

Using the headings from the "Summary of Proposed Changes" document, please see comments below.

Education

6. Review let charges for after school clubs. Currently after school clubs pay only 5% of the full let charge for the use of council buildings. It is proposed to increase this charge to 50% of the full let charge.

- Don't do this. The After School Club (we use Newtongrange) is a vital service for working parents and part of the attraction is the affordability of the service. Increasing the charge for use of this service (I have no doubt that an increase in the rent will be passed on to those who use this service) will penalise working parents and the After School clubs themselves who try hard to provide a good service at a reasonable cost.

Customer and Housing Services

4. Library Services. These savings are based on providing only 1 Midlothian central library withdrawing the mobile library (a shared service with ELC) and closing the branch libraries.

- No please do not shut the libraries. They are an essential service and part of the community. We use Newtongrange. It is so much more than a book borrowing service. There are many clubs organised (bookbug, chatterbooks, lego club) which are attended by young children which helps introduce them to books at an early age. It also provides a place for groups of adults to meet and offers services such as access to computers, newspapers and is an important source of local community information (leaflets, posters on local events, transport information etc.). It is centrally located and is handy for popping into on the way to or from school and is used by school pupils on organised school visits. It is vital that everyone, especially children, have free and easy access to books and other reading and educational material. If this service is lost then the education of children and adults in the community will likely suffer.

There is no mention of replacement provision, I understood there was to be a library at the new Newbattle High School. Is this still the case?

Commercial Operations

1 Charge for bins and boxes. A charge would be made to provide replacement bins and boxes for existing householders. A second proposal is to charge for bins and boxes to all new housing sites, including private developers, social housing companies and new council housing sites.

- charge for replacement bins ok, some money has to be made somewhere.

2 Extend collection frequencies. Consider introducing three weekly collections for the residual bin, brown bin and red box collections. The blue bin would still be collected fortnightly to maximise recycling. Food waste would still be collected weekly, in line with a previous agreement with Zero Waste Scotland.

- yes this is a good idea, with recycling there is less need to have refuse bins collected as frequently.

4. Charge for garden waste collection. The garden waste service is the only non statutory household waste collection service provided by the council. The proposal is to introduce a charge of £35 for collections and to retain the seasonal garden waste collections.

- not clear if this means the brown bin collection.

6. To allow commercial companies to advertise on council refuse vehicles. The content would be monitored to ensure that it does not impact on any aspect of council services and is not inconsistent with council standards.

- yes, good idea.

7. Increase the level of recycling. It is envisaged that over the period approximately 1,300 tonnes of material can be diverted into the blue/red recycling containers with a consequent reduction in disposal costs.

- yes, good idea.

8. Reduce Street Sweeping Frequency. This would involve stopping street sweeping of town centres and shop fronts at the weekend.

- safety aspect here? Additional debris on roads a potential hazard, especially for cyclists.

9. Reduce grass cutting standards. The intention would be to reduce the number of cuts in certain areas and completely stop the service in other less high profile locations i.e. verges out with town centres. This would impact all maintained grass areas. There is potential to explore the option of voluntary groups taking over this role within their communities.

- potential safety aspect, visibility at junctions, could encourage fly-tipping in areas of unmaintained long grass.

10. Reduce the number of grass football and astro pitches. The council currently maintains 55 grass pitches and 13 astro pitches across Midlothian. A recent audit suggests that a number of the grass pitches are used very sparingly. The intention is to reduce the number of grass pitches e.g. 5 and reduce the number of astro pitches available by 5, which could be offered to local clubs to maintain.

- potentially a good idea so long as it is sold as still encouraging healthy active lifestyle and not discouraging groups from using any remaining council facilities.

11. Stop provision of all floral displays and shrub beds. Flower beds in parks would be grassed over. Hanging baskets and planters would be removed. This would also impact cemeteries and other sensitive sites. Voluntary groups may be able to undertake this work in some communities.

- please don't do this as it would affect the sense of community, everyone likes to see nice flower beds in our towns and villages, especially so in parks and cemeteries. You could argue that having nice flowers on display is not an essential service but it does make those who live there feel valued if the parks etc are well maintained (see above also re grass cutting) and decorated. However I do accept that cuts need to be made somewhere and would rather retain library services and road maintenance. The potential for voluntary groups carrying out the planting could be explored.

16. Reduce spending on road maintenance.

NO! Big safety aspect here. If this means more poorly maintained roads with bad surface (potholes etc), poor road markings and signage then how can this be justified? This potentially puts all road users at risk, including pedestrians crossing poorly maintained roads, motorists and cyclists. This is an essential service that should not be cut.

17. Reduce the structures maintenance budgets. This includes reduced spending on bridges, culverts and retaining walls.

NO - again safety aspect here surely. There must be minimum standards to upkeep such structures, is the council suggesting that safety be put at risk?

18. Reduce the street lighting maintenance budget. The repairs target response time of 7 days is still likely to be maintained.

NO. Again safety aspect of non working lights for both road users, of all types, motorised and cyclists, and pedestrians, when crossing roads and using the pavements. Again surely this is an essential service and has to be maintained and it cannot take any cut to provision.

20. Reduce the winter maintenance budget. This will see a reduction in the number of footway routes. A reduced service on roads other than priority routes, reduced staff on stand-by, and reduced service for car parks and generally at weekends.

NO - safety aspect of roads not being gritted. I know that Midlothian covers a huge geographical area, but it seems that only major routes get attention most of the time anyway, please don't cut this service. Pavements are not always gritted leading to hazardous conditions, please do not make this more risky by cutting these essential services.

21 Remove the non statutory school crossing service.

NO. I assume this means lollipop people. These offer vital assistance to school children crossing the road, whether at a zebra crossing (or similar) or not. Also a vital inter-action between lollipop staff and children/parents, helps build sense of community and in helping one another. It is not always easy to stay close to children at all times on the journey to school and the lollipop crossing assistant plays a vital role in helping to ensure that children do not cross when they shouldn't and helps reinforce the green cross code.

Property and Facilities Management

20. Lifeguard Cover. Reducing the number of lifeguards, from two to one, at the poolside at the following locations. • Newbattle Pool • Lasswade Centre • Loanhead Centre • Penicuik Centre

-NO. Safety!

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

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THE CUTS THAT ARE NOW TAKEN PLACE IN OUR SCOTLAND
HAVE GREAT EFFECTS ON ALL CONCERNED. MYSELF, I AM WITH
POLICE SCOTLAND, FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS I HAVE BEEN IN THE
POLICE STAFF. I HAVE SEEN A LOT OF POOR HANDINGS OF
CUTS THAT HAVE DONE NO GOOD AT ALL. THE ONLY THAT
NOW HAVE CAUSED CONCERN IS TO STOP THE MORNING LIBRARY.
THAT IS THE ONLY CONTACT MEMBER'S OF THIS COMMUNITY HAVE.
NOT EVERYONE HAS INTERNET OR MANAGES TO GO TO ONE LIBRARY.
NOT EVERYONE CAN AFFORD TO PAY FOR GARDENS UP KEET, THAT IS
ALSO SOME PEOPLE'S ONLY EMPLOYMENT - WHY HAVE TO PAY MORE FOR
THE SERVICE. ALTHOUGH, WHY SHOULD AREAS BE HIT AND AN INCREASE TO ONE
AREA FOR RECYCLING ETC - SOME AREAS HAVE VERY LITTLE TO OFFER
YOUNGER PEOPLE - WHY CUT FOOTBALL PITCHES / ASTRO PITCHES. INDOOR SPORT
AREAS TO ALL CAN AFFORD ALSO - TO ENCOURAGE ALL AGES TO USE
WHAT IS ON OFFER, NOT HAVE NOTHING EXCEPT STAY AT HOME INTERNET!!!
KEEP AN AREAS TIDY + FORMAL BILLS / BASKETS - PRIDE IN LOCAL AREAS
IT SOUNDS LIKE EVEN THE DEAD ARE BEING CUT - TO KEEP AN THE
CEMETERIES TIDY AND GRAVES, WHO HAVE NO ONE ELSE TO CARE
FOR THEM, LOOKED AFTER THEM - IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK!!!

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

Houses / that an can afford / Rights are Buy - with this
 control of this Council - NOT PRIVATE (Houses),
 No homeless people or any abuse / AN, will have a
 Home, even ex-servicemen persons who leave Army / Navy
 RAF - drop in prices for them - all held available.
 Not cuts / cuts / cuts / . Does this ^{SCOTTISH} Government not care
 for all persons who pay TAXES / COMMUNITY CHARGES / WE
 ARE ALL STRUGGLING WITH LIFE AT PRESENT - WE ALL NEED
 TO HAVE CARE / ACCESS TO LIBRARIES / SPORT / EMERGENCY CARE
 TO KNOW THAT THE MONEY WAS NEVER PUT INTO THE Government,
 Council is REVENUE BORN for AN.

Nothing that has been PRIVATISED or cuts / cuts
 cuts WORK, only PRIVATISING / DISAPARS TO AN.

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

TO STOP THE ROAD MAINTENANCE / LIGHTS / SCHOOL CROSSINGS - IS
 THERE NOTHING SAYS - WHY ARE WE ALL PAYING OUR
 CHARGES?

MENTION ON THIS MARKS FOR THIS COUNCIL - THAT
 IS ONE THAT HAS NOT BEEN CUT - WONDER WHY?

^{BUS} TRANSPORT THAT HAS SUPPORTED GRANTS - THAT ALSO IS SOMETHING
 OTHER DEPENDS ON, ALSO TAXI'S.

MEALS FOR SCHOOLS - THAT IS THE ONLY PLACE SOME YOUNGSTERS HAVE
 A PROPER MEAL. CAN WE THIS ONLY MAKE MORE THEY HAVE - HOW
 WOULD THIS COUNCIL FIND IF THAT WAS THE ONLY MEAL THEY HAD, AND
 IT WAS CUT OR NON AFFORDABLE? SOME PARENTS ARE HAVING TO
 USE FOOD BANKS AND THAT MEAL FOR THE CHILDREN ARE THAT MEAL.
 MYSELF, I TURN 60 THIS NOVEMBER, I FIND THAT CUTS ARE NOT AN

THE ANSWER TO ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT ARE NOW ON VIEW,
 EDUCATION / HEALTH / CARE OF THE YOUNG / OLD / SICK / EVEN THE
 POLICE / FIRE / NHS / AMBULANCES - CUT / CUT / CUT / CUT /
 AND WHO SUFFERS? (S) GRI / ONES!!!.

HOW CAN CHARGES / RATES / TAX / KEEP GOING UP - AND NOT WANT
 TO STAY FOR IT - SORRY, NO STATE, ONLY OPEN RE, TO FROM
 NOW. SORRY WE CAN AFFORD THAT SERVICES ANY MORE -
 THAT IS WHAT IS NOW ON THE TABLES - ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.
 ALL AGES / PEOPLE BOUND - WE ARE DISGRACE BUTTER THAN CUTS.
 CUTS, CUTS.

6 Nov 2017

Councillor Adam Montgomery
Midlothian Council
Buccleuch Street
Dalkeith
EH22 1DN

Dear Councillor Montgomery

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL BUDGET CUTS

Midlothian Council recently produced Proposals to make big cuts in services for the coming years. Not included in the published Proposals are very many smaller £ items that should **not** be receiving any money. Small amounts individually but cumulatively substantial.

1. Cease all grants to Penicuik Community Development Trust (PCDT), Penicuik Community Alliance (PCA) and all their connected concerns.

Grants have been given over the past years to Penicuik Community Development Trust (PCDT), Penicuik Community Alliance (PCA) and their many linked / connected concerns. Also, Midlothian Council donates the time of various specialist Midlothian Council personnel – this is a substantial additional cost which should cease. Their schemes may be well meaning, but have blown all the money (total >£450,000 over several years) and achieved absolutely NIL. Every project is consistently totally unsuccessful, due to inept management and lack of business acumen in senior Principals who are basically financially illiterate.

2. Cease all grants to all organisations linked to the Kabin, Loanhead, and to all concerns with personnel previously connected with the Kabin.

Another example of a well meaning concern, but a total failure, being run by a Chairman, board and senior personnel confirmed as inept managers, lacking business acumen and in the case of Chair and board members totally financially illiterate. Also Midlothian Council donates the time of various specialist Midlothian Council personnel.

3. Cease all grants to all community and allied organisations.

– all must reapply, undergo new stricter due diligence, and funds only to be made available to projects directly and currently actively assisting elderly and young with disability.

3. Reduce by 50% Total Fund available as grants and aid to community and allied projects.

The reduced budget should only be made available to projects directly and currently actively assisting elderly and young with disability.

These above proposals may seem harsh – but the budget situation is serious and these grants cannot be afforded. Community and allied organisations offering real benefits, with personnel such as those mentioned above removed, will attract people with proper business and financial skills and the resources and means to raise all money required with no need for Midlothian Council money. Push strongly for the above cuts – you know it makes sense.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3 Nov 2017

Councillor Adam Montgomery
Midlothian Council
Buccleuch Street
Dalkeith
EH22 1DN

Dear Councillor Montgomery

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL BUDGET CUTS

Everyone is aware that Midlothian Council has to implement sizeable cuts for the coming years. Proposals recently published include closure of Penicuik Recycling Facility.

There is absolutely no way that Penicuik Recycling Facility, Bellmans Rd should close.

1. Result will be a massive upsurge in fly-tipping around Penicuik. Evidence already exists that this will occur - since the Penicuik facility stopped accepting mattresses, and householders delivering material to Bellmans Rd in trailers / pickups being limited to 1 visit per month; has caused an increase in fly tipping around Penicuik.
2. The stated Cost of £500,000 to upgrade Bellmans Rd is considerably OVERstated. The required works can be carried out for significantly less.
3. The present Stobhill facility can not cope with the increased traffic if Penicuik closed.
4. Increased traffic at Stobhill, and handling (paid for) commercial waste requires substantial work at Stobhill which is not being admitted to nor costed or considered.
5. Closure of Penicuik Recycling Centre will result in an additional 150,000 vehicle journeys per year producing an additional 1830 tonnes of CO2.** Additional (avoidable) vehicle air pollution, increased CO2 emissions and car use are totally contrary to Midlothian, Scottish Government and Scottish Labour policies.
6. Closure will result in a reduction in recycling (by Penicuik residents) and so increase Landfill costs. Evidence (inc from Midlothian Council) shows that easier and more accessible recycling facilities results in more recycling.

I urge you to strongly resist any attempts to close the Bellmans Rd Recycling Facility.

Closure of Bellmans Rd Facility will actually **increase** Midlothian Council costs, nullifying any perceived savings –

- very significant increased quantities to Landfill,
- significant clean-up costs due to increased fly tipping,
- increased air pollution with linked detriment to health.

There are many other areas of council expenditure which require radical pruning – why are Dalkeith concentric Council Officers so determined to downgrade the living environment for Penicuik residents ?

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

** Conservative average estimate based on actual vehicle count- the actual figures could be much higher, eg 200,000 miles and 2500 tonnes CO2 pa.

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

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I have serious concerns having read the summary of savings proposals. Many appear short sighted - savings in the short term that would cause contribute to longer term problems which would cost more money.

The library at Gorebridge is one of the only available safe places for young children and adults to meet. It provides a service way beyond the lending of books and provision of free access computers. It is the main information depository for local community information, where councillors hold surgeries and a safe, warm and welcoming atmosphere for people to meet. Without access to computer services at the library there are large number of vulnerable people who will not be able to freely access internet and information required for benefits claims and job seeking.

Gorebridge is a growing community with very little service provision remaining. There are numerous groups within the community working hard to improve what little is available. The intention to transfer all halls to community groups would rely even more upon these volunteers and their good nature. People only have so much time and good will - there is a danger of taking too much away thus undermining and negatively impacting community spirit.

Some cost savings seem sensible - garden waste charges are reasonable and I appreciate intention to increase investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency savings.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals.

Education:

1. Can you really envisage managing inclusive, mixed ability classes, including children with disabilities, without adequate teaching assistants?
5. Loss of instrumental teaching is removing a whole sector of education . If children from low income families are able to continue without charge are you still going to employ instrumental instructors, or are there going to be organisational changes as well?

Adult Health and Care:

1. Would the suggested privatisation be safe and appropriate?

4. Library Services:

The closure of all branch libraries will totally destroy the library service and abandonment of its community role. If the only library is to be central (Dalkeith?) then access becomes impossible for many people. The whole point of library provision is to be local, and such a loss would particularly affect rural areas. Could not building rationalisation go on without total loss; for example a library like Gorebridge could be accommodated within the nearby developing 'hub' A library provides a point of contact for many provisions (eg handing in these sheets) A library also gives access to the internet which people might not have otherwise.

- 5 Encouraging online access to benefits assumes computer ownership and familiarity OR access to library computer facilities and the expertise of staff, which will no longer be available.

Resources\:

1. Three weekly collections of black bins may be a problem for larger households, and the contents are not easily disposed of by householders themselves (other waste can be fly-tipped of course, and no doubt will be)
3. Closure of Penicuik recycling centre will also see an escalation of fly tipping.
9. STOP ALL GRASS CUTTING of verges except where signs are obscured and there is danger to traffic. At present the Council is destroying a major wildlife habitat which should be left alone. There may be areas within villages that residents can not keep tidy alone.
- 10 A drastic reduction in football pitches obviously is needed – but such land must be retained as open space for recreation of a less formal kind. So much land in Midlothian is disappearing under housing that there is less and less access to open areas for young and old alike..
13. Make sure that charges for use of activities on Council land match those at commercially run venues.
16. Can you really reduce road maintenance much more?
23. Can parking charges be increased/introduced without employing traffic wardens or supervisors (who largely do not exist at present) ?
24. Effectively this will remove bus services from rural areas, which have little provision anyway. The 51/52 will move from its present route to leave several villages with no bus service. Since the buses have to run anyway can you impose the present route while not paying towards upkeep of the service?

Finance:

Salaries quoted seem very high. Is there room for reducing levels of salary for new recruits to a level more in keeping with the experience of the community they serve?

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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The Scottish Government will soon be introducing a rise of 1p (increase from 20% to 21%) on income tax for people earning over 24,000 a year. Some of this money should be diverted to local Councils, so they do not have to impose such severe cuts.

① Please do not shut Gorebridge Library. It is the hub of the community, and is used by young and old. The access to Computers in the Library is very important, as there are many people who cannot afford to go online, and use this facility to search for jobs etc. The library's photocopying service is very useful as well.

② Please do not stop provision of floral displays, shrub beds, hanging baskets and planters. Also grassing over flower beds in parks. After going through a cold, dark winter, it is lovely to see all the flowers. It makes all communities look colourful and vibrant, instead of dreary and depressing. Have spoken to other people about this, including neighbours, and they agree with the two above points.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted Name and Contact Details]



Midlothian

24	Merging of S&S/FM Staff in Hubs. Reduce staff costs (4 FTE) by combining similar roles currently carried out by Facilities and Sport and Leisure staff within the same building complex.	0.122	0.122	112
25	Selling Services. Covering the costs of the Special Projects Co-ordinator by selling the service to other local authorities or entering into a shared service arrangement. The Co-ordinator is involved in master planning projects and large scale section 75 contributions.	0.000	0.050	113
26	Destination Hillend. A business plan to transform the Snowsports Centre into a year round tourist attraction is nearing completion.	0.000	1.000	114
27	Fees and Charges. Increase sport and leisure fees and charges with an annual target of achieving £50,000 increased income per annum.	0.100	0.400	115
		0.904	4.734	
	Total			
	Directorate Proposal Summary			
		0.000	0.250	
	Executive	2.196	3.235	
	Education, Communities and Economy	2.030	7.944	
	Adult, Health and Social Care	4.324	11.829	
	Resources	8.550	23.258	
	Total			

Savings Proposals – Potential staffing implications

	No of posts*
Directorate	2
Executive	30.3
Education, Communities and Economy	43
Adult, Health and Social Care	167
Resources	242.3
Total	

*full time equivalent

[REDACTED]

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

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I understand that council services are under so much pressure regarding funding. Everyone wants the council to provide everything they want for very little tax.

I am very grateful for all the services I have enjoyed and benefited from - Also I am realistic and know savings have to be made - Those of us who live in rural areas and do not drive depend on a mobile library service. It would be very sad to lose the service altogether. Older people who are often avid readers can find it hard to get to central library locations.

Perhaps the service could be reduced to a monthly or even bi-weekly one as a cost saving measure. I very much hope a solution can be found which allows the continuation of the very excellent mobile library service Midlothian ^{currently} provides.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

[Redacted signature]

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

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Midlothian

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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Whilst recognising that savings have to be made during this period of austerity, the proposal to provide one central library in Midlothian, withdraw the mobile facility, and close the branch libraries, should be stopped in its tracks.

Andrew Carnegie, the famous Scottish/American philanthropist, set up thousands of libraries in his time providing a local source of knowledge which encouraged the public to use them to better educate themselves. Today, when educational standards are apparently failing many of our young people, the resources provided by our libraries should not be put at risk.

Penicuik library, for example, caters for all ages, from its Bookbug sessions for babies, up to those of us who have now gone grey. Centralising a library, for example in Dalkeith, would leave many people unwilling or indeed unable to travel there.

The ability to read remains a necessity in today's modern world. Libraries should be embraced for all of the services they provide in promoting reading. Do not diminish these resources.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)



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After reading the proposed cuts, I am feeling utterly depressed. The libraries are so vital to local communities, I am totally in despair. I think that if you held local town hall meetings explaining why the cuts may have to be made, many people would be prepared to pay more in the way of community charges. I hope the local governments/councils can apply as much pressure as possible to the Scottish Government to give the local councils more funding. At this rate everything will have to be privatised & there will be nothing done on a community level.

I am completely opposed to the majority of these proposed cuts.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)



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(4) Library services, the proposed savings through closure of branch libraries and the mobile library does concern me. As a user of the service for many years (since the East Lothian Branch was set up in the 60s?) I have used the service both as a young family and now in my later years. I am aware that Kindle etc. etc. is taking over from having the value of being able to have the pleasure of holding a book which many authors, I'm sure, was part of their intended purpose of writing them. I do hope there can be some way of resolving this proposal?

Yours sincerely

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[Redacted]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

Have Your Say 2017 - Comments Sheet

Please read our **Summary of Proposed Savings 2018/19 to 2021/22**, available in local libraries or online at www.midlothian.gov.uk/shapingourfuture. You can also add your comments and suggestions here and hand this sheet in to your local library or at any Midlothian Council customer service point. If you prefer, you can also email: HaveYourSay@midlothian.gov.uk or post your comments to: Have Your Say, Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN.

I have read your proposals carefully and can see how difficult it will be to balance one facility against another. Obviously Holyrood political decisions often mean less money allocated to councils.

As a twice weekly user of your library I would be happy to make an annual contribution/subscription of up to £100 - I am aware many could not do this.

Penicuik library is the best I have ever used. Staff are friendly, helpful and it is a hub for mums, grannies and lonely people. I do not think items 25/26 taxi service could maybe taken over by Red Cross drivers or some other charity.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[REDACTED]

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Shutting almost all of midlothian libraries is will be a huge loss to the community. We find it a lifeline with a small baby. Bookbug is a great way to get out of the house, meet other people and keep the sanity after being stuck in the house with a young baby. We also borrow books a lot as introduction to books, words & languages are essential in the early years.

Also with a young family, losing bins to every 3 weeks means we will have overflowing bins due to rappers not to mention others who will inevitably flytip therefore cost the council more in the long run.

Roads are already badly maintained so a further reduction in this seems ludicrous.

Why not look at reducing costs closer to home, wasting money on over management rather than hitting the services required by the community for our health, both physical and mental.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)



Midlothian

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	Total	0.904	4.734	
	Directorate Proposal Summary			
	Executive	0.000	0.250	
	Education, Communities and Economy	2.196	3.235	
	Adult, Health and Social Care	2.030	7.944	
	Resources	4.324	11.829	
	Total	8.550	23.258	

Savings Proposals – Potential staffing implications

Directorate	No of posts*
Executive	2
Education, Communities and Economy	30.3
Adult, Health and Social Care	43
Resources	167
Total	242.3

*full time equivalent

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2018/19 to 2021/22

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I think the time has come when Scots/Brits have to make a decision - do we want to live in a country of austerity or do we want to return to a safe, healthy, well educated, happy life in our beautiful land. Some of the savings indicated in your list of 82 savings seem to me to be beyond the pale.

Especially I disagree with more cuts to:-

Learning assistants (teachers are under enough pressure already)

Lifelong Learning & Employability

After-school Clubs

Community Safety

LIBRARY SERVICES - not only closing libraries and taking away mobile library

Benefits Staff

Replacement Bins - people whose bins have been destroyed will steal someone else's bin.

Closing Penicuik Recycling centre - I will not go to Stobhill. I will not recycle garden waste either.

The streets will be a total mess in bad weather.

It should be easier to use football pitches to encourage fitness

Any more reductions in road ^{etc.} repairs and gritting will cause accidents

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted]

People will not shop where extra parking charges are made

Not use gym facilities they cannot afford.

There are probably other things I disagree with but many Targan phrases I don't understand.

