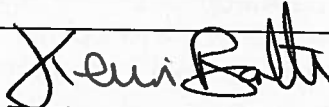


Haringey Council

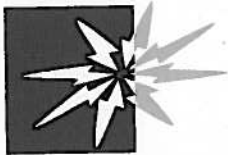
Report for:	Cabinet – 17 December 2013	Item Number:	
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Title:	Financial Planning 2014/15 to 2016/17
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Report Authorised by:	 Kevin Bartle, Assistant Director – Finance
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Lead Officers:	Barry Scarr, Interim Head of Corporate Finance Neville Murton, Head of Finance
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Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key decisions
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Haringey Council

1 Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 To set out the strategic financial issues for the three year planning period to 2016/17, and to update on the process for setting the Council's 2014/15 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2016/17.

2 Introduction by Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Finance, Employment and Carbon Reduction – Councillor Joe Goldberg

2.1 I am pleased to report that the Council continues to rise to the significant challenge of balancing its budget against a backdrop of severe government cuts. In June I reported that the work on balancing the 2014/15 budget was well underway with significant progress having been made on identifying savings to fill the budget gap for that year.

2.2 This report sets out how we have completed that exercise and balanced the revenue budget for 2014/15 having had to account for some unavoidable budget pressures in Temporary Accommodation, brought about predominately by the Government's Welfare Reform programme. We have achieved this by identifying some further efficiencies, which will have little impact on residents, over and above those identified in June. It may be that further adjustments will have to be made before we finally approve the budget at February 2014 Council, but essentially we have done it again. The Council has successfully balanced the 2014/15 budget while still managing to protect frontline services.

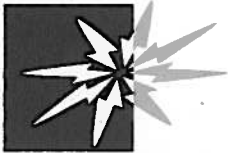
2.3 This budget continues to keep the Council on a sound financial footing that will take the borough forward, enable and achieve growth and deliver better value for money for residents.

2.4 As I explained in June, the Government's austerity programme shows no abatement and we are particularly hard hit in 2015/16 and beyond. It is clear that residents in areas like Haringey are being forced to bear a greater cost as a result of the Government's funding reductions.

2.5 Some professional commentators are also pointing out that if the trajectory of spending cuts continues to be met from the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) there will be many councils without any RSG funding from around 2017; leaving them wholly reliant on locally generated sources of funding such as Council Tax and business rates to meet their residents needs.

2.6 In my view it is now obvious that the Government's austerity programme has failed and that we will face an unprecedented 7 years of continuous cuts despite the fact we have been told it would have ended by now. The Council's transformation programmes are vitally important and must deliver improvements in the quality of services and the state of our borough by delivering the budget savings we need for 2015/16 and beyond.

2.7 I announced the Zero Based Budgeting programme in February and I am pleased to be able to report that good progress is being made on identifying areas of the Council's budget that require priority investment and those where we might reduce our input. The outcomes from this work will take us forward and will be invaluable as



Haringey Council

we transform the Council, making sure we account for every penny and helping us grow in the priority areas.

- 2.8 The need to be masters of our own destiny is even more important if we are to deliver on our promise to the residents of Haringey. I commend this report to Cabinet for approval.

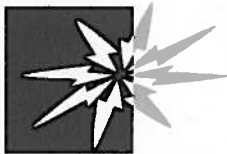
3 Recommendations

3.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) Note the budget proposals and financial planning assumptions set out in this report and that they will be refined and updated after the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement is published in mid to late December;
- b) Approve draft revenue proposals, to be recommended to the Council at its meeting in February 2014 for the Council's MTFP 2014/15 – 2016/17 (Appendices 1-3);
- c) Approve draft capital proposals, to be recommended to the Council at its meeting in February 2014 for the Council's Capital Programme (corporate resources) for the period 2014/15 – 2016/17 (paragraph 9 and Appendix 4);
- d) Note the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme 2014/15 – 2016/17 as set out in Appendix 5 and the HRA MTFP 2014-17 as set out in Appendix 6;
- e) Note the proposed housing rent increases set out in paragraph 11 which will be subject to consultation;
- f) Approve the changes to the 2014/15 North London Waste Authority levy apportionment arrangements as set out at paragraph 15.1 and at Appendix 7 to this report;
- g) Delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, to agree minor changes to the proposed NLWA levy arrangements set out in Appendix 7 arising as a result of other boroughs' consideration of the arrangements; and,
- h) Note the changes to the Dedicated Schools Budget set out in paragraph 14.

4 Other options considered

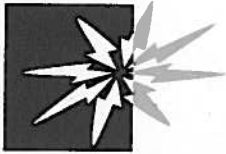
- 4.1 This report proposes that the Cabinet should consider proposals to deliver a balanced and sustainable MTFP at its final budget meeting in February 2014.
- 4.2 This approach has been pursued in order to respond to on-going central government funding cuts that are unprecedented in scale.
- 4.3 Cabinet have no other option than to make savings in order to propose a balanced budget to full Council.



Haringey Council

5 Background information

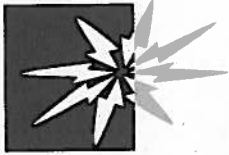
- 5.1 The Coalition Government's Spending Review (SR10) was designed to reduce the national deficit, with an emphasis on reducing public expenditure as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product.
- 5.2 SR10 contained proposals to reduce local government funding by 28% over the four years of the review. The economy has not grown as fast as the government expected; therefore further cuts have been factored into the latest spending review, SR13.
- 5.3 SR10 identified the need for this borough to reduce planned spending by £84m. Previous versions of the Medium Term Financial Plan have addressed that challenge, and the Council reported a balanced budget position for 2012/13, having successfully implemented a package of £62m spending reductions.
- 5.4 The Council's plans for spending reductions have been framed by a need to ensure that priority services and outcomes for Haringey citizens were protected as far as possible. This has been at the core of the Council's strategic response to austerity and deficit reduction, encapsulated by the MTFP. The key element of this response is the clear vision for the borough defined in the Council Plan.
- 5.5 The strategic direction adopted allowed the Council to set budgets from 2011/12 to 2013/14, delivering significant savings. At the time of setting the 2013/14 budget in February 2013, the MTFP identified further gaps in the budget of £20.3m for 2014/15 and £22.5m for 2015/16.
- 5.6 The Council at its February 2013 budget meeting agreed that Council Tax would be frozen at its 2012/13 level, and the level of financial reserves was considered to be adequate to cover future risks. However it was noted that the delivery of a further £42.8m of savings over the next two years would be very challenging.
- 5.7 The Government's deficit reduction plans will continue to reduce the Council's available funding, and many new government and local initiatives will add further strain – for example the full impact of the Welfare Reform Act, the Care Cap and the integration of adult social care with the NHS.
- 5.8 The currently approved MTFP 2013-16 reflected and modelled those risks that could be realistically assessed in February 2013. As with previous years, it is essential that the robustness of the planning assumptions are reviewed by the Council with a view to updating the MTFP where necessary.
- 5.9 The Council also approved its Capital Programme in February 2013. As well as reductions in government funding, the volatility in property market values and the reduced scope for revenue to cover borrowing costs means that a review of capital spending plans is required over the coming months.
- 5.10 The major assumptions that overlay the financial planning framework are analysed below.



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6 2014/15

- 6.1 The MTFP approved by Council in February 2013 identified a gap of £22.5m for 2014/15. This was based on figures supplied by DCLG in December 2012 that were part of a 2 year funding settlement (2013/14 and 2014/15). The figures contained spending cuts that had already been planned in SR10, and an additional 2% cut to non-protected Government departments announced in the 2012 Autumn statement.
- 6.2 The March 2013 Budget then announced additional cuts on top of the 2012 Autumn Statement. As a result, local government will face an additional 1% reduction in 2014/15.
- 6.3 The net effect of the 1% cut in funding creates an extra circa £1.7m pressure in 2014/15. Recognising the risk of additional spending cuts during the 2013 Spending Round (SR13), the Cabinet approved a package of £20m savings for 2014/15 in June 2013, allowing time to develop savings and transformation plans for 2015/16 onwards. After removing a £2m allowance for growth, and taking into account the £1.7m extra cut in support and other minor technical changes, the 2014/15 budget was broadly in balance as at June 2013.
- 6.4 The budget process for 2014/15 has required updates on the savings plans in place for the delivery of the 2014/15 budget, and any extra pressures that have arisen since June 2013. The following paragraphs set out an analysis of those changes.
- 6.5 Following the June Cabinet report there have been a small number of changes to the funding assumptions underpinning the 2014/15 budget including clarification of the Council Tax and Housing Benefit administration grant and confirmation of the on-going element of the Council Tax freeze grant.
- 6.6 The budget monitoring report included in this Cabinet's agenda highlights the current year's spend to date above budget for the Tottenham regeneration programme. Further consideration of the level of additional resources to be applied to the programme, and the optimum funding route, is on-going and planned to be reported in the February 2014 financial planning report to Cabinet.
- 6.7 A number of changes were introduced by the Welfare Reform Act 2012 that have had an impact on the Temporary Accommodation budget. Although the most significant of these was the introduction of the Benefit Cap in April 2013, the lowering of the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) to the 30th percentile, together with limitations placed on the up-rating of LHA rates have also reduced the financial support for housing costs. The gap between LHA rates and market rents is widening and the buoyancy of the private rented sector in London has reduced the supply of affordable housing; this has resulted in increased homelessness and a sharp rise in the prices charged for Temporary Accommodation. An investment proposal to deal with the increased cost has, therefore, been included in this report.
- 6.8 A specific proposal for transitional support has also been submitted in respect of the Customer Services programme; which is a key council priority.
- 6.9 Directorates have also been progressing implementation plans against the £20m saving proposals identified in June, and previous years' agreed savings, which have identified some slippage of proposals from 2014/15 into later years and some



