

1 Background

1.1 The Executive has to frame a recommended budget and Council Tax for 2007-08, with a forecast for the following two years. The position at Table 7 of the main report is a surplus in all three years that can be used in several ways. The Budget and Strategic Planning Working Party of January 18th, endorsed a mix of new growth and 'buying back' savings. Using the results of previous meetings, a criteria of majority support and the previously identified Top bids distributes nearly all the surplus. Table 13 below sets out the details of the recommended use of the surplus, and those bids that are not part of that recommendation.

Table 13: Recommended Use of Surplus

		Support from 2+ Tables and Top bids		
Growth Bid No.	Details	2007/08 £000's	2008/09 £000's	2009/10 £000's
	Table 7: Growth Bids supported by all 3 tables/groups			
12 T6	Local Development Framework	0	23	199
53 T6	Finance Team Staffing	95	95	95
55 T6	Alternative Week Collections Project	65	230	100
	Table 8: Growth Bids supported by 2 tables/groups			
18	Anti-Social Behaviour Officer	40	40	40
19 T6	Switchboard call operator and customer support	54	54	54
36	Rudloe Community Centre	29	16	12
46 T6	Street Cleansing Sweeper Driver	22	22	22
	Table 9: Growth Bids supported by 1 table/group & Top bid			
34 T6	Strategic Leisure Officer	52	50	50
Saving No.	Table 10: Savings not to be taken - supported by all 3 tables/groups			
L3.11	Post office payments	20	20	20
	Table 11: Savings not to be taken - supported by 2 tables/groups			
L3.9	Emptying of litter/dog waste bins outside of town centres	10	10	10
L3.14	Area Committees	20	20	20
	Total of 2+ Table support & Top bids	407	580	622

Table 14: Bids not part of the recommendation

		Support from only 1 Table		
Growth Bid No.	Details	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
20	Building Surveying Post	0	0	0
27	Environmental Health Officer	33	33	33
35	Transport Officer	47	45	45
Saving No.	Table 12: Savings not to be taken - supported by 1 tables/group			
L3.5	Closure of all public conveniences across the district (that don't transfer to parishes/towns)	136	172	172
L3.12	Town Council Information Points	24	48	48
		240	298	298

- 1.2 The arithmetical position the process has reached, is a remaining surplus of £25k in 2007-08, and small deficits in the following two years of £132k and £80k.

Table 15: Final Revenue budget position 2007-10

Line	Details	2007/08 £000's	2008/09 £000's	2009/10 £000's
1	Table 4: Surplus	-432	-448	-542
2	Less Recommended use of surplus – Table 13	407	580	622
3	Final position	-25	132	80

- 1.3 The Collection Fund valuation was completed at January 15th, and shows a one-off surplus applicable to NWDC of £231k. Of this, £50k has already been taken into the budget calculations shown at Table 15. This means that there is £181k of additional one-off resources in 2007-08, which can be used to address the issues outstanding at Table 14. Recommendation 1d below asks the Executive to propose a use of the funds, for 2007-08 only.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Executive recommend that:

- 1 The Council be recommended to agree a General Fund Budget for 2007-08 consisting of:
 - a) The net base budget of £18,217k and the income from Government, Council Tax and the Collection Fund (Annex 3);
 - b) The addition of Inflation (Annex 5), Cost Pressures (Annex 6), Business Critical Growth (Annex 7), Efficiencies (Annex 8), and Savings (Annex 9),
 - c) as amended by the expenditure of £407k set out in the Use of Surplus schedule (Table 13);
 - d) the use of one-off funding arising from the additional Collection Fund surplus of £181k, to fund some or all of the Bids at Table 14, for 2007-08 only.
- 2 The unallocated inflation be held as a contingent budget, to be allocated by the Executive through the 2007-08 budget monitors;
- 3 The implications of the LABGI announcement be considered at a later meeting of the Executive;
- 4 The minimum level of Reserves at £3.3m for 2007-08;
- 5 A report be presented before March 31st 2007 on the use of reserves in excess of the minimum level.
- 6 The Council be recommended to increase the Council Tax by 5% for 2007-08, for its own purposes;
- 7 The levy requirements of Parishes be considered as part of the report to Council on February 22nd 2007;