

## About the Draft Budget and Council Plan 2017 to 2018



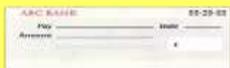
### Easy read



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



The council plan says what the council wants to do.



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



The council says that it still has tough challenges to deal with.



A lot more people want to use council services and new and different services are needed. The council has to support people who are vulnerable and who really can't look after themselves.



The government gives less money to councils. This means the council has less money to spend.



In the last few years, the council has made some tough choices to make savings, but still provides good services. Since 2010, the council has already saved lots of money by improving the way it works, but the council needs to save nearly £69 million more.



To carry on with its four year plan that started in 2015, the council has to keep on making tough choices. It has to change to a different way of working to be a 'Next Generation' council.



The council wants as many people as possible to say what they think about the council budget and plan. You can do this in the survey later on in this document.



The survey asks you to say what you think about 3 big areas:



- Plans to increase council tax by 3.95%



- The Draft Budget and Council Plan from April 2017 to April 2018



- The plans for the council's Fees and Charges that say how much some people might have to pay for things they buy from the council



You can say what you think from Tuesday 13th December 2016 until Tuesday 24th January 2017 (no later than 5pm on 24<sup>th</sup> January).



All the things people say will be discussed and a final decision on the Draft Budget proposals will be made at a meeting of Northamptonshire County Council's Full Council on 23rd February 2017.

### **Why the Council is under pressure and needs to put in place the things it plans in the draft budget**



A lot more people are expected to live in Northamptonshire in the next five years. Possibly more than 60,000 people. A lot of these people will be over 70 years old.



There are more children who need to be looked after in care.



A lot more reports are made to the council about adults who need protecting from abuse (safeguarding).



A lot more children on their own come to live in Northamptonshire as they are not safe in their own country.



6,400 children needed a school place in Northamptonshire this year. Between 2008 and 2017, the council will have added 1,991 reception places and 13,999 primary places to cope with demand for school places.



About 250,000 people visit a library in Northamptonshire every month.



The council has to repair more than 6,000 potholes in the roads each month and there will be more and more traffic on our roads.



## The Survey



### The plan to increase council tax by 3.95%

Northamptonshire has low council tax. Other similar councils around the country have much higher council tax.

The council wants to increase council tax by 3.95%.

Some of this increase (2%) is because more money is needed for adult social care.



By raising the council tax the council would have more than £10 million extra to help pay for its services.



The increase would mean that most people would pay an extra £43.89 next year, which is about 84p a week



Without this extra money the council may not be able to keep running all the services it does now.



**Question 1: do you agree with a Council Tax increase of 3.95%?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't want to say



**Question 2: do you agree with the 2% increase in council tax that is about more money to fund adult social care?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't want to say



**Question 3: if you disagree with either of the first 2 questions, please say what the council should do about council tax? For example, do you think it should be increased by more or less than 3.95%**



**Question 4: do you have anything else you want to say about the plans for council tax?**



## **The Draft Budget and Council Plan from April 2017 to April 2018**

In this section you can say what you think in about plans for different parts of the council, including the plan to be a 'next generation' council. What you say will help the council to think about the possible effect of the plans and what the council could do to lessen any negative effects.

There are five different parts of the council (directorates) and each one has to produce a business plan which says what changes it wants to make. There is a plan for the whole council, and you can see the plans for each directorate by clicking on the directorates named below.



### [Council Plan 2016-2020](#)

The directorates are:

[NCC Group \(Chief Executive's Services\) Plan and Proposals](#)

[NCC People Commissioning - Children, Families and Education](#)

[NCC People - Adult Services](#)

[NCC People – Health, Wellbeing and Prevention](#)

[NCC Place Commissioning](#)



**Question 5: please say which directorate business plan you want to comment on**



**Question 6: please say what effect this plan will have on you**



**Question 7: please say what else the council could do to lessen any bad effect on you**



## The plan for council fees and charges

It is important that the council gets some of its money by charging for some of the services people use. In this section you can say what you think about the plan for fees and charges.

To see what the fees and charges might be from April 2017 please click [here](#) to see the Fees and Charges Schedule.



### Question 8: please say if you want to have your say on all the charges or just some

I want to have my say about all the fees and charges

I want to have my say about some of the fees and charges

If you only want to have your say on some of the fees and charges please say which ones



**Question 9: please say what effect you think these fees or charges will have on you**



**Question 10: please say what else the council could do to lessen any bad effect on you**



**Question 11: please say if you have any other ideas of how the council can raise money through fees and charges**



## Question 12: Information about you

**Please only fill this part in if you filled in the survey just for you. You do not have to fill this section in, but it will help the council understand more about the people who have their say.**

What is your name?

Which part of Northamptonshire do you live in?

What is your postcode?

What is your email address?

## What happens next?

Thank you for taking the time to do this survey. What you think is really important to the council.



The information we collect between 13th December 2016 and 24th January 2017 will be in a report that will be talked about and used to help the council members think about the council plans. This will be done before the Council makes its final decision on the 23rd February 2017

These are only plans at the moment and more consultation will happen before any of the plans are put in place.

There will be separate consultations on any detailed plans about changes to services.

We will also talk to trade unions and other staff representatives about any plans that affect jobs or the way staff work.



You can send your comments on the questions by email to:

[consult@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:consult@northamptonshire.gov.uk)



or you can send by post to:

Draft Budget and Council Plan Consultation, Northamptonshire  
County Council, County Hall, Northampton, NN1 1DN.



**Remember this is not all the information about the council plan and budget. You can look at the information on the council website if you want to know more.**

This easy read document  
was produced by  
Northamptonshire Learning  
Disability Partnership Board





### **Question 13: More information about you**

**Please only fill this part in if you filled in the survey just for you.**

**You do not have to fill this section in, but it will help the council understand more about the different people and communities who have their say if you do. It also helps the council check to see if everybody has had the chance to be heard.**

**You only have to answer the questions you want to.**

Please tick one of these boxes to say who you are:

- I work for the council
- I live in Northamptonshire
- I represent a voluntary sector or community organisation
- I represent part of the local business community
- I represent a partner organisation
- I am a user of council services
- Other (please say what)

Are you:

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

How old are you?

- 0 to 9
- 10 to 19
- 20 to 29
- 30 to 39
- 40 to 49
- 50 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 or older
- Prefer not to say

If you are older than 16 please say if you are:

- Bisexual
- A Gay man
- A Gay woman or lesbian
- Heterosexual
- Prefer not to say

Are you the same gender (male or female) as when you were born?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Are you?

- Married
- Single
- Living together or cohabiting with someone

Prefer not to say

Other

Are you pregnant or have you had a baby in the last 6 months?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

Do you have a disability?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

If you said you have a disability, please tick any of the boxes to say what your disability or disabilities are:

- Mental Health
- Hearing impairment
- Sight impairment
- Physical disability
- Learning disability
- Prefer not to say
- Other

What is your religion?

- None
- Christian
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Prefer not to say
- Other

What is your ethnic origin?

- White - English, Welsh, Scottish or Northern Irish
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or traveller
- White - Other white background
- Mixed/ multiple ethnic background - White & Black Caribbean
- Mixed/ multiple ethnic background - White & Black African
- Mixed/ multiple ethnic background - White & Asian
- Mixed/ multiple ethnic background - Other mixed/multiple background
- Asian or Asian British - Indian
- Asian or Asian British - Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British - Chinese

- Asian or Asian British - Other Asian Background
- Black or Black British - Caribbean
- Black or Black British - African
- Black or Black British - Other Black Background
- Other - Arab
- Prefer not to say
- Other ethnic group