

**Officer Response – CE’s Directorate - to questions raised at
Extraordinary Budget OSC 2 on 22nd January 2013**

- 1. In the context of £187k savings in a Corporate budget of £9.5 million in 2012/13, an explanation for an absence of savings in 2013/14.**

Response to Overview and Scrutiny

In October 2012 the Chief Executive’s Directorate was given a savings target for 2013/14 of £146,839, this being a pro- rata contribution to the overall £5m additional savings to be identified throughout the Authority.

There were also two growth items in Legal Services to replace lawyers in employment and enforcement teams who had been funded for the last two years via different funding streams that were due to cease at the end of March 2013. As the demand for employment advice to both internal departments and schools remains significantly high and expectations are that this is unlikely to abate particularly given the on-going pressures to produce further savings.

Within the Enforcement and Litigation Legal Team there has been a substantial increase in prosecutions, the number of cases processed last year was double that of the previous 2 years as was reported at Cabinet in October 2012, covering prosecutions relating to enforcement in the areas of trading standards, environmental health commercial, markets, community safety, public realm, planning, building control and licensing.

It was agreed that the two posts be added to the structure and that they be offset against the savings found by the Directorate. Hence whilst it may appear that the Chief Executive’s Directorate have not contributed to the additional savings during the next financial year this is not the case but the position is neutral so there is nothing to report in terms of the Budget process.

Chief Executive’s still have to find significant savings for 2013/14 and 2014/15 that were agreed in previous budget years.

- 2. Chief Executive's had plans in place to achieve its 2013/14 target including a further saving on design and print and broader efficiencies across CE's. *Mr Williams, SH Democratic Services to provide written response.***

Response

The £312k savings required from Democratic Services in 2011/12 was fully achieved through a review of staffing structures within the Committee and

Members' Support teams; streamlining of the arrangements for processing Members' Enquiries and savings in print costs, supplies and services.