

Item 8

REPORT TO CABINET

22ND DECEMBER 2005

REPORT OF THE
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

Portfolio: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

BUDGET FRAMEWORK – 2006/7 TIMETABLE

1. SUMMARY

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Cabinet is required to publicise a timetable for making proposals to the Council for the adoption of the annual Budget and its arrangements for consultation.

The attached Appendix proposes a timetable for the adoption of the 2006/7 Budget and arrangements for consultation, which will accommodate the requirements of the Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the timetable be approved, as shown on the attached Appendix.

3. DETAIL

3.1 Part 4 Section C – Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution requires Cabinet to publicise a timetable for making proposals to the Council for the adoption of a Budget and its arrangements for consultation. A proposed timetable is shown in the attached Appendix.

3.2 At the Cabinet Meeting to be held on Thursday, 12th January 2006, I intend to present a report which will set the scene for next year's Budget, including a summary of the initial Budget requirements, details of the Revenue Support Grant and Housing Subsidy Settlements and suggested spending targets for each of the Cabinet portfolio areas.

3.3 In terms of the arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny of the budget process this year, I have agreed that each individual Committee will again consider their own portfolio of services and the formal consultation process will begin 5th January and end 1st February 2006. Special Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings have been agreed with the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for 24th, 25th and 26th January 2006 for Overview and Scrutiny Committees 1/2/3 respectively.

3.4 Cabinet, at its meeting on Thursday 16th February 2006, will be able to consider the views expressed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, as well as considering the views of Council Taxpayers, who will have participated in Focus Group meetings held in accordance with the Council Taxpayers' Consultation process, which is in its fourth year.

- 3.5 After taking those views into account, Cabinet will then approve the Budget proposals and make recommendations to the Council at its Meeting to be held on Friday, 24th February 2006, when the level of council Tax will be determined, taking into account the precept requirements of the County Council, Police Authority, Fire and Rescue Service and Town and Parish Councils. The Council Meeting on the 24th February 2006 is the earliest date possible for determining the Council Tax as this date is influenced by the date on which precepts of the County Council, Police Authority, Fire and Rescue Service and Town and Parish Councils are received.
- 3.6 The statutory deadline by which the level of Council Tax must be determined is Saturday, 11th March 2006. Part 4 Section C – Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules (2e to 2h) of the Council’s Constitution provide specific procedures where Council resolves to amend the recommendations of Cabinet (an in-principle decision). The period in between the Special Council Meeting on Friday, 24th February and the statutory deadline for determining the Council Tax on 11th March does provide sufficient time to comply with the arrangements set out in the Constitution.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As the purpose of this report is to identify the timetable for the Budget process, there are no financial implications to be considered.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Council’s three Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be consulted as part of the Budget process. A representative sample of Council Taxpayers is also being consulted as part of the Budget process. The Tenants Housing Services Group will also be consulted in regard to the Budget Framework for the Housing Revenue Account.

6. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Links to Corporate Objectives/Values

The timetable has been established to ensure that all appropriate actions are undertaken during the process of determining the 2006/07 budget in that the Council is:

- *Consulting the appropriate representatives of service users, customers and partners;*
- *Being responsible with and accountable for public finances.*
- *Being open, accessible, equitable, fair and responsive.*

6.2 Risk Management

If this timetable is not met, the Council could suffer an adverse cash flow in not being able to collect Council Tax from Council Taxpayers from the beginning of the financial year on the 1st April 2006. This timetable has therefore been devised to ensure that the appropriate statutory deadline to determine the level of Council Tax can be achieved.

6.3 Health and Safety

No additional implications have been identified.

6.4 Equality and Diversity

No Equality and Diversity implications have been identified as the purpose of this report is to identify the timetable for the budget process.

6.5 Legal and Constitutional

The appropriate Legal and Constitutional implications have been taken into account in determining this timetable

No other 'Material Considerations' have been identified.

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Background Papers: The Constitution – Part 4 Section C – Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET FRAMEWORK – 2006/07 TIMETABLE**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION, PART 4 – RULES OF PROCEDURE,****C – BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE RULES**

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Report Distributed</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>
CABINET		
• To consider Budget Framework	Wednesday 4/1/2006	Thursday 12/1/2006
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY		
• Consultation Process	Begins Thursday 5/1/2006	Ends Wednesday 1/2/2006
• Overview & Scrutiny 1	Monday 16/1/2006	Tuesday 24/1/2006
• Overview & Scrutiny 2	Tuesday 17/1/2006	Wednesday 25/1/2006
• Overview & Scrutiny 3	Wednesday 18/1/2006	Thursday 26/1/2006
CABINET		
• To consider views of the Council Taxpayers' Forums)	
)	
)	
• To consider view of Overview & Scrutiny Committees) Wednesday 8/2/2006	Thursday 16/2/2006
)	
• To approve the Budget proposals and make recommendations to Council)	
)	
COUNCIL		
• To consider recommendations from Cabinet)	
)	
)	
• To consider views from Council Taxpayers' Forums) Thursday 16/2/2006	Friday 24/2/2006
)	
)	
• To determine the Council Tax level)	