

**GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2016/17
AMENDMENTS****Conservative Group Amendment 1**

It is proposed that the following additional savings are made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2016/17:

- Additional saving of £0.151m from senior management and related support through the review of the top four tiers of management. This is in addition to the savings related to Management Spans & Accountability already included in the Four Year Service & Financial Plans.

The additional £0.151m recurrent resources generated will be used to:

- Reduce the savings proposal of £0.313m in respect of increased on-street parking income on page 139 by £0.031m in order to retain the price of business and trader parking permits at 2015/16 levels.
- Reinstate funding of £0.060m for public conveniences to reduce the impact of deferred saving from 2015/16.
- Provide £0.040m additional recurrent resources for verge cutting across the city, equivalent to one additional cut per year.
- Provide £0.020m additional recurrent resources for gully cleansing to improve the council's ability to respond to localised emergencies and floods.

The alternative savings proposals set out above require £0.037m revenue reserves to manage the part-year implementation in 2016/17. It is proposed to reduce the contribution to the Restructure & Redundancy Reserve for 2016/17 by £0.037m and this contribution will be reinstated as a first call on any reserves created by any reduction in the projected overspend for 2015/16 between now and the year-end.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

Senior Management at the top tiers of an organisation provide much of the knowledge, skills and capacity to support and deliver change and modernisation at both corporate and service levels. The scale of proposed overall management savings (MSA) is already significant (£1.954m) in 2016/17 and there is a need to ensure that statutory roles continue to be appropriately provided for. This additional saving may therefore impact on organisational change capacity and increase the risk of service redesign and/or savings programmes being delayed.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2016/17 AMENDMENTS

Conservative Group Amendment 2

It is proposed to release £0.095m of the recurrent resources identified in paragraph 3.6 of the supplementary Report (page 408) and replace with one-off funding of £0.095m. This amendment does not change any of the allocations included in paragraph 3.6 of the Supplementary Report.

It is proposed that the following additional savings are made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2016/17:

- Additional saving of £0.019m from senior management and related support through the review of the top four tiers of management. This is in addition to the savings related to Management Spans & Accountability already included in the Four Year Service & Financial Plans.

To utilise the additional £0.114m recurrent resources generated to:

- Remove the savings proposal of £0.086m in respect of Residential, Respite and Short Breaks on page 96.
- Reduce the savings proposal of £0.144m in respect of Housing Support services on page 121 by £0.028m in order to protect against increasing homelessness.

The alternative savings proposals set out above require £0.100m revenue reserves to manage the part-year implementation in 2016/17. It is proposed to reduce the contribution to the Restructure & Redundancy Reserve for 2016/17 by £0.100m and this contribution will be reinstated as a first call on any reserves created by any reduction in the projected overspend for 2015/16 between now and the year-end.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

The use of £0.095m additional resources identified in the Supplementary budget report on a recurrent rather than one-off basis will add to the budget gap in 2017/18 compared with the substantive budget proposals.

The recommended level of resources for the Restructure & Redundancy Reserve, which is needed to support service redesigns and the estimated staffing impacts (i.e. severance costs) in 2016/17, is £2.500m. Although this is a best and prudent estimate, reducing this reserve increases the risk that the authority may have to call on other reserves in-year and/or could add to already substantial demands for one-off monies in future years.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2016/17 AMENDMENTS

Conservative Group Amendment 3

It is proposed that the following additional savings are made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2016/17:

- Further savings of £0.020m across the Travellers budgets through improved management of the Horsdean site and increased income once the site is fully operational.
- Further savings of £0.030m across Housing Services through deletion of a vacant administrative post.

To utilise the additional £0.050m resources generated to:

- Remove the savings proposal of £0.050m in respect of Environmental Protection on page 187 in order to reinstate the Noise patrol service.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

Increasing the income target on the Horsdean site is potentially achievable but does increase the risk of under-achievement of income targets, particularly as there is a known risk around the final operational start date of this facility which will be part-way through 2016/17.

The alternative saving on Housing Services can be accommodated but may reduce flexibility for service redesign in this area in future.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2016/17 AMENDMENTS

Conservative Group Amendment 4

It is proposed that the following additional ongoing saving is made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2016/17:

- Reduce the budget for Trade Union facility time by £0.078m.

To utilise the additional £0.078m resources generated to:

- Remove the savings proposal of £0.054m relating to mental health preventive contracts on page 83.
- Remove the savings proposal of £0.024m relating to Hop 50+ (previously St John's Day Services) on page 82.

The alternative savings proposal set out above requires £0.033m revenue reserves to manage the part-year implementation in 2016/17. It is proposed to reduce the contribution to the Restructure & Redundancy Reserve for 2016/17 by £0.033m and this contribution will be reinstated as a first call on any reserves created by any reduction in the projected overspend for 2015/16 between now and the year-end.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

A reduction of TU facility time at this level would have a consequential impact on representation for employees, as the model that has evolved in the authority is that most formal representation is conducted via those on designated facilities release. This means there could be delays in obtaining representation where there is a formal right to such and this would mean delays in resolving issues and is likely to negatively impact on industrial relations. It should also be noted that there is work ongoing to change the levels of release and place more emphasis on local workplace representatives and therefore reduce the overall corporate facilities release which is intended to be implemented during 2016/17. However, it is not yet clear what the cost/saving implications of this will be.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2016/17 AMENDMENTS

Conservative Group Amendment 5

It is proposed that the following additional ongoing saving is made in the General Fund revenue budget for 2016/17:

- Reduce the budget for Trade Union facility time by a further £0.065m. This reduction in conjunction with Amendment 4 will leave sufficient resources to provide for a minimum of 2 full time officials plus the schools funded post.

To utilise the additional £0.065m resources generated to:

- Reduce the savings proposal of £0.313m in respect of increased on-street parking income on page 139 by £0.032m in order to retain the price of visitor parking permits at 2015/16 levels.
- Additional gully cleansing £0.033m. These additional resources in conjunction with those identified in Amendment 1 will enable a planned schedule of soakaway cleansing to protect against flooding.

The alternative savings proposal set out above requires £0.027m revenue reserves to manage the part-year implementation in 2016/17. It is proposed to reduce the contribution to the Restructure & Redundancy Reserve for 2016/17 by £0.027m and this contribution will be reinstated as a first call on any reserves created by any reduction in the projected overspend for 2015/16 between now and the year-end.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

A reduction of TU facility time at this level would have a consequential impact on representation for employees, as the model that has evolved in the authority is that most formal representation is conducted via those on designated facilities release. This means there could be delays in obtaining representation where there is a formal right to such and this would mean delays in resolving issues and is likely to negatively impact on industrial relations. It should also be noted that there is work ongoing to change the levels of release and place more emphasis on local workplace representatives and therefore reduce the overall corporate facilities release which is intended to be implemented during 2016/17. However, it is not clear yet what the cost/saving implications of this will be.

**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REPORT 2016/17
AMENDMENT****Conservative Group Amendment 6**

It is proposed that the following additional ongoing saving is made in the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2016/17:

- Make further efficiencies of £0.075m across Housing Management by bringing forward service wide reviews and reducing reliance on agency staff.
- Reduce the increase in direct revenue funding of the HRA capital programme by £0.070m.

To utilise the additional £0.145m resources generated to:

- Remove the savings proposal of £0.145m in respect of HRA contribution to the community grants programme in order to support third sector organisations as the community grants programme moves to the new commissioning model.

Chief Finance Officer comments:

These savings may impact on capacity to deliver services and/or undertake capital programme works. However, in the context of the scale of the HRA budget and service, this is unlikely to present unacceptably high levels of risk.

