

3 February 2021

To: All Councillors

Dear Councillor,

Council (Budget) – Wednesday 10 February 2021

Amendments to the Motion proposed by the meeting of Cabinet on 26 January 2021

Please find enclosed, for your consideration, the amendments to the Budget Motion, which have been received by the Chief Executive in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 19 (3).

The Amendments are attached in the order that they were received by the Chief Executive.

Yours sincerely,



Andrea Woodside
Principal Governance Officer

Conservative Group Amendment

The challenge of coronavirus has placed a great pressure on the council's budget this year, but we are pleased that the government has fulfilled its commitment to provide the funds necessary to ensure that, at year end, we will remain in a balanced position. We are alarmed, however, that the Labour administration is proposing to increase taxes by 5% at a time when many families have seen their incomes fall. Instead, the council should seek to cut its costs, and to provide better services with less money.

The Conservative Group is concerned at the borough's low recycling rates, the poor service residents receive from the bulky waste service, and the general incidences of fly-tipping and littering which mar the district. We propose extra investment to Keep Kirklees Tidy.

We are also unconvinced with the Administration's commitment to tackling the issue of climate change, and have included some further funds to address this, and the ongoing issue of poor air quality in parts of the borough.

The Conservative group is committed to devolving funds further to ward members, particularly some highways maintenance budgets and community grants. We have furthermore included extra funds for highways resurfacing, to address the poor state of our roads.

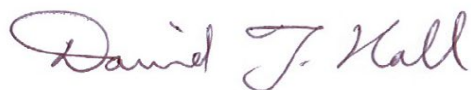
The pandemic has highlighted the need for our borough to be better connected digitally, and we include funds for a feasibility study into Town & Village Digital Hubs and Digital Connectivity, particularly in rural areas where connections are worse.

It has also brought a change in the relationship between consumers and retailers. We are concerned that town-centre blueprints do not currently reflect this and should be reviewed to ensure that we provide what is demanded post-Covid: and of course, this will not be known more fully for several months.

The Conservative Group challenges some of the assumptions on which the Labour budget is based, particularly the speed at which business rates collection will approach normality.

We also believe that the administration's council-wide efficiency targets are not ambitious enough, and propose an annual target of 0.5%, which is not over-reaching for a body the size of Kirklees Council. Along with the prudent use of unallocated reserves (replacing expended reserves over the term of the plan), this will enable a council tax freeze in year 1.

The council may also defer all or some of the Adult Social Care Precept, and we propose deferring half of this until 2022, so that the burden of an increased council tax does not fall at a time of pandemic on families whose income has fallen.



CLlr David Hall



CLlr John Taylor

Conservative Budget amendment proposals					
General Fund Revenue	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Developments					
Recycling/Climate Change/Waste Strategy					
Bulky Waste Collection: better service)					
Improving tip conditions and accessibility)					
Fly-tipping enforcement)	100	100	100	100	100
Recycling in schools, recycling education)					
Feasibility: single-use plastic ban	20				
Further action to address air pollution and climate change		500	500	500	500
Christmas household bin collections	10	10	10	10	10
Town/Village Centres					
Investment in CCTV	50	50	50	50	50
More street cleaning (devolved to ward members)	115	115	115	115	115
Village Hubs & digital connectivity feasibility	40				
Transport Infrastructure					
Additional dedicated S106 officer	40	40	40	40	40
Other					
Capital financing charges - revenue impact	-45	-215	-41	125	339
Total Developments	330	600	774	940	1154
Proposed funding changes					
Assume faster recovery of business rates		-1000	-1000		
Defer 1.5% Adult Social Care Precept	2800				
No increase in Council Tax	3723	3838	3973	4110	4237
Total Revenue changes	6853	3438	3747	5050	5391
Funded by :					
Savings/Efficiencies					
Conclude Democracy Commission	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20
Cease Trade Unions support costs	-125	-125	-125	-125	-125
Reduce Joint Committees uplift		-275	-475	-475	-475
Remove extra staffing in Governance, ChEx Office and Assurance	-504	-504	-504	-504	-504
Review of Estate	-100	-200	-300	-300	-300
Annual 0.5% target for Council-wide efficiencies	-483	-1536	-4626	-6252	-7942
Total	-1232	-2660	-6050	-7676	-9366
Drawdown from inclusive investment reserve	-2000	-778			
Drawdown from Covid risk reserve	-3621				
Add back to reserves in later years			2303	2626	3975
Total Funding	-6853	-3438	-3747	-5050	-5391
General Fund Capital					
Extra road re-surfacing	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000
Additional flood management and drainage improvements		250	250	250	250
Slow and re-think Hudds & Dews Town Centre Action Plans	-6000	2000	2000	2000	
Total	-4000	4250	4250	4250	2250
Funded by :					
Review of estate (future capital receipts)	-500	-1000	-1500		
Borrowing requirement	4500	-3250	-2750	-4250	-2250
Total	4000	-4250	-4250	-4250	-2250

