

MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN **SAVING PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT**

DIRECTORATE: Education
SERVICE AREA: Education

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

SAVING PROPOSAL TITLE: Budget Realignments – Permanent Savings (Local Management of Schools (LMS) Contingency; Vacant Hours – Management and Support Services; WJEC Fees & Subscriptions; Administrative Service Level Agreement)

BUDGET AREA:

- Other Direct School Related - Schools LMS Contingencies (Proposed £60k)
- Management & Support Service Costs (Proposed £14.5k)
- WJEC Fees & Subscriptions (Proposed £25k)
- Lifelong Learning (LLL) Insurance & Non-Operational Property Costs (Proposed £11.1k)

TOTAL BUDGET FOR THIS AREA:

- Schools LMS Contingencies (£166k)
- Management & Support Service Costs (£1.383m)
- WJEC Fees & Subscriptions (£42k)
- LLL Insurance & Non-Operational Property Costs (93k)

% OF TOTAL BUDGET IN SAVINGS PROPOSAL: 6.56%

TOTAL SAVING: £110.6k (Permanent Saving)

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

The 4 proposed savings detailed above are a consequence of in year underspends in recent years. There is nothing specific that needs to be actioned since the budget requirements have changed. The proposals are linked to realigning existing budgets in recognition that funding requirements have changed.

The LMS Contingency budget deals with in-year formula funding issues that may arise for schools (e.g., floor area changes / National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) revaluations). This budget funds these ad hoc issues until they are part of the school's formula funding calculation in the following financial year. Recent trends have indicated that the proposed reduction (£60k) is achievable. It is not anticipated that there will be any impact on our schools, the budget will remain at circa £106k and should any issues arise in excess of the reduced budget, consideration would be given to accessing LMS contingency balances, subject to the appropriate approval.

The proposed Management & Support Services £14.5k saving relates to vacant hours, these hours have not been filled for a number of years. It is therefore proposed that the budget requirement is reduced.

The proposed savings of £25k again relates to an on-going underspend linked to WJEC Fees & Subscriptions in the Directorate. The LLL Insurance & Non-Operational Property Costs £11.1k relates to an administrative agreement with Property Services

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.

No expected impact, budget realignments based on recent spend profile.

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

NA

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.

- Proposals discussed with Education SMT; Director, Head of Financial Services & S151; Cabinet Member and Leader of the Council.
- No wider discussions currently.
- Consultation as part of the Authority's 2023-24 budget consultation process.

Consultation on these proposals was undertaken, as part of the Authority's 2023-24 budget consultation process. In general, cuts to schools and education budgets were not supported however, there was support for budget realignments considered to have no impact on residents.

IS FURTHER CONSULTATION REQUIRED BEFORE THIS PROPOSAL CAN BE IMPLEMENTED?

Yes No

Consultation was undertaken as part of the Authority's 2023-24 budget consultation process.

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 ORGANISATIONAL 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 anticipated impact.

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

No impact on existing staff.

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

NUMBER OF POSTS AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED SAVING: None

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:

Not applicable.

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.

There is a potential that there is pressure on the LMS Contingency budget, which if not funded could impact on a school. That said the last few years this budget has underspent so it is not anticipated that this will be the case. This budget proposal realigns the LMS Contingency budget but still leaves capacity of circa £106k to support specific pressures that arise. This position will be reviewed as part of regular budget monitoring and should there be a requirement for additional funding in-year consideration would need to be given to accessing LMS Contingency balances, subject to appropriate approval.

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.

Detailed in previous question.

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: Well-being objective to Improve Education Opportunities for All
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?

WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT?

POLICY AREA:
WELSH GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE or STRATEGY

WHAT IS THE LINK?

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:

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: Keri Cole

DATE OF COMPLETION: 14 February 2023