

**Sunderland City Council Budget 2023/24
Liberal Democrat Group Amendments**

Amendment 1 – Revenue Budget 2023/24 Revenue Budget Savings Proposals	£
Reduction of support costs for Area Committees linked to the reduction in the number of Area Committees from 5 to 3, as outlined in proposal number 2	-100,000
Reducing number of Area Committees to three committees, coterminous with parliamentary constituencies (giving a saving of 2 Chairs and 2 Vice Chairs). Will also mean a reduction in the number of new Neighbourhood Boards as only 3 Vice Chairs to Chair them)	-33,254
Review and reduction of basic and special responsibility allowances (SRAs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove Deputy Cabinet Members • Remove Vice Chair Scrutiny Coordinating Committee • Reduction in SRAs of all other roles 15% • Reduce Basic Allowance by 5% • Roles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor to be replaced by unpaid elected Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and allowances removed • Reduce Councillors' expenses, food and drink provision, subsistence allowance and broadband and home phone allowances 	-237,461
Reduce Corporate Communications budget	-338,227
Scrap ComRes residents survey and Council magazine	-136,605
Remove budget for carbon reduction	-1,075,519
TOTAL	-1,921,066

2023/24 Revenue Budget Priority Investments	£
Reduce Council Tax rise by 1%	1,171,000
Make permanent additional environmental services staff employed via area committees	305,000
Allocate a further £157,660 for 5 additional officers (dog wardens)	173,180
Reverse the planned increase in allotment rent charges for 2023/24 and last year (2022/23)	13,750
Provide funding for disabled education travel support	70,300
0% rise in rents in social housing managed by the Council	60,130
Create a new Big Wheelie Bin Fund to assist households who need a larger bin	6,094
Introduce a discretionary fund to allow for the increasing of lighting levels or installation of additional lighting for partially sighted residents as part of Health & Social Care budget	7,312
Introduce single free annual visitor parking permit in permit parking zones for carless households	50,000
Reverse the 2022/23 and 2023/24 Brown Bin charge increase	59,000
Introduce scheme to allow autorenewal of Resident Parking Permits	0
Introduce scheme to allow autorenewal of Brown Bin service	0
A 1-year trial of the Council taking responsibility for grass cutting in (i) the Barnes Park Extension between Springwell Road and Tay Road and (ii) the Sandhills nature reserve on the basis of cutting the grass in these locations 3 times a year	5,300
TOTAL	1,921,066

Amendment 2 – Capital Budget 2023/24 Capital Budget Savings Proposals	£
CP0495 - Strategic Acquisitions and Developments – reallocation of £12,248,000 from this budget	-12,248,000
TOTAL	12,248,000

2023/24 Capital Budget Priority Investments	£
<p>Establish a working group to put together a 5-year Leisure Investment Strategy for Sunderland and Washington, with a budget to make improvements to public leisure space including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an annual fund for maintenance and improvement of smaller suburban parks (£200,000 per year for 5 years) • Development of fields bordered by (1) Keswick Avenue and Dene Lane, (2), Former Council playing field behind Morrisons with sensitive planting of native trees , shrubs and grasses to encourage wildlife including resident and migratory birds, mammals. reptiles, butterflies and other insects, in line with net zero strategy and providing a valuable resource for exercise and relaxation to residents of all ages and in line with DDA • Feasibility study into acquisition of a public park in the Ford/Pennywell area • Enhancing the existing Cycle Way investment scheme – including breaking ground on a keynote route linking the Riverside development with a Hylton Road cycleway to Pennywell Industrial Estate • Project to enable better running/walking routes in Sunderland • Establishing a programme of creating dog parks at sites in Sunderland, Houghton, and Washington • Acquiring and/or developing a city centre skatepark and investigating providing further skatepark facilities at sites around the City Council area • Budget for strategic working group (£30,000) 	10,090,000
Establishment of a working group and feasibility study to be carried out on derelict and problem garages in residential areas, including in Moorside	30,000
Feasibility of Council supporting supermarket for city centre (following loss of Tesco from Bridges) and supporting similar local supermarket in Hendon	600,000
Propose acquiring and redeveloping vacant Wear Tavern building in Pallion for housing and commercial use	778,000
Propose acquiring Burn Park Methodist Church for community use	150,000
Installation of a pedestrian crossing at Hastings Hill	600,000
TOTAL reallocated from CP0495 - Strategic Acquisitions and Developments	12,248,000