



## EXECUTIVE

YOU ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE TO BE HELD IN PRINCIPAL COMMITTEE ROOM, THE DEANE HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2003 AT 18:00.

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### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes
3. Public Question Time
4. Call Forward Items
5. IDeA Final Follow Up Report (enclosed)
6. Relocation of Taunton Livestock Market  
Report of Director of Development (enclosed)
7. Housing Revenue Account - Revenue Estimates and Rent Levels 2003/04  
Joint Report of Housing Manager (Property Services) and Financial Services Manager  
(enclosed)
8. Housing Capital Programme 2003/04  
Joint Report of Community Services Policy Unit Manager and Financial Services  
Manager (enclosed)
9. Budget Statement by Councillor Horsley (Leader of the Council) (enclosed)
10. General Fund Revenue Estimates 2003/04  
Report of Financial Services Manager (enclosed)
11. General Fund Capital Programme  
Report of Financial Services Manager (enclosed)
12. Council Tax Setting 2003/04  
Report of Financial Services Manager (enclosed)
13. Borrowing Limit  
Report of Financial Services Manager (enclosed)

The following items are likely to be considered after the exclusion of the press and public because of the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to the Clause set out below of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

14. Taunton Livestock Market - Appendix      Clause 9 - Contract Negotiation

15. Capacity to Improve  
Report of Chief Executive (enclosed)

Clause 1 - Council Employees

G P DYKE  
Member Services Manager

The Deane House  
Belvedere Road  
TAUNTON  
Somerset

TA1 1HE

04 February 2003

Executive Members:-

Councillor Horsley Leader of the Council  
Councillor Bulgin (Planning and Transportation)  
Councillor Croad (Economic Development, Property and Tourism)  
Councillor Henley (Deputy Leader ) (Leisure, Arts and Culture)  
Councillor Lees (Communications)  
Councillor Lisgo (Community Leadership)  
Councillor Mullins (Environmental Policy and Services)  
Councillor Partington (Corporate Resources)  
Councillor Stone (Housing Services)

FORWARD PLAN

The following items are likely to be considered by the Executive within the next four months:

Treasury Management Strategy (12 March 2003)

Sure Start Building - Priorswood (12 March 2003)

Risk Management Strategy (12 March 2003)

Somerset Direct (12 March 2003)

Review of Performance Indicators (12 March 2003)

Private Health Insurance (Executive Councillor Partington to make a decision in March regarding the provider of private health insurance for officers for the next year)

Wellington Park Management Plan (9 April 2003)

Wellsprings (28 May 2003)

Best Value Performance Plan (25 June 2003)

Outturn Report (25 June 2003)

Capital Strategy (25 June 2003)



Present: Councillor Horsley (Chairman)  
Councillors Bulgin, Croad, Henley, Lees, Lisgo, Mullins and Stone

Officers: Mr S Fletcher (Chief Executive), Mr A Hartridge (Director of Development),  
Ms S Adam (Financial Services Manager), Mr D Thompson (Chief Valuer)  
Mrs N Heal (Public Relations Officer) and Mr G P Dyke (Member Services  
Manager).

Also Present: Councillors Mrs Allgrove, Dawson, Denington, House, Mrs Lewin-Harris and  
Williams

(The meeting commenced at 6 pm.)

74. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 11 December 2002 were taken  
as read and were signed.

75. Apologies

Councillor Partington

76. Public Question Time

Councillor Mrs Lewin-Harris, as a member of the public, asked the following  
question:

Since the Leader and the Chairman of the Health and Leisure Panel on behalf of  
Taunton Deane Council, wrote to the Leader of the County Council seeking a  
discussion of the matter of Hunt's Court, please may we have an explanation as to  
why the Liberal Democrat and Labour Councillors who also sit on the County  
Council did not recommend at the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel on 10 January, a six  
month delay in the proposed sale in order to facilitate such a discussion?

Why did no Member of the Lib/Lab Ruling Group following the request put to  
Councillor Henley at full Council on 17 December to attend, actually appear on behalf  
of Taunton Deane at the Meeting of the County Council Executive on 18 December?

Councillor Horsley advised Councillor Mrs Lewin-Harris to address the first part of  
her question to the relevant County Councillors.

Councillor Henley repeated the explanation he had previously given at Council  
meeting on 17 December 2002. No appropriate Executive Councillor had been able  
to attend because of work and other commitments. He assured Councillor  
Mrs Lewin-Harris that the County Council had been left in no doubt about this  
Council's position and views relating to the sale of Hunts Court.

77. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the item numbered 4 on the Agenda, because of the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to clauses 7 and 9 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

78. Proposed Sale of Industrial Units at the Old Paper Mill Creech St Michael

Submitted report regarding the proposed sale of existing industrial units at the Old Paper Mill, Creech St Michael. The report also considered the possible future development of new, small industrial units for future letting by the Council.

This matter had arisen following consideration in the Asset Management Plan of Performance Indicators relating to these properties. The report suggested why these should possibly be sold at this time when the property market was buoyant. The capital receipt could help fund new developments within the Borough. The report also considered the future provision by the Council of small industrial units.

The Old Paper Mills at Creech St Michael was performing a valuable function in economic development terms but now required a significant injection of investment to maintain it to an acceptable standard. The Five Arch Bridge which adjoined this parcel of land was also owned by the Council. The Bridge was of no benefit to the Council and therefore it was felt that it should be included in the sale.

The Private Sector had not always been keen to provide small industrial units of this type and as a result both Councils and Regional Development Agencies had developed and provided this type of premises as an economic development initiative. It was recognised that further demand for small industrial units continued to exist within the area.

Consideration was given to a number of options regarding the future of the Old Paper Mill. It was clear that this was a poorly utilised capital asset and that the best option would be to offer it for sale.

It was noted that the Asset Management Plan Action Plan required the Council to consider whether the proceeds of any sale might be ring-fenced for economic development purposes. A brief financial appraisal was submitted.

With the Council's current demands for capital monies, any receipts from sale would have to be returned to the Capital Pot. However the situation regarding the impact of any external funding to meet a capital shortfall would be clearer later in the year. At that time it might be that sympathetic consideration could be given to a Project Approval Report for a suitable employment scheme.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the existing industrial units at the Creech Paper Mills be offered for sale at a national public auction, subject to a reserve price being agreed by the Chief Valuer and approved by the appropriate Executive Councillor;

- (2) the tenants of the industrial units at the Creech Paper Mills be advised of the position and given an assurance that any sale would only take place subject to their existing leases;
- (3) the receipt of any sale be returned to the Capital Pot and the use of that amount for employment purposes be considered later in 2003;
- (4) a possible scheme as set out in the report be investigated further to determine feasibility/funding arrangements together with partnership sources to be available later in 2003.
- (5) the proposed sale include the Five Arch Bridge which adjoined the site.

(The meeting ended at 6.55 pm.)





**Local Government Improvement Programme**

**Final Follow-up Visit to Taunton Deane Borough Council**  
**4 November 2002**

**Introduction**

1. The peer review of Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC) took place between 20 and 24 November 2000. The review report identified a number of key issues that TDBC needed to address to continue moving forward. An initial follow-up visit to the authority took place on 4 December 2001 when Ian Prosser, former Chief Executive of Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Councillor Hugh Pritchard, Fareham Borough Council and Jan Wickham, the IDeA Review Manager reviewed progress against the original peer review recommendations. They gave feedback to the authority's leadership on achievements and areas for continuing attention both verbally and in writing.
2. The final follow-up visit with which this report is concerned took place on 4 November 2002. The team conducting the follow-up visit comprised:
  - Ian Prosser, former Chief Executive, Stratford-on-Avon District Council
  - Cllr Hugh Pritchard, Fareham Borough Council
  - Cllr Frank Davies, Leader, Spelthorne Borough Council
  - Sheila Boden, Chief Finance Officer, Winchester District Council
  - Bob Rhodes, Chief Executive, TACT
  - Jan Wickham, Review Manager, Improvement & Development Agency
3. The final follow-up visit had two main objectives:
  - to assess the progress which the authority has made against the key recommendations of the original review report
  - to look at the current position of the authority against the key themes of the Audit Commission's Corporate Performance Assessment methodology

## **Follow-up Report: Taunton Deane Borough Council**

### **Programme for the Visit**

4. The programme for the visit and its timing was discussed and agreed in advance with the authority. It comprised:
  - a large-scale workshop attended by frontline staff, middle managers, senior managers, members, partners, tenants and town and parish councillors. All participants were asked to identify on continuums the level of progress which they considered the council had made in relation to each of the original key recommendations. Groups of participants then discussed individual recommendations and fed back their perceptions of TDBC's performance in relation to each
  - facilitated discussions with each group of stakeholders to consider in greater detail TDBC's progress since the original peer review
  - interviews with the chief executive, the leader of the council and other political groups leaders
  - discussions facilitated by TDBC staff with groups of participants on the authority's current position in relation to the nine key themes of the Audit Commission's Corporate Performance Assessment methodology
5. The day's events were efficiently organised and well attended and this was much appreciated by the IDEA reviewers. Thanks should also be given to TDBC's facilitators.
6. This report draws together the information gained through the large-scale workshop, the facilitated discussions with stakeholder groups and the individual interviews in order to provide TDBC with feedback on its progress in relation to the key recommendations of the original peer review. The information obtained through the exercise relating to the themes of the Corporate Performance Assessment is for the authority's own use and is not covered in this report.
7. It should be noted also that whilst discussions took place during the visit with a significant number of individuals, an in-depth analysis of the authority is not possible during the course of a single day. There is an extent therefore to which the conclusions set out in this report could be impressionistic.

## **Follow-up Report: Taunton Deane Borough Council**

### **Progress Made Against the Key Recommendations of the Peer Review Report**

#### Review its Corporate Priorities in order to Achieve a Sharper Focus, Better Ownership and Integration with the Emerging Community and Medium-Term Financial Strategies

8. There has been some good progress made in sharpening the council's corporate priorities and in creating the linkages with the medium-term financial strategy. This is reflected in the views expressed by the workshop participants where there was broad agreement on improvements in this area. The council's corporate priorities have also been aligned with those of the Borough's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), and its community strategy which is due to be published by the end of 2002.
9. The six priority areas are also being used as the basis of some of the council's major Best Value reviews. This should result in improvements to the work being carried out under each heading.
10. Notwithstanding this, there was still some feeling amongst those present that the priorities are of equal weight and that there is no sense of what TDBC would consider to be a non-priority. It will be important that the authority is clear about what it is trying to achieve and not achieve in order that it achieves greater focus of its efforts in the future. In addition the council and its partners need to be confident that they can provide the resources needed for the priorities supported.

#### Bring the Future of the Town of Taunton, and Economic Development Issues generally, to the Forefront of Debate

11. There was a very positive reaction to the progress that has been made against this recommendation since the review with all parties agreeing strongly that good progress has been made. The Taunton Vision Commission was created involving district and county councillors and with an independent Chair. After a lengthy investigation, which considered extensive evidence from external bodies, a vision for Taunton has been produced.
12. The vision for Taunton extends to 2025 and is centred on its development as a "*regional centre of excellence*". Objectives have been set around each of a number of themes and projects have been linked to these. A decision on the designation of Taunton as a Principal Urban Area is awaited.

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13. Economic development is an issue that has clearly been moved up Taunton Deane's agenda with the appointment of a Director of Development responsible for this area of work, and a member of the Executive also dedicated to it. Many people identified as a result that economic development now has a much higher profile inside and outside the authority.
14. Private sector partners reported feeling much more involved with the council principally through the recently formed Economic Development Partnership. It will be important also for the council to ensure that the voluntary and community sectors are similarly engaged with the agenda given that economic development can contribute positively to social, economic and environmental well-being.
15. The good progress in relation to this recommendation needs to be maintained. In particular if the vision for Taunton is to be achieved resources will need to be put in place by the district council and others.
16. Responsibility for achieving the various objectives and leading projects also needs to be allocated. Currently the vision refers to the possible involvement of the Taunton Deane LSP and the Somerset Strategic Partnership in this work. Clarification is needed of how progress against the vision is to be maintained and monitored.

### **Reflect upon the Current Balance within the Council of the Focus on Urban and Rural Issues**

17. Many of those present at the workshop acknowledged that there had been a greater focus recently on rural issues by the council. There have been three rural development projects including the establishment of the community office in Wiveliscombe, which involved joint working with the town council.
18. The problems facing the rural community in Taunton Deane mirror those in many other such areas across Britain and include transport, access to services and affordable housing. These are complex issues that are not easy to solve. TDBC needs to ensure that close partnership working, particularly with the county council, takes place to address these, especially in the light of the Rural White Paper.

### **Sharpen the Strategic Focus of the Political and Managerial Leadership**

19. There was widespread agreement across the organisation that both the political and managerial leadership has succeeded in focusing more closely on strategic issues. There is better use of officer delegated powers and more communication of decisions particularly through the monthly councillor briefings and CMT feedback.

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20. Workshop participants still felt, however, that there were channels through which decisions could be appropriately influenced.

Give Greater Priority to the Establishment of Strategic Partnerships particularly in the light of the Community Planning Agenda

21. The LSP within Taunton Deane is still relatively new and time will be needed for it to establish itself fully. However, this is the case nationally and there is evidence to suggest that TDBC's LSP has made good progress to date. It will be important, however, that as time goes on the partnership is able to point to solid achievements on the ground.

22. In building on the work done, there will be a need to ensure that all parties within the LSP feel similarly engaged. It is sometimes difficult for the community and voluntary sectors to feel able to play a full part in LSPs given that their resources are much more limited than larger partners. It may be that support for capacity building needs to be put in place in order to ensure that these sectors are able to participate more fully.

23. There is also some feeling currently that consultation undertaken by the LSP is top-down. Care will need to be taken to ensure that those being consulted feel that they have a degree of influence over the outcomes of the exercises.

24. There was some confusion amongst partners as to how the various partnerships within the borough fit together and in particular how the LSP sits with the council. There may be some merit in undertaking an audit of current activity and mapping partnerships to show linkages.

Review All Aspects of the Political Management Arrangements to Arrive at a Solution which is Right for Taunton Deane

25. There were a number of participants who indicated that they were unsure how the political management arrangements had progressed including front line staff. Generally speaking, however, there was positive feedback in relation to this recommendation.

26. It was acknowledged that the creation of the executive has led to quicker, more streamlined decision-making, and felt that it was operating in a more strategic manner.

27. There have also been some instances of the Review Board undertaking its role in a more pro-active manner. It has begun to not only review the Executive's decisions but also flag up potential difficulties in service delivery or funding. It identified, for example, that there was no funding allocated to meet the costs of action required in response to energy targets and referred this matter to one of the four Review Panels. Such

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action needs to be built upon in order that the Review Board carves itself out a clearer role.

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28. The operation of the Review Panels also seems to be improving and most are now involved in policy development work. There will be a need to ensure that appropriate training and development continues to be made available, particularly to new members joining the council to support the scrutiny function

### **Strengthen its Best Value Processes in order to Address Current Shortcomings**

29. TDBC has continued to make changes to its Best Value programme in order to streamline the numbers of reviews and ensure that they are more cross-cutting. The staff were able to identify improvements that had been made as a result of the Best Value reviews such as the establishment of a Leisure Trust, and inspection reports have generally been positive.
30. Two issues still remain, however, which are common to many councils throughout the country. The first is that there is still scope for member involvement at all stages of the process to be improved. This includes at the scoping, challenge and improvement planning stages. The second concerns staff capacity to undertake the reviews. Neither problem has an easy solution but it may be that considering the ways in which other authorities undertake their reviews and in particular best practice from elsewhere may assist TDBC in this area.

### **Establish a Corporate Public Image and Standards for the Council**

31. The council now has corporate style guidance and is working on a communications strategy. It has also made improvements to its website.
32. Notwithstanding this, there is still work that the council could do to ensure that its image is more coherent. The fact that it has recently allocated an Executive member with responsibility for communications shows that it is serious about effecting further improvements, and this has provided the press with a much-needed contact at political level.

### **Develop a Corporate and Integrated Approach to Service Planning and Performance Management**

33. There was evidence of good progress in this area. The service plans are now in their second or third year and the practice of producing them and linking them to the corporate priorities is now embedded. For the first time this year Directorate service plans are being produced in order to provide an intermediate link between the service-level activity and the corporate.

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34. The Executive and CMT regularly receive key performance indicator information and actively monitor it. The Review Board receives an overview of performance and the Panels detailed service information. This level of activity represents an enhanced level of performance management over that being undertaken when the previous follow-up visit took place and it is one on which the authority should be congratulated.

### **Develop Robust Human Resources Policies and Processes which are Consistently Applied**

35. The large-scale workshop demonstrated that staff at the more senior levels of the authority are more positive of progress in relation to this recommendation than those working on the frontline. Whilst this is not unusual continued efforts will need to be made to ensure that there is a consistent approach to issues relating to human resources management from the top to the bottom of the organisation.
36. There was general agreement that internal communication had improved with regular team briefings allowing for upward feedback to be given, a weekly bulletin, use of the intranet and some directorate briefing sessions. Frontline staff as well as managers acknowledged this improvement although there were some concerns regarding an over-reliance on the Intranet when some people do not have access to it, and the fact that the Grapevine facility is often clogged up with personal items. It was suggested that an updated bulletin board might be of assistance in accessing the latest information quickly.
37. The consistency of the application of the PREDS appraisal system remains a matter of concern for some. Approximately half of those front-line staff interviewed had not had an appraisal in the last year, although where they had taken place staff confirmed that their targets were related to those within the service plans.



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### **Conclusion**

- 38 Overall TDBC has responded very positively to the recommendations raised by the peer review and has many areas of good progress to report. Particular areas the review team would like to highlight include:
- bringing the future of Taunton to the forefront of local debate and raising the profile of economic development issues within the Council
  - ensuring that the Executive and CMT are operating more strategically
  - making a sound start on the creation of the Local Strategic Partnership and the community planning process
  - embedding a service and performance management framework
- 39 There are some areas, however, in which it is considered that the authority needs to continue to make progress including the following:
- ensuring that it continues to sharpen its priorities and identifies the areas on which it is not going to focus as well as the ones that it is
  - focusing the attention of the LSP, the Vision Commission and other key partnerships on the achievement of outcomes and the provision of resources needed for the priorities supported
  - continuing to progress the work in relation to a communications strategy and the creation of a coherent public image
  - ensuring that any gaps in the implementation of human resources policies and practices are identified and addressed

**Follow-up Report: Taunton Deane Borough Council**

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**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2002**

**Report of the Director of Development**

This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Horsley and the Executive Councillor with responsibility for improving people's livelihoods and job opportunities, Councillor Croad.

**RELOCATION OF TAUNTON LIVESTOCK MARKET**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The Council and Taunton Market Auctioneers (TMA) are still pursuing the agreed commitment to relocate the Livestock Market within the timescale of the lease (ending in March 2004).
- 1.2 Following an approach from TMA, the Executive agreed in November 2001 to pursue the suggestion of a joint market operation combining the former Bridgwater market site and Taunton markets as part of an agricultural business centre to serve the region. Such a concept warranted convenient access to the M5. A Feasibility Study was commissioned and the Final Report was the subject of a presentation seminar on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2003 when the problems associated with funding a joint livestock market operation on site, close to Junction 24 were highlighted. It is now evident that the financial viability of such a proposed development at Junction 24 is questionable.
- 1.3 The issue now being raised is that there is a need to assess another option and identify the feasibility of relocating the livestock market close to Wellington at Junction 26 where TMA have identified a potential interest for some time. This report suggests that further work along these lines now needs to be pursued in partnership with TMA, the RDA and others.

**2.0 THE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 In accordance with its 1999 Commitment with TMA to relocate the market, the Council has been responsive to the TMA's suggestion to identify the feasibility of relocating the market within Taunton Deane or Sedgemoor. This option has been investigated by Austin Smith Lord, and the final report has been published and a copy should have been made available for all Members to read.
- 2.2 At the presentation made to Members on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, concerns were expressed about the Report under 4 headings:

- The viability of existing regional agricultural business centres.
- Stakeholder commitments to the Junction 24 sites.
- Financial/funding aspects relating to the Junction 24 sites.
- The need for investigating an alternative option at Junction 26.

2.3 The Council's possible options relating to Taunton Livestock Market were described in a memo to the Leader of Council dated 6<sup>th</sup> November 2002 (Appendix 1). However, since that time, with the publication of the feasibility report, the option for relocating the livestock market to a new Regional Agricultural Business Centre at Junction 24 (option 1 in Appendix 1) is now under question. One of the auctioneers will not inject capital into the project, land values and the extent of public funding and private funding required is higher than that envisaged by stakeholders.

2.4 In considering whether to pursue one of the alternative options, and the suggestion that we need to compare the Junction 24 options with an option for relocating the market to Junction 26, it is necessary to revisit the Council's intentions to be clear about our objectives.

