

REPORT TO THE CABINET

Date	16 October 2018
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 accept the information within the report and note the encouraging progress towards realising the savings schemes during 2018/19 and previous years.

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

In the Council's financial strategy since 2015/16, £27m worth of savings have been approved to be realised during the period 2015/16 to 2018/19. The savings in 2018/19 and previous years are reported here.

Realising the individual schemes is the responsibility of relevant Cabinet members, and Members' performance reports are presented regularly to Cabinet meetings, detailing the progress of individual savings schemes within their portfolios, and the position at the time. It is the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Finance to keep an overview of the whole picture.

2. SAVINGS SCHEMES 2015/16 - 2017/18

Appendix 1 summarises the achievement of each department against the savings target set for them from 2015/16 - 2017/18, totalling more than £24m. It is encouraging for me to report that £23m, or 95%, of these schemes have been realised, and there is only a slight slippage with the remainder.

This is predominantly in the Adult, Health and Wellbeing Department's 2017/18 schemes where the challenge of realising some schemes continues, and also in the Highways and Municipal Department, where some alternative schemes were approved by Cabinet on 11 September 2018 and implementation of the "Recycling Centers (PB5)" scheme was deferred by covering the £96,000 gap created when considering savings for 2019/20 onwards.

3. DEPARTMENTAL SCHEMES 2018/19

Appendix 2 summarises the current forecasts for the realisation of 2018/19 savings schemes. Of the 26 schemes, 11 have already been fully or partly realised, and encouragingly, with slippage forecasted on only two schemes.

One of them is the "End to End" scheme in the Children and Families Department, where the savings of £250,280 expected in the year is a concern. The Cabinet Member, in his report to Cabinet on 25 September 2018, referred to the significant realisation challenge that had emerged in terms of the scheme's financial expectations compared to the original theories. I ask the Member of Cabinet for Children and Families to report to the Cabinet on the review of the "End to End" scheme soon.

In terms of the remainder of the schemes, the prospects of realising the savings remain generally promising.

4. CONCLUSION

Although some departments have realised all of their savings schemes, it is inevitable that realising almost £27m of savings since April 2015 has been challenging. Some schemes need more time to plan and implement appropriately. However, in general, I am very satisfied with the progress that has been made to realise the savings plans of this period and am extremely grateful to all departments and Cabinet Members for achieving this success. I am also confident that every effort will be made to achieve the slippage schemes as soon as possible, and all Cabinet Members will continue to monitor the situation, acting as necessary to achieve the goal.

Therefore, I ask the Cabinet to note the very acceptable achievement outlined in this report towards realising the savings schemes.

View of the Local Member

Not relevant

View of the Statutory Officers

Monitoring Officer:

No observations from a propriety perspective.

Head of Finance:

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

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – 2015/16 – 2017/18 Savings Schemes Overview by Department

Appendix 2 – 2018/19 Savings Schemes Overview by Department