

## **COUNCIL MEETING: 6th February 2018**

### **Business Plan Amendment**

#### **Liberal Democrat Group**

##### **Introduction**

##### **Cambridgeshire deserves better.**

For the past 6 years Cambridgeshire residents have faced relentless cuts and falling standards in our public services.

Our local hospitals are struggling to cope with increased demand, with delayed discharges well above the national average at 522 bed day delays in the most recent set of figures, (the national average being 399).

Our roads are deteriorating year on year, with more potholes, more uneven surfaces, and more accidents.

The quality of the air we breathe is poor in the cities where it is measured, but across large areas of the County we have no idea how bad it is, as there is no measurement.

Half our children's centres are facing closure, with young parents being expected to travel longer distances to access support services.

Failure over several years to build up rural bus networks has left many villages with little or no public transport. Residents in our villages who do not drive are cut off, with many villages having almost no bus service left. Families of 16-18 year olds face huge transport costs as subsidy of post-16 transport has been cut at the same time as the school leaving age has increased, leaving families with costs of hundreds of pounds, which they have no choice but to pay. 16-18 education and training transport support has been eliminated, at the very time that the school leaving age has increased - putting a high financial burden on families, while also reducing choice for less well-off students, who are no longer able to afford the travel to their chosen post-16 centres.

This record of falling standards has become a political choice by the Conservatives now in control of Cambridgeshire County Council. For the past 2 years the Council has had the option of raising more money locally to support local services. Across the Country local councils of all political colours have taken the chance to support local services. Cambridgeshire has been almost alone in not taking the clear indication from central government that we should use the options open to us to support local services.

This year the Liberal Democrats are again proposing that we should be doing all we can to provide support to our public services here in Cambridgeshire. We believe that the cuts have gone much too far, and that Cambridgeshire's residents deserve better.

The first task to be tackled in this year's budget is to deal with the £4.3 million deficit left by the budget pushed through by the Conservatives last year. Each year we have seen promises made about how the numbers of children and vulnerable adults needing care would fall. Yet every year there have been deficits in either the children's or adults budgets, and this year in both. This is no way to run a council responsibly and it cannot continue.

However while tackling the deficit is an urgent priority, we feel that investing in better services for Cambridgeshire residents is also urgent. Cambridgeshire's residents are fed up with paying more and getting less. They need to see that their council tax is giving them a better standard of service. We have focused our investment in the following areas:

### **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.

<b>Year</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>19/20</b>	<b>20/21</b>	<b>21/22</b>	<b>22/23</b>
<b>Current</b>	<b>4.99%</b>	<b>3.99%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>4.99%</b>	<b>3.99%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>

### **Proposed changes to resource allocations**

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

<b>Service</b>	<b>Additional Resource Allocation £000 18/19</b>
Special Educational Needs (P&C)	275
Reverse Children's Centres savings (P&C – A/R.6.224)	772
Reverse Children's Centres savings (C&I – F/R.6.110)	128
Adults Social Care investment (P&C)	500
Reverse further Adults Services saving (A/R.6.177)	282
16-18 Bus Pass (P&E)	500
Additional Bus Subsidy (P&E)	500
Highways and Footpath Maintenance (P&E)	426
Local Highways Improvements & Street Lighting (P&E)	500
Air Quality Monitoring (P&E)	25

Member Services Saving (LGSS)	-256
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,652</b>

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
<b>Total Saving Requirement</b>	<b>36,687</b>	<b>20,632</b>	<b>21,718</b>	<b>5,010</b>	<b>10,410</b>	<b>94,393</b>
Identified Savings	-25,034	-11,427	-590	1,074 <sup>1</sup>	2,539 <sup>1</sup>	<b>-33,438</b>
Identified additional Income Generation	-11,653	-3,129	537 <sup>1</sup>	-207	-19	<b>-14,471</b>
<b>Residual Savings to be identified</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,076</b>	<b>21,665</b>	<b>5,877</b>	<b>12,930</b>	<b>46,548</b>

<sup>1</sup> Positive figures represent a reversal of short term savings/investments from previous years

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

## 6. Council's Business Plan and Budget Proposals 2018-23

Amendment from Councillor Lucy Nethsingha

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. **Reduce the Members' Services budget by £256k.**
    - iv. Allocate the additional funds raised from the increase in general council tax, **and the additional saving as set out in iii**, beyond those used to balance the 2018-19

budget to a smoothing reserve fund the following investments and reversal of savings:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Additional Resource Allocation £000 18/19</b>
<b>Special Educational Needs (P&amp;C)</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>Reverse Children's Centres savings (P&amp;C – A/R.6.224)</b>	<b>772</b>
<b>Reverse Children's Centres savings (C&amp;I – F/R.6.110)</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Adults Social Care investment (P&amp;C)</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Reverse further Adults Services saving (A/R.6.177)</b>	<b>282</b>
<b>16-18 Bus Pass (P&amp;E)</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Additional Bus Subsidy (P&amp;E)</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Highways and Footpath Maintenance (P&amp;E)</b>	<b>426</b>
<b>Local Highways Improvements &amp; Street Lighting (P&amp;E)</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Air Quality Monitoring (P&amp;E)</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,908</b>

- 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 (£)
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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 **LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

	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%	1.99%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
BUDGET GAP ( <b>SURPLUS</b> ) BEFORE AMENDMENTS	-	£11,958,000	£15,726,000	<b>-£350,000</b>	£6,509,000
REDUCTION IN FUNDING FROM COUNCIL TAX	-	-	£5,939,000	£6,227,000	£6,421,000
FUNDS NOT ALLOCATED TO SMOOTHING RESERVE	<b>-£3,652,000</b>	<b>-£5,882,000</b>			
<b>REVISED BUDGET GAP (<b>SURPLUS</b>)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£6,076,000</b>	<b>£21,665,000</b>	<b>£5,877,000</b>	<b>£12,930,000</b>
PLANNED USE OF SURPLUS					
NET INVESTMENT IN ADDITIONAL SERVICES	£3,652,000				
<b>FINALISED BUDGET POSITION RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£6,076,000</b>	<b>£21,665,000</b>	<b>£5,877,000</b>	<b>£12,930,000</b>