Liberal Democrat Group budget amendment 2023

Councillor Wright to move and Councillor Lubbock to second the following amendment:-

Proposals to increase the following revenue budget items:-

	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	Comments
Car parking in parks	85	10	This proposal would write back and eliminate fully the income targets associated with the parking in parks proposals which were implemented in the 2021/22 budget (\pounds 0.05m) and the 2022/23 budget (\pounds 0.025) and the proposed 2023/24 budget (\pounds 0.01m). It also proposes the removal of the 2024/25 income target (\pounds 0.01m) included in the council's MTFS.
Total	85	10	

Proposals to re-profile the following revenue budget items:-

	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	Comments
Advertising on vacant land income target	50	(50)	This proposes that the £0.05m income target set out in the council's MTFS for advertising on vacant land is brought forward into the 2023/24 budget.
Review of car parking charges	35	(35)	This proposes that $\pounds 0.035m$ of the 2024/25 car parking income target of $\pounds 0.480m$ is brought forward into 2023/24 budget.
	85	(85)	

Financial Implications

The council's S151 officer has considered the budget amendments and confirms that the proposed approach to funding those items are sustainable in the context of the council's overall level of resources.

The budget amendment to write out the income targets, for all years up to and including 2023/24, in relation to the parking in parks has been balanced by bringing forward advertising and car parking income assumed for future years. For the car parking element this is in addition to increases already agreed following price increases implemented in 2022/23 and carries a degree of risk although £0.035m in the context of the overall car parking income budget of £6.2m (ie around 0.5%) is considered to be an acceptable risk particularly given that the overall income target for that element of the MTFS remains the same.

For the income associated with advertising on vacant land, work to identify relevant sites and procure a concession contract for the delivery of income generation will need to be accelerated to deliver the estimated income fully in 2023/24.

The amendment also proposes that the remaining £0.01m attributable with the parking in parks proposal in the MTFS for 2024/25 is not taken forward with the impact that in total the future year budget saving proposals identified in the main Cabinet report will reduce by £0.095m from £6.692m to £6.597m; this is in comparison to the estimated MTFS budget gap of £5.593m and so the gap is still considered to be met from the remaining saving proposals.

If the proposals for parking in parks were to be abandoned there would be an element of abortive costs incurred which have been estimated at £0.030m.