



Northamptonshire
County Council



How to have your say about some early budget plans from Northamptonshire County Council

BIG words



Most words are explained where they are used in this document.

Some other words, when they are written for the first time are written in **bold with a line underneath**. The meaning of these words is explained in a list right at the end called the List of Words.

Northamptonshire County Council (the council) has to say what money it has and how it will spend it every year.

The council budget says how the council will spend its money.

Usually the council says what it plans to do in its budget near the end of the year.

This year the council has to tell you about some of its budget plans early. This is called the **Phase 1 Proposals**.





In December the council will say what other budget plans it has and what it plans to do about council tax and this will be called the **Phase 2 Proposals**.



This document tells you about the Phase 1 Proposals and how you can have your say about them.



The council says that it still has tough challenges to deal with. A lot more children and older people need to use council services and services for adults are costing more money.



The government gave less money to councils in the last few years. This means the council has less money to spend on services. The council asked the government for more money through fairer funding but this has not happened yet. The government plans to give less money to the council again next year.



In the last few years, the council has made some tough choices to make savings, but still provide good services. The council has already saved lots of money by improving the way it works, but the council needs to save a lot more. In the Phase 1 proposals the council says how it plans to save more than £9 and a half million.



The council has to make sure by law that it supports people who are the most vulnerable and who really can't look after themselves. There are also some services that the law says it must provide These are called **statutory** services.



So the council has to look at what other things it does to see if changes and cuts can be made to save money. This is being done early to stand a chance of making the savings it needs.

In the Phase 1 budget proposals there are plans to make changes and cuts in a lot of areas and services.



In the next section we say what each proposal is. The information about some proposals like the one about libraries is too big to write about here. So there are links to more information.



When you have read this information you can fill in the easy read survey to say what you think. You do not have to answer every question.

Libraries



Northamptonshire Libraries and Information Service called LibraryPlus, provides lots of services through 36 community hub libraries and a mobile library. More than 3 million customers use public services through the libraries. They do this face to face or on-line.

LibraryPlus has services like:

- a large range of books, audiobooks and DVDs to borrow
- wellbeing assessments
- Blue Badge, Bus Pass and Charity Link applications
- Children's centres

Libraries cannot make any more changes to the way they work to save money. So other big changes will have to be made to libraries.

The council wants to know what you think about the 3 **options** it has. All 3 include closing some libraries and children's centres unless community groups say that they can run a library for the council. You can see



more information about the options and say what you think by clicking:



[here](#)

Short breaks service



Short breaks are one of the services that support children in need and their families. They include day, evening, overnight and weekend activities for the children and can take place in your own home, the home of an approved carer, in a residential setting or in the community.



Short breaks are for children and young people who are disabled and/or who have Special Educational Needs, including Autism, ADHD and Mental Health issues.



The council has contracts with services to provide short breaks. The contracts run out in the next year. The council wants to ask children, young people and their families about the sort of services and contract they want in the future. Because health has decided to remove some of the money it pays towards short breaks, the council needs to think carefully about what contracts it has in future and save £250 thousand.

You can see more information about the options and say what you think by clicking:



[here](#)



Bus subsidies

The council wants to stop some bus subsidies. The council pays organisations to run bus services in some areas even though there are not many passengers. This means these services cost a lot of money to run but the people who use them do not have to pay a lot more.



The law does not say that the council has to pay for bus subsidies.

If bus subsidies are stopped the council would not be able to provide another bus if the organisation stops the bus from running on a route.



This proposal will save the council more than £1 million.

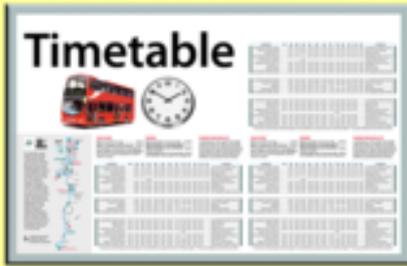


The council plans to stop paying subsidies for the buses in this table:

Bus	Description
1	Hannington - Northampton (diversion to serve Hannington at peak times)
3	Horton to Northampton (diversion to service Horton instead of Piddington on alternate journeys)
4N	Nene Valley Call Connect (Demand Responsive Service)
4S	Stamford area Call Connect (Demand Responsive Service)



9	Brambleside – Kettering
10	Daventry - Rugby (diversion to serve Barby and Kilsby)
10	Mears Ashby – Northampton
33	Milton Keynes – Northampton
33A	Milton Keynes – Northampton
34	Wellingborough – Kettering
35	Great Cransley – Kettering
37	Mears Ashby – Northampton
43	Bozeat – Northampton
44	Barnwell Drive - Wellingborough (not section between Wellingborough and Irthlingborough)
45	Queensway - Wellingborough (not section between Wellingborough and Irthlingborough)
60	Welford – Northampton
61	Coton – Northampton
62	Scaldwell – Northampton
63	Norton – Northampton



