



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 12TH DECEMBER 2013

**SUBJECT: PROVISIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT 2014/15 –
SAVINGS PROPOSALS**

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with details of proposed savings and efficiencies for those areas subject to review by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides an overview of the savings requirement for the Council for the period 2014/15 to 2016/17. The proposals relate specifically to a number of Authority-wide issues and the Directorate savings for 2014/15.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Committee will receive a presentation highlighting the specific proposals for 2014/15.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The budget setting process encompasses all the resources used by the Council to deliver services and meet priorities.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Members will recall that the 2014/15 Provisional Local Government Settlement announced on 16 October 2013 shows a decrease in Aggregate Exchequer Finance (AEF) of 3% (£8.46m) for Caerphilly CBC after adjusting for "transfers in" of former grant funding. The settlement includes a further indicative reduction of 1.55% (£3.72m) for 2015/16 but there is no indicative figure for 2016/17.
- 4.2 A report was presented to full Council on 23rd October 2013 providing an updated Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The report is attached as Appendix A and shows a projected three-year savings requirement of £28.13m (£14.53m for 2014/15, £6.54m for 2015/16 and £7.06m for 2016/17).
- 4.3 Since the announcement of the Provisional Settlement, Officers have been preparing a long-list of potential savings and efficiencies for Members to consider. This list was distributed at a Members Seminar on 21st November 2013. A series of special Scrutiny Committee meetings is being held during the first 2 weeks of December for Members to review and comment upon the proposed savings. Further special Scrutiny Committee meetings may be convened if considered necessary.

- 4.4 Members of the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee will receive a presentation at its meeting on 12th December 2013 setting out more details of the proposals along with an assessment of options where appropriate. The views of the Scrutiny Committee are sought in order that a balanced budget can be set for 2014/15 and to ensure that a range of indicative savings proposals are prioritised for further work to address financial shortfalls in future years.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The equalities implications of savings proposals will be fully considered as part of the decision making process.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As identified throughout the report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The personnel implications of agreed savings proposals will be carefully managed and staff will be fully supported to identify redeployment opportunities wherever possible.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 Budget proposals will be subject to normal consultation processes.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 Members are asked to consider and comment upon the list of proposed efficiencies and savings presented to Scrutiny.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure that a balanced budget can be set for 2014/15 and indicative savings proposals can be identified for future years.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

Author: Sandra Aspinall, Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Consultees: Directorate Senior Management Team
Corporate Management Team
Tony Maher, Assistant Director Planning & Strategy
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager
Cllr. D.T. Davies, Chair of Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny
Cllr. D. Poole, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services
Cllr T. Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and Engineering
Cllr K. James, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development.

Appendices:

Appendix A Special Council – 23rd October 2013 – Provisional Local Government Settlement 2014/15.