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The loss of Penicuik Library would be a huge deprivation. I have been a constant borrower for over forty years and now that arthritis has reduced my mobility somewhat I depend on it more than ever. I also use it for obtaining batteries for my two hearing aids, and again, to lose that facility would cause great inconvenience.

The inconvenience caused by closure of the Penicuik recycling centre would also be great to me personally, as this is a facility I use regularly for garden waste etc. I would not object to a charge for the collection of garden waste (and other waste) if such a service could be guaranteed. Living in Giff St. Luke other residents here the bins are frequently not uplifted as council vehicles cannot get down the street due to parked cars and lorries on both sides.

As a U3A member, the loss of the use of the Town Hall for meetings would be a blow.

I am not clear if the reduction of lifelong learning would mean the loss of Community Education classes at Penicuik High School. If so, this would again be a huge blow. Older people need such opportunities for both physical and mental health reasons.

The abandoning of hanging baskets and flower beds in Penicuik would add to the sense that this is a poor and backward community, and not an attractive residential area or a thriving small town. Such an outcome would surely jeopardise future investment and development - a great shame since the location of the town (within easy reach of both capital city and attractive countryside) should make it a desirable place to live, so increasing the Council Tax available.

It would seem that the austerity model imposed upon by the Westminster Govt. 13 being completely adopted by Holyrood, with potentially catastrophic results for this area. The alternative possibility, of finding a source of borrowed currency until resulting improvements in the locality and employment prospects raise the living standards of residents enough to allow for increased taxation to fund services, is not being considered.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted signature]



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*Understand cuts must be made but
not at the expense of:*

- libraries! Especially Roslin Library.*
- school crossing guards*

These are my priorities.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

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The news of the 1000s of new houses due to be built in Midlothian over the next few years, it seems shortsighted to cut such services as road maintenance and community services such as libraries especially as new libraries have just been built!

Midlothian Council needs to ensure the collect every penny of council tax and any other business taxes from the 1000s of new residents & tenants.

Midlothian Council should try to negotiate better deals with the developers of the house so that the developers pay for all the new roads & other infrastructure that is required with these.

Recycling centres should remain open otherwise fly-tipping will increase and damage the image of Midlothian as a desirable place to live, work & do business.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)



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Re: Resources - 3 Penicuik Recycling centre.

Continue to operate the existing centre for the time being.

The disposal of waste does not have a 'one-off' cure.

Many people in the western half of Midlothian will not spend the money or the time for a 20 mile round trip to deposit waste material - hence FLY TIPPING

THE TIMES | Wednesday December 6 2017

25

News

Bin collection plan is no empty promise

Gurpreet Narwan

Communal household bin collections are to be increased in Edinburgh under proposals aimed at reducing rubbish on the streets.

The large shared bins, which are found on roads throughout the city, will be emptied every other day, as opposed to twice weekly, if the proposals are approved by the city's transport and environment committee tomorrow.

The scheme, which would be introduced over the next three years, is intended to address residents' concerns around overflowing bins, missed collections and fly-tipping.

There are approximately 18,000

Please add
Name and

necessary.

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LIBRARY SERVICES

It is important to have a library in each town. In Penicuik, apart from the usual services, it is central to lots of smaller groups e.g. writers clubs and is a focal place. It is "somewhere to go" for isolated older people and could usefully be combined with a local cafe.

COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

It is hard to imagine this policy of charging for bins and boxes. How much would be charged? It is difficult to imagine a 3 weekly collection of the residual bin in the summer with e.g. rubbish overflowing on to the streets. Charging for garden waste collection is nonsense: who will pay? It will encourage more fly-tipping in the surrounding areas.

How can we reduce spending on road maintenance when it clearly and obviously needs more spending? Our street alone is a collection of filled in (badly) potholes.

All this could have been avoided with an annual increase in the Council Tax.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted Name and Contact Details]



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Councillor Andrew Hardie,
Midlothian Council,
Midlothian House,
40-46, Buccleuch Street,
DALKEITH, EH 22 1DJ.

9th. December 2017

Dear Mr. Hardie,

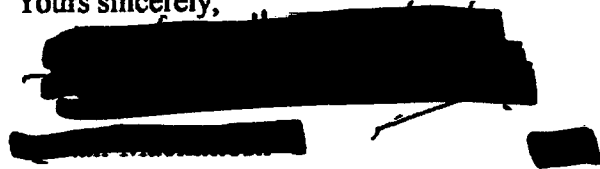
It is with increasing concern that we have read recent reports of Council Officers proposals for 2017/18 budget cuts in Penicuik.

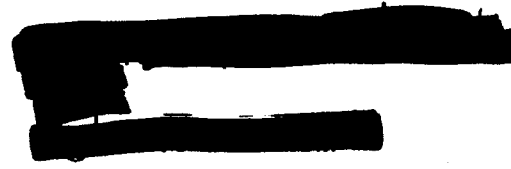
First, the proposed closure of the Bellmans Road depot. Retention of this much used facility is essential to Penicuik, the town already has litter and fly tipping problems but should it ever become unavailable these problems would very quickly escalate beyond any control with the obvious detrimental effect on the local environment. Also the good recycling disciplines with residents so far established would surely soon fall away.

Second, the proposed closure of the Penicuik Library. For over a century a local library has been essential to the fabric of a community, in our experience this modern and well used library within the Penicuik Centre with its broadened scope of activities and helpful staff provides a much valued service, in short, it is an essential asset our community simply cannot afford to lose.

As a Councillor for Penicuik we are sure you will vigorously argue for the retention of both the Bellmans Road depot and the Penicuik Library.

Yours sincerely,





Summary of Proposed Savings document

I have read the Summary of Proposed Savings document, while understanding the need to save money the proposals contained in this document are frightening.

These proposals give the impression that Midlothian Council is prepared to abdicate its' responsibilities in running services throughout the county, by again targeting the services that should not be targeted but protected.

When it comes to education you seem quite prepared to abandon the young people that need help and support the most by reducing Learning Assistant posts, reviewing Surestart contracts, Lifelong Learning and employability are all geared to reducing the support that vulnerable children and young people need in order to grow, develop and reach their full potential. Add to this the proposal to change High School meals to soup and a sandwich and increasing the cost of school meals when a lot of school children rely on a hot meal at school as their only hot meal of the day is an idea that is hard to understand. The proposal to remove the non-statutory School Crossing Guides is again an idea that is difficult to understand. Do you really think that this is a cut worth making? Will whatever savings this cut makes cover the cost of any compensation payment to be paid to parents whose children are hurt or even worse while crossing the road at where a guide was in place? This can only lead to more traffic on the road in front of schools as more and more parents drive their children to school.

Again you target the vulnerable in our society by proposing to move Council provision of Adult Health and Social Care services to an already overstretched private sector where recruitment and retention of staff is already difficult, unless proper financial resources are made available, even more pressure will be placed on these service providers.

You propose a reduction, even removal of the pest control service take this together with your proposal to remove street sweeping of town centres and shop fronts at weekend. Due to the amount of take away cartons dropped in the street, the amount of discarded food dropped in the street already, the removal of these two services can only lead to an increase in vermin as they feast on these discarded items over the weekend, or are you expecting shop owners to step in and clean this mess for you?

You talk of wanting to move more services for residents of the county on-line, this assumes that people have smart phones, tablets or computers to be able to do this. People without these devices would go to their local Library to access a computer and use these new on-line services, but this facility would be unavailable to them as you propose to have only one central Library and close the rest!

The proposal to have one central Library and close the branch Libraries and the mobile Library is cultural vandalism of the worst kind. Where would this central Library be situated? Why build new Libraries and accept government funds to provide free Wi-Fi in Libraries if you intend to close them? The removal of the mobile Library will lead to elderly housebound residents of the county becoming unable to read and becoming even more socially isolated.

Waste collection services, making the residual waste bin collection a three week service, as a single householder who recycles as much as I can, this proposal would little effect for me, but for families this could lead to problems, if a bin is full and bags are placed on the street would they be lifted by waste collection staff or left on the street? As I share a garden waste bin with three other households who would be responsible for paying the proposed charge for this service? Would it be

levied on one household or split equally between all four properties? The proposal to close the Penicuik recycling centre can only lead to an increase in fly tipping and cost more to send out waste collection crews to tidy this up.

Reduce the road maintenance budget, how much more can this be reduced by? Roads throughout the county are already in a poor state of repair! Reduce the winter maintenance budget, any reduction to the number of footway routes can only lead to those with mobility issues and the elderly becoming even more socially isolated by staying indoors or going out, falling, getting injured and putting even more pressure on the already stretched Social Care services.

The proposal to stop supported bus grants, reduce community transport support and reduce the ring and go taxi scheme can only lead to the bus companies withdrawing the services that are supported, more residents of the county becoming more and more socially isolated due to the reduction of these services.

I am old enough and experienced enough to realise that these proposals are what could be called the worst case scenario and that when the grant settlement is received from the Scottish government and the final version of these cuts is made known, the cuts are not as severe as predicted, you can say didn't we do well! No you have not done well, we the council tax payers of Midlothian deserve better, we deserve a council that can deliver on services and protect the vulnerable of the county. Not one that seems prepared to do only enough to meet the legal standards set by central government.



Thursday 14th December 2017

To whom it may concern,

I write regarding the proposed cuts to Midlothian's budget and services, with the intent to:

1. **raise objections** to many of the proposed cuts to Midlothian Council's budget and services, both to those that will have a severe and disproportionate impact on support and opportunities for local people who are already poor, vulnerable and isolated, and to universal local services such as libraries, public safety and parks. I believe such cuts will lead inevitably to increased costs and burdens upon wider non-Council run services, such as healthcare and policing, and to a decrease in quality of life for all Midlothian residents at a time when the county is facing unprecedented population growth and opportunities for economic development;
2. **challenge the Council** on its failure to put the reality of budget constraints and cuts into a wider political, economic and ethical perspective;
3. **commend the Council** for some creative, longer-term thinking around housing stock, exploiting knowledge and skill assets, and renewable energy, in particular. There needs to be much greater emphasis on longer-term ideas that regard the population growth in the county as an opportunity rather than as a burden.

1. OBJECTIONS

a. Vulnerable Children and Families

My children attend **Tynewater Primary School in Pathhead**. Our local school **Parent Council** has issued the Council a letter regarding the impact of cuts to Learning Support, Early Intervention and Prevention Services and renegotiation of Sure Start programmes, all of which affect directly **vulnerable children and young people, and their families**, as well as the school population in general.

This cuts against Council's view that "education is generally the best route out of poverty" and against its stated priorities to "reduce the gap in learning outcomes and "reduce the gap in economic circumstances".

Uncertainty around the provision of Welfare Rights advocacy services, the abolition of all grants to local grassroots voluntary groups, cuts to vocational training for

[REDACTED] and adults, increases in after school care costs, and the closure of [REDACTED] invaluable access not only to books and learning but also to [REDACTED] services and social interaction, will only compound this impact.

b. Subsidy cuts to the 51/52 bus service

This is the only bus service through my home village of Pathhead. Removal of subsidy to this route will jeopardise the affordability and frequency of the service, which will impact directly upon non-car owners, most of whom are people on low incomes or benefits. It will affect access to healthcare (e.g. midwifery and mental health services), weekly shopping (the sole general store in Pathhead is not suitable) and family support elsewhere in the county. It is also a failure on the Council's part to take its carbon emission targets seriously, at a time of accelerating climate change. The Council needs to incentivise use of public transport services. Any increase in private car traffic caused by population growth in the county will only knock Council costs forward onto road maintenance and road safety budgets.

c. Cuts to Instrumental Tuition in Schools

As a musician myself, and a parent, I know the value of music and arts education in schools, in terms of confidence building, emotional wellbeing, collaboration, and support for academic learning (research links about the positive impact of music education on other curricular areas is extensive). Though tuition to children on free meals and benefits is protected, many children from families just above the level of financial support will be unable to take up musical opportunities. This is elitist. It is also defeatist, in that the Council makes no suggestions in the budget proposals to mitigate the impact of cuts to instrumental music tuition by, for example, increasing whole class access to music teaching opportunities such as singing, or music technology.

d. Knocking Cost Impacts Elsewhere

A number of budget proposals illustrate the piecemeal nature of the Council's approach, and the likelihood of false economies across different departments, or the knocking on of costs to non-Council services such as policing and healthcare.

a. The removal of non-statutory crossing patrols around schools and cuts to winter roads maintenance both sound like a recipe for more road accidents, and therefore more health and emergency services costs.

b. Reductions in flood management and structural maintenance budgets in a time of climate change induced wetter weather sound like storing up trouble for the future.

c. The abolishing of all grants to local voluntary groups cuts against the desire both to save money and increase community participation. The Change paper states that "It is likely that the scale of reduction proposed would have adverse impacts in areas including adult social care, children's services, criminal justice, and healthy living

(NHS)". If this is the case, as seems inevitable, then why is this proposal included? It is not a true saving across the Council's whole budget, or across spending for wider public services, so much as a paper exercise for one department. In its ethos, it cuts altogether against the Council's stated wish to develop volunteering within the county and to transfer assets and management of services to community groups. Communities are unlikely to be inspired to take up these opportunities to fill service gaps if grassroots groups, **which already save the Council money**, are penalised by cuts.

Is there any Department or team with an overview of how these different proposals interact with one another? The document does not read as if there is. And that is very worrying.

2. CHALLENGE THE COUNCIL

Whilst I recognise the many legal and financial constraints the Council faces, the current budget proposals are an admission of defeat and offer no vision or adequate challenge to the circumstances that have created the cuts environment.

There is **no questioning of the wider economic culture**, especially the logic and necessity of austerity and low taxation. Individual councils such as Midlothian, and Scottish councils collectively, need to step up to this moment by **challenging the constraints created by settlements from the Scottish and UK Governments**, and challenging some of the assumptions that underpin the budget as presented. Councils could, for example, **campaign around the burden of debt** they bear. The UK Government has, in the past, written off banking debts because it deems banks "too big to fail". I, and many others, would argue that Council services are too essential to cut.

In order to argue such a case, the Council would need also to campaign locally, encouraging all of us, as local taxpayers, individuals, families and businesses, **to understand what is required from us in order to fund and support the services** and local assets that we believe are essential.

The Council needs to **advocate much more strongly for the quality, value and necessity of many of the existing services**, to which cuts are being proposed, and for the positive impact these services have upon individuals, families and businesses in the county. Otherwise, those of us who do not need to access such services find it hard to care about those services, or to understand the impact of their loss for others.

[REDACTED]

3. COMMEND THE COUNCIL

The Council proposes **some potentially smart, creative and cash-saving and/or income generating ideas** around:

- a. ending B&B homeless accommodation and replacing with reuse of Council properties - this is not only economically sensible, but offers greater security and dignity for vulnerable homeless people.
- b. a possible county-wide Housing Company to build mid market accommodation for rent and sale. The lack of affordable mid market accommodation is a major problem in Pathhead, where all village housing developments in recent years have been marketed at executive level. But there has been extensive house building across the county. There needs to be far greater leverage placed upon private housing companies to fund the necessary community infrastructure to sustain population growth in Midlothian.
- c. enhanced renewable energy and smart technologies – this is long overdue not only for economic reasons but because the Council has an obligation to reduce carbon emissions and promote environmental sustainability.
- d. the selling on of in-house expertise
- e. greater efficiency e.g. sharing services between Councils
- f. the possible transfer of ownership to local communities of community halls, road verges and flower beds. There's great potential in this idea. But it represents both an opportunity and a challenge for local ownership and engagement. To be meaningful, the concept of "co-production" with local communities requires a massive cultural shift, and a supported handover process, not simply a dumping onto local communities that lack the infrastructure or finances to manage any such transition. The simultaneous removal of grants from existing local groups already providing voluntary services will place great strain about local communities, and diminish opportunities for a positive working relationship with the Council.

I love living in this county and think it has a lot to offer to its people. The Council as a whole, across all party lines, needs to do more to argue for its own worth, more to encourage our participation as local residents, and to enhance our awareness of the wider political and economic culture that creates the cuts environment, and more to articulate a sense of hope for Midlothian moving forward. The Change programme as presented is negative, defeatist, and targets the most vulnerable, isolated and under-privileged members of our communities.

Thanks and best wishes,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2017 14:05
To: [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: 51/52 Bus Service

Dear

Cllr Milligan
Leader of Midlothian Council
Midlothian Council
Midlothian House
Bucknagh Street
Dalkeith
EH22 1DN

30th Nov '17

Dear Councillor Milligan,

I object to the threatened withdrawal of Midlothian Council's subsidy to the 51/52 bus service. I am told that the loss of this subsidy may lead to the withdrawal of bus services from Ford to Dalkeith. The existing service running via Ford, Edgelyth and Dalkeith is of critical importance to our communities.

I am told that the level of Midlothian's subsidy for this service along the A68 corridor is about £13,000 per year and is a fraction of the millions of subsidy available to public transport services on the A7 / Borders railway corridor.

The loss of our service into Dalkeith will cause many problems for my community including safe and environmentally responsible access to:

- Shops and banks,
- Employment,
- Education,
- Healthcare, including mental health and maternity services,
- Benefits and social services,
- Libraries and internet access,
- Social and leisure activities.

The loss of this service will have an undue effect upon the disadvantaged, the young, the elderly and the infirm.

The provision of public transport is so fundamental to the wellbeing of our community that its withdrawal may cause serious social disruption.

I urge you and your Council to resist this damaging proposal.

Yours sincerely

(Signed)

(address)

Sirs

I attach a letter with regard to my disappointment of the proposed cut of the subsidy for the 51/52 bus service through Pathhead. This is a vital service for our community, being our only public transport link. I urge you to reconsider this proposal.

Cllr Milligan
Leader of Midlothian Council
Midlothian Council
Midlothian House
Buccleugh Street
Dalkeith
EH22 1DN

30th Nov '17

Dear Councillor Milligan,

I object to the threatened withdrawal of Midlothian Council's subsidy to the 51/52 bus service. I am told that the loss of this subsidy may lead to the withdrawal of bus services from Ford to Dalkeith. The existing service running via Ford, Edgehead and Dalkeith is of critical importance to our communities.

I am told that the level of Midlothian's subsidy for this service along the A68 corridor is about £18,000 per year and is a fraction of the millions of subsidy available to public transport services on the A7 / Borders Railway corridor.

The loss of our service into Dalkeith will cause many problems for my community including **safe and environmentally responsible access to:**

- Shops and banks,
- Employment,
- Education,
- Healthcare, including mental health and maternity services,
- Benefits and social services,
- Libraries and internet access,
- Social and leisure activities.

The loss of this service will have an undue effect upon the disadvantaged, the young, the elderly and the infirm.

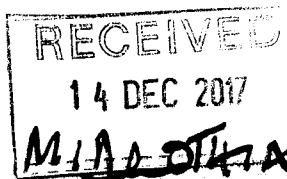
The provision of public transport is so fundamental to the wellbeing of our community that its withdrawal may cause serious social disruption.

I urge you and your Council to resist this damaging proposal.

Yours sincerely

(signed)

(address)



13th DEC 2017

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL SAVING PROPOSALS.

I HAVE STUDIED THE PROPOSALS WITH CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AND WISH THE COUNCIL WELL IN REDUCING COSTS.

I AM NOT HAPPY ABOUT CLOSING LIBRARIES NOR CHARGING FOR MUSIC LESSONS AT SCHOOLS.

LIKE THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS I ACCEPT THAT SAVINGS ARE NECESSARY AND BOOKS HAVE TO BE BALANCED.

I PERSONALLY WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY CHARGES FOR LIFTING GARDEN RUBBISH AND OTHER PROPOSED INCREASES.

WHAT CONCERNS ME GREATLY IS THAT THE WHOLE AREA IS FASTLY DETERIORATING IN APPEARANCE, CAUSED BY A SMALL MINORITY WHO DO NOT CARE OR RESPECT THE APPEARANCE OF MIDLOTHIAN AND DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST.

THIS GROUP ARE FASTLY LOWERING STANDARDS FOR EVERY BODY.

I FEEL THE COUNCIL COULD RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INCOME AND A GREAT DEAL OF SUPPORT IF A

STRONGER TOUGHER APPROACH
WAS TAKEN WITH REGARD TO

PT 1

1. PAYMENT OF RENT
2. PAYMENT OF COUNCIL TAX
3. FLY TIPPING.
4. LITTER LOOTS.
5. DOG FOULING.

NAME , SHAME , FINE

THESE ARE AREAS WHERE THE "DONT CARES"
ARE COSTING THE "DO CARES"

EDINBURGH AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY
FINE PEOPLE HEAVILY AND RUTHLESSLY FOR
ILLEGAL PARKING SPEEDING THEREFOR
GENERATING INCOME AND CHANGING ATTITUDES
TO WHAT IS NOW ACCEPTED AS ILLEGAL

COULD MORE INCOME BE GENERATED
BY GETTING TOUGH ON THE WONT PAY
DONT CARE MINORITY.

STRENGTH TO YOUR ELBOW!

[REDACTED]

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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- ① Elimination of local libraries would tear the heart out of Midlothian's towns. Catering from toddlers to the most elderly (inc dementia sufferers) resources are shared creatively between diverse groups so removal of local venues would be socially devastating. Midlothian libraries attract nationwide praise for innovation and external funding. Tackling social exclusion, they are local focal points for groups, facilitating exchange of information and ideas, i.e. less costly than working isolated. They grow first class front line staff who are helpful and knowledgeable, thus are trusted by customers as preferred interface for services by the Council. They are a necessity also for job seekers with resources for applications, keeping and advancing in employment.
- ② Charging more for gyms could prove ~~not~~^{not} conducive to health inequalities tackling with NHS, which prescribes exercise for physical and mental recovery (regardless of advancing age).
- ②a Risks seem too great for turning successful Newtongrange Leisure Centre into an unmanned pure gym, so I'd hope its retention.
- ③ Counter-intuitive is outsourcing welfare advice by commissioning, given team's track record ~~bringing in~~^{enabling citizens} to get due benefits, and Midlothian's setting aside finance anticipating huge rent arrears when Housing Benefit becomes Universal Credit incorporated.
- ④ Imposing music tuition fees should be avoided if possible.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted]

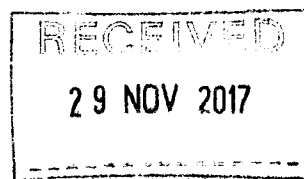
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With the shortage of teachers it won't help to reduce Learning Assistants
I've just been to the Midlothian Schools Festival of Music in the Water
Hall. It was fantastic what these pupils could do. If tuition fees are
charged that won't be as many pupils for next year's Festival of Music
& central library will only work for people who can travel. What about
the ones at home who need mobile libraries who will fetch books for them
& bring them back recycling centre will only lead to fly tipping.
Reduction of street sweeping will cause more rubbish on streets and
gardens.
No more flowers in beds or hanging baskets what a dull place it
will become.
Where is the saving on reduced road maintenance it will only lead
to more claims for motorists and pedestrians.
Good street lighting is a necessary expense.
Wider road maintenance is essential. Otherwise could lead to more
claims on Council.
Reduced janitorial services would only work if Primary schools were
closed together otherwise two janitors would need to be on duty at all
times as one person couldn't open or close 2 schools at one time.
Reducing Lifeguards at pools could lead to dangerous situations.



Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted name and contact details]



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Savings Proposals – Potential staffing implications

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Executive	2
Education, Communities and Economy	30.3
Adult, Health and Social Care	43
Resources	167
Total	242.3

*full time equivalent



[REDACTED]

Dear Midlothian Council

I am Dylan and I am 10 and my sister, Eilidh is 9, we both go to St. Davids Primary School in Dalkeith. We both think its a bad idea to close the librargys especially Dalkeith because theres Coding, toddlers groups and various activities to help young people. We both go to the library a couple times a week for different things and this helps to the education at school. If the library was closed down this would affect young and old people who rely on these services. If the library closes down this could affect schagls in Midlothian. Most importantly if all but 1 library closes I doubt or the school would go as much as it would be further away to travel and not local. Here are a few helping pairs
I think you should pay for library membership, £5 per year. Put the library charges a bit higher but keep the childrens the same. My last ideas is you could improve the library like provide drinks and snack etc. to make more money for the library and the council, and you should charge for poo bags because if you bought a bag you should pay for your own. My last one is librargys should have a closer relationship with schools. Now ideas for schools. I think lesser Learning Assistants and more people from Secondary School, College & University, it would work because they will get experience from schools and the people would be free, of what I know of. I think road safety people shoudnt be moved as you cant say, kids will be safe if you take them away. Kid safety should also be put first. I understand that the Midlothian Council have to save money but I think it is

[REDACTED] taking any things that will affect children because children are the future. I hope you have second thoughts.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]s, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 4/12. NO. 5. INSTRUMENTAL TUITION SHOULD BE PAID FOR.
FOR AND BY ALL. OR FREE TO TALENTED CHILDREN REGARDLESS.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS ARE VITAL. SUCH A HUGE INCREASE WILL
RESULT IN HIGHER CHARGES FOR PARENTS SO SMALLER
NUMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO AFFORD THE CARE.

5/12. NO. 4. NOT ALL PEOPLE HAVE COMPUTERS, TABLETS ETC.

IF YOU WANT MORE ONLINE AND LIBRARIES ARE
CLOSED WHERE DO WE GO. ??? LOCAL LIBRARIES
ARE ESSENTIAL.

