

Key Decision Required	No	In the Forward Plan	No
-----------------------	----	---------------------	----

CABINET

4 SEPTEMBER 2015

**REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
OF 17 JULY 2015**

**A.1 EFFICIENCY SAVINGS AND INCOME GENERATION – OUTCOMES FROM
INFORMAL WORKSHOPS**

(Report Prepared by Colin Sweeney)

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 17 July 2015, the Council's Finance and Procurement Manager gave a presentation, which sought to explain the financial position of the Council, whilst looking at ways to make future savings.

Members were advised that, since 2011/12, the Council had had its budget reduced by £10,000,000 and that the current net budget for the Council was £14,835,000, of which £3,600,000 was funded by a Government grant. It was reported that this figure was likely to be further reduced in future years and the Council therefore needed to look at how it delivered the services it provided in order to find the necessary savings.

Members were informed of six areas of interest, which had been identified at previously held informal Member workshops, which might help the Council in achieving its savings targets. These were Transformation Agenda, Office Rationalisation, bringing contracts in-house, Channel Shift, Shared Services and to grow the beach economy. It was hoped that the Committee would consider these and look at how much savings or income could potentially be generated as a result.

The Council's Assets Manager then delivered a presentation on the potential to use one-off Council funding to increase its commercial property, whereby the Council could purchase commercial property and lease this to a tenant.

It was explained that whilst there was no such thing as a completely safe investment, the Council could be active and diligent in order to minimise risk. Members were advised that the Council would first need to establish the key criteria for any purchases and it was suggested that the Council look at a variety of smaller properties in order to spread the risk.

Members asked questions with regard to which types of property the Council might wish to purchase and whether it would have the necessary resources; would the Council get better returns if it invested outside of the District; and would the scheme use all of the Council's one-off money.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET

Cabinet is now asked to consider the recommendations of the Corporate Management Committee and determine its response if any:

The Committee **COMMENTED TO CABINET** that following the presentations provided, the Committee wished to proactively take the following ideas forward on behalf of the Council and via the Democratic Services Manager identify a lead Committee Member for each of the projects:

- Transformation Agenda
- Office Rationalisation
- Bringing contracts in-house
- Channel Shift
- Shared Services
- Growing the beach economy
- Investing in Commercial Property

PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

Comments will be provided directly at the meeting.