

Pendle Savings Challenge 2014

The Council received the following responses to the Savings Challenge for 2014:-

Suggestions for Increasing Income

- 1. Fine the people who park illegally around the town centres. Fine the people who litter around town
Fine the streets who litter or charge them for cleaning their rubbish up. Why can some streets stay clean and others don't??**

In some areas of the Borough, the Council does operate the disc parking scheme as a means of managing short stay car parks. Where people do not comply with the requirements of the disc parking scheme, they are fined accordingly. Equally, the Council does fine those who are caught littering.

As an aside to this, the recent enactment of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 may provide further opportunities for the Council to take enforcement against those who commit environmental crime.

- 2. Charging for replacement bins, £10 max Charging for bulky waste collections, nominal fee £15 average dependent upon number of items reduce council tax benefits by 1% increasing outgoings considerably**

A proposal to introduce charges for the collection of bulky household waste will be considered by Councillors as part of their deliberations on the Budget.

The Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme limits the amount of support provided to Working Age Claimants to 80% of their Council Tax charge thereby meaning that all Working Age Claimants are required to at 20% of their Council Tax charge. Subject to their individual circumstances, Pensioner Claimants remain entitled to full Council Tax Support in line with statutory requirements.

- 3. Charge all people for using football pitches Make sure you charge for collecting settees and things
Stop giving people discounts for Council Tax Put leisure charges up Increase charges for swimming lessons**

The Council does make charges for using football pitches. The exception to this is for u16s who are allowed to use pitches for no charge.

As indicated above, a proposal to introduce charges for the collection of bulky household waste will be considered by Councillors as part of their deliberations on the Budget.

A proposal for changes to discretionary discounts (for properties subject to major repairs and those that are unoccupied/unfurnished) on Council Tax will be considered by the Councillors as part of their deliberations on the Budget. Some discounts such as Single Person Discount cannot be changed by Pendle.

- 4. Make all car parks a 50p per stay. Introduce a local initiative- e.g if you spend x amount in a local business you dont pay the 50p**

The Council currently uses the disc-parking scheme as a means of controlling short stay car parks.

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5. Charge more for obviously bogus shops in town which are clearly fronts for drug money as they are used very little but seem to survive very well.

n/a

6. Get that tesco store open again with a low rate and whoever has the store control over the parking, it is why tesco left as people had to put a silly disk in the window to park to go shopping there, so they much rather go else where. When I say tesco I mean what it was called last.

As far as the Council is aware, the building formerly occupied by Tesco is still leased by the Company and they are currently attempting to let the premises. Indeed, the Council still receives rent from Tescos for the car park.

Suggestions for Making Savings

1. I am not sure which services you provide. Cut back on the production of leaflets etc

Details of the services provided by the Council are set out on the Council's website. The Council no longer produces Pendle News, the twice-yearly newspaper.

2. consolidate as many council services into as few building as possible, Have a monthly/fortnightly/weekly "work from home day, increasing savings as an entire building could be closed reducing utilities bills and lowering the council carbon footprint in the process because of less people having to drive to work, reduce number of "subscriptions" used within the council for publications or services that aren't necessary to service delivery,

The Council has rationalised the amount of office space it uses in the delivery of Council Services and will continue to do so where opportunities present themselves.

All of the Council's office-based staff are located either in Nelson Town Hall, Elliott House or Fleet Street Depot. At present, there is insufficient office space to rationalise further but this matter will remain under review as the Council's workforce continues to change.

It is also the case that some staff do have the ability to work from home and this does happen where it benefits the Council operationally.

3. Pay less Allowances to Councillors Have less Councillors

A proposal to reduce Councillors' Allowances will be considered by Councillors in their deliberations on the Council's budget.

A proposal to reduce the number of Councillors is included in the budget savings for 2017/18 acknowledging that any decision to do so will require a review by the Boundary Commission of Ward sizes and Councillor representation. This can take a number of years to conclude and is, therefore, not a short term solution.

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4. **Review employment package for senior management. For example don't provide high end cars for managers and use energy efficient pool cars instead.**

The Council has recently undertaken a full review of its organisational structure and, in doing so, has reduced the number of Senior Directors from 3 to 2. The remaining 2 Directors will no longer be entitled to a lease car as part of their remuneration package.

5. **No. Most services have already been hit.**

n/a

6. **can councils work together to cut down over heads like councils offices have one main office center of all councils say in pendle burnley hyburn etc**

The Government has indicated that it does not wish to consider local government reorganisation at this as it considers it a distraction from the provision of services to residents.

