

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY 4th March 2020

Lib Dem Environment Proposals Agreed by Mid Sussex District Council

Local Liberal Democrats ‘delighted’ after Conservatives accept Budget amendment establishing new funding for sustainability

Local Liberal Democrats have hailed a decision by Conservative-controlled Mid Sussex District Council, to accept Lib Dem proposals for new Environment and Sustainability funding. At the Council meeting on Wednesday 4th March, where next year’s Budget was agreed, Councillors approved the Lib Dem proposal to allocate £100,000 to a ring-fenced reserve to address sustainability and climate change.

Councillors also adopted a second Lib Dem proposal that will increase the ability of the Council to tackle the climate emergency by reducing the carbon footprint of Council properties.

The amendment added to the Conservative Budget was that:

1. A £100,000 Environment and Sustainability Specific Reserve was established. This ring-fenced budget will be available to Council to spend on measures to improve sustainability and tackle climate change.
2. The Council agreed to develop a plan for increased energy efficiency and renewable energy generation opportunities across the Council’s properties.

Cllr Alison Bennett Liberal Democrat Group Leader said, “I am delighted that Mid Sussex Councillors were able to put party politics aside in order to prioritise tackling the Climate Emergency. Local government is facing a huge funding crisis, but this does not mean that the Climate Emergency can be ignored.”

Cllr Benedict Dempsey, of Hassocks, added: “This is a very positive move. This new budget will increase the Council’s ability to play its part in addressing some of the greatest issues of our time: climate change and the biodiversity crisis.

“It has been a divisive time in politics, but there are some issues that should transcend party differences. We are delighted that the Conservatives agreed that this is an area where we must work together. There is a lot more we will have to do, but this is a very good start.”

ENDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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NOTES TO EDITOR:

1. The Liberal Democrat amendment read:

Environment and Sustainability Special Reserve

In recognition of this Council's commitment to Sustainability and addressing Climate Change, establish a Specific Reserve for Environment and Sustainability, and transfer £100,000 from the General Reserve to this Specific Reserve.

The specific reserve will be for Environment and Sustainability projects with all expenditure subject to agreement under Financial Regulation B4.4 in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

Renewable Energy Generation

That the Council requests that officers continue to develop a business case for improved energy efficiency and renewable energy generation in council owned buildings, subject to agreement by Cabinet and Council in the usual way.