

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL	Agenda Item No.
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Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

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EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to notify the Panel of the Executive Decisions which have been taken and which relate to the Panel's remit.

2. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 2.1 Links to the Corporate Plan, Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement are contained within the individual decisions notices.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Waste Disposal Policies (Householders Recycling Centre)

Decision

That the Cabinet Member for the Environment approve the adoption of the attached "Waste Disposal Policy" (Appendix 1) that sets out what can and cannot be disposed of at the Householders Recycling Centre.

Reasons

This report is being progressed through the council decision making process following several recent challenges in respect what can and cannot be disposed of as household waste at the council's Householders Recycling Centre Dogsthorpe

The council has a current position/policy, developed over time of not accepting various types of waste at its Household Recycling Centre. The current position has been brought about by changes in legislation and the restrictions enforced by the Environment Agency through the site license conditions which the council has to operate and comply with at the facility. To formalise the council's position it is proposed that the council sets out its waste acceptance criteria by way of a policy as attached to this report (appendix 1).

The main changes to the current practices are that:

- The amended policies will be made assessable to the Public and at the entry to each site(s) to make it clearer to both users and operators of the site(s).
- Permitted vans and trailers may be refused entry at busy periods for safety reasons.
- The council's position on DIY waste is made clear and consistent with other authorities.

This will ensure that the council complies with its statutory duty as a waste collection and disposal authority in line with other neighbouring council's.

3.2 Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2009/10

Decision

To approve each proposed sub programme of the 2009/10 Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme of Works as follows:

- (1) Approval of the 2009/10 Integrated Transport Capital Programme as attached at Annex 1.
 - (2) Approval of the 2009/10 Highways Maintenance Programme as attached at Annex 2.
 - (3) Approval of the 2009/10 Street Lighting Maintenance Programme as attached at Annex 3.
- Annexes are available on request.

Reasons

1. The Council was awarded a total of £11.079m transport settlement for 2009/10 (Table 1 refers). The allocations for Integrated Transport and Capital Maintenance were awarded on the basis of a formulaic calculation that takes into account a number of parameters for example passenger numbers, road lengths, Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) etc. Primary Route Network funding (PRN) is an allocation specifically ring fenced for the maintenance of structures on strategically important transport corridors. This allocation was set following the determination of an evidence based bid submitted to Government in August 2007. A further sum of £0.392m of transport resource funding was also awarded as part of the pooled area based grant, details are shown in Table 2. In addition to the external funding Corporate Capital funding has been allocated to areas detailed in Table 3. Further, an additional £0.230m has been allocated from the capacity bid process for footway maintenance.

Table 1 – LTP Capital Allocation

	2009/10	2008/09
Integrated transport (block)	£2.289m	£2.154m
Capital maintenance (block)	£2.407m	£2.361m
Road Safety Grant	£0.073m	£0.065m
Primary route network (ring fenced)	£6.310m	£3.660m*
Total	£11.079m	£8.240m

*£1.8m of this funding was transferred from the 2007/08 financial year to the 2008/09 financial year.

Note: A total of £0.180m of 2008/09 LTP capital funding was carried forward to the 2009/10 financial year and ring fenced for highways maintenance on Starr Road, Priory Road and Kirkstall (this is not reflected in Table 1).

Table 2 – Transport Resource Funding

	2009/10	2008/09
Specific Road Safety Grant (Resource)	£0.305m* *	£0.290m
Detrunked Roads Maintenance (Resource)	£0.060m* *	£0.063m
Total	£0.365m	£0.353m

** Both the Specific Road Safety Grant and the Detrunked Roads Maintenance Grant are classified as Area Based Grants and a bid has been submitted to Strategic Finance for the sums indicated.

Table 3 – Corporate Capital Funding

	2009/10	2008/09
Highways Capital Maintenance	£0.765m	£0.807m
Roads and Bridges + Drainage Improvements	£0.250m	£0.250m
Street Column	£0.245m	£0.245m

Replacement		
Parking Enforcement Plan 2	£0.000m	£0.200m
Total	£1.260m	£1.502m

2. The LTP2 programme is informed by a formulaic five year funding allocation known as Planning Guideline (Table 4 refers).

Table 4 – Planning Guideline (£ million)

	2006/0	2007/0	2008/0	2009/1	2010/1
Integrated	1.867	2.049	2.154	2.289*	2.423*
Capital Maintena	0.349	2.761	2.361	2.407*	2.605*

* The figures for Integrated Transport and Capital Maintenance funding for 2009/10 and 2010/11 were confirmed (not subject to change), following the Governments' Comprehensive Spending Review in 2007.

3. The Planning Guideline settlement for integrated transport equates to an increase in funding allocation relative to the LTP1. The assurance of the five-year allocation identified enables the Council to produce a programme of schemes with a degree of certainty and therefore enables key areas to be targeted (both in policy and geographical terms) to deliver transport objectives.
4. As set out in the LTP2, allocations to integrated transport programme areas (e.g. Public Transport, Walking and Cycling, etc.) have been made using a comprehensive modelling process to ensure that the allocation to each budget head maximises the value of funding in delivering the LTP2 objectives and targets. Annex 1 provides a more detailed breakdown of the 2009/10 integrated transport schemes within the budget allocations. The costs currently attributed to individual schemes are estimated and are liable to change as detailed design progresses. Any significant deviation (i.e. in excess of £500k) from the approved programme would be referred to the Cabinet Member for Environment for decision. Decision below this threshold will be taken by the Head of Environment, Transport and Engineering in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment – changes would also be presented to the joint Capital Programme Group/Asset Management Group for approval.
A more detailed breakdown of the 2009/10 Highways Maintenance Programme is shown at Annex 2 and the 2009/10 Street Lighting Maintenance Programme at Annex 3.

