

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

DIRECTORATE: Education and Corporate Services

SERVICE AREA: Learning, Education and Inclusion

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

SAVING PROPOSAL TITLE: Maintenance of School Buildings – 50/50 Scheme with Schools

BUDGET AREA: Education

TOTAL BUDGET FOR THIS AREA: £346k (Temporary Saving in 2023/24)

% OF TOTAL BUDGET IN SAVINGS PROPOSAL: 100%

TOTAL SAVING: £346k

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

Following the introduction of the Fair Funding Regulations in 2022, the Directorate retained a small residual budget to assist in supporting lower value capital schemes of work. This budget has typically been used to enhance the core capital programme by offering assistance on a 50/50 basis to support school projects (in-line with key maintenance priorities). Schools submit bids annually in the Autumn term for consideration for the following financial year.

It is proposed that the full budget is taken as a temporary saving in 2023-24, with a review for future years.

However, it is also proposed that in 2023-24, approval is sought to utilise ring-fenced LMS (Local Management of Schools) Contingency balances to support the full £346k (temporary saving). Subject to the appropriate approval this would ensure that there is no impact with regards to this savings proposal in 2023/24.

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.

Currently the proposed saving of the full 50/50 maintenance budget (which matches with up to £346k from our schools) is for 1 year only. Subject to approval of the use of LMS Contingency balances in 2023/24 there would be no impact. However, it is acknowledged that to retain this savings proposal for future years would have an adverse impact on school buildings unless alternative funding was secured.

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 ☒

No – proposal is for 1 year, with a proposal to utilise LMS Contingency balances.

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 ☒

No – proposal is for 1 year, with a proposal to utilise LMS Contingency balances.

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 this proposal was undertaken, as part of the Authority's 2023-24 budget consultation process. There was a very low-level of concern identified amongst respondents during the consultation process. In general, cuts to schools and education budgets were not supported however, as noted below, the approval of the LMS Contingency balances will result in no impact on schools.

IS FURTHER CONSULTATION REQUIRED BEFORE THIS PROPOSAL CAN BE IMPLEMENTED?

Yes ☐ No ☒

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 PUBLIC IMPACT RATING APPLICABLE TO THIS SAVING PROPOSAL (please tick):

Nil ☒ Minor ☐ Moderate ☐ Significant ☐ Critical ☐

Nil subject to approval for use of LMS Contingency balances in 2023/24. If not approved moderate impact.

3. ORGANISATION IMPACT ANALYSIS

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

Nil subject to approval for use of LMS Contingency balances in 2023/24. If not approved moderate impact.

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

No impact in 2023/24 subject to approval for use of LMS Contingency Reserves.

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) STAFF IN BUDGET AREA AFFECTED: Not applicable.

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 ☒

No impact in 2023/24 subject to approval for use of LMS Contingency Reserves.

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.

No impact in 2023/24 subject to approval for use of LMS Contingency Reserves.

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.

Proposal to utilise LMS Contingency balances in 2023/24.

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