

Cannock Chase Green Party Group Alternative Budget for 12 February 2025 Council Meeting

Proposed by Andrea Muckley, Green Group Leader

This alternative budget is proposed by the Green Party Group. We note that the Council's s.151 Officer has advised that this alternative budget would still result in a balanced budget.

The process of setting a budget presents an opportunity for all councillors to consider alternatives which may enhance how we collectively discharge our responsibilities to our residents. We are asking for a small variation, which should be considered by Cabinet as part of the overall budget-setting process.

The Green Group have long argued the importance of the Museum of Cannock Chase; the buildings as well as the collection housed within. It is our preference that the Museum remain at its current location, run by the Council with the assistance of a leisure provider if required. We understand that the budget recommended by Cabinet calls for the closure of both the Prince of Wales Theatre and the Museum of Cannock Chase as of the end of April. While discussions continue it is right to note that the ruling party have sufficient votes to pass a budget which does, indeed, close the Museum of Cannock Chase. We therefore seek to protect the Museum moving forward, (following advice that money has already been set aside for the theatre).

Our alternative is as follows:

We propose ring fencing £100,000 from the leisure reserve for the development of business cases for alternative provision / delivery models for the Museum of Cannock Chase

In light of this alternative budget, Council is recommended to refer back the Cabinet's budget recommendations for further consideration.