

APPENDIX THREE

BUDGET OPTIONS FEEDBACK: FAMILIES AND WELLBEING

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 The options within this strategic directorate are presented in this report, together with the quantitative data gathered through the consultation questionnaire and a summary of any related comments received through the consultation process.

2.0 PAYING FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Proposed Savings:

2014/2015	2015/2016	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
1117	0	1117

Option Summary:

2.1 A major priority within adult social services is to improve the method in which services are charged for; ensuring it is fair, equitable and effective. This work is intended to ensure that everyone using services are financially assessed promptly and importantly that the appropriate levels of charges and financial support for vulnerable people is implemented.

2.2 This proposal includes:

- Charging interest of 4% on deferred payment balances that remain outstanding more than 56 days after the end of the agreement.
- Increase the Council's debt recovery rate from the existing 85% to at least 87.5%.
- Ensure Extra Care Housing clients are assessed under the fairer charging system.
- Make the rates for respite, short term residential and long term residential equal at £120 per week, as is the case at many other Councils.

2.3 It is important that the Council ensures that payments are collected promptly and in a way that is clear and fair in order to deliver a balanced budget, which has been a problem in the past.

Consultation Feedback

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I would support this under the circumstances	42.0%	2202

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I would accept this option	27.6%	1447
I have no opinion on this option	13.1%	687
I find this completely unacceptable	17.3%	906

3.0 REVIEW OF TRANSPORT DEPOT AND FLEET

Proposed Savings:

2014/2015	2015/2016	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
100	0	100

Option Summary:

- 3.1 The transport budget has a turnover of £8.9m and it is proposed that a £100,000 saving is achieved within depot and vehicle maintenance costs. This will be through a consolidation of all vehicle and equipment maintenance for the council on one site, a review of the vehicle fleet, rationalising, modernising and reducing where possible and developing partnerships with neighbouring authorities.

Consultation Feedback

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I would support this under the circumstances	50.8%	2690
I would accept this option	35.2%	1864
I have no opinion on this option	5.1%	271
I find this completely unacceptable	8.9%	474

4.0 SHARED SERVICES AND INTEGRATION (ADULT SOCIAL CARE)

Proposed Savings:

2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
608	10	1200	1818

Option Summary:

- 4.1 Efficiencies can be achieved through sharing resources, in particular through developing shared services across the council and across borders to deliver more efficient use of the workforce. It is national policy to move to integration with the NHS with the aim of improving and streamlining services in the community. As integrated teams are

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developed and assessment and delivery arrangements are streamlined there will be further opportunities for management savings. As part of this option, a single Health and Social Care organisation will be developed, streamlining and improving social care and health services.

4.2 We will move towards this by:

- Reviewing front line services in preparation for full integration.
- Reviewing support services alongside service re-design and streamlined assessment and recording arrangements.
- Reviewing with our NHS partners of the arrangements for the integrated equipment services – ensuring value for money.
- Reviewing Mental Health Services which builds on the review and re-organisation already undertaken by the NHS Partnership Trust.

4.3 This option will deliver an improved, streamlined, effective service for people using services although it will bring an impact on the number of jobs required.

Consultation Feedback

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I would support this under the circumstances	39.2%	1932
I would accept this option	25.1%	1236
I have no opinion on this option	13.9%	684
I find this completely unacceptable	21.8%	1075

5.0 ACCOMMODATION FOR 16-17 YEAR OLDS

Proposed Savings:

2014/2015	2015/2016	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
600	0	600

Option Summary:

- 5.1 When a 16/17 year old is assessed as at risk of being homeless temporary accommodation is sometimes required, while their needs are assessed. Similarly, young people leaving care to live more independently also need to have their needs assessed, and are frequently placed in accommodation which is purchased as required.
- 5.2 Supported accommodation is currently purchased as required; this is not always the most effective solution for these young people. There are plans to develop a service delivered by a specialist provider within

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a Council owned property. This will not just realise a saving, but will help deliver a better service and outcomes for these young people.

- 5.3 It is proposed that accommodation for care leavers who are moving on to live more independently, should in future be provided by reconfiguring some aspects of existing supporting people contracts to provide accommodation to meet these young people's needs.

Consultation Feedback

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I would support this under the circumstances	43.6%	2162
I would accept this option	33.5%	1662
I have no opinion on this option	12.9%	642
I find this completely unacceptable	10.0%	494

6.0 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOLS

Proposed Savings:

2014/2015	2015/2016	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
915	300	1215

Option Summary:

- 6.1 This option would involve the Council working in partnership with schools to ensure that our shared resources are used most effectively and equitably to provide the services our young people need. This option would involve working with schools to share the costs and resources required to deliver a number of services, including school crossing patrols, school improvement, the education social welfare service and some of the early retirement costs associated with school staff.

