CITY COUNCIL

4 MARCH, 2025

AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS IN THE COUNCIL AGENDA RECEIVED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

Birmingham City Council

City Council

4 March 2025

Subject:	**2025/26 Budget Setting Process: Conservative Group Amendment Resolution for 2025/26**
Report of:	**Conservative Group**

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote will be taken at Full Council and Cabinet on any vote in respect of the Council's budget and council tax. The names of Members who voted for or against such a decision or abstained shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the relevant meeting. A recorded vote shall also be taken on any proposed amendments relation to the Budget and Council Tax

1. Foreword

1.1. Birmingham is an incredible city with a rich history. From our start as a small settlement in a thick forest to the heart of the industrial revolution, to the centre of manufacturing of the 20th Century Birmingham has played its role as the engine of the UK economy.

1.2. However, for a city that had a higher average wage than London until the 1960s, unemployment has remained too high and too many children grow up in poverty.

1.3. That is why it is so vital that the city has a strong financially robust Council to be able to help capture opportunities and drive change.

1.4. Sadly after 13 years of the current Labour Administration, Birmingham City Council is facing an unprecedented financial disaster, one that was entirely avoidable.

"*They should never have done this. They ignored the warning signs, crashed on regardless and they have created themselves a controlled disaster. Ending up with a potential liability of three-quarters of a billion [pounds] because, over years, you're getting equal pay wrong, and spending something short of £200m on not managing to implement Oracle properly. Those are self-inflicted, aren't they?"*

Max Caller, November 2023

1.5. After more than a decade of Labour mismanagement, poor decision-making, and refusal to act on repeated warnings, residents across our city are now paying the price.

They are being hit with a double whammy of higher taxes for fewer services.

1.6. These failures belong to Labour, but the burden has been unfairly placed on Birmingham residents.

"*Budget cuts and the size of the city are used as reasons to explain the situation however, this does not hold up to scrutiny. Other large Local Authorities with similar levels of deprivation and inequality have also suffered large, in some cases greater, cuts without the same issues with basic services, and Birmingham's size gives real opportunities for economies of scale in universal services*."

Labour Campaign Improvement Board, May 2023

1.7. The consequences of this crisis cannot be understated. The scale of the financial black hole means that the Council will have to be radically reshaped. Labour's approach is to impose crude, sweeping cuts with little regard for the impact on communities. But there is an alternative, a smarter, more responsible way forward. Instead of cutting vital frontline services to make up for their mistakes, the Council

must finally embrace a new approach: one that focuses on efficiency, value for money, and putting residents first.

1.8. But the biggest failure of all from the current approach of the administration is the lost opportunities their failures have put upon the city. Heritage assets have faced reduced hours, and cut maintenance. False savings in the short term are baking in significantly higher costs down the line just to be able to maintain the historical and cultural buildings in our city, all because of short term decision making by the administration.

1.9. Opportunities such as creating a gateway into Birmingham on Station Street, to recognising the heritage of the former Electric Cinema and the Crown pub and surrounding buildings and the role they played in our shared history as, amongst others things, the home of metal.

1.10. That is why our Conservative budget amendment delivers a plan to protect and modernise essential services while beginning the long process of repairing the damage Labour has done. Many of the measures we propose are steps we have been urging the Council to take for a decade, steps that successful, well-run councils elsewhere already follow. Had Labour listened before, we would not be in this position now.

But while we cannot undo the past, the Council can finally choose a different future. By voting for this amendment and putting Brummies' front line services first.

1.11. Our amendment offers a practical, responsible path forward that would protect vital local services and put the council on the road to recovery. Real change starts at the top, and Birmingham can no longer afford a leadership that refuses to take responsibility. The time for action is now.

How did we get here?

1.12. Birmingham's financial crisis is not just an unfortunate accident, it is the direct result of Labour's incompetence and neglect over a period of 12 years. Reports from Government commissioners, external auditors, and finance officials have all confirmed that this situation was avoidable and there have been numerous opportunities missed to change course. The key failures include, but are far from limited to:

1.13. **The Equal Pay Scandal** - Rooted in decisions made by the Labour Administration in 2017 to resolve the previous bin dispute and the introduction of unfair working practices. The council has had to request more than £815m in capitalisation to cover this, with a further £51m falling on the Housing Revenue Account funded through tenants' rents.

"After years of ignoring rampant pay discrimination, this is a crisis of the council's own making."
GMB, January 2024

1.14. **The IT System Debacle** - A £140 million disaster caused by Labour's botched implementation of the Oracle ERP system, leaving the council unable to properly track spending or produce accurate accounts. The project was originally supposed to cost just £19m but has become an international case study in how not to do system change with cabinet member oversight absent or ineffective.

"Key programme governance mechanisms such as member oversight were absent or ineffective" and *"Given the indirect sources of information available to members we consider that they could have challenged officers."*
Grant Thornton, Public Interest Report on Oracle, February 2025

1.15. **Repeated Financial Mismanagement**- Year after year, Labour relied on reserves and short-term fixes rather than making the necessary savings, creating a structural deficit that has now spiralled out of control. At the start of 23/24, there was a cumulative total of £157m in pressures from non-delivery of savings in prior years. Between 2014-2018 the council spent 89% of its reserves, then after rebuilding the reserves position through changes to accounting practices (MRP) spent £400m between 2022 and 2024.

1.16. **Perry Barr Athletes Village** – Despite repeated warnings of the risks from the outset, Birmingham Labour pushed ahead with their plans for an athletes' village for the Commonwealth Games which has resulted in a £300m loss of public funds. Council borrowing to fund the scheme will cost £17.2m a year for 40 years, a total of £688m, and not a single athlete was housed.

"The chosen approach was very much in the 'magical thinking' category of reporting where the desired outcome changes the analysis irrespective of the facts" ***Cabinet Report, 21 January 2025***

1.17. Even wider economic challenges such as rising demand for services and inflation should have been planned for. Instead, Labour ignored financial realities and

refused to make the tough decisions when they were needed. Labour's failure to act has only made the situation worse, delaying necessary reforms and driving up costs.

1.18. For over a decade, Labour ignored warnings, failed to act, and put political priorities ahead of Birmingham's residents. Now, the consequences of their failure are clear for all to see.

