



Northampton Borough Council

Budget Proposals 2014

Consultation results

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1 Executive summary

In December 2013 the Council launched a consultation which looked at the budget proposals for 2014/15. The consultation ran for 6 weeks, closing on 31 January 2014.

For the third year running, the budget consultation focused on whether council tax should be frozen for a further year. People were invited to comment on the budget options for savings, investments and growth.

Key results

Nearly 2,000 residents visited our dedicated budget information web pages during the consultation. 129 completed online surveys. In excess of 160 comments were received expressing views about the budget. Around three out of every five respondents agreed that council tax levels should not be increased for 2014/15.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 Cabinet approved the draft budget proposals for 2014/15 and the forecast budgets for 2015/16 to 2018/19 for the General Fund Revenue Budgets, the Housing Revenue Account and the Capital Programme for consultation on 18 December 2013
- 2.2 The consultation process covering all these areas was carried out from 19 December 2013 until 31 January 2014. The aim of this consultation was to find out people's views on the draft budget proposals presented.
- 2.3 Completed questionnaires were accepted up to 31 January 2014.
- 2.4 The consultation period will formally close on the date the budget is approved in February 2014.
- 2.5 This consultation followed the principles set out in the Council's Consultation Toolkit and industry standard guidance on best practice in consultation.
- 2.6 This report contains the results to the draft budget 2014/15 consultation. They will be used to by the Council as part of the process for informing priorities for the Council's Corporate Plan and for setting a balanced budget (including a capital programme).

3 Methodology

- 3.1 Residents, businesses, and other stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the proposals for the draft budget during the consultation period and support was made available to maximise involvement and understanding of the proposals.
- 3.2 People were able to engage in a range of ways:
- Open public meeting held at the Guildhall on 30 January 2014;
 - Council's budget proposals debated at the Council's Community Forums (Young Persons Forum, Women's Forum, Diverse Community Forum, LGB People's Forum, Pensioners and Disabled People's Forums) during January 2014;
 - On-line survey;
 - Social media;
 - Paper copies of the questionnaire available at meetings and upon request;
 - Consultation proposals and questionnaire were available to download and complete on-line (via the Council's website). An e-mail address, freepost address and consultation phone line were set up to receive comments/views etc.
 - Staff via intranet, trade unions and as general public;
 - Invitation for Residents Panel to participate;
 - Invitation to the business community via the Chamber of Commerce, their network and the Federation of Small Businesses;
 - Town Centre Businesses via Town Centre News;
 - Invitation to tenant groups;
 - Engagement with the voluntary and community sector via their various networks ;
 - Posters displayed at Central Library;
 - Engagement with our key stakeholder and partners ;
 - Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 28 January 2014;
 - Audit Committee Meeting 13 January 2014
- 3.3 The consultation was advertised through the media including mail shots and press releases to raise awareness. Social media, including Facebook and Twitter, was used during the consultation period.
- 3.4 Interim consultation reports were available to Senior Management and relevant cabinet members to maximise awareness and action in relation to issues and concerns arising during the consultation.

4 Results

- 4.1 During the consultation period **2012** people visited the website to view budget information. A total of **129 online** responses were received as at 31 January 2014 (compared with 120 in 2013, 272 in 2012 and 149 in 2011).
- 4.2 Respondents also provided **168** comments, including details about specific proposals, concerns about potential impacts that were considered to affect various sectors of the community and also about alternative proposals for efficiencies. These have been circulated to Senior Managers and to Cabinet members for their input and consideration.
- 4.3 Full consultation results are available in Appendix 3.
- 4.4 The profile of respondents by gender, age and ethnicity, available at Appendix 1, is representative of the wider community profile. This can be seen as an indicator of a fair survey.
- 4.5 It should be noted that additional activity relating to the budget was undertaken in addition to this exercise during the period of consultation including local press, public meetings, forums, etc and that the views expressed during such events are not included in this report. (For Audit Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Community Forums, please view minutes of meetings held during the consultation period available at modern.gov)

4 Draft Budget Proposals Consultation-Results and Analysis

5.1 Findings

Below are the questions asked, the response achieved.

5.2 Consultation Questions

Question 1-Council Tax Levels-Despite the significant financial pressures faced by the Council, Council Tax levels have not been increased since 2010. **The Council is considering keeping council tax levels the same for 2013/14. Do you agree or disagree with this approach?**

Total agree: 63% (79)

Total disagree: 37% (42)

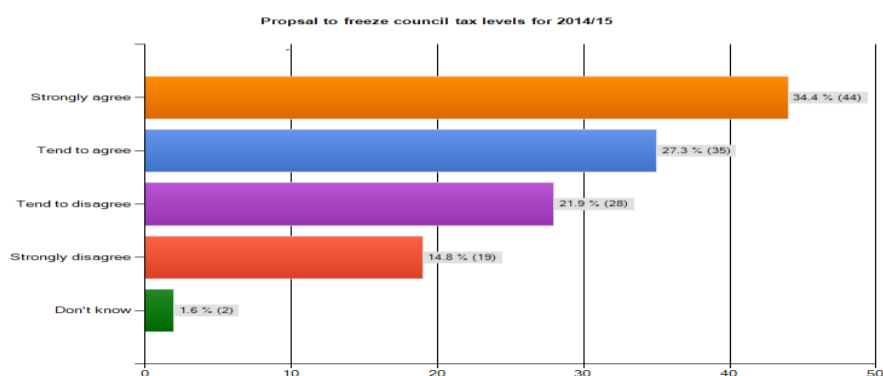


Table 1-Proposal to freeze council tax

Number of additional free-form comments received: **50**

Key points:

- Concerns about keeping Council Tax levels low in the long term
- Some people would be prepared to pay more to preserve essential services

Question 2-Feedback of draft budget proposals

Comments, including concerns about how specific proposals may impact on individuals or any sector of the community and if appropriate, how we can minimise any such impact.

Received **69** comments (full details are in Appendix 3)

Key proposed budget options:

- Extended free parking including every Saturday and 2 hours free during the week-**32** comments related to this option. Views on the merits of the proposed options were divided.
- Business incentive scheme-**7** comments related directly to this option
- Capital budget projects and investment-**10** comments related directly to this option
- Providing an additional neighbourhood warden, two park rangers and a new vehicle- **12** comments related directly to this option. Views were divided on this matter.
- Increase opening hours of Northampton Borough Council's museums- **19** comments related directly to this option. Views divided on this matter, including potential benefits.
- Maintaining the investment of small community grants- **6** comments related directly to this option. Views divided on this option.
- Senior management savings and review- **19** comments related directly to this option. Concerns expressed in relation if service provision suffers as a consequence.
- Staff terms and conditions- **29** comments related directly to this option. Concerns expressed in relation to impact on service and morale.

Question 3-Alternative proposals, including anything else we could do to achieve savings and/or any other comments in respect of budget options for 2013/14?

Received **49** comments (full details are in Appendix 3)

6 How comments received will be used

- 6.1 Where comments relate to service specific issues that relate to the usual business of the organisation, these will be forwarded to the relevant service area.
- 6.2 Where issues raised are not our responsibility, such as street lighting, the state of the roads or about social work, the comments received will be forwarded to the relevant organisation as appropriate.
- 6.3 In relation to the budget, the Cabinet will consider all responses alongside the need to set a balanced budget. Any changes arising from the consultation will be detailed in the Council Wide General Fund Revenue Budget Report.
- 6.4 Findings have been used to inform priorities for the Council's Corporate Plan 2012-15 (update 2014).

