



## **Cabinet Member Report for Finance**

### **Northampton Borough Council**

**2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014**

#### **Finance**

The Finance team continues to implement and monitor the spending priorities as set out in the 2014/2015 budget. Under this Administration the Borough Council has undergone fundamental changes to the way it works in order to reduce waste and bureaucracy, put more money into front line services and be more financially stable for the future.

Good financial management is more important than ever to consolidate this work and to take it even further. Financial management processes are currently being improved through additional training and enhanced budget monitoring. The ongoing Financial Improvement Plan will allow this Administration to continue to deliver value for money for the tax-payer and deliver the services and projects our town deserves.

#### **Revenues & Benefits**

Over the course of the previous financial year a number of achievements were made by the Revenue and Benefits service.

Key reforms were delivered within the service including, the benefit cap, the spare room subsidy, the new Discretionary Housing payments and the implementation of the new Council Tax Support Scheme that replaced the old benefits scheme.

Changes to local discounts and exemptions in 2013/14 have also been managed successfully, meaning that the service continues to maximise income due to the Council to go into front line services.

The transition to Local Government Shared Services was made with no impact on our service to users. This included finalising the separation of the Revenues and Benefits element of the customer service team. This has been a delicate exercise to ensure that customers are not adversely impacted.

Current performance within the service remains high as demonstrated through the Key Performance Indicators for the service for the month of April.

**Councillor Alan Bottwood**  
Cabinet Member for Finance