



Meeting	CORPORATE STRATEGY AND CO-ORDINATION STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE	
date	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2005	agenda item number

## **REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

### **BUDGET PROPOSALS 2005/06 – CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

To outline the budget proposals for 2005/06, and the process of consultation.

#### **2. Information and Advice**

2.1 It was recognised from the outset that the preparation of the budget for 2005/06 would be difficult, and hence an early start was made early April on gathering information on which budget decisions would be taken.

2.2 Cabinet Members and Chief Officers identified the budget pressures that they were either managing within their budgets for 2004/05 or were aware as significant factors to be considered for 2005/06. They were also asked to identify up to 8% savings from their portfolio, and classify these into degrees of difficulty of achievement through a red/amber/green “traffic light” approach.

2.3 During the autumn, the public had the opportunity to comment on the council tax issues at the various roadshows that were held through out the county. We also held focus groups once again, but at different venues, and this year these were at Southwell, West Bridgford, Ollerton and Eastwood. A comprehensive report of the focus group discussions was produced and has been made available to Cabinet Members.

2.4 There was consultation within the Labour Group on budget proposals, and the group participated in an inter-active seminar at which various options were considered.

- 2.5 Following the Revenue Support Grant announcement in early December, the Cabinet determined the budget proposals that would be put out for consultation, and these were agreed at the Cabinet meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2005. The proposals were publicised through the local media and also on the website. There has not been a large response so far, that the letters we have received did point to the proposed council tax increase of 4.5% being ahead of the level of inflation, and causing difficulties for pensioners and others with low income.
- 2.6 Cabinet Members took account of this in making their final budget proposals for 2005/06, which include a proposed council tax increase of 3.9% rather than 4.5%. A summary of the proposals for the budget in 2005/06 are attached at Appendix A.

### 3. **Statutory and Policy Implications**

This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report.

### 4. **Recommendation**

The Select Committee to discuss the consultation processes and consider any variations for next year.

### 5. **Background Papers**

Nil

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Director of Resources