RESOURCES.

HALF THE REPLACEMENT BINS AND BOXES ARE
NEEDED BECAUSE YOUR STAFF THROW THE BOXES
ON THE GROUND OR ON THE ROADS.

6/12 NO. 3 IF YOU WANT MORE RECYCLING WHY WOULD YOU CLOSE
PENICUIK RECYCLING CENTRE ???

7/12 16 HOW CAN YOU REDUCE SPENDING ON ROAD MAINTENANCE.
THE ROADS ARE IN A SHOCKING STATE AND ARE NOT
MAINTAINED AT ALL. CHEAP FILL INS LAST ABOUT 2 DAYS
IF YOU ARE LUCKY. YOU NEED TO SPEND LOTS MORE ON ROADS.
8/12 1. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE.

REDUCE FROM 8 TO 4. SAVE YOU A FORTUNE.

9/12 11. IN VIEW OF ALL THE VANDALISM TO SCHOOLS JANITORS.
SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED.

10/12 20 HOW CAN YOU REDUCE LIFE GUARDS ?? TO ONE ??
IF THEY NEED A BREAK OR SOMEONE IS IN DIFFICULTIES
WHO WOULD LOOK AFTER ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY
CHILDREN, WHO ARE IN THE POOL.

10/12

21. CONCESSIONARY CHARGES.

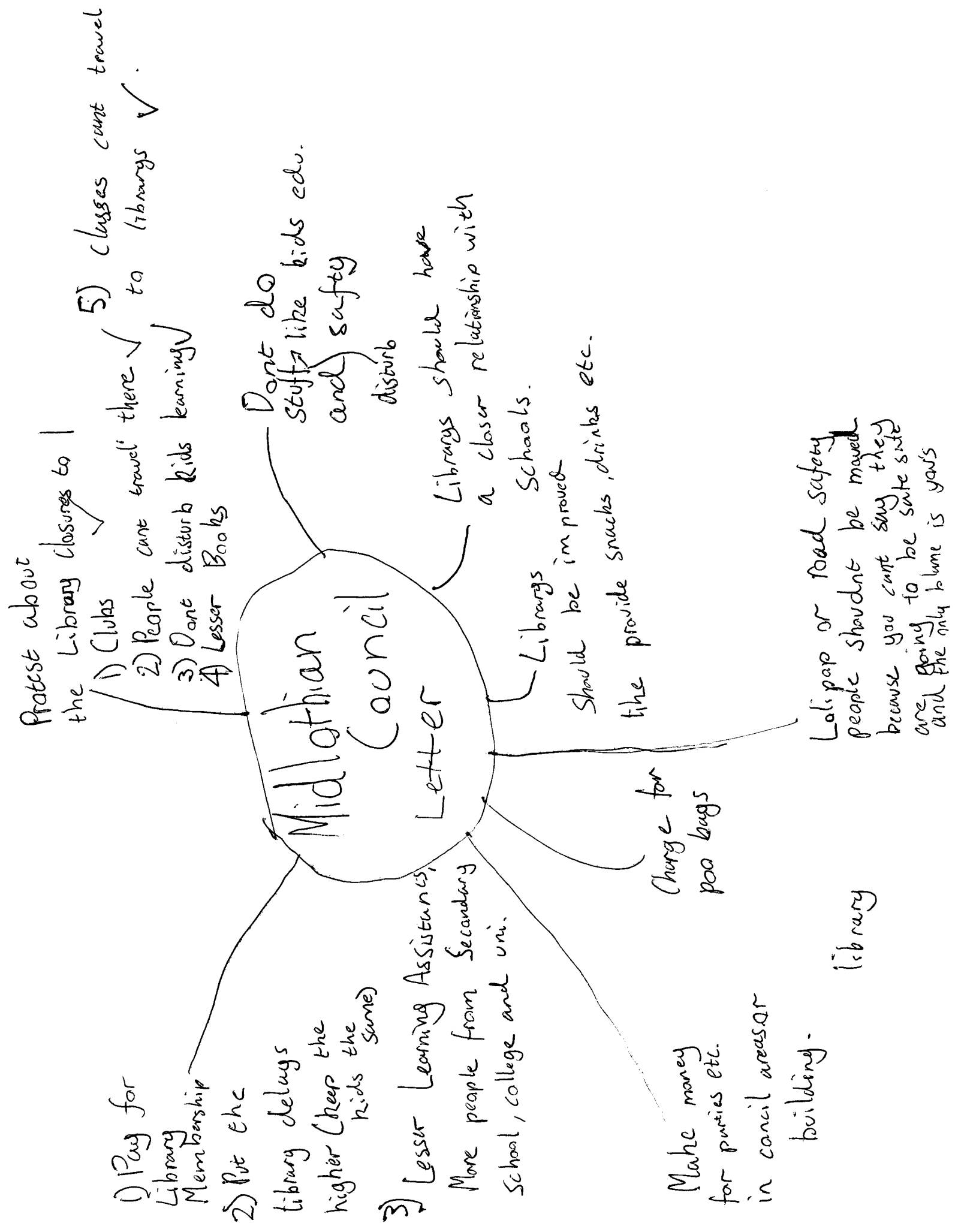
IF YOU INCREASE BY £15 PER MONTH PEOPLE WILL STOP ACTIVITIES OR REDUCE THEM. IF YOU WANT HEALTHY OLDER PEOPLE, SAVING THE NHS MONEY, THIS IS A VERY LARGE INCREASE. WOULD THIS MONEY GIVE THE INSTRUCTORS A DECENT WAGE OR JUST DISAPPEAR INTO THE BLACK HOLE.

HEALTH & SAFETY.

REPLACEMENT LAMPOSTS. NO PEDESTRIAN

ACCESS MADE. NO SAFETY GOGGLES - SPARKS FLYING EVERYWHERE. RUBBISH LEFT. HOLES LEFT. LAMPOSTS PUSHED OVER WITH TOTAL DISREGARD FOR SAFETY OF PEOPLE OR PROPERTY.

LIBRARIES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR READING, ACCESS TO COMPUTERS - EVERYTHING ON LINE ??? AND FOR COMMUNITY GATHERINGS.



Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

Have Your Say 2017 - Comments Sheet

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Re Library closures:

Midlothian is too large an area to have only
1 library. Do NOT close all but one branch.

Bins:

Accept you could have a 3 week collection for all but
the blue bin but could you not extend the brown
bin service. Fife collect garden refuse combined
with food waste every 2 weeks throughout the year.

Road Maintenance

As a result of all the housing increases in Midlothian,
the roads are going to fall into disrepair very
quickly. Traffic congestion in the morning and
evening is bad enough & thought should be given
to the infrastructure - or lack of.

Do NOT stop cutting grass verges &
Your name and contact details: (optional)

HAVING FLOWERS ON DISPLAY. WE NEED
SOME PRESSURE IN LIFE! AFTER ALL, WE
DO PAY FOR THEM.

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.

Midlothian

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To suggest closing all the Branch Libraries & the Mobile Unit is the work of Philistines! Scotland has a proud literary tradition, from the free Parish Schools in the 18th c, to the libraries provided across the country by Andrew Carnegie.

The people who need the libraries most are those who can't afford to buy the books themselves. These are also likely to be those who would be unable to get to a 'central library' - either because they can't afford a car, or are in some way disabled.

Shame on you,

Midlothian
Council

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Midlothian

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2018/19 to 2021/22

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We can pay something for our senior 'bus pass.
Most (not all) have STATE + "PRIVATE" pension. And
pay £0.00 to travel to Edin, Inverness, Berwick
on Tweed, Carlisle. Whereas those younger people
some on minimum wage have to pay !! And
some from outside Lothian Buses pay a lot
more !

Maybe those on ONLY state pension should
have a free 'bus pass, but most of us "oldies"
are reasonably well off (compared to at least
ONE of my grandchildren ?

And the Council Tax has been frozen for 10
years for political purposes, while my
state & private pension have been indexed!

Us old are quite a strain on ^{the} public
~~public~~ purse free this free that free
etc's etc !!! ???

Think about that before you close any
public libraries !

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted signature and contact details]

Midlothian

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Savings Proposals – Potential staffing implications

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CUSTOMER & HOUSING SERVICES (4)

I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH REDUCING THE LIBRARY SERVICES

RESOURCES COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS (2)

I AGREE WITH EXTENDING THE COLLECTION FREQUENCIES

THE PROPOSALS LOOK TO BE WELL CONSIDERED AND
WITH A WIDE RANGE COVERED.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO COMMENT FURTHER IN DETAIL, LACKING
KNOWLEDGE OF THE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED
CHANGES, BUT ONE AREA THAT I DO KNOW IS THAT
MIDLOTHIAN HAS BENEFITED IN THE PAST FROM THE FREE
MUSIC TUITION OFFERED IN SCHOOLS IN THAT MUSIC DOES
BRING THE STUDENT ON AND WIDEN THEIR SKILLS, NOT
JUST IN MUSIC AND INSTRUMENT PLAYING.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

✱ ABSOLUTELY NO LIBRARY CLOSURES ✱
THEY ARE CHEERISHED IN COMMUNITIES

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2018/19 to 2021/22

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These are my comments & suggestions:

- ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PEST CONTROL SERVICES - These services are essential to the health & well being for the people of Midlothian
NO CUTS
- LIFELONG LEARNING - A 'small' fee would be a fair amount to charge - if we want to learn new skills we must be prepared to pay for these services
- INSTRUMENTAL TUITION - Young people's education is essential and this service in schools & colleges should not stop - music is beneficial to their social skills
- STREET RUBBISH BINS AND STREET CLEANING + RIV UP LIFTS - The people that do this job do a great job - the place (Midlothian as a whole) will look absolutely filthy if this service is cut to the proposed changes.
THESE SERVICES MUST STAY AS THEY ARE - HEALTH COMES INTO THESE SERVICES - NO CUTS
- GALAS & EVENTS - Charges could apply to these - but clean up & any other services that would be required - charges could apply also
- ROAD MAINTENANCE - Totally disagree with the proposal to reduce spending in this area - the roads are in a bit of a state as it is in some areas.
- WINTER BUDGET REDUCE ONLY IF WINTERS ARE NOT SEVERE USE AS NECESSARY

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE COUNCILLORS WE HAVE IN MIDLOTHIAN
WILL LOOK AT THESE COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FAVOURABLY
THEY DO A GREAT JOB & SUPPLY A GOOD SERVICE TO ALL IN

AT THESE VERY DIFFICULT TIMES -



Midlothian

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* FLY TIPPING HAS BECOME A REAL PROBLEM IN MIDLOTHIAN THAT PLUS STREET RUBBISH STROWN ALL OVER OUR STREETS + PARKS ETC, PLEASE DO NOT WITHDRAW THESE ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN ANY WAY - STREET RUBBISH BINS AT PRESENT CAN BE OVERFLOWING WITH PAPERS FROM TAKE-A-WAYS, CHIP SHOPS + SHOPS IN GENERAL - EVERYTHING COMES IN PACKAGING THESE DAYS - IT'S GOT TO GO SOMEWHERE - PERHAPS BIGGER STREET RUBBISH BINS WOULD BE IN ORDER IF THIS SERVICE MUST BE CUT. 'HOPEFULLY NOT.'

* I APPRECIATE WITH AUSTERITY, CUTS ARE REQUIRED AND MIDLOTHIAN HAS A HARD JOB AHEAD - PERHAPS CHARGES FOR ALL THE FREE SERVICES WE PROVIDE AT PRESENT WOULD BE A START - I PERSONALLY WOULD RATHER KEEP WHAT WE HAVE AT PRESENT BUT CHARGE FOR SERVICES THAT ARE NOT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL - WITH REGARD TO HEALTH & SAFETY + EDUCATION + SOCIAL SERVICES AND OUR ENVIRONMENT. SMALL CHARGES FOR CERTAIN THINGS HERE.

* I DEFINATELY THINK A SMALL CHARGE FOR DOG BAGS IS A MUST THIS ITEM IS SO CHEAP TO BUY IN THE SHOPS - I AM SURE RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS WOULD NOT OBJECT TO A SMALL CHARGE E.G 50p FOR A PACK OF 50 (1p PER POOLOGY) IRRESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS OBVIOUSLY DO NOT USE THEM ANYWAY AT PRESENT WHEN THEY ARE FREE

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

A MIDLOTHIAN RESIDENT WHO PAYS FULL COUNCIL TAX AND WOULD BE IN TOTAL AGREEMENT TO CHARGES BEING IMPLEMENTED FOR ALL OUR SERVICES RATHER THAN LOSE THEM, HF

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.

Midlothian

'HOPEFULLY ALL OUR COUNCILLORS WILL WORK IN HARMONY AND UNISON THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR BICKERING AGAINST ONE ANOTHER'

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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Garden waste collection charge. It is not clear how this charge would be collected or billed.

Reducing road maintenance may result in council having to compensate motorists for damage to vehicles because of potholes.

Reduction/abolition of bus grants. 51/52 is the only bus service through Edghead, Parkhead and Fala. Parkhead has a Medical Centre serving a wide area and this service is the only one available for those without access to a car. Many people in these scattered villages rely on the service to access shops. My granddaughter relies on this service to travel to Edinburgh for her trapeze lessons. (Fala to Edinburgh and back)

Libraries — this service is essential. Service provided in Dalkeith is excellent and branch libraries spread the service. All service points are information centres and social meeting places, and encourage learning for all. Quality of life is important to everyone, withdrawing some of this service leaves us all poorer.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)



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Total	242.3

*full time equivalent

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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Re:- Library Services (p 5 No.4).

As an elderly widow in the late eighties who has walking difficulties and is living alone, I am sure I am writing on behalf of thousands of others who are appalled at the thought of closed libraries and stoppage of librarians' help. There must also be many nearsighted and/or blind people who depend upon audio books for entertainment and thousands of children who depend upon books for guidance, reference, education and the joy of imagination in the written word.

Apart from readers, what would happen to all those dependable librarians who would find themselves unemployed? How would we all cope without the necessity and sheer joy of reading?

[Redacted signature]

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)



24	Merging of S&S/FM Staff in Hubs. Reduce staff costs (4 FTE) by combining similar roles currently carried out by Facilities and Sport and Leisure staff within the same building complex.	0.122	0.122	112
25	Selling Services. Covering the costs of the Special Projects Co-ordinator by selling the service to other local authorities or entering into a shared service arrangement. The Co-ordinator is involved in master planning projects and large scale section 75 contributions.	0.000	0.050	113
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27	Fees and Charges. Increase sport and leisure fees and charges with an annual target of achieving £50,000 increased income per annum.	0.100	0.400	115
		0.904	4.734	
	Total			
	Directorate Proposal Summary			
	Executive	0.000	0.250	
	Education, Communities and Economy	2.196	3.235	
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Savings Proposals – Potential staffing implications

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RE:- library Services (p5 No.4)

I would like to strongly object to the proposal to the closure of branch libraries and the withdrawing of mobile and home visit services. As well as a regular visitor to several of the midlothian libraries I also have a relative and elderly neighbour who heavily rely on this service. They both have walking difficulties and Dalkeith library is the least accommodating in regards to access. This proposed closure of branches will affect many areas of the community - many librarians would be unemployed, children who depend on library facilities for reference, education, and the sheer joy of reading!

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[Redacted Name]
[Redacted Address]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.




Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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I have used library for a long time 1st Bonyrigg and when that was moved to school I changed to Dalkeith as it's easier to get to and I like browsing through books not picking from computer. I took my 4 year old daughter with me in Bonyrigg at 2 yrs old, her Dad read to her from a book and at 4 yrs the library gave her a ticket as she wanted to pick her books. She is a reader, blame it on Librarian's going to school with a generation who won't end up with a getting books from library. I donate books that I buy and it has been a lot. Considering we are supposed to be one of the best countries in the world of the pocket novel to take these small pleasures and chance for children to learn to read away.

What's how I learned.

 Midlothian

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

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I would like to strongly object to the proposal to reduce (remove) the Ring & Go Taxi Scheme. My son and I live in Cousland. He has Asperger's Syndrome and other learning difficulties and never managed to learn to drive. The only independence he gets from me taking him everywhere is to take the Ring & Go Taxi to Dalkeith - and sometimes then the bus to Edinburgh. One of his reasons to travel to Dalkeith is to volunteer with a walking group for adults with dementia. If he had to take an ordinary taxi to do this we could not afford it.

The savings proposed for this item are minuscule. I know you have to find cuts somewhere but why should Cousland, as a village, and my son, as an individual be deprived of our last remaining transport link?

Please think again on this one.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[Redacted contact details]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

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Lollipop Men will still be required at locations where there is no light-controlled crossing.

Reducing the frequency of bin collections will lead to increased fly-tipping. Many older residents do not have facilities for taking stuff to the shops.

Stop paying the golf club for car parking. Instead use the former High School site.

If the Council do not ~~at~~ already have powers to issue on the spot fines for dropping litter (chewing gum, cigarette ends, sweet papers etc) they should take steps to get them.

Stop hiring parents to clear chewing gum. Instead employ a warden to issue on the spot fines.

Start charging builders for using lamp posts and street signs to advertise their housing developments.

Your name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted contact details]

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Midlothian

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I realise cuts have to be made but feel the proposals are targetting the wrong people: -

- 1) Cutting subsidy to Borders bus 51/52. People in outlying areas rely on this to get to doctors' surgery, go shopping or socially. Other areas well-served by Lothian buses (eg Mayfield/Gorebridge). Our bus is one per hour and every 2 hours in the evening. Many people have no access to a car either due to age, infirmity or finance. How are these people going to be able to continue especially as the taxi card is also to be cut.
- 2) Increasing costs to facilities will impact on the very groups Midlothian says it is committed to helping - elderly and children. Many of these voluntary groups will have to close because of these rising costs.
- 3) Libraries are a godsend for the elderly and housebound.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

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Dear Sir

I wish to complain about the proposed closures of the Penicuik Library and re-cycling unit in Bellmans Road.

What a ridiculous proposal to make when the largest town in Midlothian is getting ever larger. If we close the re-cycling unit then houses down and other connecting country roads will become a mine for "FLY TIPPERS"

I do appreciate that the council faces a shortfall in funds but there must be other areas where reductions can be made

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted signature and contact details]

Midlothian

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1. Rubbish Good idea to reduce frequency of collections - however some households may need larger or extra bins
Excellent idea to charge developers for new bins
2. Recycling Closing the recycling centre at Penicuik - No!
Staff here always very helpful + facility well used
What necessity was seen to justify £0.5 M upgrade?
Closing a centre will greatly increase fly tipping which is unsightly, unhealthy, uncivilising and expensive to remedy.
3. Libraries Libraries are places where all ages, from babies to those in their 80's and more, are welcome.
Community groups can meet there. Parents can find information and diversion when they bring children.
Do we not want to encourage literacy and enjoyment of reading?
Computer facilities - learning and use - very important when not everyone has up to date equipment at home, including scanning and printing.
On line everything is being encouraged - job application, income tax, banking - is it sensible to withdraw on-line access?
See and too
4. Sport & leisure charges - increases of charges seem unlikely to encourage physical activity at a time when so many of us are obese - or well on the way.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

p.t.

Midlothian

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.

Grass cutting and sports pitches

- 5 Probably a good idea to cut down here - however, remember long grass encourages dog walkers not to pick up after their dogs.

Please keep emptying dog waste bins - there are many places where more bins, strategically placed, would be useful.

Also note some waste bins have a larger perimeter than the plastic sacks used to line them - eg at Valleyfield Pond.

6 Flower beds and hanging baskets

Good idea to reduce these. A lot of wasteful replacing of thriving plants with new ones has been the norm.

7 Swimming Pool lifeguards

Can a single person really adequately monitor all the people in a pool, especially when they are children?

8 Street lighting

How about more switching to cheaper to-run LED lighting?

And reducing the number of lights switching on during the day.

Also some road signs - eg stop signs - are on most of the day and night.

Could some street lights - every 2nd or 3rd perhaps - go off in the small hours when no one is about on foot or in cars?

9 Reduce maintenance of culverts, retaining walls etc

Is it not cheaper to maintain properly rather than to try to remedy emergency situations when walls collapse, blocked drains cause flash floods and roads crumble?

3 cost libraries Excellent children's clubs eg Lego and Coding - a good supplement to school.

[REDACTED]

Midlothian: Summary of proposed savings

I recognise that local authorities are under severe financial pressure and that Midlothian faces difficult decisions.

Some of the proposed savings in your consultation paper seem defensible, e.g.

- Some are moving in the right direction with plans to redesign and transform services such as the plans for rebalancing social care; digital by default (but don't like the title) to do more on line; and expansion of shared services and PPP shared management.
- Increases in fees also seems justified provided those who can least afford them are protected.
- Further efficiencies in the way departments of the Council are operated.

I have concerns over plans to cut back on some essential services even if they are non-statutory, such as

- Cutting back on gritting of roads and pavements; cutting back on road maintenance – these are short term measures which may well increase costs elsewhere and over time – more falls/accidents on icing roads/pavements and a build up of expensive backlog maintenance.
- Closing all libraries except one. Libraries are important community facilities especially for mothers with young children and pensioners and this change would be a false economy resulting in increased social isolation and reductions in well being.
- Taking more services inhouse and stopping grants to third sector organisations and commissioning services instead. The Christie report demonstrated the importance of working in partnership not competition with the third sector and many of the proposals seem to want to pass on the pain on to voluntary and community groups and protect the council.

Overall the proposals are disappointing in suggesting a further round of salami slicing services which will not provide a long term and sustainable solution to the provision of services and building Midlothian into an area which encourages economic growth and delivers a good quality of life for its citizens.

I should like to see much more about redesigning and transforming services/using technology/working with other LAs together with a much greater focus on working in partnership with the voluntary and community sectors in a spirit of co-production.

I accept that the level of funding from Central Government means that savings must be made.

I also accept that every proposed change will cause loss to the community, even harm. I will list the areas where I believe the most damage will be caused.

Customer and Housing Services

4. Library Services. Every community must have its own library. One central library is just not enough; reaching it would be, for those not living nearby, expensive in time and money. During the nineteenth and into the twentieth centuries, communities fought to have their own libraries, we must not throw them away, it would be a betrayal! Over the years, libraries have changed greatly in what they provide, but they are still essential. At the end of the main list of my comments I will try to list some of the good and beneficial things that libraries provide.

Resources and Commercial Operations

3. Close Penicuik Recycling Centre. What is so wrong with the present centre that £500 000 is needed to fix it? Due in large part to the helpful and efficient staff, it appears to work very well as it is!

It is a great encouragement to us to dispose of stuff which we cannot put into our bins in a responsible way. Without the centre, most people will not bother carrying this stuff to Stobhill. I AM ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN that a lot of this unwanted material will be dumped in our lovely countryside. A lot of it will be foul, ugly and possibly dangerous. Illegal, but will the dumpers care?

10. Grass football pitches. Even if some of them are used for organised football less than they used to be, they are still important for casual use: family groups, impromptu kickabouts, kites, frisbies, dogwalking (responsibly, we hope!) etc. Every locality benefits from having a nearby informal leisure space. What will be otherwise done with these areas? Sold to developers for building? I hope not, we really need these little open spaces. Anyway, each one can be sold only once and then its gone for ever.

17. Reduce structures maintenance budgets. False economy! I believe that routine maintenance is much less expensive and much more predictable than sudden emergency repairs or replacement.

20. Reduce the winter maintenance budget. Does this mean less de-icing of roads AND pavements? People crash on icy roads often leading to injuries and deaths. people are injured by falls on icy pavements. Apart from personal tragedies, what are the chances of the council losing a compensation claim and having to pay HUGE damages?

22. Open space CCTV. This must reduce antisocial behaviour to some degree and should be kept. (And even improved!)

Property and Facilities Management

11. Reduced numbers of janitors in schools. Another false economy where the cost of increased vandalism might well outweigh the savings.

13. Property Company We should not be selling OUR land and buildings for short term, once-off gain.

20. Lifeguard Cover We MUST have more than one lifeguard on duty all the time: if something really bad happens will YOU be able to tell the coroner that you made things as safe as possible?

23. Transfer Halls and Pavilions to Community Groups Most groups are very small and will probably be unable to cover full costs of a valuable facility without some help from the council.

26. Destination Hillend It seems to be a success story; why spend a lot of extra money unnecessarily?

27. Sport and Leisure Fees "Scotland has a child obesity crisis" Is it economically sound to make exercise activities more expensive?

Libraries: may I remind you what a present-day library does?

History research. Group meetings. Computer learning classes and use, including printer and scanner, for job applications, tax returns, communication with utility companies, internet searching, etc . Adult book clubs. Children's activities, eg story sessions for pre-schoolers, Lego, chess, coding clubs.

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I appreciate the fact that some cuts are needed, those cuts seem to target some of the most vulnerable members of Midlothian society.

- Cuts of 4!! Children & Family Practitioners, who are already overworked. I am a volunteer with the PNK Foodbank which works with the children & family unit so I see how overworked they are.
- Increase of let charges for afterschool clubs.
- Remove the school crossing service — REALLY!!!
In Roslin children have to cross a busy road used by the bus services and all the speeding cars in the morning which cut up from the Glen & use Roslin as a rat run.
- Reduce Learning Assistants by 10% — there is already a lack of these valuable people in our schools.
- Removal of the taxi card, so needed by those people who have no local buses eg. Auchederry.
- Reduce libraries to ONE — ridiculous, especially as you are suggesting removal library vans at the same time.

My library, Roslin, although the smallest, if you work out footfall per hour opened, it is used a lot. Not everyone/family has access to a computer & the one in the library is in frequent use. How are elderly, with

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[REDACTED]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

no transport going to get to this ONE library. The bus service in Roslin is not frequent. Elderly people are going to stick in their homes as you are removing the taxicard.

Suggestions

- Rather than closing libraries why don't you make more part time, such as Roslin. This way some jobs could be saved.
- Charge an annual charge for bus passes to subsidise the taxi card.
- Cut back on electric bills for all Midlothian Council properties by installing solar panels. Make it a condition of planning permission on new builds, register the panels to the council so that Midlothian Council collects the tariff. The home owners still benefit by reduced bills even without getting the tariff. I know, we have panels.
- Not sure why you have predicted a further deficit for 2021/22, with all the building going on in Midlothian surely ~~there~~ there will be an increase in revenue from council tax. I thought Roslin was getting round about 600 new houses!

~~_____~~

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Dear Friend who gets this letter / council worker / councillor who is doing a difficult job I write with regard to. Elements (A) Library - "Item 51" and (B) Reduction of Early Intervention + Prevention Services - "Item 38".

(A). Proposed library closures of all but 1 "central" library in Midlothian, in particular for me Roslin library. - I declare a vested interest in Roslin library staying open. I'm 76, a keen reader who is deaf and therefore uses hearing battery services, I am dyslexic with scotopic sensitivity [have trouble using screens and fatigue quickly when I do so.] and I can only use computers with massive support [eg helpful librarians]. I use the library as a source of information about services e.g. Councillor Surgeries, bus timetables, daily newspapers, local newspaper, magazines etc. etc. I use the photocopier related to business or teaching material [I still teach yoga once a week] I use it for social interaction across the generations e.g. it is a joy to see the creation of models at the Lego club or to chat to other library users particularly young people & Mum & Dads with children.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.

Midlothian

I am also a retired paediatrician + I consider as a doctor that Roslin Library is a place that supports community + good mental + emotional health. It is also in walking distance + therefore 'ecologically green'. It supplies our bus passes. etc. etc. Also I have glaucoma + although my eyesight is stable at present it is possible that in future I will be unable to drive and require talking books. These are some of the reasons that I make a strong plea for Roslin Library to remain open.

Re Item 38 as a retired Paediatrician who worked in the prevention services of Community Child Health the suggestion of a reduction in Early Intervention + Prevention Services seems short sighted. This suggestion may give financial short term savings BUT is investment long term in distress and deprivation in children, their families and communities

I would like to share with you in closing a simple puzzle. The diagram show 9 points . . .
You are asked to join them . . .
by 4 straight lines, not taking your pen off the paper
Hint - you have to come out of the "box" to do it
+ perhaps if some flexible creative person/or people
can look at your difficulties re finances in Midlothian
in a similar way - solutions can be found
I wish you well.

+ creative
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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I totally disagree with the proposed cuts to Children's Services. Midlothian has some of the most disadvantaged children & young people in Scotland. They are our future and should be given every bit of help to succeed. The proposed savings of £2m are a drop in the bucket by comparison with the overall budget. Sure Start and lifelong learning & employability should be expanded not reduced.

Libraries perform a vital function in so many ways - a safe, warm environment for all; computers for those needing to access job opportunities, benefits, etc; they are modern-day community centres providing clubs for the elderly (reminiscence group), young (Bookbug) as well as coding clubs, knitting groups etc. At a time when literacy in Scotland is falling, they're needed more than ever. Where would the public go to print documents, get bus passes, helpful & friendly advice, etc? Cherish them - don't close them. They are vital to our communities.

Instead, stop your SWITCH scheme with immediate effect: don't pay previously higher-ranking officials the same rate to do a lower-graded role. That would help save some money.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)



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Midlothian Council

Suggestions for savings

December 2017

3 areas:

1. Council tax collection
 2. Redundancy packages
 3. Staff indebtedness
-
1. Council tax - In the Midlothian Council annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 the council tax debt outstanding is £29,539,000. Of this, £27,590,000 is provided for as bad debts. The levels were similar in the prior year. No analysis is provided of the age of this debt. All of this suggests a lack of effort/competence in debt collection. This is a shocking level of uncollected debt and an insult to all of us who diligently pay our council tax. How about employing a couple of credit controllers from the private sector? Even if they only collected 10% of the total that would still yield circa £3million.
 2. Redundancy packages – I do not understand why Midlothian Council persist in using taxpayers’ money to pay themselves large redundancy packages when they should be paying Statutory Redundancy Pay like everyone else. Refer to page 26 of the Midlothian Council annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 – in the £40,000+ band there were 5 people and they were paid a total of £351,000, that’s an average of £70000 each! It was a similar pattern in the previous year. If Statutory Redundancy Pay was used instead you could save around £1million.
 3. Staff indebtedness – your Annual Report from the Chair of your Audit Committee for the year ended 31 March 2017 (reference your Audit Committee meeting of Tuesday 20 June 2017 Item no. 5.5) refers to “Staff indebtedness of around £1million”. What on earth is this? Employees in the private sector do not owe their employers money, it is not allowed. I would not like to think that taxpayers’ money has been ‘loaned’ to council employees and they are not paying it back? I see that the same issue was brought to your attention in your Internal Auditors report from the previous year too. Of course the simple answer is to deduct the loan amount (split over the next few months, if you have to) from employees’ salaries and collect the amount in full that way. Saving £1million.

Total potential savings of at least £5 million.

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— Switch off library lights
when library is closed.
Everyone knows nobody is there!

— New Loanhead library.
— great for thieves, no doors
— all based on honesty.
No good!

As I used to work for Edinburgh
libraries, I see many old and
outdated books in Midlothian!
— sell these off.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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HaveYourSay@midlothian.gov.uk or post your comments to: Have Your Say,
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FROM CONSULTATION EVENTS I THINK THE ELECTED OFFICERS & OFFICIALS RECOGNISE THE LIBRARY PROPOSALS WERE MISGUIDED AND NOT WELL PRESENTED.

LIBRARIES SHOULD HAVE A NEW NAME eg COMMUNITY HUBS, IDEAS PLACES (as in ENGLAND)

THIS CONSULTATION HAS MAINLY BEEN PROMOTED VIA LIBRARIES AND I WONDER ~~WHETHER~~ WHERE FUTURE CONSULTATIONS WILL OCCUR IF THE PLAN TO REDUCE TO ONE IS APPROVED

COUNCIL DO NEED TO BE MORE ENTERPRISING — GREEN ENERGY, HOUSING COY

COSTS — DIRECTORS OFFICE 2ND FLOOR BUCCLEUCH HOUSE — 2 NEWSPAPERS PER DAY SCOTSMAN + HERALD, IS THIS ESSENTIAL EXPENDITURE — COST SAY £750 P.A !!

LOOK AT GENERATING INCOME FROM LOCAL BUSINESS ADVERTISING ON FBOK (MLC 10K LIKES) + WEBSITE.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)



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For Resources.

- 1 Charge for bins & boxes
- 2 Extend collection frequencies
- 5 Charge for Commercial Waste
- 8 Reduce Street Sweeping Frequency
- 10 Reduce number of grass/cas to patches

Against Customer Service.

& Library Service.

Libraries are used by young & old, they offer groups, meeting place, PC access for those who don't have. We want to encourage book reading - how can that happen if you don't have a car. The mobile allows book access to elderly who cannot attend libraries & young families who have

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)

no car.



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Libraries have always been a big part of our communities, I have stayed in the lothians all my life and have always used the libraries, esp the computers. Unfortunately I am not fortunate enough to own a pc or printer and nowadays everything is done by technology. I would be extremely dissapointed & Saddened if this would come to an end.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[Redacted Name]
[Redacted Address]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



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Do not Review charges for after school clubs

Do not charge for garden waste collection

Withdraw all B&B for homeless

close Penicuik Recycling centre

Reduce Ring + go taxi scheme

Stop taxi card scheme

Do not stop supported bus grants

Remove Regular Car allowance

Cut no of Janitors from 22 to 11

Increase sport and leisure fees

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)



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Re. LIBRARY SERVICES.

SITUATION OF CENTRAL LIBRARY
AND WITHDRAWING THE MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE.
THIS CHANGE WILL AFFECT THE ELDERLY & PATIENTS
OF YOUNG CHILDREN.
ALSO PEOPLE IN MANY OUTLYING VILLAGES.
IT WILL INCREASE THE SOCIAL ASPECT OF MENTAL HEALTH.
LEADING TO DEMENTIA & ALZHEIMER.
LIBRARIES ARE A FOCAL POINT IN ALL COMMUNITIES.

IT WOULD BE SAD TO SEE ~~PARKS~~ PARKS ETC. WITHOUT
FLORAL DISPLAYS.

UNWISE TO REDUCE SPENDING ON ROAD MAINTENANCE.

ALSO STRUCTURAL REPAIRS.

↳ SCHOOL CROSSING SERVICE.

PAVING SERVICE - REDUCTION COULD AFFECT SAFETY IN THE
PLAYGROUND

MIDLOTHIAN BUS ROUTES - 39 INVALUABLE TENANTS IN A
WIDESPREAD COUNCIL ESTATE
MAINLY AFFECTING THE ELDERLY

POOR LIGHTING

ENCOURAGES - BREAK-IN & DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[REDACTED]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

[REDACTED]

13/12/2017

Re Withdrawal of Bus Subsidy 51/52 Service

Dear Councillor Milligan,

I would like to add my objection to the threatened withdrawal of Midlothian Council's subsidy to the 51/52 bus service.

I believe that the bus is an absolutely essential service to the people of Edgehead, Ford, Dewarton and Pathhead.

I see many elderly and young people using the bus, the loss of the service would have a huge impact on their independence. Even for those who are mobile enough to walk to Dalkeith, there is no pavement or street lighting along the 60mph road between Edgehead and Whitehill, there is no safe option other than to drive or take the bus.

It is also a very well used service for those who commute to Edinburgh, and has a huge positive impact on the environment and traffic levels by reducing the use of cars.

I understand the council needs to make cuts, however this relatively small subsidy represents excellent value for money. It is an essential link for our community. I would ask the council to please resist this proposal.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

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ONCE AGAIN THIRD RATE MANAGEMENT PROPOSES
THIRD RATE POLICIES. THE COUNCIL IS TOP HEAVY
AND AS A RESULT SERVICES AT THE FRONT LINE
SUFFER. MANAGEMENT IS WEAK. FOR EXAMPLE, WHY
WERE 4 MEN USED TO REMOVE A PILE OF LEAVES
AT ESKBANK TOLL RECENTLY WHILE THE LIKES OF
OLD DALKEITH ROAD, WHERE SEVERAL COUNCIL STAFF
PARK THEIR CARS, REMAINS UNTOUCHED? CLEARLY
SUPERVISION IS LACKING. UNSWEPT STREETS LEAD
TO BLOCKED DRAINS AND FLOODING.

THERE SEEM TO BE VERY FEW, IF ANY, POSITIVE
ATTEMPTS TO GENERATE INCOME. WHY IS NO
ATTEMPT BEING MADE TO SOURCE MORE INCOME
FROM THE LARGE NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES
BEING BUILT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY?
LIKEWISE THERE SHOULD BE INCENTIVES FOR
SMALL BUSINESSES TO USE VACANT HIGH STREET
SHOP SITES.

THE LIST OF DEFICIENCIES IS PROBABLY AS
LONG, OR LONGER, THAN YOUR LIST OF PROPOSED
CUTS.

THE VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTED ON
THE COUNCIL SHOULD BE WORKING TOGETHER FOR
A BETTER FUTURE INSTEAD OF CONSTANTLY
BICKERING PARTY DOCTRINES.

REMEMBER YOU ARE OUR SERVANTS

NOT THE OTHER WAY ROUND.

TOO MANY DECISIONS ARE MADE BEHIND
CLOSED DOORS.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



24	Merging of S&S/FM Staff in Hubs. Reduce staff costs (4 FTE) by combining similar roles currently carried out by Facilities and Sport and Leisure staff within the same building complex.	0.122	0.122	112
25	Selling Services. Covering the costs of the Special Projects Co-ordinator by selling the service to other local authorities or entering into a shared service arrangement. The Co-ordinator is involved in master planning projects and large scale section 75 contributions.	0.000	0.050	113
26	Destination Hillend. A business plan to transform the Snowsports Centre into a year round tourist attraction is nearing completion.	0.000	1.000	114
27	Fees and Charges. Increase sport and leisure fees and charges with an annual target of achieving £50,000 increased income per annum.	0.100	0.400	115
	Total	0.904	4.734	
	Directorate Proposal Summary			
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	Education, Communities and Economy	2.196	3.235	
	Adult, Health and Social Care	2.030	7.944	
	Resources	4.324	11.829	
	Total	8.550	23.258	

Savings Proposals – Potential staffing implications

Directorate	No of posts*
Executive	2
Education, Communities and Economy	30.3
Adult, Health and Social Care	43
Resources	167
Total	242.3

*full time equivalent

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
12/12/17

Withdrawal of subsidy for 51/52 bus Service

Dear Councillor Milligan

My Name is [REDACTED] I live in Edgehead ~~and~~ and go to Tynewater Primary School. I am in Primary 7 and will be going to Dalkeith High School next year. My mum and dad said that when I am in S1, I could use the bus to visit my friends in Pathhead and Dalkeith and to go to do things like go to the shops, park, sports and the library. I am looking forward to that, but if you stop the bus I won't be able to do that.

It is three miles from Edgehead to Dalkeith. The road has no pavement, has a 60 miles per hour speed ~~limit~~ limit and isn't safe to walk. ~~It's~~ It's also very dark and has no street lights.

I am worried about not being able to take myself places when I am older, I might not be able to do things that I enjoy. I would also like to take the bus into Edinburgh in the future.

My mum also needs the bus so she can get to work, She could take the car but that is not good for the environment. It also takes a lot longer.

There are other people in my community particularly old people who really need this bus so they can go places.

Me and many other people need this service for our independence in the future. I understand that the council needs to make cuts but the subsidy is vital to our community, and only £18,000 a year which is actually very good value because the bus is so important to many people.

Please don't make this cut and let us keep this bus service

Yours Sincerely

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

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11/12/17

LIBRARIES

This seems an odd time to consider closing libraries in midlothian. With so many houses being built all over the county, there will be potentially many more people to make use of this local facility.

You make reference to "your local library" above. This is a most important point of reference in the village of Roslin and many other villages round about. It is not always easy for most of us to have to make arrangements to travel to the next village or even further afield - especially the elderly and disabled.

I hope the Council will take into consideration the value of a local library to so many of us.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[REDACTED]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



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I am disgusted by the proposed budget cuts. Council services play an important role in the social fabric of the whole community. There soon won't be a need for council officers or councillors as there won't be any services being delivered by Midlothian Council!

One assumes that you have considered the following:

- Amalgamation of council departments - reduction of senior managers.*
- Provision of services through "Best Practice" as used by other local authorities*
- Central purchase of energy, telecoms etc.*
- Early voluntary release of staff aged 50 years +.*
- Provision of additional functions through existing services.*
- Sale of property which is not required*

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted Name and Contact Details]



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YOUR LONG LIST OF PROPOSED CUTS DOES INDEED MAKE DEPRESSING READING. FOR PENICHIK IN PARTICULAR IT IS ONCE AGAIN SEVERELY IMPACTED COMPARED TO SAY THE EVER FAVOURED DALKEITH.

I SEE VERY LITTLE EVIDENCE OF A ROOT AND BRANCH APPROACH TO BUDGET DEFICIT REDUCTION. SIMPLY A LONG LIST OF DIVISION BY DIVISION CUTS. ACCEPTING MIDLOTHIAN IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN HIGHLY POLITICALISED AND STAFF OPERATING AS ONE WITH UNIONS WHERE IS THIS BEING TACKLED. REDUNDANCIES IN THE "SOFTEN" UNUNIONISED PARTS E.G. LIBRARIES. IS THE EVER INCREASING BURDEN OF UN-SUSTAINABLE GOLD PLATED PENSIONS EVEN BEING CONSIDERED. WHAT IS THE CURRENT COST TO COUNCIL PENSIONERS AS A % OF THE BUDGET 20% ? 30% ? 40%. AS ALL MAJOR UK COMPANIES PENSIONS MUST BE REVISED

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

IN VIEW OF LAST PARA NO THANKS 2014 IS STILL FRESH WITH ITS DIVISIONS AND BITTERNESS.

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

CONT'D

MANAGEMENT PROMOTED FROM WITHIN THE RANKS CAN BE HELD TO RANSOM BY THE EX FELLOW COLLEAGUES. AN EXTERNAL REVIEW TO ACHIEVE FLEXIBLE WORKING PRACTISES - MULTI SKILLING / SPLIT SHIFTS / SHORT TERM CONTRACTS IS NECESSARY.

WHY IS PENICILLIN RECYCLING REQUIRED TO BE CLOSED - THE IMPLICATION GIVEN = TO SAVE £0.5M. RUBBISH (POOR PLAN) LEAVE AS IS AND SAVE £0.5M. RETAIN EXISTING (EXCELLENT SERVICE INCIDENTALLY) FACILITIES THE COST OF INDIVIDUAL RATEPAYER DRIVING TO CENTRALISED FACILITY IS ENORMOUS. TALKING IN MODERN (CRAZY) TALK WHAT IS THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF ALL THESE TRIPS? HAS IT EVEN BEEN THOUGHT ABOUT? CALCULATED? INSTALL NO MORE ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING POINTS FOR A START!! THERE IS THEN THE LONG LIST OF REGULAR MAINTENANCE CUTS WHICH IF THEY WERE NEEDED SIMPLY ARE STILL REQUIRED).

I HOLD OUT LITTLE HOPE OF MY OWN HOPEFULLY PRACTICAL APPROACH BEARING ANY FRUIT SINCE THE OVER-RIDING CAUSE OF ALL THIS IS AN SNP OF TOTAL CENTRALISED CONTROL. MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL HOLDING THE CRUMBS OF LOCAL SERVICES ARE SIMPLY TRAPPED.

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1) Customer Housing Services / Library Services.

I am especially concerned by the proposal to close down Penicuik library and all branch libraries, keeping only one central library. Everybody doesn't have a car to travel to Dalkeith and bus travel takes a long time. The library is an invaluable educational and social resource for people, especially those who are a bit isolated or retired/elderly, or do not have the internet, and the section on 'health & well-being' is quite useful. To say nothing of the photocopying facilities and other activities for the younger ones. I am aware of the financial pressures for the Council but in an age when mental health/well-being and isolation/loneliness issues are at the forefront of concerns, it seems unwise to close down a facility which can bring so many benefits to the community. Its location within the Penicuik Centre is also a great advantage for community involvement. It is quite alarming that a town the size of Penicuik cannot afford a library...
Suggestion: rather than closing, maybe reduce its opening times and introduce a small contribution for the library users who might also become involved as volunteers.

2) Resources / Commercial operations

- closing Penicuik recycling centre: this would again disadvantage Penicuik more than Dalkeith, as Stoshid is much nearer to Dalkeith.
- stopping supported bus grants and reduce community transport support: this would also disadvantage people who haven't got a car, at a time when society is trying to encourage public transport rather than increased car travel.

3) Finance and Integrated Support Services

"digital by default": again every body is not on-line or indeed confident/able to operate digital equipment.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)



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I strongly object to the following proposals

~~Education~~ Communities & Economy 2, 6, 7 and 8

Education 1

Customer & Housing 4.

Commercial Operations 3, 4, 11, 12, 16, 17, 24

Property & facilities 11

In general, a tidy, safe environment is important as is protecting transport links (101 bus subsidy, snow-clearing of roads (but not necessarily pavements)) Libraries and schools are vital. I am not interested in an un-manned library - wouldn't feel safe.

In favour of charges for musical tuition + review of lets for after school clubs, closure of Polton Bowling Club, reduction in school crossing guards

Your name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted]

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Stopping Pest Control Service would be a backward step in the Environmental Health Department of the county

There should be no charge for instrument tuition
The creative side of education should be encouraged.

School crossing service should continue for the safety of children.

Every school should have a janitor on the premises
Lifeguard cover - two to each pool should be retained for safety.

There should be no reduction in spending on road maintenance.

Provision of floral displays - a great pity to lose the lovely arrangements around the county
Does this include borders around war memorials - if so, what does that say about our county?

Council tax could be raised to increase income for essential services. Perhaps sharing with

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

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Midlothian

MIDLOTHIAN PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE - COMMENTS

No one can be unaware of the financial difficulties faced by local authorities today. I have read your Programme for Change and am shocked at proposals which will make life harder and drearier for all residents, but will particularly affect the disadvantaged.

Historically Midlothian has a reputation for poor rent collection and very low council house rents. Rent collection is still well below the Scottish average. There is room for improvement which should be tackled. Have council rents been increased to a commensurate level compared with other local authorities? If not this is not a matter for self-congratulation if it adversely affects the rest of the community with loss of services

Midlothian is a small council. Could more savings could be made by combining more services with neighbouring councils? Although this might mean the loss of some jobs it could also improve the career structure of smaller departments.

New housing development is proceeding at an unprecedented rate. Several small housing developments in one area contribute little to community amenities but increase the burden on statutory and non-statutory services. This system makes a nonsense of planning regulation as we end up with more houses and worse services. Have plans for cuts taken into account increasing demand from a bigger population for amenity services? In particular libraries, leisure and recycling services. Our roads will be even more crowded if residents have to journey miles for recreation and leisure.

Leisure centres I think it is unfeasible to expect local communities to run leisure centres. Like libraries they are important indicators to the wellbeing of communities and this is a very shortsighted proposal. Keep fit classes keep the elderly out of social care and hospitals. The dozens of clubs catering for all ages, interests and ability might be forced to close, especially if they lose their funding as well. Their loss would cause immense social deprivation. There is plenty of evidence to show that areas deprived of all social amenities suffer increased crime.

Libraries As an elderly Roslin Glen resident I strongly object to the proposed closure of Roslin library. It is well used. Free public libraries are a sign of a civilised world and the demand for books and information shows no sign of abating despite the Internet. The suggestion for a single central library makes no sense at all in a local authority area which is essentially a collection of small villages and towns and not a single urban centre. If subsidized bus services are also cut Roslin and other villages will be deprived and isolated. The poor and elderly will be the most affected.

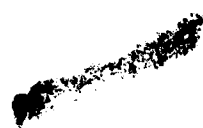
 Roslin resident

Recycling The proposal to close the Penicuik recycling centre I fear will be counter productive as it is almost certain to lead to an increase in flytipping. Already our rural roads are blighted by this and by litter.

Other countries have community groups that adopt local rural roads for clearing litter. Do they have more civic awareness than Midlothian residents? I am ashamed that overseas visitors to Roslin Chapel pass through roads covered in cans, plastic bottles and fast food packaging. Do the new fast food outlets make an extra financial contribution to rubbish collection costs? If not perhaps it is time they did. Cutting waste collections may make flytipping and littering worse.

Formal Flowerbeds I am saddened by the thought that formal flowerbeds will be abandoned. Is there a possibility that communities could adopt these? It might encourage pride in our surroundings. As an example, perhaps the British Legion could adopt those round war memorials.

Grants to Voluntary Groups Cutting grants to voluntary groups could mean the loss of essential services that the council cannot provide. Charitable groups fill important gaps in our social services. In particular I am concerned about any reduction in grant to the Women's Aid Society, which is a wonderful provider of help to abused women and their children



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- => Reduce learning assistants by 10% => Even more pressure on teachers when morale among staff is already low. Direct impact on those children who need additional support.
- => Revised fees charges for after school clubs which ultimately will have a direct impact on working parents.
- => Library services to be reduced to 1 library in midlothian. People use the libraries for IT access also. A place for people to socialise will be withdrawn.
- = Litter is a huge problem throughout midlothian due to wind + high proportion of fly-tipping. By closing a recycling centre we only encourage more fly-tipping and for an unsightly environment in which to reside.
- = So many of these proposals are short-sighted and no long term solutions.
- ~~Essentially for the long~~

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)



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Keeping Roslin Library open should be a top priority. It is used for more than just borrowing books. People without access to home computers need it. Older people will struggle to get to one centralized library. There are many young families in the village who use the library a lot and would not have time to get to a centralized unit.

Consider asking government for more money and increasing Council Tax.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)



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Fresh Thinking required: -

MHC seem to be behind the curve
in new Income Streams -

Do we need a Snowsports Centre -
next yr predicted to bring in
a round £1m additional income?

How? Impact statement -

Vogrie - do we need this?

Can HR function be outsourced.

The proposed savings are principally
cuts with very little 'new' thinking

Green Energy Company

Staff have been encouraged to send
in Tell Ken Ideas - is there any

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

feedback on these

ie what has been implemented?