7 Equalities

- 7.1 The Cabinet will consider the results of this consultation and of all relevant impact assessments which were developed to make an informed decision regarding the Council's budget.
- 7.2 Equality and Diversity were considered as part of the budget build process and an equality impact assessment or screening was completed as part of each option submitted.
- 7.3 Where issues have been identified and the option is approved, the detailed equality impact assessment will be used to inform the implementation of the budget option.
- 7.4 An Equality Impact Assessment for this consultation process is available at Appendix 2.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Demographics
Appendix 2	Consultation Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix 3	Full results and comments

Appendix 1

Demographics

Gender			
Options	Response %		Response Count
Male	48%		40
Female	52%		43
Age			
Options	Response %		Response Count
Under 16	0.0%		0
16-24	1.2%		1
25-34	4.9%		4
35-44	28.0%		23
45-54	15.9%		13
55-64	22.0%		18
65-74	22.0%		18
75 or above	6.1%		5
Ethnicity			
Main categories	Response %		Response Count
White	85.5%		71
Asian/Asian British	2.4%		2
Mixed	1.2%		1
Black/Black British	2.4%		2
Other	6%		5
Prefer not to say	2.4%		2
About Respondents			
Options	Yes	No	Response Count
I live in Northampton	89.0% (73)	11.0% (9)	82
I work in Northampton	62.9% (39)	37.1% (23)	62
I study in Northampton	4.5% (2)	95.5% (42)	44
I have a business in Northampton	22.4% (11)	77.6% (38)	49
I am employed by Northampton Borough Council	26.5% (13)	73.5% (36)	49
I am responding on behalf of an organisation/group	10.3% (4)	89.7% (35)	39

Any savings with impact on services will have the issues and risks raised through their individual assessments and evaluations taken into account in the implementation and monitoring of the options.

Issues and concerns identified during this consultation will be used to develop mitigation where possible and will be used to inform priorities for the Council.

To view options and specific impacts identified so far, click [here](#).

To view feedback from the draft budget proposals from Community Forums, please read minutes from individual meetings at [modern.gov](#)

February 2014

Appendix 2-Equality and Community Impact Assessment

Budget 2014/5 Consultation Programme

What are we looking to achieve in this activity?

The Council is mindful of its Public Sector Equality Duty and wants to ensure that it has due regard to its equality duties in its decision making process.

How will the decision be made?

Cabinet will consider the results of this consultation and of all relevant impact assessments to help it make an informed decision regarding the Council's budget and priorities. The Council will set its Budget for the forthcoming 2014/2015 in February 2014.

What information exists already to assist with making the judgments above? Has any consultation been undertaken on this or any other related issue? Are any reports or relevant documents available internally or from partners or other sources?

Impact assessments are carried out for options as they are developed, where appropriate, and will be reviewed as the consultation evolves, using the feedback received. Individual medium term planning options specify if equality/community impact assessments have been deemed necessary and details are provided as appropriate.

Who is/ will be the main beneficiaries/people affected by this activity?

Everybody living, working, studying or otherwise engaged with the town or its people may be potentially affected by our budget plans. This includes businesses, employees of the Council as well as, partners and contractors. Some efficiency savings will impact on staff and could lead to redundancies and changes in service provision, and the level of service received by the public will be protected wherever possible. Where this is appropriate, consultation will be undertaken in accordance with council policy and all those affected will be able to have a say in this process.

Does the activity have the potential to cause adverse impact or to discriminate against different groups in the community or to make a positive contribution to equalities?

The testing challenges caused by the general economic environment continue to have a significant impact on our communities and also on our budget, creating added pressure and increase demand for our services.

With limited resources, service provision will need to be reviewed and this may affect the services we provide, the people who deliver them and those who receive them. It is critical when making decisions that may affect people that their views are sought and considered so that we can understand what matters to them, what they consider priority and what areas are in need of improvement and how the choices made may impact on their lives.

Impact

Proposals that will lead to efficiency savings have been screened for impact against the protected characteristics groups. Details are contained within options proposed. Where proposals involve staff changes and rationalisation, appropriate consultation in line with council policy will be followed and outcomes monitored for any disproportionate and adverse impacts on individual groups.

1. Despite the significant financial pressures faced by the Council, Council Tax levels have not been increased since 2010. The Council is considering keeping council tax levels the same for 2014/15. Do you agree or disagree with this approach?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly agree		34.4%	44
Tend to agree		27.3%	35
Tend to disagree		21.9%	28
Strongly disagree		14.8%	19
Don't know		1.6%	2

Please use this space for comments that will help us understand your response 50

answered question	128
skipped question	1

2. 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. 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.

	Response Count
	69
answered question	69
skipped question	60

3. 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?

	Response Count
	49
answered question	49
skipped question	80

4. Contact details

		Response Percent	Response Count
Name		98.1%	51
Organisation (if applicable)		30.8%	16
Address (including postcode)		78.8%	41
Telephone number		67.3%	35
Email address		75.0%	39
	answered question		52
	skipped question		77

5. About you



	Yes	No	Rating Count
I live in Northampton	89.0% (73)	11.0% (9)	82
I work in Northampton	62.9% (39)	37.1% (23)	62
I study in Northampton	4.5% (2)	95.5% (42)	44
I have a business in Northampton	22.4% (11)	77.6% (38)	49
I am employed by Northampton Borough Council	26.5% (13)	73.5% (36)	49
I am responding on behalf of an organisation/group (insert name below)	10.3% (4)	89.7% (35)	39

Name of the Organisation I am responding from 8




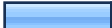



answered question 87

skipped question 42







6. Are you:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Male		48.2%	40
Female		51.8%	43
		answered question	83
		skipped question	46

7. How old are you?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Under 16		0.0%	0
16-24		1.2%	1
25-34		4.9%	4
35-44		28.0%	23
45-54		15.9%	13
55-64		22.0%	18
65-74		22.0%	18
75 or above		6.1%	5
answered question			82
skipped question			47

8. How would you describe yourself?

		Response Percent	Response Count
White		85.5%	71
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups		2.4%	2
Asian/Asian British		1.2%	1
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British		2.4%	2
Other ethnic group		6.0%	5
Prefer not to say		2.4%	2
answered question			83
skipped question			46

Page 2, Q1. Despite the significant financial pressures faced by the Council, Council Tax levels have not been increased since 2010.

