



Corporate Policy and
Resources Committee

15th January 2026

Subject: Changes to the Terms of Reference of the Working Group known as the 'Savings Board'

Report by:

Director of Finance and Assets (S151)

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To consider changes to the Terms of Reference of the Member Working Group known as the Savings Board at the request of the Administration

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That the reviewed Terms of Reference for the Working Group previously known as the Savings Board, as shown at appendix 1, be approved; and
2. That, subject to recommendation 1 being approved, the Committee nominate five cross-party Members to sit on the Member Board for Efficiencies, Income Generation, and Savings.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None arising as a result of this report.

Financial: FIN/134/26/CPR/SL

None as a direct result of this report

Staffing: None arising as a result of this report.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights: None arising as a result of this report.

Risk Assessment : None arising as a result of this report.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: None arising as a result of this report.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Working Group: Savings, Efficiencies and Income Generation – CP&R Committee
14th November 2024

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes

☐

No

x

Key Decision:

Yes

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No

x

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The current administration have advised they would like to update the terms of reference for the Working Group for Savings, Efficiencies and Income Generation (known as the Savings Board), to include a change of membership from three administration members and two opposition members to five cross party Members.
- 1.2 Other amendments include a change to the title of the Group to be the 'Member Board for Efficiencies, Income Generation, and Savings', as well as a focus on online meetings. The proposed reviewed terms of reference can be found at appendix 1. The original terms of reference for the Board were agreed at CP&R Committee on 14th November 2024. These can be found for reference at appendix 1a, with proposed amendments highlighted.

2. Main Report

- 2.1 The Savings Board was approved at the Council's CP&R Committee in November 2024 with the purpose of: -
 - To keep under review the delivery of the approved Medium Term Financial Strategy
 - To provide biannual updates to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Policy and Resources Committee of the delivery of the Medium-Term Financial strategy.
 - To provide the opportunity for political input into further funding opportunities for savings and income generation.
 - To develop Members' understanding of the Budgeting process and Financial decision making.
 - To support officers in engaging residents, businesses, town and parish councils to improve our budget consultation process.
- 2.2 Since its inception the board has met once on 9th January 2025 and looked at potential recruitment controls as a way to mitigate potential budget shortfalls in the future.
- 2.3 The group has not met since due to a number of reasons, these include: -
 - The announcement of a programme of local government reorganisation in England
 - The launch of a Fair Funding Review into Council funding and grants
 - The announcement that a full Business Rates reset would take place for the first time since the current system was implemented in April 2013.

- A change in the Administration at the Council
- 2.4 Due to so much uncertainty it was felt that to take decisions without knowing the funding the Council would receive past the current year could lead to changes in service delivery which ultimately might not be needed.
- 2.5 With the Council now in the process of setting its next Medium Term Financial Plan with the support of a three year financial settlement from government it means that if savings or income generating schemes are required to help alleviate any budget gaps the Board can be stood up to look at these as they come forward.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 As a result of the Council now having a new administration a request has been made that the terms of reference be reviewed and amended. It is therefore recommended that
- the reviewed Terms of Reference for the Working Group previously known as the Savings Board, as shown at appendix 1, be approved; and
 - subject to recommendation 1 being approved, the Committee nominate five cross-party Members to sit on the Member Board for Efficiencies, Income Generation, and Savings.