

REPORT TO THE CABINET

Date	22 January 2019
Cabinet Member	Councillor Peredur Jenkins, Finance Cabinet Member
Subject	Savings Overview: Progress Report on Realising Savings Schemes
Contact Officer	Dafydd L Edwards, Head of Finance

DECISION SOUGHT

To accept the information within the report and note the encouraging progress towards realising the 2018/19 savings schemes and previous years.

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

In the Council's financial strategy since 2015/16, £27m worth of savings have been approved to be realised during the period 2015/16 to 2018/19. Reported here are the 2018/19 savings and previous years.

Realising the individual schemes is the responsibility of the relevant Cabinet members, and Members' performance reports, which are presented regularly to Cabinet meetings, detailing the progress of individual savings schemes within their portfolios, and the position at the time. It is the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Finance to keep an overview of the whole picture.

2. SAVINGS SCHEMES 2015/16 - 2017/18

Appendix 1 summarises the achievement of each department against the savings target set for them from 2015/16 - 2017/18, totalling more than £24m. It is encouraging for me to report that £23m, or 95%, of these schemes have been realised, and there is only a slight slippage with the remainder.

This is predominantly in the Adult, Health and Wellbeing Department's 2017/18 schemes where progress has recently been made with some schemes that had slipped, but the challenge of realising some schemes continues.

3. DEPARTMENTAL SCHEMES 2018/19

Appendix 2 summarises the current forecasts for the realisation of 2018/19 savings schemes. Out of the 29 schemes, 62% worth of schemes have been realised. There are 7 schemes on track to be realised on time, and encouragingly, with slippage forecasted on only 5 schemes.

One of them is the 'End to End Review' in the Children and Supporting Families Department, which is a savings scheme of £250,280. The scheme has been

subject to a joint review between the Children and Supporting Families Department, Finance and the Research and Information Manager, by revisiting the assumptions in the original 'End to End' model. It showed that the number of nights children were in residential placements has reduced but a change in the profile and complexity of the cases and therefore has affected the average cost of placements. A reduction in contributions by Health was also seen.

In terms of the remaining schemes, the prospects of realising the savings remain generally promising.

4. CONCLUSION

Although some departments have realised all of their savings schemes, it is inevitable that realising almost £27m of savings since April 2015 has been challenging. Some schemes need more time to plan and implement appropriately. However, in general, I am satisfied with the progress that has been made to realise the savings plans for this period and I am grateful to all departments and Cabinet Members for achieving this success. Every effort will be made to realise those schemes that have slipped, and all Cabinet Members will continue to monitor the situation, acting as necessary to achieve the goal.

Therefore, I ask the Cabinet to note the acceptable general achievement outlined in this report towards realising the savings schemes.

View of the Local Member

Not relevant

View 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 – 2015/16 – 2017/18 Savings Schemes Overview by Department

Appendix 2 – 2018/19 Savings Schemes Overview by Department