

## **OFFICERS' COMMENTS ON ALTERNATIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR PETER GOLDS**

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 savings proposed for deletion are ongoing in nature and will, therefore, need to be funded from reserves on a temporary basis. Given this, the proposed deletions will add to the budget gap in future years.

The proposed investments are currently not budgeted for. Any one off investment will also, therefore, need to be funded from reserves and ongoing investment will need to be reflected in the next refresh of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The proposed cost of the additional capital delivery team could be capitalised if costs directly relate to bringing specific assets into existence.

Any use of s106 funding will need to be in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreements.

Council members need to be mindful that the continuing use of reserves to fund recurrent expenditure is not sustainable in the medium term and will require addressing should this proposal be approved.

### **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.