

There is an alternative: Liberal Democrat proposals

Our 2011 spending priorities

• Protect vulnerable older people – reversing Labour’s day centres, drop-in centres and luncheon clubs cut	£171,000
• Invest in Youth Service	£900,000
• Action on crime – reversing Labour’s crime fighting cuts	£400,000
• Create Jobs – tackling long-term worklessness	£350,000
• Support Voluntary sector	£700,000
• Help Local economy – mitigate town centre parking increase	£425,000
• Fostering Services – better outcomes for children and investing to save	£300,000
Total	£3,246,000

Tackling Labour’s waste and improving services

• Reduce funding on IT by a further 3%	£500,000
• Cut Council funding of union officials	£158,000
• Reduce reliance on expensive fostering agencies	£700,000
• Cut communications budget to £1m	£529,000
• Slim £20m management cost by a further 2%	£400,000
• Challenge Alexandra Palace to cut total costs by 2%	£171,000
• Remove 20 unfilled posts	£675,000
• Reduction in policy and performance spending	£13,000
• Recover Credit card processing cost	£100,000
Total	£3,246,000

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT BUDGET AMENDMENT ONE

Proposer: Cllr Robert Gorrie, Second: Cllr Richard Wilson

Action on Crime

The Council's budget consultation showed that crime was the biggest concern among local residents. The Labour budget proposes cuts to anti-crime initiatives such as funding for police overtime used to tackle high priority targets and local crime fighting projects. The Labour budget cuts funding for Metropolitan Police cover in Haringey's parks and volunteers for British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Overall these come to £400,000.

Liberal Democrats consider action on crime to be a priority and therefore propose reversing Labour's cuts to the front-line community safety budget. Liberal Democrats would use £40,000 of this budget to maintain the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator post in Haringey.

We propose that the balance of the investment should be spent priorities set by area committees in partnership with the local Police.

Revenue cost:	£400,000
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To fund this action on crime we would challenge officers to deliver a further 4% saving on management costs in a full year. The annual cost of senior managers, on salaries over £50,000, is more than £20million per year. This proposal would save £800,000 in a full year, £400,000 in a part year

Management revenue saving	£400,000
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LIBERAL DEMOCRAT BUDGET AMENDMENT TWO

Proposer: Cllr Robert Gorrie, Second: Cllr Richard Wilson

Investing in our young people

In a borough such as Haringey youth services are vital and much-valued by our young people and families. Labour plans a disproportionate 75% cut in this budget for these services.

Liberal Democrats would reverse £900,000 of the cuts proposed by Labour.

This investment will be paid for by improvements in our fostering service and reductions in spending on IT.

It is well known that outcomes for children in foster care are better if they are placed close to their home. Haringey Council has relied on expensive out-of-borough agency foster placements which cost twice the amount of a Council foster placement. Liberal Democrats believe that a £300,000 first year investment in the fostering service would reduce the need to rely on expensive foster agencies would improve the outcomes for our vulnerable children could deliver gross savings of £700,000.

We accept this will be a challenge but we feel it is one worth setting given the service benefits it could achieve.

Haringey currently spends £16.5million a year on running its IT. Labour is proposing less than a 6% real cut to this budget. Liberal Democrats believe that youth services are a greater priority than corporate IT and would take out further £500,000 from the IT budget.

	Cost	Saving
Youth Service revenue cost	£900,000	
Foster care revenue cost	£300,000	
Foster care revenue saving		£700,000
IT revenue savings		£500,000
Total	£1,200,000	£1,200,000

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT BUDGET AMENDMENT FOUR

Proposer: Cllr Robert Gorrie, Second: Cllr Richard Wilson

Protecting our vulnerable older people

Labour will close front-line services for older people such as the drop-in centres at Willoughby Road, Abbysinia Court, the Irish Centre and Woodside House. Labour is also planning to close the luncheon club at Jackson's Lane and cut funding for Day Centres. Liberal Democrats believe that this is a short-sighted decision which targets the most vulnerable older residents and will also place extra strain on the NHS and other Council services.

Liberal Democrats would reverse Labour's cuts to older people's day centres, drop-in centres and luncheon clubs.

Revenue cost	£171,000
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Labour spends £500,000 on paying union officials. Liberal Democrats, whilst understanding the benefit to staff of union representation, believe that this cost is too high. We would reduce spending by 50%.

Revenue savings	£158,000
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The Council currently spends more than £4million on "policy and performance". The balance needed to protect older people's services would be generated by increasing the proposed savings on "policy and performance" by 1%.

Revenue saving	£13,000
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To provide a sustainable future for these older people's service we propose a further reduction of £254,000 in policy and performance spending would be required in 2012/13.

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT BUDGET AMENDMENT FIVE

Proposer: Cllr Robert Gorrie, Second: Cllr Richard Wilson

Protecting the Voluntary Sector

Liberal Democrats believe that the voluntary sector is crucial to supporting vulnerable people in our borough.

Labour is choosing to substantially cut voluntary sector funding. Liberal Democrats will invest £700,000 in a new fund to protect the voluntary sector.

Voluntary sector cost	£700,000
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Labour currently spends nearly £2million on communications. Liberal Democrats believe that, whilst the proposed budget has reduced spending, more needs to be done to cut the waste of taxpayers' money on unnecessary glossy publications and Council propaganda. We would reduce the communications budget to £1million.

Revenue saving	£529,000
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Alexandra Palace currently receives a subsidy of over £2million per year. A reduction of 2% in its operating costs would enable the Council to reduce its subsidy by £171,000.

Saving in Alexandra Palace	Revenue Saving	£171,000
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