



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

14th July 2014

Finance

The Finance team has been focussed on producing the Borough Council's statutory accounts for 2013/14. The draft Accounts were signed off by the Chief Finance Officer on 30th June and are now open for a period of public inspection and external audit. The Accounts are due to be formally signed off by the External Auditor by 30th September.

Revenues & Benefits

Following the annual billing process, the service has maintained good performance for the first quarter, with both new benefit claims and change of circumstances. This will assist us to maintain standards alongside the need to manage increasing budgetary pressures.

We are currently implementing a new e-service, which will allow customers to advise us of change of address, exemptions, discounts, apply for refunds and make payment arrangements for council tax, all on-line and their records will be updated automatically that day. This is due to go live in October.

We have issued the pre-qualification questionnaires prior to tender, for Enforcement Agent Services. This will be an LGSS contract for use by the Borough Council, Norwich, Daventry, Wellingborough and potentially six additional districts. This is due to commence on the 1st April 2015, and whilst it will start a few months earlier than the old framework was due to finish, we have recognised the importance of having a consistent approach for Northampton and its partner at the earliest opportunity. It will be very similar to the one we have at present, in the way we expect our suppliers to behave and the standards we require delivering, but it will also allow us to share the costs of performance managing them.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Finance