

NOTICE OF MEETING

MEETING	CABINET
DATE:	MONDAY 14 JUNE 2010
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM - TOWN HALL
CONTACT:	Alex Daynes Telephone: 01733 452447 e-mail address Alexander.daynes@peterborough.gov.uk
Despatch date:	4 June 2010

AGENDA

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Cabinet Members
Scrutiny Committee Members
Directors, Heads of Service
Press

*Any agenda item highlighted in bold and marked with an * is a 'key decision' involving the Council making expenditure or savings of over £500,000 or having a significant effect on two or more wards in Peterborough. These items have been advertised previously on the Council's Forward Plan (except where the issue is urgent in accordance with Section 15 of the Council's Access to Information rules).*



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MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING HELD 22 MARCH 2010

PRESENT

Councillor Cereste - Leader of the Council, Councillor Elsey, Councillor Hiller, Councillor Holdich, Councillor Lee, Councillor Scott and Councillor Seaton – Cabinet Members

Councillor Benton, Councillor S Dalton - Cabinet Advisers

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor Croft and Lamb.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lee declared a non-prejudicial interest as a member of the shadow board which had been formed as part of the process of establishing a Trust.

Councillors Benton and Seaton declared a personal interest as members of one of the Council owned sports centres.

3. FUTURE DELIVERY OF CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES

At its meeting of 12 October 2009, Cabinet had determined that services to be considered for transfer into a culture and leisure trust should be: Arts Services, Museum Services, Library Services and Sports Services and had authorised the Director of Operations to commence the process of establishing a not-for-profit distributing organisation (a 'Trust') for the delivery of cultural services, subject to appropriate consultation with staff and the agreement of a detailed Business Plan.

A Shadow Board had subsequently been established and Cabinet was asked to consider whether or not to transfer the delivery of cultural and leisure services to Peterborough Cultural and Leisure Trust Limited (PCLT) Ltd., together with the transfer of staff, assets and facilities currently used to deliver such services.

A Business Plan had been developed which set out the purpose and objectives of the Trust. Members noted the contents of the Business Plan and the way in which the Trust, working in close partnership with the City Council, would support the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Cabinet was further asked to note:

- The Business Transfer Agreement, which referred to assets to be transferred, including stock, contracts and most importantly, employees; and
- The Funding and Management Agreement, which set out the terms on which funding will be made available by the Council to the Trust and the Council's expectations in terms of service delivery.
- The comments of the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee, which had considered this matter at its meeting of 18 March 2009, as follows:

- (i) that the Trust should engage with representatives of all communities across the Authority in order to ensure that their interests were represented in the delivery of culture and leisure activities across the city;
- (ii) that a close working relationship with the City Council would be maintained; and
- (iii) that the Trust should report back to Scrutiny after a period of nine months from the date of its formation in order to advise on progress, including financial implications.

In noting the above and supporting the recommendations of the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee, Members raised the following points:

- The Trust's commitment to maintaining and developing services, particularly sports services

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Capital and Culture stated that the Trust would work to ensure services were maintained and developed and would provide a dedicated team to promote activities. Further, it was committed to increasing participation encouraging involvement and the use of facilities by all groups.

- The ownership of items in the Museum collection

Members received assurance that items from the Museum's collection would be on loan to the Trust.

- The Trust's ability to run libraries

In acknowledging that there were currently few Trusts which incorporated library services, the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture emphasised his view that they were a key part of the cultural and leisure service. He added that the Trust proposed to introduce two new library facilities which would be incorporated into existing local facilities (i.e. shops) in order to maximise accessibility in communities.

- The approach to increasing use of facilities at the Key Theatre

The Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture advised that the Trust would explore the potential for increased use of the Key Theatre, particularly by young people's groups and for school holiday clubs, in order to ensure the facilities were accessible at a realistic cost.

- The way in which the Trust would support the objectives of the Community Strategy

The Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture confirmed that once established, the Trust would seek to build relationships with external bodies and maximise opportunities for new funding. He added that the calibre of current board members was high and additional Trustees would be sought in due course in order to strengthen the Trust further.

- Development of cultural links with other countries/cities and future of the Peterborough Festival

The Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture assured Members that the Trust was keen to support and develop international links and existing events, such as the Festival.

Members thanked the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture and all other members of the shadow board for their hard work and commitment to date. In response, Councillor Lee emphasised that the Trust must be properly supported by the Council and that working in close partnership with the Trust would be key to its success.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

- (i) Approve the transfer on behalf of the Council, to Peterborough Cultural & Leisure Trust Ltd (PCLT) of the services (existing and future) that fall within the scope of:
 - Arts Services (to include the Key Theatre and Art Gallery)
 - Heritage Services (to include Peterborough Museum),
 - Library Services (all services)
 - Sports Services (all services),
- (ii) Delegate to the Executive Director of Strategic Resources the authority to enter into any agreements necessary to make the transfer of services under recommendation 1 effective;
- (iii) Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Strategic Resources to agree a 25 year Funding and Management Agreement that will incorporate a five year indicative funding package that will be binding at the level agreed for the first year, but indicative only in subsequent years;
- (iv) Ask the Employment Committee to consider the transfer of staff engaged by the Council on the services to be transferred under recommendation 1 to Peterborough Cultural and Leisure Trust Ltd on a date anticipated to be 1 May 2010, subject to the completion of the PCLT Mobilisation Plan;
- (v) Support the application by the Peterborough Cultural and Leisure Trust Ltd for Admitted Body Status to the Cambridgeshire County Council pension fund and to the Council acting as guarantor in this agreement;
- (vi) Note and support the comments made by the Strong and Supportive Communities Panel.

REASONS

The recommendations would improve service delivery and efficiency of cultural and leisure services in Peterborough.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

In July 2005 KPMG concluded a study which explored a range of options for the then Culture and Recreation Services section of the Council. This review covered in-house delivery, tendering for a commercial operator, a mixed approach to delivery of services and the formation of a trust. This study was followed in October 2006 by a review by Deloitte which considered the same options. Both studies came to the same general conclusions, stating that the optimum way of delivering the kind of cultural services desired by Members was through a Trust. Both the KPMG study and the Deloitte study was reviewed by leading leisure trust solicitors Lawrence Graham, who concurred with the previous findings following a review of the services, and recommended that delivery through a locally established trust was most likely to deliver the best outcome in terms of economy, efficiency, and service development.

An evaluation of the option of including bereavement services within the scope of services that could transfer to a Trust concluded that this would not provide the best outcome, for the following reasons;

- whilst there were clear synergies between art, heritage, library and sport (each of these having a link to people's leisure interests and lifestyles) there is not a natural fit with bereavement services;
- very limited financial benefits would accrue, as crematorium services were not considered to be charitable.

Meeting closed at 6.05 p.m.

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MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING HELD 29 MARCH 2010

PRESENT

Cabinet Members: Councillor Croft, Councillor Elsey, Councillor Hiller, Councillor Holdich (Chair), Councillor Lamb, Councillor Scott and Councillor Seaton

Cabinet Advisers: Councillor Benton and Councillor S Dalton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Cereste and Councillor Lee.

It was agreed that Councillor Holdich would chair the meeting in the absence of the Leader and Deputy Leader.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lamb and Councillor Dalton stated that they had sought advice from the Monitoring Officer in respect agenda item 6.1 (Peterborough Local Development Framework – Peterborough District Hospital Site Draft Supplementary Planning Document), who had confirmed that they did not have either a personal or prejudicial interest in this item as it related to a matter of policy.

3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD 8 FEBRUARY 2010 AND 23 FEBRUARY 2010

The Minutes of the meeting held 8 February 2010 were approved and signed as an accurate record, subject to Members noting Cabinet's agreement to receive an update on the outcome of petitions at all future Cabinet meetings.

The Minutes of the meeting held 23 February 2010 were approved and signed as an accurate record.

4. CABINET MEMBER UPDATES

Councillor Seaton advised of the Council's recent success in obtaining the Government Business Award for Procurement and Waste Management. He added that the Council had also been commended for its high rating in the Local Government Business Awards (Financial Performance category) and had been shortlisted for the Local Government Efficiency and Transformation Award.

5. ITEMS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

5.1 CARBON MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

The Cabinet Advisor for Environment Capital and Culture presented the Carbon Management Action Plan (CMAP), which represented the outcome of a ten month programme of work that the Council had undertaken as part of the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management

programme and detailed how the Council would reduce carbon dioxide emissions from its operations. Members were asked to note that whilst the Council had undertaken various one-off initiatives previously which had had a positive effect on the organisation's overall carbon emissions, this programme would ensure that initiatives were undertaken in a planned and measured way in order to comply with various schemes the organisation had a legal duty to comply with. The Plan would formally commit the Council to achieving a stretching, yet realistic target to reduce carbon emissions by 35% of 2008/9 levels by 2014 and would formalise the Council's commitment to lead by example and create the UK's Environment Capital.

In response to a question concerning the Council's performance compared with other local authorities, Cabinet was advised that the Council's baseline emissions were similar to those of other unitary authorities. However, the target for reduction was high, demonstrating the Council's commitment to achieving Environment City status.

A question was raised in respect of the way in which the Council was seeking to engage with local businesses. Members were assured that work was ongoing with the Peterborough Environment City Trust and other key partners in order to promote engagement from local businesses and that the Council would work with its suppliers and contractors to ensure consideration of environmental impacts. Work was also being undertaken with local schools to encourage awareness and help them reduce their carbon footprint.

Members expressed their support for the CMAP and requested regular updates on progress.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

- (i) Approve the CMAP, whilst committing to support the continuation of the Carbon Management Programme Board and the Carbon Management Team, and recommend the Plan for adoption by full Council at its meeting of 14 April 2010.

REASONS

The CMAP was required to comply with the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) and National Indicators 185 and 186, the Government's delivery mechanism for achieving targets set within the Climate Change Act. It was also the final stage of a programme of work undertaken with the Carbon Trust and signifies successful completion of the programme.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Prior to embarking upon the Carbon Trust programme, the Climate Change Team considered the possibility of devising a programme of work to achieve the carbon reduction targets as laid out in the Climate Change Act. However, it was felt that early action to achieve these targets, ahead of the national framework, would allow Peterborough to lead by example, demonstrating commitment to its Environment Capital aspirations and also enable early benefit from the efficiencies carbon reduction will achieve.

5.2 SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP PLAN

The Crime and Disorder Act (revised by the Police and Justice Act 2006) requires that the three year partnership plan published by the Community Safety Partnership be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The Cabinet Advisor for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development introduced the refreshed version of the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan and advised that its priorities had been agreed following a strategic assessment which considered performance in the previous twelve months and took into account the concerns of the public.

In response to a question relating to the way in which anti-social behaviour was being targeted, Members were assured that a range of measures were underway in order to engage with communities, raise awareness and provide greater support to victims and witnesses.

Members noted the progress made by the Safer Peterborough Partnership to date and its commitment to build on the improvements made and further develop its work.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

- (i) Endorse the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2010-2011 and recommend the document to full Council for approval.

REASONS

The Partnership Plan has been drafted following a comprehensive strategic assessment which provides both quantitative and qualitative data to indicate the areas that are a priority. These priorities have also been tested with stakeholders through a number of events and the Plan has been approved by the Safer Peterborough Partnership.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

An annual revision of the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan is a legislative requirement.

6. STRATEGIC DECISIONS

6.1 PETERBOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – THE PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT HOSPITAL SITE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

This report was submitted to Cabinet following approval of the Council's Local Development Scheme by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and in accordance with the Peterborough Local Plan (First Replacement) 2005. Cabinet was asked to consider the publication of the Peterborough District Hospital Site Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consideration.

Members noted that the Peterborough Hospital site would be vacated by the end of 2011 following the transfer of remaining medical services to the new city hospital on the Edith Cavell site. The SPD set out the Council's ambition to see a mixed-use development on this site, incorporating residential, community, local retail and ancillary uses, which would help to meet one of the key priorities of the Sustainable Communities Strategy to deliver substantial and sustainable growth. Cabinet was advised of the intention to ensure that any future redevelopment of the area would be outstanding in urban design terms and would meet the emerging sustainability agenda as set out in both national and local planning policy.

