

COMMITTEE	The Council
DATE OF MEETING	7 th May 2009
TITLE	Revised Savings Strategy 2010 – 2013
PURPOSE	Accept the revised regime
AUTHOR	Geraint George, Head of Strategy and Improvement
PORTFOLIO LEADER	Councillor Dyfed Edwards

1. Background

1.1 The 2010-1013 Savings Strategy paper was presented to the following groups during February:

- Resources and Corporate Policy Scrutiny Committee 12/02/09
- Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair Forum 13/02/09
- Heads of Service Forum 16/02/09
- Council Board 17/02/09.

1.2 In light of the issues raised at the time, the revised regime to support the Strategy is set out within this paper.

2. Matters highlighted

- Resources and Corporate Policy Scrutiny Committee
“...the ordinary member came into the process rather later than under the previous procedure.....need to consider at what stage should scrutiny input be included in the process..”
- Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair Forum
"accept the process itself but should include reporting to each Scrutiny Committee following the workshops and prior to submitting the Savings Strategy before the Resources and Corporate Policy Scrutiny Committee, but clear focus on that scrutiny discussion is required in order to understand:
 - the implications of the proposed savings
 - how to cope with the effect of the savings.”
- Heads of Service Forum
“Accept the principle but, further details required as regards timescale and the role of the scrutiny chairs and scrutiny committees in the process.”
- Council Board
“approve...conditional on including further scrutiny of the strategy without consequence to the timescale.”
- There was general concern regarding the ‘Star Chamber’ and a request to make use of current arrangements where possible, and whilst acknowledging the challenging work, to reduce the process burden.

- 3. Response to these issues (see the overview in Appendix A)**
- Initial quality assurance of the potential schemes and their implications by the Corporate Resource Programme Board (CRPB)
 - Consult the Business Group (schemes list only)
 - Present the ideas to a special cycle of Scrutiny Committees in July with these committees responsible for ensuring that implications of the savings schemes are clear for the work in the members' workshops
 - Establish a Working Group of the Main Scrutiny Committee to undertake the 'Star Chamber' role.

NOTE: Agreement required on the changing of committee arrangements in order to fulfil the scrutiny element.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Council is asked to accept the revised regime.

APPENDIX A

REVISED 2010 - 2013 SAVINGS STRATEGY

OPERATIONAL ELEMENT					DECISION MAKING AND SCRUTINY ELEMENT						
STEP	Members (via the Head of Strategy and Improvement) and staff (via the service) to submit ideas	Portfolio Leader and Heads of Service to develop outline business cases	Efficiency Unit to verify the outline business cases in the context of the Prioritising Activities outcomes	Initial quality assurance of the potential schemes and their implications by the CRPB *	Consult with the Business Group (list of schemes only)	Submit ideas before the individual Scrutiny Committees (special cycle)	Principal Scrutiny Committee Working Group to decide on areas of priority for each Head	Facilitated Workshops for all Council Members to prioritise schemes, reporting the conclusions to the Board	Seek the views of the Residents Panel and Staff Panel on the Savings Strategy	Submit the Savings Strategy before the Principal Scrutiny Committee and the Full Council	IMPLEMENT
TIMESCALE	By May 2009	By the end of May 2009	May - June 2009		July 2009	September - October 2009	November 2009	November 2009			
PURPOSE	Ensure the input of members and staff to submit ideas at the beginning of the process	Agree on options per Head according to the requirement	Challenge proposals by the Heads to include any additional options	Overview of the proposals per Head along with any recommendations regarding additional schemes to be transferred to the decision making and scrutiny process	Business Group to consider the list from a political point of view	Ensure that implications of the savings schemes are clear	Scrutinise the schemes by each Head and across the Council and agree on a final list, in line with the quantum, to be submitted to the members' workshops	Prioritise savings schemes for decision by the Council	Input residents and staff opinion on the draft priorities to the decision process	Decision making process on the Savings Strategy	

* membership of the Corporate Resources Programme Board (CRPB) – Leader of the Council, Senior Portfolio Leaders, Finance Portfolio Leader, Chief Executive, Directors, Head of Finance, Head of Strategy and Improvement.