

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	17 OCTOBER 2023	9

TIMETABLE FOR DEVELOPING BUDGET PROPOSALS 2024/25

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

RELEVANT LEAD MEMBER
This item is within the remit of Lead Member for Finance and Resources (Councillor Ellie Gaunt).

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT
<p>The council approves a budget setting timetable each year which complies with the budget and policy framework rules, statutory deadlines, and if possible, facilitates early billing for Council Tax.</p> <p>Attached at Appendix A is a draft budget timetable for 2024/25 for consideration. The timetable may need further consideration if there are any significant changes, for example if the timetables of precepting authorities change.</p>

RECOVERABILITY
This decision is recoverable under section 7 of part 3 of the constitution.

RECOMMENDATION
To adopt the timetable as shown at Appendix A for the budget setting process for 2024/25.

REPORT

1. INFORMATION

- 1.1 The setting of the composite Council Tax can only be agreed after Lancashire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority have arrived at their respective precept requirements. These “major preceptors” as they are known notify Fylde Council, in its capacity as a billing authority, of their precept requirements in order that Fylde can collect council tax on their behalf.
- 1.2 The statutory deadline by which all the precepting authorities have to determine their budget requirements for the forthcoming financial year is 28th February 2024. Currently the dates of the relevant meetings of each body are yet to be confirmed.
- 1.3 The timetable set out in Appendix A includes key budget decision dates and proposed timescales for a budget consultation process to be undertaken.
- 1.4 In light of the above it is proposed that if all information on precepts is available, the Budget decision for Fylde Council will be taken at Budget Council on 4th March 2024.

1.5 If the budget cannot be set and Council Tax charges determined by 4th March 2024, it is likely that a Council Tax instalment date of 1st April 2024 may not be achieved with a resultant financial loss to the Council. The statutory deadline to set the Council Tax amounts for 2024/25 is 10th March 2024. Failure to set a Council Tax by the deadline is likely to have a financial impact on the Council and will be in breach of the statutory process.

2 CONSULTATION

2.1 As in previous years there will be a period of consultation on budget proposals ahead of the annual council tax setting meeting, including with representatives of business rate payers as required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992. There should also be meaningful consultation with those people who may be affected by any proposals in particular where they involve the discontinuance of a service. Detailed or specific consultation may be part of a proposal and follow after an in-principle decision is made.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The financial implications are contained within the body of the report.
Legal	Timetable in place to ensure annual budget for 2024/25 is set with statutory and legislative guidelines
Community Safety	None arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS
This is the first item that relates to the budget setting process for 2024/25 and marks the commencement of that process.

BACKGROUND PAPERS REVELANT TO THIS ITEM		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
N/a		

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Paul O'Donoghue Chief Financial Officer	01253 658566	October 2023

Attached documents

Appendix A - TIMETABLE FOR DEVELOPING BUDGET PROPOSALS 2024/25

TIMETABLE FOR DEVELOPING BUDGET PROPOSALS 2024/25

Meeting Dates	Detail
October 2023 – Feb 2024	Consideration of potential capital bids and revenue budget growth options by Leadership Board
Dec 2023 and Jan 2024 meetings	Consideration of draft capital bids and revenue budget options by Executive Committee
5 th Dec 2023	Executive Committee - Updated MTFS & Financial Forecast 2023/24 to 2027/28
18 th Dec 2023	Council - Updated MTFS & Financial Forecast 2023/24 to 2027/28
Nov 2023/Feb 2024	Independent Group Briefings
Nov 2023/Feb 2024	Budget consultation exercise with stakeholders, including Town & Parish Councils and Business Rate Payers
19 th Feb 2024	Executive Committee - Budget Proposals Meeting - expected publication date of Budget & Policy Proposals
4th Mar 2024	Budget Council Meeting
10 th Mar 2024	Statutory Deadline for Council to set Council Tax