

COUNCIL MEETING: 6th February 2018

Business Plan Amendment

Labour Group

Introduction

The Labour group support the 3% increase in Council. However we believe that the £3.652 surplus left after the budget has been balanced for 2018-2019 should be invested in services and not kept as a 'smoothing reserve' to deal with in year budget pressures.

Investment in Services summarised in Table below

The Labour group would like to see additional investment in the following services.

- 1. Libraries** – We are pleased to see that the book fund has been restored but this was at the expense of reduced funding elsewhere in the library budget. We would **propose £325k further investment in libraries** given the vital role they play in many of our communities.
- 2. Local highways Initiatives** – This is an initiative highly valued by the people of Cambridgeshire, allowing the delivery of local projects which greatly enhance the environment. **We propose an additional £200k of investment in this area.**
- 3. Lighting** – The level of lighting in residential streets has been the source of complaints from residents about 'pools of darkness' in many streets. Given that the level of illumination cannot be increased in the 'switch on to 10pm period' due to the type of lamps installed we would propose an **investment of £450k** for replacing some of 10% of lights that were removed from residential streets. We would envisage this working in the same way as the LHI scheme, with residents making a case and applying for a lamp to be replaced.
- 4. Bikeability programme** - The bikeability scheme, which educates young people in safe cycling is funded by a ringfenced grant; for 2018-2019 there is likely to be a shortfall in funding - an **investment of £60k** would cover the shortfall.
- 5. Looked After Children** – A grant from the transformation fund has been awarded for an in-depth research on the issue of Looked After Children, primarily why do we have more of them than our 'statistical' neighbours and why do our children spend longer in care. There is also money for a campaign to recruit more foster parents. This will take time to produce results in the meantime pressures on this 'demand led' budget will continue in 2018-2019 so **we propose an additional £1.5 million for Looked After Children.**
- 6. Children's Centres** - The Labour Group believe that children's centres are vital to give children the best start in life. The Labour group therefore believe

that the cuts to children’s centres should be reversed. **We propose an addition £900k to ensure that children’s centres remain open.**

7. **Adult Social Care** - The biggest issue for adult social services is delayed discharges from hospital. The availability of respite care beds, (or intermediate care beds as they are sometimes called) are vital to ensure that individuals can be discharged from hospital in a timely manner. **We propose to put aside £217k for the purchase of respite care beds.**

Total investment £3.652 million

Future Investment

Health Visiting. Health visits to new born children and mothers will continue in 2018-2019 at the same level as the current financial year to be paid for from Public Health reserves. The Labour group believe that any reduction in health visiting for new born children and mothers must be avoided and propose that that money to continue this service be built into the base line budget for Public Health from 2019 onwards.

Adult Services. The Biggest issue for adult social services is delayed discharges from hospital due to a shortage of beds. This is not a short term problem and it is not going to go away. The Labour Group therefore ask the Council, as a matter of urgency, to look at building our own care homes. This has been suggested on a number of occasions and we believe it should be acted upon.

Proposed changes to council tax over the Business Plan Period

Although the Council will consider the budget on an annual basis the Medium Term Financial Strategy and therefore the resource allocations within the Business Plan are predicated on a rolling five year approach. It is therefore proposed that the MTFS should reflect the following tax proposals at this point for financial planning purposes.

Year	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
Current	4.99%	3.99%	2%	2%	2%
Proposed	4.99%	4.99%*	2.99%	2.99%	2.99%

* the increase in the Council Tax precept limit to 3% has not been confirmed beyond 2018-19, these assumptions will be reviewed annually and updated as required

Proposed changes to resource allocations

Reflecting the above commentary, the amendments to the resources allocated in the finance tables are as follows:-

Service	Additional Resource Allocation £000 18/19	Additional Resource Allocation £000 19/20
Street Lighting (P&E)	450	
Library Services (P&E)	325	
Looked After Children Services (P&C)	1,500	
Local Highways Infrastructure Projects (P&E)	200	
Cycling Team (P&E)	60	
Public Health		238
Children's Centres (P&C)	900	
Respite Beds (P&C)	217	
Total	3,652	238

These amendments are permanent changes to the resources allocated within the Business Plan unless otherwise stated.

