



Council – 27 February 2013

Council Tax Resolutions

Purpose of report

To enable the Council to set its Budget and associated strategies and to set the Council Tax for 2013/14.

Attachment(s)

Appendix A – Council Tax Resolution

Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 has made significant changes to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and now requires the billing authority to calculate a Council Tax requirement for the year, not its budget requirement as required under previous legislation.
- 1.2 Since the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 11 February 2013 the precept levels of other precepting bodies have been received. These are detailed in paragraphs 2 to 4 below.
- 1.3 The Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 11 February 2013 discussed the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/14 to 2016/17, Revenue Budget 2013/14, Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2022/23, Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14, Reserves Strategy (including the minimum level of reserves) and Revised Fees and Charges. Subject to the approval of the level of Council Tax, it agreed to recommend to Council all of the above budgets and strategies. The resolution is contained elsewhere on this agenda.

2.0 Town and Parish Councils

- 2.1 Town & Parish Council Precepts for 2013/14 are detailed in Appendix A and total £2,325,978. The increase in the average Band D Council Tax for Town and Parish Councils is 13.8% and results in an average Band D Council Tax figure of £82.65 for 2013/14. These precepts are not subject to any of the capping limits set by Government in respect of principal authorities.

3.0 Northamptonshire County Council

- 3.1 Northamptonshire County Council is due to meet on 21 February 2013 to set their precept at £28,931,015. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,028.11. This is the position proposed by Cabinet on 13 February 2013. The approved level of precept will be confirmed at the meeting.

4.0 The Police and Crime Commission

- 4.1 Under the new rules and regulations the Police and Crime Commissioner is required to consult on the proposed level of precept with the Police and Crime Panel (PCP). The PCP holds the Police and Crime Commissioner to account.
- 4.2 The PCP is a joint body established collectively by each of the local authorities in the

county, with Northamptonshire County Council as the host authority.

4.3 The PCP is made up of councillors drawn from each of the local authorities in Northamptonshire according to a set allocation of places, and 2 independent co-opted members drawn from the local community.

4.4 The PCP met on 5 February 2013 and proposed to set their precept at £5,436,648. This would result in a Band D Council Tax of £193.20.

4.5 The Police and Crime Commissioner is now required to formally respond to the PCP's resolution. The approved level of precept will be confirmed at the meeting.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 In accordance with the legislative framework and the council's own policy and budgetary framework, the council is required to approve the revenue budget and capital programme for 2013/14.

5.2 The council is required to set the council tax prior to 11 March each year.

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 The Finance Sub-Committee and Policy and Resources Committee have considered the risks associated with the budgets subject to the level of council tax.

6.2 The Chief Finance Officer has commented on the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of reserves in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 to provide further reassurance to members on potential risks in the budget and how these are being mitigated.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 The report is of a financial nature.

8.0 Equality and Diversity

8.1 Equalities Impact Assessments (EIA) for specific changes to policy that have led to changes being incorporated into the budget have been prepared.

9.0 Corporate Outcomes

9.1 The recommendation will help deliver the following outcomes:

- Good Quality of Life
- Good Value for Money
- Effective Management
- High Quality Service Delivery

10.0 Recommendation

10.1 The recommendation is for:

- a) the resolution at R.13 minute 389 in the Policy and Resources Committee minutes to be approved, and
- b) the formal Council Tax Resolution in Appendix A to this report to be approved.

Legal	Power: Local Government Finance Act 1992, Local Government Acts 1972, 2000 & 2003, Localism Act 2011				
	Other considerations: Constitution				
Background Papers: Reports To Finance Sub-Committee and P&R; precept notifications					
Person Originating Report: Glenn Hammons, Chief Finance Officer. Tel: 01832 742267 ghammons@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
Date: 19 February 2013					
CFO		MO		CX	

Council Tax Resolution

1) That it be noted that at its meeting on 27th February 2013 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2013/2014 in accordance with Regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):-

(a) For the whole Council area as 28,140 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the 'Act') and

