

Report to the Finance and Performance Management Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report Reference: FCC-019-2008/09.

Date of meeting: 17 November 2008.

Portfolio: Finance and Performance Management.

Subject: Draft General Fund CSB and DDF lists.

Responsible Officer: Peter Maddock (01992 564602).

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).

Recommendation

To note the draft Continuing Services Budget (CSB) and District Development Fund (DDF) schedules.

Executive Summary

The report provides the first draft of the Continuing Services Budget (CSB) growth and District Development Fund (DDF) Schedules and a brief summary of the areas of financial uncertainty facing the 2009/10 Budget.

Reasons for proposed action

Members are asked to note the first draft of these schedules and make comments as appropriate.

Other options for action

No other options applicable.

Report

1. The Financial Issues Paper was presented to this committee on 22 September 2008. There are a number of financial pressures and uncertainties facing the General Fund including Pay awards for both 2008/09 and 2009/10, the effects of the 'credit crunch', the re-negotiation of the contract for the management of Epping Sports Centre, Changes to concessionary fares, the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Initiative including looking at alternative methods of service delivery, and the considerable uncertainty surrounding the costs of energy going forward.
2. The schedules of CSB growth/savings and DDF expenditure are shown at Annexes 1 & 2. These represent best estimates at this time.
3. There are a number of areas where further work is required before growth figures to be included within the budget can be finalised. Areas include the cost of Waste Management where the original figure is shown until such time as future service delivery becomes clearer. The costs in relation to the extension of the contract at Epping Sports Centre are still under negotiation and the figures included as growth are very much initial estimates. Investment interest although quite buoyant at the moment is likely to reduce somewhat as interest rates are expected to reduce quite significantly over the next year or so. The figures generally need to be viewed in the context of this being quite early in the budget preparation process and will clearly need to be revisited over the next two months or so as the budget comes together.

Consultations Undertaken

This is the first draft of the CSB and DDF schedules. Consultations with spending officers regarding their budgets are ongoing at the moment but apart from this further consultation will take place later in the budget cycle.

Resource Implications

The schedules represent potential additions and reductions to the budget depending on decisions made during the budget process.

Legal and Governance Implications

The preparation of budgets well in advance of the financial year to which they apply, enable sound financial planning to take place. They subsequently provide a basis against which financial monitoring can take place during the year in question.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications

The Council's budgets contain spending in relation to this initiative.

Background Papers

Various budget working papers held in Accountancy.

Impact Assessments

The setting of the budget has an impact on all areas of the Council and any increase or decrease in allocated resources to particular services is likely to affect service delivery.