

The Conservative Budget Amendment 2024-2025

Proposed by Cllr Gio Spinella and seconded by Cllr Andrew Parkinson

The Conservative Budget amendment aims to address the following issues affecting Camden Council:

- Climate change: we feel that one of the best ways to tackle this matter is by encouraging Camden residents to forgo their petrol vehicles. As an incentive to achieve this goal, we therefore propose scrapping all parking fee for electric and hybrid vehicles in Camden.
- Public Health: the restoration of weekly bin collections will help Camden keep a cleaner street environment. By also withdrawing the extra charge for the collection of garden waste, we will help incentivise the disposal of garden waste.
- Recycling: by having the recycling centre in Regis Road open one evening a week, this will allow hard-working families and residents with larger items to recycle to be able to do so without having to take time off of work.
- Fighting anti-social behaviour: building on the work Camden Council has already done, we suggest to make the new provisions permanent and expand the Anti-social Behaviour team by doubling the amount of officers.
- Accessibility to parking: by retaining in full the Scratch cards, this will allow our residents an easier time in allowing friends and families to visit.
- A Reduction in the Increase in Council Tax: we demonstrate how this can be achieved and still reduce the proposed increase in council tax, to show Camden residents that a careful management of the council's finances can allow an expansion of services and still reduce the fiscal burden on every resident.

The Executive Director Corporate Services confirms that, should the amendments be agreed, the assurances required by Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 with regard the adequacy of the reserves and the robustness of the estimates have been met and, therefore, that this still constitutes a balanced budget for 2024/25. The Executive Director Corporate Services or other officers have not been able to give these proposals the depth of consideration and due diligence to be able to recommend this as a course of action or to assess the financial impacts of the proposals beyond 2024/25. It has not been possible to make a full and comprehensive assessment of the impact of these proposals (such as those linked to the future use of our buildings or the impact on the existing workforce) and the associated implementation issues and risks.

It should also be noted that the full economic and social impact of both the Covid pandemic and the Cost-of-Living Crisis into 2024/25 and beyond is not yet fully known.