

BUDGET AMENDMENTS 2012/13 CARRIED AT COUNCIL 7TH FEBRUARY 2012

The City Council considered and carried the following amendments to the Executive's budget proposal contained in Minute EX005/12, Executive Response to the Budget Consultation and Recommendations for the 2012/13 Budget (Key Decision).

Labour Group Proposed Amendment No. 1, 2 and 3

Environmental Enhancements:

To ensure that funding, £75,000 per annum for two years, is available to support a dog fouling/pavement clean up 'hit squad' with responsibility for both cleaning areas where dog fouling is prevalent and issuing fixed penalty fines to owners that do not clean up after their dogs. This proposal is to be funded from council reserves.

Education Officer (Dog Fouling):

To fund a temporary Education Officer post, costing £15,000, for a six month period ending 30th September 2012, to provide advice and to educate residents on dog fouling issues, pending the completion of the Local Environment Directorate restructure which will introduce this post from 1st October 2012. This temporary position is to be funded initially from council reserves in 2012/13, subject to the finalisation of the 2011/12 outturn position, at which point confirmed under spends within the Organisation Development section will be used to replenish reserves.

Grants to Third Party Organisations:

To provide financial support to the:

- (1) Credit Union (£5,000), to fund a publicity campaign against loan sharks and pay day loans;
- (2) Carlisle Churches Together (£5,000), in supporting their homelessness initiatives.

This proposal is to be funded from council reserves.

Independent Group Amendments No. 1 and 2

Dog Warden (as detailed below)

To ensure that funding is available to fund a part time Dog Warden with responsibility for cleaning areas where dog fouling is prevalent. This proposal is to be funded from reducing the number of Carlisle Focus magazine's produced and thus saving £13,000 per annum.

To ensure that funding is available to fund a part time Dog Warden with responsibility for cleaning areas where dog fouling is prevalent. This proposal is to be funded from a recurring £10,000 reduction in the fees paid by the Council on consultant and professional fees.

Director of Resources Comments and Impact on the Executive's budget proposals:

There are no consequences of accepting these amendments on the Council's recurring revenue budget; however there will be an increase in the Council's non-recurring revenue budget for both 2012/13 and 2013/14 of £100,000 and £75,000 per annum respectively. There will be an equivalent reduction in the level of overall Council reserves available.

The proposal has no impact on the level of Council Tax increase proposed by the Executive.

The proposal has no impact on the Capital Programme proposed by the Executive.

The amendment will result in the following main changes to the Executive's Revenue Budget proposals for 2012/13 as set out in Minute EX005/12:

Schedule 2 – Proposed Budget Reductions

- There would be an increase in the overall level of Recurring Budget Reductions, increasing by £23,000 per annum.

Schedule 3 – Recurring Budget Increases

- There would be an increase in the overall level of Recurring Budget Pressures, increasing by £23,000 per annum.

Schedule 4 – Non-Recurring Budget Increases

- There would be an increase in the overall level of Non Recurring Budget Pressures, increasing by £100,000 in 2012/13 and by £75,000 in 2013/14.

Schedule 5 – Summary Net Budget Requirement

- Total Revenue Expenditure would increase by £100,000 in 2012/13 and by £75,000 in 2013/14. Contributions from Reserves to fund Non Recurring Commitments would increase to £1,349,000 and £776,000 in 2012/13 and 2013/14 respectively.

Schedule 10 – Council Reserve Projections

- There would be a reduction in overall Projects Reserve projections of £175,000 to be in a surplus position of £159,000 by 2016/17.

The comments above are based upon the assumption that all of the amendments will form part of the 2012/13 revenue budget. If, as indicated at the Council meeting, the grants to third party organisations are to be funded from within existing budgets, this will increase the Projects Reserve to £169,000 by 2016/17.