

21 March 2018

Tough decisions: about the council's budget and savings proposals

About the proposals:

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| How much does the council need to save? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• East Sussex County Council's total budget for the year beginning April 2018 is £371million. That is a reduction of £17 million based on last year. |
| How much does Adult Social Care need to save? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As a department, Adult Social Care needs to save nearly £10 million in the year beginning April 2018. |
| Where can I find information about the proposals? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council published their savings proposals in the Cabinet papers for 23 January. They are online below: https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=2974&Ver=4• The papers and minutes for Full Council on 6 February provide further detail on the proposals and are the final agreed version: https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=2980&Ver=4• You can also ask for these in hard copy by calling Democratic Services on 01273 481955. |
| Why have you added new proposals? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposals about changes to the Terence Higgins Trust (THT) service and extra information about day services have been included in the consultation from 19 March.• Our ongoing consultation includes a savings target of £59,000 from day centre services. The work done so far in reviewing these services has shown we need additional information to help us make a decision on how to find these savings. |

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| | <p>Therefore, the review of this service area has now been extended to include the day service at Warwick House, as well as three other day services we fund in the county run by an outside provider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's important to stress that no decision has been made yet and we'd encourage people to take part in the consultation to ensure their views can be taken into account when cabinet makes a final decision in June. |
| <p>Where is the rest of the budget spent?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care gross budget is £253m, the net budget for 2017/18 is £168m. • Aside from staffing, the rest of the budget is spent on community care. This includes the community and residential / nursing services that make up people's packages of care. |
| <p>What about the fund for social care announced by the Government?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We welcome the announcement of additional funding for Adult Social Care, and our funding allocation will be £1.6 million – elected members will make decisions around how this is to be spent at the 26 June meeting. |
| <p>How many savings are outlined for Milton Grange and Firwood?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposals outline that £1.232 million needs to be saved, and that East Sussex County Council will review these services to see how it might be achieved. The public consultation will help this process. |
| <p>What's the proposal for the Stroke Association?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal being considered by full council is to remove 50 per cent of the total funding the Stroke Associations receives for the Stroke Recovery Service. • The three Clinical Commissioning Groups in East Sussex fund the other 50 per cent of the service, so while the service may be reduced, there will still be stroke-specific services available to stroke survivors and their carers. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition both East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust provide stroke rehabilitation services in the community. Stroke rehabilitation beds are also commissioned at Bexhill Irvine Unit and Sussex Rehabilitation Centre. • There are also a number of other services in East Sussex that can provide information and support services to stroke survivors and their carers. |
| <p>What about staff affected by the proposals? Have unions been consulted about this?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union representatives met with members of the Adult Social Care Departmental Management team on Thursday 5th March. • Following the meeting, a joint Unison and GMB statement was produced and shared with all staff. This includes how staff can access union support during the consultation process. |
| <p>When do decisions get made?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposals were discussed at Cabinet on 23 January. • The cabinet's recommendations were discussed at a full Council meeting on 6 February. • Adult Social Care launched a public consultation on the impact of the proposals to run from 15 February to 25 April 2018. • The results of that consultation will go back to decision makers in June for final agreements or amendments. |
| <p>As no decisions about the precise services affected will be made or enacted until the consultation is</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timescales for consultation and decision making are built into to our annual planning, as we know we won't be able to deliver full year savings. • The amount of money that we need to save in 2018/19 won't change. This means |

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| <p>over, will the proportions of any savings be adjusted, so that they do not apply to the whole of 2018/19?</p> | <p>that the amount services need to save won't change. It will just be spread over a shorter time period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are reasons why the proposed savings cannot be made within year, we will have to find the saving from elsewhere. |
| <p>How can you save all this money in 18/19 if the decision isn't being made until June?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care's savings proposals cover lots of different areas, which will have different contractual commitments attached to them. • East Sussex County Council still have a statutory duty, so their priority will always be ensuring that clients with eligible needs have alternative arrangements in place. |
| <p>You say you need to move away from 'preventative services'. But aren't the East Sussex Better Together and Connecting for You programmes all about investment in prevention? How does this match up?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Sussex County Council knows that these decisions will have an impact on other health and social care services, with far reaching implications. • However, with the levels of savings Adult Social Care need to make East Sussex County Council are forced to look at increasingly limited options. They are working closely with partners – both in the statutory and voluntary sector - to understand the long term impact and put in mitigations wherever possible. • East Sussex Better Together* and Connecting 4 You** are our two programmes for health and social care integration. As people live longer, they have increasingly complex needs and our current health and social care system needs to be designed in a way that best meets those needs. East Sussex has an ageing population and demand on services is increasing. Not changing isn't an option. • Both programmes are looking at ways to ensure that health and social care is designed as a whole system, but in different ways based on the specific needs in |