<u>Parish of</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Parish of</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>
Aldwincle	151	Lilford cum Wigsthorpe	52
Apethorpe	93	Little Addington	138
Ashton	102	Lowick & Slipton	129
Barnwell	164	Luddington	32
Benefield	162	Lutton	55
Blatherwycke	24	Nassington	328
Brigstock	502	Newton Bromswold	29
Bulwick	85	Oundle	1,942
Chelveston cum Caldecott	188	Pilton	30
Clopton	57	Polebrook	192
Collyweston	206	Raunds	2,496
Cotterstock	83	Ringstead	464
Deene	28	Rushden	8,706
Deenethorpe	71	Southwick	74
Denford	135	Stanwick	661
Duddington	74	Stoke Doyle	34
Easton-on-the-Hill	414	Sudborough	103
Fineshade	17	Tansor	98
Fotheringhay	73	Thorpe Achurch	76
Glapthorn	132	Thrapston	1,971
Great Addington	130	Thurning	44
Hargrave	116	Titchmarsh	232
Harringworth	132	Twywell	75
Hemington	43	Wadenhoe	54
Higham Ferrers	2,473	Wakerley	41
Irthlingborough	2,392	Warmington	401
Islip	273	Woodford	477
Kings Cliffe	464	Woodnewton	218
Laxton	60	Yarwell	144

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate (Tax base for parish).

2) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2013/2014 in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|--|
| (a) | £42,634,925 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (2) (a) to (e) of the Act including appropriation to reserves. <i>(Gross expenditure, parish expenses, any contingencies, any provision for reserves.)</i> |
| (b) | £30,832,460 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) to (c) of the Act including appropriation from reserves. <i>(Gross income, any use of reserves.)</i> |
| (c) | £11,802,465 | being the amount by which the aggregate at 2 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2 (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32 (4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year. <i>(Expenditure less income = net expenditure/budget requirement)</i> |
| (d) | £5,856,368 | being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non domestic rates, revenue support grant, additional grant or relevant special grant and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the directions under section 98 (4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. <i>(Business Rates, Government grant, relevant special grant, any surplus or deficit from council tax collected.)</i> |
| (e) | £211.30 | being the amount at 2 (c) above less the amount at 2 (d) above, all divided by the amount at 1 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 33 (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. <i>(Net expenditure including parish precepts, less Business Rates, grant etc., divided by tax base = an average council tax which includes parishes.)</i> |
| (f) | £2,325,978 | being the aggregate amount of the special items referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act. <i>(Total amount of parish precepts.)</i> |
| (g) | £128.65 | being the amount at 2 (e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2 (f) above by the amount at 1 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates. <i>(This Council's own Council Tax at Band D.)</i> |

(h) Part of the Council's area

£

Aldwincle	175.01
Ashton	155.12
Barnwell	162.19
Benefield	170.01
Brigstock	166.50
Bulwick	149.24
Chelveston cum Caldecott	180.25
Collyweston	213.07
Deene & Deenethorpe	166.53
Denford	173.09
Duddington with Fineshade	174.80
Easton-on-the-Hill	178.86
Glaphthorn	187.74
Great Addington	191.63
Hargrave	171.75
Harringworth	166.53
Hemington, Luddington & Thurning	152.60
Higham Ferrers	205.68
Irthlingborough	216.74
Islip	194.58
Kings Cliffe	165.29
Lilford cum Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch	139.59
Little Addington	166.69
Lowick & Slipton	151.91
Lutton	137.74
Nassington	206.06
Oundle	284.44
Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe	152.38
Polebrook	159.90
Raunds	237.55
Ringstead	180.70
Rushden	215.51
Stanwick	213.37
Sudborough	158.75
Thrapston	246.10
Titchmarsh	182.53
Twywell	176.65
Warmington	174.78
Woodford	157.79
Woodnewton	179.60
Yarwell	178.65
Other	128.65

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2 (g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1 (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special item relates. (*Council Tax at Band D for those parishes that have issued a precept added to this Council's council tax.*)

