

Notice of Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 8

Proposer – Councillor Kitching

Seconder – Councillor Fielding

The Liberal Democrat group recognises that this has been an unprecedented year that no one could have ever imagined, and acknowledges with thanks the hard work of the finance team in again bringing forward a balanced budget. Despite the challenges brought by the ongoing Covid crisis we recognise that this is a financially well managed council and that prudent decisions made by the finance team have allowed the Council to remain in good financial shape.

Our amendments therefore do not seek to undermine the budget as a whole, but to bring focus to some key priority areas which we – and the communities we serve - believe require more investment going forward, even against the backdrop of recovery from the Covid pandemic.

We seek to implement a borough wide road safety programme with a focus on introducing 20mph zones in all residential areas; to invest in local, community based youth services; to introduce a borough-wide snow warden scheme.

1. 20 MPH residential zones

- i. Barnsley's rates of Killed and Seriously Injured casualties are significantly higher than the national average and have increased every year since 2016.
- ii. While we welcome the proposed pilot "Neighbourhood Road Safety Initiatives" it is clear these do not go far enough to tackle this effectively.
- iii. Research done by the Liberal Democrat group has shown that a highly effective way to make Barnsley's streets safer is to implement 20mph limits in all residential areas and outside all schools.
- iv. We propose a phased programme over 3 years at an estimated cost of £433,000 p.a.
- v. This is based on data from Calderdale Council who spent £821,000 to implement 20mph limits across 525km of residential roads; Barnsley has 727km of "urban" roads, on a pro rata basis, plus allowing for inflation, this would estimate the cost at approximately £1.3m.
- vi. Appendix 2e of Section 3c of the budget identifies £1.42m of unallocated capital reserves available to invest. Given the clear need to prioritise road safety initiatives we propose allocating these monies to this project, while simultaneously applying for external funding opportunities.

2. Community focussed youth services

- i. The proposed town centre “Youth Zone” is widely considered to be an inappropriate strategy to deliver youth services, which should be community centred and locally delivered for maximum engagement and accessibility.
- ii. We would therefore cease all plans for the centralised Youth Zone, freeing up £3 million of capital budget and £300,000 p.a. of revenue spend.
- iii. The £3 million will instead be invested directly into youth work in communities, creating a programme of refurbishment, improvements and new youth centres across the six Area Councils.
- iv. This would be accompanied by an ambitious plan to attract match funding, grant contributions and charity input in order to maximise the possibilities of community-based youth services.
- v. The proposed £300,000 p.a. yearly revenue spend would be spent on 10 new WTE youth workers committed to delivering these community-based services (based on average salary of approx. £21,500 plus on costs).

3. Snow wardens

- i. This winter has brought unprecedented cold weather and snow across the borough, causing disruption for residents and increased workload for council teams.
- ii. We recognise that it is not possible for the teams to grit every single road in the borough – especially residential estates and side streets.
- iii. The Liberal Democrat group celebrates the contribution of community champions who do their bit to help keep their local area clear of snow, and wishes to support them to do so.
- iv. We would therefore expand on, formalise and actively promote the borough wide “Snow Warden” scheme, providing 100 registered volunteers with a snow shovel, a high viz jacket and one tonne of grit.
- v. This scheme is estimated to cost approximately £30,000. This would be funded by reallocating part of the grass cutting budget, allowing for the rewilding of more grass verges around the borough.