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

Have Your Say 2017 - Comments Sheet

Please read our **Summary of Proposed Savings 2018/19 to 2021/22**, available in local libraries or online at www.midlothian.gov.uk/shapingourfuture. You can also add your comments and suggestions here and hand this sheet in to your local library or at any Midlothian Council customer service point. If you prefer, you can also email: HaveYourSay@midlothian.gov.uk or post your comments to: Have Your Say, Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN.

- Rebalancing Social Care - saving £4.6M!
Very little explanation of how this will be implemented
- Seems to contradict the Council Leader's statement that we have one of the oldest populations in Scotland.
- Football pitches - advised Roslin pitch has already closed.
- Why have the Council not come forward with Enterprising proposals before now given the rate at which reserves have been depleted over the last few years?
- Merger with other Councils appears to be the only way forward? - E. Loth / W Lothian
- Roslin library - reduced hrs but no closure
- 30% of Midlothian people volunteer and the officials appear to think there are another batch who will take over leisure centres?
- larger Blue Bins - can allow monthly collections.
- Fresh leadership required at MLC - too many Senior Management have been in post for far too long. Not healthy e.g. Council NO2 JB been in post for 20+ yrs!

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



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I am disgusted with the proposed cuts. I live in Roslin & the library & community hall are in danger of going - there is nothing else in Roslin. We are however having even more houses built. Why? If cuts are to be made - start at the top - the high paid officials - most of the work is done by the ground staff. By making these cuts & increasing prices at leisure centres you will be producing children who have no chance to read & adults who will not be able to afford exercise. As usual everything seems to be moved to Dalkeith - can't think the largest town in Midlothian - if so that's where most of its amenities should go. Whoever was in charge of budgeting in Midlothian has made a complete mess of it & should be sacked. That would probably save more money than closing Roslin library. It's always 'jobs for the boys'.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

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- ① Roslin library should remain open. Our village is having housing built and we are going to be left with no amenities and no "heart" to our village.
- ② Pavilion should remain open — where are the out of school clubs to be held? Where can villagers go for their activities which take place there?
- ③ How can 1 janitor look after 2 schools? Are they to be provided with transport? How much of their working day be taken up traveling between schools?

You must be getting extra council tax from all the building across Midlothian please use it to keep our villages viable.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

Please add your comments and suggestions here and hand this sheet in to your local library or at any Midlothian Council customer service point. You can also email: HaveYourSay@midlothian.gov.uk or post your comments to: Have Your Say, Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN. Visit www.midlothian.gov.uk/shapingourfuture for more information.

I was extremely disappointed to learn that you are considering closing the libraries at Roslin & Penicuik. These are vital community resources, used by a wide range of individuals, from small children to the elderly. Not only are they educational centres, not only do they promote literacy and IT skills, they are community hubs offering opportunities for creative learning and networking. Removing these from the local community, at a time when there is increasing evidence of ^{social} fragmentation and the isolation of the most vulnerable, is tantamount to closing the heart of the community in order to save a few pounds. It is simply unacceptable.

Both my children have learned to love books through using the Roslin & Penicuik library. But more importantly, they have learned to appreciate & rely on the sense of an active local

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)

centres promote. Please reconsider.



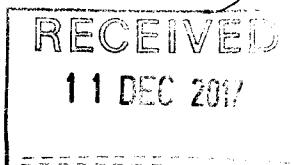
24	Merging of S&S/FM Staff in Hubs. Reduce staff costs (4 FTE) by combining similar roles currently carried out by Facilities and Sport and Leisure staff within the same building complex.	0.122	0.122	112
25	Selling Services. Covering the costs of the Special Projects Co-ordinator by selling the service to other local authorities or entering into a shared service arrangement. The Co-ordinator is involved in master planning projects and large scale section 75 contributions.	0.000	0.050	113
26	Destination Hillend. A business plan to transform the Snowsports Centre into a year round tourist attraction is nearing completion.	0.000	1.000	114
27	Fees and Charges. Increase sport and leisure fees and charges with an annual target of achieving £50,000 increased income per annum.	0.100	0.400	115
	Total	0.904	4.734	
	Directorate Proposal Summary			
	Executive	0.000	0.250	
	Education, Communities and Economy	2.196	3.235	
	Adult, Health and Social Care	2.030	7.944	
	Resources	4.324	11.829	
	Total	8.550	23.258	

Savings Proposals – Potential staffing implications

Directorate	No of posts*
Executive	2
Education, Communities and Economy	30.3
Adult, Health and Social Care	43
Resources	167
Total	242.3

*full time equivalent





Mr Kenneth Lawrie
Chief Executive
Midlothian Council
40-46 Buccleuch Street
Dalkeith
EH22 1DN

Date as postmark

Dear Sir

Midlothian Council Budget Consultation – 2018/19

As a resident of Midlothian I would request that Midlothian Council in their budget consultation for 2018/19 should include funding for Gullane Home in their final proposals to be presented to the Council.

I would also request that you copy this letter to all Councillors before any decision is made.

Signed

Address

[Redacted signature and address block]



From: Doherty RA (Richard) <Richard.Doherty@parliament.scot> on behalf of Johnstone A (Alison), MSP <Alison.Johnstone.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 14 December 2017 14:07
To: ptu
Cc: HaveYourSay
Subject: 51/52 Bus service

Dear Ms Young,

I am writing today to highlight my support for efforts to save the 51/52 bus service, operated by Borders Buses with support from Midlothian Council, and linking those from as far afield as Jedburgh and Kelso with Edinburgh and the many towns and villages in between. I have serious concerns about the impact that Midlothian Council's proposal to withdraw support for this essential service would have on the many people who rely upon it.

People use this bus to shop, visit friends and use other essential local services. Removing this option will impact on journeys to and from school and medical facilities. It will increase isolation amongst those who can't access private transport. It will affect the local economy. This kind of short term thinking drives people into cars and is at odds with national and local policies.

As you will be aware, the three Key Strategic Outcomes set out in the current National Transport Strategy are intended to be used as the guiding principles at national, regional and local level when developing strategy and prioritising resources.

The three Key Strategic Outcomes are: Improved journey times and connections, to tackle congestion and lack of integration and connections in transport; Reduced emissions, to tackle climate change, air quality, health improvement; and Improved quality, accessibility and affordability, to give choice of public transport, better quality services and value for money or alternative to car.

The document, Change Programme: Addressing Midlothian Council's Financial Challenge to 2021/22, states that "Withdrawal of bus grant would lead to these services stopping thereby removing perhaps the only means of people getting around for work, shopping and leisure. In addition to this impacting the low paid, elderly and the disabled a reduction in support to the community transport providers would particularly hit vulnerable groups. The single Midlothian Plan places a focus on promoting sustainable travel, particularly by reducing the adverse impacts of car travel. A reduction in bus services could lead to increased car use."

According to Midlothian Council's Transport Policy, Midlothian Council's Travel Plan for 2017 to 2021 "will make our operational travel and transport greener and fairer", with targets including "a 10% drop in the number of people who drive to work".

Given how clearly the withdrawal of support for this service would run counter to the stated aims of both national and local government highlighted above, I would urge the Scottish Government, Midlothian Council, and Borders Buses to halt any plans to withdraw support for this service, and to work together with affected communities to ensure that they are satisfied there will be no reduction of the public transport options available to them.

I firmly believe that we should be doing all we can to ensure our cities, towns and villages have a sustainable future, not making them unattractive for those who rely on public transport. [REDACTED]

I am grateful for your consideration of the points made above, and I look forward to your response.

Best wishes,
Alison



Alison Johnstone MSP for Lothian | Scottish Green Party

MG.19 Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP
0131 348 6362 | alison.johnstone.msp@parliament.scot
greens.scot/msps/alison-johnstone | [@AlisonJohnstone](https://www.instagram.com/AlisonJohnstone)

*Surgeries by appointment. Please ring or email me to arrange.
Alternatively you can text the Scottish Parliament on 07786 209 888,
addressing your comments to Alison Johnstone MSP.*



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The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

Summary of Proposed Savings document

I have read the Summary of Proposed Savings document, while understanding the need to save money the proposals contained in this document are frightening.

These proposals give the impression that Midlothian Council is prepared to abdicate its responsibilities in running services throughout the county, by again targeting the services that should not be targeted but protected.

When it comes to education you seem quite prepared to abandon the young people that need help and support the most by reducing Learning Assistant posts, reviewing Surestart contracts, Lifelong Learning and employability are all geared to reducing the support that vulnerable children and young people need in order to grow, develop and reach their full potential. Add to this the proposal to change High School meals to soup and a sandwich and increasing the cost of school meals when a lot of school children rely on a hot meal at school as their only hot meal of the day is an idea that is hard to understand. The proposal to remove the non-statutory School Crossing Guides is again an idea that is difficult to understand. Do you really think that this is a cut worth making? Will whatever savings this cut makes cover the cost of any compensation payment to be paid to parents whose children are hurt or even worse while crossing the road at where a guide was in place? This can only lead to more traffic on the road in front of schools as more and more parents drive their children to school.

Again you target the vulnerable in our society by proposing to move Council provision of Adult Health and Social Care services to an already overstretched private sector where recruitment and retention of staff is already difficult, unless proper financial resources are made available, even more pressure will be placed on these service providers.

You propose a reduction, even removal of the pest control service take this together with your proposal to remove street sweeping of town centres and shop fronts at weekend. Due to the amount of take away cartons dropped in the street, the amount of discarded food dropped in the street already, the removal of these two services can only lead to an increase in vermin as they feast on these discarded items over the weekend, or are you expecting shop owners to step in and clean this mess for you?

You talk of wanting to move more services for residents of the county on-line, this assumes that people have smart phones, tablets or computers to be able to do this. People without these devices would go to their local Library to access a computer and use these new on-line services, but this facility would be unavailable to them as you propose to have only one central Library and close the rest!

The proposal to have one central Library and close the branch Libraries and the mobile Library is cultural vandalism of the worst kind. Where would this central Library be situated? Why build new Libraries and accept government funds to provide free Wi-Fi in Libraries if you intend to close them? The removal of the mobile Library will lead to elderly housebound residents of the county becoming unable to read and becoming even more socially isolated.

Waste collection services, making the residual waste bin collection a three week service, as a single householder who recycles as much as I can, this proposal would little effect for me, but for families this could lead to problems, if a bin is full and bags are placed on the street would they be lifted by waste collection staff or left on the street? As I share a garden waste bin with three other households who would be responsible for paying the proposed charge for this service? Would it be

levied on one household or split equally between all four properties? The proposal to close the Penicuik recycling centre can only lead to an increase in fly tipping and cost more to send out waste collection crews to tidy this up.

Reduce the road maintenance budget, how much more can this be reduced by? Roads throughout the county are already in a poor state of repair! Reduce the winter maintenance budget, any reduction to the number of footway routes can only lead to those with mobility issues and the elderly becoming even more socially isolated by staying indoors or going out, falling, getting injured and putting even more pressure on the already stretched Social Care services.

The proposal to stop supported bus grants, reduce community transport support and reduce the ring and go taxi scheme can only lead to the bus companies withdrawing the services that are supported, more residents of the county becoming more and more socially isolated due to the reduction of these services.

I am old enough and experienced enough to realise that these proposals are what could be called the worst case scenario and that when the grant settlement is received from the Scottish government and the final version of these cuts is made known, the cuts are not as severe as predicted, you can say didn't we do well! No you have not done well, we the council tax payers of Midlothian deserve better, we deserve a council that can deliver on services and protect the vulnerable of the county. Not one that seems prepared to do only enough to meet the legal standards set by central government.

Cllr Milligan
Leader of Midlothian Council
Midlothian Council
Midlothian House
Burdrough Street
Dalkeith
EH22 1DH

20th Nov '17

Dear Councillor Milligan,

I object to the threatened withdrawal of Midlothian Council's subsidy to the 51/52 bus service. I am told that the loss of this subsidy may lead to the withdrawal of bus services from Ford to Dalkeith. The existing service running via Ford, Edinboro and Dalkeith is of critical importance to our communities.

I am told that the level of Midlothian's subsidy for this service along the A68 corridor is about £15,000 per year and is a fraction of the millions of subsidy available to public transport services on the A7 / Borders Railway corridor.

The loss of our service into Dalkeith will cause many problems for my community including safe and environmentally responsible access to:

- Shops and banks,
- Employment,
- Education,
- Healthcare, including mental health and maternity services,
- Benefits and social services,
- Libraries and internet access,
- Social and leisure activities.

The loss of this service will have an undue effect upon the disadvantaged, the young, the elderly and the infirm.

The provision of public transport is so fundamental to the wellbeing of our community that its withdrawal may cause serious social disruption.

I urge you and your Council to resist this damaging proposal.

Yours sincerely

(Signature)

(Address)



Thursday 14th December 2017

To whom it may concern,

I write regarding the proposed cuts to Midlothian's budget and services, with the intent to:

1. **raise objections** to many of the proposed cuts to Midlothian Council's budget and services, both to those that will have a severe and disproportionate impact on support and opportunities for local people who are already poor, vulnerable and isolated, and to universal local services such as libraries, public safety and parks. I believe such cuts will lead inevitably to increased costs and burdens upon wider non-Council run services, such as healthcare and policing, and to a decrease in quality of life for all Midlothian residents at a time when the county is facing unprecedented population growth and opportunities for economic development;
2. **challenge the Council** on its failure to put the reality of budget constraints and cuts into a wider political, economic and ethical perspective;
3. **commend the Council** for some creative, longer-term thinking around housing stock, exploiting knowledge and skill assets, and renewable energy, in particular. There needs to be much greater emphasis on longer-term ideas that regard the population growth in the county as an opportunity rather than as a burden.

1. OBJECTIONS

a. Vulnerable Children and Families

My children attend **Tynewater Primary School in Pathhead**. Our local school **Parent Council** has issued the Council a letter regarding the impact of cuts to Learning Support, Early Intervention and Prevention Services and renegotiation of Sure Start programmes, all of which affect directly **vulnerable children and young people, and their families**, as well as the school population in general.

This cuts against Council's view that "education is generally the best route out of poverty" and against its stated priorities to "reduce the gap in learning outcomes and "reduce the gap in economic circumstances".

Uncertainty around the provision of Welfare Rights advocacy services, the abolition of all grants to local grassroots voluntary groups, cuts to vocational training for

and adults, increases in after school care costs, and the closure of [REDACTED] er invaluable access not only to books and learning but also to [REDACTED] vices and social interaction, will only compound this impact.

b. Subsidy cuts to the 51/52 bus service

This is the only bus service through my home village of Pathhead. Removal of subsidy to this route will jeopardise the affordability and frequency of the service, which will impact directly upon non-car owners, most of whom are people on low incomes or benefits. It will affect access to healthcare (e.g. midwifery and mental health services), weekly shopping (the sole general store in Pathhead is not suitable) and family support elsewhere in the county. It is also a failure on the Council's part to take its carbon emission targets seriously, at a time of accelerating climate change. The Council needs to incentivise use of public transport services. Any increase in private car traffic caused by population growth in the county will only knock Council costs forward onto road maintenance and road safety budgets.

c. Cuts to Instrumental Tuition in Schools

As a musician myself, and a parent, I know the value of music and arts education in schools, in terms of confidence building, emotional wellbeing, collaboration, and support for academic learning (research links about the positive impact of music education on other curricular areas is extensive). Though tuition to children on free meals and benefits is protected, many children from families just above the level of financial support will be unable to take up musical opportunities. This is elitist. It is also defeatist, in that the Council makes no suggestions in the budget proposals to mitigate the impact of cuts to instrumental music tuition by, for example, increasing whole class access to music teaching opportunities such as singing, or music technology.

d. Knocking Cost Impacts Elsewhere

A number of budget proposals illustrate the piecemeal nature of the Council's approach, and the likelihood of false economies across different departments, or the knocking on of costs to non-Council services such as policing and healthcare.

a. The removal of non-statutory crossing patrols around schools and cuts to winter roads maintenance both sound like a recipe for more road accidents, and therefore more health and emergency services costs.

b. Reductions in flood management and structural maintenance budgets in a time of climate change induced wetter weather sound like storing up trouble for the future.

c. The abolishing of all grants to local voluntary groups cuts against the desire both to save money and increase community participation. The Change paper states that "It is likely that the scale of reduction proposed would have adverse impacts in areas including adult social care, children's services, criminal justice, and healthy living

(NHS)". If this is the case, as seems inevitable, then why is this proposal included? It is not a true saving across the Council's whole budget, or across spending for wider public services, so much as a paper exercise for one department. In its ethos, it cuts altogether against the Council's stated wish to develop volunteering within the county and to transfer assets and management of services to community groups. Communities are unlikely to be inspired to take up these opportunities to fill service gaps if grassroots groups, **which already save the Council money**, are penalised by cuts.

Is there any Department or team with an overview of how these different proposals interact with one another? The document does not read as if there is. And that is very worrying.

2. CHALLENGE THE COUNCIL

Whilst I recognise the many legal and financial constraints the Council faces, the current budget proposals are an admission of defeat and offer no vision or adequate challenge to the circumstances that have created the cuts environment.

There is **no questioning of the wider economic culture**, especially the logic and necessity of austerity and low taxation. Individual councils such as Midlothian, and Scottish councils collectively, need to step up to this moment by **challenging the constraints created by settlements from the Scottish and UK Governments**, and challenging some of the assumptions that underpin the budget as presented. Councils could, for example, **campaign around the burden of debt** they bear. The UK Government has, in the past, written off banking debts because it deems banks "too big to fail". I, and many others, would argue that Council services are too essential to cut.

In order to argue such a case, the Council would need also to campaign locally, encouraging all of us, as local taxpayers, individuals, families and businesses, **to understand what is required from us in order to fund and support the services** and local assets that we believe are essential.

The Council needs to **advocate much more strongly for the quality, value and necessity of many of the existing services**, to which cuts are being proposed, and for the positive impact these services have upon individuals, families and businesses in the county. Otherwise, those of us who do not need to access such services find it hard to care about those services, or to understand the impact of their loss for others.

[REDACTED]

3. COMMEND THE COUNCIL

The Council proposes **some potentially smart, creative and cash-saving and/or income generating ideas** around:

- a. ending B&B homeless accommodation and replacing with reuse of Council properties - this is not only economically sensible, but offers greater security and dignity for vulnerable homeless people.
- b. a possible county-wide Housing Company to build mid market accommodation for rent and sale. The lack of affordable mid market accommodation is a major problem in Pathhead, where all village housing developments in recent years have been marketed at executive level. But there has been extensive house building across the county. There needs to be far greater leverage placed upon private housing companies to fund the necessary community infrastructure to sustain population growth in Midlothian.
- c. enhanced renewable energy and smart technologies – this is long overdue not only for economic reasons but because the Council has an obligation to reduce carbon emissions and promote environmental sustainability.
- d. the selling on of in-house expertise
- e. greater efficiency e.g. sharing services between Councils
- f. the possible transfer of ownership to local communities of community halls, road verges and flower beds. There's great potential in this idea. But it represents both an opportunity and a challenge for local ownership and engagement. To be meaningful, the concept of "co-production" with local communities requires a massive cultural shift, and a supported handover process, not simply a dumping onto local communities that lack the infrastructure or finances to manage any such transition. The simultaneous removal of grants from existing local groups already providing voluntary services will place great strain about local communities, and diminish opportunities for a positive working relationship with the Council.

I love living in this county and think it has a lot to offer to its people. The Council as a whole, across all party lines, needs to do more to argue for its own worth, more to encourage our participation as local residents, and to enhance our awareness of the wider political and economic culture that creates the cuts environment, and more to articulate a sense of hope for Midlothian moving forward. The Change programme as presented is negative, defeatist, and targets the most vulnerable, isolated and under-privileged members of our communities.

Thanks and best wishes,



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2017 06:53
To: HaveYourSay
Subject: Budget consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I share the same concerns and back the suggestions proposed by the Eskbank & Newbattle in their open letter.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

To Midlothian Council Officers and Elected Members

Midlothian Change Programme 2018 – 2022

On behalf of the Eskbank & Newbattle Community Council (ENCC), I am pleased to submit this response to the proposed Change Programme.

We recognise the scale of the challenge facing Midlothian Council and understand that unprecedented measures will have to be taken. We hope to actively engage with officers and elected representatives to develop practical approaches to mitigate the negative impacts of any necessary cuts and to develop better partnerships to maximise community participation in alternative methods of delivering services.

However, we are not convinced that the Change Programme, as published, is an adequate or appropriate response to the current situation.

The programme offered is overwhelmingly negative. It offers little hope for the future. All this just at the time when Midlothian is about to embark upon the most concentrated period of growth in a century.

There is no mention of what we do well. What is worth keeping? What is worth protecting and what can we build on?

There is no identification of what we do badly. What should we dispose of? What can we give up?

Instead we are offered an incoherent 'shopping list' of incremental savings. There is no sense of pride in what we can do and have already achieved. There is little to engage and enthuse the wider community. In short – there is no vision.

Our first criticism of the proposals is that we are disappointed that Midlothian Council has not taken advantage of the 10, or more, months that have elapsed since the Scottish government made clear its intentions to make significant reductions in the Local Authority grant settlement.

In our view it is a missed opportunity to have spent this precious time – and so much effort – on prioritising cuts to basic services. Rather, this time should have been focused on growth and efficiency, developing shared services, more urgently, with other local authorities and finding ways to generate additional income to compensate for central government shortfalls. Additionally, Council did not appoint some outside objective body/consultants to review officers' proposals, propose alternatives and assess impacts.

Our second criticism is of your assumption that cuts are the answer. We cannot cut our way to resolving this budget shortfall, even in the short term, without an unacceptable reduction in the quality of life of Midlothian citizens. Unfortunately, council officers have taken exactly this unrealistic approach. In our analysis of the proposals, we note that 60% of the proposed savings come from the reduction or elimination of services and facilities that we all depend on. A further 13% of savings come from increasing charges, meaning that almost three quarters of the savings come from cancelling services people currently depend on, or charging them more for them.

Whilst increased charges must always be an option, a strategy that depends so much on a reduction in quality of life and limitation of care for the needy must surely be met by an energetic embrace of much more transformative options and a determination to make fundamental changes to the system that places local authorities in this position.

In formulating the budget options we believe effort should be focused on “What kind of Vision can we have for Midlothian?” and “What changes do we need to champion in local government financing to ensure we can never be in this position again?”.

We do not believe that the answer to these questions can possibly be “Midlothian is to become a place where vulnerable people are unable to access vital services through lack of provision or lack of transport, where our children's safety is compromised, where public spaces are unkempt and overgrown, and our libraries – one of the few spaces left in communities that aren't monetised – are closed”. Nor do we believe that it would be acceptable for Midlothian not to develop a strategy to work with all relevant bodies to create a financing system that works for local government. If the Scottish Government won't provide councils with the funding they need, they must give them the power to raise more money themselves.

Our final criticism is that so many of the proposed cuts are accompanied with a totally inadequate impact assessment that is disappointingly superficial, with no considered estimation of the potential costs of unintended consequences or mitigation efforts. In short, many of these proposals are unrealistic and non-implementable. It is hard to believe that there is a single member of the administration or management who believes that this plan is a credible blueprint for action.

Our alternative proposal, therefore, is that all effort is now dedicated to the development of an alternative strategy. This strategy should recognise that future budget settlements are unlikely to improve local government finances through grants and the only civilised solution to our funding difficulties lies in a multi-pronged approach that prioritises:

1. Benchmarking Midlothian performance in service delivery against other Scottish local authorities, so that we can build on what we do well and remedy what we don't do well. These performance parameters must be easy for citizens to understand and regularly reported on.
2. Reviewing the proposed cuts to identify all sensible measures to achieve savings and implement optimisation of operational efficiencies to reduce costs, without fundamentally damaging the fabric of society.
3. Retaining and developing the proposed commercial activities in the plan, but enhance the chance of success by actively partnering with established businesses to maximise revenue generation from MC assets and to import best practices.

4. Increased rationalisation of the workforce to eliminate unjustifiable staff costs, through a continuous process of top-to-bottom review of current work practice.
5. Increasing the number and accelerating the development of operational agreements with other Local Authorities to achieve economies of scale.
6. Developing a realistic programme of work to develop community and third sector capacity to reduce demand on MC. This would include measures to maximise the contribution of the Community Justice Team.
7. Coordinating with all other Local Authorities to lobby Scottish government to permit actions to raise income and council taxes to meet some of the increased costs.
8. Quantifying the negative impact on Midlothian of insufficiently compensated development activity and seeking redress through modifying the governing legislation and permitted use of funds.
9. (Recognising that steps 4 – 7 are only going to realise gains in the medium term and that the budget has to be balanced in the immediate term) :Seeking investment from Scottish government, instead of increased grant, for a 5-year plan to develop the skills, capabilities and commercial enterprises necessary to achieve the planned transformation of service delivery and increase in revenues.

The following paragraphs elaborates aspects of our views, related to the above proposals.

1. Accept that not all the proposals are unacceptable: Whilst the totality of the proposed cuts in the Change Programme represents an unacceptable level of degradation of service, there are certain elements in them that may be considered to make sense and should be considered for retention in any programme of cost-saving. Midlothian Council needs to do more to engage with the public to identify which measures attract most support and cause least harm. The current round of public consultations must be recognised as insufficient, given that officers and elected members had full background of all the issues while members of the public were presented with “like it or lump it” choices. It is totally unprofessional that the people who have been elected to make choices on behalf of the public should abdicate their responsibility on these matters and that professional officers did nothing to identify options for the public to consider.

