



Midlothian: our budget challenge – please tell us what matters most to you?

With an estimated budget gap of £12.98 million in the next financial year (2023/24) rising to £25.05 million by 2027/28, we are asking local people for help in focusing resources where they are needed most.

Council Leader Councillor Kelly Parry says the budget crisis is the most daunting she has faced in her seven years as a councillor.

You can find more details of our financial challenge at www.midlothian.gov.uk/budget and on the one page printed infographic supplied out our libraries. If the infographic is not obviously available with this survey, just ask library staff to print off a copy.

Please take the time to tell us what matters most to you, your family and your community.

We will be sharing what local people tell us before we present a balanced budget early next year (2023).

Please tell us:

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or group? Please circle:

- Yes
- ☒ No

If yes, which organisation or group?

Which area do you live in and/or represent if answering on behalf of an organisation or group?

- Danderhall
- Dalkeith including Woodburn and Eskbank
- Gorebridge
- Loanhead
- ☒ Mayfield & Easthouses (cont'd on next page)

We are facing daunting budget challenges ahead. Each 1% rise in Council Tax generates £580,000 of additional income annually for the council. By what percentage, if any, should we raise Council Tax next year?

- 0%
- 1%
- 2%
- 3%
- 4%
- 5%
- Other (use box below to tell us more)

1% would be fine and wouldn't be that noticeable in your bank balance.

Please use the box below for any other comments.

- Look at services & staffing provided by the council, can they be run by less staff?
- Charge less for leisure, private sector is cheaper.
- Turn down heating & lighting in council buildings.

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PRIMARY 1 TEACHER - PARADYKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Please protect the loanhead library and its services. It is extremely valuable to our children and encouraging a positive mindset & ethos around reading and literacy attainment. Our children love visiting the library - they get enjoyment from the visits, as well as

Many thanks for taking the time to give your comments. feeling independent and giving them ownership over their choice for reading texts. This is vital to their education.



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- Newtongrange
- Bonnyrigg
- Penicuik
- Other (Please use the box below to tell us where)

Bonnyrigg / Lasswade

Thinking of you, your family and community, tell us more about what you think the council's spending priorities should be?

NHS - GP Surgeries,
Roads - Potholes problems, Traffic Management

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

No !

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

Perhaps re-assess / re-value some of ~~some~~ the residential properties to bring them to the correct rate band!

What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

Don't have enough knowledge to comment !

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• Other (use box below to tell us more)

Linked to RPI but cap rate

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Given the limited budget restrain
I think our local library and leisure
centre, ie Loanhead are very well
run. I hope there will be no cut in coming

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7/7!



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Thinking of you, your family and community, tell us more about what you think the council's spending priorities should be?

Educational
Sporting activities swimming pools libraries
Activities for elderly

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

Make small charges for usage

What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

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Council tax is already high enough

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Shared Spaces for people to meet/eat/read/exercise
Love all the community Hubs. Keep investing in these.

Roads & Pavements

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

Happy to pay a bit extra for good facilities & services. Make sure to protect those who can't afford to.

What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

Yes! Perhaps collaborating with Edinburgh & East?
A lot of people living at these borders will tap into services.

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Would accept that some rise may be required. Need to be sensitive to individual incomes & Cost of living.

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Health & Wellbeing need to stay at the heart of the Council's vision. Without these supports, the burden on the NHS / Social Care etc will cont. to worsen. Impossible to close the gap on your budget deficit.

Many thanks for taking the time to give your comments. We can afford to pay more and would be happy to do so if we saw improvement in services. If anything they seem to reduce year on year - worsening road surfaces, Schools unable to pay for resources etc.

Good luck!



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LIBRARY SERVICES HAVE ALREADY BEEN CUT/REDUCED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC. FURTHER CUTS WILL MAKE THE SITUATION INTOLERABLE

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I THINK PEOPLE WHO CAN AFFORD TO PAY, WOULD PAY TO KEEP LOCAL SERVICES GOING, THE COUNCIL SHOULD REPRESENT THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES

Please use the box below for any other comments.

