

REPORT TO CABINET

13 January, 2015

Cabinet Member: Councillor Dyfed Edwards

Subject: The Council's Strategic Plan

Contact officer: Arwel E Jones

The decision sought

To approve the release of £152,000 of resources to fund expenditure from the Strategic Plan funds to transform the way in which leisure centre users to gain access to booking leisure facilities

Views of the local member

Not a local issue

Introduction

1. The Council has funds to support expenditure related to the work of the Strategic Plan. There are no new revenue resources available but there is still a fund that can support one-off work related to fulfilling promises in the Strategic Plan.
2. The procedure is for applications for resources to be challenged internally before coming to the Cabinet for formal approval. Following an assessment by the Finance Department in September, 2014, there is a sum of £3,034,306 remaining in the funds of the Strategic Plan.

Reasons for recommending the decision

3. As can be seen from the appendix to this report, the specific expenditure under consideration involves the transformation of the information technology system of the Leisure Service to enable improvements to the service, including the ability to book facilities on-line, realising revenue savings as a result.

Relevant considerations

4. The business case for this investment has been challenged by the Management Team and the Management Team has received an assurance from the Service that this investment will realise the permanent revenue saving referred to in the appendix.

5. Since this is an “invest to save” application, the only other possibility would be to deal with it as a pure “invest to save” bid and “lend” the money to the service expecting them to pay back the loan initially before realising the saving that the Service is looking for.

6. In this case, since the one-off resources are available, and because of the substantial pressure for revenue savings, it is suggested that the one-off moneys be released now so that it is possible to realise the permanent revenue savings of £60,000 per annum sooner rather than later.

Next steps and timetable

7. If the application is approved, it is intended to move ahead at once to upgrade the system.

Views of the statutory officers**The Chief Executive:**

“I can confirm that the matter has had the attention of the Management Team. The Service is very confident of their ability to realise the savings following this investment. I approve of the application.”

The Monitoring Officer:

“Nothing to add in terms of propriety”

The Head of Finance:

“As I note in my report on dealing with the financial gap in the budget for 2015/16, which is a separate item on the Cabinet’s agenda, the acceleration of savings plans is now a priority. I am satisfied that sufficient evidence has been presented to show that this request will facilitate the Economic and Community Department as they introduce their savings programme, and from a financial perspective, I am satisfied that suitable and sufficient funds are available to finance the scheme. I support the recommendation.”

Appendices

Paper detailing the application for resources is attached as Appendix 1