

COMMITTEE REPORT

Subject:	<i>Two Year Cost Improvement Plan: 2025 - 2027</i>
Committee:	<i>Extraordinary Full Council</i>
Item Number:	<i>15</i>
Date:	<i>29 June 2026</i>
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Report status:	<i>Noting</i>
Confidential / Exempt:	<i>No</i>

1. Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to note the delivery of a two-year Cost Improvement Plan (CIP).
- 1.2 Officers of the Council were set a target of £100,000 recurring savings in 2025/6, with an additional £250,000 recurring savings in 2026/7.
- 1.3 The plan has delivered more than the reoccurring £350,000 target originally set.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the delivery of the Two Year Cost Improvement Plan (CIP).

3. Background

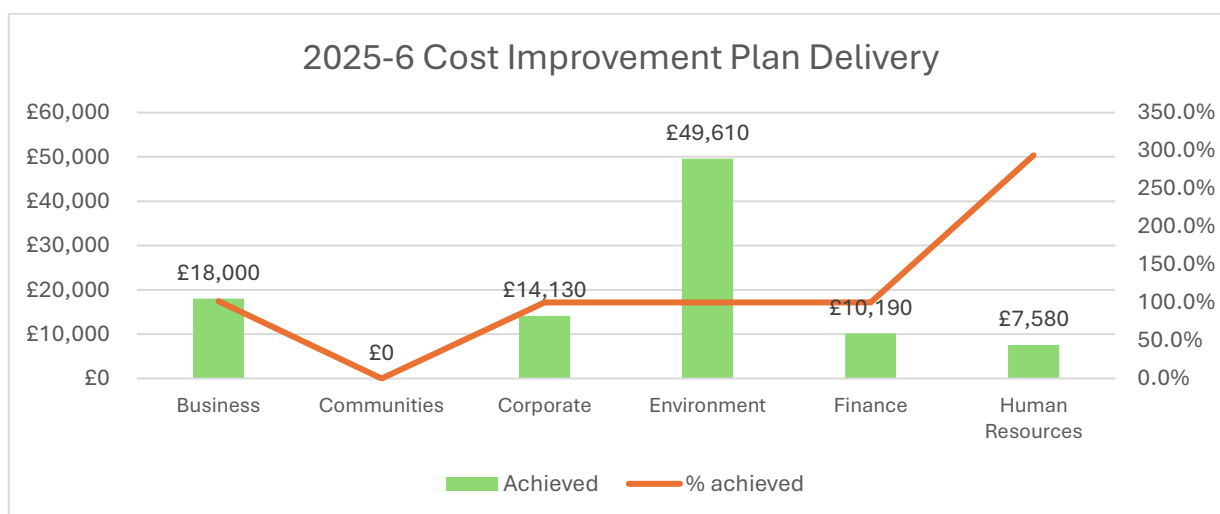
- 3.1 The joint administration of 2025/6 set officers a clear target of recurring savings in order to meaningfully contribute to the medium-term financial plan and set a balanced budget.
- 3.2 The two-year target was first suggested by officers and included in the Joint Administration's financial plans. The plans were debated at Finance Committee on 6 January 2025 and agreed at Full Council on 13 January 2025.
- 3.3 The target was set in three parts:
 - £100k of savings in year one.
 - A further £250k of savings in year two.
 - All savings would be recurring rather than one-off.

- 3.4 Achievement of the target would see recurring benefits to the organisation of £350k per annum once savings had been identified and transacted.
- 3.5 Delivery of the Cost Improvement Plan was part of the Chief Executive’s appraisal objectives in both years of the plan.
- 3.6 Targets for each of the portfolios were determined by the ratio of allocated budget to each department. At the time the Environment portfolio spent almost 50% of the Council’s budgets, and therefore it took 49.61% of the CIP target across the Council.
- 3.7 The value of the savings forecast in 2025/6 was 4.31% of spend.
- 3.8 It is worth noting that the financial targets spread across the portfolios could be achieved through reduction in budgets (“cuts”) or growth in income targets (“income”).
- 3.9 Any growth or cut would be put forward by the Head of Service, approved by the Chief Executive Officer and transacted by the RFO.

4. Results achieved

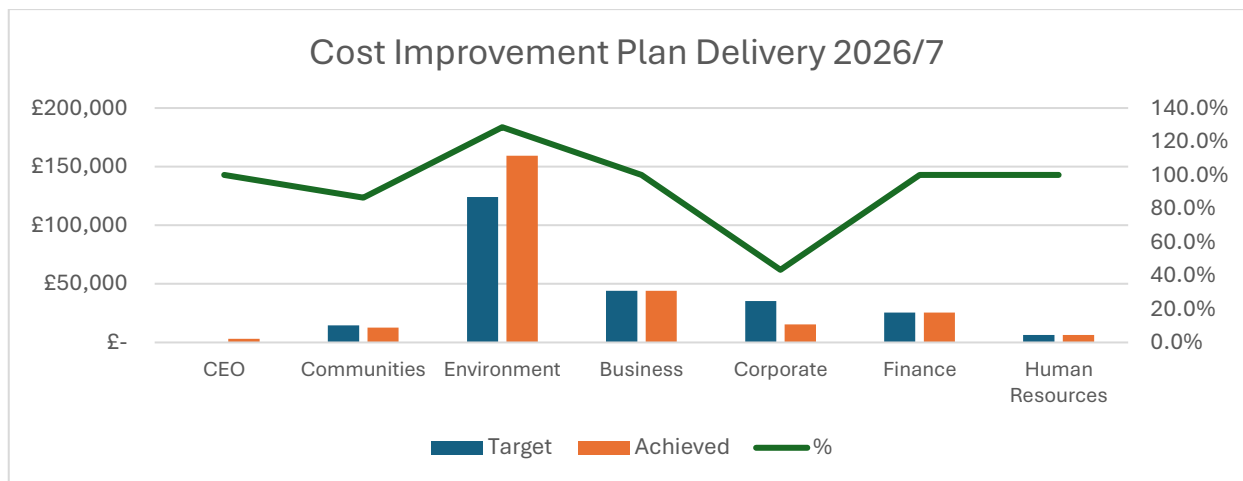
4.1 2025/6 delivery against target amounted to:

