

COUNCIL MEETING

31 January 2022

PUBLIC QUESTION 1

Name of person submitting the question: Mr Bernard Brown

Member to whom the question is to be put: Councillor Kevin Dixon

Question

It was reported to both Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet that there is already a £474,000 shortfall in the Financial Stability Programme outcomes for the current year, Year One of a 5 year plan.

A key part of the FSP is savings to Rother's budget by devolving substantial discretionary services to Town and Parish Councils. It is understood that negotiations with Bexhill Town Council will be undertaken in the financial year 2022/2023 with savings to Rother becoming realised in 2023/2024.

The Mid Term Financial Plan reported on at Overview and Scrutiny has a savings forecast from the Financial Stability Plan for 2023/24 of £2,137,000.

How much of this £2,137,000 is forecast to come from the devolution of discretionary services to Bexhill Town Council?

Answer

The answer is clearly set out in Appendix A of the Medium Term Financial report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet on 22 November and 13 December 2021 respectively but for clarity, the Council estimates that savings of £1,660,000 will be delivered through devolution to Town and Parish Councils, or other suitable community groups. It should also be noted that this includes services in some rural parishes as well as in Bexhill. That process has recently begun and at this stage of engagement it is too early to update on progress, but that will be reported through the regular financial updates to Members in due course.