

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
DATE OF MEETING	13 November 2014
TITLE	Efficiency Savings Proposals
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr. Peredur Jenkins

1. Background and context

- 1.1 As part of the Council's Financial Strategy we are projecting a funding gap of around £50m over the four year period 2014/15 – 2017/18. With an assumed council tax increase of 3.5% and savings already being found, this will leave around £34m to be found.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Committee is reminded of the strategy referred to by the Cabinet to the Council in the meeting on the 6th March which anticipated meeting the gap through:

Council Tax Policy	Consider increase in the Council Tax in the 3.5% - 5% range
Schools Budget	Consider setting a target for the schools budget based on what is practical
Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery	Consider whether there will be any savings arising from reorganisation which we can depend upon and take into account
Efficiency Savings	Maximising the efficiency savings that can be achieved
Service Cuts	Figure remaining

- 1.3 The departments have now presented their efficiency / demand management proposals in line with the targets set by the Cabinet on the 1st of April.
- 1.4 It was agreed at the time that detailed work would be carried out by a Working Group before a decision was made by the Cabinet.
- 1.5 With this in view, the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum agreed in it's meeting on the 24th January to establish a working group from their midst

(i.e. the Scrutiny Committees, Democratic Services Committee and the Audit Committee).

- 1.6 While remembering that we are looking at efficiency / demand management proposals at this point the effect on results to citizens should be less than that we would see in any cuts regime.

2. Member input

- 2.1 A workshop was held for all members on the 8th and the 13th of October to give members the opportunity to present their comments and / or concerns for them to be given attention in the working group. 35 members attended. This enabled the working group to be inclusive in their role with their fellow members to scrutinise the effect of the proposals.
- 2.2 In addition, for members that weren't able to attend, a full pack was sent to them so they also had an opportunity to raise issues / concerns.

3. Savings Working Group

- 3.1 Six half day meetings of the Working Group were held between the 14th of October and the 3rd of November to consider the proposals per department.
- 3.2 The Working Group addressed all the comments made in the Member Workshop and considered the impact of implementing the proposals and highlight any issues on the impact on the people of Gwynedd to be brought to the Cabinet's attention before presenting them for decision by the Cabinet.
- 3.3 The working group recommendations to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee are summarised in Appendix 1 and a copy of the workshop pack is given for information purposes in Appendix 2.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and agree the recommendations to be presented to the Cabinet to make its decision on the 16th of December.