

12. PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2015/16

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Estates providing an update in relation to the provisional local government finance settlement for 2015-16 as published in Finance Circular No.6/2014 dated 7 July 2014.

The Head of Finance and Estates advised that the Scottish Government published Local Government Finance Circular No.6/2014 on 7 July 2014 which provided details of revenue and capital grant allocations for 2015-16. The circular had been issued for information only at this stage and as such the figures were only provisional.

The figures provided an update on those contained in the letter to councils by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth of 21 February 2014 but had been updated to take account of new funding for the implementation of the early learning and childcare commitments and supply teachers' pay.

The circular also set out the amount of money that would be held back from individual councils who did not set a council tax freeze for 2015-16. The amount that could be held back for West Lothian Council was £2.084 million. There were no other requirements included in the finance circular.

It was recommended that the Council Executive :-

1. Note the outcome of the local government finance settlement in respect of provisional revenue and capital funding for 2015-16;
2. Note that the figures contained in the settlement would be incorporated into revenue and capital financial planning assumptions; and
3. Note that the Scottish Government would confirm final revenue and capital funding allocations for 2015-16 following conclusion of their budget consultation process later in 2014.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.