



AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Risk Review of 2015 16 Budget Report
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Audit Committee Meeting Date:	14 January 2015
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Resources
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Alan Bottwood

1. Purpose

1.1 To inform Audit Committee of the process and risk considerations that have taken place in preparing the draft budget 2015/16.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Audit Committee considers issues in relation to risk within the budget proposals for 2015/16 and comments appropriately.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 The Chief Finance Officer is required to make a statement on the Robustness of Estimates when the proposed budget is brought to Council for approval.

3.1.2 In support of this statement the relevant Heads of Service have completed a risk assessment as part of the MTP Options budget proforma

3.2 Issues

3.2.1 Each Head of Service has carried out a risk assessment of their budget proposals as part of their MTP Option submissions

- 3.2.2 Management Board have also scrutinised the risk implications in detail to ensure that the options are deliverable
- 3.2.3 A list of General Fund revenue budget options is attached at Appendix 1 and 2 to this report. The General Fund capital programme and capital scheme descriptions information is attached at Appendix 3. The HRA revenue budget options are attached at Appendix 4 with the HRA capital programme following at Appendix 5 and the Northampton Partnership Homes Fee schedule attached at Appendix 6.
- 3.2.4 Outside this, other risk work has been and is being undertaken in relation to the budget proposals. For each proposal equalities have been considered and, where appropriate a Communities Impact Assessment has been carried out to identify risks and issues that need to be addressed and considered in relation to people with protected characteristics, in deciding whether or how to take a proposal forward.
- 3.2.5 As part of this process there is a full review being undertaken on the Council's reserves which will reflect the risks incorporated into the budget proposals being considered.

3.3 Choices (Options)

- 3.3.1 The Audit Committee is asked to consider the risk issues in relation to some or all of the budget options for 2015/16 and make comments or recommendations to the Chief Finance Officer.
- 3.3.2 The Audit Committee may consider that the risk issues in relation to some or all of the budget options require comment and therefore make their comments to Cabinet for consideration alongside the final budget proposals

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 There are no specific policy issues arising from this report.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 This report outlines measures taken to identify and mitigate risks in relation to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budget proposals.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 There are no specific legal issues arising from this report.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 Equality and Diversity are being considered as a part of the budget build process, and an equalities assessment will be completed for the relevant budget proposals before they are brought to Council for final decision later in February 2015.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Internally Heads of Service and Management Board have been consulted, and involved in the budget risk assessment process.

4.5.2 Externally, the public are being consulted as part of the budget consultation exercise and specific consultation exercises, aimed at affected groups, will have been and will be undertaken in respect of specific budget proposals.

4.6 Other Implications

4.6.1 There are no other specific issues arising from this report.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Appendices

Appendix 1 –	General Fund Savings List
Appendix 2 –	General Fund Growth List
Appendix 3 –	General Fund Capital Programme
Appendix 4 -	Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Planning Options Savings and Growth List
Appendix 5 –	Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme List
Appendix 6	NPH Total Fee Schedule

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