



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
Cabinet

15 October 2007

Public Consultation - Budget 2008/09 to 2010/11

Report of the Chief Finance Officer

1. Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 The Council is committed to ensuring its policies are informed by public views.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the specific proposals to consult with the public on the council's financial strategy 2008/09 to 2010/11.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The council has conducted a public consultation exercise on its revenue budget strategy each year since 2001/02.
- 2.2 This year, the council's financial strategy incorporates both the revenue budget strategy and also the capital strategy.
- 2.3 A public consultation exercise seeks to gain a representative view on the proposals within the financial strategy. It can incorporate anything which the Council would find useful in determining the budget, including views on revenue spending proposals, capital spending proposals, additional spending suggestions, ways of saving money and taxation.
- 2.4 For this year's consultation process, the citizens' panel offers an effective means of gaining a representative view. This involves organizing a meeting lasting between 1 to 2 hour at which panel representatives receive a briefing on the financial strategy and the council's financial position and outlook, followed by the panel representatives answering a number of multi choice questions. Questions are answered using voting handsets. This enables answers to be analysed almost immediately with the overall results being made available within a few days of the meeting.
- 2.5 The meeting and results will be supplemented by wider consultation through the December / January edition of the Leicester LINK and through the council's website.
- 2.6 The questions asked will be formulated in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the council for approval over the next few days.

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2.7 The Citizens' Panel meeting would take place in November in order for the results to inform the process before detailed proposals are developed.

2.8 Proposals to develop ward committees provide an opportunity to improve public consultation in future years, and to design a process which reflects these developments.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the proposals outlined above, for consulting with the public on the 2008/09 to 2010/11 budget.

4. Report Author

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DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	N/A
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)