

OFFICERS' COMMENTS ON ALTERNATIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL BY THE INDEPENDENT GROUP

The following sets out comments by the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer on a proposal offered up in the budget amendment. Members of the Council should take this advice into consideration when considering and debating the amendment in question.

Comments of the Chief Financial Officer

The proposals are presented as a 3 year budget, which is broadly balanced and covers both revenue and capital items. The proposals include a reallocation of current earmarked reserves such as the transformation reserve, ICT reserve, and resources from s106, Community Infrastructure Levy and New Homes Bonus.

The proposed use of reserves and other one off resources to fund the capital or non-recurring items in the budget proposal is considered to be an appropriate use of resources.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

The process for submitting and considering amendments to the Administration's Budget Motion are set out in the Council's Constitution (Council Procedure Rules). I can confirm that the process that has been followed for the submitted amendments meets those requirements.

Pursuant to Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 the Council is required to set a balanced budget. The indicative figures set out in these proposed amendments appear to meet that requirement however, if approved any of the amendments be are adopted by Council, officers will need to undertake further work to determine whether the proposals can be achieved at the savings/expenditure levels set out.