



CABINET – 29TH OCTOBER 2014

SUBJECT: DRAFT SAVINGS PROPOSALS FOR 2015/16

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an updated Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) reflecting the Provisional 2015/16 Local Government Financial Settlement announced by the Welsh Government (WG) on the 8th October 2014.
- 1.2 To present Cabinet with details of draft savings proposals for the 2015/16 financial year to allow for a further more focussed period of consultation prior to a final decision in February 2015.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides details of revised savings requirements for the period 2015/16 to 2017/18 based on the WG Provisional 2015/16 Local Government Financial Settlement.
- 2.2 The report also provides details of draft savings proposals for 2015/16 totalling £12.208m.

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 Headline Issues in Provisional Settlement

- 4.1.1 Published on the 8th October 2014, the key points of the Provisional 2015/16 Local Government Settlement for Wales are: -

- There have been three transfers into the settlement totalling £0.346m and three transfers out totalling £0.200m. Details are provided in paragraph 4.1.2
- The provisional Aggregate External Finance (Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and Redistributed Non-Domestic Rates) for Caerphilly CBC for the 2014/15 financial year is a reduction of 3.4% i.e. **a cash decrease of £9.087m.**
- As in previous years, WG have, through the RSG formula, placed a requirement on Local Authorities to include provision of a 1% protection for schools based on the percentage applied by Central Government to WG's block grant. For 2015/16 this represents a 0.6% increase for schools.

- No indicative settlement figures have been provided by WG for 2016/17 and 2017/18.
- The capital allocations available to Caerphilly CBC in the RSG and from the General Capital Grant have increased by £7k from the previous year.

4.1.2 Table 1 provides details of transfers in and out of the WG financial settlement: -

Table 1 – Transfers In/Out 2015/16

	£m
Transfers In: -	
Local Government Borrowing Initiative – 21 st Century Schools	0.133
Integrated Family Support Service	0.173
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	0.040
Transfers Out: -	
Student Finance Wales	(0.153)
Feed Safety Controls	(0.030)
National Adoption Service	(0.017)
TOTAL	0.146

4.1.3 Table 2 provides details of other passported grants included in the WG financial settlement: -

Table 2 – Other Passported Grants 2015/16

	£m
Local Government Borrowing Initiative – 21 st Century Schools	0.171
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	(0.106)
Private Finance Initiative	(0.202)
TOTAL	(0.137)

4.1.4 It is proposed that the above (both the increases and decreases in funding) are passed directly to those services that they relate to.

4.2 Updated Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

- 4.2.1 Cabinet will recall that the MTFP agreed by Council on the 26th February 2014 identified an estimated savings requirement of £6.5m for 2015/16 and £6.9m for 2016/17. This was based on an indicative reduction in WG funding of 1.34% for 2015/16 and, in the absence of further guidance from WG, an assumed reduction of a further 1.34% for 2016/17.
- 4.2.2 On the 24th June 2014 the Minister for Local Government and Government Business wrote to all Local Authorities in Wales informing them that there would be a significant shift in the likely financial settlement for 2015/16 and beyond. The Minister advised Authorities to consider how they would respond to a cut in funding of up to 4.5%.
- 4.2.3 Cabinet received a report on the 16th July 2014 outlining the impact of a cut in funding of 3% and 4.5%. Cabinet were advised that a 3% cut would increase the savings requirement for the two-year period 2015/16 and 2016/17 from the current planning level of £13.4m to £22.2m. A cut of 4.5% would increase the savings target to £30.1m.
- 4.2.4 Whilst the cut of 3.4% in the 2015/16 provisional settlement is better than the potential worst-case scenario of 4.5%, it still presents an extremely challenging financial position. It is also likely that austerity will remain for at least the medium-term and on this basis the MTFP has been updated for the three-year period 2015/16 to 2017/18 with an assumed reduction in WG funding of 3.4% for each of the three years. The updated position is attached as Appendix 1 and this shows a total savings requirement of £39m as summarised in Table 3: -

Table 3 – Cash Savings Targets

Year	Annual Cash Savings Target £m	Cumulative Cash Savings Target £M
2015/16	12.866	12.866
2016/17	14.030	26.896
2017/18	12.105	39.001

4.3 2015/16 Budget Proposals

4.3.1 The proposals contained within this report would deliver a balanced budget for 2015/16 on the basis that Council Tax is increased by 3.9%. Table 4 provides a summary: -