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

1	Look after your staff better, motivate them to work more efficiently and stop wasting money on stupid initiatives like car parking signs and opening up abbington street	Jan 31, 2014 12:36 PM
2	I am happy for my Council Tax to be increased to pay for front line Council services.	Jan 31, 2014 11:37 AM
3	A small raise in Council Tax would mean that some of the services could be retained and staff cuts would not be necessary.	Jan 31, 2014 10:50 AM
4	the overall recovery at present is slow, another years 'breathing' space is needed to encourage people to start spending again which could lead to growth in the town	Jan 30, 2014 6:07 PM
5	Increasing Council Tax will bring in more money to the Council thus reducing the need to charge Staff for parking and to reduce staff or change our terms and conditions which we have faught for for so long	Jan 30, 2014 1:41 PM
6	i think with cost of living going up and fuel bills there needs to be some leway.	Jan 30, 2014 11:19 AM
7	If we are struggling to provide services and sacking people to do so thereby putting services under pressure then Council Tax should rise to reflect the costs of providing public services and the population receiving the services should contribute to them	Jan 30, 2014 10:06 AM
8	With inflation Council tax needs to be increased	Jan 30, 2014 9:18 AM
9	We are faced with cuts services and staffing - we should not be cutting these by freezing tax. Cuts in fact damage the economy. Staff salaries and spending feed into the local economy.	Jan 30, 2014 8:55 AM
10	Can you please explain why NCC plans to increase theirs?	Jan 30, 2014 7:04 AM
11	I am not happy with the fact that low income people - working or otherwise - will pay a price they can ill afford.	Jan 29, 2014 11:29 AM
12	feel levels should remain the same, particularly as Northampton is not a high earner town, and many retired people particularly find the present council tax levels high enough already. Including me.	Jan 29, 2014 11:18 AM
13	a 1.99 increase will raise sufficient revenue to protect some services we badly need	Jan 29, 2014 10:59 AM
14	Nothing is free, and your townsfolk know this. Stop treating us like idiots.	Jan 24, 2014 4:41 PM
15	There is still too much FREE money spent , and we should still cut down on any services which does not show results.	Jan 24, 2014 2:27 PM
16	Vital services need the investment, after cuts from central government.	Jan 20, 2014 11:46 AM
17	If Council Tax rates are increased by a small percentage, then this would mean the fewer efficiencies would have to be absorbed by changes to staff terms and conditions. Many highly qualified and experienced staff have left the organisation, and are planning on leaving due to these changes. A significantly better deal can be had elsewhere, so if you want to continue delivering a satisfactory front line service, with a highly performing back office function as well, do not continue to demoralise your own staff.	Jan 13, 2014 9:28 AM
18	Council tax is very expensive.	Jan 13, 2014 9:05 AM
19	Agree with keeping tax the same .despite the council wasting large sums of money on unwanted infrastructure projects [No increase]	Jan 9, 2014 6:28 PM
20	It is being kept artificially low - the longer we delay an increase, the greater the negative impact when we do.	Jan 9, 2014 1:39 PM
21	because,even if we paid more the lack of street cleanliness and drainage and other services would not improve based on previous experience [No increase]	Jan 6, 2014 10:34 AM
22	This has the effect of eroding the tax base which will make for difficulties in	Jan 2, 2014 3:55 PM

Page 2, Q1. Despite the significant financial pressures faced by the Council, Council Tax levels have not been increased since 2010.

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	future years. Better off increasing CTAX and then providing a universal discount (which could then be removed at a later stage)	
23	residents cannot afford increases	Dec 26, 2013 5:40 PM
24	I think the Council should do all it can to find its savings through process redesign and the introduction of more efficient working practices. Once this is exhausted then the Council should consider raising tax. I think that the 2014/15 budget can be balanced with the former.	Dec 23, 2013 2:47 PM
25	Prices are now rising .A small increase would be acceptable	Dec 23, 2013 10:23 AM
26	I think that there are still areas for economies.	Dec 22, 2013 5:46 PM
27	There are still areas for economies I am sure.	Dec 22, 2013 5:39 PM
28	There seems to be little point in reference to household budgets of not raising council tax. Utilities and energy costs are constantly increasing at a very rapid rate and to keep council taxes the same is just unrealistic. A small increase in tax for a better or certainly no worse service would be far more preferable. With huge increases in living costs else where, it seems surreal to expect local taxes to effectively reduce. The cutbacks so far to critical local services are of grave concern to locals.	Dec 22, 2013 4:45 PM
29	Most people are financially stretched and will find it difficult to pay a lot more but I would understand if there has to be a small increase.	Dec 22, 2013 4:08 PM
30	A small increase spread across all tax payers would provide sufficient to maintain key services	Dec 22, 2013 3:06 PM
31	Certainly no increases.	Dec 22, 2013 1:06 PM
32	In the financial climate we are in at the moment people find it very difficult to find the money for any more increases in their bills, food, energy supplies some families don't have a very big income. We too struggle we are pensioners and there are many more like us. [No increase]	Dec 22, 2013 11:39 AM
33	The gates and fencing at Grafton Underwood St.James Church were showing signs of rot, covered in Lichens, and Moss. Four dry days were forecast. I wire brushed them down, and gave two coats of Cuprinole in a lighter colour that blended with the colours in the stonework of the Church. If waged persons had done this they would have wanted £15 an hour plus materials and travel costs. I therefore saved the community £158 and have asked for this sum to be recorded in the Minutes of the next Parish Council meeting. Other people do voluntary work on conservation in the village. I think all these savings should be recorded, as they add up. This is not money that the County Council have to pay out. Its money that will not have to be paid out in future years. Walls, fences, window frames, trees, all little jobs people can do if N.C.C. set up a Conservation Volunteers Scheme to appreciate the financial saving they can effect by just a little work when the weather is right. It should be recorded in appreciation. [not NBC]	Dec 22, 2013 7:59 AM
34	This helps everyone and for that reason should stay. [No increase]	Dec 21, 2013 11:23 PM
35	With other things going up this would have been the last straw as with all the cuts in service and to cost more [No increase]	Dec 21, 2013 6:50 PM
36	Would support small increases to fund services that improve residents lives	Dec 21, 2013 4:30 AM
37	I feel that if you are to maintain services some increase must be made. However all wastage should be cut out first. [Increase]	Dec 20, 2013 3:32 PM
38	I do not work for the council but I am deeply concerned for the lives of Northampton Borough Council staff who face changes to their working terms and conditions. I think it is right and proper that senior staff members have their salaries reviewed. However this must be taken in context with their professional skills that come at a cost and need to be fairly maintained as a service that requires a need for such professionalism. I also believe that senior staff are paid a living wage that is required to maintain a standard of living in our economical climate. Therefore is it ethical for that to be compromised when a majority are	Dec 20, 2013 10:42 AM

Page 2, Q1. Despite the significant financial pressures faced by the Council, Council Tax levels have not been increased since 2010.

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

unable to achieve a living wage. This county needs its professionals and they should be kept at the price that their years of academic study is befitting their dedication. I believe that if front line services are cut or people are expected to do more for less then the affect to people within the council could be disengaging and potentially cost the council more in the long run, since many experienced staff may seek employment elsewhere and lack of experience can and does cost money. Current staff perhaps should remain on their original terms and conditions, whilst new staff entering should be employed on new terms and conditions if required. However despite difficult financial times for all families of the borough I am part of a family that would be willing to pay £5.00 more a month or £60 a year regardless of the hardship in order to preserve the vital services that I think the council should retain and improve for excellence. I do not think austerity of these services is a solution. I think it creates problems that will need financial assistance once more resources become available. One can only cut back so much. If the council agree to instruct an ALMO for the running and maintainance of its housing services is this not already a cost cutting exercise and are the staff members of the council already having to deal with a great deal of change. This county needs its services more than ever now. The town is struggling despite its massive enterprise scheme. Commerce needs time to reap financial prosperity for the town but it cannot be the only measure to restore a broken town. It also requires the services that people give in order to nurture the town and its people especially in the face of hardship and need. It might be a fabulous accolade to state that the town is freezing all council tax bills but I think this is misguided and at what real cost. I dont believe this saving will drive people into the town to spend as disposable income. People only realise the worth of services when they are gone and they are difficult to reinstate cheeply. Make a small rise and do it for the right reasons especially the protection of your employees.

