

**What
Really
Matters?**

Budget Option

Environmental Health

Savings

2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
235	0	0	235

Option summary

The Council spends £2.1 million per year in this area. As part of the Council's Technical Functions Transformational Project, looking at alternative service options has identified potential savings through greater efficiencies. £175,000 per year will be delivered by improving processing and removing duplication with Trading Standards, resulting in the reduction of a number of posts within the Environmental Health Division. The work also identified a sustainable income source of £15,000 per year. Furthermore negotiations around our transformational principles with our partners in Merseyside Port Health Authority (MPHA) has led to an agreement for the next three years to reduce the precept payment Wirral pays by £45,000.

Potential impact

The service delivers a wide range of statutory duties that help protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Wirral and those that choose to work and visit Wirral. The work undertaken by this service includes dealing with poor housing and illegal evictions, food safety, health and safety, stray & dangerous dogs, pest control, air quality, noise complaints, contaminated land and public conveniences. The service has also been adding value to the work it undertakes to support the Council's new statutory duty to deliver public health improvements and has embarked on a number of joint projects with Public Health including work on smoking cessation and tackling obesity. By reducing resources within Environmental Health there could be an effect on the resilience and capacity of the service to deal with emerging issues and to fully develop its potential to deliver public health improvements. In particular given the continuing efficiency drive within this service there could be a limited capacity to deal with any significant national or regional outbreaks of disease or public health concerns such as the more recent events in respect of Avian Flu, Legionnaires disease and the contamination of the food chain with horsemeat.

Reducing the impact

As part of the ongoing efficiencies there has been a management restructure which will enable greater flexibility of resources across the division. Training will be more generic and resources will be moved across the division to meet the potential demands of workload fluctuations and emerging issues. Improved workstream processing and risk analysis of the work undertaken will continue to help build the capacity of our professional officers as the service explores new and innovative ways of continuing to deliver a quality service.