NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 27 February 2006

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, THE TWENTY SEVENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2006 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING WHEN THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS IS PROPOSED TO BE TRANSACTED:-

1. MINUTES.

To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Council held on 23rd January 2006.

- 2. APOLOGIES.
- 3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.
- 4. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES/QUESTIONS.
- 5. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX FOR 2006/2007 (REPORT TO FOLLOW))
- 6. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2006/2007 (REPORT HEREWITH)
- 7. POLITICAL STRUCTURES REPORT OF SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL (TO FOLLOW)
- 8. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE MAYOR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

The Guildhall Northampton 17 February 2006

M.McLean Chief Executive

Agenda Item 5



Council

Date 27/2/2006

Report of Financial Strategy & Performance

Title of Report:

Item No.

Directorate: Finance, Governance & Citizens

Author/Contact Officer: Alison Betts, Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) Budget and Council Tax 2006/2007

Purpose of Report

To agree the Budget and resultant Council Tax for 2006/2007

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1. Note the advice of the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) set out in this report, particularly in relation to the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 2. Note the results of Budget Consultation as set out in this report and detailed at Appendix C.
- 3. Considers and approves the Revenue Budget as laid down in Appendix A for 2006/2007.
- 4. Consequently, agree the formal budget and agree the calculation of the council tax base and council tax determinations set out in the draft resolution in Appendix B to this report (note: the Council Tax determinations may be subject to change in advance of the meeting as the County Council and Police Authority figures are provisional).
- Authorise the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Financial Strategy and Democratic Services, to make any adjustments to cash limits necessary, in line with the reasons set out in para. 2.3, to implement the budget decision of the council before the 1st April 2006, subject to the overall cash limit remaining unchanged.

6. Instruct Corporate Directors and Corporate Managers to contain expenditure for 2006/2007 within the service area cash limits set out in Appendix A.

Summary and Links to Corporate Plan

The Revenue Budget provides the resources to allow the achievement of the corporate objectives.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Prior to approving the Budget and setting the Council Tax, the Council is required to consider a number of factors that are required by the statutory framework governing the budgetary and council tax setting process. This report ensures that Councillors give due consideration to these matters prior to approving the Budget. The report also contains the appropriate resolutions to determine both the Council's own share of the Council Tax for next year and, as Billing Authority, the Council Tax for the area(s) incorporating the precepts received from the County, Police and Parishes.
- 1.2. Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 imposed new duties on local authorities, and its Chief Finance Officer (section 151 Officer), about how they must set and monitor their budgets. These provisions are designed to help ensure the authorities make prudent allowances for risk and uncertainties in their budgets. But largely the legislation leaves discretion to the individual authority based on advice it must receive from its CFO.
- 1.3. To help the authority decide on these factors the legislation requires Councillors to take "authoritative advice" when making these decisions and for Councillors to have due regard to this advice. The advice must be provided by the CFO for the authority in a report to the full Council. The advice must deal with the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the reserves. This report sets out that advice as well as giving Councillors an understanding of how the budget has been prepared for this year.

2. The Budget Preparation Process

- 2.1. Previously the way we have set and monitored budgets has not supported sound budget management. A significant overspend is currently forecast for 2005/2006 as a result of failing to achieve savings included in the 2005/2006 budget decision and the lack of a clear framework in which managers are expected to manage budgets.
- 2.2. The Budget for 2006/2007 has concentrated on ensuring that the budget will give the Council a sound base for moving forward. Significant changes were made this year to the way our base budget was built up to help to improve the management capability of the Council and start to link these budgets more explicitly to the level of services being delivered. The base budget has been restructured so that each budget manager has a clear cash limit, equivalent to their controllable expenditure, to which they will be expected to manage. A key component of this has been a zero-based budget review of all staffing budgets. Previously the staffing budget for the entire council was held centrally and included a significant

vacancy factor that was not allocated to individual areas or managers. Staffing budgets are now allocated to individual budget areas and the vacancy factor has been removed.

- 2.3. Whilst considerable work has already been carried out to align expenditure with current service provision, it should be recognised that the grouping of services within the current cost centre structure is not always sensible for the new organizational structure. In addition, as staffing structures below the level subject to Root and Branch are finalized some staff may need to be transferred between service areas. As a result of these issues some adjustments, within the overall cash limit, may need to be made between individual service areas in order to implement the budget decision and it is recommended that this "fine-tuning" of the detailed budget be carried out prior to 1st April 2006 in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Financial Strategy and Performance.
- 2.4. The 2006/2007 Budget was discussed during a two-day workshop involving Members from all three political parties and budget proposals agreed for consideration at Improvement Board on the 2nd February when the agreed budget was recommended to Cabinet. The Cabinet considered and adopted the recommendations of Improvement Board at its meeting on 16th February.
- 2.5. At its meeting on 30 January 2006, Cabinet considered a report on the Council Tax Base for 2006/07, set out in Appendix D, and made a recommendation to the Council that forms part of Appendix B.

3. Budget Consultation

- 3.1. Changes were made to the way Budget Consultation with Citizens was carried out in 2006/2007 to make the consultation more relevant and to bring consultation forward in the budget process.
- 3.2. Two workshops were held on the 10th January 2006 to which all members of the Council's forums and local area partnerships were invited. 30 people attended the afternoon session and 19 the evening session. The workshops were a mixture of information giving on the background to the budget and the latest position and information gathering on peoples priorities.
- 3.3. The budget consultation workshops were very positively received and seen as a significant improvement on past consultation exercises. Favourable comparison was made with current consultation by other councils in the area.
- 3.4. In addition to the workshops a questionnaire was sent out to all members of the Local Area Partnerships and Forums who were unable to attend the workshops. Seventy questionnaires were returned through this route. BMG also carried a telephone survey of one hundred and four members of the Citizens Panel.
- 3.5. A summary of the results of the consultation is contained at Appendix C to this report.
- 3.6. The budget proposals were discussed at a meeting of the Town Centre Partnership, where discussion centered around the increase in parking charges, and a copy of the budget proposals has been sent to the Chamber of Commerce to give them opportunity to comment.

4. Budget Proposals

- 4.1. Preparation of the budget has had regard to the need for a robust balanced budget based on realistic forecast resource levels and known expenditure commitments. In particular, the budget incorporates:
 - 4.1.1. restoration of a realistic base position where targeted savings for 2005/06 have not been achievable
 - 4.1.2. additional provision where actual committed service levels exceed the approved budget for 2005/06 (e.g. refuse collection and recycling)
 - 4.1.3. adjustment of income budgets where shortfalls have occurred as a result of circumstances beyond the council's immediate control (e.g. land charges)
 - 4.1.4. savings achieved as a result of the Root & Branch restructuring exercise
 - 4.1.5. provision for new legislative requirements reflected in the Revenue Support Grant settlement for 2006/07 (concessionary fares)
 - 4.1.6. additional provision to support the council's recovery and progressive improvement programme
- 4.2. The position is summarised below:

	Cash Limit 2006/07 £000	Forecast 2007/08 £000	Forecast 2008/09 £000
Total Funding	-29,394	-30,781	-31,877
Revised Base Budgets	27,606	29,021	30,262
-	-1788	-1760	-1615
Inescapable Additions/Adjustments	1973	2782	2782
Recovery Programme Funding	550	1000	1000
Other Items	55	25	25
	790	2047	2192
Additional Proposals	-790	-1190	-1190
Residual Funding Gap	0	857	1,002

Details of the individual service area budgets are contained in Appendix A, including details of the proposed changes to the base budget. The Funding figures incorporate the Final Settlement Figures, which show a marginally improved position on the Provisional settlement.

4.3. These budgets incorporate the recommendations arising from the budget-planning seminar attended by councillors from all three political groups on 12th/13th January and subsequently approved by Improvement Board and Cabinet. The key proposals are that the residual funding gap for 2006/07 of £790k is closed by increased charges for car parks and leisure centres above the rate of inflation and the introduction of a charge for the removal of domestic bulky waste. The budget results in a 4.9% recommended increase in Council Tax (as set out in Appendix B).

- 4.4. Although the proposed budget for 2006/07 does provide a sound basis for further development of the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, it is recognised that there is still considerable work to be undertaken to develop a fuller understanding of how approved budgets link to service delivery and that this needs to be undertaken urgently. It has therefore been agreed that a further budget planning seminar, to involve all of the political groups on the Council, will be held during May 2006 in order to develop a better understanding of future service options and priorities and to recommend how the budget for 2007/08 and later years might be brought into balance accordingly.
- 4.5. It is the intention that the seminar will receive more detailed budget information that will link budgets clearly with the outputs delivered for that level resource. This seminar will be informed by the revised Corporate Plan and will be the forum where the Council can begin to look at individual service levels and make decisions on these service levels and the corresponding level of resources to better reflect its priorities.

5. Robustness of Budget

- 5.1. The zero basing of all staffing budgets has created a robust basis for the Budget that has been missing in the past. Budget Managers will for the first time have complete clarity as to the staffing levels on which their budgets have been built in order to manage within these levels. Given the significant proportion of the budget that is staffing related this greatly reduces budget risk.
- 5.2. The build up of supplies and services budgets has not been zero based to the same level. Whilst major supplies and services budgets relating to agency and contracted services remain sound, budgets relating to everyday items such as stationery and office supplies will need to be kept under review as the year progresses. Training budgets have been separately identified and will be centrally managed with additional provision made as part of the budget proposals.
- 5.3. A small central contingency of £0.3M has been identified to deal with any issues arising from the zero basing of budgets.
- 5.4. Additional provision of £1.0M has been made in the budget to meet deficiencies in the current budget that have been identified during 2005/2006. These include additional provision for shortfalls in investment property income, land charges, refuse services and the failure to achieve undefined efficiency savings. Additional provision of £0.2M has been made to start to address some of the current buildings maintenance backlog.
- 5.5. An important feature of the budget process this year is that Directors and Corporate Managers have taken responsibility for the budgets for the areas they control. The Senior Management Team has been involved throughout the process of building up the Budget and have been asked to confirm their understanding of the staffing levels and other inputs provided for within their individual cash limits and that they can provide current services within those budgets.
- 5.6. The move to the use of fixed Cash Limits (at forecast outturn prices) for budget management will further strengthen the robustness of budgets and budget management. The Cash Limit for each budget manager is the total of cash they actually control in the provision of their service. A Budget Management Scheme has been prepared for 2006/2007 which clearly sets out the responsibility of budget managers in managing these budgets and the responsibilities of Finance

staff in supporting them.

- 5.7. Whilst the senior management team have identified areas of efficiency savings to be pursued in 2006/2007, no assumptions as to the level of cash savings they will generate has been built into the budget. Unless clearly identifiable cash savings can be identified against individual cash limits it would not be prudent to build these savings into the Budget. A full year target of £250k has been built into the forecast for 2007/2008 giving a full year for the detail to be identified.
- 5.8. Directors and Corporate Managers, supported by Finance Staff, have worked to quantify the impact of the income targets and other savings identified in the budget to ensure that these are achievable.

6. General Fund Balances

6.1. The latest Revenue Monitoring Report to Cabinet shows a projected £2.2M overspend. However financing adjustments and transfers from Earmarked reserves have been identified to preserve the level of General Fund Balances. The table below sets out the current position.

	£M
Projected General Fund Balance at end of 2005/2006 – before financing adjustments	0.64
Financing adjustments relating to external financing and capital funding	1.0
Rationalisation of Earmarked Reserves	0.9
Projected General Fund Balance at end of 2005/2006 – after financing adjustments	2.54

- 6.2. The financing adjustments relate to capitalisation of expenditure currently in the revenue budget, savings in the Minimum Revenue Provision identified as part of the audit and savings in interest payments. The transfer to general balances from the rationalisation of earmarked reserves will come mainly from the Insurance Reserve, which is assessed to be at a higher level than required.
- 6.3. It is important that the level of reserves is considered in the context of the robustness of the Budget and the Budget Management Framework. Whilst the recommended minimum level of reserves remains at a similar level to previous years the Budget currently presented has addressed the previous underlying structural deficiencies. Strengthened arrangements for Budget Management will give more robust budget monitoring and budget managers will be expected to manage within their clearly defined cash limits. It is not expected that Supplementary Estimates will be sought during 2006/2007 as expenditure can only be committed within identified budgets and virement rules will be used to manage within the overall cash limit for the Council.
- 6.4. These changes in budgeting and budget management will be far more critical to the successful future financial management of the Council than the overall level of reserves. Councillors are therefore advised that for 2006/2007 the projected level of reserves are considered to be adequate.

7. Resource Implications

7.1. These are covered in the body of the report and appendices.

8. Social Impact

8.1. A robust balanced budget is essential as the basis for continuous delivery of the council's service commitments to the community.

9. Consultees (Internal & External)

9.1. The consultation process is covered in section 3 to this report

					Appendix A
Appendix 1 : General Fund Revenue Summary	Base Budget 06/07 £'000 (a)	Budget Changes 06/07 £'000 (b)	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
Funding				()	
Collection Fund Adjustments	147		147	0	0
Revenue Support Grant	-2,830	-75	-2,905	-3,055	-3,116
Non Domestic Rate	-15,059	13	-15,046	-15,361	-15,668
Council Tax @ 4.9%, 4.9%, 4.9%	-12,143		-12,143	-12,866	-13,603
Parishes	491	24	515	501	510
Total Income	-29,394	-38	-29,432	-30,781	-31,877
Expenditure					
Cash Limits					
Customer Services	1,896	41	1,937	2,011	2,096
Performance & Improvement	2,883	81	2,964	3,075	3,167
Human Resources	1,141	300	1,441	2,396	2,430
Citizen Engagement	4,338	81	4,419	4,539	4,697
Planning, Environmental Health & Leisure	4,352	-200	4,152	4,471	4,675
Finance & Asset Management	6,458	468	6,926	6,996	7,240
Regeneration & Growth	1,213	100	1,313	1,519	1,564
Street Scene & Property Maintenance	5,593	290	5,883	6,280	6,723
Housing Services	1,455	302	1,757	1,993	2,091
Legal & Democratic Services	2,441	363	2,804	2,989	3,082
Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	31,770	1,826	33,596	36,268	37,767
Recharges to Other funds	-4,356		-4,356	-4,842	-5,100
Net General Fund Cash Limit	27,414	1,826	29,240	31,426	32,667
Debt Charges	192		192	212	212
	27,606	1,826	29,432	31,638	32,879
Funding Gap			0	857	1,002

All General Fund	Base Budget 06/07 £'000	Budget Changes 06/07 £'000	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Cash Limit By Key Service Area	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Customer Services (Kay Atkinson)					
Administrative Services	69	28	97	101	104
Call Care	244		244	219	235
Corporate Manager (Customer Services)	756		756	793	819
One Stop Shop	491	13	504	538	556
Print Unit	-56		-56	-55	-45
Housing Advice	392		392	414	427
Customer Services	1,896	41	1,937	2,011	2,096
Performance & Improvement (Dale Phillipson)					
Performance Management	199		199	208	215
Information Technology	2,360	19	2,379	2,467	2,543
Corporate Manager (Performance & Improvement)	154		154	162	168
Telephones	170	62	232	237	242
Performance & Improvement	2,883	81	2,964	3,075	3,167
Human Resources (Howard Crabtree)					
Corporate Manager (Human Resources)	740	100	840	1,612	1,636
Training & Development	401	200	601	784	794
Human Resources	1,141	300	1,441	2,396	2,430
Citizen Engagement (Thomas Hall)					
Communications	388	6	394	413	428
Community Safety	129		129	131	154
Comm Safety - Crime & Disorder	0		0	2	2
Events	175		175	184	195
Corporate Manager (Citizen Engagement)	490		490	517	535
Participation & Consultation	419	15	434	437	449
Museums	948		948	996	1,029
Community Grants & Other Grants	1,408	60	1,468	1,474	1,511
Arts & Culture	381		381	384	394
Citizen Engagement	4,338	81	4,419	4,539	4,697

All General Fund	Base Budget 06/07 £'000	Budget Changes 06/07 £'000	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Cash Limit By Key Service Area	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Planning, Environmental Health & Leisure (Christine Stevenson)					
Local Agenda 21	4		4	4	4
Building Control	207		207	241	257
Development Control	59		59	100	118
Food Safety	3		3	3	3
Leisure	1,057	-200	857	962	1,027
Corp Man (Planning Env Health & Leisure)	428		428	451	466
Neighbourhood Wardens	544		544	558	573
Pest Control	42		42	42	43
Pollution Reduction	-10		-10	-10	-10
Travellers Sites	92		92	92	94
Health & Safety at Work - Ext	1		1	1	1
Public Health	1,475		1,475	1,548	1,600
Private Sector Housing Standards & Improvements	450		450	479	498
Planning, Environmental Health & Leisure	4,352	-200	4,152	4,471	4,675
Finance & Asset Management (Ian Thompson)	.,		.,	.,	.,
Asset Management	2,336		2,336	2,409	2,486
Financial Services	2,283		2,283	2,418	2,653
Internal Audit	238		238	250	250
Non Distributed Costs	1,149		1,149	975	982
Investments	452	38	490	587	449
Other Buildings & Land	-1,862	450	-1,412	-1,331	-1,348
Corporate Manager (Finance & Asset Management)	105		105	110	113
Office Accommodation	2,198	-20	2,178	2,255	2,330
Markets	-440		-440	-426	-426
Efficiency Savings				-250	-250
Finance & Asset Management	6,458	468	6,926	6,996	7,240
Regeneration and Growth (Chris Cavanagh)			0,020	0,000	7,240
Corporate Manager (Regeneration)	84		84	89	92
Economic Intelligence	165		165	173	178
Housing Strategy	240		240	251	260
Planning Policy & Conservation	560	100	660	833	854
Regeneration	163		163	173	180
Regeneration and Growth	1,213	100	1,313	1,519	1,564

All General Fund	Base Budget 06/07 £'000	Budget Changes 06/07 £'000	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Cash Limit By Key Service Area	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Street Scene & Property Maintenance (Carl Grimmer)					
Abandoned Vehicles	57		57	58	59
Building Cleaning	-80		-80	-82	-81
Cemeteries	-29		-29	-15	-9
Concessionary Fares	549	550	1,099	1,115	1,115
Car Parking	-3,283	-500	-3,783	-3,622	-3,614
Domestic Refuse	2,308	380	2,688	2,760	2,838
Highways & Transport	-47		-47	26	83
Corporate Manager (Streetscene)	312		312	328	339
Public Conveniences	277		277	291	300
Parks and Open Spaces	2,697	-100	2,597	2,587	2,702
Street Cleaning	2,305	75	2,380	2,438	2,521
Town Centre Management	71		71	68	71
Trade Refuse	-386		-386	-393	-381
Recycling	843	-115	728	721	780
Street Scene & Property Maintenance	5,593	290	5,883	6,280	6,723
Housing Services (Fran Rodgers)					0,120
Benefits	278	202	480	552	599
Housing Services	3		3	3	3
Homelessness	946	100	1.046	1,167	1,196
Corporate Man (Housing & Residential Operations)	83	100	83	88	91
Revenues	145		145	183	203
Housing Services	1,455	302	1,757	1,993	2,091
Legal & Democratic Services (Ella Yeshin)	1,400	502	1,757	1,993	2,091
Chief Executive	644		644	676	699
	10		10	10	10
Corporate Services	189			10	201
Electoral Services		000	189		
Land Charges	-422	200	-222	-230	-235
Legal	587		587	618	638
Licensing	-29		-29	-21	-18
Corporate Manager (Legal & Democratic Services)	341		341	358	369
Civic & Mayoral Expenses	123		123	127	131
Democratic Services	934	63	997	1,086	1,116
Recovery	64	100	164	168	170
Legal & Democratic Services	2,441	363	2,804	2,989	3,082
Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	31,770	1,826	33,596	36,268	37,767

	Customer Services Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
Adminis	strative Services			
B425	GIS Section	95	99	102
Y04	Administrative Services	2	2	2
		97	101	104
Call Car	e			
G111	Call Care - Non-HRA	244	219	235
		244	219	235
Corpora	te Manager (Customer Services)			
М0	Corporate Manager (Customer Services)	756	793	819
		756	793	819
One Sto	p Shop			
A2	One Stop Shop	504	538	556
		504	538	556
Print Un				
N11	Print Unit	-56	-55	-45
		-56	-55	-45
Housing				
G122	Housing & Money Advice	395	416	430
G347	Rent Assistance Scheme	2	2	2
G350	Probation Service Accom.	-5	-4	-4
		392	414	427
	Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	1,937	2,011	2,096

Customer Services	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	(c)	(d)	(e)
Budget Changes Included Geographical Information System Capital Scheme Revenue Costs of Capital Investment	28	28	28
Customer Relationship Management Capital Scheme Revenue Costs of Capital Investment	13	13	13
	41	41	41

	Performance & Improvement Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
Perform	nance Management			
D354	Organisation & Development Improvement	199	208	215
		199	208	215
Informa	tion Technology			
N1	Information Technology	2,379	2,467	2,543
		2,379	2,467	2,543
	ate Manager (Performance & Improvement)			
M2	Corporate Manager (Performance & Improvement)	154	162	168
		154	162	168
Telepho	ones			
B156	Telephones	232	237	242
		232	237	242
	Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	2,964	3,075	3,167

Performance & Improvement Cash Limit By Key Service Area	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Detail	(c)	(d)	(e)
Budget Changes Included PC Replacement Capital Scheme Revenue Costs of Capital Investment	14	14	14
Local Area Network at Guildhall Capital Scheme Revenue Costs of Capital Investment	5	5	5
Telephone Saving unachievable Savings on telephones budgeted for in 2005/06 are not achievable and has been removed	50	50	50
Telephone Network Capital Scheme Revenue Costs of Capital Investment	12	12	12
	81	81	81

Human Resources Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
Corporate Manager (Human Resources) A3 Other HR Functions M3 Corporate Manager (Human Resources) Training & Development A1 Training & Development Not Exponditure (Cash Limit)	115 725 840 601 601	117 1,495 1,612 784 784	120 1,516 1,636 794 794
Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	1,441	2,396	2,430
Budget Changes Included Occupational Health & Stress Management Investment in improved service	40	40	40
Single Status Costs of implentation for year one and estimated future costs for years two and three	60	800	800
Training & Development Additional training resources to bring expenditure up to 2% of employee costs in line with the Root and Branch agreement	200	400	400
	300	1240	1240

