

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2014/15

Green Group Amendment

Green Group Amendment 1

Protect the Able and Willing Supported Business Service through a 5.9% Council Tax rise.

The proposal to reduce the subsidy for the Able and Willing Service shown on page 67 of the agenda would only be required in the event of a Substitute Budget being implemented.

To allow this change will require £0.200m alternative savings to be identified within the Referendum proposals.

It is proposed to include £0.200m of the Children's Centre saving (shown on page 109 of the agenda) specifically funded through Dedicated Schools Grant in 2015/16 within the referendum proposals.

This proposal will reduce the one off resources requirement for the Referendum Budget by £0.100m and increase the one off resources requirement for the implementation of a substitute budget.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2015/16**Conservative Group Amendments****Conservative Group Amendment 1**

Note: Affects all budget options. This amendment removes part of the savings proposal on Page 86 of the budget papers relating to on-street parking permit tariffs. Note that if Conservative Amendment 3 is approved, this amendment shall be revoked and replaced by that Amendment.

It is proposed that the following additional savings are made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2015/16:

- Reduction of the Transport Planning budget, saving £0.035m.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

The risk is a potential adverse impact on delivery of Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital programme schemes. It is also possible that a proportion of costs would be likely to be charged to LTP which, if this cannot be managed flexibly, could reduce the available saving.

- An increased savings target across the £10.9m Corporate Landlord contracts and budgets of £0.006m.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

None – minor saving.

To utilise the additional resources generated to:

- Remove the budget saving proposal in respect of that part relating to the proposed increase of Permit tariffs for businesses, traders and hotels at a cost of £0.041m.

The savings proposals set out above require £0.009m revenue reserves to fund the part year savings. It is proposed to reduce the contribution to the Pension Fund for 2016/17 by £0.009m and this contribution will be reinstated as a first call on any reserves created by any reduction in the projected overspend for 2014/15 between now and the year-end.

Conservative Group Amendment 2

Note: Affects all budget options. This amendment removes the savings proposal on Page 112 of the budget papers relating to City Parks Trees. Note if Conservative Amendment 3 is approved, this amendment shall be revoked and replaced by that Amendment.

It is proposed that the following additional savings are made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2015/16:

- Further savings across the £10.9m Corporate Landlord contracts and budgets of £0.054m.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

Corporate Landlord has enabled significant savings and efficiencies over the past 2 years of nearly £1m per year with further savings in 2015/16. While further savings may be possible this has to be seen in the context of overall resources which are reducing, particularly maintenance, where we have very limited resources of approx. £3.7m relative to the need to service all of the council's corporate civic, heritage, operational and commercial buildings (excluding education and housing) covering approx. 500 buildings that we review annually for priority works. Currently, there is only sufficient budget to address the structural, watertight and statutory requirements for the priority buildings. It is therefore not clear if the currently proposed savings in 2015/16 will have ongoing impacts on the level of backlog maintenance and therefore increase long term costs.

- Reduction of performance analysis resources within the Transport Operations service, saving £0.026m.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

This team is part of the overhead for the income generation and debt management of car parking charges. By analysing car parking income generated during the year they are able to provide intelligent information critical to ensure that future increases in charges are focused in the areas that will maximise income generation. Reducing resources in this area could therefore mean that future income maximisation or generation opportunities are overlooked.

To utilise the additional resources generated to:

- Protect programmes for the planting of new and replacement trees by removing this Substitute budget saving proposal at a cost of £0.080m.

The savings proposals set out above requires £0.011m revenue reserves to fund the part year savings. It is proposed to reduce the contribution to the Pension Fund for 2016/17 by £0.011m and this contribution will be reinstated as a first call on any reserves created by any reduction in the projected overspend for 2014/15 between now and the year-end.

Conservative Group Amendment 3

Note: Affects freeze budget option. This amendment presents a Council Tax Freeze budget proposal and, if approved, replaces and revokes Conservative Amendments 1 and 2.

It is proposed that the following additional ongoing savings are made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2015/16:

- Reduction of the Transport Planning budget, saving £0.035m.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

The risk is a potential adverse impact on delivery of Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital programme schemes. It is also possible that a proportion of costs would be likely to be charged to LTP which, if this cannot be managed flexibly, could reduce the available saving.

- An increased savings target across the £10.9m Corporate Landlord contracts and budgets of £0.104m.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

Corporate Landlord has enabled significant savings and efficiencies over the past 2 years of nearly £1m per year with further savings in 2015/16. While further savings may be possible this has to be seen in the context of overall resources which are reducing, particularly maintenance, where we have very limited resources of approx. £3.7m relative to the need to service all of the council's corporate civic, heritage, operational and commercial buildings (excluding education and housing) covering approx. 500 buildings that we review annually for priority works. Currently, there is only sufficient budget to address the structural, watertight and statutory requirements for the priority buildings. It is therefore not clear if the currently proposed savings in 2015/16 will have ongoing impacts on the level of backlog maintenance and therefore increase long term costs.

- Reduction of performance analysis resources within the Transport Operations service, saving £0.026m.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

This team is part of the overhead for the income generation and debt management of car parking charges. By analysing car parking income generated during the year they are able to provide intelligent information critical to ensure that future increases in charges are focused in the areas that will maximise income generation. Reducing resources in this area could therefore mean that future income maximisation or generation opportunities are overlooked.

- Reduce the budget provision across the Travellers Service by £0.050m.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

A reduction of the Travellers Service budget would impact on the capacity of the service and reduced staffing could result in delays in managing unauthorised encampments with the risk of reputational damage as well as increased clear up costs. There is also a significant amount of work to do to deliver the permanent site on time and reduced resources could lead to delays in this. However, once the permanent site in place, this is expected to reduce unauthorised encampments.

- Reduce the Planning Policy team budget reflecting that the City Plan Part I is complete and providing a further year to achieve efficiencies across the service in supporting development of Part II of the City Plan and ongoing support saving £0.045m.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

The Planning Policy team has been the subject of a re-structure since the budget papers were prepared and now operates within the Policy, Projects and Heritage Team. This team supports all of the major projects that are key to attracting investment in the city. Following the re-structure, the team directly supports the management of the 3,000+ planning applications we receive each year. The City Plan Examination remains live and the hearings in public are likely to be re-opened prior to adoption of the Plan. Preparation of Part II of the City Plan has commenced and this will provide detailed site allocations essential for developer confidence. The team supports local communities on the emerging neighbourhood planning agenda that is central to Localism. Reducing capacity may therefore impact on the quality of service and advice which could have reputational implications for the council.

- Reduce the Human Resources budget by £0.047m through further efficiency savings with a 6 month lead in time.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

An additional £0.047m saving is likely to lead to a reduction in the support and advisory services provided to line managers that enable effective management of performance and capability issues. This increases the risk of not being able to effectively support the council's modernisation programme which requires effective change management and support for staff and managers.

- Reduce the ACE Services budget by £0.100m through further service redesign, focussing on management and support.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

The impact of a further £0.100m through redesign is likely to impact adversely on Political and Leadership Support Service arrangements where senior support within the authority is pooled in order to deliver efficiencies and better value for money. A £0.030m saving is already planned for this budget area. Delivering additional savings across this service is likely to impact adversely on support for the Administration and the senior executive of the council impacting on their ability to work efficiently and effectively. Savings across additional areas will reduce the ability of services to respond to and drive policy initiatives, to support external and major projects particularly in culture and leisure.

- Reduce the budget for Trade Union facility time to provide for a minimum of 2 full time officials plus the schools funded post, saving £0.055m.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

This would require a formal renegotiation of the level of facilities time provided and appropriate consultation with the staff affected. There is also a corporate review of union facility support currently in progress.

The additional savings proposals above will generate ongoing savings of £0.462m which it is proposed be used to reduce or remove the following savings in the Substantive Freeze Option proposals (Appendix 18) as follows:

- Protect programmes for the planting of new and replacement trees by removing this budget saving proposal at a cost of £0.080m *[relating to the City Parks Trees saving on Page 112 of the budget report]*.
- Reduce the savings requirement from the Special Educational Needs & Disability review in Children's Disability Services by £0.159m *[relating to Services for Children with Disabilities savings on Page 79 of the budget report]*.
- Remove the budget saving proposal in respect of that part relating to the proposed increase of Permit tariffs for businesses, traders and hotels at a cost of £0.041m *[relating to savings from on-street parking permit tariff increases on Page 86 of the budget report]*.
- Reduce, by £0.072m, the saving requirement for the review and recommissioning of Youth Services across in-house and contracted services from £0.136m to £0.064m, targeting remaining resources on those most in need to support the children's service Early Help Strategy and the priorities of the Corporate Plan *[relating to Youth Service savings on Page 354 of the budget report]*.
- Remove the saving in respect of reduced support for Community Events by ensuring continued provision of free parking bay suspensions and associated direct contractual costs at a cost of £0.041m *[relating to the Parking On-Street saving on Page 355 of the budget report]*.
- Remove the saving on the homeless service in relation to the reduction of 1.0 Housing Options Officer and 1.5 x admin support to maintain the front line statutory homeless service at a cost of £0.069m *[relating to the*

Housing Options/Statutory Homelessness saving on Page 356 of the budget report].

In addition to the one-off reserves required to support savings proposal for the Substantive Freeze Proposal (Appendix 18) of £0.372m, the savings proposals set out above require a further £0.172m revenue reserves to fund the part year savings and these will be funded from the £1.178m one-off resources released if a Referendum/Substitute budget proposal is not approved.

The above additional savings and subsequent use of these savings to remove or reduce proposals in the Substantive Freeze Option proposals will maintain savings of £0.918m sufficient to provide for a council tax freeze as follows:

- Reduce the 2014/15 band D council tax by 3p* from £1,312.58 to £1,312.55 for 2015/16 and thereby qualify for council tax freeze grant of £1.267m from the Government in 2015/16.

** Government rules require the average band D council tax including the taxes set by the Enclosure Committees (garden squares) not to increase in order to qualify for council tax freeze grant. This is set out in paragraph 3.7 of the Supplementary Financial Information on page 349 of the agenda.*

Conservative Group Amendment 4

Affects threshold and freeze budget options. To utilise part of the one-off resources released if a Referendum/Substitute budget proposal is not approved to protect services and delay implementation of the following savings using one-off resources as follows:

- To protect public conveniences for 2 years until contract renewal in March 2017, to allow a wider review of services and demand, protect opening times and cleansing frequency of sites and keep open sites in close proximity to alternative locations (£0.160m in 2015/16 and £0.160m in 2016/17).
- To freeze Off-Street Parking Tariffs including Trafalgar Street and the Lanes Car Parks for a full year (£0.192m in 2015/16).
- To freeze prices on Visitor Permits for a full year (£0.079m in 2015/16).
- To provide £0.020m to the Pride event organisers for 2015/16.

The proposals above require £0.611m revenue reserves to fund the part year savings and these will be funded from the £1.178m one-off resources released if a Referendum/Substitute budget proposal is not approved.

Conservative Group Amendment 5

Affects threshold and freeze budget options. To utilise £0.023m of the one-off resources released if a Referendum / Substitute budget proposal is not approved to protect the following service:

- Transfer £0.023m to targeted youth work for groups with protected characteristics, to enable the continued provision of services after April 2015 (when the current council grant funding stops), for a further six months whilst a review of the provision of services can be undertaken.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2015/16**Labour & Co-operative Group Amendments****Labour & Co-operative Group Amendment 1**

Note: Affects threshold budget option. This amendment refers to the savings proposal on Page 109 of the budget papers relating to Early Years (Early Help) Children's Centres.

To utilise part of the one-off resources released if a Referendum/Substitute budget proposal is not approved to protect services and delay implementation of the following savings using one-off resources as follows:

- Children's Centre service: maintaining the number of universal stay and play groups, maintaining funding for voluntary sector partners and drop-in groups in libraries, and retaining the current provision of 12 Children's Centres.

The proposal above requires £0.627m one-off resources to fund the part year savings of which £0.420m will be funded from the £1.178m one-off resources released if a Referendum/Substitute budget proposal is not approved. The remaining £0.207m will be funded from the temporary Dedicated Schools Grant funding which can be used to support Children's Centre services as detailed in Appendix 21 of the Supplementary Financial Information to Budget Council (page 410).

