

Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

14 February 2017

Wiltshire Council Financial Plan – Opposition (Liberal Democrat) Amendment

The following amendments are to be moved by Cllr Glenis Ansell as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group in it's capacity as opposition at Wiltshire Council:

- **Investment**

- i) **Extend the opening hours at all Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) by an additional 1 hour through the full year (9am to 5pm Summer [1st April to 31st October] and 9am to 4pm Winter [1st November to 31st March]) by investing an additional £200,000:**

- This is a reversion of the Council's decision to reduce the opening hours of HRCs.

- **Funding**

- ii) **Reduce the budget for Professional Subscriptions, fees and conferences by £150,000:**

- In 2016/17 (with no amendments proposed for 2017/18) the Council holds a budget of £373,770 across all service budgets for the provision of payments in relation to Professional subscriptions, Professional Fees and conference attendances. Of that £147,215 is forecast to be unspent across a range of lines. Whilst that is being used to fund other spend in 2016/17 it is felt more appropriate by this amendment to vire this to the opening of HRCs. This will retain a budget of £226,555 in these areas to fund some valuable subscriptions, including the LGA.

- iii) **Extend the current Procurement target by a further £50,000:**

- The Administration's proposals suggest a Procurement target of £250,000 (per paragraph 9.9 third bullet of the Cabinet's proposals). In previous years this target has been far higher and achieved. The total revenue spend on goods, supplies and contracts is in excess of £200 million, and as such this is 0.03% of that. Given the Council's track record, level of spend and need to monitor the Council's corporate target this extended target is suggested.

Financial Summary

A Financial Summary is appended. This identifies that the proposals are self-balancing and thus as a whole do not impact on the net base budget proposed in the original paper to Cabinet.

Monitoring Officer Comments

The proposals contain a change in the opening hours for Household Recycling Centres. This is being considered as part of the proposals and any changes will be considered in accordance with the decision making framework. The proposals do not impact adversely on the statutory duties of the Section 151 Officer, or any of the other statutory requirements set out in the Cabinet report at Section 13.

Head of Paid Service Comments

As Head of Paid Service, I can confirm that officers have followed their usual independent advice.

We are aware of the full details of the Liberal Democrat's amendments as set out and consider the proposals are viable and deliverable, and do not impact adversely on the substantive motion as they would not change the net budget requirement, the level of Council Tax or reserves proposed.

Appendix 1 – Liberal Democrat 2017/18 – Proposed Budget Amendment Summary

Revenue Budget:				Capital Budget:			
Investment	2016/17 £m	Funding	2016/17 £m	Investment	2016/17 £m	Funding	2016/17 £m
A. Extend the opening hours at all Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) by an additional 1 hour through the full year (9am to 5pm Summer [1 st April to 31 st October] and 9am to 4pm Winter [1 st November to 31 st March])	0.200	Reduce the budget for Professional Subscriptions, fees and conferences	-0.150				
		Extend the Procurement Target proposed by the Administration	-0.050				
Total invest	£ 0.200	Total Funding	-0.200	Total invest	-	Total Funding	-
Balance	£ -			Balance	-		