The Council's Strategic Planning Manager emphasised that the SPD was a draft document for public consultation at this stage. Following the statutory four week consultation process, representations would be considered and a statement prepared setting out a summary of the main issues raised and how these would be addressed in the final document. Cabinet would then have a further opportunity to consider the document for adoption.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

- (i) Approve the publication of the Peterborough District Hospital Site Supplementary Planning Document (draft), together with the associated supporting documents, for four week public consultation starting in April 2010.

REASONS

In accordance with statutory regulations the City Council must consult with members of the public for a minimum of four weeks. Following consultation, representations would be considered and a statement prepared setting out a summary of the main issues raised and how these issues would be addressed in the final document to be considered for adoption by Cabinet (likely to be in June 2010). The consultation was to be undertaken in accordance with Peterborough City Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Various development options for the site had been considered and tested for viability. The development proposed in the document was, in simple terms, considered to be the 'preferred' option, subject to public consultation.

6.2 ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2010 – 2013 OPPORTUNITY PETERBOROUGH DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN

Cabinet was asked to consider the draft Business Plan which set out the vision and priorities of Opportunity Peterborough for the period April 2010 to March 2013. The Council was one of the three founding partners of Opportunity Peterborough, and remains a major funder, supporter and member of its board.

Members were asked to note that like most other regeneration organisations, Opportunity Peterborough had seen a challenging 2009/10 as it had endeavoured to bring forward key growth projects for delivery in the face of economic recession. During the past year, Opportunity Peterborough had worked together with the Council to develop a revised approach to growth delivery for Peterborough: an approach that was being implemented following approval by both the Opportunity Peterborough board and Cabinet in late 2009. This re-focus ensured Opportunity Peterborough's operations would lead the delivery of economic growth and regeneration and was reflected in the following statement of purpose:

'Opportunity Peterborough will lead the delivery of a step change in the economic performance of Peterborough and underpin the city's sustainable growth and regeneration'.

The strategic objectives to deliver this were noted as follows:

- To improve the performance of Peterborough's businesses and encourage innovation and enterprise;
- To support and promote the city's learning and skills and raise aspirations to underpin the future needs of Peterborough's economy;
- To make Peterborough an exemplar low carbon economy, to achieve its ambition to become the UK Environment Capital;
- To support the sustainable and integrated growth of Peterborough for the benefit of all its citizens;
- To maximise the regional, national and international profile of Peterborough.

Members expressed concern that the Plan did not include firm target dates for delivery in order to enable its performance and achievements to be monitored and measured. It was further noted that there was no representative from Opportunity Peterborough present at the meeting. Members requested that regular updates be submitted to Cabinet in the future, presented by a representative of Opportunity Peterborough

CABINET **RESOLVED** TO:

- (i) Endorse the 2010-2013 draft Business Plan for Opportunity Peterborough, subject to the inclusion of target dates for delivery to enable progress to be monitored;
- (ii) Note that the agreement of funding specific projects within the plan, if required, will be subject to the Council's normal decision making process.
- (iii) Request that Opportunity Peterborough present regular updates to Cabinet meetings.

REASONS

It was required that the Council and the two other founding partners of Opportunity Peterborough consider and agree the draft Business Plan. Inevitably, the specific schemes for implementation would evolve during the course of the plan period and it was therefore appropriate that funding be approved by the Council through its normal decision-making processes.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- (i) Modifications to the plan could be suggested - which would be subject to discussion and agreement with other partners and therefore delay activities within it;
- (ii) The draft plan could not be approved - which would significantly limit the operations of Peterborough's Urban Regeneration Company.

7. MONITORING ITEMS

7.1 14 – 19 LEARNING REFORM STRATEGY AND THE TRANSFER OF 16 – 18 LEARNING TO FROM THE LEARNING SKILLS COUNCIL (LSC) TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Cabinet received a report for information on the final stage of the transition and transfer of responsibilities for 16-19 education from the Learning Skills Council (LSC) to the Local Authority – known nationally as Machinery of Government Changes (MOG).

Members were asked to note the progress to date in the transfer of responsibilities for 16-18 learning, and the opportunities and challenges emerging from 16-18 commissioning in delivering the Government's 14-19 Learning Reforms.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

- (i) Note the final stage of the transition and transfer of responsibilities for 16-19 education from the LSC to the Local Authority: known nationally as Machinery of Government Changes (MOG).

REASONS

The transfer of responsibilities for 16-19 commissioning was a government statutory requirement. Under the Machinery of Government (MOG) arrangements, responsibility for the funding and commissioning of learning for 16-18 year olds would transfer from the Learning and Skills Council to Peterborough City Council in April 2010. This transfer was designed to give local authorities responsibility for all learning and training for children and young people 0-19 (and up to age 25 for learners with special needs) in their area and to make them fully accountable to the Department of Children Schools and Families for planning and delivering the Government's 14-19 reforms from 2013 onwards.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.2 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

This report was submitted to Cabinet for monitoring purposes and provided an overview on the Council's performance between October and December 2009 (Quarter 3) against the targets and indicators in the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Members were asked to note that the overall situation was very similar to the end of quarter 2, though there had been a slight decline in overall ratings.

CABINET RESOLVED TO:

Note performance against the Local Area Agreement priorities for the third quarter of 2009/10.

REASONS

Failure to monitor performance would mean that Cabinet would not be able to ensure that the Council achieves its intended outcomes.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The report was presented for monitoring purposes.

Meeting closed at 11.28 a.m.

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
14 JUNE 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Hiller (Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning)	
Contact Officer(s):	Paul Phillipson, Executive Director - Operations	Tel. 01733 453455

TRAFFIC MITIGATION AT MASKEW AVENUE

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Central and North Neighbourhood Council	Deadline date : N/A
Cabinet is requested to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaise with local retailers to alleviate traffic congestion around the Maskew Avenue Retail Park. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following a request from Councillor Yvonne Lowndes, Chairman of the Central and North Neighbourhood Council, following a meeting of the Neighbourhood Council on 2 June 2010.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight the concerns of local residents and Councillors expressed at a recent Neighbourhood Council meeting concerning traffic congestion and to request that Cabinet considers liaising with retailers to implement measures to alleviate the persistent traffic problems currently experienced along Maskew Avenue, Bourges Boulevard and into New England.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.2: To promote the Council's role as a community leader, giving a 'voice' to the community in its external relations at local, regional and international level, and fostering good working relationships with the Council's partner organisations, Parish Councils and the relevant authorities for Police, Fire, Probation and Magistrates' Courts Services.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. TRAFFIC MITIGATION AT MASKEW AVENUE RETAIL PARK

4.1 Local Councillors and Residents have raised concern at the congestion caused from traffic accessing the Maskew Avenue Retail Park which frequently causes traffic jams along Bourges Boulevard and also into the residential area around the New England Triangle. The volume of traffic often blocks the roundabout which forms the junction for the retail park, Bourges Boulevard and New England.

- 4.2 Residents have seen emergency vehicles held up in this traffic and general access for residents is being severely impacted by the congestion caused by traffic accessing the retail park on Maskew Avenue.
- 4.3 The Central and North Neighbourhood Council has learned that one of the retailers in the retail park has already been awarded planning permission to improve access to its car parking area which should alleviate many of the traffic problems currently experienced. The retailer has not yet begun to make the necessary alterations to its site even though planning permission was approved in January this year.
- 4.4 The Neighbourhood Councils feels that should Cabinet pursue the commencement of works at the retail site, works to alleviate the traffic congestion would begin quicker.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Central and North Neighbourhood Council discussed this issue at its meeting on 2 June 2010.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 Cabinet writes to the local retailer concerned to request that works to its parking area commence as soon as possible to improve the traffic situation in the area.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To improve traffic access to and from the road network around Maskew Avenue Retail Park.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do not liaise with retailers to request commencement of works to the parking area – this could result in works being left unstarted for a longer period of time with no start or end date for works. This would result in continued congestion for road users, hazards for emergency vehicle access and residents trying to access local services.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial – none.

Legal – none.

Environmental – reduction in traffic congestion and therefore reduction in traffic emissions.

Human Rights – none.

ICT – none.

Property – none.

Procurement – none.

LAA targets – NI186 – Per Capita CO2 emissions; NI167 – Congestion, average journey time during the morning peak; SSC04a - % of people who agree Peterborough is a good place to live, work and play.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

None.

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
14 June 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member responsible:	Councillor M Cereste (Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning and Economic Development)	
Contact Officers:	Andrew Edwards (Head of Delivery)	Tel. 384530
Reporting Officer:	Richard Kay (Policy and Strategy Manager)	Tel. 863795

PETERBOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: THE PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT HOSPITAL SITE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning and Economic Development	Deadline date : 14 June 2010
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
That Cabinet adopts the Peterborough District Hospital Site Supplementary Planning Document as formal planning policy as part of its Local Development Framework.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet: (a) following approval of the Council's Local Development Scheme by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; (b) in accordance with the Peterborough Local Plan (First Replacement) 2005; and (c) following approval by Cabinet of a consultation draft Hospital Site SPD on 29 March 2010.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to enable Cabinet to adopt the Peterborough District Hospital Site Supplementary Planning Document (hereafter referred to as the 'Hospital Site SPD') as formal planning policy as part of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF).

2.2 The officer-recommend Hospital Site SPD is available on the Council's web site at: <http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD310&ID=310&RPID=138422&sch=doc&cat=13030&path=13030> and copies have been placed in the Members group rooms.

2.4 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its terms of reference 3.2.3 'to take a leading role in promoting the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area'.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT HOSPITAL SITE

Introduction

4.1 The Peterborough District Hospital Site will be vacated by the end of 2011 following the transfer of remaining medical services to the new City Hospital on the Edith Cavell site. The site will become vacant and will require comprehensive regeneration. The purpose of the Hospital Site SPD is to provide detailed guidance to prospective developers as to the type

and level of development the Council will expect to see come forward on the site and in turn meet the objectives of the Local Plan, the emerging LDF, the Local Area Agreement and the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

- 4.2 The Hospital Site SPD has been prepared jointly by King Sturge (acting on behalf of the Peterborough and Stamford NHS Trust) and PCC Officers. However, as the SPD will become official Council planning policy once adopted, the final text as presented to Cabinet is that as recommended by PCC Planning Officers.

Summary of the Hospital Site SPD

- 4.3 Your report and presentation of 29 March 2010 summarised the content of the draft Hospital Site SPD, and is not repeated here. However, the basic headlines of the proposals are:

- **Site Area:** 10 hectares (25 acres), currently containing a range of hospital and residential buildings. Most of the site will be cleared to make way for new development.
- **Residential development:** The Hospital Site SPD makes provision for 350-550 new houses, mainly in a mix of family housing and apartments, at varying densities (generally higher to the east). 30% of all new dwellings proposed to be affordable; and a minimum of 20% to meet lifetime homes standards.
- **Retail** – Small-scale retail facilities of no larger than 500m² gross in total.
- **Historic buildings** – Historic buildings of local importance on the site should be retained and re-used, namely The Gables and the core part of the Memorial Hospital.
- **Transport/access** – Redevelopment of the site will create and improve access to and through the site. New east and west links are proposed and an opportunity for direct connectivity, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists, into the Station Quarter/Railway station and surrounding residential suburbs.
- **Trees** – trees that are protected by a Tree Preservation Order and those that are not protected by law but make a positive contribution to the character of the area will need to be retained and preserved.

