Toronto Parent Council Contd.	with the least negative impact on the education of our children. Please do not hesitate to get back in touch if you would like clarification or further information on any of the points raised.	
--	-------------------------------	--	--

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
19	Kirkhill Primary School	<p>We realise that difficult decisions must be made and welcome the opportunity to respond.</p> <p>Outreach Services We would like to see the authority review all outreach services. We have for example a very large Hearing Impaired Service. We would welcome a review of English as an Additional Language. Autism Outreach, Behaviour Outreach, Looked After Children etc. Some local authorities have much smaller teams delivering these Services than we do in West Lothian. It may be possible for these services to be reduced in size, offering advice, consultation and CPD only. If schools have been given advice in supporting children and young people, it is their responsibility to act on this advice and support children and young people in their establishments.</p> <p>Sickness Absence Management We are pleased to see more robust sickness absence monitoring arrangements being put in place. We particularly applaud earlier referral to Occupational Health. We appreciate that some staff have serious health issues and need the support that can be provided. However, those who have no such issues and are frequently absent put a strain on the finances of the school, their colleagues and on the education delivered to the children.</p>	<p>General Comment</p> <p>General Comment</p>

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
20	Williamston Primary School Parent Council	<p>Williamston Primary School Parent Council welcome the publication of “Tough choices ahead for West Lothian” and the opportunity to comment on the Council’s discussion document. We welcome the commitment to “ensure the delivery of high quality education for all pupils” and support this as an overall objective for the education department. We also welcome the commitment to “ensure that all children have access to cultural and sporting opportunities”. We recognise the challenges that will undoubtedly face the Council over its budget in the short and medium term. Nevertheless, we find it difficult to comment on the proposals because they lack detail.</p> <p>The vast majority of the cuts are described as “efficiency savings” and considerable reference is made to “staffing reductions through workforce management”. While we recognise the Council’s commitment to no, or minimal, compulsory redundancies we would be particularly concerned where “workforce management” resulted in reduced numbers of frontline teaching staff in primary schools. We have already seen the abandonment of the national objective to reduce class sizes in primary schools and would not want to see increased primary school class sizes as a consequence of this proposal.</p> <p>We also recognise the significant role that pupil support and administrative staff can provide in allowing teaching staff the freedom to concentrate on their role as educators and not the duties of administrators. We believe it is also important that those in mainstream education with support needs, for example those with Dyslexia, are offered the support they need to remain in mainstream education.</p> <p>In this respect we are concerned over the proposed £1.02m savings through “development of a new model of provision – pupil support workers” but there is insufficient detail for us to comment sensibly on this proposal. Similarly, the proposal to save £0.4m through “early intervention – saving targeted funding” begs the question of what this statement really means in terms of actions proposed.</p>	<p>ED8 ED23</p> <p>ED11</p>

	<p>Williamston Primary School Parent Council Contd.</p>	<p>We would also draw a distinction between administrative support and pupil support. Savings of £0.2m are identified in respect of management and administrative support, but again without details of how this could be achieved we feel unable to comment. A further £0.35m is to be saved through reduced support to head teachers and over £0.3m is identified as a saving from reduced management time for deputy head and principal teachers. While in principle we may welcome some of these proposals, we once again cannot comment on the proposals for lack of detail. It would, for example, be useful to see a comprehensive review of the administration required in support of education and recommendations as to where efficiencies may be achieved through, for example, use of information technology linked directly to a central education administration unit or function.</p> <p>There are also a number of proposed savings identified in relation to Income/charging but we note they represent less than 6% of budgeted reduction and their role must be questioned particularly when we bring to mind the Scottish Governments commitment to a healthier Scotland. We would be concerned that moves to modify the provision of school milk and free fruit and bread may be counter productive to the nation's health. Does the Council make full use of alternative support in this area? The European Commission for example has schemes to support free school milk and fruit and veg (see http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/drinkitup/index_en.htm)</p> <p>A major challenge for many working families is after school care for their children. Wraparound provides a valuable service in this respect and, as identified, a change to this provision may affect working parents adversely.</p> <p>In conclusion, we find it difficult to comment on the outline budget proposals but would welcome the opportunity to be involved in discussions to help us understand how these actions may impact on education provision. We believe that it is important to have a fully resourced education service. Undoubtedly, there will be efficiencies that can be achieved particularly in respect to the use of information technology both in facilitating the education process and the administrative support but we need a better understanding of the costs and benefits involved. We do not know for example how or if the principle of free school meals could be extended to some other services like music and sport tuition and wraparound may provide a means of offering these curricula activities and pupil support to as wide a group as possible.</p>	<p>ED1 E D23</p> <p>ED9</p> <p>ED20, ED21, ED22</p> <p>ED19</p>
--	---	--	---

