

Fife Council – 24th February 2022

Liberal Democrats amendment to the 2022-23 General Revenue Budget

Liberal Democrats budget proposal

The Liberal Democrats propose the following amendment in terms of the Council's 2022-23 General Fund Revenue Budget:

This has been another exceptional and extraordinary year for the Council and the people of Fife. We welcome the additional investment proposed and would comment on each as follows:

Parks Streets and Open Spaces £0.750m for 20 FTE staff and extra equipment for the coming year

We welcome this additional investment and recognise that this will aid recovery from COVID backlogs in the coming year.

Roads Maintenance £1.325m Plus additional £0.175m

We welcome the additional investment of £1.325m, although it is not enough and leaves a legacy problem of underfunding for a future administration to contend with. We propose adding a further £0.175m to road repairs and maintenance to be added to the Area Roads Programme.

Café Inc £0.150m investment to boost this provision and support families who are struggling with the increased cost of living

We welcome this additional investment and the support that this provision supplies to families who are struggling.

Area Budgets £0.700m

We welcome allocations to area budgets and believe that these funds should be allocated in proportion to the existing formula for allocating between areas which takes into account both population and key area characteristics.

Enhanced Tourism and Environmental Management - £0.216m

We welcome this additional investment which recognises the pressures of the pandemic on FCCT and the need for additional staffing to manage these pressures

Community Growing Initiatives - £0.250m - reject Community Recovery Initiatives - £0.300m - reject

Whilst very supportive of community growing and recovery initiatives, we reject the administration proposals provided which are very light on detail and favour supporting the established 'social pre-scribing' programmes offered by Fife Sports & Leisure Trust

(see below), and additional funding to support Fifers contending with private unadopted roads that are poorly maintained through no fault of their own.

Fife Sport & Leisure Trust – social prescribing £0.375m

A budget of £0.375m would fully fund the cost of delivering existing proven programme offerings so that they can be provided free at the point of delivery, and enable significant enhancements to be made. These programmes reach 6,000 Fifers currently, and these could be expanded and developed further using existing FSLT staff and facilities, to ensure they are accessible to all Fifers who could benefit from them.

Proposer: Cllr Jonny Tepp

Seconder: Cllr Tim Brett