
**REVENUE AND CAPITAL MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANS,
REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2006-07 - TIMETABLE**

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Don Bristow,
Resource Management Portfolio**

Responsible Director(s) – Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

Purpose

1. To agree a timetable for review of the Medium Term Financial Plans and production of the Council's 2006-07 Revenue Budget, Council Tax and Housing Revenue Account.

Information

Revenue MTFP and 2006-07 budget

2. The Council is required to formally determine its revenue budget requirement and set the Council Tax for the coming financial year before 11th March. In accordance with good practice and sound financial planning, this Council has developed a medium term framework within which decisions about the coming year's revenue budget are made.
3. The annual Local Government Finance Settlement is critical to determining the level of resources available to the Authority. The provisional settlement for 2006-07 is expected to be announced in early December 2005.
4. A draft timetable has been produced that takes account of the tight timescales between the provisional settlement announcement and the statutory deadlines for setting the 2006-07 budget requirement. The proposed timetable is :-

Date	Meeting	Purpose
Early December 2005	-	Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced
December 2005/ January 2006	LSP Unions Employees Headteachers Members Business community	Consultation
26th January, 2006	Council	Agree Council Tax base
1st February, 2006 – 5.00 p.m.	Special Cabinet	To propose MTFP
2nd February to 21st February, 2006 (to be arranged)	Special Resources Scrutiny	To scrutinise Cabinet's proposed MTFP
1st March, 2006 5.00 p.m.	Special Cabinet	To agree a MTFP for recommendation to Council
9th March, 2006 – 6.00 p.m.	Special Council	To agree the MTFP, formally determine Revenue Budget requirement and set Council Tax for 2006-07

5. The proposed timetable for determining the HRA budget and setting rents for 2006-07 is: -

Date	Meeting	Purpose
Mid November 2005	-	Provisional HRA subsidy determination announced
1st February, 2006 - 5.00 p.m.	Special Cabinet	To propose HRA budget, rents and service charges
22nd February, 2006 – 6.00 p.m.	Special Council	To agree HRA budget, rents and service charges

Capital

6. It is proposed that the timetable for developing the capital MTFP runs in parallel with the revenue MTFP because of its revenue implications. The scoring mechanism used to assess bids is the same as that used last year, updated to reflect the recent Darlington Community Survey results.
7. The proposed timetable for developing and setting the capital MTFP for 2006-07 to 2009-10 is: -

Date	Meeting	Purpose
1st February, 2006 – 5.00 p.m.	Special Cabinet	To recommend Capital MTFP to Council and for consideration at Resources Scrutiny
Meetings between 2nd February and 21st February, 2006 (to be arranged)	Resources Scrutiny	To scrutinise Cabinet recommendations
1st March, 2006 – 5.00 p.m.	Special Cabinet	To consider any issues/ Amendments raised by Resources Scrutiny
9th March, 2006 – 6.00 p.m.	Special Council	To agree Capital MTFP

Outcome of Consultation

8. No consultation was conducted in producing this report.

Legal Implications

9. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

10. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

11. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

Decision Deadline

12. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

Conclusion

13. The timetables for the revenue and capital MTFPs and the revenue budget are heavily influenced by statutory requirements. The proposed timetables comply with those requirements and are designed to accommodate the Council's own operational needs and appropriate consultation.

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that the proposed timetables for the revenue and capital MTFP 2006-07 to 2009-10, the revenue budget, Council Tax and Housing Revenue Account 2006-07 be agreed.

Reasons

15. The recommendation is supported to comply with statutory and local requirements and established good practice.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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