

## Update on Savings Options to be Explored Further in 2016/17

Savings Option	Update on Progress
Room hire policy is to be considered during next year, to promote greater consistency and transparency, as well as increasing income.	Underway - a report will be presented to Cabinet early next year for implementation in 2017/18.
Three weekly collection of waste. This will 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.	<p>This remains a potential option (in theory at least) to provide savings, but not one that has had any detailed business case developed, and not one that is likely to be easy to implement or acceptable to residents. The decision to charge for garden waste means that resources have been focused on introducing that, and helping to ensure that take up is maximised.</p> <p>The appraisal of replacing recycling boxes with bins is a separate exercise, subject to the result of the appraisal, we hope to feed proposals into the 2018/19 budget process.</p>
Options for the funding of Voluntary, Community and Faith Sectors (VCFS) will be considered, to apply from 2017/18 onwards, taking account of statutory consultation needs.	Given pressures on capacity and resources, and recognising the Council's latest financial outlook, it is now proposed that the future commissioning exercise should be completed in time for 2018/19 implementation, and its development included as part of the Overview & Scrutiny work programme (to feed into Stage 2 of the budget process).
Council Business Committee will 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 will also be reviewed.	An inventory has been completed, but many items have been gifted so would not generally be considered available for sale. A report will be presented to Members early next year.
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.	External consultancy being commissioned to support a review of the Platform; progress will be reported to Cabinet later this financial year. Any major proposals would be considered in Stage 2 of the budget process, for 2018/19 onwards.
A review of the grants provided to the Arts will also be undertaken, to determine options for 2017/18 onwards.	A report may be presented to Cabinet during next year (as part of Stage 2 of the budget) as appropriate – note, however, that future of arts funding now has linkages with the potential Canal Corridor North Scheme.
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.	Funding for a feasibility study was approved by Cabinet in June. A report will be presented to Cabinet later this financial year. Any major proposals would be considered in Stage 2 of the budget strategy, for 2018/19 onwards.

Options to withdraw or rationalise Visitor Information Centres (VICs) will also be developed.	To be progressed for consideration in Stage 2 of the budget strategy, for 2018/19 onwards.
Public consultation on the Localised Council Tax Support Scheme options for 2017/18 onwards will be undertaken during summer 2016, to meet legal requirements, ahead of a report being considered by Council.	Results of the consultation will be presented to Council in December together with options for the 2017/18 scheme, in order fit with statutory timescales.
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 will be undertaken regarding their future.	Progress has stalled, due to other work demands. Proposals for ensuring sufficient capacity will be presented in the coming weeks, for consideration as part of the 2017/18 budget, as appropriate.
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.	Underway, for reporting through to Cabinet next year (forms a part of overall property strategy, included on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme). Separately, additional capital receipts have been used to reduce the Council's financing costs, as referred to in the report.
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.	After preliminary investigation of options, and discussion with the Pension Authority, this has not been taken forward any further. It is hoped – but not guaranteed – that through the current triennial review, the Pensions Authority can mitigate the need for any contribution rate increases.
Subject to other work demand and priorities, council tax discretionary charging policy for empty homes will be reviewed for 2017/18.	No progress – other work streams have taken priority.
<b>Additional Comments regarding Potential Budget Options</b>	
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.	Little evidence found nationally of any resident discount schemes for wider council services (aside from some passport to leisure schemes).