Green Party Group Amendment

This budget is occurring at a time of Omni-Crises. The Covid Pandemic and its social and economic aftermath, the climate crisis and the ongoing crisis we have regarding the funding of adult social care. In all these areas Local Government is in the front line but national Government has the most ability to take action on these issues.

The Green Group has agreed a number of amendments to make a positive contribution to address some of the crises we face.

6 month rent holiday for hospitality businesses

The hospitality sector, pubs, clubs, cafes and coffee shops have suffered significantly during recent lockdowns. We are proposing a 6 month rent holiday for these businesses where Kirklees is the Landlord to help bring life back to our Town Centres when restrictions ease

Covid Community Recovery Fund

The £30k Covid recovery fund introduced last year was very welcome and Green Councillors have made good use of this fund, helping schools with IT equipment prior to the wider scheme introduced by the Council, helping community organisations with little access to funds to repair buildings, helping with the provision of food to vulnerable people, helping isolated people keep in touch with friends and relatives using smart technologies. Our budget is pretty much sent but the pandemic and its effects go on hence our call for another round of funding of £30k/ward.

Kirklees New Build Passivhaus support fund

Current informed estimates suggest a 5% - 7% uplift in the capital cost for buildings built to Passivhaus standards when part of a consistent policy. This fund would ensure that all projects commenced on Kirklees owned land were properly resourced to achieve that higher energy efficiency standard, be they lead by the Council or part of a partnership arrangement using council owned land.

Kirklees Green New Deal Demonstrator

Following the Kirklees Warm Zone programme the next significant energy efficiency goal would be to carry out significant work on hard to treat properties particularly those with cavities that can only be filled using polyurethane foam. There is also a need for a room in the roof insulation project for homes that cannot receive mineral fibre wool insulation due to attic rooms. The aim would be to provide free insulation to 4000 properties as a showcase to other local authorities and national government. Within this project we would also expect 25% of the funding to be allocated to properties in fuel poverty and that they benefit from a whole house approach aimed at achieving the 'Enerphit' standard. This project will demonstrate to national government the benefits and practicalities of applying 'HS2' levels of funding to domestic energy efficiency to achieve our Paris Climate goals, address fuel poverty, create skilled jobs and regenerate local economies.

Kirklees Community Tree Planting project

We realise this is quite a small tree planting scheme but the aim of this project is to get Councillors to work directly with their communities with tree planting projects with a particular emphasis on working with schools and young people linking to wider environmental issues and action on climate change.

Greening and democratising Kirklees Blueprints

Plans to revitalise our town centres are welcome but not we believe the Council is not engaging as well as it could and we are proposing a new board that involves local people and key local organisations in the detail and decision making regarding regeneration proposals. Ideas we would like to see considered by such a body would be a strong emphasis on children's play in the town centre, drinking water fountains, free wifi, public art and more pedestrianisation.

Community climate action projects

We propose that the next round of Place based working funding is to be allocated for community lead climate action projects. This could support a range of community lead projects e.g. tree planting, reducing the carbon impact of community owned buildings, flood alleviation, community transport initiatives.

Schools Climate Change Education Project

This project will provide grants to schools promoting projects that reduce their carbon emissions linked to an education package. It is anticipated that projects such as the installation of solar panels, energy saving measures and tree planting in school grounds

Join the Global Covenant of Mayors

The Global Covenant of Mayors is where local governments in alliance with partners accelerate ambitious, measurable climate and energy initiatives that lead to a low-emission and climate-resilient future. This will allow us to assess our progress with international partners and collaborate with our peers in Europe and beyond. This does not mean lots of air travel but is about learning from best practice and hopefully demonstrating our best practice on a bigger stage. Kirklees is not a leader in action to reduce carbon emissions yet. We can learn a lot from others.

