

### Extract from Overview and Scrutiny Minutes 28 January 2014

#### 4. DRAFT BUDGET 2014-2019

Councillor Alan Bottwood addressed the Committee and presented the report. Glen Hammons, Head of Corporate Finance confirmed that there were three budget items identified on the report which were print review, car parks and Delapre Abbey restoration.

##### **Print Review**

Julie Seddon Director of Customers and Communities addressed the Committee and confirmed that they had reviewed the potential options to reconsider the way the print material was used as it was not as efficient as it could be. They had reviewed other Local Authorities' best practise and would consider if it was more cost effective to deliver in house or out source. She confirmed that in the summer of 2014 Northamptonshire County Council would retender their own contract and there would be an option to be included in this as well. Members would be kept informed.

In response to a question from Councillor Winston Strachan, Julie Seddon confirmed that they were confident that savings could be achieved by year 1 and year 2. This Committee was a good example of operating with less paper as there were only two copies of the agenda available at the meeting. There would be a mixed approach for electronic and paperless meetings which would provide a large amount of savings. At each stage there would be an Equality Impact Assessment so people would be able to have their say.

##### **Car Parks**

Julie Seddon confirmed that they recognised that there was a need for people to come into the town centre and the car park charges would have an impact on their budget and encourage people into the town centre. She confirmed that the Saturday before Christmas 2013 all of the car parks in the town centre were full and the town centre was thriving. The initiatives had an impact on people's behaviour.

In response to a question from Councillor Winston Strachan, Julie Seddon confirmed that the car park initiative was sustainable and had been built into the budget until 2019. There was further discussion on lowering business rates and improving the appearance of the town centre.

Councillor Joy Capstick supported the car park initiative and suggested that park and ride be considered again to make the town centre more vibrant and less traffic.