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| | <p>those areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These two programmes also form our ‘placed-based’ responses to our local NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) in Sussex and East Surrey. <p>*East Sussex Better Together covers Hastings & Rother, Eastbourne Hailsham and Seaford Clinical Commissioning Group areas, and also key partner East Sussex Healthcare Trust.</p> <p>**Connecting 4 You covers High Weald Lewes Havens Clinical Commissioning Group area.</p> |
| <p>What difference will the £400,000 saved from the grass cutting budget (as suggested at Cabinet) make to Adult Social Care?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The money identified from the Highways budget will be added to the frontline services (the Community Care Budget) and will help reduce the impact of savings for operational staff such as social care workers. • This supports the statutory (as set out in law) service that East Sussex County Council need to provide to adults with eligible needs. |
| <p>Is it a done deal?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. • However, if the proposals change, Adult Social Care will still need to make the nearly £10 million saving to their budget. So if not from the proposed areas, then it will need to come from somewhere else within their budget. • Cabinet will make decisions about the proposals on 26 June. |
| <p>Are all other council departments (Highways etc.) subject to a similar proportionate savings proposal as Adult Social Care? With ASC funding services for the very</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council set its budget for the year at the meeting of Full Council in February. The agreed budget includes savings for all departments. The size of departmental budgets varies significantly. • In addition, for some departments they have large contracts which commit high |

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| <p>vulnerable, surely proposed savings should be no greater for these groups than for other departments, and ideally proportionately less?</p> | <p>levels of spend for the contracted period e.g waste facilities and highways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statutory duties have to be considered when looking at possible areas where savings can be made. The size and structure of the Adult Social Care budget means that the value of savings required from the department are higher than other departments.• Below is a table which shows the budgets allocated to the council's departments and their respective savings targets, for comparison. |
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| Department | 2017/18 Rebased Net Budget £'000s | 2018/19 Savings Targets Oct 17 £'000s | 2018/19 Revised Savings Target Jan 18 £'000s |
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| Business Services/Orbis | 21,282 | 1,396 | 1,396 |
| Children's Services (excl. schools) | 68,562 | 5,404 | 4,029 |
| Communities, Economy & Transport | 63,384 | 2,119 | 1,942 |
| Governance Services | 7,280 | 84 | 84 |
| Centrally Held Budgets | 35,835 | 0 | n/a |
| TOTAL ESCC (excluding ASC/ESBT) | 196,343 | 9,003 | 7,451 |
| Adult Social Care Non-ESBT | 39,793 | 2,960 | 2,191 |
| East Sussex Better Together - ASC | 128,815 | 9,906 | 7,409 |
| TOTAL | 364,951 | 21,869 | 17,051 |

This table shows the budgets allocated to the council's departments and their respective savings targets, for comparison.

About the consultation:

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| <p>Why are you consulting? There's not much scope for influence.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It's a legal requirement that East Sussex County Council undertake a public consultation when they are making proposals about services.• Consultations aren't the same as a vote, however – East Sussex County Council know that people are likely to disagree with the proposals. Adult Social Care want to better understand the impact and risks associated with those proposals, and if there are any alternatives or other ideas that Adult Social Care can identify.• Having as much information as possible about the proposals and how they will affect people will also help our decision making process. |
| <p>I want to comment. How?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A public consultation began on 15 February and run for 10 weeks until 25 April 2018. Anyone can respond. People who use the services outlined will be informed, either by the provider or by Adult Social Care. You can respond to service specific sections or make an overall comment – however you wish.• You don't have to answer the online consultation to take part – although if you want to – it's here: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/ascsavings .• You can record a video, send us a letter, or have someone else put down your words - whatever works best for you.• Some service providers will hold meetings, or offer support to give comments on the proposals. However you decide to comment, your views will be counted and a |

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| | <p>report will be presented to decision makers.</p> |
| <p>I want to start a petition / raise awareness about what's happening. What will you do with it?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are welcome to start a petition or any other form or publicity. There's more information on the consultation website about this: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/ascsavings • It will be presented to decision makers along with the consultation report. A petition will count as one submission, regardless of how many people sign. |
| <p>Who else can I speak to about this?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation is public, so you can contact anyone about this. Your local MPs, elected members for East Sussex County Council and district and borough councils have been made aware of the consultation. You can find out how to contact them on our website: https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1 • Other partners such as NHS services, service providers and local voluntary sector representatives are also made aware and will usually comment on our proposals. |
| <p>I want to make a complaint about the proposals</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If people feel unhappy about the proposals and want to complain about them, that's absolutely within their rights. These comments will form part of the consultation. • Concerns about the consultation process itself will be overseen by the Complaints and Feedback Team |
| <p>Where can I ask questions and get answers?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the consultation period East Sussex County Council will take all questions as part of the process, and these will be presented to decision makers as part of the report process. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due to the scale of enquiries, East Sussex County Council cannot guarantee individual answers at each stage, nor will they be responding to individual questions via social media or email. Adult Social Care will be issuing a 'Frequently Asked Questions' briefing and incorporating those into our consultation so that any emerging themes or issues are addressed head on.• If you are affected by the proposals and you have specific questions about the services you receive, please contact either your service provider or Adult Social Care.• If you are a journalist, please contact our press office through the usual channels. |
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