1.19. All of these issues have taken place in a culture of secrecy that has to change.

"It is clear that the current and previous Council Leader and some cabinet members were aware of this matter from as far back as 3 February 2023. We consider that the political leadership team has had sufficient time to make a choice on which JE process to follow."
Grant Thornton, Statutory Recommendations, October 2023

1.20. The culture of Birmingham City Council simply has to change.

"These issues we reflect are symptoms of a wider problem relating to governance and accountability – which, to date, remains largely unaddressed even though the Council, and others, have been aware of it for some time. It is at its core a problem of culture and behaviours – a failure of individual and collective accountability and responsibility."
Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, December 2023

1.21. Many of these concerns are not new and successive interventions have raised these concerns about the operation of the administration.

"A blame culture. Where problems, or failures, occur, the fault for these failures are placed on single individuals. Where this coincides with these individuals leaving the organisation, it provides the Council with an opportunity to claim that, with the departure of those individuals, the problem has been resolved"
Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, December 2023

1.22. Delivering culture change is not quick, but the reality is the culture of an organisation is set from the top. That means the people that voted for the failures that happened need to own up to that rather than seek to pass the blame onto others.

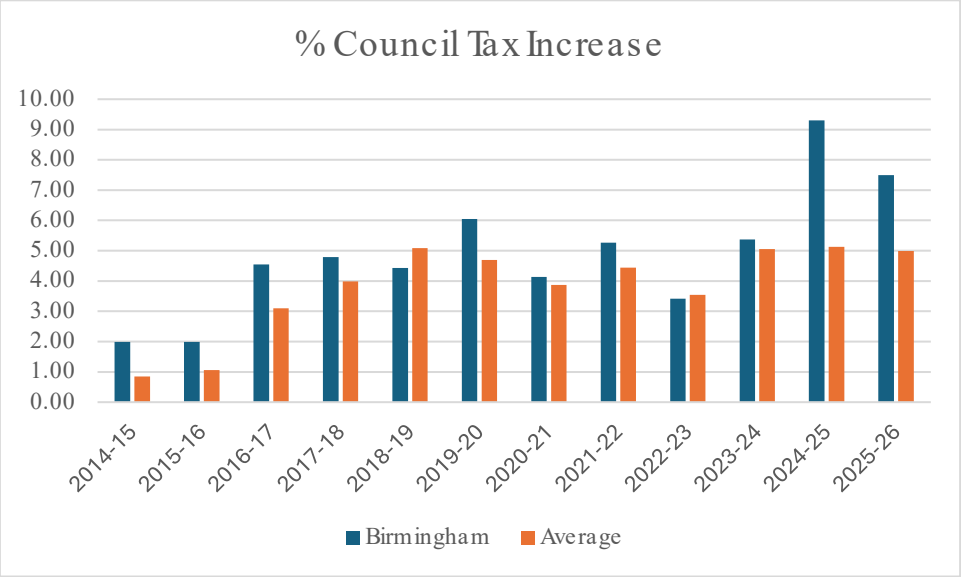
Birmingham City Council has many brilliant staff, but too often they are not supported. Ultimately, we need a council culture that unleashes the potential of our staff to deliver for our City.

Council Tax

1.23. Since Labour took control of the city council in 2012 on a promise not to increase council tax, it has increased by more than any other single or upper-tier authority,

up 73.08% since 2012, compared to an average of 57% for metropolitan authorities. That means a Band D property is paying £134 more next year, up £814 since 2012.

The Labour Council has increased Council Tax above the national average for 10 out of the last 12 years. The only times they didn't was the all-out elections of 2018 and 2022.



Where do we go from here?

1.24. Birmingham City Council must finally learn to live within its means. The Council has a duty to ensure that every pound of public money is spent wisely. It cannot continue spending more than it brings in through taxes, grants, and income. But how the council chooses to close its budget gap will determine the future of our city.

1.25. Labour's approach is to impose crude, short-sighted cuts that harm communities and pass costs onto residents while doing nothing to fix the long-term issues. Our alternative is a responsible plan that protects frontline services by targeting back-office waste and delivering real efficiencies. This is not an overnight fix, but as the old idiom says 'the best time to start was yesterday, the second best time is today.'

1.26. Our amendment would:

- Keep it weekly - by protecting weekly refuse collections
- Keep all community libraries fully open
- Deliver a cleaner city – by increasing street cleaning
- Increase Mobile Household Recycling Centres

- Scrap the Rat tax – by getting rid of charges for using pest removal services
- Fix the potholes – by providing an additional £4m funding to tackle pot-holes
- Introduce a community chest for ward priorities
- Invest in flood defence
- Keep Beeches Pool and Billesley Tennis Centre open and retain Passport for Leisure discounts for Birmingham residents
- More money for emergency homelessness accommodation

1.27. We would fund this in the short-term through back-office savings in areas such as communications and equalities, especially where these are in roles embedded within directorates that duplicates work being done in the centre. We would also begin work to reduce reliance on agency staff and make greater use of internal expertise to deliver savings programmes.

Proposed by 

Councillor Robert Alden

Seconded by 

Councillor Ewan Mackey

2. 2025/26 Council Tax Resolution

2.1. The Conservative Group recommends that Council resolves to amend the 2025/26 budget as per the variations listed in Section 2 and Section 3 below.

2.2. That the following calculations be now made in accordance with Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025, **Table 1** refers:

Table 1: 2025/26 Council Tax Requirement

		£
a.	Aggregate of estimated City Council expenditure, contingencies, and contributions to financial reserves	4,422,302,530
b.	Parish Precepts	2,299,255
c.	Aggregate of estimated income (including Top-Up Grant), and use of financial reserves (Note 1)	(3,447,966,021)
d.	net transfers to/(from) the Collection Fund in relation to Business Rates	(440,672,615)
e.	Transfer to/(from) the Collection Fund in relation to Council Tax	(7,038,000)
f.	**Council Tax Requirement, being the aggregate of (a) to (e) above**	**528,925,149**

Note 1: To note that the income figure is calculated by taking the aggregate of estimate City Council income, the total Top Up Grant due to the Council in 2025/26 and the amount of the Council's Exceptional Financial Support request to balance the 2025/26 budget

2.3. The following amendments are proposed to be incorporated in full within the City Council's 2025/26 Budget:

Growth Proposals

2.4. The following growth item is proposed to be incorporated within the City Council's 2025/26 budget, **Table 2** refers:

Table 2: 2025/26 Growth Proposals

Proposal	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
Reform of Neighbourhood Advice and Information Service	250	0	0	0
Flood Risk Maintenance	0	250	250	250
Increased Street Cleaning	0	3,357	3,540	3,540
Keep Beeches Pool open, Billesley Tennis Centre full time and protect Passport for Leisure	468	468	468	468
Create ward community chest fund	0	1,010	1,010	2,020
Potholes Emergency Funding	0	1,000	1,000	2,000
Increase Mobile Household Waste Centres visits	0	0	700	482
Homelessness services – only what is generated from Voluntary Council Tax Contribution will be spent	300	300	300	300
Totals	**1,018**	**6,385**	**7,268**	**9,060**

Removal of Existing Savings Proposals

2.5. The following savings are proposed to be removed from the City Council's 2025/26 budget, **Table 3 refers**:

Table 3: Removal of Proposed Savings

Ref	Saving title	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
29	Move to fortnightly residual waste (non-recyclable) collection and amend early starts	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
24, 282	Pest Control	365	365	365	365
193	Transformation of Neighbourhood Advice and Information Service and Community Libraries	2,285	2,285	2,285	2,285
	Totals	**7,150**	**7,150**	**7,150**	**7,150**

New Savings Proposals

2.6. The following new savings are proposed to be incorporated within the City Council's 2025/26 budget, **Table 4 refers**:

Table 4: 2025/26 Saving Proposals

Code	Proposal	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
ALTC001	Workforce Policy Changes	1,368	2,336	2,336	2,336
ALTC002	Workforce Savings	4,006	5,457	5,457	5,457
ALTC003	Workforce Structure Changes	300	600	600	600
ALTC004	Procurement Savings	1,749	3,719	5,024	6,394
ALTC005	Income Generation	126	570	570	570
ALTC006	Increased savings from more LED Street lights	234	469	469	469
ALTC007	Reduce Overview and Scrutiny	85	85	85	85
ALTC008	Voluntary Council Tax Contribution	300	300	300	300
	Totals	**8,168**	**13,535**	**14,840**	**16,210**

Capital Investment

2.7. The following Capital investment is proposed to be incorporated within the City Council's 2025/26 Capital programme, to be funded from the Clean Air Zone reserve, **Table 5 refers**:

Table 5: 2025/26 Capital Investment

Proposal	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
Ward Highway Budget	4,040	0	0	0
Upgrade Street Lighting to LED	4,000	0	0	0
Totals	**8,040**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Contributions to Reserves

2.8. The following additional contribution to reserves to be made, **Table 6 refers**:

Table 6: 2025/26 Contributions to Strategic Reserve

Proposal	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
Contribution to Strategic Reserve	0	0	422	0
Totals	**0**	**0**	**422**	**0**

Council Tax Requirement

Council Tax - Basic Amount

2.9. That the Basic Amount of Council Tax for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 be set at £1,935.72, pursuant to the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, being the Council Tax Requirement of £528,925,149 divided by the Council Tax Base of 273,244 Band D properties (as agreed by Cabinet on 21 January 2025).

Council Tax – City Council and Parish Precepts

2.10. That the basic amount of Council Tax for City Council services for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 be set at £1,927.31 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a.	Basic Amount calculated under Section 31B		£1,935.72
	LESS		
b.	Parish precepts	£2,299,255	
	DIVIDED BY		
	City Council Tax base (no. of Band D Properties)	273,244	£8.41
			£1,927.31

2.11. That, pursuant to Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Basic Amount of Council Tax for City Council services is not excessive in relation to determining whether a referendum is required on the level of Council Tax.

New Frankley Parish Council Precept

2.12. That the basic amount of Council Tax for New Frankley in Birmingham Parish for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 be set at £1,961.97 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a.	Basic Amount calculated under Section 34(2)		£1,927.31
	PLUS		
b.	The New Frankley in Birmingham Parish precept	£48,656	
	DIVIDED BY		
	The tax base for New Frankley in Birmingham Parish (no. of Band D properties)	1,404	£34.66
			£1,961.97

Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Precept

2.13. That the basic amount of Council Tax for the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 be set at £1,987.27 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a.	Basic Amount calculated under Section 34(2)		1,927.31
	PLUS		
b.	The Royal Sutton Coldfield Parish Council precept	£2,250,599	
	DIVIDED BY		
	The tax base for Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (no. of Band D properties)	37,535	£59.96
			£1,987.27

Council Tax – Total

2.14. That, in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the amounts of Council Tax set for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 for each category of dwelling listed within a particular valuation band, shall be calculated by adding:

a. the amount given by multiplying the basic amount of Council Tax for the relevant area by the fraction whose numerator is the proportion applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, and whose denominator is the proportion applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D; to

b. the amounts which are stated in the final precepts issued by the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC); and are shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7 – Total Council Tax Amounts for the 2025/26 year

	Areas without a Parish Council				New Frankley in Birmingham		Royal Sutton Coldfield	
Band	City Council £	Fire and Rescue Authority £	West Midlands PCC £	Total excl. Parish / Town Precept £	Parish Precept £	Parish Total £	Town Precept £	Town Total £
A	1,284.87	53.46	153.00	1,491.33	23.11	1,514.44	39.98	1,531.31
B	1,499.02	62.37	178.50	1,739.89	26.96	1,766.85	46.63	1,786.52
C	1,713.16	71.28	204.00	1,988.44	30.81	2,019.25	53.30	2,041.74
D	1,927.31	80.19	229.50	2,237.00	34.66	2,271.66	59.96	2,296.96
E	2,355.60	98.01	280.50	2,734.11	42.36	2,776.47	73.29	2,807.40
F	2,783.89	115.83	331.50	3,231.22	50.07	3,281.29	86.61	3,317.83
G	3,212.18	133.65	382.50	3,728.33	57.77	3,786.10	99.94	3,828.27
H	3,854.62	160.38	459.00	4,474.00	69.32	4,543.32	119.92	4,593.92

3. 2026/27 and Future Years

3.1. The following additional recommendation to City Council that:

a) Council approves the direction of travel for the efficiency and transformation of services and new spending priorities as set out in Section 3 below, with detailed delivery plans for each proposal produced by July 2025.

b) Council replaces the Executive Summary of the Budget Report with the one set out in Section 1 of this amendment.

