

Public Document Pack



COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, 22 February 2023

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Council Chamber - Moorlands House, Leek

Please find below an additional report which was unavailable when the agenda was published.

Agenda Item 7.1 - Labour Group Budget Amendment - Recommendations to the District Council

MARK TRILLO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & MONITORING OFFICER

This page is intentionally left blank

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council – 22 February 2023

Agenda Item : 2023/24 Budget & Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2026/7

Labour Group Budget Amendment - Recommendations to the District Council

The Labour Group believes that the budget, as proposed by Cabinet to Council, does not meet the needs and concerns of the citizens of the Staffordshire Moorlands, particularly around concerns around climate change and the need for economic regeneration. Therefore, it proposes:

- 1) To increase the current Councillors Community Initiative Fund by £500 per district councillor, for 2023/24 specifically for climate change initiatives at town/parish levels, that link with the Climate Action Plan priorities. This would cost £28,000, to be funded from the climate change earmarked reserve. The Portfolio Holder working with The Chair and Vice Chair of The Working Group would need to develop tight criteria for the use of the fund to ensure that projects suggested were in line with The Council's Climate Change aims.
- 2) To bring forward the allocation of £140,710 for industrial units from year 3 of the capital programme in the MTFP to year 1 (2023-24) to kick start the process of enhancing the stock of medium size units in post Covid economic circumstances.
- 3) To establish a 'Future Growth' development fund of £200,000 taken from the headroom in Contingency Reserves as detailed below. SMDC needs to be thinking proactively for the future. We are aware of the needs in terms of job creation, local transport, business and industrial development and housing. The Labour Group proposes the establishment of an earmarked reserve fund to pump prime activity in these fields, to reach out to our businesses to secure essential growth and to attract inward investment to boost the long term economic vitality of the district. The fund would be used:
 - I. To enhance our ability to grow our own workforce by establishing a strategic partnership with schools, colleges and universities to create a full range of apprenticeships (supported by the national apprenticeship levy) and graduate trainee opportunities in all areas of operation and thus meet our needs in terms of recruitment and long-term work force development. This will enhance our reputation as a good employer who is able to provide genuine and sustainable career paths for young people.
 - II. To scope the potential for improving bus transport throughout The Moorlands order to make better connections between our towns and between our villages and those towns

- III. To scope the potential for ways in which SMDC can support local businesses to grow through a better understanding of their needs and development plans.

- IV. To develop and implement a Housing Growth Strategy, including the utilisation of council assets to achieve the delivery of affordable housing, an 'In Town Living' scheme to help repopulate our town centres, and to bring forward strategic sites from the Local Plan.

The Labour Group recognises that currently SMDC has limited capacity and personnel to take on extra staffing which is likely to be needed to fulfil these activities and proposes the establishment of a 'Future Growth' earmarked reserve to achieve the planned outcomes.

These amendments to the proposed budget would be funded

- a. from within two existing earmarked reserves (Climate Change and Economic Regeneration) costing £168,170 in total
- b. from the identified headroom in the contingency reserve costing £200,000

We do not propose any other changes to spending priorities or to the council tax level for 2023/24. All other sections of the proposed budget and MTFP remain unchanged.

Any other consequential changes to either the budget, the MTFP or the narrative, consistent with the requirements of this amendment, should be reported back to Cabinet as soon as practicable or as part of Quarter 1 2022/23 financial monitoring.

DRAFT

This page is intentionally left blank