- 4.4 The Hospital Site SPD has fuller details as to what is expected from the site, and the above should therefore be considered only as a summary.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The draft Hospital Site SPD was presented to the LDF Scrutiny Group (17th March), PEP Committee (23rd March) and Cabinet (29th March). The draft Hospital Site SPD was then published for formal consultation for the statutorily required 4 weeks; between 9th April and 6th May 2010. To advertise the consultation period, leaflets were dropped in the surrounding residential area, two radio interviews were given, formal press notices and informal press articles appeared in the local newspaper, and the documents were available in both Hospital reception areas and in Bayard Place reception. All material was available on the Council's website.
- 5.2 Following the consultation, the representations have been considered and a statement has been prepared setting out a summary of the main issues raised and how these issues are to be addressed in the final document. This is attached at Appendix 1. Overall, there were no significant issues raised, and as such it was not considered necessary for a fundamental rethink of the SPD.
- 5.3 As a result of the comments received, together with a final review of the document by officers, the following substantive changes have been made by officers (and are thus recommended to Cabinet) compared with the draft Hospital Site SPD previously seen by Cabinet (29 March). As can be seen, they are relatively few, and reflect the number of suggestions received during the consultation process:

- Additional references to historic assets (listed buildings etc) incorporated to the text, further ensuring they are carefully considered as part of detailed planning application process;
- New reference added to the SPD for the need for a single wider Nature / Biodiversity / Open Space / Green Infrastructure Strategy as part of a future planning application;
- Additional reference to the need for future detailed development proposals to consider particularly carefully the issue of parking, both on site and off site. Parking was an issue frequently raised during the consultation exercise, probably reflecting the high level of on-street parking which currently exists in the neighbouring area;
- Reference added to the need to consider the RECAP Waste Management Design Guide Toolkit Assessment.

5.4 Some suggestions have not been taken forward, either because they were not considered appropriate or because they were detailed matters more appropriate to a full planning application stage. Please see appendix 1 report for full details.

5.5 Planning and Environment Protection Committee was scheduled to consider the final version of the Hospital Site SPD on 8 June 2010. Any comments made by that Committee will be reported verbally to Cabinet.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

6.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet will adopt the Hospital Site SPD as formal planning policy for the site, with the SPD forming part of the Council's planning policy LDF.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Cabinet is recommended to adopt the Hospital Site SPD. All statutory regulations regarding consultation have been completed and representations received taken in to account. Having an adopted SPD for the Hospital Site is beneficial to the Council, because it has a clear benchmark to assess any future development proposals for the site, and beneficial to developers, because they have a clear understanding as to what the Council expects on the site. This minimises risk on all parties and will enable a timelier redevelopment of the site than would be the case without such adopted policy.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 Various development options for the site have been considered and have been tested for the viability of each. The development proposed in the document is, in simple terms, considered to be the 'preferred option', and there were no overriding reasons given during the public consultation period to warrant an alternative solution to be investigated.

9. IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The SPD will guide regeneration of the hospital quarter; it will help to deliver a mix of housing and a small amount of ancillary retail.

9.2 **Legal Implications** - The Council must follow due Regulations in preparing the SPD. Once the Hospital Site SPD is adopted, the Council has a legal duty to refer to it when determining planning applications for the hospital site and, to some extent, the surrounding area. If Cabinet adopts the SPD today, there is an opportunity for such a decision to be legally challenged by a third party, but this rarely occurs. If it does, the appropriate steps will be taken to resolve the matter, in consultation with Cabinet if necessary.

9.3 **Financial Implications** - There are no immediate financial implications flowing from the approval of the Hospital Site SPD. However, Members should be aware that there could be:

- Indirect financial implications for the Council in terms of its Vawser Lodge asset. This falls within the SPD area, and is labelled as possibly coming forward for housing. However, the SPD is sufficiently flexible for this to happen or not happen depending on

what the Council wishes to see happen to that asset (hence, the SPD only has indirect financial implications);

- Indirect financial implications arising from the development of the hospital site (e.g. provision of infrastructure and services for the new residents, s106 arrangements, and increased council tax or other receipts).

9.4 **Environmental Implications:** Environmental issues are prevalent throughout the Hospital Site SPD, with requirements such as the need for Code 4 of the Sustainable Homes to be implemented, habitat and biodiversity creation/protection, protection of trees, increased and improved provision for cyclists and pedestrians, the need for a travel plan, and the need for a waste management plan. The site itself is obviously very close to services and facilities, which should encourage sustainable travel choice. Overall, the SPD, if delivered on site, would have many and significant environmental benefits.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- Peterborough Local Plan (1st Replacement) July 2005;
- Peterborough Core Strategy Proposed Submission Version (as approved by Council December 2009 and published in January 2010);
- Draft Hospital Site SPD, April 2010.

**The Peterborough District Hospital Supplementary Planning Document
Consultation Draft**

**Comments Received and Responses to the Key Issues
May 2010**

(version for Cabinet 14 June 2010)

Explanatory Note:

This document sets out a summary of the comments and issues raised at the consultation stage of the draft Peterborough District Hospital Supplementary Planning Document, together with the Council's response to the key issues raised.

This is a public document, and helps meet Peterborough City Council's commitment to consult and keep people informed of progress on the Local Development Framework (which the Supplementary Planning Document forms a part). Full details on Peterborough City Council's commitments on community consultation can be found in its Statement of Community Involvement, available on the Council's website.

This document has been prepared by the Planning Policy Team at Peterborough City Council.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Peterborough City Council wishes to particularly thank all those who took the time between April and May 2010 to complete the response form or to write to us with thoughts, ideas and concerns about the draft Hospital Site SPD.
- 1.2. This document is to highlight to everyone a summary of what was said and how we propose to take those comments forward.
- 1.3. Some responses were detailed in nature and clearly this document cannot summarise every point made, but rather it tries to capture the most important or frequently mentioned issues. However, rest assured that all comments received have been read and considered in detail, even if you cannot explicitly see it summarised here.
- 1.4. On the following pages, we set out in a standard format the comments received for each paragraph or issue.

Next Steps

- 1.5. Taking account of the findings set out in this report we will shortly be publishing a final version of the SPD for consideration by the Cabinet. This is expected in June 2010.

2. Consideration of the Issues Raised

Please note that all references to ‘section x’ are referring to such items as can be found in the Consultation draft of the Peterborough District Hospital Site Supplementary Planning Document (April 2010).

Paragraph Reference: Section 2 – SPD Area	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reference in the SPD to Grade II listed Westwood House.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference to Westwood House will be added into the Site History section.