Greens Budget amendment proposals					
General Fund Revenue	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Developments					
6 month rent recovery for hospitality businesses	166				
Community recovery post-Covid (£30k per ward)	690				
kirklees community tree planting	10				
Greening & democratising blueprints	5	5	5	5	5
community climate action projects - place based working	375	375			
join the global covenant of mayors	40	40	40	40	40
additional borrowing costs - revenue impact	36	231	391	501	601
Total	1322	651	436	546	646
Funded by :					
drawdown from inclusive investment reserve	-856				
drawdown from Covid risk reserve	-30	-215			
Efficiencies	-436	-436	-436	-546	-646
Total	-1322	-651	-436	-546	-646
General Fund Capital					
cycleways development project	1000				
Kirklees green new deal demonstrator	1000	1000	1000	1000	
community climate action projects - place based working	1125	1125			
kirklees new build passivhaus scheme	1000	1000	1000	1000	
schools climate change education project	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Total	5125	4125	3000	3000	1000
Funded by :					
External grant offset - Mayoral Combined Authority	-1500	-1000	-1000	-1000	0
Green Economy Funding					
additional borrowing	-3625	-3125	-2000	-2000	-1000
Total	-5125	-4125	-3000	-3000	-1000
HRA Capital					
Carbon reduction fund (HRA)	2000	2000	2000		
Total	2000	2000	2000	0	0
Funded by :					
HRA sinking fund	-2000	-2000	-2000		
Total	-2000	-2000	-2000	0	0

AV Cooper

K Allison

Susan Lee-Richards

Independent Group Amendment

Independent Group Budget amendment proposals					
General Fund Revenue	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Developments					
Other					
additional borrowing costs - revenue impact		109	600	600	600
Total	0	109	600	600	600
Funded by :					
additional efficiency savings		-109	-600	-600	-600
Total	0	-109	-600	-600	-600
General Fund Capital					
ward recovery and re-generation fund (£600k x 23 wards)	2300	11500			
Total	2300	11500	0	0	0
Funded by :					
drawdown from inclusive investment reserve	-1400	-600			
drawdown from Covid risk reserve	-900				
additional borrowing		-10900			
Total	-2300	-11500	0	0	0

CR Greaves

Cllr Charles Greaves

Paul White

Cllr Paul White

T. Lyons

Cllr Terry Lyons

Liberal Democrat Group Amendment

The Kirklees Liberal Democrat group submit the following amendments to the Labour administration budget for 2021/22. In the context of both the coronavirus pandemic and leaving the EU, the financial position of the Council is probably the most uncertain it has been in terms of decision making for the future.

We continue to face unresolved Government funding but we feel that we can still have some aspirations about what we want our communities to be like in a 'post-Covid' world and that now is the time to be generating those ideas.

We have concentrated mainly on Climate Change issues, Business and Well Being. The amendments are modest in scale but highlight some of our concerns for the people in our Borough.

Council Tax

The Adult Social Care (ASC) precept allows councils, including Kirklees Council, who provide social care to adults to increase their share of Council Tax. The administration's budget proposal includes the maximum allowable uplift for Adult Social Care (3%) in addition to a proposed 1.99% Council Tax uplift in 2021/22. Kirklees Liberal Democrat group believe that the proposed total Council Tax increase of 4.99% is excessive and will hit our residents hard. Many families are experiencing financial struggles due to the pandemic and more residents are claiming Council Tax support. Instead, the group propose that the ASC precept is phased over 2 years, which would result in a total Council Tax increase of 3.99% in 2021/22.

Kirklees Liberal Democrat group also believe that local authorities, including Kirklees Council, need more help from central Government to solve the long-term crises in social care. Raising Council Tax has never been the long-term solution to fixing our chronically underfunded social care system. Social care is the biggest cost pressure on local government, but the Government's transfer of the costs of local services from grants to Council Tax is regressive and is a means of passing the buck from central Government to local councils. The ASC precept will not allow councils to work towards a sustainable health and social care system or to invest in preventative measures, which would allow people to be supported at an earlier stage and would alleviate some of the pressures on social care services. Kirklees Liberal Democrat group believe that the system of Council Tax and council funding is unfair and needs to be reviewed urgently.