### 3.0 **THE STATEMENT OF MUTUAL UNDERTAKING BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND TMA**

3.1 In 1999, the Council agreed to enter into a lease arrangement with TMA for the future operation of the Market (ending in March 2004). The Council and TMA agreed a Statement of Mutual Undertaking which basically commits TMA and the council to relocating the Market within the timetable of the lease. These arrangements were entered into for 3 reasons:-

- The Council wanted to safeguard the medium to long-term future of the Market, which was not sustainable on the present site because of the existing constraints.
- The Council felt that the majority of the risks associated with the operation of the Market rested with the operator.
- The Council wanted to make better use of its asset – the market site – for the benefit of the Borough as a whole.

These factors can now be reassessed:-

**The Council wishes to safeguard the medium and long-term future of the Market which is not sustainable on the present site because of the constraints that exist there.**

3.1.1 This objective would still appear to be relevant and the Council has an agreement with TMA still to run its course. The overnight accommodation of cattle (lairage) can result in noise disturbance at unsocial hours and queues of large cattle lorries along congested streets within built-up areas, and into the town centre shall be avoided. Mixed use developments (including

residential) that take place close to such sites can give rise to incompatibility problems. The present livestock market site in Taunton is constrained.

- 3.1.2 Austin Smith Lord point out that diseases such as BSE and Foot and Mouth have had a huge impact on livestock trading. Further new technology such as electronic trading has emerged. Therefore, there is no certainty in the future of the need for, or financial viability of large cattle markets in their traditional form. Recent studies such as the Red Meat Strategy Report consider the need to rationalise the market sector and redevelop markets to rural business centres that do not threaten the viability of town centres.
- 3.1.3 Although Austin Smith Lord have demonstrated that sites at Junction 24 would be more attractive to some large ancillary agricultural businesses in the Bridgwater area than at Junction 26 they indicate that information about successful purpose-built regional agricultural business centres is rare as this is a new concept. However, on a different scale, they indicated there is evidence that the relocation of a livestock market at Bakewell in Derbyshire National Park afforded an opportunity to integrate a new agricultural business centre concept into a sensitive landscape.
- 3.1.4 Both Wellington Town Council and TMA consider that the option of relocating the livestock market to Junction 26 requires further investigation and concerns were raised by several Councillors on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2003 that further consideration should be given as to whether Taunton's relocated livestock market to Junction 26 would be a better commercial proposition.
- 3.1.5 The Council has worked in partnership with the TMA to date to explore options. In the circumstances, it is considered that it would accord with the Council's objective if the council now commissioned further work with the TMA to better identify the option of relocating Taunton Livestock Market to sustainable agricultural centre site at Junction 26 to provide a viable outlet for the farming community and an alternative to that suggested at Junction 24. (A copy of the suggested brief will be available for your meeting).

**3.2 The majority of the commercial risk associated with the operation of the Market should rest with the operators.**

- 3.2.1 Austin Smith Lord have recognised that the Taunton Livestock Market is extremely successful with the catchment area accessing the centres of Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. However, they point out that the catchment area for

livestock markets rely heavily on the management of market and the success of auctioneers. Effective competition needs to be from modern welfare-friendly premises.

**3.2.2** If this Council, Sedgemoor District Council, the Regional Development Agency (RDA) and TMA determined that modern welfare-friendly premises at Junction 24 was a commercially viable proposition then this Council, capital contribution would be likely to be bolstered by contributions from another local authority. However, land values (and availability of land) between Junction 24 and Junction 26 are a major consideration.

**3.3 The Council wishes to make better use of its landholding asset – the market site – for the benefit of the Borough as a whole.**

**3.3.1** The Taunton Vision Commission reported in September 2002 upon the Vision for Taunton as a regional centre of excellence. The relocation of the livestock market was recognised as being a vital decision for the Council to realise the potential for vibrant and exciting regeneration framework for transforming Firepool, Tangier and Crescent Car Park areas. The Crescent Car Park site could meet the rental capacity needs of the town centre. The Firepool area could provide quality facilities which have a regional draw with carefully designed buildings and an attractive public realm to raise local aspirations and encourage a shared sense of community pride in Taunton.

**3.3.2** From a purely financial aspect, the cattle market site would realise more income if sold for retail or residential purposes. The Vision Commission recognised that Taunton should avoid the problems of ill-considered growth associated purely with the economic potential of a particular landholding. In this respect, the Council needs to form appropriate partnerships to lobby, direct, fund and deliver projects consistent with the Vision. The Council, together with the County Council and Local Strategic Partnership have identified an appropriate lead partner in SWRDA for the masterplanning of the Firepool site and any joint development venture.

**3.3.3** In this way, the Council may be able to raise finance from its landholding asset – the market site – to assist in the relocation of the market and for the regeneration of Firepool for the benefit of the Borough as a whole. The benefit is wider than an economic benefit. The Council's objective is therefore still relevant.

**4. THE WAY FORWARD**

4.1 To assist the local agricultural community in Somerset at a time of restructuring in the local economy the Council should continue to assist TMA in efforts to relocate the market and such to include the commissioning of further information upon the viability of an area close to Junction 26. This further work might be obtained within a two month period. The terms of reference for such a commission are currently being discussed with our partners. Draft terms of reference will shortly be available for the Leader and Executive Portfolio holder (and a copy should be available at your Executive Meeting should you wish to see one). This Council's financial contribution to this latest work is likely to be matched by TMA and the RDA and should be found within budget.

5. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 That discussions continue with TMA, SWRDA and the interested parties to commission further information about possible alternatives for relocating the Taunton Livestock Market on a suitable site close to Wellington, Junction 26 on the M5.
- 5.2 That the detailed terms of reference for the additional study be approved by the Leader and Executive Portfolio holder.

**Contact Officer: Alan Hartridge    Tel: 01823 356405**  
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EXECUTIVE - 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2003

**Report of Housing Manager (Property Services) and Financial Services Unit Manager**

**(This matter is the responsibility of Councillor P Stone)**

**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - REVENUE ESTIMATES AND RENT LEVELS  
2003/2004**

1. **Executive Summary**

1.1 This report reflects the views of the Housing Review Panel on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2003.

2. **Housing Review Panel - 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2003**

2.1 The January Housing Review Panel recommended that the proposal set out in paragraph 4.10 of the report at Appendix A be amended.

2.2 The annual grant awarded to the Neighbourhood Care Home and Garden Scheme is to be increased from £3,500 to £10,000 and not £8,500 as recommended in the Officers' report.

3. **Recommendation**

3.1 That the Executive recommends the revised Housing Revenue Account budget proposal to Full Council for their consideration.

**Contact Officers:**

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**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REVIEW PANEL - 23 JANUARY 2003**

**Report of Housing Manager (Property Services) and Financial Services Unit Manager  
(This matter is the responsibility of Councillor P Stone)**

**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - REVENUE ESTIMATES AND RENT LEVELS  
2003/2004**

**Executive Summary**

This report sets out the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the 2003/2004 financial year. It also includes details relating to the new rent level, arrangements for calculating service charges and information on the Piper Trading Account.

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.2 To agree the detailed estimates and rent levels for 2003/2004 for submission to the Council.

2. **Introduction**

2.1 Attached to this report is the suggested budget for 2003/2004 which includes the introduction of service charges.

2.2 This is the second year of Rent Restructuring. Rents have been calculated using the formula and guidance set out in the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions' (DTLR) publication "Guide to Social Rent Reforms".

3. **Housing Revenue Account 2003/2004**

3.1 For 2003/2004 it is recommended to include a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) of £213,620.

3.2 Repayment of Housing Revenue Debt has been included in the budget at 2%, the minimum permissible under the regulations.

3.3 Any contribution to capital not fully utilised at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002 will be carried forward in a reserve account and interest will be accrued at the appropriate loans pool rate.

3.4 The estimated balance to be carried forward at 31 March 2003 is £940,930 which is £140,930 higher than the expected working balance of £800,000. The HRA has received £24,000 as a result of determining the CSL contract. The balance of £117,000 was identified when carrying out the quarterly budget monitoring exercise in October 2002 and reported to the Executive on 20 November 2002.

3.5 The government has reduced the rate of return on housing operational assets from 6% to 3.5%.

3.6 The working balance on the Housing Revenue Account has been increased to £960,000. This is roughly equivalent to £150 per dwelling which is the minimum figure recommended by the District Auditor.

### 3.7 ‘Supporting People’

As a result of introducing Supporting People on 1 April 2003 the expected estimated windfall to the HRA in 2003/04 is £700,000. However, Government guidance recommends that a proportion of this is used to protect existing tenants who otherwise would be eligible to pay an additional service charge. The final figure for this has yet to be calculated but it is expected that this will be a large proportion of the windfall. It is recommended that any remaining amount is retained in the account as a reserve. Proposed Supporting People service charges are set out below.

### 3.8 Service Charges

3.8.1 On 23 October the Executive approved the introduction of service charges from April 2003. Members will be aware that Rent Restructuring was implemented by the Council from April 2002, and the introduction of service charges is another facet of the government’s attempt to make rents more comparable between social housing tenures and more open to scrutiny. A Working Group will be set up in April, involving Councillors from the Housing Revenue Panel and members of the Tenants’ Forum, to examine individual service charges to ensure that they represent value for money.

#### **Proposed Service Charges from April 2003:**

Supporting People service charges

1. Specialised (Extra Care) Sheltered Housing	£27.39
2. Sheltered Housing	£9.55
3. Hardwired Sheltered Housing	£5.56
Communal areas service charge	£0.40
Grounds maintenance	£0.49

All tenants will pay the grounds maintenance service charge and tenants of flats where cleaning and lighting is provided will pay the communal area service charge. It is estimated these two service charges will raise an additional £195,500 in a full year. These new charges are eligible for rebate under Housing Benefit regulations.

### 3.9 Rent Levels for 2003/04

3.9.1 Rents will be calculated in accordance with the formula under rent restructuring which was implemented in April 2002. The average weekly rent increase will be £1.78 or 3.89%.

3.9.2 The Government has placed a ceiling on rent increases which also includes any newly introduced service charges. This limit is a rise of 2.2% plus £2 per week. It is estimated that 150 dwellings will fall within this restriction and the loss of rental income will be £930 in a full year.

### 3.10 Projected Rent Increase

3.10.1 Members may know that since 1996 the Council has restricted the annual rent increases to guideline limits as laid down by the then DTLR. Details are set out below:-

	<u>Average Rent Increase</u>	
1999-00	£1.34	3.44%
2000-01	£2.01	4.98%
2001-02	£1.58	3.73%
2002-03	£1.76	4.01%
2003-04	£1.78	3.89%

3.10.2 As a consequence of Rent Restructuring, restraints have again had to be applied to Housing Revenue Account expenditure. The recommended budget for 2003/04 has therefore been prepared therefore taking into consideration the likely resources available.

## 4. Expenditure Changes

### 4.1 Housing Capital Programme

As part of ensuring our tenants are involved as much as possible in determining the investment strategy for the housing stock, recently questionnaires were handed out at tenant and residents group meetings and via Community Services Reception. This asked for views regarding the priority for future investment and also which areas of the service could be reduced should savings be necessary. The main priorities for investment identified were:-

- (a) Tackling anti-social behaviour
- (b) Replace external timber doors with composite doors.
- (c) Kitchen and bathroom refurbishments.
- (d) Replace single glazed windows with double glazed.
- (d) Aids and adaptations to properties occupied by disabled persons

Other subjects that featured significantly on the returns are:  
Estate car parking and support for tenant involvement.

The main areas of the service where tenants suggested reductions could be made were:-

- (a) Insist on payment from tenants prior to work being carried out, where they are responsible.
- (b) No longer replacing WC seats
- (c) No longer repairing blocked sinks, basins and toilets.
- (d) Tenants to be responsible for internal decorations after repairs.
- (e) Reducing work carried out to prepare properties prior to new tenancies commencing.

The views expressed through the survey influenced the recommendations of officers in these proposed Capital and Revenue programme.

#### 4.2 Tenants Forum Support Worker Office Space

During the last year the Housing meeting room has been made available to the Tenants Forum for use as a resource room. A computer has been provided, allowing access to the internet etc. However, due to the complications of the room being in the Deane House and being used for other purposes this has not been a success. It is now proposed that £10,000 of funding is allocated both to provide an office base outside of the Deane House for the new Tenants Forum Support Worker, but also so that it can be used as a resource for the Tenants Forum to support the valuable work that they do.

#### 4.3 Best Value

It is proposed that the sum available during the last year in this budget is carried forward, but also that an additional £30,000 is allocated specifically to fund Housing IT improvements. IT improvements have been identified as a re-current theme in Best Value work carried out so far. The funding will principally be used to employ an additional IT officer who will be focussed on improving the Housing systems. It is felt that this will provide many efficiency savings. A project plan is being drawn up to manage the process.

#### 4.4 Relets and General Maintenance

As part of the adjustments to balance the accounts, the budget for 2003/2004 relating to relets has been reduced. The intention is to review the level of internal decorations on some relets, particularly where there is a high demand for properties.

#### 4.5 Transfer Removal Grant

This is administered by Allocations Officers and paid to tenants who are under-occupying properties, to encourage them to move. The scheme has proved successful over the years, but the amount of support offered has been limited to a lump sum payment of up to £1,500. It is proposed that an additional £15,000 (currently £15,000) is allocated to this budget for next year and that a review is carried out identifying how a greater range of options can be given in terms of the support provided. This may involve more direct assistance in the arrangements for the move etc. The additional funding will help to counter the impact of the proposals not to provide funding for the Cash Incentive Scheme or extensions during the next year.

#### 4.6 Head of Housing (Council Stock)

It is proposed that a new permanent Head of Housing (Council Stock) is created as from the start of the new financial year. The budget for this will be £50,000 including on-costs. This will be 100% HRA funded. A detailed commentary on the reasons for this post is contained in the Chief Executive's report "Capacity to Improve". The post will report to the Director of Community Services and will manage the existing Property Services Unit, the Housing Operations Unit and the Building Services arm of the Deane DLO. The 'Capacity to Improve' report will be considered by Executive Members in February.

#### 4.7 Sheltered Housing Manager

Reference is made in the HACAS Chapman Hendy Appendix to the Best Value report, about the proposal to employ an additional person to support the work of the Elderly Services Manager, Pat Potter. The funding required is £30,000 including on-costs the person will become responsible for managing the Council's 25 Sheltered Housing Schemes.

4.8 Sheltered Housing IT Access Improvements

It is proposed that in addition to the £30,000 identified for IT improvements in 4.3, a further £30,000 is allocated as a one-off sum to be used to provide computers for Sheltered Housing Scheme Managers, where they do not already have them and also to provide a connection for the computers to the systems at the Deane House and the Control Centre at Kilkenny Court. This will be a significant improvement in the support available to Scheme Managers who are dispersed throughout the district.

4.9 Estates Improvement Budget (Special Estates Projects)

Last year the total sum available for this was reduced to £23,000 and the £4,000 saving transferred to the Tenants Forum budget to assist their work. It is apparent that there continues to be a high demand for estate improvements such as better fencing, lighting and other security measures, often as a result of prolonged anti-social behaviour problems. It is therefore recommended that this budget be increased by £7,000 to £30,000.

4.10 Support for Neighbourhood Care Home and Garden Scheme

For a number of years Housing Services has provided funding to this organisation to assist them in carrying out decorating and gardening for elderly or disabled Council tenants. During the last year £3,500 was made available for this purpose. Due to the success of the scheme, reflected in increased capacity to carry out work, the funding available has become insufficient. It is felt that the service provided by Neighbourhood Care is very valuable to Estates Managers, in assisting and supporting vulnerable tenants. For this reason it is proposed the annual budget is increased to £8,500 for the next financial year.

4.11 Grant to Mediation Somerset

The annual sum currently provided to Mediation Somerset to fund casework relating to anti-social behaviour, where a Council tenancy is involved is £5,000. The results of the tenants consultation exercise made reference to earlier in the report identified greater resources to tackle anti-social behaviour as being the most important priority. In addition to further funding being provided for the Estates Improvement Budget it is proposed that an extra £2,500 be made available to fund mediation casework.

4.12 Property Services Unit Restructure

A review is currently taking place of the arrangements for administering the Right to Buy process, which involves close working between a number of services within the Council. Linked to this has been a need to provide more resources to provide staff cover for dealing with repairs requests, reception and right to buy applications. It is proposed an additional £20,000 is made available to cover the extra costs associated with changes to the staff structure that may arise. Specific proposals will emerge through the Best Value Review work.

5. Piper Trading Account

5.1 The Piper Trading Account is maintained separately from the Housing Revenue Account as a stand-alone enterprise.

5.2 It is proposed that, for the second year running, there should be no increase in charges for individual customers of Deane Helpline. This will ensure that Deane Helpline continues to be excellent value for money in the service it provides.

- 5.3 The estimated surplus at 31 March 2003 is £96,620. The following investment items will be funded from the stand alone Piper Trading Account, and therefore have no implications for the HRA.

1. Modernising equipment on 2 Sheltered Schemes.	£30,000
2. Disaster Recovery - enabling remote operation from an alternative site should the Control Centre be out of action.	£12,000
3. Conversion and extending the Control Centre accommodation.	£15,000

6. **Hire Charges for Sheltered Scheme Meeting Halls**

- 6.1 It is proposed that there should be no increase in the charges for the hire of Sheltered Scheme Meeting Halls.

The charges are currently as follows:

i) First hour	£7.00
ii) Each half-hour thereafter	£2.50
iii) "Whole Day" charge	£35.00
iv) Charge for residents on scheme and community organisations (max charge up to 8 hours)	£10.00

7. **Hire Charges for Sheltered Scheme Guest Rooms**

- 7.1 Fifteen schemes benefit from the provision of guest rooms which are used by residents' visitors.
- 7.2 Prices were not increased last year but it is now felt that an increase is justified to cover the cleaning, laundry and energy costs the Council incurs:

<u>Current Charges 2002/03</u>	<u>Proposed Charges 2003/04</u>
First night £6.00	First night £8.00
Each night thereafter £3.00	Each night thereafter £5.00

8. **Central Heating - Broomfield House**

- 8.1 Nineteen flats in the Sheltered Housing Scheme at Broomfield House are served by a single heating boiler. As the current charges are recovering the costs incurred by the Council, no increase is therefore proposed.

9. **Garages**

- 9.1 A comprehensive review of garage use and charges has been undertaken by the Housing Allocations Manager and the recommendations below are based on that review.
- 9.2 The proposed increases have been arrived at by an analysis of demand, void rate, and a comparison of charges with five other authorities and a private company.

9.3 It is proposed that there should be an increase of 10p per week for both Council tenants and private tenants.

9.4 The proposal would therefore give the following garage charges for 2003/4:-

Council Tenants	£3.40p per week
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Private Tenants and Owner Occupiers	£3.90p per week
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10. **Recommendation**

10.1 The Review Panel is asked to consider the Housing Revenue Account budget proposals, and to inform the Executive and full Council of any amendments the Panel wish to suggest.