Table 4 – Summary

Paragraph	Description	£m	£m
4.3.2	Whole Authority Cost Pressures	2.886	
4.3.4	Inescapable Service Pressures	2.462	
4.3.5	Reduction in WG Funding	9.087	
4.4	Draft Savings Proposals 2015/16		12.208
4.5	Council Tax Uplift (3.90%)		2.227
	TOTAL	14.435	14.435

4.3.2 The whole Authority cost pressures totalling £2.886m are set out in Table 5 below (cost pressures for schools are excluded as the full cash pledge growth has been provided): -

Table 5 – Whole Authority Cost Pressures

	£m
Pay excluding Teachers and other school staff @ 1%	1.131
Living Wage increase (assumed at 20p per hour)	0.164
Non pay inflation 1.5% (net of 1.5% fess & charges increases)	1.432
Supported Borrowing (Capital Financing)	0.150
Transfers in/out and other passported grants	0.009
TOTAL	2.886

4.3.3 The updated MTFP includes an assumed pay award of 1% for 2015/16. Cabinet will be aware that the pay settlement for the current financial year is still subject to agreement and this has the potential to impact on the level of savings required.

4.3.4 It is incumbent upon Council to set a realistic budget each year. Table 6 provides details of those 2015/16 inescapable service commitments/pressures that have been identified and require consideration in respect of funding: -

Table 6 – Inescapable Service Pressures and Other Service Commitments

	£m
Council Tax Reduction Scheme additional liability	0.332
Waste Management contingency	0.240
Contact Centre, Bargoed – Running costs	0.075
Meeting the Schools pledge	0.665
Social Services Demographics	1.000
Proposal for Waste Transfer Station (Ty Duffryn)	0.150
TOTAL	2.462

4.3.5 The WG Provisional Settlement has decreased the available funding by 3.4% for the 2015/16 financial year, representing a cash reduction of £9.087m for Caerphilly CBC.

4.4 2015/16 Draft Savings Proposals

4.4.1 The budget strategy agreed by Council on the 26th February 2014 consisted of 2 main strands. The first of these was further savings proposals for Members to consider in respect of up to 3% efficiency savings. These efficiency targets required savings of circa £5m and would be applied to those statutory and essential services that the Authority has to deliver. The second strand of the agreed budget strategy was a review of discretionary services with a view to identifying savings proposals totalling over £8m. A series of Special Scrutiny Committee meetings have taken place during recent months to consider savings proposals.

4.4.2 Since the announcement by the Minister for Local Government and Government Business on the 24th June 2014 a significant amount of work has been undertaken within each Directorate to identify further savings proposals to address the worsening financial outlook.

4.4.3 The work to identify savings has been led by the Corporate Management Team (in consultation with appropriate Cabinet Members), working with Heads of Service with support from colleagues in Finance. Service Managers have also been involved to ensure that all options that are deliverable for 2015/16 have been considered.

4.4.4 For 2014/15, General Fund balances of £800k were earmarked to make good any shortfall where savings were due to be delivered part way through the financial year. The very late announcement of the Provisional Settlement for 2014/15 and the significant movement in the savings target from the original indication left very little option but to set-aside this funding to support the delivery of savings. This is not now the case, a strong message has been given by WG that austerity and cuts to RSG are to be expected up until 2020, the Authority should plan accordingly to address the anticipated budgetary shortfall.

4.4.5 The Authority has determined at Council, in recent years, to keep the General Fund reserves at a level of circa £10m, which is 3% of the net revenue budget. There could be an opportunity to release balances for one-off expenditure but the use of balances does not and will never be able to reduce an overall savings target. Balances can be used to defer a saving for a short period (less than a year) but this is not a good use of these funds. It is therefore proposed to maximise the impact of the use of any "excess" General Fund balances by utilising them for Capital/Invest to Save Schemes. This will ensure a lasting legacy for service users of the Borough and will improve service provision, rather than defer a saving that will ultimately have to be taken a short period later. It will also enable the Authority to provide match funding for grant related capital schemes i.e. 21st Century Schools, convergence and lottery.

4.4.6 Appendices 2 to 6 provide details of the proposed savings for the 2015/16 financial year. Table 7 provides a summary: -

Table 7 – Summary of Proposed 2015/16 Savings

	£m
Whole Authority "corporate nature"	3.957
Education & Lifelong Learning	0.809
Social Services	3.128
Environment	2.852
Corporate Services	1.462
TOTAL	12.208

4.4.7 Cabinet should note that savings proposals that do not have a direct impact on services users or the public have been categorised into a single line for each Directorate in Appendices 2 to 6. These proposals consist in the main of vacancy management, budget realignment and minor changes to service provision. Much of the detail of these proposals will have been presented to the Special Scrutiny Committees held during recent months. Across all

Directorates these savings proposals total £6.627m, which represents 54.3% of the total savings identified of £12.208m. Members at Special Scrutiny Committees were supportive of these types of savings proposals.

- 4.4.8 Some savings proposals will have a part-year impact in 2015/16 but will deliver significant further savings in 2016/17. The most notable of these are the following: -

Table 8 – Main Proposals with 2015/16 Part-Year Impact

Saving Proposal	2015/16 Saving £m	2016/17 Savings £m
Street Lighting – New technology to achieve energy efficiencies.	0.100	0.350
Review of Customer Services	0.125	0.125
Reduction in Street Cleansing	0.100	0.200
Closure of Ty Pontllanfraith	0.100	0.600
TOTAL	0.425	1.275

- 4.4.9 There will be a requirement to fund ‘one-off’ capital expenditure for some of the above and there will be an opportunity to utilise ‘excess’ General Fund balances.
- 4.4.10 Cabinet is asked to endorse the proposed package of savings totalling £12.208m as detailed in Appendices 2 to 6 and to agree that the proposals should now be subject to a further period of consultation prior to final 2015/16 budget proposals being presented to Cabinet in January 2015 and Council in February 2015.

4.5 Council Tax Implications 2015/16

- 4.5.1 The Medium Term Financial Plan approved by Council on the 26th February 2014 included indicative increases to Council Tax for 2015/16 and 2016/17 of 2.35%.
- 4.5.2 The savings requirement to deliver a balanced budget for the 2015/16 financial year is £12.866m and savings proposals totalling £12.208m are presented in this report. This leaves a shortfall of £658k and it is proposed that this is met by increasing Council Tax by 3.9% for the 2015/16 financial year. This would result in Council Tax Band D being set at £992.02 per annum (an increase of 71p per week).

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Budget decisions at this level affect every resident in the County Borough, regardless of their individual circumstances and backgrounds.
- 5.2 A full impact assessment has not been undertaken on all of the draft savings proposals, however assessments will be made on all individual reports and projects during the financial year. This is in order to ensure that decisions that affect different individuals and groups are assessed at an appropriate and relevant level and at the correct stage in the process.
- 5.3 Consultation with residents, when done in accordance with the Council’s Public Engagement Strategy and the Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance, also ensures that every resident, regardless of circumstances, has the opportunity to have their views heard and considered in the Council’s decision-making process.
- 5.4 The list of proposed savings appended to this report does contain high-level narrative around the possible impact of some proposals and this will provide a starting point for assessments when specific areas are being looked at to provide savings.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 As detailed throughout the report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 It is impossible to conceive that savings of £39m over three years could be achieved without substantial reductions in staffing. The fact is that by the end of year three the Council will have to become a significantly smaller organisation, in some respects offering a reduced range of services.
- 7.2 The Council has always prided itself on seeking to avoid compulsory redundancies at all costs, and this general ambition remains. However, given the new situation in which the Council finds itself nothing can be guaranteed.
- 7.3 Where staff reductions are required the Council will firstly try to achieve the reduction through 'natural wastage' and not filling vacancies. It is unlikely, however, that staff turnover over a three-year period would be sufficient to deal with the likely numbers involved.
- 7.4 The Council has a policy on redeployment, which would be the next preferred option. Thereafter, the Council has recently adopted a number of policies, which will enable us to invite applications for voluntary severance. These will be applied on a service by service basis to assist with restructuring or 'downsizing' within those services rather than on an Authority-wide basis as this would run the danger of creating vacancies in the wrong areas and with the wrong skill sets to accommodate those displaced and requiring redeployment.
- 7.5 The budget strategy for the next three years is likely to require a more proactive approach to restructuring than we have seen in most areas and some difficult decisions will undoubtedly be needed to prioritise roles and functions, as the Authority itself develops a more focussed approach to priorities among its various services.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 Appendices 2 to 6 identify where proposals that affect service users have been debated at Special Scrutiny meetings. It is acknowledged that it is difficult for Members to form a view as to whether to support a saving or not without an appreciation of the bigger picture. Overall, recommendations made to date by Special Scrutiny Committees have not delivered savings that would come close to the required target. Moving forward, the draft budget proposals included in this report will be discussed at a Members' Seminar event on the 3rd November 2014 with a further Seminar to be held in January 2015. This will allow an informed discussion and debate in the context of the whole Authority position. Following Cabinet on the 29th October 2014 this report will also be scheduled for discussion at the next available Scrutiny Committee meetings as part of the consultation process.
- 8.2 The extent of the savings required by the Authority in the next 3 years is estimated at £39m and the majority of frontline reductions in spend will need a lead in time prior to implementation. Officers will try to minimise the impact of the cuts on the public facing areas of service adopting more innovative ways of delivering services. It must be emphasised though that no innovative / different ways of working will bridge the budgetary shortfall. The Authority's services will reduce over the next 3 years and staff numbers will also reduce over that same period.
- 8.3 The Authority has undertaken a public budget consultation in recent months focussing on those areas that members of the public see as priority services that should be protected from cuts wherever possible. A total of 1705 surveys were completed and the three service areas identified as most important were Libraries, Sport & Leisure and Public Bus Services. The draft savings proposals for 2015/16 have little impact on these service areas.

- 8.4 The draft 2015/16 savings proposals as presented in this report will be subject to a further period of consultation during the next 3 months. Details of the outcome of this will be included in the final budget proposals reports to be presented to Cabinet in late January 2015 and to Council in February 2015.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Cabinet is asked to: -

- 9.1.1 Endorse the proposed package of 2015/16 savings totalling £12.208m, as detailed in Appendices 2 to 6.
- 9.1.2 Agree that these savings proposals should now be subject to a further period of consultation prior to final 2015/16 budget proposals being presented to Cabinet in January 2015 and to Council in February 2015.
- 9.1.3 Support the proposal to increase Council Tax by 3.9% for the 2015/16 financial year to ensure that a balanced budget is achieved (Council Tax Band D being set at £992.02).

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Council is required annually to approve proposals to set a balanced budget, agree a Council Tax rate and update its Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 10.2 Council is required to put in place a sound and prudent financial framework to support service delivery.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The Local Government Acts 1998 and 2003.

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Consultees: Corporate Management Team
Cllr Keith Reynolds, Leader
Cllr Barbara Jones, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Cllr Christine Forehead, Cabinet Member for HR & Governance / Business Manager
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
David A. Thomas, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)

Background Papers:
Provisional Local Government Settlement (8th October 2013)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Updated Medium-Term Financial Plan 2015/16 to 2017/18

Appendix 2 2015/16 Draft Savings Proposals – Whole Authority

Appendix 3 2015/16 Draft Savings Proposals – Education & Lifelong Learning

Appendix 4 2015/16 Draft Savings Proposals – Social Services

Appendix 5 2015/16 Draft Savings Proposals – Environment

Appendix 6 2015/16 Draft Savings Proposals – Corporate Services

Updated Medium-Term Financial Plan 2015/16 to 2017/18

APPENDIX 1

Provisional LG Settlement (08/10/14)

Description	2015/16 £m	2016/17 £m	2017/18 £m
Aggregate External Finance (AEF)	(9,087)	(8,784)	(8,491)
Council Tax @ 2.35%	1,569	1,598	1,642
Total Funding	(7,518)	(7,186)	(6,849)
Pay 1.0%, 1.0%, 1.0%	1,131	1,131	1,131
Living Wage (assumes pledge funds schools)	164	164	164
Non-Pay Inflation (1.5% p.a.)	1,672	1,672	1,672
Non-Pay Inflation (1.5% p.a.) - Fees and Charges	(240)	(240)	(240)
Capital Financing	150	150	150
Transfers In/Out	146	0	0
Other Passported Grants	(137)	0	0
Sub-Total	2,886	2,877	2,877
Service Pressures/Additional Funding			
CTRS Additional Liability @ 2.35%	332	339	347
Welfare Reforms LA Costs	0	100	100
Waste Management Contingency	240	0	0
Contact Centre, Bargoed - Running costs	75	0	0
Schools Pledge	665	628	632
Social Services Demographics	1,000	1,000	1,000
Employer NI Increase (April 2016) - Excludes schools	0	1,600	0
Proposal for Waste Transfer Station (Ty Duffryn)	150	0	0
Other Service Pressures	0	300	300
Sub-Total	2,462	3,967	2,379
Total Shortfall	12,866	14,030	12,105

