

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive**

**Report to Council**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017**

**Subject: Revenue budget 2017/18 – Morley Independents Amendment**

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 amendment to the budget motion in the name of Councillor Robert Finnigan.

**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 Deputy Chief Executive) on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of reserves within the proposals. The report of the Deputy Chief Executive at item 10 (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 Deputy Chief Executive on the robustness of the proposals. These comments supplement those contained in the main report.

**3. Proposed amendment**

- 3.1 Councillor Finnigan's amendment to the budget motion sets out his proposals showing areas of additional spend and the source of funding which are largely self-explanatory.
- 3.2 The amendment includes savings and spending proposals which are interdependent and which creates 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
- 3.3 Should this budget amendment be approved, it will be subject to the council's procedures for further consultation and will need to be informed by equality impact assessments as appropriate.
- 3.4 The budget amendment doesn't have any impact on the council's general reserve.

#### **4. Overall conclusion**

The budget motion to council reflects a significant reduction in funding and cost pressures and as such contains savings proposals which carry varying degrees of risk. This is set out in section 11 of the main revenue budget report and in each of the specific directorate reports attached.

In conclusion, the amendment to the budget motion in the name of Cllr Robert Finnigan will not materially impact on the overall robustness of the council's budget for 2017/18 or the adequacy of its general fund reserve as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.