

COUNCIL

10th March, 2005

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Armstrong, Bristow, Mrs. Brown, Copeland, Dixon, Flowers, Harker, Mrs. Hart, Hartley, Haszeldine, Heaney, Hughes, Johnson, Mrs. D. Jones, S. Jones, Lawton, Lewis, J. Lyonette, McEwan, Nutt, Reynolds, Richmond, Roberts, S. Robson, Ruck, A. J. Scott, Mrs. Scott, Stamford-Bewlay, Stenson, Mrs. Swift, Thistlethwaite, Vasey-Smith, J.C. Vasey, L. Vasey, G. B. Walker, Wallis, Williams and Wilson. (39)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Baldwin, Burtt, Foster, Holmes, Hutchinson, B. Jones, Lee, Lister, Long, D. Lyonette, Maddison, Maybrey, Newall and F. S. Robson. (14)

82. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – The Mayor; and Councillors Bristow, Copeland, Dixon, Flowers, Harker, D. Jones, Mrs. Hart, Hartley, Haszeldine, Heaney, Hughes, Lewis, J. Lyonette, McEwan, Nutt, A.J. Scott, Mrs. H. Scott, Stenson, Thistlethwaite, Vasey-Smith, L. Vasey, Wallis, G. B. Walker, J. Vasey, Williams and Wilson each declared personal but non-prejudicial interests in Minutes 83(1) and (3) below.

Councillor Mrs., Brown declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Minute 83(2) below.

Councillor Lawton declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Minute 83(3).

83. CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS – (1) Revenue Budget 2005/06 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2005/06 to 2008/09 – The Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting approval to this Council's Revenue Budget requirement for 2005/06 and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the period from 2005/06 to 2008/09.

The submitted report stated that the Plan had previously been considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 3rd February, 2005 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 10th February, 2005 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, 2005 had reconsidered the proposals again, together with the views of the Resources Scrutiny Committee.

Reference was also made to a proposed increased contribution of £0.034 million from reserves in 2005/06 and the projected increase in resources in future years by £0.2 million, which had been made following notification of the final local government finance settlement.

In presenting the report on behalf of Cabinet, the Leader, distributed at the meeting two bar charts showing the Council's Percentage Change in Government Support from 1994/95 to 2005/06 and a comparison of the Band D Council Tax Rankings 2004/05 for North East Authorities.

The following amendment to the recommendations detailed in the submitted report was moved, seconded and lost.

“Insert the new resolution (a) as follows:-

‘(a) That the use of reserves of £2.059 million in 2005/06 be approved.’

That resolution (a) as printed and moved be deleted and the following new resolution ‘(b)’ be inserted:-

‘(b) That the Medium Term Financial Plan, detailed at Appendix 2, be amended to take account of the use of reserves of £2.059 million in 2005/06 at (a) above to give a Council Tax increase of 2.1 per cent in 2005/06; and the proposals for 2006/07 to 2008/09, taking into account the consequential amendments of the proposals for Council Tax in 2005/06, be approved.’

That resolution (b) as printed and moved be re-lettered ‘(c)’.

That resolution (c) as printed and moved be re-lettered ‘(d)’ and amended by the deletion of ‘£111,905,683’ and the insertion of ‘£111,082,683’ in relation to the Revenue Budget Requirement.”

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

RESOLVED – (a) That the Medium Term Financial Plan, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the submitted report, be approved.

(b) That the Schedule of Charges, as detailed in Appendices 3 to 8 of the submitted report to Cabinet on 3rd February, 2004, be approved.

(c) That a Revenue budget requirement of £111,905,683, including Parish Precepts, be approved.

REASON – The recommendations are supported to enable the Council to set a revenue budget for 2005-06 in accordance with statutory requirements.

(2) Setting the Council Tax for 2005/06 – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to setting this Council’s Council Tax for 2005/06 which was required to be set before 11th March, 2005 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 2005/06 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 £196,438,683 is its expenditure

- (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 £ 84,533,000
- (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 £111,905,683
- (iv) being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable into the General Fund in respect of Revenue Support Grant £47,456,680 and redistributed Business Rate Grant £32,727,645, reduced by the amount the Council estimates will be transferred from the Collection Fund to the General Fund as its deficit in respect of Council Tax as at 31st March 2005, £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 and the amount of the adjustment to the Revenue Support Grant for 2003-04, £162,387, as a result of The Local Government Finance Report (England 2003-04 Amending Report 2005 under the Local Government Finance Act 1988. £ 79,921,938
- (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 £978.65
- (vi) being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act £37,481
- (vii) being the basic Council Tax for 2005/06 calculated in accordance with Section 34(2) for dwellings in those areas that have no parish precepts or other special items £977.50
- (viii) the basic Council Tax for 2005/06 calculated in accordance with Section 34(3) for dwellings in those areas that have parish precepts.

Archdeacon Newton	728	151.20	4.81	977.50	982.31
Bishopston	2,654	161.80	16.40	977.50	993.90
Heighington	11,169	904.70	12.35	977.50	989.85
High Coniscliffe	283	95.30	2.97	977.50	980.47
Hurworth	7,315	1220.60	5.99	977.50	983.49
Low Coniscliffe/Merrybent	965	229.70	4.20	977.50	981.70
Low Dinsdale	1,500	214.60	6.99	977.50	984.49
Middleton St. George	9,500	1298.90	7.31	977.50	984.81
Neasham	772	157.90	4.89	977.50	982.39

Piercebridge	595	56.10	10.61	977.50	988.11
Sadberge	2,000	285.20	7.01	977.50	984.51

- (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	654.87	764.02	873.16	982.31	1,200.60	1,418.89	1,637.18	1,964.62
Bishopton	662.60	773.03	883.47	993.90	1,214.77	1,435.63	1,656.50	1,987.80
Heighington	659.90	769.88	879.87	989.85	1,209.82	1,429.78	1,649.75	1,979.70
High Coniscliffe	653.65	762.59	871.53	980.47	1,198.35	1,416.23	1,634.12	1,960.94
Hurworth	655.66	764.94	874.21	983.49	1,202.04	1,420.60	1,639.15	1,966.98
Low Coniscliffe / Merrybent	654.47	763.54	872.62	981.70	1,199.86	1,418.01	1,636.17	1,963.40
Low Dinsdale	656.33	765.71	875.10	984.49	1,203.27	1,422.04	1,640.82	1,968.98
Middleton St. George	656.54	765.96	875.39	984.81	1,203.66	1,422.50	1,641.35	1,969.62
Neasham	654.93	764.08	873.24	982.39	1,200.70	1,419.01	1,637.32	1,964.78
Piercebridge	658.74	768.53	878.32	988.11	1,207.69	1,427.27	1,646.85	1,976.22
Sadberge	656.34	765.73	875.12	984.51	1,203.29	1,422.07	1,640.85	1,969.02
All other parts of the Council's area	651.67	760.28	868.89	977.50	1,194.72	1,411.94	1,629.17	1,955.00

- (b) That it be noted that for the year 2005/06 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	64.02	74.69	85.36	96.03	117.37	138.71	160.05	192.06

- (c) That it be noted that for the year 2005/06 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	48.96	57.12	65.28	73.44	89.76	106.08	122.40	146.88

- (d) That the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Act hereby sets the amounts of Council Tax for 2005/06 for each of the categories of dwellings.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Archdeacon Newton	767.85	895.83	1,023.80	1,151.78	1,407.73	1,663.68	1,919.63	2,303.56
Bishopton	775.58	904.84	1,034.11	1,163.37	1,421.90	1,680.42	1,938.95	2,326.74
Heighington	772.88	901.69	1,030.51	1,159.32	1,416.95	1,674.57	1,932.20	2,318.64
High Coniscliffe	766.63	894.40	1,022.17	1,149.94	1,405.48	1,661.02	1,916.57	2,299.88
Hurworth	768.64	896.75	1,024.85	1,152.96	1,409.17	1,665.39	1,921.60	2,305.92
Low Coniscliffe / Merrybent	767.45	895.35	1,023.26	1,151.17	1,406.99	1,662.80	1,918.62	2,302.34
Low Dinsdale	769.31	897.52	1,025.74	1,153.96	1,410.40	1,666.83	1,923.27	2,307.92
Middleton St. George	769.52	897.77	1,026.03	1,154.28	1,410.79	1,667.29	1,923.80	2,308.56
Neasham	767.91	895.89	1,023.88	1,151.86	1,407.83	1,663.80	1,919.77	2,303.72
Piercebridge	771.72	900.34	1,028.96	1,157.58	1,414.82	1,672.06	1,929.30	2,315.16
Sadberge	769.32	897.54	1,025.76	1,153.98	1,410.42	1,666.86	1,923.30	2,307.96
All other parts of the Council's area	764.65	892.09	1,019.53	1,146.97	1,401.85	1,656.73	1,911.62	2,293.94

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

(3) Capital Medium Term Financial Plan 2005/06 – 2008/09 – The Corporate Management Team submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking approval of the Council’s Capital Medium Term Financial Plan and the Capital Programme 2005/06 to 2008/09.

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 2005/06 had previously been endorsed by both the Resources Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet.

RESOLVED - (a) That the capital resources be passported to services as identified in Tables 1 and 2 in the report.

(b) That the resources summary/spending plan (2005/06 – 2008/09) as detailed in Appendix 2 of the submitted report, be approved

(c) That the capital priorities as submitted by Corporation Management Team totalling £10.5 million in Appendix 3 (including unsupported borrowing of £5.2 million in relation to the Dolphin Centre and Highway Maintenance).

(d) That the Asset Disposal Programme as agreed by Cabinet be approved.

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

(4) Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy 2005/06 – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting consideration be given

to a review and the adoption of the prudential indicators and limits and the approval of the Treasury Management Strategy for 2005/06 in order to comply with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003.

RESOLVED – (a) That the prudential indicators and limits for 2005/06 to 2007/08, as detailed in Tables 3 to 10 of the submitted report, be adopted.

(b) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2005/06 contained in paragraphs 28 to 56 and the treasury prudential indicators contained in Table 12, of the submitted report, be approved.

(c) That the Investment Strategy 2005/06 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.

84. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – Consideration we given to the membership changes of the Committees, Subsidiary Bodies and Other Bodies for the Municipal Year 2004/05.

RESOLVED – (a) That Councillor Long be appointed to the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor S. Robson.

(c) That Councillor J. Lyonette be appointed to Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Long.