

## **Additional S25 opinion of the S151 officer following the publication of proposed budget amendments and supplement adding a revenue budget recommendation.**

There are a number of proposed budget amendments for Council to consider at its budget-setting meeting long with an amendment adding an additional revenue budget recommendation. The S151 officer has examined these and has formed the following opinions.

### **Robustness of estimates.**

None of the proposed amendments seek to amend the core estimates used to construct the proposed budget. Neither the amendments or the additional recommendations require service reductions. The amendments and the additional recommendation are proposing additional expenditure.

This additional expenditure is to be fully funded from the increased grant announced by Government as part of the final Local Government Settlement, announced on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February. Given Government has confirmed this grant increase, Council can be confident that this additional grant is secure. The additional grant comprises of an additional £630k Rural Services Delivery Grant and £52k of Services Grant.

### **Adequacy of Reserves and Balances**

Neither of the proposed amendments or the additional recommendation seek to amend the reserves and balances of the Council. As reported in the main S25 opinion the Council has a robust reserve policy and maintains both general and earmarked reserves to manage risk and investment. Neither the proposed amendments nor the additional recommendation seeks to change the Councils reserve policy.

The S151 officer is satisfied that the amendments and the additional recommendation are realistic, robust and deliverable.