2. Work with established business partners: Proposals contained in the spending plans for revenue generation are interesting but, given the shortage of commercial expertise in the organisation, for these proposals to be considered as credible it is necessary to demonstrate that the management capacity exists – and that the market exists – for the services proposed. Midlothian Council should undertake such ventures only if external partners can be persuaded to participate in their financing and development. Success in attracting external financing would be a convincing indicator of project and market viability. High priority areas for joint investment with external partners would include:

- **Banking:** the creation of a Bank or Credit Union, to serve the needs of local people and businesses ought to be explored. A Credit Union for the Lothians would perform the vital service of supporting local businesses and communities, unlike the big national banks who are busy closing branches. In addition, banks, quite literally, create money.
- **Energy generation:** in addition to embracing energy savings, the production of energy ought to be added to the options considered. This could take the form of small-scale community joint projects, or larger-scale, commercial operations. The energy company, OVO, already has a number of operations in partnership with local authorities in England.
- **Leisure Services:** There can be no justification for continuing with ownership of the Winter Sports Centre at Hillend. It is long-established that the major market for this facility is in Edinburgh. The current “suggestions” that it might be made more profitable cannot be considered as convincing. A commercial partner should be sought for the further development of Hillend Winter Sports Centre – and perhaps other leisure facilities – to inject some much-needed cash for improvements and commercial skills. Midlothian Council should consider selling an appropriate stake in all such ventures, retaining some ownership/shareholding to benefit from future profits.

3.Reducing Headcount: Redundancies must be part of the options considered. It is unacceptable that consideration is being given to reducing levels of care while keeping people on staff who have no job. In parallel with sharing services, consideration ought to be given to sharing staff functions. With all of our neighbouring local authorities going through the same process and possibly applying the same logic, there will be a significant reduction in manpower across the Lothians alone. In that circumstance, it seems remarkable that only one senior management position will be cut. It is our view that there must be scope for considering sharing some levels of expertise across several local authorities, resulting in an overall saving to each.

4. Extend scope and speed of sharing services: The proposals for sharing of services with other local authorities are both disappointing and timid, given the scale of the approaching crisis. It seems hardly credible that it will not be possible to negotiate any sharing of services until the 2019-20 budget period and that, ultimately, less than a cumulative £2 million can be saved. It seems more credible that significant savings can be made from operating joined-up multi-authority services than from selling consultancy expertise to them.

5. Transferring responsibilities to Communities: Significant emphasis is being placed on transferring assets to communities, or to mobilise communities to maintain some facilities. This is a very worthwhile objective but is not being considered realistically. Experience from other Scottish Councils, under the Resilient Communities initiative, shows that it can take up to 5 years to develop the necessary capacity and capability in the community. Local examples such as the Kabin in Loanhead and the Storehouse in Penicuik illustrate the dangers of failing to prepare communities appropriately for taking on such responsibilities. Midlothian needs to develop a comprehensive plan to build community capacity and needs to invest in this activity and the necessary continuing support services.

6. Work with other authorities to change the environment: It is not unrealistic to assume that the public may be willing to pay more to preserve and protect essential services. We advocate an approach to Scottish Government – in concert with all other Scottish Local Authorities – to delegate authority for a proposal to significantly increase the revenue raised through Council Tax. A 3% increase is projected to raise £1.274 million, so a 15% increase would raise over £6 million, which would make a significant dent in the budget shortfall. This may seem extreme, but Midlothian Council must fully engage with the public to fine-tune any proposals and establish what people are willing to pay for. The process used for participatory budgeting should prove to be adaptable for this.

7. Ensure developers pay a fair share: Midlothian is required, under the terms of the recently approved MLDP, to accept the development of almost 8,800 homes over the period 2018 – 2024. Approximately 4,400 of these homes will be built in the period 2018 – 2019, if targets are to be met. Midlothian currently charges developers around £23-24,000 per dwelling in developers contributions for each home built, which will raise more than £100 million in this period. Unfortunately, this is not enough to compensate for the negative impact of such intensive development. We propose increasing charges to developers for every home they propose to build on a speculative basis, to a level which could eliminate the deficit completely. If, for example, the contribution was doubled, this would raise an additional £100 million in the next two years. Midlothian Council needs to adopt the principle that any home being built in Midlothian must make a positive contribution to the overall wellbeing and financial sustainability of the county. With significant growth over the next few years being one of the major contributing factors to the budget shortfall it is unacceptable that developers are not being required to increase their contributions significantly. It is recognised that there is a considerable body of law and regulation that constrains what can currently be asked of developer contributions and what uses can be made of them. That is no excuse for ignoring both the negative impacts of increasing development and the potential for leveraging that development to mitigate its effects. It will, undoubtedly, be a medium-term task to make the necessary changes to current law and regulations, but that is not a reason to fail to confront the self-evident need to make speculative development as profitable for communities as it is for developers.

8. Eliminate the Growth Penalty: The current situation, where local authorities suffer a reduction in Scottish Government Grant whenever Council Tax revenues are increased, severely penalises Midlothian, in particular, due to the growth targets we have had imposed on us by Scottish government. Midlothian must engage with all

Councillor D. Milligan,
Leader of Midlothian Council,
Midlothian House,
Buccleuch Street,
Dalkeith
EH22 1DN

12 December 2017

Dear Councillor Milligan,

**Proposed Budget Savings: Commercial Operations – Travel and Fleet
Withdrawal of supported bus grants and reduction of community transport support**

We write to express our views on the proposal to withdraw Council support for Midlothian's supported bus services, with particular reference to the Borders Bus service 51/52 which provides a lifeline public transport link for the villages of Pathhead, Ford, Dewartown, Edgehead and Whitehill.

It is fully appreciated that the Council is facing unprecedented pressures on its budget. However, the likely consequences of the proposed loss of this vital service need to be properly evaluated before a decision is taken on 'Shaping our Future' which will, in fact, undermine the short- and long-term sustainability of our village communities. The following points summarise the key issues that need full and honest consideration.

The service 51/52 provides residents of Midlothian's A68 villages with access to essential services and facilities in Dalkeith and beyond. This is all the more important as community services (banks, mobile library and shops) are lost and become concentrated in Dalkeith. Our village, Edgehead, has no shop, the village school has already been closed, the mobile library has gone and there is no meeting place since the Church of Scotland sold off the church hall. Our nearest bank is in Dalkeith (but for how long?) and the GP surgery and pharmacy is at the far end of Pathhead, a walk of around 2 km with a steep valley between. There is a very poor mobile phone signal.

The bus service is an important element in supporting a working population in the villages as the location of employment opportunities inevitably means commuting to Dalkeith and Edinburgh. For those without access to a car, the service 51/52 is their only means of getting to work each day, including those who use it to get access to Lothian bus services for onward transit to key employment centres such as The Gyle and Ocean Terminal. Many lower paid workers are totally dependent on this service. Many rely on access to Dalkeith Library to gain access to online services.

For the non-working population, many are without access to a car, meaning that the bus service is their only means of leaving their homes (the community dial-a-bus service is also [redacted]). The demographic profile of the villages means that there is a high proportion of retired people. Increasing social isolation is likely to have a detrimental effect on demands for health and social work services. In offering this budget cut, the Council's Commercial Operations team identified that the worst affected groups will be the low paid, elderly and disabled, the most vulnerable groups in society. This runs contrary to any Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment and may incur costs greater than any savings from the withdrawal of support for the bus.

Recent expansion in these villages has been on the basis of a regular bus service. The Council's decision on permission for the current development of 19 houses in Edgehead (committed development h71 in the Single Midlothian Plan) was largely justified on the basis of a sustainable public transport service. Policy TRAN2 of the Plan gives a commitment to supporting bus services in connection with the delivery of its development strategy, including in terms of its strategy for economic growth. The Single Midlothian Plan was only adopted on 7th November 2017. The potential impact on service outcomes, identified by the Commercial Operations team, acknowledges that this budget cut could result in increased car use and admits that it is contrary to the Single Midlothian Plan which places a focus on sustainable travel, particularly by reducing the adverse impacts of car travel. Policy RD1 regarding development in the countryside (both housing and businesses) only allows new development if it is accessible by public transport and services, either within 1600m of a settlement or bus route with at least one bus per hour.

The majority of the new houses in Edgehead are not yet occupied but families moving into these houses will simply add to Midlothian's growing problems of traffic congestion, greatly exacerbated by its rapid expansion to satisfy the Edinburgh housing market. Those living in Midlothian's towns have a choice of frequent bus services, even penetrating into the vast areas of new housing. By contrast, the A68 villages have been content with the near hourly service 51/52, allowing residents to include public transport as a viable alternative when planning their travel requirements.

Public transport is a preferred mode of travel when considering emissions, and by inference mitigating climate change and pollution - policies that Midlothian Council has promoted through its Single Midlothian Plan and in signing up to the Climate Change Charter.

The savings achieved by removing the subsidies to the rural bus services are minimal (estimated to be £18,000 per annum) and totally out of proportion to the scale of their impact on the individuals and communities affected. Expenditure on the Council's Education and Social Work services, particularly the latter, seems to be growing out of control, swallowing up the future provision of a whole range of basic services that underpin a decent standard of living for Midlothian's residents as a whole. More stringent curbs on this growth, even if only moderate, would allow the Council to maintain a more balanced, rational and sustainable approach to serving its communities fairly. This is what the Midlothian electorate expects of a Labour-controlled council.

Finally, it is hoped and expected that the Council will seek the cooperation of Scottish Borders Council in maintaining the routeing of the service 51/52 (and similar services) through Midlothian's villages as a *quid pro quo* for the substantial input of resources by Midlothian Council in securing the reopening of the Borders Rail service. This would never have been achieved without Midlothian's unwavering cooperation and financial support.

Yours sincerely,



Lynn Cochrane

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

13/12/2017

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed cuts to Midlothian services from 2018 and in particular, the effect these will have on the wellbeing of our children.

I highlight those cuts which will have a direct and immediate impact on our children's educational attainments, their ability to thrive- and their future prospects.

The proposed cuts will have a significant impact on our children's future in many ways; those I have particular concerns about are:

1. Reduction of Early Intervention & Prevention Services
2. Reduction of Learning Assistants by 10%
3. Review of Surestart contracts
4. Reducing the existing provision of the Devolved School Management carry-forward allowance from 2.5% to 1.5% resulting in a saving of 1%.
5. Charging for Instrumental Tuition.
6. Review of let charges for after school clubs, proposing an increase from 5% to 50% of the full let charge.
7. Reduction in Library Services.
8. Withdrawal of supported bus grants and reduction in community transport support.
9. Increasing the charging for school meals.

I urge you to ensure that thorough impact assessments of all proposed cuts are undertaken and that the risks and consequential cost implications are fully understood. I would urge you to consider carefully the longer term implications of these measures, both for future distribution of costs and the future of our children's health, wellbeing, education and opportunities.

I would also urge you to lobby Members of the Scottish Parliament to oppose the reduction in Local Authority funding which necessitate the proposed cuts.

[REDACTED]

Cllr Milligan
Leader of Midlothian Council
Midlothian Council
Midlothian House
Buccleugh Street
Dalkeith
EH22 1DN

30th Nov '17

Dear Councillor Milligan,

I object to the threatened withdrawal of Midlothian Council's subsidy to the 51/52 bus service. I am told that the loss of this subsidy may lead to the withdrawal of bus services from Ford to Dalkeith. The existing service running via Ford, Edgehead and Dalkeith is of critical importance to our communities.

I am told that the level of Midlothian's subsidy for this service along the A66 corridor is about £18,000 per year and is a fraction of the millions of subsidy available to public transport services on the A7 / Borders Railway corridor.

The loss of our service into Dalkeith will cause many problems for my community including safe and environmentally responsible access to:

- Shops and banks,
- Employment,
- Education,
- Healthcare, including mental health and maternity services,
- Benefits and social services,
- Libraries and Internet access,
- Social and leisure activities.

The loss of this service will have an undue effect upon the disadvantaged, the young, the elderly and the infirm.

The provision of public transport is so fundamental to the wellbeing of our community that its withdrawal may cause serious social disruption.

I urge you and your Council to resist this damaging proposal.

Yours sincerely

(signed)

(address)



①

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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Education Reduce Learning Assistants

- do not agree as more + more pupils entering main stream schools with additional needs. You are already saving money by the closure of Nursery Schs (no H.T. salaries and spreading the Nursery Teachers working time through out the LARGE nursery classes.

Library Services - Please save PENICUIK

a busy friendly environment with many on going activities (Book Bags wld be a great loss to many young Mums)

Could you not make nominal charges for activities and STOP the free use of computers, clog bags etc.

COMMERCIAL OPS eg back field grass

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

cutting PENICUIK HSCN too frequent. Was it necessary to resurface car parks

Midlothian

Oh
brilliant!

24	Merging of S&S/FM Staff in Hubs. Reduce staff costs (4 FTE) by combining similar roles currently carried out by Facilities and Sport and Leisure staff within the same building complex.	0.122	0.122	112
25	Selling Services. Covering the costs of the Special Projects Co-ordinator by selling the service to other local authorities or entering into a shared service arrangement. The Co-ordinator is involved in master planning projects and large scale section 75 contributions.	0.000	0.050	113
26	Destination Hillend. A business plan to transform the Snowsports Centre into a year round tourist attraction is nearing completion.	0.000	1.000	114
27	Fees and Charges. Increase sport and leisure fees and charges with an annual target of achieving £50,000 increased income per annum.	0.100	0.400	115
Total		0.904	4.734	
Directorate Proposal Summary				
Executive		0.000	0.250	
Education, Communities and Economy		2.196	3.235	
Adult, Health and Social Care		2.030	7.944	
Resources		4.324	11.829	
Total		8.550	23.258	

Savings Proposals – Potential staffing implications

Directorate	No of posts*
Executive	2
Education, Communities and Economy	30.3
Adult, Health and Social Care	43
Resources	167
Total	242.3

*full time equivalent

② at Sacred Heart P.Sch + P.H.S (AND paint^{white} lines!!)
when money is tight? Plenty empty spaces
whilst adjoining streets congested.

PENICUIK recycling centre Something needs
to change here — congestion on Bellman's
road — causing difficulties to residents
in surrounding homes.

Yes you have to make savings but
considering PENICUIK is the biggest town
(+expanding) in Midlothian please
leave us with resources

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2018/19 to 2021/22

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AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING: -

Executive team: 1

Education, communities & economy: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Education: 5

Customer & housing services: 1, 5

Resources: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25,
26, 27, 28

Finance & Integrated support: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Property & Facilities Management: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,
14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27

DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING: -

Education, communities & economy: 7, 8

Children's services: 1

Education: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7

Adult health & social care: 1

Customer & Housing Services: 2, 3, 4

Resources: 2, 3, 9, 11, 17, 18, 19, 20

Property & Facilities Management: 5, 21, 22

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted]
[Redacted]





Dear Sir

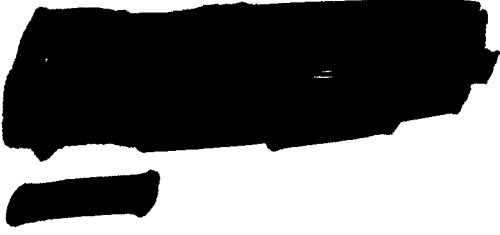
Proposed Cut in Budget of £18,000 for Borders Buses

I am absolutely opposed to the proposed cut in the subsidy.

I am an 80 year man living on my own in a Council flat, with physical and mental issues : Osteoarthritis – 2 hips replaced, and two knees to be replaced sometime in the future, and Bipolar Disorder. I am dependent on the Borders bus to do my shopping in Dalkeith, see my Psychiatrist, and get connections there to go 5 times a week to Newtongrange Leisure Centre for classes, to keep fit, and importantly to meet friends. All of these are essential to manage my Bipolar Disorder, in it's 53 year, and avoid knee operations for as long as possible.

If the removal of the subsidy denied me essential journeys to Dalkeith, then it wouldn't be long before I became a financial burden on the Council.

Yours sincerely





repeated
Cut



Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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FROM:-

RING AND GO SCHEME.

This scheme was set up when the bus service to and from Peebles to and from Edinburgh was withdrawn and sent via Penicuik at the time of Privatisation of Public Transport. The bus service had served the B.7026 road since the early 1930's and ran very successfully, without break all through the Second World War. Whilst I appreciate MCC has to balance the books and perhaps some cuts are inevitable I would make a special plea for the retention of the Ring and Go service in the area of Auchendinny to Leadburn.

As there are now many more houses both at Hoxgate and Auchendinny and many more houses and a primary school planned at Auchendinny surely there is a great need for public transport to be restored or at least a retention of the Ring and Go Scheme.

I should also point out that there are many Pensioners living in the area.

For example at Loanstone where I live there are 15 houses 8 of which are occupied by Pensioners. Older people often

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

become less able to drive and the Ring and Go Scheme becomes their lifeline for doctors, dentists, food shopping etc.

Midlothian

24	Merging of S&S/FM Staff in Hubs. Reduce staff costs (4 FTE) by combining similar roles currently carried out by Facilities and Sport and Leisure staff within the same building complex.	0.122	0.122	112
25	Selling Services. Covering the costs of the Special Projects Co-ordinator by selling the service to other local authorities or entering into a shared service arrangement. The Co-ordinator is involved in master planning projects and large scale section 75 contributions.	0.000	0.050	113
26	Destination Hillend. A business plan to transform the Snowsports Centre into a year round tourist attraction is nearing completion.	0.000	1.000	114
27	Fees and Charges. Increase sport and leisure fees and charges with an annual target of achieving £50,000 increased income per annum.	0.100	0.400	115
	Total	0.904	4.734	
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Savings Proposals – Potential staffing implications

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Adult, Health and Social Care	43
Resources	167
Total	242.3

*full time equivalent

I would also point that the speed and amount of traffic has increased dramatically with no provision having been made to cope with it. The road is not wide enough for 2 lorries to pass and to do so they sometimes mount the pavement. The pavements are not fit for purpose being too narrow and in some areas covered with weeds and gravel. Frams, pushchairs and disabled chairs have to negotiate the road which is highly dangerous.

I trust that you will look again at the Ring and Go Scheme for the B7026 Road and appreciate how important and essential it is for Pensioners and families to live in their own homes.

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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AGREE

Education Communities & Economy

1, 4, 7, 1, 4, 5,

Adult Health & Social Care

1,

Customer & Housing Services

1, 3,

Resources

1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 15, 19, 28

Finance & Support Services

1, 2, 3, 4, 5,

Property & Facility Management

1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 18, 20, 22, 28

DISAGREE

EDUCATION

1, 7 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 - Any cuts in education will result in more expense later on. Young people need & require by law investment.

CUSTOMER & HOUSING

(2) 4, 5 - too much dependence on technology - what about those not computer literate!

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

SHEILA BELL B11SH143@aol.com

NO EDUCATION CUTS OR HOUSING FACILITIES

Midlothian

People ~~do~~ deserve an appropriate education & a home.

24	Merging of S&S/FM Staff in Hubs. Reduce staff costs (4 FTE) by combining similar roles currently carried out by Facilities and Sport and Leisure staff within the same building complex.	0.122	0.122	112
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Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

Have Your Say 2017 - Comments Sheet

Please read our **Summary of Proposed Savings 2018/19 to 2021/22**, available in local libraries or online at www.midlothian.gov.uk/shapingourfuture. You can also add your comments and suggestions here and hand this sheet in to your local library or at any Midlothian Council customer service point. If you prefer, you can also email: HaveYourSay@midlothian.gov.uk or post your comments to: Have Your Say, Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN.

COMMUNITIES + ECONOMY

- 6/ STOPPING THIS SERVICE WOULD MEAN INCREASES IN RENTERS ETC.
MOST PEOPLE WOULD NOT PAY FOR THIS SERVICE IF IT WERE STOPPED.
- 7/ THIS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO A NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO
HAVE NOISY NEIGHBOURS

EDUCATION

- 1/ THIS WOULD LEAD TO EVEN MORE PRESSURE ON OUR ALREADY UNDERSTAFFED
OVERWORKED TEACHERS.

NEW STOP FREE MEALS FOR ALL P1-P3. TARGET FREE MEALS TO
CHILDREN WHO NEED IT MOST.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

- 1/ RETAIN IN HOUSE SERVICE FOR SOCIAL CARE, WE HAVE EXPERIENCED
WHEN EXTERNAL SERVICES HAVE BEEN INVOLVED AND IT WAS
SHAMBOLIC!

CUSTOMER + HOUSING SERVICES

- 4/ LIBRARY SERVICES - THE PENICUK LIBRARY LIKE AN OTHER IS WELL
USED AND A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR LOCAL SERVICES. THIS
WOULD IMPACT ON ALL AGES AND DENY MANY OF ACCESS TO BOOKS
AND TECHNOLOGY.

COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

- 3/ THIS IS A WELL USED FACILITY AND IF CLOSED MAY WELL RESULT
IN FLY TIPPING, WHICH WOULD COST MORE TO THE COUNCIL IN
CLEAN UP COSTS!
- 8/ STOPPING THIS SERVICE AT WEEKEND WOULD MEAN PENICUK
CENTRE WOULD BE AN ABSOLUTE MESS.

Your name and contact details: (optional)

[REDACTED]

/over

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

- 4, THIS SHOULD BE A SHAME ANY ONE TRAVELLING TO PENICUIN FROM ROSLIN KNOWS HOW MESSY THE WAGER + CENTRE OF DUNCAN CARRIGWAY IS AT THE MOMENT WITH THE FEN WITH PIGS, IF NO CUTTING IT WILL BE AN ABSOLUTE DISGRACE.
- 11 THE FLOREAR DISPLAYS AND SHOWS HAS MADE TOWNS OVER PENICUIN LOOK NICE AND WELCOMING, IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO SEE THEM DISAPPEAR.
- 12 STOPPING SUPPORT TO ANNUAL GAMES AND EVENTS WOULD MEAN CEASATION OF YEARS OF TRADITION, THIS COULD NOT SURVIVE WITHOUT COUNCIL SUPPORT. ESPECIALLY FOR US THE HUNTER + LABS FESTIVAL IN PENICUIN.
- 16 THE ROADS ARE BAD ENOUGH WITHOUT PRODUCING SPENDING
- 17 I AM SURE THIS WOULD BE COUNTRY PRODUCTIVE.
- 20 THANKFULLY WE HAVE NOT HAD A BAD WINTER FOR SOME YEARS NOW BUT LIVING IN PENICUIN WE ALWAYS EXPECT IT AND ANY REDUCTION IN SPENDING WOULD BE FELT WORSE HERE THAN ELSEWHERE IN MIDLOTHIAN.

PROPERTY AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- 11 REDUCING THE SANITARIAN SERVICE IS A RETROGRADE STEP, THEY ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SCHOOL ESPECIALLY OPENING THE AND CLOSING THE SCHOOLS.
- 20 I AM SURE HAVING ONLY 1 LIFE GUARD AT THE POOL SIDE IN THE VERY BUSY POOL WOULD BE A HEALTH + SAFETY ISSUE.
- 23 THE HALLS AND PAVILLIONS BELONG TO THE PEOPLE OF MIDLOTHIAN AND THEREFORE SHOULD BE FUNDED BY THE COUNCIL TAX.

END

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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I am unhappy with most of these proposals - anyone would be. I note that many relatively lowly paid jobs are at stake - this seems unfair; especially where these do not end up saving much but will have a large impact on several local families. Quality of life is also at stake. For instance I think it is especially wrong to cut library services (these could be better used by the council), environmental health including noise control + pest control, planning and strategic planning. These seem an abdication of council responsibility and it only takes one major incident (pollution etc!!). The bin collection is best kept fortnightly - I was under the impression anyway that red boxes + brown bins were recycling - these Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary. the council should try to make them viable*. (Fly tipping is a misery for everyone). Enough! I wonder if adding a reasonable charge for ~~open~~ bins would help. (£40/yr.)

Name and contact details: (optional)

Midlothian

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27	Fees and Charges. Increase sport and leisure fees and charges with an annual target of achieving £50,000 increased income per annum.	0.100	0.400	115
	Total	0.904	4.734	
	Directorate Proposal Summary			
	Executive	0.000	0.250	
	Education, Communities and Economy	2.196	3.235	
	Adult, Health and Social Care	2.030	7.944	
	Resources	4.324	11.829	
	Total	8.550	23.258	

Savings Proposals – Potential staffing implications

Directorate	No of posts*
Executive	2
Education, Communities and Economy	30.3
Adult, Health and Social Care	43
Resources	167
Total	242.3

*full time equivalent

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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Childrens Services

- ① By reducing the early intervention team you will miss vulnerable families who need support + advice. There is a great deal of research stating that the earlier support is given the better chances for all involved. By cutting the service not only will children + parents suffer straight away but the children may develop further difficulties later in life (negative destinations, neglected, abused, mental health problems etc) due to US missing it when they are young. You will cost yourselves more money in the long run as well as potentially damaging lives.

Education

- ① Our schools are already struggling to meet the needs of all our children, especially those with ASN. If you would like to continue to properly include pupils with ASN in mainstream schools you need more learning assistants not less.
- ③ You are planning to reduce the early intervention team which will catch vulnerable children while they are young and for those who are still vulnerable as teenagers/young adults you are planning to ignore them again! Not only are you going to cost yourselves more in the long term (as these young people will possibly continue on a negative destination and end up unemployed, substance misuse problems, mental health problems, in prison etc) but this may ruin some people's lives!! A lot of our young people thrive under vocational opportunities and it is the most appropriate next step after school. To reduce these opportunities will lead to more unemployed young people.
- ⑤ To change for instrumental tuition will lead to it being unobtainable to many families. A lot of families with limited money are not on free school meals and would not be able to afford to pay for music tuition. There is a great deal of research about how music benefits children and it would exclude a lot of potentially talented children if you charged for it.
- Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)
- Midlothian

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Education cont...

- ⑥ Charging 50% for after school clubs will make the clubs push up their prices and stop a lot of children being able to access them as their parents will not be able to afford them.

Customer - Housing Services

- ④ Local libraries host a variety of groups including (not sure if this is the right name) Book Bugs for infants/toddlers + parents, support + promote reading for all children during school holidays (and during term time) and are a place for older people to meet. I feel by closing local libraries you would lose a vital part of the community and it also goes against the Government's drive plan to encourage + support reading for children. This is also where a lot of people access the internet.

Resources

Commercial Operations

- ③ People who do not have a car in Penicuik will not travel on the bus to Stobhill to use the recycling centre. I also think that fly tipping may increase if Penicuik Recycling centre is closed as people simply wait drive to Stobhill (I hope I'm wrong about this). People will also put things that could + should go to the recycling centre into their black bin instead of driving 1/2 an hour to Stobhill.
- ④ If you charge for the Brown Bin ^{some} people will go back to what we did before we had them + put ¹ all garden waste in their black bin which will reduce recycling.
- ⑨ You could ask people with community service orders from the court/prison service to help cut the grass etc as this is a useful way to spend their hours.

Property - Facilities Management

- ⑩ I'm not sure if 1 janitor between 2 schools will work. Janitors are an integral part of the school team and they know the pupils well. I'm not sure if this will be the same if they were between 2 schools. Possibly this would work for 2 smaller schools?



Customer + Housing Services

- ② Good idea. It sounds like you are trying to meet the needs of our homeless.

Commercial Operations

- ⑥ Good idea.
- ⑦ Brilliant.

Property + Facilities Management.

- ⑧. Good idea
- ⑨. Good idea
- ⑩ Brilliant idea. It would give our school leavers appropriate + useful work experience.
- ⑮ Good idea to look at this contract.

Another area to look at would be heating ~~and lighting~~ in schools
You would save a lot of money if each classroom had a thermostat
that staff could set themselves as currently the heating is often
on + the windows open as the heat is controlled centrally.

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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4. Library services: - I feel if you are going to close all but one library a mobile library would be a necessity to the villages no longer having an open library to use.

Resources Commercial operations.

Extend collection frequencies for residual bin, brown bin and red box to one every 4 weeks or monthly.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted contact details]



Midlothian

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While understanding that Local Authorities are under significant financial pressure the attached - Midlothian Council Savings Proposal suggests numerous cuts that will impact on the quality of life and generally make Midlothian a culturally and environmentally poorer area.

With the recent investment in Midlothian from the Tweedbank Railway and the many new residential developments the area should be growing and offer the required services to the local community.

The attached proposal is unwise and will damage the local community.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted Name and Contact Details]



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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

8th December, 2017

“Have your Say”

Midlothian Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to review your plans for Midlothian. Clearly Midlothian supply many services to the community, and many of these happen so to speak “under the radar” as many consumers of the services only notice when something changes, or is withdrawn. Thank you.

Having read the document, I can fully understand why you are having to take a long hard look at what you are providing, being aware that you cannot keep everybody happy all of the time. The time has come for prioritisation.

Several services caught my attention. I would respectfully suggest the following priorities be used as guidelines.

- 1) Services important for public health and the environment**
- 2) The services that have public safety implications**
- 3) The reassessment of existing services that do not add value or support the delivery of the Council’s priorities**
- 4) The prioritisation of services appropriately targeted where most needed supporting Young mother’s, children, and the elderly and the disadvantaged in the community**
- 5) The avoidance of situations where the reduction of maintenance currently delivered results in future expensive repairs**

- 6) The introduction of charging where the consumers of the service have the resources to pay, but the avoidance of ineffective charging for services, where it may be as expensive to collect the charges as the resources gained from charging.

Examples of these situations are as follows –

Under Public Health I would include pest control, noise control, and waste disposal services including recycling as a priority. Where there is rubbish, there are frequently vermin, and the environment is degraded. After our experience of unwanted dumping in the countryside when the road between Roslin and Rosewell was closed for repair, I am very concerned to hear of the plan to close the Penicuik recycling centre. The cost of the redevelopment of the site seems quite excessive. I fear that if this site closes we will see illicit dumping all over the area - ? investigate other solutions to this problem.

Public Safety - I was very concerned to read the suggestion that you would consider reducing the pool side lifeguards from 2 to 1. As a retired GP with a lifelong interest in Emergency Medicine and still supporting the training of Community First Responders I am well aware that in an emergency situation it takes 2 competent first aiders to do effective CPR for more than a few minutes. Avoid potential disaster – don't do it!

Secondly although I am aware that CCTV is variably useful, be careful about withdrawing it in risk areas.

Services that do not add value should stop. - I entirely agree that facilities that are rarely used should shut down, or be given over to those that want to make a go of them. You mention little used football pitches as an example. Support the ones that are used.

Children and Young People services – There are many services on the list and I realise you cannot keep them all, but you will need to prioritise on the basis that the most effective should be supported as they intervene appropriately and effectively, and those that

have little to offer judged by poor outcomes will have to stop. You should get reports from them demonstrating why they are useful and detailing what they have achieved. Ask the schools, the parents, and the SSPCC.

I am concerned to hear that the libraries are at risk, as these are a source of information and support especially for the elderly, mother's and young children. They are a place for mothers to meet, as well as for children to interest themselves in books. The closure of Penicuik Library would be a disaster – You need to find a way to continue this provision.

Reduction of Maintenance and expensive future repairs – Whereas some maintenance may be unnecessary - if you stop maintaining bridges, culverts, and retaining walls, this may be a false economy in the long run, leading to much more expense in the future. Reducing maintenance in cemeteries may have safety implications unless inspections continue and hazards rectified promptly.

Charging for services – Although charging for some service may well be a way forward, be careful to avoid charging where the office / administrative work involved in collection of these charges is as expensive as the amount of cash that the charges collect.

Lastly the transfer of community halls and pavilions - to local well-intentioned people may work if suitable volunteers can be found, but as with all voluntary organisations the support can be variable. Also, the responsibility for repairs and maintenance can be onerous. What if a serious fault is found in the structure / services / drainage / vandalism / boundary fencing and public liability? These can be scary for a handful of volunteers with limited resources.

Thank you for reading this and I await the outcome of your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature. Below the box, a thin, curved line is visible, likely a stray mark or the start of a signature.

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3. Closing Penicuik recycling centre.

Penicuik residents are not going to do a 22 mile round trip with their rubbish to Newtongrange when the Penicuik recycling centre works perfectly well without spending £500,000 to close Penicuik will lead to unprecedented fly tipping! and small electrical goods will end up in the grey household bin and end up in the landfill. You could save £500,000 by not spending this amount on Newton Grange.

Charge for garden waste.

Considering that 3 months of the year the garden bin is full of sycamore leaves from the giant tree opposite my driveway at 2 St Mungos View. I do not have a deciduous tree in the garden. This council tree should have been cut down years ago. It is now taller than the flats in Kirkhill Road.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)



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21. Remove the School Crossing Service

I do not agree with the removal of all school crossings. I do object to Lollypop ladies & men on "Lights Controlled crossings". There is nothing more annoying than a person with a stop sign in the middle of the road at the "Tesco junction" when the lights are at red which 99.9% of motorists are at Stop!

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[Redacted Name and Contact Details]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

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LIBRARY SERVICES (NO4) Penicuik is the largest Town in Midlothian and the Library is one of the best things we have here and to close it down or make it into a HUB is LUDICROUS and to expect VOLUNTEERS to run it is a BIG MISTAKE. It takes more to run a library than putting a few books on a shelf. There are requests - ~~for~~ Inter library loans - overdues etc. charging & uncharging. So THINK AGAIN!!

As the MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE this is another MISTAKE. It is a life line for old people and young mothers etc who can't get to the main library and if you are closing branches that is when you need the MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE. You are expecting people who live in MAURICEWOOD - GREEN LAW MAINS - LADYWOOD - KIRKHAM - DUNNIBURN - CRICKENBURN - BILSTON - ROSIN - to get on a bus to the main. Period then to walk to the Main Library I DON'T THINK SO. NO WAY.

RESOURCES (NO3) Closing this facility in Penicuik is sheer STUPIDITY. People will just start ~~and~~ FLY-TIPPING. in backstreets - houses etc and any space they can find. You just have to look at some of the ENGLISH COUNCILS who spend more MONEY - TIME & LABOUR cleaning up to find they have to go back to the same spot and start all over again. So take heed as this will cost you far more money so KEEP IT OPEN.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

P.T.O. →

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

RE-SOURCES (NO 24)

Stopping the supported ~~bus~~ grant for the bus service 10/10/02 I presume you mean the DUMFRIES BUS. this bus has been running through Pennine for years so why stop it now. IF IT IS NOT BROKEN - LEAVE IT ALONE so the saying goes.

The only other bus which goes through Morningside is the NO 15 and their last bus leaves Edinburgh at 18-00 hrs and doesn't run on Sunday.

yet you are putting money into HILTON to make it an all year round attraction for Tourists. I think the People in Morningside would prefer the money should be spent on their SERVICES & NEEDS ~~rather than~~ as they far out way the few tourists that will visit HILTON.

DONT YOU THINK !!!

P.S. And if these cuts are carried out I will not be voting LABOUR or TORY in future LOCAL ELECTION or GENERAL ELECTIONS. for the foreseeable years to come.

[REDACTED]

6th December, 2017

Have Your Say,
Midlothian Council,
Midlothian House,
Buccleuch Street,
Dalkeith
EH22 1DN

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have read through the "Shaping our future" documentation and would like to comment on the following items in the Summary of Proposed Savings. There are others which I am not happy with but these are what I consider most important and involve essential services.

Communities and Economy

- No 6 (page 3):- to stop the pest control service completely would mean that those with a problem, who tend to be very much in the lower income bracket, would not be able to afford a solution. Surely this is a health and safety issue.
- No 7 (page 3):- for those with noisy neighbours, this would be a huge loss. Would there be any other organisation who would take this on?

Children's Services

- No. 1 (page 3):- Any reduction in respect of staff relating to Early Intervention and Prevention would simply add to the workload of an already understaffed department and could lead to children being put at risk.

Education

- No 1 (page 4):- To reduce Learning Assistants by **any** amount, let alone a huge 10% is hitting the most needy members of society hard. Children with problems, either physical or mental, can only be integrated into mainstream schools if they have a one-to-one in place to allow them to interact with the other children without being disruptive. To cut back on the availability of these essential personnel is discriminating against disabled children and should not even be considered.

Customer and Housing Services

- No 1 (page 5):- The council housing staff are going to have to take on more work as the council tenancy problems are integrated within their roles. The same old chestnut of less staff, more work. This will result in stress-related sick-leave, etc.
- No 3 (page 5):- Offering online services is fine for those who have a computer but there are still many, particularly the elderly who don't. How are they supposed to cope?
- No. 5 (page 5):- Again the issues with customers having to make contact online. Also if there is to be a service review in 2018/19 surely it would make

sense to wait until this is done to see how everything impacts on your workforce before attempting to make any savings.

Resources

- No. 2 (page 5):- If you intend to change the residual bin, brown bin and red box to once every 3 weeks, you will have to ensure that everyone has a calendar of when the uplifts are due, as it is a lot easier to forget than alternate weeks. This could also lead to bins going out the wrong week and being left on the street for days on end.
- No 3 (page 6):- Closing Penicuik recycling centre is an absolute disaster. Penicuik is a huge town at least the size of Dalkeith and for it not to have a local centre is insane. How many people do you think will be prepared to take their recycling to Stobhill, particularly if they have more than one load? The amount of fly tipping will soar and will cost you in other areas. It will also give additional work to the police who will be called in to deal with any reports. They have far more important work to do and are also understaffed.
- No 4 (page 6):- I have no problem with a £35 charge per year for the brown bin but if I pay it, how do I prevent others from putting their garden refuse in my bin when I put it out? Also, how will the bin men know which bins are paid for, as not everyone has numbers on their bins?
- No 7 (page 6):- If you wish to increase the level of recycling then surely it is unwise to close the recycling centre!
- No 10 (page 6):- Penicuik has a serious problem with regard to activities for youngsters. Apart from the swimming pool and the skateboard park, there is virtually nothing for them to do and to reduce sports facilities will only enhance the problem. If the intention is to reduce the football pitches by 5 to 50 then that would be acceptable but if you intend to reduce them from 55 to 5, you will be creating the potential for anti-social behaviour issues.
- No 16 (page 7):- The roads are in a bad enough state already and yet you intend to reduce spending on their maintenance. Perhaps if any work done was of a higher quality it would not be necessary to re-do it after relatively short periods of time.
- No 20 (page 7):- This could cost you more in the long run as reducing gritting on both roads and pavements could result in litigation cases being made against you for injury or damage to vehicles, etc. The elderly suffer most here. Surely the last thing you need is to be creating potential future care issues for the council.
- No 21 (page 7):- I'm not sure whether the non-statutory school crossing service is all of it but even if it is only certain areas, surely this increases the risk of children being involved in accidents.
- No 25 (page 8):- To reduce the ring and go taxi scheme is surely unjust as, once again, those who have no current bus service and probably no car either, will be unable to get around. Again this tends to be the elderly.

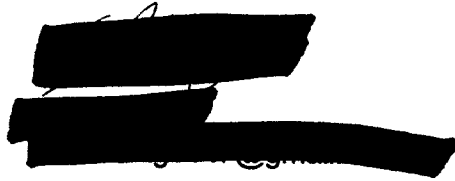
Property and Facilities Management

- No 20 (page 10):- To even contemplate reducing the number of lifeguards from 2 to 1 at local pools, particularly when there are school children taking classes, is wrong on all levels. All it would take would be for 2 children to get into difficulty at the same time and lives would be at risk. Not acceptable!

These are not all the proposed savings that I take issue with, but they are the ones I consider most relevant. There are some reductions which I agree with but I do feel that there must be other areas with less essential services which can be cut back rather than those which directly affect the elderly, disabled children and other vulnerable members of society.

I hope that you will consider the above comments and include them in your programme.

Yours faithfully,

A redacted signature and name, consisting of two lines of blacked-out text.

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We stay in bousland and as the library van is the only thing we have, apart from refuse collector, we will have nothing left.

No shop
No school
No buses.

So we don't think there can be a big saving in 1 van and 1 man bringing a library service. When we came here first the library came twice on a Friday with 2 men.

Please re-think this service as it is a life-line for elderly people and country villages.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[Redacted Name]
[Redacted Address]
[Redacted Phone Number]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

Please add your comments and suggestions here and hand this sheet in to your local library or at any Midlothian Council customer service point. You can also email: HaveYourSay@midlothian.gov.uk or post your comments to: Have Your Say, Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN. Visit www.midlothian.gov.uk/shapingourfuture for more information.

Re - library services

A saving of £240k per annum →
per capita of the population of
Midlothian; to reduce the library
service to one central facility can
in no way be acceptable. Real
books for everyone at every age and
level are an essential in a civilised
society. The branch libraries and
mobile units are the very arteries
that distribute the life blood of
society.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]



Midlothian

24	Merging of S&S/FM Staff in Hubs. Reduce staff costs (4 FTE) by combining similar roles currently carried out by Facilities and Sport and Leisure staff within the same building complex.	0.122	0.122	112
25	Selling Services. Covering the costs of the Special Projects Co-ordinator by selling the service to other local authorities or entering into a shared service arrangement. The Co-ordinator is involved in master planning projects and large scale section 75 contributions.	0.000	0.050	113
26	Destination Hillend. A business plan to transform the Snowsports Centre into a year round tourist attraction is nearing completion.	0.000	1.000	114
27	Fees and Charges. Increase sport and leisure fees and charges with an annual target of achieving £50,000 increased income per annum.	0.100	0.400	115
	Total	0.904	4.734	
	Directorate Proposal Summary			
	Executive	0.000	0.250	
	Education, Communities and Economy	2.196	3.235	
	Adult, Health and Social Care	2.030	7.944	
	Resources	4.324	11.829	
	Total	8.550	23.258	

Savings Proposals – Potential staffing implications

Directorate	No of posts*
Executive	2
Education, Communities and Economy	30.3
Adult, Health and Social Care	43
Resources	167
Total	242.3

*full time equivalent

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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I am saddened to hear about the closure of my local library in Penicuik. I am an 85 year old lady who regularly visits & borrows several books a week keeping me active mentally. My granddaughter & great granddaughter along with myself regularly attend your Bookings too and my great granddaughter already loves books.

I am sure that cuts have to be made but a full closure of library should be re-considered. Today's generation will not even know what a book is much more a library. We should be encouraging as the library does to keep reading - not off a screen but a real book.

I do hope that along with myself, the community gets behind the library & gives the support you need to save the library.

Regards
[Redacted]

LIBRARY SUPPORT

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)
[Redacted]



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15/11/17

I was told you were intending to close Penicuik Library. I feel very angry and disappointed that you would close the only decent facility in Penicuik. As a 78 year old I really enjoy browsing in the library and it doesn't seem that long ago you were so proud to open the new building! Yesterday day coming out of the library at 3.30 there were lots of excited primary children running in with their parents, how good for them all to participate in books and story reading, fun for toddlers as well. Also lego club and Chatterbooks, Code club, Book club and Film Club. So much going on, what will the children do if you take it away.

Also if you close the recycling I usually have over a dozen bags of leaves which mostly come from trees planted by the Council opposite my house. I cannot keep making trips to Gorebridge.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted signature and contact details]



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Library Services - Ridiculous idea how many people can travel miles to a library - especially elderly people.

Penicuik recycling centre - This will just encourage fly tipping and making a mess of the countryside. Will cost more to clean up.

Garden Waste - Another stupid idea. How many people can afford to pay for this and if recycling centre closed nowhere to take garden rubbish.

Street sweeping - Dirty town!!!

Road maintenance - roads are bad enough. Only can get worse.

School crossing service - you want more children killed!!!

CCTV - more vandalism!!!

Housing - 1,000 more houses and less facilities. you need to rethink your proposals - they don't add up.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)



Midlothian

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Please do not close Penicuik library
as it is a vital part of the town.

I cannot see how sharing facilities
between 2 primary schools is going to
benefit either school.

To reduce spending on roads
culverts etc. is false economy.

Also the recycling centre should
not be closed as it is well used
and Newtongrange is out of the way
~~for~~ many households.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)



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childrens Services, Education (5) Music Tuition - free tuition surely encourages participation for children who are willing but whose parents are unsupportive and unwilling to pay. We should be encouraging music participation


Customer + Housing services (4) Library Services
Penicuik library has a wide range of activities, not just borrowing books. Children are encouraged to use the library. It would be totally impractical for many people to go to Dalkeith library. It's not easily feasible by bus and to go by car would increase CO₂ emissions which we are ~~surely~~ surely trying to reduce. Not everyone has (a) access to read "e library books" and (b) anyway there is a limited range available.

Resources, Commercial operations (3)
Totally senseless to close Penicuik recycling centre. This will encourage fly tipping. Again an increase in CO₂ emissions to go to Stobhill. What are we supposed to do with, say, small electrical items? Put them in the grey bin for landfill?

(11) floral displays etc. Are you trying to turn our region into drabness?

(16) Road maintenance - its poor enough as it is.

(20) Winter maintenance Have councillors seen the problems on the roads in the winter?
Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional) ~~for~~ and postcodes in Penicuik

Property + facilities Management (20) lifeguards 

is reducing lifeguards from 2 to 1 legal for insurance purposes, apart from the safety issue.

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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Visit www.midlothian.gov.uk/shapingourfuture for more information.

I would like to make the following comments about Midlothian Council's proposals regarding libraries. For this area your proposals amount to "Axiing our future" and really are a disgrace. Consider the following points.

- (a) A library is an educational centre - schools regularly use it and many find it a quiet study centre which may be unavailable at home
- (b) A safe reliable information source. The internet can supply information but much of it is 'fake news' biased opinions; pornography; material & scanner sites make it an area which children should be protected from. The library can provide safe reliable material with supervision.
- (c) It is a social hub - which can also help those wanting basic courses of computer related items or job seeking skills.
- (d) It also obviously serves as a leisure facility much used by local people taking out books or DVDs.
- (e) It is local. Dalkeith is 45 minutes away by bus; few Penicuik residents will go there for library services

So what can be done?

- (1) Reduce hours of opening. Penicuik library has more open hours than most - even Sunday pm. About 20 hours could be cut & still keep a reasonable service.
- (2) Increase charges for eg photocopies or overdue book fines.
- (3) Set up a friends of the library group, to help in routine library tasks and perhaps do fund-raising on behalf of the library.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted Name and Contact Details]





Summary of Proposed Savings

**Addressing Midlothian Council's
Financial Challenge to 2021/22**

Midlothian



www.midlothian.gov.uk/shapingourfuture

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals - Summary

Below you will find a shortened version of Midlothian Council's Change Programme proposals, which outline possible measures to help address a £13.5 million budget shortfall in 2018/19 and in future years. By 2021/22, it is estimated that the shortfall could be £45 million.

This summary is intended to help residents, community groups and other stakeholders understand the potential impact of the proposed savings and to give them the opportunity to have their say before the council takes any final decisions.

Community groups are being invited to a series of meetings in early November.

You can give your views in a number of ways:

- Email: HaveYourSay@midlothian.gov.uk
- Fill in our short survey at www.midlothian.gov.uk/shapingourfuture
- Fill out the comments sheet at the end of this document and hand it in to your local library or at any council customer service point

Alternatively, please send your comments to:

- Have Your Say, Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN, or
- Join the conversation on Facebook and Twitter - @midgov #ShapingOurFuture

The following pages give a summary of the savings proposals outlined in the full version of the Change Programme, which is also available in local libraries or online at www.midlothian.gov.uk/shapingourfuture. More information on the council's budget challenge is also available there.

You have until **Thursday 14 December 2017** to return your comments. This is the date when the Scottish Government are expected to announce funding levels for local councils for 2018/19.

