

REPORT TO THE CABINET

Date	22 May 2018
Cabinet Member	Councillor Peredur Jenkins
Subject	2017/18 Savings Overview: Progress Report on Realising Savings Schemes
Contact Officer	Dafydd L Edwards, Head of Finance

DECISION SOUGHT

To note the encouraging progress towards realising the savings schemes during 2017/18.

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

In the Council's 2017/18 Financial Strategy, we had planned for savings of £7,414,750. Realising the individual schemes is the responsibility of the relevant Cabinet members, and the Cabinet Member for Finance keeps an overview of the whole picture. This report updates on the progress of realising the savings up to 31 March 2018.

2. DEPARTMENTAL SCHEMES in previous years

Appendix 1 summarises the achievements of each department against the savings target carried forward from 2016/17. Only two schemes remain to be realised, and it is expected that this will be achieved during 2018/19. In financial terms (£), over 99% of the 2015/16 and 2016/17 schemes have been realised.

3. DEPARTMENTAL SCHEMES 2017/18

3.1 Appendix 2 summarises the position in respect of realising the 2017/18 savings schemes. Of the 122 schemes, 108 have been fully or partly realised on time, but there has been some slippage in realising the remainder. In financial terms (£), 81% of the savings have been realised.

3.2 In my report in September 2017, I referred to the substantial challenge of realising a number of schemes in the **Adults, Health and Wellbeing Department**. On 13 February 2018, a report was presented to the Cabinet by the Adults, Health and Wellbeing Cabinet Member and it was agreed to amalgamate a number of individual schemes into the work streams that were realising savings from the same budgets. It is foreseen that the Department will, during 2018/19, make substantial progress towards realising the savings that have slipped.

- 3.3** The Cabinet Member for Children presented a report to the Cabinet on 9 January referring to the substantial challenge of realising this year's savings schemes, in particular the remainder of the savings as had been envisaged from the "End to End" scheme. It was agreed that there was need for the **Children and Supporting Families Department** to review the financial outcomes to date and compare these with the original theories, together with the forecasts for the future. The financing of childcare is a field causing concern for numerous local authorities, and I therefore encourage the Children's Cabinet Member to present a report as soon as possible, to consider if it will be necessary for the Children's Department to submit an alternative scheme to realise the relative financial savings.
- 3.4** There is one scheme within the **Highways Department** that continues to cause concern, and a report was submitted to the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 19 April 2018 to explain the position, and consider an alternative way of fully realising the saving. It is expected that the Cabinet Member presents a report to consider the views of the Committee.
- 3.5** Generally, I am very satisfied with the progress that has been made to realise the 2017/18 savings.

4. DEPARTMENTAL SCHEMES 2018/19

Appendix 3 summarises the position in respect of the schemes that are in hand to be realised during 2018/19. Although early in the financial year, the forecasts of realising the schemes are generally promising, with only one scheme causing concern.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1** Whilst some departments have realised all of their savings schemes, it is inevitable that realising some of the schemes within the original timescale has been challenging, in particular some of the larger schemes within the Children and Adults Departments. More time is required to plan and implement appropriately with some schemes, and the Cabinet in various meetings has approved amendments and re-profiling schemes in some fields, that has resulted in extending the realisation timetable.
- 5.2** I would like to thank all the Cabinet Members for continuing to monitor the savings schemes, and I am aware that work continues to be done in all departments to realise the goal. I ask the Cabinet to note the satisfactory achievements to date in realising the savings schemes in 2017/18, and the encouraging progress forecasted towards realising the 2018/19 savings programme.

View of the Local Member

Not relevant

Views of the Statutory Officers**Monitoring Officer:**

No observations in relation to propriety.

Head of Finance:

I have collaborated with the Cabinet Member in the preparation of this report and I confirm the content.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – 2016/17 Savings Schemes Overview by department

Appendix 2 – 2017/18 Savings Schemes Overview by department

Appendix 3 – 2018/19 Savings Schemes Overview by department