

How do we become more efficient and balance the books ?

Item	Comments
<p>Shared Services The Council is already involved in the CBC / EDDC Partnership:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Should we consider full partnership with other Councils or is 2 enough ?2. Are there specific services which should be joined up across a wider area ?3. Are there any specific partners we should work with or avoid ?4. Where might we benefit from joining up with the Health Sector or the County Council ?	
<p>Increase Fees and charges :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. For current charges which are the areas we charge too much or too little ?2. Any areas where we should stop charging ?3. Any areas where we should start charging ?	

Outsource services

Outsourcing services often means sacrificing a certain loss of local control in exchange for reduced costs and greater efficiencies.

For example, transferring some amenity services to a charitable trust will result in an immediate savings as a charity can claim rate relief.

1. Where might we best employ outsourcing ?
2. Which areas of our services should we keep close local control over ?
3. Would any services run by the Council be suitable for a management buy out ?

Rationalise accommodation

1. Do Councils manage their accommodation assets effectively ?
2. Are there any specific areas where rationalisation would be beneficial ?
3. Does it matter where the office accommodation is as long as the customer is getting a good service ?

Review staff terms and conditions

1. Is there a perception that Council staff receive more or better perks than colleagues in the private sector ?
2. Do the larger more socially aware companies provide better terms and conditions ?

Local pay discretion

1. Most Councils are part of the national collective agreement on pay
2. Council workers have not received a pay increase in 2 years
3. Should Local Government employers locally decide pay based on local conditions and productivity as opposed to being part of national agreements ?

More partnership procurement:

Similar question to outsourcing and shared services.

1. Should Councils restrict

their procurement to the best price and quality suppliers irrespective of their location ?

2. To what extent should local Councils “buy local” ?

Invest to save

This might mean the Council investing some of its own financial resources / property ?

1. Should we invest more in amenity sites such as Highcliffe Castle ?
2. Should we partner with developers / financiers to produce a “return” on Council owned land ?
i.e. some car parks, other land holdings ?

Borrow to save

1. Should Councils borrow money to invest in services ?
2. What should be the pre conditions for doing this ?
3. Would local taxpayers be prepared to pay additional Council Tax where a

venture which has borrowed money failed ? (in the same way as shareholders of a company do)

More liberal Planning

1. Is the Council's approach to planning too restrictive ?
2. If so in which areas is this most apparent ?
3. Do too many planning applications get turned down ?
4. In order to promote economic growth should the Council be more liberal in its approach to Planning applications ?
5. Can you provide any examples of where point 4. should have applied ?

Increase Council Tax

1. The Council Tax has not been increased for 2 years.
2. Capping means that the Council can only increase Council Tax by a maximum of 2%
3. Is modest increases in Council Tax to keep

broadly in line with inflation
a good strategy ?

4. What would be a viable
alternative approach ?

Stop some services

1. Are there any non statutory
services the Council should
stop providing ?
2. Are there services which
could be reduced instead of
being stopped altogether

Some Examples :

Economic Development

Tourism

Community Development

Grants to C.A.B., Red House

Museum

Sports Pitches

Highcliffe Castle (current subsidy

£140k, cost to mothball £60k)

Childrens' Play Areas

C.C.T.V.