

Appendix 1

Initial Assessment of known County budget proposals on City Council services

SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION
Environmental Services- Highways	City Council currently act as contractor to the County Council to deliver a range of highways services. County Council are from April 1 st providing this service directly. Affected staff will be TUPE'd to the County Council. Non- County works will be undertaken directly by the City Council by a team of 4 retained staff.
Environmental Services - Public Realm	The public realm budget provided by the County Council to the City Council to undertake work on their trees, verges, hedges, weedspraying etc is being reduced from £195,000 to £138,000. This means that from 2016/17 no weedspraying will take place at all, leaf sweeping will continue but within scheduled cleansing (so therefore it'll take longer), cuts on rural verges will reduce from 14 to 9. (Although prior to the City Council undertaking this work County's frequency of cut was less than this). The rationale for this being that were we to reduce frequency on urban verges we would need new equipment and it would create problems for the litter picking operation.
Environmental Services- Waste Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 18/19 the County Council are no longer making the £1.4 million per year cost sharing contribution to waste collection/ recycling. Although this has been built into budget plans it has significantly added to the City Council's financial pressures. From April 2016 the County Council will no longer allow Districts to collect food waste for recycling. For those households that use the service this will be a reduction in service.
Environmental Services- On street parking	The City Council currently have an agreement with the County Council to administer and undertake some aspects of on street parking e.g. residents parking schemes. From 16/17 the County Council are considering whether to undertake this work directly. No further details on how this will work are available.
Health and Housing – sheltered housing	All supporting people (SP) funding to cease by 31 March 2017. Tenants will not receive any SP grant towards the charges we make for scheme manager support. Support is not eligible for housing benefit therefore tenants will have a shortfall to make up when the SP funding goes. We are trying to redesign the service to reduce the impact on tenants.
Health and Housing – community alarms	All SP funding for community alarms to cease by 31 March 2017. Council tenants will have to pay the charge and this is not eligible for housing benefit. Non council tenants were previously subsidised and this will cease.
Health and Housing - Telecare	County Council have also commissioned a new Lancashire Telecare Service which provides a "free" service (subject to assessment) now being delivered through Tunstall Telecom and New Progress Housing Group. The combination of our loss of contract for telecare and the SP reduction in alarm funding presents a risk of viability for our control centre. A report is to be presented to February Cabinet.

SERVICE AREA	DESCRIPTION
Health and Housing – SP floating support	All funding to cease by April 2017. Has provided targeted support and a range of interventions that prevent homelessness and help people maintain a tenancy. Has upskilled some vulnerable people to become independent and more likely to access employment. The loss of this service is likely to result in a rise homeless presentations and a possibly rise in ASB.
Health and Housing – SP reduction in funding for short term accommodation	<p>The loss/reduction of supported housing will have a significant impact to Lancaster City Council. At the present time, there is a record low spend on Bed and Breakfast costs which in the current financial year are around £20K. Last year, the council spent £48K on B&B costs and if these figures are compared to costs incurred 10 years or so ago, the costs stood at around £250K per year. The council has also achieved a significant reduction in statutory homeless applications largely because where individuals are threatened with homelessness, as part of our prevention role the council is facilitating supported housing placements for a number of vulnerable groups. Without supported housing provision we expect that there will be a sharp increase in crisis presentations from people with complex needs.</p> <p>It is very difficult to define the entire cost implications of the removal of the Supporting People Programme but it will be significant and will impact on all public sector organisations. It is too early to say how providers will manage the loss of Supporting People funding, although some organisations are planning to close services. Some may try to reconfigure services. It is worth bearing in mind that if the proposed changes to roll out the Local Housing Allowance rates across the social housing sector are implemented (including supported housing schemes) - any providers that are able to sustain the cuts to the SP programme in the short term, will not be able to sustain services once the LHA rates apply.</p>
Regeneration and Planning Museums	The County Councils proposals to withdraw funding for museums will have an impact on the overall museums officer within the district and will inevitably give rise to concerns about how both councils should continue with the current arrangements to operate the City Councils museums through the current financial arrangements. The City Council is in the process of reviewing future museum operations and this work has inevitably come under pressure from expectations that it should consider taking on additional burdens influenced by the County Councils proposals.
Regeneration and Planning Funding for the Arts	The City Council already makes financial contributions to key arts organisations in the district because of the significant contribution they make to the local economy. That investment has the potential to be prejudiced with the proposals to withdraw funding by the County Council after 2017/18. Representations have been made to try and persuade the County council that the arts to this district are a key economic driver whereas they might not be in other parts of Lancashire. The aim is to focus remaining funding towards key delivery centres rather than spread it around the county.
Regeneration and Planning	The County Council provide funding for posts engaged in the operation of the Morecambe VIC. The review of Vic provision currently being asked for by Cabinet might well give rise to options for the County Council to withdraw this support.

Visitor Information centre staffing	
Regeneration and Planning Historic Environment services.	Proposals to withdraw from the provision of historic environment services could have serious consequences for district councils who rely on them as a key consultee in planning decisions, plan making and managing the historic environment. Ill informed decisions could open districts to challenge, and ultimately lead to the degradation of the historic environment. Insufficient time has been allowed to enable districts to secure the provision of alternative professional advice for use in decision making.
Regeneration and Planning Countryside Service	The County Council intends to disband its Countryside Service and this would mean that a number of picnic and recreation sites owned by the county would be disposed of, and the valuable educational and stewardship work done by the County's Countryside Rangers, often in support of our own Arnside/Silverdale AONB Unit and the County's own Forest of Bowland Unit would be lost. A number of the recreation sites to be disposed of are within or adjacent to the AONB's.