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additional alternative proposals. The budget package assumes support of some slippage elements from reserves as a temporary measure since directorates are currently confident that these savings can still be delivered, albeit later than originally planned.

6.10 Taking all of these issues into account, the 2014/15 budget remains balanced, although as in previous years, this is subject to the implications of the recent Autumn Statement that are currently being assessed and the provisional local government settlement (expected in mid December) plus any announcement relating to levies. Any further budget proposals that are required to be approved will be incorporated within the financial planning update report and recommended to February 2014 Cabinet.

7 2015/16 onwards

7.1 The MTFP approved by Council in February 2013 estimated that the funding gap for 2015/16 would be £22.5m. This was based on the trajectory of spending cuts that had been implemented in SR10. An estimated gap of £21m for 2016/17 was also calculated and reported to Cabinet in December 2012, based on the same set of assumptions.

7.2 The Government announced the results of the 2013 spending review, SR13, on 26 June 2013. The spending review proposed a 10% reduction in local government funding for 2015/16, together with a wide range of additional funding streams to 'balance' this core funding reduction. Additionally, it was announced that £3.8bn funding was to be made available nationally to enable local government and the NHS to pool budgets for Adult Social Care.

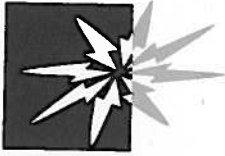
7.3 Modelling the 10% decrease, the impact on the Council was a £3.4m reduction in funding, including a £600k estimated reduction in Education Services Grant by the Department for Education.

7.4 In July 2013, DCLG published the technical consultation for the 2015/16 funding settlement, and it was immediately apparent that the headline 10% reduction in funding was misleading, and understated the true extent of the reductions.

7.5 Analysis showed that the national funding total was £1bn less than expected, and the additional funding streams announced in SR13 to 'balance' the reduction were in fact being top-sliced from core funding. Although the Government has not been able to provide an exact breakdown of the constituent parts of the 'missing' £1bn, in the main they consist of:

- Collaboration and efficiency fund - £100m
- Social Care Cap implementation (Dilnot) - £335m
- Independent living fund - £188m
- New Homes Bonus top slice (safety net) - £45m
- New Homes Bonus top slice - £300m.

7.6 The effect of these adjustments has been an average reduction in funding for local authorities of 13.1% across the country. After taking into account forecast inflation of 1.8%, this equates to a real terms reduction of 14.9%.



Haringey Council

- 7.7 Also, in line with previous years' funding reductions since the 2010 emergency budget, Haringey, along with all other councils with high levels of deprivation, is to receive a higher reduction in RSG than the national average.

Growth and investment

- 7.8 A number of legislative and environmental changes have introduced cost pressures into both 2015/16 and 2016/17, including:

Actuarial valuation – the Haringey pension scheme, like most others in the country, is subject to pressure from extended life expectancy. £1m in 2014/15 had already been provided for increased employer's contributions, but a further £500k has been built in for both 2015/16 and 2016/17 to allow for actuarial increases. This may be subject to change once the finalised valuation results are known.

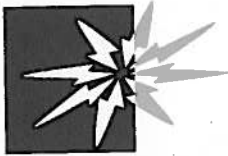
Flat rate pension scheme – the government will be legislating to introduce a single national flat rate pension scheme, and it is estimated that this will cost the Council £1.8m in increased national insurance contributions as it will lose existing opt-out rebates. This sum has been built in to 2016/17 in the MTFP.

New Homes Bonus - In line with 2014/15, New Homes Bonus has been introduced and ring fenced in the MTFP. However, in 2015/16, the government will apply a top-slice to NHB in order to fund economic growth, and the money will be transferred to the Greater London Authority. The MTFP assumes that this £722k reduction in NHB will be met by the General Fund.

- 7.9 Taking all this analysis into account, and updating the Council's MTFP financial model for planned changes to levies and indicative allocations for growth, the funding gap for 2015/16 is now estimated to be **£34m**, a difference of £11.5m from previous assumptions.
- 7.10 Initial projections based on Treasury figures have also been developed for 2016/17, based on a similar trajectory of spending cuts. This has resulted in an estimated gap of **£29m**. This figure also includes projected pay awards, inflation and levies.
- 7.11 The definitive impact at individual council level will not be known until the Local Government Finance settlement planned to be released in mid December 2013, and further work will be required to bring an updated budget and MTFP to Cabinet in February. This will provide details on the 2014/15 settlement and provisional details for 2015/16, as well as further updates to planning assumptions. Based on current estimates, savings of circa **£63m** are required to bring the 2014-2017 MTFP into balance.
- 7.12 **Appendix 2** summarises the revenue investment proposals submitted for Cabinet's consideration.
- 7.13 **Appendix 3** summarises the current savings proposals position for Cabinet's consideration.

8 Local Context

- 8.1 Allocation of resources to deliver outcomes while at the same time managing the pressure of centrally dictated funding cuts will be driven by local priorities and specific opportunities and initiatives.

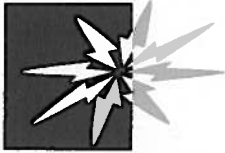


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8.2 The Council's Corporate programmes and priorities: Haringey 54k; Tottenham Regeneration; Customer Services Transformation; and, Corporate Infrastructure (including Zero Based Budgeting) projects will need to respond and flex in line with the funding challenges the Council continues to face.

9 General Fund Capital Programme

- 9.1 Capital expenditure bids which are to be funded from General Fund resources (i.e. capital receipts and other capital resources) have been identified and these have been reviewed by Directors Group; a package of proposals which broadly matches the available resources has been identified.
- 9.2 The proposed projects to be included in the General Fund capital programme are shown at **Appendix 4**. Externally funded schemes are not currently included as government funding announcements on these grants have yet to be made, but will be added as part of the February 2014 Cabinet report.
- 9.3 At this stage in the financial planning process the Council usually avoids any additional prudential borrowing given the revenue impact. However, as consideration is given to the inclusion of potentially significant capital programmes, in addition to supporting invest-to-save initiatives, Cabinet should be aware that any additional financing costs of prudential borrowing would increase the projected revenue funding gap in the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2014/15 to 2016/17.
- 9.4 On that basis the value of the new capital programme will initially be limited to the projected value of existing capital resources, or those which can be generated from future asset disposals. Over the planning period the estimated capital funding available is £41.6m; this broadly matches the proposed programme as set out in **Appendix 4**.
- 9.5 There are however, some risks associated with the disposal programme which is the primary funding source for the programme and the figures include assumptions regarding a relatively small number of high value disposal receipts that, between them, represent a significant proportion of the programme funding. An adjustment to the forecasts to cover an element of this risk has therefore been made.
- 9.6 The Council also has a long term commitment over and above resources already included in the current capital programme to regenerating the Tottenham area. As part of this, receipts and/or revenue resources for prudential borrowing totalling £5m will need to be generated and reserved to honour existing commitments which are currently anticipated to fall outside of the capital programme planning horizon (i.e. programmed spending post 2017).
- 9.7 The following table summarises the total value of recommended bids compared to the estimated available resources.



