

Green Party and Liberal Democrat Budget Amendment - Motion

For Mid Suffolk District Council 27 February 2020 (emailed to all Members 20 February 2020).

Motion

Proposed by Councillor Rachel Eburne (Green Party), seconded by Councillor John Field (Liberal Democrats)

The Green Party and Liberal Democrat Groups of Councillors coordinated to produce a series of budget proposals in November 2019, having had discussions with the finance team, and then presented these to the ruling Administration. We are pleased that the Administration has progressed some of these proposals. We feel, however, that it is important that further proposals are taken forward in order to respond to the Climate Emergency and future-proof Mid Suffolk District to fulfil residents' and businesses' sustainable potential.

We propose the following amendments to the draft budget 2020/21 and that the majority is funded through the "Growth and Efficiency Fund" which will stand at £9.235 million as at 31 March 2020:

This Council agrees that:

- i) All new housing, where possible within commercial constraints, should be zero carbon and the Council should do everything within the Council's powers to promote this especially with its own building programme; indicative cost £70,000 additional officer time to support all new housing developments and £1 million upfront capital funding to borrow against for own house-building programme plus approximately £40,000 in interest.
- ii) A "competition" is run to produce plans for a series of sustainable Suffolk house designs - that can then be provided to local builders and developers for free; indicative cost £5,000 for officer time to set up and £20,000 fund for the "winner"
- iii) Electric vehicle (EV) use is promoted through installing EV points in all public car-parks in Stowmarket, Needham Market and Council premises; as well as providing funding support and advice for businesses to install EV points in towns and surrounding villages; indicative cost £15,000 officer time for set-up, £40,000 capital cost for installation of up to 20 points, £5,000 ongoing annual maintenance
- iv) Visitors are encouraged to extend their stay in Stowmarket with the introduction of free parking after 3pm one day per week and through providing vouchers for interconnecting community buses; indicative cost £15,000 for voucher trial per year over two years with the loss of income from parking of approximately £30,000 expected to be covered by increase in spend in the local economy.
- v) Confidence in planning is restored through providing additional highways consultation expertise; indicative cost £60,000 in year one for consultancy services.