

Conservative Budget Amendment 2012/13

Amendment proposed by: Cllr David Snowdon

Amendment seconded by: Cllr Zara Davis

This Council Believes That:

- 1. Local residents are opposed to the commercialisation of our parks and open spaces, and would welcome the elimination of all targets to raise income from them.**
- 2. Bulk waste disposable charges are a stealth tax to which residents are opposed.**
- 3. Bulk waste disposable charges would lead to an increase in fly tipping, which would go against Council policy to make Tower Hamlets a Cleaner, Greener Borough.**
- 4. Library's are an important element of Lifelong Learning, and making draconian cuts to the book fund will result in residents of the Borough receiving poorer library provision.**
- 5. In order to protect front line services and save our open spaces from commercialisation, savings are necessary in a still bloated Town Hall budget.**
- 6. Councillors should lead by example, and take a cut in their allowances to save Tower Hamlets library services and save our parks from commercialisation.**
- 7. Contracting an outside company to water pot plants in Tower Hamlets building is an outrageous waste of public money.**
- 8. Council Officers should follow Eric Pickles' lead an "Adopt A Pot Plant"**

This Council calls upon the Executive to make reductions in income as follows:

Description	2012/13 Baseline	2013/14	Notes
Events In Parks	£200,000	£290,000 (2012/13 +£90,000)	Remove all provision for revenue from events in parks. Should the Mayor press ahead with holding events in parks despite it being the clear will of Full Council that parks should not be used in this way, all income generated under this budget line shall be used to employ permanent ground staff to repair the damage to our parks.

Bulk Waste Disposal Targets	£150,000	£150,000 (2012/13 +£0)	Remove all provision for bulk waste disposal charges. Should the Mayor press ahead with charging for bulk waste removal charges despite it being the clear will of Full Council they should not be implemented, this income stream will be allocated to rebates equivalent to charges for households affected.
Spending Per Year	£350,000	£440,000	
Cumulative Spend	£350,000	£790,000	

This Council Will:

1. Reverse the Executive's proposed decrease in spending (library book fund)

Library Book Fund	0	£200,000 (2012/13 +£200,000)	Reverse cuts to the Library Books fund.
Spending Per Year	£0	£200,000	
Cumulative Spend	£0	£200,000	

2. Implement the following cuts to council spending

Description	Savings in 2012/13	Savings in 2013/14	Notes
Staffing Budget	£30,000	£120,000 (2012/13 +£90,000)	Make savings in staffing budget (topsliced). The Council requests the Executive investigate reductions in senior staff salaries before generating savings from lower grade salaries.
Advertising	£92,500	£92,500 (2012/13 +£0)	Assume £850,000 outturn in 2011/12. Cut statutory advertising by 5% through better advert design Cut best practice advertising by 10% Cut non statutory advertising by 20% All TV Advertising to be stopped
Subscriptions	£7,000	£82,150 (2012/13 +£75,150)	Give notice on: LGIU subscription costs £11,350 Randalls Parliamentary Service – c. £10,000 (due August 2012) LGA - £55,000 Plain English campaign - £3,300 Association for Public Service Excellence - £2,500

Mayor's Executive Office	£26,600	£26,600 (2012/13 +£0)	Reduce spend on consultants / contractors/Comensura temporary staff by 20%
Pot plants	£22,416	£22,416 (2012/13 +£0)	Reduction in FM budget equivalent to pot plant spend. End contract in 2013. Investigate how much it would cost to bring this contract to a speedy and early end.
Dexter House	£15,271	£15,271 (2012/13 +£0)	Stop booking Dexter House for internal events – use Council facilities instead
Tower Hamlets Now 'e-zine)	£15,000	£15,000 (2012/13 +£0)	Cut all costs associated with e-zine (including 25% of PO3 officer). Use cascading e-mail communication system instead
Conferences	£4,000	£4,000 (2012/13 +£0)	Estimated cost in 2011/20 is £20,000 Reduce spending by 20%
Newspapers, Journals, Periodicals	£5,000	£5,000 (2012/13 +£0)	Reduce spending on subscriptions by 5%
Sponsorship	£2,500	£7,500 (2012/13 +£5,000)	Generate commercial sponsorship for events run by Tower Hamlets Council (eg. Fireworks, sporting events, cultural events)
Olympics Related Advertising	£30,000	£0	Cancel spend agreed at February cabinet to provide 6 double pages of adverts in EEL during Olympics
Councillors Allowances	£51,331	£51,331 (2012/13 +£0)	Cut all Councillor Basic Allowances by 10% in 2012/13 and maintain them at this level in 2013/14
Rationalise Committee Structure	£16,593	£16,593 (2012/13 +£0)	Delete Olympics Ambassador SRA. Merge Pensions, Audit and General Purposes Committees (with SRA for new Finance and General Purposes Committee set at £7,557)
Cut SRAs by 10%	£31,662	£31,662 (2012/13 +£0)	Cut all remaining SRAs by 10% in 2012/13 and maintain them at this level in 2013/14
Reduce Bounties Paid to Estate Agents by 15%	£75,052	£75,052	Reduce discretionary bounties paid to estate agents for finding properties by 15%.
Savings Per Year	£424,925	£565,075	
Cumulative	£424,925	£990,000	