



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th September 2018

Revenues and Benefits

Revenues and Benefits performance remains on target for all key service areas.

We will as part of the preparation for Unitary start benchmarking our performance and approach with our neighbours joining us in the West Unitary to see how we might improve the collection rate and income across all three councils.

Discussions are underway between all councils in Northamptonshire with a view to submitting a proposal to MHCLG for the next round of Business Rate Retention Pilots for 2019-20 (75% Retention Scheme). This may provide an initial one year bolster of £Millions across the councils in the Northamptonshire Area.

Finance

The Statement of Accounts 2016-17 continue to frustrate us, a full report has been presented to Audit Committee 3rd September 2018, by LGSS. Progress is being made in respect of 2017-18. The NBC CEO will be discussing the issues around closure and production of the NBC accounts with his counterpart in LGSS.

The Finance Team are now turning their attention to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Budget for 2019-20, along with evaluating what savings and efficiencies may be required to balance the budget.

Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation as demand led services, continues to provide a challenge for the Council both in the current financial year and is likely to in future years.

The new external auditors, Ernst & Young (EY) have introduced themselves and will start preparatory work for the 2018-19 Accounts Closedown. Our new Internal Auditors (BDO) have been appointed and will be commencing work soon, replacing PWC.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance