

Green Budget Amendment 2026/27

The Green Group would like to thank officers for their work on this year's budget, particularly in the context of considerable uncertainty in local government - both in relation to the overall financial picture, but also against the backdrop of impending Local Government Reorganisation.

In light of the uncertainty currently facing local government at the moment, the Green Group is not proposing drastic changes to the budget proposed by the administration. Instead, what we have sorted to do is to bring forward proposals which members across the council have indicated there is broad support for. These proposals reflect recommendations made by Budget Review Group and Scrutiny Committee, and draw on the spirit of the discussions held during the full council debate on the local plan.

Our amendment proposes to fund the following:

- Proactive management, installation, replacement and repair of the city's noticeboards.
- Investment in improvements for parks across the city.
- Investment in new pocket parks to improve the public realm.
- More support for community groups through increasing the budget for community grants.

Alongside this, we are seeking to ease the burden of increases in garden waste charges on those currently on the concessionary rate, through a very moderate additional increase on the non-concessionary rate charge.

In order to finance these, we are proposing small reductions in some areas of spending - primarily those which were additions made between the consultation budget and the final budget presented to council - reducing the number of new neighbourhood wardens and removing additional verge cuttings. Alongside this, we are proposing to halve the charge on bulky waste collection rather than cutting it altogether. This would deliver a substantial part of the intention behind the administration's changes to bulky waste collection charges without reducing the amount of revenue the council has at its disposal to spend on services.

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