

Summary - Green Group Revenue Budget 2013-2014

We present here a four year balanced budget amendment which builds on the consultation budget - rather than seeks to fundamentally change it. We may not share the same priorities as the administration, but we continue to support the spending on education, youth work and elderly people's services that have been woefully under-funded by the County Council. Although the City Council can never plug the gap left by County cuts, it is important that we try and do what we can within our own limited resources whilst not undermining the quality of the valuable services that we have historically delivered.

Our budget takes advantage of the fact that we would reduce the size of the capital programme by £4.0m (by refurbishing both BBL and TC pools rather than building a costly new pool) and takes some (£1.5m) of the predicted revenue underspend destined for the capital fund and instead spends this money on one-off items, reductions in fees and charges and grants. The underspend is currently expected to comfortably exceed £1.5m, but if it doesn't then we accept that we would need to tailor our spending plans accordingly (although note that the Council would still remain better off overall as a result of our reductions in Capital Spend).

On top of this we have made various ongoing savings in CEB allowances, increased car parking and P & R charges and made other modest cuts to fund our on-going revenue priorities such as the return to Area Committees. We have prudently NOT included energy cost reductions from our capital spending on renewables.

Note that our budget amendment does not carry with it any increased budgetary risk (we are actually spending less overall) - but does shift the risk from capital to revenue. We are spending less on capital items - but more on revenue items. We have, however, retained flexibility by focusing our spending on one-off items or fees & charges that can quickly be altered should the financial situation take a turn for the worse.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ADMINISTRATIONS CONSULTATION BUDGET

GREEN GROUP

REVENUE

£1000's

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Consultation Budget Net Budget Requirement	24,133	23,323	22,043	21,891
Changes since the consultation budget				
Additional New Homes Bonus	(124)	(124)	(124)	(124)
Pay Settlement	(507)	(1,047)	(1,309)	(1,433)
Homelessness prevention	957	957	957	957
Promotion of Economic Growth and Jobs: Officer Support	150	150	150	0
Parish council tax support grant	24			
Council tax grant shown in funding below	278	285		
Direct revenue funding	116	(241)	(53)	(241)
Additional Savings/growth				
Reverse some of surplus revenue transfer to capital	(1,500)	0	0	0
Limit SRA allowance on CEB to 5 Councillors and reduce remainder by £2k each	(45)	(45)	(45)	(45)
Increase parking charges by additional 1%	(60)	(60)	(60)	(60)
Park & Ride increase to £2.50 and £1.00 after 8pm (aligned with City Centre Car Park 1hr rate & times) - then RPI thereafter - currently free after 6:30pm (retain concessions - figure incl resistance)	(150)	(165)	(180)	(195)
Additional 5% cut to Crime Strategy/CCTV budget (currently £480k)	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)
Reduction in size of media & communications	(30)	(30)	(30)	(30)
stop Your Oxford (direct savings = £8k plus staff time savings reflected above)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)
Member grants to be delivered via area ctte budgets (see spend below)	(122)	(122)	(122)	(122)
introduction of late night licence fees	(25)	(50)	(50)	(50)
other listed fees & penalty charges increased (courses, gaming, clubs, premises, taxis, etc)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Agree all CEB New Revenue Proposals except				
Extra river bank enforcement	(22)	(22)	(22)	(22)
Events (halve proposed annual grant)	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)
Total additional savings/growth	(2,017)	(557)	(572)	(587)
Cumulative additional savings	(2,017)	(2,574)	(3,146)	(3,733)
Additional costs				
reinstate area committee budgets, area planning & staffing	250	250	250	250
keep Temple Cowley Pool open	0	300	400	400
Amendment to grants budget (Cowley Rd Carnival)	50	0	0	0
phase-in free green waste collection (fees & charges) - half price in Y1 & 2, free Y3 & 4	160	168	352	368
subsidise pest control services (fees & charges)	30	30	30	30
fund for installation of grit bins at critical spots	20			
improve neighbourhood planning notifications	20	20	20	20
contribution to Dawson Street Square, off Cowley Road	20			
install bike parking, St. Clements St	15			
subsidise County cuts to Day Centre in Oxford	15	15	15	15
subsidise ESOL language training	5	5	5	5
out-of-centre retail manager (fundraise in Y2 to cover cost)	35	15	0	0
student letting agency (grant fund)	20			
Freeze fees for accommodation assessments and work permit application	1	1	1	1
Total additional costs	641	804	1,073	1,089
Net effect on budget in-year	(1,376)	247	501	502
Cumulative effect on budget	(1,376)	(1,129)	(628)	(126)
Alternative budget transfer to/(from) reserves	1,376	(247)	(501)	(502)
Alternative Budget Net Budget Requirement	25,027	23,303	21,664	21,050
Financed By :				
Formula Grant and specific grants	(13,880)	(12,063)	(10,254)	(9,469)
Council Tax	(11,074)	(11,240)	(11,410)	(11,581)
Collection Fund Surplus	(73)			
Total	(25,027)	(23,303)	(21,664)	(21,050)
General Fund Working Balance				
Working Balance 1st April	3,621	4,997	4,750	4,249
Transfer to/(from) balance	1,376	(247)	(501)	(502)
Working Balance 31st March	4,997	4,750	4,249	3,747

