



**CORPORATE POLICY AND
PERSONNEL, PERFORMANCE
MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CABINET MEMBER
MEETING
19 DECEMBER 2006**

ITEM XX

Report of the Corporate Director –
Resources and Housing

Budget Proposals and Council Priorities 2007 “Let's Talk Budget” – Engaging our Stakeholders

RECOMMENDATION

1. To approve the proposals for engaging stakeholders delivered through the Let's Talk Budget programme.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Let's Talk Budget is a programme of activities which has been developed, in consultation with Chief Officers, to enable us to achieve the following aims:
 - to meet our statutory duty to consult with non-domestic rate payers
 - to engage stakeholders in discussions around council spending proposals for 2007/8 and council priorities
 - to increase public awareness of the services that the council provides, issues associated with spending prioritisation and the value for money of DCC services
 - to build towards engaging stakeholders in a continuous cycle of communication and consultation on council spending, service prioritisation and service feedback
 - to meet the quality standards contained in the Council's Consultation Strategy.
- 2.2 Communication and publicity will centre on a number of fictional households, highlighting, through every day activities, how they use council services. Service statistics and simple facts and figures will underpin these scenarios.
- 2.3 Various media will be used to raise awareness. The Council web site will feature Let's Talk Budget from mid-December, through the consultation period to the March Council meeting. In addition, the local media will be approached to support awareness raising and the Davis screen will display simple service related messages. For example, “who teaches 15,475 people to swim each year?” fade to Derby City Council logo. The first Your Derby magazine due to be published in January will also carry a Let's Talk Budget feature.
- 2.4 A programme of events aimed at engaging stakeholders in informed discussions on 2007/08 budget priorities has been developed and a summary is attached at Appendix 2. It addresses our statutory duty to consult with non-domestic council taxpayers and

also addresses the need to consult with employees and their representatives on any potential service cuts emanating from the proposals.

- 2.5 With regards to employee and trades union consultation, the budget proposals will be presented to the CJC on 15 January. Follow-up sessions for employees will be department specific and will be organised by the respective Chief Officer.
- 2.6 Stakeholder sessions can be tailored to address any specific areas of interest or developed to use preferred methods. Stakeholder representatives are being consulted to identify any preferences and technology will be used wherever possible to support events. For example, the event for non-domestic council taxpayers will also be web cast with e-mail question and answer facility to enable on-line participation if preferred. Publicity will be used and invitations issued in key locations to maximise turnout where possible. All events will be posted on Your City Your Say; our web based consultation database.
- 2.7 A key aim is to ensure that all activities associated with Let's Talk Budget meet the quality standards set out in the new Consultation Strategy. It is imperative that we manage expectations consistently and openly. For example, some of the proposals will be decisions, whereas some may be proposals to be further developed through consultation. A commitment statement will be prepared which will communicate the purpose and objectives of events; the contribution that people can make; how contributions will be used; how people who do not attend public events can register their views/ask questions; when they can do this; and what feedback they can expect. The decision has been taken not to use the generic term `budget consultation` for this programme as it is felt that greater care is needed in positioning and explaining our aims and objectives.
- 2.8 A plain English document will be produced which summarises the budget proposals and will be made available ahead of the events. Where possible, this will be circulated to invitees and interested parties to enable those attending events to participate in more informed discussions. This is also consistent with the consultation quality standards.
- 2.9 Feedback channels will be established which will enable the public to raise questions and express views. This can be done on the web site or on paper based feedback forms, posted at Council buildings or pre-paid envelopes. A summary document of all contributions will be produced which will be posted on the web site, circulated at follow-up forums, and attached to the subsequent Cabinet and Council papers.

For more information contact:	Karen Jewell 01332 (25)8415 e-mail karen.jewell@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Meeting Schedule

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. The proposals aim to deliver a least cost option, using wherever practical, council venues and technology and media which is already available. There will, however, be a small cost associated with the publication and circulation of summary information and publicity materials. These will be absorbed in existing budgets in Finance, Democratic Services and Area and Neighbourhood.

Legal

2. There is a statutory duty to consult on our proposals with non-domestic council taxpayers and also an obligation to consult with employees and their representatives on any potential service cuts emanating from the proposals. Let's Talk Budget addresses these obligations.

