

## Sunderland City Council Budget 2024/25

### Liberal Democrats Group Amendments

#### Amendment 1 – Revenue Budget

| Revenue (Savings)  | £         |
|--|-----------|
| 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 (and three Neighbourhood Boards) giving a saving of 2 Chairs and 2 Vice Chairs.   | (33,254)  |
| <p>Reduce Special Responsibility Allowances and councillor expenses in line with the Liberal Democrats submission to the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5% reduction in basic allowance.</li><li>• Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Member SRAs reduced by 20% and then reduced subject to political grouping's percentage control of the Council based on 100% control.</li><li>• Leader of Majority Party in Opposition reduction by calculating as 25% of the revised, lower Leader SRA as above.</li><li>• Leader of the Minority Party in Opposition reduction by calculating as 50% of the revised, lower Leader of the Majority Party in Opposition SRA as above.</li><li>• Abolish SRAs for Deputy Cabinet Members.</li><li>• Reduce SRA for Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to £4,143.</li><li>• Reduce SRAs for Chairs of Area Committees to £8,280.</li><li>• Reduce SRAs for Chairs of Thematic Scrutiny Committees, Planning and Highways Committee and Licensing and Regulatory Committee by 20%.</li><li>• Reduce SRA for Audit and Governance Committee Chairman and Independent members of committees by 20%.</li><li>• Abolish positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor and associated SRAs and replace with unpaid elected Chairperson.</li><li>• Change travel allowances policy so expense can only be claimed when travelling outside the North East region.</li><li>• Abolish all provision for subsistence claims.</li><li>• Abolish all provision for reimbursement of broadband and telephone costs.</li></ul> | (254,467) |

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| Remove the Corporate Communications budget, including retainers with Creo Communications and Different Narrative.  | (1,143,500)        |
| Scrap residents survey and resident newsletter.  | (113,370)          |
| Remove budget for carbon reduction.  | (944,000)          |
| Additional Day off for staff not applied to Chief Officer Group and Assistant Directors.   | 0                  |
| End spending on existing tobacco control and alcohol denormalisation programmes delivered by Balance North East when existing contract expires on 30/09/2024 and reallocate spending towards an assistance programme to be made available free of charge to city residents and small and medium-sized enterprises in City Council area. Assistance programme schemes must provide for free counselling sessions, life event support, addiction support, quitting and reduction advice and healthy lifestyle support. | 0                  |
| Introduce a full paperless system for meeting agendas and documents, unless there is an accessibility issue which requires hard copy documents as a reasonable adjustment.   | (18,000)           |
| End use of council vehicles for travel for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, cabinet members and councillors.   | (42,190)           |
| Scrap Mayors hospitality Budget including provision of alcohol cellar and providing free food to guests.   | (3,835)            |
| Scrap foreign travel Budget and prohibit internal flights for Council staff and elected members when travelling within the United Kingdom (except for business travel to and from the North of Ireland).   | (29,519)           |
| End free parking for councillors at St Mary's car park.  | (8,500)            |
| Stop all funding and sponsorship for award ceremonies both hosted and attended by the Council.   | (49,250)           |
| Cancel subscriptions for the following membership organisations the Council is part of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-operative Councils Innovation Network</li> <li>• Industrial Communities Alliance</li> <li>• Key Cities</li> <li>• Local Government Information Unit</li> <li>• New Local Government Network</li> <li>• Healthy Cities Network</li> </ul>   | (56,258)           |
| <b>Total Revenue (Savings)</b>   | <b>(2,796,143)</b> |

| <b>Revenue (Spending)</b>   | <b>£</b>         |
|---|------------------|
| Reduce Council Tax increase by 1.6%.  | 1,950,740        |
| Make permanent additional environmental services staff employed via area committees.<br><br>(3 x Grade 6 FTE Env Enforcement Officers +1 x Grade 6 FTE ASB Officer + 2 x Grade 4 FTE Environmental Support Officers.) | 250,000          |
| Allocate a further £184,035 for 5 additional officers (dog wardens).  | 184,035          |
| Reverse any planned increase in allotment rent charges for 2024/25.   | 7,615            |
| Free second permit for residents in CPMS areas.   | 21,800           |
| Create a new Big Wheelie Bin Fund to assist households who need a larger (360 litre) bin, providing 219 larger bins or the substitution of approximately 405 standard bins with large bins.                           | 8,097            |
| Reverse the 2024/25 increase in brown bin charges.  | 88,575           |
| Extend brown bin collection by an additional 2 collections per year.  | 79,079           |
| Re-instate 'Free after 3' parking in all city centre car parks it applied to.   | 90,000           |
| Introduce 'Free after 3' parking in the Riverside Multi-Story Parking.  | 8,100            |
| Hold School Street trial at Highfield Academy.  | 35,000           |
| Hire 2 full time traffic wardens dedicated solely to enforcement issues along Durham, Chester and Hylton Roads and neighbouring streets.  | 73,102           |
| <b>Total Revenue (Spending)</b>   | <b>2,796,143</b> |

## Amendment 2 – Capital Budget

| <b>2024/25 Capital Budget (Savings) Proposals</b>  | <b>£</b>           |
|--|--------------------|
| Reallocate Washington F Pit Heritage Visitor Centre and Albany Park Improvements (CP0541). | (4,300,000)        |
| Scrap uncommitted budget associated with provision of new city boundary signs (CP0398).    | (70,000)           |
| Strategic Acquisitions and Developments – reallocation of the residual Budget (CP0495).    | (120,000)          |
| <b>Capital Budget Savings Proposals total</b>  | <b>(4,490,000)</b> |

| <b>Capital Budget Spending Proposals</b>  | <b>£</b>  |
|---|-----------|
| Additional investment in the Highways Maintenance budget to repair roads and footpaths.   | 1,230,655 |
| Feasibility study into acquisition of a public park in the Ford / Pennywell Area.   | 10,000    |
| Feasibility study into establishing a programme of creating dog parks at sites in Sunderland, Houghton and Washington.  | 30,000    |
| Feasibility study into Council supporting development of a local supermarket in Hendon and subsequent provision of support.   | 600,000   |
| Camera for School Streets trial at Highfield Academy  | 15,000    |
| Propose acquiring and redeveloping vacant Wear Tavern building in Pallion for housing and commercial use.   | 916,345   |
| Installation of a pedestrian crossing at Hastings Hill roundabout to provide a safe ground-level alternative to the existing subway.  | 750,000   |
| Installation of a new bus shelter at Phoenix Road bus terminus, Pennywell, SR4 0ED.   | 10,000    |
| Installation of a permanent enforcement camera to prevent (and issue fines for) illegal parking on Ebdon Lane, Fulwell.   | 28,000    |
| Convert existing zebra crossing outside Seaburn Metro on Station Road, Fulwell to a Pelican crossing.   | 100,000   |
| Install pelican crossing adjacent to 3 Whitburn Bents Road.   | 110,000   |
| Install pelican crossing at Front Road/Fordfield Road junction.   | 100,000   |
| Install pelican crossing at Springwell Road near Springwell Medical Centre.   | 200,000   |
| Install physical barrier across 1 of the 2 lanes at junction of Derby Street and Tunstall Road, so only 1 lane out of the street is accessible for cars exiting using the one-way system. | 30,000    |
| Install pelican crossing on Tunstall Road near junction with Tunstall Terrace.  | 125,000   |
| Install 2 chicanes on Westmoor Road to slow traffic.  | 45,000    |

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| Install 2 chicanes on Midmoor Road to slow traffic.   | 45,000           |
| Install 2 chicanes on Grey Road, between junctions with Toward Road and Suffolk Street, to slow traffic.      | 45,000           |
| Narrow Durham Road to one lane between junctions with Elwin Terrace and Beechwood Street to prevent speeding. | 100,000          |
| <b>Capital Spending Budget Proposals Total</b>  | <b>4,490,000</b> |