

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

13 FEBRUARY 2013

GENERAL FUND BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

ALTERNATIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR DANNY DAVIES

LEADER LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

An alternative General Fund Budget, as proposed by the Liberal Democrats, is detailed below and, in light of this alternative budget, Council is recommended to refer back the Cabinets Budget recommendations for further consideration.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2012-13 TO 2015-16

The Alternative Budget is attached (Annex 1 and 3 in accordance with Cabinet's Annexes) together with a proposal for Saving Options (Annex 1A).

The changes to the Cabinet's Budget can be summarised as follows:

Proposals for Service Developments (Annex 1)

The Liberal Democrats proposes the following options are not supported and deleted from service developments.

Deleted Options

- The Councils contribution to a jointly funded Public Health Officer post.
- The provision of Council funding for a Vulnerable Persons Champion.
- The additional contribution to Southern Staffordshire Partnership

An additional option is however proposed to supplement the existing base budget

Additional Option

- The Energy Reduction Consultation – Invest to Save scheme is supplemented by a further £2,500 per annum.

Proposals for Saving Options (Annex 1A)

New Option

- The grant to Chase Advice Centre is reduced to £5,000.

Council Tax Increases

In light of the above proposals, the Liberal Democrats proposes to implement a Council Tax freeze in 2013-14, with at this stage, indicative increase of 2.0% in 2014-15 and 2015-16. The latter figure to be reviewed following a review of the Business Rates Retention Scheme and the prevailing economic climate.

The three year budget for 2013-14 to 2015-16 as set out at Annex 3.

Annex 1

Financial Plan 2013-14 to 2015-16
Liberal Democrats' Budget
Growth Options Allowed in the Budget

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Option	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Winter Gritting*	27,500	27,500	27,500
Hednesford Park Maintenance			30,000
Hednesford Park Heritage Lottery Funding			-30,000
Apprenticeship Scheme *		50,000	
Energy Reduction - Consultation - Invest To Save	2,500	2,500	2,500
Inflation		1,600	3,710
Total	<u>30,000</u>	<u>81,600</u>	<u>33,710</u>

* Subject to Report to Cabinet

Annex 1A

Financial Plan 2013-14 to 2015-16
Liberal Democrats' Budget
Saving Options Recommended to Council

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Option	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£	£	£
Chase Advice Centre	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>

General Fund Revenue Budget 2012-13 to 2016-17
Liberal Democrats Recommendation to Council

	Forecast Outturn 2012-13 £m	Standstill Budget 2013-14 £m	Standstill Budget 2014-15 £m	Standstill Budget 2015-16 £m
Potential Changes and Adjustments				
Base Budget Review				
Expenditure				
Income				
New Homes Bonus		0.079	-0.079	-0.150
Rebate Subsidy				
Income - Development related fees				
Planning - Fees Net	0.100	0.200	0.200	0.200
Building control - Fees	0.025	0.020	0.015	0.015
Car Park Income	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030
Excess				
Land Charges				
licensing				
Cemeteries	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027
Industrial Estates				
Rates				
Recycling Credits Parks		0.020	0.020	0.020
Market Shops	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060
Other Properties				
Managers Variations	0.028	0.033	0.038	-0.002
	-0.080	0.010	0.092	0.017
Efficiency Savings				
Procurement		-0.100	-0.100	-0.100
Policy Options				
Indicative Saving Requirement				-0.814
Growth		0.030	0.082	0.034
Savings		-0.005	-0.005	-0.005
Estimated Net Spending	12.066	11.924	12.232	11.262

General Fund Revenue Budget 2012-13 to 2016-17
Liberal Democrats Recommendation to Council

	Standstill Budget 2012-13 £m	Standstill Budget 2013-14 £m	Standstill Budget 2014-15 £m	Standstill Budget 2015-16 £m
Financing				
Anticipated Grant Income, Use of Balances & Reserves				
Balances	-0.316	0.086	0.750	0.157
Regeneration & Invest to Save Reserve				
Actuarial Valuation	0.053			
Stabilisation	0.061	0.116	0.116	
Interim use	0.034	-0.261	-0.201	-0.030
Reserves		0.124		
Collection Fund Surplus	0.065	0.065		
Business Rates Growth			0.474	0.483
<u>Government Funding</u>	5.843			
Revenue Support Grant		3.909	2.972	2.376
Business Rates - Baseline Funding		2.661	2.742	2.797
Council Tax	6.027	5.162	5.318	5.479
Council Tax Compensation Grant	0.299	0.061	0.061	
Total Grant Income, Use of Balances & Reserves	12.066	11.924	12.232	11.262
Amount to be found from Council Tax	6.027	5.162	5.318	5.479
	30,590	26,204	26,466	26,730
Estimated Council Tax Level	197.01	197.01	200.95	204.97
Estimated Council Tax Increase	0.00%	0.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Balances				
Opening Balances at 1 April	1.392	1.708	1.622	0.872
Use of Balances to Support Budget	-0.316	0.086	0.750	0.157
Closing Balances at 31 March	1.708	1.622	0.872	0.714
<u>Saving Requirement</u>				
Required Balances	0.741	0.729	0.702	0.714
Cumulative Surplus	0.967	0.893	0.170	0.000