LOANHEAD LIBRARY IS A GOD SEND TO ME, I HAVE PARKINSONS DISEASE AND USE A WHEELCHAIR, I GO TO THE LIBRARY DAILY, AND WITHOUT IT I WOULD BE STUCK IN MY SHELTERED HOUSING

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I USE LOANHEAD & ROSLIN LIBRARIES REGULARLY
& FIND THE STAFF VERY HELPFUL & ATTENTIVE

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- **Loanhead**
- Mayfield & Easthouses (cont'd on next page)

- Newtongrange
- Bonnyrigg
- Penicuik
- Other (Please use the box below to tell us where)

Thinking of you, your family and community, tell us more about what you think the council's spending priorities should be?

THE LARGE INCREASE IN HOUSING IN LOANHEAD REQUIRES
ESSENTIAL AMENITIES FOR YOUNG FAMILIES.
LIBRARY, GP, PLAYPARKS, POOL, PEEP GROUP!, CYCLE PATHS

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

~~PARKING CHARGES ON THE LOAN~~

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

PARKING CHARGES ON THE LOAN

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LOANHEAD LIBRARY IS AN EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT RESOURCE

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2 MANY CHIEFS NOT ENOUGH INDIANS
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MIDLOTHIAN ALREADY HAS THE HIGHEST COUNCIL TAX BURDEN IN SCOTLAND. HOWEVER AN INCREASE MAY HELP.

Please use the box below for any other comments.

MIDLOTHIAN NEEDS TO THINK MORE CREATIVELY ABOUT SERVICE PROVISION RATHER THAN TRY TO LEVERAGE THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF DELIVERING.

IT APPEARS LOCAL SERVICES ARE ALREADY STRETCHED DUE TO POPULATION INCREASE

BUT NONE OF THE INCOME IS BEING RETAINED!
Many thanks for taking the time to give your comments.

IN LOCAL SERVICES. BEING A COMMUTER TOWN IS DRAWING IT AWAY TO OTHER AREAS AND A ^{NEW} HOUSE SEEM TO BE A LONG TERM NET LOSS TO THE MIDLOTHIAN PURSE.



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Scotland much more than England already, doesn't need to be more.

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With an estimated budget gap of £12.98 million in the next financial year (2023/24) rising to £25.05 million by 2027/28, we are asking local people for help in focusing resources where they are needed most.

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Please tell us:

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or group? Please circle:

- Yes
- ☒ No

If yes, which organisation or group?

Which area do you live in and/or represent if answering on behalf of an organisation or group?

- Danderhall
- Dalkeith including Woodburn and Eskbank
- Gorebridge
- Loanhead ✓
- Mayfield & Easthouses (cont'd on next page)

We are facing daunting budget challenges ahead. Each 1% rise in Council Tax generates £580,000 of additional income annually for the council. By what percentage, if any, should we raise Council Tax next year?

- 0%
- 1%
- 2%
- 3%
- 4%
- 5%
- Other (use box below to tell us more)

Please use the box below for any other comments.

I know there are lots of challenges ahead but I think services to midlothian are excellent.

Many thanks for taking the time to give your comments.



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- Newtongrange
- Bonnyrigg
- Penicuik
- ☒ Other (Please use the box below to tell us where)

FAIRMILEHEAD

Thinking of you, your family and community, tell us more about what you think the council's spending priorities should be?

Supporting families & youths & elderly
Community support

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

Don't know

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

Don't know

What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

All seems running smoothly now so don't know

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- ☐ 3%
- ☐ 4%
- ☐ 5%
- ☐ Other (use box below to tell us more)

Many families & individuals are struggling financially right now due to high inflation & energy prices

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- Bonnyrigg
- Penicuik
- Other (Please use the box below to tell us where)

ROSLIN

Thinking of you, your family and community, tell us more about what you think the council's spending priorities should be?

Health
education
social support
family support

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

the world is expensive enough — ~~more~~
taxes to ~~increase~~ across all finances to

push the Scottish Govt to give more back here
What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

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- 1%
- 2%
- 3%
- 4%
- 5%
- Other (use box below to tell us more)

Please use the box below for any other comments.

Scottish Govt. should concentrate finances + avoid
endless spending on independence. Every price
increase gets put on the individual. — gov't needs to tax
businesses more.

Many thanks for taking the time to give your comments.



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- Bonnyrigg
- Penicuik
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LOANHEAD

Thinking of you, your family and community, tell us more about what you think the council's spending priorities should be?