21	Member of the Public	Savings can be achieved by making all staff working in schools sessional including Teachers, Head Teachers, support staff.	New Suggestion
22	Blackridge School Association	No increases to current class sizes.	ED13
23	Dedridge Community Council	No closures of existing High Schools	Not proposed
24	Member of the Public	A more cost effective menu should be put in place and only children who really need it receive it. Free fruit and milk is an area where again cost cuts can be made. Interested parents would be willing to pay.	ED20, Ed21 and ED22

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
25	Member of the Public	<p>I'm making these comments as a resident of West Lothian. I believe that some Council service areas are more critical than others, and I do not agree with the requirement for every service to cut expenditure proportionally. I believe that priority areas such as classroom provision and care for older people should be protected from the cuts.</p> <p>I strongly disagree with the proposal to half the funding for Pupil Support Workers. I believe that these staff contribute significantly to education attainment. With a reduction in this support, I believe that Class Teachers will not be able to spend as much time with small groups and with individuals. They will have to spend more of their time on administrative tasks, display work, collecting money etc. I also believe that the reduction in behavioural support in classrooms will be detrimental to pupils since Teachers will need to spend a greater proportion of their time on classroom management activities. Class sizes are already larger than ideal, and I believe that reducing the ratio of adults to children further will be detrimental. I also believe that the changes will reduce much needed support to Classroom Teachers who do a tremendously worthwhile job and carry a great deal of responsibility for children's futures. I believe that they require adequate support to carry out their responsibilities.</p> <p>The human costs of all of these changes are significant. People in their 90s forced to move care home, well behaved pupils in school waiting quietly every day whilst their teacher constantly deals with a disruptive child without the support of a PSW, employees worrying about their children's futures if they are made redundant. If we were these people; if our child was in such a classroom; if our parents being forced to move' if we were facing redundancies with minimal money, power or resources; them human cost would not be so easy to ignore. I strongly believe that such human costs should carry as much weight or more as financial costs and minimum statutory provision. For information, I am none of the above. I simply care about human beings and it would be a sad day if our Council did not care in the same way.</p>	ED8

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
26	Member of the Public	I think the council should encourage early retirement and employ more newly qualified teachers who cost less.	New Suggestion
27	Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Services	Any reduction in funding for educational services bring with it the potential for disadvantage amongst those most in need of this service. This may, in turn, create additional and potentially undesirable outcomes such as anti-social behaviour in all the forms this can take. LBFRS values its relationship with educational services with each of its five constituent local authorities and there has been a high level of joint working and success over many years. Any savings proposed beyond those currently being considered could, it is suggested, place severe burdens on the ability to deliver a high standard of service whereby disengagement and dissatisfaction can result amongst many young people. Additionally, the ability to develop young people as citizens within West Lothian contributing positively to many aspects of life in the area can be compromised, the negative results of this potentially becoming apparent in forthcoming years in a number of ways.	General Comment
28	Member of the Public	Reduce the hours of classroom assistant who works 36 hrs down to 25 hrs. Don't have support staff in on in-service days. Allow schools to have one or two support staff in when absolutely necessary on these days. Do schools really need a Head and a Deputy Head? Scrap free milk & fruit.	ED8 New suggestion New suggestion ED20, ED21, ED22
29	Broxburn Academy Parent Council	Partnerships between schools re reading expertise e.g. Higher Spanish; Media Studies. West Lothian 'class' with pupils taught in a central location.	ED13

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
30	Member of the Public	<p>Just like to lend my support for the proposals they would appear to be a reasonable plan of action given the circumstances. I am limiting my response given that Education is my main area of knowledge. I do have some experience (albeit outside the council) of organising sports events and I do have a suggestion with this which I have put at the bottom, it might more properly be noted under the sport and leisure section. Just in terms of Education and Cultural Services going forward I'm personally looking to tighten up financial management of developer contributions. These are largely accurate at present however there is scope to improve accuracy.</p> <p>Education suggestions - I think more storage for e-mails and file documents might be a useful objective. It can be frustrating for instance trying to contact members of staff after documents or e-mails have bounced off their accounts. Can mean that you need to either visit in person / send out post or alternatively contact them by phone. Therefore an increase in storage space may lead to a reduction in revenue expense.</p> <p>Movement of flexi periods to extend from 7 in the morning to 6pm could be an option that would not necessarily cost money but would give something back to staff given the large amounts of cuts that do seem on the horizon. And more of a national wish list which are likely to be difficult and could potentially go against national guidance but I would suggest have large potential benefits.</p> <p>*Removal of catchment areas - benefits would be removal of need for catchment consultations.</p> <p>*Removal of denominational/ non denominational divide - controversial again likely to be outside control of management.</p> <p>Money Making schemes - sports events - noted under Culture & Leisure.</p>	<p>New suggestion</p> <p>New suggestion</p> <p>New suggestion</p> <p>New suggestion</p>

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
31	Member of the Public	<p>I am extremely upset to have been informed that the wrap around care at St Columbus School in Boghall will be closing. It's bad enough that this facility moves to Bathgate during the holidays. I am a single parent with no other childcare support. I've already had to give up 2 jobs because of the lack of childcare during the school holidays. The fact that this facility is being removed from my community altogether is shocking. The government insists parents get back to work and get off benefits which I have done since my child started school. The only way I've been able to do this is by having this facility. Not everyone has cars and getting to Bathgate and then to Livingston for work is not feasible or financially viable. Removing this facility will only create further hardship for Parents who want to return to work. The next blow was to be informed that Boghall Primary School where my daughter attends is to lose 2 pupil support assistants due to the cut backs. Although cutting 2 salaries may seem a financial solution in the long term it will cost us all more socially and financially when these children can't find work or have behavioural problems as they never had the appropriate support at an early age.</p> <p>Why is it when there needs to be cuts the under privileged are the one's to be targeted. The role of Support Worker is imperative to our Children's Education be it in Primary or secondary. If we want our Children to thrive and become positive members of society we need to give them all the help and support they require. It is our responsibility to give our children the best start in life. Many of the families in my community are either single parents or on low income so paying for extra tuition outside of school is not an option. It is my opinion regarding the above issues that no cuts should be made when the outcomes will have a detrimental effect on the whole community.</p> <p>I suggest that the free breakfasts initiative, which is about to be implemented be scraped to help save money. I am more than happy to pay for the Breakfast Club. I am also happy to pay more for the wrap around facility. I feel there should be a discussion between the parents and the council to find a solution to help us keep our childcare facility.</p>	<p>ED19</p> <p>ED8</p> <p>New Suggestion ED19</p>

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
32	Member of the Public	As I understand it, the wraparound centres are heavily subsidised. Why do these centres operate as term time centres during the school year? They could then operate as a separate cost centre during the school holidays. This would allow carers to be charged at a higher rate or indeed use alternative arrangements. My own belief is that the service is undervalued and a significant increase in the hourly rate would be justified.	ED19
33	Member of the Public	I was wondering whether the council would support a possible takeover of the wraparound service. At present I work within the Linlithgow centre and would be interested to discuss whether we have an opportunity to take over this business. Please can you advise your thoughts on this matter.	ED19

