



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# COUNCIL

## 25 February 2013

Agenda Status: PUBLIC

Directorate: Resources

Report Title	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget, Rent Setting 2013/14 and Budget Projections 2014/15 and 2015/16
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### 1. Purpose

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1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Approve the HRA 2013/14 budget and the HRA forecasts for 2014/15 and 2015/16, rent increases, service charges and other charges for 2013/14 (summarised in **Appendix 3**).
- Provide a brief update on the ongoing work on the direction of the HRA.

### 2. Recommendations

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2.1 That the Council approve:

- a) An average rent increase of 4.41% per dwelling, in line with the Government's rent restructuring Policy, convergence in 2015/16, to take effect from 1 April 2013.
- b) The service charges listed in **Appendix 5**.

2.2 That the feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be considered and welcomed (detailed at **Appendix 1**).

2.3 That the changes to the proposed budget (detailed at **Appendix 2**), in light of the consultation responses and equalities issues be agreed.

2.4 That the HRA budget for 2013/14 of £53.4m expenditure (including options) be approved (detailed in **Appendix 3**).

- 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 (**Appendix 6**).
- 2.6 That Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer and Support to implement all budget options and restructures.
- 2.7 That Council delegate 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 from earmarked reserves should that become necessary during the financial year.
  - update the budget tables and Appendices, prior to Council should any further changes be necessary
  - update prudential indicators in both the Prudential Indicators report and Treasury Strategy report, prior to Council for any budget changes that impact on these.
- 2.8 That the Council approve the reserves strategy of protecting balances wherever possible to allow the option of supporting future years budgets, aiming for a minimum level of unallocated HRA reserves of £5.0m at the end of 2013/14 having regard to the outcome of the financial risk assessment and remaining at this level over the medium term and in line with the 30 year Business Plan.

### **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**

4.4.1 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.

**Isabell Procter, Director of Resources, ext. 8757, [iprocter@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:iprocter@northampton.gov.uk)**

**Management Board, C/o David Kennedy, Chief Executive, ext. 7726,  
[dkennedy@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:dkennedy@northampton.gov.uk)**