

Members' Library Service Request Form

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Analysis of 2018 Budget Consultation

The Council ran an online budget consultation on the 2019/20 budget during December 2018.

A total of 458 responses were submitted (920 in 2017).

Respondents were asked to list their top 7 priority services. (see Appendix 1) The top five priority services are:

1. School & early years (4.70)
2. Services to protect children from harm and support families (3.48)
3. Support for vulnerable adults.... (3.23)
4. Maintenance of roads, pavements and lighting (2.98)
5. Waste and recycling services (2.82)

We asked respondents to score 7 hard choice savings from least to most acceptable, on a scale of 1-6. The 7 choices have been given a 'mean' score – total score given to each divided by the number of people who responded to that question.

As is shown in Appendix 2 and the table below the options that received most support/ least resistance were:

- Rationalise & review Council assets / office provision
- Introduce charges for uplifts for disposal of bulky items.

The options which received least support / most resistance were:

- Commercialisation of Outdoor Learning
- Charging for garden waste collection.

'Hard choices' ranking and scoring

	Option	Mean score	% Total 6, 5 & 4	% Total 1, 2 & 3	No answer
1	Rationalise & review Council assets / office provision	5.26	74.0%	17.49%	8.52%
2	Introduce charges for uplifts for disposal of bulky items	4.0	58.73%	35.15%	6.11%
3	Reduce the frequency of uplifting garden Waste to a monthly collection	3.97	58.95%	36.68%	4.37%
4	Removal of Taxi Card scheme	3.58	46.95%	43.23%	9.83%
5	(Cut) grant support to local businesses	3.49	45.41%	44.13%	10.26%
6	Commercialisation of Outdoor Learning	3.12	40.17%	50.22%	9.61%
7	Charge for garden waste collection	2.82	31.88%	57.64%	10.48%

It is worth noting that the East Lothian Courier led with a story about the garden waste charge option, and it is expected that this may have galvanised some opposition, which will have been reflected in the responses.

Also, it is clear from many of the comments made by respondents that there is some confusion around what is meant by 'commercialisation of Outdoor Learning', with many people suggesting this covered lessons on environmental issues rather than the provision of activities provided by the outdoor learning service.

Respondents were asked about their support for higher levels of Council Tax (see Appendix 3) – either a 5% or a 10% increase.

- Just over 55% of respondents said they would be prepared to support a 5% increase (59.8% in 2017) and 43.45% (38.5% in 2017) said they would not support a 5% increase
- Only 17.25% said they would support a 10% increase (20.2% in 2017).

Finally, respondents were given the opportunity to provide comments or suggestions on how the council could do things differently to increase income or save money. Over 240 respondents provided some comments. These are presented in full in Appendix 4.

A summary of the results of the consultation has been shared with Group Leaders to inform their consideration of budget proposals that will be presented to the Cabinet and Council as part of the budget setting process.

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9th January 2019
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APPENDIX 1: Prioritisation of Services (458 responses)

	Top Priority	2018 Composite Rank (Top 7)	2017 Composite Rank (Top 5)
Schools & Early Years	46.51%	4.70	3.40
Services to protect children from harm and to support families	12.23%	3.49	2.22
Support for vulnerable adults, including frail / elderly people to allow them to remain in their own home	6.77%	3.24	1.80
Maintenance of roads, pavement and lighting	8.95%	2.97	1.52
Waste and recycling services	6.99%	2.82	1.12
Homelessness Services	3.93%	1.51	0.87
Street Cleaning	1.53%	1.48	N/A
Maintenance of parks, gardens and open spaces	1.75%	1.31	0.64
Libraries	3.93%	1.29	0.60
Community centres / village halls	1.97%	1.23	0.64
Swimming pools / leisure centres	0.44%	1.16	0.64
Support for business and economic growth	1.53%	0.84	0.50
Subsidised public transport	1.09%	0.69	0.37
Arts/ cultural activities and events	0.22%	0.35	N/A
Museums/ heritage activities and events	0.22%	0.29	N/A
Museums / Arts / cultural activities / heritage activities and events	N/A	N/A	0.23

APPENDIX 2: Hard Choices Options Scoring (458 responses)

	1 = Least acceptable	2	3	4	5	6 = Most acceptable	No answer	Mean Score
1. Rationalise & review Council assets / office provision	4.59% 21	5.48% 25	7.42% 34	12.45% 57	14.19% 65	47.36% 217	8.52% 39	5.26
2a. Reduce the frequency of uplifting garden waste to a monthly collection	14.19% 65	10.70% 49	11.79% 54	13.10% 60	18.12% 83	27.73% 127	4.37% 20	3.97
2b. Charge for providing the garden waste service	31.44% 144	14.85% 68	11.35% 52	11.35% 52	10.92% 50	9.61% 44	10.48% 48	2.82
3. Grant support to local businesses	11.14% 51	14.65% 68	18.34% 84	20.52% 94	13.32% 61	11.57% 53	10.26% 47	3.40
4. Commercialisation of Outdoor Learning	23.58% 108	12.23% 56	14.41% 66	19.43% 89	11.35% 52	9.39% 43	9.61% 44	3.12
5. Removal of Taxi Card Scheme	13.97% 64	14.19% 65	15.07% 69	16.16% 74	13.76% 63	17.03% 78	9.83% 45	3.58
6. Introduce charging for uplifts for disposal of bulky items	12.66% 58	11.14% 51	11.35% 52	14.19% 65	16.81% 77	27.73% 127	6.11% 28	4.00

APPENDIX 3: Council Tax Increase Options (458 responses)

	2018	2017	2018	2017
	Prepared to support up to 5% increase	Prepared to support up to 5% increase	Prepared to support up to 10% increase	Prepared to support up to 10% increase
Agree	55.24% (253)	59.8% (550)	17.25% (79)	20.2% (186)
Disagree	43.45% (199)	38.5% (354)	81.66% (374)	77% (708)
No answer	1.31% (6)	1.7% (16)	1.09% (5)	2.8% (26)

Appendix 4: All comments and suggestions submitted to the online consultation

Please use this box to tell us any other ways in which you think the Council could do things differently to increase income or save money.	
1	<p>Too many council officers go out on visits and inspections in their own cars at 45p per mile. More cost saving use should be made of co-ordinating visits so that single person journeys are no longer the acceptable norm.</p> <p>In today's climate of stress and general depression, open spaces and leisure and recreation are vital to helping people feel good and stay healthy. Reducing sport, recreation and open space upkeep, and charging people more for same, will be counter productive and folk will stop using these facilities in favour of buying food fuel heating etc. So a good many will feel worse, be less fit and more agitated and our health costs will increase. If you reduce waste collections or start charging for uplifts etc will only mean people will start dumping garden was and rubbish. That will cost council services more to clear up that generate income.</p> <p>Cut the number of hot air politicians and bureaucrats. That will make a huge saving.</p> <p>Continually increasing consumer charges will not solve anything.</p>
2	<p>The Council must first explore how it can do things more efficiently and for lower costs. All opportunities to do things in partnership with local communities and with voluntary sector organisation should be explored before services are cut.</p> <p>Given the financial pressures on the Council, the sustainability of above inflation pay rises for Council employees must be questioned. It seems unjust to cut an essential service such as taxi cards which are used by the most vulnerable members of the community in order to pay for pay rises for staff.</p> <p>If after all this cuts are needed, the most vulnerable members of the community should be protected.</p>
3	<p>Reduce number of buildings in Council ownership, to focus scarce resources on essential services e.g. social care and child protection. Sell Council buildings for local business development; shared office accommodation for small start-ups, social enterprises etc. Maximise income for ELC by charging for coastal parking - many people who use these drive down from Edinburgh and so they are not paying Council Tax to ELC to pay for the maintenance of landscape, toilets etc.</p>
4	<p>Shared services with neighbouring LA, One chief Executive.</p>

5	Introduce Parking Charges in Off Street Car Parks & Walyford Park & Ride which is now operating at capacity. Same charge as Newcraighall would be appropriate.
6	Free school meals/breakfasts etc to only people who actually need them. Offered to every child under a certain age and so many families don't need this at all. Only use it to save them making breakfast etc. Sounds harsh, but need to save money.
7	Introduce charges to individuals / companies who use public space for their own business, i.e. pop up fitness classes. They make a profit, and contribute nothing to the upkeep or maintenance of the area used.
8	Car park charge - this would stop people from out with the council parking and bring in a revenue? Lots of office space unused Staffing - look at more cost effective ways, ie not agency workers who charge a large daily fee
9	Utilise council buildings, many buildings rooms are sat empty. Cap staff mileage - more access to pool cars. Reduce consultants and agency workers within the council.
10	Elected members could be a lot bolder and make tougher decisions during the annual budget process, rather than continuing to waste council money each year, offering additional provision over and above statutory requirements (e.g. free school transport). Too many budget decisions are made based on whether it will be popular or not rather than considering the bigger picture and what is best longer term for East Lothian residents.
11	Just to increase the Council Tax a bit
12	Rationalise management posts again Don't agree to teachers 10% pay rise demand Reduce out of hours working for non-essential posts so that buildings can be shut and lighting/heating saved - and/or put essential out of hours workers in one building

