

Conservative Budget Full Council 3rd March 2020

- 2.1. It is recommended that (subject to the Scottish Budget being approved by Scottish Parliament) the Council approves:
- I. An increase of 3% on Council Tax for 2020/21;
 - II. Provision of £4,528,000 for budget pressures as listed in APPENDIX 2;
 - III. Further savings totalling £104,000 as listed in APPENDIX 3;
 - IV. Indicative budgets for 2021/22 and 2022/23 as set out in APPENDIX 1;
 - V. Capital expenditure for 2020/2021 as set out in the indicative ten year Capital Plan in APPENDIX 4;
 - VI. Funding for Moray Integration Joint Board (MIJB) to increase by £1,792,000 in 2020/21 compared to 2019/20 per the settlement letter from Scottish Government;
 - VII. Use of general reserves of up to £3,204,000 to balance the budget;
 - VIII. Council notes that this year local authorities were not given the opportunity to agree the funding settlement from the Scottish Government, where in the past the opportunity to do so has been a method by which councils can highlight individual challenges and asks. With the above in mind –

Council instructs the Leader of the Council to open cross-party talks with the Scottish Government to discuss the unique circumstances Moray faces as well as the need for transitional funding.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Scottish Government and to Audit Scotland confirming that, in the absence of either a substantially larger core grant settlement or a bespoke package of transition funding, Moray Council is unlikely to set a balanced budget in 2021/22 without significant and damaging cuts to local services.

- 2.2 Council agrees to note recommendations as written in Para 2.2 of the budget paper
- 2.3 Council agrees to suspend standing orders due to the additional funding received from the Scottish Government; and if so agreeing to;
- I. Repeal the decision taken to close public toilets on 12th February 2020
 - II. A report to the next meeting of the Moray Council on the cost of re-opening Fiddich Park, Craigellachie, West Dunes (South), Findhorn and Reidhaven Square, Keith;
 - III. A further report to Moray Council by September 2020 which reports on discussions with the new tourism body, continuing discussion with Communities as well as the potential for external funding and options around income generation.
 - IV. Agree to the re-introduction of grass cutting as per the motion discussed on 2nd October 2019 and detailed in the budget report to the Moray Council meeting on 23rd January 2019 (Appendix B Line D6c4) and also;
 - a. Council to express publically our thanks for all those in communities throughout Moray who have helped with grass cutting this summer.
 - b. Council to encourage those who wish to continue to cut grass, especially smaller areas such as verges.
 - c. Council to use all available opportunities to promote sponsorship of grass areas to bring in additional income
 - V. Re-introduce cutting of destination parks as per saving D6d1 (Appendix A, 12th December 2018)