(i) Part of the Council's areaValuation Bands

Parish of	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Aldwincle	116.68	136.12	155.57	175.01	213.90	252.79	291.69	350.02
Ashton	103.42	120.65	137.89	155.12	189.59	224.06	258.54	310.24
Barnwell	108.13	126.15	144.17	162.19	198.23	234.28	270.32	324.38
Benefield	113.34	132.23	151.12	170.01	207.79	245.57	283.35	340.02
Brigstock	111.00	129.50	148.00	166.50	203.50	240.50	277.50	333.00
Bulwick	99.50	116.07	132.66	149.24	182.41	215.57	248.74	298.48
Chelveston cum Caldecott	120.17	140.19	160.23	180.25	220.31	260.36	300.42	360.50
Collyweston	142.05	165.72	189.40	213.07	260.42	307.77	355.12	426.14
Deene & Deenethorpe	111.02	129.52	148.03	166.53	203.54	240.55	277.55	333.06
Denford	115.40	134.62	153.86	173.09	211.56	250.02	288.49	346.18
Duddington with Fineshade	116.54	135.95	155.38	174.80	213.65	252.49	291.34	349.60
Easton-on-the-Hill	119.24	139.11	158.99	178.86	218.61	258.36	298.10	357.72
Glaphthorn	125.16	146.02	166.88	187.74	229.46	271.18	312.90	375.48
Great Addington	127.76	149.04	170.34	191.63	234.22	276.80	319.39	383.26
Hargrave	114.50	133.58	152.67	171.75	209.92	248.09	286.25	343.50
Harringworth	111.02	129.52	148.03	166.53	203.54	240.55	277.55	333.06
Hemington, Luddington & Thurning	101.74	118.69	135.65	152.60	186.51	220.42	254.34	305.20
Higham Ferrers	137.12	159.97	182.83	205.68	251.39	297.10	342.80	411.36
Irthlingborough	144.50	168.57	192.66	216.74	264.91	313.07	361.24	433.48
Islip	129.72	151.34	172.96	194.58	237.82	281.06	324.30	389.16
Kings Cliffe	110.20	128.56	146.93	165.29	202.02	238.75	275.49	330.58
Lilford cum Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch	93.06	108.57	124.08	139.59	170.61	201.63	232.65	279.18
Little Addington	111.13	129.65	148.17	166.69	203.73	240.78	277.82	333.38
Lowick & Slipton	101.28	118.15	135.04	151.91	185.67	219.43	253.19	303.82
Lutton	91.83	107.13	122.44	137.74	168.35	198.96	229.57	275.48
Nassington	137.38	160.27	183.17	206.06	251.85	297.64	343.44	412.12
Oundle	189.63	221.23	252.84	284.44	347.65	410.86	474.07	568.88
Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe	101.59	118.52	135.45	152.38	186.24	220.11	253.97	304.76
Polebrook	106.60	124.37	142.14	159.90	195.43	230.97	266.50	319.80
Raunds	158.37	184.76	211.16	237.55	290.34	343.13	395.92	475.10
Ringstead	120.47	140.54	160.63	180.70	220.86	261.01	301.17	361.40
Rushden	143.68	167.62	191.57	215.51	263.40	311.29	359.19	431.02
Stanwick	142.25	165.95	189.67	213.37	260.79	308.20	355.62	426.74
Sudborough	105.84	123.47	141.12	158.75	194.03	229.31	264.59	317.50
Thrapston	164.07	191.41	218.76	246.10	300.79	355.48	410.17	492.20
Titchmarsh	121.69	141.97	162.25	182.53	223.09	263.66	304.22	365.06
Twywell	117.77	137.39	157.03	176.65	215.91	255.16	294.42	353.30
Warmington	116.52	135.94	155.36	174.78	213.62	252.46	291.30	349.56
Woodford	105.20	122.72	140.26	157.79	192.86	227.92	262.99	315.58
Woodnewton	119.74	139.69	159.65	179.60	219.51	259.42	299.34	359.20
Yarwell	119.10	138.95	158.80	178.65	218.35	258.05	297.75	357.30
Other	85.77	100.06	114.36	128.65	157.24	185.83	214.42	257.30