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
34	Linlithgow Academy Parent Council	<p>We are making this response in the context of the limited summary information contained in the Tough Choices document. In particular, the lack of current budget information at detailed level makes it difficult to assess the extent of proposed changes. We recommend that Councillors, officials and the Head Teacher share detailed proposals with us as they are developed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We understand from the briefing meetings held for Parent Councils that West Lothian Council hopes to avoid compulsory redundancies. However, the proposals set out in the consultation document clearly envisage reducing costs by reducing staff numbers, but no evidence has been presented that the Council will be able to reduce staff numbers sufficiently or appropriately by natural wastage and voluntary severance arrangements alone. The required experience/skill/subject/service must be defined first and staffing then managed to meet this requirement. We would wish to see that the Council will take steps to ensure that reduction in staff numbers does not compromise quality and lead to unbalanced provision driven by existing staff availability. 2. We note the proposal to increase pupil/teacher ratio in secondary schools. While this may to an extent be manageable, we feel that it is essential that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Head Teacher is empowered to design the curriculum to suit the pupils, and to staff it appropriately, rather than being constrained by the mix of staff he happens to have. With subject specialisation at secondary schools, this is essential (see paragraph 1 above): • Support staffing for disruptive pupils is maintained at least at its present level, as this is even more important with larger classes. If this staffing cannot be maintained, inclusion of such children cannot be maintained. 3. We consider that it would be very detrimental to reduce subject choice for secondary pupils, both for the future career choices for the pupils themselves and for the long-term impact on the Scottish economy of having a workforce with only a narrow skills base. We would support shared provision of minority subjects and would like to see a balanced provision across the county and/or via remote 	<p>ED2, ED3, ED8, ED13</p> <p>ED13</p> <p>ED13</p>

		<p>learning. Looking beyond West Lothian, for example sharing resources for minority subjects with Edinburgh and Falkirk Councils, should also be explored.</p> <p>4. For senior pupils, we support the 'virtual S6' mentioned at Council briefings but believe that this would be better done by remote learning than 'bussing' pupils. This would require investment in teaching materials, IT and telecoms but would yield good returns in educational breadth and quality as well as in reduced costs after the initial investment.</p> <p>5. We note the proposal to reduce non-teaching time for school management teams. We consider that this simply dilutes senior staff's ability to do the strategic job that we need them to do. We propose, instead, a reduction in numbers of management staff, to be replaced with full time teachers. Remaining management staff would be full time.</p> <p>6. We seek clarification of the proposed reductions in swimming teaching, which appears at both ED18 and CU16. Swimming is a life-saving skill that should continue to be taught: we do not believe that vouchers will ensure adequate take-up. If necessary, parents could be asked to contribute via smart cards to enable discreet free provision where needed. We also believe that greater empirical evidence is needed before informed decisions can be taken about what swimming tuition provision is actually needed.</p> <p>7. We regret the proposals for significant reduction in musical instrument teaching and suggest a parental contribution should be sought.</p> <p>8. We note the proposals to (1) reduce free transport provision to the minimum statutory requirement, which we understand to be three miles for secondary pupils, and (ii) to remove fare-paying provision. Given the Scottish climate and that three miles is a very long walk with a typical secondary pupil homework book load, we propose that there is merit in exploring self-funding transport arrangements as many parents would be prepared to pay for bus tickets. We request a self-funding ticket price proposal from the Council.</p> <p>Linlithgow Academy Parent Council remains committed to working with West Lothian Council in these difficult economic times to ensure the best educational outcomes for all of the pupils at the Academy.</p>	<p>ED13</p> <p>ED9, ED10</p> <p>ED18</p>
--	--	--	--

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
35	James Young High School Parents Association	<p>The James Young High School (JYHS) Parents Association, as part of the schools Parent Council have discussed the proposals included in the 'Tough Choices' document and accordingly provide the following comments and observations and must ask that these be considered as part of your overall consultation process on the future of Education in West Lothian.</p> <p>While our focus is on the secondary education received by our children at JYHS we were going to take the opportunity to comment on other proposals where we feel this was relevant and appropriate. The format of our response had intended to follow the individual proposals in the document numbered ED1 to ED25. Some considerable time was devoted to our discussions and considerations but it became very clear, early on that we had insufficient information in the document to make any meaningful comments on specific points. Our response has therefore necessitated a more general, less satisfactory reply. Our following comments will hopefully give the reasons for this response.</p> <p>First of all it was seen as very positive that the Council had decided to give the public an opportunity to comment and be consulted on the options being considered. However, none of the group that met had the detailed knowledge that the PDSP's have on or around the procedures to be followed, the legislation to be complied with and the analysis or breakdown in costs or figures. The limited information in the document in effect, more or less made it impossible to challenge the proposals made. This we felt precluded any substantial challenge to what was proposed.</p> <p>While 70 people across West Lothian may have attended the Council's planning strategy meeting in April, our group for one did not receive a direct or even an indirect invite to attend. How were invites for this meeting sent out or publicised?</p> <p>With this in mind and the Tough Choices document only being issued in May, we feel that the Consultation period is far too short. We also believe that there is now a need for</p>	General comments

	<p>James Young High School Parent Association</p>	<p>further meetings across West Lothian - not just one, to allow interested parties to ask suitable individuals from the Council for more detail and background behind each proposal and have a more comprehensive discussion on each topic. This we believe is the only option available if the consultation process is to be taken seriously, however well intended it was meant to be.</p> <p>For example, it is clear that the Council's strategy is to reduce the number of premises they use. Are these premises owned by the Council or leased? If owned, what happens to the millions of pounds raised from sales? Can this not be used to offset the Budget challenges?</p> <p>At the present time the Budget challenge is circa 12% but will this be increased or decreased by the policies of the current UK and Scottish Governments? If we are to believe the press, more cuts may be necessary but will we get any further consultation on that?</p> <p>While we appreciate that cuts are necessary, the emphasis of Government's in recent years has been to reduce class sizes. With this in mind we are very disappointed that frontline education services will be cut. This is quite apparent by the change in secondary teacher ratios (ED13) and is even more concerning with the introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence. This will put further strain on the teachers involved.</p> <p>While it may not be a nice message to deliver, we believe that it is better to make greater savings in support and administration areas than in the school frontline. In many cases, efficiency savings are planned to be made but it is unclear who will deliver these changes? Is the Council going to be employing expensive Consultants to do this or Council staff? Do staff have the right skills?</p> <p>Other observations made are as follows, in no particular priority order.</p> <p>We believe that the school rolls need to be maximised, even if this needs the Council to consider the closure or mothballing of another secondary school. If this is impossible</p>	<p>ED13</p>
--	---	---	-------------

	<p>James Young High School Parent Association Contd.</p>	<p>Monday to Friday during the day, then evening services should be considered for Centralisation.</p> <p>We have no information at all about the 'new model provision for pupil support workers' (ED8) so cannot really comment in this area albeit the fact that educational attainment being reduced is a great concern.</p> <p>The question of modern languages (ED12) did raise some concern. While a multi lingual society, including children was to be recommended, it was thought perhaps the right time to consider what languages we will teach as core. German is a long standing mandatory language but in the global world, German is spoken by very few nations as opposed to Spanish or indeed Portuguese. If we are training primary resources to deliver languages, do we know what languages are easiest to learn or indeed most useful to children?</p> <p>We believe that the swimming pool savings (ED18) should be sooner in the 3 year period. We do not know if this is a contractual issue with the various clubs and societies involved but see this as a quick win. Income to be generated from these services should also be maximised but there is no indication in the proposals anywhere that this is the case. One downside to this proposal is the lack of lane swimming available as a consequence. Local Excite Leisure pools have limited or no lane swimming.</p> <p>We agree with proposal ED19 and have made an observation that places are being used solely for gaining access to primary or secondary school places.</p> <p>We agree with proposals ED20 to ED22 but think that the option should be available for parents to buy or contribute towards such items. This should be cheaper than supplying their children direct given the Council's buying power and volume economies of scale.</p> <p>We also believe that there needs to be more comment(s) on areas why no cuts are being made. There are no cuts at all planned for 'Support for Learning' Why? Surely it would be fairer for this part of education to take its fair share of cuts? We do not want any cuts made across education but that is not going to happen so why not treat everyone the</p>	<p>ED8</p> <p>Ed12</p> <p>ED18</p> <p>ED19</p> <p>ED20, ED21, ED22</p>
--	--	---	--

		<p>same?</p> <p>So in summary, the JYHS Parents Association (Parents Council) do not want any of these cuts to proceed but if we are being realistic in the current economic environment then the frontline staffing must be protected as it has to date successfully delivered increasing educational standards for our children.</p> <p>Unfortunately the lack of any detailed information behind each proposal makes it impossible for us to challenge your ideas and options. We believe is a major flaw in your consultation process and undermines your best of intentions. This position also does not allow us to comment on whether money could be better saved in other areas of Council spending, as we do not have the knowledge or information required.</p> <p>What we therefore have at present is a series of proposals that Council staff have produced based on information that solely they have. Certain information may be in the public domain but what information and analysis has been used? Due to this status, it is also impossible for us to make any comment on whether more or less money could be saved by another department as opposed to Education.</p> <p>We trust this input has been helpful and look forward to being advised of any future discussions at the earliest possible time.</p>	
--	--	---	--

