

Labour Party Amendment to the Budget: 11th February 2020

Proposed by Councillor Henderson and seconded by Councillor Young

That the net effect of the budget resolution be amended for the reasons and purposes set out below:

- 1) An increase to the Library service budget by **£500,000** on a one-off basis to invest in service improvement through new and additional physical book stock for libraries.

This would require an increase in the budget for Customer, Communities, Culture and Corporate portfolio by **£500,000** and a reduction of the same sum in the Service Improvement Reserve.

- 2) An increase to the Local Highways Panels capital programme by **£2m** on a one-off basis to invest in service improvement. The additional funding allocated across the districts will support outstanding local devolved capital schemes.

This would require an increase the Infrastructure portfolio budget by **£2m** and a reduction of the same sum in the Service Improvement Reserve.

- 3) An increase to the Youth Service revenue budget by **£500,000** to enable the setup of a dedicated team to target specific areas of high deprivation and mental health in young people. This will fund one Senior Targeted Youth Advisor, ten Targeted Youth Advisors and ancillary costs.

This would require an increase the Education portfolio budget by **£500,000** and a reduction of the same sum in the Transformation Reserve.

- 4) An increase in the Cycling Infrastructure capital programme by **£750,000** to ensure cycling routes are developed, protected and safe and help encourage residents to take up more active means of transportation.

This would require an increase in the Infrastructure portfolio capital programme by **£750,000**, funded by borrowing, the revenue servicing of which will be funded through a withdrawal from the earmarked Transformation Reserve.

- 5) Increase the Environment and Climate Change Action capital programme by **£500,000** to support an air pollution reduction initiative. This will target highly polluted towns with introduction of road signs design to discourage use of cars and engine idling.

This will increase the capital programme by **£500,000**, funded by borrowing, the revenue servicing of which will be funded through a withdrawal from the earmarked Transformation Reserve.

S151 Officer's Commentary on the Budget amendment Proposal

Two of the proposed amendments require an increase in borrowing totalling **£1.250m**, the servicing of which for 2020/21 will be through a revenue drawdown from the earmarked Transformation Reserve. This additional borrowing will have an ongoing impact on the medium term resource strategy from 2021/22 onwards, increasing the gap by **£85,000**.

The proposals have set out clearly the funding sources for 2020/21, which includes the following:

- **£520,000** withdrawal from the Transformation Reserve, taking the balance on this reserve to **£31.2m** at the end of 2020/21
- **£2.5m** withdrawal from the Service Improvement Reserve, taking the balance on this reserve to **£5.2m** at the end of 2020/21

Amendments 1-3 are one off funding proposals for 2020/21 and so have no future impact on the medium term resource strategy. No sources of funding are identified for amendments 4 and 5 beyond 2020/21 and so the medium term resource strategy gap will increase by **£85,000** in 2021/22.