
**MEDIUM TERM CORPORATE PLAN
(INCORPORATING THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2009/10 TO 2012/13)
AND REVENUE BUDGET 2009/10**

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Williams, Leader and all Cabinet Members
Responsible Director – Corporate Management Team**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to agree the Council's budget requirement for 2009/10 and approve the Medium Term Corporate Plan, for 2009/10 to 2012/13.

Summary

2. The Council is required by the Local Government Act 1992 to agree its budget for the following financial year. The projected resources of £135,501,000 in the proposed MTFP includes the Dedicated Schools of £57,983,000 and projected Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) grant of £100,000.
3. Statutory Regulations require that the Council's formal budget requirement be calculated as:

	£
MTFP net expenditure/projected resources	135,501,000
Less Dedicated Schools Grant	(57,983,000)
Less LABGI	<u>(100,000)</u>
Total Budget	77,418,000
Add Parish Precepts	<u>61,253</u>
Budget Requirement	<u>77,479,253</u>

Recommendation

4. Council are requested to approve: -
 - (a) The Corporate Plan detailed in **Appendix 1** of **Annex 1** with delegation given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to make any minor amendments to enable the Plan to be completed and published by 31 March 2009.
 - (b) The Schedules of Charges detailed in **Appendices 5 to 8** of Annex 1
 - (c) The Capital Medium Term Financial plan detailed in **Appendix 10** and **paragraph 81** of Annex 1

(d) The Revenue Medium Term Financial Plan detailed in **Appendix 12** of Annex 1

(e) The Revenue Budget Requirement of £77,479,253, including Parish Precepts.

Reasons

5. The recommendations are supported to enable the Council to: -

(a) Produce a Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan.

(b) Set a revenue budget for 2009/10 in accordance with statutory requirements.

Corporate Management Team

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report other than the documents referred to in the report

David Hall: Extension 2303

S17 Crime and Disorder	The report supports the Council's Crime and Disorder responsibilities
Health and Well Being	The report contains proposals to improve the health and well being of residents
Sustainability	Proposals in the report support sustainability
Diversity	Proposals in the report support the promotion of diversity
Wards Affected	All Wards are affected equally
Groups Affected	All Groups are affected equally
Budget and Policy Framework	This report must be considered by Council
Key Decision	This is a key decision
Urgent Decision	The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, Budget and Council Tax require approval by full Council
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report specifically addresses key issues involved in the Council's contribution to delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy vision

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. A detailed report incorporating the draft Corporate Plan and MTFP, prepared by the Corporate Management Team (CMT), was presented to Cabinet on 14 January 2009. Cabinet approved the draft Corporate Plan and MTFP for consultation.
7. During the consultation period from 14 January to 12 February every household in the Borough had opportunity to comment on Cabinet's proposals. The consultation process comprised: -
 - (a) The Council's budget and tax-setting processes were published in the October, November, December, January and February Town Criers and residents were encouraged to engage in the process.
 - (b) An on-line forum has been added to the budget consultation process this year.
 - (c) Leaflets summarising proposals have been circulated and placed in public buildings.
 - (d) Three staff meetings were held and staff were encouraged to make their views known. Meetings have been held with the Trade Unions on the general budget position and a letter from Unison was circulated to Cabinet on 17 February.
 - (e) An initial meeting was held with the third sector in November to explain the Council's planning process and receive initial views. A second meeting was held to discuss Cabinet's proposals and receive comments.
 - (f) In November a meeting of the Citizens Budget Panel was held with a further meeting held in January to discuss Cabinet's proposals. A full report was submitted to Cabinet at their meeting on 17 February.
 - (g) At the Darlington Assembly on 28 January a presentation was given on the Council's budget proposals along with other public sector providers.
 - (h) A Talking Together event was held at the Dolphin Centre on 10 February. Details of the event were reported to Cabinet on 17 February.
8. Resources Scrutiny Committee has examined Cabinet's proposals through a Task and Finish Review Group, which was established to enable more time and resource to be dedicated to the process. The Review Group reported its conclusions to Resources Scrutiny Committee on 10 February. Cabinet considered the Committee's views at their meeting on 17 February.
9. Cabinet further considered the draft plans and in particular the MTFP proposals at its meeting on 17 February, in light of the extensive responses to consultation and Resources Scrutiny Committee's views. Since the previous Cabinet meeting on 14 January a number of amendments had been made to the MTFP. Cabinet agreed further changes at its meeting on 17 February with regard to supported bus services and a number of proposed savings. These changes are incorporated in the draft Plans, which Cabinet recommend to Council for approval, which are attached at **Annex A**.

10. The summary revenue Medium term Financial Plan recommended by Cabinet on 17 February is attached at **Appendix 12** in **Annex A**.

Outcome of Consultation

11. The content of this report was not subject to consultation. Extensive consultation was carried out in preparing the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan, as outlined in paragraph 7. The outcome of consultation is included in the draft plans now recommended to Council.