

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

16 July 2009

Item	Recommendations	Referred to	Response
Floods and Water Management Bill	<p>That the Leader of the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) be advised of the significant implications of the proposed new legislation for the Council and local communities; and (b) be recommended to identify a Cabinet Member and Lead Officer to take forward preparations for the requirements of the new Bill in readiness for its enactment. 	<p>Leader of the Council</p> <p>Executive Director - Operations</p>	<p>This clearly falls within the portfolio of Cabinet Member Councillor Peter Hiller, who has been briefed on the issues and will become part of a partnership group led by the local authority (Exec Director – Operations) to bring together the appropriate agencies to deliver a coordinated Flood Risk Strategy and Surface Water Management Plan. We are considerably further down this route than a lot of local authorities and preparation for further work on mapping the Surface Water Management Plan and subsequent actions are in hand.</p> <p>The Leader has received a briefing by the Resilience Team.</p>
	<p>That the nominated Cabinet Member and Lead Officer be recommended to build links and seek joint working with surrounding local authorities and other relevant agencies, including Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire County Councils and the local Internal Drainage Boards.</p>	<p>Leader of the Council</p> <p>Executive Director - Operations</p>	<p>See above</p>
	<p>That the nominated Cabinet Member and Lead Officer be requested to submit a further report within a period of 6 months to this Committee providing responses to items 1 and 2 above and also giving assurances that the Council is preparing for the new legislation.</p>	<p>Leader of the Council</p> <p>Executive Director - Operations</p>	<p>See above – update report will be provided in six months.</p>

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Environmental Enforcement and Education	That it be recommended to the relevant Lead Officer, subject to confirmation that the costs of outsourcing enforcement cases are less or similar to employing an additional, dedicated legal officer, that outsourcing should be the preferred option in dealing with environmental enforcement cases in order to provide greater flexibility in resourcing this service in the future.	Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture Executive Director – Operations	We acknowledge this and are currently carrying out this process which will be reviewed on a regular basis.
	That it be recommended to the Lead Officer that whilst environmental enforcement activity is supported by the Committee there should be clear discretion allowed to officers not to issue a fixed penalty notice should litter be dropped accidentally.	Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture Executive Director – Operations	If the dropping of litter is accidental then there would be no prosecution. This will be up to interpretation of the officer at the time of ticket issue.
	That it be recommended to the Lead Officer that further financial information be provided to the Committee on the balance between environmental education and enforcement by this Council during the current financial year and innovative ways be examined of engaging with the public to provide more publicity and education on the implications of littering, the outcomes of court cases and the availability of services such as the Bulky Waste Collection Service in order to minimise environmental pollution.	Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture Executive Director – Operations	This is quite a significant amount of work and we are currently discussing the balance between each aspect and how this can be better delivered. I request the ability to schedule in a future date when we are clearer as to the best way forward.
	That it be recommended to the Lead Officer the initiative with NHS Peterborough on using smoking cessation programmes as an alternative to issuing fixed penalty notices be introduced as soon as possible.	Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture Executive Director – Operations	We are working hard to introduce this and I have sign up from both PCT Chief Exec and ourselves. We need to locate the finance of which there are bids in hand and insure that we can manage the process legally before introduction.
Response to Adverse Weather Conditions – Footpaths	That it be recommended to the Executive that this Committee recognises the relative infrequency of the adverse weather conditions that were encountered in 2009 but requests that the inclusion of funding for an increased treatment	Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture	This comment has been noted and passed to Cllr Hiller, the Cabinet Member for this area.

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	programme for public footpaths be considered during the development of the Council Budget for 2010/11 alongside other budget pressures.	Executive Director - Operations	
Biodiversity Strategy – Progress Report 2008/09	That a further report be received at the next meeting of the Committee on the revised Biodiversity Strategy and that it be recommended to the relevant Cabinet Member and Lead Officer that the revised draft should include more substantive proposals and fewer references to establishing trial sites.	Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture Executive Director – Operations	The report is in the final stages and will be sent to Louise Tyers for the next committee meeting.