	Citizen Engagement Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
Commu	nications			
N8	Post Room & Records	141	148	153
P059	General Publicity	253	265	275
	Scholar ubicity	394	413	428
Commu	nity Safety			120
E287	Emergency Planning	1	1	1
N6	Housing Social Policy & Care Services	-4	-2	-2
R291	Security Monitoring Services	-122	-137	-126
R292	Crime Reduction	253	266	275
R396	Caspar Projects	0	3	5
		129	131	154
	Safety - Crime & Disorder			
R297	Crime Audit	0	2	2
Events		0	2	2
L337	Northampton Street Fair	-6	-6	-6
L338	Events	203	212	218
L339	Balloon Festival	-22	-22	-18
	Balloon i oolival	175	184	195
Corpora	te Manager (Citizen Engagement)			
M4 [′]	Corporate Manager (Citizen Engagement)	490	517	535
		490	517	535
	ation & Consultation			
B349	Kingsheath District Centre	-5	0	0
D884	D.R. Forums	4	4	4
E009	Community Groups	13	13	13
L132	Community Centres	404	403	414
P352	Community Strategy	18	18	19

	Citizen Engagement	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
	Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	(c)	(d)	(e)
		434	437	449
Museums				
L126	Museums Operations	948	996	1,029
_		948	996	1,029
	ity Grants & Other Grants			
D020	(D) Community Enabling Fund	27	28	29
E020	(E) Community Enabling Fund	437	437	448
G020G1	Homelessness {G} Community Enabling Fund	38	38	39
G020G3	Housing Advice {G} Community Enabling Fund	25	25	25
L020L1	Culture & Heritage {L} Community Enabling Fund	4	4	4
L020L3	Recreation & Sport {L} Community Enabling Fund	795	800	819
P020P4	Economic Development {P} Community Enabling Fund	15	15	15
P020P5	Environmental Initiatives {P} Comm Enabling Fund	30	30	31
P132	Community Wellbeing	7	7	7
R020R2	Community Safety {R} Community Enabling Fund	24	24	24
Т020	Community Enabling Fund {T}	68	68	69
		1,468	1,474	1,511
Arts & Cu	ılture			
L057	Old Tourist Information Centre	0	-44	-44
L128	Arts And Other Activities	147	151	156
L330	Tourism Promotion	2	2	2
L410	Tourist Information Centre	232	275	281
		381	384	394
	Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	4,419	4,539	4,697

Citizen Engagement Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
Budget Changes Included Internet / Intranet Capital Scheme Revenue Costs of Capital Investment	6	6	6
New Community Centres Revenue Costs of Capital Investment	15	24	24
Youth Provision Investment in grants to community organisations for youth provision in town in the light of the County Council decision	60	60	60
-	81	90	90

	Planning, Environmental Health & Leisure Cash Limit By Key Service Area	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
	Detail	(0)	(0)	(8)
Local A	genda 21			
P181	Local Agenda 21	4	4	4
		4	4	4
	g Control			0.57
P157	Bld Regs Fee Earning	207	241	257
P158	Bldng Regs Dangerous Struc	0	0	0
Davalar	ment Centrel	207	241	257
Develop D3	oment Control Old Planning, Transportation & Regeneration	52	56	58
D3 P148	Development Control	53	44	58 60
F 140	Development Control	59	100	118
Food Sa	afety		100	110
R174	Food Safety & Hygiene	3	3	3
		3	3	3
Leisure			Ŭ	
L129	Mounts Baths	219	244	263
L134	Lings Forum	207	240	258
L135	Danes Camp	255	292	315
L138	Sports Development	139	145	149
L169	Lings Cinema	37	40	42
		857	962	1,027
Corp Ma	an (Planning Env Health & Leisure)			
M7	Corp Man (Planning, Leisure, and Building Control)	428	451	466
		428	451	466
	ourhood Wardens			
R076	Neighbourhood Wardens	544	558	573
		544	558	573
Pest Co	ntrol			

	Planning, Environmental Health & Leisure	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
	Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	(c)	(d)	(e)
R175	Pest Control Services	42	42	43
Pollutio	n Reduction	42	42	43
R050	Contaminated Land	2	2	2
R179	Pollution Control	-16	-16	-17
R180	Noise & Vibration Control	4	4	4
		-10	-10	-10
Travelle				
G077	Travellers Site	1	1	1
R182	Unauthorised Encampments	91 92	91 92	93 94
Health 8	Safety at Work - Ext	92	92	94
R176	Health & Safety At Work - Ext	1	1	1
Public H	loalth	1	1	1
B345	Health & Safety - Internal	242	252	260
R078	Drainage Services	12	12	12
R172	Health Promotion	1	1	1
R173	Public Health	1,165	1,225	1,265
R177	Communicable Diseases	1	1	1
R184	Enviro-crime	55	58	60
		1,475	1,548	1,600
	Sector Housing Standards & Improvements			
G110	Home Renovation Grants	-96	-96	-96
G121	Work In Default	0	0	0
G323	Private Sector Imps & Repair	546	574	593
R120	Housing Standards-Himos	1	1	1
		450	479	498

Planning, Environmental Health & Leisure Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	4,152	4,471	4,675

Planning, Environmental Health & Leisure	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	(c)	(d)	(e)
Budget Changes Included Mounts Baths Additional Income from increased charges	-66	-66	-66
Lings Forum Additional Income from increased charges	-67	-67	-67
Danes Camp Additional Income from increased charges	-67	-67	-67
	-200	-200	-200

	Finance & Asset Management	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
	Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	(c)	(d)	(e)
Asset Ma	anagement			
B427	Mears Central Account	801	801	825
D5	Asset Management	1,515	1,587	1,639
L054	Monuments & Memorials	3	3	3
L062	Floodlighting	17	19	19
		2,336	2,409	2,486
	I Services			
R0	Director of Strategic Resources	0	19	19
R1	Finance	2,238	2,369	2,602
R8	Procurement	45	30	32
1	A	2,283	2,418	2,653
			050	0.50
RCAUD	Internal Audit	238	250	250
Non Diet	ributed Costs	238	250	250
D005	Audit Fee	246	246	254
U035	Non Distributed Costs	248 903	729	729
0035	Non Distributed Costs	1,149	975	982
Investme	onts	1,149	975	902
D025	Interest/Bank charges	54	57	59
D030	Debt Management Expenses	435	530	390
		490	587	449
Other Bu	ildings & Land			
C055	Industrial Units	-160	-155	-155
C376	Greyfriars House	23	28	29
C417	Investment Property - Non Operational	-1,189	-1,130	-1,150
C418	Other Property - Non Operational	133	143	148
G112	Misc Properties GIA/HAA	-36	-36	-36

	Finance & Asset Management	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
	Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	(c)	(d)	(e)
L146	Delapre Golf Centre	-184	-184	-187
L366	Sixfields Complex	9	10	10
P051	Other Buildings & Land	-7	-7	-7
		-1,412	-1,331	-1,348
	te Manager (Finance & Asset Management)			
M6	Corporate Manager (Finance & Asset Management)	105	110	113
		105	110	113
	ccommodation			
B044	Cliftonville House	433	423	438
B045	Guildhall	630	656	678
B046	Westbridge Depot	512	542	562
B295	Fish Street Premises	15	18	20
B413	Westbridge Offices	88	91	93
BNPC	District Offices	46	49	51
N9	Post Room	454	476	488
		2,178	2,255	2,330
Markets				
P072	Market Hall	-15	-11	-10
P073	Open Market	-425	-415	-416
		-440	-426	-426
	Efficiency Savings		-250	-250
		0	-250	-250
	Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	6,926	6,996	7,240

Finance & Asset Management Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
Budget Changes Included Changes in Government Grants and Parishes Technical adjustment arising from final Government Grant settlement and parish precepts and grants	38		
Property Income Reduction Reduction in rental income due to rent reviews and sales to achieve capital receipts	300	300	300
Building Maintenance Additional provision to start to deal with Repairs and Maintenance backlog	150	200	200
Cliftonville House Additional Income Additional Income from letting surplus space	-20	-50	-50
Efficiency Savings Efficiency savings to be identified in 2006/07 for implementation in 2007/08		-250	-250

468	200	200

Regeneration & Growth Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
te Manager (Regeneration)			
Corporate Manager (Regeneration)	84	89	92
	84	89	92
ic Intelligence			
Promotions & Economic Development	165	173	178
	165	173	178
Strategy			
Housing Associations	-30	-30	-30
Housing Strategy	270	281	289
	240	251	260
Policy & Conservation			
Urban Enhancement	18	18	18
Conservation & Improvement	80	83	86
Local Development Planning	562	732	750
	660	833	854
ation			
Regeneration			180
	163	173	180
Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	1,313	1,519	1,564
-		163	163 173

Regeneration & Growth	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	(c)	(d)	(e)
Budget Changes Included Local Development Planning Additonal resources for staffing to support the growth agenda	100	200	200
	100	200	200

	Street Scene & Property Maintenance Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
	ned Vehicles			
R183	Abandoned Vehicles	57	58	59
		57	58	59
CG68	g Cleaning		00	04
CG68	Building Cleaning Revenue	-80 -80	-82	<u>-81</u> -81
Cemete	rios	-80	-82	-81
R143	Cemeteries	-29	-15	-9
	o cinclones	-29	-15	-9
Conces	sionary Fares			
T161	Concessionary Fares	1,099	1,115	1,115
		1,099	1,115	1,115
Car Parl	king			
T151	Car Parks	-2,762	-2,573	-2,550
T403	Residents Parking	-54	-54	-55
T409	On Street Parking	-967	-995	-1,009
		-3,783	-3,622	-3,614
	ic Refuse		0.700	
R066	Domestic Refuse Collection	2,688	2,760	2,838
Highway	ys & Transport	2,688	2,760	2,838
CG21	Highways Revenue Account	-534	-497	-462
T048	Bus Station	319	347	361
T084	Bus Shelters	15	15	16
T153	Highways Admin Non-Agency	1	1	1
T154	Highways	76	83	88
T163	Other Public Transport	4	4	4
T216	Highways Furniture	12	13	14

	Street Scene & Property Maintenance	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
	Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	(c)	(d)	(e)
T220	Street Name Plates	21	21	22
T226	Emergency Tree Works	38	38	40
Corporate	e Manager (Streetscene)	-47	26	83
M8		312	328	339
INIO	Corporate Manager (Streetscene)	312	328	339
Public Co	nveniences	512	320	339
R071	Public Conveniences	277	291	300
		277	291	300
Parks and	l Open Spaces			
L141	Parks & Grounds Maintenance	2,267	2,243	2,346
L142	Park Ranger Service	230	242	250
L144	Allotments	53	54	57
L334	Other Floral Displays	47	48	49
		2,597	2,587	2,702
Street Cle	eaning			
R063	Graffiti Removal	189	187	193
R070	Street Cleaning	2,046	2,098	2,168
R224	Highways Grass & Hedges	144	153	160
		2,380	2,438	2,521
	ntre Management			
P341	Town Centre Management	71	68	71
		71	68	71
Trade Ref				
R067	Trade Refuse Collection	-386	-393	-381
		-386	-393	-381
Recycling				
R068	Repackaging Centre	-82	-83	-79
R069	Recycling	811	805	859
		728	721	780

