

## Green Party Budget Amendments – General Fund [1]

Proposed by Councillor Leigh Jamieson

Seconded by Councillor Robert Lindsay

We have set out these amendments into four separate areas that will help our communities overcome the effects of the current pandemic and recover effectively. The amendments also help us with the worsening Climate and Biodiversity crisis and helps the council meet the commitment it has made to net zero climate emissions by 2030.

1.

It is essential that developers comply with the requirements set out in planning approvals and that should be enforced by a well-resourced team. This is essential if the public are to have faith in the planning process. To ensure that the work can be completed effectively and in a timely manner we propose that an extra officer should join the team. In particular, viability claims should be examined and where these prove to be over cautious with regard to profitability then further social contributions should be required of the developer.

To further improve the confidence of our residents in the planning process we recommend that all planning committee members undertake regular training. Also, in order to support community-led planning applications we would like to be able to offer free pre-application advice.

Finally, in this section we recommend that the Council pay a grant of £50K to invest into Citizens Advice and £50K into the local food banks to help support our residents during these difficult times.

<b>Planning &amp; Community Needs</b>	2021/22	Source
	(,000)	
Additional planning enforcement – 1 extra officer	47	General Fund Revenue
Training and advice for planning committees	10	General Fund Revenue
Free pre-application advice for community needs	10	General Fund Revenue
Additional funding for CAB - extra £50k grant ongoing per year	50	General Fund Revenue
Support for Food Banks - £50k one-off grant	50	General Fund Revenue
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>Revenue</b>

2.

Biodiversity is in serious decline globally. The risks this poses to us all is becoming critical and we should be actively looking for opportunities to improve the biodiversity in our district.

We are proposing that an additional tree officer is required to facilitate pro-active management of trees on council owned land. An additional tree officer is needed to protect more valued and ancient trees with Tree Preservation Orders, and to ensure that approved planting schemes are carried out and maintained as developments are implemented.

In addition we are proposing that we need an additional Biodiversity officer to work with local communities and businesses to actively look for and implement opportunities to improve Biodiversity in the district. The officer will also look to prevent Biodiversity loss.

We are also proposing installation of Electric Vehicle charging points in our major public parking spaces, including Pin Mill.

<b>Biodiversity &amp; Environment</b>	2021/22	Source
	(,000)	
Additional Tree officer	47	General Fund Revenue
Additional Biodiversity Officer	47	General Fund Revenue
Electric Vehicle charging [2]	30	General Fund Capital
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Capital</b>

3.

We are also proposing an officer be dedicated to support the retrofit programme of our stock; to support a programme of retrofitting private homes and to ensure new builds are built to the highest environmental standards.

<b>Housing &amp; Climate Change</b>	2021/22	Source
	(,000)	
Retro-fit private sector housing especially private rental – 1 officer	40	General Fund Revenue
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>Revenue</b>

4.

To facilitate and assist with the modal shift away from fossil fuelled vehicles we are proposing that all EV parking places in our public car parks remain free after the parking charges come into force.

In addition to this we propose that any profit that is made from the charges, once ongoing maintenance costs are taken, should be ring fenced for Sustainable transport. The council should also undertake a full sustainable travel plan to identify actions that can be undertaken to use these funds.

<b>Travel</b>	2021/22	
Proposed EV Parking places to remain free after Car Parking Charges implemented.	Minimal Impact (no average amount per parking space available)	
Any profit from car parking charges, after maintenance, upkeep, and day-to-day running costs of car parks, to be ring fenced for sustainable transport	No data available yet (£2k indicated in Cabinet report)	
Undertake a travel plan to identify use of ringfenced money.	4	General Fund Revenue
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Revenue</b>

<b>Totals</b>	<b>(,000)</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>30</b>

Notes

[1] General Fund expenses to come from Transformation Fund.

[2] Charging points across the district I Sudbury, Hadleigh and Pin Mill at a minimum. Funding possible from Government. Use of EV parking spaces to remain free from Car Parking Charges.