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Summary of resources and recommended programme

	14/15 £000	15/16 £000	16/17 £000	Total £000
Estimated Capital Receipts	10,341	17,140	3,000	30,481
Risk adjustment – non achievement of receipts	0	(9,000)	9,000	0
Brought forward resources	0	4,800	0	4,800
Other Resources	5,191	4,802	(3,706)	6,287
Total Estimated Resources	15,532	17,742	8,294	41,568
Total recommended programme	12,581	15,642	13,301	41,524
Shortfall/(surplus)	(2,951)	(2,100)	5,007	(44)

10 HRA Capital Programme 2014-2017

10.1 Housing Revenue Account capital bids will be considered alongside the HRA Medium term Financial Plan (MTFP). The draft Housing programme 2014 – 2017 of **£183m** is based on projections for asset management and stock condition post Decent Homes, and relies on utilising £43m borrowing within the overall HRA cap of £58m. The position may change as further factors such as the level of housing rents are decided during the budget process, but the current draft, including proposed funding sources, is included at **Appendix 5**.

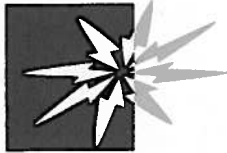
10.2 The proposed Housing capital programme for 2014-15 is £63.3m of which £14.6m is for a planned programme of works to maintain the stock condition and £38m is earmarked for Decent Homes; this element is funded from £25m Decent Homes Backlog Grant from the GLA and the balance from the HRA revenue surplus. Another £5.35m has been identified to fund a range of improvement programmes including fire safety and estate environmental improvements and development of new Supported Living schemes. There is also £5.4m planned for the small sites infill programme.

10.3 The Housing Investment and Estate Renewal Strategy was presented to Cabinet in November. At this stage the strategy is fairly high level and further work is required to finalise the details. The 2015-16 and 2016-17 Capital Programme should therefore be considered as indicative until this work is finalised.

10.4 The current indicative programme continues the increased level of investment in the housing stock and provides funding for a successor programme to the Decent Homes programme. This will be informed by the refreshed stock condition survey and consultation with tenants. Due to the high level of investment needs it is likely that internal resources will not solely be sufficient and the Council will have to consider increasing its HRA borrowing.

11 Housing Rent increases

11.1 Under the self-financing regime rents are the main source of income for the HRA and the Council is required to make decisions annually on the level of increases. At its February meeting, Cabinet will be asked to approve the rent increase for 2014/15.



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- 11.2 In November, the Cabinet approved the Housing Investment and Estate Renewal Strategy which sets out the Council's intention to increase investment in its housing stock and to explore opportunities for small scale infill developments and estate renewal. This will support the achievement of the Council priorities of delivering regeneration in priority locations and ensuring everyone has a decent place to live.
- 11.3 Under the self financing regime introduced by the 2011 Localism Act, investment funding for housing comes largely from the Council's own resources with very little central government grant funding being available. The Council therefore has developed its financial strategy for the HRA in line with its investment aims. This strategy is to maximise revenue income from rents and other charges and reduce costs through finding efficiencies. The revenue surpluses generated are then available for direct capital investment in the housing stock.
- 11.4 Given this principle it is proposed that the Council should increase rents in real terms following the principles of the government rent restructuring policy. The rent restructuring framework was introduced by the previous government and works to gradually increase council housing rents in real terms (i.e. above inflation) while reflecting differences between different areas and types of dwelling and without increasing rents excessively in any single year.
- 11.5 Haringey has been following this framework for several years. Last year the Council approved a variation for new tenancies on void properties. For these properties the limits on the rent increase in any single year will not apply and the rent is increased in one step to the target level indicated by the rent restructuring policy.
- 11.6 Although Councils are not required to follow rent restructuring the government calculations underpinning the self financing model assume that they will. Setting a rent below the level indicated by the rent restructuring framework will restrict the income to the HRA and is likely to make it difficult to fund the investment needs of the stock.
- 11.7 Cabinet is, therefore, asked to continue to follow their established policy for rent increases in 2014/15, except for re-let void properties, reflecting the September 2013 RPI announcement and to use the additional revenue generated to help fund the increased capital programme outlined above.
- 11.8 If the Council continues to follow rent restructuring then the average weekly dwelling rent will increase by **£4.90** or **4.98%**. The average weekly rent will therefore increase from **£98.23** to **£103.13**. The additional income to the HRA from applying this increase is £4m a year; were the Council not to implement the full increase, the loss of rent would be £810k per annum for each 1% reduction applied.
- 11.9 As rent restructuring takes into account individual factors for each property such as the existing rent and the capital value, there is considerable variation in the size of the increase for each dwelling. The following tables illustrate this range.

