

TABLED PAPERS

Full Council – 28 February 2012

AGENDA ITEM 11 TABLED AMENDMENTS

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LIBERAL DEMOCRAT BUDGET 2012 - AMENDMENT THREE

Proposer: Cllr Paul Strang
Second: Cllr David Winskill

Protecting our residents

Last year saw unprecedented anger from local residents in response to Labour's plans to close front-line older people's day centres, drop-in centres and luncheon clubs.

Liberal Democrats believe that these services still have a place when caring for our older people. We would provide funding of £240,000 for voluntary, community and charitable organisations to run similar day centres, drop-in centres and luncheon clubs and other valuable services for vulnerable older people at risk of isolation.

Older People Fund revenue cost £240,000

Crime and the fear of crime continue to be at the top of local residents concerns. Liberal Democrats believe that cutting crime should be a priority for the Council and we propose an additional £100,000 for local community crime fighting initiatives that have been cut by Labour.

Community crime fighting revenue fund £100,000

Despite 75% cuts to the Youth Service, closure of Older People's services, Children's Centres and 50% reductions in parks maintenance Labour still spends £13.5million a year on running its IT.

Liberal Democrats believe that protecting our residents is a greater priority. We propose to reduce the IT budget by another 5% in addition to those planned. However, we understand the Council's contractual arrangements and would not ask that the full saving is realised in 2012/13. Instead we would ask that the IT budget is reduced by £340,000 in the first year, followed by £590,000 ongoing in the second and third year. This gives the Council time to fundamentally change how its IT works and embrace new technology and ways of working.

Year One IT revenue saving £340,000
Year Two IT revenue saving £590,000

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT BUDGET AMENDMENT FOUR

Proposer: Cllr Paul Strang
Second: Cllr Nigel Scott

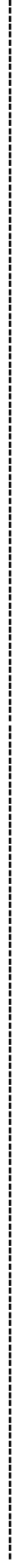
Investing in our parks and reducing Labour’s stealth taxes

The scale of opposition to Labour’s unprecedented 50% cut to the parks service was shown in a petition signed by more than 2,000 local residents. Liberal Democrats believe that our open spaces should be protected and should not be used as a political pawn. We propose £288,000 of investment in our parks, every year to ensure our parks continue to be places we treasure. We would also reverse Labour’s cuts to the Green plaque heritage scheme, allowing this community-led initiative to resume.

Parks and heritage revenue investment £288,000

Whilst we welcome Labour’s u-turn on Council Tax, the Council has chosen to increase the financial burden on local residents by increasing fees and charges on many services. We are proposing to freeze charges that we believe either unfairly target certain groups or would be detrimental to improving the local economy like business, visitor and trade permits. We would freeze:

- Parking charges for all but the most polluting cars, Visitor permits, Business charges, Meals on wheels charges, Library charges and Allotment charges
- Reducing Labour’s stealth taxes revenue cost £104,000



Labour’s have failed to deliver on their promise to cut middle-management, so that each manager supervises at least 5 staff. Their failure means that the Council is more bureaucratic and costly to run than necessary. We propose to reduce the numbers of middle managers who are not meeting the Council’s own span of control standard by 5% - a reduction of 12 posts. Investment in parks, heritage and reducing Labour’s stealth taxes would be funded by reducing 7 posts.

Middle Management Saving £392,000

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT BUDGET AMENDMENT FIVE

Propose: Cllr Paul Strang
Second: Cllr Katherine Reece

Investment in Children's Centres

Liberal Democrats believe that support in the early years of a child's life should be a top priority. Last year Labour cut £6.519million from the Children's Centre and Early Years budget and funding was withdrawn from Tower Gardens, North Bank, Highgate and Rokesley Children's centres. Whilst reform was needed to make the services more efficient and reduce costs, Labour's cuts went too far.

A campaign by headteachers, staff and local families helped save some services but more money is needed to secure universal access for families to local children's centre services. We propose an £210,000 investment in helping children's centres, whose funding was reduced, to provide support and the time required to reopen and find new sources of funding that will lead to a sustainable future for a universal Children's Centres' service in the borough.

Children's Centre revenue cost £210,000

Liberal Democrats are committed to long-term change to our Haringey's Fostering Service. The Council still relies too heavily on expensive out-of-borough foster placements. Not only are in-borough foster placements cheaper, more importantly, they provide better outcomes for our children. The initial financial investment needed to recruit more in-borough foster carers is soon offset by the savings made as the balance between expensive out-of-borough care shifts to new Haringey-based foster carers.

Whilst we understand that this will be a challenge for the Children's Service given the savings targets that are already in the budget, the outcomes, both for local children and the Council's finances means it is a challenge worth setting.

Foster care revenue cost £700,000
Foster care revenue saving £600,000

Trade unions provide an important role in public service but Liberal Democrats believe that front-line services should be prioritised over hidden union subsidies. Haringey Council, until Liberal Democrats proposed reductions in funding, spent millions of pounds on union representatives. The Council however continues to provide trade unions with free offices, rather than charge a commercial rate as they would to other organisations in the borough. Haringey Council staff pay over half a million pounds in union dues a year – so the unions can afford to pay for their own office space.

Trade Union rent recovery £30,000

The balance of the investment in Children's Centres would be funded by reductions of 5 middle manager posts that do not meet the Council's own span of control standard

Middle Management Saving £280,000

Liberal Democrat budget proposals 2012/13 – Medium term financial plan

Our spending priorities	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
• Protecting vulnerable older people	£240,000	£240,000	£240,000
• Reprioritise young people	£1,000,000	£1,200,000	£2,000,000
• Protecting our parks and heritage	£288,000	£288,000	£288,000
• Helping community action on crime	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000
• Improving foster care	£700,000	£835,000	£960,000
• Reversing Labour's stealth taxes	£104,000	£104,000	£104,000
• Local Neighbourhood Fund	£950,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000
• One-off low paid staff bonus	£250,000	£0	£0
• Protecting the future of Children's Centres	£210,000	£210,000	£210,000
General Fund Spending	£3,842,000	£3,977,000	£4,902,000
Where we would save money and reduce Labour's waste			
• Cap communications budget at £1million	£395,000	£395,000	£395,000
• Long-term action to improve foster care	£600,000	£1,685,000	£2,610,000
• Reduction in IT spending	£340,000	£590,000	£590,000
• Reduce unfilled posts	£355,000	£355,000	£355,000
• Cut middle management costs	£672,000	£672,000	£672,000
• Car allowance and senior management costs	£250,000	£250,000	£250,000
• Reversing Labour's slush fund	£1,200,000	£0	£0
• Charging rent to trade unions	£30,000	£30,000	£30,000
General Fund saving	£3,842,000	£3,977,000	£4,902,000