

AGENDA ITEM 5ii

Question Time Àm Ceiste

There are circulated Responses to the Questions on the Council Agenda which it was indicated would follow –

Member Questions

(2) Mr A Christie

To the Chair of Corporate Resources

“Could the Chair of Corporate Resources (or Budget Lead) please detail the impact both operationally and in financial terms that the Scottish Government Resource Spending Review published on 31 May 2022 will have on the Council with particular regard to the Fraser of Allender Institute assertion that the local government budget will decline by 7% in real terms between 2022/23 and 2026/27?”

The Scottish Government Resource Spending Review has provided a high-level overview of the funding available for the different Scottish Government directorates for the next 5 years. The Local Government directorate allocation sees a flat cash scenario with a small uplift in year five. At this stage it is not possible to say what the exact impact of this settlement will be at individual Council level.

When the Council set its budget for financial year 2022/23 in March of this year the focus was on delivering a balanced budget for 2022/23 only. Part of the budget paper (section 7) did however look to the medium term with a five-year medium-term scenario, based on flat cash funding settlements from government, showing a five-year budget gap from 2022/23 to 2026/27 of £114.5m.

As outlined in the annual accounts documents being considered by Council today Members will be aware that challenging financial times lie ahead of us. This Administration is firmly committed to delivering a medium-term financial strategy that will ensure the Council’s financial sustainability during this challenging period.