

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 11 June 2012

ITEM 7(g)(ii)(a)

Title: Reduction in Officer
Mobile Phones

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor Finance	Cabinet Member(s):Mrs Linda Arkley Councillor Judith Wallace
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Report from Directorate: Finance and Resources

Report Author: Barry Jackson, ICT Service Delivery Manager
Tel: 0191 643 5104

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The report is submitted to Cabinet pursuant to the Implementation Plan in relation to the Council Strategic Plan 2012/15 and Budget 2012/13 agreed by Cabinet on 28 March 2012. The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet how the proposed budget saving relating to mobile telephones issued to officers has been achieved.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet note that targeted saving of £14,400 in relation to mobiles telephones issued to officers can be achieved, and that budgets will be adjusted accordingly in year.

1.3 Forward plan:

The Council Strategic Plan and 2012/13 Budget – Implementation Plan appears on the Forward Plan for the period 1 May to 31 August 2012..

1.4 Council plan and policy framework:

The report relates to a specific item in the Council's Budget 2012/13 and is relevant to Priority 1 in the Council Strategic Plan 2012/15, Sustaining our front line services within the Council, but only spending what we can afford.

1.5 Information:

- 1.5.1 On 1 March 2012 Council agreed as part of the budget proposals to reduce the number of officer mobile phones by 20% to deliver a saving of £14,400.
- 1.5.2 Following a procurement exercise, a new 2 year contract for mobile telephony and data services was signed in January 2012 with Everything Everywhere (Orange). One of the key aspects of the new contract is the removal of a fixed monthly charge for each mobile telephone. This removal of the fixed monthly charge element across individual mobile phone contracts delivers the required saving.
- 1.5.3 Analysis of the forecasted cost of officers' mobile phones against budget has been carried out and service budgets will be reduced to reflect where those savings will arise. Budget holders will be advised of the change to their budgets.
- 1.5.4 Work is on-going to reduce the overheads and call costs of mobile telephony to the organisation, recent changes include the introduction of a voluntary salary reduction scheme for personal usage for officers. The cost of mobile telephony continues to be monitored as part of the Council's usual budget management practices.

1.6 Decision options:

- 1.6.1 Cabinet can accept that the saving will be achieved and report this outcome to council.
- 1.6.2 Cabinet can reject this report.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

The saving will be achieved in year. Budgets will be reduced proportionally once consultation with budget holders has occurred.

1.8 Appendices:

None

1.9 Contact officers:

Barry Jackson, ICT Service Delivery Manager t: 0191 643 5104
Anthony Gollings, Financial Business Manager t: 0191 643 8071

1.10 Background information:

None

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

On 1 March 2012 Council approved the general fund revenue budget for 2012/2013 that included a saving of £14,400 arising from the reduction in the cost of officer mobile phones. Section 1.5 of this report highlights how this proposed saving can be achieved and the appropriate budgets will be amended to reflect this saving.

2.2 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

Consultation has taken place with the Strategic Director of Finance and Resources and officers of the Finance Service. The Cabinet Member for Finance has been consulted on this report.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

A risk assessment has been carried out and there is no risk.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no implications relating to environment and sustainability directly arising from this report.

PART 3 – SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Strategic Director(s)
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Strategic Manager for Policy and Partnerships