

Appendices:
Cabinet report plus
11 appendices



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

24 February 2020

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Management Board

Report Title	General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2020/21 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 – 2023/24
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report the outcome of the consultation process on the 2020/21 general fund revenue and capital budget and the Government funding settlement for 2020/21.
- 1.2 To agree the Cabinet's recommendations for the 2020/21 general fund budgets and council tax level and the indicative levels for 2020/21 to 2023/24.
- 1.3 To outline the general fund capital programme and funding proposals for 2020/21 and future years.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the feedback from consultation with the public, organisations and the Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committees be considered and welcomed (detailed at **appendices 9, 10 and 11**).
- 2.2 That a general fund revenue budget for 2020/21 of £27.770m (excluding parishes, or £29.006m including parish precepts) be approved (detailed in **appendices 1 and 2**).
- 2.4 That the Council increases the council tax for its own purposes (excluding County, Police, Fire and Parish Precepts) by £5.00 (2.21%) per year per average band D property for 2020/21.
- 2.5 That the Council approve the general fund capital budget and outline programme and proposed financing for 2020/21, including the schemes in the development pool, as set out in **appendix 4**.

- 2.6 That Council confirm a minimum level of general fund balances for 2020/21 of £3.0m that reflects the risks being faced by the Council, with a prudent level of £4.0m included in the budget setting, and also note the position on earmarked reserves (**appendix 7**).
- 2.7 That authority be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, and where appropriate the relevant Head of Service and Cabinet Member to:
- Transfer monies to/from earmarked reserves as appropriate during the financial year; and
 - Update prudential indicators in both the prudential indicators report and treasury strategy report to Council, for any budget changes that impact on these.
- 2.8 That the draft fees and charges set out in **appendix 8** be approved, including immediate implementation where appropriate. Note the one small amendment to the fees and charges schedule as detailed at section 3.1.3.
- 2.9 That Council approve the treasury management strategy (and associated appendices) for 2020/21 at **appendix 5** of this report.
- 2.10 That authority be delegated to the Council's Chief Finance Officer, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make any temporary changes needed to the Council's borrowing and investment strategy to enable the authority to meet its obligations.
- 2.11 That Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive, Heads of Service and Chief Finance Officer to implement all budget options and restructures.

3. Issues and choices

3.1 Report background

- 3.1.1 In the event that there are changes made in accordance with the delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer following Cabinet's meeting on 19 February 2020, updated appendices to the cabinet report will be tabled reflecting these changes.
- 3.1.2 See also Cabinet report attached.
- 3.1.3 The Cabinet report of 19 February 2020 stated that "the final 2020/21 local government finance settlement is expected to be laid before the House of Commons in February, but has not yet been released at the time of writing this report". Since this time, the final settlement has been released via a written statement. There was nothing unexpected in this statement, so there would be no changes to Northampton Borough Council's budget as a result of this. However, it should be noted that the planned debate on the final settlement, scheduled for 12 February has been delayed, and as a result, at the time of writing this report, the parliamentary vote on the settlement has not yet taken place. There is, therefore, a risk that this budget is being set on

the basis of the communicated settlement, but this has not yet been ratified by Government.

- 3.1.4 There has been one minor inclusion to the fees and charges schedule compared to the version that went to Cabinet on 19 February 2020. This is the inclusion of a line to state that fees are available on request for photography and filming at the Guildhall for commercial list. This has been added to **appendix 8** with this report.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 See Cabinet report attached.

4.2 Resources and risk

- 4.2.1 See Cabinet report attached.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 See Cabinet report attached.

4.4 Equality

- 4.4.1 See Cabinet report attached.

4.5 Other implications

- 4.5.1 See Cabinet report attached.

5. Background papers

- 5.1 See Cabinet report attached.

**Stuart McGregor,
Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)**

**George Candler,
Chief Executive**