



**Cabinet Member Report for Finance  
Northampton Borough Council  
Monday 4th November 2019**

**Finance**

The Council continues to suffer additional cost pressure around housing and homelessness the Corporate Management Board are working with that service area to assist with the management and mitigation the impact on budgets in the current year.

Cabinet and the Corporate Management Board have met to consider the challenges for next year and future years. Officers are considering and developing proposals for Cabinet to consider to develop the budget for 2020/21 and the NBC Medium Term Financial Plan contribution to the new Unitary Council. The recent announcement to cap Council Tax increases to 1.99% has impacted on our assumptions.

Having lifted the cap on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing, Treasury announced without warning in October that it would add 1% to all Public Works Loan Board loans. This will not stop the plans we have to build more homes, but will make the business cases more challenging.

The Statement of Accounts for 2017/18 were signed off by KPMG, we now await full engagement with Ernst Young (EY) to plan and deliver the Accounts for 2018/19.

**REVENUES & BENEFITS**

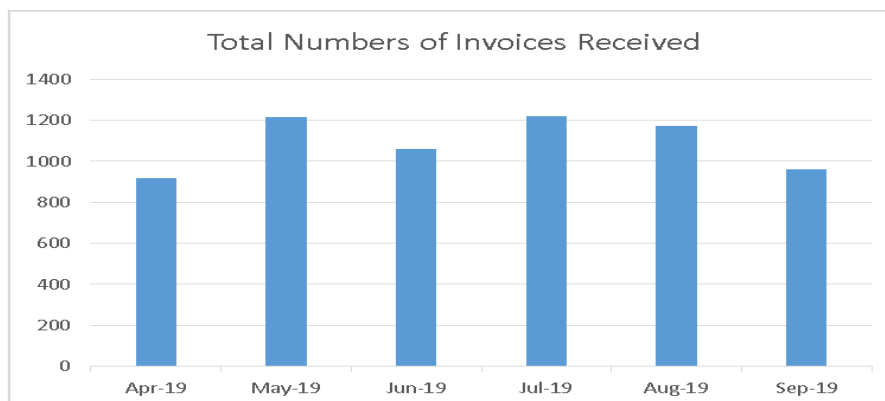
**Collection Rates** – The year has started with on target performance in respect of billing and initial collection rates, there is a need to re-profile the monthly collection values due to the high volume moving from 10 month direct debits to 12 months.

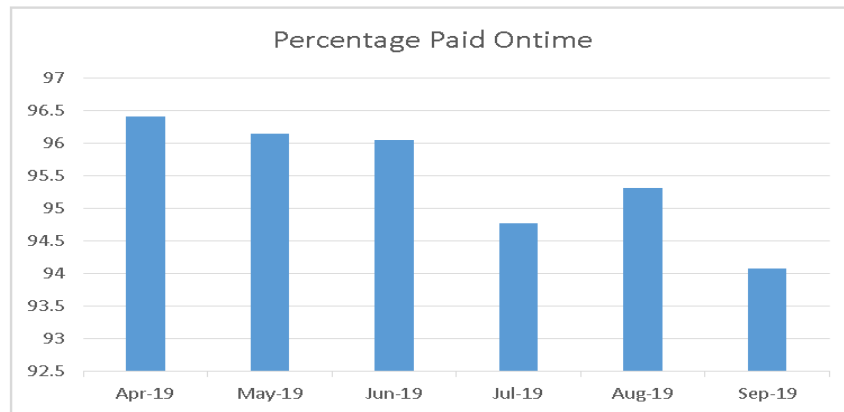
**Business Rates** – The service continues to run well, with continued monitoring of business volatility and risk.

**Benefits** – The service is working with NCC to agree a scheme to review Single Person Discount to ensure that those entitled receive the benefit and remind those whose circumstances have changed that failure to inform the Council may risk recovery action .

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE / RECEIVABLE**

The table below reflect that 6552 Invoices were received in the first six months of the year, the average paid on time is 95.5% for that period





In respect of recorded sundry debt As at the end of S there was a total of September £1,869,721 on the sundry debtors system of which £ 1,635,692 was older than 61 days. The largest service area debt is Asset Management with £485,937 of debt, which is a reduction from the prior reported figure. The CFO Governance Team continues to work with the Asset Management Team to improve processes, procedures and debt management to reduce the level of aged debt.

## **FACILITIES**

### **Guildhall Office**

Facilities Management hosted 7 Wedding Ceremonies and 3 Reception. The Guildhall has also been the venue of choice for National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Question Time & Public Board Meeting for an all-day meeting, with approx.. 150 people attending throughout the day.

Hosted all day conference for Historic England, Heritage Day and Civic Sunday, have secured confirmed bookings worth £7361.50 for 2019 and 2020 bookings

Statistics include:

- Scanning accuracy – 99.75%
- 1,300 incoming Revs and Bens documents indexed
- Indexing accuracy – 100%
- 3079 incoming Revs and Bens e-mails indexed

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