

OFFICERS' COMMENTS ON ALTERNATIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR RABINA KHAN

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 proposal to invest £0.03m into the Community language Service in 2020/21 on a one-off basis is proposed to be funded from the use of the New Homes Bonus.

The proposal to remove from the Medium Term Financial Strategy the Community Language Service savings for 2020-21 and 2021-22 would create an unfunded budget pressure in 2020-21 of £0.35m and in 2021-22 a further £0.25m which would need to be found from alternative savings or from a reduction to the Council's reserves.

The proposal to invest £0.05m towards Joint Working Strategy similarly does not currently identify the funding source required to ensure that the Council's budget remains in balance; this could be either from additional savings proposals or from a further use of the Council's reserves. In the context of generating income from the Council's assets the MTFS already includes savings targets totalling £4m for greater commercialisation and a property asset strategy.

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 any of the amendments 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.