

## **SAVING PROPOSALS**

### **SERVICE RECONFIGURATION AND REDUCTIONS**

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

##### **Office of the Chief Executive**

##### **OCE1b Reduction of staffing - Efficiency**

###### **Background**

This proposal relates to a reduction in staffing across the Office of the Chief Executive. Specifically:

- 2 posts from the Overview and Scrutiny Team

###### **Rationale**

The proposal relating to a reduction in the Overview and Scrutiny Support Team is based on a shift towards the Directorates providing support to their respective Overview & Scrutiny Committees with forward planning and Democratic Services bring responsible for arranging and administering all meetings. In addition, the Chief Executive and AD Strategy and Performance will continue to provide strategic input.

###### **Financial Savings**

The estimated savings for 2011/12 are £0.100m.

###### **Service Implications and Impact**

The internal impact of the reduction to the Overview and Scrutiny Team will be on Directors or nominated directorate leads, who will need to have a close involvement with O&S forward planning, and Democratic Services who will be fully managing agendas and production of minutes etc for all aspects OSCs. The impact to Members will be a reduction in officer capacity to undertake research and to support the development of items for OSCs.

##### **OCE7 Directorate Reprovision / Non Priority Services: Non-renewal of 'Credit Union' funding**

###### **Background**

This proposal relates to the non-renewal of Credit Union funding when the current contract expires at the end of 2010/11. The Credit Union is a body that Mid Beds previously funded in the sum of £100,000 over 3 years, to help support local people with, for example, small scale, low interest loans.

The scheme initially targeted 500 members – at the end of 2009/10 there were only 94.

*Appendix amended as per the decision of the Executive on 2 November 2010 where it was agreed "to move the following proposals, OCE1, HT1, CSS2 and CSS9, from Appendix A (efficiencies for consultation) to Appendix B (service reconfigurations and reductions for consultations)*

### **Rationale**

As 2010/11 is in the last year of the 'legacy' finding commitment, there is an opportunity to simply not renew it in 2011/12.

### **Financial Savings**

The estimated savings for 2011/12 are £0.031m savings.

### **Service Implications and Impact**

With low demand the implications of this budget reduction will be minimal.

### **OCE8 Directorate Reprovision / Non Priority Services: 10% cut to core Voluntary and Community Sector grants**

#### **Background**

10% cut to core VCS Grants over 2 years (5% each year). This proposal is in the context of the core funding provided to 7 organisations - totalling £400,000 per annum.

#### **Rationale**

The current arrangements are a carry over from the legacy authorities. There is an opportunity to review the levels of grant, identify any efficiencies and ensure outcomes fully contribute to our priorities.

#### **Financial Savings**

The estimated savings for 2011/12 are £0.020m. A further £0.020m will be saved for 2012/13.

#### **Service Implications and Impact**

There will be less resource for key voluntary sector organisations across Central Bedfordshire provided by the Council.

The impact on residents will be a potential reduction in service from Citizens' Advice Bureaus, Bedford Race Equality Council, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, Community & Voluntary Service Mid and North Bedfordshire, and Voluntary & Community Action Central Bedfordshire.