

Budget 2024/25 – Labour Group Amendment

Alternative Savings

Reduce – Bengali Comms Team Growth (GRO/CEO/003/2024-25) to £120,000 instead of £505,000

Delete – Secretarial support for Chairs of committees (£114,000)

Delete – market supplements for Legal Services staff (GRO/CEO/001/2024-25) (£100,000)

Delete – Love Tower Hamlets promotion activity (GRO/CEO/004/2024-25) (£300,000)

Amend – Mayor’s Office restructure savings by adding an additional £1.4 million savings to the original target of £327,000, leaving a total budget of £468,000 (SAV/COP/003B/2024-25)

Alternative Expenditure

Delete – Replace Increase Council Tax by 3 per cent in 2024/25 with 1.5 per cent (£2 million)

Invest - £114,000 in providing Democratic Services support for additional Housing Scrutiny Sub-committee meetings and new Public Realm & Community Safety and Finance Sub-committees.

Reinvest £330,000 savings from lower Council Tax increase to extend the Council Tax Relief Scheme to the 2 per cent Adult Social Care increase.

Reinvest – the £100,000 for Legal Services in one-off funding for Tower Hamlets Community Advice Network (THCAN) to support residents affected by Social Security cuts and bad decisions by Tower Hamlets Council.

Invest – Use LBTH’s share of the £500 million additional funding for Social Care [announced on 24th January 2024](#) to cover the additional social care costs in the Budget and use the £3 million released from the General Fund in 2024/25 for an anti-poverty support for Tower Hamlets poorest residents, along the lines of the utilisation of the Government’s Household Support Fund in 2023/24, plus

- Adding £250,000 for an increase in the Standard Utilities Allowance used in the determination of Homecare charges from £5 a week to £15 a week;
- To allocate a sum of £250,000 to top-up the Discretionary Housing Payment funding pot to the same level as 2021/22 to support more tenants facing shortfalls;
- Set aside a total sum of £150,000 to award one-off grants to the voluntary food-banks operating in Tower Hamlets in 2022/23;
- Add a further £200,000 to LBTH’s own Residents Support Scheme pot to help those who are unable to afford essential white goods or utility bills;
- Allocate an additional sum of £150,000 to the School Uniform Grant funding to enable an increase in the £110 allowance per child agreed in 2019/20 and a second payment;

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

Amend the 7.7 per cent increase in rents so that the maximum increase is capped at £10 a week to protect council tenants living in newly-built properties let at higher rent levels.