POT HOLES DRAIN CLEANING RUBBISH .
COLLECTION

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

FREE BUS PASSES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
TRY WALKING !!

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

STOP WASTE .

What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

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- 4%
- 5%
- Other (use box below to tell us more)

Please use the box below for any other comments.

Many thanks for taking the time to give your comments.

- Newtongrange
- Bonnyrigg
- Penicuik
- Other (Please use the box below to tell us where)

Thinking of you, your family and community, tell us more about what you think the council's spending priorities should be?

child and family community services
education (groups)
outdoor play areas
Mental health
early learning in parties

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

Don't know

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

Improving efficiency

What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

None

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0%.

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- 5%
- Other (use box below to tell us more)

Please use the box below for any other comments.

this is a poorly worded, confusing questionnaire, how will the public be able to see results of the survey?

Many thanks for taking the time to give your comments.

Unclear where the data is going / how it is stored, "sharing" is not clear, r



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N/A

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Thinking of you, your family and community, tell us more about what you think the council's spending priorities should be?

Social interaction opportunities i.e. clubs, meetings and gatherings (across all age groups) - this will help with the community Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Loanhead Library is a vital Area that covers all of the above supporting Multi-generational families and independent people

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

Not that I am aware of.

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

- Participate in fundraisers
- Use young ~~emp~~ unemployed people to help with some of the services.
- Cut back on unnecessary jobs.
- Reduce use of outside sources (private companies)

What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

These services must be easily accessible and so must remain at walking distance for majority of the community. If not then the services will become inaccessible for a large population that greatly benefits.

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- ☐ 2%
- ☐ 3%
- ☐ 4%
- ☐ 5%
- ☐ Other (use box below to tell us more)

Please use the box below for any other comments.

In regards to raising Council tax next year, people of the community are all ready facing the challenges of cut backs in day to day life with the rise in prices across the country. The working public of the community can not ~~keep up~~ sustain anymore rises.

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Education & community services to encourage social interaction & support ~~exclusivity~~ to all members of our community. ^{inclusivity}

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

✓ services which are providing support to those who are not interested in helping themselves or being part of a community.

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

encourage voluntary community support rather than outsourcing jobs to private companies.
Audit current council jobs to ensure all are necessary.

What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

Sharing fire – as long as services remain accessible both physically (distance) & financially.

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- 5%
- Other (use box below to tell us more)

As a full working parent with a full working partner & 3 children - we both contribute significantly through taxes as things stand & consequently it is a struggle to

Please use the box below for any other comments.

7 Make ends meet on a monthly basis. A rise in council tax would break us along with all the other rises we are currently experiencing. The council needs to work smarter; not take more

Many thanks for taking the time to give your comments.

of what we have not got to give!

Loanhead library is an excellent community resource - which is always a welcoming place for individuals and groups. At the heart of town, it is accessible and has a great programme to encourage social interaction.

- The Link = is this a community resource?? It seems (Loanhead) to only be available to the community at certain times when suits them. For example I know of several →



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Thinking of you, your family and community, tell us more about what you think the council's spending priorities should be?

Repairs (Pavement) & Shoring Roads in Midlothian
Maintenance of these buildings such as sometimes it
is not cleaned out properly causing major damage

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

No there has already been cut backs to
Parks (flower beds) and recreation facilities
there are needs more than well for people here.

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

Some council facilities are already out of reach
to many because of the charges already in place
so increasing them would further disadvantage people

What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

Joint purchase of stationery. Sharing vehicles
and equipment (along with the relevant staffings)

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- 3%
- 4%
- 5%
- Other (use box below to tell us more)

People are struggling as it is. (Families & Economy).
Putting more pressure on them is unbearable.

Please use the box below for any other comments.

The Council should have a better system for updating results of complaints - very little feedback is forthcoming. Updating would make people feel more involved and aware.

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- Other (Please use the box below to tell us where)

Thinking of you, your family and community, tell us more about what you think the council's spending priorities should be?

LOTS OF US USE AND NEED
LIBRARIES. DO NOT CLOSE.

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

BETTER/SMARTER SPENDING.
SELL MID HOUSE

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

USE CENTRES FOR HIRE MORE.
PUT COUNCIL WORKER IN EACH
BRANCH INSTEAD OF MID HOUSE

What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

LIBRARIES MUST BE KEPT
COUNCIL RUN.

