

**This paper is at concept stage and is work in progress. It should be noted it has not been approved through any formal governance at this stage**

<b><i>Future Fit Project Title: Special Education Needs and Disabilities Contract Efficiency</i></b>	
<b>Type of Saving:</b>	<b>Please tick one box</b>
<b>FURTHER</b>	✓
<b>FASTER</b>	
<b>NEW</b>	
<b>CROSS CUTTING</b>	

<b><i>Corporate Plan Area:</i></b>	
	<b>Please tick one box</b>
<b>Children and Families</b>	✓
<b>Environment</b>	
<b>Open for Business</b>	
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	
<b>Cross Council Priorities</b>	

**CMR Lead:** John Campion

**SLT Lead:** Simon White

**Head of Service Lead:** John Edwards

**CMR Challenge:** Lucy Hodgson and Sheila Blagg

**Brief Project Description:**

They may be scope for a reduction in spend on SEN following the implementation of the SEND reforms. This service may be transferred into the Babcock contract which would be an opportune time to make the change.

**Purpose:**

There are significant savings required over the next three years in Education & Skills. A review has been undertaken to determine how the service can continue to meet required outcomes and Local Authority statutory duties within a significantly reduced budget. The 2013/14 controllable budget was £8.9 million (excluding Home to School Transport, and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding).

Savings of £1.8 million were allocated to the 2014/15 financial year and fully delivered in line with the savings plan.

Savings of £2.455m for Education & Skills are already included in the MTFP over the period 2015 – 2018 with the corresponding split during this period between savings from commissioned services and from retained core services being as follows:

Retained Service savings - £0.768m

Commissioned Service savings - £1.687m

Babcock was endorsed as the preferred provider of Education Services by Cabinet in June 2015. The contract start date was 01 October 2015. Cabinet agreed that the transfer of SEND services would happen at a later date – to be agreed by both parties – once the Council is confident that the new provider is in a position to effectively deliver these services.

**Outcomes of the project:**

The decision whether to transfer SEND services and the nature of the services to transfer (should that be agreed) will be determined through an early review with Babcock shortly after implementation of the contract.

There is considerable risk in reducing the capacity at this time given the pressure of statutory assessment and the need to comply with the SEND transition plan timescale. We will need to retain the conversion workforce funded through SEN reform and New Burdens grant in order to ensure compliance with the 2018 transfer date. This workforce could be part of a transfer to Babcock or could remain in house but the 3000 or so statements and Learning Disability Assessments must be converted by April 2018.

The case for a reduction of the substantive SEN assessment and Inclusion workforce is not strong based on need as assessment requests are increasing and there is significant pressure and challenge within existing resources to meet statutory timelines given the volume of demand. The number of caseworkers cannot be reduced without impacting statutory compliance unless in a transfer situation the plan writing element was to be commissioned out. Given this the following presumes that the only posts liable for reduction are those that are not directly associated with casework.

**Timescales:**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Completed By Date:</b>
Education Services in-scope transfer to Babcock	1 October 2015
Review of future SEND contract with provider	Nov 2015
SEND services transfer to Babcock (pending agreement)	2016 TBC
Further milestones on savings will be established with the provider post transfer of services	

**Risks/Impacts (E.g. risks to delivery of project – financial, political, reputational, legal, equality)**

<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Contracted provider does not agree to take a reduced service	Early conversation with the provider will take place to ensure enough lead in time to develop robust plans for the efficiency to be made.
Any reduction in the SEND conversion workforce would jeopardise statutory timescales to convert current statements to Education, Health & Care plans	Could transfer this workforce to the provider and include the conversions required as part of the contract outcomes A full review of implications of reducing the workforce will be undertaken prior to contract efficiencies being made
Any reduction in the SEN assessment and Inclusion workforce could impact on assessment completion within statutory timescales.	The plan writing element of the assessment is included in the transfer to the provider and completion within statutory timescales is included in the contract outcomes A full review of implications of reducing the workforce will be undertaken prior to contract efficiencies being made.
Reduction in management or amalgamation of existing posts within the current structure would reduce and or delay the work delivered by the service and likely mean some output ceases.	A full review of implications of reducing the workforce would be undertaken prior to contract efficiencies being made

**Budget and Proposed Project Savings**

<b>2015-16 Base Budget excluding Recharges &amp; Management Restructure (£000)</b>		<b>£5.9m for Education &amp; Skills of which £1.083m is for SEND Services</b>			
<b>Current Savings Programme – applicable to Education &amp; Skills excluding SEND (£000) &amp; RAG 2015-17</b>		<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Green Delivered</b>	584	318		
	<b>Green On Target</b>		1,025	344	
	<b>Amber</b>		152	32	
	<b>Red</b>				
	<b>Total</b>	584	1,495	376	<b>2,455</b>

<b>PROPOSED SAVINGS – SEND element of contract</b>			<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>New Savings (Further and New)</b>	<b>£000's</b>	<b>Green Delivered</b>					
		<b>Green On Target</b>					
		<b>Amber</b>					
		<b>Red</b>		<b>100</b>			<b>100</b>
		<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>			<b>100</b>
<b>Existing Savings (Faster)</b>	<b>£000's</b>	<b>Green Delivered</b>					
		<b>Green On Target</b>					
		<b>Amber</b>					
		<b>Red</b>					
		<b>Total</b>					
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>	<b>£000's</b>		<b>100</b>				<b>100</b>

Agreed By:

<b>Job Title and Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Head of Service: John Edwards	27.08.2015
Director: Simon White	27.08.2015
Head of Finance: Steph Simcox	27.08.2015