



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18 July 2016

Finance

The Council's draft Accounts for 2015/16 were signed off by the Chief Finance Officer and published in advance of the 30th June deadline. They have been passed to KPMG, the external auditor, to undertake their annual audit. The draft Accounts will be presented to the Audit Committee at their meeting on 25th July. In addition the Accounts are available for public inspection for a period of 30 working days from 1st July 2016.

The Council is continuing its work towards developing its Efficiency Plan for submission to Government in October. As part of this work the Council is in the process of assessing the implications of "Brexit" from the European Union on both its finances and also its service provision.

Revenues and Benefits

During the early part of the new financial year the Revenues and Benefits service have been focused on recovering from the busy year end period and annual billing process. Alongside this major activities have been completed that include the finalisation of the transfer of the business rates service into LGSS. In the past this service was provided by the Borough Council of Wellingborough via a consortium arrangement and it's transfer to Northampton has been managed very carefully to minimise any impact on the collection of this income. In addition the service have completed a large scale recruitment process, with the aim of supporting the service over the coming months, but also to build resilience for the future, including the appointment of 3 modern apprentices. The officers recruited will be deployed mainly to support our customer contact via the telephone and aims to ensure the service answer 90% of all calls to the service, even during high volume periods which sees demand on the telephones more than doubling. Efforts to reduce demand during these periods are also underway and the service in 2016 has increased the online take up of the Councils Citizen account by over 3,000 users from 17,000 at the turn of the year

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance