

Budget Amendment Structure 2017/18

3. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson, seconded by Councillor Robert Murphy

That the recommendations of the Cabinet held on 15th February, 2017, as relates to the City Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2017/18, be replaced by the following resolution:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:

- (1) continues to condemn the cuts to local authority funding chosen by central government and applauds the efforts of politicians and campaigners calling for an alternative to the policy of enforced austerity;
- (2) notes that the Council - and consequently council services and Sheffield's citizens - has now endured a funding shortfall of £350 million since 2010;
- (3) thanks the officers of the Council, and in other organisations directly affected by the austerity programme, in the way they have responded to the increasing cuts and made sacrifices;
- (4) notes, however, that some long-term, outsourced contracts with big private businesses have not taken an equivalent share of the cuts, with the Council reconsidering the 35-year waste management contract, and with the Streets Ahead contract requiring an additional £4.5 million this year alone;
- (5) further notes the intention of Government to reduce the main source of local authority funding, the Revenue Support Grant, to nil and to switch funding to business rates collected in local authorities' own areas, a move which will favour more affluent areas of the country;
- (6) believes that central Government has utterly failed to address the growing and substantial crisis in the care of older and disabled people and that, although the Government has chosen council tax rises to pay for social care, the sum raised is still inadequate to meet even the cost of living;
- (7) therefore recognises that austerity is not going to go away and that Elected Members in Sheffield, however difficult the crisis we face, have a responsibility to do the best we can for the people of Sheffield, prioritising the available resources to protect communities and the most vulnerable and working towards a more equitable and resilient city;
- (8) therefore, welcomes the Administration's proposal to raise the Council Tax hardship fund to £1 million to protect more of the 30,000 poorest families in

the city, which is entirely in line with the Green Councillors' budget proposal in March 2016;

- (9) recognises the hard work of Sheffield citizens who have highlighted the economic risks attached to fossil fuels and the need for Sheffield City Council to do business ethically; and welcomes the inclusion in its Treasury Management Strategy, for the first time, commitments not to hold any direct investments in fossil fuels or companies involved in tax evasion or grave misconduct.
- (10) believes that the people of this city want a Council that listens to them, is accountable, and takes their genuinely-expressed concerns into account;
- (11) therefore, will open up Council meetings to public scrutiny by online web broadcasting;
- (12) will cut political spin from the Town Hall and will cut the posts of Group Policy Officers, requiring politicians to do their own research and press work;
- (13) will set an example by addressing income inequality between the highest and lowest paid Council officers, closing the gap by reducing the pay of those on the salaries over £50,000 a year;
- (14) will further reduce up to 2 posts in the HR Service to protect frontline services;
- (15) will reverse planned cuts to 3.5 full-time equivalent library staff;
- (16) will respond to the families, staff and carers at Hurlfield View respite centre for people with dementia by investing £400k to reinstate provision at Hurlfield View, recognising that this cannot be achieved in the short term, and in parallel will seek to cancel newly-let community-based contracts;
- (17) regrets the lost opportunity of a significant investment in jobs in the renewable energy industry when proposed in 2014; but will promote energy efficiency schemes in maintained schools by use of £500,000 unallocated New Homes Bonus funding;
- (18) will create further jobs by setting aside a further £500,000 unallocated New Homes Bonus funding to identify and survey brownfield sites for re-use for new housing and business, so as to minimise the impact of new building on the green belt or those brownfield sites that provide particular benefits to wildlife or the local community;
- (19) will take steps to increase the amount of council housing by funding a pilot of a small number of energy-efficient "container homes", such as those already being pioneered in the city;
- (20) will put further resources into turning empty properties into much needed

homes by investing a small amount of New Homes Bonus funding in further enforcement work in this area, which will in turn generate increased NHB funding as homes are brought back into occupation;

