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.

ATTACHED IS A NOTE OF THE COMMENTS OF PENICUIK ATHLETIC TO MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL SAVINGS PROPOSALS

Please attach another sheet of paper if necessary.

Name and contact details: (optional)

[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

In response to Midlothian Council's Summary of Proposed Savings, Penicuik Athletic would like to make the following submission.

In general, we do not want to see a reduction in Midlothian Council's Sporting and Leisure provision.

In particular, we have detailed responses to the relevant Savings Proposals listed in the Summary as follows:-

Education, Communities and Economy

4 Penicuik Athletic would ask that the current Large and Small Grants system is not changed. We do not want a policy change to stop charging rents (including insurance) which is currently offset by a community grant. The club does not wish to take responsibility for a pavilion (see Property and Facilities Management 23). We would also argue for the retention of the small grant as it supports a community asset which brings positive benefits to Midlothian.

Resources – Commercial Operations

9 We would request that current grass cutting standards are maintained.

10 The number of grass and astro pitches should be maintained. Indeed, because of the positive benefits of active sports club participation, the council should be looking at ways of increasing sporting participation.

Property and Facilities Management

17 The current arrangements for Sport and Leisure provision should be retained. The possibility of sports clubs assuming a rates payment requirement under Leisure Trust arrangements are unacceptable and would lead to reduced participation in sporting activities.

20) Transferring the pavilion to the club would lead to a marked deterioration in the upkeep and maintenance of the building. The club does not have the resources or expertise required to take over these functions.

27) Fees and charges should not be increased other than by inflation because of the likelyhood of reducing participation in sporting and leisure activities. The council should be actively looking at ways of increasing participation in sports and leisure activities.

[redacted]

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

PRESBYTERY OF LOTHIAN

from the Presbytery Clerk - John D McCulloch DL

[redacted]

Have Your Say
Midlothian Council
Midlothian House
Buccleuch Street
DALKEITH
EH22 1DN

10 December 2017

Dear Madam/Sir

The Presbytery of Lothian of the Church of Scotland, through its Church and Society Committee, wishes to raise some concerns about the Programme for Change outlined in the booklet - *Summary of Proposed Savings: Addressing Midlothian Council's Financial Challenge to 2021-22*. It does so, recognising the very real pain which even reaching this point of setting out possible cuts to services will have caused. Presbytery and its congregations in Midlothian offer our renewed commitment to prayer for all those who work in Midlothian Council, our appreciation for the unstinting service offered to the community by the Council and our commitment to work in partnership with the Council in whatever ways are possible.

In submitting our comments, Presbytery is aware of the need for Midlothian Council to meet the financial challenge before it. It recognises that almost nothing within the *Summary of Proposed Savings* represents the preferred policy of the Council. Presbytery undertakes to make representations to our Members of the Scottish Parliament and our Member of Parliament in Westminster, and to work with them, where possible, to advocate for less severe budget cuts.

Presbytery commends Midlothian Council for the open consultation process it has initiated and has encouraged congregations and church members to attend meetings and submit their own responses.

Presbytery recognises that some of the proposals outlined, such as the introduction of (or increase to) parking charges, the further promotion of waste recycling and the efforts to increase the use of renewable energy are proposals which may well have a net benefit to Midlothian residents and more broadly to the environment. Presbytery commends those proposals which seek to raise funds for the use of the Council from those who can afford to pay.

Presbytery is, however, seriously concerned about a number of other proposals. It is deeply concerned for all who may lose their jobs as a result of these cuts. It is also concerned that the effect of many of the proposed cuts will fall disproportionately on the poor and the elderly in areas such as education, housing, library services and transport. Presbytery encourages Midlothian Council to look again at those cuts which may have the effect of limiting the opportunities for disadvantaged young people in the fields of health and education; those which may negatively impact the quality of housing enjoyed by Council tenants; those which may lead to an increase in homelessness; and those which may impose greater limits on what older people are able to do. The effect of moving more services online, while offering a clear benefit in terms of cost and convenience for some, will probably mean that those without access to personal computers or smartphones (predominantly the elderly) and without adequate broadband

connection - the poor and those in some rural communities - will be less able to access services than at present.

In addition to these matters, Presbytery is concerned about the impact of some of the proposals on community safety. Proposals such as reducing regular maintenance of roads, cutting back on winter gritting, ceasing open space CCTV maintenance activity and potentially reducing street lighting may well lead to a less safe environment for all Midlothian residents.

Congregations of Presbytery within Midlothian will note that grass-cutting in cemeteries and church graveyards is likely to suffer. Presbytery is grateful for the high standard of maintenance which has been achieved over many years but is mindful that individual congregations may have to take on some of the burden of this work themselves. Presbytery also notes the proposal to provide more lairs at Dalkeith Cemetery but makes a plea to the Council that this be done with the utmost sensitivity and regard for the families of those already interred there.