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**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT  
RESOURCE ACCOUNTING**

Actual Expenditure 2001/02 £	Description	Original Estimate 2002/03 £	Original Estimate 2003/04 £
	Income		
15,014,449	Dwelling rents	15,572,000	15,563,990
271,504	Non dwelling rents	377,140	380,340
244,596	Charges for services/facilities	272,440	487,920
201,736	Contributions towards expenditure	229,800	213,570
4,644,280	Government Subsidy	4,303,180	3,586,630
243,613	Government subsidy-Housing Defects Act	243,610	243,610
<b>20,620,178</b>		<b>20,998,170</b>	<b>20,476,060</b>
	Expenditure		
2,873,160	Management	2,996,590	3,256,150
4,115,432	Maintenance	4,229,200	4,549,520
7,442,305	Rent Rebates	7,758,400	7,455,550
16,571	Increase in provision for bad debts	32,400	40,000
12,692,847	Capital charges-interest	14,252,670	10,189,020
3,226,670	Capital charges-depreciation	3,276,210	3,316,870
22,247	Debt management expenses	20,670	20,770
<b>30,389,232</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>32,566,140</b>	<b>28,827,880</b>
<b>9,769,054</b>	<b>Net cost of services</b>	<b>11,567,970</b>	<b>8,351,820</b>
-12,692,847	Capital charges-interest	-14,252,670	-10,189,020
1,791,567	Loan charges-interest	1,578,460	1,273,350
-55,784	Interest receivable	-74,300	-84,570
<b>-1,188,010</b>	<b>Net operating expenditure</b>	<b>-1,180,540</b>	<b>-648,420</b>
	Appropriations		
564,043	Housing set aside/MRP	498,770	415,730
328,000	Revenue contributions to capital	370,530	213,620
<b>-295,967</b>	<b>(Surplus)/deficit</b>	<b>-311,240</b>	<b>-19,070</b>

**FUND BALANCE**

357,723	<b>Balance b/f 1 April 2002</b>	488,760	677,690
-295,967	<b>Net Expenditure in 2001/02</b>	0	0
0	<b>Net Expenditure in 2002/03</b>	-311,240	-263,240
0	<b>Net Expenditure in 2003/04</b>	0	-19,070
<b>653,690</b>	<b>Balance c/f 31 March</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>960,000</b>

## HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

### REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

Actual Expenditure 2001/02 £	Description	Original Estimate 2002/03 £	Original Estimate 2003/04 £
	Expenditure		
	Day to Day Maintenance		
360,394	Reconditions on re-letting	367,500	340,000
393,894	General Maintenance to re-lets	413,700	442,660
1,545,987	General Maintenance and electrical	1,474,200	1,577,390
	Programmed Maintenance		
	Planned Maintenance/External Painting		
642,123	Up to 2001/02	26,310	0
0	Work in 2002/03	780,000	20,500
0	Work in 2003/04	0	750,000
	Specialist Maintenance		
629,731	Gas servicing and repairs	630,000	674,100
15,709	Roofing repairs	23,100	24,720
25,877	Window/door repairs	44,250	47,350
49,187	Fencing	52,500	56,180
74,968	Contingency Sum	80,000	80,000
39,879	Emergency call-out	38,430	43,750
334,758	Internal Recharges	294,210	487,870
2,925	Private Consultants	5,000	5,000
4,115,432	Gross Expenditure	4,229,200	4,549,520
	Income		
46,135	Fees & Charges-Sold flats	32,000	43,000
46,167	Fees & Charges-Other	23,000	30,000
92,302	Total Income	55,000	73,000
4,023,130	Net Expenditure	4,174,200	4,476,520

## HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

### SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT-GENERAL

Actual Expenditure 2001/02 £	Description	Original Estimate 2002/03 £	Original Estimate 2003/04 £
	Expenditure		
17,661	Rent deliveries/Giro charge	23,870	33,200
10,508	Audit Fee/Bank Charges	10,340	10,690
13,096	Rents and Rates	15,820	15,470
34,273	Hostel Running Expenses	40,210	39,620
98,376	Contribution to Insurance Fund/Insurances	103,300	114,710
18,552	Printing,stationery,advertising,general expenses	19,600	20,600
2,595	Training expenses	8,500	8,500
7,750	Removal expenses/Transfer Grants	15,000	30,000
7,517	Tenants Forum/Associations	9,000	22,000
0	HIP Presentation	1,500	1,500
1,495,171	Internal Recharges	1,531,830	1,594,400
9,117	Best Value	35,000	65,000
3,075	Mediation Contribution re Council Tenants	5,000	7,500
0	Management Contingency Budget	47,500	47,500
0	Tenants Independent Adviser	20,000	0
	Non recurring items		
18,412	Tenant Participation Compacts	0	0
52,866	Resource Accounting	0	0
6,931	Reorganisation of filing system	0	0
1,795,900	Gross Expenditure	1,886,470	2,010,690
	Income		
31,576	Fees & Charges	24,770	25,020
13,336	Hostels Service Charge	15,000	18,200
44,912	Total Income	39,770	43,220
1,750,988	Net Expenditure	1,846,700	1,967,470

## HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

### SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT-SPECIAL

Actual Expenditure 2001/02 £	Description	Original Estimate 2002/03 £	Original Estimate 2003/04 £
	Expenditure		
37,832	Estate Lighting	34,410	31,420
27,808	Estate Roads Maintenance	15,000	15,000
239,096	Maintenance of Grass/Trees etc.	257,900	270,160
63,573	Sewage Disposal	70,700	70,700
26,480	Other Ancillary Services	26,680	31,990
5,247	Maintenance of Lift at Kilkenny	5,000	6,000
165	Homelessness	1,000	1,000
266	Sewerage Guarantee Agreement	400	270
25,110	Special Estate Projects	23,000	30,000
3,953	Cleaning Communal Areas	4,000	4,060
7,496	Risk Management Inspections	7,980	8,370
6,076	Anti Social Behaviour Initiatives	5,000	5,000
460,702	Sheltered Schemes/Community Centres	490,530	570,770
84,014	Staff cost at Kilkenny/Lodge Close	87,330	85,920
69,242	Internal Recharges	81,190	84,800
	Non recurring items		
20,200	Replacement of lift controller at Kilkenny	0	0
0	Connect sheltered schemes for E-Government	0	30,000
1,077,260	Gross Expenditure	1,110,120	1,245,460
	Income		
26,010	Kilkenny/Lodge Close-Contribution from SCC	22,850	23,650
46,366	Kilkenny/Lodge Close-Service Charges	42,900	42,270
14,648	Fees & Charges-Wardens Schemes	21,270	19,560
15,057	Fees & Charges-Other	15,750	15,300
102,081	Total Income	102,770	100,780
975,179	Net Expenditure	1,007,350	1,144,680

## PIPER TRADING ACCOUNT

Actual Expenditure 2001/02 £	Description	Original Estimate 2002/03 £	Original Estimate 2003/04 £
	Expenditure		
124,215	Control Centre Operator's Wages	120,210	152,140
114,913	Employee Related Expenses	121,530	127,670
41,116	Maintenance	40,000	43,000
456	Energy	530	500
645	Printing & Stationery	1,770	1,800
2,971	Miscellaneous	3,200	3,500
10,733	Telephone	12,360	11,840
3,407	Publicity	6,000	6,000
3,069	Rent and Energy-26 Kilkenny Court	3,130	3,180
57,497	Purchase of Additional Lifelines/Equipment	45,000	45,000
28,745	Internal Recharges	46,480	48,520
299	Uniforms for Control Centre staff	600	600
447	Training	3,200	3,000
0	Eye Tests	30	200
0	Contingency Fund	6,000	10,000
	<u>Non Recurring Expenditure</u>		
18,785	Upgrade PNC Controller/Piper Equipment	84,000	30,000
0	PNC 4 Disaster Recovery Equipment	0	12,000
0	Alterations to Control Centre	0	15,000
<b>407,298</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>494,040</b>	<b>513,950</b>
	Income		
269,801	Charge to Subscribers-public sector	275,400	268,600
171,044	Charge to subscribers-private sector	174,480	184,850
11,730	Miscellaneous Income	10,000	40,000
6,040	Transfer from GF-Interest on Working Balance	2,520	2,400
9,000	Contribution from GF-Deane Helpline Reassurance Scheme	0	0
<b>467,615</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>462,400</b>	<b>495,850</b>
<b>-60,317</b>	<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>31,640</b>	<b>18,100</b>
61,339	<b>Balance b/f 1 April 2002</b>	128,260	121,650
-60,317	<b>Net Expenditure 2001/02</b>	0	0
0	<b>Net Expenditure 2002/03</b>	31,640	31,640
0	<b>Net Expenditure 2003/04</b>	0	18,100
<b>121,656</b>	<b>Balance c/f 31 March</b>	<b>96,620</b>	<b>71,910</b>



**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE - 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2003**

**Report of Community Services Policy Unit Manager and Financial Services Unit Manager**

**(This matter is the responsibility of Councillor P Stone)**

**HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2003/2004**

1. **Executive Summary**

1.1 This report reflects the views of the Housing Review Panel on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2003.

2. **Housing Review Panel - 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2003**

2.1 The January Housing Review Panel recommended that the proposal set out in paragraph 2.20 of the report at Appendix A be amended.

2.2 The budget for the Cash Incentive Scheme is to be increased from nil to £30,000.

3. **Recommendation**

3.1 That the Executive recommends the revised Housing Capital Programme for 2003/2004 to Full Council for their consideration.

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**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REVIEW PANEL – 23 JANUARY 2003**

**Report of Community Services Policy Unit Manager and Financial Services Unit Manager**

**(This matter is the responsibility of Councillor P Stone)**

**HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2003/2004**

**Executive Summary**

This report sets out the proposed Housing Capital Programme for the 2003/2004 financial year and includes details of the resources available as well as recommendations for how they should be allocated. Investment focuses on the three areas of maintaining and improving the Council housing stock to a decent home standard, providing grants to Registered Social Landlords to build new homes and providing grants to individual homeowners to reduce levels of unfitnes in private sector properties.

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the proposed Housing Capital Programme for 2003/04 as outlined in Appendices A and B of this report.

**2. Resources to TDBC**

- 2.1 Financing of the Housing Capital Programme 2003/04 utilises a number of funding sources. These are identified below (last year's figures are in brackets):-

<b>Category of Funding</b>	<b>Amount £'000s</b>	
Basic Credit Approval (BCA - HIP allocation)	948	(560)
Supplementary Credit Approval for Disabled Facilities Grants (estimated)	163	(163)
Estimated Useable Capital Receipts arising from RTB sales (est - 90 sales)	941	(1,166)
Revenue contribution to Capital	214	(370)
Piper Capital Programme	45	(45)
Resources b/f from 2001/02	1,396	(1,609)
Major Repairs Allowance	3,317	(3,276)
Enabling Fund	143	(143)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£7,167</b>	<b>(£7,332)</b>



2.2 The sum allocated by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) through Borrowing Credit Approval to the Council's Single Capital Pot for Housing purposes for 2003/2004 is £948,000. In addition to this figure, there is a Supplementary Credit Approval for Disabled Facilities Grants. The allocation under this heading from the ODPM has not yet been received.

3. **Proposed Capital Programme**

3.1 The proposed Capital Programme for 2003/04, as detailed in Appendix A, and accompanied by the commentary in Appendix B, projects a programme of £5,757,890. This will fund work that is considered both necessary and achievable for the housing stock during the next year. There is a detailed programme of investment to both Council and private housing stock, and also support for Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) under the Joint Commissioning initiative. The balance of funding has been increased towards support for RSLs, to reflect the Council's first Housing Strategy Priority of providing a range of affordable, new build accommodation.

3.2 Members will note that an estimated balance of £1,409,110 remains (£7,167,000 less £5,757,890). £1,158,129 of this figure relates to the Major Repairs Allowance and £142,620 to the Enabling Fund. The number of Right to Buy sales has been estimated at 90.

3.3 The proportion of housing capital resources allocated on the basis of performance according to ODPM ratings was reduced in the 2002 HIP round as compared with previous years. Until 1999, 50% of total housing capital allocations were distributed in line with the Department's 'housing performance' assessment of each authority. Those graded as 'well above average' stood to gain substantially in this way. Since the introduction of the New Financial Framework (NFF), however, nearly two-thirds of housing capital resources are now distributed through the formulaic Major Repairs Allowance. In a further change in 2001 (affecting the current resource allocation), housing Basic Credit Approvals were incorporated within a single capital pot (SCP) allocated to each authority. This year, 20 per cent of the housing component of the SCP allocation has been distributed according to each authority's 'housing performance' as assessed by the ODPM.

3.4 In terms of housing performance, the ODPM classified TDBC as Above Average when compared to other authorities within the South West region. This improved rating meant that an additional £75,000 was provided in BCA for housing purposes.

3.5 Although the ODPM's assessment of authorities' 'housing performance' have become less significant in terms of resource allocation, they remain important as an indicator of Central Government's view of local authorities' 'efficiency and effectiveness' in their housing role. They are also significant in their probable influence on authorities' chances of success in securing challenge fund resources, or qualifying for privileged status such as under the Arms Length Company framework.

The following table is a summary of the ODPM classification of all Local Authorities in the South West (2002/2003 in brackets):-

<b>South West Region - 2002/2003</b>					
<b>Well Above Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Well Below Average</b>	<b>Total Nos. Local Housing Authorities</b>
5 (5)	10 (7)	16 (24)	9 (5)	5 (4)	45

4. **Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Housing Review Panel is asked to consider the Housing Capital budget proposals and to inform the Executive and full Council of any amendments the Panel wish to suggest.

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HOUSING CAPITAL ESTIMATES  
HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME (HRA)

APPENDIX A

Schemes	Revised Estimate 2002/03 £	Estimate 2003/04 £
<b>Completed Contracts</b>		
Modernisation, conversions & Repairs	36,100	0
Architects/Consultants/CDM Fees	2,890	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,990</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Current Contracts</b> Financed out of MRA (wef 1 April 2001)		
Halcon – York Road	224,000	0
Priorswood Place Flats	117,000	183,000
Modernisation – Quantock/Brendon Road, Wellington	934,000	100,000
Energy Efficiency/Insulation	10,000	10,000
Fire Safety Works/Smoke Alarms	30,000	20,000
Replacement Water Services	52,000	50,000
Rewiring - various	30,000	100,000
Reroofing - various	50,000	100,000
Kitchen/Bathroom refurbishments	150,000	1,500,000
Central Heating/Upgrades	310,000	245,000
Replacement Windows	374,000	500,000
Door Entry Systems	100,000	0
Soundproofing flats - general	20,000	20,000
Sub Total	2,401,000	2,828,000
Architects/Consultants/CDM Fees	192,080	226,240
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,593,080</b>	<b>3,054,240</b>
<b>Non MRA Funding</b>		
Priorswood Place Shops	35,000	15,000
Lyngford Square/Place	200,000	150,000
Lyngford Crescent	88,000	2,000
Adaptations for Disabled People	200,000	200,000
Car Parking/Road Widening	10,000	10,000
Extensions - various	180,000	50,000
Environmental Security Measures	15,000	15,000
Work to achieve adoptable standards	50,000	50,000
Elderly Persons Clubrooms/Scheme Enhancements	70,000	80,000
Stock Condition Survey/Asbestos Investigations	20,000	50,000
New Hostel	163,000	5,000
Sub Total	1,031,000	627,000
Architects/Consultants/CDM Fees	60,080	25,360
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,091,080</b>	<b>652,360</b>
<b>General</b>		
Piper Systems	45,000	45,000
Tenants Improvements	5,000	5,000
Cash Incentive Scheme	50,000	0
Disabled Facilities Grants	100,000	200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>
<b>TOTAL HRA</b>	<b>3,923,150</b>	<b>3,956,600</b>

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME (NON HRA)

<b>Schemes</b>	<b>Revised Estimate 2002/03 £</b>	<b>Estimate 2003/04 £</b>
<b><u>Renovation Grants</u></b>		
Private Sector Renewal Grants	590,000	590,000
Disabled Facilities Grants	271,000	271,000
<b>Total Renovation Grants</b>	<b>861,000</b>	<b>861,000</b>
<b>Grants to Housing Associations</b> (number of units shown in brackets)		
Knightstone (Ludlow Avenue) (7)	3,670	0
Knightstone (Taunton Green) (7)	9,330	0
Knightstone (Lisieux Way) (15)	61,460	0
Knightstone (Rugby Club) (12)	336,090	0
Knightstone (Nerrols) (20)	1,200	0
Knightstone (SWEB) (31)	0	110,000
Knightstone (Cotford St Luke) (10)	0	279,000
John Grooms (Nerrols) (4)	40,060	0
Magna (United Reform Church, Wellington) (9)	192,230	72,810
Magna (Swains Lane) (5)	108,110	36,480
Redland (Cotford St Luke) (20)	47,840	100,000
Falcon (North Curry) (7)	14,000	0
Falcon (Leper Hospital) (4)	30,000	0
SHAL (Beadon Road) (1)	19,000	0
SHAL (Cotford St Luke) (10)	0	159,000
Sanctuary (Nerrols) (24)	0	83,000
English Churches (Lindley House) (9)	59,000	0
Nerrols Farm – Infrastructure costs borne by TDBC	10,990	0
Housing 21 (Eastwick) (10)	79,000	0
Raglan (Tone Dale Mills) (12)	0	100,000
Build & Train	15,430	0
<b>Total Housing Associations</b>	<b>1,027,410</b>	<b>940,290</b>
<b><u>GRAND TOTAL</u></b>	<b>5,811,560</b>	<b>5,757,890</b>

1. **Housing Capital Programme Commentary**

1.1 The Capital Programme projected for 2003/04 is based on a realistic assessment of the resources that are available. It is designed to achieve a balanced investment strategy to meet the demands for the improvement of public and private housing and to make a significant contribution to Joint Commissioning for the provision of new homes.

2. **Comments**

2.1 The comments focus on the main items of expenditure as set out in Appendix A.

**Modernisation of Local Authority Owned Stock**

2.2 The modernisation of the pre-war housing stock has traditionally been the major priority for investment. Since 1985 work has concentrated on the Halcon and Lambrook areas and small rural schemes. More recently there has been a greater emphasis on the pre-war housing in the Wellington area. This work is now coming to an end.

2.3 Members will know that the work in Halcon has been conducted on a phased basis, with the size of each contract dependent upon the resources allocated for the purpose. Alongside the improvement of individual homes, the opportunity has also been taken within earlier schemes to undertake environmental street scene improvements. It is pleasing to report that the investment at this estate is now completed, although some further work is being undertaken to upgrade partial heating installations to full heating where this wasn't achieved under the earlier modernisation phases.

2.4 **Priorswood Place**

The final phase of the refurbishment of the large three storey block of flats and shops at Priorswood Place will be carried out during 2003/04, which will include repairs to the 'deck access' at the rear including the individual areas associated with each property, together with enhancements to the rear area of the shops.

**2003/04 Budget**

(£198,000)

2.5 **Wellington**

The pre-war modernisation programme at Wellington is progressing well. From 1996 investment has been targeted at houses in the central area where properties in Alexandra Road, Olands Road, Victoria Street, Longforth Road and Quantock Road have received the benefit of full modernisation. This year work commenced on properties in Brendon Road. A modernisation programme for the remaining dwellings in Brendon Road and Crosslands Terrace should be completed during 2003/04.

(£100,000)

		<b>2003/04 Budget</b>
2.6	<p><u>Energy Efficiency</u></p> <p>From 1997/98 the Council has worked in partnership with the two approved Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) contractors who are operating in the Somerset area. This partnership has proved very successful and now all dwellings that can benefit from this arrangement have been completed. It is proposed to continue investing by topping up the loft insulation to a minimum 200 mm at properties which have electric night storage heating, which will help to ensure these properties meet the 'Decent Homes Standard'.</p>	(£10,000)
2.7	<p><u>Fire Safety Works</u></p> <p>A main priority for investment in TDBC properties has been the installation of mains wired smoke alarms in all dwellings and a programme of fire safety works in three and four storey flats and maisonettes. Smoke Alarms have now been fitted to over 96% of the housing stock. The remaining properties are where tenants have chosen not to have this facility installed. As these properties become empty smoke alarms will be installed. There will also be a continuation of the fire safety work involving shared access to three and four storey flats. During this year modifications were commenced in the three storey flats in Lyngford Road and Slapes Close which will continue into 2003/2004.</p>	(£20,000)
2.8	<p><u>Miscellaneous Repairs</u></p> <p>This will include the replacement of water services where old shared pipes are seriously affecting water pressures, reroofing where frequent repairs are becoming necessary and rewiring properties where recent surveys have indicated a need to replace old wiring and enhance the installation in order to comply with the latest IEE regulations.</p>	(£250,000)
2.9	<p><u>Kitchen/Bathroom Refurbishment</u></p> <p>In July 2001 the Council received guidance on the Government target to "ensure that all social housing meets set standards of decency by 2010 by reducing the number of households living in social housing that does not meet these standards by a third between 2001 and 2004". In order to determine how many "non-decent homes" (as determined under this guidance) it is necessary to undertake a substantial number of inspections inside our properties. Last year the 10% sample stock condition survey determined that there are currently 1,270 dwellings that do not meet the standard. However, further detailed surveys will be necessary in order for contracts to be prepared. There are four criterion used to determine a "decent home" and each property has to satisfy these in order to be classified as decent. The four criterion are:-</p> <p>A. It meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing</p> <p>B. It is in a reasonable state of repair</p>	(£1,500,000)

- C. It has reasonably modern facilities and services
- D. Provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

In order to ensure sufficient progress is made in the programme of kitchens/bathroom refurbishment, £1,500,000 has been included for 2003/04.

