

Budget Amendment proposals from Councillor Osborne

1. Citizens' science project - Air quality monitoring

£10,000 - To provide residents with self-build sensors installed outside their homes that generate a continuously updated particular matter map from the transmitted data. This could focus on areas not already covered by local authority equipment. The funding should include officer time and work with partners on the construction of the equipment and ensuring accurate calibration. The principle of the project is to kick start an air quality partnership with private funding for the monitors in the future and provide an education opportunity.

3. Biodiversity Improvements

£10,000 - For supporting bio diversity improvements on Lewes District Council land using a variety of improvements including nest boxes and wildflower, and to use it as a catalyst for more community engagement and interest in their local bio-diversity. Funding is to include officer time using established teams and to work with partners (such as Plumpton Headway, Mind) on the construction / supply of material and delivery in local communities.

4. Trade & Investment Account Manager

£25,000 - To Pilot the creation of a new Trade and Investment Account Manager focusing on attracting new investment to Lewes District and supporting businesses to grow, trade locally, nationally and internationally. Specifically targeting high growth scale-up businesses including priority sectors for the LEP, Newhaven Enterprise Zone and Greater Brighton City region.

5. Pop up and Flexible Business Space

The proposed investment set out in these proposals are a cost effective way of bringing back underutilised council-owned assets into productive use. Furthermore, the proposed use would directly contribute to economic growth by supporting micro businesses to expand. By their nature, micro businesses are locally-owned; providing an environment where they can grow will help their owners who are likely to be residents of the district. It also provides an environment where micro businesses can network and support each other thereby improving their resilience and increasing their longevity.

Cost to Develop Pop-Up Business Case -

Newhaven - It is proposed that development of pop-up space is funded in two phases:

Phase 1: £20K fund made available to fully develop a business case including the long-term viability assessment of growing pop-up office space in The Havens.

Phase 2: Up to £105K capital (from the capital programme to be ring-fenced) to invest in the refurbishment, should the business case show a good rental income based on a 5 year plan.

Lewes - It is proposed that development of pop-up space is funded in two phases:

Phase 1. £10k for a detailed and costed survey on 4 Fisher Street to understand the capital expenditure required. This will then inform a full business case.

Phase 2. Up to £300K capital (from the capital programme to be ring-fenced) to invest in the refurbishment, should the business case show a good rental income.

6. Recycling on the go bin roll out.

£28k - To replace litter bins around the district with dual bins that allow residents to 'recycle on the go'.

There are 40 further locations in the districts' main shopping areas where we can install the dual bins, extending the 'recycling on the go' scheme.