Paragraph Reference: Section 2.4 – Wider Location	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mention of the character to the north of the site.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final document will be updated with a paragraph on the character to the north of the site.

Paragraph Reference: Section 4.1	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for retention of the Memorial wing; encouraging use of cycles and pedestrian use; using existing mature vegetation.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This support is noted.

Paragraph Reference: Section 4.1 - Opportunities	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference to the listed buildings should include Westwood House and any other BLI's in terms of improving their setting. The referencing to the retention of the Gables is weak and at odds with the much firmer wording of policy CBE11. It also conflicts with the Council's commitment to enriching the potential of heritage buildings within regeneration schemes contained in the emerging LDF Core Strategy.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments noted and will be considered further, with further text added to the SPD if appropriate.

Paragraph Reference: Section 4.2 - Constraints	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question why the set back of the listed Sessions House is identified as a “constraint” when this could equally be an opportunity for improved public space. Why is the Memorial Wing identified as a “constraint” when text seems to refer to the building as an “opportunity”?
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The land to the front of the Sessions House is under private ownership and not included within the redevelopment area. Given its private ownership, the area to the front of Sessions House is unlikely to be made available for public open space. The Memorial Wing can be viewed subjectively as both an opportunity and constraint and is referenced as such.

Paragraph Reference: Section 4.3 – Overarching Vision	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little consideration given to the effects of the redevelopment on the wider area, specifically the setting of the City Centre Conservation Area to the east. The relationship of the site with the city centre needs to be assessed and included as an issue in the SPD. Welcome the reference to harmonisation of development with listed buildings and the surrounding area. Suggest explicit reference to the BLI's is also included. Welcome the requirement to retain the core of the Memorial Wing, the need for indicative storey heights
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The city centre is some distance from the site, separated by a railway line. The expected height of the scheme suggests it will have no impact upon the conservation area. The general relationship of the site with the city centre has been an important consideration in preparing the SPD. No changes considered necessary.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.1 – retail element	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for provision of a small scale retail facility. • Cannot see the need for new retail uses. • Would prefer expansion of existing shops in the area. • Hospital Quarter is 'out of centre' and not suitable for town centre or food retailing uses.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The retail element will be a small element of the wider scheme. The retail element is expected to provide convenience basket sized shopping for new residents. • Due to its size and nature, it is not envisaged that the retail offering will compete with other surrounding local centres.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.1 – Mix of Uses	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent need for a new Primary School • Should be built on current school playing field adjacent to Angus Court
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SPD draft is worded so as to be non prescriptive as to the location of educational facilities. • The SPD draft does highlight a demand for educational provision across all age groups. • The need for a Primary School in the general locality (not just the hospital site) is an ongoing debate within the Council and its specific size, location and timing of delivery are still to be decided.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.1 – Mix of Uses	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential led scheme is the most suitable form of development for the area.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment noted

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.1 – Mix of Uses	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomes the removal of the need for office space in the Hospital Opportunity Area.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment noted.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.4 – Environmental Sustainability	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add in paragraph which requires a drainage strategy for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to be submitted with the Masterplan.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This matter can be consider at a detailed application stage rather than this broad strategic stage.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.4 – Environmental Sustainability	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning applications should be supported by a detailed ecological assessment, particularly due to the presence of bats on the site. • Welcome the fact that development proposals will be designed to benefit bats and other priority BAP species in and around the site.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments noted

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.4 – Environmental Sustainability	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the scheme provide extra care/ sheltered accommodation?
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A variety of different residential dwelling types may be forthcoming through the application process. The SPD is not prescriptive on this.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.5 – Design Parameters	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The treatment of the area of the site situated between the listed Wagon Repair Shop and Sessions House needs careful consideration.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The listed buildings are referenced in the SPD. Design considerations will come forward further in future planning applications.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.6 – TPO issue	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is currently no TPO on the corner of Midland Road and Thorpe Road, contrary to the referencing in section 5.6. The TPO is currently draft
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This factual inaccuracy will be addressed in the final document.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.6 – Memorial Wing	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Wing to be converted into residential accommodation for the over 60's with supporting services including shops, doctors
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention of the Memorial Wing core is a key theme of the SPD. Community uses are advocated for it's re-use. Any alternative uses will need to be discussed through the planning application process.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.6 – The Gables	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Gables is referenced as "A Building of Local Townscape Merit". This description understates the attractiveness of the building. The city needs to retain such distinctive buildings. The SPD needs to conform to PPS5 guidance on the historic environment with regards to The Gables. The LPA should take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets. The Gables, from a place-shaping and local distinctiveness perspective will need to be weighed against the other public benefits arising from the redevelopment of the hospital site.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The referencing comes from the adopted Local Plan. As the building does not benefit from a statutory listing, no further weight of protection can be afforded through the SPD.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.6 – Layout & Urban Form	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two storey building on the corner of Thorpe Road and Aldermans Drive should be retained. Re-development as a whole should go some way to re-establishing Aldermans Drive as a visually pleasing vista.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The corner building is referenced in the SPD as having a level of positive townscape merit and the emphasis is on its retention and re-use. One of the overarching themes of the document is to produce high quality urban design across the whole SPD area.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.6 – Link to Station Quarter	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any forthcoming proposals will need to be mindful of the adjoining Station Quarter Reference to a co-ordinated approach to masterplanning, with Station Quarter is welcomed.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft SPD references the need for a co-ordinated approach to masterplan development with adjoining sites. Comment noted

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.6 – historic assets	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reference to the setting of the Grade II* and Grade II listed railway structures. No reference to the setting of 64 Thorpe Road and The Lodge. Should be noted that the Grade II listed Westwood House. Its setting could be affected depending on existing and proposed landscaping.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All comments noted Further reference will be made to the listed railway structures in the final document.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.6 – education issues	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site 1 would make an ideal location for University buildings associated with a Medical School. The current site is largely publicly owned (albeit through the Trust and PCC). A public facility such as a University Centre, Community Centre, Arts Centre and new Primary School would better recognise this previous use rather than private housing. The North end of Site 4 (to the north of 'The Gables') would be an ideal location for a replacement for West Town Primary School with access from Aldermans Drive.

Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All comments noted, some of which will be important issues at a planning application stage. • The need for a Primary School in the general locality (not just the hospital site) is an ongoing debate within the Council and its specific size, location and timing of delivery are still to be decided. • The provision of a university on this site is no longer considered appropriate or deliverable.
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Paragraph Reference: Section 5.6 – cycling / access	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve pedestrian and cyclist safety along Thorpe Road by redeveloping the frontage to the north side of Thorpe Road and taking the cycle and footpath to the north of the line of mature trees. • Attention also needs to be given to westward movement of cyclists. • There are too many accesses proposed off Thorpe Road. These junctions just lead to traffic congestion and potential accident spots. Improved junctions at Aldermans Drive and Midland Road would provide sufficient access.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All comments noted • Specific cycle and pedestrian routes will be formalised through the planning application process and Green Travel Plan which will put forward proposals for cycle routes.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.6 – open space	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site 2 would make a good Allotments area to replace those lost at Westfield Road/The Grange
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of open space, including allotments, wither on-site or off site will form part of the detailed planning application process, in line with the Council's adopted Local Plan policy on the need for open space provision as part of new developments.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.8 - parking	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overspill car parking along Westwood Park Road and other street is currently overused by hospital workers and train commuters. • Please consider the parking requirements for both workers and visitors to avoid local roads being taken up for parking.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On site car parking may be regulated through any forthcoming planning application, and we can consider a controlled parking zone around the site.

Paragraph Reference: Section 5.8 – Highways/ Transport	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the development principle to deliver sustainable modes of transport. • Support for requirement for a comprehensive Transport Assessment and Travel Plan. • Requests that the Transport Assessment also considers the impact of development on the trunk road, in particular it's junction with the A15 and A1260. • Redevelopment should include cycle paths linking Westfield Road, Mayors Walk, Aldermans Drive and Thorpe Road. • A new pedestrian/ cycle bridge to the city centre would be welcomed • Future developers should make appropriate contributions to ensure the delivery of Peterborough Station upgrades/ improvements. • There is an argument to make that the pedestrian/ cycle bridge is unnecessary. If such a link were developed further, all developers benefiting from such a proposal should contribute to providing the non-railway elements of this link. • Transportation and traffic issues will need to be fully addressed. • Welcome the reference to a co-ordinated approach with nearby sites insofar as transportation matters are to be addressed. • Welcome the clear requirement for a cycle/ walking route through the site and its future connection through to the Station Quarter.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SPD requires the submission of a Green Travel Plan at planning application stage. • Cycle routes and linkages through the site and beyond will be an important consideration at the planning application stage. • Planning obligation contributions will be expected from any proposal to assist delivery of new pedestrian / cycle routes. • Station upgrade contributions will be realised through a wide variety of partners,

	including developers and landowners. It will be at the planning application stage to determine what level of contribution to infrastructure works are needed by developers of the hospital site.
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Paragraph Reference: Section 5.11 – Environmental Assessment	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome the requirement identified in 5.11 that all planning applications will be supported by a screening request for an EIA.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments noted. Screening process underway.

Paragraph Reference: Section 6 – Application Stage	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome the proposal that a Nature Conservation report will be required at application stage. May be better to refer to a biodiversity strategy which could incorporate public open space and vegetation/ landscaping proposals. Support the proposal to seek innovative solutions to open space provision
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments noted. Reference to the need for a single wider Nature / Biodiversity / Open Space / Green Infrastructure Strategy to be added to the SPD

Paragraph Reference: Section 6 – Application Stage	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long term management and maintenance proposals should be included within the strategy.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPD amended as appropriate to reflect long term management and maintenance of the site.

Paragraph Reference: Section 6 – Application Stage	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest that the need to make provision for off-site indoor community sports facility provision becomes an integral part of the SPD.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is currently referencing to the Council's POIS document in the draft SPD. Off site sports facility provision will be dealt with through planning obligations.

Paragraph Reference: Section 6 – Application Stage	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference should be made to a Site Waste Management Plan and the submission of a RECAP Waste Management Design Guide Toolkit Assessment will also be required as part of a planning application.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The list contained within section 6 is not expressed to be exhaustive. However, reference to RECAP Waste Management Design Guide Toolkit Assessment to be added to the final SPD

Paragraph Reference: Section 6 – Application Phase	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Briefs and applications for development in this SPD area should be submitted at pre-application stage to the Design Review Panel. A retail impact assessment at planning application stage should be referenced. This should investigate the impact of the proposals on the Mayors Walk Shopping Centre.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is standard practice for all large applications in Peterborough. A retail impact assessment may or may not be necessary dependent on the size of the retail offering proposed.

Paragraph Reference: Section 6 – Application Stage	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend that redevelopment of Brownfield land is undertaken in accordance with CLR11 'Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination' and PPS23 'Planning and Pollution Control'. Welcome early liaison with the EA with regard to assessing the potential risk posed to controlled waters from the past use of the site.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All planning applications will need to be in line with national planning guidance. The EA will be a statutory consultee in any forthcoming planning application.

Paragraph Reference: Opportunities & Constraints Plan	
Summary of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not included within contents page. Essential that it is included in the final document.

Comments Received	
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This reference in the contents page will be updated as appropriate.

Paragraph Reference: Overall document	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the overall objectives and opportunities which the SPD seeks to address
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments noted

Paragraph Reference: General Questions	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it envisaged to continue to restrict access from the Holditch Street site to the back of Percival Street?
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is too early to be sure, as this will be dependent on the final design of site 3.

Paragraph Reference: General Questions	
Summary of Comments Received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will residents be subject to parking charges and will there be sufficient parking spaces?
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking will be provided in line with adopted development plan policy.

