LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS 2004/05

In accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, the City Council is asked to consider amendments to the Executive's budget proposal contained in Minute EX.021/04, Executive Response to the Budget Consultation and Recommendations for the 2004/05 budget (Key Decision), as set out below:

Amendment No. 1

Proposed by: Cllr J M Guest Seconded by: Cllr J P Farmer	Recurring expenditure/ savings (-) 2004/05 £	Recurring expenditure/ savings (-) Future years £
Concessionary Fares - 60% concessions plus Christmas fares holiday to be funded permanently	70,000	130,000
To be financed from projects fund	-70,000	-130,000

The consequences of accepting Amendment 1 would result in the following main changes to the Executive's Budget proposals for 2004/05:

Schedule 2 - Recurring Spending Proposals

 Recurring Spending Proposals would increase by £130,000 to £383,000, £432,000 and £443,000 for 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07 respectively

Schedule 3 - Non-Recurring Spending Proposals

Total Non-Recurring Spending Proposals would reduce by £60,000 to £353,000

Schedule 4 - Summary Net Budget Requirement

- Total General Fund Revenue Expenditure (City Council) would increase by:
 - £70,000 to £14.351m in 2004/05
 - £130,000 to £14.463m in 2005/06 and
 - £130,000 to £14.943m for 2006/07
- Contributions from General Fund Balances to fund recurring expenditure would increase by
 - £130,000 to £87,000 in 2004/05 (previously was a negative £43,000)
 - £130,000 to £269,000 in 2005/06 and
 - £130,000 to £409,000 in 2006/07
- Contributions from General Fund Balances for non-recurring new commitments would reduce by £17,000 from £414,000 to £397,000 in 2004/05

Schedule 5 - Council Tax Impact

There would be no impact on Council Tax Projections

Schedule 8 - Reserves and Balances

- The balance available in the Projects Fund would reduce by:
 - £70,000 to £750,000 as at 31 March 2005
 - £130,000 to £298,000 as at 31 March 2006 and
 - £130,000 to £204,000 (i.e. in deficit) as at 31 March 2007

Amendment No. 2

Proposed by: Cllr J M Guest Seconded by: Cllr J P Farmer	Non-Recurring expenditure/ savings (-)
Culverting Dow Beck at Stanhope Road	60,000
To be financed from Projects Fund	-60,000
Net Saving	Nil

The consequence of accepting Amendment 2 would result in the following main changes to the Executive's Budget proposals for 2004/05:

Schedule 7 - Proposed Capital Programme

Proposed Total Capital Programme would increase by £60,000

Schedule 8 – Reserves and Balances projections

- The balance available in the Projects Fund would reduce by £60,000 to:
 - £760,000 as at 31 March 2005
 - £438,000 as at 31 March 2006
 - £66,000 as at 31 March 2007

Comment of the Head of Finance

If any individual or combination of amendments were accepted, then prior to the City Council approving a substantive budget resolution, the Head of Finance would require a recess in order to ensure that all consequential amendments to words and figures were reported in the substantive resolution. The Head of Finance would also be required to comment formally under S25 of the Local Government Act 2003 on the robustness of the estimates and adequacy of reserves following the amendments.