

**Council**  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance**

***Sort out the Council's finances***

In accordance with the need to understand and monitor the council's financial pressures I continue to meet with the Interim Chief Executive and Corporate Directors, as well as attending bi-monthly performance reviews. Much work has and is being done to provide the information to enable the budget setting process for 2008-09. Capital programmes have been produced for 2007-08 for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account, together with Capital Outturns. Monthly Budget Monitoring reports continue to be produced. The report for the 7 months to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007 will be produced to Cabinet on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Financial Accounts**

The audited financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 were approved by Full Council on 27<sup>th</sup> September, having been presented by Councillor David Perkins, the Chair of Audit Committee. These financial statements were signed off with an unqualified report by the external auditors.

***Value for money public services***

**Use of resources assessment**

The external auditors are currently assessing the Council's performance for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007. In respect of: Financial Reporting; Financial Performance; Financial Standing; Internal Control; Value for Money.

Members will remember that these assessments, scored from 1 to 4 in each case, with 1 being the lowest and 4 the highest, are taken very seriously in assessing and rating local authority and public body performance.

The offices in the finance directorate have worked hard to produce all the necessary documentation to satisfy the key lines of enquiry (KLOES) that contribute to the decisions of the auditors.

***Give the highest priority to vulnerable people***

**Northampton Door to Door Service (NDDS)**

NDDS provide a valuable transport service to members of the public with mobility and sight problems, which has recently been under threat. I have continued to be involved in the Council's securing of accommodation for NDDS staff and vehicles following their impending loss of premises as a result of actions taken by the County Council.

Malcolm Mildren  
November 2007