



Draft Budget Consultation 202-2021

Your views are wanted

You can help to influence our decisions by completing this short survey. Your views will help us understand how our proposals may affect you and our communities. Our decisions will only be made after listening to your views and we will continue to support the most in need and vulnerable in our society.

Full details about the budget are available on our website or can be obtained upon request.

If you need help with this form or require the information in a different format, please visit our Customer Contact Centre at our One Stop Shop at The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DE or call on 01604 837806 or by Minicom on 01604 838970.

Closing Date: 31st January 2020

Personal data supplied on this form will be held by the Council and will be used in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018. The information you provide will be used for statistical analysis, management, planning and the provision of services by the Council. The Council will not share any personal information collected as part of this or any other survey. The council's full privacy notice can be viewed at

www.northampton.gov.uk

The Council will not share any personal information collected as part of this or any survey. The Council's Data Protection Registration number is Z5256045



Background

What do we deliver?

- Household recycling and waste collection
- Housing
- Licensing
- Environmental health
- Benefits
- Local planning and building regulations
- Community Safety
- Parks and open spaces
- Council tax collection
- Public car parks
- Supporting economic growth
- Regeneration projects

You can discover more about what we deliver at the Borough Council from our Corporate Plan, via the link below.

[Northampton Borough Council Corporate Plan](#)

The Budgets

The Borough Council's budget proposals for the next financial year are set against a background of ongoing work to put the Council on a firm financial footing in the future. Core funding from central government is continuing to decrease and the Borough Council needs to find ways of generating extra income and cutting costs if it is to meet the budget challenges of the future.

Pressures on the Council's budget are also continuing to grow, with an uncertain economic situation nationally and increased demand for services locally.

The Council approved a Medium Term Financial Strategy in September 2019 which set out the strategic principles that will be followed in setting a balanced budget and delivering efficiency savings. This has informed the process of developing the budget proposals for 2020/21.

The draft budget proposal and background information can be found on our website.

[Draft 2020/21 budget papers](#)



The proposals, if or when agreed, will help the Council balance its budget for 2020/21. This is your opportunity to comment on the draft budget proposals before they are submitted to the Cabinet again for their consideration in February 2020. Full Council will in turn consider the Cabinet's recommendation for approval in February 2020.

The key emphasis has been and continues to be to not reduce frontline services to our residents and clients, despite the reduction in Government Grant and the budget pressures arising from our duties relating to Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation.

Cllr Brandon Eldred
Portfolio holder - Finance



Question Title

1. Northampton Borough Council is proposing a small increase in council tax in its draft budget proposals for 2020/21. This increase is slightly smaller than the increase in the last year, 2019/20.

We are proposing to increase council tax for all households by 2.21%. This will be the equivalent for a band D household of £5.00 per year / 9.6p per week.

Doing this raises an estimated additional £347,000 in 2020/21, and this enables the Council to continue to deliver value for money services in the future.

Do you think that this increase is

(please tick one option)

- Not high enough
- About right
- Too high
- Other (please specify)

2. Where do you feel the Council should be spending additional funds?



3. Do you feel informed about NBC's budget setting aims and goals?

- Strongly agree
- Disagree
- Tend to agree
- Strongly disagree
- Neither agree or disagree

Please use this space for comments that will help us understand your comments

4. How do you think that we can reduce spend, generate income or do things differently to ensure that we maintain a balanced budget? A balanced budget means that our expenditure needs to equal our income and is required by law

5. The key proposals for budgetary savings and growth are set out in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet budget report published on our website ([savings and growth options](#)) which is included in this pack.

Please indicate your views on these proposals below

	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
The Environmental Services Contract is multi-faceted, providing refuse/recycling collections, street and environmental management along with allotments, cemeteries and public conveniences. Various options are being drawn up to reduce existing costs. (£200,000 saving).					
Increase in Commercial Property income, through rent reviews and planned acquisitions. (£300,000 additional income).					
Reduction in grants funding. Includes Small Grants scheme and members grants. (£90,000 saving).					
Review of market operations (£50,000 saving).					
Review of various staff structures and deletion of vacant posts (£324,000 saving).					
Reduction in various paper and printing costs (£58,000 saving).					
Improve the information held on NBC assets, condition and structural data. Including bridges, monuments and large structures. To deliver improved maintenance and management of the NBC assets. (£200,000 growth).					

<p>The Environmental Services Contract provides for tree maintenance but the amount of actual tree maintenance is limited by budget. By increasing the budget by £10,000, it is hoped that increased works can be undertaken thus improving the local environment. (£10,000 growth).</p>					
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6. Please give us your comments on the proposals in question 5, or any of the proposals in the savings and growth options of appendix 2 of the Cabinet papers ([savings and growth options](#) copy attached) and include any concerns you may have about how our specific proposals may impact on yourself or any sector of the community and if appropriate, suggest how you feel we can minimise any such impact.

About You

7. Contact Details. Individual personal details will not be published or used in any other way other than in connection with this survey.

Name	
Company (If applicable)	
Address	
County	
Post Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

8. Please tick as appropriate



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

	Yes	No
I live in Northampton		
I work in Northampton		
I study in Northampton		
I have a business in Northampton		
I am employed by Northampton Borough Council		
I am responding on behalf of an organisation or group		

Name of the organisation I am responding from

9. Please tell us more

- Are you male
- Are you female
- Would you prefer not to say
- Would you prefer to give us an alternative (e.g. binary, etc)



10. Which age category are you?

- Under 16 16 – 24 25 – 34 35 – 44 45 – 54
 55 – 64 65 – 74 over 75

11. How would you describe yourself

- White or white British
 Black, African, Caribbean, black British
 Mixed multiple ethnic group
 Other ethnic group
 Asian/ Asian British
 Prefer not to say

12. Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Yes/No

Thank you for completing this survey – your feedback is important to us to help formulate our proposals.

If you are not already a member and you would like to take part in further consultation activities, please consider joining our Residents Panel. For more details please visit www.northampton.gov.uk/residentspanel. Alternatively, we always post our public consultations on the news section of our website. Please visit us regularly to take part in these so you can have your say.

Once you have completed this copy of the survey, place in the envelope provided and either return to a member of Northampton Borough Council staff in the One Stop Shop, The Guildhall, Northampton, or post to The Chief Finance Officer.