17 September 2009

Item	Recommendations	Referred to	Response
Review of Subsidised Bus Services	That the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing & Community Development and the Lead Officer be recommended that: i) all ward councillors be fully consulted on the proposals; and ii) the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Issues be specifically consulted on the proposals.	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development Executive Director of Operations	All ward councillors and parish councillors were invited to attend a drop-in session with officers on 1 October to discuss the proposals. The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities were consulted on the proposals at their meeting on 5 October.
Biodiversity Strategy	That the Cabinet is recommended to: (i) endorse the Biodiversity Strategy prior to its consideration by Council as part of the major policy framework; and (ii) consider the requirement for additional resources during the development of the Council Budget for 2010/11 alongside other budget pressures.	Cabinet Executive Director of Operations	The revised Biodiversity Strategy will be considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 14 December.

12 November 2009

Item	Recommendations	Referred to	Response
Medium Term Financial Plan to 2010/11 to 2014/15	<p>That the Cabinet is recommended to:</p> <p>(i) provide details of the proposed budgets for the Neighbourhood Councils including how much will be delegated and when this will happen.</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Executive Director of Strategic Resources</p>	<p>Details of the proposed delegation of budgets has been included within the Budget 2010/11 and Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2014/15 which was agreed for consultation on 14 December 2009.</p>

6 January 2010

Item	Recommendations	Referred to	Response
Medium Term Financial Plan to 2014	<p>That the Cabinet is recommended that:</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Executive Director of Strategic Resources</p> <p>Cabinet</p> <p>Executive Director of</p>	<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</p>

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	provision, particularly in areas of joint activity.	Strategic Resources	remain. However the partners are looking to align such activity, as approved by Cabinet in December 2009 (report titled 'Refreshing the Local Strategic Plan').
	(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.	Cabinet Executive Director of Strategic Resources	Work is underway to assess the impact of the budget proposals on staff levels and will be shared with Members in due course.
	That the Cabinet is advised of scrutiny's support for the commitment given to delegate budgets to the Neighbourhood Councils.	Cabinet Executive Director of Strategic Resources	Noted

14 January 2010

Item	Recommendations	Referred to	Response
Scrutiny of the Budget 2010/11 and Medium Term Financial Plan to 2014/15	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.	Cabinet Executive Director of Strategic Resources	Noted
	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.	Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee	The Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee established a task and finish group to look at the use of consultants at their meeting on 15 March 2010.

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	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.	Cabinet Executive Director of Strategic Resources	Noted
Draft Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2010/11	That the Committee recommends the Draft Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2010/11 to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development.	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development Executive Director of Operations	The Cabinet Member approved the Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2010/11 as recommended by the Committee.

15 February 2010

Item	Recommendations	Referred to	Response
Refresh of the Local Area Agreement	That the Leader of the Council approves the refresh of the Local Area Agreement with the economic prosperity indicators – NI 151, 153, 166 and 177 – set at the level proposed by the Partnership Working Group.	Leader Head of Strategic Improvement and Partnership	The Leader of the Council approved the refresh of the Local Area Agreement with the economic prosperity indicators set at the level proposed by the Partnership Working Group.
Christmas Park and Ride Service	That the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development is recommended: (i) that to increase public confidence in the Park and Ride service it needs to run for a longer period up to Christmas; and (ii) that a small charge is imposed on the Park and Ride service so funds can be used to increase the period the service runs for.	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development Executive Director of Operations	(i) A budget of £29k has been allocated for 2010-11. Officers will investigate if a further 2 or 3 Saturdays can be secured within this funding. (ii) It is proposed that a £1 fare is paid on the bus. This will

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			<p>enable walkers to use the service. This income can be used to supplement the proposal above.</p> <p>Officers are undertaking further work for both of the above proposals and will provide recommendations to the Cabinet Member in June/July 2010.</p>
Carbon Management Action Plan	<p>That the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture is:</p> <p>(i) advised that we commend officers and members for the work which has gone into producing the Carbon Management Action Plan;</p> <p>(ii) advised that we are aware of a number of areas which are excluded from the Plan at this time, e.g. carbon emissions of employees commuting into work; and</p> <p>(iii) recommended that work continues on the Plan and over time that it becomes more comprehensive.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture</p> <p>Executive Director of Operations</p>	The Carbon Management Action Plan was approved by the Cabinet on 29 March 2010

23 February 2010

Item	Recommendations	Referred to	Response
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.	Cabinet	The Cabinet agreed to cease on the 406 bus service all journeys before 0745 and all journeys after 1813, with replacement available within walking distance on Citi 2.

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