<i>Description</i>	<i>Potential Saving</i>	<i>Impact narrative</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Committee</i>
WHOLE AUTHORITY COSTS				
General - Savings that have no direct impact on service users	2,312			
Apprentice/trainee costs - reduce budget to £150k and supplement with use of earmarked reserves	345	Minimal impact upon public and service users	Low	Scrutiny 17/6 supported a phased reduction to £150k p.a by 17/18 using reserves. A review of reduced scheme to be undertaken prior to 17/18
Assistance to voluntary sector	30	11% of total budget	Low	A further report will be presented to Scrutiny and Cabinet.
Project Gwyrdd	1,169	Previously agreed by full council		Previously agreed by full council
HMRC Mileage Rate - Reduction in mileage rate from 50p to 45p. £135k full year saving	101	17 Welsh Local Authorities have already adopted the approved HMRC rate (45p). A further 3 Authorities are considering this for 2015/16.		Scrutiny 24/9 - Members requested that this be deferred for one year to April 2016.
TOTAL WHOLE AUTHORITY COSTS	3,957			

<i>Description</i>	<i>Potential Saving</i>	<i>Impact narrative</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Committee</i>
EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING				
General - Savings that have no direct impact on service users	692			
Public Libraries - Review of opening hours (tapered delivery linked to present banding & population profiles) - Full year saving £134k	67	Potential minor impact on public	Low/Med	Scrutiny 19/6 supported in principle a reduction in opening hours.
Recoupment (SEN Out of County / LAC / Inter Authority)	50	Could be a risk due to volatility of placements	Medium	
TOTAL EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING	809			

<i>Description</i>	<i>Potential Saving</i>	<i>Impact narrative</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Committee</i>
SOCIAL SERVICES				
General - Savings that have no direct impact on service users	1,568			
Reduction of 3 social workers per division with the intention to achieve by vacancy management	219	This will be achieved through vacancy management.	High	Scrutiny 16/10 - Clarification was requested in respect of the "opportunity to consider the future of vacant posts". Officers explained that this related to the recently approved Children's Services restructure.
Removal of £1m demographic growth for 15/16.	1,000	Current Social Services revenue budget projections for 2014/15 indicate an underspend. In light of these projections the £1 million demographic growth funding will not be required for 2015/16. Due to the volatility of demand on Social Services this does present a potential risk. However, if there are any resulting overspends in 2015/16 these will be met from service reserves.	Low/Med	
Independent Sector Domiciliary Care - Elderly - Review of shopping service.	40	Alternative services will need to be explored with service users	Medium	Scrutiny 17/7 - Officers to explore options which would ensure the service is delivered where absolutely necessary. Scrutiny 16/10 - Members requested further information on potential impact on existing service users
Meals on Wheels - Increase of £1 per meal.	88	Potential for reduced take up	Medium	Scrutiny 17/7 - Proposal supported by Members. Scrutiny 16/10 - Members recommended increase of £1.50 which would result in a saving of £132k
Own Day Care - Review of day centre provision. Full Year saving £255k	128	Relocation of service provision within the same community	Medium	Scrutiny 17/7 - Officers to explore options of a mixture of service reconfiguration and targeted day services. Scrutiny 16/10 - Members supported proposal to reconfigure services to ensure no impact on service users.
Home Assistance and Reablement Team (H.A.R.T.) - Review of domiciliary care provision. This to include vacancy management, shopping, laundry, sitting, single handed hoisting, telecare options and other community support etc.	85	Task and Finish Group to be established to review options.	Medium	Scrutiny 16/10 - One Member raised concerns that this area has borne the brunt of savings required in recent years. Officers explained that there are plans for options in this area to be considered by a Task and Finish Group.
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES	3,128			

<i>Description</i>	<i>Potential Saving</i>	<i>Impact narrative</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Committee</i>
ENVIRONMENT				
REGENERATION, PLANNING & ECONOMIC				
General - Savings that have no direct impact on service users	530			
Removal of Bargoed ice rink from December 2015.	20	Reduced events availability to local residents that visit the ice rink	Low	Scrutiny 01/10 - Not accepted
Community Regeneration - Area Forum Budget removal. Utilise reserves of £162k over next few years	72	Minimal impact as these schemes are additional to core maintenance provision. In addition some wards/partnership areas do not spend the allocation hence the £162k reserve. Impact would be reduction in small community schemes delivered and the availability of funds to provide match funding for community facilities.	Low	Scrutiny 01/10 - Not Accepted
TOTAL REGENERATION, PLANNING & ECONOMIC	622			

Description	Potential Saving	Impact narrative	Impact	Committee
ENGINEERING DIVISION				
General - Savings that have no direct impact on service users	179			
Highways Operations - Street Lighting energy reduction option - use of new technologies/part management lighting. Full year saving £450k	100	A combination of options will generate £450k saving in full year. This may require some part-night lighting in residential areas. This will require up front investment of £700k + £200k. This contributes to Council's carbon reduction targets. Consultation may not be required if the new technologies being reviewed can achieve the savings required. The use of new technologies will reduce the need/amount of part-night lighting required. No effect on jobs.	Medium	Scrutiny 12/6 - Members requested further information.
Highways Operations - Reduction in planned carriageway resurfacing budget (20% of budget).	300	Reduction in revenue budget will defer investment in Council's largest asset for future years. No consultation required, possible reduction in workforce, depends on capital budget support.	Medium	Scrutiny 12/6 - Further information requested
Highways Operations - Reduction in planned footway resurfacing budget (12% of budget).	60	Reduction in revenue budget will defer investment in Council's largest asset to future years. No consultation required, possible reduction in workforce, depends on capital budget support.	Medium	Scrutiny 12/6 - Further information requested
Highways Operations - Gully Reed Bed recycling. Increase income by promoting facility to other authorities and private sector	10	Additional promotion with adjoining authorities to increase use of facility needed. Relies on winning new customers. No formal consultation required. No effect on jobs.	Low	Scrutiny 12/6 - Supported
Highways Operations - Reduce highways reactive maintenance budget by 4%.	50	Budget will need close monitoring to ensure reduction in planned maintenance does not significantly increase reactive maintenance which could also increase third party claims. No consultation required. This will result in 1 no loss of job within NCS which will be achieved through vacancy management.	Medium	Scrutiny 12/6 - Further information requested
Highways Operations - Reduce highway/land drainage planned maintenance budget by 11%	30	Reduction will slow down investment in the infrastructure that deals with climate change. No formal consultation required. This will contribute to an aggregated reduction in jobs within NCS (0.6 FTE). This will be achieved through vacancy management.	Medium	Scrutiny 12/6 - Not supported
Reduce gritting routes from 9 to 8.	60	Route optimisation being undertaken to provide an option to reduce routes from 9 to 8 but still keep existing coverage. No consultation required. No effect on jobs.	Low	Scrutiny 12/6 - Further information requested
Highways Operations - Reduce 'aids to move budget' by 25% (road markings/signs/crossing points).	25	Small reduction in current work levels. Minimal risk. No consultation required. No direct effect on jobs. However, will add to an aggregated reduction in overall budgets which will result in job reductions (0.5 FTE). This will be achieved through vacancy management.	Low	Scrutiny 12/6 - Supported

<i>Description</i>	<i>Potential Saving</i>	<i>Impact narrative</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Committee</i>
Highways Operations - Reduction in highways/land drainage reactive maintenance budget by 4%.	20	Difficult to assess impact as budget is weather susceptible. No consultation required. This will contribute to an aggregated reduction in jobs within NCS (0.4 FTE). This will be achieved through vacancy management.	Medium	Scrutiny 12/6 - Not supported
Highways Operations - Reduction in structures and retaining walls budget by 10%.	50	Only the highest priority work is currently being undertaken. This will need to continue and some key priorities may need to be delayed. No consultation required. This will contribute to an aggregated reduction in jobs within NCS (0.5 FTE). This will be achieved through vacancy management.	Low	Scrutiny 12/6 - Further information requested
Highways Operations - Remove financial support for Christmas lighting in towns and villages.	35	Historic anomalies in amounts of funding to various bodies. No formal consultation required. No impact on jobs. No risk in removing budget. Community councils/town councils will need to arrange their own funding.	Low	Scrutiny 12/6 - Supported but a list of areas affected to be provided
Highways Operations - Highways adoption and agreement fees. Increase in fees	15	Raise fees in line with neighbouring councils. No public consultation required. No effect on jobs.	Low	Scrutiny 12/6 - Supported
Transport Engineering - Cease holding events in pay & display car park sites. Events lead to loss of car park income	20	Either events cover loss of income, are held in other locations or are not held. No public consultation required. No effect on jobs.	Low	Scrutiny 12/6 - Supported subject to further liaison with Planning & Regeneration
Transport Engineering - Car park tariffs. Increase car parking charges by typically 10p per hour	30	Similar actions are being considered by other councils. Formal notification procedure required. No negative effect on jobs. No public consultation required.	Low	Scrutiny 12/6 - Further information requested
Transport Engineering - Management of off-street car parks - increase excess charge notice penalty	25	No impact on service. No effect on jobs.	Low	Scrutiny 12/6 - Increase supported but further information required re Sunday charging
Transport Engineering - Management of off-street car parks - introduce Sunday charges	10	No impact on service. No effect on jobs. Public consultation required.	Low	Scrutiny 12/6 - Further information required
Passenger Transport - Concessionary pass replacements. Increase charges - currently £5 for second and subsequent - revise to £5 for first and £10 for subsequent replacements	7	No impact on service. No consultation required. No effect on jobs.	Low	Scrutiny 12/6 - Supported
Review of Passenger Transport Services - Full year impact £150k	24	No effect on jobs. Public consultation required.	Medium	Scrutiny 12/6 - Further information requested
TOTAL ENGINEERING DIVISION	1,050			

<i>Description</i>	<i>Potential Saving</i>	<i>Impact narrative</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Committee</i>
PUBLIC PROTECTION				
General - Savings that have no direct impact on service users	22			
Licensing - Income - Increase fees.	8	Fees will be increased to recover costs as appropriate. This will result in increased cost to the service user and may lead to a fall in take up of the service.	Low	Scrutiny 4/9 -Supported
Registrars - Income - Increase fees.	10	Fees will be increased to recover costs as appropriate. This will result in increased cost to the service user and may lead to a fall in take up of the service.	Low	Scrutiny 4/9 -Supported
Health Improvement Officer - 1 vacant post (0.6 FTE) & Senior Health Improvement Officer - 1 vacant post (1 FTE).	77	The Health Improvement Team strategically leads and delivers the local response to Health Challenge Wales and Change 4 Life Interventions as well as contribution to our Corporate Health activities. The Team consists of 5.4 FTE with 1.8 FTE delivering the Healthy Schools Programme and funded by grant. Deleting 1.6 FTE will significantly impact upon the capacity of team, as 1 post is the Senior Officer. Alternative line management arrangements will need to be put in place.	Medium	Scrutiny 4/9 Agenda Item 3(1) Appendix 3 - Further information requested.
Enforcement - Environmental Health Officer - 1 vacant post (1 FTE).	45	Reducing the 3 EHOs within the General Environmental Health Team to 2 will extend the time taken to deal with and investigate service requests. The Team protects public health and quality of life by dealing with complaints of nuisances or hazards to health. E.g. noise, defective drains and sewers, investigation of odours, and bonfires etc. They deal with filthy and verminous premises, and travellers sites, and are also involved in problems of pest infestations, straying animals and irresponsible dog ownership. They also enforce in relation to littering, dog fouling and fly tipping activities.	Medium	New saving proposal.
TOTAL PUBLIC PROTECTION	162			

<i>Description</i>	<i>Potential Saving</i>	<i>Impact narrative</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Committee</i>
COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES				
General - Savings that have no direct impact on service users.	338			
Parks & Playing Fields - Cessation of summer "Bands in the Park" events programme	2	Little or no impact on appearance of County Borough but there may be a small number of complaints given the limited audience that typically enjoy these events.	Low	New saving proposal
Residual Waste - Charging for all replacement containers.	60	Provides clarity over existing policy. Generally low impact.	Low	Scrutiny 30/7 - Suggested cabinet consider further.
Street Cleansing - Reduced cleaning on bank holidays. Cleansing will be reduced to same levels as weekends.	13	The only cleansing that will occur on bank holidays will be early mornings in town centres	Medium	Scrutiny 30/7 - Supported
Street Cleansing - Reduction in weed removal budget. Reduced contribution to winter rear lane grubbing out team.	100	May result in increases in complaints from the public if weather conditions support weed growth	Med/High	Scrutiny 30/7 - Supported
Parks and Playing Fields - 2nd phase of the removal of flower beds in parks & open spaces.	40	Phase 1 completed in 2014/15 without any real issues	Low	Scrutiny 30/7 - Supported
Parks and Playing Fields - Reduction in playing field maintenance. Remove 2 fertilizer applications & cease end of season renovation works	30	Officers have considered an alternative option involving cessation of regular pitch marking and handing over pitch marking responsibility to clubs (subject to consultation). The saving would be the same but some pitch renovation could then be undertaken.	Medium	Scrutiny 30/7 - Could not support without first consulting with local clubs & Town Councils in order to explore all avenues & funding options
Parks and Playing Fields - Increase outdoor facility charges by 20%.	20	The Scrutiny members suggested that Officers examine options to only increase adult fees while keeping junior fees at current levels. If this strategy is employed the options are as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of 40% in adult fees = additional £27k income • Increase of 45% in adult fees = additional £31k income • Increase of 50% in adult fees = additional £34k income • Increase of 100% in adult fees = additional £69k income 	Medium	Scrutiny 30/7 - Members suggested freeze for juniors but further increase for adults.
Cwmcarn Leisure Centre - Centre closed - handover of facility to school	25	Consulting with key stakeholders. Negotiations ongoing with school regarding principle, but capital liability issues still to be resolved. This will be subject to a further report.	Low	Scrutiny 30/7 - Members supported option not to reopen as a leisure centre.
Parks and Playing Fields - Review park ranger service to reduce from 18 to 12.	40	Can be accommodated by not engaging agency staff in the Spring of 2015	Medium	Scrutiny 30/7 - Subject to consultation with Trade Unions and Town Councils, Members happy to support
Street Cleansing - Reduce number of pedestrian sweepers operated by 1.	14	Rationalisation of the number of small sweepers will reduce the ability to cover the whole borough, other than for specific periods.	Low	Scrutiny 30/7 - Supported
Parks and Playing Fields - Cessation of litter picking at 14 parks on Saturdays.	12	May result in increased littering (particularly in spring/summer). Potential for increase in public complaints.	Medium	New saving proposal

<i>Description</i>	<i>Potential Saving</i>	<i>Impact narrative</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Committee</i>
Parks and Playing Fields - Removal of Barrier Attendants at 5 locations	14	Car parks (at parks) will remain open. May result in increased littering and anti-social behaviour after hours.	Medium	New saving proposal
Sport & Leisure - Closure of Bedwas swimming pool on Sundays.	10	Level of use can be accommodated at Caerphilly Leisure Centre.	Low	New saving proposal
Sport & Leisure - Average price increase of 5% on leisure centre fees	100	Additional cost of 5% to users e.g.: Swim from £3.05 to £3.20 - Gym from £4.25 to £4.45	Low/Med	New saving proposal
Waste Strategy & Operations - Closure of Civic Amenity Sites for 2 days/week + 1 hour on other days	100	Obvious reduction in availability to public. Closure days would be staggered across all sites.	Medium	Scrutiny 30/7 - This option was suggested by Scrutiny committee.
Waste Strategy & Operations - Reduction in cleansing budget. Full year impact £300k	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The full year proposed saving represents 7.4% of the total cleansing budget of £4.075m with the part year saving representing 2.45% • The process needs careful management involving Corporate HR as it will inevitably mean a reduction in the number of staff. • There will be a significant impact in the cleanliness of the county borough. • An increase in back office and Contact Centre workload could result from an increase in public complaints. • Given the time constraint in identifying additional savings there has been limited consultation with Trade Unions, Contact Centre etc. • Contact Centre Service Level Agreement for nappy waste & missed collections will need to be reviewed and replaced with a 7 day response. 	High	New saving proposal
TOTAL COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES	1,018			
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT	2,852			

<i>Description</i>	<i>Potential Saving</i>	<i>Impact narrative</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Committee</i>
CORPORATE SERVICES				
General - Savings that have no direct impact on service users	986			
Withdrawal of 'additional help for pensioners with their Council Tax' funding.	246	The majority of Authorities in Wales are proposing to withdraw this funding for 2015/16. Withdrawal of the funding for this scheme may need to be monitored in terms of impact and pensioners who fall into arrears may need to be signposted to other forms of support from sources within the Council and from external partners in the voluntary sector.	Low	Scrutiny 17/6 - Further information requested. Scrutiny 24/9 - Supported 50% withdrawal of funding in 2015/16 with remainder of funding being withdrawn in 2016/17.
Communications Unit - Cease to deliver a twinning function.	5		Low	Scrutiny 17/6 - Supported
Review of Customer First - Full year impact estimated at £250k, part year impact 15/16	125	This will be subject to a separate report. No significant impact for 2015/16 as part year. Will involve reducing opening hours in all Customer First centres but no closures.	Low/Med	
Closure of Ty Pontllanfraith - Full year impact £600k, part year impact in 15/16	100	The details of this proposal were presented to the Special Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 17th June 2014.	Low	Scrutiny endorsed the principle to begin consultation on the proposal
TOTAL CORPORATE SERVICES	1,462			