Portfolio	TARGET	Achieved	% achieved	Gap to 2025-6 Target
Business	£17,650	£18,000	102.0%	£350
Communities	£5,840	£0	0.0%	-£5,840
Corporate	£14,130	£14,130	100.0%	£0
Environment	£49,610	£49,610	100.0%	£0
Finance	£10,190	£10,190	100.0%	£0
Human Resources	£2,580	£7,580	293.8%	£5,000
Total	£100,000	£99,510	99.5%	-£490



4.2 2026/7 delivery against target amounted to:

Portfolio	Target	Achieved	% achieved	Gap to 2026-27 Target
CEO	£ -	£3,000	100.0%	-
Communities	£14,600	£12,625	86.5%	−£1,975
Environment	£124,025	£159,425	128.5%	+£35,400
Business	£44,125	£44,125	100.0%	-
Corporate	£35,325	£15,325	43.4%	−£20,000
Finance	£25,475	£25,475	100.0%	-
Human Resources	£6,450	£6,450	100.0%	-
Total	£250,000	£266,425	106.6%	+£16,425



5. Value

- 5.1 The total value of the recurring savings achieved amounted to £365,935. This equates to 104.6% of the original ask.
- 5.2 For the Environmental portfolio, significant inroads were made to the CIP by increases in the income targets. This included land rental, car parking, tenancy recharges, property rental. This portfolio over delivered across the 2 years, subsidising those areas which did not meet their target.
- 5.3 The Business portfolio met its targets over the two year period. Delivery was set against some increases in income – appreciating the MTFP has set ambitious targets in this area – and a number of cuts to areas such as equipment purchase and advertising.
- 5.4 Finance saw good performance over two years, setting more realistic targets for treasury management income, as well as reductions to audit fees.
- 5.5 The Communities' function had a significant task to make reductions against a challenging budget, with a change in Head of Service. However, in 2026/7, the team made a number of difficult decisions which saw proposals in reduction of spending on equipment, advertising and a removal of any hospitality budget.
- 5.6 The Corporate team delivered savings in 2025/6 but struggled in 2026/7. Thankfully over delivery in other areas was able to offset this. Savings were made to IT and telephony but this delivered less than half of the required target.
- 5.7 Human Resources made savings in both years. Considering the overall size of their budget, they should be commended for their overachievement.

5.8 The CEO contributed in both years – budget lines removed included any hospitality and travel costs.

6. Additional Relevant Information

6.1 Savings achieved were delivered without job losses to the Council.

7. Implications

Implication Area	Impact	Comments / Mitigation
Financial	Low (positive)	The Cost Improvement Plan has exceeded its £350,000 savings target, achieving approximately 104%. This has strengthened the council's financial position and reduced budget pressures. Ongoing monitoring will ensure savings are sustainable and do not adversely impact service delivery.
Legal	None	No direct legal implications arise from the delivery of planned efficiencies. All measures have been implemented within existing statutory powers and governance frameworks.
Risk	Medium	While the financial outcome is positive, there is a risk that continued cost reductions could impact service quality or resilience over time. Mitigation includes regular performance monitoring, member oversight, and review of service impacts to ensure sustainability.
Personnel	Low	Some efficiencies may have required changes to working practices or reprioritisation of staff time. No significant staffing reductions have been necessary. Continued engagement with staff will mitigate any morale or workload concerns.
Environmental Impact	Low (positive)	Some cost-saving measures, such as reduced energy use or more efficient resource management, may have delivered minor environmental benefits. Impacts will continue to be considered in future efficiency measures.
Equalities Impact Statement	Low	No significant adverse equalities impacts have been identified. Savings have been delivered in a way that seeks to protect frontline services. Equalities considerations will remain under review, with an EIA undertaken if future measures indicate potential impact.
Community / Public Impact	Low	The plan has been delivered with minimal impact on frontline services, ensuring continued service provision for residents. Transparent communication helps maintain public confidence.
Procurement / Contractual	Low	Some savings may have been achieved through contract reviews or improved procurement practices. All activity has complied with procurement regulations and internal policies.
Property / Asset	Low	Minor efficiencies may have been achieved through improved use of assets or rationalisation of facilities. No significant disposals or acquisitions have been required.
Data Protection	None	No changes to data processing activities have arisen from the plan. All existing data protection controls remain in place and compliant with UK GDPR.