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
36	Member of the Public	<p>In answer to your request for ideas on budget cuts. Having read the suggested cuts in the local paper I note that all the cuts seem to affect mostly the elderly and disabled groups even child nurserys and then the old fav school milk fruit and bread how small minded can you get. Why wont you take a serious look at what you spend on transport to move council workers around the county example is it really needed to give every tradesman a van for example a garage door to be fitted at Philpstoun last year two joiners one van each + one van to deliver the door this adds up to three vans and three men to fit a garage door on a Saturday overtime no doubt. This I am sure is not an isolated incident I am sure that the cost of running these vans is much more than fruit milk and bread subsidys.</p>	ED20, ED21, ED22
37	St John Ogilvie Parent Council	<p>The St John Ogilvie Parent Council believes that the issues highlighted below are integral to a welcoming, secure, safe and challenging environment for our children:</p> <p>Increasing pupil to teacher ratios - Not in favour of increased pupil to teacher ratios which impact quality of education.</p> <p>Reduce Pupil Support workers - This would affect all. This would also have a direct effect on school behaviour and ultimately lead to a greater requirement for behavioural outreach services. Finally, this would also put a bigger burden on special needs schools.</p> <p>Phased removal of cluster funding - The impact on funding for all schools would need to be assessed.</p> <p>Reduction in Management time for Deputy Head Teachers and Principal Teachers - Proper management time, structures and supports are required to allow appropriate pacing and delivery of curricular developments/initiatives esp Curriculum for Excellence. Serious impacts if these are reduced in any way.</p> <p>Reduction in Business Manager support - Business Support Managers are vital advisers for schools management teams not only in Budgetary matters but also with regards to Risk Assessment, Health & Safety, Employment Law, Contractual Law etc. Withdrawal of such support would have a material effect on the school environment and ultimately teaching and learning provision</p>	<p>ED13</p> <p>ED8</p> <p>ED15</p> <p>ED9, ED10</p> <p>ED23</p>

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
38	Member of the Public	<p>I would like to comment on the work of Pupil Support Workers. These people in our school are committed, conscientious and do their utmost to help children in their care. These pupils are not the easiest to work with but they are consistently patient and kind in their dealings with them. This year I've had a Primary 3 class of 30 and simply don't have time to give the one to one support needed for this small group of pupils. We would be losing staff who are very hard workers and who also enjoy being with children if the cuts affect them.</p>	ED8
39	Member of the Public	<p>I am writing with proposals to cut some pupil support worker posts in schools. My reasons include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These people work at the 'chalk face' • These positions are not well paid and it is in my experience of working with these colleagues 'a labour of love' the service they provide e.g. using their own money to buy resources, their own time to perfect displays - including missing lunchtime. • It is part of the McCrone agreement. <p>Suggestions on how the council can save money include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting out expensive receptions • An end to the number of glossy newsletters sent to all employees • One senior administrative post would be worth several pupil support workers' salaries. <p>Schools need people actively working with pupils to be successful, more than they need administrative support (I am not referring here to school secretaries).</p>	<p>ED8</p> <p>New suggestions</p> <p>ED1, ED23</p>

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
40	Member of the Public	<p>Suggestions: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtailment of glossy WL magazines & bulleting. I have never seen anyone in our school read them, or the household one. • Offer 'wind down' to a younger age group: If I went down to a three day week and a first year teacher was employed to take-up the two days, I think it would save WLC about £8,500 annually. People would only be interested though if pension was on 'wind down' basis. (My calculations are based on Chartered Teacher status). <p>Against:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil Support Workers should not be cut. They are invaluable to pupils to support children who are in mainstream because they have support. They are vital to the other children to allow their learning to be uninterrupted by 'special needs' pupils. They are vital to support mainstream children who benefit from one to one but who are not classed as 'special needs' cases. They are vital to class teachers to enable them to concentrate on teaching and learning. • Swimming lessons being take off curriculum. 	<p>New suggestion</p> <p>New suggestion</p> <p>ED8</p> <p>ED18</p>

