
**REVENUE AND CAPITAL MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANS,
REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2005-06 - 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 2005-06 Revenue Budget, Council Tax and Housing Revenue Account.

Information

Revenue MTFP and 2005-06 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 2005-06 is expected to be announced in late November 2004.
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 2005-06 budget requirement. The proposed timetable is: -

Date	Meeting	Purpose
Late November 2004	-	Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced
December 2004/ January 2005	LSP Unions Employees Headteachers Members Business community	Consultation
27 th January, 2005	Council	Agree Council Tax base
2 nd February, 2005	Special Cabinet	To propose MTFP
3 rd February to 22 nd February, 2005	Special Resources Scrutiny	To consider Cabinet's proposed MTFP
1 st March, 2005	Special Cabinet	To agree a MTFP for recommendation to Council
10 th March, 2005	Special Council	To agree the MTFP, formally determine Revenue Budget requirement and set Council Tax for 2005-06

5. The proposed timetable for determining the HRA budget and setting rents for 2005-06 is: -

Date	Meeting	Purpose
Late November 2004	-	Provisional HRA subsidy determination announced
2 nd February, 2005	Special Cabinet	To propose HRA budget, rents and service charges
21 st February, 2005	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 2005-06 to 2008-09 is: -

Date	Meeting	Purpose
2nd February, 2005	Special Cabinet	To recommend Capital MTFP to Council and for consideration at Resources Scrutiny
Meetings between 3rd February and 22nd February, 2005	Resources Scrutiny	To scrutinise Cabinet recommendations
1st March, 2005	Special Cabinet	To consider any issues/ Amendments raised by Resources Scrutiny
10th March, 2005	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 2005-06 to 2008-09, the revenue budget, Council Tax and Housing Revenue Account 2005-06 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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