

OFFICER DELEGATION SCHEME RECORD OF OPERATIONAL DECISION



TO BE UPLOADED TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Date: 18 October 2019	Ref No:
Type of Operational Decision:	
Executive Decision	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> x
Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Status: Non-key	
Title/Subject matter: Budget options savings delivery plans	
Budget/Strategy/Policy/Compliance – Is the decision:	
(i) within an Approved Budget	Yes
(ii) in accordance with Council Policy	Yes
Equality Impact Assessment [Does this decision change policy, procedure or working practice or negatively impact on a group of people? If yes – complete EIA and summarise issues identified and recommendations – forward EIA to Corporate HR]	
N/A	
Details of Operational Decision Taken [with reasons]:	
<p>As has been the case across the sector, Bury Council has had to make considerable changes to it's approach to budget and business planning as a result of austerity. Since 2010 the Council has delivered savings in the region of £97 million, in part achieved through a reduction of more than 650 jobs within the Council. The budget for 2019/20 contains further cuts of close to £12 million, with further savings required in the following year.</p> <p>Bury Council's response to this challenge has been to work with partners and residents to protect front line services, in particular those supporting the most vulnerable. Nearly 90% of the council's controllable net expenditure is now being spent on providing care to adults and children in the community</p>	



In order to deliver against resident's expectations for access to universal services, a public sector reform partnership has been established to maximise the value of public assets and generate efficiencies across the public sector estate as a whole. Whilst the Council has increased Council Tax to help with addressing rising demand, other difficult decisions have also been taken in relation to the use of reserves and reduced investment in non-essential infrastructure and asset maintenance.

Whilst this approach has delivered balanced budgets to date there is an acknowledgement that it is no longer sustainable. The Council has taken a number of innovative steps to improve its position, not least integration with the Clinical Commissioning Group. The Council has also established a number of different business delivery models in housing and adult social care to transform our approach to commissioning and delivery however, there is more to be done.

As such, Bury Council wishes to engage an external partner to support with the delivery of robust budget planning for 2020/21 and with generating draft principles for the next Medium Term Financial Plan which will run in parallel with our ambitious programme for reform, the Bury 2030 Strategy. The partner will also consider a range of options against industry best practice, ongoing plans for demand management, wider public service reform commitment and the any impact against current commitments.

Following a tender process, it is proposed to award this work to Grant Thornton.

A maximum budget of £50,000 has been allocated for this work. Underspends in Non-Service Specific budgets will be used to fund this one-off cost.

Decision taken by:	Signature:	Date:
Joint Chief Finance Officer		21/10/19
Members Consulted [see note 1 below]		
Cabinet Member/Chair		23/10/19
Lead Member		
Opposition Spokesperson		

Notes

1. It is not generally a requirement to consult with any Members on Operational Decisions but where a Chief Officer considers it necessary to consult with the appropriate Cabinet Member and/or Lead Member, they must sign the form so as to confirm that they have been consulted and that they agree with the proposed action. The signature of the Opposition Spokesperson should be obtained to confirm that he/she has been consulted.
2. **This form must not be used for urgent decisions.**