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
41	Member of the Public	<p>I feel that the proposed cuts affecting the staffing of support workers in schools will have a huge, negative impact on the life of the school in general, not to mention the effect it will have on individual pupils who require additional support on a daily basis, for when their support is vital. Our pupil support workers are an invaluable part of the team in every school. In addition to providing one-to-one and group support to many pupils with ASN, they also involve themselves in a vast variety of other roles. These include helping to run groups, clubs and committees, many of which are now an integral part of the curriculum, eg. Eco schools, Travel Plan, Fairtrade etc. They work over and above their contracted hours, helping out at school camp, outings, shows and events. Many of these essential activities and opportunities could not be offered to pupils without our PSWs, not to mention the support they offer to class teachers on a daily basis. I feel that cuts could perhaps be made in other areas. For instance, it seems that a great deal of money is spent on publications such as 'Inside News' both on colour printing costs and staffing. Could these magazines not be sent as an e-newsletter or perhaps be available on the website for staff to access? Providing a colour copy for every staff member seems an expensive option and goes against an 'Eco-Friendly' ethos as an organisation.</p>	ED8
42	Member of the Public	<p>I am very concerned if the proposed reduction in pupil support worker hours goes ahead. The work they do in this school really is invaluable. Having someone else available to provide support for individuals or groups in a class makes a huge difference to the progress and self-esteem of many pupils. The pupil support workers here are very dedicated and play key roles in after school activities including eco group, travel plan, trips, school shows and give up a lot of their own time to help with these. As eco-co-ordinator, I would have found running the group and co-ordinating all the action plans required for two green flags very difficult without their support. The last paragraph could be seen as extra curricular but is not. All these things are increasingly vital part of the curriculum. (Possible cuts - I don't know any member of staff who reads Inside News).</p>	ED8

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
43	Member of the Public	<p>I am very concerned that West Lothian are considering cutting the hours or jobs of support assistants in school. I have taught an autistic child for 2 years. His progress has been excellent due to the full time support he has had since Nursery. I would not be able to support this child in class without the support assistant who has the time to fully explain daily activities and to ensure he is fully included in school. We are a very large school and only receive about 1 1/2 hours other support each week. This time is invaluable and used to support pupils who need extra help.</p> <p>Perhaps money could be saved by cutting back on costly exchange visits to American Schools. In the present climate I would prefer to see money spent on support assistants who provide an essential service in the classroom.</p>	<p>ED8</p> <p>New suggestion</p>
44	Member of the Public	<p>I feel that reducing pupil support workers would be detrimental to the education of children. They provide valuable support within schools.</p> <p>Suggestions to save money: Free milk only for children who receive free meals. Free fruit only for children who receive free meals. Staff to make savings by recycling paper, resources, more use whiteboards. Less jotters. W L Bulletin sent by e-mail rather than individual. Less management posts. Absences covered by management. More creative ways to cover McCrone.</p>	<p>ED8</p> <p>ED20, ED21 and ED22</p> <p>New suggestions</p>

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
45	Longridge Parent Forum	<p>Under Cfe children are entitled to education. The proposal regarding replacing teachers with nursery nurses is unsettling. We do not have enough information in the document, it is unclear what ratio of teachers to children would be provided in the future. Provision for nursery education is of great concern especially under the life stages model. We feel that as a council we should totally remove the private partnerships with nursery and service the need in house. We would also look to wrap around care being self funding.</p> <p>The reduction being made to BSM support is worrying with the impact on extra workload in school. The reduction in maintenance support also has repercussions on school budgets. The general effect of reduced clerical, management and maintenance support leaves worrying consequences. The reduction in ICT support will impact strongly on teaching and learning. There will be no money to replace laptops and smartboards and so education for the 21st Century will become impossible.</p> <p>Provision of support workers is another issue for concern. Early intervention strategies have impacted well because of the additional support provided. The withdrawal of these and the reduced provision of special school places raises issues for our more vulnerable pupils. It will have a very detrimental effect on attainment, ethos and level of experience for every child. Cfe is all about active learning these aims are not achievable with a reduction in support staff.</p> <p>The money saved by the actions listed above means that the council would be able to continue to provide adequate numbers of pupil support workers to meet our pupils' needs.</p> <p>Reduction of management time already reduced is going to have further impact on child protection issues, and the amount of quality support that probationers and students will receive.</p>	<p>ED2</p> <p>ED5</p> <p>ED19</p> <p>ED23</p> <p>ED24</p> <p>No specific reduction proposed</p> <p>ED8</p> <p>No reduction in special places proposed</p> <p>ED9, ED10</p>

