



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

9th December 2013

The primary focus in Finance at this time is the development of draft budget proposals for consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 18th December. The draft budget is being prepared at a time when local government is facing reductions in funding from Government, increasing pressure on its costs as demand for services increases and high expectations from the public. Cabinet will consult on its budget proposals throughout January and early February 2014.

The loan to Northampton Town Football Club that will facilitate the development at Sixfields has now been finalised. The loan to The Saints that will allow for the expansion of Franklins Gardens is now in the final stages of agreement.

The Borough Council, in partnership SEMLEP, has also secured a government backed loan of £46m at preferential rates for the University of Northampton's proposed £300m campus in the Enterprise Zone.

We are in the process of consulting on options for the 2014 and 2015 local Council Tax scheme. These schemes are heavily constrained due to the budgetary pressures we face and the future pressures on the collection of Council Tax. The schemes proposed aim to retain enhanced support for vulnerable members of our community particularly in relation to those on disability benefits and war pensions. The scheme retains support for people going back into work.

The Revenue and Benefits service has been nominated for two national IRRV awards (Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation) for the Revenues Team of the Year and the Excellence in Staff Development. I am pleased to announce that LGSS / Northampton Borough Council have won the Gold medal for the Revenues Team of the Year and Silver in the Excellence in Staff Development award. These awards reflect the services achievements over the last few years in meeting the on-going demands across the collection of income and debt, alongside the investment we have made in making our staff the best they can be in supporting our service users.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Finance