3.2. This budget amendment also lays the groundwork for restoring Birmingham City Council to a sustainable financial position over the longer term, enabling reinvestment in the priorities that matter most to our residents: cleaner streets, thriving local neighbourhoods, and protection for our most vulnerable citizens through adult and children's social care. Achieving this requires bold, transformative measures to deliver substantial savings through a fundamental shift in both what the Council does and how it operates.

3.3. We firmly believe these changes are not only a financial necessity but also an opportunity to create a more responsive, resident-focused organisation. By streamlining operations and maximising value for public money, the Council can better meet the needs of Birmingham's communities. Key strategies include sharing services with other councils and public sector partners where feasible, fostering a more agile and adaptable workforce to dismantle longstanding silos, and leveraging the Council's scale to secure savings through smarter procurement and commissioning practices.

Rebuilding the Council Culture of one Council, where people don't seek to protect their directorate but rather ask how can my directorate help Birmingham.

3.4. Detailed discussions with Commissioners and the Finance team affirm that savings of this magnitude are achievable through efficiencies and transformation, as outlined below. However, the current Labour Administration has failed to act with the urgency this crisis demands—a failure starkly evident when compared to other councils that implemented similar reforms a decade ago. This leadership shortfall, marked by an apparent lack of capability and willingness to rethink past approaches to budgeting

and delivery, jeopardises the realisation of these savings. While we outline our priorities for future savings below.

3.5. We focus on how these savings, if the administration finally begins work on them this year and they are secured, would close the £160m gap in the medium-term financial plan, avert the need for exceptional financial support, and stabilise the Council's finances—paving the way for meaningful investment without further burdening residents with excessive council tax increases.

Priority Areas for Future Savings

3.6. Last year, the Administration pledged to develop detailed savings plans for the following areas.

"What we are working on at the moment at scale and pace is a real in depth look at where those real transformation savings can be made across the forthcoming years , not just the year ahead… I can give that assurance now in regard to my personal role in this… and updated position will be reported in July" ***Cllr Rob Pocock June Cabinet meeting 2024***

"Whatever is in your motion is actually happening and is being done ahead of 1 September" ***Cllr Perks, July Full Council meeting 2024***

3.7. Sadly, that commitment remains unfulfilled, narrowing an already tight path to recovery, despite empty promises of action. Immediate action is now imperative.

Commissioning and Procurement

3.8. Transforming how the Council commissions and procures services offers significant savings potential. By adopting best practices from other local authorities and national reviews, we can enhance value for money, reduce late contract renewals, and avoid excessive costs. This isn't just about negotiating better deals—it's about a comprehensive approach to aligning services with Birmingham's needs. Savings of less than half a percent in the short term enables us to protect some vital services, but we need to be much more ambitious going forward. Manchester City Council, for instance, saved £65m through procurement efficiencies, while Copeland achieved a 14% reduction in its procurement budget. An immediate overhaul of contract rules and delegations would ensure timely, well-governed decisions.

Energy and Heat – Use and Generation

3.9. Reducing energy consumption in retained buildings and boosting on-site generation can yield substantial savings. Partnering with private sector firms—sharing savings in exchange for their capital investment—offers a low-risk model, leveraging the Council's remaining asset base, including the schools estate. Edinburgh Council cut its energy bill by 24%, and Leeds saved 26% across nine buildings through a partnership with E.ON. Birmingham could also tap government grants for carbon reduction, further offsetting costs and aligning with sustainability goals.

Agile Workforce

3.10. Modernising the Council's workforce is overdue. By flattening management structures, broadening job roles, and equipping staff to work flexibly across services, we can break down silos that frustrate residents and staff alike. This shift would empower employees to resolve issues end-to-end, improving outcomes and satisfaction while cutting costs. PwC estimates councils can save up to 10% through structural changes, 30% with process improvements, and 50% by focusing on outcomes—benefits Birmingham could realise over time.

Shared Services

3.11. Collaborating with other councils or partners to deliver services can reduce costs and enhance quality. National examples abound: Richmond and Wandsworth save £17.9m annually through shared management, while Havering and Newham save £14.9m. Birmingham could explore similar models across back-office functions, finance, or environmental services, drawing on the £1.34bn saved nationwide through 626 partnerships. Speed is critical—successful collaborations show that swift implementation maximises benefits.

Reducing Reliance on Consultants and Agency Staff

3.12. Curbing the use of management consultants and agency staff offers immediate and ongoing savings. Building on the Spend Control Board's efforts, we propose eliminating officer delegations for consultancy spend and introducing strict controls to prevent contract "laddering." Similarly, renegotiating agency costs, reducing hours, and shifting to permanent staff would cut expenditure while fostering a committed, efficient workforce.

Conclusion

3.13. These savings, if delivered, would swiftly address the £160m deficit, secure the Council's future, and enable reinvestment in Birmingham's priorities. The current leadership's inaction has heightened the urgency of this amendment. We call for a decisive break from past failures, embracing a proactive, transformative approach to ensure Birmingham thrives for its residents.

A vote for this amendment is a vote to modernise the way the Council works, to protect frontline services and deliver for Brummies.

Birmingham City Council

City Council

4 March 2025

Subject:	**2025/26 Budget Setting Process:**
	Liberal Democrat Group Amendment
	Resolution for 2025/26
Report of:	**Liberal Democrat Group**

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote will be taken at Full Council and Cabinet on any vote in respect of the Council's budget and council tax. The names of Members who voted for or against such a decision or abstained shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the relevant meeting. A recorded vote shall also be taken on any proposed amendments relation to the Budget and Council Tax

1. Foreword

1.1. The residents of Birmingham want a council that provides good quality services. Birmingham Labour is not delivering this.

a) Residents want bins to be emptied, street lights to work, clean and clear pavements, safe, well-maintained roads, libraries that are open for use, well run schools, proper care for our elderly and infirm, good quality education for children, support for vulnerable and SEND children, homes maintained to a decent standard, and a safety net in case things go wrong.

b) Residents want to be consulted meaningfully and actively about how services are delivered in their communities so that they can be shaped to meet the different needs of different areas in the city.

