

**The Proposal in the Budget Report under Agenda item 8 be amended as below:**

Cllr Carter Liberal Democrat Group

**Revenue**

Directorate	Description	(Savings)/ Costs £000	Cumulative £000
Economic Dev. (ECDSC2)	Park Rangers	83	83
Planning, Transport & Environment	Increase Enforcement Income	(150)	(67)
Council Wide	Additional saving on furniture, car allowances, mobile phones	(40)	(107)
Council Wide	Reduce by 5 Operational Managers	(315)	(422)
Council Wide	Additional Increase in income	(500)	(922)
Council Wide	Reduction in Consultant Costs	(214)	(1,136)
Council Wide	Vacancy Management & improvements in productivity	(700)	(1,836)
Corporate	Reduce Contingency Adult Social Care	(100)	(1,936)
Corporate	Reduce Contingency Children's Services	(200)	(2,136)
Education	Increase Delegated School Budgets	1,000	(1,136)
Recycling Neighbourhood Services	Increase in Street Cleansing.	100	(1,036)
Planning, Transport & Environment	Increase in Parking Enforcement Officers	150	(886)

**Capital**

The proposal amends the following lines:

	Annual Sums	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total £000
6	Carriageway Investment	2,000	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)	0

	New Schemes	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total £000
57	Pentwyn Leisure Centre Redevelopment	3,000	(3,000)	0	0	0	0

**Proposed by: Councillor Joseph Carter**

**Seconded by: Councillor Rodney Berman**

**Statutory Officer Commentary on the Liberal Democrat Budget Proposals 2024/25**

**Financial Implications**

The proposal from the Liberal Democrat Group includes the removal of one saving proposal (Park Rangers), six additional savings proposal, two reductions in contingency and three new expenditure commitments. This would facilitate a reduction in the proposed increase to the rate of Council Tax, with the amendment proposing an increase of 5.49%.

The proposals have not been subject to detailed discussions with directorates, consultation where necessary, nor have equality impact assessments or wellbeing evaluations been undertaken in respect of these. However, within this constraint, they have been reviewed as to their financial achievability and risk.

The six savings proposals include an additional £700,000 in respect to vacancy management due to holding of posts as they arise. This is seen as Red risk in terms of achievability due to uncertainty both in terms of the timing with which this saving will be achieved, as well as its impact. In addition, a stretch target of £500,000 is proposed in respect of additional income and contributions against all income budget lines, and this is rated as a Red / Amber risk in terms of achievability. There is also a proposal to reduce the number of Operational Managers by five, saving £315,000 which represents nine months of a full financial year. It is accordingly rated as Amber / Green in terms of achievability but with a residual risk of Red / Amber. The budget proposal to reduce the Council use of consultants by £214,000 is rated as Red / Amber in terms of achievability with a Red residual risk due to uncertainty currently. An additional £40,000 is proposed to the corporate proposal of efficiencies in furniture, mobile phones and car allowances which is rated Amber / Green for achievability.

The Proposal also includes a further reduction in the contingency budgets for Adult Social Care (£100,000) and Children's Social Care (£200,000) respectively. The impact of a further reduction in these contingency budgets over and above the Administration proposal is a weakening of the financial resilience of the Council and represents a Red / Amber risk.

A new expenditure commitment proposes an additional £1.000 million to the delegated school budget line. In addition, an additional £100,000 will be allocated to Street Cleaning and an additional £150,000 to Parking Enforcement for additional officers. It is estimated that the latter will be funded from additional income of £150,000 linked to that investment.

The Capital Programme is proposed to make two changes, one being the reprofiling of the Pentwyn Leisure Centre Redevelopment so that the momentum of the project is such that all funding will be available in 2024/25 rather than the previously proposed £3 million in 2025/26. The second proposal is to increase the spend of Carriageway Investment by £2.000 million in 2024/25 by reducing the annual allocations of 2025/26 to 2028/29 by £500,000 each. The impact of these proposals is essentially timing, and the impact will be contained within existing overall capital financing budgets in the event of the money being spent in 2024/25.

### **Legal Implications**

The legal context and implications set out in the main budget report also apply to these proposals and regard should be had to them.

Any specific plans which are developed in relation to the proposals put forward will require evaluation in relation to the Council's wellbeing objectives and may require statutory processes to be followed as well as consultation and Equality Impact Assessments. Decisions taken in advance of this detailed work, can only be "in principle" decisions subject to the necessary statutory processes, consultation, equality impact assessments and wellbeing evaluations, and the results of these must be taken into account by the decision makers when considering any decision whether or not to implement. The time necessarily taken to follow these decision making processes, is likely to result in these proposals not having full year effect in 2024/25.

### **Budget Summary – Liberal Democrat Group 2024/25**

<b>Resources Available:-</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Welsh Government	623,158	
Use of Reserves	3,500	
Council Tax at 5.49% increase	<u>221,554</u>	
		<b>848,212</b>
 <b>Resources Needed:-</b>		
2023/24 Base Budget B/f	806,474	
Commitments, Inflation, and Realignments	60,782	
 <b>Less:</b>		
Savings & Reductions in Contingency	<u>(19,044)</u>	
		<b>848,212</b>

### **RECOMMENDATIONS - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP**

#### **(a) Recommendations to Council**

The Liberal Democrat Group, having taken account of the comments of the Section 151 Officer in respect of the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the reserves as required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, and having considered the responses to the Budget Consultation recommend that Council:

- 1.0 Approve the Revenue, Capital and Housing Revenue Account budgets including all proposals and increasing the Council Tax by 5.49% as set out in this report and that the Council resolve the following terms.
- 2.0 Note that at its meeting on 14 December 2023 Cabinet calculated the following amounts for the year 2024/25 in accordance with the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
  - a) 151,372 being the amount calculated in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, as its Council Tax base for the year.

Lisvane	3,068
Pentyrch	3,709
Radyr	4,090
St. Fagans	2,006
Old St. Mellons	2,512
Tongwynlais	830

being the amounts calculated in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.

2.1 Agree that the following amounts be now calculated by the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff for the year 2024/25 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- a) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (d) (including Community Council precepts totalling £568,735). £1,326,527,735
- b) Aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for items set out in Section 32(3)(a) and (c). £481,647,000
- c) Amount by which the aggregate at 2.1(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2.1(b) above calculated in accordance with Section 32(4) as the budget requirement for the year. £844,880,735
- d) Aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its Council Fund in respect of Revenue Support Grant, its council tax reduction scheme, redistributed Non-Domestic Rates. £623,157,566
- e) The amount at 2.1(c) above less the amount at 2.1(d) (net of the amount for discretionary relief of £400,000), all divided by the amount at 2.0(a) above, calculated in accordance with Section 33(1) as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year. £1,467.40
- f) Aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1). £568,735
- g) Amount at 2.1(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2.1(f) above by the amount at 2.0(a) above, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which no special items relate. £1,463.64
- h) The amounts given by adding to the amount at 2.1(g) above the amounts of special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned below, divided in each case by the amount at 2.0(b) above, calculated in accordance with Section 34(3) as the basic amounts of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which special items relate.

Lisvane	1,487.27
Pentyrch	1,516.24
Radyr & Morganstown	1,504.05
St Fagans	1,489.41
St Mellons	1,485.64
Tongwynlais	1,498.46

- i) The amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2.1(g) and 2.1(h) above by the number which in the proportion set out in the Council Tax (Valuation Bands) (Wales) Order 2003 is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D calculated in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Area</b>									
Lisvane	991.51	1,156.77	1,322.01	1,487.27	1,817.77	2,148.28	2,478.78	2,974.54	3,470.30
Pentyrch	1,010.83	1,179.30	1,347.77	1,516.24	1,853.18	2,190.13	2,527.07	3,032.48	3,537.89
Radyr	1,002.70	1,169.82	1,336.93	1,504.05	1,838.28	2,172.52	2,506.75	3,008.10	3,509.45
St. Fagans	992.94	1,158.43	1,323.92	1,489.41	1,820.39	2,151.37	2,482.35	2,978.82	3,475.29
Old St. Mellons	990.43	1,155.50	1,320.57	1,485.64	1,815.78	2,145.93	2,476.07	2,971.28	3,466.49
Tongwynlais	998.97	1,165.47	1,331.96	1,498.46	1,831.45	2,164.45	2,497.43	2,996.92	3,496.41
All other parts of the Council's Area	975.76	1,138.39	1,301.01	1,463.64	1,788.89	2,114.15	2,439.40	2,927.28	3,415.16

- 2.2 Note that for the year 2024/25, the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:-

#### VALUATION BANDS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
235.11	274.30	313.48	352.67	431.04	509.41	587.78	705.34	822.90

- 2.3 Having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2.1(i) and 2.2 above, the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2024/25 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

#### Part of Council's Area VALUATION BANDS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
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Area	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Lisvane	1,226.62	1,431.07	1,635.49	1,839.94	2,248.81	2,657.69	3,066.56	3,679.88	4,293.20
Pentyrch	1,245.94	1,453.60	1,661.25	1,868.91	2,284.22	2,699.54	3,114.85	3,737.82	4,360.79
Radyr	1,237.81	1,444.12	1,650.41	1,856.72	2,269.32	2,681.93	3,094.53	3,713.44	4,332.35
St. Fagans	1,228.05	1,432.73	1,637.40	1,842.08	2,251.43	2,660.78	3,070.13	3,684.16	4,298.19
Old St. Mellons	1,225.54	1,429.80	1,634.05	1,838.31	2,246.82	2,655.34	3,063.85	3,676.62	4,289.39
Tongwynlais	1,234.08	1,439.77	1,645.44	1,851.13	2,262.49	2,673.86	3,085.21	3,702.26	4,319.31
All other parts of the Council's Area	1,210.87	1,412.69	1,614.49	1,816.31	2,219.93	2,623.56	3,027.18	3,632.62	4,238.06

2.4 Authorise the Corporate Director Resources to make payments under Section 38 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 from the Council Fund by equal instalments on the last working day of each month from April 2024 to March 2025 in respect of the precept levied by the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales in the sum of £53,384,363.

2.5 Agree that the Common Seal be affixed to the said Council Tax.

2.6 Agree that the Common Seal be affixed to precepts for Port Health Expenses for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 namely

	£
County Council of the City and County of Cardiff	155,460
Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council	17,620

2.7 Agree that notices of the making of the said Council Taxes signed by the Chief Executive be given by advertisement in the local press under Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

3.0 In accordance with the Local Government Act 2003, the Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 and subsequent amendments and the CIPFA Prudential Code and Treasury Management Codes of Practice:

(a) Approve the Capital Strategy 2024/25.

(b) Approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 and authorise the Section 151 Officer to raise such funds as may be required to finance capital expenditure by temporary or long-term borrowing.

(c) Approve the Prudential Indicators for 2024/25 – 2028/29 including the affordable borrowing limit.

(d) Delegate to the Section 151 Officer the ability to effect movement between the limits for borrowing and long-term liabilities, within the limit for any year, and to bring forward or delay schemes in the Capital Programme.

(e) Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2024/25.

4.0 To approve the Budgetary Framework outlined in this report.

5.0 To maintain the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme as set out in this report.

**Cllr Joseph Carter - The Liberal Democrat Group**  
**5 March 2024**