

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Strategic Management Team	Fwd Plan Ref A16/032	
Wards Affected	All	15th February 2017	
Title	DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2017/18 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY		

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Lesley Thurland

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is two-fold – firstly to provide any updates to the budget that have occurred since the last meeting, and secondly to report back comments that have been submitted during the budget consultation period (to date) to enable the Executive to: -

- a) reconsider the main budget issues and drivers and consider their impact on the medium term;
- b) make budget recommendations to full Council, including the recommended level of council tax for 2017/18;
- c) Formally approve the level of council house rents that will be charged for 2017/18.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Executive considered a comprehensive report on its initial budget proposals at its meeting of 18th January 2017. The report considered the draft proposals for the General Fund, Capital Programme, and Housing Revenue Account. Members are recommended to refer back to that report for the detailed background to this budget report – although the key budget issues are again referred to in this report, the detail of the budget is not.
- 2.2. The Council's formal budget consultation period has been running since 18th January 2017 and will end on the 1st March 2017 (when the Council formally sets the budgets).
- 2.3. Since the January Executive Committee, the draft budget proposals have been discussed at a number of meetings including the formal Budget Consultation event on 26th January 2017.

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- 2.4. Without repeating all of the detail previously reported in the January report, the 'key issues' section of that report is reproduced at Appendix A for context and ease of reference.
- 2.5. Members will appreciate that the strategies the Council has adopted over the past few years have generally kept the authority in a good position from which to move forward. In Kettering, our approach ensured that the Council was able to pro-actively deal with the challenges faced through: -
- ♦ Anticipating and trying to influence major 'Big Ticket' items;
 - ♦ Having a well motivated and flexible workforce that is pro-active in helping to deliver services.
- 2.6. These have allowed us to develop and deliver the strategies necessary to deal with changing financial circumstances including such things as
- ♦ establishing (and sticking to) budget guiding principles;
 - ♦ developing a budget delivery solution that suited KBC;
 - ♦ finding innovative methods of service delivery.
- 2.7. The financial strategies key '*guiding principles*' supplemented by the '*Modelling for Recovery Principles*', the '*Budget Containment strategies*' and Prioritisation '*Golden Rules*' have provided a strong cornerstone for the Councils medium term financial strategy. For ease of reference, these are reproduced here;

Financial Strategy Guiding principles:

- a. *Revenue balances should not fall below £1m and overall revenue reserves should not fall below 10% of net revenue expenditure;*
- b. *In setting the Council Tax, members should consider the medium term to ensure that a sustainable budgetary position is preserved (with due regard being given to any penalties that might apply);*
- c. *The level of household Council Tax to increase each year in line with inflation at least, where the budget is in deficit, to ensure resources remain consistent with budgeted costs;*
- d. *When setting the Capital Programme, consideration is given to allocating capital resources to schemes that are beneficial to the Council's overall revenue budget position;*
- e. *To maximise the resources available to the Authority, the Council will actively lobby the Government on relevant issues (e.g. grant distribution/ planning fees).*

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Modelling for Recovery principles:

1. *Wherever possible, continue with all planned investments and programmes, to protect the local economy and lever in other investments;*
2. *Given the strength of our Treasury position we should consider debt funding as a means of programme delivery or stimulus – if this can be shown to be sustainable and have a wider economic benefit;*
3. *Organise our fiscal structures and business models to attract and retain the maximum amount of revenue within the local economy;*
4. *To ensure all possible avenues are used within procurement rules to source locally;*
5. *Protect the performance of Council services which come under particular strain;*
6. *Work closely with partners in the voluntary, public and private sectors, to ensure optimum efficiency*

Budget Containment Strategy:

1. *Where a specific grant which funds a specific service is withdrawn, the service stops;*
2. *Where grant funding reduces, which Kettering Borough Council passports through to another organisation, the reduced sum continues to be passported, providing the end recipient organisation feels it can still provide a value-added service at that funding point.*
3. *Where a function is transferred to another provider, the Council leaves all service-provision discussions, including any top-up funding, with the new provider;*
4. *The Council would ordinarily neither seek to buffer nor profit from tax changes.*
5. *The Council should not substitute itself as a provider / funder of services when another public provider cuts such a service.*