Labour & Co-operative Group Amendment 2

Note: Affects threshold budget option. This amendment refers to the savings proposal on Page 113 of the budget papers relating to Housing Related ('Supporting People') Services.

It is proposed to draw on the following savings from Appendix 18 to the Supplementary Financial Information to Budget Council:

- The net saving of £0.003m from service redesign within the Transport Planning Team to support essential delivery of LTP policies and schemes (page 355).
- Increased income of £0.030m from Seaside Homes' management fee (page 356).

To utilise the above savings together with £0.008m funded from the £1.178m one-off resources released if a Referendum/Substitute budget proposal is not approved to:

- Provide total funding of £0.041m in 2015/16 to the commissioning agenda to provide further provide support and refuge to those affected by domestic abuse on an ongoing basis.

To utilise a further £0.185m of the one-off resources released if a Referendum / Substitute budget proposal is not approved to protect services and/or delay implementation of the following savings:

- Provide £0.165m funding for the Discretionary Grants Programme in 2015/16 to negate the saving proposal approved in 2014/15 which deferred reduction of the grants programme to 2015/16.
- To provide £0.020m to the Pride event for the community element of the annual Pride Parade as the second part of a three-year gradually reducing grant.

Labour & Co-op Group Amendment 3

Note: Affects threshold budget option. This amendment refers to the savings proposal on Page 86 of the budget papers relating to on-street parking permit tariffs.

To utilise part of the one-off resources released if a Referendum / Substitute budget proposal is not approved to delay implementation of savings proposals as follows:

- To freeze parking charges for on-street pay & display, residents permits, visitors permits, and trader and business permits for a further year.

The proposal above requires £0.564m revenue reserves to fund the part year savings which will be funded from the £1.178m one-off resources released if a Referendum / Substitute budget proposal is not approved.

Labour & Co-op Group Amendment 4

Note: Affects all budget options. This amendment refers to the savings proposal on Page 112 of the budget papers relating to Public Conveniences.

It is proposed that the following additional savings are made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2015/16:

- To make a further saving of £0.120m by deleting the council's Sustainability service.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

The removal of the service would result in a loss of capacity to support the Council's (draft) corporate plan priority on Environmental Sustainability including support for various key programmes including:

- **The City's Sustainability Action Plan** - the loss of the team could lead to the loss of 'One Planet Living' accreditation if delivery and monitoring of the plan is impacted on negatively.
- **Environmental Management System (EMS)** - implementation of the council's ISO accredited EMS approach would stop, which is the way that BHCC manages its internal environmental or sustainability impacts in a way that focuses efforts on activities with the highest impact and can reduce costs overall.
- **Reduced Support for Sustainable Events Programme**
- **Support for Sustainable Procurement** - the team work with the Corporate Procurement Team on the questions being asked of tenderers, making them less onerous to businesses and more likely to deliver improvements in environmental performance through contracts. They are an important part of evaluating tenders for sustainability impacts.
- **Delivery and Administration of the Biosphere Board and projects** - the loss of funding for the whole team would impact upon ability to administer the Biosphere board. Also, a programme of work is planned and EU funding bids are being developed and this work would not progress if the Sustainability team is removed unless alternative capacity of funding can be found.

To utilise the additional resources generated above together with a reduced contribution to the Pension Fund for 2016/17 of £0.040m which will be reinstated as a first call from any resources released by the review of Public Conveniences scheduled to be considered by the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee in July 2015 or, secondly, from any reserves created by any reduction in the projected overspend for 2014/15 between now and the year-end. To use these resources to:

- Maintain opening times and frequency of cleansing of public conveniences and keep open sites proposed for closure in suburban areas at a cost of £0.160m in 2015/16.

Labour & Co-op Group Amendment 5

Note: Affects all budget options. This amendment refers to the savings proposal on Page 67 of the budget papers relating to the Able & Willing Supported Business.