Street Scene & Property Maintenance Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	5,883	6,280	6,723
Budget Changes Included Concessionary Fares Additional costs of implementing the national concessionary fares scheme	550	550	550
Car Park Fees Above inflation increase in car park fees to generate additional income	-500	-500	-500
Domestic Refuse Collection Funding to support additional collection rounds which were previously implemeted but not budgeted for in 2005/06	430	430	430
Bulky Waste Fees Introduction of charges for bulky waste collection	-50	-50	-50
Parks & Grounds Maintenance Savings Savings in the costs of parks and grounds mantenance	-100	-250	-250
Street Cleaning Funding to continue additional sweeping rounds which were introduced in 2005/06 as part of the Recovery Plan	75	75	75
Recycling Income Additional income due to increased recycling rates	-115 	-115	-115

	Housing Services Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
Benefits				
E284	Council Tax Rebates Administration	-436	-436	-437
G114	Rent Allowances	-75	-77	-81
G284	Housing Benefit Admin	932	1,010	1,063
G303	Non-Hra Rent Rebates	-3	-3	-3
G421	Rent Rebates - Council Houses	62	57	56
		480	552	599
	Services			
NH	Housing Management Services	3	3	3
		3	3	3
Homeles				
G118	Homelessness Administration	309	325	335
G119	Emergency Accommodation	239	245	263
G415	H.B.Payments Emer Accom	498	598	598
		1,046	1,167	1,196
	te Man (Housing & Residential Operations)			
М9	Corporate Man (Housing & Residential Operations)	83	88	91
_		83	88	91
Revenue	-			
E283	Cost of Collection	-25	8	27
E316	Discretionary Nndr Relief	173	178	178
G124	Advances For House Purch	-2	-2	-2
		145	183	203
	Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	1,757	1,993	2,091

Housing Services	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	(c)	(d)	(e)
Budget Changes Included Housing Benefits Trainees Investment in training benefits assessors to build future workforce capacity	115	120	120
Housing Benefits Software Capital Scheme Revenue Costs of Capital Investment	87	87	87
Homelessness Prevention Investment in Homelessness Prevention to contain future growth and to begin	100	200	200
	302	407	407

	Legal & Democratic Services Cash Limit By Key Service Area	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
	Detail	(0)	(4)	(0)
Chief Ex	ecutive			
K0	Chief Executive	644	676	699
		644	676	699
	te Services			
D211	Corporate Services	10	10	10
		10	10	10
	I Services			
E001	Registration Of Electors	188	196	201
E002	Elections	0	0	0
land Ch		189	197	201
Land Ch	-	222	000	005
E193	Land Charges	-222	-230	-235
Legal		-222	-230	-235
K4	Legal Services	587	618	638
r\ 4	Legal Services	587	618	638
Licensin	a		010	030
R082	Licences	-29	-21	-18
		-29	-21	-18
Corporat	te Manager (Legal & Democratic Services)			
M5	Corporate Manager (Legal & Democratic Services)	341	358	369
		341	358	369
Civic & N	Nayoral Expenses			
D003	Civic Accommodation	2	2	2
D004	Mayoral/Civic Expenses	121	125	129
		123	127	131
Democra	atic Services			
D019	Members Expenses	485	496	510

	Legal & Democratic Services Cash Limit By Key Service Area Detail	Cash Limit 06/07 £'000 (c)	Forecast 07/08 £'000 (d)	Forecast 08/09 £'000 (e)
D880	Democratic Support	512	590	606
		997	1,086	1,116
Recovery K7	Recovery	164 164	168 168	170 170
	Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	2,804	2,989	3,082
Land Char	on in income due to national trends and the opening of the market	200	200	200
•	Assistants on of research assistants to Directors and the Chief Executive to isational capacity	63	118	118
Budget to s	Improvement support the move from recovery to improvement and embedding a future continuous improvement	100	100	100
	-	363	418	418

Draft Resolution for Council to determine the Council Tax for 2006/07

CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE

- (1) That the report (Appendix D) for the calculation of the Council tax base for the year 2006/07 be approved.
- (2) That the report for the calculation of tax bases for 2006/07 for the following parishes namely Billing, Collingtree, Duston, Great Houghton, Hardingstone, Upton, Wootton, Northampton (unparished) to be approved.
- (3) That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, the figure calculated for the tax base for 2006/07 shall be 64,193 (2005/06 63,427).
- (4) That pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, the figure calculated for the tax base for 2006/07 for the following areas shall be:-

	2006/07	2005/06
Billing	2,592	2,591
Collingtree	505	511
Duston	5,202	5,211
Great Houghton	287	287
Hardingstone	749	757
Upton	584	276
Wootton	6,156	5,992
Northampton (unparished)	48,118	47,802

(5) That the policy decision made by Council on 15 December 2003 to reduce the discount level on class B (second homes) to 10% be continued.

COUNCIL TAX

1 That the Council having calculated the following amounts for the year 2006/07 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

1(a) 64,193

being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 and (No2) Regulations 2003, as its council tax base for the year

1(b) Part of the Council's area

Parish of:	
Billing	2,592
Collingtree	505
Duston	5,202
Great Houghton	287
Hardingstone	749
Upton	584
Wootton	6,156
Northampton Borough	48,118
Special Expenses Area (Unparish	ed)

being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which each Special item relates.

2 That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2006/07 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

2(a) £138,047,337

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act, as its gross expenditure for the year

2(b) £108,100,468

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act, as its gross income for the year

2(c) £29,946,869

being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year

2(d) £17,803,479

being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of re-distributed non-domestic rates and revenue support grant, increased by the amount of the sum which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax surplus) and subsequent Regulations, as amended.

£189.17

being the amount at 2(c) above less the amount at 2(d) above, all divided by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act as the Basic Amount of its Council Tax for the year.

2(f) £1,596,105

being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act

2(g) £164.31

2(e)

being the amount at 2(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(f) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act as the Basic Amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates

2(h) Part of the Council's area

Parish of	
Billing	£224.37
Collingtree	£180.53
Duston	£187.86
Great Houghton	£227.13
Hardingstone	£198.31
Upton	£169.45
Wootton	£221.52
Northampton Borough	£183.24
Special Expenses Area (Unparished)	

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above to the amounts of the Special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act as the Basic Amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more Special items relate.

2(i) Part of the Council's area

Valuation Bands	А	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
Parish of	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Billing	149.58	174.51	199.44	224.37	274.23	324.09	373.95	448.74
Collingtree	120.35	140.41	160.47	180.53	220.65	260.77	300.88	361.06
Duston	125.24	146.11	166.99	187.86	229.61	271.35	313.10	375.72
Great Houghton	151.42	176.66	201.89	227.13	277.60	328.08	378.55	454.26
Hardingstone	132.21	154.24	176.28	198.31	242.38	286.45	330.52	396.62
Upton	112.97	131.79	150.62	169.45	207.11	244.76	282.42	338.90
Wootton	147.68	172.29	196.91	221.52	270.75	319.97	369.20	443.04
Northampton Borough	122.16	142.52	162.88	183.24	223.96	264.68	305.40	366.48
Special Expenses Area	(Unparish	ed)						

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(g) and 2(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportions applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

The amounts detailed in (3) are provisional figures and are subject to approval by each of the individual authorities, subsequently the amounts detailed in (4) are provisional figures as these are dependent on the value set in (3).

3 That it be noted that for the year 2006/07 the major precepting authorities have stated the following amount in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below

Valuation Bands	А	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
Precepting Authority	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northamptonshire	588.45	686.53	784.60	882.68	1,078.83	1,274.98	1,471.13	1,765.36
County Council								
Northamptonshire	108.13	126.16	144.18	162.20	198.24	234.29	270.33	324.40
Police Authority								

4 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(i) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2006/07 for each of the categorieories of dwellings shown below

Part of the Council's area

Valuation Bands	А	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
Parish of	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Billing	846.16	987.20	1,128.22	1,269.25	1,551.30	1,833.36	2,115.41	2,538.50
Collingtree	816.93	953.10	1,089.25	1,225.41	1,497.72	1,770.04	2,042.34	2,450.82
Duston	821.82	958.80	1,095.77	1,232.74	1,506.68	1,780.62	2,054.56	2,465.48
Great Houghton	848.00	989.35	1,130.67	1,272.01	1,554.67	1,837.35	2,120.01	2,544.02
Hardingstone	828.79	966.93	1,105.06	1,243.19	1,519.45	1,795.72	2,071.98	2,486.38
Upton	809.55	944.48	1,079.40	1,214.33	1,484.18	1,754.03	2,023.88	2,428.66
Wootton	844.26	984.98	1,125.69	1,266.40	1,547.82	1,829.24	2,110.66	2,532.80
Northampton Borough	818.74	955.21	1,091.66	1,228.12	1,501.03	1,773.95	2,046.86	2,456.24
Special Expenses Area	(Unparishe	ed)						

Local Area Partnerships and Forums Budget Consultation Workshops

Initial Feedback

Two workshops were held on the 10th January 2006 to which all members of the Council's forums and local area partnerships were invited. 30 people attended the afternoon session and 19 the evening session.

The workshops were a mixture of information giving on the background to the budget and the latest position and information gathering on peoples priorities.

Attendees were asked to indicate the importance they assigned to each of the corporate priorities by dividing 40 stickers between the priorities. The relative weights given to each of the priorities are shown in the attached bar chart. This shows a clear weight being given to "Improving the Overall Leadership and Efficiency of Northampton Borough Council".

As part of the priority weighting exercise attendees were asked whether they felt we had missed any priorities and what would signify to them that the Council had achieved excellence.

On excellence, comments included external recognition of high performance, improved partnership working, and Northampton as a clean 'vibrant city' where people want to live. Also mentioned was the need to balance the budget, the need to improve communication and listen to residents. The retention of the housing stock and achievement of decent homes and waste collection using wheelie bins and recycling boxes were given by two respondents as examples of where the Council is already working towards excellence.

On missing priorities, comments centred around the future of Northampton in terms of the attractiveness of the town, building a sense of community, dealing with deprivation and avoiding Northampton being overwhelmed by expansion and the regional agenda. Again partnership working came up and the need to communicate with our customers in an efficient but tailored way.

The efficiency savings already made by the Council were explained and attendees asked for any additional feedback they wished to give as to additional areas. A number of people mentioned the importance of communication and consultation in improving and communicating efficiency. Other comments included exploring sources of external income and improving income collection rates. The other theme coming out of the comments was the need to harness committed staff, ensure all staff are committed and improve management.

The final exercise was a questionnaire that all attendees completed on their views on council tax and services. 49% of respondents felt the level of council tax was fair for the services they received, this is a higher level than may have been expected. Only 24% of respondents were prepared to pay more to improve services.

In terms of priority services for investment, 72% of respondents wanted more Street Cleansing and 62% more spent on Community Safety. Respondents had not really grasped the council tax/services equation and very few were willing to receive less of services. The only area where more than a quarter of respondents indicated they would accept a reduction was Arts and Culture (26%).

