

# DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

## CABINET PROPOSED MTFP FOR 2008 – 2012

### Conservative Council group Amendments 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008

The Conservative group recognise the financial difficulties facing the council. Over spending over previous years coupled with a declining incoming has meant the council can no longer fund the services it provides.

The proposed Medium term Financial Plan of the Labour controlled Cabinet seeks to ameliorate the financial difficulties by cutting services, increasing council tax by 4.9% and dipping in to the taxpayer's reserves.

This is a time for prudence and cost savings which we Conservatives support however we achieve those objectives not by cutting front line services, not by maximising council tax increases and we limit the need to plunder the taxpayers reserves.

We look to protect the future not to sustain the past.

The framework and text of the proposed MTFP remains as is except where items listed below change the text and calculations.

#### Overview Changes

1. A robustly managed partial freeze on job replacement and a freeze on recruitment during 2008.  
Evaluated saving to MTFP...£1.7m x 60%.....£1,020,000
2. A further Gershon saving  
Evaluated saving to MTFP.....£...200,000
4. A Council tax of 3.9%  
Evaluated saving to MTFP.....£...-360,000.
5. A reduction in the use of reserves.....£ circa 500,000
6. Double the planned energy saving.....£.. 100,000

## **Specific Item changes**

### **Page 16 Para 57**

- (e) Reduce the Communications Dept cost.....£..100000
- (h) Planning staff retained.- delete saving.....£..

### **Page 17 Para 59**

- (d) Civil advice staff retained – delete saving.....£..
- (f) Replace subsidy on routes 17 & 97.....£-132,000
- (g) Health Inspectors retained –delete saving.....£...
- (h) Pest Control retained – delete saving.....£
- (j) Replace grants to Parish Councils.....£...-34000

### **Page 96 onward.**

Further departmental savings

Community partnerships – one further post.....£30,000

The revised MTFP following inclusion of these changes is submitted for review by Cabinet at the special Cabinet meeting in accordance with the budget consultation process

**Alternative Proposals 11.02.2008**

	2008-09 £M	2009-10 £M	2010-11 £M	2011-12 £M
Recruitment freeze	-1.020	-1.020	-1.020	-1.020
Gershon saving	-0.200	-0.200	-0.200	-0.200
Energy	-0.100	-0.100	-0.100	-0.100
Communications	-0.065	-0.065	-0.065	-0.065
Planning post	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044
Civil Advice	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054
Bus subsidy	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.132
Health Inspectors	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080
Pest Control	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063
Parish Grants	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.034
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>-0.978</b>	<b>-0.978</b>	<b>-0.978</b>	<b>-0.978</b>

<b>Resources - Council Tax</b>	0.360	0.760	1.200	1.675
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<b>Contribution from balances - net effect of alternative proposal</b>	-0.618	-0.218	0.222	0.697
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**Assumptions**

*Savings continue at same level of all years*

*Council Tax at 3.9% all years*

**Draft MTFP to Cabinet 16th January 2008**

Expenditure	132.723	137.122	142.181	146.871
Less Contribution from balances	(1.289)	(1.111)	(0.673)	(0.235)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>131.434</b>	<b>136.011</b>	<b>141.508</b>	<b>146.636</b>

<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>131.434</b>	<b>136.011</b>	<b>141.508</b>	<b>146.636</b>
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**External changes 16th Jan. to 19th Feb.**

Grant - final settlement, reduce resources	0.035	0.035	0.033	0.033
Pensions - valuation results, reduce expenditure	(0.200)	(0.450)	(0.700)	(0.750)

**Draft MTFP to Cabinet 19th February 2008**

Expenditure	132.523	136.672	141.481	146.121
Less Contribution from balances	(1.124)	(0.696)	(0.006)	0.482
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>131.399</b>	<b>135.976</b>	<b>141.475</b>	<b>146.603</b>

<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>131.399</b>	<b>135.976</b>	<b>141.475</b>	<b>146.603</b>
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**Effect of Alternative Proposals**

Expenditure	131.545	135.694	140.503	145.143
Less Contribution from balances	(0.506)	(0.478)	(0.228)	(0.215)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>131.039</b>	<b>135.216</b>	<b>140.275</b>	<b>144.928</b>

<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>131.039</b>	<b>135.216</b>	<b>140.275</b>	<b>144.928</b>
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**Balances**

Opening balance	9.226	8.720	8.242	8.014
Contribution to/(from) balances	(0.506)	(0.478)	(0.228)	(0.215)
Closing balance	8.720	8.242	8.014	7.799

**Council Tax**

Council Tax increase %	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%
Weekly band A increase	0.53	0.55	0.57	0.59