



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18th September 2017

Revenues and Benefits

Revenues and Benefits performance remains on target for all key service areas. We team have recently upskilled our newest members of staff, of which has had a direct impact on the excellent performance and resilience within our Call Centre and our response rates to our customers. Our continued focus on supporting our most vulnerable customers has resulted in an increased number of new claims and Discretionary Housing Payments being processed within 24 hours.

Finance

There are three areas of focus currently in the Finance team.

Firstly, developing the Council's Efficiency Plan and developing the medium term financial plans. A report is being prepared for Cabinet in October which will reiterate the financial challenges facing the Council over the medium term and propose the adoption of some guiding financial principles in achieving a balanced financial position. To this end work has been ongoing for a number of months developing options.

Secondly, understanding the financial position of the increased demand being experienced in Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation budget. As noted in the Finance Report Cabinet this is placing pressure on the forecast outturn for the current financial year and there are a number of mitigating actions being implemented to manage the financial pressure.

Thirdly, the finance team are working with the External Auditor, KPMG, to finalise the Accounts for 2016/17. These are planned to be presented to Audit Committee on 27th September.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance