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Our Ref: JSJ/MB/A2726/A2892

Contact: Mr Jones

Ext: 7202

Your Ref:

Date: 18 February 2008

Dear Sir or Madam

### **CONSULTATION WITH NON-DOMESTIC RATEPAYERS – 2008/09 BUDGET**

As you are probably aware, the Council is required to consult persons or bodies appearing to be representatives of non-domestic ratepayers within South Lakeland about the Council's proposals for expenditure in 2008/09.

I am enclosing a statement which shows:

- the Council's proposed revenue expenditure for 2008/09
- the proposed capital expenditure for 2008/09 and the years 2009/12
- the Council's priority outcomes as expressed in its draft Corporate Plan 2008/11
- potential service developments, listed as revenue and capital items.

The Council's Cabinet has indicated that it would like to support the items shown on the two service development lists.

The proposed budget would require a 3.4% increase in council tax, representing an annual increase of £5.52 for an average household. Expenditure reductions and efficiency savings totalling £0.6m have been made to reach this budget.

If you would like to make any formal comments or representations about the expenditure proposals, please let me have them by Wednesday, 27 February, and I will ensure that any comments are placed before Councillors at their budget meeting on Thursday, 28 February.

Yours faithfully

**JACK JONES**  
Strategic Director (Resources)

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**SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL: 2008/09 BUDGET SUMMARY**

	<----- Net Revenue Expenditure ----->			<- Capital Expenditure ->	
	2007/08	Variations	2008/09	2008/09	Future
	Original Budget		Proposed Budget	Capital Programme	Years Expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Priority Theme:</b>					
Healthy Communities	1,964.0	217.5	2,181.5	1,205.8	
Homes to Meet Local Needs	3,971.5	(86.7)	3,884.8	10,531.6	8,789.6
Prosperous Communities	1,206.2	516.0	1,722.2	897.9	
Safer, Greener, Cleaner and Stronger Communities	4,926.0	523.7	5,449.7	186.3	130.0
Transforming Our Services	478.4	364.4	842.8	616.8	
Regulatory Services	5,035.0	850.3	5,885.3		
Other Services	353.4	174.1	527.5	134.5	269.0
Further Budget Reductions		(565.0)	(565.0)		
	<u>17,934.5</u>	<u>1,994.2</u>	19,928.7	<u>13,572.9</u>	<u>9,188.6</u>
Financing Entries	(3,865.1)		(4,060.7)		
General Government Grant			(855.0)		
Transfers to reserves	780.2		449.1		
Transfers from reserves	(705.5)		(880.3)		
<b>Revenue Budget</b>	<u>14,144.1</u>		<u>14,581.8</u>		
<b>Band D Council Tax</b>	<b>£160.38</b>		<b>£165.90</b>		
<b>Increase in Council Tax</b>			<b>3.4%</b>		

**Corporate Outcomes**

The Council's draft Corporate Plan sets out the following twelve corporate outcomes for the period 2008 to 2011, in priority order:

- 1 Sufficient homes delivered to meet our local needs
- 2 Economic growth achieved and incomes increased through development of key business sectors
- 3 Our towns become vibrant centres for enhancing employment, local services, retail and community facilities
- 4 Sustainable use of resources by the Council and its communities
- 5 The health and well-being of all people who live, work or visit the district is improved and safeguarded
- 6 Stronger communities as a result of increased community involvement in the design, delivery of, and access to, high quality local services
- 7 Communities development priorities delivered
- 8= The needs of an ageing population are supported
- 8= Increased community pride through targeting of such issues as litter, graffiti, excess noise and dog fouling
- 10 Decency and energy efficiency of housing improved
- 11 Quality of Life is enhanced through improved access and participation in cultural, sporting and leisure activities
- 12 Reduced crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime



## CORPORATE PLAN DEVELOPMENTS

The 2008/09 Estimates have identified revenue resources of £1,456,000 and capital resources of £660,000 that could be made available for service developments.

