

EX110. 2022/23 Budget Update

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided information on further, 'wave 2', budget savings options. The report also provided an update on additional budget related information, notably the recent announcement of additional funding.

On 27 January the Cabinet Secretary had announced £120m of additional funding for Local Government. Falkirk's share of this was expected to be £3.5m. The Cabinet Secretary's letter regarding the additional funding made it clear that it was for Councils to determine how the extra funding was used. There was, however, a steer from the Cabinet Secretary that the extra funding should be used to avoid inflation bursting increases particularly in relation to Council Tax.

An updated Budget Gap, taking account of updated information on energy costs, of c£29m had been generated, albeit mitigated by the additional funding. However, significant financial challenges also lay beyond 22/23 and in particular financial year 23/24. It was important that a multi-year and strategic view was taken.

It had previously been recognised that Services needed to identify a further suite of savings options for Council to consider. Detail on these additional savings options was provided in an appendix to the report.

As part of community participation, online Budget Conversations for all wards had taken place in January 2022. Participants had shared some important insights and thoughtful suggestions. Further, there was a public survey, which ran from 12 January to 28 January 2022. 356 people completed the survey.

Representations continued to be made to the Scottish Government by COSLA, arguing for further improvement to the Settlement and in particular with reference to the Employers' National Insurance increase.

Decision

The Executive noted the report and its implications for the Council's Budget position.