

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH CONSULTATION ON 'LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLIC HEALTH  
ALLOCATIONS 2015/16: IN-YEAR SAVINGS'**

*To:* Health Committee

*Meeting Date:* 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015

*From:* Director of Public Health

*Electoral division(s):* All

*Forward Plan ref:* N/A                      *Key decision:* No

*Purpose:* To provide the Committee with an opportunity to discuss the Department of Health consultation on 'Local authority public health allocations 2015/16: in-year savings' which ran from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015, and the response provided by the Director of Public health.

*Recommendation:* The Health Committee is asked to note the response of the Director of Public Health on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council to the Department of Health consultation on 'Local authority public health allocations 2015/16: in-year savings'

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Cambridgeshire County Council was allocated a total of £26,016k ring-fenced public health grant for 2015/16, made up of £22,155k recurrent grant allocation unchanged from 2014/15, plus £3,861k for children's public health services age 0-5, which is a new responsibility transferring from the NHS in October 2015.
- 1.2 An announcement was made in parliament on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015 that the ring-fenced public health grant to local authorities would be reduced in year by a total of £200M nationally. This is a 6.2% in year reduction in the total 2015/16 public health grant allocation to local authorities, including children's 0-5 public health services.
- 1.3 It was also announced that the distribution of the public health grant reduction across local authorities would be subject to further consultation, led by the Department of Health.

## **2. MAIN ISSUES**

- 2.1 The Department of Health consultation on the in-year reduction in the 2015/16 public health grant to local authorities was launched on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015, without prior notification of the launch date, and closed on 28<sup>th</sup> August. There was no public meeting of the Health Committee during this period.
- 2.2 The Department of Health put forward four options for the distribution across local authorities of the in-year grant reduction, and stated that their preferred option would be to reduce every local authority's allocation by a standard fixed rate percentage of 6.2%. The impact of this on Cambridgeshire County Council would be an in-year reduction of £1,613k. The consultation also asked how the Department of Health, Public Health England and NHS England could help local authorities to implement the saving and minimise any possible disruption to services, and how the Department of Health could best assess and understand the impact of the saving?
- 2.3 In order to ensure that a response was made from Cambridgeshire County Council within the deadline, the Director of Public Health drafted a response which was tabled for comment at a Health Committee seminar on 13<sup>th</sup> August, and circulated to Health Committee members for comment the following week. The consultation questions and the Director of Public Health's response are attached at Annex A.
- 2.4 The preferred option put forward in the Director of Public Health's response on behalf of the County Council was to devise a formula that claims a larger share of the saving from local authorities that are significantly above their target allocation. The rationale for this choice of preferred option is given in full in Annex A.

### **3.0. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

#### **3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all**

There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### **3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives**

The in-year reduction in the public health grant impacts on the Council's ability to plan and deliver public health programmes which help people to live healthy lives.

#### **3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people**

The in-year reduction in the public health grant impacts on the Council's ability to plan and deliver public health programmes which reduce health inequalities for more vulnerable or marginalised population groups.

### **4.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Resource Implications**

The implication of the Department of Health's preferred option is a reduction of £1,613k in the 2015/16 public health grant allocation to the County Council.

#### **4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications**

The public health grant is a statutorily ring-fenced grant from the Department of Health to local authorities.

#### **4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications**

There are no immediate implications within this category.

#### **4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications**

Concern has been expressed informally by Members that the DoH consultation has taken place over a period when Council meetings are less likely to be scheduled.

#### **4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement**

There are no significant implications within this category.

#### **4.6 Public Health Implications**

These are outlined in the consultation response (Annex A).

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
<i>Department of Health Consultation on 'Local Authority Public Health Allocations 2015/16: in-year savings'</i>	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-public-health-allocations-2015-to-2016">www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-public-health-allocations-2015-to-2016</a>