13	Charge a fee for front desk planning advisory service
14	<p>1)There are too many different local groups all getting funding-community councils, tenants and residents groups and local development groups, Could the Council not give one (lower) pot of money to be shared?</p> <p>2)There are a number of tenants with large rent arrears, should their services not be restricted to statutory only? Why should someone with over £1000 rent arrears get the same benefit of new kitchen, bathroom etc. The Council needs to get its rent arrears reduced.</p> <p>3)There must be a lot of council services which could be made available to local residents and businesses for a charge- definitely a charge for parking within town centres and near schools, garden tidy ups, road repairs on private roads, repairs to private properties, clear out/deep clean for private houses</p> <p>4)Make parents pay more for their childrens' school activities/equipment/toys. Education authorities should only have to pay for basics.</p> <p>5)Reassess the need to provide services to children/adults and young people. Can any reduction to transport services or other be made?</p> <p>6)Can any saving be made with street lighting?</p> <p>7)Can any saving be made with costs of running council buildings-heating, lighting?</p> <p>8)Reduce the amount off stationary items purchased and kept in council buildings, more stationary could be shared</p>
15	<p>Try skimming a few percent off the top two tiers of management salaries . Looked at next to those of a few grades down they look pretty fantastical , let alone when compared with those of manual workers or social care worker. The boost in morale alone, ofthe gravy train being slowed, would satisfy even the most cynical of top management with regarded to added value.</p>
16	<p>More entry level jobs for the unemployed and young people with learning difficulties or a disability. Would the council consider setting up a Project SEARCH similar to Edinburgh, working in partnership with NHS Lothian and Edinburgh College?</p>
17	<p>I would introduce a levy on garden waste, a lot of councils have already done this and I would have no objection to paying a small annual fee.</p> <p>I disagree with the council raising council tax more than 3%, however, would suggest that it rises with inflation (at least) every year. The council tax freeze shouldn't have happened in my opinion, and we wouldn't have such difficult decisions to make regarding the budgets if there had been a steady increase every year.</p> <p>I would investigate the possibility of letting school building during school holidays. PPP contracts agreed within City of Edinburgh Council and their service providers include core hours during the school holiday of 8am until 5pm. City of Edinburgh Council retain all income from lets and Business Managers are encouraged to promote use of the school.</p>

18	Get the basics right first and stop spending on things we don't need e,g, Public space WiFi.
19	<p>If people wish to live in East Lothian or have chosen to do so, they must contribute to the financial running costs of the county. This is the responsibility of individual households and central government, not businesses who already carry most people on their backs. There is an attitude of 'entitlement to services', with no understanding of costs. Education of residents; say in local spending; priority of local needs would help formulate what is really a priority for local people. I live in a long established community where most residents have an understanding of community needs and requirements. The additional housing developments will require much work to encompass them into the communities they are attached to. The consequences of all the development in East Lothian has not been thought through. The impact of this will take one or two years to become apparent. I would suggest that this impact can be quantified and monies should be provided by central government who insisted these houses be built.</p> <p>There are 70,000 people retiring each year in Scotland and the numbers of people able to work is reducing; you are on a hiding to nothing, without central government accepting some responsibility for costs.</p>
20	Close the overabundance of council buildings. Stop CCTV monitoring. Work more closely with other councils. Make proper charges for services.
21	<p>The council needs to be working within COSLA to protest over Grant provision. Income tax was raised by 1% - where has this gone? What about the "end to austerity"?</p> <p>Free school meals to all regardless of income should cease.</p> <p>Free prescriptions should end - realise this doesn't immediately help councils but...</p>
22	<p>Increase library charges</p> <p>Increase coaching / tuition fees</p> <p>Increase pitch hire charges</p> <p>Use of trained volunteers to enhance service provision</p> <p>Increase use of community payback team within Council services</p>
23	Charge out lawyers and professional services to community
24	Close smallest rural schools

25	<p>A rise in council tax while seeming to be a good way of raising money is totally unaffordable by many of the council's own staff as they have had pay freezes for the last 8 - 10 years. This includes both teachers and other council staff. Their pay has not risen so how can they pay more out than they have coming in? It will cause a great deal of hardship and add to the statistics of those families who although are working full time are actually in poverty because their wages have not risen significantly in 10 years but every other aspect of life has risen hugely. If the money is not coming in it can not go out. I as a council employee would struggle to pay any increase at all in council tax as all my other bills have gone through the roof but my wages have hardly moved.</p>
26	<p>A pay cut from council executives.</p>
27	<p>make better use of the assest's you own - parks -use them for concerts and events make money! keep old asset's don't sell them off for quick gain. convert old buildings to flats elderly communities including shops all in one location , then lease developments -income generation!</p> <p>Stop wasting money on paying high electricity charges in schools create more of your own power via solar panels or better yet save over a 100,000 per year on water charges by giving each main school a borehole water supply. plentiful water supply under geology of east Lothian properly set up say 10,000 one off drilling charge then free water forever (do the maths!)</p> <p>Stop wasting money on these electric car points plugged into the mains national grid(still costing you money) build solar panel charging car points completely green and cost zero to run!</p> <p>Reduce more middle managers within the council I work for ELC in a team of 6 with 3 managers quite unbelievable!</p>
28	<p>I regularly attend meetings in the Haddington offices and find when I'm at meetings. The amount of food and coffee is ridiculous. Cut this down to tea or coffe and a bus hit. No bottled water. I was at a meeting when bacon rolls were served. Two eaten. Then they were taken away by a company only for more food to come in for lunch. Far too much on many occasions. I also wish some lights and heating be turned down asap. It's a waste. Windows open on cold days because it's too hot. Also now is the time to charge for the Haddington car park at john muir house. If you can charge for the beaches .charges should be made and no claiming expenses for this by councillors. The beach areas are now empty. Why are members of your work force home at 3 pm every day In a Council van too. Does no one check this.</p>
29	<p>The income will be increased by all the house building in the County - sadly!!</p>
30	<p>Stop wasting money on upkeep of beach car parks. Stop wasting money on 20mph speed limits that are unenforceable.</p>

	<p>Reduce the number of councillors. Stop free school meals for all primary ages.</p>
31	<p>Require commercial house builders to contribute more to local community. For example, GP services, significant contribution towards leisure centres, local schools etc.</p> <p>Means test benefits such as bus pass for over 60s</p> <p>Teachers (I am one) should be required to provide one extra-curricular club for a term a year. This is the case in the private sector.</p>
32	<p>Parking charges could generate significant income for the Council Reducing non-statutory services</p>
33	<p>*Introduction of specialist schools to deal with behaviour/learning issues should save money overall, as currently there are so many projects that these pupils are involved in which individually must cost a lot of money.</p> <p>* Increase in charges for some services - I.e. leisure centres in EL are significantly cheaper than privately owned centres in Edinburgh etc - bringing this more in line would raise more money.</p> <p>* More careful management of internal budget - i.e. not paying thousands for the care of a resident who had passed away</p> <p>* Charges for extra curricular activities similar to music - for example who funds PAISE (sports at Meadowmill?) If music pupils have to pay so should others.</p>
34	<p>Close small rural schools Remove free transport to schools for pupils living between 1-3 miles away from the school Consider a 4 day school week</p>

35	<p>Stop providing free meals to all p1 - 3 pupils. This should be means tested.</p> <p>Cut down on glossy colour council printing via printshop.</p>
36	<p>Continually highlight the need for the Scottish government to provide more money (by using their income tax power) to councils. By working to have surplus budget all you do is show the government that you don't need more money. I think it is TOTALLY unacceptable that schools have such small budgets that they have to charge pupils to participate in subjects like HE. Schools are state run and funded. This should mean there is enough funding to teach all curricular areas. They are not private institutions.</p>
37	<p>Money could be saved on the Landscaping crews who seem to work in groups of 3/4 with only perhaps one person working.</p> <p>Don't have workers emptying street bins on Sundays in small towns.</p> <p>Repair roads and paths properly without temporary fixes as this costs more in the end.</p>
38	<p>Become more energy efficient</p> <p>Close down buildings that are rarely used</p> <p>Reduce spend on planting flowers</p> <p>Use electric vehicles</p> <p>Stop posting letters to people</p>
39	<p>Looking at different ways of procurement as PECOS is not always the most cost effective method, this would allow budgets to stretch that bit further.</p>
40	<p>As a resident of East Lothian I have come to believe that funding community councils and village halls are not good uses of limited council resources.</p> <p>Funding to area partnerships should be centralised to ensure that it is spent strategically and fairly.</p>

41	Reduce layers of management.
42	investment into to local buisness
43	Too many tiers of staff, especially in Customer Services, no need for the Grade 8 posts or Grade 9's. Limit the amount of mileage they can claim, are all the meetings necessary, I don't think so. Do they all need personal laptops so they can "work from home"?
44	<p>Putting up rent for council houses. Who uses Libraries these days! Close them and the mobile libraries. Close small village schools. bus students to the nearest school. Arts I would cut the funding to this. I people want to do it they will find the way.</p> <p>Although I work in Education and the funding is awful, particularly for students with additional support needs. The roads are a disgrace and money seriously needs to be put into this.</p>
45	<p>Use resources more effectively e.g. develop community centres more so they can provide more day support. Support more home working for staff so there is less of a need for office bases. Get NHS to support more Health and Social Care partnership to support more ongoing projects to help prevent hospital admission. Develop more social enterprise projects that can provide more opportunities for employment and placements for people who are not able to work. There are income generating possibilities that also provide skills development.</p>
46	delete the economic development department. businesses survive and thrive in spite of council involvement and not because of. Central government and other agencies offer business grants, advice etc and council services don't need to duplicate.
47	<p>Charge nominal sum to council employees/teachers to park at work - hospital employees quite often pay - so council staff should too. Re evaluate council tax bands when granting planning permission- many houses are now twice as big as when initially banded following house extensions. Charge political parties for putting up gazebos at farmers markets.</p>
48	Fix roads properly instead of temporary fix which only lasts for days. It's a false economy.