Number	Respondee	Comments	Tough Choices Ref
46	Linlithgow Primary School	<p>I agree with the decision to integrate nursery classes in Nursery Schools into a local Primary School. Stand alone nursery schools are a poor economy and an expensive, unnecessary option.</p> <p>In order to save more money I believe that a consultation on the removal of full time primary teachers from nursery classes could be effective. These services could run effectively with qualified nursery nurse staff and the oversight of a primary teacher manager such as a PT.</p> <p>I think that reducing management time for DHT/PT in primaries will have a negative effect on school development, Cfe implementation and the council's ability to deliver the national priorities effectively.</p> <p>I would strongly oppose any attempts to cut hours available for pupil support workers in primary schools as they are a vital part of a school and contribute an inestimable amount to the development of young children educationally and emotionally.</p> <p>The council's printed publications are a clear and easy way to make quick, painless savings. The publication and printing costs of Inside News alone are a waste of resources. The magazine, while grounded in a desire for celebration of success is costly and unnecessary. It is not valued by the majority of staff as a source of useful information and can be viewed at times as self-congratulatory. This information could easily be disseminated through the council websites.</p>	<p>ED3</p> <p>ED2</p> <p>ED9, ED10</p> <p>ED8</p>

		<p>Increasing pupil teacher ratios in primary and secondary schools. Whilst going against Scottish Government policy this is a realistic outcome of the UK government's approach to the financial crisis. However if you believe the reasons for small class sizes - then this is not in the best long term interests of the pupils' education and therefore the economic growth of West Lothian in 10-20 years time. As with redundancies amongst nursery teachers there may be an immediate impact of redundancies on the local economy. As similar problems face other regions - it is unlikely that out of work teachers will find it easy to gain employment elsewhere in surrounding regions.</p> <p>Reducing the subsidy for wraparound care. As for funded pre-school nursery places - you need to bear in mind the economic impact of restricting parents' ability to work.</p> <p>Phasing the removal of cluster resource funding from schools. I have no idea what this actually means - but suspect it is education department language for 'get rid of peripatetic specialists in areas such as PE, music, art etc'. These specialists were brought in because it was recognised that primary teachers did not have the skills or time to cover all of these areas in the depth that was expected. The impact of phasing out these supporting services is that these areas will fall back to "second class subjects" again. WLC needs to consider whether it wishes to encourage active lifestyles and developing creative skills. Both have intangible benefits on the local economy in the long term.</p> <p>If you need to make budget cuts, then can I suggest that front line services (which Education is one of) is not the place to start and that you might want to take a look around your office and ask yourself exactly what all these people do, which directly benefits the local population and/or economy. The options you describe above are the obvious cuts, the easy choices, but the wise decision is not to make the easy decision - but rather to position West Lothian in the best possible place for economic growth in the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Reducing pupil support worker resources within schools. Similar comments apply as to pupil-teacher ratios. Pupil support workers are however "less expensive" than teachers and so reducing head count here has a proportionally lower cost saving; although being less "specialist skilled" these employees</p>	<p>ED13</p> <p>ED19</p> <p>ED15</p> <p>ED8</p>
--	--	---	--

		<p>may find it easier to obtain work in other fields if it becomes available.</p> <p>Removing subsidies for school milk, fruit and bread.</p> <p>WLC needs to consider whether it wishes to encourage healthy lifestyles; and continue its small investment now or make an easy saving and then reap the effects of an unhealthy (less productive, health care consuming) population in later years.</p>	<p>ED20, ED21, ED22</p>
--	--	---	-----------------------------