39	I believe that Council Tax is important but Is a big difficultie to pay for most families.So my answer to that is, You pay less council tax but get less benefits.I don't know if that is possible, but its an option.	Dec 19, 2013 9:10 PM
40	Happy to pay more to keep essential services [Increase]	Dec 19, 2013 6:49 PM
41	My wife and I know a great many people in Northampton and we know that almost all our acquaintances are already struggling to pay increased utility bills. So an increase in council tax would push people into even greater poverty. We also know of a lot of working people who are increasingly reliant on food banks so an increase in council tax would be a disaster for those working people . However we shouldn't mask the fact that the coalition government has cut funding for council tax and they know this cut affects poor people much more than it affects wealthy people. [No increase]	Dec 19, 2013 6:31 PM
42	It will just be storing up problems for future years. Council tax must keep pace with the rate of inflation, or the douncil's continuing spiral of cuts to make the books balance will never end. [Increase]	Dec 19, 2013 12:40 PM
43	the thought that you may put a charge of one pound, for every trip to the recycling centre, just does not make sense all it will do more than double the fly tipping that we have now. [not NBC]	Dec 19, 2013 12:35 PM
44	I would not mind an increase in my tax if this meant protecting services [Increase]	Dec 19, 2013 12:03 PM
45	impossible without sum extra cuts. we must be careful not to destroy our basic infrastructures and management systems. The most vulnerable need protection from rising costs but I do not include benefit claimants in this category. [Increase]	Dec 19, 2013 11:22 AM
46	Other than empty bins, I'm not sure what I actually get for my council tax. Services seem to be reducing - I never see park wardens or other representatives of the borough	Dec 19, 2013 10:20 AM
47	Family's are struggling all across northampton and could do with a decrease in council tax. [Decrease]	Dec 19, 2013 10:17 AM
48	We are all having to keep our costs to a minimum and any rise is crippling. [No increase]	Dec 19, 2013 9:53 AM

Page 2, Q1. Despite the significant financial pressures faced by the Council, Council Tax levels have not been increased since 2010. The Council is considering keeping council tax levels the same for 2014/15. Do you agree or disagree with this approach?

49 With economic climate as it is then a rise could cause financial burden on tax payers it would be better to get all the outstanding Council Tax from the no paying residents in which would lesson this debt Dec 19, 2013 9:47 AM

50 I would rather pay a little more and have decent services. Dec 19, 2013 9:45 AM

Page 3, Q1. 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 ...

1	Don't offer free parking. This will not increase trade. Business incentive. what about incentivising your staff? Stupid projects like parking signs at nearly .5 million and 3 million to open up Abington Street. Are you mad? Neighbourhood wardens. What a waste of money. Make an additional payment to the Police Authority to provide proper police officers Museums. Why increase opening hours? Review management Maintain staff conditions or you will get nothing done. It is not fair that staff are treated in the way that they have been in the recent past, with cover ups and threats. Maintain their conditions.	Jan 31, 2014 12:44 PM
2	Increasing neighborhood wardens and increasing the opening hours of museums should not take place at the expense of job losses or changes in terms and conditions of existing staff. I do not support budget proposals.	Jan 31, 2014 11:45 AM
3	I don't think people mind paying for parking provided the fee is not extortionate. Instead of free parking for 2 hours why not charge 50p. Most people would not mind a flat fee of this amount. It is a reasonable cost for parking (and cheaper than MK). Increase the opening hours of our museums is a good idea but why dont NBC market them properly as conference or wedding venues. Thousands of pounds could be raised this way. Staff terms and conditions should also be assessed. If staff do not require their cars for work then a charge for parking is acceptable. If staff are required to use thier car for work purposes then charging for parking as well as removing the essential car users allowance is not acceptable. The Neighbourhood Wardens/Park Rangers do a vital job and we should employ more people.	Jan 31, 2014 11:06 AM
4	Free Parking - Advertise more so people are encouraged to visit town more often. Try free advertising - eye catching banners on car park sites, posters in NBC buildings, get a slot on Radio Northampton. Additional warden and vehicle - work smarter with the ones you already have. Museum opening - great idea to open on Sunday afternoon and extend opening of Abington Museum - make sure it is advertised well. Try free advertising - eye catching banners at museums, posters in NBC buildings, get a slot on Radio Northampton Senior Management savings and review - dont fill empty positions with agency or consultancy staff.	Jan 31, 2014 10:48 AM
5	Free parking is an important consideration if Northampton town centre is to compete with other town centres and out of town schemes. [Parking]	Jan 30, 2014 4:04 PM
6	Do not agree with extended free parking incentives, the public expect to pay for parking whenever you shop in a town center. Do not agree with money being thrown at Delapre abbey, when a grade 1 listed building(Abington Museum) owned and maintained by the Borough council that the people of Northampton actually do love to spend time in and the surrounding parkland is being left to decay beyond repair.How many people visit Delapre on a weekend compared to Abington Park???? Agree entirely with the Senior Management review,the term too many cooks not enough indians comes to mind. Agree more Park rangers needed or at least the ones we have got working full time,but do not agree a Park ranger is needed for Delapre,as a frequent user of Delapre i barely see anyone there or if so dog walkers!! [Parking]	Jan 30, 2014 3:04 PM
7	Staff Terms and Conditions - this was only recently looked at in the pay and grading, then staff morale was so low that services suffered. By charging us for parking, removing Special Leave, considering Annual Leave and pay performance and the other issues you are just dropping morale even lower and telling staff that you care nothing about them and their comittment to the Council. Some of us have served this Council and Northampton for many years - 22 years for myself, and I am committed to providing a brilliant service, also the knowledge I have gained at this Council over these years in various different jobs in invaluable, all you are doing is not make the likes of myself want to stay or want to serve the Residents of Northampton, you are pushing us out and you will eventually loose all the years of knowledge gained by these long serving and loyal members of staff and end up with staff who know nothing and have no interest in Northampton or the Borough Council itself. [Parking] [Staff]	Jan 30, 2014 1:46 PM
8	Capital Budget projects and investment. Why, in these chalenging times, are we spending £13,663,567. Surely the council should be saving this money until the financial situation improves and using this money for more immediate problems like maintaining roads and facilities and on helping the communities to actually	Jan 30, 2014 12:30 PM

Page 3, Q1. 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 ...

