

## Linlithgow Link – Treasurer’s Comments – 2022-23

The accounts have been audited and signed off by Hamish MacIntyre with no qualifications.

### Overview

The overall deficit on normal Link activities for 2022/ 23 was ££5,515 - see note 4 on page 3 of the a/cs.

The one-off receipt of £1.898 from the dissolution of the Linlithgow Marquee Fund prevented this position being significantly worse. Similarly, other generous donations from the Rotary and Foundation Scotland. See Note 1 on Page 4.

Welcome new income was the receipt of £200 from each of our local Councillors’ via the WLC Members Disbursement Fund - not known if this will be repeated in future years.

### Year on year Cost increases

1. Salaries –reflects the 5% increase in the hourly rate to £10.50 / hour. No increase planned for 2023/24 The legal Minimum / Living Wage rate for 2023/24 is £10.42 and expected to increase to £11.00 from April 2024 – which we will be legally bound to pay.
2. Office Lease – a combination of increase in the base lease cost plus adjustment from the previous year. The lease cost for 2023/24 is still to be confirmed but expected to be around £2,100.
3. Computer Costs - increase mainly due to ongoing maintenance / support relating to the Website – the start-up and first year maintenance costs were met from the Modernisation & Improvement Fund.
4. Activities / Functions - increase costs reflect return to the more normal level of functions etc.

### Level of Reserves and Projected Financial Position 2023 / 24

The balance on “Unrestricted Reserves” activities at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 is £25,343 [ i.e. Operation Reserve + General Reserve ]

The projected deficit for 2023/24 is around £9,000 - This is based on core costs of £25,000 and expected income level of £16,000 which includes confirmation of grant funding £10,000 from WLC (see note below).

This would take our level of Unrestricted Reserve down to just over £16,000 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

This level of deficit is not sustainable for much more than another year after that.

The committee will seek other sources of income and look at where costs can be streamlined – this will be a challenge. Suggestions welcomed!

### Future Years – change in Funding process from West Lothian Council

WLC Social Policy have advised that from 2024/25 they will no longer provide the grant to Link.

Future funding will require making an application [alongside other organisations] to the Council’s Voluntary Organisations Funding budget and in particular to the Third Sector Community Support Fund.

The application process will open in January 2024 – we remain optimistic about receiving something.

### **Modernisation & Improvement Fund [ A restricted Fund]**

Further spend in 2023/24 has been set against this fund so the current balance is £3,650 however, given some uncertainty on future income no further commitments are being made, pending possible approval to transfer this balance into our general reserves.

### **Caring Cafe**

Income and Costs during the year have been minimal and the Restricted Fun balance is a healthy £6,155 .

Allan Scott, Treasurer, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023