

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8 FEBRUARY 2022

QUESTIONS (AND RESPONSES) REGARDING THE INDICATIVE SAVINGS PROPOSALS 2022/23

ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH

- 1. Saving number 2 – Why has there been no annual uplift in charges since April 2018? It indicates that there is an intention to move to a balanced budget over the longer term. What timescale is envisaged and will the annual increase required to facilitate this be included as part of future years budgets?**

Previous administrations did not wish to pursue suggestions to increase service charges. It is proposed that the move to a balanced budget continues to be discussed with the potential to phase the move to a fully balanced budget over the next 3 years.

- 2. Saving number 3 – When in 2022-23 will the system go live? Will this ensure that the income target is achieved. Will the team have the capacity to effectively deal with the anticipated increase in the number of cases?**

The system is in its testing phase at the current time and will be fully live in March 2022

- 3. Saving number 6 – How many clients will be reviewed? What is the timescale for such reviews? Is there an appeal process if the client believes that the outcome of the review will impact upon their level of safe and effective care?**

The discussion in relation to transitioning care and support from 2 carers to a single carer and assistive technology will take place with the person as part of their annual social care review or on their request or the request of the person or organisation providing their care and support. The number of people to be supported by this project is not fixed and there can be no appeal process as the person will need to be in agreement before their care and support can be reviewed as part of this programme.

- 4. Saving number 6 - It refers to Occupational Therapists and adding to their workload. What is not clear is which OT's the Trust's of those employed under contract (NRS) by the Council?**

The occupational therapy support for this project is secured through the council's commissioned community occupational therapy services which is separate from the NHS Trust occupational therapy services.

- 5. Saving number 8 – How many island residents are currently placed at mainland facilities. Will they, or their family, have the choice of where they wish to be placed?**

There are currently 16 people with a primary support reason of learning disability to receive care and support from off Island residential (or nursing) care services. In all cases the council tries to work with people (and their families if they choose for them to be involved) to ensure that their care and support needs are met in line with their own choices, requirements and wishes so far as that is possible.

- 6. Saving number 10 - This could have an impact if the shortfall is not covered by the other funders. It would also have the potential to impact up OT services provided by both NHS and IWC.**

The mechanisms to balance the contributions to this service is already in place. This is largely an accounting exercise within the legal framework of the Better Care Fund. There will be no impact for people using the service or in relation to service delivery. There is no impact for occupational therapy services.

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE, EDUCATION & SKILLS

- 7. Saving number 12 – Have all partners been advised of this and if so what were their comments?**

This was discussed at the Joint Commissioning Board with all partners. No specific comments were made.

- 8. Saving number 20 – Will there be any consultation with users?**

There are no plans to consult service users as the savings will not affect the eligibility or access to services for service users. Savings will be achieved through changes to the transport delivery from operators (vehicle changes in most cases).

COMMUNITY PROTECTION, DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, HOUSING PROVISION & HOUSING NEEDS

- 9. Saving number 22 – What has the estimated income generation been based on?**

A broad estimate of likely interest in the services, based on interest during the pandemic and a price that is approximately half the national average for the services and taking into account the costs of provision

- 10. Saving number 26 – Is there a risk to service delivery if equipment is not repaired or replaced when faults occur. Is there an overall council policy on funding for ICT repairs and replacements?**

The council has in full use some 1910 laptops; 130 thin clients and 178 desktop devices for staff to conduct the council's business. Devices have a four-year warranty and a rolling programme of replacement through the capital programme to replace equipment as it nears the end of its lifecycle is in place. Within the available ICT staffing resources, approximately 400 laptops are scheduled for replacement each year. However, it is inevitable therefore that there will be occasions where there are equipment failures that may benefit from repair rather than replacement or require an urgent replacement as not scheduled to be within the replacement programme. This budget is a means by which to make contingency for such eventualities. Historically, this budget has not been fully spent, hence the proposed reduction. Front line service needs would take priority in any repair or urgent replacement cases.

ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE & WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 11. Saving number 30 – How many rent reviews are to be completed? Is there a programme of rent reviews?**

This is a continuation of the work with town and parish councils, where there is an ongoing programme of town and parishes taking on responsibility for areas within the ground's maintenance contract.

12. Saving number 31 – What are the likely new streams of income?

This income will be generated from increased facility hires and smaller general increases from existing income generating activities

13. Saving number 32 – Have schools been advised of this management fee?

Yes, school business managers have been informed

14. Saving number 34 – Is there a timescale for the review and has there been preliminary discussions with the community and voluntary sector?

Yes it is included in the tender process for the Living Well Service which is just completing

HIGHWAYS, PFI, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

15. Saving number 36 – Is there a consultation process required for the increase before it can be implemented from 1 July 2022?

No – price changes only require the publication of a variation notice which advises the new charges; this is not subject to consultation

PLANNING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

16. Saving number 37 – What is the timescale for this project?

Project is complete and software implemented

STRATEGIC FINANCE, CORPORATE RESOURCES & TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

17. Saving number 41 – How many reviews will be undertaken?

An ongoing programme of rent reviews across all council tenanted property will provide the target additional income from 20 specific reviews in the next financial year

18. Saving number 42 – Is there sufficient internal capacity to effectively do this?

Yes