

## **Amendment to Agenda Item 8 - Revenue Budget 2018-2019 and Capital Programme 2018-2021**

### **Proposed by Councillor Sarah Adams and seconded by Councillor Jack Abbott**

This council recognises that the pressures placed upon the administration by the Conservative government to maintain its plan of austerity means another £27m of cuts to Suffolk County Council services.

And whilst this budget delivers against those plans, this chamber rejects the most punitive of these cuts. This council therefore reinstates the cuts to

FPS1	Citizens Advice	£20,000
GHI4	Passenger Transport Sponsored Services	£150,000
GHI6	Natural Environment (Greenways)	£14,500
Total		£184,500

FPS1 – As the budget report states there is a huge return on investment for this money. The reason for this reversal is that this is a cost avoidance scheme. Reports from Citizens Advice show most Divisions in Ipswich are over £100,000 better off because of their work. The costs this council will incur as a result of removing this funding later down the line far outweigh any savings in the short term. This £20,000 should be added to the Infrastructure and Growth Transformation project.

GHI4 – The budget report identifies that this cut will mean less bus services. All members can agree that more bus services will mean there is greater potential for people to access to jobs as they can travel more easily to our towns. Better jobs mean a decrease in council-related support and therefore a lower funding gap for this council. We should be supporting bus subsidies not decreasing them.

We would take £450,000 from the Council Tax Reserve and set up a Bus Subsidy Reserve. This would then be used to fund the £150,000 bus subsidy until 2020. Over this time increased job opportunities would offset some of the costs through increased tax raising opportunities.

GHI6 – We have had representation from Greenways to say this cut will impact them hugely, and they have not been made aware of this cut. We propose to take the £14,500 from Reserves for this year only to offset their reduction in budget to mitigate this year's loss with a view to implementing the cut next year when they have had enough time to plug this gap.

This council resolves to continue to fund these vital services at their current level because they create more access to jobs, wealth, health, wellbeing and support than they cost and provide a better return on investment than removing them.