



# East Northamptonshire Council

## Policy and Resources Committee - 13 July 2009

### Budget Review Group

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#### Summary

To seek approval to the proposals from the Budget Review Group

#### Attachment(s)

None

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1. At its meeting on 15 June 2009 the Committee considered and agreed the first set of proposals from the Budget Review Group. Following further discussions with the Budget Review Group, the Committee is asked to consider two further items to reduce our revenue expenditure.
2. The first item relates to the running costs of the car parks in the ownership of some of the Town Councils. In 1974 the Town Councils of Oundle, Raunds, Irthlingborough and Higham Ferrers retained ownership and control of the car parks previously provided by the former Borough and Urban District Councils. The assets and functions were duly transferred to the new Town Councils with effect from 1 April 1974. Initially the Town Council managed and maintained these car parks at their own cost.
3. The Policy and Resources Committee agreed on 2 February 1976 that with effect from 1 April 1976 all expenditure on the operation and maintenance of these Town Councils car parks would be funded by the District Council. The Town Councils still own and manage these car parks and the District Council reimburses the associated costs each year but some larger items such as resurfacing and sweeping/cleansing are paid direct by Council.
4. The revenue expenditure associated with the Town Council car parks is about £26,000 per annum. The split between the towns is:

	£
Oundle	17,020
Irthlingborough	2,370
Raunds	1,350
Higham Ferrers	<u>5,260</u>
Total Cost	<u>26,000</u>

5. The proposal from the Budget Review Group is to negotiate to transfer back the running costs of the car parks that are in the ownership of the Town Councils. The District Council would continue to meet the running costs of all car parks in its ownership.
6. The second item relates to the maintenance of public conveniences in the towns. It is clear from the minutes of meetings held with the former Higham Ferrers Borough Council and the Urban District Councils prior to 1 April 1974 that the District Council favoured the transfer of the function to the new Town Councils. However the Town Councils did not wish to retain the public conveniences and these became District Council assets with the running costs funded by the District.
7. In March 2006 the Council revisited its provision and agreed to the retention of public conveniences in the six towns. It was generally accepted that the provision may need to change and financial responsibility should transfer to the Town Councils or away from

the taxpayer.

8. The direct costs of running the public conveniences in 2008/09 are estimated at:

	£
Repair and Maintenance	29,000
Energy Costs	7,000
Water	6,100
Business Rates	11,000
Cleaning and security – Cory	<u>111,600</u>
Total revenue cost	<u>164,700</u>

Alternatively the costs can be analysed:-

	£
Wharf Road, Higham Ferrers	20,240
St. Osyths Lane, Oundle	21,950
Sackville Street, Thrapston	22,280
Church Street, Irthlingborough	22,010
Newton Road, Rushden	29,670
Duck Street, Rushden	30,650
The Square, Raunds	<u>17,900</u>
Total revenue cost	<u>164,700</u>

9. Some Options available

- 1 Close the facilities
- 2 Transfer the toilets to the town councils (if they wish to retain provision)
- 3 Introduce toilets similar to Raunds in all the towns
- 4 Reduce provision In Rushden
- 5 Introduce a Community Toilet Scheme.

A community toilet scheme is where the Council work with businesses and other public sector bodies to make available publicly accessible toilets across each of the towns. Typically toilets are made available in pubs, cafes, community centres, shops, council offices, leisure facilities, libraries and so on. Participating premises receive a small fee (about £600 per annum) in return for keeping toilets, safe, clean, hygienic and accessible.

10. The proposal from the Budget Review Group is to transfer the assets and function to the Town Councils.

11. The Budget Review Group continues to explore a number of further options for reductions in our revenue expenditure.

12. It is recommended that:

- (i) the running costs of Town Council car parks are in future borne by the respective Town Council;
- (ii) the Council seeks to transfer the public conveniences to the Town Councils.

<b>Implications:</b>			
<b>Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy</b>			
Good Quality of Life	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good Reputation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good Value for Money	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High Quality Service Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Partnership Working	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strong Community Leadership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge of our Customers and Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>

Employees and Members with the Right Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Decision(s) would be outside the budget or policy framework and require full Council approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Financial</b>	There are no financial implications at this stage	<input type="checkbox"/>
	There will be financial implications – see paragraph 4 and 8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There is provision within existing budget	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure at a later date	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may have potential for income generation	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Risk Management</b>	An assessment has been carried out and there are no material risks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Material risks exist and these are recorded at Risk Register Reference - inherent risk score - residual risk score -	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Staff</b>	There are no additional staffing implications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Additional staff will be required – see paragraph	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equalities and Human Rights</b>	There will be no impact on equality (race, age, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation) or human rights implications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be an impact on equality (see categories above) or human rights implications – see paragraph	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Legal</b>	Power: Local Government Act 1972 and Local Government Finance Act 2003	
	Other considerations:	
<b>Background Papers:</b>		
<b>Person Originating Report:</b> Mark Lovell, Chief Finance Officer. Tel: 01832 742074 malovell@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk		
<b>Date: 6 July 2009</b>		
<b>CFO</b>		<b>MO</b>
		<b>CX</b>

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 19)