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2 (g) and 2 (h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands. (*This Council and each Parish Council's combined council tax for each Council Tax Band and which will appear on the council tax bill.*)

- 3) That it be noted that for the year 2013/2014 the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

	<u>A</u> £	<u>B</u> £	<u>C</u> £	<u>D</u> £	<u>E</u> £	<u>F</u> £	<u>G</u> £	<u>H</u> £
Northamptonshire County Council	685.41	799.64	913.88	1,028.11	1,256.58	1,485.05	1,713.52	2,056.22
Northamptonshire Police Authority	128.80	150.27	171.73	193.20	236.13	279.07	322.00	386.40

- 4) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2 (i) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with section 30 (2) of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2013/2014 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: *(Total council tax in each band for each parish.)*

Part of the Council's Area**Valuation Bands**

	<u>A</u> £	<u>B</u> £	<u>C</u> £	<u>D</u> £	<u>E</u> £	<u>F</u> £	<u>G</u> £	<u>H</u> £
Aldwincle	930.89	1,086.03	1,241.18	1,396.32	1,706.61	2,016.91	2,327.21	2,792.64
Ashton	917.63	1,070.56	1,223.50	1,376.43	1,682.30	1,988.18	2,294.06	2,752.86
Barnwell	922.34	1,076.06	1,229.78	1,383.50	1,690.94	1,998.40	2,305.84	2,767.00
Benefield	927.55	1,082.14	1,236.73	1,391.32	1,700.50	2,009.69	2,318.87	2,782.64
Brigstock	925.21	1,079.41	1,233.61	1,387.81	1,696.21	2,004.62	2,313.02	2,775.62
Bulwick	913.71	1,065.98	1,218.27	1,370.55	1,675.12	1,979.69	2,284.26	2,741.10
Chelveston cum Caldecott	934.38	1,090.10	1,245.84	1,401.56	1,713.02	2,024.48	2,335.94	2,803.12
Collyweston	956.26	1,115.63	1,275.01	1,434.38	1,753.13	2,071.89	2,390.64	2,868.76
Deene & Deenethorpe	925.23	1,079.43	1,233.64	1,387.84	1,696.25	2,004.67	2,313.07	2,775.68
Denford	929.61	1,084.53	1,239.47	1,394.40	1,704.27	2,014.14	2,324.01	2,788.80
Duddington with Fineshade	930.75	1,085.86	1,240.99	1,396.11	1,706.36	2,016.61	2,326.86	2,792.22
Easton-on-the-Hill	933.45	1,089.02	1,244.60	1,400.17	1,711.32	2,022.48	2,333.62	2,800.34
Glapthorn	939.37	1,095.93	1,252.49	1,409.05	1,722.17	2,035.30	2,348.42	2,818.10
Great Addington	941.97	1,098.95	1,255.95	1,412.94	1,726.93	2,040.92	2,354.91	2,825.88
Hargrave	928.71	1,083.49	1,238.28	1,393.06	1,702.63	2,012.21	2,321.77	2,786.12
Harringworth	925.23	1,079.43	1,233.64	1,387.84	1,696.25	2,004.67	2,313.07	2,775.68
Hemington, Luddington & Thurning	915.95	1,068.60	1,221.26	1,373.91	1,679.22	1,984.54	2,289.86	2,747.82
Higham Ferrers	951.33	1,109.88	1,268.44	1,426.99	1,744.10	2,061.22	2,378.32	2,853.98
Irthlingborough	958.71	1,118.48	1,278.27	1,438.05	1,757.62	2,077.19	2,396.76	2,876.10
Islip	943.93	1,101.25	1,258.57	1,415.89	1,730.53	2,045.18	2,359.82	2,831.78
Kings Cliffe	924.41	1,078.47	1,232.54	1,386.60	1,694.73	2,002.87	2,311.01	2,773.20
Lilford cum Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch	907.27	1,058.48	1,209.69	1,360.90	1,663.32	1,965.75	2,268.17	2,721.80
Little Addington	925.34	1,079.56	1,233.78	1,388.00	1,696.44	2,004.90	2,313.34	2,776.00
Lowick & Slipton	915.49	1,068.06	1,220.65	1,373.22	1,678.38	1,983.55	2,288.71	2,746.44
Lutton	906.04	1,057.04	1,208.05	1,359.05	1,661.06	1,963.08	2,265.09	2,718.10
Nassington	951.59	1,110.18	1,268.78	1,427.37	1,744.56	2,061.76	2,378.96	2,854.74
Oundle	1,003.84	1,171.14	1,338.45	1,505.75	1,840.36	2,174.98	2,509.59	3,011.50
Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe	915.80	1,068.43	1,221.06	1,373.69	1,678.95	1,984.23	2,289.49	2,747.38
Polebrook	920.81	1,074.28	1,227.75	1,381.21	1,688.14	1,995.09	2,302.02	2,762.42
Raunds	972.58	1,134.67	1,296.77	1,458.86	1,783.05	2,107.25	2,431.44	2,917.72
Ringstead	934.68	1,090.45	1,246.24	1,402.01	1,713.57	2,025.13	2,336.69	2,804.02
Rushden	957.89	1,117.53	1,277.18	1,436.82	1,756.11	2,075.41	2,394.71	2,873.64
Stanwick	956.46	1,115.86	1,275.28	1,434.68	1,753.50	2,072.32	2,391.14	2,869.36
Sudborough	920.05	1,073.38	1,226.73	1,380.06	1,686.74	1,993.43	2,300.11	2,760.12
Thrapston	978.28	1,141.32	1,304.37	1,467.41	1,793.50	2,119.60	2,445.69	2,934.82
Titchmarsh	935.90	1,091.88	1,247.86	1,403.84	1,715.80	2,027.78	2,339.74	2,807.68
Twywell	931.98	1,087.30	1,242.64	1,397.96	1,708.62	2,019.28	2,329.94	2,795.92
Warmington	930.73	1,085.85	1,240.97	1,396.09	1,706.33	2,016.58	2,326.82	2,792.18
Woodford	919.41	1,072.63	1,225.87	1,379.10	1,685.57	1,992.04	2,298.51	2,758.20
Woodnewton	933.95	1,089.60	1,245.26	1,400.91	1,712.22	2,023.54	2,334.86	2,801.82
Yarwell	933.31	1,088.86	1,244.41	1,399.96	1,711.06	2,022.17	2,333.27	2,799.92
Other areas	899.98	1,049.97	1,199.97	1,349.96	1,649.95	1,949.95	2,249.94	2,699.92



