

Audit and OSMB Committee Workshop
Feedback

19th December 2018

Context

The aim of the workshop was to look at Northamptonshire County Council and identify what went wrong to assess if it could happen here!

The 3 areas of focus;



The results of discussions are provided below if the rest of the paper.

Financial Resilience – feedback from Members

Risk Appetites

A better understanding of the councils risk appetites and the sharing of reports which are circulated to CMB.

Member training

Training for members in terms of scrutiny and finance as some members feel they don't have the relevant skills to fully understand certain elements such as information contained within the financial reports. Also additional training to better equip members to ask the right questions and challenge effectively and confidence training for new members to enable them to contribute effectively

Financial Reporting

Regular reporting to each of the scrutiny committees to enable a better review process. In addition to the regular reports a simplified committee paper reporting process and expenditure review would provide members with a better understanding of the financial reporting with a regular reporting on the level of reserves.

Financial ratios

Including CIPFA's financial ratios within committee papers to provide members with key indicators concerning the financial stability of the council.

Capital Programming	Capital programming reporting is not as it should be so this is an area finance are currently working on.
Capital Receipts	Improved reporting the use of capital receipts for transformation projects.
Financial Procedures	Finance are currently reviewing and updating financial procedures.
Capital Strategy	Finance are currently developing a capital strategy to aid in the decision making process.
Budget for 2020 onwards	Finance are now focusing on and planning budgets for 2020 onwards

Culture and Accountability

Good Governance

The fundamental function of good governance in the public sector is to ensure that organisations' achieve their intended outcomes while acting in the public interest at all times.

Interim chief executive is looking at ways we can improve accountability and ownership – having a clear line of sight.

Governance Review – culture and ethics underway.

Ran out of time – so didn't have group work on Governance and Accountability

The Golden Triangle

The key to any public sector organisation maintaining good governance is how effective their statutory officers are and how they put the public's interest at the forefront of decision making.

