

Budget Option 2019/20 – 2020/21

Cumulative Net Savings

Reference:	ACH 1
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2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000	2020/21 £'000
0	15	15

Director Responsible for Delivery	Strategic Director Adult Care, Housing and Public Health
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Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Cllr David Roche
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Finance Business Partner	Julie Copley
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Proposal Description	Proposed reduction in funding for the Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind Sight and Sound service
Details of Proposal (including implications on service delivery)	<p>Following a review of the sensory offer, it was determined that there was a need to develop local services to assist people with sensory disabilities to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible and prevent dependency on statutorily provided services. On the 12 September 2016, Cabinet agreed to fund the development of a sensory impairment service for people with both hearing and sight impairment with a budget of £140,000 per annum.</p> <p>The service called Rotherham Sight and Sound, located at Ship Hill in Rotherham town centre commenced in October 2017. It is delivered by Sheffield Royal Society for Blind. Funding for the project was agreed for a two year period.</p> <p>The original proposal was to end funding for the service at the end of the contract term. £93,000 of the overall £140,000 budget comes from alternative cost centres and these have already been considered within other savings proposals. This left a balance of £47,000 which was proposed to be released from September 2019 and thus delivering a saving of £23,500 in 2019/20 and a further £23,500 in 2020/21.</p> <p>Following consideration of feedback from the Council's budget consultation, there are significant changes to the original proposal for the Rotherham Sight & Sound service. The original proposal was for funding to end following expiration of the original contract period in 2019/20.</p> <p>It is now recommended that the Rotherham Sight & Sound</p>

Appendix 1A (i)

	<p>service is retained on a slightly reduced budget for two years (with the option for a third year extension). This will be with a contract value of £125,000 per annum. The new service specification will incorporate an enhanced offer for advice for the deaf/hearing impaired community.</p> <p>A number of responses pertaining to Sight & Sound were received via social media and through face to face events with the Council Leader/Chief Executive asserting opposition to the ending of funding for the Sight & Sound service. 20% of respondents to the Council's on-line budget consultation cited the Sight & Sound proposal as one they wished to comment on. All responses received opposed the proposed ending of funding,</p> <p>In addition to the on-line content, 24 letters were received from a range of individuals and services supporting people with sensory impairments; all opposing the ending of funding for the service and citing the adverse impact this would have on their lives of those who use the service and their peers.</p> <p>A specific face to face consultation event was undertaken on the 5 December 2018 at Talbot Lane church. This was attended by 64 people using the Sight & Sound service (or affiliated to it) with both visual and hearing impairments. At the event, all attendees voiced their opposition to the proposal and cited the direct impact this would have on them in terms of reducing their specialist support, driving up demand for statutory services, increasing social isolation and breaking up friendship groups.</p> <p>Officers will work closely with the Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind to co-design a revised service specification to support the new contractual arrangements.</p>
Implications on other Services (identify which services and possible impact)	The service supports the Council's Adult Care Directorate with an enhanced sensory offer above the statutory Care Act 2014 requirements. The proposed revisions to the service specification will further enhance the advice needs of deaf/hearing impaired community.
Support required from Corporate Services – Finance, HR, Legal, ICT (please specify)	Support from Legal, Finance and Procurement functions to put a new contract in place.
Reduction in Staffing Posts (FTEs)	The provider will determine – no direct impact for the Council.
Reduction in Head Count	The provider will determine – no direct impact for the Council.

Decision Maker : Either Cabinet or Officer/Management Action	
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