

Savings & Transformation Strategy 2016/17 – 2020/21

INTRODUCTION

TMBC has to deliver some significant savings in our financial planning. Following the publication of the provisional Local Government Settlement for the four-year period 2016/17 to 2019/20, over the 10 year life of our Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), we are very likely to have to deliver savings of at least £1.9 million in our base budget.

It could be more severe than that depending on what happens nationally. This is a major task when our net revenue expenditure is approximately £13 million and we have already delivered over £3 million in savings over the last 4 to 5 years, including recently delivered savings which are built into the draft Budget for 2016/17.

We are fortunate that we do not have to make all the savings required in our first year and can spread the challenge in ‘tranches’ over a few years, as set out within the MTFS. Nevertheless, we need to plan to make these savings and achieve as much as possible in the earlier years to provide the best long-term financial sustainability.

OBJECTIVES

In developing this strategy, the Council has set the following objectives:

1. To deliver sufficient savings in order to bridge the funding gap identified in the Council’s MTFS, and to deliver those savings as quickly as possible in order to minimise risk to the Council’s finances;
2. To direct resources to priority areas in line with the principles of the Council’s Corporate Plan;
3. To maintain the Council’s reputation of good front line service provision;
4. To adopt a ‘mixed’ approach to addressing the funding gap through a series of ‘themes’;
5. To be open to accept ‘cultural’ change in the ways we work and offer services to the public in order to release efficiencies and savings; and
6. To engage, as appropriate, with stakeholders when determining how savings will be achieved.

THE STRATEGY

It is recognised that there is no one simple solution to addressing the financial challenges faced. The Council will need to adopt a number of ways to deliver the savings within an agreed timetable.

This Strategy sets out a measured structure and framework for delivering the necessary savings through a series of ‘themes’. Each theme has a deliverable target within a timeframe.

Whilst the framework includes some major areas where savings can be made without direct effect on services, by adopting this Strategy the Council has recognised that it may need to decide that some service areas should change to accommodate saving requirements. That might mean doing things differently, more efficiently and with increased income opportunities where there is the opportunity to do so. It might also mean that services will simply need to be run with fewer resources. The Council is committed to engagement with relevant stakeholders as proposals are brought forward.

The Themes, Targets, and Timeframes for the Strategy are set out in the table below, and will be the subject of review at least annually. Achievement against the theme targets is also documented to aid transparency.

Progress on identifying and implementing savings across the various themes will be regularly reported to and reviewed by Management Team and in-year update reports presented to Members as appropriate.

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