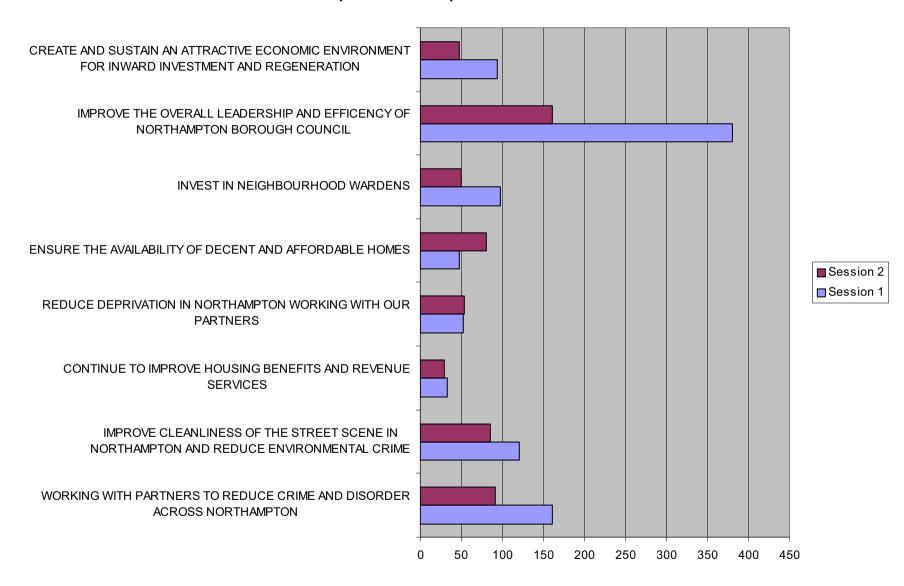
Overall the consultation exercise was positively received.

Overall Budget Options

Do you feel the level of council tax in Northampton is fair for the services you receive? Yes 18 (49%) No 19 (51%)

Would you be happy to pay more Council tax to help improve our services? Yes 9(24%) No 28(76%)

	More	Less	The Same
Parks and Open Spaces	13 (33%)	1 (3%)	25 (64%)
Environmental Health	10 (26%)	5 (13%)	24 (62%)
Planning and Building Control	12 (31%)	8 (21%)	19 (49%)
Waste Collection & Recycling	12 (31%)	2 (5%)	25 (64%)
Concessionary Fares	17 (44%)	2 (5%)	20 (51%)
Leisure Centres	19 (49%)	2 (5%)	18 (46%)
Street Cleansing	28 (72%)	0 (0%)	11 (28%)
Neighbourhood Wardens	18 (46%)	4 (10%)	17 (44%)
Public Conveniences	20 (51%)	2 (5%)	17 (44%)
Community Centres	21 (54%)	1 (3%)	17 (44%)
Housing Advice	3 (8%)	6 (15%)	30 (77%)
Tourism & Events	14 (36%)	7 (18%)	18 (46%)
Markets	16 (41%)	6 (15%)	17 (44%)
Homelessness	9 (23%)	7 (18%)	23 (59%)
Economic Regeneration	16 (41%)	5 (13%)	18 (46%)
Museums	8 (21%)	4 (10%)	27 (69%)
Community Safety	24 (62%)	1 (3%)	14 (36%)
Arts & Culture	12 (31%)	10 (26%)	17 (44%)



Forum and Local Area Partnership Budget Consultation Workshop - Relative Importance of Corporate Priorities to Attendees

Overall Budget Options

Do you feel the level of council tax in Northampton is fair for the services you receive? Yes 34 (49%) No 36 (51%)

Would you be happy to pay more Council tax to help improve our services? Yes 42(60%) No 28(40%)

	More	Less	The Same
Parks and Open Spaces	29 (43%)	6 (7%)	35 (50%)
Environmental Health	27 (37%)	5 (7%)	38 (56%)
Planning and Building Control	9 (12%)	15 (22%)	46 (66%)
Waste Collection & Recycling	29 (40%)	3 (4%)	38 (56%)
Concessionary Fares	18 (27%)	16 (24%)	36 (49%)
Leisure Centres	19 (26%)	15 (24%)	36 (50)%
Street Cleansing	28 (38%)	4 (6%)	38 (56%)
Neighbourhood Wardens	22 (30%)	8 (11%)	40 (49%)
Public Conveniences	27 (41%)	6 (9%)	37 (50%)
Community Centres	26 (40%)	8 (12%)	36 (48%)
Housing Advice	8 (10%)	18 (25%)	44 (65%)
Tourism & Events	6 (7%)	27 (40%)	37 (53%)
Markets	13 (19%)	9 (12%)	48 (69%)
Homelessness	15 (20%)	11 (14%)	44 (66%)
Economic Regeneration	7 (9%)	14 (21%)	49 (70%)
Museums	16 (22%)	12 (16%)	42 (62%)
Community Safety	29 (41%)	3 (5%)	38 (54%)
Arts & Culture	14 (18%)	26 (39%)	30 (43%)

BMG Telephone Survey

Overall Budget Options

Do you feel the level of council tax in Northampton is fair for the services you receive? Yes 35 (34%) No 58 (56%) Don't Know 11(10%)

Would you be happy to pay more Council tax to help improve our services? Yes 15(14%) No 80(77%) Don't Know 9(9%)

	More	Less	The Same
Parks and Open Spaces	45 (43%)	0 (0%)	59 (57%)
Environmental Health	54 (52%)	0 (0%)	50 (48%)
Planning and Building Control	34 (33%)	16 (15%)	54 (52%)
Waste Collection & Recycling	60 (58%)	1 (1%)	43 (41%)
Concessionary Fares	47 (45%)	6 (6%)	51 (49%)
Leisure Centres	48 (46%)	0 (0%)	56 (54%)
Street Cleansing	74 (71%)	0 (0%)	30 (29%)
Neighbourhood Wardens	70 (67%)	2 (2%)	32 (31%)
Public Conveniences	51 (49%)	4 (4%)	49 (47%)
Community Centres	47 (45%)	2 (2%)	55 (53%)
Housing Advice	23 (22%)	2 (2%)	79 (76%)
Tourism & Events	37 (36%)	3 (3%)	64 (61%)
Markets	44 (42%)	3 (3%)	57 (55%)
Homelessness	57 (55%)	11 (11%)	36 (34%)
Economic Regeneration	65 (62%)	2 (2%)	37 (36%)
Museums	22 (21%)	8 (8%)	74 (71%)
Community Safety	89 (86%)	2 (2%)	13 (12%)
Arts & Culture	34 (33%)	5 (5%)	65 (62%)

Overall Budget Options

Do you feel the level of council tax in Northampton is fair for the services you receive? Yes 87 (41%) No 113 (53%) Don't Know 13 (6%)

Would you be happy to pay more Council tax to help improve our services? Yes 66 (31%) No 136 (64%) Don't Know 11 (5%)

	More	Less	The Same	
Parks and Open Spaces	87 (41%)	7 (3%)	119 (56%)	
Environmental Health	91 (43%)	10 (5%)	112 (52%)	
Planning and Building Control	55 (26%)	39 (18%)	119 (56%)	
Waste Collection & Recycling	101 (47%)	6 (3%)	106 (50%)	
Concessionary Fares	82 (39%)	24 (11%)	107 (50%)	
Leisure Centres	86 (40%)	17 (8%)	110 (52%)	
Street Cleansing	130 (61%)	4 (2%)	79 (37%)	
Neighbourhood Wardens	110 (52%)	14 (6%)	89 (42%)	
Public Conveniences	98 (46%)	12 (6%)	103 (48%)	
Community Centres	94 (44%)	11 (5%)	108 (51%)	
Housing Advice	34 (16%)	26 (12%)	153 (72%)	
Tourism & Events	57 (27%)	37 (17%)	119 (56%)	
Markets	73 (34%)	18 (9%)	122 (57%)	
Homelessness	81 (38%)	29 (14%)	103 (48%)	
Economic Regeneration	88 (41%)	21 (10%)	104 (49%)	
Museums	46 (22%)	24 (11%)	143 (67%)	
Community Safety	142 (67%)	6 (3%)	65 (30%)	
Arts & Culture	60 (28%)	41 (19%)	112 (53%)	

Cabinet

30 January 2006

Portfolio: **Finance & Democratic Services** Directorate: **Customer & Service Delivery** Author/Contact Officer: **Ian Tyrer, Revenues & Benefits Partnership Co-ordinator Tel: 838642**

CALCULATION OF TAX BASE 2006/07

Purpose of report

- 1. To recommend to Full Council the calculation of Northampton Borough Council's Tax Base for the year 2006/07.
- 2. To adopt the calculation of Northampton Borough Council's Tax Base for the year 2006/07 under the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) regulations 2003 (SI 2003/3012).

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That the report herein for the calculation of Northampton Borough Council's Tax Base for the year 2006/07 be approved.
- 2. That the report herein for the calculation of Tax Bases for 2006/07 for the following parishes namely, Billing, Collingtree, Duston, Great Houghton, Hardingstone, Upton, Wootton and Northampton (unparished) be approved.
- 3. That pursuant to the report herein and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, the figure calculated for the Tax Base for the year 2006/07 shall be 64,193 (2005/06 63,427).
- 4. That pursuant to the report herein and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, the figure calculated for the Tax Base for the year 2006/07 for the following areas shall be:-

	2006/07	(2005/06)
Billing	2,592	2,591
Collingtree	505	511
Duston	5,202	5,211
Great Houghton	287	287
Hardingstone	749	757
Upton	584	276
Wootton	6,156	5,992
Northampton (Unparished)	48,118	47,802

5. That the policy decision made by Council on 15th December 2003, to reduce the discount level on Class B (second homes) to 10%, be continued.

1. Background

- 1.1 The following analysis sheets demonstrate the prescribed methodology in determining each tax base.
- 1.2 Background papers are held within Revenues and Benefits.

2. <u>Resource implications</u>

None

3. <u>Human Rights Implications</u>

None

4. <u>Community Strategy Implications</u>

The Community Strategy recognises the importance of all sectors, public and private, in providing decent homes for all.

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1995 – Background papers

These are held in Revenues and Benefits.

