

FC54. Revenue Budget / Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

Council considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which presented an update, as part of the Revenue Budget process, on:-

- Logistical implications arising from the general election date and the consequential delay in the Scottish Government Budget.
- Business case submission by the Falkirk Health & Social Care Partnership (IJB).
- The opportunity to take a provisional view on the level of council tax for 2020/21 to facilitate financial planning and the logistics of billing.

The necessary slippage in the timing of the Scottish Government budget arising as a consequence of the election on 12 December 2019 had injected significant uncertainty and time pressures into what was already a challenging Council budget including a projected gap of £20m.

Council was invited to follow last year's decision and agree a provisional council tax rise of 3%, which had already been factored into the Budget gap calculation. Moreover, there was the opportunity to increase this by an inflationary element of c1.5%, which would lever additional capital investment of c£20m.

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

- (1) notes the report, and
- (2) agrees to provisionally set Band D of the Council tax for 2020/21, subject to final decisions when setting the revenue budget,:-
 - (i) by raising the council tax by 3%;
 - (ii) supplementing that increase with a further 1.5% to lever additional capital investment of £20m, and
 - (iii) agrees that officers bring forward draft proposals for capital investments referred to at para 4.3.8 of the report to the January meeting of Council.

Council adjourned at 12.45pm and reconvened at 1.35pm with all members present as per the sederunt with the exception of Councillor Reid.

As an amendment, Councillor Bissett, seconded by Councillor Coombes, moved that Council:-

- (1) notes the report, and
- (2) agrees to provisionally set Band D of the Council tax for 2020/21, subject to final decisions when setting the revenue budget, by raising council tax by 3%.

In terms of Standing order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 25 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (10) – Councillors Balfour, Binnie, Bouse, Coleman, Collie, Garner, Hughes, Meiklejohn, Murtagh and Spears.

For the amendment (15) – Provost Buchanan; and Councillors Aitchison, Bissett, Black, Blackwood, Coombes, Flynn, Grant, Harris, Kerr, McLuckie, Munro, Nicol, Nimmo and Patrick.

Decision

Council agreed the amendment.