Prioritisation 'Golden Rules':

1. *Revenue Impact – The item should have a positive **material and causal** impact on the Council's revenue budget over the medium term. The impact should be material in nature.*
2. *Fit with Key Priorities - There should be a direct and causal impact upon the achievement of the Council key priorities of;*

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- *Better Town Centres*
- *Better Jobs*
- *Better Educational Offer*

3. *Risk and Return Profile - The item / project should fit the Council's risk and return appetite and also complement the overall portfolio of investment / assets.*
4. *Investment Leverage - The item / project should ideally act as either an 'invest to save' type project or one that 'pump primes' other significant investment into the borough.*
5. *Self Sufficiency - Given the continuing trend of reduction in central government grants, priority will be given to projects that assist in the Council moving further towards financial self-sufficiency.*
6. *Strategic Partnerships - The item should generally have a positive impact on the Council's strategic partnerships and the Council's long term strategic ambitions for the borough – eg, town centre development. In particular – items that support and help develop 'scope' rather than 'scale' will be prioritised.*

3. BUDGET CONSULTATION - COMMENTS

- 3.1 The budget consultation period runs until the 1st March 2017 - when a meeting of Full Council will consider and set the budgets and the level of Council Tax for 2017/18.
- 3.2 Comments that have been made through the main consultation meetings are summarised in Appendix B, as detailed below;

Appendix B	Comments From
1	Statutory Budget Consultation Meeting
2 – 4	Geographical Forums
5	Research and Development
6	Monitoring and Audit Committee (to be circulated separately)
7	Tenants Forum (to be circulated separately)
8	Any Other Comments (to be circulated separately)

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4. GOVERNMENT GRANT SETTLEMENT 2017/18

- 4.1 The settlement is different to previous years, members will recall that last year the Council applied for a multi-year settlement and received confirmation from Central Government that this has been accepted. As a result of this, the core levels of government grant were already known and have already been built into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 4.2 The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2017/18 was announced on 16th December. The Government are expected to announce the final grant settlement for 2017/18 around 20th February, the expectation is that there will be no significant changes.
- 4.3 The provisional settlement for Kettering Borough Councils core grant for 2017/18 is £2,903,000 – this represents a cash reduction in grant of £568,000 (16.3%) when compared to 2016/17.
- 4.4 The provisional grant announcement also provided 'indicative' figures for the next two years (2018/19 and 2019/20). The level of core funding up to 2019/20 is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 – Local Government Finance Settlement			
Year	Funding £'000	Annual Reduction £'000	Cumulative Reduction £'000
2016/17	3,471	(509)	(509)
2017/18	2,903	(568)	(1,077)
2018/19	2,604	(299)	(1,376)
2019/20	2,270	(334)	(1,710)

It should be noted that the national funding reductions shown in Table 1 are in addition to those experienced before 2016/17. These were around £3.5m resulting in overall funding reductions totalling around £5.2m by 2019/20.

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5. UPDATE OF KEY ISSUES AND BUDGET PROJECTIONS

5.1 The budget figures have continued to be resilience tested during the budget period and have remained the same as those presented in the January report. The budget model (prior to the consideration of any change in council tax) is reproduced in Table 2. The January budget report contained a number of notes to the MTFS – which members may wish to refer back to.

