

Labour Group Budget Amendment 2023/24	
Proposal	Cost
<b>Supporting the borough through the cost-of-living crisis</b>	
New Council Tax Support Fund	£100,000
Community Grants	£100,000
Freeze Bury Market Rents for an extra year	£87,000
Extend Elected Member's Discretionary Budgets for 1 year	£51,000
Children in Care and Care Leavers Support Fund	£50,000
Veterans and Cadets Support Fund	£20,000
	<b>£408,000</b>
<b>Supporting Bury's Culture</b>	
Cultural Programme 2023/24	£20,000
Celebrating the Coronation and Commemorating Queen Elizabeth II	£14,000
	<b>£34,000</b>
<b>Manifesto Pledges</b>	
Dealing with the backlog on tree maintenance	£125,000
	<b>£125,000</b>

**New Council Tax Support Fund** – this is designed to support those who are not eligible for our Council Tax Support Scheme but who otherwise find themselves struggling in the current economic circumstances. The Fund would provide a cash grant of £100 to each eligible household. This would provide more than the expected rise in Council Tax this year, effectively reducing Council Tax for eligible households for this year. At £100 per payment, 1000 household who are struggling will benefit. Criteria for eligibility will be drawn up as soon as possible to ensure this targeted support reaches those most in need.

**Community Grants** – these grants will be split into £20,000 per neighbourhood. Distribution will be determined by panels of elected members, supported by the VCFA and Neighbourhood teams. Specific guidance on how to apply will be drawn up over the coming few months.

**Freeze Bury Market Rents for an extra year** – the challenge of recovering from Covid is still a concern many traders have and with the necessary disruption (hopefully kept to the minimum) over the coming year with the exciting delivery of the LUF project, we wanted to keep up our support for market traders with a further year of freezing the market rents. Current budget assumptions have build in a 10% increase, in line with other fees and charges, this allocation will ensure that income target is still kept.

**Extend Elected Member's Discretionary Budgets for 1 year** – following feedback and assessment from this scheme, we would like to extend it for another year and consider options to build permanently into the budget, if funding allows.

**Children in Care and Care Leavers Support Fund** – supporting our Children in Care and Care Leavers is our first duty as Corporate Parents. As parents, we want to use our resources to help our children to live happy, safe and successful lives. This fund will be shaped by our

children, and managed by the teams around them, to help support our children with the challenges of life in the cost of living crisis.

**Veterans and Cadets Support Fund** – as a proud Fusilier Town, we recognise the strong links with our armed forces community. Sadly, the current closure of the Drill Hall has left veterans and cadets looking for alternative venues to meet and perform their duties. Much of this has added new burdens and costs, alongside the general challenges of the cost-of-living crisis. This new fund will be introduced to support our veterans and cadets with those challenges. We will work together with veteran and armed forces representatives to determine how best to meet their needs through this fund.

**Cultural Programme 2023/24** – during 2022 we were able to support cultural activities across the entire borough, both established ones and new. Building on our legacy of Town of Culture, and in anticipation of the new Culture Strategy, we want to keep building upon our borough's strong cultural offer. This fund would accept applications from events/groups that help support these aims.

**Celebrating the Coronation and Commemorating Queen Elizabeth II** – the death of Queen Elizabeth II and imminent coronation of King Charles III will be momentous occasions in the life of our borough. We want to run a (friendly) contest with schools in the borough to present ideas for how we can acknowledge both events. This may be an idea or design of a mural, painting, performance, or something else creative. We would ask the Mayor to run the contest on behalf of the borough, and seek support from the local deputy lieutenants and Bury Art Gallery and Museum staff to agree the winning idea(s).

**Dealing with the backlog on tree maintenance** – this issue is one of the biggest issues we as elected members receive casework about. Our dedicated and hard working staff in this service have incredible day-to-day pressures to deal with anyway, but this has been made worse in recent years by Covid, repeated storms felling trees and diseases such as Ash Die Back raising the risk of damage or injury. This funding would help employ additional capacity to help reduce/remove the current backlog.