



Financial Year	2017/18
Proposal no.	NH-2017-343
Directorate	Neighbourhoods

## Savings Programme Pre-consultation Report

**Subject:** Community Group Subsidies

### 1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that Members consider the following proposal relating to subsidised school lets.

1.1.1 Removal of subsidies to schools that allow a reduction in charges to community groups renting school rooms.

#### Reason for recommendation

1.2 In order to contribute to the Council's savings requirement it has been necessary to examine all areas of non-statutory service provision.

1.3 Schools would have the option to continue to offer room lets to specific groups at a reduced rate.

1.4 Where appropriate groups that are unable to continue meeting in schools will be encouraged to meet in other nearby community facilities – for example libraries.

### 2. Background

2.1 The Council provides funding to reimburse schools for the difference between the full rental costs and the subsidised let which the School has granted to community groups using their schools buildings.

2.2 The current budget allocation is:

	SUBSIDISED USAGE (SCHOOLS) ROCHDALE	9,000
	SUBSIDISED USAGE (SCHOOLS) PENNINES	10,800
	SUBSIDISED USAGE (SCHOOLS) HEYWOOD	2,700
	SUBSIDISED USAGE (SCHOOLS) MIDDLETON	5,704

2.3 As part of the consultation, schools will be encouraged to continue offering room lets at the subsidised rate to community groups.

2.4 It will be identified which groups are likely to be displaced from their current meeting room in school and identify which community venues are able to accommodate the group, this maybe a library or community centre, depending on the location.

### 3. Financial Implications

3.1 The saving proposal is 11.4% of the total budget for the area of service affected.

Table 1 provides details of the savings associated with this proposal.

	Savings 2017/18 £k		Savings 2018/19 £k		Total savings £k	
	On-going	One off	On-going	One off	On-going	One off
Employees						
Other Costs	28				28	
Income lost						
<b>Net savings</b>	<b>28</b>				<b>28</b>	
Additional income generated						
<b>Total savings</b>	<b>28</b>				<b>28</b>	
Implementation costs						
<b>Total savings less implementation costs</b>	<b>28</b>				<b>28</b>	

### 4. Asset implications

4.1 There are no asset implications associated with this proposal.

### 5. Voluntary Sector impact

5.1 This proposal may impact on the Voluntary Sector costs unless schools continue to offer subsidies from their own budgets or the voluntary sector seek alternative accommodation.

### 6. Consultation

6.1 The Council must ensure that it remains open-minded throughout the consultation period to all alternative proposals and expressions of interest.

### 7. Alternatives considered

7.1 Members could decide not to implement this proposal and provide alternative options.

### 8. Risk Assessment Implications

The following risks arise from the issues raised in this report as set out below:

- 8.1 There is a risk that this proposal may impact on community groups ability to fund room hire charges if schools choose not to offer ongoing subsidies.

**9. Legal Implications**

- 9.1 There are no legal implications.

**10. Personnel Implications**

- 10.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this proposal.

**11. Equalities Impacts**

**Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment**

- 11.1 There are no workforce equality issues arising from this report.

**12. Equality/Community Impact Assessments**

- 12.1 An Equality & Community Impact Assessment will be developed as part of the consultation once it is known which schools are intend to continue with the subsidy.

## Appendix 1

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### **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR SAVINGS PROPOSALS**

The Equality Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment will be produced as part of the consultation.