

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

POLICY & SERVICES COMMITTEE – 18 DECEMBER 2001

498 BUDGET REDUCTIONS 2002/03

(1) Insurance Administration

The Director of Finance and Central Support reported on a proposal to achieve savings in the revenue budget 2002/03 by deleting from the Council's establishment, a part-time post of Insurance Assistant.

The Cabinet had supported the recommendation contained in the Director's report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the savings of ,12,000 in the revenue budget 2002/03, as detailed in the report, be approved.

(2) Registration of Vista Leisure as a Charitable Body

The Director of Finance and Central Support reported that responsibility for the operation of the Council's leisure centres had been transferred to Vista Leisure on 1 April 2001. It had been agreed that within twelve months of the transfer, Vista Leisure would register as a charitable organisation in order to derive the maximum benefit from charitable relief on non-domestic rates. This would achieve an initial saving of ,17,500, increasing to ,19,500, with the opening of the Deal Dryside facility.

The Cabinet had supported the recommendation contained in the Director's report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That Vista Leisure be urged to register with the Charity Commission with effect from 2002/03, delivering minimum annual savings of approximately ,18,000.

(3) Economic Development

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Economic Development on proposals to achieve budget savings for economic development of ,50,000 in 2002/03.

The Cabinet had supported the recommendation contained in the Director's report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the budget re-alignment achieving savings of ,50,000 in the revenue budget 2002/03, as detailed in the report, be approved.

(4) Corporate Press and Public Relations

The Director of Economic Development submitted a report which outlined proposed savings of ,50,000 within the Corporate Communications budget 2002/03.

The Cabinet had supported the recommendation contained in the Director's report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the budget re-alignment achieving savings of ,50,000 in the revenue budget 2002/03, as detailed in the report, be approved.

(5) Planning

The Director of Planning and Technical Services submitted a detailed report on proposals to achieve savings in Conservation, Forward Planning and Development Control/Investigation amounting to ,150,000 in 2002/03 which would rise to ,205,500 in a full year following restructuring of the Development Control and Inspection Sections.

The Committee received details of the views expressed by the Planning Committee, at its meeting on 6 December 2001, regarding the possible implications of the budget savings for future service delivery.

The Cabinet had supported the recommendation contained in the Director's report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the savings of ,150,000 in the revenue budget 2002/03 (,205,500 in a full year), as detailed in the report, be approved.

(6) Public Conveniences

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning and Technical Services on a proposal for the closure, or partial closure, of public conveniences operated by the Council, which would achieve a saving of ,30,000.

The Cabinet had supported the recommendation contained in the Director's report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the savings of ,30,000 in the revenue budget 2002/03, as detailed in the report, be approved.

(7) Sports Development

The Director of Planning and Technical Services reported on a proposal to reorganise the Sports Development Team and not fill a vacant post of Community Sports Officer, thereby achieving savings of ,30,000 in the revenue budget 2002/03. The Committee was informed that funding of this post through Sport England/SRB would be investigated.

The Cabinet had supported the recommendation contained in the Director's report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the savings of ,30,000 in the revenue budget 2002/03, as detailed in the report, be approved.

(8) Chief Executive's Department

The Chief Executive (Head of Corporate Services) submitted proposals for budget reductions in respect of best value, civic work and modernising local government which would realise savings of ,100,030 in the revenue budget 2002/03.

The Cabinet had supported the recommendation contained in the Chief Executive's report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the savings of ,100,030 in the revenue budget 2002/03, as detailed in the report, be approved.

(9) Local Agenda 21

The Chief Executive (Head of Corporate Services) reported on a proposal to delete from the Council's establishment the post of LA21 Co-ordinator and to reallocate these duties to the Corporate Support Team. This would achieve savings of ,25,000 in the revenue budget 2002/03.

The Cabinet had supported the recommendation contained in the Chief Executive's report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: (a) That the savings of ,25,000 in the revenue budget 2002/03 (,40,000 in the current year), as detailed in the report, be approved.

(b) That the Local Agenda 21 function be transferred to the Corporate Support Team.

(c) That the fixed term contracts of employment of the three Corporate Support Officers be made concurrent so as to end in 2004.

(10) Environmental Health

The Committee considered the detailed report of the Director of Health and Housing on proposals to make changes to service delivery and departmental administration in respect of Environment and Public Protection, Community, and LA21 and Planning which would result in savings of ,141,000 in the revenue budget 2002/03.

The Cabinet had supported the recommendation contained in the Director's report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the savings of ,141,000 in the revenue budget 2002/03, as detailed in the report, be approved.

(11) Highways Partnership

The Director of Planning and Technical Services reported on proposed savings of ,50,000 arising primarily from changes to work undertaken in connection with the Kent Highways Partnership.

The Cabinet had supported the recommendation contained in the Director's report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the savings of ,50,000 in the revenue budget 2002/03, as detailed in the report, be approved.

508 BUDGET REDUCTIONS 2002/03 *

(1) Tourism, Arts and Events Section

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Economic Development on a range of measures which would achieve savings of ,144,889 from the Tourism, Arts and Events budgets.

The Cabinet had supported the recommendation contained in the Director's report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: (a) That the deletion of Post Nos 63409, 634071 and 63408 and the subsequent termination of employment of Postholders 634071 and 63408 in accordance with the Employment Stability Agreement, be approved.

(b) That the offer by Sandwich Town Council to take over the operation of Sandwich TIC for a fee of ,3,000, be approved.

(c) That the reduction of ,20,000 in the Arts and Events budget be approved, subject to consideration of detailed arrangements by the Civic, Ceremonials and Events Working Group.

(2) Environmental Health

Further to Minute No 498(10), the Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive (Head of Corporate Services) on the costs associated with the redundancy of former members of staff within the Environmental Health Division.

The Cabinet had supported the recommendation contained in the Chief Executive's report.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the costs associated with the redundancy of Post Nos 42102, 42103, 42125 and 42404, be approved.