TABLE 2 - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST							
		Zone of "Predictability"		Zone of "Unpredictability"		Severe Unpredictability	
		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
		Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000	Forecast £000
1	Net Council Budget	11,497	10,948	10,704	10,398	9,883	9,766
2	Forecast Resources:						
	Government Grant						
2a	Revenue Support Grant	(1,161)	(546)	(171)	250	0	0
2b	Business Rates	(2,310)	(2,357)	(2,433)	(2,520)	(2,000)	(2,000)
	Total Government Grant	(3,471)	(2,903)	(2,604)	(2,270)	(2,000)	(2,000)
	Council Tax / Coll'n Fund	(250)	(250)	(250)	(200)	(200)	(200)
	Income From Council Tax	(6,254)	(6,415)	(6,511)	(6,609)	(6,708)	(6,809)
	Total Resources	(9,975)	(9,568)	(9,365)	(9,079)	(8,908)	(9,009)
3	Budget (Surplus) / Deficit	1,522	1,380	1,339	1,319	975	757
4	Savings Identified	(1,522)	(1,380)	0	0	0	0
5	Savings - To be Identified	0	0	(1,339)	(1,319)	(975)	(757)
6	Budget (Surplus) / Deficit	0	0	0	0	0	0
GENERAL FUND WORKING BALANCE							
		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
7	Estimated Opening Balance	(1,415)	(1,425)	(1,435)	(1,435)	(1,435)	(1,435)
8a	Town Centre Initiatives	40	40	0	0	0	0
8b	Transitional Grant	(50)	(50)	0	0	0	0
9	Estimated Closing Balance	(1,425)	(1,435)	(1,435)	(1,435)	(1,435)	(1,435)

5.2 The forecast comprises the following 'Zones'

- ♦ **Zone of Predictability** – covers the current financial year - for which the level of government funding is known, and 2017/18 - for which the provisional level of grant funding has been announced.
- ♦ **Zone of Unpredictability** – The future levels of government grant for the period 2018/19 – 2019/20 are based on indicative figures provided as part of the 2017/18

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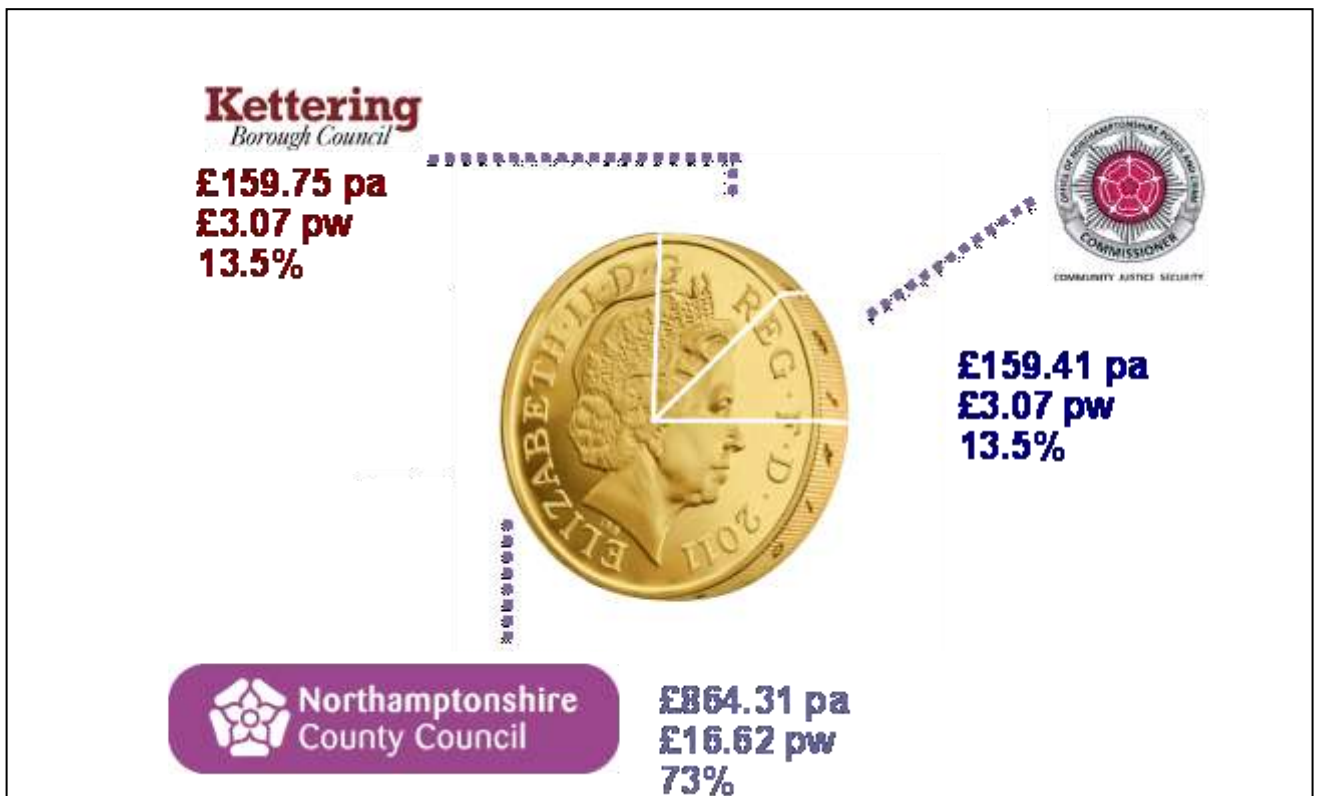
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provisional financial settlement which form part of the 'four year settlement' figures (that were previously reported to this Committee).