6. Directorates Consulted

Finance & asset management – Section 151 Officer Legal & democratic services – Solicitor to the council

Council Tax Base for Northampton

	BAND	<u>A-</u>	<u>A</u>	B	<u>C</u>	D	E	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>
1	Number on list	0.00	29150.00	19933.00	19832.00	9174.00	5067.00	2156.00	1106.00	71.00
2	less exemption	0.00	1194.00	675.00	444.00	139.00	57.00	29.00	26.00	10.00
3	plus disabled from higher band	34.00	63.00	114.00	60.00	31.00	13.00	9.00	4.00	0.00
4	less disabled going into lower band	0.00	34.00	63.00	114.00	60.00	31.00	13.00	9.00	4.00
5	less number of one adult resident household x25%	1.25	3623.00	1917.00	1413.00	458.25	191.50	65.00	24.25	0.50
6	less number of properties with no residents but not exempt x50%	0.00	314.50	125.50	102.00	52.50	29.00	18.00	20.00	9.50
7	less number of second home properties with no residents but not exempt x10%	0.00	13.00	7.00	7.60	3.50	1.60	0.60	1.00	0.00
	plus f y e for new	0.00				0.00				0.00
8	properties	0.00	55.00	200.65	386.20	128.13	79.70	15.15	7.18	0.00
9	Total	32.75	24089.50	17460.15	18197.60	8619.88	4849.60	2054.55	1036.93	47.00
10	conversion to band d equivalent	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
11	band d equivalent	18.19	16059.67	13580.12	16175.64	8619.88	5927.29	2967.68	1728.21	94.00

Total

65170.68

Assume 98.5% collection

Council Tax Base for Duston

	BAND	<u>A-</u>	A	B	<u>C</u>	D	E	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>
1	Number on list	0.00	873.00	1664.00	2673.00	860.00	470.00	69.00	19.00	2.00
2	less exemption	0.00	35.00	41.00	30.00	7.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
3	plus disabled from higher band	4.00	10.00	19.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	less disabled going into lower band	0.00	4.00	10.00	19.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
5	less number of one adult resident household x25%	0.25	134.00	166.00	162.50	37.00	11.75	2.00	0.50	0.00
C	properties with no residents but not									
6	exempt x50% less number of	0.00	6.00	7.00	5.50	2.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
	second home properties with no residents but not									
7	exempt x10%	0.00	0.50	0.60	0.40	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	plus f y e for new properties	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Total	3.75	703.50	1459.40	2458.60	812.80	454.25	64.00	16.50	1.00
10	conversion to band d equivalent	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
11	band d equivalent	2.08	469.00	1135.09	2185.42	812.80	555.19	92.44	27.50	2.00

Total

Assume 98.5% collection

5281.53

	BAND	A-	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	н
1	Number on list	0.00	3.00	36.00	55.00	27.00	102.00	42.00	126.00	26.00
2	less exemption	0.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	3.00	1.00
3	plus disabled from higher band	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
0	less disabled going	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
4	into lower band	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
	less number of one adult resident									
5	household x25%	0.00	0.75	3.00	4.50	1.50	5.50	1.75	3.00	0.50
	less number of									
~	properties with no	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	4 50	0.00	4 50	0.00
6	residents but not less number of	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.00	1.50	0.00
	second home									
	properties with no									
	residents but not									
7	exempt x10%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.10	0.10	0.00
	plus f y e for new									
8	properties	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Total	0.00	2.25	31.50	49.50	26.50	91.80	40.15	119.40	23.50
	conversion to band d	= 10	0/0	7/0	0.40	0/0	4.4/0	4.0.10	4 5 40	10/0
	equivalent	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
11	band d equivalent	0.00	1.50	24.50	44.00	26.50	112.20	57.99	199.00	47.00

Council Tax Base for Collingtree

Total

512.69

Assume 98.5% collection

	BAND	<u>A-</u>	A	B	<u>C</u>	D	E	<u>F</u>	G	<u>H</u>
1	Number on list	0.00	1248.00	751.00	446.00	482.00	290.00	90.00	87.00	1.00
2	less exemption	0.00	28.00	9.00	10.00	5.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	0.00
3	plus disabled from higher band	3.00	2.00	4.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	less disabled going into lower band less number of one	0.00	3.00	2.00	4.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	adult resident household x25%	0.00	161.25	67.75	29.25	19.50	11.75	3.75	2.00	0.00
	less number of properties with no residents but not									
6	exempt x50%	0.00	6.50	2.50	2.00	4.00	1.50	1.00	1.00	0.50
_	less number of second home properties with no residents but not									
1	exempt x10%	0.00	0.50	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00
8	plus f y e for new properties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
9	Total	3.00	1050.75	673.65	404.75	450.50	274.75	83.25	82.90	0.50
10	conversion to band d equivalent	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
11	band d equivalent	1.67	700.50	523.95	359.78	450.50	335.81	120.25	138.17	1.00

Total

2631.62

Assume 98.5% collection

Council Tax Base for Great Houghton

Γ	BAND	<u>A-</u>	A	B	<u>C</u>	D	E	<u>F</u>	G	H
1	Number on list	0.00	3.00	31.00	46.00	35.00	114.00	33.00	16.00	0.00
2	less exemption	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
	plus disabled from higher band	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
4	less disabled going into lower band	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
	less number of one adult resident household x25%	0.00	0.25	4.00	5.00	2.75	6.25	1.25	0.25	0.00
-	less number of properties with no residents but not exempt x50%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	less number of second home properties with no residents but not exempt x10%	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00
-	plus f y e for new									
	properties	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
h	Total	0.00	2.75	25.90	41.50	30.25	107.75	30.75	15.65	0.00
	conversion to band d equivalent	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
11	band d equivalent	0.00	1.83	20.14	36.89	30.25	131.69	44.42	26.08	0.00

Total

291.31

Assume 98.5% collection

287

Council Tax Base for Hardingstone

	BAND	<u>A-</u>	A	B	<u>C</u>	D	E	<u>F</u>	G	<u>H</u>
1	Number on list	0.00	99.00	175.00	360.00	125.00	82.00	49.00	17.00	0.00
	less exemption	0.00	2.00	10.00	6.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
	plus disabled from higher band	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	less disabled going into lower band	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	less number of one adult resident household x25%	0.00	11.75	20.50	28.50	7.00	3.75	1.50	0.50	0.00
	less number of properties with no residents but not exempt x50%	0.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00
	less number of second home properties with no residents but not	0.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00
7	exempt x10%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00
	plus f y e for new properties	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Total	0.00	84.25	148.00	323.00	114.90	77.25	45.00	16.40	0.00
	conversion to band d equivalent	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
11	band d equivalent	0.00	56.17	115.11	287.11	114.90	94.42	65.00	27.33	0.00

Total

760.04

Assume 98.5% collection

749

Council Tax Base for Upton

	BAND	<u>A-</u>	A	B	<u>C</u>	D	E	<u>F</u>	G	<u>H</u>
1	Number on list	0.00	41.00	44.00	33.00	60.00	32.00	72.00	24.00	7.00
2	less exemption	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
3	plus disabled from higher band	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
4	less disabled going into lower band less number of one	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
5	adult resident household x25%	0.00	2.50	2.75	2.75	4.50	0.50	2.00	0.50	0.00
	less number of properties with no residents but not									
6	exempt x50%	0.00	0.50	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	3.00
	less number of second home properties with no residents but not									
7	exempt x10%	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	plus f y e for new properties	0.00	0.00	56.75	129.90	45.50	46.43	7.80	3.00	0.00
9	Total	0.00	34.50	99.00	158.65	100.00	78.93	76.80	22.00	4.00
10	conversion to band d equivalent	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
11	band d equivalent	0.00	23.00	77.00	141.02	100.00	96.46	110.93	36.67	8.00

Total

593.09

Assume 98.5% collection

584

Council Tax Base for Wootton

	BAND	<u>A-</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	D	E	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	H
1	Number on list	0.00	250.00	1246.00	1630.00	1583.00	1060.00	618.00	197.00	3.00
2	less exemption	0.00	25.00	35.00	25.00	25.00	9.00	2.00	7.00	0.00
	plus disabled from									
3	higher band	0.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
	less disabled going									
4	into lower band	0.00	0.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	2.00	2.00	0.00
	less number of one									
_	adult resident									
5	household x25%	0.00	37.50	147.00	123.25	77.50	35.25	17.75	4.50	0.00
	less number of									
	properties with no									
	residents but not									
6	exempt x50%	0.00	1.00	4.00	4.50	1.00	1.50	1.50	2.00	0.00
	less number of									
	second home									
	properties with no									
	residents but not									
7	exempt x10%	0.00	0.10	0.50	0.60	0.30	0.30	0.20	0.20	0.00
	plus f y e for new									
	properties	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.00	32.10	25.03	7.35	1.45	0.00
9	Total	0.00	192.40	1059.50	1505.65	1512.30	1033.98	603.90	182.75	3.00
	conversion to band d	= 10	a /a	7/0	0.40	0 /0		4.0.10	4.5.10	10/0
10	equivalent	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
11	band d equivalent	0.00	128.27	824.06	1338.36	1512.30	1263.75	872.30	304.58	6.00

Total

6249.61

Assume 98.5% collection

	BAND	<u>A-</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	D	E	Ē	<u>G</u>	H
1	Number on list	0.00	26633.00	15986.00	14589.00	6002.00	2917.00	1183.00	620.00	32.00
2	less exemption	0.00	1101.00	578.00	371.00	100.00	41.00	19.00	12.00	9.00
	plus disabled from									
3	higher band	27.00	45.00	80.00	45.00	20.00	8.00	5.00	3.00	0.00
Л	less disabled going into lower band	0.00	27.00	45.00	80.00	45.00	20.00	8.00	5.00	3.00
т	less number of one	0.00	21.00	+0.00	00.00	+0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	adult resident									
5	household x25%	1.00	3275.00	1506.00	1057.25	308.50	116.75	35.00	13.00	0.00
	less number of									
	properties with no									
	residents but not									
6	exempt x50%	0.00	299.50	111.00	87.50	43.50	23.50	15.00	12.00	5.00
	less number of									
	second home									
	properties with no									
	residents but not									
7	exempt x10%	0.00	11.40	5.70	6.60	2.90	1.10	0.30	0.40	0.00
	plus f y e for new									
8	properties	0.00	55.00	142.90	224.30	50.53	8.25	0.00	0.73	0.00
9	Total	26.00	22019.10	13963.20	13255.95	5572.63	2730.90	1110.70	581.33	15.00
	conversion to band d									
10	equivalent	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
11	band d equivalent	14.44	14679.40	10860.27	11783.07	5572.63	3337.77	1604.34	968.88	30.00

Council Tax Base for the remainder of the Northampton Borough Area

Total

48850.79

Assume 98.5% collection

Agenda Item 6



Council

Item No.

Date: 27th February 2006

Report of:

Citizens, Governance & Finance

Portfolio Holders: Cllr David Palethorpe, Cllr Yousuf Miah

Author/Contact Officer: Alison Betts, Technical Finance Manager, ext 8718 HRA Budget 2006/2007

Purpose of Report

To agree the HRA Budget and rent increases for 2006/2007 as recommended by Improvement Board 2nd February 2006 and Executive 16th February 2006.

Recommendations

- 1. To agree an average rent increase of 3.83% per dwelling per week (on a 48 week basis), in line with the Government's rent restructuring regime, with effect from 1 April 2006. This percentage will vary from property to property depending on the formula rent calculation.
- 2. To increase Warden and Call Care charges (excluding Eleanore House) by 2.5%, subject to the Supporting People allowable increase; lifeline charges (excluding other organisations) by 6%; and heating and garages charges by 3.0%. The charges would then be as shown in Appendix A.
- 3. To agree the budget for 2006/2007, including the individual cash limits set out in Appendix B, and capital expenditure in 2006/2007 of £7.488M funded by the Major Repairs Allowance.

Summary and Links to Corporate Plan

The HRA is a major contributor to the achievement of decent homes for all.