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- 2%
- 3%
- 4%
- 5%
- Other (use box below to tell us more)

Please use the box below for any other comments.

SAVE LIBRARIES. VERY IMPORTANT
FOR ALL MEMBERS OF
COMMUNITY.

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- ☒ Newtongrange
- ☐ Bonnyrigg
- ☐ Penicuik
- ☐ Other (Please use the box below to tell us where)

Thinking of you, your family and community, tell us more about what you think the council's spending priorities should be?

Essential Services : Schools
 Waste Disposal / Lighting
 LIBRARY (New one)
 Leisure Services (Older Person / Young / Swimming
 Advice)

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

Revamping the Ski Centre seems expensive and not of local value to those who pay for local services.

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

Increase efficiency of workforce

What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

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NO DOUBT TIMES ARE HARD PUTTING THE COMMUNITY AT THE FOREFRONT.

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- No ☐

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ALPHA DANCE

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- Bonnyrigg
- Penicuik
- Other (Please use the box below to tell us where)

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SAFE, WARM SPACES FOR FAMILIES WHO MAY BE STRUGGLING WITH THE COST OF LIVING AND MAY NOT OTHERWISE BE ABLE TO GET OUT AND ACTIVE WITH CHILDREN

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

IT IS POSSIBLE TO REDUCE SOME SERVICES OR SOME MAY BECOME OPTIONAL WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGES FOR THOSE WHO WANT THOSE SERVICES

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

THERE ARE ENDLESS METHODS FOR RAISING FUNDS. THINK MORE CREATIVE THAN SIMPLY RAISING COUNCIL TAX.

What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS INPUT WOULD BE BEST PLACED TO OFFER INSIGHT TO THIS.
SPEAK WITH GROUP ORGANISERS ETC

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- 5%
- Other (use box below to tell us more)

Please use the box below for any other comments.

HELP AND FUNDING CAN AND SHOULD ALSO
COME FROM THE TOP, i.e. GOVERNMENT, AS WELL
AS THE LOCAL POPULATION. THE REALITY IS, MOST
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLDS ARE FEELING THE PINCH AND
SIMPLY DON'T HAVE MUCH MORE TO GIVE.

Many thanks for taking the time to give your comments.



Midlothian: our budget challenge – please tell us what matters most to you?

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We will be sharing what local people tell us before we present a balanced budget early next year (2023).

Please tell us:

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- Yes
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If yes, which organisation or group?

N/A

Which area do you live in and/or represent if answering on behalf of an organisation or group?

- Danderhall
- Dalkeith including Woodburn and Eskbank
- Gorebridge
- Loanhead
- Mayfield & Easthouses (cont'd on next page)

- Newtongrange
- Bonnyrigg
- Penicuik
- Other (Please use the box below to tell us where)

Thinking of you, your family and community, tell us more about what you think the council's spending priorities should be?

Gyms - make them more affordable.
 update old machines every 3-5 years.
 More activities for families

Are there services that we could reduce or stop providing altogether to help save money?

Not services but cut back on manager
 posts or have them multi-skilled.
 INVEST IN MORE WORKMEN/WOMAN INSTEAD OF SUB-CONTRACTORS

Are there ways in which the council could raise more money to help keep services running, for example by increasing charges?

Dog bags small charge of 50p each.
 Do better checks on people who get new houses/
 furnished/carpets etc.

What services could be run differently – for example by community groups? And should we share more services with other councils or partner organisations?

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- 0%
- 1%
- 2%
- 3%
- 4%
- 5%
- Other (use box below to tell us more)

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The council tax - like everything else, has to go up
one accepts that but spare a thought a thought for
for older people - who only have a state Pension
I would do without ^{Food} too pay my bills - i.e. on the 1st Month
I pay C/tax Gas - Elect - etc then I know what money I have ~~left~~
Because I have always paid my bills - Bills come first with
Many thanks for taking the time to give your comments. me



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WORK ON REDUCING COUNCIL DEFICIT
∴ KEEP COUNCIL TAX AT PRE 2019 LEVELS
BUS PASS SHOULD BE USED AS A LIBRARY
CARD

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Personally I find the D&K Library a huge asset.

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