

Clause 11 in Report No. 10 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on May 21, 2015.

11
2016 Budget Directions Report

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated April 27, 2015 from the Commissioner of Finance:

1. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. Council endorse the proposed timeline for the development and approval of the 2016 budget.

2. Purpose

The report seeks Council direction on the proposed timeline for the 2016 operating and capital budget. It also outlines general guidelines for budget development.

3. Background

A multi-year budget was approved for 2015 to 2018

As part of the 2015 budget approval, Council also approved an outlook for 2016 to 2018.

A multi-year budget has several advantages:

- It enables better coordination of budgeting and strategic priorities
- It provides greater certainty for departments in managing their expenditures
- It improves fiscal discipline.

The approved outlook included a tax levy increase after assessment growth of 2.85%, 2.69% and 2.35% for 2016, 2017 and 2018. The approved outlook

captures a number of budget pressures, an increased contribution for capital asset replacement and increased contractor costs.

A multi-year budget approval changes but does not eliminate the 2016 annual budget process.

4. Analysis and Options

December approval of the 2016 budget is proposed

Table 1 below summarizes the key dates in the 2016 process.

Table 1
Proposed 2016 Budget Timelines

Milestone	Date
Budget directions report to Council	May 21
Budget submission to Finance	July/August
Treasurer reviews and briefings	September
CAO reviews and briefings	October
Chair briefing	October
Table Budget with Council	November 19
Committee reviews	December 3 and 10
Budget approval	December 17

It is proposed that the 2016 budget be tabled with Council in November 2015, with December Committee meetings reserved for budget review and final approval by Council in December.

The 2016 approved outlook will be the starting point for the 2016 budget

An outlook for 2016 to 2018 was approved as part of the 2015 multi-year budget process. This outlook will be the starting point for the 2016 budget. Departments will be expected to live within the allocations in their approved outlook.

If any revisions to the approved outlook are required, they will be presented to Council as part of the 2016 budget process.

The 2016 budget will correspond to the remaining term of Council and will cover the years 2016 to 2018. Council will be asked to approve the budget for 2016 and an outlook for 2017 and 2018.

Link to key Council-approved plans

The *2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan* guides the multi-year business planning and budgeting process. Many priorities outlined in the Plan will be reflected in current and future Regional budgets.

5. Financial Implications

While there are no direct financial implications associated with this report, the budget will establish expenditures and funding for the provision of Regional services in 2016 with an outlook for 2017 and 2018.

6. Local Municipal Impact

There is no direct local municipal impact associated with this report. Certainty and discipline in the budget helps local municipalities with their budget planning.

7. Conclusion

It is proposed that the 2016 budget be tabled with Regional Council in November 2015, with approval in December 2015.

For more information on this report, please contact Kelly Strueby, Director, Office of the Budget, at ext. 71611.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

April 27, 2015

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request