

Public Protection Savings Proposals (Public Impact – High, Medium & Low)

Ref: PP12 – Reduce Operational Breakfast Clubs Staff Cover by 1 Hour per Day £60k (Public Impact: High)

The Catering Service operates 68 Breakfast Clubs in our primary schools. This is a proposal to reduce the staffing hours by 1 hour per day in each Breakfast Club. The operating times of the Breakfast Clubs would be unchanged, but the level of supervision of pupils throughout the Breakfast Club provision would reduce.

Ref: PP27 – Reduction in Community Safety Warden Service £40k (Public Impact: High)

To achieve a £40k saving the staffing complement would need to reduce by 1.4 FTE's, from 9 FTE's to 7.6 FTE's. The current service is 7 days a week and current shift patterns are 7:30 to 16:00 and 13:30 to 22:00. A reduction in the number of Community Safety Wardens would reduce the shift pattern cover and could be achieved in a number of ways: -

- i. Withdrawal of the service on a Sunday.
- ii. Removing the early 7:30 to 16:00 shift and operating the 13:30 to 22:00 shift only. Earlier shifts tend to be involved in the community engagement element of the role, visiting residents to discuss complaints, and in tackling enviro-crime issues and in community events with partners.
- iii. Retain current shift patterns, but reduce ward coverage; each full time CSW covers approximately 5 wards each depending on ward size, larger wards are split. Coverage would reduce to each CSW covering 6 wards each with a resultant loss in cover. Shift cover patterns may still need to alter to avoid lone working.

Alternatively, the option of bringing together the Community Safety Wardens with the 4.61 FTE Enforcement Officers in Environmental Health can be explored. Their roles are different but there are areas of enforcement for which both groups of staff are authorised, notably dog fouling and littering. It should also be noted that savings proposal reference PP14 below also proposes a reduction in the number of Enforcement Officers.

Ref: PP01 – Increase Price of School Meals at Secondary Schools £24k (Public Impact: Medium)

It is proposed to increase the price of a Secondary school meal from September 2016 by 10p, from £2.15 to £2.25. There will be some impact upon parents/carers amounting to an increased cost of 50p per week per child. However, Caerphilly CBC has the one of the lowest prices for a school meal in Wales. The Caerphilly Catering school meal service is fully Appetite for Life compliant and relies upon pupils choosing to stay for a meal. Ever increasing high street competition, schools not operating a closed gate policy, and reduced lunch times all impact upon take-up

The projected additional income of £24k has been adjusted to account for an estimated 10% reduction in take up as a result of the price increase. This figure is part-year, as the proposed increase would be implemented at the start of the school year in September 2016. There would therefore be an additional £24k in 2017/18 i.e. £48k in total.

Ref: PP03 - Increase Price of School Meals at Primary Schools £28k
(Public Impact: Medium)

It is proposed to increase the price of a Primary school meal from September 2016 by 10p, from £1.90 to £2.00. There will be some impact upon parents/carers amounting to an increased cost of 50p per week per child. However, Caerphilly CBC has the one of the lowest prices for a school meal in Wales. The Caerphilly Catering school meal service is fully Appetite for Life compliant and relies upon pupils choosing to have a cooked meal. The projected additional income of £28k has been adjusted to account for an estimated 10% reduction in take up as a result of the price increase. This figure is part year as the proposed increase would be implemented at the start of the school year in September 2016. There would therefore be an additional £28k in 2017/18 i.e. £56k in total.

Ref: PP18 – Deletion of Vacant Environmental Health Officer Posts £67k
(Public Impact: Medium)

These posts are located within the small pollution team. On return from maternity leave, one environmental health officer opted to enter into a job share. The other half post has been filled on a temporary basis to the end of March 2016, therefore after this date the post will become vacant. In addition, a post has become vacant as a result of the senior officer moving to housing. It is proposed that a district EHO will be appointed to the senior role consequently leaving one post vacant.

The environmental health officers within the pollution team are specialised technical officers responsible for delivering the contaminated land strategy; air quality objectives; environmental permitting; planning consultation responses; noise directives; statutory noise and nuisance control; response to emergency situations and the out of hours emergency service. Two trainee environmental health officer posts have also been removed from this team. The trainees performed various technical tasks, which have been absorbed by the remaining staff. A reduction in the team from 5 FTE to 3.5 FTE will significantly hinder response times and the ability to run a service during times of annual leave or other absence. There is potential for impacts on all service users including members of the public and other council services e.g. planning and licensing. The pollution team are consultees on planning and licensing applications and it will be difficult to prioritise this above other reactive work.

Ref: PP23 – Provide CCTV coverage in Towns only £4k
(Public Impact: Medium)

The Control Room monitors over 155 CCTV cameras on a 24/7 basis covering towns, village centres and Park and Ride facilities. This proposal is the withdrawal of the Public Open Space CCTV system to leave main town centres of Caerphilly, Blackwood, Bargoed, Risca, Newbridge, and Ystrad Mynach only. It will involve decommissioning 44 cameras at 19 towns/villages at Abertridwr, Abertysswg, Cefn Forest, Chartist Bridge, Fochriw, Graig yr Rhacca, Lansbury Park, Llanbradach, Maesycwmmmer Viaduct, Nelson, Oakdale, Panside, Pengam Train Station, Pontlottyn, Rhymney Town Centre, Rhymney Tan Y Bryn, Rhymney Ty Coch, Senghenydd and Trinant would save £48k in BT line rental costs. The saving figure quoted reflects the need to give BT notice to terminate the line rental contract with the balance of the saving being achieved by the following financial year.

There will be some savings in power costs and additional savings when the Public Open Space maintenance contract is renegotiated for April 2017. As a result of a business case being made for an invest to save proposal, our main town centre cameras are moving to the cheaper Public Sector Broadband Aggregation, and internet transfer of images, reducing reliance on BT.

Village and smaller town cameras tend to record less incidents of crime and disorder as there is less public activity in those areas. However, the system does provide a deterrent effect. Cameras were located in such areas as a response to crime and anti-social behaviour that may no longer be as prevalent. Some cameras listed pick up particular public safety issues e.g. attempted suicides at Chartist Bridge and Maesycwmmmer viaduct. Others, although located in villages, have historically been the site of low level crime and anti-social behaviour such as Graig yr Rhacca, Lansbury Park, Rhymney Town and surrounding area, for example.

Leaving inactive cameras in situ is not an option as "dummy" cameras promote a false sense of security. This may lead an individual to believe the area is being monitored and any criminal activity will generate an immediate response. Signage might also lead to a false sense of security. Signs which convey a message the cameras are utilised for the "safety and disorder" can lead to potential liability problems if the public believes cameras are monitored at all times and help is on the way if they become victimised. Use of "dummy" cameras or not monitoring real cameras can create liability. It is widely recognised that standard good practice is to either remove or bag a camera that has not been working for over 6 months, pending a repair or removal / bagging of a camera once there is no intention to have the camera operational.

Ref: PP08 – Introduce Charge to Education Sector for Provision of Sandwich Places £174k

(Public Impact: Low)

The Catering Service provides a school meals service in 75 primary schools and in doing so currently sets out and clears away places for those pupils eating their own sandwiches; even disposing of any subsequent waste at the expense of Catering. It is proposed that a charge is introduced for this service which is currently provided free of charge amounting to 1 hour of staff time per day at each school. This amounts to approximately £2.2k per school each year.

There is no direct impact upon the public although there is a financial impact upon schools as identified above. Schools may choose to make their own arrangements for setting out and clearing away sandwich places, in which case the Catering Service will be able to reduce staffing hours and still realise the saving identified.

Ref: PP14 – Deletion of Enforcement Officer post in Environmental Health £20k

(Public Impact: Low)

The Team is responsible for environmental enforcement including littering and dog fouling control, conducting commercial waste advisory visits, investigating abandoned vehicles and importantly investigating fly-tipping. They also raise awareness by delivering environmental education through local campaigns and initiatives, visiting and highlighting the importance of schools in encouraging young people to lead and participate in local activities that reduce litter and fly-tipping. The Team responds to approximately 2,400 requests for service per year. They serve in excess of 275 fixed penalty notices per year for littering offences and 50 for dog fouling offences, generating a revenue income of circa £16k.

Their investigations resulting in prosecutions are often protracted, complicated, and time consuming. When dealing with perpetrators and PACE interviews etc. the work can be confrontational and challenging. A loss of one post in a small Team, i.e. a reduction in number from 5.3 fte to 4.3 fte would lead to delays in the investigation and clean up of fly-tipping, less enforcement of dog fouling and littering offences and subsequently less income generated from the issuing of fewer fixed penalty notices. Communities will therefore be subjected to environmental, financial and social impacts. The comments above in relation to

savings proposal PP27 (a reduction in the Community Safety Warden Service) should also be noted.

Ref: PP15 – Introduction of £20 Charge for Domestic Rat Treatments £20k

(Public Impact: Low)

Rat treatments in domestic premises are currently undertaken free of charge. The public would have to pay for pest control services such as rats. At current volumes a £20 charge would generate annual income of £48k. Experience from neighbouring Authorities has demonstrated that following the introduction of such charges there has subsequently been a significant decline in the number of service requests processed. A fall in the number of service requests is therefore anticipated as a result of the introduction of a charge. Net increased income is therefore estimated to be £20k. There is some risk of public health implications due to infestations left untreated, particularly impacting on low-income households. Members of the public may try to undertake treatments themselves which can lead to the improper placing of rodenticides.

Experience from neighbouring Authorities has also demonstrated that the introduction of charging and a decline in service uptake has created an increase to the workload of environmental health officers as they have to investigate the cause of rat infestations, neighbour disputes, and to take enforcement action to remedy problems, including the service of notices and undertaking works in default.

Ref: PP21 – Registration Fees £10k

(Public Impact: Low)

It is proposed to increase the fees for 2016/17 in line with the cost to the Authority of providing the function. The fees relate to life events such as wedding ceremonies with no ongoing costs to service users. A comparison of fees across Wales indicates the proposed fees are comparable with other areas and therefore are unlikely to impact upon the number of ceremonies taking place within the county borough.

Ref: PP22 – Deletion of Trading Standards Officer Post £45k

(Public Impact: Low)

A Trading Standards Officer post will be removed from the current structure due to the retirement of a Senior Trading Standards Officer in 2015/16 and back-filling of the post from within the service. The reduction in posts will impact on the ability of the service to carry out its statutory duties and respond to serious incidents. Priority will be given to public safety, public protection and the investigation of criminal complaints. Reduced performance against targets for medium risk inspections is likely along with cessation of non-statutory initiatives such as electric blanket testing, child car seat safety events. Where possible, officers will work with other agencies/service areas to source alternative provision.

Ref: PP24 – Reduction in CCTV Staff Cover for Certain Shifts £18k

(Public Impact: Low)

The Control Room monitors CCTV cameras on a 24/7 basis covering towns, village centres and Park and Ride facilities. The service also monitors a further 92 alarm (movement) activated CCTV systems at schools, council buildings etc. on a 24/7 basis with a combined total of 513 cameras. The Storenet systems in Caerphilly, Blackwood and Bargoed connects retail premises and licensed premises to each other and the Control Room. Public help points are provided at Blackwood Bus Station and tannoy warning systems are in place on key cameras located in areas with a higher likelihood of disorder.

The Control Room provides the Authority's out of hours emergency contact service for all calls other than Social Services calls. In 2014/15 the Control Room received 4708 calls in respect of Emergency Housing Repairs and 1368 for other Services (Highways and Environmental Health, for example, and from the emergency services in relation to emergencies and major incidents).

It is proposed to reduce the levels of CCTV staff cover for certain shifts by reducing all CCTV day shifts to single staffing and reducing 50% of evening shifts from 3 to 2 operators. There is a risk of increased waiting time for a response to emergency Caerphilly Homes housing calls at busy periods and reduced monitoring of Public Open Space cameras and CCTV security alarms. Daytime monitoring picks up business crime, shoplifting and anti-social behaviour in high street shopping areas. Monitoring over bank holidays, Christmas and school holidays would be reduced with single staffed day shifts. Additional cover may need to be brought in using overtime to cover pressure periods and sickness.

There is an increased likelihood of running night shifts single staffed if cover cannot be arranged at short notice. The Control Room is the single point of contact for CCBC between 5pm and 8:30am Monday to Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday. At certain times, during inclement weather for example, call volumes from members of the public can be particularly high.