The Council's Cabinet has recommended that it wishes to allocate these resources to the following growth items:

Corporate Plan Theme	Corporate Priority Outcome and Development		Revenue Cost £	Capital Cost £
<b>Homes to Meet Local Needs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Sufficient homes delivered to meet our local needs</b>		
		Additional 0.5 fte Homelessness Prevention Officer	}	
		Additional 0.5 fte Homelessness Visiting Officer	50,000	
		Homeless Prevention 'Toolkit'	}	
		Community & Housing Software system for service requests and complaints	}	
<b>Prosperous Communities</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Economic growth achieved and incomes increased through development of key business sectors</b>		
		Increased investment in Economic Development	66,900	
<b>Prosperous Communities</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Our towns become vibrant centres for enhancing employment, local services, retail and community facilities</b>		
		Increase to cover the maintenance of Pay-on-Foot equipment	19,000	
		Additional staff to operate Pay-on-Foot equipment	45,000	
<b>Safer, Greener, Cleaner and Stronger Communities</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Sustainable use of resources by the Council and its communities</b>		
		Energy efficiency improvement works - Council buildings	45,000	
		Energy Performance Certificates for Council buildings - new legal requirement	8,750	
<b>Healthy Communities</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>The health and well-being of all people who live, work or visit the district is improved and safeguarded</b>		
		Low Risk Legionella prevention works - Council buildings	19,000	
		Structural survey of Westmorland Shopping Centre Car Park	6,000	
		Private water supplies - new private water regulations requirements.	35,000	
<b>Safer, Greener, Cleaner and Stronger Communities</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Stronger communities as a result of increased community involvement in the design, delivery of, and access to, high quality local services</b>		
		Information Manager to lead Information Unit	30,000	
		Information Assistant for Information Unit	25,000	
		Third issue of South Lakeland News	12,000	
<b>Prosperous Communities</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Communities development priorities delivered</b>		
		Development Control - Move temporary professional and technical staff onto the establishment	50,000	
		Development Plans - Senior Policy Officer	35,000	
		Development Plans - Monitoring Officer	25,000	
<b>Healthy Communities</b>	<b>8=</b>	<b>The needs of an ageing population are supported</b>		
<b>Safer, Greener, Cleaner and Stronger Communities</b>	<b>8=</b>	<b>Increased community pride through targeting of such issues as litter, graffiti, excess noise and dog fouling</b>		
		Street Cleansing - 2 additional street cleansing operatives (hit squad)	44,000	
		Dog Control - New legal duty to both collect strays and receipt of stray dogs 24/7	30,000	

**CORPORATE PLAN DEVELOPMENTS**

<b>Homes to Meet Local Needs</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Decency and energy efficiency of housing improved</b>		
<b>Healthy Communities</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Quality of Life is enhanced through improved access and participation in cultural, sporting and leisure activities</b>		
		Grants to Regularly Funded Organisations - Reinstatement of 2007/08 budget reduction	109,000	
		Festivals - in particular Mintfest International Street Arts Festival	10,000	
		Improvements to Jubilee Playing Fields, Kendal		103,000
<b>Safer, Greener, Cleaner and Stronger Communities</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Reduced crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime</b>		
<b>Transforming our Services</b>		<b>Transformation and Change Strategy</b>		
		Subscription to CIPFA Finance Advisory Network	3,900	
		Subscription to CIPFA Statistics Service	1,300	
		Increase in Corporate Learning & Development Budget - ACE programme	60,000	
		New Telephone System	15,000	72,000
		Member Development Programme - budget increase	13,000	
		Environmental Health & Support Services - Remote working IT equipment	40,000	
		Neighbourhood Services - Digitising historic paper files	7,500	
		Customer Services - IT Systems management and development	30,000	
		Building Control - In House scanning	12,500	
		Transformation Agenda	396,000	484,500
<b>Other Services</b>		<b>Other Service Developments</b>		
		Planned Maintenance - Increase in funds	146,250	
		Car Parking - Replacement of obsolete handheld computers	50,000	
		Minor Car Park repairs/improvements	16,000	
		<b>2008/09 Service Developments</b>	<b>1,456,100</b>	<b>659,500</b>

These items are included in the costs recorded in the summary estimates.