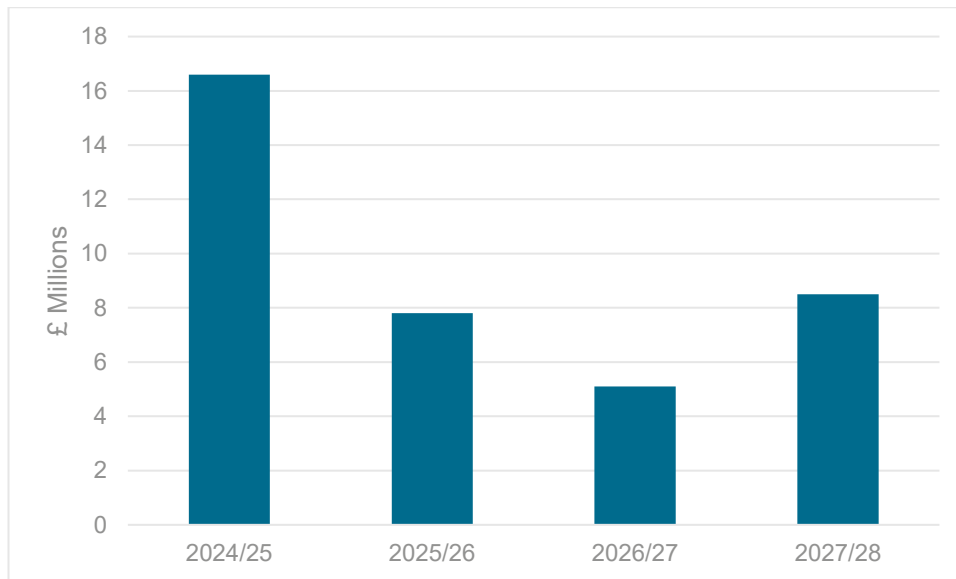


**Exhibit 5****Forecast budget gap before savings**

Source: West Lothian Revenue Budget 2024/25 to 2027/28

**63.** West Lothian Council has clearly identified the funding gaps through its medium-term and longer-term financial planning. Savings plans have been agreed and will continue to be monitored including identifying further potential savings to meet the remaining four-year budget gap. The council clearly recognises that the use of one-off resources to balance the budget is not sustainable in the long term and is considering options to address the gap on a recurring basis, including options for consultation with the public.

**64.** The council's medium-term and longer-term planning and saving measures appear well developed and soundly based. We will continue to monitor West Lothian Council's progress in delivering identified savings and identifying additional savings to address funding gaps.

### **The council is progressing a programme of remediation works on Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) affected properties while identifying RAAC impact on council dwellings**

**65.** Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) is a type of construction material that was commonly used in social housing in West Lothian between the 1950s and 1980s. RAAC has been associated with various issues, including moisture ingress, structural defects, and the potential for fire spread.

**66.** West Lothian Council has been proactive in its asset management regarding the safety risk identified in the use of RAAC as a building material. In 2023/24, works continued on properties impacted by RAAC with a number of sites, including schools and community centres, being completed. The RAAC has been removed from St Kentigerns Academy and the final phase of demolition is underway and the replacement building is in the design phase.