

Amendment - Budget

Community Wealth (Budget)

Proposed by Councillor Stubbs, seconded by Councillor Jones

Council notes:

- (i) That the Community Wealth Building (CWB) model has had success in Preston amongst other areas in uniting the City's key employers and procurers (known as 'anchor institutions') to reorganise their supply chains and identify where they could buy goods and services locally, showing what can be achieved by effective local leadership.
- (ii) Whilst Newcastle-under-Lyme's economy is relatively stable, high levels of inequality and concentrations of poverty make a focus on adding social value crucial for our Towns and Villages.

Council believes:

- (i) That there is potential for our Borough Council to work alongside other 'anchor institutions' in Newcastle-under-Lyme and the wider North Staffordshire Conurbation in using our spending powers to forge a local economy that shares wealth and power more equally and puts environmental sustainability at its heart.
- (ii) There are clear benefits to co-operation and substantial growth in the sector provides a true alternative to business as usual.

Council resolves to:

- (i) Explore with leading Newcastle-under-Lyme's employers how they can together target our significant procurement spend to achieve social and environmental goals and monitor its impact.
- (ii) Work to ensure that public spend in Newcastle-under-Lyme maximises the achievement of social value.
- (iii) Request an update report from the relevant officer to Cabinet and Council within six months of this meeting.
- (iv) That any and all the proposed spend within the Commercial Strategy, (a figure that could reach £50M), contained within the 2020/21 Budget should be ring-fenced to be spent on projects in Staffordshire alone.
- (v) Council further resolves that a Cabinet Panel be formed to monitor the Commercial Strategy as part of a wider examination of the benefits of a people centred approach to Finances within the Council.
- (vi) That the Leader of the Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government to seek clarification as follows;
 - (a) What date the Minister plans to release his plans for the next fair funding review (implementation scheduled for April 2021),
 - (b) Will the 'new' fair funding review include 'poverty indicators' as requested by bodies such as the Local Government Association,
 - (c) What are the Minister's intentions with regard to business rates retention,
 - (d) Stress the need for the details above as vital to Local Authority financial planning.

- (vii) Pause the introduction of the new “Waste Recycling Fleet – New Service” until Council is able to analyse detailed costings behind the proposed expenditure of £4.7M in 2020/21 and 2026/27.