

2007/08 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN AND 2007 AMENDMENTS TO THE LTCCP 2006-16 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 11 May 2007

I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered

Are you completing this submission:

For yourself

If you are representing , how many people do you represent?

Name:

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Date:

1/5/2007

Your Submission:

I refer to p.72: Financial Overview and to p.19: Introduction from the Mayor.

Contrary to the 2006 feedback reported by the Mayor, I consider it a Council responsibility not to fuel public sector inflation by continuing to project above-inflation rates and expenditure increases. It is inevitable that the Council will find little enthusiasm for expenditure cuts that may impact on some services. However, it is also the case that the Council should take into account the opportunity costs borne by ratepayers, who are in effect being asked to sacrifice discretionary expenditure to fund council activities. In my view the Council should take the difficult decisions required to keep rates increases close to the rate of general inflation.

I am also suspicious of the projections on p.72 that suggest 'real' rates increases close to 6% until 2010 and zero or negative thereafter. This appears to represent a well-known dysfunctional management practice in which undesirable outcomes are projected for the near future and desirable outcomes afterwards. Typically, the projected point at which the desirable outcomes start is pushed forward ad infinitum, because the projection of "better later" provides an excuse for failing to tackle today's dysfunctionality. If the Council projects that it will have the ability to control rates increases beyond 2010, why does it not demonstrate this ability today by starting to control them from 2007/2008?

Which principles and/or provisions of the Draft Amended Development Contributions Policy (DCP) do you support and why?

Which principles and/or provisions of the Draft Amended DCP do you oppose and why?

What exactly do you want the Council to do about the Draft Amended DCP?

Any other remarks/comments:

My points are simple and probably do not need explaining at the hearing. However, if there is a need to clarify anything then I would be happy to speak. I would also be happy to meet with council managers to look in more detail at the short and long term projections.