Background

The Housing Revenue Account has been subject to the same zero base budget review of staffing costs as the General Fund Budget. Staffing costs now clearly reflect underlying staffing levels and current structures.

The budget set out below reflects current service provision levels and levels of recharges to the General Fund. It is intended to carry out a review of the HRA Budget during 2006/2007 to ensure budgets reflect priorities.

Rent Structuring

The average rent increase is determined by the Government Rent Restructuring formula, which has been allocated for 2006/2007 in line with the ODPM's three-year review. The amended rent calculation no longer includes a "lower limit" resulting in reduced rents for some properties. The percentage increase will vary from property to property depending on the formula rent calculation. The table below shows the range of rent increases for 2006/2007: -

Rent Increase	No of Properties	%age of Total
Above 7%	25	0.20%
6% to 7%	540	4.33%
5% to 6%	1,145	9.19%
4% to 5%	3,641	29.23%
3% to 4%	5,013	40.25%
2% to 3%	1,656	13.29%
1% to 2%	277	2.22%
0% to 1%	107	0.86%
Below 0%	53	0.43%

HRA Subsidy

The subsidy determination for 2005/2006 included major changes that affect NBC these are:

- Management and Maintenance Allowances formula changes
- Changes in the calculation of notional income from rents

Two major components of the housing subsidy calculation are notional rent and management and maintenance allowance. All other things being equal an increase in the guideline rent affecting the notional rent figure reduces the amount of subsidy paid, whereas an increase in management and maintenance allowances partly compensates for subsidy changes to rents.

Management and maintenance allowances are smaller than notional rent allowances the effect of this for NBC is a decreasing subsidy figure, which is the underlying reason for the HRA going into deficit in future years. The summary below shows the estimate for 2006/2007 compared to 2005/2006.

	2006/2007 Estimate £M	2005/2006 Estimate FM
Management and Maintenance	18.816	16.576
Major Repairs Allowance	7.488	7.198
Charges for Capital	1.010	0.955
Allowances for Admissible Set Aside	0.030	0.060
Interest on Receipts	-0.007	-0.008
Notional Income from Rents	-34.502	-31.844
HRA Subsidy Entitlement – Housing	-7.164	-7.062
Element		
Housing Defects	4.881	5.414
Total	-7.159	-7.057

HRA Budget

The Housing Revenue Account budget includes the effect of rent increases and charges increases outlined above. The detailed budget figures are contained in Appendix B.

HRA Investment Fund

There is an amount of £3.0M within the budget available for investment in 2005/2006. The Executive in conjunction with tenants as part of the consultation process will need to consider how this is to be allocated. To be consistent with the housing option appraisal a large proportion of this figure should be allocated as a revenue contribution to capital to be spent on the decent homes standard works. Some potential pressures have been identified at Appendix C, which will need to be considered against this fund.

Supporting People

Supporting people, the Government programme for vulnerable people started in April 2003, is a working partnership of district and county council, service users, probation and support agencies. Supporting people services provide housing related support to people who live in specialist supported housing such as sheltered accommodation and Brer Court. The Supporting People strategy suggests an integrated approach to planning and commissioning services through the Local Area Agreements to achieve locally set outcomes. This may have implications for current funding regimes.

A review of Warden Services is currently being conducted and proposals have not yet been fully costed. Provision has been made in the budget on the basis of current arrangements. An amount of £100k will be transferred from the boroughs sheltered accommodation budget to fund the extra care scheme at Duston during 2006/7. Any changes in the overall funding level will impact on the HRA Working Balance.

Summary of Overall Position

The summary of the overall position is given below.

	2006/2007 £M	2007/2008 £M	2008/2009 £M
Housing Services	8.022	7.553	7.774
Housing Property Maintenance	8.210	8.496	8.991
Sheltered Housing	1.732	1.812	1.868
Customer Services, Participation &	1.398	1.468	1.516
Consultation and Homelessness			
HRA Subsidy	7.695	8.451	8.451
Housing Rents & Other Income	-38.231	-40.272	-40.510
Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	-11.174	-12.491	-11.910
Net Recharges to General Fund	3.302	3.385	3.469
Major Repairs Allowance – Capital	7.488	7.988	8.099
Capital Financing Costs	-0.278	-0.228	-0.178
Net Transfer From/To Working	-0.662	-1.646	-0.720
Balance			
Working Balance b/f	-3.555	-4.217	-5.863
Working Balance at 31 st March	-4.217	-5.863	-6.583

As can be seen by the above summary the HRA financial position is healthy. The working balance is projected to be $\pounds4.2M$ at the end of 2006/2007 rising to $\pounds6.6M$ at the end of 2008/2009. The forecast years are based on current projections of expenditure and income; however, the further into the future this is taken the less certain any forecast can be.

Capital Programme

The budget includes £7.488M for Capital Expenditure in 2006/2007 funded by the Major Repairs Allowance. This funding is ring-fenced to the HRA. Any capital Expenditure above the level will need to be considered as part of the review of the 2006/2007 Capital Programme outlined in the General Fund Budget report elsewhere on this agenda.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RENT AND CHARGES INCREASES

	Present £	Proposed £
Garages (+VAT in some cases)	5.89	6.07
Commuter surcharge on garages (+VAT in some cases)	9.49	9.77
Wardens (For tenants resident prior to 31/03/03) * - Sheltered - Very Sheltered	5.87 6.89	6.02 7.06
Wardens & Call Care (For tenants resident after 31/03/03) * - Sheltered - Very Sheltered - Eleonore House - Very Sheltered - Nicholls House	13.24 62.04 18.57	13.57 62.04 19.03
Call Care (For tenants resident prior to 31/03/03) * - Sheltered - Very Sheltered - Semi Sheltered	1.66 1.66 3.19	1.70 1.70 3.27
Call Care (For tenants resident after 31/03/03) * - Semi Sheltered	4.81	4.93
Lifelines # - In Borough - Outside Borough	3.32 3.60	3.52 3.82
Lifeline Installation Charge # - In Borough - Outside Borough	30.00 49.00	40.00 49.00
Communal Heating	6.88	7.09

<u>Notes</u>

N.B The final charges may differ slightly due to roundings

Increases agreed as part of last year's Savings & Investments process

Appendix B

All Housing Revenue Account Housing Revenue Account Budget	Cash Lim. 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Participation & Consultation	82	85	88
Customer Services Housing Admin	109	115	119
Customer Services Housing	999	1,052	1,087
Customer Services Housing Technical	107	112	115
Housing Services	8,022	7,553	7,774
Homelessness	101	104	107
Housing Property Maintenance	8,210	8,496	8,991
HRA Subsidy	7,695	8,451	8,451
Sheltered Housing	1,732	1,812	1,868
Housing Rents & Other Income	-38,231	-40,272	-40,510
Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	-11,174	-12,491	-11,910

All Housing Revenue Account Housing Revenue Account Budget	Cash Lim. 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Employees Premises Transport Supplies & Services Agency & Contracted Transfer Payments Total Expenditure (Cash Limit)	9,539 10,709 677 6,655 15 2,457 30,052	11,009 693 5,958 15 2,218	11,345 715 6,107 15 2,218
Income Total Income	-41,226 -41,226		-42,657 -42,657
Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	-11,174	-12,491	-11,910

Ho	Citizen Engagement ousing Revenue Account Budget	Cash Lim. 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
<i>Particip</i> H083	bation & Consultation HRA Tenant Participation	<u>82</u> 82	<u>85</u>	
	Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	82	85	88

Citizen Engagement Housing Revenue Account Budget	Cash Lim. 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Employees Transport Supplies & Services Total Expenditure (Cash Limit)	64 0 17 82	0 17	70 0 18 88
Total Income	0	0	0
Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	82	85	88

Но	Housing Services	Cash Lim. 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Housing	g Services			
H086	Rents, Rates, Taxes	133	139	144
H087	General Management	2,742	2,984	3,073
H088	Communal Heating	291	305	317
H089	Communal Lighting	210	240	250
H090	Caretaking & Cleaning	307	322	333
H091	Lifts	58	63	65
H092	Maintnce Greens & Shrubs	1,017	1,044	1,075
H093	Environmental Enhancement	119	119	123
H095	Television & Wireless	89	94	97
H097	Single Persons Accommodation	107	110	113
H423	HRA Unidentified Variations	2,948	2,131	2,184
		8,022	7,553	7,774
Homele	ssness			
H102	Provision For The Homeless	101	104	107
		101	104	107
HRA Su	bsidy			
H031	HRA Subsidy	7,695	8,451	8,451
		7,695	8,451	8,451
Sheltere	ed Housing			
H098	Community Rooms	73	77	80
H099	Supporting People	1,631	1,706	1,759
H100	Wardens	29	29	30
		1,732	1,812	1,868
Housing	g Rents & Other Income			
H021	Dwelling Rents	-37,459	-39,153	-39,264
H024	Non-Dwelling Rents	-1,216	-1,253	-1,291
H026	Charges For Services	-1,795	-1,901	-2,013
H029	Contibution To Expenditure	-665	-643	-631
H108	Provision For Bad Debts	446	460	471
H420	Rent Rebate Subsidy Deductions	2,457	2,218	2,218
		-38,231	-40,272	-40,510
	Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	-20,681	-22,352	-22,310

Housing Services Housing Revenue Account Budget	Cash Lim. 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Employees Premises Transport Supplies & Services Agency & Contracted Transfer Payments Total Expenditure (Cash Limit)	3,257 2,455 96 4,488 15 2,457 12,768	99 3,783 15 <u>2,218</u>	101 3,878 15 2,218
Income Total Income	-33,449 -33,449	-34,507 -34,507	-34,757 -34,757
Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	-20,681	-22,352	-22,310

Stre	et Scene & Property Maintenance	Cash Lim. 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Ho	using Revenue Account Budget			
Housing	g Property Maintenance			
H096	Improvement Schemes	6	6	6
H103	Repairs Operational Account	-1,550	-1,514	-1,325
H104	HRA Repairs	7,995	8,172	8,418
H105	Repairs Administration	1,611	1,681	1,736
H328	Misc Communal Services	149	151	156
		8,210	8,496	8,991
	Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	8,210	8,496	8,991

Street Scene & Property Maintenance Housing Revenue Account Budget	Cash Lim. 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Employees Premises Transport Supplies & Services Total Expenditure (Cash Limit)	5,044 8,243 579 <u>2,122</u> 15,988	8,408 592 2,129	611 2,182
Income Total Income	-7,778 -7,778		-7,900 -7,900
Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	8,210	8,496	8,991

Ho	Customer Services	Cash Lim. 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Custom	er Serv Hse Admin			
H080	HRA Admin Support	109	115	119
		109	115	119
Custom	er Services Housing			
H082	HRA Customer Services	999	1,052	1,087
		999	1,052	1,087
Custom	er Serv Hse Technical			
H081	HRA Technical Support	107	112	115
		107	112	115
	Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	1,215	1,279	1,321

Customer Services Housing Revenue Account Budget	Cash Lim. 06/07 £'000	Forecast 07/08 £'000	Forecast 08/09 £'000
Employees Premises Transport Supplies & Services Total Expenditure (Cash Limit)	1,174 11 2 28 1,215	12 2 28	
Total Income	0	0	0
Net Expenditure (Cash Limit)	1,215	1,279	1,321

Appendix C

Potential Bids Against HRA Investment Fund

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2006/2007</u> <u>£000</u>
1	<u>Training</u> Cost of training non-electrical trades people in multi-task and multi-skilled activities. Spend to save, links with new pay structure.	100
2	<u>Programmed Repairs</u> Gas servicing prices within the industry have increased significantly. The contract is due to be re-negotiated in 2006/2007 and a price increase is anticipated.	350
3	Programmed Repairs Maintenance Contract costs are escalating due to local demand for both labour and materials. An increase in the budget is required to maintain the level of activity.	250
4	<u>Professional Services</u> Budget required to pay for barrister input and junior support from legal services to obtain Access Warrents to properties if necessary, to allow gas servicing to take place	20
5	<u>Professional Services</u> As part of the Stock Condition Survey, 2500 properties need to be surveyed per annum. Cost of employing a contractor to carry out this work.	90
6	Lifeline Charges	11
7	<u>Professional Services</u> To contract a community mediation service from an external provider to provide an additional tool for resolving nuisance/ASB cases.	15
8	Professional Services Development of an Asset Management Strategy, Investment Plan and Procurement Strategy.	310
9	Repair & Maintenance of Buildings	50
10	<u>Vehicles</u> Vehicle Tracking System and the introduction of a full Mobile Working Package	180
11	Other Minor Variations	10

Agenda Item 7



COUNCIL

Item No.