- ♦ **Severe Unpredictability** – Based upon the figures in the MTFs, the Council would need to identify and deliver further savings of around £1m in 2020/21 and around £750,000 in 2021/22. Of course, these can only be high level assumptions at the present time.

6. COUNCIL TAX SETTING

6.1 The following illustration was used at the recent budget consultation meeting and serves to remind members of the relative size of the council tax figures that are under consideration.



NB – The above figures are based on Band B Council Tax Charged in 2016/17

6.2 At this meeting of the Executive Committee, members are required to recommend a level of council tax for 2017/18 to full Council for consideration.

6.3 When doing so, members must have regard to: -

- The medium term financial projections for the council's General Fund budget (statutory requirement)
- The advice of its professional officers.

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c. The financial (and business) risks that face the authority in the medium term.

- 6.4 Based upon the figures in the budget model (Table 2), the level of budget savings over the four year period (2018/19 – 2021/22) are around £4.4m
- 6.5 The Council's record in identifying and delivering efficiency savings over the past eight years, including the year under consideration (2017/18), are around **£11.260m** - as illustrated in Table 3. For context - this is now greater than the Council's current net revenue budget.

Table 3 – 'Efficiency' Savings	£000
2010/11	1,260
2011/12	1,910
2012/13	1,330
<i>2013/14</i>	950
2014/15	1,330
2015/16	1,580
2016/17	1,520
Total	9,880
<i>2017/18</i>	1,380
Total	11,260

- 6.6 Members are reminded that each 1% increase in council tax equates to about £64,000 of ongoing income to the council's council tax yield.
- 6.7 In the period 2011/12 – 2015/16, the Government encouraged local authorities to freeze their Council Tax each year. This resulted in the introduction of an annual referendum threshold (generally 2%) together with annual Council Tax Freeze grants as an incentive for those Councils that did not increase their Council Tax. Given the incentives that were available at the time, it was not unreasonable for local authorities to have frozen their Council Tax levels during this period.
- 6.8 As we reported to members in last year's budget report, the 2016/17 grant settlement signalled a major policy change by the Government in relation to their assumptions for Council Tax levels. There was no longer a national policy (or indeed any incentives) to freeze Council Tax in 2016/17. Having considered the Council's medium term projections, this Council took the decision to freeze the Council Tax for 2016/17; it was one of a handful of local authorities in the country that did this.

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- 6.9 The provisional grant allocation that the Government has announced for 2017/18 also assumes that District Councils will increase their Council Tax levels by around 2%. This is similar to the assumption made by the Government in the previous year.
- 6.10 When announcing the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2017/18, the Government also confirmed that the referendum limits for District Councils in relation to Council Tax setting. The referendum limit for 2017/18 is the greater of 2% or £5 (Band D).
- 6.11 For Kettering Borough Council, the referendum limit is £5. This is the equivalent of a 2.4% increase and would generate additional council tax income of £156,000 during 2017/18 – if the Council decided to apply this level of increase.
- 6.12 When calculating the core grant settlement, the Government have assumed that all Council's will increase their Council Tax by the threshold amount for 2017/18. The indicative grant levels for the period 2018/19 – 2019/20 also assumes that local authorities will increase their Council Tax levels up to the threshold each year.
- 6.13 Following the established practice of previous years, the Council's medium term financial strategy (shown in Table 2) is shown prior to the consideration of any Council Tax increases. Members will need to consider the medium term financial projections, the resultant savings that are required each year and the overall level of uncertainty and risks when considering Council Tax levels for 2017/18 (and subsequent years). The stronger the Council Tax yield – the greater the flexibility to deal with the future.
- 6.14 Table 4 summarises the real terms impact of Council Tax freezes. If the current rate of inflation is used as a reference point, in effect local residents have experienced a real terms reduction in their local council tax for Kettering Borough Council during the year as a result of the Council decision to have a 0% increase from 2011/12

Table 4	Actual / Estimated Inflation Rate	Council Tax Increase	Cumulative Real Terms Reduction
2011/12	4.80%	0.00%	4.80%
2012/13	2.70%	0.00%	7.50%
2013/14	2.10%	0.00%	9.60%
2014/15	1.00%	0.00%	10.60%
2015/16	0.10%	0.00%	10.70%
2016/17	1.20%	0.00%	11.90%

- 6.15 The Council Tax income for KBC in 2017/18 is around £6.4m. Over the six year period (2011/12 – 2016/17) the cumulative real terms reduction is 11.9%.
- 6.16 The overall scale of budget reduction continues to be very significant. Collectively the Council has coped well by delivering a balanced budget despite having no

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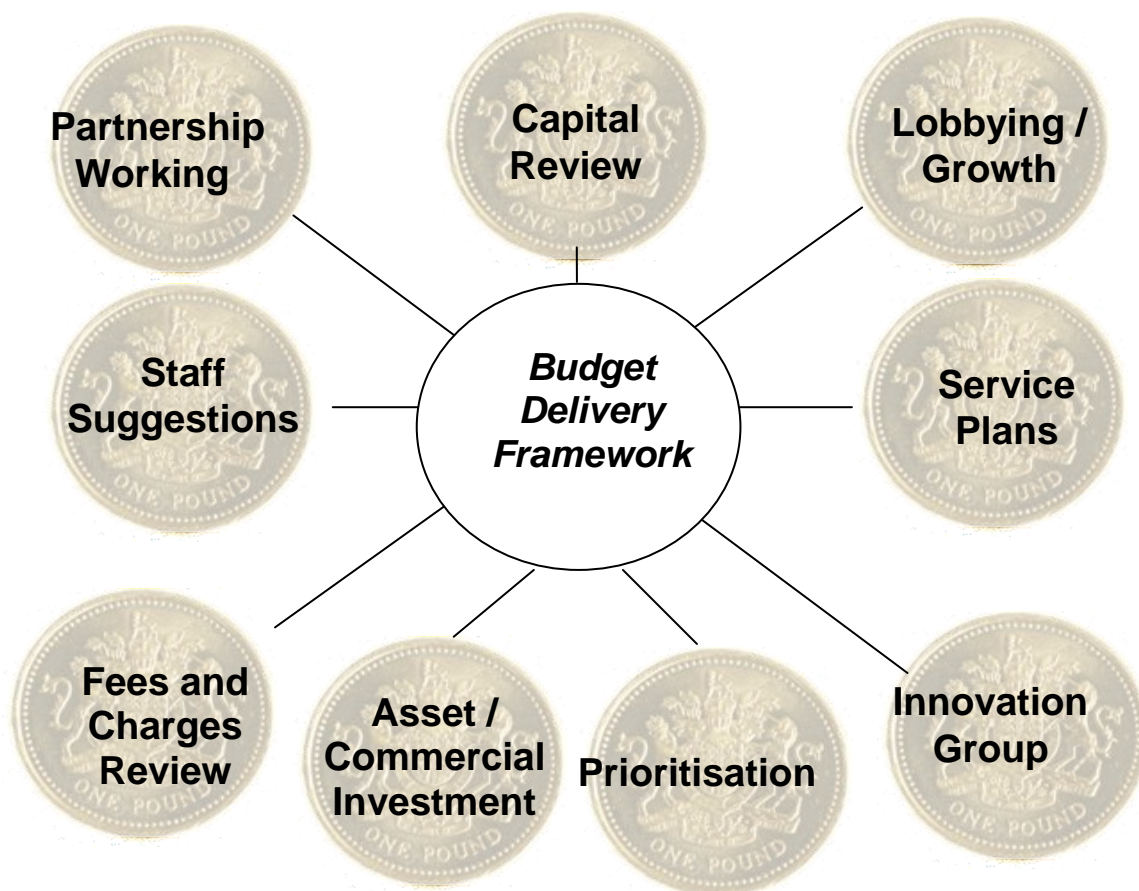
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council tax increase, no cuts to front line services, and no reduction to overall funding for the voluntary sector since 2011/12. This has only been achievable by following the budget guiding principles and making sure that other income sources, such as fees and charges, are harvested in line with their previously agreed guiding principles – this will remain important moving forward, especially in relation to all forms of income generation.

