

Head of Finance – Section 151 Comments on Green Group Alternative Budget for 2018-19 to 2021/22

Date 13-02-18

I have reviewed the budget submitted by the Green party as an alternative to the Labour Administrations budget and can conclude that it is arithmetically correct and could be implemented if voted through subject to observations below.

On the Administrations HRA budget there are reduced revenue contributions spent on works to car parking verges of £200k which have been replaced with similar equivalent spend on energy efficiency initiatives and environmental improvements to grass verges. These changes have also been reflected in the capital programme.

On the Capital Budget an additional £4.470 million of schemes have been included with £4.484 million deleted. A detailed business case would be required to substantiate the plans for the additional schemes especially for the additional £1.5 million of monies included for the scheme at East Oxford Community Centre and Cave Street the viability and planning approvals for which are yet to be determined . The deleted capital expenditure refers to the Seacourt Park and Ride extension, car parks resurfacing and the car parking verges funded through the HRA Great Estates Budget. This in turn would release resources of an equivalent value to be used to fund the additional spend.

On revenue the main features of additional cost relates to increased budget for homelessness, loss of additional income at Seacourt Park and Ride in line with the proposal to cancel the scheme, reinstating the reversal of £45k voluntary sector grants and extending the contribution to PCSO's from 1 to 4 years. There are a number of additional savings with the most significant being increasing park and ride charges from £2 to £3 per day, the late night licence levy and savings from Salix capital funding.

Nigel Kennedy

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