

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2013/14

Labour & Co-operative Group Amendments

Amendment 1

It is proposed that the following additional savings are made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2013/14:

- **To reduce by £0.040m the additional funding for the Travellers Service set out in the service pressure investment area table on page 53 of the agenda.**

Chief Finance Officer comments:

There is a strong likelihood that the Travellers Service would need to incur costs above the agreed budget for security reasons as in previous years. The level will depend on the quantity of unlawful encampments.

- **To reduce by £0.050m the service pressure funding for the Communications Team set out in the Resources & Finance budget summary on page 97 of the agenda.**

Chief Finance Officer comments:

This would require a reprioritisation of external communications and marketing spend and a reduction in the response times to media and public enquiries. The service has made staffing savings to contribute to the existing Management & Administration savings targets and is already reliant on one off funding for certain pieces of work such as communicating changes from welfare reform, communication with staff on pay modernisation and support for City Deal.

The proposals above will generate ongoing savings of £0.090m. It is proposed that these resources will be used as follows:

- £0.090m to reverse part of other efficiency gains saving in Children's Centres including the recharges for midwifery services and reducing reception posts as set out on page 64 of the agenda.

Amendment 2

It is proposed that the following additional savings are made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2013/14:

- **To further reduce by £0.010m the additional funding for the Travellers Service set out in the service pressure investment area table on page 53 of the agenda making the total reduction £0.050m if amendment 1 is approved.**

Chief Finance Officer comments:

There is a strong likelihood that the Travellers Service would need to incur costs above the agreed budget for security reasons as in previous years. The level will depend on the quantity of unlawful encampments.

- **To top-slice £0.120m of the £6.349m 2013/14 Local Transport Plan capital grant shown in table 2 on page 204 of the agenda.**

It is proposed that these resources will be used as follows:

- £0.010m plus the funding set aside in the library budget for the enhanced Home Delivery service to be reallocated to run the Mobile Library on a reduced timetable for 3 days a week and £0.120m for the purchase of a new replacement vehicle. This proposal represents option 3 recommended by the Economic Development and Culture Committee in the report to Policy & Resources Committee on 24 January 2013 entitled "Future of the Mobile Library Service".

Amendment 3

It is proposed that the following additional saving is made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2013/14:

- **To reduce the £0.750m investment in preventative services shown in paragraph 3.40 page 19 of the agenda by £0.169m.**

Chief Finance Officer comments:

This would require negotiation with health partners to agree a revised split of NHS funding for Social Care to use more money to protect existing services and to reduce the new investment in preventative services. There is a risk that this may not be acceptable to partners.

It is proposed that these resources will be used as follows:

- £0.150m to reverse the commissioning saving in temporary accommodation budget generated by increased income from private sector leasing and a reduction of spot purchase accommodation set out on page 81 of the agenda.
- £0.019m to reverse the efficiency saving in the preventing homelessness budget set out on page 81 of the agenda.

Amendment 4

It is proposed that the following resource reallocations are made in the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budgets for 2013/14:

- **To set aside £0.070m of the Welfare and Local Government Funding reform reserve set out on page 115 of the agenda.**
- **To reduce the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue contribution to capital shown in table 1 on page 203 of the agenda by £0.005m thereby reducing the 2013/14 HRA capital investment programme by the same amount.**

The proposals above will generate one-off General Fund resources of £0.070m and one-off HRA resources of £0.005m. It is proposed that these resources will be used as follows:

- £0.070m to appoint an additional full time Welfare Rights officer for 2 years to help cover any additional workload created by national welfare changes.
- £0.005m for Welfare Changes communications to council tenants.

Amendment 5

It is proposed that the following additional saving is made in the General Fund budget for 2013/14:

- **To combine the Transport and Environment Committees resulting in a saving of £0.015m in the Democratic Services budget. The savings would arise from lower committee support and administrative costs.**

It is proposed that these resources will be used as follows:

- £0.015m to reverse part of the other efficiency gains saving in Children's Centre Nurseries set out on page 63 of the agenda to ensure that there is no additional increase in charges for children under 3.