1.2. The residents of Birmingham are prepared to pay fairly to receive services. That element of fairness is based on trust. Birmingham Labour have damaged that trust by reneging on promises and not delivering on commitments. Examples of this failure of trust include but are not limited to:

a) The sale of properties in the Perry Barr village which should have returned a profit but resulted in a significant loss.

b) The lack of communication with residents relating to major redevelopment in Ladywood.

c) The closure of adult day centres despite significant outcry from the public and valid concerns about the way that these day centres were being run.

d) A lack of activity to address the serious issues with road safety in Birmingham.

e) A lack of activity to address alarming levels of child poverty across the city.

f) Current strike action which is impacting refuse collection and has stopped recycling collections across the city.

1.3. Last year's budget did tremendous damage to the residents of Birmingham, through dramatic cuts to council services and increased council tax. This year's budget is set to repeat that pattern with:

a) Further cuts to council services.

b) Further job losses.

c) A higher-than-inflation increase in council tax.

d) Yet more sales of municipally owned buildings.

1.4. Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) continues to be used. This is a loan which requires the further sale of council assets to repay the debt. This will lead to a reduction in future income.

1.5. The level of cuts in this budget are the result of a lengthy and ongoing period of mismanagement by the current Labour administration, which has seen the failure to implement the new Oracle IT system properly, the failure to manage previous budgets and the creation of further Equal Pay Liabilities and the sale of the Perry Barr village at a significant loss.

1.6. This mismanagement overlays a tough Government spending environment. Local Government nationally faces severe financial pressures caused mainly by increased costs of adult social care, children's services and homelessness. At a time when we needed an efficient council to respond to these challenges, we have been badly let down by the current administration.

1.7. This budget will continue to affect every resident, through increased tax and decreased services. It will have a disproportionate impact on groups of people who rely significantly on council services.

Our vision

1.8. A Liberal Democrat administration would do things very differently.

1.9. Above all, we must ensure that the Council is well run, and that the interests of Birmingham are put ahead of internal party struggles.

1.10. Liberal Democrats believe in providing choice and opportunity at grass roots level; that services should be tailored to communities and not provided using a one-size-fits all approach.

1.11. We believe that under the right leadership, Birmingham City Council can:

1. Provide good quality, statutory services that are constantly reviewed in line with efficiency and best practice.

2. Manage public funds responsibly.

3. Consult residents meaningfully and work with communities for the betterment of each locality.
4. Work proactively with partners and specialist organisations.
5. Be a role model employer.
6. Reduce its environmental impact and work towards carbon neutrality.
7. Provide a clear vision for the future of the city that is relevant and accessible to local people and businesses.
8. Plan properly and thoroughly for the future.

Our Amendment

1.12. For the 2025/26 budget the changes we propose are necessarily modest given the ongoing financial emergency the Council faces. Nevertheless, they show that even in these very difficult times there are improvements that can be made, and real choices are available, for example about the future of our library service.

1.13. We would make the following changes which will deliver savings:

<u>4-day week proposal</u>

1.14. Council employees in eligible occupations would be able to request a reduced working week during a window of opportunity as defined by the Council.

1.15. Employees whose requests are approved can reduce their working week, thus reducing the salary bill for the council, and providing employees with extra flexibility. This is particularly efficient for higher rate taxpayers.

1.16. The Council would benefit from a reduced salary bill and reduced employer NI contributions.

1.17. Just at 1% take up would provide a considerable saving for the council and our proposals are based on this level. It is possible that the take up may be higher.

<u>Reform NAIS service</u>

1.18. By working in partnership with the voluntary sector, savings can be made to deliver this service at lower cost. This is tied in with the shift to delivery via the library service.

<u>Voluntary contributions for Band E to H properties</u>

1.19. Many residents are concerned by the high levels of homelessness in the city.

1.20. We propose a request for voluntary contributions from those that live in properties from Band E to H, to be added to a ringfenced budget line to tackle homelessness.

1.21. The fund can be accessed by local community groups and charities that have proven and trusted models that prevent or reduce homelessness.

1.22. With a disproportionate number of children in Temporary Accommodation (TA), this fund can also provide opportunities that ameliorate the effect of living in long term TA, thus helping to ease the effects of child poverty.

Council Efficiencies

1.23. There are further administrative savings and ways of generating extra income, previously approved by commissioners, which can be implemented by the Council and free up resources for other priorities. These include:

- A review of the extended corporate leadership team.
- Introducing a lane rental system.
- Increasing income from parking enforcement.
- Reducing council advertising spend.
- Reduction of council communication costs.

1.24. The savings generated would be reinvested in the following ways:

Libraries

1.25. Increase the proposed opening hours of community hub libraries from 4 days a week to 6 days a week and remaining community libraries from 3 days a week to 5 days a week.

1.26. Community libraries are key assets in our communities, often the last remaining space where communities can engage with the Council. As such we are sympathetic with the move to co-locate the NAIS service with community hub libraries, but this makes it even more important they are open full time including Saturdays. Libraries should be open as fully as possible to maximise their benefit to the community and our proposal will achieve this.

Book Fund

1.27. Our amendment is aimed at maximising the use of community libraries and it would therefore be damaging to cut the book fund. This amendment reverses the proposed cut in the book fund and maintains it at the current level.

Delivering Savings and Tackling Climate Change via Rooftop Solar

1.28. Time and again in budget amendments we have proposed utilising council owned buildings for roof top solar installations. Had this been done, it would now be paying a handsome dividend to the Council, given recent and current electricity prices.

1.29. Once again, we set aside funding to start a roof top solar programme, and we would prioritise all suitable sites on our community libraries to help reduce their running costs and allow for demonstrations of the benefits of roof top solar to residents.

Homelessness

1.30. We would earmark all contributions made under the proposals described above to helping the homeless. This would provide extra funding for voluntary sector providers in the City to support the needs of the street homeless and families with children in temporary accommodation for long periods of time.

Road safety fund

1.31. Residents across Birmingham are fed up with the lack of action to tackle speeding and dangerous driving. In particular while neighbouring authorities have increased their networks of average speed cameras, Birmingham has made little progress. This amendment provides extra funding to work with the Combined Authority and West Midlands Police to develop more road safety schemes across Birmingham.