- |      |  |            |
|------|--|------------|
| 2.10 | <p><u>Central Heating Schemes</u><br/>In January 1991, 3,250 TDBC dwellings lacked central heating. Since the programme started in 1992, more than 3,500 homes have received the benefit of new heating installations and additional insulation measures. In 1998 a programme commenced for the replacement/ upgrading of partial heating systems to full heating in 1,233 properties. At the present time this total now stands at 515. Tenants are offered a choice of upgrading their partial heating to full heating because of the increased rent implications whilst other essential repair/replacement work to the existing installation is undertaken. This work is necessary because many of the appliances are both inefficient and expensive to maintain. The composition and duration of this programme reflects both the age of the installations and the resources available. During 2003/04 planned expenditure should enable approximately 125 dwellings to benefit from the work.</p> | (£245,000) |
| 2.11 | <p><u>Replacement Windows and Doors</u><br/>Since 1992 as part of the strategy aimed at increasing the NHER ratings of Council properties together with bringing improved comfort to tenants, a revenue funded window replacement programme incorporating double glazing was linked to the pre-planned maintenance cycle. From 1992 over 5,000 properties have benefited from the installation of new windows, the majority of which are PVCu. Next year this investment is proposed to provide replacement double glazed windows in dwellings and also support the provision of new composite doors to replace defective timber doors.</p>  | (£500,000) |
| 2.12 | <p><u>Door Entry Systems</u><br/>In recent years, door entry systems have been installed in Warden controlled schemes. Continuing this theme future proposals will concentrate on the remaining sheltered housing schemes, where communal entrances exist and also at General Needs Flats where there is known to be problems of anti-social behaviour. The funding for this work will be taken from the budget for Environmental Securities measures.</p>   |            |

		<b>2003/04 Budget</b>
2.13	<p><u>Soundproofing Work</u></p> <p>The programme which started with the 68 Duplex flats at Holway, Taunton in 1997 has been extended to other flats with timber floors where sound transmission problems exist. It is recommended that provision should be made to allow this work to continue, and to include other post-war flats where timber floors exist and there is evidence of sound transmission problems. Due to the disruptive nature of the work affecting the first floor flat, it is necessary to undertake this work as and when the properties are vacated in the normal termination process.</p>	(£20,000)
2.14	<p><u>Lyngford Square/Crescent Enhancement</u></p> <p>Work commenced last year at Lyngford Square and Lyngford Crescent area within Priorswood. Improvements include fencing and other security measures, reducing on-road parking, and visual enhancements such as planting. Greater security has been provided to the Bedsits in Lyngford Crescent. However, this essential work needs to continue so that all the properties in this area can benefit from this work.</p>	(£150,000)
2.15	<p><u>Disabled Facilities Grants</u></p> <p>There continues to be a high demand and a long waiting list for this service which is also identified as a statutory duty. Recommend doubling this budget, which will still mean a waiting time of over 12 months for more expensive jobs eg., extensions.</p>	(£200,000)
2.16	<p><u>Environmental Schemes and Security Measures</u></p> <p>This programme will concentrate on the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provision of security features identified by the Tenants Forum and residents groups to help combat crime and nuisance. Feedback from the Deane Consultation Panel confirms a high priority for additional street lighting and other safety features, e.g. window locks, improved door specification, door entry systems for blocks of flats, etc.</li> <li>• small car parking improvements and individual parking facilities for disabled tenants in HRA properties.</li> <li>• the Housing Service owns and is responsible for a number of services such as mains foul and surface water sewers, street lights, car parking, and footpaths within its estates. In order that responsibility is properly transferred to the relevant agencies, there is a necessity to undertake improvement works to bring them up to an adoptable standard. The programme which started in 2000/2001 will continue into 2003/04 enabling Housing Sewers and Housing Sewage Treatment Plants serving properties constructed post 1937 to be transferred to Wessex Water subject to the appropriate agreement being achieved.</li> </ul>	(£15,000)  (£10,000)  (£50,000)



		<b>2003/04 Budget</b>
2.17	<p><u>Elderly Persons Clubrooms</u></p> <p>Following the Best Value review of the Council's Sheltered Housing Service a recommendation made was that where circumstances permit on certain schemes, a clubroom should be provided for the benefit of elderly residents. A further consideration was that this could include office and guest room facilities. The construction of the proposed meeting hall serving the Sheltered Housing Scheme at Wellesley Street commenced in January 2003 with completion due in the early part of the next financial year.</p>	(£80,000)
2.18	<p><u>Stock Condition Survey/Asbestos Investigations</u></p> <p>Since 1985 the Council's investment strategy towards its own stock has been influenced by the findings of the National Building Agency (NBA) stock condition survey and a subsequent survey in 1994. They have demonstrated that TDBC strategy has been effective in targeting resources to both maintain and improve the housing stock. The sample stock survey carried out during early 2002 has been evaluated and following further more detailed surveys, future investment programmes will be developed over the period 2003-2005. These programmes will be targeting work under the Decent Homes Standard. A further survey will be carried out to help build a database to inform the Council, as a landlord, so that it can properly notify its tenants of the existence of mineral fibres in their homes. Although it is only possible at the present time to provide general advice, it is necessary to build a detailed database, identifying where these products exist. It is also proposed to commission a structural survey of the PRC (Prefabricated Reinforced Concrete) dwellings so that a proper programme of future investment can be undertaken.</p>	(£50,000)
2.19	<p><u>Homeless Hostels Units (4)</u></p> <p>Complete and in use. Very pleased with standard and delivery by TDBC Architects and Staceys, Wiveliscombe. May need to consider further expenditure if demand continues to increase.</p>	(£5,000 retention)
2.20	<p><u>Cash Incentive Scheme</u></p> <p>The high cost of housing in the private sector has made this our least successful year. Only three acceptances so far. In view of competing demands we are recommending the cessation of this scheme for the time being. To be considered as part of the Housing Best Value Review.</p>	Nil

		<b>2003/04 Budget</b>
2.21	<p><u>Grants to Housing Associations</u></p> <p>The current building programme (with reserve schemes) involves approximately 270 units of accommodation over the three year period, but we need to increase the number of units being provided to 131 per annum if we are to comply with DCA's Housing Needs Survey requirements. For this reason additional funding has been allocated to this area for the next year.</p> <p><u>Expenditure</u> in: 2000-1 was £233,739    2001-2 was £738,464  2002-3 estimate £1,027,410 and 2003-4 estimate £940,290  An average of £734,975 pa  <u>Completions</u> were: 2000-1 - 67    2001-2 - 38  estimate for 2002-3 - 104    estimate for 2003-4 - 88</p>	£940,290
2.22	<p><u>Private Sector Renewal Grants</u></p> <p>Recommend estimates remain the same as current financial year. Looking at possibility of loans etc., under the Regulatory Reform of Grants. Councillors will be kept informed of progress.</p>	(£590,000)
2.23	<p><u>Disabled Facilities Grants - Private Sector</u></p> <p>This remains an important investment as evidenced by the recently completed Private Sector House Condition Survey. As with Council DFGs there is a statutory obligation to provide this service.</p>	(£271,000 est)

FROM JEFFERSON HORSLEY  
TO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE  
CC ALL COUNCILLORS

I set out below the contents of the Press Release which has gone out simultaneously with the General Fund Revenue Estimates for 2003/4.

This puts into perspective the main points of the budget and gives Councillors an insight into the strategy that is laid before you.

I'd like to thank all who have contributed to the process, in particular the colleagues of the Financial Services Manager who have worked hard and diligently towards producing this outcome. It is a team effort.

I am particularly pleased with the consultation procedure both within and without the Council. The "Mustard" packs circulated before Christmas gave councillors a good insight into the expenditure plans of the council both past, present and future. The Budget Consultation workshops and the Deane Dispatch responses have assisted us a great deal. I believe they should be taken further next year to enable us to identify even more closely with the needs and ideas of the general public.

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **BUDGET PROPOSALS**

An increase of just 2% is proposed by the Executive of Taunton Deane Borough Council for 2003/04 for its share of the Council Tax. This is below the rate of inflation and means no more than 4p per week an increase for the average householder. The low increase is recommended against a background of a lower than average settlement from central government of only 5.6% when the national average for shire districts has been over 7%".

"This figure clearly illustrates the financial competence of this council", said Leader Jefferson Horsley. "We have not only announced the smallest increase but at the same time are maintaining satisfactory levels of reserves. To accomplish such a balanced budget destroys any myth that the Council is a spendthrift organisation".

"We have also listened to the responses from the consultation we held just before Christmas and made some adjustments reflecting local priorities. Every one of these

responses feeds into our Corporate Priorities and is acted upon within our Medium Term Financial Strategy”.

The Budget for 2003/04 has several notable features:

- £300,000 extra for the North Taunton Leisure Centre (Wellsprings)
- £200,000 as a contribution to the North West Taunton highway package (Silk Mills)
- £72,000 on maintaining our own assets
- £50,000 towards the Vision for Taunton Master Plan
- £25,000 extra to be spent on litter collection
- £20,000 on single property flooding grants
- a standstill (no increase) in car parking charges for all commuters

The Council has absorbed salary increases of 3.5% for its staff, an £85,000 increase in its pension fund contribution and successfully introduced kerbside collection of the “green boxes”, costing an extra £60,000 each year.

Jefferson Horsley added: “This is a balanced budget with sufficient safeguards built in to protect the Council Tax payer from any disasters. It also leaves the Council with adequate resources to meet the ongoing problems of completing The Wellsprings Centre. It is a financially competent budget proposed by a financially competent Executive”.

- ends -

**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE - 12 FEBRUARY 2003**

**REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**This Matter Is The Responsibility of Executive Cllr Horsley (Leader of the Council)**

**GENERAL FUND REVENUE ESTIMATES 2003/04**

**1.0 Purpose**

1.1 To consider the draft forward estimates for general fund revenue expenditure for the next financial year 2003/04.

**2.0 Background**

2.1 The 2002/03 budget setting report, which was considered by full Council in February 2002 required only £83k of General Fund Reserves to support spending. This was a significant step forward in this Council's drive to set a sustainable budget and leave reserves in a healthy position, sufficient to deliver the Councils key corporate priorities.

2.2 Members of the Executive, along with Corporate Management Team (CMT), started work on the authority's medium term financial plan in the summer of 2002. The financial model was refined and updated to predict the Councils financial position over a three-year period. The model showed quite clearly the predicted "budget gap" that had to be resolved for 2003/04, and allowed the Executive to refine their financial strategy in the longer term.

2.3 As the year progressed, and the picture with our capital programme became ever more gloomy, it was clear that some difficult decisions would be required in this budget round. The primary objective has been to present a budget for 2003/04 that keeps the Council's reserves at an acceptable level, the Council Tax increase at a minimum, and also allows the Authority the flexibility to deliver key projects.

2.4 The model highlighted a budget gap, which eventually settled at £1.164m. The Executive's proposals for "closing the gap" were issued for consultation to all Councillors in late December (yellow folder). The political groups have also considered the proposals and the Executive has been informed of their comments.

**3.0 The General Fund**

3.1 The General Fund Revenue Account is the Council's main fund and shows the

income and expenditure relating to the provision of services which residents, visitors and businesses all have access to including Planning, Environmental Services, Car Parks, Leisure Services, certain Housing functions, Community Services and Corporate Services.

- 3.2 The Council makes charges for some of its services that reduce the net cost of providing them. The expenditure that remains is funded by central government via the Revenue Support Grant (RSG-31%), and National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR-32%). The remainder is primarily funded by the Council Taxpayer (37%).

#### **4.0 Local Government Finance Settlement 2002/03**

- 4.1 This is the first year of the new grant system for the distribution of local government funding. In their provisional announcement on 5 December 2002 the Government have allocated £7.066m of grant to Taunton Deane (compared to our actual grant received in 2002/03 of £6.913m).
- 4.2 Further analysis of the settlement papers showed that there was also a proposal to fund the Housing Benefit Administration and Council Tax Benefit Administration grant separately this year (direct from Dept of Works and Pensions (DWP)), and this added another £278k to our total government funding in 2003/04.
- 4.3 The final settlement figures have now been received and the Government's agreed contribution towards our spending requirement has fallen by £28,000 from the draft figures produced in December.
- 4.3 In order to compare this years settlement with last years figures, we need to look at the total picture of Revenue Support Grant (RSG), National Non-Domestic Rates and the HB/CT Administration Grant as follows:-

	2002/03	2003/04	Variance	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	2,673	3,458	785	
NNDR Contribution	4,239	3,579	-660	
HB/CT Admin Grant Paid by DWP	224	502	278	
	7,136	7,539	403	5.6%

In total, the Government's contribution towards our spending requirement has risen by £403k (5.6%).

- 4.4 In comparison with the national average, and in particular, our Somerset neighbours, this was a fairly poor result:-

	% Increase	Floor %	Ceiling %
Shire Districts	7.6	3.0	12.5
County Councils	5.7	} 3.5	8.0
Shire Unitaries	6.3		
Metropolitans	7.2		
London Boroughs	5.4		

	<b>2002/03</b>	<b>2003/04</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>£ Per</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Population</b>
Mendip	6,818	7,696	12.88	74.03
Sedgemoor	7,764	8,517	9.70	80.34
South Somerset	10,268	10,603	3.26	70.19
<b>Taunton Deane</b>	<b>7,136</b>	<b>7,567</b>	<b>6.04</b>	<b>73.76</b>
West Somerset	3,344	3,640	8.85	103.75
Somerset CC	257,167	274,536	6.75	550.49

*(this table shows the draft settlement figures published in December)*

- 4.4 The tables show that Taunton Deane Borough Council had a below average settlement. One obvious reason why it is significantly lower than our neighbours is the result of a new aspect of the grant allocation formula (resource equalisation concept). This aims to take into account a Councils' ability to raise council tax locally. It looks at the actual council tax level of each authority compared with the national average, and their taxbase compared with the national average. Due to our lower than average Band D Tax, **and** our greater than average proportion of higher banded properties, Taunton Deane have not fared too well on this new aspect of the formula.
- 4.5 Further detail on our neighbouring authorities Band D tax position is set out in Appendix A.

## **5.0 Budget Strategy For 2003/04**

- 5.1 As mentioned in the background section of this report, the mission this year has been to present a budget for 2003/04 that keeps the Council's reserves at an acceptable level (to allow flexibility in funding key projects), and the Council Tax increase at a minimum.
- 5.2 The sound principles of medium term financial planning introduced last year have been continued and built upon this year. The current problems with the capital programme emphasise even more the importance of planning not just for the budget year ahead, but for the years ahead. Not only do we face the challenge of funding Wellsprings, and Silk Mills, but are likely to face significant revenue funding problems in future years due to further increases in the employers pension fund contributions.
- 5.3 Reserves are significantly higher than this time last year, mainly due to the CSL settlement being released from earmarked reserves. This does offer some flexibility in the budget funding decision but the overriding principle of ensuring the authority's underlying expenditure is not reliant on reserves remains.

5.4 As with earlier years, there is no contingency built into the 2003/04 budget. All requests for new funding must be presented as supplementary estimates from the General Fund Reserve.

## **6.0 Budget Consultation**

6.1 All Councillors have been consulted on the Executives' budget proposals, as in previous years. In addition, two forms of public consultation have been undertaken:-

- Consultation Workshops
- Deane Dispatch

6.2 The results of both exercises are reproduced in full at Appendix B (Deane Dispatch) and Appendix C (Consultation Workshops).

6.3 The results have been considered by the Executive in preparing their budget proposals, and have been extremely useful in trying to target both spending bids and cuts.

## **7.0 General Fund Budget Proposals 2003/04**

7.1 The following section outlines the draft proposals of the Executive. For ease of reference, the table presented in the budget consultation packs (yellow folders Appendix A) has been reproduced below. There have been a few amendments made to their proposals, and these are shown separately at the end of the table. The figures shown below, and the resultant budget gap have assumed a 4.5% council tax increase.

7.2 Executive's Proposals To Close The Budget Gap – Draft

<b>Dir</b>	<b>Exec Cllr</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Saving £</b>	<b>Remaining Budget Gap £</b>
<b><u>BUDGET GAP</u></b>					1,163,519
JJT	PP	R05 Land Charges	Increase Fees & Charges	45,530	1,117,989
JJT	RB	F01 Concessionary Travel	Reduce Postage, Travel, Consultancy Budgets	25,170	1,092,819
JJT	JH	R02 Members Services	Reduce Travel & Subsistence Budget	2,000	1,090,819
JJT	RB	S06 Car Parking	Increase Fees & Charges	50,000	1,040,819
JJT	PP	Central Support	Restructure of Central Services	13,700	1,027,119
JJT	PP	R41 Financial Services	Reduce Training, Printing & Banking Budgets	3,730	1,023,389
JJT	PP	R42 Financial Services	Reduce Postage Budget	3,500	1,019,889
JJT	PP	R77 Central Training	Remove Lease Car Budget	5,090	1,014,799



JJT	PP	R06 Reg. of Electors	Reduce Advertisement & Employee	410	1,014,389
JJT	PP	R05 Legal Services	Charge For s106 Agmts	3,000	1,011,389
JD	MM	C02 Crematorium	Increase Fees & Charges	30,000	981,389
JD	RH	C04 Parks	Plants in Deane House	4,000	977,389
JD	RH	C04 Parks	Reduce Plant Stock in Nursery	16,000	961,389
JD	RH	C04 Parks	Roundabouts – replace floral planting - shrubs	6,000	955,389
AH	CC	C01 Publicity & Tourism	Remove Road side visitor Facilities	3,080	952,309
AH	CC	R45 Valuation Services	Reduce consultancy budget	2,000	950,309
AH	CC	S01 Economic Dev.	Reduce new business directory budget	1,000	949,309
AH	CC	S01 Economic Dev.	Reduce 4 commercial property register	2,000	947,309
AH	CC	S03 Planning Misc	Reduce Env. Schemes	4,000	943,309
PJ	RH	C04 Parks	Reduce Parks Contract Spec	38,000	905,309
PJ	RH	C16 Leisure Dev.	End Funding of Playworker	8,500	896,809
JJT	JH	Corporate	Impact of Draft Local Govt Settlement	326,795	570,014
JJT	RB	S06 Car Parking	VAT on Penalty Charges	10,000	560,014
<b>AMENDMENTS TO BUDGET GAP IN CONSULTATION PACK</b>					
SF	LL	P05 Community Initiative	Reduction in Priority 1 bid for LSP Funding	(5,000)	555,014
JJT	JH	Corporate	Collection Fund Surplus	(50,114)	504,900
JJT	JH	Corporate	Impact of Final Local Govt Settlement	28,000	532,900
PJ	RH	C12 Leisure	Error in Leisure Salaries Estimates	52,460	585,360

7.3 The gap has risen from £560,014 at budget consultation, to £585,360 as shown above.

## **8.0 General Fund Reserve Position - Options**

8.1 The 2001/02 Statement of Accounts has now been formally signed off by our auditors and has received an unqualified audit opinion.

8.2 A summary of the predicted General Fund Reserve position, prior to the budget setting decision is as follows:-

	<b>£</b>
Opening Balance 1.4.02	2,122,409
Less / Amount Used To Support 2002/03 Budget	83,184
Less/ Amount Earmarked For VAT	70,000
Less / Supplementary Estimates Agreed To Date	<u>747,775</u>

	1,221,450
Add / CSL Earmarked Reserves Released For General Use	350,000
Add/ Refund of NNDR Due To Revaluation Of Assets	229,320
Add/ Quarter 2 Reported Underspend	188,300
Add/ Corporate Priorities Fund Underspend Returned To Reserve	13,737
Predicted Balance Before Budget Setting	2,002,807

- 8.3 The remaining budget gap of £585,360 could be funded by the use of reserves or by amending the council tax level from the 4.5% already included. The following table shows some of the options available:-

% Increase in Ctax	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%
Ctax Amount (£'000)	-102	-61	-20	20	61	102	143	184	225
Reserves (£'000)	687	646	605	565	524	483	442	401	360
	585	585	585	585	585	585	585	585	585
<u>Reserves</u>									
Predicted Balance	2,003	2,003	2,003	2,003	2,003	2,003	2,003	2,003	2,003
Use of Reserves	687	646	605	565	524	483	442	401	360
How much is left?	1,316	1,357	1,398	1,438	1,479	1,520	1,561	1,602	1,643

## 9.0 Review Board Proposal

- 9.1 The Review Board considered the Councils budget position at their meeting on 30th January 2003 and agreed that the Executive should be requested to consider one amendment to their proposed budget.

	Proposal	Saving £	Remaining Budget Gap £
			585,360
Add Back/	Proposal to end funding of playworker (It was recognised that the above post no longer existed, but the Review Board proposed that this funding be reinstated to the budget for use on "childrens play")	8,500	593,860

## 9.0 Proposed General Fund Budget 2003/04

- 9.1 The budget amendment submitted by the Review Board has been fully considered by

Executive Councillors, and a sum of £5,000 will be added back to the budget. The Councils' Inclusion Officer will use this on "Childrens Play" issues.

9.2 This increases the budget gap shown in 7.2 from £585,360 to £590,360.

9.3 The Executive wishes to present the following proposal to close the remaining budget gap.

	<b>Revenue Generated £'000</b>
<b>Proposed Total Council Tax Increase = 2%</b> (the amount shown opposite is the reduction in income generated by the 4.5% included in the budget estimates presented to the Review Board)	-102
Use of Revenue Reserves	692
<b>Total</b>	<b>590</b>

9.4 The following table compares the proposed budget with the original budget for the current year.

	Original Estimate 2002/03 £	Forward Estimate 2003/04 £
Total Spending on Services	15,183,550	14,959,130
Revenue Financing of Capital	73,790	75,910
Asset Management Revenue Account	(3,678,720)	(2,521,593)
Contribution To DLO Reserve	148,190	155,762
Loans Fund Principal	(542,593)	(556,832)
Contribution to Vehicle & Plant Account	73,400	61,777
Interest Income	(231,160)	(219,140)
Contribution From General Fund Balances	(83,184)	(692,676)
<b>AUTHORITY EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>10,943,273</b>	<b>11,262,338</b>

9.5 A separate booklet, circulated with the agenda, contains the summarised revenue, capital, and HRA estimates.

9.5 Only the priority 1 development bid items have been included in the proposed budget. These have been analysed between recurring and non-recurring items in Appendix D.

9.6 Fees and charges have been increased in line with inflation unless shown in the

specifically listed in section 7.2 of this report. A summary of the proposals on the major fees and charges areas of the budget is set out in Appendix E. Many of these have already been approved by the relevant Executive Councillor, but are included here for completeness.

