

**AGENDA ITEM 8****RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL****CABINET****12th FEBRUARY 2015****THE COUNCIL'S STAFF ADVISORY PANEL****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR CABINET OFFICE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS****AUTHOR: James Vale (01443 424066)****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1. This report provides Cabinet with details of the 'suggestions' received from Council staff and members of the public in response to the 'Budget Challenge' faced by the Council, and sets out a number of budget saving opportunities as recommended by the Staff Advisory Panel.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1. Note the contributions of staff and members of the public in the form of the suggestions received to date i.e. between July and December 2014;
- 2.2. Note the work undertaken by the Staff Advisory Panel in assessing 'suggestions' and recommending budget saving opportunities;
- 2.3. Decide whether or not to progress with the following staff/public suggestions (as set out in more detail in Section 4):
- Mobile devices;
  - Provision of water coolers in Council buildings;
  - Cash collection arrangements;
  - Purchase of newspapers for use by the public.
- 2.4. Request the Group Director Corporate and Frontline Services to update the draft 2015/16 budget strategy to reflect the financial implications of the decision taken at paragraph 2.3 above, prior to Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015. As part of this update, if appropriate, any savings achievable in 2015/16 should be used to reduce the level of Transitional Funding (i.e. use of the Medium Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve) needed to deliver a balanced budget for that year.













