

NEWS FROM

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COUNCIL LAUNCHES INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON ITS BUDGET AND THE IMPACT ON SERVICES

THE Council is releasing early information about the effect Government policy is likely to have on local services in North Dorset.

This year the Council was capped to a 5% rise in Council Tax despite being one of the lowest-taxing Councils in the country.

This led to a new Budget being set for 2005-06 with Councillors finding savings of £364,000.

Officers have been carrying out preparation work for the setting of the 2006-07 Budget in February/March 2006, when Members will make the decision about the budget and the level of Council Tax.

In the run-up to that decision the Council is telling local people about the tough choices which will need to be made and asking for views on our priorities.

Liz Goodall, Chief Executive, said: "Managers and officers have made an assessment of the impact that Government policy will have and how this could be managed. Officers are recommending a three part strategy:

- Realise efficiency savings from investment in systems
- Deliver services in a different way with partners
- Concentrate on priority services

"We will be asking for local people's opinions through various consultation exercises including a survey of our Citizens' Panel, focus groups and 'have your say' events in the north and south of the district."

Chief Executive, Liz Goodall, said: "We know that there are difficult messages here for staff. I want to reassure them that we will do everything we can to manage that process in such a way as to avoid redundancies."

Officers will also be talking to the Council's partners to investigate different ways in which services could be delivered.

-ends-

24 November 2005

COUNCIL LAUNCHES INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON ITS BUDGET AND THE IMPACT ON SERVICES (cont...)

DOCUMENT ATTACHED:

- **List of affected services.**

For more information contact Liz Goodall, Chief Executive, on (01258) 484001 or Janet Rees, General Manager (Policy and Performance), on (01258) 484003.

PR Office: (01258) 484100.

Proposed Budget Reductions 2006-07

Conservation	Grant - Dorset Environmental Records	Cut Grant - Need to purchase information from DERC on a "when required basis" with potential of additional costs	-£1,170.00
General Public Health	H.E.C.A.	Reduce the H.E.C.A budget by £8,000 – budget for 2006-07 down to £1,440.	-£8,000.00
General Public Health	Temporary Travellers Site	Discontinue provision of funds for the temporary traveller's site during the steam fair.	-£15,000.00
Public Conveniences		- close, sell or transfer to town council 5 toilet facilities - Chantry Fields (Gillingham), Park Road (Gillingham), Sunrise (Blandford), Langton or Tabernacle (Blandford) & The Mill (Sturminster).	-£13,330.00
Domestic Refuse Collection	Plastic Sacks	no black sacks to be issued - if this is not an option then a GROWTH bid of £22,000 will need to be put in to cover the increased costs of black sacks.	-£53,000.00
Concessionary Travel	Taxi tokens	Remove Completely - No longer to offer this service in the light of new free travel arrangements	-£7,090.00
Concessionary Travel	British Rail Warrant	Remove Completely - No longer to offer this service in the light of new free travel arrangements	-£14,140.00
Concessionary Travel	Rural Bus Subsidies	Budget deleted as part of wider review of transport subsidies	-£36,760.00
Concessionary Travel	Advertising	Reduce by half - no major impact.	-£500.00

Community Health & Safety	Payments to Other Bodies	Halve grant to Treads to bring it in line with grants to Toby's	-£5,000.00
Housing Strategy	Grant - Stonham Hsg Assoc	Cut grant	-£1,570.00
Democratic Representation	Chairman's Hospitality	Reduce budget	-£1,000.00
Democratic Representation	Civic and Ceremonials	Stop Chairman's Civic Reception	-£2,000.00
Democratic Representation	Overview & Scrutiny Cttee	Impact on scope of scrutiny work.	-£3,000.00
Democratic Representation	No Parish Boundary Review		-£10,000.00
Democratic Representation	Promotional Activity & Communications	Reduced scope for developing public participation.	-£800.00
Operatives Overhead Account	Salaries - Operational	Removal of 2 vacant Street Cleansing posts	-£34,940.00
Customer Contact Overheads	Salaries - Operational	Close the cash office	-£25,500.00
Economic Development	Contribution - Rural Transport Adviser	Withdraw support as part of wider review of all rural transport subsidies.	-£6,290.00
Tourism	Tourist Information Centres	Close or transfer to town councils or voluntary sector both TICs	-£75,790.00
Arts Promotion and Development	Support for Arts plus vacant post of Arts and Sustainability Officer	all budget deleted except annual grant to Artreach (£10,800) per annum	-£59,710.00
Payments To Other Bodies	Grant To C.A.B.	Reduce grant - no longer using offices supplied by council	-£6,000.00

Total options

-£380,590.00