Presbytery wishes to thank Midlothian Council for the opportunity to contribute to discussion on the serious challenges the Council faces and expresses the hope that the Council and Presbytery may continue in meaningful and mutually supportive dialogue.

Yours faithfully

The Revd David D Scott	John D McCulloch
Moderator of Presbytery	Presbytery Clerk

Forward MID – Shaping our Future consultation response December 2017.

Forward Mid is an active, purposeful group whose aim is to improve the lives of physically disabled people in Midlothian - either at home, at work or in the wider community.
We are a forum for disabled people and disability related equality issues in Midlothian. Forward Mid meet supportively and informally to discuss and recognise the local issues around health, social care, education, employment, transport, self-directed support and other areas of importance to disabled citizens and how these affect their lives. Forward Mid aims to raise the awareness of the challenges and opportunities which exist for disabled people both locally and nationally: Forward Mid actively promote the rights of disabled people by working in partnership with public and private organisations representing the interests of disabled people, Forward Mid share wealth of useful information on issues that affect disabled people; publishing and distributing bimonthly newsletter and maintain a website and Facebook
page, Forward Mid co-ordinate community library hubs across Midlothian. These provide a source of first-class information and resources for disabled people,
Forward Mid are members of several council and health planning groups including Midlothian's Joint Physical Disability Planning Group, Forward mid operate a monthly peer support community café- Café Connect. Forward mid co- produced the Physical Disability Strategy for Midlothian 2106 – 2019.
Forward Mid's membership mailing list is approximately 160 disabled people and approximately 150 health and social care professionals/organisations.

The project proposals in the Shaping our Future consultation, if implemented, will have a disproportionate effect on disabled people. Not only will they have to cope with the same service cuts and extra costs as non-disabled citizens in Midlothian but disabled people will also face cuts and increases in charges for social care services – services that they rely on just to live an ordinary life.
This is clearly demonstrated in the Councils own Equality Impact Assessments which follow each proposal, specifically those following those which directly affect disabled people. Here are just three examples of this.
Adult Health and Social Care EQIA: "These plans will risk compromising delivery of the MIJB Strategic Plan including the shift to a preventative approach and community capacity building. They are also at risk of adversely impacting on the work of the Partnership to deliver our ambitions on reducing inequalities."
Travel and Fleet Proposal EQIA: "... 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."
Stop the taxi card scheme EQIA: "The taxi card scheme offers a means for the disabled to make journeys that would otherwise be difficult to undertake. This service gives users the opportunity to lead the fullest life possible, accessing shops, leisure and general travel."
The Council's own recognition of the unfairness of these proposals is echoed by those of Forward Mid which we will expand on later in our submission.
The premise that the implementation of these proposals will save the council money is simply not true. Yes, it may well save some money in the short term but these savings will be vastly overshadowed by the financial losses in the mid to long term. These proposals have all the signs of being a panic measure with no thought of the consequences that will follow their implementation. This is evident as early as the introduction in the Shaping Our Future document. Here are some examples of Forward Mid's comments in red.

"1.1 Why is Transformation Necessary?
Workforce Pressures: Despite changes to terms and conditions such as guaranteed hours and the Living Wage, recruitment and retention is a growing problem, particularly in the field of care at home. This is a high-risk area with many people in need of social care support not receiving it during 2017-18."
Paying a decent wage to care/support workers would help alleviate this problem – PAs in Midlothian have not had a pay increase since 2008. Is it any wonder there is a PA recruitment crisis when people can get almost as much stacking shelves – not to demean that job but it doesn't have the same responsibilities and challenges that assisting a disabled person has.
The cost of any pay rise would be offset by the reduction continuous recruitment and, more importantly, in hospital admissions caused by people receiving insufficient service provision or not getting any of social care services at all.

"1.3 Service Transformation
The scale of the challenge is such that fundamental changes to health and care are needed with the emphasis moving from • Failure Demand to Prevention • Treatment and Support to Recovery and Rehabilitation • Reactive to Anticipatory Care • Hospital and Care Homes to Community Based Services • Individual Practitioner to Team Working."
How can these changes be made when services are being cut? As we said earlier in this submission, cutting services to the bare minimum will only exacerbate the physical and mental health of those who depend on these services.

"An underlying theme to these shifts in approach is that of enabling people to access universal services, such as good quality housing; employment; and social opportunities, rather than have a continuing dependence upon health and care services."
People will need health and care services, community transport and accessible vehicles (taxis) to facilitate their integration into society; employment, civic and social engagement. Failure to provide these services will only lead to disabled people being isolated from the society which in turn will lead to further social and health care dependency.

