

Conservative Group Budget Proposal for 2023/2024

1. Freeze the council tax

It has been a difficult couple of years for residents dealing with the pandemic and on top of what feels like ever increasing household bills particularly in relation to heating and fuel costs which have hit people hard. It is proposed to freeze the council tax at 2022/23 levels to assist residents struggling to meet their living costs. The income forgone in 2023/24 as a result will be around £336,650.

2. Additional funding for fraud prevention and investigation

Local Authorities have in recent years seen increasing amounts of attempted fraud against them and if anything the Pandemic and cost of living crisis has seen this sort of activity increase further. It is important to tackle this growing trend and preventative work is seen as a key element to achieving this. It is therefore proposed to invest £50,000 in further fraud prevention work and raising fraud awareness in the community. This could be achieved by employing a fraud prevention officer and providing resources to support them in this work.

3. Additional planning enforcement (compliance) officer

There is a need to bolster resources in the planning enforcement team and it is proposed to add an additional officer at a cost of £45,300 to provide for the growing demand to investigate breaches of planning conditions and consent.

4. Funding

It is proposed that the amount required of £431,950 be funded in part from a saving by discontinuing the current policy that allows councillors to receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance, this will save around £14,000. Also Reducing the number of South Cambs Magazines from 4 to 2 which will save around £26,000 with the remaining difference (£391,950) to be met from the transformation reserve.

Heather Williams

Conservative Member for The Mordens Ward