Proposals

1. Greening Kirklees

1.1 Electric Vehicle Lease Scheme

The UK Government has announced plans to ban the sale of petrol and diesel cars by 2030. The electric car market is growing rapidly and as the cost of electric cars goes down, more people are switching from petrol and diesel cars to electric cars. The benefits of switching to electric vehicles are clear – reduced emissions and

noise pollution, improved air quality and lower maintenance costs. Kirklees Liberal Democrat group believe that Kirklees Council can do more to encourage residents to switch to electric vehicles and propose that the authority set up and manage an electric vehicle lease scheme. The scheme will allow residents to pay a fixed monthly fee to use an electric vehicle for an agreed time period.

1.2 Electric Car Lamp Column Charging

While the number of electric vehicles (EV) on the road is increasing, charging electric vehicles mostly occurs off-street in driveways, garages and in car parks. Kirklees Liberal Democrats recognise that the lack of on-street charging is preventing EV uptake. The group note that just 1 in every 6 local councils in England has installed on-street electric vehicle charging points. With this in mind, Kirklees Liberal Democrats believe that the Council should be proactive in installing more on-street charge points, for residents who have no off-road parking, and should invest in lamp column charging, which would draw electricity from the lamp column. Per unit, the lamp post chargers are low-cost and Kirklees Liberal Democrats propose that a trial is carried out by Kirklees Council at several locations across the district.

1.3 Climate Emergency Campaign Messages

Recognising the need to take urgent action to improve and protect our environment, Kirklees Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, with a commitment to be completely carbon neutral by 2038. Kirklees Liberal Democrat group recognise that climate change is a broad subject and communication is important to help open a dialogue so that people feel that they can make a positive change. The group believe that roadside signage provides a platform to convey positive environmental messages and could help open the dialogue around climate change. The messaging would aim to encourage people to recognise that the problem of climate change is an immediate and urgent one and that individual action and personal choices will make a big difference.

1.4. Deposit Return Scheme

While there is greater public awareness about the problems associated with packaging waste, it continues to be a problem. UK consumers go through an estimated 14 billion plastic drinks bottles and 9 billion drinks cans a year. However, by adding value to something currently treated as 'throwaway', we can view plastic bottles as a valuable resource. Kirklees Liberal Democrat group believe that one way to make waste valuable is through a deposit return scheme. They note the prevalence of the deposit system in Germany, where many supermarkets have introduced 'reverse vending machines' allowing consumers to be reimbursed when they return bottles or cans. It has contributed to a noticeable reduction in litter and recycling rates are high. The group also note with interest the introduction of a digital deposit return trial scheme in Conwy and run by Conwy County Borough Council. In addition to consulting with Conwy about the impact of the trial, Kirklees Lib Dems propose that Kirklees Council introduces a local scheme which could run in several parts of the borough over the next 2 years. Where consumers receive a token for using the scheme, the tokens could, for instance, be used in return for access to

council services or to donate to community causes.

1.5 Green Market

To help promote and stimulate local economies and to breathe new life into some of our local towns and villages, Kirklees Liberal Democrat group advocate the benefits of local, pop-up 'green' markets. Temporary markets could be set up in communities where there are currently no markets, allowing local traders and businesses to carry out their business without needing to travel far from the local area and allowing residents to shop local for products they would previously have to travel to buy. This would help to promote active travel, including cycling and walking, instead of motorised transport. Kirklees Liberal Democrats believe that local traders and community groups can be better supported to set up markets themselves in their local areas.

1.6 Greening the workforce

Covid-19 has had a detrimental impact on our lives and on society, creating a future which may seem uncertain. It is not clear when or if our society will return to normal. The pandemic has, however, normalised remote working and Kirklees Liberal Democrat group believe that opportunities may arise as employees work from home in the future. For instance, remote working may allow people to achieve a better work-life balance and it may improve productivity, flexibility and inclusivity. Home working could also open up new opportunities for organisations and businesses in the way that they work and structure themselves. Also significantly, home working may reduce the need to travel and may help to improve air quality and tackle climate change. Kirklees Liberal Democrat group recognise that home working will not suit everyone, but believe that, post-Covid-19, those who can and want to work from home should be supported as much as possible to do so.

The group also believe that Kirklees Council is in a unique position to lead by example as a large employer. Moving forward, the authority should undertake a detailed review about internal working arrangements. Where staff want to and are able to work remotely, they should be supported.

Furthermore, it is estimated that over 105,000 employees, or two-thirds of employees in employment in Kirklees, work in sectors that have been advised to work from home during the pandemic. Kirklees Liberal Democrats believe that the local authority can play an important role in engaging with local employers to support and facilitate home working in the medium and long-term.

2. Supporting Business Recovery

2.1 Expanding Post-Covid-19 Business Support

Kirklees Council has a key role in advising and supporting businesses and in promoting economic development. This is particularly pertinent and significant as local businesses navigate through the coronavirus crises. Kirklees Liberal Democrat group welcome the Council's commitment to support large and SME businesses through enhanced business skills capacity. However, the group's amendment proposes an expansion of the Council's Economy & Skills Team over the next 5

years and at a cost of £250k. This will enable the Council to better engage with and support a wider range of local businesses, including high street companies, manufacturing companies and the care home sector.

3. Road improvements

3.1 Additional £10m in road improvements

Kirklees Council has committed to a £15 million locality-based unclassified roads improvement programme. The 3-year programme provides additional funding in the Highways Capital Plan to help address the backlog of unclassified roads in Kirklees which require immediate repair, at an estimated cost of £152 million. However, the programme is due to be delivered by March 2023.

Kirklees Liberal Democrat group welcome the investment in our roads and believe that the programme is essential to help improve connectivity between our villages and towns and to make it easier for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists to travel. The programme may also help to reduce the number of 3rd party claims which were due to poor road and pavement conditions. However, the group also recognise the limitations of the programme and propose that it is extended by an additional 2 year to help ensure that more local roads across the district are brought up to a good standard. An additional £10 million investment will extend the programme by 2 years.

4. Improving wellbeing

4.1 Additional £1m Investment in Place-Based Partnerships

A number of mental health projects have been funded across Kirklees via the Council's Place Partnership initiative. The money has helped to improve mental health issues across the district, including supporting schoolchildren who are suffering from mental health issues during the coronavirus pandemic. This has included a programme of workshops and mental health support sessions as well as local greenspace improvements. Kirklees Liberal Democrat group believe that the projects have provided significant benefits and improved outcomes for families across the borough, enabling early intervention and providing young people with coping strategies and improved resilience. The group would like to see a Kirklees-wide review of the programme, as well as continued funding and expanded rollout for projects that have had the most significant impact.

4.2 Additional Air Quality Monitors

It is widely recognised that air pollution has a harmful effect on human health and the environment. Traditionally, air quality has been monitored using networks of fixed instruments, monitoring continuously in the same location. However, there are limitations with this, as air quality will vary at a range of spatial and temporal scales. Portable air quality monitoring devices can help, by covering more locations and ensuring that changes can be implemented quickly.

Kirklees Council currently has 5 portable air quality monitors, which are cable of measuring multiple emission types. While this is positive, Kirklees Liberal Democrat group believe that more can be done to improve good air quality and propose that an additional 10 air quality monitors are acquired, to enable the Council to better assess new site locations, including local hotspots and schools.



Cllr John Lawson



Cllr Andrew Marchington



Cllr Alison Munro



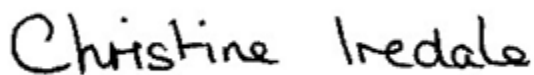
Cllr Kath Pinnock



Cllr Cahal Burke



Cllr Richard Eastwood



Cllr Christine Iredale



Cllr Andrew Pinnock



Cllr Anthony Smith



Cllr Paola Davies

Liberal Democrat Budget amendment proposals					
	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
General Fund Revenue					
Developments					
electric vehicle lease scheme	50	50	50	50	50
economy & skills team	50	50	50	50	50
deposit return scheme	50	100			
greening the workforce - working from home	20	20			
mental health projects (Place Partnerships)	1000				
borrowing costs - revenue implications	2	60	337	562	562
Total	1172	280	437	662	662
Funded by :					
efficiency targets	-662	-662	-662	-662	-662
Inclusive investment reserve drawdown	-680	382	225		
Covid risk reserve	-680				
defer 1% adult social care precept to 2022/23	1850				
re-direct active travel Partnership reserve	-1000				
Total	-1172	-280	-437	-662	-662
General Fund Capital					
extend community / local road improvements		5000	5000		
electric car lamp column charging (pilot)	50	50			
low carbon signage	15				
air quality monitors	100				
Total	165	5050	5000	0	0
Funded by :					
additional borrowing	-165	-5050	-5000		
Total	-165	-5050	-5000	0	0