



ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION 22 JANUARY 2007

Report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services

Revenue Budget 2007/08 – 2009/10 – consultation on proposals

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Commission should consider the proposals relating to its portfolio area that are contained in the Revenue Budget Consultation Document and should offer its response to Council Cabinet under the headings listed in 2.3 of this report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The detailed Revenue Budget Consultation Document that was issued to members on 9 January 2007 sets out the proposals for the 2007/08 - 2009/10 Budget and Council Tax.
- 2.2 The Consultation Document states that if Council tax is increased at 5% the resources that are forecast to be available to the Council will be £162.956m. On this basis and taking into account the proposals contained in the Consultation Document, the projected net shortfall for 2007/08 is £1.749m.
- 2.3 The Consultation Document (paragraph 11) asks for:
 - Feedback on the proposed savings of £5.091m
 - Views on the development proposals which total £6.095m
 - Whether the additional pressures identified by departments should be supported and funded, or whether to seek additional savings from those services
 - The level at which Council Tax for 2007/08 should be set – the Budget Consultation document is based on a modelled increase in Council Tax of 5%.
- 2.4 The budget information that relates to the Environment Commission's portfolio is primarily contained in Sections 3D and 3F of the Consultation Document. A summary of those proposals is set out in Appendix 2 of this report.

- 2.5 It is suggested that having considered the proposals relating to its portfolio area, the Commission should offer its response to Council cabinet under the headings listed in 2.3 above.
- 2.6 The relevant Chief Officers and Cabinet members will attend the Commission's meeting on 30 January to answer members' questions on the budget proposals.

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Background papers:	Appendix 1 – Implications
List of appendices:	Appendix 2 – Budget proposals summary document

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. None arising from this report.

Corporate Objectives, Values and Priorities

5. This report has the potential to link with all the Council's Corporate Objectives,

Environment Commission Summary of Revenue Budget Proposals

The Draft Revenue Budget Proposals relating to the Environment Commission's portfolio are contained in the following sections of the Consultation Document:

1. Section 3A – Enforcement (pages 16-20)
2. Section 3D – Planning and Transportation Portfolio (pages 53-74)
3. Section 3F - Leisure and Direct Services Portfolio (pages 92-113)

Consultation Process Objectives, p3

Services were asked to look at how they could make 10% savings over the next three years, 3.5% of this in 2007/08.

The aim of the budget consultation process is to test both professional and public opinion on the options to present a balanced budget which offer £1.75m less than the identified requirement. The following information is sought:

- Feedback on the proposed savings of £5.091m
- Views on the development proposals which total £6.095m
- Whether the additional pressures identified by departments should be supported and funded, or whether to seek additional savings from those services
- The level at which Council Tax for 2007/08 should be set – the Budget Consultation document is based on a modelled increase in Council Tax of 5%.

New Corporate Priorities

In parallel to the budget consultation process Council Cabinet has been consulting on the new corporate priorities. These are still evolving but at this stage would appear to be:

- Making us proud of our neighbourhoods
- Creating a 21st century city centre
- Leading Derby towards a better environment
- Supporting everyone in learning and achieving
- Helping us all to be healthy and active
- Giving you excellent services and value for money

Section 3A – Enforcement

The services falling within this portfolio are Environmental Health and Trading Standards.

The savings target for 2007/08 and for subsequent years is £80k. The Consultation Document proposes that this saving will be achieved by a planned reduction in staffing over the next three years. No other savings or changes are proposed.

Section 3D - Planning and Transportation Portfolio

The budgets covered by the Planning and Transportation Portfolio are those of the following service divisions:

- Performance and Resources
- Regeneration
- Highways and Transport

The first table on page 54 shows that the savings target for 2007/08 is £331k. The savings proposed for 2007/08 amount to £343k and are itemised in the text and in the first table on page 74. The proposed savings comprise:

Table 1 – Proposed savings 2007/08

Budget Area	2007/08
Divisional restructuring (pages 57, 61 & 68)	£114k
Support reviews (P58)	£17k
Heritage grants phase down (p62)	£14k
Footpaths and Wildlife Derby - % reduction in budgets (p62)	£2K
Built Environment post	£4k
Plans and Policies LDF costs and Canal Trust (62)	£8k
Building Consultancy running cost savings (63)	£10k
Development Control staffing (63)	£1k
City Centre Management reduction in contribution	£3k
Charging for services related to new developments(63-64)	£50k
Network Management permit charges (p69)	£15k
Parking Services (p69)	£65k
Community Transport Contract renewal (p70)	£30k
Increased charges and changes to service procurement	£10k
Total	£343k

The tables on page 54 show a total for 'other pressures' in 2007/08 of £565k. The summary table on page 74 shows that for all three Divisions these pressures comprise:

Table 2 – 'Other pressures' 2007/08

Budget Area	2007/08
Increments (pages 58 & 71)	£65k
CCTV shortfall in existing contributions (p71)	£50k
Current estimated shortfall in car park income (p71)	£200k
Other pressures (pages 58, 64 & 71)	£237k
Total	£565

The Consultation Document proposes that these pressures will be funded by additional savings of £312k leaving a shortfall for 2007/08 of £253k. The additional savings proposed are shown in the second table on page 74 and comprise:

Table 3 – Additional Savings 2007/08

Budget Area	2007/08
Reducing CCTV coverage to reflect available budget (p72)	£95k
Recharge of design fees to the capital programme (p72)	£60k
Other additional savings (pages 58, 64 & 72)	£157k
Total	£312k

Total corporate approved developments and pressures of £275k are identified on page 53 and in the first table on page 74. These comprise:

Table 4 – Total corporate approved developments

Budget Area	2007/08
Highways and Street Lighting affordability gap	£238k
Growth in highways traffic flow, highways network and street lighting columns	£37k
Total	£275k

The summary position for the Planning and Transportation budget is shown on page 55. For 2007/08 the total shortfall of savings to meet targets and other pressures appears to be:

Pressures for 2007/08 of £565k minus Additional savings of £312k plus (Projected Savings of £343k minus Target savings of £331k) = £241k

Section 3F - Leisure and Direct Services Portfolio

The budgets covered by the Leisure and Direct Services Portfolio are those of the following service divisions:

- All Environmental Services department budgets except Environmental\Health and Trading Standards
- Cultural Services – Regeneration and Community Department
- Festivities – Corporate and Adult Social Services

The second table on page 92 shows that the savings target for 2007/08 is £678k. The savings proposed for 2007/08 amount to £580k and are itemised in the text and in the table on pages 108, 109 and 110. The proposed savings comprise:

Table 5 – Proposed savings

Budget Area	2007/08
Culture (pages 97-98)	
ARGH – increased new fees and charges	£13k
Arts grants reductions	£21k
Derbyshire Arts Partnership	£21k
Events programme reduction	£4k
Reduction in events licence costs	£12k
Arts development staff reductions	£5k
Museum and Art Gallery staffing	£11k
Libraries reduction in management and operations	£126k
Total	£213k
Environmental Services (page 101)	
Restructure of waste staffing	£100k
Deletion of part of Sports and Leisure Admin post	£11k
Closure of Lancaster Sports Centre	£65k
Contributions from trading account operations	
Management restructure	£40k
Full recharge to schools for catering	£40k
Targeted savings in Local Environment Trading Account operations	£100k
Total	£356k
Corporate and Adult Social Services – Festivities (page 110)	
From Personnel, Performance Management and Economic Development Portfolio	£11k
Total	£11k
Proposed total savings	£580

The tables on page 92/93 show a total for other pressures in 2007/08 of £96k. The table on page 108 lists the 'other pressures' as:

Table 6 – 'Other pressures' 2007/08

Budget Area	2007/08
Increments (pages 98,	£50k
Springwood running costs	£8k
Other pressures (pages 98, 99 & 105)	£38k
Total	£96k

There are no proposals for additional savings to off set these pressures.

Total corporate approved developments and pressures of £275k are identified in the first tables on pages 108 and 108. These comprise:

Table 7 – Total corporate approved developments

Budget Area	2007/08
Quad – additional running costs	£92k
Mickleover Library – additional running costs	£50k
Further roll out of Rethink Rubbish	£218k
Total	£360k

From the information provided in the Consultation Document it appears that the overall shortfall for 2007/08 is therefore:

The 2007/08 savings target plus total other pressures minus savings proposed = £678k+ 96k-£580k= £194k.

DRR 15 January 2007.