

Northampton Borough Council Budget 2014/15 Consultation

Your views are wanted!

Northampton Borough Council is facing an unprecedented financial challenge. Cuts in Government grants and increasing demands for our services mean that we will need to find £2m of savings over 2014/15 in order to balance the books.

We know you will understand these pressures, with households across the county sharing the challenge of making ends meet as living costs continue to rise and money coming in is harder to find.

We have already transformed the way we work, reducing our back office and senior management costs. We are now working more efficiently with fewer resources and will continue to make savings wherever possible.

We have a duty to rise to the financial challenge and this will involve some very tough choices.

Despite this bleak picture, the Council is committed to ensuring that we provide quality services, focusing our efforts in helping our economy to grow and those people who most need our support.

Your views will also help us understand how our proposals may affect you and our communities so that we can consider whether and how we can mitigate, if possible, the impact of any changes we introduce. Our decisions will only be made after listening to your views and we will continue to support the most in need and vulnerable in our society. Full details about the budget are also available on our website or can be obtained upon request.

Please complete this survey online. Alternatively, you can post your completed questionnaire to:

Corporate Policy and Consultation Manager
Northampton Borough Council
FREEPOST MID 17237
Northampton
NN1 1WJ

If you need help with this form or require the information in a different format, please visit our Customer Contact Centre at our One Stop Shop at the Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DE or call on 01604 837837 or by minicom on 01604 838970
Closing Date: 31 January 2014

Personal data supplied on this form will be held on computer and will be used in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The information you provide will be used for statistical analysis, management, planning and the provision of services by the Council. The Council will not share any personal information collected as part of this survey. The Council's Data Protection Registration number is Z5256045.

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Council Tax Level

Despite the significant financial pressures faced by the Council, Council Tax levels were not increased since 2010.

The Council is considering keeping council tax levels the same for 2014/15. Do you agree or disagree with this approach?

- Strongly agree Tend to agree Tend to disagree Strongly disagree

Please use this space for comments that will help us understand your response

Draft Budget Proposals

A challenging programme of internal cost-cutting measures is proposed to tackle the shortfall and prevent the budget gap growing even further in 2015/16.

At the same time, order to promote growth, there will be a focus on investment, despite the need for the Borough Council to make savings to deal with a budget shortfall of £3.4 million in the next financial year.

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A list of the draft budget proposals and background information can be found at www.northampton.gov.uk/budget2014

These proposals, if/when agreed, will help the Council balance its budget for 2014/15. This is your opportunity to comment on the Council's draft budget options before they are submitted to the Cabinet for their consideration. Full Council will in turn consider the Cabinet's recommendation for approval on 24 February 2014.

Your comments on our options

Key proposed budget options:

- Extended free parking including every Saturday and 2 hours free during the week
- Business incentive scheme
- Capital budget projects and investment
- Providing an additional neighbourhood warden, two park rangers and a new vehicle
- Increase opening hours of Northampton Borough Council's museums
- Maintaining the investment of small community grants
- Senior management savings and review
- Staff terms and conditions

Please tell us which option you wish to comment on and include any concerns you may have about how our specific proposals may impact on yourself or any sector of the community and if appropriate, tell us how we can minimise any such impact.

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Alternative proposals

Is there anything else that you think we could do to achieve savings and/or any other comments you would like to make in respect of the budget options for 2014/15?

Your details

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Address (including postcode):

Telephone number:

Email address:

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Monitoring Information (optional)

About you

Yes No

I live in Northampton

I work in Northampton

I study in Northampton

I have a business in Northampton

I am employed by Northampton Borough Council

I am responding on behalf of an organisation/group (insert name below)

Name of the Organisation I am responding from:

Are you:

Male

Female

How old are you?

Under

16

16-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65-74

75 or

above

How would you describe yourself?

White

Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

Mixed/multiple ethnic groups

Other ethnic group

Asian/Asian British

Prefer not to say

Thank you for taking part!