

Amendment by Conservative Group

Item No. 8.2

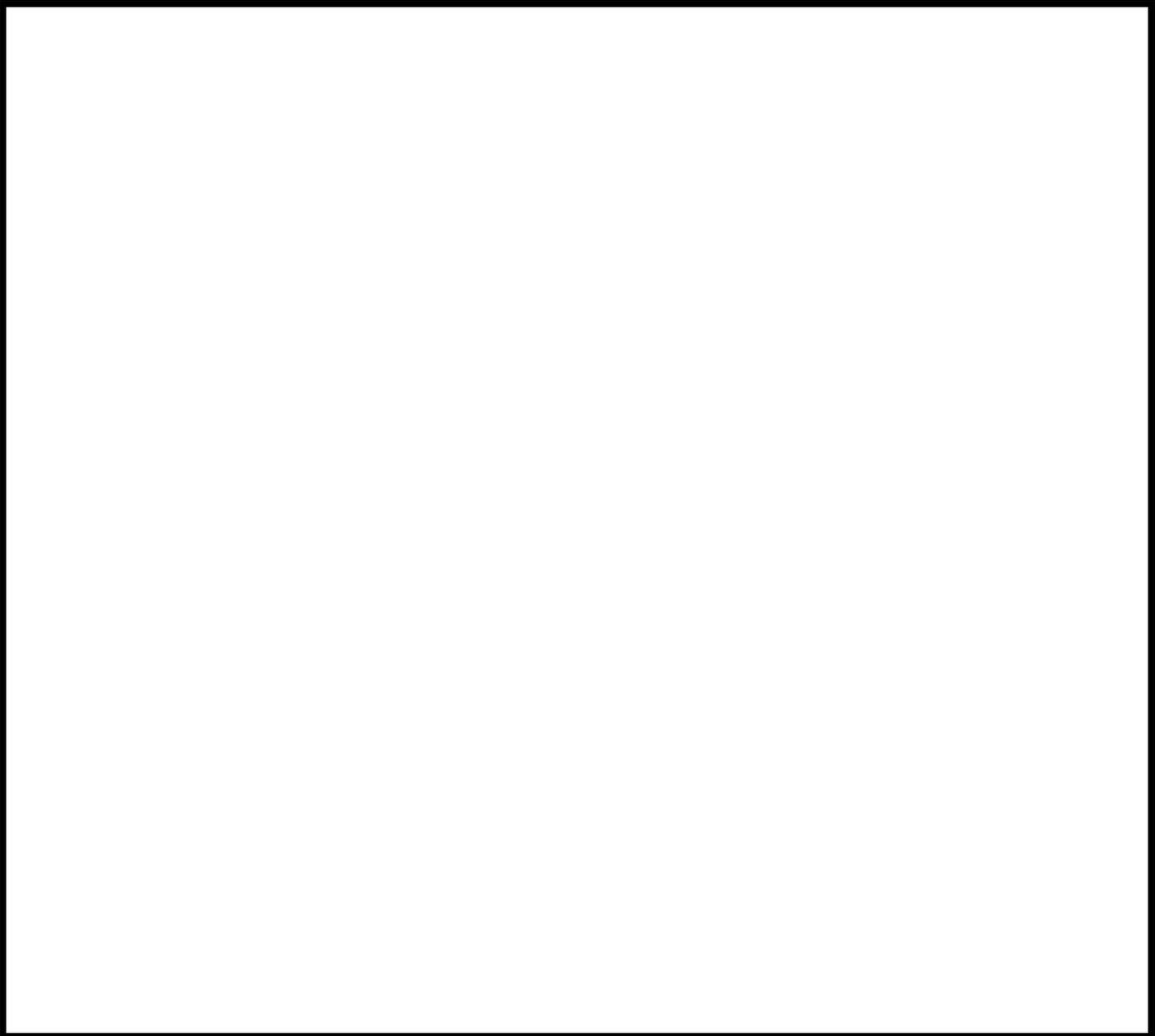
Council Transformation programme: Status Report

Council notes the contents of the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.

Council notes with concern that the measures in the report do nothing to close the budget gap highlighted in December 2014 and January 2015 reports and that the unravelling of the Administration's 2015/16 budget and a lack of budgetary control, particularly in Health and Social Care, adds further pressures approaching £30m in the short term.

Council agrees that the Transformation Programme must be enhanced to deliver far greater savings and more radical transformation. The only alternative being greater emphasis on service prioritisation which will mean cuts to frontline services affecting the Edinburgh public. Council therefore agrees to the following actions:

- Council considers that the Future Operating Model as part of "Organise to Deliver" is complex and only defined in a limited way and therefore agrees that it be presented to the next meeting of the Finance and resources Committee for scrutiny prior to implementation.
- Council agrees that any severance policy for staff must be affordable and adds to the proposed changes that all severance packages should target a one year payback period with an upper limit of 1.1 years to bring these in line with other parts of the public sector in Scotland. Subject to an affordability test and the identification of funds for a VR/VERA programme that some of the savings from this cap be reinvested to further improve the minimum payment as highlighted in paragraph 3.100 of the report. Following these changes Council agrees the consultation in Recommendation 1.6.
- Council notes with dismay the failure of the iPFM programme to deliver its projected savings and that these were considerably less than the contractually guaranteed savings outlined in the ABM proposal that this replaced. The Asset Management Strategy must address this issue to avoid the overspend in this area further affecting vital frontline services and all options should be considered in the report to come in August 2015.
- Council agrees that service prioritisation options should consider the following initial proposals which would reduce cost to the Council while limiting the adverse impact on the public and encourage new means of service provision such as a culture trust, stair lighting charges and reconsider Council's relationship with ALOEs
- Council agrees that dogmatic policy statements, which protect the vested interest of the producers of services rather than service users, should have no part to play in modern policy development or service provision and agrees to a policy review to seek new ways to provide services in order to make savings in ways that protect the service provided to the public. These to include outsourcing where this is shown to be Best Value and the use of Compulsory redundancy as a policy of last resort where redeployment and other severance schemes fail to bring the change required or predicted.



Moved by Councillor Whyte

Seconded by Councillor Balfour