"1.5 Financial Strategy
A new programme board Realistic Care Realistic Expectations-was established in December 2016 with the very ambitious objectives of eliminating the projected overspend of £1.4m in 2017-18 and contributing a further £1.55m saving by March 2018."
Midlothian Council, like all public bodies, looks at the costs of services but not at the costs that would be incurred if the preventative services (care at home etc.) are cut or not implement. Again, will reliance on health and social care and an increase in people being admitted to hospitals or care homes.

"1.6.2 Learning Disability Day Services:
There has been considerable investment – now over £4m per year including transport- in recent years. Whilst this has in part, been a response to the number of youngsters with complex needs; there is a recognition that the current proliferation of services, including those accessed in Edinburgh, is not sustainable. "
Removing free transport provision and charging for days services will result in social isolation for many people with learning disabilities as well as disabled and older people. Again, this will lead to deterioration in people's mental and physical health leading to an increase in spending.

"1.6.3 Care Packages:
People's social care needs can change over time so it is important that support is reviewed regularly. This makes sure the support is meeting people's personal outcomes. A dedicated Social Care Review Team has now been established with the task of ensuring that all packages of care are reviewed and that individuals have the right level of support. This will mean considering whether people have the right balance of rehabilitation and independence or direct support, alongside the possible use of technology. "
The stark reality is that people in Midlothian, indeed people throughout Scotland, are afraid to ask for their support packages to be reviewed as this inevitably leads to a cut in the services they need to have an independent life. We have yet to hear of anyone being reassessed and receiving an increase to the services they have.

"1.6.4 Care at Home:
However Care at Home has been an ongoing area of high risk in terms of sustainable service provision; service quality; workforce shortages; and the consequential impact on other services such as delayed discharges in acute hospitals. A major rethink is underway with the ambition to move away from the long-established "time and task" approach to one which is more personal outcome focussed. This will also include a more focused approach to locality-based delivery, building on a 'family first' approach and making more effective use of multi-disciplinary teams across the health and social care workforce, with clear connections to community and voluntary organisations."

"Family first" means asking many families to provide further support to a cared for person, support that the Council has a duty to provide, for free. This could result in people leaving their jobs to care for a family member, restricting their human right to living an independent life. It will put a strain on relationships and could lead to marital breakdown as well as having an effect on the mental and physical health of carers.
"Transformation Programme
We need to engage communities in the financial challenge ahead and where we plan to withdraw or reduce service delivery, we need to ensure we include them in that discussion and ask what they can do to assist in their own Communities."
How can this be achieved if councils are cutting grants to organisations that provide support to disabled people?
By introducing these proposed cuts to services, introducing new charges at increasing current charges many disabled people will face the impossible choice between paying for essential costs such as food and heating or paying to participate in society.
In meeting their Public Sector Equality Duty, Midlothian Council must ensure that they meet their obligations by assessing the impact these current proposed new charges and increases in charges have in promoting equality of opportunity between disabled and non-disabled people.
The effect of the implementation of these proposals on Independent Living.
On 5th March 2013, at the Scottish Parliament, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing and Jim Elder-Woodward OBE Convenor of the Scottish Independent Living Coalition joined with Derek Feeley Director General of the NHS in Scotland and Councillor Peter

Johnstone CoSLA's spokesperson on Health and Wellbeing to sign a Vision for Independent Living.
http://www.ilis.co.uk/uploads/Vision1.pdf
The Vision sets out that independent living is the right thing to do for disabled people, for public services and for society and indeed, for the economy. It talks about how human rights are at the heart of this agenda and how we need to work together to get this right. The following statements are excerpts from this vision.

• Independent living means "disabled people of all ages having the same
Freedom, choice, dignity and control as other citizens at home, at work, and in the community. It does not mean living by yourself or fending for yourself. It means rights to practical assistance and support to participate in society and live an ordinary life."

• These rights to independent living are enshrined within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Human Rights Act 1998, and the Equality Act 2010.

• It is right for the individual - to be free from prejudice and discrimination; and to participate within society as full, and active, equal citizens.

• We will work to make all our outcomes inclusive of independent living principles and practices, so that disabled people can participate in society and lead an ordinary life, on an equal basis to that of other citizens, and be a part of Scotland's future development as a country of equal opportunity and quality of life for all of its citizens.

• Our overall objective is to deliver real choice and control for disabled people in all areas of life, and all parts of Scotland, ensuring their dignity and respect at all times as full, and active, equal citizens of Scotland.

If implemented, the proposals set forward in Shaping our Future 2017, this vision will never be realised.
Getting the right support to live good lives in the community is about fulfilling the human rights of disabled and older people. The reduction in accessible transport, care/support packages and an increase in care charging will have negative impacts on other services such as health. People facing a reduction in social care, or not being offered any support, are more at risk of using emergency health or other crisis services.
The barriers that these proposals will build a send a clear message to disabled people citizens living in Midlothian that they are not allowed to achieve any aspirations they may have with a life of poverty and isolation being the default setting.
For many disabled people, the services under discussion here are needed to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect human rights. Without it, many disabled people cannot: participate in society on an equal basis to others.
Jeff Adamson. Chair
. Forward Mid.

