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# Merton Council

## Council

**3 March 2021**

### **Supplementary agenda**

- |   |   |       |
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| 7 | Conservative amendment to the Business Plan - REVISED | 1 - 2 |
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- Please note that this **replaces** the previously published Conservative amendment to the Business Plan.

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BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 2021

AMENDMENT – AGENDA ITEM 4

1. Amend recommendation 1A) by adding the following wording:

“subject to the following amendment:

- i) The application of £500,000 from the Balancing the Budget Reserve to create a High Street Recovery and Improvement fund.
- ii) Remove from the 2021/22 Budget and the Medium Term Financial Strategy the increased income in 2021/22 and 2022/23 and subsequent reduction in income in 2023/24 and 2024/25 of £0.325m in total arising from Ref: ENV2021-04 increase in Emission based Parking Charges.
- iii) Defer saving CH100 Adult Social Care – Direct Provision of £700k in 2022/23 for one year to allow for further consultation and evaluation of the post Covid19 adult care needs.

After Recommendation 1F) to add:

Recommendation 1G):

The Council encourages the Cabinet to embrace a new ambitious vision for Merton that addresses the recovery from the pandemic and the challenges of the 2020's:

- To look into establishing a scheme to incentivise and lessen the financial and administrative license burdens for the operation of pop-up and street market offerings, including considering the suspension of street licence charges for a period;
- Increase support for apprenticeships and encourage businesses to hire new apprentices by actively promoting government apprenticeship support schemes;
- Investing in greener, low carbon and well-designed community infrastructure to improve amenity, green spaces, wellbeing and air quality within the Borough;
- Ensuring the Council prioritises sustainable travel and safe cycling by recognising the need for low carbon provision in future development plans;
- Instructing officers to work on preparing for the introduction of electric bike hire schemes across the borough and to establish an active travel fund to improve walking and cycling routes across Merton, to be funded by non-utilisation of funds over the financial year;
- Invest in innovative and new technology based solutions from departmental underspends to combat the climate emergency and the pollution crisis in Merton, such as green walls and city trees, and also increase funding and take opportunities within new developments to deliver significantly higher levels of tree planting across the borough;

- Accelerate the introduction of electric vehicles charging infrastructure (including fast charging) for residents and those visiting the town centres;
- Invest in children's active sport and fitness and consider opportunities for further use of the borough's greenspace to achieve this goal;
- Focus on children's wellbeing and mental health impacts caused by the Covid19 pandemic and work towards preventative mental health schemes available for all children in Merton;
- To prioritise and ensure the successful management of regeneration opportunities and projects in Morden, Mitcham and Wimbledon, for town centres, green spaces and housing;
- Furthermore, with regard to the above amendment in relation to Recommendation 1.A, to support the borough's recovery from the pandemic and help local businesses and residents by suspending and withdrawing the planned increase in Emission based Parking Charges.

And a review of strategic objectives by:

- Ensuring that the financial strategy is explicit about how it supports strategic priorities vs balancing the council's budget to ensure that resources are in the right place to exploit the opportunities, and meet needs;
- Developing a clear narrative that describes strategic vision to create clarity for planning across the departments;
- Constantly reviewing risk appetite to ensure opportunities that can deliver a transformative council with a wider range of benefits are not missed."