Personnel

3. None.

Equalities impact

4. The programme of events includes all Diversity Forums and also the younger and older peoples' networks. Forum representatives will be consulted on how we can extend the reach of these events into the respective communities.

Corporate priorities

5. Any budget proposals will need to be considered alongside the Council's corporate priorities.

BUDGET MEETINGS SCHEDULE 2007/08

DATE/ TIME	NAME/ VENUE	ATTENDEES					Contact Officer
		Chief Officer	Finance Officer	Cabinet Member	Constitutional Services Officer	Consultation and Coms Officer	
9 January 6.00pm	All members of Scrutiny Commissions <i>Council Chamber</i>	Paul Dransfield	N/A	Leader			David Romaine
10 January 6.30pm	Area Panel 1 <i>Oakwood Community Centre</i>	Paul Dransfield	N/A		Karen Squires		Richard Smail
15 January 6.00pm	Community Commission <i>Room 5</i>	Jonathan Guest	Martyn Marples /David Enticott	Amar Nath	Ellen Bird		Rob Davison
17 January 6.00pm	Area Panel 2 <i>Redwood Junior School</i>	Michael Foote	Carolyn Wright		Sarah Turner	Karen Jewell	Colin Avison
17 January 6.00pm	Area Panel 3 <i>St Giles Church Village Street</i>	Jonathan Guest	David Enticott		Gemma Barlow	Andrew Auld	Sarah Dosunmu
15 Jan 2.00pm	CJC/CSC <i>Council Chamber</i>	Paul Dransfield	N/A		Sarah Turner	Karen Jewell	Wendy Barnes

DATE/ TIME	NAME/ VENUE	ATTENDEES					Contact Officer
		Chief Officer	Finance Officer	Cabinet Member	Constitutional Services Officer	Consultation and Coms Officer	
18 January 6.30pm	Disabled People's Diversity Forum <i>Room 96</i>	Paul Dransfield	N/A		Sarah Turner	Pam Thompson	Pam Thompson
22 January 6.00pm	Environment <i>Room 2</i>	Jonathan Guest/ John Winters	Richard Noble/ Martyn Marples		Sara Allmond		Katherine Taylor
22 January 6.00pm	Adult Services and Health <i>Room 5</i>	Michael Foote Andrew Flack?	Jim Manton	Fareed Hussain	Gemma Barlow		Mahroof Hussain
23 January 6.00pm	Children and Young People Commission <i>Room 5</i>	Andrew Flack	Keith Howkin s	Sara Bolton	Sarah Turner		Rob Davison
23 January 6.30pm	Gender Diversity Forum/Minority Ethnic Communities Equality Forum <i>Council Chamber</i>	Paul Dransfield	N/A		Ellen Bird/Sara Allmond	Pam Thompson	Pam Thompson
25 Jan 10am	Older Peoples Forum <i>Council Chamber</i>	Paul Dransfield	N/A			Richard Talaska	Richard Talaska

DATE/ TIME	NAME/ VENUE	ATTENDEES					Contact Officer
		Chief Officer	Finance Officer	Cabinet Member	Constitutional Services Officer	Consultation and Coms Officer	
TBC Jan 29 Jan at 2.00pm	Partners and Business <i>Council Chamber</i>	Paul Dransfield	N/A		Karen Squires	Karen Jewell	Karen Squires
30 January 6.00pm Room 5	Scrutiny Management <i>Room 5</i>	Paul Dransfield/ Michael Foote	N/A		Karen Squires		David Romaine
31 January 6.30pm	Area Panel 4 <i>Derby Moor School</i>	Andrew Flack	Don McLure		Ellen Bird		Richard Smail
31 January 7.00pm	Area Panel 5 <i>Brackensdale School</i>	John Winters	Carolyn Wright		Sara Allmond		Richard Smail
5 February at 5.00pm	Young Peoples Forum <i>Room 96</i>	Paul Dransfield	N/A			Karen Jewell	Karen Jewell
20 Feb 6.00pm	Cabinet <i>Council Chamber</i>	All	N/A	All	Karen Squires		Karen Squires
1 March 6.00pm	Council <i>Council Chamber</i>	All	N/A	All	Jason Spencer		Steve Dunning