Consultation Feedback

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I would support this under the circumstances	38.6%	1916
I would accept this option	27.7%	1377
I have no opinion on this option	11.1%	549
I find this completely unacceptable	22.6%	1121

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6.2 The Council received a number of letters and emails from parents and some school governors related to this option, which were primarily concerned at a perceived potential for school crossing patrols being removed entirely. It is important to note that the element of this option related to school crossing patrols is concerned with working with schools in the borough so that they fund their operation, and does not involve removing the patrols unless the schools involve decide they do not believe they are required.

7.0 COMMISSIONING AND CONTRACTING (ADULT SOCIAL CARE)

Proposed Savings:

2014/2015	2015/2016	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
1905	165	2070

Option Summary:

7.1 The Council has significantly strengthened its commissioning functions, which has enabled a strong focus on improving strategic commissioning, procurement and arrangements for ensuring contract compliance. This option will ensure that every penny the Council spends delivers value for money and improved outcomes for people who use services.

7.2 This work is effectively underpinned by key strategic commissioning plans which cover: prevention and early intervention, carers, targeted support, learning disabilities and the Market Position Statement. There is now a developing and maturing relationship with providers from all sectors and a clearer focus in relation to commissioned services.

7.3 This proposal includes:

- A shared approach and understanding on how Council funding is commissioned within the community, voluntary and faith sectors.
- Improvements in the payment process to providers and the introduction of Electronic Care Monitoring.
- Efficiency derived through stronger strategic commissioning.
- Savings derived through effective control of contract inflation.
- Efficiency through review of high cost external contracts and improved outcomes through more effective arrangements in serving people with learning disabilities.

7.4 Most savings within this option come from improving processes and procedures and do not have any impact on the service received by the public. We will work with colleagues and partners in the community, voluntary and faith sectors to ensure any potential impact on them is

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mitigated. There will be potential impact on service users who may experience a change in service provider, as a result however, services should be more effectively aligned to assessed eligible needs.

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Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I would support this under the circumstances	42.2%	1989
I would accept this option	31.4%	1481
I have no opinion on this option	12.8%	601
I find this completely unacceptable	13.6%	642

- 7.5 Further feedback in this area focussed mainly on ensuring that quality was maintained within any commissioned service.

8.0 EARLY INTERVENTION TO SUPPORT FAMILIES

Proposed Savings:

2014/2015	2015/2016	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
300	1950	2250

Option Summary:

- 8.1 The numbers of children becoming looked after in Wirral is not any higher than in comparable Councils; however the children do remain in care here longer than they should. This option would focus on early intervention, and supporting more children to safely leave care and live with their families.
- 8.2 Current spend on commissioning or providing care for Looked After Children is £16m per year from a total budget for Specialist Services of £39m. These proposals we will not compromise children's safety and welfare, which remains our top priority and duty. The proposals should reduce the number of children needing more specialist intervention through delivering targeted early help resulting in fewer children needing specialist support and providing capacity to support fewer children to remain looked after for long periods of time.

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Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I would support this under the circumstances	41.4%	1963

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I would accept this option	30.3%	1435
I have no opinion on this option	13.2%	625
I find this completely unacceptable	15.2%	720

9.0 CAREERS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Proposed Savings:

2014/2015	2015/2016	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
200	0	200

Option Summary:

- 9.1 This option refers to the Merseyside wide contract to provide careers advice and guidance to get young people into education, employment or training. The option would involve targeting the work to provide most support to those people who are not in education, employment or training, or most at risk of becoming NEET. Importantly, this service is also provided to young people who need it by many other providers, including schools, colleges and organisations within the voluntary and community sector.

Consultation Feedback

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I would support this under the circumstances	41.7%	2077
I would accept this option	32.6%	1622
I have no opinion on this option	12.8%	635
I find this completely unacceptable	13.0%	645

- 9.2 Some concerns were highlighted in regards to youth unemployment and a potential rise in the NEET rate in the borough should this option be implemented. However, there are many other providers who offer careers advice in addition to Council provision. If this option is accepted we will work with young people and these providers to ensure people at risk of becoming NEET are effectively signposted and get the support they require.