	live day to day. [capital projects]	
9	Why should staff members have to pay and suffer for the shortfall in the budgets that have been brought on by the politicians. The staff have had a pay freeze for 3 years which is in effect a pay reduction in real terms. Why do the public get free parking when plans are to charge staff for parking. The staff received a 1% pay increase this year which will be taken away with this charge [Parking] [Staff]	Jan 30, 2014 11:25 AM
10	I	Jan 30, 2014 11:22 AM
11	<p>•Increase opening hours of Northampton Borough Council's museums Extending the opening hours of the museums will not be good value for money. Abington Park Museum is run down and visitors either will not visit if there is nothing new to see or be very disappointed when they visit and find that the exhibits are tired and have not changed. This will invite criticism from the public and we will be having to justify the expenditure. The money would be better spent on improving the exhibits or the building of Abington Park Museum rather than opening a dilapidated building for more days or longer hours. Visitors are unlikely to visit Northampton Museum & Art Gallery on a Monday if there are no other visitor attractions to visit in that area. All Museums have one day when they are closed to the public to carry our exhibition changeover and essential maintenance that cannot be done whilst the building is open. Again the suggestion would be to invest the money in other ways. •Capital budget projects and investment Disappointed that Delapre Abbey receives so much funding from the Council, whilst it neglects it's other beautiful building Abington Park Museum. For a council who puts so much emphasis on heritage surely it should consider directing some of these funds to it's other listed buildings. Suggest redirecting money into refurbishing Abington Park Museum. Spending so much money on the Cultural Quarter will not 'establish the identity of the area'. The area needs to grow naturally through better promotion of the venues and their activities. Currently there is insufficient investment in the venues in terms of marketing and promotion of these venues and their activities. You cannot enforce an identity and spending money will not make it happen. Suggest money is redirected into better publicity rather than creating an identity for a few streets. [museums] [capital projects]</p>	Jan 30, 2014 10:58 AM
12	I do not think it is necessary to increase the opening hours of NBC's museums, it is not a priority, priority should be with public services directly affecting NBC residents and not cutting the staff terms and conditions. [Staff] [museums]	Jan 30, 2014 10:48 AM
13	I agree with the business incentive scheme and think this should be extended as we need more businesses and higher quality shops and until this is achieved there is little point in making the parking free as people will go out of town to shop as Northampton has very little to offer for shoppers. Low cost incentive schemes to promote the good shops we do have would be of great benefit such as a shop local shop independent campaign. Investment in the cultural quarter is commendable as long as the support for the institutions that are part of the quarter is in place and incentives are put in place to encourage other cultural experience in the area. Increasing opening hours of the town's Abington museum is of little help when the museum has been steadily underfunded over successive years there needs to be investment to provide an experience that the extra visitors will want to see. [museums] [business incentive]	Jan 30, 2014 10:40 AM
14	Extend Free Parking, Although it is important to encourage spending within Northampton, i do not agree that extending parking at this time will largely benefit the town, once the town improvements Abington street and the Grovsnor extention are underway then i would tend to agree the benefits would be realised. We should be encouraging public transport with the view of utilising the new bus station - park and ride scheme? [Parking]	Jan 30, 2014 10:36 AM
15	FREE PARKING STAFF CUTS [Parking]	Jan 30, 2014 10:33 AM
16	Increase opening hours of museums I don't see this money being of significant benefit to Northampton in this present economic climate. This money would be better spent improving or promoting the town centre, for example by giving funding to local crafts people to utilise the empty shops in Northampton. The museum is lovely and should be encouraged, however I feel the additional opening hours should be considered once the town centre is a thriving again.	Jan 30, 2014 10:20 AM

Page 3, Q1. 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 ...

17	Staffing levels at the Museum are all ready stretched. Increasing the opening hours will require extra staff. I agree that the Museum should be open longer but staff there already work well above there weekly hours. Great to see the investment in the cultural Quarter. Keeping the parks clean and safe is definitely a top priority.	Jan 30, 2014 10:17 AM
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Extended free parking including every Saturday and 2 hours free during the week - If people really cant afford £1.20 to park for 2 hours then what exactly are you expecting them to be spending in the Town shops. £1.20 is affordable to all. Car parks need maintainign and repairing what will be used to fund that? •Business incentive scheme - Great idea lower rates and rents •Capital budget projects and investment- ok if affordable and not at the costs of jobs •Providing an additional neighbourhood warden, two park rangers and a new vehicle - This needs to be open and transparent and show the benefits of the wardens and what the community gain through having this additional resource •Increase opening hours of Northampton Borough Council's museums - If footfall demands it then I dont have a problem [Parking] 	Jan 30, 2014 10:13 AM
19	Not bothered about the neighbourhood warden or park wardens....	Jan 30, 2014 9:59 AM
20	I am absolutely against the expenditure on Abington St which will be a drag on spending for years to come and will do nothing except annoy and endanger pedestrians. It will merely be a rat run and will do nothing to further the use of Abington St. I am also against the relocation of the bus station and the massive expenditure that will be spent on the demolition of the old one at great expense, when the old one could have had similar levels of investment to bring it up to scratch. I sincerely hope that these are not PFI schemes which are terrible value for money in the long term. I am not sure how Senior Managers are defined, but departments do need them. It is too easy to imply that they are overpaid bureaucrats but good managers are needed to direct and run our services. Charging staff for parking is effectively cutting their salaries, as parking charges are high in the town, and given many of them will be on relatively low pay this shouldn't happen. Cutting staff will reduce services to the public and will adversely affect both the individuals concerned and the economy of Northampton.	Jan 30, 2014 9:33 AM
21	Not sure your business incentive plans are sound and could not see how they would deliver. Prove me wrong!	Jan 30, 2014 7:06 AM
22	(...)	Jan 29, 2014 4:57 PM
23	this is a start to help balance the books and keep our head above water. Staff terms and conditions need some very serious thought.	Jan 29, 2014 11:32 AM
24	capital budget projects and investment. Think that these should be looked at carefully, with the high unemployment levels (particularly among young people in the town) this can get particularly out of control	Jan 29, 2014 11:24 AM
25	Priority order: 1-Business incentive scheme; 2-Providing an additional neighbourhood warden, two park rangers and a new vehicle; 3-Maintaining the investment of small community grants; 4-Capital budget projects and investment-NOT Abington St; 5-Extended free parking including every Saturday and 2 hours free during the week; Senior management savings and review-NO; Staff terms and conditions-NO;	Jan 29, 2014 11:03 AM
26	It's tricky, but we think the only way to reduce expenditure in a meaningful way is to reduce management and staff costs. It's your duty to look after the town so other cost-savings are not viable. The other savings would be small by comparison although the extended free parking isn't absolutely necessary, not are the additional wardens, rangers and new vehicle which could be introduced when times are better.	Jan 28, 2014 5:12 PM
27	As the infrastructure support for Northampton we are extremely pleased to see the commitment of the Borough Council to the the community grants program and investment in the voluntary sector. At a time when the sector most needs	Jan 28, 2014 10:19 AM

Page 3, Q1. 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 ...

	support and investment because of increasing demand it is encouraging to see that NBC is being so forward in their thinking. We fully support these proposals.	
28	staff terms and conditions. You don't really say whats involved so how can we comment.	Jan 27, 2014 8:14 AM
29	How do you expect to run an efficient Council if your staff are demoralised by constant attacks from Politically-motivated Councillors?	Jan 24, 2014 4:43 PM
30	For this coming year CUT down completely on any capital projects and investments , and just concentrate and manage in full filling all the outstanding committments and just stay within the current budget framework. NO NEED TO OPEN MUSEUM HOURS , IT DOES NOT SERVE ANY PURPOSE , THIS IS NOT A TOURIST TOWN. Why is NBC making such a big fuss about parking issues ? This town has NO enforcement , all the foreigners control and get away with parking every where , one of the worst towns where special treatment is accorded to all the foreigners , just look at your Kettering Road , and Abington Square junction , is ruled by the Interner Cafes m= , who park in corner , double yellow for every evening.	Jan 24, 2014 2:35 PM
31	I'm a bit confused about the "Senior management savings and review" proposal. It doesn't actually say what you mean to do - it just says what you've already done. How can we answer a question if it's not been asked? It says "The cost of senior management at Northampton Borough Council has reduced by more than 40% over the last three years. Since 2010/11, the number of senior managers has been cut from 21 to 10."	Jan 20, 2014 11:48 AM
32	See previous comments re changes to staff terms and conditions. Continuing to demoralise and dis-incentivise working for NBC will only result in a lower performing, unhappy, and uncommitted workforce. [Staff]	Jan 13, 2014 9:30 AM
33	Please disregard the following 3: Providing an additional neighbourhood warden, two park rangers and a new vehicle Increase opening hours of Northampton Borough Council's museums Senior management savings and review The remaining 6 are absolutely vital. I also suggest a full independent investigation into all contracts agreed by the Council over the last 5 years and a full audit into any and all payments into currently or formerly serving members of the Council.	Jan 13, 2014 9:07 AM
34	Stop wasting money on unwanted projects I.e bus interchange.money could have been used to the roads which are getting in some places so bad that they close to being unsafe.	Jan 9, 2014 6:33 PM
35	Capital projects should proceed only where the budget exists to fund them. We should not be borrowing more and increasing our debt. Projects such as re-opening Abington Street are window dressing for elections - they are not wanted by this community and are costing us money we don't have. Stop it now. Senior Management review is all well and good, but there is only so much you can shave off and body before you begin to cut the skin and shed blood - proceed with great caution on this. Staff terms and conditions have been constantly under attack through national pensions cuts and recalculations. If we are not careful we will end up creating even more dependency upon the state among our elderly population in years to come. Manage your staff effectively, cut out waste by all means, but there is a huge proportion of people working for the Council that work way over and above their requirements. Don't punish those people with a blanket cut in conditions - that's completely unfair.	Jan 9, 2014 1:49 PM
36	Agree Agree Agree Agree with neighbourhood warden, disagree with others Agree No comment Agree Disagree *** Detail below added by CT 7/1 to clarify response *** Extended free parking - agree. Business incentive scheme - agree. Capital budget projects and investment - agree. Additional neighbourhood warden, park rangers and a new vehicle - agree but Warden only. Increase opening hours of museums - agree. Maintaining the investment of small community grants - no comment. Senior management savings and review - agree. Staff terms and conditions - disagree.	Jan 7, 2014 11:40 AM
37	there is no point in extending museum hours unless proper signage is put up throughout the town. [museums]	Jan 6, 2014 10:41 AM