EIA Initial Screening Form – Committee decision

1. Decision being taken:	
2. Name and Job title / role of person completing Initial Screening:	Kelly Watson Finance Manager
3. What is the main purpose of the Service or Policy under discussion?	Council Tax Changes
4. List the main activities of the Service or Policy under discussion	Council Tax assumptions included within Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2013/14
5. Who are the main beneficiaries of the Service or Policy under discussion?	All residents of East Northamptonshire
6. How is the success of the Service or Policy under discussion measured?	Council Tax Collection and Recovery Rates
7. Are equality monitoring systems for the Service or Policy under discussion in place?	<i>(If yes give details)</i>

8. Use the following table to indicate using a ✓:

- a) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality of opportunity or improving relations within equality groups.
- b) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a negative impact on any of the equality groups i.e. it could disadvantage them.
- c) Where you think that the decision being taken could have a neutral impact on any of the equality group i.e. no impact

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Gender:	The increase in Council Tax of 4.04%, which equates to £5.00 (10p per week) on a Band D property, will have a negative impact upon residents as their bills will increase. However, the actual amount is relatively small and needs to be considered alongside the fact that this increase in Council Tax means that the Council will be able to continue to provide the same level of service for the next financial year. There will be no differential impact upon people because of their gender, sexual orientation or race/ethnicity.			
Women/Girls				
Men/Boys				
Transgender people				
Sexual Orientation:				
Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals				
Race/Ethnicity:				
White British people				
White non-British people (including Irish people)				
Asian or Asian British people				
Black or Black British people				
People of mixed heritage				
Chinese people				
Travellers (Gypsy/Roma/Irish heritage)				
People from other ethnic groups				
People who do not have English as their first language				

