

**WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Draft JPU Budget: Financial Year 2014-15**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD JOINT PLANNING UNIT & DIRECTOR OF  
RESOURCES/SECTION 151 OFFICER: SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable consideration to be given to a proposed budget for the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit for financial year 2014-15. This budget should be approved prior to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013 to accord with requirements set out in paragraph 5 of the fifth schedule of the agreement between the partner Councils. In light of the Comprehensive Spending review and continued pressures on Local Government funding, seeks to incorporate a 10% base budget reduction. The report has been considered and approved by the Programme Board and the Business Sub Group.

**2. Context**

- 2.1 The budget being proposed is to progress the programme of work set out in the up to date West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme (LDS), June 2012, together with the work associated with progressing the Community Levy Infrastructure (CIL) on behalf of partner Councils across the West Northamptonshire planning partnership area.
- 2.2 The draft budget proposal incorporates a 10% saving, this will have the effect of reducing total aggregate contributions from partners from **£691,480 to £622,330**. This also has the effect of assisting partner Councils in finding their own savings in 2014/15 and therefore in setting their budgets. The reduced aggregate contributions from partner Councils in 2014/15 are set out in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 – Proposed Partner Contributions to JPU Base Budget 2014-15**

<b>Partner Authority</b>	<b>2013-14 Budget £</b>	<b>10% reduction in contributions £</b>	<b>2014-15 Proposed Budget £</b>
Daventry District Council	207,445	(20,745)	186,700
South Northamptonshire Council	207,445	(20,745)	186,700
Northampton Borough Council	276,590	(27,660)	248,930
<b>Total</b>	<b>691,480</b>	<b>(69,150)</b>	<b>622,330</b>

2.3 This draft new base budget continues to apply the significant savings made in previous years and in addition a further 10% has been identified within staffing and operational budgets and the budget envelope of £622,330 is considered to be sufficient to complete the agreed work plan in 2014-15 which, given the delays to the Joint Core Strategy has meant that the work associated with the other local plans within the LDS will largely move into 2014-15 and 2015-16. The full costs of the examination of the local plans has not been budgeted for in 2014-15 as that aspect of the work is expected to fall into 2015-16

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 That the Joint Strategic Planning Committee approve the 2014-15 base budget of **£622,330** for the JPU so that it may be forwarded on to partner Councils for their ratification.

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>September 2013</b>	<b>S151 officer, SNC.</b>

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