MELVILLE GOLF CENTRE

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12th November 2017

Councillor Derek Milligan, Council Leader

I would like to make my comments to Midlothian's Council's Shaping the Future proposals and keep them on record. Having read through the proposals for budget cuts in detail I am disappointed that what I see as some essential services for social work and education have been withdrawn while some non-essential services seem to remain.

As a business operator what I am most surprised not to see in detail is that methods to gain extra income have been proposed or calculated in the budget

Currently there are 7 golf courses in Midlothian (the Council website lists 6). They all offer the same services to the Midlothian Community for sport, recreation and outside activities. What is very difficult to understand in these budget strapped times is why 3 of the Courses are provided discretionary grant relief to dramatically reduce their business rates by the Council and 3 others pay the full cost. Note I'm discussing discretionary not mandatory relief of rates.

The grant provided by the Council is discretionary and it is certainly unfair that some courses receive a discount and some don't. In a sporting environment we expect a level playing field. If we compare 2 very similar 18 hole courses - Broomieknowe and Kings Acre both offering golf membership and playing facilities at an upmarket price (which not many Midlothian residents can afford) we find that Broomieknowe receives a "discretionary" grant and pays £33,700 in rates while its neighbour Kings Acre pays £86,800. I enclose the 2017 Valuation figures overleaf for Broomieknowe, Kings Acre and Newbattle to show the tax distortion.

With these discretionary grants (that can easily be withdrawn by Midlothian Council as it has in other Council's in Scotland and Northern Ireland) Midlothian has a short fall in income of about 3 x £50,000!

The Barclay Review under discussion in the Scottish Parliament aims to remove this market distortion so clearly anyone who believes in fair play will support it, the business community certainly does. We also face VAT distortion between some golf courses paying VAT on their green fees and some not, but that is not a matter for Midlothian Council to review in their budget cuts.

Although there are 7 golf courses in Midlothian one course, Vogrie, does not pay any business rates and runs its operation at a major loss on an annual basis. As a result the 6 golf courses paying business rates are subsidising one! In these difficult trading times the Council should not be operating a loss making facility and distorting the market for pay and play golf as it is harming the economic development of Midlothian. Forming an ALEO at Vogrie would only make matters worse as it is a COSLA recognised method of tax avoidance.

Discretionary grants for private members golf courses should be removed and the funds obtained should be spent on essential services.

Yours faithfully

Alastair Macfarlane
CC Chief Executive. Elected Members

MELVILLE GOLF CENTRE

LASSWADE, MIDLOTHIAN
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golf@melvillegolf.co.uk

Current Value | Valuation History | Pre-Revaluation 2017

Pre-Revaluation 2017

Ref No.	208G576AM36
Office	LOTHIAN VJB
Description	GOLF COURSE
Property Address	BROOMIEKNOWE GOLF CLUB, 36 GOLF COURSE ROAD BONNYRIGG MIDLOTHIAN EH19 2HZ

Net Annual Value	£33,700
Marker	
Rateable Value	£33,700
Effective Date	01-APR-10

Effective Date	Valuation Notice Issue Date	Description	Net Annual Value	Marker	Rateable Value	Reason for Alteration
01-APR-10	16-MAR-10	GOLF COURSE	£33,700		£33,700	REVALUATION

Please note the values shown are taken from a snapshot of the Valuation Roll in March 2017 and are not being maintained if the values change at a later date. If you need further information, conta your local Assessor. For information on how properties are valued for non-domestic rating, please use the link on the Home page.

Current Value | Valuation History | Pre-Revaluation 2017

Valuation History

Ref No.	213M594AM(D)
Property Address	KINGSACRE GOLF COURSE, (D) MELVILLE MAINS FARM LASSWADE MIDLOTHIAN EH18 1AU

Status	Effective Date	Valuation Notice Issue Date	Description	Net Annual Value	Marker	Rateable Value	Reason for Alteration	Currently Under Appeal	Summary Valuation
Current	01-APR-17	15-MAR-17	GOLF COURSE	£86,600		£86,600	REVALUATION	No	

Valuation History

Ref No.	216A060AM35
Property Address	NEWBATTLE GOLF CLUB LTD, 35 ABBEY ROAD, ESKBANK ESKBANK DALKEITH MIDLOTHIAN EH22 3AD

Status	Effective Date	Valuation Notice Issue Date	Description	Net Annual Value	Marker	Rateable Value	Reason for Alteration	Currently Under Appeal	Summary Valuation
Current	01-APR-17	15-MAR-17	GOLF COURSE	£36,900		£36,900	REVALUATION	No	