

2013/14 – 2014/15 Budget - Savings Proposal

Service:

Proposal Number:

Description of Proposal
<p>Move direct community services out of council and into local precepting bodies.</p> <p>Provide breakdown of total service costs which are identifiably provided at community level (as opposed to borough-wide or on an individual basis). Examples: horticultural services, parks, community centres, libraries, local highways maintenance, street cleansing, litter picking. Describe process for moving these costs into local precepting bodies and the options which exists for different types (eg: community councils based on existing strategy and administered by 'area committees', Parish councils, any other community models which could be considered). Estimated local precept charge if these services were localised in future.</p>

Proposed Saving

Proposed Saving in 2013/14 £'000s	Proposed Saving in 2013/14 FTE Staff	Proposed Saving in 2014/15 £'000s	Proposed Saving in 2014/15 FTE Staff
Assume cost neutral		Assume cost neutral	

	2013/14 £'000s	2014/15 £'000s
People		
Property	-	-
Third Party	-	-
Infrastructure/Kit	-	-

Base Budget 2012/13

	£'000s
Expenditure	
Employees	
Other Direct Running Costs (Premises, Transport and Supplies)	
Third Party Payments	
Transfer Payments	
Capital Financing Costs	
Support Services Costs	
Gross Expenditure	

Income	
Sales, Fees and Charges	
Grant and External Contributions	
Support Services Income	
Gross Income	
Net Expenditure	

Recent Changes to Base Budget

	£'000s
Growth approved in the 2012/13 Base Budget	0
Savings approved in the 2012/13 Base Budget	0

Impact of Proposal on public / services	<p>The proposal should be seen in the context of the Government's commitment to extending localism in public services and specifically the 'Right to Challenge'. The Right to Challenge is national legislation being introduced through the government's Localism Act. It came into force on 27 June 2012.</p> <p>The Right to Challenge empowers voluntary and community groups or council employees to bid to run council services. It gives them extra time to compete fairly in an open procurement exercise and provides a way of opening up public service delivery to groups and organisations other than those in the public and private sector.</p> <p>Expressions of Interest may be submitted for most services, the exceptions currently being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • services provided in partnership with NHS bodies or by an NHS body on behalf of the council; • services provided to named persons with complex individual health or social care needs; • services which relate to the exercise of statutory powers eg the determination of a planning application <p>In addition, there are existing mechanisms by which local authorities (district, borough or unitary councils) can decide to create new parish councils (which can then resolve to be called town, neighbourhood, village or community councils). This is called a 'community governance review'.</p>
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	<p>The Government are currently consulting on ways of making it easier and simpler for people to set up town and parish councils where they do not exist. The DCLG has said that: 'Where local people express popular support for the creation of a town or parish council, the local authority should work with the community to achieve that'.</p>
<p>Impact of Proposal on performance</p>	<p>As regards the community Right to Challenge, the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham has provided Thurrock Council with their process and procedures which have been approved by Cabinet. Thurrock Council could adopt the same process.</p> <p>In order to comply with statutory guidance and the annual budget setting process, a period for submission of Expressions of Interest is required. It is suggested that this be from 1 March to 30 April (this appears to be in line with standard practice amongst other Councils).</p> <p>Thurrock's involvement in the Community Right to Challenge would need to be communicated. It is suggested this is via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thurrock Council website – Business Section ● Business Newsletter ● Members Newsletter ● Insight ● Twitter/Facebook <p>The neighbourhood planning powers in the Localism Act allow town and parish councils to develop neighbourhood plans for their local areas, which, when accepted by the local authority and agreed by the local population in a referendum, become part of the planning framework. In areas where there is not a town or parish council, neighbourhood planning can be carried out by anyone who wants to set up or join a group which is designated as a 'neighbourhood forum' by the local authority. The minimum requirements are that neighbourhood forums must be open to those living and working in the neighbourhood area, have the purpose of promoting or improving the well-being of the area, have a written constitution and have at least 21 members.</p>

<p>Impact of Proposal on staff</p>	<p>It is not possible to evaluate the impact on staff at this preliminary stage.</p>
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<p>Practical requirements regarding implementation and timetable</p>	<p>There is currently no time limit for a local authority to set the terms of reference for a community governance review; once it has done so, it can take up to a year to carry the review out.</p> <p>The DCLG consultation suggest that although the maximum timescale for community governance reviews, twelve months, is established in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, new guidance could strongly encourage authorities to complete the process in less time. As the process must involve consultation, a review period of six months could be a reasonable period for the entire review. New guidance could also suggest that the terms of reference for a review should be set promptly, for example within three months. Currently there is no limit on this</p>
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<p>Equalities Impact</p>	
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