
Key messages

2023/24 annual accounts

- 1 Audit opinions on the annual accounts of the council, its group and the nine section 106 charities administered by the council are unmodified.
- 2 The unaudited annual accounts were provided within the agreed timescale and were of a good standard.

Financial management

- 3 The council has appropriate and effective financial management in place with regular budget monitoring reports provided to Council Executive.
- 4 The core revenue outturn position is an overspend of £2.9 million against the agreed 2023/24 budget of £575.2 million. The council's planned use of reserves funded the overspend.

Financial sustainability

- 5 A sound approach to medium and longer-term financial planning is in place to manage ongoing financial challenges. A two-year detailed revenue budget plan and a four-year revenue budget strategy have been agreed by the council, showing the savings required each year to deliver a break-even position.
- 6 An updated four-year revenue budget strategy to 2027/28 and detailed revenue budgets for 2024/25 to 2025/26 were agreed by the full council in February 2024. The agreed four-year budget has an estimated overall budget gap of £38 million over the four-year period.

Vision, leadership and governance

- 7 West Lothian Council continues to have effective and appropriate governance arrangements in place that support scrutiny of decisions made.