## **10. General Fund Reserve**

10.1 The impact of this proposal on the Councils reserves, should the current year outturn match the original current year budget prediction, is as follows:-

	£
Predicted Balance Before Budget Setting (see 8.2)	2,002,807
Less / Amount Used To Support 2003/04 Budget	<u>692,676</u>
Predicted Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2004	1,310,131

10.2 The predicted balance shown above represents 6 weeks worth of Authority Expenditure.

10.3 The Authority does have other Reserves and Provisions in place, but they are all earmarked funds, and cannot be used for any other purpose.

## **11. Council Tax**

11.1 The Council Tax calculation and formal tax setting resolution is considered in a separate report on this agenda. The proposed budget for Taunton Deane shown above will result in a Band D Council Tax of £109.51; and increase of £2.15 (2%) on 2002/03.

11.2 This represents an increase of only 4 pence per week.

11.3 The Band D Taxpayer receives all the services provided by the Borough Council at a cost of £2.11 per week.

## **12.0 Taunton Unparished Area**

12.1 The estimated expenses chargeable to the non-parished area of Taunton in 2003/04 amounts to £25,000 and this forms part of the total net expenditure of the Council. The precept in 2002/03 was particularly low at £7,710 and took advantage of some reserves that had been built up in previous years. This is not an option for 2003/04, but the charge is still considerably lower than that imposed historically.

12.2 The special expenses represent costs arising in respect of street / footway lighting and bus shelters.

## **13.0 Recommendations**

13.1 The Executive is asked to recommend to full Council the budget for general fund services for 2003/04 as outlined above. In particular the Executive is requested recommend to full Council to:

- (a) Approve the transfer for any underspend in 2002/03 back to General Fund Reserves.
- (b) Approve the use of £692,676 from General Fund Reserves to support the 2003/04 budget
- (c) Approve the development bids outlined in Appendix D.
- (e) Approve the increases to fees and charges listed in Appendix E.
- (f) Approve the proposed 2003/04 budget, being Authority Expenditure of £11,262,338, and Special Expenses of £25,000 in accordance with the Local Government Act 1992.
- (g) Note the predicted General Fund Reserve balance at 31.3.04 of £1,310,131.

**Shirlene Adam**

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**Background Papers**

Review Board 7/11/02 – Budget Setting 2003/04 (report of the Financial Services Manager).

Review Board 30/01/02 – General Fund Revenue Estimates 2003/04 (report of the Financial Services Manager)

## APPENDIX A

### COUNCIL TAX COMPARISONS

COUNCIL	2002/03 Band D Council Tax (exc Parishes)	1999/00 Band D Council Tax (exc Parishes)	Total Percentage Increase Since 1999/00
Mendip	112.68	95.62	17.84%
Sedgemoor	97.76	87.38	11.88%
Taunton Deane	107.36	89.91	19.41%
South Somerset	108.42	98.26	10.34%
West Somerset	102.02	92.59	10.18%
East Devon	90.57	77.87	16.31%
Exeter	92.69	79.41	16.72%
Mid Devon	130.06	108.35	20.04%
North Devon	119.28	103.23	15.55%
South Hams	96.68	87.97	9.90%
Teignbridge	115.93	95.21	21.76%
Torridge	103.92	90.21	15.20%
West Devon	134.20	109.22	22.87%
Christchurch	115.86	86.77	33.53%
East Dorset	127.00	94.20	34.82%
North Dorset	61.96	49.00	26.45%
Purbeck	96.72	71.99	34.35%
West Dorset	83.97	67.50	24.40%
Weymouth & Portland	130.41	104.46	24.84%
Gloucester	132.29	112.31	17.79%
North Somerset	807.76	660.34	22.32%
BANES	887.70	715.07	24.14%
SCC	767.08	594.49	29.03%

## **APPENDIX B**

### **BUDGET CONSULTATION - DEANE DISPATCH**

#### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The front page of the December issue of the Deane Dispatch explained the context of the Council's budget setting difficulties for the next financial year and invited residents to tell us what they thought our top three priorities should be.

#### **2.0 Response Numbers**

- 2.1 To date there have been 200 responses (25 by e-mail, 175 by post). This is an excellent response – on previous Deane Dispatch consultations (even with a £10 prize!) the total replies did not reach 50. There was no Freepost encouragement to respond, and many reply slips had letters attached with serious contributions to the debate on budget priorities.

#### **3.0 The Results**

- 3.1 The table overleaf lists the issues mentioned on the responses.

#### **4.0 Next Steps**

- 4.1 A general news release will be issued thanking all the participants for their ideas and setting out the budget approval timetable.

Further information is available from

**Nan Heal**  
**Public Relations Officer**  
**01823 356407**  
**n.heal@tauntondeane.gov.uk**

No of Votes	Issue
87	Recycling – especially door to door, and plastics / waste services in all its forms.
57	Traffic flow around Taunton town in general. Station Road was mentioned only 3 times.
44	Reduce crime and examples included as many litter offences (8) as drugs.
37	Flood prevention, often as the single word “flooding”.
35	Affordable housing, especially housing for young families.
32	Increase the number of parking spaces for shoppers and visitors.
28	Quality roads, better maintenance.
26	Better public transport (several for a bus from Bradford on Tone to the main road).
25	Reduce Council Tax
14	Young people, provide more for them to do.
10	A Silk Mills crossing.
10	Health (no more detail).
10	Support rural economies.
9	Pedestrian and footpath facilities.
8	More park and ride sites.
4	Environment (no more detail)
4	Prevent Asylum seekers arriving ( and 1 to welcome asylum seekers)
4	More indoor tennis at Blackbrook.
4	Travel vouchers for all pensioners
3	Reduce light pollution
3	Make Taunton a cultural centre
2	Use Brownfield sites not Greenfield
2	Pedestrianise the town centre.
2	More variety in town shops.
2	Better cycle routes, over Forty Steps was mentioned.
2	Reduce road signs
1	Another junction off M5
1	Ban fireworks
1	Complete Wellsprings
1	Better use of the riverside
1	Day shelter for the homeless
1	Reduce councillors allowances
1	Extend Parish Warden Scheme
1	Increase Britain in Bloom (and 1 to Reduce Britain in Bloom)
1	Work to increase Government grants to us.
1	Increase parking charges (and 1 to Reduce parking charges)
1	No Masons
1	Reduce Mayor’s expenses and trips



# APPENDIX C

## BUDGET CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS

### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Two recent consultation events were undertaken with members of the Somerset Influence Panel, in Taunton and Wellington. A further event was planned for Wiveliscombe, but unfortunately after three attempts had to be cancelled.
- 1.2 The events lasted approximately two hours and covered the following:-
- Panel members were invited to comment throughout the evening on two aspects of TDBC services;
    - What should TDBC do more of?
    - What should TDBC do less of?
  - A warm-up quiz to see how much they knew about the council, it's services and the population of the Deane.
  - A presentation on the services provided by the Council, and some information about the other precepting authorities. Statistics and graphs showing the proportion of Council Tax raised by TDBC were included.
  - A chance to vote on a number of possible projects under each of the Corporate Priorities. They were asked to place a high, medium or low priority against each of the proposals.
  - Finally, each member of the panel was given £100 (monopoly money!) to allocate over 8 proposed projects.

### **2.0 Presentation**

- 2.1 The content of the presentation was very similar to that used for the recent Members' Financial Awareness Training.
- 2.2 Many of the Influence Panel members were unaware of the levels of council tax and business rates retained by this Council, in comparison to the amounts collected. Similarly not all knew the split of services provided by the County and District Councils.
- 3.3 The audience asked many questions during the presentation, which highlighted a general lack of understanding about the statutory and discretionary nature of many of the council's services. Many arrived with preconceived ideas or complaints that they wished to air. On the whole, it was felt that most left with an improved knowledge and understanding of the issues faced by TDBC.

### **3.0 Results**

- 3.1 The outcomes of the evenings voting exercises on priorities and relative levels of spending were as follows:-

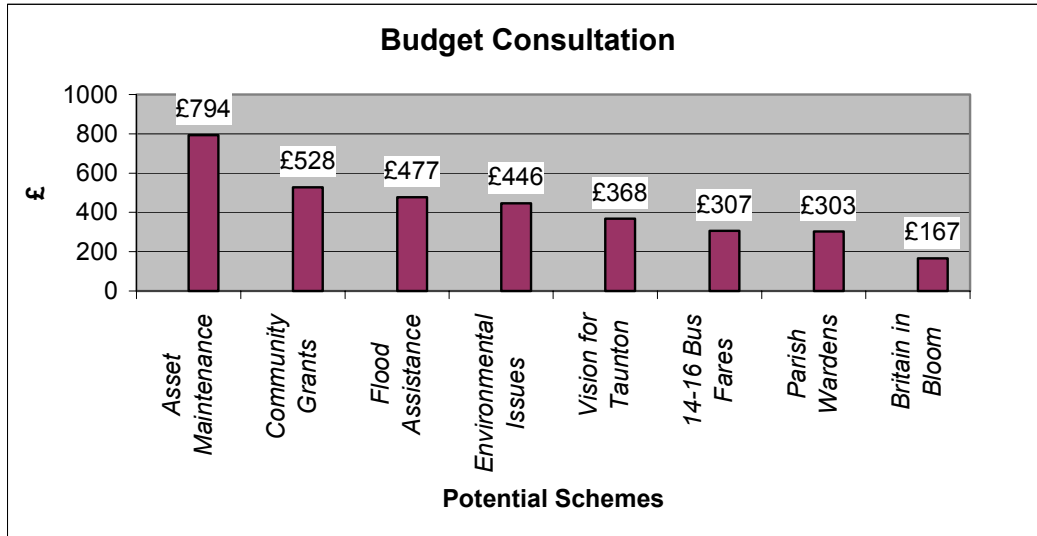
### 3.2 £100 Spending Exercise Results

The Panel were asked to vote (using their monopoly money) over the following schemes.

Area for Improvement	Details
Maintenance of Our Assets	Structural surveys have been completed on all TDBC properties. The results suggest some major work will be needed to keep the buildings in a good state of repair.
Grants to the Community	<p>The Council are under pressure to review the level of spend on grants to the community. The major areas of grant giving are...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Brewhouse Theatre</li> <li>- Welfare Grants</li> <li>- Leisure Grants</li> <li>- Retail Grants</li> </ul> <p>With additional funding (or keeping the existing level of funding) the Council enable various organisations throughout the Deane to deliver our corporate priorities.</p>
Provision of Grant Assistance For Flood Victims	Additional funding targeted at owners of properties that flood regularly. Jointly we can fund work to help prevent future flooding.
Environmental Issues: Expansion of Dog Bins / Litter Picking / Graffiti Cleansing Service	Increase provision of dog waste disposal bins. Increased focus on "clean environment".
Implementation of The Vision For Taunton	<p>The recently published "Vision for Taunton" will require additional funding to help ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- raise quality of urban design within Taunton.</li> <li>- develop key sites (joint ventures)</li> <li>- complete urban extension study</li> </ul>
Extend Existing Concessionary Bus Fares For 14-16 Year Olds	Extend existing concessionary bus fares scheme for 14- 16 year olds from 33% to 50%.
Continuation of Parish Warden Service	The current scheme is funded by the Home Office. This source of funding will end in March 2003.
Entry to Britain in Bloom Competition	The Council are under pressure to review the level of spending on this competition. With additional funding (or keeping the existing level of funding) the Council will continue to promote Taunton Deane in

this national competition.

3.3 The results are as follows.



### 3.4 Electronic Voting Exercise

Attendees at the events were asked to state the priority (High, Medium or Low) they would attach to certain schemes listed under the Corporate Priorities. The results of the exercise, are as follows: -

Scheme	Priority		
	High	Medium	Low
Promoting Recycling	69%	28%	3%
Providing a clean, safe and graffiti-free environment	61%	33%	6%
Provision of abandoned vehicle service	49%	37%	14%
Extension of CCTV service	45%	33%	21%
Provision of concessionary bus fare scheme	39%	28%	33%
Economic Regeneration of key sites within Taunton	36%	47%	17%
Provision of a GP referral scheme	33%	19%	47%
Extension of dog waste service	31%	33%	36%
Assistance with a park and ride scheme for Taunton	31%	25%	44%
Provision of a parish warden scheme	29%	24%	47%
Establishing 'Friends of Parks' groups	28%	28%	44%
Promote electronic service delivery	26%	17%	57%
Provision of industrial units to let	24%	41%	35%
Improvements to High Street in Taunton	22%	36%	42%
Provision of Home Improvement Grants	22%	28%	50%
Provision of wheelie bins	22%	19%	58%
Provision of community offices throughout the Deane	17%	36%	47%
Funding of Taunton Town Centre Partnership	11%	37%	59%
Provision of concessionary fares on TDBC services	9%	37%	54%

### 3.5 Results of ‘More of / Less of’ exercise

The detailed responses to the initial ‘what should TDBC do more of’ and ‘what should TDBC do less of’ quizzes are listed below. This exercise was initially undertaken before the detailed presentation on the Council and its services, so many of the points raised will not be entirely relevant to TDBC services, but there may be some ways in which this Council can influence other partner organisations, for example through the crime and disorder partnership.

#### **Taunton Event – “What Should TDBC Do More Of?”**

Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Why do TDBC discriminate against the elderly buy their flats?</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bed-sits for out of work people so much money spent on these people</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Help for women’s refuge</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> More council housing – and using existing housing with emphasis on forming an area committee helping to maintain the area with the relative sports and play areas (therefore having local pride in the area – e.g. reducing vandalism, drug use)</li> </ul>
Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ease traffic congestion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improve transport</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improve traffic flows</li> </ul>
Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> More cycle routes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Increase cycle tracks if that is within your powers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cycle paths on pavements should have notice stating speed of riders walking pace only</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improve cycling safety with county</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> More traffic reduction scheme, ie incentive to cycle / walk use public transport</li> </ul>
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> More recycling equipment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Give people more and more information on recycling of waste</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Waste recycling schemes – Home collection to include plastic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> More recycling facilities- glass, clothes, paper etc</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> More frequent collections at these recycling points</li> </ul>
Car Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Extend car parking</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> More parking for mothers with small children (wider designated spaces)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> More shopper parking</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> More disabled parking spaces in car parks close to the pay and display machines and make them accessible to wheelchair users (e.g. Lower them down!)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Secure parking facilities for motorcycles / scooters should be introduced – in order to encourage a reduction on car use for commuters</li> </ul>
The town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure the town is attractive as possible – high standards of maintenance to buildings and roads</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure our streets are secure – good lighting cameras – more police patrols</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Compulsory purchase of important buildings in the town centre,</li> </ul>

	<p>i.e. Tudor Tavern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Celebrate the fact that Taunton is a lovely place to live</li> <li>❑ Information on budget detail for the High Street improvement</li> <li>❑ More on encouraging a clean environment, eg to promote pride to reduce litter etc</li> <li>❑ Pass a bye-law making property owners responsible for removing graffiti from their buildings within 48 hours of it being daubed</li> <li>❑ Business incentives</li> <li>❑ More buses</li> <li>❑ More use of Goodlands Gardens, as we had ice skating on Sunday recently</li> </ul>
OAP's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Give more thought to aligning rates increase to OAP increase</li> </ul>
Parish Wardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Publish the results of the effectiveness of parish wardens</li> <li>❑ Discipline in the park. Warden to enforce?</li> </ul>
Dog Wardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ On spot fining for dog pollution</li> <li>❑ Reintroduce dog licences to fund the warden schemes and encourage responsible ownership!</li> <li>❑ Dog bins in the town and streets</li> </ul>
Traffic Wardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ More 'reactive' traffic wardens – an 'on-call' facility where members of the public can alert traffic wardens to an issue / problem</li> <li>❑ Traffic wardens – might help to get traffic moving in Taunton</li> </ul>
Roads & Pavements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Money spent on maintaining the pavements / road surfaces</li> <li>❑ Pavement cleaning e.g. chewing gum – and remains of 'weekend festivities'</li> <li>❑ Chipping stones in front of houses that come out on the pavements</li> <li>❑ Maintenance of paved areas – think of the disabled – 'trip factor' – saving the council – more money spent</li> </ul>
Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Venue for concerts larger than Brewhouse, e.g. pop, musicals, classics, jazz. Dancing area also able to support displays, exhibitions</li> <li>❑ Arts centre</li> </ul>
Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Encourage more people to exercise (i.e. free entry for ¾ sessions)</li> </ul>
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Facilities focussed on youth activities in the evenings</li> </ul>

**Taunton Event – “What should TDBC do less of?”**

Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Less 'road improvements', more repair of holes</li> </ul>
The Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Spend less on TDBC corporate publicity</li> <li>❑ Fewer glossy brochures detailing achievements, departments and their roles etc</li> </ul>
Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Less bikes on pavements, i.e. cycle paths on pavements</li> <li>❑ No cycles on pavement or footpath because there is cycle paths</li> <li>❑ Spend less on cycle routes</li> </ul>
Taunton in Bloom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Less money spent on schemes such as 'Taunton in Bloom'</li> </ul>
The Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Stop trying to sell important town centre buildings, Hunts Court, keep it for use as an art gallery, art school etc</li> </ul>

Rehabilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources directed towards rehabilitation of drug-users / criminals
----------------	--

**Wellington Event –“What should TDBC do more of?”**

Policing	<input type="checkbox"/> Policing in Wellington, tackling the drug problem <input type="checkbox"/> Policing manned police station
Street cleansing	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning of streets <input type="checkbox"/> Keep Wellington tidy, not just the town centre <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring that hedges and roadside growth is cut back by whoever owns the property
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent parks and especially the roundabouts!
Parking	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide secure parking areas for PTWs (on or off-street). Encourage use of PTWs for commuter transport
Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to see A38 lit between Taunton and Wellington
Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Step-change in planning and town planning
Economic Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging and promoting inward investment <input type="checkbox"/> Investment business / industry, tourism
Taunton / Wellington Split	<input type="checkbox"/> Giving Wellington a fairer share of the services provided by the Deane
Roads	<input type="checkbox"/> Alter chicane / Eastwick Road in Taunton

**Wellington Event – “What should TDBC do less of?”**

Arts	<input type="checkbox"/> Art Development, Brewhouse <input type="checkbox"/> Scrub the Brewhouse
Roads	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic lights inefficient
Crime	<input type="checkbox"/> Streets not safe
General	<input type="checkbox"/> Spend Council Tax in an unwise way <input type="checkbox"/> Nannying
Other Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports <input type="checkbox"/> Parks etc

**4.0 Conclusion**

4.1 A number of points became apparent during the consultation exercises, which all Members are requested to note and consider for in their budget decisions.

4.2.1 The above exercises have been a very useful tool when considering policy decisions and members of the Influence Panel are thanked for their contribution.

Further information is available from

**Shirlene Adam**  
**Financial Services Manager**  
**01823 356418**  
**s.adam@tauntondeane.gov.uk**

**PRIORITY 1 DEVELOPMENT BIDS**

**APPENDIX D**

<b>Action</b>	<b><u>CMT Rep</u></b>	<b><u>Recurring</u></b>	<b>Revenue £</b>	<b>Capital £</b>
<b><u>Community Leadership (Cllr Lisgo)</u></b>				
Extend Parish Wardens Scheme	S Fletcher	R	26,693	
Wiveliscombe Community Office	S Fletcher	R	7,500	
Neighbourhood Wardens	S Fletcher	R	5,294	
Local Strategic Partnerships	S Fletcher	R	10,000	
<b><u>Corporate Services (Cllr Partington)</u></b>				
Encouraging Higher Voter Turnout	J Thornberry	N	3,000	
<b><u>Ec Dev, Property &amp; Tourism (Cllr Croad)</u></b>				
High Street Improvements	A Hartridge			-
Egg Factory Site	A Hartridge			Now sold
Vision For Taunton	A Hartridge	N	50,000	
AMP Group Priority 1 Items	A Hartridge	N	71,690	
Improvements To Priory Depot	J Dickinson			33,520
<b><u>Environmental Services (Cllr Mullins)</u></b>				
Dog Waste Disposal	P James		-	
National Air Quality Strategy – modelling equip	P James			11,000
Contaminated Land - software	P James	N	2,707	
Single Property Flooding Grant	A Hartridge	R	20,000	
Health & Safety Improvement Plan	P James	R	2,000	
Portable Appliance Testing	P James	N	1,000	
Litter Clearance	P James	R	25,000	
<b><u>Leader of The Executive (Cllr Horsley)</u></b>				
Capacity To Improve	S Fletcher	R	25,000	
Members Allowances (3.5%)	J Thornberry	R	6,360	
<b><u>Leisure, Arts and Culture (Cllr Henley)</u></b>				
Improvements to Victoria Park	P James			-
Sustainable Construction Fund	P James		-	
Wellsprings	P James		?	?
Remove Ski Slope and Replace With Alternative?	P James		-	30,000
Replace Trampoline at Wellington	J Dickinson	N	3,000	
External Doors at Wellington	J Dickinson	N	2,400	
Drainage System St James Street	J Dickinson	N	7,960	
Various Leisure Pools – plant	J Dickinson			14,610
Various Leisure Pools – emergency lights etc	J Dickinson			7,200
<b><u>Plg Policy &amp; Transportation (Cllr Bulgin)</u></b>				
Concessionary Fares (6-15 year olds)	A Hartridge	R	2,000	
Footpath (Staplegrove Rd to Roughmoor)	A Hartridge			SCC
<b>TOTAL PRIORITY 1 ITEMS</b>			<b>271,604</b>	<b>96,330</b>

Note:

**Recurring Expenses (R)**

**Non-Recurring Expenses (N)**

£

**129,847**

**141,757**

**271,604**

## **APPENDIX E**

# **FEES AND CHARGES**



## **1. LAND CHARGE SEARCH FEES**

- 1.1 It is the Council's general practice to review the Local Land Charge Search fees annually. Normally this review results in a small increase which reflects additional costs to the Council of operating the service during that year. The current fee levied by Taunton Deane is £100 per search, the lowest charge in Somerset.
- 1.2 The service is striving towards its target of being delivered electronically by 2005. The fee proposal set out below allows this process to continue.
- 1.3 Somerset County Council levy a fee on this Council for the element of the search carried out by them. They propose to increase their charges to Taunton Deane by £6.75 per search from 1<sup>st</sup> April. The fee proposal set out below also takes this into account.
- 1.4 The Executive is recommended to approve an increase in the land charge search fee to £120 for searches received on and from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003.