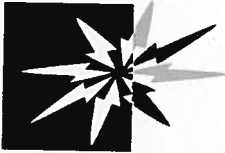


Table One: Potential weekly dwelling rents for 2014/15 with caps and limits applied

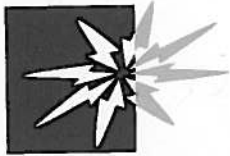
Number of Bedrooms	Number of Properties	Minimum Rent (£)	Maximum Rent (£)	Average Rent (£)
Bedsit	157	67.84	114.89	83.23
1	5,624	57.68	136.38	88.24
2	5,392	80.44	148.83	103.24
3	3,984	76.34	155.57	118.48
4	616	88.47	167.14	134.04
5	102	104.64	169.69	154.52
6	10	134.79	177.79	161.79
7	2	137.05	174.44	155.75
8	1	176.32	176.32	176.32
All dwellings	15,888	57.68	177.79	103.13

Table Two: Percentage increase in weekly dwelling rents for 2014/15

Number of Bedrooms	Minimum increase	Maximum increase	Average increase
Bedsit	1.88%	6.85%	5.14%
1	1.57%	7.43%	4.96%
2	1.63%	6.35%	5.03%
3	2.61%	6.49%	4.94%
3+	0.61%	6.10%	4.86%
All dwellings	0.61%	7.43%	4.98%

Table Three: Range of changes

Potential Rent Increase	Number of Properties	% of Total
Less than £4.00	3,492	21%
Between £4.00 and £5.00	5,364	34%
Between £5.00 and £6.00	5,077	32%
Between £6.00 and £7.00	1,675	11%
Between £7.00 and £9.00	280	2%
Total	15,888	100%



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12 Service charges

12.1 In addition to rents, tenants pay separate charges for specific services that they receive. Charges are currently made for the following services:

- Concierge services;
- Caretaking;
- Grounds maintenance;
- Street sweeping;
- Light and power;
- District heating; and,
- Water.

12.2 Homes for Haringey are still in the preparation stages of setting their budgets therefore it is not yet possible to provide the proposed services charges for 2014/15. These will be presented to Cabinet for approval in February 2014.

13 HRA Revenue Budget and MTFP 2014-17

13.1 As part of the Council's budget strategy to generate efficiency savings, Homes for Haringey have been asked to reduce that element of the company budget within their full control by £3.2m; this will include charges made by the Council for corporate and support services which will rise by inflation. Further reductions of 5% are planned for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

13.2 Homes for Haringey are still working on proposals for achieving the savings and these will be reported to Cabinet in February 2014.

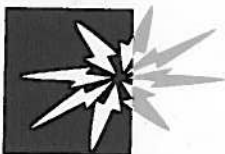
13.3 In order to make the necessary staffing reductions, Homes for Haringey will incur transition costs, including redundancy and early retirement costs. Provision has been made in the MTFP for these costs, subject to Cabinet approval, to be met from the HRA reserve. An estimate of £3m has been made which is shown as falling in 2013-14 but the exact timing will depend on the timetable for making savings. The estimate will be updated for the February Cabinet.

13.4 Homes for Haringey are an admitted body in the Local Government Pension Scheme. Following the recent actuarial valuation of the risks and liabilities on their part of the fund, the actuary recommends that the employer contribution should rise. The exact amount of the increase is still the subject of discussion with the actuary. The finalised increase will be taken account of in the HRA MTFP as an unavoidable growth pressure.

13.5 There is also an additional £1m new growth for activity to support the HRA Investment and Estate Renewal Strategy reported to Cabinet in November.

13.6 Within the managed accounts there is a need to make an increased provision for bad debts. The level of bad debt has been increasing over recent years and this is expected to continue to worsen following Welfare Reform Act changes including the benefits cap, the under occupation penalty and the payment of housing support to the tenant rather than the landlord under Universal Credit.

13.7 There is also £2.4m of funding that has been transferred from the capital programme to revenue within the managed account. This is not new spending but is a change



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in classification following a review of capitalisation.

- 13.8 The net result of these changes is a revenue surplus of £10.3m. This together with £4m of the brought forward balance on the HRA reserve will be invested into the expanded HRA programme. It is recommended that Cabinet agree the Housing MTFP as set out in Appendix 6 to this report.

