

Dear Colleagues, Dear Chairman, Dear Clerk,

Information ref: NCC, Gov.

Where are we now?

you can read more static news and follow the updates through my Blog

<https://cllradilsadygov.com/>

Hello! I hope you are well? I wish you all a Happy New Year and I hope you had lovely festive time with your family. With Christmas and New Year celebrations long gone, I can confirm that January 2019 has been ultra-busy for NCC Councillors.

OVERVIEW + PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

As you might know, the January for all NCC Councillors appeared to be a super-busy month. I am talking about setting up working groups to assist the work of the new Overview and Scrutiny Committee. There are **over 20 different meetings booked-in for January 2019** to scrutinise proposals tabled before the Cabinet in December 2018 and go through them with the Directors of Services and Heads of Departments, as well as Portfolio Holders. These working groups are internal but all councillors believe that the PUBLIC must carry the right of say over the proposals and are invited to the wrap-up sessions to finalise the report.

- The first hour of this wrap-up meeting will let people have their say. The session sits alongside the opportunity you already have to engage in the [budget CONSULTATION process](#).
- The usual public speaking protocol would apply in that it would need to be a question related to the draft budget and members of the public would be given up to three minutes to speak at the discretion of the committee chairman.
- **Anyone who wishes to speak** should contact Democraticservices@northamptonshire.gov.uk to register
- The meeting will take place at **County Hall on Wednesday, 23 January at 10:00am** and anyone who wants to speak has up to 24 hours before the date of that meeting to register or submit questions.

BUDGET SCRUTINY

There are a lot of proposal on the table totalling to up-to and over £43m in savings. These proposals have been welcomed by the Government and the Commissioners overseeing the County Council.

I am, along with my colleagues were going through all of them and each one of us inputting our personal knowledge and expertise to assist the Officers and to keep an eye on delivery and feasibility of the proposals.

- The proposals for each Directorate will see **increased spending** on parts where the service is demand-led and improved internal auditing on spend and cost-control. **Better negotiation practices and regular reviews** are in place.
- Councillors are being told that planned investment is expected to deliver **like-for-like savings** within the in-year budget.
- **Regular reviews** will ensure that increased spending is proportionate and where beneficial – increased, where dormant – cut back.
- **Close-scrutiny of planned investment** will provide for appropriate use of funds to avoid the past fiasco of £8m Public Health money spend on things it should not have been spent on
- This money will aim to **provide for demand-led management** in case of the unstable future due to further cuts to Public Health Budget and general allocation for Local Authorities.
- Different Directorates are trying to co-operate more and linked their planning, to avoid double counting.
- Too many services were overlapping and different pots of funding were entangled and did not cater for increasing demand.
- We are **expecting to breakeven on the base budget** of most directorates.

Budget Consultation + Library Consultation 2019/20

I am hoping to bring more news on the Libraries soon and there will be a series of drop-in sessions across Northamptonshire. Portfolio Holder has promised to conduct a one-to-one meetings with all sitting councillors who's library got affected.

There is currently an ongoing consultation on Libraries, Children Services, Budget. The Consultations are Public. All residents are invited to join the discussion and have a say on what the change might look like.

The list of all ongoing consultations can be found here:

<https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/council-and-democracy/have-your-say/Pages/current-consultations.aspx>

Overriding Powers of Commissioners

It is my duty, however, to say that, as you know we currently have 3 Commissioners within NCC. They possess overriding powers to all decisions made by the officers and elected members.

Councillors, including myself, have long argued about limit to our democratic powers. It is important to point out, many members wanted to turn the tide of changes but we realise that even if we will vote back the increased spend on Gritting, Buses, Libraries and Trading Standards, the Commissioners can override our decision and use their “veto” powers to impose their view of the “right change” on the authority.

Backbenchers, Opposition, the Cabinet and the Leader himself. We are all in the same boat.

This is to address the comments that some residents are making on lack of will from some councillors on putting things right. This is not true. There are many meetings happening and detailed scrutiny of all proposals is taking place. Backbenchers and Scrutiny Committee members, like myself, are doing our best to minimise the impact of cuts.

It is a necessary measure to ensure that new, Unitary, Authority will start with a positive balance and will not inherit long-standing debts of the authority.

If you have got any questions or would like to make specific enquiries – please contact me on:

078 350 34496

or

asadygov@northamptonshire.gov.uk

adil.sadygov@southnorthants.gov.uk

you can also follow updates through my Cllr Blog:

<https://cllradilsadygov.wordpress.com/>

With regards,

Councillor Adil Sadygov