

29 April 2009

Mr David Kennedy
Chief Executive
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St. Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

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Dear David

Annual inspection fee 2009/10

I am writing to confirm the assessment and inspection work that we propose to undertake for the 2009/10 financial year at Northampton Borough Council. The inspection fee:

- is based on the risk-based approach to inspection planning as set out in the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) framework and associated guidance; and
- reflects only the Audit Commission's inspection work, excluding any audit fees. Your appointed auditor will be writing to you separately on fees for audit work.

CAA will deliver a more proportionate and risk based approach to inspection, targeting only high risk services and outcomes for inspection where alternative improvement activity is not appropriate. We have agreed to defer the required follow up inspection of your Housing Service until 2010/2011. The inspection plan will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

The total indicative fee for inspection for 2009/10 is £8,320 and is shown in the table below. The inspection fee has been set in accordance with the Audit Commission's work programme and scales of fees 2009/10.

Assessment and inspection work plan and fee

Assessment / inspection activity	Planned fee for 2009/10
Area assessment of local partnership	n/a (CLG grant funded)
Managing performance theme of organisational assessment	£8,320
Total inspection fee	£8,320

If I need to make any significant amendments to the inspection plan and fee during the course of the year, I will first discuss this with you and then confirm in writing outlining the reasons for the change, including the proposed scope for the work.

The above fee excludes any work you requested and the Commission has agreed to undertake using its advice and assistance powers.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me in the first instance. Alternatively you may wish to contact the East Midlands Head of Operations, Alison Rigg.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Toms'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'N' and a long, thin vertical stroke extending upwards from the top of the 'N'.

Nigel Toms
Comprehensive Area Assessment Lead

cc Isabell Procter, Director of Finance NBC