



## **CABINET**

**WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2010**

## **DECISIONS**

**Present:**

Councillor B Hoare (Chair) Councillor PD Varnserry (Deputy Chair)  
Councillors Beardsworth, Church, Crake, B Markham and Perkins

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 24 February 2010. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

These decisions will come into force and then may be implemented on the expiry of three working days after the publication of this list.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Jo Darby at [jdarby@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:jdarby@northampton.gov.uk).

**THIS LIST OF DECISIONS PUBLISHED:**

25 FEBRUARY 2010

**DATE OF EXPIRY OF CALL IN:**

2 MARCH 2010 AT 17:00 HOURS

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<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
<b>Item No</b>	None

**6. Corporate Plan 2010-2013**

Cabinet is to:

- (1) Recommend the adoption of the Corporate plan to Full Council (Appendix 1 of the Cabinet report);
- (2) Delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, the authority to finalise the:
  - a. Corporate Plan for presenting to Full Council 25 February in line with the budget decisions, service plans and any other consequent changes
  - b. Associated set of corporate measures to underpin the Plan

by to be developed alongside the service planning process

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
	None

## **7. Capital Programme 2010-2013**

1. Cabinet is to recommend to Council that they approve
  - a. The draft capital strategy for 2010-11 to 2012-13, as set out in Annex A.
  - b. The capital programme for 2010-11, including future year commitments, as set out in Annex B.
  - c. The capital financing principles to be applied in 2010-11, as set out in the Capital Strategy (Annex A) pages 29-31
  - d. The proposed financing of the capital programme for 2010-11 and future years, as set out at paragraphs 3.2.12 and Annex C.
  - e. That Cabinet be authorised, once the programme has been set, to approve new capital schemes and variations to existing schemes during 2010-11, subject to the funding being available and the schemes being in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Council.
2. Cabinet has noted:
  - The contribution of each new scheme in the 2010-11 capital programme to the Council's corporate priorities for 2010-2013, as set out in Annex D.
  - The risks outlined at paragraph 4.2.

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
	None

## **8. General Fund Revenue Budget 2010-2013**

1. The feedback from consultation with the public, organisations and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, have been considered and welcomed (detailed at Annex 1 and in the Corporate Plan 2010-2013 report elsewhere on the Cabinet agenda).
2. The Council's representations on the provisional formula grant settlement are noted (Annex 2 of the Cabinet report).
3. The projected 2009/10 outturn position of £283k under spend (as at the end of December 2009) is noted.
4. The issues identified through Equalities Impact Screening and Assessments are noted (Annex 6 of the Cabinet report).
5. The changes to the proposed budget (detailed at Annex 3 of the

Cabinet report), in light of the consultation responses, equalities issues and the final formula grant settlement, are agreed.

6. The Cabinet acknowledges the issues and risks detailed in the Section 151 Officer's statement on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of the reserves (Annex 8 of the Cabinet report).
7. The draft Fees and Charges set out in Annex 10 of the Cabinet report are noted.
8. Cabinet has agreed that the additional £124k LABGI awarded in 2009/10, together with any remaining unallocated LABGI funding in the Corporate Initiatives Reserve at the end of 2009/10 and any new allocation for 2010/11 are to be set aside in an earmarked reserve for Regeneration and Development for one off purposes.
9. Council is to be recommended to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Support to implement all budget options and restructurings.
10. Authority is to be delegated to the Director of Finance and Support in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, and where appropriate the relevant Director and Portfolio Holder to:
  - transfer monies from earmarked reserves should that become necessary during the financial year.
  - to update the budget tables and annexes, prior to Council should any further changes be necessary.
  - to update prudential indicators in both the Prudential Indicators report and Treasury Strategy report, prior to Council for any budget changes that impact on these.
11. A General Fund budget for 2010/11 of £32.96m (excluding parishes), is to be recommended to the Council (detailed in Annex 4 of the cabinet report) for its own purposes.
12. The Council is to be recommended to 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 general fund reserves of £2.195m at the end of 2010/11 having regard to the outcome of the financial risk assessment and remaining at this level over the medium term.
13. The Council is to be recommended to increase the Council Tax by 2.47% for 2010/11 for its own purposes, thus excluding county, police, and parish precepts.

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
	None

## **9. Housing Revenue Account Budget 2010-2013**

1. Cabinet is to recommend to Council to approve:
  - a. An average rent increase of 0.58% per dwelling, in line with the Government's rent restructuring regime, convergence in 2012/13, to take effect from 5 April 2010.
  - b. The Medium Term Planning Options and Efficiency Options at Annex 3 and 4 respectively and the revised contributions to /from working balances;
  - c. The HRA budget for 2010/11 set out in Annex 1 and note the indicative budgets for 2011/12 and 2012/13;
  - d. That Sheltered Accommodation Warden charges (including Eleanore House) are frozen in line with the expected funding settlement from Northampton Supporting People (as shown in Annex 2);
  - e. That heating service charges are increased by 0.58% (as shown in Annex 2);
  - f. That garage charges are increased by 0.58% (as shown in Annex 2);
2. The changes to the proposed budget (detailed at Annex 5), in light of the Governments Draft and then Final HRA Subsidy Determinations are agreed.
3. Cabinet acknowledges the issues and risks detailed in the Section 151 Officer's statement on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of the reserves (Annex 6).
4. Authority is to be delegated to the Director of Finance and Support in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, and where appropriate the relevant Director and Portfolio Holder to:
  - transfer monies from earmarked reserves should that become necessary during the financial year.
  - to update the budget tables and annexes, prior to Council should any further changes be necessary.

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
	None

### **10. Prudential Indicators 2010-2013**

1. Cabinet is to recommend to Council that they approve the prudential indicators required under the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (Fully revised second edition 2009) as set out at paragraph 3.2.3 of the Cabinet report.
2. Cabinet is to recommend to Council that they approve the delegation of authority to the Section 151 Officer to make adjustments between the “borrowing” and “other long term liabilities” categories within the overall total of the indicators for the operational boundary and the authorised limit for external debt set out at paragraphs 3.2.3 (g) and (h) in the Cabinet report.

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
	None

### **11. Treasury Strategy 2010 - 2013**

1. Cabinet is to recommend to Council that they approve:
  - a. The adoption of the revised CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services; Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (Fully revised second edition 2009)
  - b. The replacement of existing paragraph 5.9 of the Council’s Financial Regulations with the wording at Annex A of the Cabinet report
  - c. The Treasury Management Policy Statement at Annex B of the Cabinet report
  - d. The Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) and TMP Schedules for 2010-11 at Annex C of the Cabinet report
  - e. The Treasury Strategy for 2010-11 at Annex D of the Cabinet report, incorporating:
    - (i) The Capital Financing and Borrowing Strategy for 2010-11 including:
      - The Council’s policy on the making of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt, as required by the Local Authorities (Capital Finance & Accounting) (Amendments) (England) Regulations 2008.
      - The Affordable Borrowing Limit for 2010-11 as required

by the Local Government Act 2003.

- (ii) The Investment Strategy for 2010-11 as required by the CLG (formerly ODPM) Guidance on Local Government Investments issued in 2004.

2. Cabinet is to recommend to Council that they note:

- a. The proposed Debt Financing Budget 2010-11 to 2011-12 (paragraph 3.2.15 and Annex F of the Cabinet report).
- b. Adherence to the Council's policy on reserves and balances (paragraph 3.2.16 of the Cabinet report).
- c. Compliance with the requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to produce a balanced budget (paragraph 3.2.17 & 3.2.18 of the Cabinet report).