- 6.17 The reality of the Council being able to deliver a balanced budget in the medium term will be more challenging – the Council will need to carefully consider its main sources of income (Council Tax, Fees and Charges) at the same time as progressing its commercial investment projects whilst also starting to consider its priorities for services (and levels of services) if a balanced budget is to be achieved. The commonly referred to ‘triple zero’ success of recent times is unlikely to be achievable into the medium term, indeed any one element of this will put additional pressure on existing levels of service and resources.
- 6.18 The Executive Committee are required to make a formal Council Tax recommendation to full Council for consideration at the meeting on 1st March 2017. Although through this budget process members will only be setting a level of council tax for 2017/18, this must be done by reference to the medium term and the risks faced.
- 6.19 As outlined at the Council’s recent budget consultation meeting, for the Council to remain in the best possible shape in the medium term it will need to ensure that it ‘delivers’ on all aspects of its budget framework. The Council’s budget framework is reproduced overleaf:

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6.20 The Council has already done an impressive job of delivering around £10m of 'efficiency savings' to date. To have a realistic chance of continuing to balance its budget into the medium term, all of the above frameworks must continue to make a positive contribution – specifically Income and Commercial Investment Schemes. One of these sources alone will not provide the mechanism to set a balanced budget in the medium term, all of them must contribute.

6.21 KBC's Council Tax has been frozen since 2010/11. It currently costs the average household £3.07 per week. Given the assumptions that the Government has made about levels of Council Tax moving forward, and the budget and associated risks: the Council needs to seriously consider whether the level of Council Tax for 2017/18 should increase by the threshold amount. When making such a recommendation to Council, the Executive should take into account the Council's medium term financial projections and associated risks. Without some increase in Council Tax (over the medium term) – the challenge of continuing to set a balanced budget will no doubt become even greater, with more reliance having to be placed on the other budget frameworks (with the risks associated with that).

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7. DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME (2017/18 – 2021/22)

7.1 The draft Capital Programme was reported to the Executive as part of the initial budget proposals in January and has since been the subject of consultation and further review. The programme is summarised in Table 5.

Table 5 - Capital Programme	Draft Budget 2017/18	Indicative Estimate 2018/19	Indicative Estimate 2019/20	Indicative Estimate 2020/21	Indicative Estimate 2021/22
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
HRA Schemes	4,001	3,225	3,253	3,475	3,469
General Fund Schemes	21,772	21,597	21,167	21,167	21,167
	25,773	24,822	24,420	24,642	24,636
Financing					
Capital Receipts	1,006	453	692	642	350
Prudential Borrowing	21,007	20,557	20,527	20,527	20,527
Revenue Contribution	3,233	3,312	2,701	2,973	3,259
Grants and Contributions	527	500	500	500	500
	25,773	24,822	24,420	24,642	24,636

7.2 There are no changes to the draft capital programme reported to the January Executive.

7.3 The financing estimate for borrowing for 2017/18 is £21.007m. The main contributor to the borrowing costs is the increased commercial investment budget. The additional revenue from these investments is shown net of MRP and borrowing costs. To finance such investments the Council will need to borrow externally in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy (see report 11 on this agenda).

7.4 A capital programme of around £25m is considerable for a District Council of Kettering's size. To put this into context, although the capital programme is not funded from Council Tax receipts, the level of the capital programme is around four times the amount we receive in Council Tax each year.

7.5 Any further comments that have been made during the consultation period (to date) are provided at Appendix B. The Executive are required to note the comments made and consider whether they wish to take any action on any specific issues raised.

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8. DRAFT HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (2017/18)

8.1 The draft HRA budget was reported to the previous meeting of this committee and is reproduced in summary below;

Table 6 - Housing Revenue Account	Draft Budget 2017/18
	£'000
Gross Expenditure	15,586
Gross Income	(15,586)
Net Expenditure	0

8.2 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, although the Executive will be recommending the HRA budget for 2017/18 to full Council for approval, this meeting of the Executive will formally approve the level of Council housing rents for 2017/18.

8.3 The Government announced in summer 2013 that from 2015/16 social rents would rise by CPI plus 1% each year for ten years, previously social rents were rising by RPI plus 0.5% plus £2. Members will recall that in the Chancellor's Budget Statement on 8 July 2015 it was announced that social rents would reduce by 1% a year for the next four years which was clearly at odds with the ten year rent setting formula.

8.4 The differential impact on the rental income in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy on the previous formula (CPI + 1%) vs a reduction of 1% for four years is in the order of **£65m** (cash) over the life of the 30 Year Business Plan.

8.5 The impact in the first year (2016/17) was in the order of £500,000 (cash) in the second year (2017/18) the impact will be in the order of £1.5m (cash) – the rental income in the Housing Revenue Account reflects the 1% rent reduction. Whilst authorities can charge more or less than the guidelines issued by central government they will nonetheless be constrained by the limit rent – which is the maximum that can be charged based on the formula prescribed by central government – before payments need to be made to the government.

8.5 Following the Government's announcement in July 2015 that social housing rents would decrease by 1% per annum for the next four years – the housing revenue account business plan was remodelled to take account of this change.

8.6 Although the legislation and regulations around housing rents is complex, in simple terms the Council has little option but to implement the rent levels that are being imposed by central government – these being a 1% reduction each year, over the four year period (2016/17 – 2019/20).

8.7 The draft budget included an average rent decrease of 1.00% (equivalent to £0.81 per week).

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8.8 The rent levels for 2017/18 will be discussed at the Tenants Forum when it meets on the 9th February 2017. Any comments made by the Tenants Forum will be reported to members of the Executive before this meeting.

9. STATUTORY OFFICERS COMMENTS

9.1 To comply with best practice, the Council's Statutory Officers have a responsibility to provide a commentary on the budget (and the underlying assumptions) in the report that is considered by full Council on 1 March 2017.

9.2 Members are reminded that the Council has identified and delivered efficiency measures of £9.9m over the seven year period 2010/11 – 2016/17, and further efficiency measures of £1.4m have been identified for 2017/18. The total over the past eight years amounts to £11.3m.

9.3 Based on the assumptions applied to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, in the years after 2017/18 the Council will on average need to deliver additional annual on-going savings in the region of £1.1m – this adds up to around £4.4m over the medium term which is on top of the £11.3m ongoing savings achieved since 2010. This is a very significant challenge. The Council will need to ensure that progress is made on all elements of its budget framework if a balanced budget is to be achievable into the medium term.

9.4 The level of change for major income sources into the medium term (eg, New Homes Bonus) is very significant. If the Council is to deliver a balanced budget in the medium term, in addition to making progress on 'commercial investments' it will need to seriously consider its main sources of income (Council Tax, Fees and Charges) at the same time as starting to consider its priorities for services (and levels of services).

9.5 Members attention is specifically drawn to the comments made in Section 6 in this report, in relation to Council Tax levels and considerations. Whilst decisions about the level of Council Tax are ultimately a political choice – such decisions need to be made in full appreciation of the medium term financial projections and associated risks. The Council Tax has been frozen for the past six years – it is difficult to see how this can continue in the medium term without other elements of the budget having to give.

9.6 The indicative grant levels for 2017/18 and the following years assume that all local authorities will increase their Council Tax levels by the threshold each year. The stronger the Council Tax yield – the greater the flexibility to deal with the budget pressures in the medium term (and the associated risks).

9.7 The 100% Business Rates Retention Scheme is due to be implemented from April 2020 – at this point new responsibilities are likely to be transferred to local government – it is important that any transfer of services are fully funded to ensure these are not an additional pressure. When implementing the changes over the

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coming years, it would not be surprising if the recent trend of transferring risk from central to local government continues – this will need to be carefully mapped.

- 9.8 The potential ramifications of changes to the Business Rates scheme should not be understated – there have been very few (if any) major changes in funding mechanisms over recent years that have actually resulted in local authorities being better off financially in the medium term – housing finance being one very good example. It would be prudent to assume the same in relation to Business Rates.
- 9.9 Members should be aware that the indicative savings levels for the period 2017/18 onwards are subject to a number of high level assumptions – these include assumptions about the future level of Government Grant and also income from the New Homes Bonus Scheme and Commercial Investments.
- 9.10 Revenue Support Grant effectively becomes a ‘negative’ amount in 2019/20 and the Council continue to model to reduce reliance on New Homes Bonus income to around 1/3rd.
- 9.11 It is important to note that, although members have a statutory duty to consider the medium term when setting the 2017/18 budget and council tax, they will only be setting the budget and council tax for 2017/18 at this point. Levels of council tax for future years cannot be set in advance by the council. Each future year’s decision can only be taken at the appropriate time, once all of the financial and business risks have been analysed, understood and discussed.
- 9.12 Collectively, the council has done an impressive job of turning a ‘paper based exercise’ into reality in delivering the savings targets over recent years. However these unprecedented times are likely to continue over the next four years at least (2018/19 – 2021/22) with even greater uncertainty and change over the last two years of the current MTFS.
- 9.13 This period will provide the greatest challenge, particularly when we consider that some £11.3m of efficiency savings have already been identified and further efficiencies in the region of £4.4m are required over the next four years to deliver a balanced budget.
- 9.14 This four year period for the reasons outlined earlier also bring the greatest levels of uncertainty, risk and difficulty. The risks are significant for the local government sector as a whole and in coming to a decision about council tax for 2017/18 members will need to consider the careful balance that needs to be struck between providing sufficient financial flexibility to deal with the challenges faced and also consider the change in strategy by the Government regarding no longer offering incentives for Council Tax Freezes.

10 CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 10.1 The formal budget consultation period is from 18th January 2017 (where the Executive received the draft budgets) to 1st March 2017 when the Council sets its

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Council Tax for 2017/18. Comments from this consultation process are attached at Appendix B.

11 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 As outlined in the report.

12 **USE OF RESOURCES**

12.1 As outlined in the report.

13. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

13.1 That the Executive agrees to: -

- a) Receives the comments received from the consultation process (to date) as detailed at Appendix B;
- b) Approve that the average weekly council house rent be reduced by 1.00% to £80.24 (on a 52 week year) for 2017/18 (effective from 3rd April 2017).

13.2 That the Executive recommends to Council: -

- a) The Revised General Fund Budget (2016/17) and Draft General Fund Budget for (2017/18) – as detailed at Appendix A – Section 1*;
- b) A preferred level of Council Tax (Band D equivalent) for 2017/18 and associated Medium Term Financial Forecast;
- c) The Capital Programme (2016 - 2022) – as detailed at Appendix A - Section 2*;
- d) The Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2017/18 – as detailed at Appendix A - Section 3*.

** Please note that these references to Appendix A refer to the 'Draft Budget Booklet – 2017/18) that was circulated as Appendix A to the January Budget report to the Executive Committee on 18 January 2017.*

Background Papers:

Title of Document: Estimate Working Papers
Contact Officers: M Dickenson

Previous Reports/Minutes:

Monthly Durable Budget Reports
Budget Consultation (Jan 17)
Geographic Forums (Jan 17 & Feb 17)
Monitoring and Audit (Feb 17)
Research and Development (Feb 17)