

LABOUR GROUP BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSALS

Service Area	£000
<p>Crown Wood/Harmans Water Children's Centre Continue to maintain and improve The Sycamores as a satellite children's centre providing locality based support for some of our poorest and most vulnerable families, so that we give young children the best possible start to their life. Harmans Water is one of our poorest Wards – 18.8% of families live in poverty and they accessed the most food parcels from the Food Bank.</p>	14
<p>School Improvement The Council recently re-stated its desire that all Bracknell Forest schools should be good schools. Every school wants to this to happen. Our advisers have an overview of excellence and I have witnessed how their advice and support can raise achievement. Ofsted has replaced 'satisfactory' by 'requirement to improve'. Any school that fails to improve will be forced to leave the LA and become an academy. I therefore recommend that investment in supporting our schools is increased, and the proposed cuts halved.</p>	92
<p>Aiming High Aiming High has been very successful in supporting our most vulnerable families with disabled youngsters. We recommend extending the scheme to children and young people who have other high level special needs like autism, speech and language delay.</p>	100
<p>Connexions Reduce the proposed reduction in Connexions services to ensure that there is a higher level of support in schools for one to one careers advice and guidance for those most at risk of becoming NEET. It is important for low achievers to have a clear idea of what they are aiming for. This is an investment that will certainly lead to savings in the future.</p>	85
<p>The new Joint Strategic Needs assessment (JSNA) identifies two key issues for Bracknell Forest they are mental health and depression, and sexual health. (Meeting 23/02/12- to review – 'Creating opportunities'- Young People's Plan) The Targeted Mental Health project trained staff in schools and children's centres to recognize and address mental health issues at an early stage. Only 12 schools were involved but the funding has now ended. This is essential investment for the future mental health of our young people and adults. This successful project should be extended to include more schools and to sustain the work begun.</p>	75
<p>Health Education in Schools Abuse of the drug mephedrone is still escalating and is now affecting children in our schools. The police say this is a local Bracknell Forest problem. A task force has been set up, but one worker supporting all schools is not enough. Early intervention is needed to help safeguard our young people. Nationally and locally sexual infections are increasing. We urge the funding of extra support for health education for our young people.</p>	50
TOTAL	416

The Council has balances of £8.4m,

About £10m when the Icelandic bank money is received - larger than most of our neighbouring boroughs.

Up from £7.3m last year

Last year the Council drew £1.59m from these balances

Mindful of not only this year's budget but also future year's unknown pressures

I move an amendment: to set aside £1.66m from these balances, drawing down just £416k each year for the next 4 years, to ensure these recommendations are sustainable.

This annual fund to provide

- * £14K to retain the Sycamores Children Centre**
- * £92K for School Improvement**
- * £100K to extend the Aiming High Scheme**
- * £85 K to support career guidance in schools**
- * £75K for targeted mental health support**
- * £50K for health education for young people**

Total £416K

The amendment would give effect to these changes in 2012/13. The amendment includes the impact of the changes on the full Council Tax Resolution. Mainly Members need to look at recommendations 2.2(i), 2.2(ix) and 2.2 (x). The changes are shown in italics.