

MINUTE of MEETING of the PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SAFETY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within CONFERENCE ROOM 3, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 31 JANUARY 2023.

Present – Councillors Craig Meek (Chair), Alison Adamson, Lynda Kenna, Maria MacAulay, Cathy Muldoon and George Paul

Apologies – Councillor Tony Pearson

In Attendance – John Sives (Joint Forum of Community Councils representative); Tom Carr-Pollock and Pat Tedford (Joint Trade Union representatives); and Helen Davis (West Lothian Voluntary Sector Gateway representative)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. OPENING REMARKS

The Chair opened the meeting by outlining the budget savings measures that the council was having to implement in order to achieve a balanced budget and that all 32 local authorities found themselves in a similar position.

He continued by explaining the role of the Panel in scrutinising officers proposals on where the Council could make potential budget savings; this was following an extensive consultation exercise undertaken in 2022. Any comments made by Panel Members would be noted and used in a section of the report going to the budget-setting meeting of Council at a later date.

3. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2023/23 TO 2027/28 - REPORT BY LEAD OFFICER FOR THE PANEL

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Lead Officer for the Panel which provided an update on the council's medium term financial plan and summarised a number of potential saving options relevant to the remit of the Panel to address the council's budget gap over the three year period 2023/24 to 2025/26, including responses from the WL2028 Your Council, Your Say Phase 2 consultation.

It was recommended that the Panel :-

1. Notes the outcome of the WL2028 Your Council, Your Say Phase 2 consultation and comments, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2;
2. Notes the updated revenue budget gap of £47.6 million, demonstrating the hugely challenging financial position facing the council over the next five years;
3. Notes work undertaken to date by officers in developing the five-

year revenue financial plan for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28;

4. Notes officer saving options, relevant to the remit of the Panel, as set out in Appendix 4 of the report;
5. Notes the Integrated Relevance Assessments for all proposed savings options and Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA) where the options were assessed as having a potential impact on a protected group or characteristic, as set out in Appendix 5; and
6. Notes that following conclusion of the PDSPs to consider potential saving options, the Head of Finance and Property Services would present a report to full Council on 21 February 2023 containing a five year revenue financial plan and a three year detailed revenue budget for 2023/24 to 2025/26.

The Panel asked the Lead Officer questions around the planned savings from SNT workforce management and SNT supplies and services.

Decision

To note the content of the report