

Clause 12 in Report No. 9 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on May 19, 2016.

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2017 Budget Direction

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated April 5, 2016 from the Commissioner of Finance:

1. Council endorse the proposed timeline for the development and approval of the 2017 budget.
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Report dated April 5, 2016 from the Commissioner of Finance now follows:

1. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. Council endorse the proposed timeline for the development and approval of the 2017 budget.

2. Purpose

The report seeks Council direction on the proposed timeline for the 2017 operating and capital budget. It also outlines general guideline for budget development.

3. Background

2017 will be the third year of the multi-year budget

In February 2015 Council approved the first year of the multi-year budget and an outlook for the following three years. The outlook formed the basis for the 2016 budget development and was updated as part of the 2016 budget.

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.

On December 17, 2016, the 2016 budget was approved with a tax levy increase after assessment growth of 2.85% and an outlook for 2017 and 2018 of 2.69% and 2.35%. These tax levy increases are the same as the outlook approved in the original 2015 multi-year budget.

The 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 annual budget process.

4. Analysis and Options

December approval of the 2017 budget is proposed

Table 1 below summarizes the key dates in the 2017 budget process.

Table 1
Proposed 2017 Budget Timeline

Milestone	Date
Budget direction report to Council	May 19
Budget submission to Finance	July/August
Treasurer reviews and briefings	September
CAO reviews and briefings	October
Chair briefing	October
Table Budget with Council	November 17
Committee reviews	December 1 and 8
Budget approval	December 15

It is proposed that the 2017 budget be tabled with Council in November 2016, with December Committee meetings reserved for budget review and final approval by Council in December.

The approved outlook will be the starting point for the 2017 budget

An outlook for 2017 and 2018 was approved as part of the 2015 multi-year budget process and updated as part of the 2016 budget process. This outlook will be the starting point for the 2017 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 2017 budget process.

The 2017 budget will correspond to the remaining term of Council and will cover the years 2017 and 2018. Council will be asked to approve the budget for 2017 and an outlook for 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 2017, with an outlook for 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 2017 budget be tabled with Regional Council in November 2016, with approval in December 2016.

2017 Budget Direction

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 5, 2016

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request