

TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 22 FEBRUARY 2005

Part I

To deal with written questions to and receive recommendations to the Council from the Executive.

1. COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS – LEADER OF THE EXECUTIVE

a) General Fund Revenue Estimates 2005/2006

The Executive have considered its 2005/2006 budget proposals. The report we considered contained details on:-

- (1) the General Fund Revenue budget proposals for 2005/2006;
- (2) the results of the consultation exercise;
- (3) the proposed Council Tax increase of 4.5%;
- (4) Prudential Indicators for 2005/2006 and
- (5) draft figures on the predicted financial position of the Council for the following two years.

The Review Board have also considered the report in detail. We have looked at all the issues raised by the Board and given our response. As a result we propose to reinstate subsidies for pest control and the introduction of ten new dog waste bins. The total cost of these additions is £6,420. The Revenue Contribution to Capital (RCCO) will be reduced to finance these items.

The Head of Resources, as the Council's Section 151 Officer, has confirmed that the Council's reserves are adequate and the budget estimates used in preparing the 2005/2006 budget are sufficiently robust.

The Council are RECOMMENDED that the budget for General Fund services for 2005/2006 be agreed and that:-

- (i) The transfer for any underspend in 2004.2005 back to General Fund reserves be agreed;
- (ii) The proposed 2005.2006 budget, being Authority expenditure of £11,504,690 and Special Expenses of £26,520 be agreed in accordance with the Local Government Act 1992;
- (iii) The predicted General Fund Reserve balance at 31 March 2006 of £1,304,309 be noted; and
- (iv) The Prudential Indicators for 2005.2006 as set out in the report to the Executive be agreed.

b) Capital Programme 2005/2006 to 2007/2008

The Executive have considered the proposed General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programmes for the period 2004/2005 to 2007/2008.

For the General Fund the estimated resources available for this period amount to £15,211k. The proposed capital programme amounts to £14,774k, leaving £437k of unallocated capital resources available for future schemes.

For the Housing Revenue Account the estimated resources available for 2005/2006 amount to £5,485k. The proposed capital programme for 2005/2006 amounts to £4,760k, leaving £725k of unallocated capital resources available for additional schemes.

In previous years two separate capital reports were considered, one on GF capital schemes and one on Housing capital schemes. In addition the Housing capital programme report included both GF and HRA housing capital schemes, this resulted in the omission from the GF report any mention of GF Housing spend. A key priority of the Council. This led to a disjointed and incomplete picture on capital spend. In order to simplify the process a single report, covering the whole capital programme has been produced.

The Review Board have also considered the capital programme and made no suggestions for changes to the proposed budget.

The Council are RECOMMENDED that

- (i) the suggested investment plan, submitted as an appendix to the reports to the Executive and Review Board, for the additional £350,000 HRA RCCO be agreed; and
- (ii) the General Fund Capital Programme and the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for the period 2004/2005 to 2007/2008, as set out in the report to the Executive be agreed.

c) Council Tax Setting 2005/2006

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 the resolution).

The estimated expenses chargeable to the non-parished area of Taunton in 2005/2006 amounts to £26,520 and this forms part of the total net expenditure of the Council.

The estimated balance on the Council Tax Collection Fund is a deficit of £197,062. Taunton Deane's share of this amounts to £21,312. This is reflected in the revenue estimates.

The overall debt outstanding on Community Charge has now been written off, as a consequence the Community Charge Collection Fund as at 15 January 2005 has a nil balance. There is therefore no impact on the revenue estimates.

This Council's budget requirement including Parish Precepts and non-parished Special Expenses is £11,847,762. This amount is then reduced by the amount notified in respect of the Borough's Revenue Support Grant (RSG) amounting to £3,739,152 and the Non Domestic Rates Distribution (NDR) from the pool, amounting to £3,032,288.

The net amount, having taking the collection fund position into account, of £5,097,634 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 Executive in December 2004.

The Council Tax for the borough (excluding Parish Precepts and Special Expenses for the non-parished area) is £121.88, an increase of £5.25 (4.5%) compared to the 2004/2005 Council Tax. The total Council Tax, including the County Council and Police Authority is still subject to confirmation.

The Council are therefore RECOMMENDED that, subject to final determination, including the Council Tax for Somerset County Council and the Policy Authority which is still to be advised:-

1. That it be noted that at its meeting on 8 December 2004 the Executive calculated the following amounts for the year 2005/2006 in accordance with the regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended):-

(a) 39,010.22 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.

