

Amendment Received for Council – 19 February 2020

Item 4 - Conservative Group Amendment to 2020 – 2021 Budget

The Council notes the request of the Executive to consider and adopt the resolutions contained the joint reports of the Executive Member for Finance and the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems, presented to the Executive on 19 February 2020.

The Council agrees these recommendations, subject to the following amendments:

1. The installation of 100, 50-kilowatt electric vehicle charging stations for residents, businesses and visitors to Trafford.

The Government has announced that the sale of new petrol & diesel driven vehicles, as well as hybrid vehicles, will be banned from 2035, possibly 2032. Research shows that the greatest barrier to people switching to all electric vehicles is the fear of running out of battery power and being stranded. A typical electric car takes 8 hours to charge from 7-kw home charging points.

For many electric cars, drivers can add up to 100 miles of range in half an hour from 50-kilowatt rapid charger. Trafford will need to host at least 5,000 rapid charge points to begin to meet our share of the national demand, some of which will be satisfied by off-road, private provision. This amendment will make a large contribution to reducing the number of fossil fuel vehicles in Trafford and our carbon footprint.

The revenue impact of this amendment can be contained with the existing budget. There would, however, be a revenue income from customers of the chargers. The unit costs of rapid chargers vary between £2,000 and £5,000 which would be offset by grants from the Government.

2. Increase removal of old street trees which are currently uprooting pavements and replace with ornamental trees on a 5 for 2 basis.

In many of Trafford's roads, forest trees have grown to a point where they have uprooted pavements and now prevent pedestrians from passing without stepping into the road. This particularly impacts on the elderly, those who are disabled and residents with prams.

Replacing the trees and repairing the footway will improve safety, reduce insurance claims against the Council from damage to private property and improve the street scene. Planting five trees for every two removed, will improve carbon dioxide absorption as the trees mature.

The revenue costs of this amendment can be contained within the existing budget.

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3. Introduce CCTV in areas prone to fly-tipping.

Last year, more than one million incidences of fly-tipping were dealt with by councils in England. The estimated cost of clearing up this waste was more than £60 million. Uncontrolled illegal waste disposal can be hazardous to the public, especially if it contains toxic material or asbestos. There could be a risk of damage to watercourses and soil quality from the dumped waste.

Catching and successfully prosecuting fly-tippers is difficult but CCTV evidence forms an important part of the legal process. Installing CCTV in area prone to illegal tipping will act as a deterrent, improve the street scene and improve public safety.

The impact on the revenue budget for installing and managing 14 cameras is £12,600. The capital cost is £160,000.

4. Proactively offer grants for resident groups that take on litter picking.

There are many residents' groups in Trafford that voluntarily give up their time to pick up other peoples' litter. In addition to consumables such as bags, the groups need reach-grabbers, yellow vests, etc. Many residents would be prepared join a litter picking groups. These grants would fund websites and leaflet drops that would allow the groups to communicate with and build assistance among local residents.

There is no capital cost associated with this amendment. The impact on the revenue budget for four grants would be £16,000.

5. Give grants to Friends of Parks that will increase membership.

Friends groups help Trafford Council by giving a valuable insight into the needs and aspirations of the local community. They can help gain funding for restoration and conservation projects and can give opinions on proposed plans for the parks and open spaces. However, many groups struggle to attract new member. This grant would fund a simple website, leaflets drops and an electronic membership program for the Friends of Parks that would allow them to communicate with their local residents and park users.

There is no capital cost associated with this amendment. The impact on the revenue budget for twenty-eight 'Friends Grants' would be £112,000.

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The overall costs of these amendment is given in the table.

Amendment	Impact on Revenue Budget	Impact on Capital Budget
Rapid electric chargers		*£500,000
Planting more street trees		£100,000
Tackling fly-tipping	£12,600	£160,000
Supporting litter picking	£16,000	
Supporting Friends of Parks	£112,000	
Borrowing for capital expenditure	£52,440	
Total	£193,040	£760,000

*Offset by Government grant. In addition, there would be a revenue income from customers

The total revenue requirement to deliver these amendments would be funded from the Budget Support Reserve.