27 February 2006

Directorate: Finance, Governance & Citizens Mario Abela Author/Contact Officer:

POLITICAL STRUCTURES AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Francis Fernandes Solicitor to the Council

Recommendations

That Council notes progress on the Constitutional Review Working Party's consideration of matters referred to it .

Background

On 23 January 2006, Council considered a report entitled "Political Structures and Miscellaneous Matters". A copy of the report is attached at Appendix 1.

Recommendations 1 to 3 of the Political Structures and Miscellaneous Matters report were not agreed and were referred to the Constitutional Review Working Group (CRWG) for consideration with the requirement that the CRWG's proposals be then referred to the Improvement Board.

This report updates Council on the current position.

The CRWG met on 8 February 2006 and carefully considered the issues raised in the original report and a number of additional issues. The main points discussed are indicated in bullet point form attached at Appendix 2.

Given the complexity and importance of the issues, the CRWG did not consider that it had sufficient time to properly consider and report to the Improvement Board and Council on its proposals within the timescales required by Council.

A verbal update on the discussions and progress was given to the Improvement Board by the Chair of the CRWG on 16 February 2006.

The CRWG will provide proposals in relation to the mechanism for delegated decision-

making; the format of Full Council meetings and some miscellaneous matters to the Full Council meeting on 27th March 2006.

The CRWG will then continue with its work reviewing the whole constitution and will report to Council in due course.



COUNCIL

Item No.

23 January 2006

Directorate: Finance, Governance & Citizens **Mario Abela** Author/Contact Officer:

POLITICAL STRUCTURES AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Francis Fernandes Solicitor to the Council

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1. Agrees changes to allow delegated decision-making by Portfolio Holders to take place in non-formally constituted meetings unless members of the public or Councillors indicate, in writing, that they would wish a public meeting to consider an item identified on a published list.
- 2. Delegates to the Improvement Board powers to determine the format and structure of future Council meetings.
- 3. Delegates powers to the Solicitor to the Council to make amendments to the Constitution to enable the implementation of recommendations 1 and 2 above.

Nominates councillors to the Constitutional Review Working group and notes the timetable for the commencement of the Constitutional review.

5. Appoints Cllr Mathews as the Chair of the Tree Panel.

Background

Delegated Decision Making

Council considered and approved a major review of the Council's Political Structures and Governance arrangements at its meetings on 29 September 2005. This report seeks Council's authority to implement some changes following on from that report.

An important aspect of the changes to the Council's new political structures included constitutional changes to allow the Leader to specify a scheme of delegations for each Cabinet Portfolio Holder within their respective Portfolio Area. The scheme of delegations

will be finalised shortly and delegated decision-making will commence soon after. The practical impact of this is that Portfolio Holders will have legal powers, within the scheme of delegations to make decisions in relation to areas within their Portfolio. Whilst the principle of delegated decision has already been approved by full Council, Councillors raised concerns about the proposed format of the Portfolio Holder meetings. The Political Structures report had suggested meetings in private unless the decision was a Key decision. However, Councillors had concerns about this and indicated a clear preference for Portfolio Holder decision-making to take place in public. This report identifies practical and substantive problems with the suggested approach and identifies a way forward which goes some way towards providing a resolution.

The Law

The changes brought about by the modernisation agenda and the Local Government Act 2000 changes, have been extremely wide ranging. One of the main drivers for the changes was to bring about clear efficiencies balanced by effective accountabilities in Council decision-making. The Law only requires Executive decisions that are Key Decisions to be made in public. Key decisions are defined by the Local Authority (Exec. Arrangements) (ETC) (England) Regulations 2000 as an executive decision which is:

"likely to result in the Local Authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Local Authority's budget for the service or the function to which the decision relates or to be significant in terms of its effects on Communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area for Local Authority".

Non-key executive decisions do not need to be made in public and the regulations quite clearly anticipate this. In fact a number of Local Authorities do not hold delegated decision making in public.

There is a balance to be drawn between efficiencies and transparency in decision-making. If delegated decisions were to be made in public, normal meeting procedures would need to be engaged to support the meeting. Therefore, the meetings would have to be anticipated and agreed; agendas and documents published and meetings supported and resourced in the normal way. This would, without a doubt, slow the decision-making and negate the very advantages sought from delegated decision-making powers.

Holding meetings in private does not diminish the accountability or transparency of the decision-making. Current regulations require records of delegated executive decisions to be made and published. There are similar provisions in the Council's Constitution which ensure that this will happen. There is further accountability in that delegated decisions will, under proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution, be automatically notified to the Chair of Scrutiny and there will be an opportunity to call-in decisions in the normal way.

This report proposes a halfway house between public and private meetings. It is proposed that a list of non-Key delegated Portfolio Holder decisions will be published at least 7 working days before the decision is actually to be made. The list will be in a similar format to the Forward Plan, although this list will be non-statutory and separate from the Forward Plan. If members of the public or Councillors indicate, in writing, within this 7 day window that they wish a particular item to be considered in a public meeting then a meeting will be constituted in the normal way and will be open to the public.

Tracking the Decision-making

The decision-making would track as follows: If an item was identified as a Key decision, it would appear on the Forward Plan wherever the decision was being made i.e Cabinet; Improvement Board; Portfolio delegated decision etc. These decisions would have to be made in public.

If a Portfolio Holder decision was a non-Key decision then it would be published in the nonstatutory list and would be held in private *unless* Councillors or members of the public indicated in writing within 7 days that they wanted the decision to be made in public. A meeting to consider the issue in public would then be arranged in the normal way and similar rules to current public meetings would apply. A simple table illustrates this:

	Key Decision	Non-Key Decision
Meeting arrangement	in Public	In Private (unless member of public/Councillor request
	Noted in Forward Plan	Noted in Non-Statutory list

Changes to the Constitution will need to be made to allow all this to be implemented.

Format and Structure of Council Meetings

Following the political structures changes, the format and structure of Council meetings have been touched upon and discussed in past Council meetings. Councillors will be aware that the whole constitution is being reviewed and as part of that review fundamental changes to the format and structure of full Council meetings will be developed by a member led group. Changes will be proposed to full Council at a later date. However, there is a need to make changes in the interim to continue progress on modernising the Council's decision –making and to reflect the evolving new structures. The Improvement Board, given its crossparty involvement and its focus on Improvement, is best placed to consider these interim arrangements. Therefore, it is proposed that the Improvement Board should consider this issue and make the relevant changes. It is therefore recommended that powers to enable this to happen are delegated to the Improvement Board, with delegated Powers to the Solicitor to the Council to make the relevant changes to the Constitution to implement what is agreed.

Review of the Constitution

The review of the Constitution has been identified as a project within the Recovery Plan. Whilst a Working group was set up to look at the Constitution, the last meeting was some time ago and changes in circumstances may need membership changes. This report seeks nominations to the Constitutional Review Working group. The Working group will be set up as soon as possible after nominations have been confirmed and its work will commence with scoping of the project; setting time-scales; agreeing the appointment of a facilitator and considering desktop research that will identify best practice from leading authorities. The following are target time-scales: 15th Feb, appointment of a facilitator; 1st March Desk-top Research; 15th March paper proposal and an options review; 30th March detailed project plan. The target date for presentation and adoption of the new Constitution is the August full Council meeting.

Tree Panel

The Chair of the Tree Panel remains to be appointed by full Council. The Improvement Board discussed the appointment at its meeting on 19 January 2006 and resolved to recommend Cllr Richard Mathews for appointment to the Chair of the panel. Full Council is asked to confirm this recommendation.

<u>CONSTITUTIONAL WORKING PARTY 8th FEBRUARY 2006 –</u> <u>MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION</u>

The Constitutional Review Working Party (CRWP) has both a short term and long term brief.

The Short term brief is to consider the mechanism for delegated decision-making and other issues such as the format of Full Council meetings. The longer term brief required the CRWP to review and amend the whole constitution.

The meeting on **8th February** focussed mainly on the Short Term brief. Below are the main points discussed.

Delegated Decision Making

- The CRWP agreed that as a general principle there should be as much decisionmaking in public as possible.
- A clearer more comprehensive definition of "Key Decisions" had to be developed and clearly outlined
- A Non-Statutory list in similar format as the forward plan would list decisions to be taken in the future.
- There should be clear Information flows to all Councillors before a delegated decision is made, with an e-mail being sent to all councillors notifying them of the decision to be made with a copy of the report (by hyper-link) if possible.
- Half-way house option to be considered and developed i.e. allowing members of the public to require a public consideration of reports to take place (following notification on the non-statutory list)
- There is a need for decisions to be recorded in a proper format and published
- The processes could be piloted over 6 months with a review taking place shortly afterwards

Full Council Meetings

- Portfolio holder presentations and reports (possibly in the form of bullet points) and questions from Councillors on the issues raised by the presentations.
- Slot for reports/presentations to Full Council on future policies.
- Better management of Agenda items.
 - Time allocation for each agenda item
 - Members of each group to input into agenda
 - Clear identification of policy and portfolio issues
 - Preparation and agreement of a model agenda
- The development of a Work Plan for Full Council in relation particularly to strategic Policy issues.
- Better scheduling of items on the Agenda.

Miscellaneous Matters Discussed

- Mayoralty issues:- Need to address the mechanism for the appointments of future Mayors- possibly using a formula based approach (Improvement Boards input would be useful here).
- Concerns raised about availability of correspondence from members of the public to Councillors on the planning committee. Solicitor to the Council to investigate.
- The very tight Call-in time limits were discussed briefly. The issue to be looked at as part of the constitutional review.

Way Forward

- Brief report to Improvement Board to 16th February 2006
 Noting report to full Council 23rd February 2006
- > Full proposals to be reported to Full Council in relation to the short term issues- at its meeting on 27th March 2006.