

<b>MEETING</b>	The Council
<b>DATE</b>	10 December, 2009
<b>TITLE</b>	2010-2013 Savings Strategy
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	RESOLVED to recommend to the full Council, at its meeting on 10 December 2009, to adopt the Savings Strategy for 2010/11 – 2012/13, namely:- (i) to implement the schemes and realise the savings in Group A and B, but to complete further work on the schemes in Group B to develop and agree on a detailed plan, and report for decision to the Council Board; (ii) not to accept the schemes in Group C in their current form, and to authorise completing further work on the schemes in Group C, in order to assess alternative options in the field during 2010/11, before coming to a final conclusion regarding the schemes; (iii) not to take any further action on the schemes in Group CH at present.
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Geraint George, Head of Strategic and Improvement
<b>PORTFOLIO LEADER</b>	Councillor Dyfed Edwards

**1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To submit recommendations as to which plans from the quantum are to be implemented as part of the 2010-2013 Savings Strategy.

**2. Background and Context**

- 2.1 The 2010-2013 Savings Strategy was adopted by the Council on 7th May 2009, based on 5 parts:
- a target of 0.5% financial efficiency savings for each Head of Department (together with Devolved Schools) amounting to £1,087,000 per annum or £3,261,000 over 3 years
  - a contribution from cross-departmental schemes amounting to £1.75m over the 3 years.
  - a “quantum” amounting to double the remaining target to each Head, which equates to £23m over 3 years (including Devolved Schools)
  - ensuring adequate change management arrangements
  - transformational change for the future.

2.2 In relation to the 0.5% efficiency savings and the cross-departmental schemes, we will be reporting to the committees in February as part of the Council's Financial Strategy.

2.3 In relation to the next steps to agree the quantum schemes, a report will be submitted to the:

- Principal Scrutiny Committee Savings Working Group 03/12/09
- Principal Scrutiny Committee 08/12/09
- Full Council 10/12/09.

### **3. Key Steps – the “quantum”**

3.1 Outlined below are the key steps of the Strategy in relation to scrutiny and obtaining opinion on the 156 ideas developed as part of the “quantum”.

3.2 The Principal Scrutiny Committee's Savings Working Group – as part of the process, the following 7 members of the Principal Scrutiny Committee were elected to the Working Group:

- Councillor Seimon Glyn
- Councillor Keith Marshall
- Councillor Margaret Griffith
- Councillor R H Wyn Williams
- Councillor Dafydd Roberts
- Councillor Trevor Roberts
- Councillor Christopher Hughes.

3.3 The purpose of the Working Group was to scrutinise the ideas per Head of Department and across the Council, and to agree a final list, consistent with the quantum, to be submitted to the Members' Workshops, in particular:

- To ensure that the effect and implications of the schemes were clear and that the comments of the special scrutiny committees in July had been incorporated
- To complete an impact assessment for each scheme
- In the context of the outline business cases, to assess the timescale and the associated risks, to come to a conclusion as to whether the scheme could be realised
- In the context of the background information, has an obvious field for savings been omitted?

3.4 The work of the Working Group, in 16 meetings during September / October was fed in to the work of the Members' Workshop.

3.5 Members' Workshop – the Workshop was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November when all members of the Council were invited to express their views on the detailed schemes with 58 members attending.

- 3.6 The question was posed “Is the scheme a priority to contribute to the 2010-2013 Savings Strategy?” with four possible answers, i.e.:
- Yes
  - Likely
  - Uncertain
  - No, not at present.
- 3.7 Opinion Finding Sessions – In addition to the input of members, 7 opinion finding sessions were held (one with the voluntary sector, three with staff and three with the public) between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November, where a small sample of the more difficult to implement schemes were discussed:
- Recommissioning of elderly people’s residential care
  - Primary Schools
  - Closure of a Leisure Centre
  - Secondary Schools
  - Access Criteria
  - Switching Off Street Lights
  - Closure of Public Toilets
  - Raising the price of school meals
  - Nursery education
  - Reducing the number of councillors
  - Introducing a fee for staff parking.
- 3.8 95 people attended the opinion finding sessions. Note that the purpose of this step in the process was to obtain a flavour of different groups’ opinions of the schemes, rather than to obtain representative statistics.
- 3.9 The opinion finding sessions were facilitated by external facilitators, and a copy of their report is shown in Appendix 6. As part of the sessions, the groups were asked to cast a vote on each scheme by answering the following question: “How fair is it for the above scheme to be considered as part of the 2010-2013 Savings Strategy?”
- Yes, it is fair
  - Maybe
  - Not at all
- Appendix 7 provides a rough assessment of the votes.
- 3.10 Trade Unions – In accordance with the Council’s procedures, regular consultations have been held between the Human Resources Department and the Trade Unions. Information in relation to the proposed cuts has been provided to the unions, and discussions will proceed through the usual arrangements which includes a series of monthly and quarterly meetings.
- In general, the unions are committed to working with the Council to achieve the required savings in an equitable manner. They note that there

should be no compulsory redundancies but that efforts should be made to recognise volunteers. It is also noted that those members of staff who continue to be employed by the Council should not face an increase in their workload arising from any savings implemented.

#### **4. Summary and recommendations**

- 4.1 The process of developing the recommendation has involved the Leadership Team and the Senior Portfolio Leaders, the Leaders of the Political Groups and the Heads of Department.
- 4.2 A summary of the schemes in the relevant groups is given below, and a summary by Head of Department in Appendix 5.
- 4.3 In relation to the recommendations, please note the following:
- Group A – The recommendation is to implement these schemes and realise the sum, with the majority of the group being small schemes i.e. less than £50,000 and with a low impact assessment, and / or supported by over 60% in the ‘Yes’ category in the sessions to obtain members’ opinions.
  - Group B – The recommendation is to implement these schemes and realise the sum, but further work is required to develop and agree a detailed plan and report on a decision to the Council Board. These schemes have received over 50% support for the ‘Yes’ and ‘Likely’ categories in the sessions to obtain members’ opinions
  - Group C – Further work is required to assess alternative options in the field during 2010/11, before making a final decision on the scheme in its present form.
  - Group D - Not to be implemented at present.

**RESOLVED to recommend to the full Council, at its meeting on 10 December 2009, to adopt the Savings Strategy for 2010/11 – 2012/13, namely:-**

- (i) to implement the schemes and realise the savings in Group A and B, but to complete further work on the schemes in Group B to develop and agree on a detailed plan, and report for decision to the Council Board;**
- (ii) not to accept the schemes in Group C in their current form, and to authorise completing further work on the schemes in Group C, in order to assess alternative options in the field during 2010/11, before coming to a final conclusion regarding the schemes;**
- (iii) not to take any further action on the schemes in Group CH at present.**

	<b>2010/11 £</b>	<b>2011/12 £</b>	<b>2012/13 £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Group A – (See Appendix 1)</b> Recommend the implementation of the schemes, and the realisation of the savings	£2,090,371	£2,222,126	£2,402,040	£6,714,537

	<b>2010/11 £</b>	<b>2011/12 £</b>	<b>2012/13 £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Group B – (See Appendix 2) -</b> Schemes to be implemented and savings achieved, but further work required to develop and agree a detailed plan, and to report for decision to the Council Board	£393,630	£373,970	£2,520,387	£3,287,987
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,484,001</b>	<b>£2,596,096</b>	<b>£4,922,427</b>	<b>£10,002,524</b>
<b>Group C (see Appendix 3) -</b> Further work to be completed to assess alternative options in the field during 2010/11 before coming to a final conclusion, rather than adopting the scheme in its present form	£264,990	£1,358,920	£1,012,964	£2,636,874
<b>Group D– (See Appendix 4) -</b> Not to be implemented at present	£1,950,000	£6,835,000	£2,102,370	£10,887,370