



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

24 February 2014

Agenda Status: PUBLIC

Directorate: Management Board

Report Title	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget, Rent Setting 2014/15 and Budget Projections 2015/16 to 2018/19
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1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Approve the HRA 2014/15 budget and the HRA forecasts for 2015/16 to 2018/19, rent increases, service charges and other charges for 2014/15 (summarised in **Appendix 3**).
- Provide a brief update on the ongoing work on the direction of the HRA.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council approve:

- a) An average rent increase of 5.55% per dwelling, in line with the Government's national rent and rent restructuring policy, with the last year of convergence being 2014/15, to take effect from 1st April 2014.
- b) The proposed service charges listed in Appendix D.

2.2 That Council approve the HRA budget for 2014/15 of £54.1m expenditure (including options detailed in Appendix A of the report).

2.3 That the Council acknowledges the issues and risks detailed in the Chief Finance Officer's statement on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of the reserves.

2.4 That authority be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer to make any technical changes necessary to the papers for the Council meeting of 24th February 2014.

2.5 That Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer to implement all budget options and restructures.

- 2.6 That Council delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, and where appropriate the relevant Director and Cabinet Member to:
- transfer monies to/from earmarked reserves should that become necessary during the financial year.
 - update the budget tables and appendices, prior to Council should any further changes be necessary.
 - update prudential indicators in both the Prudential Indicators report and Treasury Strategy report, for Council for any budget changes that impact on these.
- 2.7 That the Council confirm the reserves strategy of protecting balances wherever possible to allow the option of supporting future years' budgets, aiming for a minimum level of unallocated Housing Revenue Account balances of at least £5m for 2014/15 having regard to the outcome of the financial risk assessment and remaining at this level over the medium term.
- 2.8 That Council approve
- a) The Housing Revenue Account capital programme for 2014/15, including future year commitments, and proposed financing as set out in Appendix C.
 - b) That Cabinet be authorised, once the capital programme has been set, to approve new capital schemes and variations to existing schemes during 2014/15, subject to the funding being available and the schemes being in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Council.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 In the event that there are changes made in accordance with the delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer following Cabinet's meeting on the 20th February, updated appendices to the Cabinet report will be tabled reflecting these changes.
- 3.1.2 See also Cabinet report attached.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 See Cabinet report attached.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 See Cabinet report attached.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 See Cabinet report attached.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 See Cabinet report attached.

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 See Cabinet report attached.

5. Background Papers

5.1 See Cabinet report attached.

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