

**Report of the Chief Officer - Financial Services**

**Report to Council**

**Date: 27th February 2019**

**Subject: Revenue budget 2019/20 – Morley Borough Independents Amendments**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This report provides Members of Council with comments on the robustness of the proposals contained in the amendments to the budget motion in the name of Councillor Thomas Leadley.

**2. Robustness of the budget**

- 2.1 The Local Government Act (Part II) 2003 places a requirement on the Council that when making decisions on the setting of the council's budget and the council tax, they must consider a report from the council's statutory finance officer (the Chief Officer – Financial Services) on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves within the proposals. The report of the Chief Officer – Financial Services at item 6 (i) on the council summons includes at section 11 comments to this effect in respect of the proposed budget motion.
- 2.2. Given this requirement, in considering any proposed amendment to the budget motion, members must also consider the comments of the Chief Officer – Financial Services on the robustness of the proposals. These comments supplement those contained in the main report.

### **3. Proposed amendment**

- 3.1 Councillor Leadley's amendments to the budget motion set out his proposals showing areas of additional spend and the sources of funding which are largely self-explanatory.
- 3.1 The amendments include savings and spending proposals which are interdependent and which create additional risks to the budget. Where possible this risk should be managed by not committing to the additional spend until the additional savings have been realised or clearly identified.
- 3.2 Should these budget amendments be approved, they will be subject to the council's procedures for further consultation and will need to be informed by equality impact assessments as appropriate.
- 3.3 The budget amendments do not have any impact on the Council's general reserve.

### **4. Overall conclusion**

- 4.1 In conclusion, the amendments to the budget motion in the name of Councillor Thomas Leadley will not materially impact on the overall robustness of the council's budget for 2019/20 or the adequacy of its general fund reserve as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.