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals - Summary

For more details on each of the savings proposals set out below, go to the relevant page in the main Change Programme document. The main document page number is shown here. ↓

	PROPOSED SAVING AND IN WHICH SERVICE AREA	Saving 2018/19 £m	Total saving by 2021/22 £m	Page
	EXECUTIVE TEAM			
1	Review of Senior Management Team.	0.000	0.250	29
	Total	0.000	0.250	
	EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY			
	Communities and Economy			
1	Transfer of the Welfare Rights function to external agencies. As this service is not statutory, consideration could be given to transferring the service to, for example, the Citizens' Advice Bureaux.	0.143	0.143	30
2	Overall reduction in the Planning Service (2 posts).	0.106	0.106	31
3	Staff saving from community asset transfer of Newtongrange Community Learning Centre building. The building would then be run by a community management committee.	0.025	0.025	32
4	A tailored and informed approach to reduction in the Large and Small Grants budgets. Some of the priority areas for grant allocation, such as the Citizens' Advice Bureaux, could be converted into commissioned services. There could also be a policy change to stop charging rents and related costs to community groups and organisations.	0.000	0.600	33
5	Reduce contribution to Strategic Planning Authority. Changes to the planning system in Scotland are almost certainly expected to include removal of the statutory requirement for strategic development plans. As a result, the council's contribution to the costs of preparation of the <u>South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan</u> can be reduced.	0.020	0.020	34
6	Review of the pest control service within Environmental Health. This could mean potentially stopping the service completely.	0.007	0.007	35
7	Deletion of Environmental Health support post (noise control/enforcement)	0.028	0.028	36
8	Overall further reduction in the Environmental Health Service (2 posts)	0.108	0.108	37
	Total	0.437	1.037	

	Children's Services			
1	Reduction of Early Intervention & Prevention Services (a reduction of 4 Children and Family Practitioner posts).	0.130	0.130	38
	Total	0.130	0.130	
	Education			
1	Reduce Learning Assistants by 10%	0.198	0.330	39
2	Review Surestart contracts. Midlothian Sure Start is a charity and partner agency providing services for children from pre-birth to 11 years.	0.050	0.050	40
3	Lifelong Learning and Employability. Reduce direct, face-to-face work with children, young people and adults at risk of poor outcomes through a reduction in Lifelong Learning and Employability staffing. Reduce the vocational opportunities available to schools and young people, adults and families through reduction of the vocational learning budget and associated programmes. The CLD regulations require us to ensure we meet statutory levels of provision across LLE's work with young people, adults, older people and families.	0.184	0.209	41
4	Review DSM. To reduce the existing provision of the Devolved School Management carry-forward allowance from 2.5% to 1.5% resulting in a saving of 1%.	0.750	0.500	42
5	Charging for Instrumental Tuition. Pupils in receipt of free school meals or benefits would be exempt.	0.197	0.329	43
6	Review let charges for after school clubs. Currently after school clubs pay only 5% of the full let charge for the use of council buildings. It is proposed to increase this charge to 50% of the full let charge.	0.250	0.450	44
7	Integration of Pathways, Pave and Pave 2 – mini service review. These services support young people to maximise their qualifications, have breadth of curriculum and secure a positive/sustainable future whether employment, training or further education.	0.000	0.200	45
	Total	1.629	2.068	
	ADULT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE			
	Adult Social Care			
1	Rebalancing Care – Rebalancing Expectations. Models of care will be reshaped. Options that will need to be considered will include the externalisation services currently delivered by Midlothian Council and closer integration of services teams within health and social care.	0.000	4.620	46
	Total	0.000	4.620	

	Property and Facilities Management			
1	Building Services Company. An Arms Length External Organisation (ALEO) would be set up to generate income from external contracts as well as council services. Target profit would be set at 3% based on a turnover of £12m.	0.000	0.660	89
2	Reduction in Housing Voids Standards. Tenants would be expected to decorate and bring houses to the higher standard that is done for them at present by the voids team.	0.080	0.080	90
3	Construction and Design Service Consultancy. Having built up an expertise in local authority design and build projects there is an opportunity to sell our services to others or share the service with other neighbouring local authorities and/or partners.	0.000	0.190	91
4	Income from Professional Consultancy. Marketing and selling professional expertise to other local authorities and government agencies.	0.000	0.050	92
5	Increasing the charging for school meals. The increase would be spread over four years.	0.040	0.160	93
6	Sharing Catering management with neighbouring Las.	0.000	0.050	94
7	Café style high school meal service. Introduction of a soup and sandwich cafe style service within a modern food environment.	0.000	0.025	95
8	Trolley Service/Internal Catering to cover costs. Pricing structure to ensure all costs are covered, including charging for coffee machines.	0.013	0.013	96
9	Expand Catering/Function Service. Attract additional business through external contracts and evening functions, potentially including weddings at Vogrie in conjunction with Land and Countryside.	0.000	0.030	97
10	Café Service Social Enterprise/Branding. Introduce social enterprise opportunities for school leavers and community groups as support workers for an enhanced brand of our cafes at Lasswade, Paradykes, Newbattle and Dalkeith.	0.010	0.050	98
11	Janitorial Service shared between 2 primary schools. Cutting the numbers of janitors from 22 to 11.	0.225	0.225	99
12	Renegotiate Skanska subcontract. Renegotiate the extension to the provision of janitorial services for Skanska through the PPP contracts. Increase rates to cover staff low pay awards and material increases to ensure the contract is viable going forward.	0.100	0.100	100

	Customer and Housing Services			
1	Community Safety review (8 full time posts). The proposal is for full withdrawal of this non-statutory service. Communities will be helped to resolve small scale problems through the Resolution Service, while council tenancy problems are integrated within the roles of council housing staff who will work closely with reinstated Police Community Action Teams.	0.430	0.430	48
2	Homelessness. The proposal is to withdraw all B&B provision in place of the reuse of suitable council buildings instead. Tenant Support services currently outsourced at the end of contract period would be reviewed with the potential to in-source officers.	0.260	0.560	49
3	Housing. Potential Shared Service option to be explored to integrate Housing Services. Offer more online services. Generic officer posts could be reviewed to include, among other responsibilities, anti-social behaviour etc. Factoring services could generate income. The City Deal offers the prospect for us to establish a Housing Company to Build houses for mid market rent and also for sale	0.100	0.100	50
4	Library Services. These savings are based on providing only 1 Midlothian central library withdrawing the mobile library (a shared service with ELC) and closing the branch libraries.	0.240	0.240	51
5	Revenues and Benefits (Five full time staff posts). There's potential to share services to integrate Revenues Services. Savings could also be made by encouraging customers to do more online. A Service Review is scheduled in 2018/19 to allow the timescales and effects of Universal Credit full service, local taxation changes and Scottish Social Security system to be implemented and determine the resulting impact on workforce planning.	1.000	1.994	53
	Total	2.030	3.324	
	RESOURCES			
	Commercial Operations			
1	Charge for bins and boxes. A charge would be made to provide replacement bins and boxes for existing householders. A second proposal is to charge for bins and boxes to all new housing sites, including private developers, social housing companies and new council housing sites. <i>REALLY ???</i>	0.070	0.250	55
2	Extend collection frequencies. Consider introducing three weekly collections for the residual bin, brown bin and red box collections. The blue bin would still be collected fortnightly to maximise recycling. Food waste would still be collected weekly, in line with a previous agreement with Zero Waste Scotland.	0.100	0.100	56

X	3	Close Penicuik recycling centre. This facility was recently granted planning consent to refurbish the site. This will cost approximately £500,000. The proposal is therefore to close this site and negate the need to spend this sum and to concentrate all activity at the Stobhill site in Newtongrange.	0.100	0.100	57
X	4	Charge for garden waste collection. The garden waste service is the only non statutory household waste collection service provided by the council. The proposal is to introduce a charge of £35 for collections and to retain the seasonal garden waste collections. <i>big enough?</i>	0.370	0.510	58
	5	Charge for commercial waste at Stobhill CRC site. The site currently is not licensed to take this waste stream and would have to obtain the necessary license as well as introduce arrangements for upfront payment and authorisation.	0.000	0.050	59
	6	To allow commercial companies to advertise on council refuse vehicles. The content would be monitored to ensure that it does not impact on any aspect of council services and is not inconsistent with council standards.	0.010	0.015	60
	7	Increase the level of recycling. It is envisaged that over the period approximately 1,300 tonnes of material can be diverted into the blue/red recycling containers with a consequent reduction in disposal costs.	0.025	0.075	61
	8	Reduce Street Sweeping Frequency. This would involve stopping street sweeping of town centres and shop fronts at the weekend.	0.030	0.030	62
<i>Moss already</i>		Reduce grass cutting standards. The intention would be to reduce the number of cuts in certain areas and completely stop the service in other less high profile locations i.e. verges out with town centres. This would impact all maintained grass areas. There is potential to explore the option of voluntary groups taking over this role within their communities.	0.150	0.150	63
	10	Reduce the number of grass football and astro pitches. The council currently maintains 55 grass pitches and 13 astro pitches across Midlothian. A recent audit suggests that a number of the grass pitches are used very sparingly. The intention is to reduce the number of grass pitches e.g. 5 and reduce the number of astro pitches available by 5, which could be offered to local clubs to maintain.	0.050	0.050	64
<i>SPAD</i>	11	Stop provision of all floral displays and shrub beds. Flower beds in parks would be grassed over. Hanging baskets and planters would be removed. This would also impact cemeteries and other sensitive sites. Voluntary groups may be able to undertake this work in some communities.	0.130	0.130	65

12	Stop support to galas and events. Assistance includes the provision, erection and dismantling of marquees, staging and temporary fencing, generators and floral troughs. In addition, staff are engaged and give support with litter pick-ups and clearance following community events.	0.075	0.075	66
13	Increase charges where appropriate. Charges are made for a wide range of services such as music concerts at Vogrie and the circuses that utilise the council parks. The charges would be made clear to potential users in advance.	0.150	0.600	67
14	Increase lair provision at Dalkeith cemetery. Following a review of the cemetery layout it has been determined that additional lairs can be provided between existing lairs at Dalkeith cemetery.	0.025	0.050	68
15	Close Polton Bowling Club. This is a council facility which has very few users. The proposal is to close the facility or to hand over to a community group for bowling or other suitable alternate use.	0.020	0.020	69
16	Reduce spending on road maintenance.	0.250	0.250	70
17	Reduce the structures maintenance budgets. This includes reduced spending on bridges, culverts and retaining walls.	0.050	0.050	71
18	Reduce the street lighting maintenance budget. The repairs target response time of 7 days is still likely to be maintained.	0.150	0.150	72
19	Transform Lighting Operations. By transforming the service into one operation comprising internal and external electrical operations, there are considered to be smarter ways of working that can be adopted, in part as a consequence of smarter use of technology and the rationalising of staff.	0.050	0.100	73
20	Reduce the winter maintenance budget. This will see a reduction in the number of footway routes. A reduced service on roads other than priority routes, reduced staff on stand-by, and reduced service for car parks and generally at weekends.	0.300	0.300	74
21	Remove the non statutory school crossing service.	0.200	0.300	75
22	Stop all open space CCTV maintenance activity.	0.030	0.030	76
23	Introduce and Increase parking charges. Once the council has taken on Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) powers it has the opportunity to consider increasing charges in car parks where they currently exist and also introduce charges in car parks and on street where currently they do not exist.	0.050	0.050	77

24	Stop supported bus grants and reduce community transport support. The intention would be to withdraw support for all currently supported bus services in Midlothian (routes 39, 101/102, 51/52 and 111) and to substantially reduce the support given to Lothian Community Transport Services.	0.150	0.250	78
25	Reduce the ring and go taxi scheme. This would affect users where there is currently no bus service provision.	0.030	0.030	79
26	Stop the taxi card scheme. Currently the scheme is closed to new entrants. There are currently 826 users of the scheme.	0.050	0.050	80
27	Increase training offer - increase income Risk Management. The intention would be to widen the scope of training courses offered both internally and externally and thereby increase the income recovered.	0.025	0.035	81
28	Sales Force Spend to Generate. A small team, initially within Commercial Operations, would explore all opportunities including advertising, existing and new work streams, events and alternate uses for existing facilities which have the potential to realise additional income.	0.000	0.250	82
	Total	2.640	4.050	
	Finance and Integrated support services			
1	Management Structure. Reduce the Senior Management Structure from 8 full time equivalents (FTE) to 7 FTE.	0.080	0.080	83
2	Digital Services Review. The savings would be realised by reviewing staffing establishment and outsourced work with a view of taking it in-house.	0.150	0.150	84
3	Digital by default. Effective use of technology to allow customers more opportunities to do business and engage with the council online.	0.000	0.500	85
4	Service Improvement Plans/Business Processes/Service reduction. Redesign services and stop those which do not add value or support the delivery of the council's priorities. This equates to a reduction in 37 FTE administrative and support posts over two years.	0.500	1.000	86
5	Remove Regular Car Allowance. The proposal is to close the car lease scheme to employees designated regular car users.	0.050	0.315	87
6	Shared Services (Support Services). The potential saving is estimated at 50% management costs, the equivalent of a reduction in 15 FTE posts in 2021/22.	0.000	1.000	88
	Total	0.780	3.045	

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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- ① Lasswade Centre Postside cover:
What's to happen at breaks & toilet needs - NOT acceptable. What happens if any incident needs more than one lifeguard?
- ② LIBRARIES: Lasswade library is very well used by children. I take my Granddaughter regularly. She also used to go to Doreen's book there. It's an incredibly special thing to bond with children over books. Wonderful stuff. I don't drive so how am I supposed to take her elsewhere. - BAD IDEA
- ③ My granddaughter also attends after school club at Bannockburn Primary twice sometimes 3 times a week as her mum's work till 6pm. Increasing the letting fee could mean this closing. What are all those parents going to do?
- ④ Charge for bins & boxes: REALLY?? Maybe a lot of people won't buy them! Then what kind of place are we going to be living in with black bags everywhere?
- ⑤ BINS - SWEETLY, are you kidding? I recycle as much as possible, and my grey bin is nearly always full. There are only 2 of us. How will families cope? An environmental disaster if you ask me!!
- ⑥ The whole area is going to be a mess.
No grass cutting - no floral displays.
No one will have any pride in the area what!
SO SAD!! PUT UP COUNCIL TAX! PEOPLE WANT SAVER

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.
Name and contact details: (optional)



24	Merging of S&S/FM Staff in Hubs. Reduce staff costs (4 FTE) by combining similar roles currently carried out by Facilities and Sport and Leisure staff within the same building complex.	0.122	0.122	112
25	Selling Services. Covering the costs of the Special Projects Co-ordinator by selling the service to other local authorities or entering into a shared service arrangement. The Co-ordinator is involved in master planning projects and large scale section 75 contributions.	0.000	0.050	113
26	Destination Hillend. A business plan to transform the Snowsports Centre into a year round tourist attraction is nearing completion.	0.000	1.000	114
27	Fees and Charges. Increase sport and leisure fees and charges with an annual target of achieving £50,000 increased income per annum.	0.100	0.400	115
		0.904	4.734	
	Total			
	Directorate Proposal Summary			
	Executive	0.000	0.250	
	Education, Communities and Economy	2.196	3.235	
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	Resources	4.324	11.829	
	Total	8.550	23.258	

Savings Proposals – Potential staffing implications

	No of posts*
Directorate	2
Executive	30.3
Education, Communities and Economy	43
Adult, Health and Social Care	167
Resources	242.3
Total	

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- ① There is no point in issuing this document without alternatives i.e. the equivalent increase in Council Tax for the total projected savings & broken down for each projected saving.
This would present the electorate with a real choice
Is the Council able to vary the Council Tax at present?
- ② Stopping the pest control service would be a dereliction of Council duties and would produce a greater cost in the future
- ③ Is there any proof that any externalisation of services would produce savings
- ④ After upgrading the Library service within the new complexes the proposals are outrageous. Libraries are essential. Closing them takes us back to the 1800's
- ⑤ Not everybody has a computer or is literate with computers. This would isolate the elderly.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[REDACTED]



Midlothian

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2018/19 to 2021/22

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- ⑥ Will The Council publish a full summary of the responses to this consultation or is it just a paper exercise?
- ⑦ A three weekly frequency for collection of the residual (black?) bin would result in plastic bags beside the bin to take the overflow resulting in the risk of vermin & foxes tearing the bags. Given your proposals to possibly stop pest control services, this is again a dereliction of Council duties
- ⑧ Once The Scottish Government announces funding levels & The Council digest them will The Council publish the final Savings proposals in the same detail as this summary I am responding to.
- ⑨ It is impossible for one lifeguard to cover the hours the pools are open.

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted Name and Contact Details]



Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

Have Your Say 2017 - Comments Sheet

Please read our **Summary of Proposed Savings** 2018/19 to 2021/22, available in local libraries or online at www.midlothian.gov.uk/shapingourfuture. You can also add your comments and suggestions here and hand this sheet in to your local library or at any Midlothian Council customer service point. If you prefer, you can also email: HaveYourSay@midlothian.gov.uk or post your comments to: Have Your Say, Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN.

I REALIZE THERE HAVE TO BE CUTBACKS BUT CLOSING ALL BUT ONE OF THE LIBRARIES AND AXING THE LIBRARY BUS SEEMS A BIT SHORT SIGHTED. AT A TIME WHEN THE EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS OF OUR YOUNGESTERS ARE FALLING WE SHOULD BE TRYING TO DO ALL WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE READING ETC FROM AN EARLY AGE AND THE REMOVAL OF THESE LIBRARIES WILL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE IN FACT ALL AGE GROUPS WILL SUFFER BECAUSE MANY HOUSEBOUND AND ELDERLY PEOPLE ENJOY READING OR LISTENING TO BOOKS.

I NOTICE THERE WAS NO MENTION OF PUTTING YOURSELVES AT THE FOREFRONT AND SAYING YOU WOULD PUT A CEILING ON THE AMOUNT OF EXPENSES THAT COULD BE CLAIMED AND A REDUCTION IN SAUNTS AND HOOLYS. IT WOULD SHOW THE PUBLIC THAT YOU ARE ALL WILLING TO MAKE SACRIFICES AND DRAW IN YOUR EXCESSES.

Your name and contacts details: (optional)

[REDACTED]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.



Midlothian

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

4th December 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

In response to your saving proposals I wish to raise the following concerns:

- Withdrawal of subsidies to the ONLY, HOURLY, bus service through the village of Edgehead, Whitehill & Pathhead.

Given the congestion on our roads, particularly at Sheriffhall why would you even consider isolating villagers (elderly, young parents and employed) who use this service. I and others rely on this as I work in Edinburgh and do not drive.

Perhaps consideration should be given to a reduction in bus services to Mayfield/Gorebridge who have buses every 9 minutes and often buses are empty.

- Midlothian council rents car parking spaces for their employees from Newbattle Golf Club, I don't have this luxury and surely employees should be encouraged to travel on public transport I believe this would be an annual saving of approx £4,000

Many of your proposals make sense and I appreciate savings have to be made however I would urge you to re-consider withdrawal of subsidies to our only bus service provider & other suggestions that keep communities alive. Edgehead Village Fete is well attended by villagers and close neighbours. We would ask that this is maintained and your services are required.

Yours Sincerely



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I am very concerned about many of these proposals but would like to comment specifically about the following:

- Closure of Penicuik refuse centre - this is well used and I would be extremely concerned about the consequences of such a move i.e. I think there would be a marked increase in fly tipping across the county.
- Closure of all but one libraries - this would put many groups at a disadvantage, in particular some of the most vulnerable groups in society - those without access to computers and transport - £
- Cuts to leisure centres - I attend classes at Penicuik - these are extremely well attended - many attendees are over 60 - cuts to these services would have an adverse effect on those who are actively looking after themselves. Scotland's problems with obesity require good, affordable leisure activities - anything which impacts negatively on providing this is surely not in keeping with government aims?

Your name and contact details: (optional)

I strongly oppose these proposals.

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.

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The savings proposed will clearly have a massive impact on services in Midlothian. Many of the things we take for granted will disappear. The services [redacted] be [redacted]. We are concerned that many of the proposed cuts will have most effects on the poorer, less able members of the Midlothian population. Most of the proposed savings that we would like to see re-considered are those in Education and in Adult Health and Social Care.

In Education, we are particularly concerned at the cuts in learning support assistants; these are essential to allow teachers to focus on mainstream pupils.

In Adult Health and Social Care, we are concerned that 'rebalancing care' is not seen as an euphemism for major cuts. We strongly disagree with the loss of tenant support services and reduction in revenues and benefits. The proposed reduction in the library service seems draconian. Again the less well-off use these for access not only to books but to the internet. We suggest the retention of at least 4 or 5 libraries to be retained at the main centres viz. Dalkeith, Bonnyrigg, Penicuik, Newtongrange, Lasswade.

In resources, we are concerned that the reduction in the winter maintenance budget will affect those who need to get out on to pedestrian routes. Cost savings that affect Health and Safety are undesirable such as loss of the pest control service and reducing

Your name and contact details: (optional)

[redacted]
[redacted]

Please use the back of this form or attach an extra sheet of paper if you need to.

Midlothian

the number of lifeguards at the four main pools.

Finally we see the general transfer of services to the community, although desirable in theory, may well not occur in practice. We acknowledge the need to outsource some services and to charge for others. We would be willing to bear charges for some services, especially those that benefit the better off. However, this needs to be well-organised as indeed does the co-ordination of volunteers willing to pick up services that would otherwise be lost.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Midlothian Council Savings Proposals

2018/19 to 2021/22

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CLOSURE OF BRANCH LIBRARIES:- I attend weekly Bookbug classes at Peirce's library. Staff are outstanding in their commitment. This benefits the children greatly in terms of language development & social skills but also benefits parents/carers/grandparents in terms of being part of an enthusiastic & friendly group. Attendance per week - approx. 25 families. Mon. + Thurs.

SUGGESTION FOR REVENUE: MARKET BOOKBUG T-SHIRTS, SWEAT-SHIRTS, BOOKBUG FIGURES. WE ALL LOVE HIM!

Library staff have always worked closely with all the schools in Peirce's. They provide after-school clubs such as LEGO clubs and also offer classes during holiday periods which support skills such as reading. Important to maintain over the holiday period.

GIRFEC and Child at the Centre stress the importance of being at the heart of a community as a child. These cuts will savage that community.

REDUCTION OF LEARNING ASSISTANTS By 10%

As a retired teacher, I find this ridiculous. Teaching methods have changed so much that more staff, not less, are required. Standards in our schools are reported as declining. Schools and staff need support. There are more children with English as a second language who deserve real support, children with physical and emotional

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[Redacted Name and Contact Details]

obstacles to overcome & feel nurtured. ACFE requires every child to feel safe and secure. This is hardly the way forward!

Midlothian

I totally agree with the comments on

Page 12 of 12

PAGES 1, 3 & 4.

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Savings Proposals – Potential staffing implications

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Education, Communities and Economy	30.3
Adult, Health and Social Care	43
Resources	167
Total	242.3

*full time equivalent

- STOP SUPPORT TO GALAS AND EVENTS
 - STOP PROVISION OF ALL FLORAL DISPLAYS & SHROB BEDS
 - REDUCE THE NUMBER OF GRASS FOOTBALL & ASTRO PITCHES
- These will all take the heart out of our community in Penicuik. Mental and physical health could both be affected, I fear.

- REMOVE THE NON STATUTORY SCHOOL CROSSING SERVICE.
This would discourage parents from allowing children to walk independently to school. Working parents cannot be in two places at once. What is the point of Active Schools if this goes ahead?
 - REDUCE SPENDING ON ROAD MAINTENANCE
 - REDUCE THE WINTER MAINTENANCE BUDGET
- Is this sensible? long-term? Effect on wider economy?

My husband and I already pay £220 a month to live in a three-bedroom Wimpey House (Council Tax, that is.) We will shortly both be retired. Reluctantly, we would support:-

- INCREASED / INTRODUCTION OF PARKING CHARGES
- CHARGE FOR GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION
- CHARGE FOR BINS & BOXES
- EXTENDED COLLECTION FREQUENCIES FOR BROWN + RED BINS BUT NOT RESIDUAL BINS.

Could I also please suggest [redacted]
Louthian Region, rather than [redacted] division
of Council wealth? Having [redacted] instead
of one representing us all, is not as effective a method
of working - in my opinion!

Shaping our Future. Have your say on local services

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Comments/ suggestions (attach additional card or a piece of paper if needed)

The youth club I go to think helps
people in Penicuik because it might help
younger people stop drinking or taking
drugs.

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We want you to tell us what the priorities are for you, your family and your community – and we want you to help us reshape our services to meet those priorities.

This is a huge challenge. Funding cuts made by central government mean that we will have less money than ever to spend over the next few years.

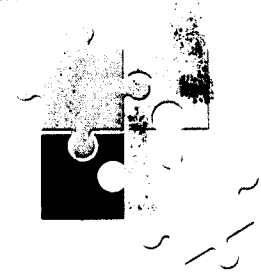
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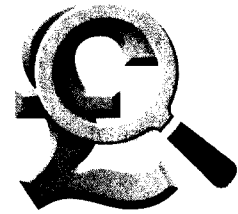
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- Are there ways in which the council could make more money, for example by increasing charges?
- What services could be run differently – for example by community groups?
- Could we share more services with other councils or other organisations?
- What services can we stop providing?



Ask



Reshape



Focus

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Comments/ suggestions (attach additional card or a piece of paper if needed)

We need more drop in center in penicuik becaus
I feel as if it would help youths stay out of
Violence

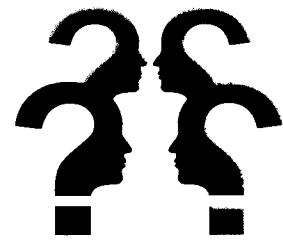
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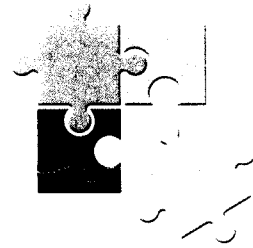
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Comments/ suggestions (attach additional card or a piece of paper if needed)

ACTION IS URGENTLY NEEDED ON REPAIRING DANGEROUS
POTHOLES IN ROADS AND PAVEMENTS AND MAKING
A PERMANENT REPAIR, NOT BRUSHING LOOSE PEBBLES
BACK IN THE HOLES AND ROLLING A WEIGHT OVER.
THESE ARE PARTICULARLY BAD IN FREEZING
CONDITIONS. CURRENT TEMPORARY FILLINGS DO
NOT USUALLY LAST EVEN A WEEK. BETWEEN
WEST ST AND THE SQUARE PEDESTRIANS HAVE
TO WALK ON THE ROAD IN WET AND FREEZING
CONDITIONS, PERILOUS ON SUCH A BUSY THOROUGHFARE.

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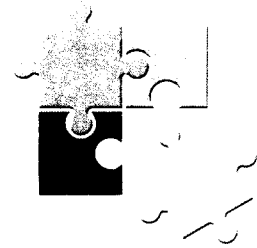
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Focus

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Comments/ suggestions (attach additional card or a piece of paper if needed)

- youth clubs Keep youngsters off the streets
- lights in penicuik/other parks should be kept on longer and should be brighter.
- ~~Buses should be~~ Bus prices should be lower.
- Better/more qualified teachers in school (penic high)

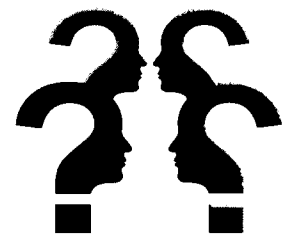
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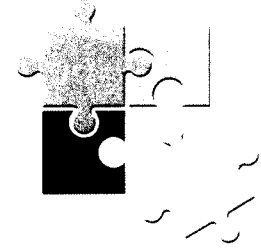
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Reshape



Focus