

BUDGET COUNCIL 12 FEBRUARY 2020 – CONSERVATIVE GROUP – MOTION AMENDMENT

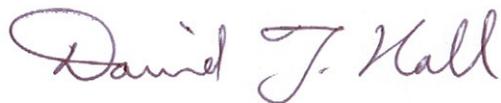
We are pleased to see extra investment in adults' and children's services, and besides these we have several other priorities in our budget amendment.

Although the Labour budget includes extra money for the waste review, we are concerned that there are other measures which might not be included in that remit: we have included some money to help deliver these priorities.

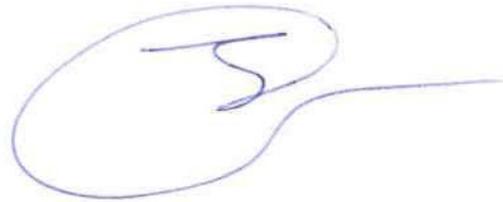
The administration's commitment to combatting climate change is under-ambitious. We would propose that the money in year one of the budget for "tree planting" would be used also for tackling air pollution and other climate change issues, and we include matching funds in years 2 and 3 to ensure the programme's continuation.

The Conservative group is committed to devolving funds further to ward members, particularly some highways maintenance and community grants. We have included extra funds for highways resurfacing and other highways revenue.

We believe that the administration's council-wide efficiency targets are not ambitious enough, and propose to double these. Along with better use of reserves and MRP, this would enable a lower council tax increase of 1% in year 1.



CLlr David Hall



CLlr John Taylor

CONSERVATIVE BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSALS				
		2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
		£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
· Recycling in schools, recycling education)			
· Feasibility: single-use plastic ban		20	0	0
· Further action to address air pollution and climate change		0	750	750
Transport Infrastructure				
· Roads/signs maintenance devolved to ward members		250	250	250
· Flockton Bypass feasibility study		150	0	0
· Investment in CCTV		50	50	50
Other Revenue Initiatives				
· Book Fund		25	25	25
Total Developments		595	1175	1175
Add extra capital finance required		40	240	480
Limit council tax increase in year 1 to 1%		1808	1861	1915
		2443	3276	3570
CAPITAL				
· Extra Road resurfacing		3000	3000	3000
Capitalise Transformation Team		1000	1000	1000
Total Capital Developments		4000	4000	4000
SAVINGS/EFFICIENCIES				
· Convert Democracy Commission to task & finish group		-20	-20	-20
· Cease Trade Unions support costs		-125	-125	-125
· Double target for Council-wide efficiencies		-500	-1000	-1500
Re-Capitalise Transformation Team		-1000	-1000	-1000
Use of uncommitted (contingency) MRP		0	-1929	-925
Defer planned MRP release to reserves by one year		-798	798	0
Total Savings/efficiencies		-2443	-3276	-3570
Total revenue effect		0	0	0

Last year Kirklees declared a climate emergency in response to the clear message from the United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that we have a limited time to reduce carbon emissions to levels consistent with a viable environment for human civilisation. This amendment aims to take Kirklees on to the next stage of our journey to become a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority in line with the 2038 target set for us through our membership of the Leeds City Region. We also need to ensure that regional funding is not used to provide tacit support to Leeds Bradford Airport expansion plans that threaten the viability of our emission reduction targets.

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 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 Neighbourhood Housing Carbon Reduction Fund

Following years of energy saving initiatives this Fund will be used to carry out pathfinding work to demonstrate how we will drive down emissions still further to levels consistent with a 2030 zero carbon target. The aim will be to achieve as close to the Enerphit standard as is practical. We are also calling on Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing to transfer homes to a low cost green energy provider when they become void.

Community Climate Action projects – Place based working

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.

Purchase Renewable Energy

We are calling on Kirklees to ensure that the Council’s electricity is sourced from verifiably renewable sources.

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.

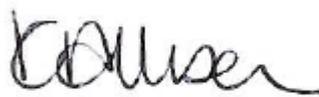
Conversion to electric vehicles project

There is a large potential for conversion of petrol/diesel vehicles to electric at a fraction of the cost of a new vehicle. This proposal is to establish a pilot project to demonstrate the potential for this in the Kirklees District.

Support the establishment of the Kirklees Climate Commission – through funding the secretariat and supporting analysis and reporting



Cllr Andrew Cooper



Cllr Karen Allison



Cllr Susan Lee-Richards

Developments - General Fund					
REVENUE			20/21	21/22	22/23
Kirklees climate commission (£100k per annum over 5 yrs)			100	100	100
Community action climate projects			1500	1500	
renewable energy (electricity)			45	45	45
Global covenant of mayors			40	40	40
capital financing costs			37	222	432
total revenue			1722	1907	617
CAPITAL			20/21	21/22	22/23
New Build Passivhaus support scheme (£4m over 4 years)			1000	1000	1000
Private sector hard to to treat homes fund (£4m over 4 years)			1000	1000	1000
Assumed £2m external funding offset (£2m over 4 years)			-500	-500	-500
Schools Climate change education project (£5m over 5 years)			1000	1000	1000
Conversion to electric vehicles project			200	0	0
Transformation Team re-capitalisation			1000	1000	1000
total capital			3700	3500	3500
Funded by :			20/21	21/22	22/23
Transformation Team Re-Capitalisation			-1000	-1000	-1000
Defer release of MRP transfer to reserves			-483		483
Apply uncommitted (contingency) MRP in-year			-239	-907	-100
			-1722	-1907	-617
Capital Developments - HRA			20/21	21/22	22/23
HRA - carbon reduction fund			2000	2000	2000
Funded by :					
HRA general reserves (sinking fund)			-2000	-2000	-2000

BUDGET COUNCIL 12 FEBRUARY 2020 – LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP – MOTION AMENDMENT

Forward

The aim of Kirklees Liberal Democrat group's budget amendment is to highlight some of the areas where the Council's response needs to be stronger, faster or more focused. The nature of budget amendments mean that they are limited in scope and finance but they give a flavour of our local priorities and how we would like to see the Council work in a more inclusive way.

There are some services that desperately need additional funding that can only be provided nationally, such as adult social care. Until the Government resolves local government funding in a way that properly reflects need, then there will be continued strain on council services. Additionally, leaving the EU (Brexit) brings its own challenges and renders any budget planning fundamentally conditional.

Last year, the Liberal Democrat budget amendment on white goods resulted in a valuable resource for people being newly housed after homelessness.

Proposals

a) Strengthening Communities

Review Place-Based Working

Kirklees Liberal Democrats recognise the value of the Place Standard tool and how it has been used in some of our smaller villages; however the current model of placed-based working is proving to be unwieldy and organised in a 'top down' way that reduces both councillor participation and the participation of the public at the decision-making stage. It is also our view that the current model of working does not maximise accountability or transparency in the decision-making process, nor does it cater for local priorities to be set by the communities affected by the decisions made.

That said, we want the current strand of work on improving mental health in Kirklees to continue without change, to avoid the risk of some valuable work being wasted. Future themes should be organised to focus on maximising resident and councillor input. It should be organised along community and multi-ward footprints and progress and decisions should be carried out in a public forum.

We think that the recommendation of the 2019 LGA Peer Review to review the work of the Democracy Commission would be an excellent opportunity to re-task the

Commission with revitalising local democracy at the decision-making level. The practical issues involved would make good use of the Commission's expertise and knowledge and put residents and councillors at the heart of shaping their own communities.

Citizens' Green Assemblies

Kirklees Liberal Democrats recognise the need for urgent action on climate change and we believe that everyone has a part to play. As a party, we would convene Citizens' Green Assemblies to discuss and implement new local green measures and initiatives. This would help to ensure that solutions are responsive to local needs and capacities and that the role of Council is that of a facilitator.

b) Waste Management

Scope improvements within directorate

The Council's current waste contract ends in 2022-23 and Kirklees Liberal Democrat group welcome the commitment by the Council to provide new capital investment to support its waste strategy requirements. The development of the Council's waste management strategy will present opportunities for the authority in order to achieve its environmental aims and objectives. However, the group are disappointed by the Council's long-standing poor recycling performance. We urgently need to explore ways of increasing the types of items that can be recycled in order to improve the standard of the service. This needs to be done urgently and certainly before the Council starts to negotiate a new waste contract.

Single Use Plastics

The Council should also be proactive in encouraging local manufacturers to provide innovative new designs which aim to reduce the level of plastic waste. If it is feasible, we would also support the installation of water fountains across the district, to enable people to fill their bottles for free, and we would support businesses to come forward if they wish to offer members of the public free water refills.

c) Fly-tipping

Invest £170k to save on cleansing

Fly-tipping and the illegal dumping of waste is a national issue and it's also a significant problem in Kirklees. Every year, local authorities across the country spend millions of

pounds tidying up; Kirklees Council spends approximately £260k annually removing fly-tipped waste.

Fly-tipping poses a significant threat to our environment, to our wildlife and even to humans. In tackling this, everyone has part to play, but Kirklees Liberal Democrat group believe that the Council urgently needs to review the level of access to its waste disposal facilities. The group believe that the Council's policies are one of the causes of fly-tipping and we argue that one of the ways of reducing fly-tipping is for the Council to stop charging for the collection of bulky waste at residential properties.

d) Road improvements

£2M invested in road repairs

Unclassified roads have suffered from lack of investment on a local, regional and national level for some years. The road surface deterioration experienced in Kirklees has come to the point where the worst 30% of unclassified roads would take in excess of £60M to bring up to a good standard. Kirklees Liberal Democrat group note the administrations pledge to invest £5M on road resurfacing works over the next three years, but we recognise its limitations. The condition of unclassified roads is a national issue and funding must come from central government if we are to make progress. We propose that a further £2M be added to the budget figure in 2020-21 to accelerate the work to improve the worst effected roads in the towns and villages in Kirklees.

e) Pavement improvements

£3M over 3yrs for High Streets and School Walking Routes

As with unclassified roads in Kirklees, pavements in our small towns and villages have not been fully maintained for a number of years. Broken and missing paving flags have been replaced with tarmac and some tarmac paths have deteriorated due to lack of maintenance. The two areas that we believe that should be addressed as a priority are:

1) High streets in small towns and villages

Some of our towns and villages badly need pavement repairs/replacement on the high street. This is a basic requirement for a safe, attractive environment for the public and businesses.

2) School approaches and crossing points

If we want to increase the number of children and parents walking to and from school those journeys, like high streets, need to be safe and attractive. We propose that the Council identifies and tackles the worst affected locations in order to facilitate our school clean air plans.

f) Improving Air Quality

Scope Liberal Democrat Motion on Air Quality and Schools

While air pollution is harmful to everyone, children are particularly at risk, as they absorb and retain pollutants in the body for longer. Studies have shown how air pollution can stunt the growth of children's lungs, for instance, limiting their lung capacity and leading to health problems as they grow older. There is compelling evidence that traffic-related pollution may be increasing the risk to children of developing medical conditions, such as asthma. Air pollution may also affect children's capacity to learn at school.

Motor vehicles are the biggest source of air pollution and it is estimated that one in four cars on the road at peak times are on the school run. Poor air quality is a major issue and many parents and schools have spoken to us to express their concern about health issues arising from air pollution.

Schools should not be expected to tackle air quality issues alone. Kirklees Liberal Democrats believe that the Council needs to exert greater leadership and should be more proactive in reducing air pollution across the district and near our local schools. The group are pleased that there was cross-party support at a recent council meeting for our motion on tackling air pollution near schools. However, we want the outcomes of this motion to be progressed as a matter of urgency.

Clearly, collaboration between the Council and our local schools is important, but there are opportunities for the Council to explore innovative solutions as well. For instance, other local authorities are trialling schemes to temporarily close roads around schools during drop-off and pick-up times in order to reduce air pollution and improve road safety. There may be opportunities to invest in infrastructure near schools, such as pollution-absorbing green walls, introduce 'no vehicle idling' zones outside schools and promote sustainable active travel, including walking and cycling to school. There are real opportunities for schools to engage with pupils about air pollution as part of the wider narrative around climate change.

g) Electric vehicle scheme

£1.5m invested to incentivise take up of electric vehicles

Kirklees Liberal Democrats want to see swift progress on a range of initiatives relating to climate change that will focus on the reduction of our carbon footprint and help improve air quality across the district. Transport should be a major focus, as it accounts for 23% of the UK's CO² emissions.

This would follow a model recently adopted by Leeds City Council, in partnership with Highways England, which offer businesses and charities the chance to trial electric cars and vans for a free two-month period. This allows them to get a better understanding of how electric vehicles could work for and benefit their business in the future.

We would argue that there should also be greater incentives for members of the public to switch to electric vehicles. One way of helping to achieve this would be for the Council to have designated free parking zones for electric vehicles in council-owned car parks. Other local authorities have implemented this scheme and we propose that Kirklees Council officers investigate the feasibility of this proposal as part of a scoping study for the Kirklees district.

h) LED lights in municipal buildings

Work to assess funding needed and impact on carbon footprint

Kirklees Liberal Democrat group are pleased that the Council is committed to change all of its street lights to energy-efficient LED lights within the next few years. We believe that LEDs are more energy-efficient and eco-friendly, last longer and we also believe that they make places more attractive. However, we also want LED lighting to be installed across all council buildings and propose that a scoping study could investigate this further. Implementing more energy-efficient lighting could make a big difference in helping the Council to save energy and reduce its carbon footprint.

i) Young People

£100K invested in Young People

The Council has a vital role in helping young people across the district achieve the best possible outcomes. However, Kirklees Liberal Democrat group believe that there needs to be more support from the Council for young people. Youth Services have been cut

too far and too rapidly in the past, so we need additional reinvestment in engagement programmes. The group propose a nominal figure of £100k, as an initial pilot, to improve engagement with young people across the district.

Kirklees Liberal Democrat group also believe that there should be greater opportunities for young people and this includes better access to sports and recreational facilities. The group were disappointed that Spenborough's skate park was demolished in the rebuild of the swimming pool without plans to replace it. We want the Council to reintroduce an element of the pools reduced budget to look at options to build a new skate park at a different site.



Cllr John Lawson



Cllr Andrew Marchington



Cllr Alison Munro

Developments - General Fund			
REVENUE	20/21	21/22	22/23
	£000	£000	£000
free large item collection (1 year pilot)	170		
Young People engagement	100		
Capital financing costs	48	285	345
total revenue	318	285	345
CAPITAL	20/21	21/22	22/23
	£000	£000	£000
Highways - roads	2000		
Highways - pavements	1000	1000	1000
Electric Vehicle Scheme	1500		
Skateboard park	250		
total capital	4750	1000	1000
Funded by :	20/21	21/22	22/23
	£000	£000	£000
defer uncommitted MRP transfer to reserves to later years	-318	318	
apply uncommitted (contingency) MRP		-603	-345
	-318	-285	-345