

## Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	11/02/25
Originator	Sarah Fortune
Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	Impact of Austerity - Additional Information

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Authorised By	Monica Patterson
Designation	Chief Executive
Date	11 February 2025

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**REPORT TO:** Members' Library Service

**MEETING DATE:** February 2025

**BY:** Executive Director of Council Resources

**SUBJECT:** Impact of Austerity – Further Information

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide Members with further information relating to: numbers accessing Scottish Welfare Fund, number of Council Tax properties in receipt of Council Tax Reduction Scheme and the more detail around the use of Foodbanks. This information was requested by Members at Cabinet meeting on 21 January as part of the Impact of Austerity report consideration.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the detail within this report.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At its meeting in October 2024, Council agreed for a report to consider the potential measures available to it to address the impact of continuing 'austerity' on our communities to be brought back to either Council or Cabinet for consideration. This report was presented to Cabinet on 21 January 2025.
- 3.2 During discussions, members requested for further information to be provided to support discussions, and specifically requested further information on: Scottish Welfare Fund, use of Foodbanks and number of households across Council Tax bands in receipt of Council Tax Reduction Scheme support. More details are set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct policy implications which arise from this report.

#### **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 Any policy decisions aligned to budget decisions may need to be supported by updated integrated impact assessment.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Financial – Any on-going measures will need to be considered within the available resources to the Council.

6.2 Personnel – none

6.3 Other - none

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 Council Motion – 29 October 2024 – Impact of Austerity

7.2 Cabinet – 21 January 2025 – Impact of Austerity

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Sarah Fortune
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Executive Director for Council Resources (Chief Financial Officer)
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	<a href="mailto:sfortune@eastlothian.gov.uk">sfortune@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>
<b>DATE</b>	11 February 2025

## Appendix 1

### 1. Scottish Welfare Fund

Total Baseline SWF Budget 2024-25	£580,909
Additional share of national £20 million*	£286,000
<b>TOTAL 2024-25 SWF Budget</b>	<b>£866,909</b>

	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Q2 Totals	Q1 Totals
Community Care Grant (CCG) Applications	133	145	109	385	442
CCG Awards No.	72	70	74	220	182
CCG Award Rate	54.14%	48.28%	67.89%	57.14%	41.18%
CCG Award Total	£42,792.42	£38,567.88	£42,496.66	£115,536.68	£103,113.49
CCG Award Average	£594.34	£550.97	£574.28	£525.17	£566.56

	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Q2 Totals	Q1 Totals
Crisis Grant (CG) Applications	325	286	296	860	1006
CG Awards No.	194	178	191	479	509
CG Award Rate	59.69%	62.24%	64.53%	55.7%	50.60%
CG Award Total	£22,405.54	£19,453.04	£26,899.73	£49,222.22	£57,618.94
CG Award Average	£115.49	£109.29	£140.84	£102.76	£113.20

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
SWF Total Budget @ end of Quarter	£160,732.43	£325,491.33	£518,106.57	
SWF Total % of Spend	27.68%**	56.03%**	60%	

\*Non recurring funding

\*\*Budget before additional national funding announced on 28 November

## 2. Number of Council Tax properties in receipt of Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) / Benefit support to Council Tenants

Council Tax Properties by Band with CTRS at 6 February 2025:

	<b>No. Properties</b>	<b>No. Receiving CTRS</b>	<b>% Receiving CTRS</b>
Band A	1,178	364	30.90%
Band B	9,594	2,512	26.18%
Band C	15,642	2,625	16.78%
Band D	7,271	593	8.16%
Band E	7,538	345	4.58%
Band F	6,456	82	1.27%
Band G	5,401	41	0.76%
Band H	725	2	0.28%
	<b>53,805</b>	<b>6,564</b>	<b>12.20%</b>

Benefit Support to Council Tenants at 6 February 2025:

- % Council Tenants in receipt of either Housing Benefit or Universal Credit 59.2%

## 3. Use of Foodbanks

Information provided by East Lothian Foodbank

### 2023-24

**Number of people helped** 13,877 people including 5,079 children  
**Number of meals** 124,893

### 2024-25 (Jan 24 to Dec 24)

**Number of people helped** 13,558 people including 4,820 children  
**Number of meals** 122,000