	<p>Stop weekend hours for rubbish collection in towns.</p> <p>Reduce numbers in gardening squads. Most of the time only one member is actually doing work.</p>
49	<p>Could relax the management of grassland (verges and parks) by taking time to sow rich wildflower meadows that require cutting just once or twice a year - good models to follow through Edinburgh Living Landscape.</p> <p>Increase number of bus stops in new housing areas to south of railway line to encourage greater use of public transport and less need for its subsidisation.</p> <p>Relax some of the planning controls related to unused buildings in and around town centres to encourage business take up. Provide more support to businesses in main towns to improve facilities and encourage/improve tourism destination.</p> <p>Work with rail network to Increase train provision to towns like Dunbar to ease pressure on road infrastructure.</p>
50	<p>Demand more money of the home Builders who are making large profits in east Lothian but seemingly offering little back.</p> <p>The method for calculating council tax is antiquated and requires updating so that people can understand the logic, referring to what a house would have cost in 1990 to calculate the tax is ridiculous</p>
51	<p>Abolish free home to school transport Close small schools</p>
52	<p>I worry about schools and care provisions. They are being asked to do more with significantly less in significantly challenging times. I am appalled by the data showing that less money is spent on children than any other local authority in Scotland. It would be refreshing to see the council to look very carefully at the impact cuts are having on our most venerable community members. Are they really listening to children, families and professionals about the mental health of our young people.</p> <p>Please be brave- spend now to save long term. Make cuts that have minimum impact rather than worry about votes. As a resident we barely onnprofessionals to do what is best for the community- we don't always know what is best!</p>

53	<p>Some how enforce the dog fouling fines - so much dog poo!</p> <p>Ask for contributions towards maintenance of shared spaces on all housing estates</p>
54	<p>Having input from local Community Councils and Management Committees and schools as to where they think money needs to be spent.</p>
55	<p>Retrieving unpaid fines, rent, taxes from those and such to reduce the outstanding debt of the council.</p>
56	<p>Porbably a good time to review events such as the Saltire Festival which attracts few people.</p> <p>Ensure that all Council Tax is collected.</p>
57	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. sell off Aldhammer House and move housing into the library. 2. put a cap on top pay scales - there is no need for such huge wages - take a look at what government advises is a liveable wage. 3. stop straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. stop squeezing resources for tiny savings that put pressure on all staff e.g not filling vacant posts and expecting staff to work twice as hard in some areas...lowers morale and is plain unfair - relying too much on staff goodwill.
58	<p>Outside the box thinking on attracting business and education services to the council.</p>
59	<p>The bulk of Council income comes from Revenue Support Grant which is distributed among Councils principally on population figures. The Council should ensure that in calculating Revenue Support Grant that the Scottish Government takes account of the exceptional current and forecast rise in population of East Lothian.</p> <p>The Council should make collection of garden refuse seasonal and redeploy collection resources in winter months.</p>
60	<p>Reduce the council buildings that are no longer in use. Look at small part time libraries, cost of running buildings outweighs customer volumes</p>
61	<p>Save the cost of a cherry picker and staff time changing flags at the Brunton Hall. There are two flag poles there so there should be no need to change flags</p>

62	offer out commercial services ie sign making from print unit ,vehicle servicing / mot's from VPMU reduce cost from subcontracting / gain income from subcontracting out
63	employing relief staff to cover posts instead of paying ex employees time and half and not bringing in agency. eastlothian workmen should be carrying out the maintainance work and not private firms
64	Invest in better transport routes; funds spend on transport for school children and social care users is incredible. Invest in local provisions opposed to outwith area. Reduce number of council buildings and enable staff more remote working options. Seek more funding from health in regard to IGB. Invest in council buses again. Invest in younger people going through transition; start planning at a younger age 14 - 25 team (reduce expectation of families, education etc. and better planning and outcomes for young people to strive to independence). Increase staff resources in social work to enable earlier interventions opposed to crisis work (which ultimately costs more).
65	Cancel the firework displays and Christmas lighting in every town. This could be met by community councils or facebook giving pages. Start charging motorists for parking on and blocking pavements (all areas) and for parking in streets next to schools for the school run!! This only needs to be done for kids who have more than a mile to walk home. Increase charges by a minimum of 10% on sports centres and swimming pools
66	the second question does not make it clear if it acceptable to keep or change? so I have not answered it all, a preferred supplier list is not saving money as the departments can get better deals and a wider choice of equipment cheaper else where. the accounts department is extremely stretched and over worked how are they meant to totally concentrate on all the figures ALOT more pressure should be put on central government to release more money to local areas,
67	Leisure centre membership is very expensive, there will be a significant decline of members in 2019 with the new PureGym opening at Fort Kinnaird with membership around £11 a month compared to £37 for council gyms with tired equipment. Reducing costs will encourage more people to join or remain at council centres.
68	* Sell council property that is not in use/ or not used efficiently - make better use of properties. * Have a charging policy for travel within Health and Social Care (there isn't one, which results in high costs for the council, where services are outwith the county).

69	<p>More ELC home working and then reduce / combine office spaces.</p> <p>This will free up property which can be then flipped into commercial lettings such as the development at Brewery Park, Haddington.</p>
70	<p>Pay less obscene wages to councilors.</p>
71	<p>try cutting the "vanity projects" and councillors allowances they volunteered !</p>
72	<p>More efficient use of web based services, for example applications for licences etc.</p>
73	<p>The Council should definitely NOT reduce the garden waste collection service to monthly. I wouldn't mind paying a fee for this service but only if it was a fortnightly service.</p>
74	<p>Make new house builders contribute not only to new schools but also to other community requirements - sports & community centres, doctor surgeries, sheltered housing & adult care homes. East Lothian's population increase / housing expansion is growing large profits for these building companies but the residents are suffering for it.</p> <p>Stop spending money trying to come up with schemes to make money from services which the council does not need to provide - instead help local business to provide or increase those services and focus instead on improving the core services that are necessary. No need to spend to try to generate income from things that others already provide. If the council has capacity to do non-council work then unfortunately there must be too many workers in that area (at times) & they need to be used more flexibly or redeployed if possible into other jobs.</p> <p>Take decisions and implement changes much faster.</p> <p>Reduce the number of levels of senior management further.</p>
75	<p>less Council Vans</p> <p>Charge ELC staff for the current Free use of Staff Car Parks (paid for by the taxpayer)</p> <p>waste collection - look at combining the collections rather than having 2 vehicles on the road .</p> <p>Cut the tiers of managers.</p>

76	<p>East Lothian Council needs to have a good look at the amount of middle/ lower managers it has.</p> <p>In my team alone I have 3 managers I report to. Disgraceful waste of public money.</p>
77	<p>Optional early retirement package for over 60s to free up long term revenue.</p>
78	<p>I think the council should look more closely at the number of departmental managers and supervisors they have as a ratio of those staff not in a supervisory role. I am aware of several departments and teams where managers / supervisors are as numerous as staff.</p> <p>The council state that of the staff allowed to leave under voluntary early release have not been replaced, this is untrue, many have been replaced with a change to the job title following service review.</p>
79	<p>The council seems to be involved in discretionary activity which to some extent duplicates national government and agencies. Economic development and subsidised travel should be available universally across Scotland and it would be appropriate for all local authorities to engage with the Scottish government to agree how such activities are delivered and funded.</p> <p>Social care provision should be reviewed as it progresses towards integration with healthcare. The quality and extent of social care should be decided and funded at national level to ensure uniform delivery across the country.</p>
80	<p>How about restructure your teams and wages if you would run it more efficiently</p>
81	<p>I believe that parking charges in towns should be brought in. These could support income and would make more people likely to cycle and walk.</p> <p>The council should start charging students council tax, maybe a reduced amount.</p> <p>Business tax should be put up.</p> <p>Introduce more speeding cameras especially on rural roads, these will be a gold mine.</p>
82	<p>Remove/review council tax discounts for second / holiday homes / detained in prison. Reduce council tax discount for single occupancy</p>

83	Disability support and services need to be absolutely supported and well funded. In particular, help in schools for children with additional support needs should be better funded.
84	Make most efficient use of assets
85	Discontinue the free newspaper east Lothian Living, alternatively take advertising to cover the cost of printing and distribution.
86	Stop making cuts to education services
87	Get builders to contribute more to schools , parking and medical provision when granting planning permission
88	<p>Selling advertising space if appropriate (in various buildings on Web page).</p> <p>Charging more for room, venue, bbq space hire.</p> <p>Charging for using toilet facilities. e.g Nominal fee 20 pence or something!</p> <p>Send more letters/ notifications etc by email if appropriate.</p> <p>Colour printing costs 8x more than black and white copying, more black/ white printing unless absolutely necessary.</p> <p>Reducing community centre opening hours if appropriate. e. g. where its not being used.</p> <p>No catering at any council meetings/ training events.</p>
89	I realise there are budget constraints but I struggle to understand how I benefit from some council services. A reported blocked storm gully close to my house was not cleared for over 6 months after it had been reported. Street lights are frequently not working. Our waste collection is missed on several occasions each year. I no longer have a child in education, but when I did I did not always feel she was challenged appropriately. We have an expanding population who I would have thought would contribute via the council tax to the local budget, but perhaps this is not sufficient. We are a hard working family, contributing to the local community and economy but we can not afford a 5 or 10% hike in our council tax
90	Raise more income through planning and warrant applications. New people coming into the Area means extra council tax and other revenues. Charge house builders with more community benefits whwn awarding contracts.
91	With brexit - key for council to ensure economy of Lothian is healthy going forward
92	Rationalise staffing costs at higher levels. Reduce overheating schools

93	<p>Sell the compost made from garden waste.</p> <p>Rent out unused council buildings.</p> <p>Invest in a recycling centre at landfill sites and sell what they can.</p> <p>Reduce level of street lighting in the wee small hours.</p> <p>Charge parents to park near schools.</p> <p>Sell excess plants from gardening services - grow a few extra and have a Spring sale of those and take cuttings to sell too.</p>
94	<p>Shut John Muir House and move the HQ to cheaper accommodation at Macmerry. This would provide ample staff parking so they can go about their work without wasting time being unable to park when returning to the office. The sale of the building and land would almost certainly bring in a significant windfall as it is in the centre of town and prime land for housing.</p>
95	<p>It is not clear how to answer Question 2. You ask us to rate the options from 1-6 with 1 being most acceptable and 6 least but there are 7 options. Also if you rate it a 1 does this mean most acceptable to cut or to save?</p> <p>Unfair to ask for public consultation with such an ambiguous question.</p>
96	<p>I think the proposal to charge for brown bin collections is reasonable but only if there were an additional service offered above what is currently provided for free. For example I would be willing to pay £25 pa per bin if people were given the option to have a 2nd brown bin. Currently the brown bins are all of a standard size and there is no option for a second bin. This means that during summer with fortnightly collections my brown bin is severely overflowing with grass cuttings alone after one week's mowing. This leaves me with no other option but to load several bags of cuttings in to my car and take it to the tip every second week. I would be willing to pay £50 per year to have my two brown bins collected fortnightly as would most of my neighbours. From one estate alone that would generate another £1000 per year with low additional costs as this would be the same number of stops per van route.</p> <p>However, any increase in council tax would be unfair. As residents of a new build estate our council tax bills are already significantly out of kilter with most existing properties in Dunbar. A blanket percentage increase would hit us much harder than those who have enjoyed the benefit of an 8yr tax freeze. The tax rates set for new properties have already clearly been set to offset some of the council budget and there exists the risk of damaging the currently bouyant housing market in Dunbar by putting off those considering moving here.</p>
97	<p>Private contracts</p>
98	<p>Times are hard. Prices are increasing. Rent is increasing. Council tax next to increase. But wages are not increasing at the same rate. This is entirely unfair. More and more families getting into debt and using food banks. Cut the unnecessary high wages and expenses of the high heid yins in the council. It will save a fortune.</p>

