

Green Group Budget amendment narrative

The Green Group would like to thank officers for putting together this year's budget, in yet another challenging year for local government. We would also like to thank the administration for the changes it made between the consultation budget and the final version agreed by cabinet. Our amendment would have been far more extensive were it not for the changes that were made.

In light of this, our amendment is relatively modest, and focuses primarily on providing funding for projects which this council has previously supported through motions, but which have not been prioritised in the administration budget, alongside reversing savings proposed in this year's budget and in previous budgets.

We are proposing to:

1. Allocate a small amount of funding for officer time to undertake scoping work for a city centre playground. This follows the petition submitted to this council last year, and the subsequent motion we collectively agreed.
2. Allocate £165,000 per year in the first two years of the MTFP for infrastructure to make Oxford more walkable. This follows the motion agreed by this council on making Oxford a truly walkable city in 2024 and would create a fund which could be used to create new infrastructure such as benches, water fountains and public toilets, as well as improving existing infrastructure including pavements.
3. Reinstate the planned reduction in advice centre funding in year four of the MTFP, with additional funding for advice centres in every year of the MTFP.
4. Restore the remaining £24k per year still proposed for cutting in the revised budget.

In order to finance this, we are proposing to make savings in three areas:

1. Adding an additional £5 charge on the non-concessionary rate for garden waste bins.
2. Removing the additional spend the administration budget has proposed for graffiti removal.
3. Selling the FC1 number plate.

Cumulatively, these three measures would provide an additional £650k over the course of the MTFP, and we believe that our proposed additional spending would be a better use of this money.

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