

PLANNING FOR CHANGE

Reshaping local services in Midlothian

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

The cost of providing council services in Midlothian next year (2020/21) is expected to be

£214.7 million



However, we estimate that we will be

£4.6 million

short of what we need to spend to keep services at current levels.



By 2022/23, the funding gap is expected to be

£18.8 million

WHY HAS THIS HAPPENED?

Most of the council's money (around 75%) comes from the Scottish Government. But this funding for core services has been reducing every year.



At the same time, Midlothian has the fastest growing population in Scotland.



Our population is also changing. We will have more older people and more children of school age. This means that the demand for essential services, and the cost of providing them, is rising.



WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Get more government funding?

The council will continue to make the case for extra funding



to meet the growing demand for services in Midlothian.

Put up Council Tax?

The Council Tax you pay makes up less than a quarter of the money the council needs for local services. Increasing this by the maximum 4.79% allowed by the Scottish Government will still leave us with over

£4.6 million to find next year

Make savings?

The council continues to make savings - these amount to

£7.4 million

in 2019/20 alone.

WE'RE MAKING BIG CHANGES

The savings we need to make over the next 3 years will call for a radical redesign of local services. We will either need to do things very differently or lose some services altogether. **Some of the things we need to do...**



- Share services** with other councils and other organisations to help cut costs
- Continue to work with our communities** and volunteers to get their help to keep some local services and facilities going
- Use new, automated systems** to carry out tasks, saving time and money
- Carry out commercial activities** to make money that we can reinvest in services
- Redesign our services** to streamline delivery and cut management costs.

