

OPTION: REVIEW OF EQUIPMENT SERVICES

BUDGET SAVING: £100,000

DESCRIPTION OF OPTION

The Council will review its Equipment services and consider alternative options for service delivery. This will include exploring options for a shared service with neighbouring Authorities.

The proposal is that in partnership with the NHS developing a shared service for the provision of equipment for disabled people. The shared service would follow a model that ensured that the arrangement was hosted by a local authority. This will produce savings for both the LA and the NHS.

Further savings potential would become clearer as the shared service option is developed.

RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS

The immediate savings would relate to VAT. In pooled budgets the lead body is responsible for managing the budget and recovers any VAT it incurs under its ordinary VAT recovery mechanism. Therefore if the Council has lead body status, and is responsible for managing the pooled budget expenditure, it should be entitled to recover the VAT it incurs in providing these services. The VAT savings on the LA contribution to the Pooled Budget would be £100k.

IMPACT

There would be no impact on service delivery.

MITIGATION

The required change to the current hosting arrangements would require agreement with the NHS.