7. **I really don't see what mayors do in this day and age and I think millions could be saved by getting rid of old fashioned outdated pompous wastes of money. Like mayors and other ceremonial rubbish. There are far too many costs and expenses with these kinds of things and money should and could be used more effectively in other areas.**

The Council views the Mayor as an important ceremonial role. The Mayor actively promotes the local area to businesses and tourists alike as well as championing causes and raising the profile of the local community and the Council.

With the Mayoress, the Mayor also uses his profile to raise much needed funds for local charities.

8. **Collect recycle bins once monthly, the bins are massive you provided and when I lived in Pendle it was about once a month I put it out.**

At present, the Council collects recycling materials on alternate weeks and has no plans to change this. Householders are provided with a 240ltr bin for recycling but can opt, if they so wish, to have a smaller 140ltr bin for recycling.

9. **why not use the large tree in the gardens outside what was the post office on Manchester Road by the junction with Stanley Street as the towns Christmas Tree this year. It would welcome people into the town centre and 'Slim Jim' could stand at the town centre outside Pendle Rise. I am not sure we need one outside the library as well.**

Responsibility for the provision of Festive Decorations now rests with Town and Parish Councils.

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Other Suggestions for Meeting the Savings Challenge

1. Turn off street lighting between certain hours or operate every other lampost.

Street lighting is not the responsibility of Pendle Borough Council; it is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council.

2. To save money you could switch off all street/motorway lighting between the hours of 12am and 6am everyday.

See 1. Above

3. more efficient use of council budgets could include, reduction of councillors based on number of towns not wards, this links with services being passed to town and parish councils meaning number of councillors is excessive, less circular work like pedestrianising nelson town centre and then creating a roadway through it, as this creates dismay with the public and costs in the long run, investing more time than money into the nelson town shops and markets issue.

A proposal to reduce the number of Councillors is included in the budget savings for 2017/18 acknowledging that any decision to do so will require a review by the Boundary Commission of Ward sizes and Councillor representation. This can take a number of years to conclude and is, therefore, not a short term solution.

There has been considerable investment in Nelson Town Centre as a consequence of the implementation of the Nelson Town Centre Masterplan. This has resulted in a considerable improvement in the public realm of the Town Centre along with new buildings/facilities such as Number One Market Street, the ACE Centre, a new Bus/Rail Interchange.

4. increase the number of Council Tax bands to reflect that the property price range has greatly increased since the introduction of Council Tax. Tell the Government that they are destroying the services provided by local government, through the austerity cuts. Hold a referendum to ask residents if they would agree to a higher increase in council tax to pay for better services.

The Council Tax Scheme is based on statutory regulations determined by the Government and so Pendle Borough Council has no powers to change the number of Council Tax Bands.

The Council will be obliged to hold a referendum of residents of the Borough if it proposes a Council Tax increase of 2% or more. Councillors will consider whether to change the Council Tax at their meeting on 19th February 2015.

5. Don't build fancy things- e.g a new car park/road in nelson town centre. How much has that cost? Nelson isn't even a nice town.

The provision of the road through Nelson arose out of the Nelson Town Centre Masterplan and was funded by the former NWDA. The Car Park in Scotland Road, Nelson was as a consequence of listening to the businesses in Nelson Town Centre who requested the facilities. It was funded by contributions from Lancashire County Council, the Nelson Portas Pilot and the High Street Innovation Fund.

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6. **Stop wasting money on hair brained schemes like £85k for a few parking spaces on a pedestrianised street when the town has plenty of parking.**

As above.

7. **try to get people back into work by getting nelson centre up and running most shop are not being used, there needs to be a partnership between shop council and the big supermarkets and out lets to do this**

There have been significant improvements to the public realm in Nelson, including the reintroduction of the road through the Town Centre, as a means of revitalising the Town Centre. This has included a new Bus/Rail Interchange, the ACE Centre, Number One Market Street and new public realm.

The Council also supports the Nelson Town Team, which was successful in securing funds through the Portas Pilot and High Street Innovation Fund, which oversees work to address issues in the Town Centre. The Team focuses on championing Nelson by getting businesses to work together on improving the offer to residents and visitors.

In partnership with various organisations, the Council is also undertaking various measures to help the unemployed back into work. For example of this is the development of the Apprenticeship and Training Centre on Scotland Road, Nelson which is being provided in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions and Nelson and Colne College.

That being said, it is widely the case that many Town Centres are continuing to suffer the impact of the recession at the same time as changing shopping habits given the growth of things like internet shopping. The Council does offer discretionary retail relief on business rates to help local businesses with their operating costs.

8. **Local contractors should be used and then maybe the council wouldn't end up paying through the nose for everything.**

The Council tenders work as appropriate and local contractors are free to submit bids.