

Council
Thursday 27 September 2007

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance

Sort out the Council's finances

In accordance with the need to understand and monitor the authority's financial pressures I have continued to meet with the Interim Chief Executive and Corporate Directors, as well as attending bi-monthly performance reviews. Work continues on the budget setting process for 2008-2009.

Capital Programmes are being produced for 2007-2008, for both the General Fund, and the Housing Revenue Account. These will be brought to Cabinet in public, on 1st October.

Budget Monitoring Reports, with forecast outturns, are now being produced monthly. The report for month 5 will be considered in the public agenda, at Cabinet on 1st October.

Financial Accounts

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007, together with the external auditors report are going before the Audit Committee on 24th September, and Cabinet on 25 September, prior to coming to this Council

Resources for Finance Directorate

Appropriate staff recruitment, assessment, and training has continued. This is reflected in the production of capital programmes and budget monitoring reports referred to above.

Asset Management

A number of asset disposals have taken place, as dealt with in the relevant Cabinet agenda items.

Northampton Door to Door Service (NDDS)

I am involved in assisting NDDS in securing accommodation for staff and vehicles, following their loss of premises, as a result of a property disposal by Northamptonshire County Council.

This administration will be reviewing the future grant funding arrangements for the service, during the budget setting process. This has to be viewed in the light of a reduction from a 3 year agreement to a 1 year agreement, by the previous administration. Additionally, the County Council reduced the period of their agreement likewise, and also reduced the level of their funding by some 15%.

This Council has released the agreed funding for 2007-2008, to NDDS. Up until recently, the County Council had not released any of its agreed funding for the current financial year.

Malcolm Mildren
17 September 2007