Proposed by Roger Harmer ……

Councillor Roger Harmer

Seconded by ……

Councillor Morriam Jan

2 2025/26 Council Tax Resolution

2.1. The Liberal Democrat Group recommends that Council resolves to amend the 2025/26 budget as per the variations listed in Section 2 and Section 3 below.

2.2. That the following calculations be now made in accordance with Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025, **Table 1** refers:

Table 1: 2025/26 Council Tax Requirement

		£
a.	Aggregate of estimated City Council expenditure, contingencies, and contributions to financial reserves	4,414,627,530
b.	Parish Precepts	2,299,255
c.	Aggregate of estimated income (including Top-Up Grant), and use of financial reserves (Note 1)	(3,440,291,021)
d.	net transfers to/(from) the Collection Fund in relation to Business Rates	(440,672,615)
e.	Transfer to/(from) the Collection Fund in relation to Council Tax	(7,038,000)
f.	**Council Tax Requirement, being the aggregate of (a) to (e) above**	**528,925,149**

Note 1: To note that the income figure is calculated by taking the aggregate of estimate City Council income, the total Top Up Grant due to the Council in 2025/26 and the amount of the Council's Exceptional Financial Support request to balance the 2025/26 budget

2.3. The following amendments are proposed to be incorporated in full within the City Council's 2025/26 Budget:

Growth Proposals

2.4. The following growth item is proposed to be incorporated within the City Council's 2025/26 budget, **Table 2** refers:

Table 2: 2025/26 Growth Proposals

Proposal	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
Libraries – increase days open	1,086	2,172	2,172	2,172
Roof Top Zero - Solar Panels	0	100	100	100
Reform of NAIS service	239	0	0	0
Homelessness services – only what is generated from Voluntary Council Tax Contribution will be spent	300	300	300	300
Road Safety Fund	148	804	804	804
Totals	**1,773**	**3,276**	**3,276**	**3,276**

Removal of Existing Savings Proposals

2.5. The following savings are proposed to be removed from the City Council's 2025/26 budget, **Table 3 refers**:

Table 3: Removal of Proposed Savings

Ref	Saving title	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
383	Libraries Book Fund	50	50	50	50
	Totals	**50**	**50**	**50**	**50**

New Savings Proposals

2.6. The following new savings are proposed to be incorporated within the City Council's 2025/26 budget, **Table 4 refers**:

Table 4: 2025/26 Saving Proposals

Code	Proposal	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
ALTLD01	Reduction in Council communications team	500	1,000	1,000	1,000
ALTLD02	Reduced spend on advertising	58	116	116	116
ALTLD03	Reform of NAIS service	239	400	400	400
ALTLD04	Review of Extended Corporate Leadership Team	300	600	600	600
ALTLD05	Increased income from Parking Enforcement	125	210	210	210
ALTLD06	Introduction of lane rental system	0	200	200	200
ALTLD07	Encourage Take Up of 4-Day Week	300	600	600	600
ALTLD08	Voluntary Council Tax Contribution	300	300	300	300
	Totals	**1,823**	**3,426**	**3,426**	**3,426**

Council Tax Requirement

Council Tax - Basic Amount

2.7. That the Basic Amount of Council Tax for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 be set at £1,935.72, pursuant to the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, being the Council Tax Requirement of £528,925,149 divided by the Council Tax Base of 273,244 Band D properties (as agreed by Cabinet on 21 January 2025).

Council Tax – City Council and Parish Precepts

2.8. That the basic amount of Council Tax for City Council services for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 be set at £1,927.31 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a.	Basic Amount calculated under Section 31B		£1,935.72
	LESS		
b.	Parish precepts	£2,299,255	
	DIVIDED BY		
	City Council Tax base (no. of Band D Properties)	273,244	£8.41
			£1,927.31

2.9. That, pursuant to Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Basic Amount of Council Tax for City Council services is not excessive in relation to determining whether a referendum is required on the level of Council Tax.

New Frankley Parish Council Precept

2.10. That the basic amount of Council Tax for New Frankley in Birmingham Parish for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 be set at £1,961.97 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a.	Basic Amount calculated under Section 34(2)		£1,927.31
	PLUS		
b.	The New Frankley in Birmingham Parish precept	£48,656	
	DIVIDED BY		
	The tax base for New Frankley in Birmingham Parish (no. of Band D properties)	1,404	£34.66
			£1,961.97

Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Precept

2.11. That the basic amount of Council Tax for the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 be set at £1,987.27 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a.	Basic Amount calculated under Section 34(2)		1,927.31
	PLUS		
b.	The Royal Sutton Coldfield Parish Council precept	£2,250,599	
	DIVIDED BY		
	The tax base for Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (no. of Band D properties)	37,535	£59.96
			£1,987.27

Council Tax – Total

2.12. That, in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the amounts of Council Tax set for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 for each category of dwelling listed within a particular valuation band, shall be calculated by adding:

a. the amount given by multiplying the basic amount of Council Tax for the relevant area by the fraction whose numerator is the proportion applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, and whose denominator is the proportion applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D; to

b. the amounts which are stated in the final precepts issued by the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC); and are shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5 – Total Council Tax Amounts for the 2025/26 year

	Areas without a Parish Council				New Frankley in Birmingham		Royal Sutton Coldfield	
Band	City Council £	Fire and Rescue Authority £	West Midlands PCC £	Total excl. Parish / Town Precept £	Parish Precept £	Parish Total £	Town Precept £	Town Total £
A	1,284.87	53.46	153.00	1,491.33	23.11	1,514.44	39.98	1,531.31
B	1,499.02	62.37	178.50	1,739.89	26.96	1,766.85	46.63	1,786.52
C	1,713.16	71.28	204.00	1,988.44	30.81	2,019.25	53.30	2,041.74
D	1,927.31	80.19	229.50	2,237.00	34.66	2,271.66	59.96	2,296.96
E	2,355.60	98.01	280.50	2,734.11	42.36	2,776.47	73.29	2,807.40
F	2,783.89	115.83	331.50	3,231.22	50.07	3,281.29	86.61	3,317.83
G	3,212.18	133.65	382.50	3,728.33	57.77	3,786.10	99.94	3,828.27
H	3,854.62	160.38	459.00	4,474.00	69.32	4,543.32	119.92	4,593.92

3 2026/27 and Future Years

3.1. The following additional recommendation to City Council that:

a) Council approves the direction of travel for the efficiency and transformation of services and new spending priorities as set out in Section 3 below, with detailed delivery plans for each proposal produced by July 2025.

