

Key Issues in Medium Term Financial Planning 2008-11 and Onwards

Ref	Issue	National Issues/Implications	Effect on Northampton Borough Council
1	Continuous improvement	Part of CPA/CAA Framework	Service planning to produce improvements, issue of better measurement. CPA/CAA
2	Medium Term Planning	National push for better planning	Continued development, especially integration of policies, performance, and cost.
3	Growth	Plans for the MKSM area for the future. Require national resolution and funding.	Costs exceed resources. Need to link in with regional and national efforts.
4	Decent Homes Standard	Government target to meet the decent homes standard by 2010	Pressure to fund the programme to meet the Government target
5	Change to CAA	Significant change in criteria, especially use of resources	Criteria tougher and more wide reaching than CPA, including asset management and environment KLoEs
6	Efficiency	More demanding targets from 2008/09. Efficiency savings need to be acted on quickly and embedded.	Monitor and drive the achievement of efficiency savings Encourage more efficient ways of working and procuring goods and services

7	Formula Grant	3 year settlement particularly poor for districts, with ongoing financial implications for both services and council tax levels	Funding allocations, formula and population projection method disadvantages NBC. Need to participate at a county, regional, and national level to make our case.
8	Asset Management Improvements	Ties in with the new CAA proposals for Use of Resources and to ensure best Value for Money	Improvements to planning and management of the Council's assets (property and non-property)
9	Asset Disposals	Ties in with the new CAA proposals for Use of Resources	Planned capital receipts from the sale of the council's assets to be closely managed and monitored.
10	Planning of budgets to match Council's projected funding		Through the medium term planning process the authority must examine its net expenditure to meet the limitations of its funding.
11	LABGI	National amount reduced to £150m over three years compared to over £1bn in the previous three years	Also uncertainty as the method of distribution is to change.
12	Equal Pay and Single Status	National drive for equal pay in local Government	Impact currently being assessed – negotiations ongoing. Pay and Grading work
13	Risks and Reserves		See annex I
14	Concessionary Fares	New National Scheme	Uncertain as yet what the impact will be in terms of take up and related cost.