Page 3, Q1. 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.

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38	Senior management savings and review - I realise the council has made saving through LGSS - but other areas/systems could be consolidated. [Managers]	Jan 2, 2014 11:57 AM
39	You have to look after the staff you have left else you will be back hiring consultants again at a much higher cost [Staff]	Dec 31, 2013 5:31 AM
40	cut down on capital projects cut down n museum hours - don't really need it. cut down on commubniyu grants for few years now remove more senior managers staff terms - bring it in line with private industry , cut down the wastage and unproductive staff. [Staff] [Managers] [museums] [capital projects]	Dec 25, 2013 5:49 PM
41	Work being carried out in Northampton at the moment is being noticed by many people. Hopefully the growth being created will soon take up any shortfall in budget.	Dec 24, 2013 9:46 AM
42	Extended free parking [Parking]	Dec 23, 2013 7:50 PM
43	I think that whilst popular to review and reduce senior management positions it is unlikely to produce the level of savings required. All processes should be examined with a view to removing unnecessary labour. I dont suport the opening of the museums for an extra day as I am unsure that this will increase the number of people visiting the town. I support the terms and conditions review to bring NBC staff in line with private sector arrangements. I support the drive to increase investment through financial support and providing a more pleasant environment. [Staff]	Dec 23, 2013 2:53 PM
44	All of the above seem to be laudable aims and should help the poor state of the town centre.	Dec 22, 2013 5:51 PM
45	I think the free car parking incentive is of very little merit or interest to most people. Shopping in the town centre is a huge and complex can of worms. There is nothing in the town to make ppl want to shop there. irrespective of parking charges. The damage has already happened in the town centre, free parking isnt going to have a major effect on the lack of suitable shopping. Free parking is a bit too late, ie: after the damage. Maybe a different policy of free parking for the first hour all week? Pay as you exit like the Mayorhold is a much more less stressful solution to shoppers. No parking tickets !! Expand pay as you exit to all car parks. The single most important factor to bring shoppers back into town is to give the centre a deep clean. The smell or stale urine in town is enough to keep shoppers away. No one wants to come and be in that smell and it is all over the town centre and not just confined to the alleyways from the market square. Really badly needs to be sorted ! The rest of the points on this section I cannot comment with no information.	Dec 22, 2013 5:08 PM
46	When will you finish restructuring? will that ever end? It cannot be good for morale	Dec 22, 2013 3:12 PM
47	Extended free parking, didn't know about this. Who does this benefit?	Dec 22, 2013 11:45 AM
48	I have commented on the previous page and would like this to added to your list.	Dec 22, 2013 8:00 AM
49	Free parking is the one thing that will get the town back on its feet and is critical if Northampton wants to move forward without all the empty shops we have currently and more people using the town. The biggest store in the Grovenor is leaving what more evidence do you need.	Dec 21, 2013 11:30 PM
50	I think most of these sound like a good idea. I have not had time to review the draft budget proposals and background information, but it is a very good idea to review all services and costs and to look at savings that could be made and also to do some lateral thinking and find better, more flexible ways of doing things. This could mean asking the views of people who are largely unfamiliar with your existing practices - so that fresh approaches can be considered.	Dec 21, 2013 10:41 PM
51	In order to develop neighbourhood initiatives I support the extension of warden and ranger schemes and also community grants	Dec 21, 2013 4:33 AM
52	I think that a lot of savings could be made on staff costs which are in some cases overly generous. The business incentive is good as this is the only real way we	Dec 20, 2013 3:46 PM

Page 3, Q1. 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.

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	will advance. I think that some of the expenses of the senior staff and councillors are excessive and should be reviewed as should the "perks".	
53	Keep current staff terms and conditions, they are still providing an excellent service even as the council staff numbers are reduced. As a form of gratitude, they deserve something for their efforts. Look closer at staff who want voluntary redundancy, why keep staff that don't want to be there, it could make the authority more efficient with staff who WANT to be there. If there is scope for reduced management but no reduction in performance, then this could be an option, although you dont want managers with loads of staff to appraise and do 1:1s but no time to actually manage their service Trial extended hours during half terms and school breaks. Keep 2 hrs free on car parks	Dec 20, 2013 1:33 PM
54	Retain all services that are vital for the towns welfare. Without question continue with all regeneration projects. Unemployment and deprivation affects everyone. Contraversial but raise taxes. We all need to invest to protect our town.	Dec 20, 2013 12:06 PM
55	Your options appear to require councillors to make decisions without any attempt to understand what the impacts might be. To say it's too early to have any idea what the impacts might be about for example volunteers running and delivering services, or about removing the possibility of leave in family emergencies or flexitime, is ridiculous when you have given figures. I wonder what the Equality and Human Rights Commission would make of this - you even say you haven't considered equality impacts in your so-called community impact assessments and claiming you can in one brush stroke talk simply about 'our customers' is ridiculous.	Dec 20, 2013 10:40 AM
56	Parks for childrens for the communities, there should be more.	Dec 19, 2013 9:43 PM
57	This, seems one of the better soloutions	Dec 19, 2013 8:10 PM
58	Happy with parking proposals Please take care not to decimate your staff Not happy with your council tax scheme at 15percent	Dec 19, 2013 6:51 PM
59	why on earth would you increase the hours of museums etc when it is not a statutory service and are not experiencing an over demand issues. It is always staff reductions and T&C that are attacked, not members remuneration or an effort to stop doing certain taks or services that may not be priority.	Dec 19, 2013 3:41 PM
60	Concerned at the reopening of Abington Street for traffic. Think it is a costly and unnecessary move. It will deter people rather than bring them in to the town centre Keep it pedestrian. The free parking will improve footfall in the town, though if it had been done earlier we might not have seen such a demise in customers for town shops. The problem will then be that the lack of parking places will soon become apparent. It is getting progressively more difficult for the elderly to be able to visit the Royal and Derngate any evening. When the hotel and student accomodation are built it will become a real problem, especially for the elderly who can't walk distances or easily climb stairs in multi-storey parks. Other lovely parks do exist, other than the three you concentrate on. Is one part time person adequate to service all the others...why not a fairer and more even share-out.	Dec 19, 2013 3:16 PM
61	The first six items are expenditures the council cannot afford, when there is a budget shortfall of £3.4 million. How many senior managers will have to go to make the books balance, will this save £3.4 million and who will be left to run the council?	Dec 19, 2013 12:44 PM
62	I like the proposed changes to free parking. I would remove the small community grants pot in its current form. I believe that were services are key, the council should provide them or commission them. Please look after your staff. They are key to you being able to do your job.	Dec 19, 2013 12:05 PM
63	why are we paying to demolish greyfriars. we have no real commitment for its redevelopment yet and with HOF moving out to be replaced with low cost clothing stores the Grosvenor Centre is maintaining its downward spiral of attractiveness caused mainly by the dithering of L&G [?] in the last 3 years. Staffing levels should be kept at current numbers. Much better to pay staff than to spend monies that only enrich shareholders eg demolition company. Staff pay	Dec 19, 2013 11:33 AM

