

December 2016: Summary of recommendations following the public consultation period

Options removed from the Financial Recovery Plan

- Cease to operate the CCTV service
- Reduce the operating hours of the CCTV service
- Stop floral displays in town centres and traffic islands, including hanging baskets
- Withdrawal from the Green Flag application process
- Reduce the capacity to deal with claims for housing benefit and council tax reduction
- Integrate Local Land charges within Corporate Support Team
- Review the role of the Local Strategic Partnership
- Align internal and external Health & Safety functions
- Delete Customer Services Assistant post in Development Control (to be reviewed as part of the business case for shared services with Stafford Borough Council).

Options amended

- Review and reduce the social alarm installation service: *amended to reflect alternative proposal received from staff*
- Reduce the grant to the Citizens' Advice Bureau: *amended to reflect on-going discussions with CAB regarding relocation and property costs; no reduction in grant in 2017/18 with joint commitment to explore how to reduce property costs.*



Options amended continued

- Review existing contract for leisure and culture services to deliver savings: amended to reflect proposals from Inspiring Health Lifestyles: *From the options presented, the following are recommended for implementation:*
 - ❖ Discretionary NNDR (Business Rates) - £20,000
 - ❖ Reduction in Planned Maintenance - £10,000
 - ❖ Prince of Wales – revised operating Model - £15,000
 - ❖ Increase income from Footgolf - £20k (Commercial at risk)
 - ❖ Increase private hire charges by 10% at Prince of Wales - £5,000 (Commercial at risk)
 - ❖ Reduction in Arts and Sports Development Budget by 25% - £9,200
 - ❖ Capital Investment proposal that delivers £50,000 additional revenue by 2019/20 (Chase leisure centre)
 - ❖ The Head of Commissioning in consultation with the Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader to:
 - (a) Implement the two 5 year extension periods under the existing contract arrangement to include all saving proposals and variations, and
 - (b) Enter into a separate interim management arrangement with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL) for up to two years for the new Artificial Grass Pitch and changing pavilion at Bradbury Lane, Hednesford.
- Reduction of grass cutting frequencies on Council owned land and cease any follow up operations: *amended to reduced number of cuts but maintain follow up operations in line with reduced numbers of cuts.*
- Increase fees for cemeteries/memorials by 20%: *amended to a 15% increase following feedback*
- Stop providing a Revenues and Benefits reception and enquiry service at the Rugeley Area Office and Hednesford Library: *amended to reduced provision in Rugeley (2 days per week) and Hednesford (1 day per week) on a 12 month trial basis and then review.*



Financial Recovery Plan Consultation



Additional options:

- To recommend to Council that the number of Scrutiny Committees are reduced from the existing 6 to 4 at the start of the new Municipal Year (May 2017) in response to a recommendation from the LGA Peer Review.
- To include the Land Charges service in the business case for a shared service for Development Control / Planning Policy with Stafford Borough Council.
- The Council will explore the feasibility of introducing charges for CCTV evidence requested by Staffordshire Police, and insurance companies.
- The Council will also explore an offer from the West Midlands CA (Transport for WM) regarding CCTV provision made as part of the consultation.