

<b>BUSINESS EFFICIENCY SCRUTINY PANEL</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 5</b>
<b>9 APRIL 2009</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

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### FEEDBACK AND UPDATE REPORT

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report provides feedback on items considered or questions asked at previous meetings of the Panel. It also provides an update on matters which are of interest to the Panel or where members have asked to be kept informed of progress.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Panel notes the report.

#### 3. KEY ISSUES

##### 3.1 Budget 2009/10 – Fees and Charges at the Museum

During the Panel's consideration of the budget report on 8 January 2009, members requested further information in relation to the proposed fees and charges at the museum. Officers have now provided the following information:

The increase relates to venue hire for the Howe Room and the Squire's Parlour, and to overnight hire of the museum for paranormal events. The increases in each case have been proposed after surveying the market in Peterborough for similar venues and re-aligning charges to be consistent. A summary of the fees currently charged and the proposed charges for each venue is shown in the table below. Charges vary in each case where concessions are applied.

Venue	Current Charges	Proposed Charges
Howe Room	£12 - £40 per hour	£20 - £55 per hour
Squire's Parlour	£40 - £100 per day	£80 - £180 per day
Paranormal Events	£250 - £600 per overnight event	£350 - £650 per overnight event

##### 3.2 Extension of Heltwate School

During the Panel's consideration of the executive decisions report on 8 January 2009, members requested further information in relation to the decision relating to the extension of Heltwate School.

Officers have now provided the following information:

##### Why has there been an increase in numbers at the school?

Numbers are rising across the special school sector and currently there are children receiving special education outside Peterborough which incurs significant costs.

What exactly is going to be extended?

4 classrooms are being built with associated facilities, e.g. toilets and hygiene rooms. The main aim of the project is to improve the provision at Heltwater which has been criticised by Ofsted as inadequate. Once the extension has been built the area the children move out from will be refurbished and remodelled to improve provision and allow for about 10 extra pupil places.

Does this work mean that provision will be adequate for the future?

This will not provide for all future special education needs in the city. Other strategies will also have to be looked at.

Who are the contractors?

M.A.R.S. (Construction) Ltd

3.3 Nene Bridge Refurbishment

During the Panel's consideration of the Forward Plan report on 8 January 2009, members requested further information in relation to the proposed decision relating to the Nene Bridge Refurbishment.

Officers have now provided the following information:

"The Nene Bridge, a large dual carriageway under bridge on the Primary Route Network, carries the A1139 Fletton Parkway over the River Nene and the Peterborough to March railway line to the east of Peterborough. Since its construction in the early 1980s the condition of the structure has deteriorated, leading to defects which are beginning to affect the residual life of the structure.

The aim of the proposed scheme is to refurbish the affected elements of the structure, bringing those elements back to good condition and lessening the implications of the current defects on other neighbouring elements. The refurbishment should extend the bridge's lifespan and avoid more costly works in the medium term.

The major elements of the works comprise re-waterproofing and re-surfacing of the bridge deck, joint and bearing replacement and painting of the steel box beams underneath. Other works to the substructure, drainage and pier remedials are also envisaged. The re-waterproofing and re-surfacing work will lead to periods of single lane traffic flow over the bridge, and occasional road closures, early in 2009. The other works beneath the structure will require close liaison with the Environment Agency and Network Rail when working in the vicinity of the river and the railway respectively, particularly when gaining access for painting operations, and will probably follow shortly afterwards."

3.4 Junction 8 Signalisation Project

During the Panel's consideration of the Forward Plan report on 8 January 2009, members requested further information in relation to the proposed decision relating to the Junction 8 Signalisation Project, specifically which junction this related to.

Officers have now provided the following information:

"Junction 8 is a major roundabout on the parkway system located to the north-east of Peterborough at the intersection of:

- A1139 Frank Perkins Parkway
- A15 Paston Parkway
- A1139 Eye Road
- Parnwell Way
- Access to Service Station"

**4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

4.1 That the Panel notes the report.

**5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Minutes of the meeting of the Business Efficiency Scrutiny Panel held on 8 January 2009

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