99	Council services are very important to residents, but provision of decent basic services such as waste, schools etc should not mean cutting cultural services and heritage of the area. You should (have been) be stronger on insisting on bigger buy ins from builders looking to build the huge wastelands of new builds currently being built around the county so they adequately paid for the necessary infrastrucure required to facilitate all the buyers actually living there and then we wouldn't be in quite such a huge mess - which is only going to get worse.
100	Reduce number of middle management positions Ensure trade operatives work right through to evening times - bring in shift system for operatives and contact centre agents. Sell excess stock of properties for market prices Charge for council services to tenants who abuse call outs
101	Review school estate and reduce number of those with low pupil numbers. Efficiency review of centralised management and admin function to reduce headcount. Query whether Economic Development makes any net contribution - leave it to private enterprise or national bodies. Reduce frequency of all bin collections.
102	I would question the need for park upkeep to be carried out seven days a week, which appears to be the case in my local park. I do not agree with the suggestion of introducing a charge for garden waste, and think this would be counter-productive.
103	Reduce the council contribution to staff pensions. Good salaries are OK in the meantime. Reduce the golden early retirement payoffs. Introduce computer key stroke analysis - are staff productive enough. Outsource more services and reduce pension entitlement or move it with the outsource. That little lot above would save more than the paltry sums you are trying to do in this consultation.
104	It can't - not without failing to fulfil its obligations. Choosing between libraries and the elderly, between children's schooling and children's safety - these are not the right questions to be asking the population you serve. At this point in UK history, with local authorities being forced into bankruptcy, the only right thing to do is to continue to improve the service you

	<p>offer, increase efficiency where possible, and explain the crisis that we are in.</p> <p>The gap needs to be funded. The gap created during the banking crisis was filled in by taxpayers. The gap in funding to provide essential services in order to maintain social stability will be funded, but only if you and other Local Authorities are strong in your setting of boundaries. You, jointly and severally, have a responsibility to advocate for East Lothian residents.</p>
105	<p>Review internal costs and practices. The staff flexi-time process is widely abused.</p>
106	<p>Increase late fines for libraries and introduce a small charge (around 20p) per item borrowed.</p> <p>Increase charges to hire council buildings - charities being the exception.</p> <p>Reduce grass cutting of verges and hedges at the side of the road - this is better for wildlife.</p> <p>Introduce a permit parking scheme in residential areas where there is high demand for parking and few spaces.</p> <p>Install parking meters or ticket machines in places such as Haddington High Street - this would reduce all day parking and free up spaces for shoppers which should help small businesses/shops in the area.</p> <p>Charge for using amenities such as showers etc in leisure centres - nice to have, but not essential to use.</p> <p>Charge more to football/rugby/cricket clubs etc who use outdoor areas/pitches such as when matches are held at the football field in the park in Pencaitland - this cost would be passed on by the clubs to participants and would result in a small amount paid by a large number of people.</p> <p>Introduce a fireworks license scheme so country venues who host weddings and use fireworks regularly have to pay for the privilege.</p> <p>Limit the use of fireworks to a few days a year and fine anyone using them on other days - greatly appreciated by shift workers and pet owners etc.</p> <p>Illegal dumping is a problem in the county already - increase fines but reduce charges for van owners taking items to the skip legally.</p> <p>Put in a barrier at the recycling centres and introduce a 50p charge per vehicle to pass through. People would still use them as the amount is small, but revenue raised would amount to quite a lot.</p>
107	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop producing shiny expensively printed leaflets promoting unimportant things 2. Streamline top level of council management structure and remove several positions 3. Close Humbie, Innerwick, Saltoun etc primary schools (schools with a roll less than 70ish) which are a luxury we cant afford any more
108	<p>Outdoor Learning should be an integral part of the Curriculum for Excellence and the education of young people and should be available to all for free or at very low cost. The benefits of outdoor learning include but are not limited to</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develops reflective and inquisitive thinking and problem-solving approaches in 'real' situations -Encourages holistic development of children- resilience and adaptability -Allows children to become more able to identify hazards and risks -Develop a love, appreciation and respect for nature and all that is living -Develop environmental awareness -Develop self-awareness, confidence and self-esteem -Develop collaborative-working and communication skills -Provide positive health benefits – both physically and mentally – and assist gross and fine-motor development -Develop a lifelong love of the outdoors and healthy living practices <p>It would be a false economy and an aggregious short-term saving to cut provision to such a beneficial and necessary component of our young people education in Scotland.</p>
109	Provide specialist business and marketing support to departments who have been given income generating targets to support them to generate income as efficiently and effectively
110	They should increase efficiency/ productivity within there own work force and council departments .
111	It is irresponsible for the council to ask the public to rank public services that are entirely different and serve different needs and communities. Suggesting commercialisation of the outdoor learning service is also illogical. East Lothian has one of the best not just in Scotland but in the UK. By commercialising it you risk our kids and families and communities that are already unable to afford services miss out on the incredible opportunities they provide.
112	hire of school halls especially over winter for fitness for kids and adults. Give at 3 special uplifts free then charge for remaining utilised throughout the year and also Charge for bulk uplifts not being presented. Plus charging for fly tipping where there is possible evidence of the offender
113	Increase the rents paid by golf and tennis clubs for use of council owned land/ facilities
114	I was down in Surrey this week and left my daughters house at 2am and it was complete darkness outside, I thought there had been a power cut but it was not a power cut at all, I found out that for the past 2 years after 1am in the morning all street lights go in residential streets with the exception of main roads and specific designated area's, although not great I would imagine it saves Woking Borough Council a substantial amount of money per annum, and unless people work nights at this time few people are out on the street in residential area's. If residents are concerned about lighting in this set of circumstances they can opt to have their own external lighting.

115	<p>With regard to Garden waste uplifts, perhaps the Council could just add a small sum onto everyone's Council Tax bill as this would be the most cost effective way to collect this revenue. If the Council decided to bill individual properties for Garden waste as a separate charge, this would mean more administration for the Council, which would be a waste of vital funds. People with out gardens or who live in flats might not think this a good idea, however not everyone uses Education, Taxi Cards etc. these too come out of the Council's budget. Charging individually for a Brown bin would discourage people from recycling and the garden waste would probably end up in the Green landfill bin or ditched elsewhere.</p> <p>The lack of funds that the Council have, might not have been quite so bad, had we not had many years of Frozen Council Tax Charges.</p>
116	<p>Reduce transport to school costs and extra curricular travel by using a ' bank' of contracted minibus drivers as some fee-paying schools do, at a fraction of the cost. The local bus companies effectively run a cartel!</p>
117	<p>Perhaps the council should review its upper management structure, job duplication seems to be a real issue. Also, there are far to many councillors. This is also money wasted. Of course, cutting your on cloth will never come into it, overcharging for a poor service is what East Lothian council excel at.</p>
118	<p>Re-band housing to more appropriately reflect property values thus increasing revenue from properties which have a relatively high value disproportionate to their council tax contribution. I understand this is a government issue which they are scared to address however, this would significantly increase revenue without disproportionately penalising people who happen to have a newer property which is banded in a higher rated compared to similar older properties. This is a scandal and in no way relates to a property owners ability to pay disproportionately high values.</p>
119	<p>Use the services of people who are serving community services orders more widely, which would save money, and release council employees to do other duties.</p> <p>Putting charges onto garden waste and the uplift of bulky items will only generate fly tipping, which will then generate costs for council employees to pick it up.</p>
120	<p>Audit expenses for councillors, only take on priority work ie themed years is a waste of money and time</p>
121	<p>Cut down on the number of management staff for a start and when repairing roads, do it properly first time instead of having to keep coming back. Stop wasting public money by cutting down trees unnecessarily. The Council should have plenty money in their budget as they will be making masses from the poll tax collections on the new houses being built - they just need to learn how to manage the budget correctly</p>

122	Look at the management structure in services. Far to many managers for 1 area of service is completely unnecessary.
123	<p>Some council workers (manual eg those in vans, painters, electricians, plumbers) have a very laid back approach. The time they take to do jobs is ridiculous and the standard is poor. I am forever seeing the vans at the workers homes during the day and finishing early. Maybe you need to look at the workforce and ensure these guys are working as hard as the rest of the council staff.</p> <p>Also all the subsidies given are ridiculous . Yes I agree some people deserve and need these but others get to use facilities for peanuts and get reductions yet are walking about with the latest phones and designer gear. Have better checking procedures.</p> <p>Also keep a better check on your council homes. People are abusing these and costing council money on repairs. 40 years ago they were inspected and if damage done they could be held responsible.</p> <p>Buses from port seton to school. new hoses build at Prestonpans are a further walk yet no buses.</p> <p>Bus passes for over 60 for those who have money own big properties go on cruises - why/ it should be means tested.</p> <p>Council tax based on number of occupants not on size of house. 2 people in a large use less facilities that 6 in a smaller home.</p>
124	<p>The money saved within a 'community' should be used within THAT community.</p> <p>Provisions of support for learning should NOT be privatised but should be a mandatory role alongside schools/nurseries for East Lothian CouncilThe foundation of learning should be nurtured on a day to day basis to gain the most in the long term for each community.</p>
125	<p>Reducing the recycling of waste is not an option in this climate.</p> <p>Have you thought about charging those who do not recycle at all?</p>
126	Review the need for street lighting during certain hours.
127	I would like councils not to blame the Scottish Government, but to look at the bigger picture (i.e. the Government at Westminster who give out our budget). If all councils came together and campaigned for our Government to have more money to spend, perhaps we'd be in with a chance of getting some more. This is even more important now that Westminster have indicated that the Barnett Formula will be removed in the next parliament.

