

BUDGET CONSULTATION SUMMARY OF EVENTS

EVENT	East Ayrshire North Coalfields Federation
DATE	11 th November 2013
NUMBERS ATTENDING	19 + Councillor McKay & Councillor Jones

POINTS/QUESTIONS RAISED		
TOPIC	QUESTION COMMENT	RESPONSE
Staffing	<p>60% of Council budget spent on staffing. What are the projections for staff for 2014/2015?</p> <p>Will staff costs be on a par with services being provided?</p>	<p>We are looking at changing the way staff work but staff are a valuable resource and deliver frontline services, teachers, social work etc.</p> <p>Looking to reduce staff by about 400 over next 2 years. £8m reduction.</p> <p>Aware of impact of workforce who are still here following 2016/2017.</p>
Coalfields Restoration	<p>Cllr McKay is quoted as saying that EAC not going to pay 1p to restore. What is the truth? Press says different.</p> <p>Comment Personal view is that EA need to run away from this, is it not a Government issue?</p>	<p>EAC not liability for restoration as it is not EAC land. £161m cost calculated as part of EAC exercise, notional figure. Nothing to suggest £161m will be spent. EAC would never have funds of that scale or agreement from communities to spend it all that way.</p> <p>We are taking a Community Planning approach to this issue. Brining others together to make good and make new where possible. EAC has a community leadership role, this is our focus as we are ideally placed to bring people together and make sure others are playing their part. EAC has written to Scottish Government and UK Government for support and contribution.</p> <p>EAC will play its part but will not take on the debt.</p>

	<p>Clarification sought by Cllr McKay in relation to comment above.</p> <p>Fiona Lees asked how much EAC already spent money re Coalfields Restoration</p>	<p>Approx. £ 200k so far from balances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established Team Coal • Took people out of Planning therefore had to backfill posts • Legal costs in relation to disclaimed land
	<p>Concern about potential pollution, what are legalities for Council?</p>	<p>SEPA issue but our role to ensure they do job.</p>
	<p>Can it be used for landfill?</p>	<p>EAC has sufficient landfill capacity – local plan states Policy Position – no requirement for further landfill.</p>
<p>PPP Schools</p>	<p>PPP schools and building – any scope to renegotiate deals?</p>	<p>Scottish Future Trust are overseeing next phase of school buildings. They are prepared to look at PPP National and scope for renegotiation. EAC PPP deal deemed tightest in Scotland and a good example of what you get for your money.</p>
<p>EAC Buildings</p>	<p>Need to reduce buildings. Heard that 2 The Cross was being leased. What are the costs for this?</p>	<p>Unusual building in that 2 The cross is not owned by EAC, we only own the land. Leaving building empty would cost money. Spend 600k, new owners pay £200k of this and we get lease costs. Net cost to council would be close to zero. Confident that building will be leased out over next few months.</p>
<p>Parking Fines</p>	<p>Article in Kilmarnock Standard (25/10/13) Social workers and nurses visiting patients at home being targeted by parking attendants. Could they be reimbursed for these costs when parking outside patients home?</p>	<p>Staff have responsibility to park with restrictions. Responsible for own payment. Permits available. Not aware of any NHS arrangements – but will check up and get back to you in writing. (Action: Fiona Lees)</p>
<p>Council Tax</p>	<p>Comment Council tax-free operating for a number of years – commends Council on job they have done.</p>	<p>Acknowledged</p>

Staff parking	Understand that Council have reached an amicable solution at Morrison's for council parking.	No agreement or discussions has taken place with Morrison's relating to this issue.
Letting charges	Will letting charges be increased? Can charges be consolidated?	2% or 3% depending on market. School letting charges being looked at
Windfarm issues	Dark Sky Observatory and Windfarm clashes – can this be resolved?	Council needs to look at in line with Planning regulations. Scottish Government decision regarding Kyle Windfarm. Council will need to arrive at position taking into account all needs.
Community Empowerment Bill	What negotiations are place with Scottish Government and COSLA? Local Authorities under great financial pressure yet new Bills come out and there is the expectation that LA's will address.	<p>Continuing dialogue with COSLA and Scottish Government. We get opportunity to cost before implemented but not always accepted. For Children and Young Person Bill, we got what we asked for.</p> <p>MSPs do take a close interest and Alex McPhee attended Parliamentary Committee. However, they have to balance priorities as well. Need to accept what we get.</p> <p>Additional Comment Cllr McKay advised that vote taken at last COSLA convention not to accept other papers. Recognise that EAC are doing a sterling job to manage funding.</p>
Pan Ayrshire Services	Any success noted at this stage in relation to the Road Alliance?	<p>Up and running April 2014. Optimistic that is was right thing to do. £8m savings, share equipment, vehicles etc</p> <p>Taken time to get there but any future plans should be easier. In future every one of our services will be tested for shared services. Question will be if not why not. There are other examples such as Social Work Out of Hours also shared.</p>

Schools	We now have an all Ayrshire College. Can we consider the same for schools?	<p>Ayrshire College is unique and will play key role in opportunities for young people in East Ayrshire. Support from Heather and her Team is second to none. College best bridge to employment for our young people.</p> <p>All Ayrshire Secondary Head Teacher meeting with College held in September. Focused on how we can work together to improve opportunities for our young people.</p> <p>Strategic/imperative – every single service will be reviewed as previously stated and that includes schools.</p>
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