3.3 East of England Regional Spatial Strategy Review: Call for Section 4(4) Advice and 5(5) Advice

Decision

Cabinet was asked to approve the City Council's advice to the East of England Regional Assembly on the forthcoming review of the Regional Spatial Strategy, and in compliance with sections 4(4) and 5(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

The review is initiated by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), who are required by section 4 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to seek advice from strategic planning authorities (including Peterborough City Council) at the outset. The main requirement of the call for advice is to test a range of housing growth scenarios as required by Government, and to test the employment range provided through EERA and East of England Development Agency (EEDA). Section 4(4) authorities are required to assess the implications of achieving the growth implied by four scenarios.

Peterborough continues to aspire to grow to address housing need and affordability and to realise the potential of its strategic location. It is clear that the economic downturn is leading to a decline in housing delivery rates both regionally and nationally. There is uncertainty regarding the duration of the economic downturn and the implications on Peterborough, but it is understood that there will be a decline in local delivery rates in the short to medium term.

Peterborough therefore proposes a scenario of approximately 30,000 dwellings 2007-2031. This allows for an initial decline in house building targets for approximately four years, followed by a gradual increase. As policy intervention and strategic mechanisms become effective, the RSS Residual annual average delivery figure of 1440 would be reached.

Under section 5(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, PCC is required as a strategic planning authority to provide advice to EERA on whether Peterborough should be considered as a sub-region with sub-regional policies in the RSS (East of England Plan).

Studies have identified a coherent and functional sub-region around Peterborough and a boundary has been identified. A study by Fordham Research (2008) on the Housing Market has also confirmed a sub-region based around Peterborough. Specific policies are required to tackle issues in the sub-region. However effective implementation is hampered by the sub-region spanning across the regional boundary, and there being no functioning arrangement to manage delivery. In order to tackle these issues it was proposed that a sub-regional body should be pursued as a mechanism to encourage effective cross boundary working.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

1. Approve the advice to the Regional Planning Body (set out in annexes 1 and 2 of the report) on the forthcoming review of the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy.
2. Agree to pursue discussions with other local authorities on the establishment of a sub-regional grouping or body to stimulate sub-regional growth and regeneration.
3. Agree to pursue discussions with specialist and local groups on the potential opportunities that arise from growth and regeneration.

Reasons

The provision of advice is a statutory requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

3.4 Approval of the 2009/12 Opportunity Peterborough Draft Business Plan

Decision

Cabinet received the Opportunity Peterborough draft business plan for endorsement.

As a major funder, supporter and member of the Board of Opportunity Peterborough, it is important that the Council is satisfied that the draft Business Plan will deliver the objectives agreed, and use the funding provided in an effective way.

The declining economic situation associated with a lack of developer participation and significant reductions in public funding will not help in maintaining the momentum of delivery and growth; however there are alternative methods of delivery through the use of special purpose vehicles and direct engagement with private financiers, such as pension and investment funds, which are being actively explored to overcome this situation.

Accordingly the plan has looked closely at the key strategic priorities needed to drive forward the growth agenda and those which can be realistically delivered given the likely availability of resources whilst retaining the long term vision for the city of delivering 25,000 new homes and 20,000 new jobs by 2021.

Opportunity Peterborough's purpose is to facilitate the successful regeneration of Peterborough through enabling sustainable growth. To achieve this OP will focus on 3 key objectives:

- To create a vibrant and attractive city centre at the heart of a bigger and better Peterborough
- The sustainable and integrated growth of Peterborough including the infrastructure to deliver this

- A vibrant and diverse business community, supported by an improved skills and knowledge base, fit for the global economy

Opportunity Peterborough has worked with senior officers and members within Peterborough City Council to develop a close partnership to deliver the growth agenda within the city and in particular a "Strategic Growth Framework" which provides a structured and focussed approach to the delivery of the growth agenda.

The Cabinet member for Housing, Regeneration and Economic Development addressed Cabinet and said that he is reassured by the Council's Growth programme under the Deputy Chief Executive and his team, and that he has an ever increasing confidence in the Council's approach to growth. He is keen to ensure that Opportunity Peterborough fulfils the role the Council wants it to and which is supported by the East of England Development Agency and Homes and Communities Agency; that is to deliver on key strategic projects in the way the council is committed to and which it is required to if it is to meet its obligations under the Regional Economic Strategy, the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Area Agreement targets. This will obviously mean a shift in focus from that in the Opportunity Peterborough business plan and the way in which the resources that Opportunity Peterborough manages on the Council's behalf are used. He therefore looks to the Chief Executive of Opportunity Peterborough for assurances that they will be working with the council to deliver, with the emphasis very firmly on actual delivery on the ground.

Therefore, subject to the Opportunity Peterborough business plan being kept closely under regular review and subject to Opportunity Peterborough working more closely with the Council to facilitate and implement the Council's vision for the city,

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

1. Endorse the 2009-12 draft Business Plan of Opportunity Peterborough
2. Note that agreement of funding of specific projects from that plan, if required, will be subject to the Council's normal decision-making process

Reasons

It is required that the City Council and the other two founding partners consider and agree to the draft Business Plan. Inevitably, the specific schemes for implementation will evolve during the course of the 3 year plan period and it is therefore appropriate that funding of these is approved by the Council through its normal decision-making processes.

4. IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Any specific implications are contained within the individual decision notices.

5. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 5.1 The Panel is asked to consider the Executive Decisions which are relevant to the remit of the Panel and which have been made since the last meeting and if felt appropriate, to identify any decisions they may wish to examine in more detail.

6 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

Executive Decision notices from 2 February 2008

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