



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

26 February 2009

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Finance and Support

Report Title	COUNCIL WIDE GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2009/10 – 2011/12
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1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is:
 - 1.1.1 To report the outcome of the consultation process on the 2009/10 General Fund budget and the final formula grant settlement for 2009/10.
 - 1.1.2 To ask Council to approve the 2009/10 General Fund budget, and Council Tax increase for 2009/10 and indicative budgets and council tax increases for 2010/11 and 2011/12, as recommended by Cabinet.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the feedback from consultation with the public, organisations and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, be considered and welcomed (detailed at Annexes 1 and 2).
- 2.2 That the Council's representations on the provisional formula grant settlement be noted (Annex 3).
- 2.3 That the projected 2008/09 outturn position of £66k under spend (as at the end of December 2009) be noted.
- 2.4 That the changes to the proposed budget (detailed at Annex 4), in light of the consultation responses and the final formula grant settlement, be noted.
- 2.5 That the Council acknowledges the issues and risks detailed in the Section 151 Officer's statement on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of the reserves (Annex 9).
- 2.6 That Council agrees a General Fund budget for 2009/10 of £32.4m (detailed in Annex 5) for its own purposes.
- 2.7 That the Council agrees to increase the Council Tax by 3.9% for 2009/10 for its own purposes, (i.e. excluding county, police, and parish precepts).

- 2.8 That the Council confirms the reserves strategy of protecting balances wherever possible to allow the option of supporting future years' budgets, aiming for a minimum level of unallocated general fund reserves of £2.6m at the end of 2009/10 having regard to the outcome of the financial risk assessment and remaining at this level over the medium term.
- 2.9 That Council agrees to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Support to implement all budget options and restructurings.
- 2.10 That Council agrees to delegate authority to the Director of Finance and Support in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, and where appropriate the relevant Director and Portfolio Holder, to transfer monies from earmarked reserves should that become necessary during the financial year.

3. Report Background

See Cabinet report attached

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Resources and Risk

See Cabinet report attached

4.2 Legal

See Cabinet report attached

4.3 Other Implications

See Cabinet report attached

5. Background Papers

See Cabinet report attached

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