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Disability:	<p>The increase in Council Tax of 4.04%, which equates to £5.00 (10p per week) on a Band D property, will have a negative impact upon residents as their bills will increase. However, the actual amount is relatively small and needs to be considered alongside the fact that this increase in Council Tax means that the Council will be able to continue to provide the same level of service for the next financial year. There will be no differential impact upon people whether they have a disability or not or because of their age or religion or belief.</p>			
Physical impairment, e.g mobility issues which mean using a wheelchair or crutches.				
Sensory impairment, e.g blind/having a serious visual impairment, deaf/having a serious hearing impairment.				
Mental health condition, e.g depression or schizophrenia				
Learning disability/difficulty, e.g. Down's syndrome or dyslexia, or cognitive impairment such as autistic spectrum disorder				
Long-standing illness or health condition, e.g. cancer, HIV. Diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy				
Other health problems or impairments (<i>please specify if appropriate</i>)				
Age:				
Older People (60+)				
Children and Young People (see guidance for definition)				
Religion/Belief:				
Christian				
Buddhist				
Hindu				
Jewish				
Muslim				
Sikh				
Other religion (including holding no belief)				

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Other Potentially Affected Groups				
Rural Isolation - People who live in rural areas e.g isolated geographically, lack of internet access	The increase in Council Tax of 4.04%, which equates to £5.00 (10p per week) on a Band D property, will have a negative impact upon residents as their bills will increase. However, the actual amount is relatively small and needs to be considered alongside the fact that this increase in Council Tax means that the Council will be able to continue to provide the same level of service for the next financial year. Parish and Town Councils have the ability to set their own precepts, but while this means that the total amount payable by residents will depend upon which parish they live, this additional element of Council Tax is set by the parish and town councils and is not within East Northamptonshire Council's control.			

Equality Group	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Reason
Socio-economic Exclusion – e.g. people who are on benefits, have low educational attainment, single parents, people living in poor quality housing, people who have poor access to services, the unemployed or any combination of these and the other protected strands	<p>The increase in Council Tax of 4.04%, which equates to £5.00 (10p per week) on a Band D property, will have a negative impact upon residents as their bills will increase. However, the actual amount is relatively small and needs to be considered alongside the fact that this increase in Council Tax means that the Council will be able to continue to provide the same level of service for the next financial year.</p> <p>Some residents in this equality group will have previously qualified for Council Tax Benefit (CTB), which is a means tested benefit to help residents pay their Council Tax. From April 2013 the Government is abolishing this benefit, and it is being replaced by a new scheme called Council Tax Support.</p> <p>The new support scheme has to be delivered with a budget reduced by 10%, so the Council, as required by legislation, has had to design a scheme to accommodate this.</p> <p>At Council on 7 January 2013, a scheme was approved which capped Council Tax liability at 8.5% for those previously entitled to Council Tax Benefit. It also removed the scheme known as Second Adult Rebate and removed empty property discounts and exemptions. These have gone through a separate EIA and the conclusions were considered at the Council meeting when the decision on the Scheme was made and can be found appended to the Committee Papers.</p>			
Any other potentially affected groups (<i>please specify</i>)	N/A			
9. If you have indicated that there is a negative impact on any group:				
a) Is that impact against legislation?			No	
b) What is the level of impact?			Low – this increase in Council Tax equates to less than £5 (10 per week) on the average Band D property's annual bill. The Council acknowledges that this will impact upon the	

		finances of residents but considers that the benefit of maintaining service levels outweighs this.
10. Could you minimise or remove any negative impact that is of low significance?	N/A	
11. Could you improve a positive impact of the decision?	N/A	
12. If there is no evidence that the decision promotes equality of opportunity or improved relations, could it be adapted so that it does?	N/A	
Head of Service signature		
Date of Initial Screening:		

