

The savings challenge

REVENUE BUDGET - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

	2020/2021	2021/2022 £'000	2022/2023 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
	£'000				
Net Cost of Services		16,391	16,686	17,145	17,872
Corporate Budgets					
Fees & Charges Annual Review		(17)	(67)	(117)	(167)
NHB Grants to Town & Parish Councils		-	-	-	-
Minimum Revenue Provision		-	-	290	618
Interest Payable on Loans		-	166	334	334
Investment Income		(750)	(750)	(750)	(750)
Pension Fund Deficit Contribution		734	754	976	976
Savings to be identified		- ((2,389)	(3,250)	(3,250)
Total corporate budgets		(33)	(2,286)	(2,517)	(2,239)
Total reserves		2,898	(1,713)	(2,032)	(31)



The savings challenge

• £3.250 million new savings requirement is on top of the comprehensive spending review savings plan of:

2021/22 2022/23

2023/24

£1.129million £1.797million £2.893million

 The reasons for new savings was detailed in the budget report to Council on 2 March 2021



How do we fill the budget gap?

- "Austerity is over" yet in 2021/22 we got a 0.3% increase in resources **including** the Council Tax increase
- 2021/22 budget was subject to comprehensive spending review and savings proposals were submitted by Leadership Team
- Some savings proposals were not taken forward c. £0.355 million
- We could change the service offer to residents, including stopping nonstatutory services and reductions in statutory services to the minimum. Example:
 - Leisure



How do we fill the budget gap?

Transformation Programme

- Other councils have been doing this from 2010 onwards
- The scope and deliverables have been done elsewhere
- It needs to deliver at least £1 million in cashable savings
- **Digital** is key so instead of by design it becomes **by default** the way customers will contact us
- If a process is rules based, there is no interpretation or discretion, then it will be delivered end to end via digital self service.
- Example bulky waste collection



Vision

By 2025 East Herts Council will be a customer focused, financially sustainable, effective organisation with flexible, empowered employees.



What does the vision mean?

Customer focussed

- involve our customers in designing our services
- move as much work forward, to self-service or customer facing roles, as possible
- tell customers what to expect and keep them up to date along the way
- deliver cashable savings through process change not service reduction

Financially sustainable

- deliver the best outcomes for our customers at an affordable cost
- re-use common processes, systems and functions where it makes sense to do so
- prioritise limited resources to deliver the corporate plan and make the most of opportunities to generate income and funding

Deliver £1 million cashable savings

Effective and flexible

- make evidence based decisions and design services that meet the needs of our customers
- use technology and modern ways of working to innovate and deliver continuous service improvement
- keep our processes simple and our employees empowered

Empowered employees

- work as one team to meet the needs of our customers
- empower employees at the right level to make decisions
- foster a culture, through developing staff skills, that delivers innovation and continuous service improvement

Critical success factors

- In order to succeed, the following factors need to be in place:
 - Member leadership
 - Leadership Team and senior management ownership
 - Sufficient resources, investment and financial planning
 - Clarity of purpose and a shared understanding of objectives and agreed priorities
 - Clear benefits realisation -
 - Consistent, easy-to-use programme management process
 - The right communications at the right time

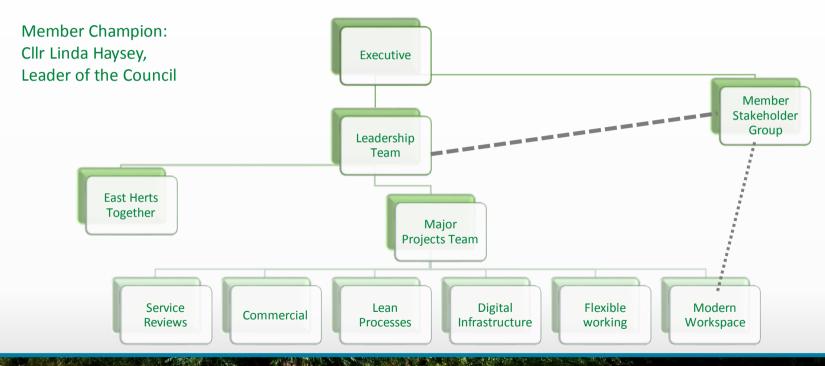


Benefits realisation

- **Cashable Savings** are quantified in terms of money saved that contribute towards closing the council's budget gap. These are real budget reductions, measurable cost avoidance, and income generation opportunities.
- **Non-cashable savings** relate to people or processes being more productive (i.e. doing more for less), reducing the cost of service delivery, reducing errors, duplication and multiple hand-offs, but do not necessarily result in a cashable saving.
- **Customer benefits** relate to improved satisfaction, a better experience (quicker response and resolution time, direct access to information), including online and digital experience.



Transformation Programme Governance





Service Reviews

- Service Reviews to consider:
 - Outcomes, levels of service, if non-statutory should we stop providing?
- Delivery options:
 - In house
 - Shared service
 - Procurement
 - Shared procurement
 - Special purpose vehicle e.g. Trust, "Teckal" company
 - Shared Service Plus with a shared workforce between 2 or more councils



Service reviews

- Best way to deliver the service
- Move to other service delivery models where it makes sense
- Evaluate Shared Service Plus and explore interest with other districts.



Commercial

- Commercial Strategy
- Behaving in a more business like way adopting the skills and culture of commercial organisations.
- Being business friendly promoting local economic growth and prosperity.



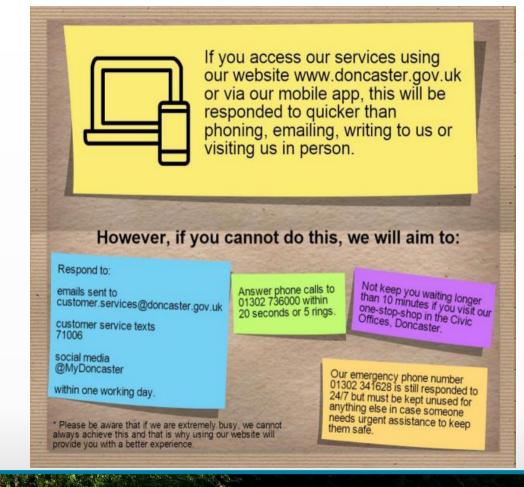
Lean processes

- "We've always done it this way".
- Process reviews:
 - focus on the customer journey
 - eliminate unnecessary and wasteful steps
 - Implemented as soon as possible to realise the savings
- Staff empowered to push work and decisions nearer the customer
- Professional officers will be free from low level queries and only deal with complex cases
- Only lean processes go forward to be made digital



Nudge theory

- Simply put, nudges aim to influence the choices we make, but without taking away the power to choose
- Nudges are beneficial as we don't always think and decide logically and consciously, weighing up all of the costs and benefits





Digital Infrastructure

- A single view of the customer is key
- Seek to resolve at first point of contact whether web or telephone
- Where we work won't affect customer service
- Improved IT and telephony will deliver a connected council
- Significant investment required to deliver the digital infrastructure
- Digital self service will drive out costs and it is key that Members fully support it



Digital by design to become digital by default

When we say Digital by default we mean a portal online will be the default contact point.







Making digital by default inclusive

- 10% of adults will always need assistance due to severe disability or lack of literacy
- Inclusion comes through Customer Service Assisted Digital Service:
 - Telephone
 - Web chat
 - Face to face
 - Outreach
- The key aim of assisted digital is to increase the numbers able to use the 'digital by default' services for themselves.



Customer Service Assisted Digital Service

- Face-to-face: Outreach visit or at a Council location using customer's own device or desktop PCs.
- **Telephone**: Can be guided over the phone to complete themselves or customer services operator can register and then complete for customer
- Web-chat: Customer services operator can support the customer through the process when they are already online and require intervention / support
- The key aim of assisted digital is to increase the numbers able to use the 'digital by default' services for themselves.



Flexible Working Principles

- Flexible working will be the norm
- Customer self-service and digital engagement will be maximised
- New IT and technology solutions will underpin collaboration and communication
- We will have smaller, flexible, generic working spaces
- The employee employer relationship will be underpinned by trust: employees will have greater flexibility and autonomy to fulfil their roles where benefits to the business can be demonstrated (the win-win)

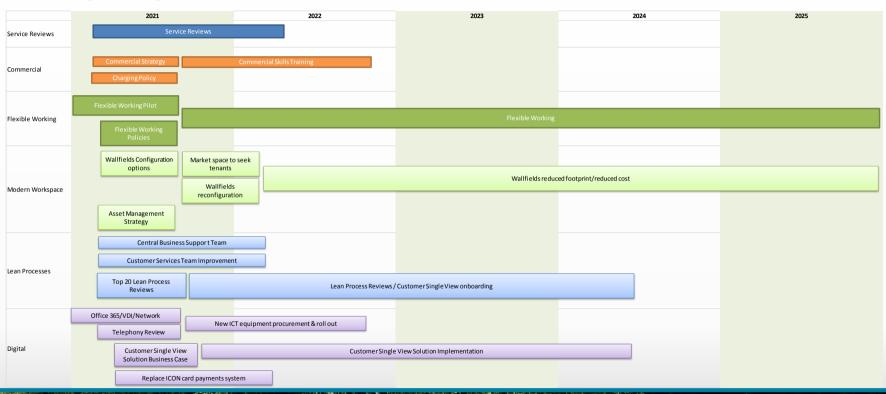


Modern workspaces

- Most employees will not have an assigned workspace. Instead, each time they
 go to the office they can book an available workspace that meets their needs at
 that moment
- Our workspace needs to support individual and collaborative working in both informal and formal settings, including:
 - Banks of bookable desks for regular use by different staff
 - Individual desks in quiet areas
 - Standing countertops for quickly checking email or making a phone call
 - Informal spaces for face to face collaboration to solve problems
 - A mixture of formal meeting rooms, informal meeting spaces and pods



Timeline



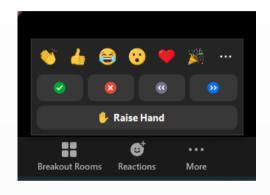


Risks

- Insufficient resources having the right people available at the right time
- Benefits not being clearly defined, delivered or communicated
- Lack of buy-in/support Members and staff
- Financial imperatives overriding transformation ambitions 'savings' and 'transformation' being perceived as separate, potentially competing activities
- Forgetting support services in the change



Questions



Please use "Raise Hand" and Richard will come to you for your question