Page 3, Q1. 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.

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taxes and spend money helping businesses. [Staff] [Town]

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------------|
| 64 | I agree to Senior management savings. Staff terms and conditions are overly generous compared to non government workers. Money could be saved by not moving departments to different buildings every few years. The expence of stationery, equipment, and transport must be huge and the services do not improve. [Staff] [Managers] | Dec 19, 2013 11:00 AM |
| 65 | Free parking is a great idea Providing additional wardens or park rangers depends on their objectives and how they are monitored, based on current performance this is at least two more people who will be sat in a shed drinking tea From my experiences of council management, the management tiers need reviewing and the committee process needs several layers of red tape removing [Parking] [Wardens] [Staff] | Dec 19, 2013 10:27 AM |
| 66 | Other than the free parking, how are any of the options above relevant to the modern day family? All are pointless and the changes will only affect a minority. [Parking] | Dec 19, 2013 10:25 AM |
| 67 | Any reduction in parking costs has to be sensible for the sake of the town centre which is slowly collapsing in on itself. There is no incentive for ordinary people to visit the town. I am not sure what is meant by capital budget projects and investments, I believe the town needs completely redesigning thanks to years of mish mash developments without an overall plan. I have always thought that senior executives in the Council are too highly paid for what they achieve. I am not qualified to comment on staff terms and conditions as I have no idea what they are. [Parking] [Town] | Dec 19, 2013 10:01 AM |
| 68 | Management and staffing There are too many who do not know how to run a department and do not manage. They need to be able to be able to give direction and not have to get outside Consultants in at extra cost to tell them what to do.Councils are a business which has a defined amount of money given to it and MUST balance how this is distributed to ensure it does not overspend. If they cannot do this then they should not be in that position [Staff] | Dec 19, 2013 9:57 AM |
| 69 | Free parking on Saturday could be for a set number of hours rather than all day (longer stays would therefore generate revenue) to encourage people to pop in to the town centre and not just use it for longer shopping trips. This is then enhanced by the all day free Sunday parking opportunity. Increase the events and activities held at the Museums, encourage grander exhibitions (local artists as well as the better known national collections). [Parking] | Dec 19, 2013 9:24 AM |

Page 3, Q2. 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?

1	Get rid of the police Commisioner and his sycophants. Invest in your existing staff to properly recognise those that work. Sack neighborhood wardens because they're pointless. Don't waste money on stupid, unnecessary infrastructure projects that we don't need, like parking signs and Abington Street.	Jan 31, 2014 12:44 PM
2	Do not reopen Abington Street to traffic this should save c. £3m. This is ridiculous when only £300,000 would ensure your staff are adequately funded.	Jan 31, 2014 11:45 AM
3	Instead of free parking for 2 hours why not charge 50p. Most people would not mind a flat fee of this amount. It is a reasonable cost for parking (and cheaper than MK). The Church of St Peter and St Paul in Abington Park is very busy with weddings every Summer. With The Museum next door, this could be a perfect wedding venue with minimum investment. With the reburishment of Delapre Abbey, this is also a perfect Wedding/Conference Venue.	Jan 31, 2014 11:06 AM
4	keep our terms and conditions as they are, keep our free parking. Up the price of the parking in Northampton rather than give free parking, don't change Abington Street, changing that back to a road is a stupid idea and an extremely huge waste of money!	Jan 30, 2014 1:46 PM
5	Don't spend the £13,663,567 on frivolous projects. Maintain, save and when the financial situation in the country improves then spend this budget.	Jan 30, 2014 12:30 PM
6	Do not give free parking at week-ends and 2 hours during the week Cut the number of expensive agency workers operating in the NBC.	Jan 30, 2014 11:25 AM
7	I do think funding needs to start in town centre shopping before we offer free car parking. the issues we have are all stores coming into the town are cheap and makes the town look cheap and grim.	Jan 30, 2014 11:22 AM
8	Currently NBC use a service called First Care a nurse advice service that staff have to phone when phoning in sick as well as phoning their team to advise of sickness. This is a total waste of time and money and is of no benefit whatsoever to employees that are ill and I dread to think how much this costs NBC every year as no one is advised of the cost of this to NBC and taxpayers!!!	Jan 30, 2014 10:48 AM
9	Staff Savings It is a contradiction to charge staff parking, whilst offering the public free parking, where is the equalities in this notion, staff will park off site and income will not be realised.	Jan 30, 2014 10:36 AM
10	LET THE CHARGES FOR PARKING STAND. or INCREASE. (if people can afford to drive to town they can afford reasonable parking charges.) also Adequate public transport. (New bus station.). STAFFING LEVELS ARE ALREADY CUT AND STAFF ARE NOW OVERSTRESSED DUE TO SHORTAGE OF STAFF. THIS INVARIABLY IMPACTS ON THE CUSTOMER.(Negatively).	Jan 30, 2014 10:33 AM
11	How about restructuring the lower level management. It is obvious that this is where we are weakest. Some managers are doing way too much and some managers do not manager anyone? I have been told that this was an almost unanimous comment in the Investors in people feedback sessions.	Jan 30, 2014 10:17 AM
12	If you want to encourage people into town you should try to do so for longer, so keep the 2 hour tariffs and reduce the all day rate to £4 or £5 this also benefits those working in the Town centre that are forced to pay it or park illegally in alley ways etc	Jan 30, 2014 10:13 AM
13	switch the street lights back on before a disaster happens.	Jan 30, 2014 9:59 AM
14	Stopping the Abington St scheme would save £3 million in the long term. Put up council tax. Maintain 1 hour free parking rather than extend to 2.	Jan 30, 2014 9:33 AM
15	Cut repairs for Fountain on Market Square, £50,000 is too much	Jan 30, 2014 9:26 AM
16	(...)	Jan 29, 2014 4:57 PM
17	wish I could tell you. However we don't have the previous full knowledge of how you arrived where you are now, which is just the tip of the iceberg. *** original paper copy difficult to read ***	Jan 29, 2014 11:32 AM
18	A business incentive scheme sounds a good idea, the number of shops that	Jan 29, 2014 11:24 AM

Page 3, Q2. 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?

