

REPORT TO THE CABINET

Date	19 September 2017
Cabinet Member	Councillor Peredur Jenkins
Subject	Savings Overview: Progress report on realising savings schemes
Contact Officer	Dafydd L Edwards, Head of Finance

DECISION SOUGHT

To note the encouraging progress towards realising the 2015/16 – 2017/18 savings schemes.

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

The progress of realising the savings which are in the 2015/16 – 2017/18 Savings Strategy is reported here.

In the 2016/17 Financial Strategy, we had planned for savings of £9,201,411, with a further £7,231,751 in the 2017/18 Financial Strategy.

Realising the individual schemes is the responsibility of the relevant Cabinet members, and the Cabinet Member for Finance keeps an overview of the whole picture in order to identify any problems with the procedure, or any specific department.

The individual Cabinet Members' performance reports to the meetings on 5th, 12th and 19th September have already detailed, as necessary, on the savings schemes within their own portfolios.

2. DEPARTMENTAL SCHEMES 2016/17

Appendix 1 summarises the achievements of each department against the savings target set for them for the year 2016/17, and the position with regard to the slippage of historical schemes. Of the 144 schemes for the year, 134 have been realised in full or in part, and it is expected that the bulk of the remainder will be fully realised shortly. This means that 97% of the 2016/17 schemes have by now been realised. It can also be seen that progress has been made towards realising the 5 historical schemes, and it is envisaged that these will also be realised shortly.

Whilst there is slippage with a number of the 2016/17 schemes in the Adults Department, progress was seen during 2016/17, and the Department's final budget showed an underspend of £146k, as reported to the Cabinet on 6 June 2017. The Head of the Adults Department proposes submitting a report outlining his wish to amalgamate a number of the individual schemes within various

headings. This will include an alternative way of recording the financial benefit arising from working in a more efficient manner. If this proposal is approved, it is expected that a substantial amount of the savings within the schemes can be considered as having been realised.

3. DEPARTMENTAL SCHEMES 2017/18

Likewise, **Appendix 2** summarises the present forecast in respect of realising the 2017/18 schemes and savings. Of the 120 schemes, 78 have been realised and a further 28 are on track to be realised on time, resulting in 64% of the financial savings already realised, with a further 20% on track.

The “slippage” figures for this year include the substantial challenge in the Adults Department. However, if the Head’s proposals, as referred to above, are approved, it is expected that a substantial part of the savings within the Adults 2017/18 schemes will also be realised.

There is one scheme within the Highways Department that is causing concern, but there are alternative proposals under consideration to fully achieve the savings.

4. CONCLUSION

Generally, I am satisfied with the 2016/17 achievement, the forecasts in respect of realising what is outstanding, and the prospects for 2017/18. The new Cabinet Members will of course need to continue monitoring the savings schemes and I am aware that this work is progressing. Accordingly, I request that the Cabinet notes the encouraging progress towards realising the 2015/16 – 2017/18 savings schemes.

View of the Local Member

Not relevant

Views of the Statutory Officers

Monitoring Officer:

No observations in terms of propriety.

Head of Finance:

I have collaborated with the Cabinet Member in the preparation of this report and I confirm the content.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – 2016/17 Savings Schemes Overview by department

Appendix 2 – 2017/18 Savings Schemes Overview by department