

DRAFT SAVINGS PROPOSAL

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-24

Proposal Title:	Cancellation of subscriptions to benchmarking services		
Reference:	SAV / GOV 004 / 21-22	Savings Type:	Procurement
Directorate:	Governance	Savings Service Area:	Central services
Directorate Service:	Strategy, Policy and Performance	Strategic Priority Outcome:	11. The Council continuously seeks innovation and strives for excellence to embed a culture of sustainable improvement
Lead Officer and Post:	Sharon Godman - Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance	Lead Member and Portfolio:	Mayor John Biggs, Executive Mayor

Financial Impact:	Current Budget 2020-21	Savings/Income 2021-22	Savings/Income 2022-23	Savings/Income 2023-24	Total Savings/Income
Budget (£000)	22	(22)	-	-	(22)

Staffing Impact (if applicable):	Current 2020-21	FTE Reductions 2021-22	FTE Reductions 2022-23	FTE Reductions 2023-24	Total FTE Reductions
Employees (FTE) or state N/A	-	-	-	-	-

Proposal Summary:

The Council currently subscribes to APSE and LGIU benchmarking data services at a cost of £22k per annum. The proposal is to realise a full year saving of £22k from cancelling both subscriptions.

Revised Provision:

The Council will lose access to both benchmarking data services. The Council also has access to other benchmarking data via London Councils and through public data sources. A review of benchmarking clubs has identified that membership of APSE adds little value due to the changes in membership over time. APSE is now predominantly used by district councils and smaller local authorities outside of London. As such it does not provide the most appropriate comparators. LGIU data has not been used sufficiently to justify ongoing subscription. Officers will draw on public data sources for benchmarking information.

Risk and Mitigations:

Reliance on public data sources may limit the variety of data points available. If more in depth benchmarking or additional data is required as part of projects, the resource to source this data from other local authorities via direct approaches will need to be incorporated into project resourcing.

Resources and Implementation:

None required. APSE membership has already been cancelled. LGIU membership will need to be cancelled if this saving is approved.

SAVINGS PROPOSAL – BUDGET EQUALITY ANALYSIS SCREENING TOOL

Trigger Questions	Yes / No	If Yes – please provide a brief summary of how this impacts on each protected characteristic as identified in the Equalities Act 2010. This will need to be expanded in a full Equality Analysis at full Business Case stage.
Does the change reduce resources available to address inequality?	No	
Does the change reduce resources available to support vulnerable residents?	No	
Does the change involve direct impact on front line services?	No	
Changes to a Service		
Does the change alter who is eligible for the service?	No	
Does the change alter access to the service?	No	
Changes to Staffing		
Does the change involve a reduction in staff?	No	
Does the change involve a redesign of the roles of staff?	No	

Summary:	
To be completed at the end of completing the Screening Tool.	
Based on the Screening Tool, will a full EA will be required?	No

Additional Information and Comments: