

Finance and Resource

Thursday 24 September

Deputation by UNISON , Gerry Stovin

Councillors

With the £12.2 million deficit for the current financial year in the papers today there is also a looming £25 million of approved cuts in 6 months' time. Before we get there the Council will have to enforce any outstanding cuts that have not been achieved this year, leading to a poorly planned rush to get staff out the door. This could create up to £50 million being slashed off the budget with a series of cuts and savings over the next 12 months.

With damage to our services and hundreds of jobs being lost we will struggle to maintain our commitments to the residents of our city during the current crisis and beyond.

There is still time to get additional funding and financial powers from the Scottish Government to ease the short term affects, but we also need to pursue a fair grant settlement for next year that is above the current flat cash prediction.

If this is going to happen we need to get our plight out to the public and government.

We need to know how many jobs will be lost and which services will suffer the most over the coming months and we really need to know now.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our members, and all Council workers in general, for the daily struggle they face to keep our services going and for the risks and sacrifices they have made to save lives.