

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES
27 JULY 2009

Recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Housing and Community Development and the Commercial Services Director

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations by 28 August 2009
Fix It Van Service	<p>That the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Housing and Community Development recommends to the Commercial Services Director that the four recommendations below are carried out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The service continues to be provided with two vehicles in its current format. 2. All Parish and rural communities be encouraged to take the opportunity to make better use of the service and become involved in its operations. 3. That we continue to use the Fix It Van brand. 4. That we request the Parish Council Liaison meeting to consider: are there any other services that could be provided through the Fix It Van Service? 	<p>Cllr Hiller is in support of this recommendation and has recommended Mike Heath carry out recommendations 1-4 in the report.</p>
	<p>That the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Housing and Community Development recommends to the Commercial Services Director that any further recommendations following consultation with Parish Council Liaison are considered for incorporation in the continuation of the service.</p>	<p>Next PCL meeting is on 23 September 2009.</p>

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Recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Growth and Human Resources and the Executive Director – Operations

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations by 28 August 2009
Rural Economy	That the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Growth and Human Resources recommend to the Executive Director - Operations that Rural Businesses must be able to erect signs to advertise their businesses.	Officers to communicate the current policy and supporting text, so that people may clearly understand the requirements of those policies and are aware of how best to meet the criteria. I would suggest that this is channeled through the GPP's Rural Working Group.
	That the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Growth and Human Resources recommends to the Executive Director - Operations that guidance on acceptable sign design should be provided for rural businesses; permanent and temporary signs.	I would suggest a small group involving Commission Members, GPP Rural Working Group Members and Relevant PCC Officers to review the existing policies and the concerns of rural businesses, this will provide opportunity for those with concerns to submit alternative wording for the policy and/or supporting text, along with their evidence to support the change –subject to agreement this can then be incorporated in the draft Planning Policies DPD (Development Plan Document), placed in front of members and tested through Public Inquiry.

Recommendations to the Leader of the Council

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations by 28 August 2009
A Rural Definition	<p>That the Leader of the Council recommends to Cabinet that the following definition is used to identify rural areas and communities when discussing rural policy or developing strategies that would affect rural areas of the city:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Rural areas are wards with a significant rural character and also wards with important areas of countryside”.</p>	The Leader will be writing to the Cabinet and the Cabinet Advisors recommending that they use the definition as shown under the Rural Definition Item. Done on 17/08/09.
Rural Economy	That Leader of the Council recommends that the Cabinet and Opportunity Peterborough confirm that they recognise that the rural economy is made up of a variety of businesses and industries and not just farming and food production.	The Leader will be writing to the Cabinet and Opportunity Peterborough advising that they should recognise that the rural economy is made up of a variety of businesses and industries and not just farming and food production. Completed 17/08/09.

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Recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Regional and Business Engagement

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations by 28 August 2009
Rural Economy	<p>That the Cabinet Member for Regional and Business Engagement</p> <p>Recommends that Cabinet considers and develops a strategy to assist rural businesses to include promotional activities and ways of alleviating the burden of business rates.</p>	I have asked that the points raised with reference to my portfolio be included within the agenda for the next cabinet meeting so they will be discussed at that meeting.
	<p>That the Cabinet Member for Regional and Business Engagement recommends that Cabinet request Opportunity Peterborough to amend the wording of the report concerning the Magna Park development; paragraph 3.4 should read “may provide further stimulus to employment”, rather than “will provide further stimulus to employment”.</p>	<p>I have asked Steve Compton to look at the Opportunity Peterborough wording issue.</p> <p>Bill Agnew: Following the committee's feedback on this report I have amended a reference to jobs as 'may' rather than 'will'.</p>

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