

Key Issues in Medium Term Financial Planning 2010-13 Onwards

Ref	Issue	National Issues/Implications	Effect on Northampton Borough Council
1	Continuous improvement and CAA	Part of CAA Framework Further changes in criteria, especially use of resources	Service planning to produce improvements, issue of better measurement. Criteria tougher and more wide reaching than CPA, including asset management and environment KLoEs
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	Efficiency	Targets were tightened again in the Chancellor's pre budget report of December 2009, which set a 4% cashable target for 2010/11	Monitor and drive the achievement of efficiency savings Encourage more efficient ways of working and procuring goods and services
6	Equal Pay and Single Status	National drive for equal pay in local Government	Negotiations and Pay and Grading work are ongoing.

7	Formula Grant	2010/11 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 and Asset Disposals	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) and planned capital receipts
9	Planning of budgets to match Council's projected funding		Through medium term planning processes NBC must examine its net expenditure to meet the limitations of its funding.
10	Risks and Reserves		See annex 8
11	Concessionary Fares	Changes in Administration arrangements of national scheme to county level with funding changes	Uncertain as yet what the impact will be in terms of funding changes.
12	Economic Climate	Ongoing Global Economic instability since October 2008. Also, continuing impact of recession, and downturn in housing and financial markets. In addition, material fluctuations in inflation during 2009/10	Significant uncertainty in relation to key income streams, such as investment income, planning income, and building control income, as well as future prices, in cost areas where markets and inflation rates are unstable.
13	Parking Fees	Trend of significant downturn in parking income year on year, could also be impacted by economic uncertainty.	Unpredictability of future income streams means that close monitoring will be essential in 2010/11 and future years.

14	Spending Review	The next spending review is due to take place following the general election. Given the current state of public finances, it is expected that the next three year settlement will be particularly tight.	Need to participate at a county, regional, and national level to make our case.
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