



INFORMATION REPORT
Corporate Services Commission, Financial Services

395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

www.newmarket.ca
mmayes@newmarket.ca
905.953-5300 ext. 2102

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CORPORATE SERVICES INFORMATION REPORT – FINANCIAL SERVICES 2016-27

TO: Mayor Tony Van Bynen and Members of Council

SUBJECT: 2017 Budget – Council Feedback

ORIGIN: Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any Member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Information Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

COMMENTS

For the past several years, the Treasurer has met with individual Members of Council in advance of the presentation of the preliminary draft budget. The intention of these meetings is to discuss the budget process and schedule, changes in financial policies, and to give Council Members an opportunity to ask questions and discuss matters of interest to them.

Although the meetings are not yet complete, it would be appropriate to share some of the initial findings. The budget schedule and drivers are challenging this year. If any further direction is anticipated, earlier than later is preferred.

Approach and Schedule

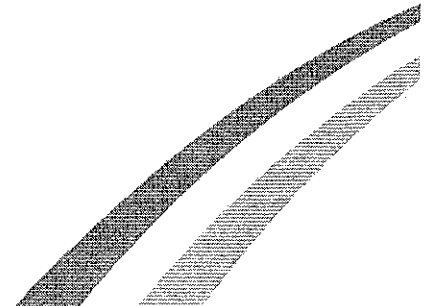
Having 5 focus areas for the budget, based upon deliverables, was seen as an acceptable approach.

The schedule was accepted, with the understanding that the target date for Council approval on December 5 could be extended, if required.

Background Information

Requests for information to inform the budget process included:

- Funding for growth
- Service Pricing Policy



- Further clarification on infrastructure grants and the Gas Tax
- Employee benefit costs
- Staffing level comparators
- Property tax comparisons

Target


The general consensus was for a tax increase target the same or less than last year's actual tax increase (2.99% which included 0.80% for the infrastructure levy).

The range was:


Tax levy increase before infrastructure	1.85%	-	2.19%
Infrastructure levy	<u>0.65%</u>	-	<u>0.80%</u>
Total tax increase	2.50%	-	2.99%

CONTACT

For more information on this report, contact: Mike Mayes at 905-953-5300, ext. 2102 or via e-mail at mmayes@newmarket.ca

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 Mike Mayes, CPA, CGA, DPA
 Director, Financial Services/Treasurer



 Esther Armchuk B.A. (Hons.), LL.B., DPA
 Commissioner, Corporate Services

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