

## **Head of Finance – Section 151 Comments on Green Group Alternative Budget for 2022-23 to 2025/26**

**Date 10-02-22**

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.

**Capital Budget** - Within the capital budget provision has been made for £13 million of investment over years 3 and 4 on solar farms. This replaces the additional £13 million investment in regeneration in year 3 of the MTFP.

No projects have been separately identified for these solar farm investments and therefore it is difficult to substantiate the financial viability of such schemes. Should suitable capital schemes not be identified then any shortfall in net returns to the Council generated from such schemes would need to be covered from reserves or alternative savings and therefore this does present some risk to achieving a balanced budget. The extent of this impact however is mitigated, to some extent, similar to regeneration additional spend, by including a prudent financial return and including these items in the back end of the MTFP.

**The General Fund Revenue** account provides for a number of additional costs, savings and the revenue implications of additional capital spend which have been costed accordingly.

**The HRA** – There are no proposed changes to the Administrations HRA Budget

**Nigel Kennedy**

**Head of Financial Services (Section 151 Officer)**

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