- (21) will also support an additional post to support standards in the private rented housing sector
- (22) will develop proposals to introduce a workplace parking scheme, to improve air quality and generate further revenue for the city's public transport investment;
- (23) will invest a substantial sum of £300,000 of unallocated Local Transport Plan funding into improving the numbers of Sheffield citizens getting to work by cycling or walking;
- (24) will reduce the price of parking permits to 2010 levels, by shifting the cost of parking in residential parking permit zones to non-residents, meaning that people living in some of the most congested and polluted areas of the city are not subsidising other transport services;
- (25) welcomes the new investment in replacing obsolete air quality monitoring stations and will further invest in public-facing visual displays on these, to ensure the public can see and monitor the measure of air pollution affecting them in real time;
- (26) will invest in a small discretionary grant fund to encourage zero or low-emission taxi vehicles through the licensing system;
- (27) wishes to prioritise the installation of 20mph zones in areas with the worst road safety accident statistics and, therefore, will re-prioritise funding available in the Local Transport Plan programme to a default 20mph speed limit in the city centre;
- (28) will develop proposals to offer more policing and services related to the night-time economy by ensuring high-value businesses make an appropriate contribution to social costs through use of a night-time levy scheme;
- (29) will support the safety of students and others in a vibrant city centre, by providing additional funding to extend a night bus service;
- (30) will work to prevent the causes of serious anti-social behaviour by reversing the proposal to cut residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation spaces;
- (31) will promote equality and the work of voluntary sector groups by reversing the £60,000 cut to the small-scale Equality & Fairness grant pot;
- (32) therefore requests the Acting Executive Director, Resources to implement the City Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2017/2018 in

accordance with the details set out in the reports on the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme now submitted, but with the following amendments:-

REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSAL

<u>Spending reductions</u>	<u>2017/18 (£'000)</u>	<u>Spending proposals</u>	<u>2017/18 (£'000)</u>
Remove all group policy officer posts	89	Reverse cut in libraries staff	98
Removal of further 2 posts in HR	46	Maintain funding for Equality & Fairness grants	60
Use of New Homes Bonus (to fund enforcement officer to bring empty homes back into use)	37	Additional enforcement officer post to bring empty homes back into use	37
Use of New Homes Bonus (to fund additional post in Private Sector Housing)	26	Additional post in Private Sector Housing	26
		Reverse cut to residential drug/alcohol rehabilitation	50
		Webcasting of all Full Council, Budget & Scrutiny meetings	30
		Development of Workplace Parking Levy scheme	100
		Feasibility study into late night levy scheme	25
		Establish discretionary fund for grants to encourage zero or low-emission taxi vehicles	5
Introduce 20p increase to on-street parking fees in residential peripheral parking zones (PPZs)	369	Parking permit fees reduced to 2010 levels	297

Revenue contribution to capital scheme (air quality monitoring stations) 19

Savings - subtotal 567 Spending - subtotal 747

The following savings schemes require the agreement of new contracts, or actions to be agreed with other bodies. Consequently the following investments are proposed conditionally on the successful implementation of these savings schemes.

Reduce pay on employees paid over £150,000 by 20% (assume 6 month saving) 25 Reinstatement funding for Hurlfield View respite centre for dementia 400

Reduce pay on employees paid over £100,000 by 15% (assume 6 month saving) 63 Night bus 16

Reduce pay on employees paid over £50,000 by 10% (assume 6 month saving) 508

Savings - subtotal 596 Spending - subtotal 416

Revenue saving sub-total 1,163 Revenue spending sub-total 1,163

CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

Capital spending proposal (£'000)		Financing of capital proposals (£'000)	
20's Plenty City Centre scheme	262	Re-prioritise Local Transport Plan Programme set aside for 20mph speed limit schemes	262
Provision of public displays on air quality monitoring stations	50	Use of New Homes Bonus and revenue contribution to capital to fund provision of public displays on air quality monitoring stations	50
Additional walking and cycling infrastructure	300	Use of unallocated Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding	300

Establishment of fund to prepare brownfield sites for redevelopment	500	Use of New Homes Bonus to establish fund to prepare brownfield sites for redevelopment	500
Energy efficiency for schools fund	500	Use of New Homes Bonus to establish fund for energy efficiency schemes in schools	500
Fund to establish "container homes" pilot	250	reprioritise funding for acquiring new council homes	250
Capital spending total	1,862	Financing of capital proposals total	1,862