67	Gretton - Corby - Market Harborough
86	Towcester - Stoke Bruerne – Northampton
87	Towcester - Banbury Lane – Northampton
90	Milton Keynes - Yardley Gobion – Towcester
90A	Milton Keynes - Yardley Gobion – Towcester
96	Northampton to Rugby (section between Harlestone Manor and West Haddon)
499	Brackley – Banbury
County Connect	South Northamptonshire (Demand Responsive Service)
County Connect	South Northamptonshire (Demand Responsive Service)
County Connect	Daventry (Demand Responsive Service)
County Connect	Welland (Demand Responsive Service)
W8	Bozeat - Wellingbrough (Saturday service only)



Customer Service Centre

The council plans to open the Customer Service Centre (CSC) for less time. The CSC will be open from 9 until 5 instead of 8 until 6.

This proposal will save the council £66 thousand.



Digital Northamptonshire

The council plans to do more things online and less things by telephone. It costs the council more money to let customers do some things on the telephone instead of doing them online. Each thing done on the telephone costs about £4. Each thing done online costs about 30p.



This proposal will save the council £75 thousand.

First Point of Contact Modelling in Children's Social Care



This is about the things the council does when a member of the public or a professional first gets in touch when they are worried about the safety of a child.

The council plans to cut down the number of phone calls by giving people much more information in a different way about who to contact and when to do it.

If people find it easier to understand how they can report their concerns this might also mean that it will not cost so much to have staff telling them how to do it.

Contract Review

The council plans to review where it has Children's Centres and the support given to children. It will be done in two steps.

As a first step it plans to reduce the service in the Children's Centres in Corby. This will mean it offers the same level of service as other places in the county.



The next step will be to review and change the support **contracts** for children across the county. This includes things like support for young people who are not in education, training or employment and Family Networks.



This proposal will save the council £692 thousand.

Review of non-statutory expenditure in Children, Families & Education



Some of the money spent in Children, Families & Education is not statutory. This means that the law does not say it has to be provided. But customers may not be able to get these services from anywhere else.

The council plans to look at the money spent in these sort of services to see if they can stop providing them. The council will check to see if stopping a service will mean that customers might not be safe.



This proposal will save the council £500 thousand.

Winter Roads Maintenance

The council will think about what it can do less of to look after the roads in the county in the winter.



This is things like:

- Smaller stores of salt and less salt spread on the roads
- Put grit on less roads
- Charge areas to put more salt into the storage bins after it is used
- Not have staff ready to grit the roads at short notice for such a long time during the winter
- Shorten the target time for roads to be gritted. At the moment they should all be gritted in 3 hours.



This proposal will save the council £475 thousand

Empowering Councillors and Communities Scheme

The Empowering Councillors and Communities Scheme gives a small amount of money every year to each of the 57 councillors at Northamptonshire County Council's.

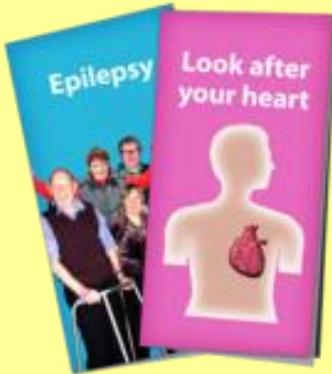
The councillors can spend the money on projects in their area called an electoral division.

The council plans to stop giving out all of this money.

This proposal will save the council £285 thousand.



Proposals for reinvestment of Public Health funded Activities



Public Health is a part of the council that works to help people to stay healthy and stop them getting unwell. Public Health pays First for Wellbeing to provide some services to help people to stay healthy. The money for these services comes to the council from Public Health England, a government office that sets rules about how the money is spent. So if the council saves money from these services it has to be used in a different way to help people to stay healthy. It cannot be used for other things.

The next 2 proposals are about services paid for from this money given to the council.

Emotional wellbeing service and community alcohol service



The emotional wellbeing service is support aimed at people who are living unhappy lives and need support to look after their mental health. They might:

- Have a low level of mental ill health
- Be at risk of **social isolation** meaning they do not have good support from other people in their community
- Are not very physically fit
- And find it very difficult to get a job.



The community alcohol service helps people to be aware of how drink can damage their health and think about ways of cutting down on drinking. It offers support and advice for people to do this.



The council plans to cut all of the money used to support this work and use it in a different way.

This proposal will save the council nearly £1 and a half million.

Smoking Cessation Service



This service helps people to stop smoking to improve their health. The service offers a range of free stop smoking clinics and services, open to anyone in the county who is willing to stop smoking.