14 Dedicated Schools Budget (DSB)

- 14.1 The DSB encompasses the Dedicated Schools Grant, post 16 funding provided by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and the Pupil Premium. A report on the proposed DSB strategy was presented to Schools Forum on 2 December with further reports to Forum due on 16 January and 26 February 2014.
- 14.2 The Pupil Premium will increase in 2014-15 to £1,300 per eligible pupil (confirmed for primary schools but not yet for secondary schools) and £1,900 for Looked After Children. The estimated sum for maintained school pupils and Looked After Children for 2014-15 is therefore £14.7m

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

- 14.3 The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ring-fenced government grant that can only be used in support of the Schools Budget as defined in the School and Early Years Finance Regulations. The Schools Budget consists of delegated budgets allocated to individual schools, Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and Early Years Provision in Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers, and a budget for other provision for pupils which local authorities fund centrally, which now includes the bulk of high needs provision, including post-school provision up to age 25.
- 14.4 The DSG covers all pupils in maintained schools and academies, funding for the latter being 'recouped' from the Council's allocation.
- 14.5 There were significant changes to the DSG in 2013-14, most notably:
- a. The splitting of the grant into three notional blocks, the Schools Block (SB), Early Years Block (EYB) and High Needs Block (HNB);
 - b. The simplification of the schools funding formula in preparation for a national formula planned for April 2015;
 - c. Changes in the way special schools, special units and alternative providers are funded, replacing comprehensive planned place funding with a 'Place Plus' approach. This provides a fixed amount of delegated funding per place plus a 'top-up' paid by a commissioner when placing pupils;
 - d. Delegation of some central services to schools with the possibility of de-delegation from maintained schools only. This replaces the former Schools Budget element of the Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG); and,
 - e. Increased power for the Schools Forum over what budgets a Local Authority (LA) can retain from the School and Early Years Blocks.

- 14.6 The indicative DSG settlement will be announced on 18 December.



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Schools Block (SB)

14.7 Schools Forum on 24 October endorsed the Council's proposal for the 2014-15 Schools Funding Formula. This proposes a re-balancing of budgets between the Basic Entitlement (the per-pupil allocation received regardless of the individual characteristics of the pupil) and funding for deprivation and Additional Educational Needs (AEN). The final approval of the formula will be made in a separate report to Cabinet on this agenda.

14.8 The SB is calculated using pupil numbers recorded in the Schools Census on 3 October 2013 and following a data cleansing exercise by the Department for Education (DfE); the numbers to be used will be published on 10 December 2013. This number is multiplied by the Guaranteed Unit of Funding of £5,878.44, which is the same as in 2013-14.

High Needs Block (HNB)

14.9 The HNB is allocated as a cash sum and covers all funding for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) other than that included in delegated mainstream school budgets. It includes funding for special schools, special units and alternative providers using the place-plus approach set out above; funding for pupils placed in other local authority or private provision and centrally provided services. It also incorporates funding for the extended duty of providing for students in FE establishments with Special Educational Needs (SEN) up to the age of 25.

14.10 A working party of the Schools Forum have been reviewing the budgets in this area and will report back to the Schools Forum. A significant concern is the uncertainty around the costs of the new responsibilities for students up to the age of 25 with SEN which began in September 2013.

Early Years Block

14.11 The main element of this block is calculated using the January early years census prior to the start of the financial year and modified by the census during the year. The indicative allocation will therefore use the January 2014 count. This is multiplied by the Guaranteed Unit of Funding of £5,345 (as in 2013-14). Based on summer term numbers we expect January 2014 numbers to be higher than January 2013 numbers by approximately 90 FTE generating an additional £0.48m. Offset against this will be the loss of £0.9m transitional funding following the removal of the former 90% funding guarantee for three year olds.

14.12 In preparing for the loss of the guarantee and the requirement to increase part-time take-up Cabinet agreed to the reduction in the number of full-time places provided in nursery schools and classes starting in September 2012. Full-time numbers will be reduced further in September 2014.

14.13 Based on current take-up of three and four year old places the reduction in full-time places will not fully cover the loss of the three year old guarantee. The gap in 2014-15 with the current take-up will be £0.256m and in 2015-16 £0.156m. An increase in take-up of part-time places will reduce this shortfall. The EYB has a one-off contingency of £0.545m as a result of claw-backs relating to 2012-13 that can be rolled forward to meet this shortfall in 2014-15. The EYB also has a contingency of



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£0.36m for in-year pupil growth of which an estimated £0.25m will be drawn down in 2013-14 and which can be reduced in the longer term if increases in part-time take-up is insufficient to cover the funding gap.

