

Independent Alliance Group Alternative Budget and Forward Plan

The following is the Independent Alliance Group (IAG) Forward Plan associated with the IAG alternative Budget. There are a number of proposals to revise current budget allocations and are funded by proposals to make additional savings and income for the Council.

- 1 The IAG supports the WCC Business Pool (GBS) to be allocated across the district to support Adult Services at the point of use.

These additional funds from the Worcestershire wide pool will be used to prevent or reduce the cost of social care across the district from 19/20. For clarity the additional funds will;

- Fund community transport to help reduce isolation
- Additional work with Housing providers and Districts to plan and build facilities for the most vulnerable, including care leavers and those young people at risk of homelessness.
- Additional spending above the Disabled Facilities Grant to help people live in their homes longer
- Funds to be made available for community facilities, such as libraries, community drop in facilities and amenities.

Wider support will focus on supporting the most vulnerable and keeping people out of the care system for as long as possible by enabling more residents to access support services to help vulnerable people.

This joint working will include a focus on social prescribing; digital inclusion; and behaviour change programmes in our local communities and across the district through the health and wellbeing agenda.

- 2 The IAG proposes an increase in the New Homes Bonus Scheme to continue to aid and encourage investment across the district. An increase in the total grant fund will raise the NHB fund to £100,000 p.a from 19/20.
- 3 The IAG proposes an increase in car park wardens from 19/20. The increase of two new wardens will increase the coverage across the district being more visible with more regularity thus being better placed to manage car parking to ensure correct parking tariffs are paid for.
- 4 The IAG proposes the introduction of a new district ward member fund of £1,000 per member per ward per annum to further support community initiatives that would otherwise not fall under the NHB grant from 19/20.
- 5 The IAG proposes that investigations are made into the viability of a BDC owned 'waste to energy plant' to support the district's housing growth and deliver an income stream for the district Council under the £20m investment Plan from 19/20.

This plant would be proposed for consideration on land already identified for c3,000 new homes on the boundary with Redditch.