



Chief Executive's Department
Civic Centre
HARTLEPOOL

18th February, 2008

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Councillors Akers-Belcher, Allison, Atkinson, Barker, Brash, Clouth, RW Cook, S Cook, Coward, Cranney, Fenwick, Fleet, Fleming, Flintoff, Gibbon, Griffin, Hall, Hargreaves, Henery, Hill, Jackson, James, Johnson, Kaiser, Laffey, Lauderdale, A E Lilley, G Lilley, London, A Marshall, J Marshall, Dr. Morris, Payne, Plant, Preece, Richardson, Rogan, Shaw, Simmons, Sutheran, Tumilty, Turner, Wallace, Wistow, Worthy, Wright, and Young.

Madam or Sir,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the COUNCIL to be held on THURSDAY, 28th February, 2008 at 7.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

P Walker
Chief Executive

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PLEASE NOTE VENUE

COUNCIL AGENDA



28th February 2008

at 7.00 p.m.

in the Council Chamber

1. To receive apologies from absent members.
2. To receive any declarations of interest from members.
3. To deal with any business required by statute to be done before any other business.
4. To receive questions from and provide answers to the public in relation to matters of which notice has been given under Rule 10.
5. To approve the minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on 21st February 2008, as a correct record (to follow).
6. Questions from Members of the Council on the minutes of the last meeting of the Council.
7. To answer questions of members of the Council under Council Procedure Rule 11;
 - (a) Questions to members of the Executive about recent decisions of the Executive (without notice)
 - (b) Questions to members of the Executive and Chairs of Committees and Forums, for which notice has been given.
 - (c) Questions to the appropriate members on Police and Fire Authority issues, for which notice has been given.
8. To deal with any business required by statute to be done.
9. To receive any announcements from the Chair, the Mayor, members of the Cabinet or the head of the paid service.

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

10. To dispose of business (if any) remaining from the last meeting and to receive the report of any scrutiny forum or other committee to which such business was referred for consideration.
11. To receive reports from the Council's committees and working groups other than any overview and scrutiny committee and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports;
12. To consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting, including consideration of reports of the overview and scrutiny committees for debate and to receive questions and answers on any of those items;
13. To consider reports from the Executive:-
 - (a) Proposals in relation to the Council's budget and policy framework
 - (i) Formal Council Tax Setting 2008/2009 – Incorporation of Fire and Police Authorities Precepts
 - (b) Proposals for departures from the budget and policy framework
 - (i) The Way Forward – Business Transformation Programme – Cabinet
14. To consider any motions in the order in which notice has been received.
15. To receive the Chief Executive's report and to pass such resolutions thereon as may be deemed necessary.

COUNCIL REPORT

28th February, 2008



Report of: Chief Executive

Subject: FORMAL COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2008/2009 –
INCORPORATION OF FIRE AND POLICE
AUTHORITY PRECEPTS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To enable Council to set the overall level of Council Tax following the notification by the Police and Fire Authority of their Council Tax levels for 2008/2009.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At your meeting on 14th February, 2008, Members considered and approved the proposed 2008/2009 Medium Term Financial Strategy and this Authority's own 2008/2009 Council Tax level. In accordance with statutory requirements the Council then needs to approve the overall Council Tax, inclusive of the Police and Fire Authority precepts. The Fire Authority set its precept and Council Tax on 25th January, 2008 and the Police Authority is scheduled to set its precept and Council Tax on the morning of 28th February 2008.

3. DETERMINATION OF OVERALL COUNCIL TAX LEVELS

- 3.1 The determination of the overall Council Tax level is a statutory function, which brings together the individual Council Tax levels determined by this Council, Cleveland Police Authority, Cleveland Fire Authority and where applicable Parish Councils
- 3.2 A detailed schedule of the statutory Council Tax calculation incorporating the Police and Fire Authority Council Tax levels for 2008/2009 will be circulated at your meeting on 28th February, 2008.

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Council is requested to approve the following proposal: -
- i) The amount of Council Tax including the Cleveland Police Authority and Cleveland Fire Authority precepts, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the relevant inclusion of amounts of Council Tax for each category of dwelling in accordance with Sections 43 to 47 of the Act, as set out in Appendix A, Table 4 (to be circulated separately).

COUNCIL REPORT

28 February 2008



Report of: Executive

Subject: BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To ask council to approve a departure from the Budget and Policy Framework to approve the funding for a Business Transformation programme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting of 11 February 2008 Cabinet considered a report from the Chief Executive on the need for the development of a Business Transformation programme. The report indicated that a budget provision of some £500,000 might be necessary. Provision had not previously been included in either the budget framework for 2007/8 or 2008/9 and the funding of which would be a departure from the Budget and Policy Framework requiring Council approval.

3. SOURCES OF FUNDING

- 3.1 The Chief Financial Officer reported verbally to Cabinet that given expenditure was of a one off nature and no alternative sources of finance were available at this stage in the budget process, it would be appropriate to fund the expenditure from reserves
- 3.2 This amount could be funded by reallocating existing reserves, £250,000 could be provided by rephasing the use of the Budget Support Fund. It is anticipated that this can be achieved without impacting on the existing commitment to support the revenue budget over the next four years, provided the remaining share of RTB income is received when anticipated. A further £250,000 could be taken from the Supporting People Implementation reserves, as the whole of this amount is now unlikely to be needed.
- 3.3 Alternatively, £500,000 could be taken as a loan from General Fund Balances. This amount could then be repaid over a three year period by increasing the annual efficiency target.

- 3.4 Cabinet determined that
- 3.5 “That the whole of the Council’s reserves be examined with a view to creating the above budget with the option of Cabinet being able to repay funds to reserves or invest in services once efficiencies were realised.”
- 3.6 At this stage in the financial year no further information on the likely level of reserves at the year end is available and will need to be considered as a specific item in the closure programme for 2007/8.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Council is asked to approve the creation of a one off budget provision of £0.5m to fund the transformation programme initially from reserves with detailed funding options to be determined as part of the closure of accounts.