

## MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL – THURSDAY 6 MARCH 2025

### AGENDA ITEM No. 8 – REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX SETTING FOR 2025/26

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT

The following amendment will be proposed by Councillor John Lee and seconded by Councillor Matthew Spoons.

That Council approve the proposals under Section 3 of the report, subject to the addition of £19,500 for the establishment of a Councillor Community Fund. This initiative would provide each elected member with £500 per year over the next two years to support local projects and initiatives within their respective wards. This addition to be funded from the Change Management Reserve.

The rationale for the amendment being:

#### 1. Direct Community Benefit

- This amendment enables elected members to allocate funds to initiatives that reflect the specific needs of their communities.
- It ensures a fairer and broader investment across the district.

#### 2. Increased Local Engagement

- By distributing funds to councillors, local residents will have a greater say in how public money is spent.
- This strengthens community engagement and ensures investments align with local priorities.

#### 3. Addressing Resident Concerns

- This amendment ensures taxpayer money is spent in alignment with public sentiment and community needs.

#### 4. Long-Term Positive Impact

- The Councillor's Community Fund supports sustainable, localised investment, allowing each elected member to back projects that benefit their constituents.
- Examples include local sports clubs, community centres, small infrastructure improvements, and grassroots initiatives.

#### **Financial Implications (FIN24-25/6563)**

The proposed addition of £19,500 can be accommodated from within the Change Management reserve.

#### **Legal Implications (LEG2425/4282)**

If this amendment is carried a report will need to be submitted to Cabinet setting out detailed proposals for a Councillor's Community Fund, including resourcing implications. Cabinet may wish to task Policy and Performance Improvement Committee with developing the policy. Any necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution will need to be considered by Audit & Governance Committee for recommendation on to Full Council.

