

Item 7

TITLE OF REPORT: Council Budget Consultation

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to bring to Schools Forum attention an update on the level of savings Gateshead Council must make in the next 5 years to 2020, and the current savings proposals put forward for public consultation.

Background

Since 2010 the Council has made over £110 million in savings and there are over 2,000 less people working for the Council. The Council now has £300 per person less to spend than it did in 2010.

There have also been massive changes in national government policy impacting on the Council, its partners and local people. These include changes affecting welfare, criminal justice and devolution, as well as education.

The Chancellor made his Autumn Statement on 25th November setting out spending plans from 2017/18 to 2019/20, and it is estimated by 2019/20 the Council will have to save an additional £77 million, with £50 million to be saved over the 2 year period 2016-2018. This is against a background of growing demand for Council services, especially in social care.

The Council is currently consulting on 66 savings, themed under the following groupings:

	<u>Savings proposed £m</u>
• Adult Social Care	14.285
• Children's Services	4.277
• Communities and Volunteers	1.603
• Economic Growth	2.166
• Environment	4.706
• Public Health	3.059
• Governance and Resources	3.392
• Efficiency & Effectiveness Projects	1.000

The full consultation can be found at the link below.

[http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Council%20and%20Democracy/consultation/Budget/Budget Consultation.aspx](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Council%20and%20Democracy/consultation/Budget/Budget%20Consultation.aspx)

The consultation will closed on 30th December 2015.

Proposal

That Schools Forum notes the contents of this report and the savings the Council will need to make following the Autumn Statement. Further reports will be brought to Schools Forum as more information is known on savings that could impact on Gateshead's schools and settings.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Schools Forum notes the contents of the report.

For the following reasons:

- To inform Schools Forum of the contents and possible impacts of the announcements affecting Gateshead's schools and settings.

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