- 14.14 An additional funding element is for the new responsibility to provide places for two year olds from deprived backgrounds introduced in September 2013. Funding for 2014-15 is provided through the DSG based on planned numbers at a rate of £5.28 per hour and will not be subject to claw-back if actual numbers are lower. Funding will be based on actual numbers for 2015-16 onwards. Providers are funded through a formula agreed by Cabinet.

Free School Meals for Infant Age Pupils.

- 14.15 It was confirmed in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement that the Government will make funding available to offer every pupil attending a state-funded school in reception, year 1 and year 2 a free school lunch from September 2014.
- 14.16 Further details of the proposal and implications will be brought to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

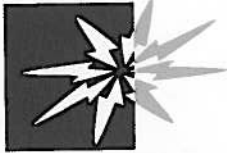
15 North London Waste Levy

- 15.1 In addition to changes in the overall cost of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) levy, any amendments to the levy arrangements themselves need to be agreed unanimously by all 7 boroughs. The current levy arrangements date back to the 2012/13 levy period and need to be updated for 2 issues:

- An adjustment to reflect the London Borough of Barnet consigning commingled recyclates from 9th October 2013. The proposed change is of financial benefit to Haringey as it will place Barnet in the same position as other boroughs that are increasing their recycling tonnages, if the change were not agreed then the other boroughs would pick up a greater share of the cost of processing the additional waste from Barnet, as there is a lag in the tonnage feeding into the levy calculation mechanism.
- A change in the location of the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Haringey to Western Road (from Cranford Way); this ensures that the costs of the new site are met and apportioned as below in line with the previously agreed proposals for the Cranford Way site:

Barnet	0.613%
Camden	0.038%
Enfield	0.383%
Hackney	0.191%
Haringey	97.894%
Islington	0.804%
Waltham Forest	0.077%

- 15.2 Appendix 7 sets out the proposed wording for the revised NLWA agreement which all authorities are being asked to agree; Cabinet are also being asked to delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment to agree any subsequent minor changes raised through the other boroughs' approval process.



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16 Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

16.1 As the report is primarily financial in its nature, comments of the Chief Financial Officer are contained throughout the report.

17 Comments of the Head of Legal Services and legal implications

17.1 The Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules at Part 4 Section E of the Constitution set out the process which must be followed when the Council sets its Budget. It is for Cabinet to approve the proposals and submit the same to the Full Council for adoption in order to set the budget.

17.2 The Cabinet will need to ensure that where necessary, consultation is carried out and equalities impact assessments are undertaken and that the outcomes of these exercises inform any final decisions. The Council will need to ensure that any finalised proposals do not result in the Council being unable to comply with its statutory duties.

18 Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

18.1 Equalities issues are a core part of the Council's financial and business planning process.

19 Head of Procurement Comments

19.1 Not applicable

20 Policy Implication

20.1 The Medium Term Financial Plan represents the resource framework for delivery of Council Policy and objectives.

21 Reasons for Decision

21.1 The Council has a legal duty to set a balanced budget. This report sets out the strategic financial issues for the three year financial planning period to 2016/17, and updates on the process for setting the Council's 2014/15 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2016/17.

22 Use of Appendices

22.1 Appendix 1 – MTFP updated version November 2013

22.2 Appendix 2 – Revenue Investment proposals

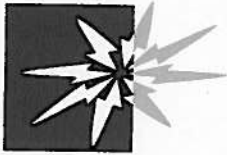
22.3 Appendix 3 – Savings proposals

22.4 Appendix 4 – General Fund Capital Programme (corporate resources)

22.5 Appendix 5 – HRA Capital Programme

22.6 Appendix 6 – HRA Medium Term Financial Plan 2014-2017

22.7 Appendix 7 – Proposed Amendments to apportionment of NLWA levies



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23 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

23.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Financial Planning 2013-14 to 2015-16 – Cabinet 12 February 2013
- Financial Outturn 2012-13 and Budget 2014-15 – Cabinet 18 June 2013

23.2 For access to the background papers or any further information please contact Neville Murton, Head of Finance (BAS) on 0208 489 3176 or Barry Scarr, Interim Head of Corporate Finance, on 0208 489 3743.