128	<p>Continue to invest in health and education as healthy well educated people will generate business development opportunities. Do not cut outdoor education budget, because this is a vital part of children and young adult learning and an already compromised part of some schools.</p>
129	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop all vans using recycling centres, this would stop traders disposing of waste and costing landfill charges and higher landfill rate. 2. implement monthly garden waste collections instead of charging as this will keep recycling rates up and there is no administration cost to manage the charges etc. 3, don't pay sick wages to staff for the first 3 days of sickness, as this will stop staff taking days off for the sake of it. 4. introduce a £20 minimum charge for bulky uplifts. 5. Charge for garden waste being disposed of in recycling centres.
130	<p>In view of the imminent threats facing society, the Council must prioritise nature conservation and biodiversity.</p> <p>Charging for outdoor education could reduce the next generation's knowledge and enthusiasm for conservation.</p> <p>Our green spaces need a much greater degree of protection from development, mainly house building, but also from un-needed development such as the white elephant of the former Cockenzie power station site.</p>
131	<p>There should be a choice of sizes for recycling and garden waste containers to enable householders to make the best use of the service available. This could in turn enable the council to recycle and compost more, and if appropriate could allow a reduction in the frequency of some collections.</p>
132	<p>Remove school crossing patrollers from traffic lights and focus resources on dangerous spots without lights</p> <p>Introduce a tourist tax to raise revenue for local services</p> <p>Advertising on roundabouts etc</p> <p>More shared services with neighbouring councils</p>

	<p>Introduce charges for special uplifts</p> <p>Introduce parking charges in busiest areas</p>
133	<p>I do not think you should put lights through Lochend Wood it is a natural space for wildlife and is a waste of money and energy there are plenty of walks that have lights</p> <p>Do not spend lots of money on paths that can be natural woodland paths</p> <p>Turn off the lights at night in some areas</p> <p>Stop building so many houses as it creates extra pressure on the community and spoils the landscape</p>
134	<p>Stop cutting the verges of the country roads all the time - would be wonderful for wild flowers too.</p>
135	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Perthshire garden waste & food waste are all in one bin. 2. You have so many consultation meetings for the same thing. I have been to at least 6 in the last 12 yrs and you ask the same questions but nothing is done. How much does it cost for a meeting to be held outwith council buildings such as the Maitlandfield Hotel, Haddington, who provide coffee and scones beforehand - no need for this - just a waste of money. 3. Prestonpans Resource Centre was closed down after putting in a new kitchen and toilet which must have cost a lot. We were moved to Port Seton, then you let other groups come in and use it (for free I must say for at least a couple of years until someone noticed and objected).
136	<p>Maximise the income from building of new houses by planning the infrastructure required to support them well in advance & asking for the appropriate contribution.</p> <p>Think carefully when introducing something like fees for music tuition in schools - what is the admin cost of such a scheme vs income? Can you provide the appropriate level of service for the cost? (after 1 term the answer is NO) What is the long term educational impact?</p>
137	<p>I think it's hard to make blanket decisions about which service is most/least worthy. Each piece of work carried out by ELC under each heading needs to be considered more fully, with a 'what's the risk of not doing this' question asked.</p>

	For example I've rated road maintenance as v important. But I see lots of unnecessary road work eg in North Berwick time & money was spent putting an island to split the traffic when you come up the hill from the high street towards the fire station. Totally unnecessary and a waste of time & money. There was very little risk keeping the road as it is. So that's the crux for me rather than making blanket decisions about which services to cut.
138	<p>It would help if the Council actually carried out a proper budget review process and actually balanced the budget rather than top slicing all budgets. This doesn't actually balance the budget. It might make it look as if the budgets have been balanced but in the long-term this is definitely not a sustainable approach. What they need to do is carry out a detailed zero based budgeting exercise where the focus would be on those services which as a local authority they have a statutory obligation to provide. Once these have been fully funded then the remaining budget can be split between the other services that it would like to provide.</p> <p>Last year's budget included a number of decisions that never were going to actually save money and in one or two cases were almost certainly going to increase the costs to the council.</p>
139	<p>Local income tax. So rates based on household incomes linked to PAYE. or annual tax returns. Owners of large properties do not always have large incomes and often have to pay more to maintain their properties ie insulating them etc...Often elderly people live in larger properties that have been family homes...</p> <p>Employ people to help with the introduction of the universal credit system., to advise and mentor the claimants. The idea to empower people to manage their own monthly finances and get back into work is a good one ,but when people have been used to their housing costs being paid directly to or by the council to private landlords it will take time for them to adjust and I worry that children of vulnerable families will suffer from building up debt. I have seen this first hand as an early years worker.In the long run you will save money doing this and families will feel more supported .</p>
140	Remove school buses for kids that live between 2 and 3 miles from school.
141	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. review all salaries from CEO downwards and publish all those in 6 figures . 2. make rigorous checks on every penny claimed in expenses 3. avoid all unnecessary meetings 4. make sure all staff have the qualifications and skills for the job and encourage a can do attitude as is expected elsewhere 5. avoid all populist ideas
142	All young people should have free access to outdoor learning as part of the curriculum as it improves their physical and mental wellbeing , makes the aware of the environment and encourages them to cope with challenges. Could greater income be generated from Innerwick centre?

	I would not like to see museums go but feel arts, sporting and cultural events should be supported by those that want to attend them
143	Critical review of Council office staffing levels
144	You are now wasting even more money with the introduction of instrumental charges given the number of instruments you are having to purchase and have lost so many pupils from the service. Perhaps you should re-evaluate in other areas such as taxi funds and assets prior to cutting anymore vital services to education such as outdoor learning. Our future generation need to be able to think, create and express and soon won't be able to do that - especially given the teacher shortages in East Lothian combined with any additional educational support provision being axed.
145	The council could look at how departments spend their money. I attended a "bootcamp" at the marine Hotel in North Berwick on Thursday 6th December. A worthwhile event but last year it was held in the townhouse, Haddington. Also the brochure produced was very colourful and glossy. Last year it was black and white. How much did this exercise cost? It could have been done cheaper.
146	Council Tax is already a significant portion of a person's monthly income, sometimes as much as 10%, so if this was going to be raised or increased, it would need to be done extremely carefully and with much consideration. With people already struggling to make ends meet, raising the council tax to greater heights, while supposedly bringing in more money for the council, could have the opposite effect with more people defaulting or not paying.
147	Garden Waste: keep as is at present from Mid march until Mid October and then 4 weekly collections for the remainder of the year.
148	Make companies who may be involved in the tender process for services eg painting of public buildings or provision of materials that the Council is in dire straights financially and they should not hike up their prices. Use better quality materials to repair roads, pavements etc so the repairs are longer lasting. Invite the Scottish Government to 'wake up and smell the coffee' and stop making decisions and announcements which they think please the electorate but which actually cripple local authorities and put inordinate pressure on local authority employees.
149	The council is in an era when it must address savings by being more commercial in its responsibilities particularly with regard to the assets that it holds- all built up at times when there were fewer financial pressures which enabled expansive investment in services to communities. In the delivery of non-statutory services it must be aware of the possible negative environmental impacts of simplistic decisions which then have very damaging side effects and as well as unfairly impacting on the less able in its communities.

	<p>Searching for small savings over a broad range of services is becoming non-sustainable. Whether or not the council tax is raised this will not be a substitute for astute financial management. The time when the council could do many things for communities has ended. Communities must take on more responsibilities in partnership with the council and others.</p>
150	<p>Waste - large bin instead of small boxes for recycling - lids frequently need replacing, could recycle more if we had better bins. Leaflets/booklets - too much coloured expensive booklets etc produced and thrown away. I work in education and frequently recycle expensive booklets/leaflets which do not need to be produced as they are not used/read. Council offices - check they are using low wattage bulbs and that lights are switched off when not needed.</p>
151	<p>Consider introducing a levy for all households to pay for maintenance of green areas in their estates - many of the newer houses have to pay this over and above their council tax, however many areas have this maintained by the council - a charge for those not on low incomes/benefits for this may create revenue. consider parking charges in town centres - however continue to allow support local businesses by allowing the first hour free then a charge after this - this would also hopefully ease parking congestion by encouraging people to move on and free up spaces.</p>
152	<p>Cut amount of councillor expenses Cut council cars, use public transport Limit the number of council administration buildings in each town and use current buildings more effectively Utilise skills of people in the council for in-house training and limit outsourcing</p>
153	<p>With todays technology, is there any need really for library services.</p> <p>Less money should be going into Arts and Crafts, it is not essential, and put this into education.</p> <p>Prestonpans has a swimming leisure centre, Meadowmill and a community centre, oh and the Red School. Is there any need for all of them. I would close the library and the community centre.</p> <p>We need new business and should do everything we can to encourage it.</p> <p>However we do not need more pensioners with discounts for this and that moving to East Lothian, If you can't afford to travel then simply don't. Why can't people pay full fare. I do not see why we have to discount public transport.</p>

