

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 26TH SEPTEMBER 2018

**POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR
FINANCE AND RESOURCES**

The financial position for many local authorities is dire. Northamptonshire, Surrey and Somerset County Councils are in a particularly difficult position but there are many others who are not too far behind. Leicestershire continues to manage the position well, but the medium term position does look extremely challenging. Children's Services spending pressures are a major issue especially those related to special education needs and looked after children.

The Government has little flexibility to provide more resources to local government given the recent allocation to the health service. We believe that the core messages from our Fair Funding campaign have hit home, so we have some cause for optimism. However, it is clearly difficult for the Government to redistribute resources from a shrinking national pot. We will continue to push our message.

This Autumn we will refresh the MTFS and it is inevitable it will include more savings. As usual we will endeavour to maximise efficiency savings and commercial income as the scope for service reductions is limited given we are the lowest funded and spending County Council in the country. We aim to take the draft MTFS to Cabinet in December and then through the Scrutiny process in January.

There is some positive news. We will be submitting a business rate pilot bid with our partners. This if successful has the potential to bring a one off c£14m into the City and County and will help meet spending pressures including infrastructure for a growing population.

J. B.. Rhodes

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