

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

<b>Title/Subject Matter:</b>	Facing the Future
<b>Meeting/Date:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) – 3rd April 2014
<b>Executive Portfolio:</b>	Executive Councillor for Resources
<b>Report by:</b>	Assistant Director (Finance and Resources)
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All

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**Executive Summary:**

In response to reductions in government funding, the Facing the Future process commenced in September 2013. Its purpose was to find significant ongoing savings in the period to 2018/19. The Overview and Scrutiny Panels put considerable effort into assessing all the Council's areas of activity and made recommendations on suggestions that should be taken forward for implementation or more detailed evaluation.

The Panels' recommendations were submitted to the Cabinet. The Cabinet decided that:

- (a) the list of suggestions would be categorised into service areas and cascaded down to the Heads of Service to create an implementation plan, in consultation with Executive Leader, Managing Director and Portfolio Holders;
- (b) priority would be given to those suggestions that resulted in "quick wins" or gave the best returns within a shortest timescale; and
- (c) those suggestions deemed to have most impact on services to the public should be held in abeyance until the financial impact of the items in list 1 and 2 have been fully investigated.

The Scrutiny Panels expressed a willingness to assist the Cabinet with specific tasks on Facing the Future proposals and requested future reports on progress of the overall Facing the Future Project, the effect of the Project on the performance of the Council against the Corporate Plan and on individual savings proposals.

The Economic Well-Being Panel has requested a report on progress of those items deemed to have "Limited Service Impact". This report contains the information that was requested.

**Recommendation:**

To note the work that has been undertaken to implement the "Limited Service Impact" savings suggestions, which were identified through the Facing the Future process and the arrangements that are being put in place to manage the remaining

suggestions made through Facing the Future.

## **1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT/PURPOSE?**

- 1.1 This report contains a summary of the “Limited Service Impact” savings suggestions, which were identified through the Facing the Future process and have been implemented. It also refers to the effect on the Council’s financial position.

## **2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This report enables the Panel to commence its role monitoring the progress of the Facing the Future process and its impact on the Council.

## **3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ANALYSIS**

- 3.1 The Panels have considered every area of Council activity, including the statutory duties, performance standards, manpower, other financial information and options for the future.

- 3.2 The full list of suggestions will be maintained so it can be checked that every item has been addressed. In addition, Overview and Scrutiny will:

- monitor progress of the overall FTF Project;
- monitor the effect of Facing the Future on the performance of the Council against the Corporate Plan, and
- review individual savings proposals.

## **4. KEY IMPACTS/RISKS? HOW WILL THEY BE ADDRESSED?**

- 4.1 The items that have an impact on the public have been identified. Impacts and risks will be assessed when assessment of specific proposals takes place.

## **5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 5.1 The “Limited Service Impact” suggestions, which are being taken forward immediately, will be incorporated into the budget from 2014/15.

- 5.2 A Corporate Programme and Project Management Governance Group has been established whose remit will include overseeing the delivery of the Facing the Future project. Dedicated project management resources will be made available and a project plan is being devised through which the remainder of the suggestions will be managed. Monitoring reports will be submitted to Members as part of the usual budget management cycle.

## **6. LINK TO THE LEADERSHIP DIRECTION**

- 6.1 The Council’s Corporate Plan will inform future budget decisions that will be made during the Facing the Future process.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Consultation will be undertaken on the Council’s budget and on specific proposals being considered for implementation, which have been identified by Facing the Future.

## **8. IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Legal, Financial, IT and other implications will be considered as part of each individual proposal.

## **9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 9.1 The Council needs to make significant ongoing savings at least in the period to 2018/19. Facing the Future is a structured process that forms part of a systematic assessment of the Council's options for making the savings it needs to find in a prioritised order. This report provides information in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny's role monitoring progress of the overall FTF Project.

## **10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

**Appendix – Facing the Future – Limited Service Impact.**


## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report and Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13th February 2014.


Report and Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) held on 11th February 2014.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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