

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**CABINET**
22nd September 2009**Proposed Service and Financial Planning Timetable 2010/11**

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Internal Organisation Theme
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Improving Corporacy & Performance
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Nathan Desmond
DIRECTOR	Director of Resources David Buckland EXT.2100
CONTACT OFFICER:	David Buckland Ext. 2100 David.buckland@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES	Appendix A Timetable

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to identify the proposed service and financial planning timetable in order to deliver the budget for 2010/11 and beyond.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE :-

- 2.1 To approve the Proposed Budget Timetable attached at Appendix A.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules are contained within the Constitution. In line with this over recent years the detailed budget considerations have been presented to the Cabinet at the December meeting, the attached timetable has been developed to meet this requirement.
- 3.2 The budget process for 2009/10 was challenging, mainly due to issues surrounding the global economic downturn. By far the most significant issue which faced the Council was reduced investment income, due in a lesser part to investments with links to Iceland, but more significantly in relation to the dramatic reductions in Base Rate.
- 3.3 The Council is committed to the principles of ensuring sustainability within the Medium Term Financial Plan. Initial indications for the budget for 2010/11 and beyond continue to be testing, mainly linked to the continued economic slow down and the governments requirements to reduce the current budget deficit.
- 3.4 Building upon the implementation of the Budget consultation exercise during the 2009/10 budget process, additional consultation has been allowed within the timetable. This will take the form of focus groups with the public, along with the possibility of a public meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8.2.

3.5 Included within the budget timetable is a report to the October meeting of the Cabinet which identifies the key assumptions which are being used in determining the Financial Strategy for 2010-13. This will include:

- Forecasts on the future level of Government Grant;
- Inflation figures for pay and supplies;
- Availability of reserves to support the Council's budget.

3.6 The process will culminate with report to the Cabinet in February 2010, when the recommendations are made to Council on the final Financial Strategy for 2010-13

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 The proposed timetable for the production of the budget is attached at Appendix A, this concludes with the consideration at Council on 24 February 2010.

4.2 Cabinet will be ensuring that the Financial Strategy will prioritise resources in line with the Council's Corporate Plan which was approved earlier this year, however, it is acknowledged that the financial position for Wyre Forest along with all of the public sector will be extremely challenging for some time to come.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This is a finance report which has been produced in response to the requirement of the Council's Constitution.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council's constitution states:

In December, the Cabinet will publish its Budget Strategy, having first considered the Report of the Head of Financial Services on the 'Three Year Budget and Policy Framework, recommendations from the Corporate Service and Performance Scrutiny Committee relating to the Base Budget, and 'Gershon' efficiency savings, and any recommendations from Scrutiny Committees resulting from reviews of policy.

7. CONCLUSIONS/ACTION

7.1 The proposed budget timetable seeks to ensure that there is sufficient opportunity within the process to ensure that all members are consulted adequately and that resources are aligned so far as is possible with the Council's agreed priorities.

8. CONSULTEES

CMT

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None