

BUDGET CUT ASSESSMENT FORM

Budget Cut Assessment Form REDUCED FUNDING TO HEALTHWATCH		Ref No C12	Responsible AD	Responsible Finance Manager	Responsible HR Manager	Responsible Lawyer	Responsible EIA Officer
Description of Proposal:							
Local Healthwatch The local authority receives funds to establish a local Healthwatch service for signposting and consumer voice as set out in Health and Social Care Act 2012 and also in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 that preceded it. Healthwatch has to be an independent social enterprise as set out in the Act so this could not be provided in house. Healthwatch is required to provide information and advice about access to health and social care services and choices that service users have, they also have a duty to gather share and interpret the views and experiences of residents to inform the work of the Health and Well-Being Boards, Healthwatch England and CQC. Healthwatch is also expected to carry out enter and view observations and investigations of health and social care premises using trained representatives. Local Healthwatch must operate effectively and provide value for money and the LA is responsible for ensuring this is the case. Healthwatch also has to provide an annual report which has to be sent to NHS England, Healthwatch England and the CCG.							
The service is currently funded to the value of £132,000 per annum. It is understood that national funding allocations of 60p per head would equate to £63,000 for the Darlington population.. It is proposed to allow the contract to run to its planned end date (31/3/17) at its current value and then to retender the contract within the more limited financial envelope.							
Some of the activities that Healthwatch undertake are not set out in statute - for example support for the Learning Disability Network, Mental Health Network, Darlington Ageing Well Network, Children and Young Peoples Collective. Healthwatch also support the equality agenda by giving young people a voice and also the BME community.							
Human Resources Impacts		Asset Management Impacts	Decommissioning Costs			Cost Shunting	
No. of posts to be deleted		Detail any released buildings/building space Identify disposal or requisition issues	In addition to HR and Asset costs identify any others e.g. early contract termination costs			Is there any known or potential to increase costs elsewhere within Council budgets	
No. of potential redundancies		If Healthwatch Budget is cut they may not be able to afford rent at Church Row.				Not within the Council budget except where there is a joint consultation with the CCG.	
Estimated Redundancy costs	No costs to the Council						

	Financial Summary				
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Estimated reduction to budget (Local Healthwatch element)	0	69,000	69,000	69,000	69,000
Redundancy Costs					
Asset Implication					
Decommissioning Costs					
Known Cost Shunting					
Overheads		2,221	2,193	2,177	2,177
NET Budget Reduction	0	71,221	71,193	71,177	71,177

Equality Impact Assessment

Officers have considered the proposal's relevance to Darlington Borough Council's Public Sector Equality Duty and full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken. A copy of this is available in 3 (b) Appendix 1.