3.2. We believe that by reforming the way we work, further significant savings can be achieved without harming services, and in some cases, improving them. As examples:

a) Develop proposals to improve the efficiency of the waste collection service by double shifting vehicles, and thereby reducing the amount of capital investment required.

b) Investigate the opportunity to implement a small levy on Birmingham hotel rooms, suggested as £1-£2 per room per night via a BID which can raise funds for local arts, heritage and museums.

c) Develop a long-term asset management strategy that includes recommended servicing and maintenance of council owned assets such as buildings, vehicles, land and equipment of significant value. This will include better longer-term planning for replacement of assets so that this can be scheduled well in advance, and better deals achieved.

d) Develop proposals to give greater local involvement in how services are delivered in each area, to improve efficiencies, reduce waste and tailor services to the needs of our different communities.

e) Making budget scrutiny more robust and transparent right across all service areas by electing opposition members as chairs of scrutiny committees.

Birmingham City Council

City Council

4 March 2025

Subject:	**2025/26 Budget Setting Process:**
	Green Group Amendment
	Resolution for 2025/26
Report of:	**Green Group**

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote will be taken at Full Council and Cabinet on any vote in respect of the Council's budget and council tax. The names of Members who voted for or against such a decision or abstained shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the relevant meeting. A recorded vote shall also be taken on any proposed amendments relation to the Budget and Council Tax

1. Foreword

1.1. As a result of last year's Labour Council budget there is less support for residents most in need, streets are dirtier, library opening hours are being cut, and most youth centres will be given to external organisations to run. The Labour Administration's budget this year continues and increases those cuts. This budget will continue to cause harm to the city and its residents.

1.2. The fact that the Council is in this continuing situation is because of both underfunding from national government, and local mismanagement. The Labour Administration were dealt an awful hand by government funding cuts since 2010, but they have also played that hand awfully.

1.3. Local failings are a significant factor in the current crisis. The Equal Pay issues, the Oracle problems and the mis-management and collapse of the budgets in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 have all played a major part.

1.4. At the same time tackling the climate emergency has almost completely fallen off the Council's priorities. This has meant measures which would tackle the climate crisis and save the Council money, such as energy efficiency and solar panels on council buildings, have been neglected.

1.5. The Council has also failed to do sufficient long-term work to stop crises becoming acute, causing more hardship for residents and more financial pressure for the council in the long term. Not building enough social housing to help tackle the housing crisis, and not maintaining the Council's housing stock, are just two examples of this.

1.6. Unfortunately, the continued chronic underfunding of local government will make it even more difficult for the City Council to emerge from this financial crisis and still provide the services that residents need and deserve. Even the best run Councils, of which Birmingham is not one, are struggling financially.

1.7. The new Labour Government was elected promising change. However, Birmingham City Council specifically, and local government in general, has yet to see a change in funding on anywhere near the scale needed to stop the cuts to much-needed services. Austerity is still well and truly alive and kicking under the new government.

1.8. We recognise there needs to be significant change nationally in local government funding to enable Birmingham and councils across the country to provide the services residents need and deserve in a financially sustainable way.

1.9. Yet there is little evidence that the new government is thinking creatively about how it could raise income to fund much needed local services. For example, by reforming Council Tax or introducing wealth taxes. Furthermore, there seems little work to give Councils the power to raise more funds themselves, as is standard in most of Europe.

1.10. In the face of insufficient funding from national government, and the mistakes made by this City Council, this is another terrible budget from the Labour Administration. It is again making Birmingham residents bear the brunt of its attempts to balance the books. Council Tax, one of the most regressive forms of taxation, is again increasing. Birmingham residents are again getting less and less and paying much more.

1.11. However, even with more cuts to services, the Council is still not balancing the books without the Exceptional Financial Support from government.

1.12. This is a budget that will cause harm to communities and its residents and will punish residents for a crisis not of their own making. This Council needs to redouble efforts to lobby for a financial settlement based on the needs of its citizens to stop the cuts to services.

1.13. Birmingham residents deserve much better than this, and it is vital residents can be given hope that things can get better.

Our Amendment

1.14. Our amendment attempts to reverse some of Labour's brutal cuts and put money back into crucial local services. We do not make our savings proposals lightly. However, we feel that protecting our front line services to keep our streets clean and investing in our libraries and youth centres is the greater priority.

1.15. We make the following proposals:

a) Increase savings by:

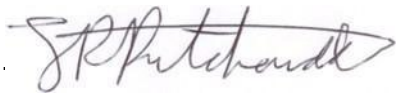
- Reducing support for political groups,
- Reducing support for leader and cabinet,

- Reducing Special Responsibility Allowances,
- Reducing council communications.
- Further savings from the corporate leadership team.

b) Using these savings to:

- Invest more in our libraries, reversing some of the cuts by the Labour Administration.
- Invest more in street cleaning; particularly crucial in light of the current bin strikes
- Remove the Labour Administration's rat tax, as supported by the Licensing & Public Protection Committee.
- Reverse some of the cuts to the Youth Service

c) Use the unused flooding contingency from 2024-2025 for flood risk maintenance in 2025-2026 and then increase flood risk maintenance budget by the same amount from 2026-2027 funded by the savings above.

Proposed by 

Councillor Julien Pritchard

Seconded by 

Councillor Rob Grant

2. 2025/26 Council Tax Resolution

2.1. The Green Group recommends that Council resolves to amend the 2025/26 budget as per the variations listed in Section 2 and Section 3 below.

2.2. That the following calculations be now made in accordance with Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025, **Table 1** refers:

Table 1: 2025/26 Council Tax Requirement

		£
a.	Aggregate of estimated City Council expenditure, contingencies, and contributions to financial reserves	4,413,962,530
b.	Parish Precepts	2,299,255
c.	Aggregate of estimated income (including Top-Up Grant), and use of financial reserves (Note 1)	(3,439,626,021)
d.	net transfers to/(from) the Collection Fund in relation to Business Rates	(440,672,615)
e.	Transfer to/(from) the Collection Fund in relation to Council Tax	(7,038,000)
f.	**Council Tax Requirement, being the aggregate of (a) to (e) above**	**528,925,149**

Note 1: To note that the income figure is calculated by taking the aggregate of estimate City Council income, the total Top Up Grant due to the Council in 2025/26 and the amount of the Council's Exceptional Financial Support request to balance the 2025/26 budget

2.3. The following amendments are proposed to be incorporated in full within the City Council's 2025/26 Budget:

Growth Proposals

2.4. The following growth items are proposed to be incorporated within the City Council's 2025/26 budget, **Table 2 refers**. The Flood Risk Contingency of £50k will also be moved into the Directorate budget for 2025/26.

Table 2: 2025/26 Growth Proposals

Proposal	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
Graffiti Removal	0	200	200	200
Increased Street Cleaning	400	700	700	700
Flood Risk Maintenance	0	50	50	50
Youth Services	214	450	450	450
Libraries	450	1,000	1,000	1,000
Totals	**1,064**	**2,400**	**2,400**	**2,400**

Removal of Existing Savings Proposals

2.5. The following savings are proposed to be removed from the City Council's 2025/26 budget, **Table 3 refers**:

Table 3: Removal of Proposed Savings

Ref	Saving title	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
24, 282	Pest Control – removal of charge for rat treatment	365	365	365	365
	Totals	**365**	**365**	**365**	**365**

New Savings Proposals

2.6. The following new savings are proposed to be incorporated within the City Council's 2025/26 budget, **Table 4 refers**:

Table 4: 2025/26 Saving Proposals

Code	Proposal	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
ALTG001	Reduction in Special Responsibility Allowances for Cabinet	50	50	50	50
ALTG002	Reduction in support for Political Groups	205	409	409	409
ALTG003	Reduced Cabinet Support	248	496	496	496
ALTG004	Reduction in Communications Team	500	1,000	1,000	1,000
ALTG005	Review of Extended Corporate Leadership Team	300	600	600	600
ALTG006	Increase income from parking enforcement	126	210	210	210
	Totals	**1,429**	**2,765**	**2,765**	**2,765**

Council Tax Requirement

Council Tax - Basic Amount

2.7. That the Basic Amount of Council Tax for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 be set at £1,935.72, pursuant to the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, being the Council Tax Requirement of £528,925,149 divided by the Council Tax Base of 273,244 Band D properties (as agreed by Cabinet on 21 January 2025).

Council Tax – City Council and Parish Precepts

2.8. That the basic amount of Council Tax for City Council services for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 be set at £1,927.31 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a.	Basic Amount calculated under Section 31B		£1,935.72
	LESS		
b.	Parish precepts	£2,299,255	
	DIVIDED BY		
	City Council Tax base (no. of Band D Properties)	273,244	£8.41
			£1,927.31

2.9. That, pursuant to Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Basic Amount of Council Tax for City Council services is not excessive in relation to determining whether a referendum is required on the level of Council Tax.

New Frankley Parish Council Precept

2.10. That the basic amount of Council Tax for New Frankley in Birmingham Parish for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 be set at £1,961.97 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a.	Basic Amount calculated under Section 34(2)		£1,927.31
	PLUS		
b.	The New Frankley in Birmingham Parish precept	£48,656	
	DIVIDED BY		
	The tax base for New Frankley in Birmingham Parish (no. of Band D properties)	1,404	£34.66
			£1,961.97

Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Precept

2.11. That the basic amount of Council Tax for the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 be set at £1,987.27 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a.	Basic Amount calculated under Section 34(2)		1,927.31
	PLUS		
b.	The Royal Sutton Coldfield Parish Council precept	£2,250,599	
	DIVIDED BY		
	The tax base for Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (no. of Band D properties)	37,535	£59.96
			£1,987.27

Council Tax – Total

2.12. That, in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the amounts of Council Tax set for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2025 for each category of dwelling listed within a particular valuation band, shall be calculated by adding:

a. the amount given by multiplying the basic amount of Council Tax for the relevant area by the fraction whose numerator is the proportion applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, and whose denominator is the proportion applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D; to

b. the amounts which are stated in the final precepts issued by the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC); and are shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Total Council Tax Amounts for the 2025/26 year

	Areas without a Parish Council				New Frankley in Birmingham		Royal Sutton Coldfield	
Band	City Council £	Fire and Rescue Authority £	West Midlands PCC £	Total excl. Parish / Town Precept £	Parish Precept £	Parish Total £	Town Precept £	Town Total £
A	1,284.87	53.46	153.00	1,491.33	23.11	1,514.44	39.98	1,531.31
B	1,499.02	62.37	178.50	1,739.89	26.96	1,766.85	46.63	1,786.52
C	1,713.16	71.28	204.00	1,988.44	30.81	2,019.25	53.30	2,041.74
D	1,927.31	80.19	229.50	2,237.00	34.66	2,271.66	59.96	2,296.96
E	2,355.60	98.01	280.50	2,734.11	42.36	2,776.47	73.29	2,807.40
F	2,783.89	115.83	331.50	3,231.22	50.07	3,281.29	86.61	3,317.83
G	3,212.18	133.65	382.50	3,728.33	57.77	3,786.10	99.94	3,828.27
H	3,854.62	160.38	459.00	4,474.00	69.32	4,543.32	119.92	4,593.92

3. 2026/27 and Future Years

3.1. The following additional recommendation to City Council that:

a) Council considers the following ideas as set out in Section 3 below, to look at the potential to generate more savings and efficiencies, with detailed delivery plans for each proposal produced by July 2025.

3.2. A full audit of all lighting and energy use in Council buildings during 2025-2026 in order to bring forward building lighting and other building energy saving proposals for 2026-2027 onwards.

3.3. Invest in energy efficiency measures and solar panels on libraries to save on libraries energy bills from 2026-2027.

3.4. Investigate how similar measures could be carried out on all Council buildings.

3.5. Use any savings from energy efficiency of buildings and installation of solar panels to:

a) Invest more in library and youth services.

b) Remove the savings which are related to turning off or dimming street lights.

3.6. Secure more funding to re-establish local welfare provision funds, cut by the Labour Administration in last year's budget.

3.7. Investigate implementing 10:1 pay ratio as part of the pay review and the job evaluation. So the highest paid council employee would not be paid more than 10 times the lowest paid.