

Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 5 November 2015

Oxfordshire County Council Budget saving options 2016/17 Consultation

Introduction

Oxfordshire County Council provides more than three-quarters of the local government services in the county. They include:

- children's services and some education services
- roads and transport
- adult social care, supporting vulnerable adults and older people
- waste disposal and recycling
- fire and rescue and trading standards
- libraries and museums
- public health.

As government reduces funding to local government, the county council has to continue to make budget savings. At the same time demand for services is increasing, partly due to the ageing and growing population, and increasing demand for children's social care services.

The council has already saved – or has plans to save – a total of £292 million between 2010/11 and 2017/18. We now anticipate the need to save up to £50 million more in the four years between 2016/17 and 2019/20.

As a result, county council services will be reduced and some may stop altogether. The services left will be targeted at those who really depend on them – particularly children at risk of abuse and neglect, and adults who cannot look after themselves.

The proposals can be accessed through the county council website

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/budget-savings-options-201617>

Consultation

The council has to set a budget every year. As part of that process, partners, residents and service users can have their say on the budget savings options before they are considered by all councillors who vote on the budget in February.

The council is consulting on 95 savings options that we have identified across all areas of the council (excluding public health, as this remains a ring-fenced grant).

Overall, the total savings options proposed probably adds up to more than we think we will actually have to save. However we will not know the final savings target until the local government finance settlement expected in mid- December.

Timescale

Public Consultation	20 October – 30 November
Government Spending Review & Autumn Statement	25 November
Performance Scrutiny consider savings options and public consultation	17 December
Draft Local Government Finance Settlement	w/c 14 December
Cabinet – proposed budget	26 January
Council – agree budget	16 February

Health and Wellbeing Board

The impact of the budget options will inevitably have an impact on the council's partners. The need to improve efficiency through joint working in order to mitigate the impact on service users is crucial.

RECOMMENDATION

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider the impact of the savings options and provide comments as part of the consultation process.

Peter Clark
Head of Paid Service
Oxfordshire County Council

October 2015