



## Cabinet Member Report for Finance

### Northampton Borough Council

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

#### **Finance**

On the 12th December the Cabinet considered the published draft Budget 2018/19 and medium term financial plans for consultation. Full details of our draft Budget and the consultation can be found on our website using the following link:

<https://www.northampton.gov.uk/info/200110/budgets-spending-and-performance/2400/budget-consultation>

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was published in the week before Christmas. This broadly confirmed the funding estimates made in our draft Budget. There were a few announcements in the Settlement that are likely to affect our medium term financial position, including:

- Council tax referendum limits remain at the greater of £5 or 3.00% for lower tier councils.
- Confirmation that the Northamptonshire Councils will be part of the 75 business rates retention scheme for 2019-20.

An assessment is being undertaken on the impact of the provisional settlement on our draft Budget and any amendments will be reflected in the Council's final budget which is planned to be considered by Cabinet in February and at Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **Revenues & Benefits**

The Revenues and Benefits Service continues to deliver to service standards, it has also consulted on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which informed elements of the draft budget for 2019-20.

The impact of Universal Credit on the Revenue and Benefits Service and capacity requirements will be monitored.

The Service is also actively supporting (at no direct cost to NBC) all Councils across Northamptonshire in considering Single Person Discount Reviews to deter and/or detect fraud.

#### **Facilities Management**

Every Friday and Saturday and some Thursdays during December saw Christmas parties facilitated at the Guildhall, the parties were very successful. December also saw confirmed bookings for 3 wedding ceremonies, 1 wedding reception and a Jobs Fair.

Repairs to the Investor Suite have been underway after the issue with the young man who smashed the glass roof in the early hours of a Saturday morning. New furniture will now be procured to replace the damaged items.

**Councillor Brandon Eldred**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance**