

GENERAL FUND BUDGET - 2016/17 TO 2019/20
SAVINGS OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED DURING 2016/17

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	£	£	£	£
Income Generation				
Resources				
Room Hire Policy	?	?	?	?
<i>Development of a comprehensive Council wide room hire policy, to provide a more consistent and transparent approach whilst seeking to maximise income generation.</i>				
<i>Sub Total</i>	0	0	0	0
Service Efficiencies and Reductions				
Environmental Services				
Refuse Collection	0	0	0	?
<i>Consideration of moving from fortnightly collections to three weekly across all streams. Also, to consider replacing existing recycling boxes with bins.</i>				
Governance				
Grants to Voluntary, Community and Faith Sectors (VCFS)	0	(257,500)	(262,700)	(267,900)
<i>Review of all grants given to the VCFS.</i>				
Civic Regalia - Rationalisation	?	?	?	?
<i>Review all Civic Regalia currently held by the Council to identify potential surplus items.</i>				
Regeneration & Planning				
The Platform - Improve Net Operating Position	?	(86,100)	(88,600)	(90,700)
<i>Review options to improve the current net operating position.</i>				
Review of Grants to the Arts	0	(225,300)	(229,000)	(233,200)
<i>Review of Arts investment currently provided through Service Level Agreements (SLAs).</i>				
Maritime / Cottage Museums	0	0	?	?
<i>Future of these museums to be reviewed, alongside encouraging the County Council to explore community running of its local museums. Mothballing of Maritime/Cottage Museums also to be considered.</i>				
Visitor Information Centres (VIC) Review	?	?	?	?
<i>Review of VIC operations to include consideration of having one centre instead of two or another organisation providing the service.</i>				
Resources				
Local Council Tax Support Scheme	0	(110,000)	(112,000)	(114,000)
<i>Consider options to reduce the level of LCTS provided through the Council's scheme for working age claimants, from 2017/18 onwards.</i>				
Corporate Property - Disposal Programme (Revenue Impact)	?	?	?	?
<i>Review of property portfolio, including identification of disposal opportunities and overall policy.</i>				
Corporate Property - Office Rationalisation	?	?	?	?
<i>Review of office accommodation (two Town Hall, and Palatine Hall) with the intention of rationalising property usage to generate savings, through operating more efficiently.</i>				
<i>Sub Total</i>	0	(678,900)	(692,300)	(705,800)
Re-Financing Options				
Pension Contributions	0	(350,000)	(350,000)	(350,000)
<i>Investigation of options to reduce pensions deficit funding contributions and standard contribution rate for 2017/18 to 2019/20, following 2016 Pension Fund Triennial Review. Involves seeking Pension Fund / Actuary agreement to reduce or remove 'prudence margin' from contribution rates, to bring them down to 'best estimate'.</i>				
<i>Sub Total</i>	0	(350,000)	(350,000)	(350,000)
MAXIMUM VALUE OF QUANTIFIED OPTIONS	0	(1,028,900)	(1,042,300)	(1,055,800)

Notes to the Savings Options to be Explored Further as set out in Appendix B (ii)

- a. A future report on room hire policy is to be considered during next year, to promote greater consistency and transparency, as well as increasing income.
- b. A report on three weekly collection of waste will be prepared. This would be a matter for consideration for much later implementation however, i.e. not before 2019/20 onwards in all likelihood. In addition the financial viability of replacing the current recycling boxes with bins will be appraised.
- c. Options for the funding of Voluntary, Community and Faith Sectors (VCFS) will be considered during next year, to apply from 2017/18 onwards, taking account of statutory consultation needs.
- d. Council Business Committee would be requested to review the Council's civic regalia, to make recommendations on what is essential to keep, what is desirable to keep, and what could be disposed of, in some form. Insurance arrangements would also be reviewed.
- e. Whilst there is commitment to retaining a performance venue in Morecambe, ways to improve the Platform's financial performance (and reduce/negate its net operating costs) will be developed and considered during next year.
- f. A review of the grants provided to the Arts will also be undertaken, to determine options for 2017/18 onwards.
- g. The future of the Maritime and Cottage Museums will be reviewed, alongside moves to encourage the County Council to explore community running of its museums provision (potentially through a Trust), with the aim of securing the museums' future in this district. That said, the aim will be to significantly reduce or negate operating costs of all museums, and mothballing of the Maritime and Cottage Museums will also be an option for consideration.
- h. Options to withdraw or rationalise Visitor Information Centres (VICs) will also be developed.
- i. Public consultation on the Localised Council Tax Support Scheme options for 2017/18 onwards would be undertaken during summer 2016, to meet legal requirements, ahead of a report being considered by Council.
- j. A full report on options for rationalising (reducing) the Council's office accommodation will be produced. Specifically, this will cover Lancaster Town Hall, Morecambe Town Hall, and Palatine Hall. Should disposal of any of these properties be recommended, public consultation would be undertaken regarding their future.

- k. A report on other corporate property disposal (and acquisition) policy will be considered. Under financial strategy, any resulting receipts will be used to reduce the Council's capital financing costs, to generate revenue budget savings.
- l. External advice has been commissioned, to help ascertain whether there is scope to reduce the City Council's pension contribution costs for three-year period from 2017/18 to 2019/20. The outcome of this will be known during next year. The work has been commissioned jointly with various other Lancashire districts.

Additional Comments regarding Potential Budget Options

- m. The concept of a discount/concession card for residents will be explored (potentially to apply to a variety of services), drawing on other authorities' schemes.
- n. As well as the specific reviews mentioned above, there will be the need to ensure that the Council has sufficient capacity to deliver its programme of budget savings measures, and any interim need to boost capacity in the interim will be covered through use of Reserves. In the longer term, however, there is an expectation that support service capacity will need to be reassessed, to reflect further reductions in the Council's service delivery, as well as any increased demands through innovation and commercialisation, for example.