	become vacant is too high. Likewise a number of shops for older people need to be undertaken, at the moment only the young seem to being catered for; ***quite difficult to read original paper copy***	
19	Tell us the actual options so we can comment	Jan 27, 2014 8:14 AM
20	Increase rents across Northampton BC properties to help offset any cuts. Increase Council Tax to offset cuts. Dip into reserves.	Jan 24, 2014 4:43 PM
21	Yes , if you have a better sustainable transport , better access , and full law of enforcement on double yellow , make it a friendly , place where there is NO FEAR , then you get more people come here , spend , and you get bigger revenue.	Jan 24, 2014 2:35 PM
22	Build 10,000 new Council homes to ensure rent benefits the Council.	Jan 13, 2014 9:07 AM
23	Cut the salaries of all staff being paid over £100,000 by 50 percent	Jan 9, 2014 6:33 PM
24	Greater partnership working both on delivery and shared services	Jan 9, 2014 4:55 PM
25	Hold a meaningful dialogue with your workers and listen to their professional opinions - it's what they have trained for and have integrity in. Much waste is incurred by work being done over again due to professional work, opinion and recommendation being swept away in favour of a quick policial win for the Leader of the Council.	Jan 9, 2014 1:49 PM
26	Review sellers to the council and ensure you're getting best value. Invest more time, money and thought in getting the right staff instead of hiring extremely expensive consultants. See where else the council can go green and save on utilities bills etc., as this is where most people would look to reduce costs at home.	Jan 7, 2014 11:40 AM
27	There was a specific promise from Cllr Mackintosh that the question of Discretionary Rate Relief for Working Men's Clubs would be revisited for 2014/15 budget consideration	Jan 6, 2014 10:41 AM
28	For example I believe Luton intend to move away from Carefirst for children's/adults services - via Civica. A wider circle of councils could collaborate in these areas where systems fail to deliver the future requirements. Also when I worked at NCC we consolidated the CYPS processes to a best practice approach - again there could be national best practice processes for key areas - this would make it easier for staff - e.g. social workers - to move from one geographic area to another - knowing that the council works in exactly the same way as their former employer. [Not NBC]	Jan 2, 2014 11:57 AM
29	It is good that car parks are being made more affordable for shoppers, but there is also a need to have a business rate for people who work in the town centre on Monday to Friday. The lack of cheap parking means that small businesses are unlikely to want to locate to the town centre, when there are plenty of out-of-town commercial parks with free on-site parking. Bringing businesses to the town centre also brings employees, who will then be spending in the centre. Rather than free shoppers parking, could this be offered at a reduced rate (competitive with MK, Leicester etc) and then have a much more attractive business discount for Monday to Friday all-day parking?	Dec 30, 2013 4:02 PM
30	increase parking enforcement specially arounf BRADSHAW STREET , where taxis rule OK. cut down on your road safety , travel advisors staff , who do not seem to perform.	Dec 25, 2013 5:49 PM
31	One of the things that happened to me recently was a speeding ticket !! Not excessive speed and not endangering anyone. It seems that the police are upping their income by creating an empire of road safety by catching all and sundry. I took the option of the training course. There were 24 people on my course at £90 each. Thats an awfull lot of money that will not be spent in the shops. By their own admission the cost could be done for £50 so it has nothing to do with road safety more to do with income creation and empire building. I know that this is county Council/Police based but for every £1 taken by "fines" or courses its £1 not spent in Northampton. [Not NBC]	Dec 24, 2013 9:46 AM
32	Dont assume that a reduction in budget immediately leads to a reduction in front line service. I think NBC should review all of its internal supply chains and make	Dec 23, 2013 2:53 PM

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	these as efficient as possible before even considering reducing the services provided to the public.	
33	Encourage more "proper shops" to come to the town centre not just charity £shops and not bookies and "money lenders". [incentivise retail]	Dec 22, 2013 5:51 PM
34	Reduce town centre business rates for shops and incentivise new retail tenants. ie: short term leases or community projects to fill empty shops. Deep clean the town centre to remove the smell of urine. Under new planning laws, change the unused offices above town centre shops to residential use. Student Accomodation or for young employed people = More town centre trade ! The town is desperate for housing. Appoint an "Empty Property Officer" ! Allow free 15 minute parking tickets like other town centres. Arriving at St Peters car park or the Grosvenor centre car park and you haven't got the right change? You have to leave, done it myself many a time. 15 minutes free parking allows you time to park and to get change in town and buy a ticket to do your proper shopping. [incentivise retail] [extend free parking] [empty property officer]	Dec 22, 2013 5:08 PM
35	See my previous entry.	Dec 22, 2013 8:00 AM
36	There is so much litter in the town and its surrounding environs.....get the unemployed clearing up the streets and hedgerows....will make Northampton a better place for everyone, at NO EXTRA COST!!!!!!!!!!!!!! [promote use of volunteers]	Dec 21, 2013 11:30 PM
37	If you are responsible for people in very high cost care homes then it might be wise to review some of these cases, particularly the ones where people with learning difficulties might be better placed in the community, with some help. This would save money and in many cases be a much better way of life for them. This would only be applicable in appropriate cases of course.	Dec 21, 2013 10:41 PM
38	Bring back speeding cameras, they would be self funding and would probably leave a income for the council as well as promoting safer driving. More should be done to collect rents for council properties. Tenants should also be responsible for keeping the outside areas clean and tidy, this would save some money as well as improving the look of the various estates.	Dec 20, 2013 3:46 PM
39	why not have a £1 all day for saturday - at least that way you have the possibility, should all spaces be full, make £4900, which as there are 52 of them in 2014 is potentially £254,800 look at the possibility of increasing the part time park rangers hours before increasing numbers What do existing neighbourhood wardens feel about additional staff - last time they had large numbers, they were cut by next administration	Dec 20, 2013 1:33 PM
40	I don't think you really want a genuine consideration. If you did, your budget options would be properly explained and considered.	Dec 20, 2013 10:40 AM
41	Put offenders to work, especially with the garbage .Work with communities resident groups, use volunteers to do some works in the community. Everyone , who can, should volunteer to help the community.Its our duty, if we don't help, we shouldn't receive anything from our council.Its my sincere opinion. [promote use of volunteers]	Dec 19, 2013 9:43 PM
42	reprioritise services and stop doin gthise that are not a priority.	Dec 19, 2013 3:41 PM
43	Cut down on unnecessary paperwork (and delivery of such). We have twice now had the leaflets telling us that our street lights were iminently going to be changed. Last time was early October...nothing. I presume we'll be told 3 or 4 more times before it actually happens. Save money by getting the collectors to treat the recycle bins with just a little respect. three of mine now damaged...two replaced, and it is because of they are so thrown around.	Dec 19, 2013 3:16 PM
44	Raise council tax by the rate of inflation. Stop funding private businesses who will never show the council tax payers of this town a return	Dec 19, 2013 12:44 PM
45	Stop wasting money on things like the fountains. the town can be enriched by using your own staff for planting of flowers and shrubbery.	Dec 19, 2013 11:33 AM
46	cut back on building and running costs and then more staff in vital departments could be employed. eg, social services.	Dec 19, 2013 11:00 AM

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47	Turning back on street lights means less use in the emergency services in all areas. [Not NBC]	Dec 19, 2013 10:25 AM
48	Instead of savings why not look into regeneration as a way of creating wealth.	Dec 19, 2013 10:01 AM
49	Cut managers and staff who cannot cut it and promote more able and financially aware staff in there place	Dec 19, 2013 9:57 AM