

COUNCIL
9th March, 2006

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Armstrong, Baldwin, Bristow, Copeland, Flowers, Foster, Francis, Galletley, Harker, Mrs. Hart, Hartley, Holmes, Hughes, S. Jones, Lee, Lewis, Long, D. Lyonette, J. Lyonette, Maddison, McEwan, Nutt, Richmond, Roberts, F.S. Robson, Ruck, Mrs. Scott, Stenson, Swainston, Mrs. Swift, Vasey-Smith, J.C. Vasey, L. Vasey, G. B. Walker, Wallis and Williams. (37)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Mrs. Brown, Dixon, Haszeldine, Heaney, Hutchinson, Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs. D. Jones, Lawton, Lister, Maybrey, Newall, Reynolds, A.J. Scott, Thistlethwaite and Wilson. (16)

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – The Mayor; and Councillors Armstrong, Bristow, Flowers, Francis, Galletley, Mrs. Hart, Hartley, Holmes, Lewis, Long, D. Lyonette, Nutt, Richmond, Roberts, F.S. Robson, Ruck, Mrs. Scott, Stenson and Walker each declared personal and non-prejudicial interests in Minute 89(1) below in relation to the Leisure Saver and Concessionary Fare Schemes; Councillor Francis declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Minute 90 below; and Councillor Ruck declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Minute 89(1) below in relation to Street Furniture in the Town Centre.

88. ANNOUNCEMENT - The Mayor announced that Ian Galletley was elected to represent the College Ward on 2nd March, 2006 and welcomed him to his first Council meeting.

89. CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS – (1) Revenue Budget 2006/07 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2006/07 to 2009/10 – The Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting approval to this Council’s Revenue Budget requirement for 2006/07 and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the period from 2006/07 to 2009/10.

The submitted report stated that the Plan had previously been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 1st February, 2006 and it had endorsed the Corporate Management Team’s recommendations, as detailed in the submitted report. The Resources Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 8th February, 2006 examined the proposed budget and the MTFP and had supported Cabinet’s proposals regarding the MTFP, Council Tax, Director’s revenue budget proposals and schedule of charges. No alternative proposals or amendments were put forward by any Member of that Committee. Cabinet at its meeting held on 1st March, 2006 had reconsidered the proposals again, together with the views of the Resources Scrutiny Committee.

Reference was also made to the Council being granted a further £37,329 through the revenue support grant since the award of the provisional local government finance settlement considered by Cabinet on 1st February, 2006 and this had enabled the proposed increase in Council Tax to be reduced from 4.5 per cent to 4.38 per cent by Cabinet on 1st March, 2006.

The following amendments to the recommendations detailed in the submitted report were moved, seconded and lost.

“First

That recommendation (d), in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan detailed at Appendix 2 of the submitted report, be amended as follows :-

Add 'subject to the following amendments :-

- (i) Council Tax be increased in 2006/07 by 4.0 per cent; in 2007/08 by 3.5 per cent; in 2008/09 by 3.0 per cent; and in 2009/10 by 2.5 per cent;
- (ii) Leading Edge efficiency savings be increased to £1.606m in 2007/08; to £2.691m in 2008/09; and £3.589 in 2009/10; and
- (iii) The use of balances in 2006/07 be increased by £0.123m.'

And second

That in relation to the revenue budget requirement, recommendation (e), as printed, be amended by the deletion of '£65,731,529' and the insertion of '£65,608,529'."

The original motion moved by Councillor Williams was thereupon put to the meeting and it was:

RESOLVED – That the following be approved :-

- (a) the establishment of an earmarked reserve for Single Status costs and that £2.5 million be set aside for backdated costs in 2005-06;
- (b) the Reserves Policy, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report;
- (c) the Schedule of Charges, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report;
- (d) the Medium Term Financial Plan as detailed in Appendix 2 of the submitted report; and
- (e) the Revenue Budget Requirement of £65,731,529, including Parish Precepts.

REASON – The recommendations are supported to enable the Council to set a revenue budget for 2006/07 in accordance with statutory requirements.

(2) Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2006/07– 2009/10 - The Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking approval of the Council's Capital Medium Term Financial Plan and the Capital Programme 2006/07 to 2009/10.

Reference was also made to the Asset Disposal Programme, which had previously been approved by Cabinet. The Capital Medium Term Financial Plan and the Capital Programme 2006/07 had previously been endorsed by both the Resources Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet.

RESOLVED – That the following be approved :-

- (a) the allocation of Supported Capital Expenditure as detailed in Tables 1 and 2 of the submitted report;
- (b) the capital spending plans 2006/07 – 2009/10, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the submitted report;

- (c) the capital priorities as submitted by the Corporate Management Team totalling £1.540 million for 2006/07, as detailed in Appendix 4 of the submitted report; and
- (d) the Asset Disposal programme as agreed by Cabinet.

REASON – To approve the allocation of capital resources to specific programmes.

(3) Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy 2006/07 – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to a review and the adoption of the prudential indicators and limits and the approval of the Treasury Management Strategy for 2006/07 in order to comply with the Prudential Code of Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003.

RESOLVED – (a) That the prudential indicators and limits for 2006/07 to 2008/09, as detailed in Tables 3 to 10 of the submitted report, be adopted.

(b) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2006/07 contained in paragraphs 32 to 54 and the treasury prudential indicators contained in Table 12, of the submitted report, be approved.

(c) That the Investment Strategy 2006/07 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy, and the detailed criteria, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the submitted report be approved, specifically in relation to the approval of the criteria for specified investments and the criteria for non-specified investments.

REASONS - (a) In order to comply with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister’s guidance on investments.

(b) To comply with requirements of the Local Government Act 2003.

(c) To approve a framework for Officers to work within when making investment decisions.

90. SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX FOR 2006/07 – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to setting this Council’s Council Tax for 2006/07 which was required to be set before 11th March, 2006 in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

RESOLVED: That the following be approved :-

(a) that the following amounts be calculated by the Council for 2006/07 in accordance with sections 32 to 36 of the Act and relevant regulations:-

(i)	being the aggregate of the amount which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act, which is its expenditure	£209,854,529
(ii)	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Sections 32(3) (a) to (c) of the Act, which is its income	£144,123,000
(iii)	being the amount by which (i) exceeds (ii) calculated by the Council for the year in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its budget requirement	£65,731,529

- (iv) being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable into the General Fund in respect of Revenue Support Grant £5,145,810 and redistributed Business Rate Grant £26,657,309 increased by the amount the Council estimates will be transferred from the Collection Fund to the General Fund as its surplus in respect of Council Tax as at 31st March 2006, £100,000, in accordance with section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the Local Government Changes for England (collection Fund Surpluses and Deficits) Regulations 1995 as amended. £31,903,119
- (v) being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33 of the Act, as the basic amount of council tax for the year £1,021.65
- (vi) being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act £42,748
- (vii) being the basic council tax for 2006/07 calculated in accordance with Section 34(2) for dwellings in those areas that have no parish precepts or other special items £1,020.36
- (viii) The basic Council Tax for 2006/07 calculated in accordance with Section 34(3) for dwellings in those areas that have parish precepts.

£ p

Archdeacon Newton	1025.11
Bishopton	1044.31
Heighington	1033.23
High Coniscliffe	1023.34
Hurworth	1027.80
Low Coniscliffe / Merrybent	1024.79
Low Dinsdale	1027.50
Middleton St. George	1028.70
Neasham	1025.52
Piercebridge	1030.23
Sadberge	1025.63

- (ix) the amounts of Council Tax at items (vii) and (viii) multiplied by the proportion set out in paragraph 13 of the submitted report which is applicable to each category of dwelling in its area, in accordance with Section 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Archdeacon Newton	683.41	797.31	911.21	1,025.11	1,252.91	1,480.71	1,708.52	2,050.22
Bishopton	696.21	812.24	928.28	1,044.31	1,276.38	1,508.45	1,740.52	2,088.62
Heighington	688.82	803.62	918.43	1,033.23	1,262.84	1,492.44	1,722.05	2,066.46
High Coniscliffe	682.23	795.93	909.64	1,023.34	1,250.75	1,478.16	1,705.57	2,046.68
Hurworth	685.20	799.40	913.60	1,027.80	1,256.20	1,484.60	1,713.00	2,055.60
Low Coniscliffe /								
Merrybent	683.19	797.06	910.92	1,024.79	1,252.52	1,480.25	1,707.98	2,049.58
Low Dinsdale	685.00	799.17	913.33	1,027.50	1,255.83	1,484.17	1,712.50	2,055.00
Middleton St. George	685.80	800.10	914.40	1,028.70	1,257.30	1,485.90	1,714.50	2,057.40
Neasham	683.68	797.63	911.57	1,025.52	1,253.41	1,481.31	1,709.20	2,051.04
Piercebridge	686.82	801.29	915.76	1,030.23	1,259.17	1,488.11	1,717.05	2,060.46
Sadberge	683.75	797.71	911.67	1,025.63	1,253.55	1,481.47	1,709.38	2,051.26
All other parts of the Council's area	680.24	793.61	906.99	1,020.36	1,247.11	1,473.85	1,700.60	2,040.72

(b) That it be noted that for the year 2006/07 Durham Police Authority has stated the following amounts in the precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown: -

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Police Authority	67.20	78.40	89.60	100.80	123.20	145.60	168.00	201.60

(c) That it be noted that for the year 2006/07 County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority has stated the following amounts in the precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown :-

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Fire Authority	51.36	59.92	68.48	77.04	94.16	111.28	128.40	154.08

(d) That the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Act hereby sets the amounts of Council Tax for 2006/07 for each of the categories of dwellings.

	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Archdeacon Newton	801.97	935.63	1,069.29	1,202.95	1,470.27	1,737.59	2,004.92	2,405.90
Bishopton	814.77	950.56	1,086.36	1,222.15	1,493.74	1,765.33	2,036.92	2,444.30
Heighington	807.38	941.94	1,076.51	1,211.07	1,480.20	1,749.32	2,018.45	2,422.14
High Coniscliffe	800.79	934.25	1,067.72	1,201.18	1,468.11	1,735.04	2,001.97	2,402.36
Hurworth	803.76	937.72	1,071.68	1,205.64	1,473.56	1,741.48	2,009.40	2,411.28
Low Coniscliffe / Merrybent	801.75	935.38	1,069.00	1,202.63	1,469.88	1,737.13	2,004.38	2,405.26
Low Dinsdale	803.56	937.49	1,071.41	1,205.34	1,473.19	1,741.05	2,008.90	2,410.68
Middleton St. George	804.36	938.42	1,072.48	1,206.54	1,474.66	1,742.78	2,010.90	2,413.08
Neasham	802.24	935.95	1,069.65	1,203.36	1,470.77	1,738.19	2,005.60	2,406.72
Piercebridge	805.38	939.61	1,073.84	1,208.07	1,476.53	1,744.99	2,013.45	2,416.14
Sadberge	802.31	936.03	1,069.75	1,203.47	1,470.91	1,738.35	2,005.78	2,406.94
All other parts of the Council's area	798.80	931.93	1,065.07	1,198.20	1,464.47	1,730.73	1,997.00	2,396.40

REASON - The recommendations are supported to set the Council Tax for the Council's area in accordance with the statutory requirements.