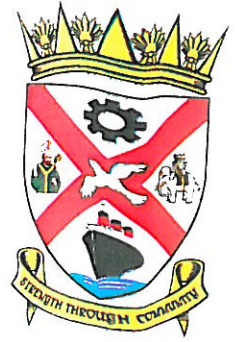


West Dunbartonshire Council

Councillor Ronnie McColl

Leader of the Council

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RM/FD

20 December 2011

John Swinney MSP
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Mr Swinney

Financial Settlement 2012/13

West Dunbartonshire Council at a full Council meeting held on 15 December 2011, considered the terms of the settlement offer as outlined in your letter of 21 September, and agreed to confirm our agreement *in principle* to the delivery of the undernoted commitments.

- To remain committed to working in partnership with the Scottish Government in pursuit of our Joint Priorities, including delivery of the Government's programme, set out in 'Renewing Scotland: the Government's Programme for Scotland 2011-12' and 'the Government Economic Strategy';
- To maintain a council tax freeze in each of the three years of the Spending Review;
- To maintain teacher numbers in line with pupil numbers and secure places for all probationers who require one under the teachers induction scheme, as agreed through on-going discussions on the effective delivery of school education; and
- To pass of our full share of funding to the Police Board, in line with the existing agreed level for 2011/12 as a contribution to maintain the number of police officers at least at 17,234 throughout the Spending Review 2012/15.

20 December 2011 (continued)

However, our agreement *in principle* is made on the basis of the following conditions being met (as noted in your letter, as referenced above):

1. The settlement for local government in each year of the spending review will be at the level of revenue funding maintained at that of 2011/12, inclusive of resources being provided to fund the maintenance of the council tax freeze (£70m);
2. Revenue funding will be provided in line with that provided in 2011/12, to support the maintenance of teacher employment;
3. Local government's share of capital funding represents a continued share of 28% of the total capital resource in the Scottish budget profiled between 2012/13 to 2015/16; and
4. Further resources are provided each year to deliver the Scottish Government's commitment that no individual council should receive less than 85% of the average level of distributed funding to each local authority

West Dunbartonshire Council will meet to formally approve our budget for 2012/13 on the 26 January 2012 and, following that meeting, I will write to you to confirm whether or not appropriate budgetary provision for the delivery of those commitments has been included within the agreed budget.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Ronnie McColl
Leader of the Council