In respect of the £0.100m proposal, this amendment replaces the narrative of “review business plan”, to “redirect council spending on external printing, clothing and other products”, to the Able & Willing trading operation utilising the Social Value consideration in procurement decisions to the value of £0.100m in line with the council’s Learning Disability review and potential move towards a joint management board led by senior officers and managers from Able and Willing.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

This may lead to increased costs and/or a reduction of goods and services available to the council if goods and services procured from Able & Willing are at a higher cost than external providers, so the purchasing would need to be managed, to balance both value for money and the social value of such arrangements.

To utilise the redirected resources to:

- Support the service to meet the reduction in subsidy to the service of £0.100m.

Labour & Co-op Group Amendment 6

Note: Affects all budget options. This amendment refers to the savings proposal on Page 102 of the budget papers relating to Political Assistants.

It is proposed that the following additional savings are made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2015/16 by:

- Reduce the ACE Services budget by £0.100m through further service redesign, focussing on management and support.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

The impact of a further £0.100m through redesign is likely to impact adversely on Political and Leadership Support Service arrangements where senior support within the authority is pooled in order to deliver efficiencies and better value for money. A £0.030m saving is already planned for this budget area. Delivering additional savings across this service is likely to impact adversely on support for the Administration and the senior executive of the council impacting on their ability to work efficiently and effectively. Savings across additional areas will reduce the ability of services to respond to and drive policy initiatives, to support external and major projects particularly in culture and leisure.

To utilise the additional resources generated to:

- To maintain effective support to all political groups by providing for the continuation of three Political Assistant posts at a cost of £0.100m with any savings resulting from the possibility of there being only two political assistants required after the May 2015 local elections to be restored to the Senior Managers Support budget.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2015/16**Joint Conservative and Labour & Co-operative
Groups' Amendment****Joint Conservative and Labour & Co-operative Groups'
Amendment 1**

Note: Affects all budget options. This joint amendment reduces the savings proposal on Page 70 of the budget papers relating to the Civic Mayor's Office.

It is proposed that the following additional savings are made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2015/16:

- Service redesign of the Communications Service saving £0.081m.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

Reducing the Communications budget by £0.081m would mean reducing the staffing budget of the service which would need to be reprioritised and may not have sufficient capacity to be able to provide effective support to:

- Major communications projects and events – the risk being that the communications are not properly worked through and handled in all cases and there is reputational impact, misinformation, misunderstanding and progress is delayed;
- Modernisation programme – particularly major programmes for example, digital and service redesign projects for improving customer service;
- Respond to reactive media requests – risking not being able to proactively manage all negative media and protect the reputation of council.

To utilise the additional resources generated to:

- Protect the Mayoralty and support services for organising functions and administrative support at a cost of £0.081m.

The savings proposal set out above requires £0.040m revenue reserves in 2015/16 relating to the lead-in time to achieve the full saving. It is proposed to reduce the contribution to the Pension Fund for 2016/17 by £0.040m and this contribution will be reinstated as a first call on any reserves created by any reduction in the projected overspend for 2014/15 between now and the year-end.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2015/16**Independent Members' Amendment****Independent Amendment 1**

To utilise part of the one-off resources released if a Referendum/Substitute budget is not approved to protect services and delay implementation of the following savings using one-off resources as follows:

- To protect the Discretionary Grants Programme and defer, for a further year, the saving decision made in 2014/15 which sanctioned a grant reduction of £0.165m in 2015/16.
- To protect provision of Special Educational Needs and Disability services for children by deferring savings proposals on the following areas for a year;
 - Special Educational Needs (£0.025m);
 - Integrated Children's Disability (£0.140m);
 - Services for Children with Disabilities - residential and respite placements, short breaks, direct payments and family support services (£0.341m).
- To protect Youth Service provision by deferring for one year the £0.146m saving proposal. This resource should be allocated to enhancing the Integrated support service for children aged 13-19 as determined by the outcome of the review which is planned for these services (as per the notice of motion agreed at Policy & Resources Committee in January 2015).
- To protect preventative Housing Related ('Supporting People') services for vulnerable adults by deferring the saving proposal of £0.350m for one year.

The above proposals require £1.167m one-off resources to fund the part year savings which will be funded from the £1.178m one-off resources released if a Referendum/Substitute budget proposal is not approved.