(b)

Ash Priors	65.53	Neroche	238.16
Ashbrittle	89.95	North Curry	693.17
Bathealton	80.69	Norton Fitzwarren	722.27
Bishops Hull	1,068.26	Nynehead	149.33
Bishops Lydeard / Cothelstone	1,892.53	Oake	322.79
Bradford on Tone	277.41	Otterford	163.37
Burrowbridge	200.90	Pitminster	436.97
Cheddon Fitzpaine	629.82	Ruishton / Thornfalcon	611.24
Chipstable	115.32	Sampford Arundel	128.32
Churchstanton	310.49	Staplegrove	711.03
Combe Florey	111.69	Stawley	113.37
Comeytrowe	2,058.96	Stoke St Gregory	372.42
Corfe	130.01	Stoke St Mary	197.37
Creech St Michael	922.30	Taunton	15,563.51

Durstun	56.60	Trull	982.09
Fitzhead	120.37	Wellington	4,536.05
Halse	143.65	Wellington (Without)	287.37
Hatch Beauchamp	243.63	West Bagborough	152.37
Kingston St Mary	434.64	West Buckland	403.34
Langford Budville	213.60	West Hatch	137.62
Lydeard St Lawrence / Tolland	193.83	West Monkton	1,070.90
Milverton	574.78	Wiveliscombe	1,082.21

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 more special items relate.

2. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2005/2006 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- (a) £61,457,473 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) £49,609,711 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (c) of the Act.
(Gross Income including reserves to be used to meet Gross Expenditure).
- (c) £11,847,762 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) £6,750,128 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 of 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 February 1994 (*Community Charge Surplus*).

(e)	£130.67	$\frac{(c) - (d)}{1(a)} = \frac{11,847,762 - 6,750,128}{39,010.22}$
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being the amount calculated at (c) above less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the amount at 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)	£343,072	being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act. (<i>Parish Precepts and Special Expenses</i>).
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(g)	£121.88	$\frac{(e) - (f)}{1(a)} = \frac{130.67 - 343,072}{39,010.22}$
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being the amount at (e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (f) above by the amount at 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	124.93	Neroche	133.43
Ashbrittle	133.00	North Curry	140.63
Bathealton	129.94	Norton Fitzwarren	140.56
Bishops Hull	134.57	Nynehead	141.97
Bishops Lydeard / Cothelstone	136.31	Oake	131.95
Bradford on Tone	134.50	Otterford	121.88
Burrowbridge	142.80	Pitminster	133.51
Cheddon Fitzpaine	128.23	Ruishton / Thornfalcon	139.42
Chipstable	130.55	Sampford Arundel	156.48
Churchstanton	144.05	Staplegrove	132.85
Combe Florey	136.21	Stawley	131.58
Comeytrowe	133.54	Stoke St Gregory	137.99
Corfe	131.49	Stoke St Mary	133.03
Creech St Michael	135.98	Taunton	123.58
Durston	122.59	Trull	132.06
Fitzhead	136.00	Wellington	138.38
Halse	134.06	Wellington (Without)	134.06
Hatch Beauchamp	132.14	West Bagborough	128.44
Kingston St Mary	135.68	West Buckland	140.47
Langford Budville	129.60	West Hatch	135.96
Lydeard St Lawrence / Tolland	130.39	West Monkton	126.55
Milverton	133.19	Wiveliscombe	136.66

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 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.

Note: Since the meeting of the Executive, notification of the level of the Police Authority precept has been received. Somerset County Council will meet on 23 February and an indication of its likely level of Council Tax has also been received. Attached as Appendix A and B are tables which indicate the revised figures.

Councillor John Williams

2. COUNCILLOR GARNER – HOUSING SERVICES

(a) Housing Restructure

The Housing Review Panel considered a proposed restructure of the Housing Service. The Tenants' Forum has also discussed the proposals, which have been supported both by the Forum and the Panel.

The Executive also feel that the proposed structure will enable the Housing Service to move forward from what was already a strong position.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that

1. The changes to the base budget of the Council be agreed to reflect the new structure, namely:-
 - (i) An increase to the General Fund base budget of £24,393.
 - (ii) An increase to the Housing Revenue Account base budget of £146,982.
 - (iii) An increase to the base budget of the Building Maintenance DLO of £8580.
2. The 2005/2006 Housing Revenue Account budget include a sum of £200,000 for redundancy costs arising from the restructure which is to be funded from the working balance.
3. The funding of the General Fund share of redundancy costs of approximately £45,000 from the General Fund Reserve be agreed.

(b) Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Estimates and Rent Levels

The Executive have considered the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the 2005/2006 Financial Year. It also includes details relating to the new rent level, service charges and other housing related charges such as garage rents. It also provides information on the Deane Helpline Trading Account and Deane Building DLO Trading Account.

In addition to the Executive, both the Housing Review Panel and the Review Board have considered this report. The recommendations submitted reflects the views raised at those meetings.

The Council are therefore RECOMMENDED that the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2005/2006 be agreed.

Councillor Greg Garner