



Item 5.1 - Business bulletin

Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Thursday 17 March 2016

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Finance and Resources Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener Cllr Alasdair Rankin</p>  <p>Vice – Convener Cllr Bill Cook</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cllr Adam McVey ▪ Cllr David Walker ▪ Cllr Denis Dixon ▪ Cllr Paul Edie ▪ Cllr Gavin Corbett ▪ Cllr Iain Whyte ▪ Cllr Joan Griffiths ▪ Cllr Ricky Henderson ▪ Cllr Bill Henderson ▪ Cllr Paul Godzik ▪ Cllr Allan Jackson ▪ Cllr Andrew Burns (ex officio) ▪ Cllr Frank Ross (ex officio) 	<p>Veronica MacMillan Committee Officer Tel: 0131 529 4283</p> <p>Linda Fraser Professional Support Manager Tel: 0131 469 3928</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>63 Niddrie Mains Terrace</p> <p>On 26 January 2016 the Finance and Resources Committee approved recommendations to extend the area leased to Caring in Craigmillar at 63 Niddrie Mains Terrace.</p> <p>Approval included a Capital Coalition Motion:- <i>To instruct officers to expedite the refurbishment of the building at 63 Niddrie Mains Terrace and secure temporary accommodation for the East Edinburgh Muslim Forum and to work with the group to secure a lease on the property at 63 Niddrie Mains Terrace as quickly as possible.</i></p> <p>Council officials have worked closely with Caring in Craigmillar (CiC) and East Edinburgh Muslim Forum (EEMF). CiC was able to access 63 Niddrie Mains Terrace from Monday 15th February to start refurbishment works. At that time, EEMF moved to temporary accommodation at 86-88 Niddrie Mains Road then to the first floor at 63 Niddrie Mains Terrace on a 3 year lease from 1st March when the</p>	<p>Finance and Resources Committee, 6 June 2013 - authorised lease of community space at 63 Niddrie Mains Terrace to Caring in Craigmillar (CiC) for five years.</p> <p>Finance and Resources Committee, 30</p>

<p>Children and Families service moved out.</p>	<p>September 2014 – extended period of lease to 10 years.</p> <p>For further information, please contact Peter Watton</p>
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<p>Local Government Finance Settlement, 2016/17</p> <p>The Local Government Finance Order was approved by the Scottish Parliament on 24 February, confirming the revenue and grant funding allocations for Scotland’s thirty-two councils for 2016/17. As in previous years, in order to secure full funding, on behalf of their respective councils Leaders required to agree to seek to deliver a number of specific Scottish Government priorities, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintaining pupil:teacher ratios at December 2015 levels; • freezing Council Tax for a further year; and • working, through integration authorities, to expand social care provision whilst supporting wider measures to raise service standards (particularly extending the application of the Living Wage to care workers in the private and independent sectors). <p>Following clarification on a number of issues, particularly those relating to the newly-created £250m fund to support Health and Social Care integration, Leaders were requested to confirm acceptance of the overall package to the Deputy First Minister by 9 February. All councils did so within these timescales, allowing the full amount of funding contained within the Settlement to be released.</p> <p>The final stage of the Budget Bill’s Parliamentary consideration introduced an additional £80m over the next three years to support improved educational attainment across Scotland, doubling the previously-announced level of funding in this area. The distribution of these funds will be confirmed in due course.</p>	<p>For further information, please contact Alison Henry</p>
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<p>Proposed changes to Council Tax</p> <p>Following publication of the recommendations of the Commission on Local Tax Reform in December, on 2 March the Scottish Government outlined changes to current Council Tax arrangements, subject to its re-election in May. The main elements of these proposed changes,</p>	<p>For further information, please contact Fraser</p>
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effective from April 2017, are as follows:

- Upwards revision of the current multipliers on Bands E to H relative to Band D, intended to start to address the view of the Commission that the Council Tax in its current form is unduly regressive. Before application of any relief, this change is anticipated to affect 84,000 households in Edinburgh (around 38% of the total in the city) and around a quarter of households nationally. Based on current rates, Band E levels in Edinburgh would increase from £1,429 to around £1,536 (a rise of 7.5%) and Band H from £2,338 to around £2,864 (22.5%);
- Some changes to the existing scheme of reliefs, including offering additional help both to those whose property value is considered disproportionately high relative to their disposable income and some low-income households with children; and
- Ending of the current Council Tax freeze policy in April 2017, with councils able to increase rates by up to 3% per year from that time.

Across Scotland as a whole, the proposed changes to the multipliers for higher-banded properties are expected to increase total income by around £100m per annum, with this income supporting additional investment in schools. Given the number and profile of properties in the city, it is anticipated that the changes will increase Council Tax income raised in Edinburgh by about £15m. Under the needs basis of the grant distribution system, however, it is likely that Edinburgh's share of the schools-related funding will be around £7m, with the remaining £8m offset by a corresponding adjustment to its revenue grant.

The Council's budget framework assumes annual increases in Council Tax levels of 3% with effect from 2017/18. Subject to subsequent Council approval, the Scottish Government's proposals are therefore consistent with these assumptions. Monies received in respect of maintaining previous years' freezes will be retained within the Local Government Settlement as these underpin current approved levels of expenditure.

In the medium- to longer-term, the Scottish Government's proposals also include, subject to further discussion with COSLA, devolving an element of Income Tax receipts to councils, incentivising them to contribute to their areas' economic development.

Cammo Advisory Estate Committee

A presentation on the Vision for Cammo was given at the Cammo Advisory Committee on 16 December 2015. The presentation highlighted some of the issues, opportunities and next steps in relation to the restoration of Cammo.

A link to the Full Meeting Papers and the minutes has been attached

[Rowson](#)

For further information, please contact [Lesley Price](#), Estates Manager on

below.

[Cammo Advisory Committee Minutes 16.12.15](#)

[Full Meeting Papers - Cammo Estate Advisory Committee 16.12.15](#)

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Forthcoming activities