Revised Overall Funding Position

	2018-19 £'000	2019-20 £'000	2020-21 £'000	2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000	Total £'000
Total Saving Requirement	37,613	17,825	12,709	-4,516	501	64,132
Identified Savings	-25,960	-11,189	-590	1,074*	2,539*	-34,126
Identified additional Income Generation	-11,653	-3,129	537*	-207	-19	-14,471
Residual Savings to be identified	-	-3,507	-12,656	3,649	-3,021	-15,535

*Positive figures represent a reversal of short term savings/investments from previous years

In light of the above the following amendment is proposed to the Recommendations:

6. Business Plan 2018-19 to 2022-23

Amendment from Councillor Joan Whitehead

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough

Recommendation: It is recommended that Full Council:-

1. Approve the amended recommendations from General Purposes Committee made on the 23 January 2018 relating to the Business plan, specifically to:
 - a. Approve the Service/Directorate budget allocations as set out in each Service/Directorate table in Section 3 of the Business Plan **subject to the following:-**
 - i. Set the general council tax precept increase for 2018-19 to 2.99% and the Adult Social Care Precept at 2% as per b-d below.
 - ii. Balance the 2018-19 budget by use of additional council tax receipts.
 - iii. Allocate the additional funds raised from the increase in general council tax beyond those used to balance the 2018-19 budget to ~~a smoothing reserve fund~~ **the following investments:**

Service	Additional Resource Allocation £000 18/19	Additional Resource Allocation £000 19/20
Street Lighting (P&E)	450	
Library Services (P&E)	325	
Looked After Children Services (P&C)	1,500	
Local Highways Infrastructure Projects (P&E)	200	
Cycling Team (P&E)	60	
Public Health		238
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Total	3,652	238

- b. Approve a total county budget requirement in respect of general expenses applicable to the whole County area of £807,480,000 as set out in Section 2 Table 6.3 of the Business Plan.

- c. Approve a recommended County Precept for Council Tax from District Councils of £279,489,859.22, as set out in Section 2, Table 6.3 of the Business Plan (to be received in ten equal instalments in accordance with the fall-back provisions of the Local Authorities (Funds) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 1995).
- d. Approve a Council Tax for each Band of property, based on the number of “Band D” equivalent properties notified to the County Council by the District Councils (223,622.3), as set out in Section 2, Table 6.4 of the Business Plan reflecting a 2% ASC precept increase and a 2.99% increase in the Basic Council Tax precept:

Band	Ratio	Amount (£)
A	6/9	£833.22
B	7/9	£972.09
C	8/9	£1,110.96
D	9/9	£1,249.83
E	11/9	£1,527.57
F	13/9	£1,805.31
G	15/9	£2,083.05
H	18/9	£2,499.66

- e. Note and approve the report of the Chief Finance Officer on the levels of reserves and robustness of the estimates as set out within the Section 25 Statement (given in Appendix A).
- f. Approve the Capital Strategy as set out in Section 6 of the Business Plan including capital expenditure in 2018-19 up to £254.7m arising from:
- Commitments from schemes already approved;
 - The consequences of new starts in 2018-19 shown in summary in Section 2, Table 6.9 of the Business Plan.
- g. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy as set out in Section 7 of the Business Plan, including:
- i. The Council’s policy on the making of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt, as required by the Local Authorities (Capital Finance & Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008

- ii. The Affordable Borrowing Limit for 2018- 19 as required by the Local Government Act 2003)
 - iii. The Investment Strategy for 2018-19 as required by the Communities and Local Government (CLG) revised Guidance on Local Government Investments issued in 2010, and the Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix 3 of Section 7 of the Business Plan.
2. Authorise the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make technical revisions to the Business Plan so as to take into account any changes deemed appropriate resulting from the final Local Government Finance Settlement and updated Business Rates information, as set out in paragraph 2.9 of this report.

CCC BUDGET AMENDMENT 2018-19

POLITICAL PARTY **LABOUR**

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
TOTAL ADULT SOCIAL CARE PRECEPT INCREASE	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL GENERAL COUNCIL TAX INCREASE	2.99%	2.99%	2.99%	2.99%	2.99%
BUDGET GAP BEFORE AMENDMENTS	-	£11,958,000	£15,726,000	-£350,000	£6,509,000
ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM COUNCIL TAX	-	-£2,807,000	-£3,070,000	-£3,299,000	-£3,488,000
FUNDS NOT ALLOCATED TO SMOOTHING RESERVE	-£3,652,000	-£5,882,000			
REVISED BUDGET GAP (SURPLUS)	-£3,652,000	£3,269,000	£12,656,000	-£3,649,000	£3,021,000
PLANNED USE OF SURPLUS					
INVESTMENT IN ADDITIONAL SERVICES	£3,652,000	£238,000			
FINALISED BUDGET POSITION RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL	£0	£3,507,000	£12,656,000	-£3,649,000	£3,021,000