

EX75. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DRAFT BUDGET 2014/15

The Executive considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer summarising the implications for local government of the Scottish Government draft budget 2014/15.

The Scottish Government's draft budget 2014/15 (including figures for 2015/16) includes an allocation to local government of £10,531.4m for 2014/15 and £10,608.2m for 2015/16. In return for the proposed settlement, Councils would be expected to deliver certain specific commitments, including:

- maintenance of a council tax freeze
- maintenance of teacher numbers in line with pupil numbers and securing places for all probationers who require one under the teacher induction scheme.

Given the draft budget and the long term profile of the austerity regime, the most financially challenging cuts were expected in 2016/17 and beyond with the three year (2014-17) cumulative budget gap for Falkirk Council forecast at £35m.

Decision

The Executive noted the Scottish Government's draft budget for 2014/15 and the indicative position for 2015/16 together with the Council's currently estimated financial position and agreed that a budget seminar be held for all members.