Contact Officer:  
Ian Taylor,  
Chief Solicitor  
Ext 2303

## 2. CREMATION AND INTERMENT FEES AND CHARGES

2.1 The following listing shows the current (2002/03) three main charges together with the corresponding fees for neighbouring authorities.

AUTHORITY	INCLUSIVE ADULT CREMATION FEE £	GRAVE PURCHASE FEE £	GRAVE INTERMENT FEE £
TAUNTON DEANE	270	234	234
YEOVIL	240	226	220
WESTON SUPER MARE	310	480	425
BRISTOL	310	480	425
BARNSTAPLE	255	NO CEMETERIES	-
EXETER	326	NO CEMETERIES	-

2.2 Members will note that Taunton Deane currently has a competitive cremation fee. The proposed increases will result in our fees still being in the middle range compared with other authorities in the area when they too raise their fees and charges.

2.3 The proposed charges for 2003/04 are set out in the following pages.

## **TAUNTON DEANE CREMATORIUM**

### **TABLE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

### **EFFECTIVE FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2003**

Table of fees and other charges, the payment of which may be demanded under Section 9 of the Cremation Act 1902, by the Taunton Deane Borough Council for the cremation of human remains.

#### **Part 1 - Cremation**

For the Cremation:-	£ 2002/0 3	£ 2003/0 4
(i) of the body of a stillborn child or of a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed one month;	12.00	13.00
(ii) of the body of a child whose age at the time of death exceeded one month but did not exceed sixteen years;	72.00	74.00
(iii) of the body of a person whose age at the time of death exceeded sixteen years;	270.00	295.00
(iv) a surcharge will be made when the service does not take place between the hours of 9.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday;	44.00	45.00
(v) use of Chapel for additional service time.	87.00	90.00
(vi) Chapel Attendant pall-bearing fee.	10.00	11.00

NOTE:- The Cremation fee includes:-

Use of Chapel, waiting room etc.  
 Services of organist and use of organ  
 Services of chapel attendant, which includes  
 playing CDs, tapes, etc.  
 Medical referee's fee  
 Disposal of cremated remains in Garden of  
 Rest  
 Certificate for burial of cremated remains  
 Provision of Polytainer when required

**Part 2 - Urns**

<b>Supply of Urn or Casket:-</b>		£
Stratford	21.00	22.00
Avon	22.00	23.00
Malvern	28.00	29.00
Metal Postal	24.00	25.00

**Part 3 - Cremated Remains**

(i) Temporary deposit of cremated remains:-		
First month	12.00	13.00
Each subsequent month	15.00	16.00
(ii) Forwarding cremated remains excluding carriage	16.00	17.00
(iii) Collection of cremated remains on a Saturday (when available)	40.00	41.00

**Part 4 - Memorials**

(i) Entries in Book of Memory:-		
Two line inscription	39.00	40.00
Five line inscription	54.00	56.00
Eight line inscription	75.00	77.00
Flower ) with five or eight	34.00	35.00
Badge or Coat of Arms ) line inscription only	44.00	45.00
(ii) Memorial Cards:-		

Two line inscription	18.00	19.00
Five line inscription	23.00	24.00
Eight line inscription	26.00	27.00
Flower ) with five or eight	36.00	38.00
Badge or Coat of Arms ) line inscription only	48.00	50.00

(iii) Miniature Books:-

Two line inscription	39.00	40.00
Five line inscription	48.00	50.00
Eight line inscription	50.00	52.00
Flower ) with five or eight	36.00	38.00
Badge or Coat of Arms ) line inscription only	48.00	50.00

Subsequent inscriptions

Per line	11.00	12.00
Flower	32.00	33.00
Badge or Coat of Arms	41.00	43.00

(iv)	Cornish Granite tablet for a ten year period	228.00	235.00
	Cost of renewal 50% of current fee		
(v)	Memorial plaque for a five year period	160.00	166.00
	Cost of renewal 50% of current fee	80.00	83.00
(vi)	Baby memorial plaques for a ten year period	52.00	53.00

**Part 5 - Other Fees and Charges**

(i)	Certified extract from Register of Cremations	11.00	12.00
(ii)	Floral Arrangements:- Small arrangement	24.00	25.00
	Large arrangement	29.00	30.00

NOTE:- The charges in Part 4 and 5 (ii) include VAT.

**2.5**

**CEMETERIES**

**TABLE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

**EFFECTIVE FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2003**

Table of fees and other charges fixed by the Taunton Deane Borough Council for and in connection with burials in the Taunton Deane St. Mary's, St. James and Wellington Cemeteries.

The fees indicated for the various parts set out below apply where the persons to be interred or in respect of who the right is granted is, or immediately before this death, was an inhabitant of Taunton Deane District, or in the case of a stillborn child where one of the parents is or at the time of the interment was such an inhabitant or parishioner. In all other cases the fees, payments and sums will be doubled with the exception that those set out in Parts 3 and 4 will not be so doubled.

Interment fees out of normal hours will be doubled.

## Part 1 - Interments

The fees indicated for the various heads of this part include the digging of the grave but do not include the walling of a vault or walled grave.

£

1. For the interment in a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has not been granted:-		
(i) of the body of a stillborn child or a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed one year;	65.00	68.00
(ii) of the body of a child or person whose age at the time of death exceeded one year.	165.00	170.00
2. For any interment in a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted:-		
(i) of the body of a stillborn child or a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed one year:-		
at SINGLE depth	72.00	74.00
at DOUBLE depth	85.00	88.00
at TREBLE depth	96.00	98.00

(ii)	of the body of a child or person whose age at the time of death exceeded one year but did not exceed ten:-		£
	at SINGLE depth	139.00	143.0
	at DOUBLE depth	165.00	0
	at TREBLE depth	188.00	170.0
			0
			194.0
			0
(iii)	for the body of a person whose age exceeds ten years:-		
	at SINGLE depth	206.00	212.0
	at DOUBLE depth	242.00	0
	at TREBLE depth	274.00	249.0
			0
			282.0
			0
3.	For the interment of cremated remains:-		
(i)	in Garden of Remembrance (where cremation has not taken place at Taunton Deane Crematorium)	27.00	28.00
(ii)	in any grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted	46.00	48.00
(iii)	Saturday interment (when available)	50.00	52.00
(iv)	To witness interment in Garden of Rest when cremation has taken place at Taunton.	10.00	11.00

**Part 2 - Exclusive Rights of Burial in Earthen Graves**

**1. Taunton Deane Cemetery:-**

For the exclusive right of burial for a period of 75 years in an earthen grave 7' 6" by 4' 0"



(i)	in Division L	242.00	250.00
			0
(ii)	in Division A	278.00	287.00
			0
(iii)	in Division B	261.00	269.00
			0
(iv)	Cremated remains grave 78 cm by 76 cm	177.00	183.00
			0

**2. St. Mary's and St. James Cemeteries:-**

For the exclusive right of burial for a period of 75 years in an earthen grave 8' 6" by 4' 0"	261.00	269.00
		£

**3. Wellington Cemetery:-**

For the exclusive right of burial for a period of 75 years in an earthen grave		
(i) 2.7 m by 1.2 m	242.00	250.00
		0
(ii) 1.2 m by 0.6 m	150.00	155.00
		0
(iii) Traditional grave		
For the exclusive right of burial for a period of 75 years in an earthen grave 2.7 m by 1.2 m	261.00	269.00
		0

The fees indicated in Part 2 include the Deed of Grant and all expenses thereof.

**Part 3 - Memorials and Inscriptions**

For the right to erect or place on a grave or vault in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted.

1. In any "Traditional Section":-

(i) a flat stone, kerbstone or any other form of memorial;	109.00	112.00
(ii) a headstone or cross with base, bases or tablet;	96.00	99.00
(iii) an inscribed stone vase.	36.00	37.00
2. In any "Lawn Section":-		
(i) a headstone;	96.00	99.00
(ii) an inscribed vase.	36.00	37.00
3. Cremated remains flat tablet	96.00	99.00
4. Each removal of memorial for additional inscriptions.	36.00	37.00

**Part 4 - Other Fees and Charges**

1. Certified extract from the Register of Burials.	11.00	12.00
2. Burial service in Crematorium Chapel (fee includes the use of Chapel, organ and the organist's fee);	87.00	90.00
3. Register search.	11.00	12.00

**3.0 LEISURE CHARGES**

- 3.1 The current is to review the leisure charges annually. A number of costs have risen above the level of inflation including some utility charges, licences and staffing costs (due to changing regulations). For this reason a number of the fees and charges are also proposed to rise above the level of inflation.
- 3.2 The proposed fees and charges have been discussed with the relevant Executive Councillor (Cllr Henley).
- 3.3 It is recommended that the proposed tariff set out below be approved.

**Contact Officer:**

Juliette Dickinson  
Head of Commercial Services  
Tel : 01823 285980  
[j.dickinson@tauntondeane.gov.uk](mailto:j.dickinson@tauntondeane.gov.uk)

**VIVARY GOLF COURSE, PUTTING CIRCUIT AND TENNIS COURTS**

	2000/01		2001/02		2002/03		2003/04 Proposed		Proposed increase %
	£	p	£	p	£	p	£	p	
<b>Golf Season Tickets</b>									
<b>Full Annual Tickets</b>									
7 day	185.00		194.00		213.00		<b>224.00</b>		5.16
5 day	137.00		144.00		160.00		<b>168.00</b>		5.00
<b>Half Yearly (5 day only)</b>									
1st January-30th June	72.00		75.00		79.00		<b>85.00</b>		7.59
1st July-31st December	85.50		90.00		95.00		<b>100.00</b>		5.26
<b>Winter Season (5 day only)</b>									
1st October-31st March	72.00		75.00		79.00		<b>85.00</b>		7.59
<b>Junior Season (restricted access)</b>	40.00		42.00		45.00		<b>50.00</b>		11.11
<b>Green Fees</b>									
Daily Green Fee (Mon - Fri)			0.00		10.00		<b>10.50</b>		5.00
Daily Green Fee (Sat, Sun & Bank Hols)	8.40		8.90		12.00		<b>12.60</b>		5.00
Sunset Ticket - 50% of daily green fee) Mon - Fri					5.00		<b>5.25</b>		5.00
Sunset Ticket - 50% of daily green fee) Sat, Sun & BH	4.20		4.45		6.00		<b>6.30</b>		5.00
Practice Ground (sometimes restricted)	4.20		4.45		5.00		<b>5.00</b>		0.00
Junior/Buzz Saver	2.50		2.60		2.70		<b>3.00</b>		11.11
County Cards - 50% of daily green fee) Mon-Fri	4.20		4.45		5.00		<b>5.25</b>		5.00
County Cards - 50% of daily green fee) Sat, Sun & BH					6.00		<b>6.30</b>		5.00
<b>Equipment and Locker Hire</b>									
Club Hire (plus £2 deposit)	2.80		3.00		3.20		<b>3.50</b>		9.37
Trolley Hire	1.20		1.20		1.30		<b>1.50</b>		15.38
Locker Rent (annual)	13.50		14.00		15.00		<b>n/a</b>		#VALUE!
Locker Key (deposit - refundable)	2.50		2.50		2.50		<b>n/a</b>		#VALUE!
<b>Putting Circuit (per round)</b>									
Adult	0.60		0.60		0.70		<b>0.75</b>		7.14
Junior	0.60		0.60		0.70		<b>0.75</b>		7.14
<b>Tennis (per court, per hour)</b>									
Summer Season (1st April-30th September)	3.20		3.40		3.50		<b>3.60</b>		2.86
Winter Season (10th October-31st March)	3.20		3.40		3.50		<b>3.60</b>		2.86
Racquet Hire (£5 deposit - refundable)	1.00		1.00		1.00		<b>1.00</b>		0.00

**WELLINGTON SPORTS CENTRE**

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04 Proposed	Concession Price	Proposed increase
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	%
<b>Area Hire</b>						
Main Sports Hall (per hour)	22.80	24.00	25.00	<b>26.40</b> 1.50 off pp (max 5)		5.60
Badminton (per court, per hour)	5.70	6.00	6.25	<b>6.60</b> 1.50 off pp (max 2)		5.60
Upper Hall (per hour)	15.50	16.80	17.50	<b>19.50</b> 1.50 off pp (max4)		11.43
Table Tennis (per table, per hour)	1.60	1.80	2.00	<b>2.20</b> 0.50 off pp (max 2)		10.00
Squash (per court, per 45 min)	4.10	4.30	4.50	<b>4.70</b> 1.00 off pp (max 2)		4.44
<b>Activities (per session)</b>						
Ladies Activities	3.10	3.40	3.50	<b>3.70</b>	2.50	5.71
Creche (per hour)	1.00	1.10	1.20	<b>1.30</b>	0.60	8.33
Children's Activities (under 16s)	2.60	2.70	3.00	<b>3.20</b>	1.40	6.67
50+ Recreation	2.10	2.20	2.30	<b>2.40</b>	1.40	4.35
Fitness Classes	3.10	3.40	3.50	<b>3.70</b>	2.50	5.71
Tea Dance	1.60	1.80	1.90	<b>2.00</b>	1.20 'ATL'	5.26
Rollerskating	2.60	2.70	3.40	<b>3.60</b>	1.40	5.88
Sauna (includes a swim)	3.10	3.40	3.50	<b>3.60</b>	1.80	2.86
Solarium (includes a swim)	3.10	3.40	3.50	<b>3.60*</b>	1.80	#VALUE!
Fitness Training	2.60	2.80	3.60	<b>4.00</b>	1.40	11.11
FitBuzz	25.00	27.00	28.00	<b>28.00</b>	20.00	0.00
Induction - Face to Face	0.00	0.00	24.00	<b>25.00</b>	20.00	4.17
Induction - Fast track			10.00	<b>12.00</b>	8.00	20.00
Skiing	3.70	3.90	4.00	n/a	n/a	#VALUE!
<b>Sports Centre Clubs (including coaching)</b>						
Junior Squash	2.10	2.20	2.60	<b>2.80</b>	1.80	7.69
Junior Swimming	2.10	2.20	2.60	<b>2.80</b>	1.80	7.69
<b>Swimming (per session)</b>						
Adults (16 and over)	1.75	1.90	2.20	<b>2.30</b>	0.80	4.55
Juniors	1.00	1.10	1.20	<b>1.30</b>	0.80	8.33
Family Swim	4.40	4.90	5.60	<b>5.90</b>	n/a	5.36
Under 5 years	Free	Free	Free	<b>Free</b>	Free	#VALUE!
Senior Citizen	1.00	1.10	1.20	<b>1.30</b>	0.80	8.33
School Swimming (including provision of lifeguard)	0.85	0.95	1.00	<b>1.10</b>	n/a	10.00
Aqua Buzz - adult monthly	14.00	15.25	16.00	<b>17.00</b>	10.00	6.25
<b>Hire of Equipment (per hiring)</b>						
Squash and Badminton Racquets	1.00	1.00	1.00	<b>1.00</b>	Free	0.00
Swimming Arm Bands	0.50	0.50	0.50	<b>0.50</b>	Free	0.00
Football, Netball, Volleyball, Basketball	1.00	1.00	1.00	<b>1.00</b>	Free	0.00

\* to be reviewed when new solarium installed

**BLACKBROOK PAVILION AND  
TENNIS CENTRE**

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04 Proposed	Concession price	Proposed increase
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	%
<b>Area Hire</b>						
Main Sports Hall (per hour)	22.80	24.00	25.00	<b>26.40</b>	1.50 off pp (max5)	5.60
Volleyball	17.00	18.00	18.75	<b>19.80</b>	1.50 off pp (max4)	5.60
Badminton (per court, per hour)	5.70	6.00	6.25	<b>6.60</b>	1.50 off pp (max2)	5.60
Squash (per court, per 45 minutes)	4.10	4.30	4.50	<b>4.70</b>	1.00 off pp (max 2)	4.44
Table Tennis (per table, per hour)	1.60	1.80	2.00	<b>2.20</b>	0.50 off pp (max 2)	10.00
Indoor Tennis Court	11.00	11.80	12.40	<b>13.00</b>	2.00 off pp (max 2)	4.84
Outdoor Tennis Court	4.20	4.50	5.00	<b>5.20</b>	1.00 off pp (max 2)	4.00
Floodlights Included	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>6.20</b>	1.00 off pp (max 2)	#VALUE!
<b>Activities (per session)</b>						
Creche (per hour)	1.00	1.10	1.20	<b>1.30</b>	0.60	8.33
Children's Activities	2.60	2.70	3.00	<b>3.20</b>	1.40	6.67
50+ Recreation	2.10	2.20	2.30	<b>2.40</b>	1.40	4.35
Fitness Classes	3.10	3.40	3.50	<b>3.70</b>	2.50	5.71
Rollerskating	2.60	2.70	2.80	<b>3.00</b>	1.40	7.14
Health Suite	3.50	3.80	4.00	<b>4.20</b>	2.00	5.00
Solarium	2.00	2.20	2.40	<b>2.50</b>	1.80	4.17
Climbing Wall (per person)	2.60	2.80	2.90	<b>3.00</b>	1.40	3.45
Tea Dance	1.60	1.80	1.90	<b>2.00</b>	1.20 'ATL'	5.26
<b>Health and Fitness</b>						
Fitness Training	3.20	3.50	3.60	<b>4.00</b>	1.80	11.11
Induction Face to Face	0.00	0.00	24.00	<b>25.00</b>	20.00	4.17
Induction Fast track	0.00	0.00	10.00	<b>12.00</b>	8.00	20.00
FitBuzz	25.00	27.00	28.00	<b>28.00</b>	20.00	0.00
<b>Hire of Equipment</b>						
Tennis/Squash/Badminton Rackets	1.00	1.00	1.00	<b>1.00</b>	Free	0.00
Table Tennis Bat	0.50	0.50	0.50	<b>0.50</b>	Free	0.00

**TAUNTON POOL**

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	Concession price	Proposed increase
				Proposed		
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	%
<b>Swimming</b>						
Adults (16 and over)	2.00	2.10	2.20	<b>2.30</b>	0.80	4.55
Juniors	1.00	1.10	1.20	<b>1.30</b>	0.80	8.33
Senior Citizens	1.00	1.10	1.20	<b>1.30</b>	0.80	8.33
Family	5.00	5.30	5.60	<b>6.00</b>	n/a	7.14
Under 5 years	Free	Free	Free	<b>Free</b>	Free	#VALUE!
<b>Admission</b>						
Spectators	0.50	0.50	0.50	<b>0.60</b>	Free	20.00
<b>Activities</b>						
Antenatal and Post Natal Swimming	2.20	2.30	2.40	<b>2.50</b>	1.80	4.17
Parents and Child	2.20	2.30	2.40	<b>2.50</b>	1.80	4.17
50+ Swimming	1.60	1.70	1.80	<b>1.90</b>	0.80	5.56
Early Morning Swimming	2.00	2.10	2.20	<b>2.30</b>	0.80	4.55
Solarium (includes a swim)	3.20	2.20	2.40	<b>2.50</b>	1.80	4.17
Steam Room and Swim (1 hour)	3.20	3.80	4.00	<b>4.20</b>	1.80	5.00
Waterobics	2.70	3.40	3.50	<b>3.70</b>	1.80	5.71
Aqua Buzz - adult monthly	14.50	15.25	16.00	<b>17.00</b>	10.00	6.25



