

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL EFFICIENCY PLAN

2016/17-2019/20

This plan is based on the current Medium Term Financial Plan which was approved in February 2016. This Plan aims to provide relevant information to secure a 4 year deal on Government funding to ensure that the Council has some certainty of the pressures that it faces over the next 4 years.

The Council faces a significant challenge in addressing its forecasted budget deficit over the next 4 years in an environment where there is significant uncertainty and increasing levels of risk. Over the last 5 years the Council has embarked on an innovative approach to service redesign and releasing savings based on systems thinking methodology. In adopting the principles of this approach the Council will consider the following themes when addressing how to manage the shortfalls in funding :

- Identifying opportunities to increase income and growth
- Identify further efficiency by continuing to drive waste out of services and reduce cost
- Continue to redesign services to provide quality support and service to the customer whilst releasing savings
- Assessing the value for money of service provided and demonstrating where resources can be realigned ^{note 1}
- Identify alternative models of delivery in the provision of services and to consider the most appropriate provider
- Designing services across public and voluntary sector organisations to secure better outcomes and reduce overall spend

In delivering the savings to ensure Redditch can meet its financial pressures over the next 4/5 years the Council will focus on its Strategic Purposes to maximise the value of the funding it retains to support its customers and communities. These are :

- Help me live my life independently
- Help me find somewhere to live in my locality
- Provide good things to see, do and visit
- Help me be financially independent
- Keep my place safe and looking good
- Help me run a successful business

Background

For Redditch the financial settlement gives a much lower than anticipated level of revenue support grant from the Government with a potential unexpected repayment to Government in 2019/20 of £330k. Consultation has also started on planned changes to New Homes Bonus, which will see a reduction in the amount we receive towards the end of the five year period. The Council currently receives £1.1m of this grant however, depending on the proposed revised scheme may see a reduction in over £500k of funding by 2019/20.

Government grant funding will be some £6m per year less in real terms by the end of this plan than it was in 2010/11. This equates to losing funding for just over half of the Council's net budget.

The Council does not accept a methodology of 'negative grant' which would be payable by 2019/20. Whilst the payment is included in the projected financial gap faced by the Council there is an expectation that this will be offset by changes to Business Rate Legislation that will be released later this year.

The Council has a proven track record in delivering cost and efficiency savings. Since 2010/11 the Council has made savings from sharing services with other Councils of £5.6m and generated other savings of approximately £4m from additional income and increasing efficiencies. With the continued cuts to our funding we will have to find more innovative ways to meet the on-going financial pressures that the Council faces and we are working with partners to achieve savings across the public purse that will ensure that valuable front line services continue to be delivered to our communities. The financial funding available will be aligned to our purposes as detailed in this document to ensure we meet customer and community need.

The Efficiency Statement should be considered alongside the Council Plan 2016-2020 as this demonstrates how the Council will utilise its resources to deliver the strategic purposes and outcomes to the community.

The monitoring of the plan will be undertaken through the Councils Management Team, Executive and Audit & Governance Committee. Associated risks of delivery of savings and outcomes will be reported through the performance and financial reporting mechanisms to ensure early action can be undertaken to address any concerns.

EFFICIENCY STATEMENT – REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Area	Cost reduction / Additional income growth/ Alternative Service Delivery	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £,000	2019/20 £'000
EFFICIENCIES TO BE ACHIEVED		1,398	2,284	3,202	3,532
ALREADY APPROVED					
Across all services	Efficiencies realised from : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removing waste processes from service following redesign - Deleting vacant posts - Reset budget to previous year - Service review to realign management and staffing structures 	396	396	396	396
Environment Services	Remodelling provision to enable services to be delivered across a locality / place	139	139	139	139
Environment Services	Additional growth and Income from the service	177	177	177	177
Balances	Use of balances following review of requirement	479	0	0	0
Reserves	Use of reserves following review of requirement	207	0	0	0
TOTAL EFFICIENCIES ALREADY APPROVED 2016/17-2019/20		1,398	712	712	712
PROPOSED EFFICIENCIES 2017/18 -2019/20					
Cross Organisational	Increases in income and growth (including additional income realised from an improvement in compliance		300	450	650

	for Council Tax/ Business Rates)				
Customer Access & Financial Support	Improved efficiencies by moving to a new system for Revenues and Benefits		80	90	90
Cross Organisational	Organisational Management Review		135	300	400
Cross Organisational	Alternative Models of Service Delivery - Reviewing the provision of services with the aim to redesign and work with other partners to deliver savings		250	735	880
Cross Organisational	Reduce waste in system / improve efficiencies		225	250	300
Cross Organisational	Reset budget from baseline of 2015/16		200	250	250
Additional Business Rate Growth			50	100	250
Other Funding	Balances/ Unidentified efficiencies/Further reviews of reserves		332	315	
TOTAL EFFICIENCIES PROPOSED 2017/18-2019/20			1,572	2,490	2,820
TOTAL EFFICIENCIES		1,398	2,284	3,202	3,532