	<p>We need to save our high streets so I do not recommend parking charges in them. North Berwick and Haddington are very unique not. You do not want the local business shutting down we need to support them as much as possible.</p> <p>Night school community school, this is a business so if a school is open at night it should be charging enough to cover the cost and bring in some money for the struggling schools.</p>
154	Focus has to be on vulnerable young people and education - all aspects of education.
155	It is time to do away with leisure. Councils should not be providing leisure services. Concentrate on only the essential services. Cut everything else. The council does far too much. There are many local orgs doing events, no need for the council to do it too. Stop doing things that others can do. Waste, schools, roads, planning, licensing - keep it to the essential stuff and do away with the rest. Health care should be NHS not council.
156	<p>I'm really disappointed that the budget cuts are affecting schools and their resources and teachers. In my experience there are better cuts that could be made within the education department that would have less impact on our young people. One department that I think needs to be seriously looked at is Educational Psychology. Whilst I understand the</p> <p>A there is a legal obligation to be met, this could be done by one EP the rest of the service offer very poor value for money- they don't work with children. They act as the gatekeepers for all the resources whilst having very limited knowledge of the children (often they haven't even met them). They spend time handing out frustrating and patronising advice to highly qualified and experienced teaching staff. Consequently the service would actually be better without them. I realise this is a radical and shocking suggestion, however I truest believe that in these times the impact of this service needs to be seriously looked at and the resources better allocated.</p>
157	switch off most street lighting in early mornings
158	<p>While I'm sure there are many departments in the council who run efficiently there seem to be rather a lot who don't.</p> <p>Communication between the council and schools for maintenance is incredibly shoddy and the council have wasted vast sums of money upgrading or maintaining schools in a manner that the schools don't choose. An example of this would be the cost of tree surgeons who maintained Yester Primary School Woodland. Without informing the school and ruining the children's woodland. Perhaps the money would have been better spent on fixing the roof for example .</p> <p>Personally I think money would be better spent training your staff in job efficiency and best practice. The council appears to be full of excellent and dedicated workers who simply haven't been trained properly and make costly mistakes. Then the 3 year's prevailing in which we repeatedly called them and the ASBO team had to attend. Several meetings with community and council members in which the council dropped plans came to nothing because the council didn't know their own legislation. Had the staff been more competent could have saved a lot of money there , as well</p>

	as a huge amount of everybody's time. So instead of cutting services perhaps trim your staff and training them properly.
159	Charge for services people can afford to pay for like leisure facilities and services and provide services for those who cannot like services for the frail elderly living at home or children's services and education.
160	We think the choices offered are quite invidious and that the council should combine modest increases in council tax with a campaign to protect council and community services from further austerity cuts. Council tax is a bit fairer than direct charges for services which should substantially increased
161	stop building more houses as this puts strain on upkeep of schools, amenities and roads.
162	Providing more community gathering opportunities will in turn create a more focussed community drive. This would mean more kids and families taking an interest/ taking pride in their local area meaning there would be less vandalism etc that currently wastes resources.
163	The council currently has a good reputation for supporting the most vulnerable people and it should strive to continue to do this to the best it can. In my opinion it would be better to raise funds by increasing council tax rather than cutting services that are already showing cracks.
164	Sell off unused council properties, rationalise jobs, cut overtime,
165	I think it's essential that there are no cuts to services that support early years, vulnerable families including early intervention and the elderly. This will result in a bigger financial impact in future years and more strain in council budgets.
166	I think the categories on the first question were unfairly grouped. For example "keeping children from harm and helping low income families "as 1. I think this should be split - helping children from harm is very different from supporting low income families and I don't feel that all aspects of that group are equal.
167	I think that large bins for recycling would help save money because there would be less litter on the streets and also less waste of the lids which are used on the existing plastic tubs. I agree with maybe changing the garden recycling to once a month in winter months, however in the summer this isn't possible. I have a large garden front and back. Compost bins could be provided on request to try and reduce the amount of waste being collected by council.

	I believe that recycling is very important in our community so maybe more education on this subject for the younger generation. It would be nice to see more youth clubs for children to attend. In my area there isn't anything like this for my 8 year old to attend.
168	Be more efficient with services. Look into opening hours etc, and seeing how you can use them for alternative use - e. G. Fund a community centre and use it for old and early years users, but also use it as the base for outdoor education.
169	Council workers should pay to use the car park at JM House. If people live outside the catchment areas for the local school they should not get a free taxi service.
170	The council tax bands are already at an excruciating level and to increase by either 5 or 10% would have a huge impact on families and could tip some over the edge on a month to month basis. It's way above inflation and way above any general salary increases that are not guaranteed to happen. A terrible way to raise funds for council services. Build a car park and charge for it near Haddington and raise money this way, means test more benefits and improve schemes to get more people into work.
171	Cut the fat cat wages for made up positions within departments. There is no need for such high salaries.
172	cost cutting exercises should not cost more in staff time by causing copious amounts of paperwork.
173	Provision of quality outdoor experiences need to be part of the Curriculum of Excellence for all young people, inclusive and at minimal, or zero, cost.
174	Not about saving money but Gaelic language provision for children is shocking in East Lothian - no Gaelic bookbug, had to pester and pester to get Gaelic bookbug bag etc
175	Open up schools to use in the summer
176	The increase in council tax has already been difficult for us and we are also paying factoring fees. I would not support another increase. My salary has not increased in years yet I have to pay more for everything. Cutting costs in the education of our children is not a solution. I think that merging infant schools and primary schools is a good idea in a lot of

	<p>ways but without reducing the number of learning assistants or increasing class sizes.</p> <p>Some money could come from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fining littering, fly tipping, dog waste. - Benefits fraud.
177	<p>In Question 2, are there words missing from "Grant support to local business"? Are you asking if you should "REMOVE grant support to local business"? If so then that is acceptable.</p>
178	<p>I think the council should concentrate its resources on core duties such as road maintenance, street lighting and waste disposal. Additional costs for garden waste collection could backfire and result in more fly tipping.</p>
179	<p>Serious Consideration has to be given to the infrastructure in East Lothian, in line with all the building that is going on. Although I know that ELC are not responsible for rail services the situation for residents of East Lothian is becoming worse and worse and if it remains as bad this will drive commuters from trains to the roads. All the building of new houses will be pointless if people can't get to work in Edinburgh or other areas because the transport links are poor or nonexistent.</p>
180	<p>Looking at employment do you really need all these managers, there was a small tree broken in our park, four council workers were in attendance but only one man was struggling to get this tree out by the root, I asked why they were not helping this poor man struggling only to be told they were management and that was not in there job discription unbelievable</p>
181	<p>Could introduce a tourist tax similar to the one being considered in Edinburgh.</p>
182	<p>Think a monthly garden collection in the winter is fine, in the summer not good. East Lothian in general is tidy and to introduce a charge will see an increase in fly tipping.</p> <p>Happy to support a council taxrise to fund services.</p> <p>We also need more support for business growth, our towns are growing and if we had more job opportunities we wouldn't have to commute to Edinburgh etc.</p>
183	<p>Reduce the number of overpaid directors and executives. Reduce benefits to said directors and executives. Reduce the ridiculous pension benefits said directors and executives. Stop wasting money on things like the museum in Haddington that is only used by the few.</p> <p>Let the public know exactly what you spend our money on so we can have our say</p>

184	<p>Introduce car parking charges in town centres such as in Haddington. If the Council adopts a scheme whereby parking charges are exempted on proof of purchase in local shops this would be more acceptable.</p> <p>Car parking has become one of the main issues in Haddington, especially with the attempts to regenerate the town centre. Residents would need to be issued permits to bring them on board. Possibly also local shop owners. However, there would still be income generated whilst tackling some of the issues currently experienced in terms of slow turnaround of available parking spaces.</p>
185	I would agree on the uncapped rise on council tax just if it is one of, I couldn't pay 5 or 10% every year, I pay a low income tax because where I live.
186	<p>Protection and care of the council's most vulnerable residents is the biggest priority.</p> <p>It is vitally important that the council's outdoor learning provision is not cut, nor commercialised. Learning outdoors is morally right and a legal obligation. Wide and varied provision is the entitlement of outdoor learning opportunities and should be provided free of charge to all school-aged children in the council.</p>
187	<p>Start vetting homeless people properly.</p> <p>Refine the way the council workers time keep / manage working hours. I know quite a lot of people work for the council. They only work half the day and the other half standing chatting or not doing their job very well. For example tradesmen need to have their work spot checked regularly to force them in to doing a good job that they get paid to do instead.</p> <p>Stop taking care of gardens for people in council homes that are perfectly able bodied. My Gran 85+ cant get her grass cut but the people in temporary houses do? Explain that one?</p>
188	We only have a small garden and only need bin emptied every 2 months so this could be considered. Give us larger recycling bins which could then be uplifted monthly providing a further saving
189	Increase library overdue book fees
190	In England and most cities charging for car parking is normal. The council should charge for car parking in more places.

	<p>Giving each child access to high quality outdoor learning is one of the Scottish Government priorities. Learning about the outdoors helps children to gain environmental awareness which is essential for the next generation to take action on climate change and ensure the future of the planet.</p>
191	<p>Introduce coastal car park charges along the whole coast. Fisherrow, Levenhall Links, Morrison's Haven, Presronpans Yacht club , Aberlady.</p> <p>Introduce a parking charge for permits for parking at John Muir House. If you are working in Edinburgh and driving in you would expect to pay a parking charge. Why not in East Lothian? It may be a bitter pill for council employees to swallow after 6 years of cuts. Perhaps you could sweeten the price of having to pay to park at John muir house by including free parking at the coastal car parks as part of the yearly permit?</p> <p>Introduce a permit scheme for the commercial dog walkers that plague our beaches and countryside. Our countryside and especially our beaches are one of our greatest assets. Time after time my enjoyment of the coast is ruined by a commercial dog walker with 7,8,9,10 out of control dogs marauding through the countryside. These dog walkers are making a small fortune exercising other people's dogs along our coast line. The dogs are often out of control spoiling my enjoyment of the coast. Charge them for the opportunity to make money using council managed sites, hold them accountable, maybe this will control the numbers while generating extra money for the council ?</p>
192	<p>Very concerned about lack of funding in schools for asn pupils and staff having to deal with behavioural issues without facilities deal with low level disruption.</p> <p>Major problems following cut backs on the horizon in our schools.</p>
193	<p>I understand that you are having to make difficult decisions but comparing these services is not a helpful way of looking at things. I feel strongly that the inclusion of 'Commercialisation of Outdoor Learning' is not something that should be alongside 'Garden Waste'. Often the work of Outdoor Learning goes unseen but the benefits stay with the children and adults for the rest of their lives.</p> <p>In particular I have seen children who struggle in main stream education, or have additional support needs, thrive in the outdoor environment. Traditional classroom education does not cater for all the needs of our children and without resources like the Outdoor Learning team our children's worlds will shrink further, with less opportunities and possibilities being open to them. We live in a time when three-quarters of our countries children spend less time outside than prison inmates, with the best part of the day spent sitting at a desk.</p> <p>Our schools are struggling to support children who simply need to experience learning in a different way. The policy of inclusion means that lessons are regularly interrupted with disruptive behaviour. Outdoor Learning can be used as a way to engage those same children who lack focus in the classroom. It is also an important avenue for developing a child's self esteem as they have more opportunity to learn to manage risk and take ownership of their learning, than when indoors.</p> <p>The Outdoor Learning team visit our schools and show staff, pupils and management that there is a different way to approach the Curriculum.</p>

	Schools are too busy to organise this themselves and I fear once Outdoor Learning is gone, nothing will replace it. The commercialisation will only increase the cost to schools and head teachers will be less inclined to offer outdoor opportunities. We will then fail to follow the Curriculum for Excellence guidelines which 'explicitly includes the use of the outdoor environment as a necessary approach and context for delivering its education curriculum' (https://education.gov.scot/improvement/documents/hwb24-ol-support.pdf).
194	Review of home-school transport to that which is necessary and not just a convenience for parents with adequate transport
195	I gather there is a vast amount of unpaid Council taxes which have not been collected over the years. If all this was collected, the increases in Council tax probably wouldn't be necessary. These increases are being put on already stretched incomes because it is easier to get payments from law abiding citizens than chasing those who don't pay in the first place. They are still using Council facilities - but not paying for it.
196	remove brown bin collection or charge for this (concession for elderly) and make bin collection more efficient. do we all need a bin in each garden, if there were a couple of larger bins available discreetly in the streets would it help to reduce how much time is spent on bin collections. Private residences pay for their parks and green spaces to be maintained, can a factor fee be added to council spaces also? Don't agree that council tax should be hiked up again, we stretched ourselves to pay for a house in a high band but we don't earn as much as others in the same houses or in smaller houses. Any small pay rise we have earned disappears into rates rises like this or pension etc. 1-2% fine but 5-10% is too much for people like us.
197	Rather than need to keep considering the removal of home to school transport, why not give parents the option to pay a small annual charge in order to keep the service available to them? Like all other chargeable services to parents, FSM and low-income evidence could be taken into account.
198	Get rid of staff surplus to requirements. Make council tax fairer. 1 person households only getting small reduction, households with 4 wage earners only paying fraction more.
199	Train young people to drive mini buses to support the taxi travel.. part of their training when leaving schools
200	Increase recycling uplift to weekly and reduce general waste to monthly collection. All council buildings should have renewable energy - photovoltaic panels to roofs, air source heat pumps, wind turbines. Support and encourage community groups and residents to look after their areas i.e. weeding / cutting path edges and verges, maintaining flower beds in residential areas, gritting pavements and clearing snow. Change the mowing regimes for public grass areas. At present all grass is cut regularly about every 10 days and left lying where cut. It would be better for biodiversity as well as being money saving to leave some areas long (even allowing the introduction of wildflower plantings) and just cut

	<p>shorter paths through these. Public notification would have to be undertaken to ensure that residents are aware that these areas are not being cut for wildlife reasons so that complaints are not received. This could be done at the sites by simple signage as well as wider notification on the council's website.</p> <p>Council buildings are lying empty yet the council are looking for council house sites and spending money buying sites such as Hermanflat hospital in Haddington that will require significant investment to be turned into accessible and suitable housing.</p> <p>There should be better coordination between council departments to inline with the supposed One Council approach.</p> <p>One example of where the One Council approach has not worked and where the council will have to spend extra money than if they had coordinated and pooled resources is in the resurfacing of the A199 between Haddington and Tranent. This is the approved route of the segregated active travel corridor that links East Lothian with Edinburgh by means of active travel (cycling). I believe the aim is to narrow this road for motorised traffic and provide a separated lane(s) for cycling and walking. The road has been resurfaced with no cycle lane provided (other than road markings between Haddington and Gladsmuir). This has increased motorised traffic speeds along this road, making it less safe for cycling and walking. Additional money will have to be spent to dig up the newly surfaced road and create the segregated cycle route. Not an efficient way to spend resources.</p>
201	<p>If the council has available land, do a deal with a development company to build affordable live /work premises, making them available to purchase to digital technology based design/maker businesses. I have been working on a project plan that would aim to attract these start up business to a place like Dunbar and the reason I have relocated my 3D Printing based business to Dunbar.</p> <p>This would generate income from interest paid on the land as well as increase the income through business rates while attracting investment and jobs. This plan aims to increase visitors to Dunbar and create a local high Tech design village for Scottish Creative and Tech industries. The plan aims to facilitate start ups growth through marketing their products nationally and internationally.</p> <p>This plan is a system based approach to community development, a sustainable and integrated plan to find multiple solutions that Scottish communities presently face, to build resilience so as to withstand the impact of the so called disruptive technologies.</p>
202	<p>Charges for on-street parking.</p> <p>Increase charges to register births, deaths & marriages.</p> <p>Cap Senior Officials pay increases.</p> <p>Commercialise some ELC Services to generate additional income.</p>
203	<p>Can you put social houses at even more arm's length? I'm not sure that being a social landlord is the best use of Council resources. I'd be happy to see parking charges in our main town centres, allowing for residents of course.</p> <p>I don't understand why businesses pay higher council tax than houses when houses must be a net consumer of ELC money while businesses provide jobs and income.</p>

	All these developers making a fortune building hundreds of houses on good agricultural land need to be squeezed for every penny you can get out of them.
204	I don't understand why the council seems to pour money into projects like First Step in musselburgh. For a facility that only 'supports' people in the immediate area it receives a disproportionate level of ongoing funding and is not helping actual vulnerable or hard to reach families.
205	Please leave the library services alone. The arbitrary fine process that has been introduced will do nothing but turn users away, mainly young families who lose/misplace books innocently. Now when an invoice is raised for the cost of those books these users will just never return. I suspect this is part of the plan to make libraries as user unfriendly as possible therefore giving council leaders more power to say they aren't used and shut them down.
206	Get rid of community wardens as they are very ineffective.
207	<p>Brown bins should remain a free service - there is possibly no need for the bin to be collected between 1st December to mid March as there is little gardening done in the winter months so that could be away of maintaining the service the rest of the year rather than charging or reducing the frequency of the service.</p> <p>I don't see the need to maintain the taxi card system when there are now free bus services for elderly and those with disabilities and that people can now employ personal assistant to assist with there everyday needs.</p> <p>Nor matching business grants. I realise this may encourage business into the area but some don't seem to last very long and we seem to have a high street mainly of charity shops, nail and beauty salons.</p> <p>Perhaps some council services could share space e.g. community centres and library be contained in one building more like a community hub there by reducing the cost of maintaining the number of council buildings currently in use.</p> <p>If the council has assets that can raise revenue then the should look into options for selling rather than leasing. perhaps it would encourage business to fill the empty shops.</p>
208	<p>Some thoughts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - primary school swim lessons, a good % of children can swim. For those that can't enrol them into council regular swimming lessons, and let the teachers teach, attainment is needed not wasted time for kids that can already swim - accommodation - council houses, in the private sector, people house share because of costs.... should something similar be in place for council tenants, everyone doesn't need x bedrooms/bathrooms. Don't know how it works, but to rents increase based on household income?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - leisure centre costs should come down to encourage a healthier population and reduced future costs - more effort should be made to grab edinburgh tourist trade.... - encourage more trains in the county and then build car parks & charge (but only nominally) -only accept electronic payment for school payments - charge for all active school sports 1) get a little revenue and 2) stops kids just booking but then no interest - wider idea... charge for prescriptions, stop waste ! Those people who need free prescriptions still to get them
209	<p>Switch off street lighting overnight Sell back garden waste as compost Reduce gardeners- they are always in their vans and not gardening when I see them Increase on the spot fines to reduce littering Charge for the use of public toilets Encourage community groups yo look after public spaces</p>
210	<p>Utilise assets such as schools, libraries and community centres to deliver all services. Sell off empty and under occupied buildings. Have communities, schools, offenders etc take on more of a role in community spaces such as parks, this gives ownership and accountability. Increase learning opportunities in the community, creating employment opportunities and employability of local people.</p>
211	<p>Special uplift charging already tried & leads to fly tipping Update jobs so they meet the needs of the population Stop building new houses if the return (grant & council tax) doesn't cover cost of providing services Library not open before 10am or past 5pm so anyone who works full time can't use it!</p>
212	<p>These cuts school are facing are disgusting. I'm fed up of fighting for my children with additional needs getting the support they require. Diabolical. The form for exceptional needs funding should be exposed to the media as it's surely illegal.</p>
213	<p>I appreciate that the council needs money to run essential services, however Council Tax is already very high. Funding education, early years services and business will surely encourage families to settle here, work here and businesses to establish themselves here, thus bringing in more money. Can start ups be given grants to get going whereas thriving, established businesses with high profit margins pay a bit more tax to support the region they are thriving in?</p>

214	<p>Stop spending on expensive consultation companies and employ own staff to produce such. Make greater financial contributions from developers of housing estates mandatory and severe penalties included within agreements. Require developers to be constantly repairing the damages their vehicles are doing to roads. Stop outsourcing and recreate service employees at fair wages.</p>
215	<p>Reducing garden waste collection to once a month is foolish in the extreme as the waste produced in the three full weeks between collections will be put out as domestic refuse thus reversing progress on greenhouse gas emissions. The Council should market a “premium service” paid for weekly collection of garden waste which many with gardens would be willing to use and pay for. Don’t look to provide the least but rather the best.</p>
216	<p>These require government legislation, so not sure if relevant to this survey: Revalue all domestic property. Introduce new higher council tax bands.</p>
217	<p>Very small rural schools (less than 30 children?) must be costing an absolute fortune to run. Surely this can be looked at again to save money if we need to find the money somewhere - the cost of providing transport to a nearby school must be less than the running of the small school?</p> <p>I live and work in East Lothian and sometimes get leaflets/information through my door from the council that I always think must cost a lot of money. Surely there is a way to opt in/opt out of electronic mail nowadays for residents? I know not everyone can access the internet so they would require a paper copy, but personally for me I could sign up to a council e-mail instead of a paper copy?</p>
218	<p>I believe educational provision/resources/facilities should be a priority for our young people as they are our future. This not only includes investment/maintenance of schools but also outdoor learning resources and access to it for all irrespective of income etc. We should resist the commercialism of Outdoor Learning for the same reasons we would resist the commercialism of schools if this were proposed! Access to Outdoor Learning is an essential part of the Curriculum for Excellence and should be accessible/inclusive for all.</p>
219	<p>All pupils should have access to outdoor learning. It provides an amazing amount of opportunities that allow pupils to develop and learn about themselves out with the normal school environment.</p>
220	<p>Pay staff less and no overtime! Use community service work for those that commit low crimes!</p>

221	Very disappointed to read that outdoor learning is under threat. This is an integral part of CfE and is also included in GTC standards for teaching and learning. Yet ELC are even contemplating commercializing this resource! I feel that like the music instruction, parents are being asked to pay for resources that should be provided by the local council.
222	Remove lollipop men and women from places where they cross people at junctions that already have traffic lights at them. Dim street lights during hours where the majority of the population is not on the roads. Put up parking fines from £30/£60 to £40/£80.
223	I feel that it is essential to ensure provision of quality outdoor experiences for all young people this must be inclusive and at a minimum or zero cost .
224	I feel strongly about the opportunities that outdoor education brings to young people. It is a part of the government's drive to provide good quality outdoor education to children within the curriculum for excellence. As a mental health professional I believe that these opportunities should not be commercialised as it will exclude those from impoverished backgrounds to access them.
225	Things could be steam lined better? The cuts are ridiculous in the first place. Cuts are already affecting children and families across the council in a drastic way. I work in education and the amount that I have to subsidise the service I provide the children in my care with my own money and time is frankly outrageous. The council is already relying too heavily on the goodwill of staff. Cuts to outdoor learning is particularly awful. Much like cuts to music tuition we are cutting life changing services to children. It's truly heartbreaking. These services are not an extra. They should be a given. I am happy to pay more council tax to ensure that services to those in our community who need them are NOT cut!
226	Charge for second and third garden waste bins, tourist tax on hotels
227	Continue to review the way Council staff at all levels operate to minimise waste of staff time e.g. staff rotas to ensure staff are gainfully employed at all times
228	I find that all the Council does is to introduce increase after increase. It will end up that the tenants standard of living will decrease as to satisfy the Councils greed. If the Council employees put an extra 5% into their work Maybe that would help the economy. Your job is to serve the people not to diminish their way of life by forever increasing rates, etc. Working for the Council or any other company is

	<p>NOT a job for life, you must earn you pay and NOT allow this negative approach to your tenants.</p> <p>After ALL your previous increases , I see no improvement in your services.</p> <p>The roads with all those speed bumps are causing damage to vehicles. Instead of making speed bumps use that tar to fill in the potholes that keep coming back after a so called repair. The EMERGENCY SERVICES need to get through quickly and NOT to be held up with those large bumps in the road. there is other ways to slow down traffic.</p>
229	<p>People are far too lazy nowadays, if everyone got involved in litter clear up work for example it would help reduce the workload of street cleaning. Same goes for weeding paths and leave removal....however you would need to continue with garden waste bin collection. Encouraging local groups of volunteers would work if you engage with the communities</p> <p>Council staffing is getting stretched thinly, but if there is any need for reviewing staffing levels it should be in management staff, there needs to be amalgamation of some depts as far as managing them. The workforce know what is required and need very little management support.</p>
230	<p>Less high paying jobs - too many Chiefs. More efficient ways to work. Maximise use of buildings and sell any unnecessary buildings. Less staffing where possible, better ways of working. More use of volunteers. Less part-time jobs - costs more to employ two part-timers sharing full-time job.</p>
231	<p>Need to move Musselburgh Racecourse to be managed by a private company. This is not a Council service and no more money should be spent on this facility. By continuing to directly manage this organisation, the Council is actively promoting gambling.</p> <p>The Council needs to charge for car parking and provide more car parking facilities. The charges do not need to be excessive but charging for car parking is the norm elsewhere and I cannot understand why the Council refuses to consider this but would prefer to reduce services and staffing instead. Also....by actively promoting car travel, it is actively promoting environmental pollution. Far better to invest in more public transport with funding from car parking charges. NB, Musselburgh and Haddington are virtually in constant gridlock due to excessive car use and insufficient car parking.</p> <p>Developers to pay for full cost of additional public services for new housing developments. It should not be the tax payer subsidising housing developments as they do currently.</p>

	<p>Review Council tax banding and property values.</p> <p>Stop building standalone buildings and share buildings with the Health service. All Health centres are currently standalone - why? Should be conjoined with leisure/sports centres.</p>
232	<p>I think closure of very small schools should be considered seriously. At a time of tough choices consider the saving and the number of people who could be helped by that against the very small number of pupils who would need to go to a different school not very far from home.</p>
233	<p>Sell or rent out all the empty council owned assets throughout the county - Sandersons Wynd infant school being only one example of an asset in a prime location which has lain empty for years. No private business could sustain this model of financial operation.</p> <p>Increase council house rents to a sustainable market rate, it should no longer be the case that council housing is being subsidised by others.</p> <p>Housing needs to be allocated to those who can pay rent and council tax, generating revenue, rather than the current allocations policy which appears to favour requiring financial assistance.</p> <p>Streamline management, multiple tiers of non productive managers, change resistant managers is unsustainable. Recruit from new graduate level, encouraging fresh talent to take the council forward and develop new ideas in the same way as private business thrives.</p>
234	<p>i think you need to support swimming and exercise financially and better facilities because they offer physical, mental and healthy lifestyle choices... especially east lothian swim team which is fantastic with no other option but to travel outwith east lothian at more expense</p>
235	<p>Although I appreciate that cuts have to be made I am personally against the potential commercialisation of the Outdoor Learning Service, and I know many are in agreement with me. At a time when the long-term health benefits of engagement with the outdoors and outdoor physical exercise is being highlighted around the world I feel that commercialisation of Outdoor Learning would deprive many of access to the quality life changing activities offered by the Service. I agree with the charging for access to holiday activity clubs and for participating in courses run by the Service.</p> <p>If schools have to pay for accessing quality outdoor learning there are many who will not seek it for their pupils, some choosing instead, ironically, to spend an inordinate amount of time and resources telling pupils what their rights as a child are instead of accessing the opportunities that they should have a right to access.</p>

	<p>At a time when the council could be embedding active travel in young lifestyles a 'quality' Bikeability programme is a matter of common sense, it should not be shoe-horned it in at the end of term, when the weather is good, just to tick a box.</p> <p>Access to the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme would be far too costly for many in the County depriving them again of a life changing opportunity and of a level playing field when it comes to course and/or job hunting. Not having early years quality outdoor activities would mean many children would not have the spark to make them want to continue climbing/canoeing/orienteering etc</p> <p>This would be very sad in East Lothian which has such a beautiful coast, hills, beaches and woodlands. Look at the sad state of Midlothian, who got rid of their outdoor learning service. This will be the next stage. Instead I would look to focus on more community engagement in things like taking responsibility for parkland like a 'Friends of...' group to undertake litter picking, planting and maintenance. That way the community might take responsibility for their local environment. It works very well with the EL Countryside Volunteers who must save the Council £000s</p> <p>I agree with charging for garden waste removal. It might spark an interest in home composting. Bulky item collection should also be charged for. It might encourage recycling and reuse or furniture.</p>
236	<p>It is a bit like EL is stuck a few decades behind other public organisations. There are so many things it could be doing to be more effective, not least having staff that value community engagement and actively develop relationships rather than feel threatened.</p> <p>Join the modern age by encouraging working from home, working in different council buildings, etc. So much wasted time in travel especially with no incentives for staff to do anything other than drive to offices, which are generally in places without poor public transport. This also enables so much more flexibility for staff with caring responsibilities, therefore enabling women generally, to be empowered at more levels in the workforce.</p> <p>Actively encourage cycling as a commuting option by raising the pence per mile, and have proper cycling facilities at Council buildings, instead of having for example a bike shed in Macmerry which has a 'smoking area' sign on it! Or perhaps that was seen as an efficiency as it was so rarely used to house bikes.</p> <p>Most organisations use video conferencing, which I am still amazed people in East Lothian don't have easy access to other than via their personal accounts.</p>
237	<p>Council units need to work better together instead of being so territorial. Many senior managers don't encourage joining up. For example ELC environmental priorities should be shared throughout the Council including housing, education, transport etc. Join up would reduce duplication and inconsistencies.</p> <p>Video conferencing.</p>

	<p>You cannot put a price on the provision of Outdoor Learning. So many children in East Lothian already miss out on the opportunity to learn about their outside environment and build a relationship which can lead to a healthier lifestyle later on. To think about restricting the already limited opportunities would be appalling. It should be invested in to enable those who struggle with the rigid delivery of Cu for Excellence something else to enhance their learning.</p>
238	<p>The council need to be thinking long term, not quick fixes. Education both inside and outside the classroom should be at the forefront of priorities for both young people and adults. Health and Wellbeing of both staff and residents. If the council are looking at income generating, set up trading arms in services where the market has a proven track record and potentially large income streams e.g. IT, Legal, HR.</p>
239	<p>The introduction of charges for the uplifting of bulky items needs careful consideration. If the charges are set too high, it could potentially lead to an increase in fly tipping which will incur additional costs to the Council for clearing up.</p> <p>I am not against the proposed alterations to the garden waste collection service provided that the restrictions on householders taking trailers of waste to the civic amenity sites are relaxed. The current access times to sites and the annual number of trailer loads permissible are in my view unduly onerous. I would not object to having to show ID if asked by site staff to prove my residency in East Lothian. Anything that makes it more difficult to dispose of waste could also potentially lead to an increase in fly tipping.</p> <p>It should be made as easy as possible to dispose of waste at civic amenity sites, the more that is brought in by householders will reduce the amount needed to be uplifted by Council staff.</p>
240	<p>Outdoor educational is a vital part of the Curriculum for Excellence and all children should be able to access a variety of experiences regardless of their socioeconomic background.</p>
241	<p>Promote a "time is money" culture across all East Lothian services Delegate decision making within appropriate policy and professional guidelines to front line staff. Reduce hierarchical structures and delayed decision making Monitor and where appropriate reduce the amount of time staff spend in meetings. Introduce fixed point salaries for staff with increases linked to inflation. Remove annual increments which all too often are automatic rather than performance related Make better use of the voluntary sector in the planning and delivery of services.</p>