**ST. JAMES STREET BATHS**

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04 Proposed	Proposed increase
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	%
<b>Hire of Main Pool (per hour)</b>					
<b>Casual Hirings</b>					
Mondays to Fridays (inclusive) up to 6 p.m.	27.80	29.00	30.00	<b>32.00</b>	6.67
Saturdays up to 1 p.m.	27.80	29.00	30.00	<b>32.00</b>	6.67
Mondays to Fridays after 6 p.m.	27.80	29.00	30.00	<b>32.00</b>	6.67
Saturdays after 1 p.m. and Sundays	27.80	29.00	30.00	<b>32.00</b>	6.67
<b>Club Hirings</b>					
Mondays to Fridays (inclusive) up to 6 p.m.	19.50	20.50	21.25	<b>22.00</b>	3.53
Saturdays up to 1 p.m.	27.80	29.00	30.00	<b>32.00</b>	6.67
Mondays to Fridays after 6 p.m.	27.80	29.00	30.00	<b>32.00</b>	6.67
Saturdays after 1 p.m. and Sundays	19.50	20.50	21.25	<b>22.00</b>	3.53
<b>Hire of Learner Pool (per hour)</b>					
<b>Casual Hirings</b>					
Mondays to Fridays (inclusive) up to 6 p.m.	16.00	16.80	17.40	<b>18.20</b>	4.60
Saturdays up to 1 p.m.	16.00	16.80	17.40	<b>18.20</b>	4.60
Mondays to Fridays after 6 p.m.	16.00	16.80	17.40	<b>18.20</b>	4.60
Saturdays after 1 p.m. and Sundays	16.00	16.80	17.40	<b>18.20</b>	4.60
<b>Club Hirings</b>					
Mondays to Fridays (inclusive) up to 6 p.m.	12.00	13.00	13.50	<b>14.00</b>	3.70
Saturdays up to 1 p.m.	16.00	16.80	17.40	<b>18.00</b>	3.45
Mondays to Fridays after 6 p.m.	16.00	16.80	17.40	<b>18.00</b>	3.45
Saturdays after 1 p.m. and Sundays	12.00	13.00	13.50	<b>14.00</b>	3.70
School Swimming (per pupil including lifeguard cover.)	0.90	0.95	1.00	<b>1.10</b>	10.00
Room hire (per hour)	5.50	6.00	6.50	<b>7</b>	7.69

## PLAYING FIELDS

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04 Proposed	% increase
	£	£	£	£	
<b>FOOTBALL &amp; RUGBY</b>					
<b>WELLINGTON &amp; BLACKBROOK PLAYING FIELDS</b>					
Senior football pitch & pavilion	31.00	32.55	33.50	<b>35.00</b>	4.5
Senior football pitch only	25.00	26.25	27.00	<b>28.50</b>	5.6
Senior rugby	25.00	26.25	27.00	<b>28.50</b>	5.6
<b>OTHER PLAYING FIELDS</b>					
Senior football	25.00	26.25	27.00	<b>28.50</b>	5.6
Junior football	12.25	12.85	13.50	<b>14.25</b>	5.6
Senior rugby	25.00	26.25	27.00	<b>28.50</b>	5.6
Junior rugby	12.25	12.85	13.50	<b>14.25</b>	5.6
Senior floodlit training - per hour	10.00	10.50	11.00	<b>12.00</b>	9.1
Junior floodlit training - per hour	6.00	6.30	6.50	<b>7.00</b>	7.7
<b>CRICKET</b>					
<b>WELLINGTON &amp; BLACKBROOK PLAYING FIELDS</b>					
SENIOR					
Weekday after 5.00pm	28.50	30.00	31.00	<b>33.00</b>	6.5
Weekday before 5.00pm	35.00	36.75	38.00	<b>40.00</b>	5.3
Weekends / Public Holidays	41.50	43.50	45.00	<b>48.00</b>	6.7
Evening side wicket	19.50	20.50	21.00	<b>22.00</b>	4.8
WELLINGTON JUNIOR					
Weekday after 5.00pm	14.00	14.70	15.50	<b>16.50</b>	6.5
Weekday before 5.00pm	17.25	18.10	19.00	<b>20.00</b>	5.3
Weekends / Public Holidays	20.50	21.50	22.50	<b>24.00</b>	6.7
<b>OTHER PLAYING FIELDS</b>					
SENIOR					
Weekday after 5.00pm	25.00	26.25	27.00	<b>29.00</b>	7.4
Weekday before 5.00pm	30.50	32.00	33.00	<b>35.00</b>	6.1
Weekends / Public Holidays	35.00	36.75	38.00	<b>40.00</b>	5.3
Artificial / side wicket	18.00	18.90	21.00	<b>22.00</b>	4.8
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>					
Netball court & pavilion	13.90	14.70	15.00	<b>15.50</b>	3.3
Tennis court per hour	3.20	3.40	3.50	<b>3.60</b>	2.9
Pavilion / showers only	6.00	6.30	6.50	<b>7.00</b>	7.7

#### **4.0 LICENSING FEES**

- 4.1 The proposed fee increases are in line with inflationary increases and / or in line with the additional costs of administering the licensing system.
- 4.2 The following listing sets out the current fees together with the proposed increased fees for 2003/04.

**Contact Officer:**

Jim Hunter  
Licensing Manager  
Ext 2462

**Licence Fees [Effective from 1 April 2002] – Proposed 2003/4**

**Public Entertainment Licence  
Section 79 Certificates (Registered Clubs)  
Sports Exhibitions**

Annual Licence Category Charge

£1.05 **£1.10** per person based on the maximum capacity of the venue. Minimum fee **£100 £105**.

For example if the capacity is 500 the fee would be **£525 £550**.

Premises wishing to remain open after Midnight add **£160 £165** to above fee for annual licence.

Premises wishing to remain open after 1am add **£320 £335** to above fee for annual licence.

Transfer £45 **£50**

Standard Variation £70 **£75**

Variation to extend hours until 1am **£160 £165**

Variation to extend hours after 1am **£320 £335**

Provisional Licence full fee

Confirm Provisional Licence £70 **£75**

**PEL Fees if the matter is to be determined by a Licensing Board**

Grant of a PEL for a Premises wishing to remain open after 11.30pm **£500 £520**

Grant Variation Or Renewal of a PEL **£100 £105**

These fees are payable in advance and are in addition to the Standard fee(s). All fees are for the application process and are non refundable.

**Community Premises (Village Halls etc.) are exempt from Entertainment Licensing Fees**

Where Community Premises Licences include authority for theatrical production a **£32 £35** fee will be levied for the theatre section of the licence.

Transfers - No Charge

Variations - **£32 £35**

**Miscellaneous**

Gaming Machines **(Fixed by Statute)**

Gaming Machines

Executive, 12 FEB 2003, Item No. 10, Pg 41

**£250**

**Cinemas**

Cinemas [per screen] **£120 £125**  
[Maximum fee fixed by statute at £600 per Licence]

Restricted Video Licence **£250 £260**

Transfer **£45 £50**

Variation **£70 £75**

**Occasional PEL, Occasional Theatre and Temporary Theatre Licences**

All Buildings/Marqueses

Category	Charge	Each Extra Day
Up to 500	£ 125 <b>£130</b>	£ 50 <b>£55</b>
501-750	£ 200 <b>£210</b>	£ 50 <b>£55</b>
751-1000	£ 275 <b>£285</b>	£ 50 <b>£55</b>
1001 and above	£ 500 <b>£520</b>	£100 <b>£105</b>

**Open Air PEL**

Category	Charge	Each Extra Day
Up to 500	£ 125 <b>£130</b>	£ 50 <b>£55</b>
501-750	£ 200 <b>£210</b>	£ 50 <b>£55</b>
751-1000	£ 275 <b>£285</b>	£ 50 <b>£55</b>
1001 and above	£ 500 <b>£520</b>	£100 <b>£105</b>

Plus any additional costs/fees incurred by the Council

**Theatre Licence**

£1.05 **£1.10** per person based on maximum capacity min **£100 £105** as per PEL fees

Transfer **£45 £50**

Standard Variation **£70 £75**

Provisional Licence full fee

Confirm Provisional Licence **£70 £75**

Where a premises has a PEL & Theatre licence the fee will be charged at **£1.05 £1.10** per person for the highest max capacity plus **£100 £105** for the other licence.

**Hackney Carriage/Private Hire**

Hackney Carriage **£120 £125**  
Vehicle Licence



**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE 12 FEBRUARY 2003**

**REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**THIS MATTER IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR HORSLEY (LEADER OF THE COUNCIL)**

**GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

**1 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To consider the proposed General Fund Capital Programme as outlined in Appendix A of this report.

**2 Resources**

2.1 Financing of the General Fund Capital Programme utilises a number of funding sources. These are identified in the table below:

<b>Source</b>	<b>2002/03 Actual £</b>	<b>2003/04 Forecast £</b>	<b>2004/05 Forecast £</b>	<b>2005/06 Forecast £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Basic Credit Approvals	178,000	189,000	100,000	100,000	<b>567,000</b>
Supplementary Credit Approvals	6,500	11,000	0	0	<b>17,500</b>
Capital Receipts	420,000	200,000	0	0	<b>620,000</b>
Revenue Contributions to Capital (RCCO)	2,537,780	500,000	0	0	<b>3,037,780</b>
Developers Contributions/S106 Agreements	747,420	0	0	0	<b>747,420</b>
Funds	242,600	243,660	209,380	176,490	<b>872,130</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,132,300</b>	<b>1,143,660</b>	<b>309,380</b>	<b>276,490</b>	<b>5,861,830</b>

2.2 Credit approvals, both basic and supplementary, are permission to borrow, and are issued annually by central government. They are approval for an authority to take out loan debt from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB).

2.3 Basic credit approvals can be used to support capital expenditure in respect of any local government service. The above table takes into account the recent allocations given to the Council via the Single Capital Pot. Supplementary

credit approvals are always earmarked for specified projects and the amounts shown above support air and pollution monitoring schemes.

- 2.4 New loan debt is only taken after full consideration of the Authority's treasury management strategy, as often, the capital programme can be funded using internal resources only, thereby negating the need to take on additional external debt.
- 2.5 Estimated useable capital receipts shown above represent the income that is expected to be generated from the sale of assets. This income is not subject to set aside rules, and can therefore be wholly re-invested in funding capital schemes. Since the budget consultation packs were issued to all Councillors in December the Executive have agreed to the sale of Creech Paper Mills, this has been reflected in the figures shown in paragraph 2.1.
- 2.6 Other earmarked funds such as developers contributions, S106 agreement receipts, the Vehicles Fund, the Capital Fund, and the vehicle and Plant Account are also available to finance capital expenditure incurred.
- 2.7 The amount shown above for the Revenue Contributions to Capital Expenditure (RCCO) is the total sum of funds that have been previously set aside from revenue budgets to fund capital schemes. In addition, during 2002/03, Full Council has approved further revenue contributions to capital amounting to £601,775. In the 2003/04 revenue budget the Executive has included a further RCCO of £500,000 and this is included in the table above. These additional funds have been earmarked for the following schemes in 2003/04:

The Wellsprings Centre	£300,000
Contribution to Silk Mills Scheme	<u>£200,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£500,000</b>

These amounts are included in the capital programme shown in Appendix A.

### 3 **Proposed Capital Programme**

- 3.1 Regarding the Wellsprings Centre, in addition to the £300,000 RCCO mentioned above the Executive propose that monies originally earmarked for the proposed extension of the Indoor Tennis Centre should now be transferred to the Wellsprings budget. When it became apparent that there would be a significant funding problem with the Wellsprings Centre work to progress the Tennis Centre Extension was put on ice. In addition, during discussions with the Sport England Lottery Fund (SELF) it became clear that they would not consider any new funding bids by the Council whilst the Council was, at the same time, bidding for further funding to complete the Wellsprings Project. The Executive therefore propose to delete the Tennis Centre extension from the capital programme and use the funds on the Wellsprings Centre.
- 3.2 In addition, in draft financing proposals for the Wellsprings Centre a further £77,735 has been earmarked by the Executive from unallocated capital



resources towards the scheme. In summary, the amounts shown for 2003/04 in Appendix A for the Wellsprings Project comprise:

RCCO (para 2.7)	£300,000
Amount previously set aside for Tennis Centre extension	£318,275
Amount from unallocated resources	<u>£77,735</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£696,010</b>

The financing of Wellsprings will be subject to a separate paper once the outcome of the Lottery application is known.

- 3.3 Included within the proposed Programme are monies agreed by the Executive during the 2002/03 budget setting process for the purchase of kerbside recycling boxes. The funding agreement on the whole project has now been reviewed, and the overall cost of the project remains as agreed. The allocation of funds between capital and revenue has however changed (due to the split of DEFRA funding). In order to allocate the funds correctly, both the existing capital programme and revenue budget must be amended. This will have no impact on the overall capital programme, as there will be an equal reduction of both resources and expenditure. The Health & Leisure Review Panel had previously considered this subject at their meeting of 18 September 2002.
- 3.4 The budget consultation packs issued to all Councillors in December (yellow folder) outlined savings that could be made and details of new schemes that had been both accepted and rejected by the Executive.
- 3.5 Since the consideration of the Programme by the Review Board on 30 January 2003 Executive Councillors have revisited their proposed programme and wish to make one further addition. The scheme for continued financial support in 2003/04 for improvements to the Taunton Canal and river corridor is now included within the programme. The up to date picture is as follows:

#### Schemes deleted/reduced from the Programme

Scheme	£	Comments
Somerset Wide Area Network	-5,000	50% of budget not required
Deane House Network Improvements	-5,000	Reduction agreed
Parking on Estates	-30,000	To be removed from programme for 2005/06 <u>only</u> , to be reinstated from 2006/07.
<b>Total</b>	<b>-40,000</b>	

#### New Schemes Agreed by the Executive

Scheme	£	Comments
Leisure Pools – new and replacement plant	14,610	Replacement of old plant, designated as urgent works in pool condition surveys

Leisure Pools – emergency lighting and fire system upgrade	7,200	Designated as urgent in condition surveys
WSC – decommissioning and making safe ski slope & upgrading of skate park	30,000	Health & Safety Concerns
Air Pollution Software	11,000	Funded by DEFRA SCA
DLO Depot improvements	33,520	Funded by DLO reserve
Improvements to Taunton Canal and river corridor	10,000	Continuation of existing budget into 2003/04
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,330</b>	

#### **New Schemes NOT included in the Programme**

The following schemes were proposed by Officers, but have not been included in the proposed programme.

<b>Portfolio/Scheme</b>	<b>Total Budget £</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Leisure, Arts &amp; Culture</b>		
Leisure Grants	15,400	Reinstatement of Leisure Grants budget for 2004/05 back to level of current provision + annual inflationary uplift.
Wellington & Blackbrook Pavilion Air Conditioning	23,000	Both replacement of existing equipment and new equipment at WSC
<b>Corporate Services</b>		
Asbestos Removal	25,000	Increase in 2003/04 budget provision to £40k
IT Storage Area Network	50,000	Increase amount of data stored within the Council
Energy Conservation	15,000 (over three years)	Increase in annual budget provision from £5k pa to £10k pa
<b>Economic Development, Tourism &amp; Council Business</b>		
Crematorium Waiting Room Extension	64,600	Re-submission of scheme rejected last year
Electronic Car Park Signs	100,000	Included within Corporate Strategy
Wellington Street Furniture	10,000	Additional to existing Wellington Town Centre Enhancement scheme
<b>Planning Policy</b>		
Contribution to Street and Path Lighting schemes	25,000	Extension of existing scheme into 2003/04
<b>Total</b>	<b>328,000</b>	

3.6 Detailed project approval reports on all new schemes are available on request from the contact officer.

3.7 The amount of resources available, as detailed in paragraph 2.1, total £5,861,830. The proposed programme, as shown in Appendix A, projects a total programme of £5,621,830. This means that there are currently surplus resources available of £240,000. Any new schemes that emerge during the lifespan of the programme will be funded through these surplus resources or through new resources such as additional capital receipts. Bids for additional schemes to those set out in Appendix A should be made through the Executive, using the project approval report format.

#### **4 Recommendations**

4.1 The Executive is recommended to endorse the contents of this report, and to recommend the proposed programme to Full Council for approval.

**Shirlene Adam, Financial Services Manager**  
Tel 01823 356418, E Mail [s.adam@tauntondeane.gov.uk](mailto:s.adam@tauntondeane.gov.uk)

**Contact Officer:**  
**Paul Carter, Corporate Finance Manager**  
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**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY**

**Appendix A**

<b>Portfolio Expenditure</b>	<b>Budget 2002/03 £</b>	<b>Budget 2003/04 £</b>	<b>Budget 2004/05 £</b>	<b>Budget 2005/06 £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Community Development	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
Corporate Services	252,681	120,000	85,000	85,000	542,681
Eco Dev, Tourism & Council Businesses	1,050,841	232,520	185,000	127,000	1,595,361
Env Policy & Services	831,821	26,000	10,000	10,000	877,821
Housing Services	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure, Arts and Culture	1,755,532	850,920	243,100	91,100	2,940,652
Planning Policy & Transportation	453,349	200,000	0	0	653,349
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4,354,224</b>	<b>1,429,440</b>	<b>523,100</b>	<b>313,100</b>	<b>6,619,864</b>

<b>Portfolio External Income</b>	<b>Budget 2002/03 £</b>	<b>Budget 2003/04 £</b>	<b>Budget 2004/05 £</b>	<b>Budget 2005/06 £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Community Development	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate Services	0	0	0	0	0
Eco Dev, Tourism & Council Businesses	0	0	0	0	0
Env Policy & Services	0	0	0	0	0
Housing Services	0	0	0	0	0
Leisure, Arts and Culture	998,034	0	0	0	998,034
Planning Policy & Transportation	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total External Income</b>	<b>998,034</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>998,034</b>

<b>Net Capital Programme</b>	<b>3,356,190</b>	<b>1,429,440</b>	<b>523,100</b>	<b>313,100</b>	<b>5,621,830</b>
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**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CAPITAL PROGRAMME  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Res Officer</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 2002/03 £</b>	<b>Budget 2003/04 £</b>	<b>Budget 2004/05 £</b>	<b>Budget 2005/06 £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
T39	BC	Rural Services - Contribution	10,000	0	0		<b>10,000</b>

**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CAPITAL PROGRAMME  
CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Res Officer</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 2002/03 £</b>	<b>Budget 2003/04 £</b>	<b>Budget 2004/05 £</b>	<b>Budget 2005/06 £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
T30	PJ	Public Buildings -Disabled Access	17,558	10,000			27,558
T32	JL	The Deane House - Reception Carpets	13,180				13,180
T32	JP	The Deane House - Air Conditioning	13,540				13,540
W04	JP	The Deane House - Combined Heat & Power Unit	790				790
W62	MM	Somerset Wide Area Network (SWAN)					0
T31	JP	Energy Conservation/Water Management	5,452	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,452
T32	SK	Deane House Network Improvements	30,000				30,000
T58/001	SK	Desk Top Operating System Software	5,699				5,699
T58/002	SK	Desk Top Hardware Refurb Programme	82,401	80,000	80,000	80,000	322,401
T58/003	SK	Priory Depot Communications	10,000				10,000
T58/004	SK	Corporate Imaging Project	12,425				12,425
T58/005	SK	Corporate GIS Project	38,282				38,282
T58/006	SK	Microsoft Office training & software	3,129				3,129
T58/007	SK	Invest To Save (SCC)	5,000				5,000
T58/008	SK	Network Improvements		10,000			10,000
T59	SR	Asbestos Removal	15,225	15,000			30,225
W64	MM	Digital TV scheme	0				0
W65	MM	Implementing E Government	0				0
W66	MM	Invest To Save Bid Round 4	0				0
		<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>252,681</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>542,681</b>

**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CAPITAL PROGRAMME  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND COUNCIL BUSINESS PORTFOLIO**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Res Officer</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 2002/03 £</b>	<b>Budget 2003/04 £</b>	<b>Budget 2004/05 £</b>	<b>Budget 2005/06 £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
T27	PR	Cemetery Extension	14,960				14,960
T40	TT	Grass Cutting Equipt.	28,229	27,000			55,229
T83	JL	CCTV Non Car Parking	309,803				309,803
T85	TN	Resignalling at Norton Fitzwarren	10,000				10,000
T96	AH	Wellington Town Centre Enhancement	181,650				181,650
W60	AH	Hestercombe Gardens (Heritage)	90,000	30,000	30,000		150,000
T41	TT/MH	Vehicle Acquisitions	95,000	112,000	125,000	127,000	459,000
T61	JS	Parking on Estates	36,314	30,000	30,000		96,314
T42	MH	Refurbishment / Improvements - Priory Depot	28,753	33,520			62,273
T42	MH	Re-roofing Priory Depot	21,000				21,000
W10	PR	Re-Brick Cremators	35,000				35,000
T97	RWF	Tourist Information Points	34,532				34,532
T82/002	SR	Paul St Car Park	153,300				153,300
W11	PR	Crematorium - New Grass Cutter	12,300				12,300
		<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,050,841</b>	<b>232,520</b>	<b>185,000</b>	<b>127,000</b>	<b>1,595,361</b>

**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CAPITAL PROGRAMME  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Res Officer</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 2002/03 £</b>	<b>Budget 2003/04 £</b>	<b>Budget 2004/05 £</b>	<b>Budget 2005/06 £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
T50	SR	Flood Relief	613,404				613,404
T51	BC	Recycling Facilities	0				0
T52	BC	Refurbish Public Conveniences	45,070				45,070
T54	PW	Env Health Hand Held Computers	6,653				6,653
T57	AW	Hankridge Lake	0				0
T74	IC	Taunton/Bridgwater Canal	10,000	10,000			20,000
T75	IC	Conservation Areas Underground	33,620				33,620
T88	IC	Grand Western Canal	0				0
T95/003	GK	Air Pollution Equipment	0	11,000			11,000
T95	GK	Air Quality Monitoring Equipment	3,074				3,074
T98	BC	Purchase of Kerbside Recycling Boxes	120,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	145,000
		<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>831,821</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>877,821</b>



**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CAPITAL PROGRAMME  
LEISURE, ARTS AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO**

Code	Res Officer	Scheme	Budget 2002/03 £	Budget 2003/04 £	Budget 2004/05 £	Budget 2005/06 £	Total £
T11	SH	Dual Use Schemes	6,022				6,022
T28	SH	WSC Refurbishment	39,461				39,461
T29	KD	Grants to Village Halls	20,000				20,000
T90	SR	The Wellsprings Centre	650,916				650,916
W08	SR	The Wellsprings Centre - Post Determination	99,000	696,010			795,010
T91	AW	Parks Refurbishment - Wellington	82,897				82,897
T91	AW	Parks Refurbishment - Vivary Park	116,340				116,340
T92	SH	Rural Kickabout Scheme Grant	15,000				15,000
W05	KD	Play Facilities Nth Taunton	23,836				23,836
W01	SH	VGC - New Greenkeepers Stores	10,470				10,470
W02	KD	Pavilion @ Rockwell Green	129,095				129,095
W03	PW	Grounds Maintenance System	60,000				60,000
T01	KD	Corporate Priorities - Grants to Clubs	117,199	56,100	44,100	44,100	261,499
T04	KD	Corporate Priorities - Play Equipt. Grants to Parishes	35,799	21,000	21,000	21,000	98,799
T05	KD	Play Equipt. Replacement	31,086	13,000	89,000	13,000	146,086
T21	KD	New Play Equipt.	45,600	13,000	89,000	13,000	160,600
T17	SH	Taunton Pool - Lift Replacement	1,811				1,811
W06	SH	Wellington SC - Electrical Works	74,500				74,500
W07	SH	Resurfacing of Outdoor Tennis Cts	36,500				36,500
W67	KD	Wellington Arts Association Grants	40,000				40,000
W22	KD	Cotford Prim School & Comm Centre	120,000				120,000
	SH	Leisure Pools-New & Replacement Plant		14,610			14,610
	SH	Leisure Pools-Emergency Lighting & Fire System Upgrade		7,200			7,200
	SH	WSC - Decommissioning of Ski Slope/Upgrade Skate Park		30,000			30,000
		<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,755,532</b>	<b>850,920</b>	<b>243,100</b>	<b>91,100</b>	<b>2,940,652</b>

		External Contributions to Schemes	Budget 2002/03 £	Budget 2003/04 £	Budget 2004/05 £		Total £
T11	SH	Dual Use Schemes					0
T90	SR	The Wellsprings Centre	229,044				229,044
T91	AW	Parks Refurbishment - Wellington	258,770				258,770
T91	AW	Parks Refurbishment - Vivary Park	508,000				508,000
T12	SH	St James - Replacement Lockers	2,220				2,220
		<b>Total External Income</b>	<b>998,034</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>998,034</b>

		<b>Net Capital Programme</b>	<b>757,498</b>	<b>850,920</b>	<b>243,100</b>	<b>91,100</b>	<b>1,942,618</b>
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**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CAPITAL PROGRAMME  
PLANNING POLICY AND TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Res Officer</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 2002/03 £</b>	<b>Budget 2003/04 £</b>	<b>Budget 2004/05 £</b>	<b>Budget 2005/06 £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
T63	TN	Parking for Rural Footpaths	7,697				7,697
T66	JH	Town Centre Management Initiative	18,700				18,700
T86	JH	Town Centre Improvements	142,700				142,700
T94	JH	Pedestrian Signage	5,700				5,700
W20	TN	St Margarets Hospital Restoration	0				0
W21	AH	Station Road Parking	40,000				40,000
T60	JP	Contributions to Footpaths and Streetlighting	39,552				39,552
T74	IC	Taunton/Bridgwater Canal	0				0
W30	AH	Contribution to Silk Mills Scheme	199,000	200,000			399,000
		<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>453,349</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>653,349</b>

**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2003**

**REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**This Matter Is The Responsibility of Executive Cllr Horsley (Leader of the Council)**

**COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2003/04**

**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider, and make recommendations to the Council on the proposed level of Council Tax for 2003/04.

**2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1 Following approval of the budget for 2003/04, the Council must formally approve the Council Tax. The calculations and the proformas to set the Council Tax are prescribed and therefore not open to debate.

**3.0 Annual Determination**

- 3.1 The Council is required to make an annual determination which sets its gross expenditure (including the Housing Revenue Account and balances brought forward), and gross income (also including the Housing revenue Account and balances brought forward), with the difference as its budget requirement. This determination is set out in para 9.2.2 of this report.

**4.0 County Council Precept & Avon and Somerset Police Authority**

- 4.1 At the time of writing this report, the figures for the County Council and the Police Authority were not available. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.
- 4.2 Members should note that if the County Council and Police Authority tax levels are not advised by the date of the meeting, this element of the total Council Tax determination will be advised directly to this Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Even at this meeting, the Council will be required to approve the tax levels “subject to” the County element receiving formal approval by Somerset County Council, who meet on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2003. Should their element of tax change at either meeting, this Council will need to reconsider the Council Tax position at a special meeting during the first week in March 2003.

## **5.0 Taunton Non-Parished Area**

- 5.1 The estimated expenses chargeable to the non-parished area of Taunton in 2003/04 amounts to £25,000 and this forms part of the total net expenditure of the Council.
- 5.2 This total “special expenses” represents a Council Tax Band D of £1.65 for the unparished area.

## **6.0 Parish Precepts**

- 6.1 Details of the precepts levied, and the appropriate Council Tax at Band D, by the Parish Councils within the borough are set out in Appendix A.

## **7.0 Collection Fund Surpluses and Deficits**

- 7.1 The estimated balances on both the Council Tax and the Community Charge Collection Funds are estimated on 15<sup>th</sup> January each year. Any surplus or deficit on the Council Tax Collection fund is shared between the County Council, the Police Authority and ourselves, in shares relative to our precept levels.
- 7.2 The estimated balance on the Council Tax Collection Fund is a surplus of £186,321. Taunton Deane’s share of this amounts to £22,140. This is reflected in the revenue estimates.
- 7.3 The overall debt outstanding on Community Charge is now approximately £2,100. The overall debt has been reduced during the year by write-offs of over £27,000 and it is estimated that the Community Charge Collection Fund as at 15 January 2003 has a surplus of £27,974. This element is not shared with the County Council or the Police Authority and is therefore available as income to the General Fund. This is reflected in the revenue estimates.

## **8.0 Calculation of Band D Council Tax**

- 8.1 The determination calculation made in para 9.2.2 (c) below sets out this Council’s budget requirement at £11,568,448 including Parish Precepts and non-parished Special Expenses. This amount is then reduced by the amount notified in respect of the Borough’s Revenue Support Grant (RSG) amounting £3,458,182 and the Non Domestic Rates Distribution (NDR) from the pool, amounting to £3,579,322. This is summarised as follows:-

		£
Total Budget Requirement		11,568,448
Less /		
NDR Distribution	3,579,322	
RSG	3,458,182	
Collection Fund	50,114	7,087,618
Amount To Be Raised By Council Tax		4,480,830

8.2 The net amount, having taking the collection fund position into account, of £4,480,830 is used to calculate the Council Tax at Band D, reflecting the Parish Precepts etc., by dividing it by the total of the Council Tax base as approved by the Council in December 2002.

8.3 Members will note that the Council Tax for the borough (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses for the non-parished area) is £109.51, an increase of £2.15 (2%) compared to the 2002/03 Council Tax. The total Council Tax, including the County Council and Police Authority precepts is still subject to confirmation and will be advised at a later date.

## **9.0 Recommendations**

9.1 The format of the Council Tax setting resolution which the Council must approve has been previously agreed between the Local Government Association and the then Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions, and the following recommendations follow that format.

9.2 The Executive is recommended to submit the following for approval by the Council, and note that the final determination will include the Council Tax for Somerset County Council and the Police Authority, which is to be advised.

9.2.1 That it be noted that at its meeting on 17 December 2002 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2003/04 in accordance with the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- (1) 38,122.79 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax base for the year.

(2)

Ash Priors	64.49	Neroche	235.83
Ashbrittle	80.93	North Curry	694.52
Bathealton	80.14	Norton Fitzwarren	652.77
Bishops Hull	1,060.29	Nynehead	143.14
Bishops Lydeard / Cothelstone	1,747.63	Oake	318.92
Bradford on Tone	270.96	Otterford	160.35
Burrowbridge	196.94	Pitminster	435.55
Cheddon Fitzpaine	617.85	Ruishton / Thornfalcon	602.68
Chipstable	109.92	Sampford Arundel	128.16
Churchstanton	296.10	Staplegrove	707.17
Combe Florey	107.55	Stawley	112.47
Comeytrove	2,066.07	Stoke St Gregory	369.72
Corfe	130.85	Stoke St Mary	193.02
Creech St Michael	939.06	Taunton	15,141.11
Durston	56.75	Trull	931.31
Fitzhead	120.74	Wellington	4,501.70
Halse	140.43	Wellington (Without)	288.83
Hatch Beauchamp	241.44	West Bagborough	155.29
Kingston St Mary	426.88	West Buckland	391.84
Langford Budville	211.37	West Hatch	135.36
Lydeard St Lawrence / Tolland	195.55	West Monkton	1,058.45
Milverton	565.70	Wiveliscombe	1,036.98

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or  
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more special items relate.

9.2.2 That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2003/04 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

(a) £53,818,467 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) of the Act .  
*(Gross Expenditure including amount required for working balance).*

(b) £42,250,019 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.  
*(Gross Income including reserves to be used to meet Gross Expenditure).*

(c) £11,568,448 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.

(d) £7,087,618 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant, additional grant or SSA reduction grant (increased by the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (*Council Tax Surplus*) and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charge) directions under Sec. 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1994 (*Community Charge Surplus*).

(e) £117.54  $\frac{(c) - (d)}{9.2.1(a)} = \frac{11,568,448 - 7,087,618}{38,122.79}$

being the amount calculated at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the amount at 9.2.1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the

basic amount of its council tax for the year.  
*(Average Council Tax at Band D for Borough Including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses).*

(f) £306,110 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.  
*(Parish Precepts and Special Expenses).*

(g) £109.51 (e) -  $\frac{(f)}{9.2.1(a)}$  =  $\frac{117.54 - 306,110}{38,122.79}$

being the amount at (e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (f) above by the amount at 9.2.1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relate.  
*(Council Tax at Band D for Borough Excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses).*

(h)

Ash Priors	109.51	Neroche	117.99
Ashbrittle	125.57	North Curry	126.07
Bathealton	117.00	Norton Fitzwarren	126.98
Bishops Hull	122.30	Nynehead	123.48
Bishops Lydeard / Cothelstone	121.98	Oake	119.39
Bradford on Tone	122.43	Otterford	109.51
Burrowbridge	132.00	Pitminster	116.86
Cheddon Fitzpaine	117.60	Ruishton / Thornfalcon	127.04
Chipstable	123.16	Sampford Arundel	132.53
Churchstanton	126.99	Staplegrove	118.70
Combe Florey	120.20	Stawley	118.40
Comeytrowe	115.56	Stoke St Gregory	125.06
Corfe	116.58	Stoke St Mary	114.69



Creech St Michael	120.69	Taunton	111.16
Durston	110.21	Trull	117.03
Fitzhead	123.59	Wellington	126.01
Halse	121.97	Wellington (Without)	121.63
Hatch Beauchamp	120.28	West Bagborough	115.95
Kingston St Mary	123.57	West Buckland	127.37
Langford Budville	117.32	West Hatch	123.41
Lydeard St Lawrence / Tolland	117.18	West Monkton	116.36
Milverton	120.12	Wiveliscombe	123.98

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (g) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 9.2.1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

*(Council Taxes at Band D for Borough, Parish and Special Expenses).*

- (i) See overleaf

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**Background Papers**

Executive 12/02/03 - General Fund Revenue Budget

Council 17/12/02 – Taxbase 2003/04

9.2.2(i)

Valuation Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ash Priors	73.01	85.17	97.34	109.51	133.85	158.18	182.52	219.02
Ashbrittle	83.72	97.66	111.62	125.57	153.48	181.38	209.29	251.14
Bathealton	78.00	91.00	104.00	117.00	143.00	169.00	195.00	234.00
Bishops Hull	81.54	95.12	108.71	122.30	149.48	176.65	203.84	244.60
Bishops Lydeard/Cothelstone	81.32	94.87	108.42	121.98	149.09	176.19	203.30	243.96
Bradford On Tone	81.62	95.22	108.82	122.43	149.64	176.84	204.05	244.86
Burrowbridge	88.00	102.66	117.33	132.00	161.34	190.67	220.00	264.00
Cheddton Fitzpaine	78.40	91.46	104.53	117.60	143.74	169.87	196.00	235.20
Chipstable	82.11	95.79	109.47	123.16	150.53	177.90	205.27	246.32
Churchstanton	84.66	98.77	112.88	126.99	155.21	183.43	211.65	253.98
Combe Florey	80.14	93.48	106.84	120.20	146.92	173.62	200.34	240.40
Comeytrove	77.04	89.88	102.72	115.56	141.24	166.92	192.60	231.12
Corfe	77.72	90.67	103.62	116.58	142.49	168.39	194.30	233.16
Creech St Michael	80.46	93.87	107.28	120.69	147.51	174.33	201.15	241.38
Durston	73.48	85.71	97.96	110.21	134.71	159.19	183.69	220.42
Fitzhead	82.40	96.12	109.86	123.59	151.06	178.52	205.99	247.18
Halse	81.32	94.86	108.42	121.97	149.08	176.18	203.29	243.94
Hatch Beauchamp	80.15	93.55	106.91	120.28	147.01	173.74	200.47	240.56
Kingston St Mary	82.38	96.11	109.84	123.57	151.03	178.49	205.95	247.14
Langford Budville	78.22	91.24	104.28	117.32	143.40	169.46	195.54	234.64
Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland	78.12	91.14	104.16	117.18	143.22	169.26	195.30	234.36
Milverton	80.08	93.42	106.77	120.12	146.82	173.51	200.20	240.24
Neroche	78.66	91.77	104.88	117.99	144.21	170.43	196.65	235.98
North Curry	84.05	98.05	112.06	126.07	154.09	182.10	210.12	252.14
Norton Fitzwarren	84.66	98.76	112.87	126.98	155.20	183.41	211.64	253.96
Wynehead	82.32	96.04	109.76	123.48	150.92	178.36	205.80	246.96
Oake	79.60	92.85	106.12	119.39	145.93	172.45	198.99	239.78
Otterford	73.01	85.17	97.34	109.51	133.85	158.18	182.52	219.02
Pitminster	77.91	90.89	103.87	116.86	142.83	168.80	194.77	233.72
Ruishton/Thornfalcon	84.70	98.80	112.92	127.04	155.28	183.50	211.74	254.08
Sampford Arundel	88.36	103.07	117.80	132.53	161.99	191.43	220.89	265.06
Staplegrave	79.14	92.32	105.51	118.70	145.08	171.45	197.84	237.40
Stawley	78.94	92.08	105.24	118.40	144.72	171.02	197.34	237.40
Stoke St Gregory	83.38	97.26	111.16	125.06	152.86	180.64	208.44	250.12
Stoke St Mary	76.46	89.20	101.94	114.69	140.18	165.66	191.15	229.38
Taunton	74.11	86.45	98.81	111.16	135.87	160.56	185.27	222.32
Trull	78.02	91.02	104.02	117.03	143.04	169.04	195.05	234.06
Wellington	84.01	98.00	112.01	126.01	154.02	182.01	210.02	252.02
Wellington W/out	81.09	94.60	108.11	121.63	148.66	175.69	202.72	243.26
West Bagborough	77.30	90.18	103.06	115.95	141.72	167.48	193.25	231.90
West Buckland	84.92	99.06	113.22	127.37	155.68	183.98	212.29	254.74
West Hatch	82.28	95.98	109.70	123.41	150.84	178.26	205.69	246.82
West Monkton	77.58	90.50	103.43	116.36	142.22	168.07	193.94	232.72
Wiveliscombe	82.66	96.42	110.20	123.98	151.54	179.08	206.64	247.96

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands (Council Tax for Individual Parishes and the Borough).

That it be noted that for the year 2002/03 the Somerset County Council and the Avon & Somerset Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Somerset County Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Avon & Somerset Police Authority	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## PARISH PRECEPTS 2003/04

## APPENDIX A

<b>Council Tax at band D 2002/03</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Precept 2003/04</b>	<b>Tax Base 2003/04</b>	<b>Council Tax at Band D 2003/04</b>
£		£		£
0.00	Ash Priors	0.00	64.49	0.00
16.26	Ashbrittle	1,300.00	80.93	16.06
3.69	Bathealton	600.00	80.14	7.49
12.92	Bishops Hull	13,560.00	1,060.29	12.79
11.54	Bishops Lydeard/Cothelstone	21,800.00	1,747.63	12.47
11.17	Bradford on Tone	3,500.00	270.96	12.92
16.77	Burrowbridge	4,430.00	196.94	22.49
8.17	Cheddon Fitzpaine	5,000.00	617.85	8.09
8.36	Chipstable	1,500.00	109.92	13.65
15.31	Churchstanton	5,175.00	296.10	17.48
10.57	Combe Florey	1,150.00	107.55	10.69
5.58	Comeytrove	12,500.00	2,066.07	6.05
6.94	Corfe	925.00	130.85	7.07
9.11	Creech St Michael	10,500.00	939.06	11.18
0.72	Durston	40.00	56.75	0.70
14.73	Fitzhead	1,700.00	120.74	14.08
12.51	Halse	1,750.00	140.43	12.46
10.97	Hatch Beauchamp	2,600.00	241.44	10.77
14.22	Kingston St Mary	6,000.00	426.88	14.06
8.01	Langford Budville	1,650.00	211.37	7.81
7.83	Lydeard St Lawrence/Tolland	1,500.00	195.55	7.67
11.62	Milverton	6,000.00	565.70	10.61
8.46	Neroche	2,000.00	235.83	8.48
17.16	North Curry	11,500.00	694.52	16.56
16.97	Norton Fitzwarren	11,405.00	652.77	17.47
15.31	Nynehead	2,000.00	143.14	13.97
9.98	Oake	3,150.00	318.92	9.88
0.00	Otterford	0.00	160.35	0.00
6.97	Pitminster	3,200.00	435.55	7.35
16.86	Ruishton/Thornfalcon	10,565.00	602.68	17.53
21.71	Sampford Arundel	2,950.00	128.16	23.02
9.92	Staplegrove	6,500.00	707.17	9.19
8.99	Stawley	1,000.00	112.47	8.89
15.05	Stoke St Gregory	5,750.00	369.72	15.55
7.91	Stoke St Mary	1,000.00	193.02	5.18
7.69	Trull	7,000.00	931.31	7.52
16.50	Wellington	74,278.000	4,501.70	16.50
7.69	Wellington (Without)	3,500.00	288.83	12.12
6.46	West Bagborough	1,000.00	155.29	6.44
13.60	West Buckland	7,000.00	391.84	17.86
13.56	West Hatch	1,882.00	135.36	13.90
9.37	West Monkton	7,250.00	1,058.45	6.85
11.14	Wiveliscombe	15,000.00	1,036.98	14.47
0.52	Taunton Special Expenses	25,000.00	15,141.11	1.65

**TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2003**

**REPORT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**This Matter Is The Responsibility of Executive Cllr Horsley (Leader of the Council)**

**BORROWING LIMIT**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To determine the Council's Policy and to make recommendations in respect of the borrowing limits for 2003/04.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Part IV of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities to determine for each financial year:-

- (c) their overall borrowing limit
- (b) their short term borrowing limit, and
- (c) a limit on the proportion of interest that is payable by them at variable rates.

- 2.2 This decision must be made by the Council prior to the beginning of the financial year in question.

- 2.3 The borrowing limit is the total of :-

- (d) the current level of outstanding debt
- (e) the anticipated authorised new borrowing in the next financial year (2002/03)
- (f) a provision for possible temporary revenue borrowing in anticipation of income being received.

**3.0 Proposed Limits**

- 3.1 The limits set by the Council in February 2002, as set out in paragraph 4.1 below, have been in place for a number of years now, and are still considered to be adequate for the authority's needs. No changes are therefore proposed.

**4.0 Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Executive is recommended to request Council to approve the following for the financial year 2003/04:-

- (a) that the overall borrowing limit be fixed at £44,000,000.
- (b) that the short term borrowing at any time should not exceed £11,000,000, representing 25% of the borrowing limit.
- (c) that no more than 50% of the total amount of interest payable may be at variable interest rates.

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**Background Papers**

Council February 2002 – Treasury Management Policy

Executive March 2002 – Treasury Management Strategy

