

MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN **SAVING PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT**

DIRECTORATE: Corporate Services

SERVICE AREA: Service Improvement and Partnerships

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

SAVING PROPOSAL TITLE: Remove the Technical Assistance Budget

BUDGET AREA: Service Improvement and Partnerships- Policy and Partnerships Team- Voluntary Sector

TOTAL BUDGET FOR THIS AREA: £249K

% OF TOTAL BUDGET IN SAVINGS PROPOSAL: 4.8%

TOTAL SAVING: £12.1K

Please provide a brief description of how the saving will be achieved:

This proposal will remove the remaining Technical Assistance budget. The budget is used to provide funding for voluntary and community organisations to pay for technical fees for any projects requiring Council determination e.g. legal and property fees, surveyors reports, plans and drawings etc. where they are associated with grants provided to the community and voluntary sector e.g. building works and lease changes.

2. PUBLIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW THE PROPOSED SAVING COULD IMPACT UPON THE PUBLIC:

Consider the 5 ways of working, in particular, *long-term* implications for future generations and *preventative services*. Recognising that savings now may be needed to secure future provision, or may secure provision in another area.

Long-term guidance: Consider the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs.

The technical assistance budget is a discretionary budget has been mostly unused for a number of years, one bid for £4,700 was received in 2022. This may have been due to the pandemic slowing the pace of projects that would have required legal or property support. If the budget is removed it will affect the capacity of smaller organisations to provide the necessary permissions and leases for any projects that they are delivering.

Prevention guidance: Consider whether the proposed saving is affecting a preventative area that reduces future burdens and supports well-being.

Projects that the budget has previously supported would have been delivering community well-being and therefore preventing greater need e.g. health or mental health problems.

DOES THE PROPOSAL HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO IMPACT MORE GREATLY ON PEOPLE WITH PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS? (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation)

* Yes Likely No

DOES THE PROPOSAL IMPACT ON PEOPLE WHO FACE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE? (low income/income poverty, low wealth/or no wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation, socio-economic background, cumulative impact – information on [Policy Portal](#))

* Yes Potentially No

DOES THE PROPOSAL HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE? (opportunities to use the language, promote the language and/or treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language)

* Yes Potentially No

NB * If **YES** to any of the above, please complete an [Integrated Impact Assessment](#) (IIA). For further advice and guidance please see the [Policy Portal](#). A Saving Proposal Template or an IIA, if relevant, must be submitted to be included as hyperlinks to all decision reports related to the proposed savings. IIAs are not required for nil impact proposals.

PLEASE DETAIL ANY CONSULTATION THAT HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN CONSIDERING THIS PROPOSAL. Summarise any feedback received.

Consider the 5 ways of working, in particular, *involvement*.

Involvement: Consider whether you have involved people who have an interest in the service area, including service users and potential service users.

Only one respondent to the budget consultation considered this to be a top three area and agreed that the budget should be removed. However, the face to face engagement showed that any cuts to the community and voluntary sector were a concern and that respondents particularly disagreed with any cuts.

IS FURTHER CONSULTATION REQUIRED BEFORE THIS PROPOSAL CAN BE IMPLEMENTED?

Yes No

NB* Please seek guidance from Corporate Policy, who can advise on whether a formal consultation is required and adherence to the Gunning Principles.

TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE ABOVE AND THE IMPACT RATING DEFINITIONS, PLEASE INDICATE THE PUBLIC IMPACT RATING APPLICABLE TO THIS SAVING PROPOSAL (please tick):

Nil Minor Moderate Significant Critical

3. ORGANISATION IMPACT ANALYSIS

PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW THE PROPOSED SAVING COULD IMPACT UPON THE ORGANISATION:

Limited impact upon the organisation. It is possible that groups may appeal to Property Services and Legal Services for support to complete approvals.

PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW THE PROPOSED SAVING WILL IMPACT UPON MEMBERS OF STAFF:

No impact

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) STAFF IN BUDGET AREA AFFECTED:

NUMBER OF POSTS AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED SAVING: None

PLEASE SPECIFY HOW THIS WILL BE MANAGED:

HOW MANY POST(S)(please state)

- ALREADY VACANT:
- VOLUNTARY SEVERANCE:
- RETIREMENT:
- REDEPLOYMENT:
- REDUNDANCY:

PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF WHEN THIS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:

WILL THE PROPOSED SAVING HAVE AN IMPACT ON ANOTHER DIRECTORATE, SERVICE AREA OR TEAM WITHIN THE COUNCIL? (please tick)

Yes No

Potential impacts for Legal Services and Property Services who may receive appeals for support.

WILL THE PROPOSED SAVING HAVE AN IMPACT ON ANOTHER PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNER, OR VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNER? (please tick)

Yes No

If **yes**, please consider the 5 ways of working, in particular *integration*.

DESCRIBE:

- THE AREA(S) AFFECTED; AND
- HOW THE PROPOSED SAVING WILL IMPACT

Integration guidance: Consider how the proposal will impact on other service areas, or partners, and their ability to meet their objectives.

The removal of the budget will impact on smaller community and voluntary sector organisations.

HAVE ANY OPTIONS BEEN CONSIDERED TO MITIGATE ORGANISATIONAL IMPACT?

PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF ANY MITIGATION (e.g. gradual reduction in service, income generation, transferrable skills of staff, commercialisation of the service etc.)

In addition, consider the 5 ways of working, in particular, acting in *collaboration* with other service areas or partners.

The sector will be signposted to other sources of support, where possible, and we will share the information on any organisations experiencing difficulty providing funds up front for legal and technical approvals with the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations.

TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE ABOVE AND THE IMPACT RATING DEFINITIONS, PLEASE INDICATE THE ORGANISATIONAL IMPACT RATING APPLICABLE TO THIS SAVING PROPOSAL (please tick):

Nil Minor Moderate Significant Critical

4. LINKS TO POLICY AND CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

DOES THE SAVINGS PROPOSAL LINK TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

If so, please specify and state what the implication may be.

POLICY AREA:

CORPORATE PLAN and WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES (please state which objectives)

WHAT IS THE LINK? No impact

WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT?

POLICY AREA:

STATUTORY DUTIES (including the requirement to provide services in Welsh)

WHAT IS THE LINK? No impact

WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT?

POLICY AREA:

WELSH GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE or STRATEGY

WHAT IS THE LINK? No impact

WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT?

5. OTHER RISK(S) AND SENSITIVITIES

HAVE ANY OTHER RISKS BEEN IDENTIFIED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SAVING PROPOSAL?

Yes **No**

IF YES, PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW:

Support to the voluntary and community sector is a highly sensitive issue since the capacity within the sector often comes from individuals who are giving their own time freely and are genuinely motivated to make a difference for individuals and communities. Many smaller organisations do not hold large budgets and therefore finding money to provide technical approvals up front could hamper their ability to access further project funding.

PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW ANY OTHER MITIGATION:

Not all risks can be mitigated. Some may need to be tolerated in the context of budget pressures.

Please see above, where possible, applicants that request up-front help with technical approvals will be signposted to the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations and other sources of support.

6. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

PLEASE USE THIS SECTION TO PROVIDE ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION WHICH YOU FEEL HAS NOT BEEN CAPTURED.

HEAD OF SERVICE: Sue Richards

DATE OF COMPLETION: 14.2.23