



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 11th December 2017

Finance

On 22nd November the Chancellor announced his Autumn Budget 2017, the main focus of which was on housing and infrastructure. Whilst there was little in the way of specific announcement for Northampton it was clear the Government is keen to support housing and provide the infrastructure to support growth. The council should receive more detail in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement which is expected prior to the Christmas break.

As previously reported the council faces financial challenges in next financial year and over the medium term. These arise from reduced government funding and cost pressures on our services. In response to this and to ensure the council remains financially sustainable the Cabinet has continued to work on developing its Budget proposals for 2018/19 and over the medium term period. These will be presented to Cabinet at its Budget meeting in December, followed by a period of consultation prior to formally setting its budget and council tax in February 2018.

Revenue and Benefits

LGSS Revenues & Benefits is continuing to deliver against NBC's performance targets, with no current risks to service delivery presented to the performance board based on October's performance data. The on-going trials of the new service delivery model (First Point Resolution) has ensured that the call answer rate has exceeded target for 3 consecutive months in row.

The service is actively managing the increased demand against the Discretionary Housing Payment fund, and whilst there is concerns of a potential overspend for 2017/18, the service is continuing to explore and implement initiatives that will allow a robust management of the fund whilst ensuring a commitment to homelessness prevention. The service will continue to ensure that NBC is kept apprised on the ongoing situation on a regular basis.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance