

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Medium Term Financial Strategy Review

Submission from the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

Dear Kenneth,

Medium-Term Financial Strategy

I am writing to you in response to your request for thoughts to inform your short review of the Scottish Government's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

We considered the MTFS at our meeting on 1 February and agreed to highlight a few issues you might wish to take into account during the review.

Firstly, the Committee wanted to stress the value in having projections for at least 5 years from a local government funding perspective. We would suggest that there may be value in you exploring with the Scottish Government how the MTFS will compliment multi-year budgets.

Secondly, concerns have been expressed to my committee about the extent of ring fencing being applied to local authority funding. It has been suggested to us by the Scottish Government that much of this ring fencing reflects "shared priorities" between the Scottish Government and local government. Your committee may wish to consider how the MTFS could set-out these shared priorities, the implications of these shared priorities for local authorities and third sector organisations and how such priorities will be supported on a long-term basis.

And finally, the Committee has heard concerns about workforce planning, perhaps most frequently in the context of local authority planning departments. We would suggest you might wish to consider looking at how the MTFS can set-out the Scottish Government's workforce planning to support its objectives and policy decisions.

I hope this is helpful in informing your review of the MTFS.

Yours sincerely

Ariane Burgess

Convener

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee