

## Full Council – 24 February 2025

### Conservative Group Budget Amendment

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**Proposer: Cllr Tom Stowe**

**Seconder: Cllr Daryl Corps**

#### What is proposed

Restructure the CDC communications team so that the staffing costs within the communications budget are reduced from £340,000 to £200,000 to give a £140,000 annual saving, reducing the overall Press & PR/Communications budget from £404,764 to £264,764.

£40,000 of this annual saving to be used towards a new permanent Level 1 Case and Field Work Officer post in the Environmental Protection Team.

#### Reason

Delivering best value and services to residents. Allocating additional resources to the Environmental Protection Team.

#### Cost (or estimated maximum cost)

£40k per annum will fund a new permanent Level 1 Case and Field Work Officer post in the Environmental Protection Team.

The proposal will create an additional annual saving of £100k.

#### How it is to be funded – what is to be stopped/ reduced

£140k reduction in the “Press & PR Communications budget” will fund the £40k Environmental Protection Role and deliver £100k of additional savings

#### When the proposal starts and how long it lasts

2025/26 financial year for the duration of the medium-term financial strategy.

#### Director of Finance’s comments

I have engaged with the Leader of the Opposition on the proposed budget amendment and content that the figures quoted are accurate, and the proposal has been costed appropriately.

I am content that this satisfies the criteria for a budget amendment as set out in the Council’s constitution (Part G, Appendix D; Budget Protocol) and in line with the amended deadlines as advised to members in my email dated 23 January 2025, 11:59.

David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive & Section 151 Officer. 20 February 2025

