

 Brent	<p style="text-align: center;">Schools Forum 14 January 2015</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Strategic Director of Children and Young People</p>
<p>For consultation</p>	
<p>Brent Council Budget Consultation 2015-16</p>	

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Brent Council, along with local authorities across the country, faces significant financial challenges over the next few years, as local government has suffered a disproportionately high share of public sector funding reductions since 2010. The council has to set its budget for 2015/16 in March and its financial plans for future years. Savings of at least £53.9m will need to be agreed, most of which will fall in 2015/16. Over the medium term, to 2018/19, £100m of savings will be required, forcing the council to reduce its net revenue budget by between one third and a half of the current level, on top of savings that have already been delivered since 2010.
- 1.2 In response to this financial challenge, officers have prepared savings options for members. These have been considered by the council's Cabinet and agreed as a basis for consultation during January and February, with final decision-making taking place in February and March.
- 1.3 A report is attached which explains the background and the council's financial position in more detail. Attached as Appendices are a list of potential cuts right across the council. These relate to the council's General Fund only – that is excluding the DSG. These include some proposals which affect schools but are outside the Children and Young People's (CYP) Department, namely no longer funding school crossing patrols and closing the Welsh Harp Centre. In addition, there are budget reductions of approximately 20 per cent shown in the CYP Department's schedule. More detail is attached on these so that schools can consider the implications.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Schools Forum is asked to consider whether they wish to make a response to the council's budget consultation, and if so the content of that response. Schools Forum is also asked to consider whether there are any implications from proposed council budget reductions which warrant further discussion

Appendices:

Cabinet report on the budget

Background Papers:

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