

COUNCIL MEETING – 26 March 2007

Statement from: Cllr D Palethorpe, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, People Support

Budget for 2007/2008

The Council agreed the 2007/2008 budget on 21st February. It incorporated significant efficiency savings and is designed to provide for important future service developments. Two amendments to the budget have had a significant effect on the distribution of the Community Enabling Fund.

Community Enabling Fund

A 2-day CEFAP board took place on the 14th and 15th March to agree the distribution of the fund. My thanks to Councillors Irene Markham, Richard Matthews and Michael Boss who along with officers and representatives from the voluntary sector formed the board.

Sickness Absence

At the end of the third quarter [January 2007], the average number of days lost per employee was 9.34 days. This compares with 13.37 days for the same period in 2005/2006. This is a very significant improvement on last years out turn figure of 16.2 days absence and indicated the excellent work that has been done across the whole authority. Targets have been set at 9.9 days per annum for 2007/2008.

Pay & Grading Review

Work on job evaluations as part of the pay and grading review is continuing in line with the agreed programme. The administration continues to be committed to the implementation of the pay and grading review outcomes.

Community Safety.

The agreement between Northampton Borough Council and the Police Authority to jointly fund additional PCSOs has been welcomed, and the 6 additional Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), recruitment, training and deployment is now being progressed to compliment the 17 Neighbourhood Wardens.

The successful re-launch of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) linking in with the Northampton LSP is now in place and a tasking event to establish the priorities for addressing crime and anti social behaviour is planned to take place in April. The new CDRP will benefit from having senior representatives who have the authority to make decisions on behalf of their organisations on the board which will in the next six months prove more effective in tackling identified priorities for action across the whole town.