The council plans to cut back some of these services but keep a special team to support people who use hospitals and who are:

- Pregnant
- Use cardiology or respiratory services (have problems with the heart or breathing)
- Are having an assessment before going in for an operation.

Remove subsidy to Royal and Derngate



The Royal and Derngate theatres in Northampton get the same money from the council as they do from the Arts Council. This is called match funding. This is not a statutory service and the law does not say the council has to give this funding.

The council plans to stop giving the Royal and Derngate this money.



This proposal will save the council £100 thousand.

Trading Standards



Trading Standards works to make sure that businesses in the county provide fair and safe services. This protects customers who use these businesses. They do this by checking that businesses operate within the law and includes things like:

- How food is stored, used and prepared
- Stopping shops from selling tobacco or alcohol to people who are too young
- Taking action against builders who do really bad work or who charge too much.

The council plans to cut about 16 staff from Trading Standards. It will change the work of Trading Standards so it has a focus on the areas that cause the most problems for most people.



This proposal will save the council £600 thousand.

Review of Highways – Highways Maintenance



The council plans to change the way it looks after its roads. This is called Highways Maintenance. It also plans to change how it helps people to travel safely.

These changes will be done in two steps.

The council will carry with its statutory services.

Highways Maintenance – Step 1

- Do half as much weed killing for one year only
- Do less road marking maintenance for one year only



- Not mending traffic lights quite so quickly for one year only
- Do less road safety promotion and education at schools and across the community and less promotion of other ways to travel like using cycles, motorbikes, buses and trains
- Stop using Parish enhancement gangs' service for one year only. These are the workers that look after urgent repairs to roads.
- Save money on the ways traffic is managed.



This proposal will save the council £655 thousand.

Highways Maintenance – Step 2

- Do less cleaning of the channels by roads. Called a gully
- Do less small repair jobs and have less staff to do them
- Spend less on looking after work depots, places for the road workers to stay in and the equipment they use to repair the roads
- Even less time spent on things like road safety promotion and education at schools and across the community and the promotion of other ways to travel like using cycles, motorbikes, buses and trains.



This proposal will save the council £990 thousand.

Other proposals that do not involve direct services for customers



As well as the proposals written above the council plans to make other changes that will not change the direct services or customers.



1. Centralise communication staff – all staff that work on communication and marketing in different parts of the council will be put into one team. The team will also have 5 less staff. This will save £155 thousand



2. Management of the Tiffield St John's site – give the Tiffield St John's site to back to its owner to manage the building and grounds. This will save £235 thousand.



3. Increase targeted In-House Foster Carer recruitment – get more foster carers and arrange more foster care placements through council staff. This costs less than using another organisation to do it. This will save £150 thousand.



4. Effective Commissioning services and focused prevention vehicles – have only 1 staff to be the lead to commission services. This will mean that there are more staff to work with customers and quickly respond to their needs. This will save £250k thousand.



5. Reduce Consultancy Spend – stop spending as much money as possible on using consultants. Use council staff who have the right skills instead and only use consultants if right person can't be found. This will save £486 thousand.



6. Negotiation on joint Health funded packages – work with health staff to make sure the council pays the right amount of money for someone when they need a joint care package. This will save £250 thousand.



7. International Social Worker Recruitment - use a company which recruits Social Workers from South Africa and helps them to settle down to work in Northamptonshire. This will stop the council spending money on agencies to do this. This will save £310 thousand.



8. Agency Staff Conversion – stop paying a lot of money to agencies to get Social Work staff who are only temporary. Instead get staff to work with us permanently. 40 out of 70 staff agreed to do this. This will save £992 thousand.



9. Review IT Strategy – spend less money on IT and telephones. This will save £361 thousand.



10. Shared organisational structure with Northamptonshire Adult Social Services (NASS) - make the most of working closely with First for Wellbeing and NASS. The first step will be to create a joint management team. This team will then look at how money can be saved by having good ways of working and the right staff in the right jobs.

BIG words

List of Words

Commission - plan services for a group of people who live in a particular area. It does not always mean paying for services, but making sure that the services people need are available in that area.

Contracts - an agreement between organisations. It usually says what one organisation will do for another in return for payment

Depots - places to store of large amounts of equipment, food, or goods, like big equipment to repair roads

Options - a group of things that you can choose from

Phase - a step or part of a bigger change

Proposal - a plan or suggestion made by someone for others to think about and help them make a decision. It is usually written down

Social isolation – when a person or group is not a part of a community and does not take part in things like clubs, sports or other groups

Statutory - rules the government says have to be in place

Subsidies - sums of money given by the council to another organisation to keep the cost of their service low for customers