

MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

SAVING PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

DIRECTORATE: Corporate Services

SERVICE AREA: Service Improvement and Partnerships

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

SAVING PROPOSAL TITLE: Reduction in the budget that supports service level agreements with the voluntary sector

BUDGET AREA: Policy and Partnerships

TOTAL BUDGET FOR THIS AREA: £249K

% OF TOTAL BUDGET IN SAVINGS PROPOSAL: 10%

TOTAL SAVING: £25.2K

Please provide a brief description of how the saving will be achieved:

The total budget available to support service level agreements with the voluntary sector in the 2022/2023 financial year was £233,573. Service level agreements to the value of £209K have been entered into with similar agreements in place historically for a number of years. The remaining budget £25.2K has been unspent and therefore is offered up as a contribution towards the budget shortfall identified in the MTFP.

2. PUBLIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW THE PROPOSED SAVING COULD IMPACT UPON THE PUBLIC:

Consider the 5 ways of working, in particular, *long-term* implications for future generations and *preventative services*. Recognising that savings now may be needed to secure future provision, or may secure provision in another area.

Long-term guidance: Consider the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs.

For the 2023/2024 financial year it is proposed that the same amount will remain to support service level agreements with the voluntary sector i.e. £209K will be available to negotiate delivery on behalf of the Council.

Prevention guidance: Consider whether the proposed saving is affecting a preventative area that reduces future burdens and supports well-being.

The projects that the budget has supported are run by the Citizens Advice Bureau, Groundwork Wales and the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations. Each of the service level agreements contains projects that directly support vulnerable individuals e.g. debt support, welfare and benefits advice, legal advice, employment

support etc. However, there is no proposed cut to the budget that has been used for the 2022/2023 financial year.

DOES THE PROPOSAL HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO IMPACT MORE GREATLY ON PEOPLE WITH PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS? (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation)

* Yes ☒ No ☐

DOES THE PROPOSAL IMPACT ON PEOPLE WHO FACE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE? (low income/income poverty, low wealth/or no wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation, socio-economic background, cumulative impact – information on [Policy Portal](#))

* Yes ☒ No ☐

DOES THE PROPOSAL HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE? (opportunities to use the language, promote the language and/or treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language)

* Yes ☐ No ☒

NB * If **YES** to any of the above, please complete an [Integrated Impact Assessment](#) (IIA). For further advice and guidance please see the [Policy Portal](#). A Saving Proposal Template or an IIA, if relevant, must be submitted to be included as hyperlinks to all decision reports related to the proposed savings. IIAs are not required for nil impact proposals.

PLEASE DETAIL ANY CONSULTATION THAT HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN CONSIDERING THIS PROPOSAL. Summarise any feedback received.

Consider the 5 ways of working, in particular, *involvement*.

Involvement: Consider whether you have involved people who have an interest in the service area, including service users and potential service users.

This proposed reduction in the available budget was part of the wider budget consultation. Very few people considered this budget as part of their top three to agree or disagree with, more people disagreed with the proposed cut. However, in the face-to face engagement any cuts to funding available to the voluntary sector was unpopular and counterproductive.

IS FURTHER CONSULTATION REQUIRED BEFORE THIS PROPOSAL CAN BE IMPLEMENTED?

Yes ☐ No ☒

NB* Please seek guidance from Corporate Policy, who can advise on whether a formal consultation is required and adherence to the Gunning Principles.

TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE ABOVE AND THE IMPACT RATING DEFINITIONS, PLEASE INDICATE THE PUBLIC IMPACT RATING APPLICABLE TO THIS SAVING PROPOSAL (please tick):

Nil ☐ Minor ☒ Moderate ☐ Significant ☐ Critical ☐

3. ORGANISATION IMPACT ANALYSIS

PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW THE PROPOSED SAVING COULD IMPACT UPON THE ORGANISATION:

No impact

PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW THE PROPOSED SAVING WILL IMPACT UPON MEMBERS OF STAFF:

No impact

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) STAFF IN BUDGET AREA AFFECTED:

NUMBER OF POSTS AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED SAVING:

PLEASE SPECIFY HOW THIS WILL BE MANAGED:

HOW MANY POST(S)(please state)

- ALREADY VACANT:
- VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE:
- RETIREMENT:
- REDEPLOYMENT:
- REDUNDANCY:

PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF WHEN THIS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:

WILL THE PROPOSED SAVING HAVE AN IMPACT ON ANOTHER DIRECTORATE, SERVICE AREA OR TEAM WITHIN THE COUNCIL? (please tick)

Yes ☐ No ☒

WILL THE PROPOSED SAVING HAVE AN IMPACT ON ANOTHER PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNER, OR VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNER? (please tick)

Yes ☐ No ☒

If **yes**, please consider the 5 ways of working, in particular *integration*.

DESCRIBE:

- THE AREA(S) AFFECTED; AND
- HOW THE PROPOSED SAVING WILL IMPACT

Integration guidance: Consider how the proposal will impact on other service areas, or partners, and their ability to meet their objectives.

The existing amount allocated to SLAs will not alter. There will be no uplift however, and as costs of delivery are increasing there may need to be a budget realignment internally within the recipient organisations.

HAVE ANY OPTIONS BEEN CONSIDERED TO MITIGATE ORGANISATIONAL IMPACT?

PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF ANY MITIGATION (e.g. gradual reduction in service, income generation, transferrable skills of staff, commercialisation of the service etc.)

In addition, consider the 5 ways of working, in particular, acting in *collaboration* with other service areas or partners.

Early notice will be provided to the existing recipient organisations of the amount available for the 2023/2024 financial year.

TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE ABOVE AND THE IMPACT RATING DEFINITIONS, PLEASE INDICATE THE ORGANISATIONAL IMPACT RATING APPLICABLE TO THIS SAVING PROPOSAL (please tick):

Nil ☒ Minor ☐ Moderate ☐ Significant ☐ Critical ☐

4. LINKS TO POLICY AND CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

DOES THE SAVINGS PROPOSAL LINK TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

If so, please specify and state what the implication may be.

POLICY AREA:

CORPORATE PLAN and WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES (please state which objectives)

WHAT IS THE LINK? No impact

WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT?

POLICY AREA:

STATUTORY DUTIES (including the requirement to provide services in Welsh)

WHAT IS THE LINK? No impact

WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT?

POLICY AREA:

WELSH GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE or STRATEGY

WHAT IS THE LINK? No impact

WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT?

5. OTHER RISK(S) AND SENSITIVITIES

HAVE ANY OTHER RISKS BEEN IDENTIFIED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SAVING PROPOSAL?

Yes ☒ No ☐

IF YES, PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW:

Potentially some negativity in that amounts will remain the same for the 2023/2024 financial year. However, this would need to be balanced against the difficult financial situation facing the Council.

PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW ANY OTHER MITIGATION:

Not all risks can be mitigated. Some may need to be tolerated in the context of budget pressures.

6. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

PLEASE USE THIS SECTION TO PROVIDE ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL HAS NOT BEEN CAPTURED.

HEAD OF SERVICE: Sue Richards

DATE OF COMPLETION: 14.2.23