

Cannock Chase Council

Council Meeting

10 February 2021

General Fund Budget Resolutions

Alternative Budget Proposal by Councillor Olivia Lyons

Conservative Group Leader

An alternative General Fund Budget, as proposed by the Conservative Group, is detailed below and, in light of this alternative budget, Council is recommended to refer the Cabinet's Budget recommendations for further consideration.

General Fund Revenue Budget 2020-21 to 2023-24

The Alternative Budget is attached as Annex 1 and replaces Table 3 of the Cabinet Report Item No.7 Dated 28/01/21.

In accordance with the above the following changes are made to the Recommendations to Council as per Paragraph 2.1 of the above report.

- (a) the level of net spending for the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2021-22 be set at £14.722 million; with indicative net spending for 2022-23 and 2023-24 of £14.372 million and £14.353 million respectively.
- (b) the detailed portfolio budgets as set out in Appendix 2 (as amended by the changes as contained in Annex 2).
- (f) the working balances be set at £0.812 million: £1.147 million and £ 1.361 million respectively

General Fund Capital Programme 2020-21 to 2023-24

The amendments to Appendix 3 of the Cabinet report are attached as Annex 3 with the revised Table 7 (Uncommitted Capital Resources) of the report attached as Annex 4

In accordance with the above paragraph 2.1 (i) of the Recommendations to Council is amended to read

- (i) the revised capital programme as set out in **Appendix 3 (as amended by the changes as contained in Annex 3)**

The changes to the Cabinet's Revenue Budget are attached as Annex 2 and can be summarised as follows:

Proposals for Savings

The Conservative Group proposes that the following saving option is implemented:

- **Members IT Consumable allowance is deleted.**

In light of the forecast deficit in 2022-23:

- **the shared services provision is extended to other services**
- **the Council promotes the use of working from home / "hot Desking" (post pandemic) and undertakes a rationalisation of office accommodation e.g. civic centre bungalow, to reduce costs and increase the potential for lettings to other bodies**

Growth Proposals

The Conservative Group proposes that the following growth options are implemented:

- **I Pads are provided for all Members together with appropriate training.**
- **An ongoing Parks and Open Spaces maintenance/remediation budget is created.**

Use of Reserves

The Conservative Group proposes that the Budget Support Earmarked Reserve is utilised to fund the cost of the I Pads and the initial costs of the Parks and Open Spaces maintenance/ remediation budget in 2021/22

The changes to the Cabinets Capital Programme are attached as Annex 3 and can be summarised as follows:

New Schemes

The Conservative Group proposes that indicative resources are earmarked within the Capital Programme for the following scheme:

- **Refurbishment of Elmore Park Toilet Block**

Conservative Group Budget

Table 3: General Fund Draft Budget 2021-22 to 2023-24

	Budget 2021-22 £000	Budget 2022-23 £000	Budget 2023-24 £000
Net Expenditure			
Portfolio budgets	14,975	14,864	14,442
Investment interest	-82	-166	-208
Technical items	-171	-326	119
Net Spending	14,722	14,372	14,353
Less: Government Grants			
NNDR Multiplier	-159	-159	-159
Lower Tier Grant	-130		
COVID Grant	-541		
Income Guarantee Grant	-14		
New Homes Bonus	-1,417	-850	-316
Budget Requirement	12,461	13,363	13,878
Financing			
Business Rates	-5,409	-5,226	-5,333
Council Tax Income	-6,574	-6,770	-6,971
Council Tax Support Grant	-120		
Total Financing	-12,103	-11,996	-12,304
Less Transfer from Reserve	-358		
Budget Shortfall / Transfer from Working Balances		-1,367	-1,574

Table 5: Level of Working Balances

	31/03/21 £000	31/03/22 £000	31/03/23 £000	31/03/24 £000
Balance B/fwd.	1,000	1,294	1,294	-73
(Applied) in Year	294		-1,367	-1,574
Balance C/fwd.	1,294	1,294	-73	-1,647
Minimum	-1,000	-812	-1,147	-1,361
Surplus to Support Budget	294	482	-1,220	-3,008

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Amendments to Portfolio Budgets (Appendix 2 of Budget Report)

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2021-22</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2022-23</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2023-24</u>
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
	<u>Culture and Sport</u>			
1	Parks & Open Spaces			
	Premises Related Expenditure			
a.	Provision of maintenance /remediation budget	50,000	25,000	25,500
	<u>Economic Development & Planning</u>			
6	Public Buildings			
	Income			
b.	Provision of potential lettings income re Hot Desking and rationalisation of office accommodation e.g. Bungalow	-	-	TBD
	<u>Leader of the Council Portfolio</u>			
1	Democratic Services			
	Expenditure			
c.	Remove Members IT Consumable Allowance	-16,350	-16,510	-16,680
d.	Provide I pads to all Members	24,500		
9	Excluded Items			
	Expenditure			
e.	Development of further Shared services			-185,130
	TOTAL	58,150	8,490	-176,310

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Amendments to Capital Programme (Appendix 3 of Budget Report)

		Total Program Revised £'000	General Fund £'000	Section 106 £'000
<u>Culture & Sport Portfolio</u>				
Additional schemes				
A	Elmore Park Toilets	100	100	-
		100	100	-

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Amendments to Table 7: Uncommitted Capital Resources

	General Fund £000	Section 106 £000
Capital resources brought forward at 1 April 2020	9,494	1,697
Capital Receipts	711	
Section 106/CIL		970
Capital Grants	4,282	
Joint Investment Fund	214	
Contributions	532	
Revenue contribution to Capital Outlay		
Use of Reserves	222	
Draft Capital Programme 2020-21 to 2023-24	(15,114)	(1,463)
New Schemes	(100)	
Remaining resources at 31 March 2024	241	1,204