

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEETINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 AND 14 JANUARY 2010

Recommendations to the Cabinet

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations
<p>Medium Term Financial Plan to 2014</p>	<p>That the Cabinet is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) future budgets must contain more detailed information on proposed areas of savings, business transformation initiatives and changes to fees and charges so that effective scrutiny can be undertaken of the proposals as part of a more transparent decision-making process. (b) the Council and NHS Peterborough must look to integrate their budget setting processes in future years so that effective scrutiny can be undertaken of service provision, particularly in areas of joint activity. (c) once details of the number of full time equivalent posts that are required to be deleted from the staffing structure is known, this is communicated to all Members of the Council. 	<p>The production of the budget remains a difficult balancing act between providing an appropriate level of detail, but not significantly increasing the size of an already large document. Discussion took place at the scrutiny meetings at possible ways of drawing attention to key issues e.g. reporting fee and charge increases above a certain level by exception. Whilst we would not want to change the budget papers partway through the process, these can be introduced next year.</p> <p>Some differences in the statutory timescales for budget setting for the two sectors do remain. However the partners are looking to align such activity, as approved by Cabinet in December 2009 (report titled 'Refreshing the Local Strategic Plan').</p> <p>Work is underway to assess the impact of the budget proposals on staff levels and will be shared with Members in due course.</p>
	<p>That the Cabinet is advised of scrutiny's support for the commitment given to delegate budgets to the Neighbourhood Councils.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
	<p>That the Cabinet be requested to note the Committee's continuing concerns regarding the cost and effectiveness of the Council's use of consultants and its request to the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee to undertake an in-depth inquiry into this issue and to make recommendations on the future use of consultants by the Council to inform the development of budgets in future years.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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	That the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee is recommended to undertake an in-depth inquiry into the cost and effectiveness of the Council's use of consultants and to make recommendations on the future use of consultants by the Council to inform the development of budgets in future years.	The Chair of the Committee and the Executive Director of Strategic Resources are currently working on the terms of reference for a focussed piece of work in this area.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2010

Recommendations to the Cabinet

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations
Bus Service Review	That the Cabinet is recommended to reconsider the decision because of an error in the original decision relating to the changes to the timetable of the 406 bus service.	The Cabinet agreed to cease on the 406 bus service all journeys before 0745 and all journeys after 1813, with a replacement available within walking distance on Citi 2.