

**Vibrant, Safe and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel
20 November 2014**

Appendix D

Savings Proposals

Description of Saving	Directorate	Comments
Leisure and Communities		
Removal of subsidy for Blakenhall Community & Healthy Living Centre	Community	<p>The availability of the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) relating to this savings proposal was not available. The Cabinet Member gave assurance that the EIA and impact on service users will be considered before a decision is made. The Cabinet Member expressed a will to retain a service in some form but would not be able to say what until the feedback from community consultation had been taken fully into account</p> <p>There was a suggestion from the Chair that there could be opportunity to explore work with Health and links to healthy living.</p> <p>It was agreed that a further report be considered by Vibrant Safe and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel (VSSC) in relation to Blakenhall community and healthy living centre.</p> <p>Agreed to note the proposal</p>
Deletion of Neighbourhood Wardens Service	Education & Enterprise	<p>The funding streams for Neighbourhood Wardens are no longer available. £480,000 per annum is required to deliver the service.</p> <p>Following a petition to Council a focus group will meet to discuss ways forward it was agreed that VSSC Scrutiny Panel will receive a report back on the focus group outcomes which will also be fed into the budget consultation process.</p> <p>Cllr Andrew Wynne requested that the Conservative Group's opposition to the savings proposal was recorded on the same grounds as its opposition at the recent Council meeting, that the social</p>

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		<p>effects of not having wardens would cost more in the longer term and was not in effect a saving at all.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member assured VSSC Scrutiny Panel that alternative ways of delivering warden services were being explored from neighbouring authorities and those outside the West Midlands.</p> <p>The VSSC Scrutiny Panel reached consensus that all savings proposals would have some detrimental effect and that there was strength of feeling in some parts of the City for this Service. VSSC Scrutiny Panel was mindful of the nationwide reduction to the Police resource.</p> <p>VSSC Scrutiny Panel agreed that any suggestion for new arrangements should be welcomed and any alternatives should be explored and fed into the consultation process as options.</p> <p>Comments for alternative arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic wardens, with appropriate training to carry out the neighbourhood warden role. • Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) give consideration to environmental warden role. • The new combined authority to give consideration to neighbourhood warden services. • Neighbourhood wardens to be given powers of a litter warden to issue on the spot fines thereby generating income to pay for the service (previously rejected due to the need for wardens to be approachable).

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		<p>The Cabinet Member re-affirmed that any ideas can be fed into the consultation process and re-iterated that the Council's budget has to balance, anything put in something else has to be taken out, or alternative funding found.</p> <p>The VSSC Scrutiny Panel noted that it was not a popular proposal with residents and highlighted that cutting neighbourhood warden service could send out the wrong message of re-assurance to residents that maintaining law and order was less important than another frontline service.</p> <p>The Chair indicated that representation should be made to Government relating to the neighbourhood warden service nationwide with regard to proposals for funding.</p> <p>With the exception of those councillors who have expressed opposition, and who are not in agreement with the proposal, the VSSC Scrutiny Panel agreed to note the savings proposal.</p>
<p>Acceleration of reconfiguration of internally delivered Cultural Services</p>	<p>Education & Enterprise</p>	<p>The proposal was agreed last year and is due to be accelerated through restructure. VSSC Scrutiny Panel recognised that all cultural establishments had been retained at a reduced function; that under the proposal there would not be so many exhibitions unless external funding could be secured and that the archives had to be maintained as a statutory requirement. Councillors highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generating money in cafes at venues • the excellent reputation and quality of cultural exhibitions and events

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the long and rich history and heritage in Wolverhampton and Bilston • that a reduction of cultural events would not be a saving if the City offer is reduced; visitors stop coming and potential inward investment is impacted • cultural services are linked to adult education and inclusion. • increased signage in the City to promote visitor attractions. • need to look for other facilities in Wolverhampton during the refurbishment of Wulfrun Hall and Civic Halls such as Dunstall Park and Molyneux. • better utilisation of the City's assets with regard to the entertainment offer for the City. <p>The VSSC Scrutiny Panel reached consensus that there is a need for Cabinet Members and officers to give more time to this proposal, to consider the marketing strategy and promoting Wolverhampton's history and heritage.</p> <p>VSSC Scrutiny Panel also felt strongly that there is a need to consider the business strategy with a mind to increase income from fully utilising current assets and exploring other assets across the City with potential to bring more people to the City.</p> <p>Officers confirmed that in the restructure there are no savings proposed that will affect our ability to market the City and fundraise.</p> <p>Agreed to note the proposal</p>

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Accelerated Savings From Grand Theatre Grant	Education & Enterprise	<p>The VSSC Scrutiny Panel had previously scrutinised the options for making this saving and recommended the option set out in the savings proposal.</p> <p>The Vice-Chair referred to the previous savings proposal discussed and highlighted that many points made were relevant to the savings from the Grand Theatre Grant particularly in relation to the huge cultural asset the theatre is and how such assets are key to the regeneration of the City Centre and the night time economy in the City.</p> <p>Agreed to note the proposal</p>
Review of Community Safety Service	Education and Enterprise	Agreed to note the proposal
City Services		
Reduction in the level of management in the waste service	Delivery	Agreed to note the proposal
Acceleration of saving proposal 0041 - reconfiguration of the waste service	Delivery	<p>VSSC Scrutiny Panel welcomed that the efficiency savings had been identified by effective deep cleaning and regular maintenance of the food waste pit.</p> <p>Agreed to note the proposal</p>

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Reduction in waste disposal costs (landfill)	Delivery	Agreed to note the proposal
Removal of the historical contract growth costs for landfill tax	Delivery	Agreed to note the proposal

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Economic Regeneration and Prosperity		
Additional New Homes Bonus through the Empty Homes Council Tax data cleanse	Education & Enterprise	Finance to provide further information to the Scrutiny Board to advise how many years the new homes bonus has been in operation. Agreed to note the proposal
Housing Revenue Account Shops Portfolio	Education & Enterprise	Agreed to note the proposal

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New combined Housing service	Education & Enterprise	Agreed to note the proposal