10.0 SERVICE DESIGN AND IMPROVEMENT (ADULT SOCIAL CARE)

Proposed Savings:

2014/2015	2015/2016	TOTAL
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£000s	£000s	£000s
4148	1975	6123

Option Summary:

- 10.1 The Council is required to meet the needs of those who are assessed as having 'substantial' or 'critical' needs as defined within Fair Access to Care Guidance. The Council currently spends £83.485m on meeting assessed need. Over the past year considerable work has been undertaken to deliver efficiencies through a programme of service re-design and service improvement – thus ensuring that the Council continues to meet its statutory obligations.
- 10.2 The proposed ongoing efficiency is being delivered through:
- Re-configuring intermediate care and reablement and through this reducing the need for high levels of longer term support.
 - Agreement with the NHS to utilising the budget for delayed discharge reimbursement for services that facilitate better hospital discharge.
 - Utilise the Social Care Fund grant more effectively.
 - Commission additional extra care housing as an alternative to care home provision.
 - Commission more responsive home care and increase utilisation of assistive technology
 - Adults and CYP work more effectively to ensure smooth transition into adult services.
 - Streamline assessment processes and realign staffing.
 - Introduce new IT system to support streamlined assessment, recording and production of management information and intelligence.
 - There is no proposal to close any day centres and we will ensure fair and equal access to all day services.
- 10.3 Most savings within this option come from improving processes and procedures and do not have any impact on the service received by the public. The programme of improvement and redesign is aimed at ensuring that there is greater choice for individuals and increased opportunity to be supported at home. Care at home is usually more cost effective and leads to better outcomes for individuals. Service redesign requires an effective change management programme and will affect the way in which assessments are undertaken and there is an impact on working practices.

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Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I would support this under the circumstances	41.2%	1938

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I would accept this option	26.8%	1263
I have no opinion on this option	14.2%	669
I find this completely unacceptable	17.8%	836

11.0 CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Proposed Savings:

2014/2015	2015/2016	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
500	1500	2000

Option Summary:

- 11.1 The Council spends over £6 million on providing Children's Centres and associated services. This budget option would enable the Council to save £2m over the next two years without closing any centres, by reducing the front line staff in Children's Centres through restructuring and reducing services at a number of Children's Centres.
- 11.2 We will maintain full service delivery at one main site in each of the borough's four Constituency areas and use an Outreach model to provide services from all the remaining sites. This reduction would be completed in a targeted, strategic fashion to ensure the minimum amount of disruption for the families using the services. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient Children's Centre services for its population of children under the age of five and their families. It is not proposed to close any Centres at this stage – this proposal will maintain services at four Children's Centres in the borough: Rock Ferry, Seacombe, Pensby and Brombrough. It will reduce the opening hours and services available from the other twelve sites including the two maintained nursery schools.

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Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I would support this under the circumstances	27.1%	1263
I would accept this option	17.2%	802
I have no opinion on this option	14.0%	653
I find this completely unacceptable	41.6%	1936

- 11.3 This option received comments highlighting that vulnerable and disadvantaged families benefitted most from children's centres and that any reductions in service provision could bring a potential impact of those families requiring further, more expensive services later on.

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- 11.4 This option is part of a full strategic redesign of the service, and will involve a full needs assessment of the families currently using the centres and those who will require support in the future. The new service model will be designed in that context, and will ensure that the resources are effectively targeted at those most in need.

12.0 FAMILY, PARENTING AND YOUTH COMMISSIONING

Proposed Savings:

2014/2015	2015/2016	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
200	300	500

Option Summary:

- 12.1 This budget option would see a saving of £200,000 being made by targeting the parenting, family and targeted youth support services which are purchased from private and voluntary organisations. It would also see a further saving of £300,000 being made through more efficient and effective commissioning arrangements in relation to family support. It would lead to a reduction in the provision of parenting and family support and youth services and mean the service would be almost entirely focussed on those children and families with the highest level of need.

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Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I would support this under the circumstances	39.2%	1811
I would accept this option	25.5%	1177
I have no opinion on this option	17.8%	823
I find this completely unacceptable	17.6%	813

13.0 REDUCING SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCIES

Proposed Savings:

2014/2015	2015/2016	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
160	0	160

Option Summary:

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- 13.1 This area has a partnership budget of £650,000. The council pays other providers to deliver some of this service on its behalf. A budget saving of £60,000 could be reached by reducing the level of service the council buys in around preventing and treating substance misuse. This option would also see a reduction of £100,000 in the funding allocated by the Council to a joint service aiming to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies within the borough. Expertise, support and funding would still be available from colleagues in Public Health.

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Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I would support this under the circumstances	38.9%	1808
I would accept this option	26.7%	1238
I have no opinion on this option	9.9%	458
I find this completely unacceptable	24.5%	1140