

**Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23+  
Amendment from the Opposition Conservative Group**

Proposer: Cllr Nigel Fletcher. Seconder: Cllr Charlie Davis.

*Insert the following additional decisions on ongoing spending*

- 1.7a. Agree the savings package summarised in Table A, generating savings of £0.783 million a year with no impact on front-line services.

*Table A: Package of non-frontline ongoing savings*

| Item   | Saving (£)       |
|--|------------------|
| <b>Introducing cheaper, more targeted and effective means of communicating with residents</b> , by ending Greenwich Information and substantially reducing non-statutory publicity budgets (not including the budget for HRA-funded Choice Based Lettings notices)   | (436,000)        |
| <b>Bringing Trade Union facility time closer to the London average</b><br>Reducing taxpayer spending on Trade Union facility time (the fourth highest in London) to match that of Lewisham (£91k a year) which is closer to the London average   | (167,000)        |
| <b>Cutting the cost of local politics</b><br>Reducing the total number of Cabinet Members from 8 to 6 to bring Greenwich into line with other boroughs (£44k), reversing the increases to member allowances payable to the Chief Whip and two 'Project Assistants' introduced in July 2018 (£15k) and reducing the budget for members' mobile phones to reflect a move to a policy of Bring Your Own Device (£17k) | (76,000)         |
| <b>Reducing PR, photography and subscriptions spending</b><br>Ending PR/reputation management service subscriptions and spending on professional photography (£34k), and ending the Local Government Information Unit subscription (£20k)  | (54,000)         |
| <b>Securing external sponsorship to defray event costs</b><br>Securing external sponsorship for a proportion of the budget for civic events (£22k) and securing external sponsorship for the Staff Awards and other internal events (£28k)   | (50,000)         |
| <b>Total savings</b>   | <b>(783,000)</b> |

- 1.7b. Agree to allocate the £0.783 million a year of savings generated by the decision at 1.7a above to fund the ongoing items listed below in table 11B

*Table 11B: Allocation of additional savings*

| Item   | Cost (£) |
|--|----------|
| <b>Return Town Centre pavement washing to previous levels</b><br>Reinstate Town Centre pavement washing in Town Centres and Plumstead to 2020 service levels – while also reviewing the service to find alternative ways of working that reduce reliance on costly staff overtime. | 85,000   |
| <b>Additional Emergency Support and Energy Hardship Fund</b>   | 400,000  |

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Increase the Emergency Support Scheme by £400,000 pa to meet rising demand, and to include a specific Energy Hardship Fund to provide assistance with heating costs for more households in need  |                |
| <b>Additional Street Cleaning</b>  | 118,000        |
| Reverse the 2020 removal of additional Town Centre street cleaning staff   |                |
| <b>Greener Greenwich Community Fund</b>  | 180,000        |
| To support community-level environmental initiatives in support of the Carbon Neutral Plan through measures such as enhancing parks, community planting, and promoting safe walking and cycling. |                |
| <b>Total ongoing cost of providing these items</b>   | <b>783,000</b> |

Insert the following additional decisions on one-off spending

Amend Paragraph 1.9 to read:

- 1.9 Agree to apply the £5.755m of government funding in 2022/23 from the one-off Services Grant to support priorities as outlined at table 12.

Insert additional paragraph:

- 9.5a These actions will include the items of one-off spending listed in table 12.

Amend Table 12 as follows (additional items in bold):

| <b>One Offs Position</b>                 | <b>£m</b>    |
|--|--------------|
| One off Capacity b/f                     | (6.188)      |
| i. Ward Budget Scheme                    | 0.600        |
| ii. School Uniform/ Clothing             | 0.400        |
| iii. Leisure Offer                       | 0.200        |
| <b>iv. One-off Council Tax Freeze</b>    | <b>2.000</b> |
| <b>v. Free Town Centre Parking</b>       | <b>0.976</b> |
| <b>vi. Together Again Community Fund</b> | <b>0.500</b> |
| <b>vii. Police Bases development</b>     | <b>0.400</b> |
| <b>viii. Town Centre recovery fund</b>   | <b>1.112</b> |
| <b>One Off Capacity c/f</b>              | <b>0.000</b> |

Council Tax: Amend Paragraph 1.13 to read:

- 1.13 Agree the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2025/26 as set out in this report and subsequently recommend to Council for approval:
- the MTFS as per this report
  - that the borough element of council tax is raised by:
    - 1.00% adult social care precept
  - a balanced budget for 2022/23