



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# **COUNCIL**

## **25 February 2013**

**Agenda Status: PUBLIC**

**Directorate: Resources**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>COUNCIL WIDE GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2013/14 – 2015/16</b>
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### **1. Purpose**

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1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Report the outcome of the consultation process on the 2013/14 General Fund budget and the final formula grant settlement for 2013/14.
- To agree the Cabinet's proposals recommended to Council on 25 February 2013 for the 2013/14 to 2015/16 General Fund budgets, the level of Council Tax increase for 2013/14 and indicative levels for 2014/15 – 2015/16.

### **2. Recommendations**

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- 2.1 That the feedback from consultation with the public, organisations and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, be considered and welcomed (detailed at Appendices 1a to 1c of the attached Cabinet report).
- 2.2 That the Council's representations on the provisional formula grant settlement be noted (Appendix 2 of the attached Cabinet report).
- 2.3 That the Council acknowledges the risks detailed in the Chief Finance Officer's statement on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of the reserves (Appendix 8 of the attached Cabinet report).
- 2.4 That the draft Fees and Charges set out in Appendix 9 (of the attached Cabinet report) be approved.
- 2.5 That authority is delegated to the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer to implement all budget options and restructures.
- 2.6 That authority be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, and where appropriate the relevant Director and Lead Cabinet Member to transfer monies to/from earmarked reserves should that become necessary during the financial year.

- 2.7 That a General Fund budget for 2013/14 of £27.14m (excluding parishes), be approved (detailed in Appendices 4, 5, 6a and 6b of the attached Cabinet report) for its own purposes.
- 2.8 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 balances of £3.1m for 2013/14 having regard to the outcome of the financial risk assessment and remaining at this level over the medium term.
- 2.9 That Council does not increase the Council Tax for its own purposes, that is, excluding county, police, and parish precepts.

### **3. Issues and Choices**

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#### **3.1 Report Background**

- 3.1.1 In the event that there are changes made in accordance with the delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer following Cabinet's meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, updated appendices to the Cabinet report will be tabled reflecting these changes.
- 3.1.2 See also Cabinet report attached.

### **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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#### **4.1 Policy**

- 4.1.1 See Cabinet report attached.

#### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

- 4.2.1 See Cabinet report attached.

#### **4.3 Legal**

- 4.3.1 See Cabinet report attached.

#### **4.4 Equality**

See Cabinet report attached.

#### **4.5 Other Implications**

- 4.5.1 See Cabinet report attached.

### **5. Background Papers**

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- 5.1 See Cabinet report attached.

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