

SERVICE CHOICES – SUBSTITUTED SAVINGS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report to Policy and Resources Committee on 8 October noted that there were 3 instances where the savings options had been reduced between Stage 2 and Stage 3 in the Service Choices process and departments had been requested to come forward with alternative savings options. This report now provides information on the alternative savings options.
- 1.2 The alternative savings options were all sought from within Development and Infrastructure Department and are noted below.
- Additional £60k saving from development and infrastructure admin team, saving to be delivered in 2017-18 and reduction of 2 FTE staffing.
 - Additional £140k saving from roads operations, saving to be delivered in 2017-18 and reduction of up to 5 FTE staffing.
 - £50k saving from development policy team – this would be delivered by carrying out a mini service review and workforce planning exercise of the whole development policy team to establish what opportunities there are to deliver the service in a more efficient and effective way. The saving is to be delivered in 2017-18 with a reduction of 1 FTE staffing.
- 1.3 The surplus savings over target in 2016-17 is £2.764m and in 2017-18 is £1.047m. Although there is a larger surplus in the first year, any savings not agreed in 2016-17 would reduce the surplus in 2017-18.
- 1.4 Members agree that the additional Stage 3 savings options noted within this report should go out to public consultation along with all other Stage 3 options outlined in the Policy and Resources Committee report of 8 October. This will allow for choice following the feedback of public consultation and also allow for any negative variation in the financial settlement.

SERVICE CHOICES – SUBSTITUTED SAVINGS

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report is a follow-up report to the Service Choices report presented to the Policy and Resources Committee on 8 October and provides information on the alternative savings options requested from departments.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members agree that the additional Stage 3 savings options noted within this report should go out to public consultation along with all other Stage 3 options outlined in the Policy and Resources Committee report of 8 October. This will allow for choice following the feedback of public consultation and also allow for any negative variation in the financial settlement.

4. DETAIL

- 4.1 A report was presented to the Policy and Resources Committee on 8 October in respect of Service Choices. The report noted that there were 3 instances where the savings options had been reduced between Stage 2 and Stage 3 in the Service Choices process and departments had been requested to come forward with alternative savings options.

- 4.2 An extract from the 8 October P&R Report, paragraph 4.2.4, is outlined below:

Stage 3 in the process was about developing the option further, confirming the level of savings and being clear about the impact of the saving. When developing the options some of the original estimated savings and staffing reductions have been revised. In some cases there are delays to the saving to reflect lead in time. There are 3 instances, totalling £0.251m where the original estimated saving (at Stage 2) has been reduced and where this is the case, departments have been requested to come forward with alternative savings. These alternatives are still to be identified but will feature in the report to Special Council on 22 October. The savings options that have been reduced are noted below:

- *Development Policy – Remodel Access Team – Reduction of £50k*
- *Waste Management – 3 Weekly Collection – Reduction of £192k*
- *Waste Management – Commercial Refuse in Helensburgh – Removal of £9k saving.*

4.3 The alternative savings were all sought from within Development and Infrastructure Department and are noted below. These alternative savings will also be added into the consultation process.

- Additional £60k saving from development and infrastructure admin team, saving to be delivered in 2017-18 and reduction of 2 FTE staffing.
- Additional £140k saving from roads operations, saving to be delivered in 2017-18 and reduction of up to 5 FTE staffing.
- £50k saving from development policy team – this would be delivered by carrying out a mini service review and workforce planning exercise of the whole development policy team to establish what opportunities there are to deliver the service in a more efficient and effective way. The saving is to be delivered in 2017-18 with a reduction of 1 FTE staffing.

4.4 The table below provides a further update to the financial position reflecting the inclusion of the new savings options as noted above.

	Original Estimate P&R 20 August		Updated Estimate Council 22 October	
	2016-17 £000	2017-18 £000	2016-17 £000	2017-18 £000
Management/ Operational Savings	1,094	1,145	1,044	1,145
Policy Options	9,169	12,912	8,193	12,562
Health and Social Care Savings (5% mid point)	2,813	5,626	2,813	5,626
Economic Development Investment	-286	-286	-286	-286
Total Available Options	12,790	19,397	11,764	19,047
Savings Target	-9,000	-18,000	-9,000	-18,000
Savings Over Target	3,790	1,397	2,764	1,047

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 This report provides an update on the alternative savings options sought from departments and the impact this has on the estimated financial position.

5.2 The surplus savings over target in 2016-17 is £2.764m and in 2017-18 is £1.047m.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – Implications are outlined within the service choices savings templates.
- 6.2 Financial – Savings are outlined within the service choices savings templates.
- 6.3 Legal – Any legal implications are outlined within the service choices savings templates.
- 6.4 HR – There are HR implications, outlined within the service choices savings templates.
- 6.5 Equalities – Equality Impact Assessments have been carried out where appropriate.
- 6.6 Risk – Risks are outlined within the service choices savings templates.
- 6.7 Customer Service – Impact on service delivery is outlined within the service choices savings templates.

Policy Lead for Strategic Finance: Councillor Dick Walsh

**Kirsty Flanagan
Head of Strategic Finance
14 October 2015**