

## WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

### CABINET MEETING ON 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2006

#### Consultation On The Cabinet's Budget Proposals 2006-2009

<b>AN OPEN ITEM</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:</b>	-
<b>CORPORATE PLAN THEME:</b>	Improving Corporacy & Performance
<b>KEY PRIORITY:</b>	Financial & Asset Management
<b>STRATEGY:</b>	Budget & Policy Framework
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor John Campion
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Head of Financial Services
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	K. Bannister Ext. 2100 J. Kitchen Ext. 2101 <a href="mailto:jane.kitchen@wyreforestdc.gov.uk">jane.kitchen@wyreforestdc.gov.uk</a>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	None

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To report on the outcome of the budget consultation exercise.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE** :-

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In 2002 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) issued guidance designed to assist local authorities in consulting the public on council tax and budget issues.
- 3.2 The Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2005 agreed to undertake a consultation on the proposed Budget Strategy as follows :-
- Media Release - including inviting members of the public to attend the Cabinet Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2006 to give their views.
  - Web Site
  - Staff Bulletin
  - Business Ratepayer Statutory Consultation
  - Finance & Corporate Affairs Policy and Scrutiny Panel

- 3.3 A Budget consultation press release was produced highlighting the major proposals and inviting feedback on the Cabinet's Budget Strategy.
- 3.4 A press release was issued and appeared in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January editions of the Express and Star and Kidderminster Shuttle and Times newspapers respectively, inviting members of the public to respond to the consultation exercise by either attending a meeting of the Finance & Corporate Affairs Policy and Scrutiny Panel, or writing/e-mailing the Chief Executive with their views.
- 3.5 Parish/Town Council Clerks were contacted directly to request their involvement in the consultation process.
- 3.6 The statutory Business Ratepayer consultation process was carried out involving a press advertisement, the forwarding of Budget proposals to groups of Business Ratepayers and an invitation to meet with the Council for consultation purposes.

#### **4. OUTCOME**

- 4.1 No representations either in writing or electronically were received in respect of the Consultation process (the Council's Website received 32 individual hits).
- 4.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs made a presentation on the Cabinet's Budget Policy and Framework Strategy 2006-2009 at the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2006 Cabinet Meeting. Four Members of the general public attended this meeting and there were no questions raised following the Cabinet Member's presentation.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None

#### **6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council's consultation on Council Tax and Budget Issues has been carried out in accordance with guidance issued by ODPM in 2002.
- 6.2 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 from the Section 65 placed a statutory duty on Local Authorities to consult Business Ratepayers.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 None

#### **8. CONCLUSION**

8.1 The outcome of the Budget consultation has resulted in no questions from Wyre Forest residents or any other key audience in respect of the proposed Council Tax and Budget.

**9. CONSULTEES**

9.1 Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs and CMT

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 Cabinet Budget Policy and Framework Strategy 2006-2009

10.2 Consultation Press Release – Budget Consultation 2006/2007

10.3 ODPM Consultation Guidance 2002

10.4 Local Government Finance Act 1992