

the Far Cotton & Delapre area as this would help in regaining a lost community spirit and giving its residents a voice etc. As yet we have not received a firm proposal for such a community council. However, this may be forthcoming in the second stage of the consultation under the CGR process

3.4 Conclusions in the ORS report

3.4.1 The conclusions of the first stage of consultations are set out on pages 42 and 43 of the enclosed ORS report and Members will note that there was divided opinion on the issue of having a town council and it would seem that there is no substantial majority for any of the three options put forward at this first stage of the ORS consultation exercise. However, there does seem to be concern about having an organisation which promotes the interests of the town, preserves its historic identity and heritage and delivers services at a local level and especially within the context of a large unitary authority.

3.4.2 It should be noted that the second phase of consultation to be carried out by ORS will be a larger exercise which will last a minimum of six weeks and will require wider public involvement in the Borough area and should be completed by mid-July of this year.

3.5 Duston Parish Council

3.5.1 Duston Parish Council has submitted an application as part of the CGR process to extend their parish boundary into two specific adjacent areas as shown in the enclosed application and plan (**Appendices 2 and 3**). This application will need approval of Full Council and also involve a more detailed consultation with the residents etc. affected by the proposal. The final decision rests with Full Council.

3.6 Whitehills & Spring Park Residents Association

3.6.1 An application has been received (**Appendices 4 and 5**) from the above Residents Association to create a new Parish Council titled at this stage Kingsthorpe Parish Council. Again this will involve more detailed consultation with the residents affected by the proposal and any final decision rests with Full Council.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Financial Implications

4.1.1 Parish Councils are able to charge a precept to council tax payers within their parish boundaries. Northampton Borough Council (NBC) is the billing authority for Northampton and will collect council tax on behalf of themselves and all preceptors, and will then pass on the precept amounts to the precepting bodies. Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and the Northamptonshire Police & Crime Commissioner (NPCC) are also precepting bodies.

4.1.2 The council tax charged by NBC and the precepting bodies in Northampton in 2018/19 is as follows:

Area	2018/19 Council Tax for average band D property				
	NBC council tax	NCC council tax	NPCC council tax	Parish council tax	Total
Billing	219.40	1,236.35	221.04	56.82	1,733.61
Collingtree	209.21	1,236.35	221.04	38.63	1,705.22
Duston	213.45	1,236.35	221.04	84.61	1,755.45
Great Houghton	209.21	1,236.35	221.04	71.45	1,738.04
Hardingstone	211.60	1,236.35	221.04	49.69	1,718.68
Upton	209.21	1,236.35	221.04	14.61	1,681.21
Wootton	212.66	1,236.35	221.04	62.98	1,733.04
East Hunsbury	224.97	1,236.35	221.04	46.60	1,728.96
Hunsbury Meadows	209.21	1,236.35	221.04	29.07	1,695.67
West Hunsbury	215.55	1,236.35	221.04	10.91	1,683.85
Unparished	221.21	1,236.35	221.04	0.00	1,678.60

4.1.3 The charges above are for band D properties. Actual charges to residents will be adjusted to take account of the banding of their property, with the charge being factored down for properties of a lower banding, and factored up for properties of a higher banding.

4.1.4 Currently the unparished areas of Northampton do not pay any parish precepts, as no parish councils provide services in these areas. Under the “do nothing” option (Option 1) this would continue to be the case.

4.1.5 The new parish precept would be calculated by the new parish council. The parish council would need to calculate their net budget requirement (ie, the net cost of running the parish council and the services it provides). This net budget requirement would then be divided by the tax base of the parish area. The taxbase is the number of band D properties in the parish area that are eligible to pay council tax (this takes into account the different banding levels of different properties). This would then give the new parish precept that would be payable by those residents living in the new parish area.

4.1.6 It is not currently possible to calculate what the level of parish precept would be for a new town council or any other parish council created as part of the CGR. It would depend on the budget that the parish council set. A larger parish area would have a greater tax base to spread the costs of the parish over. However, it would be reasonable to expect the costs of a larger parish to be greater as it would be providing services over a larger area.

4.1.7 The average band D parish precept for England in 2018/19 was £64.05, as published by MHCLG:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700668/Council_tax_levels_set_by_local_authorities_in_England_2018-19_revised.pdf

4.1.8 There are limits on how much NBC, NCC and NPCC can raise their council tax by each year without holding a referendum. There is currently no such limit for parish councils, but it is not known if this will remain the case.