

## **Amendment to Item 17 – Appointment of Political Assistants**

Proposer: Cllr Matt Hartley. Seconder: Cllr Pat Greenwell.

*Under ‘Decision required’, replace:*

“1.1. Consider the principle of political groups appointing Political Assistants within the framework of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.”

*with:*

“1.1. Note that, as set out under financial implications in Section 8, “The budget for 2024/25 was set without reference to this [Political Assistants] proposal and as such [the proposal] represents a pressure upon the council. Compensatory savings will need to be found from elsewhere within the budget. There are substantial pressures on the current year budget and a forecast gap of £27m for 2025/26 which will need to be closed in order to set a balanced budget.”

“1.2. Agree to defer consideration of the principle of political groups appointing Political Assistants until such time as Full Council is provided with a complete breakdown of the unbudgeted “compensatory savings” of up to £83,454 that would need to be identified to fund this change, were the principle to be agreed – in order that Members can make a fully informed decision on the proposal.

Delete the original paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3.