

North Tyneside Council Report to Council Date: 16 February 2017

Title: 2017-2020 Financial
Planning and Budget Process:
Liberal Democrat Group Critique

Report of: The Liberal Democrat Group

Wards affected: ALL

Liberal Democrat Group Critique for the 2017/18 General Fund Revenue Budget, the proposed Council Tax Level for 2017/18, the Investment Plan for 2017-2020 and the Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2017/18

1.0 Introduction

We object to the Elected Mayor and Cabinets proposals for the Budget for 2017/2018.

While acknowledging that difficult decisions need to be made while Central Government continues to make cuts in Local Government budgets.

Cuts have been made year on year, under at least the last four Governments. We confirm our belief that it is time for Central Government to realise the amount of hard work carried out by staff and the important services provided by or facilitated by local Government, we therefore ask the Elected Mayor to write to HM Government to make it quite clear the position North Tyneside is in. Many families in our area continue to suffer economic hardships. We would call on the Elected Mayor to review her proposals and prioritise to ensure protection of services particularly to children and young people and vulnerable adults.

We would draw attention to the following areas;

1. (page 3/5 & 22) Changes to Adult Social Care – Concerns if the proposed savings are achieved the service will be decreased.
2. (page 40 Environment, Housing and Leisure - This could increase homelessness
3. (Page 44) Pension Uplift and Pay Awards
4. (Page 53) PFI variations – No guarantee this will be achievable
5. (Pg 85/89) – Concern over some of the bereavement charges and increase in Ease Card, non ease card and swimming lessons and off peak swimming
6. Page 91/95 Managing our assets

We again would suggest that all parties should be prepared to work together and there should be all party monitoring of the budget especially in those areas of high risk.