

FC73. Scottish Government Budget and Local Government Settlement 2018/19

Council considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on the key matters from the Scottish Government's draft Budget for 2018/19 together with details of the Local Government Financial Settlement.

The Local Government Financial Settlement was anticipated to be a one year Settlement which was not conducive to medium term planning. The Budget would be agreed by the Scottish Parliament on 21 February 2018. Therefore it was proposed that the Council's budget meeting be put back from 21 February to 28 February.

The Cabinet Secretary had advised that the Settlement had to be viewed as a package with Councils required to agree to deliver all of the measures contained within. If a Council chose not to accept the full package a revised and less favourable offer would be made.

Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Garner, moved that Council:-

- (1) notes the Draft Scottish Government Budget and Local Government Settlement 2018/19;
- (2) agrees to respond to the Cabinet Secretary's letter in terms of paragraph 4.2.3 of the report indicating its acceptance of the full package set out in the letter;
- (3) agrees a revised date of 28th February for the Council meeting to approve the Revenue Budget, fix the Council Tax for 2018/19 and agree the General Services Capital Programme for 2018/19 – 2020/21, and
- (4) notes the Accounts Commission publication "Local Government in Scotland – Financial Overview 2016/17".

As an amendment, Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, moved in substitution for clause 2 of the motion that Council:-

- (2) agrees to respond to the Cabinet Secretary's letter indicating it would not accept the offer at this stage until the final settlement terms are known".

In terms of Standing Order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 29 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (19) – Depute Provost Ritchie; and Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Binnie, Bouse, Collie, Flynn, Garner, Grant, Harris, Hughes, Kerr, McCue, Meiklejohn, Munro, Murtagh, Nicol, Patrick and Spears.

For the amendment (10) –Provost Buchanan; and Councillors Aitchison, Bissett, Black, Blackwood, Coombes, Goldie, McLuckie, Nimmo and Reid.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.