

BUDGET CONSULTATION SUMMARY OF EVENTS

EVENT	East Ayrshire Tenants and Residents Federation
DATE	13 th November 2013
NUMBERS ATTENDING	17

POINTS/QUESTIONS RAISED		
TOPIC	QUESTION COMMENT	RESPONSE
Budget Efficiencies	Is this figure needed or is it political?	Westminster reduce borrowing. Very much political question. Paul Whip – we worked with Improvement Service to ensure our figures were ok – they confirmed as accurate as can be.
Coal	Are Council still awaiting Appeal outcome re Coalfields	Yes. Nothing set aside within budget.
Plant Review	Plant review – how does that affect community gardens? Those plants make our communities nice? Pay back boys to plant and maintain? Are Jobs going?	Consultation needs to be done in relation to flower beds. Plants bought in not grown by EAC. Not a lot of jobs affected – majority of costs is buying of plants.
Reduce secure accommodation for children.	Are you handing over to private companies?	Expensive service to provide but necessary. Providers to share burden. Paul Whip – Getting additional money for this. Young people being sent to supported accommodation out with East Ayrshire. We can spend money in Ayrshire to keep them in East Ayrshire other than costs associated to go out with authority.
	Concerns re this, especially as private companies are looking at profits.	We need to have a re-think about the service. We pay cost of service. Enough funds to rebadged service and still save £1m.
	Same argument a few years ago when facilities closed.	Year on year price increases on charges. Economy changed dramatically in past 5 years so need to look at it now.

Online Survey	<p>Not enough time to feedback as deadline is Friday. Can't take back to our groups for their discussion. Seems rushed. Process needs to be started earlier</p> <p>Bruce Cuthbertson – I did not know about Budget Consultation today until Tuesday, only aware rent Consultation.</p> <p>Share information with us – give us heads up for our Rent Conference in October – in line with Scottish Government Consultation. Federation will assist in process if know earlier.</p>	<p>Explained 11th December Cabinet 12th December Council for discussion/approval</p> <p>Beginning earlier every year.</p> <p>Look at timescales for Cabinet agreeing consultation and agreeing budget.</p>
Leisure Trust/Local Offices	<p>Decision to close facilities put back a year.</p> <p>Newmilns/Darvel Library/Local Office to close and use Galston. Bus fare expensive – 4-5miles from. Community Hub in newmilns as central – makes more sense. Council Office in Galston is run down, and Newmilns refurbished.</p> <p>Hurlford is already a hub. People from Mauchline, etc come in and use.</p> <p>Why move a premise if it's doing its job?</p> <p>Big Office in Hurlford could accommodate everything.</p> <p>Parking problems at Galston – parking available at Hurlford which is why people from Mauchline and Auchinleck use it. Bus route also through Hurlford.</p> <p>Have to go to Hubs for information?</p>	<p>Further discussions taking place.</p> <p>Hub – central. Galston seen as biggest. Not everything emanates from one building. Building in Galston to be renovated.</p> <p>Looked at geography, facilities, travel times, etc to determine Hub.</p> <p>Funding was available to use for Galston rather than Hurlford or Newmilns.</p> <p>Not always about buildings.</p> <p>Fair point and will take back. People can pay rent on-line at PayPoints etc.</p> <p>Less and less people use local offices. More and more people using on-line services. Always remember Hub not around a building.</p>
School rationalisation	<p>Has decision been taken regarding any move of Cumnock Academy to Auchinleck Academy or Vice Versa?</p>	<p>No decision taken yet.</p>

Waste Management	How is it progressing?	Well, and making savings, looking at roll out.
Budget timescale	Why not begin consultation in January?	Decisions taken by members to have budget agreed by December.