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
14 JUNE 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor P Hiller (Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning)	
Contact Officer(s):	Andrew Edwards (Head of Peterborough Delivery Partnership)	Tel.384530

PETERBOROUGH RURAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2010-13

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning	Deadline date : 14 June 2010
Recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Cabinet Adopts the Rural Housing Strategy as a supporting document to the Peterborough Housing Strategy 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following a scrutiny commission for rural community panel meeting on 5th October 2009. The Rural Housing Strategy seeks to support the delivery of affordable housing in rural areas of the authority, together with wider rural housing matters. It does not introduce new housing policy, but is a supporting document to the main Peterborough Housing Strategy document adopted in 2008. Consequently, the Rural Housing Strategy is not to be treated as a major policy item and does not require full council approval.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to outlining the scope, purpose and objectives of the Peterborough Rural Housing Strategy. A copy of the Rural Housing Strategy recommended for adoption is attached. The strategy represents a joint response from Peterborough City Council (PCC) and the Greater Peterborough Partnership (GPP) to rural housing issues as identified in the GPP's Rural Vision and Strategy.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.4: To promote the Council's corporate and key strategies and Peterborough's Community Strategy and approve strategies and cross-cutting programmes not included within the Council's major policy and budget framework.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. THE PETERBOROUGH RURAL HOUSING STRATEGY

- 4.1 The Rural Housing Strategy seeks to empower rural communities to address rural housing issues for themselves. The strategy document focuses upon the three priorities:
- Affordable Housing;
 - Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty; and
 - In-keeping design.
- 4.2 It is written in a style that is designed to make the document accessible, with key concepts clearly explained. The Rural Housing Strategy has not been produced to change policy on issues relating to affordable housing provision, energy efficiency and in-keeping design. Instead, it seeks to give rural communities the necessary contacts, information and opportunities, in order to help them address housing-related issues for themselves.
- 4.3 The document focuses upon the priorities of rural communities in relation to housing. The priorities of the Rural Housing Strategy reflect a number of the objectives of Peterborough Housing Strategy 2008-11, including:
- Providing good quality, affordable housing;
 - The development of mixed and balanced communities; and
 - To promote and implement environmental and energy efficiency standards.
- 4.4 The Rural Housing Strategy also aligns to the four priorities of the Peterborough Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2008-21 in that it will:
- Empower local communities (link to SCS Priority 2);
 - Help conserve natural resources (link to SCS Priority 3); and
 - Help create better places to live (link to SCS Priorities 2 and 4).
- 4.5 The priorities of the Rural Housing Strategy also compliment the following priorities of the Peterborough Corporate Plan:
- Planning and delivering of a safe, attractive and environmentally friendly city; and
 - Making Peterborough a better place in which to live and work.

Summary of the Rural Housing Strategy

- 4.6 As Peterborough's first Rural Housing Strategy, this document outlines a joint response between Peterborough City Council and the Greater Peterborough Partnership to address a number of rural housing issues as first identified in the GPP Rural Vision and Strategy. It provides a rural focus for existing approved planning and housing strategies and delivery proposals for the authority as a whole.

Objectives and Priorities

- 4.7 The objectives of the Rural Housing Strategy closely relate to its three key priorities:
- **Affordable Housing** – To increase the supply and methods of delivery of affordable housing in rural areas, for both people local to rural areas and for those looking to move in;
 - **Fuel Poverty and Energy Inefficiency** – To improve the energy efficiency of rural housing stock and to prevent vulnerable households from falling into 'fuel poverty';
 - **In Keeping Design** – To give rural communities a greater voice on how future development best remains 'in keeping' with local character.
- 4.8 The role of the Rural Housing Strategy is to enable and empower those living in rural areas. It will aim to set out the options available to rural communities in order to address the

priorities of the Rural Housing Strategy and achieve its objectives. This strategy will evolve over time as rural communities become more empowered and engaged with its agenda.

- 4.9 The document provides an overview of rural Peterborough, including its demographic profile and other distinct socio-economic features. The document also provides the reader with background information in regards to the three priorities that the Rural Housing Strategy intends to address. A series of actions follow on from each of the chapters that focus upon the three priorities of the strategy. These actions are also summarised in a table towards the end of the document. To help further inform the reader, a glossary of terms (including relevant web links) is also provided.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The following summarise the consultation undertaken to date on the Rural Housing Strategy:

- Feb 2009 to Sept 2009 – Ongoing consultation with GPP Rural Working Group

Feedback from the GPP Rural Working Group on the draft strategy has been broadly positive. The group played a large role in shaping the document from an initial draft through to a final draft, offering suggestions on key priorities, actions and content.

- September 2009 – Presentation of emerging strategy to Parish Council Liaison meeting

Feedback from the Parish Council Liaison meeting was also broadly positive. No amendments were suggested to the strategy at this meeting.

- October 2009 – Presentation of emerging strategy to Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities

The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities offered positive comments on the strategy. The commission commended the strategy and what it is attempting to achieve, whilst also acknowledging the size of the challenge faced.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

That Cabinet will adopt the Rural Housing Strategy.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Rural Housing Strategy represents a joint response between Peterborough City Council (PCC) and the Greater Peterborough Partnership (GPP) to address rural housing issues identified in the GPP's Rural Vision and Strategy; lower levels of affordable housing, energy efficiency, fuel poverty and in-keeping design. The Rural Housing Strategy sets out measures that seek to enable rural communities to address rural housing-related issues for themselves, with the assistance of both PCC and the GPP. The focus on empowering rural communities is essential in order to address many of the priority areas of the Rural Housing Strategy. The Rural Housing Strategy sets out measures to connect rural communities with the agencies and services that enable them to address issues, such as a lack of affordable housing for local people, for themselves.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The only alternative is not to prepare a Rural Housing Strategy, and instead rely on the GPP Rural Strategy and Vision and existing wider Housing Strategy to delivery these aims. However, it was felt that it would be more appropriate to produce a document which had a separate focus for specific rural housing issues.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The Rural Housing Strategy should have minimal financial implications. PCC's membership of the planned Rural Housing Delivery Partnership will cost £2,000 per annum.

Legal: No obvious legal implications

Human Rights: No obvious human rights implications

Human Resources: No additional staff required as a result of the actions set out within the Rural Housing Strategy. Existing resources will be directed as appropriate.

ICT: No additional ICT implications

Property: No additional property implications

Procurement: No additional procurement implications

LAA targets: Will contribute towards NI 154, NI 155 and NI 186

Environmental: This strategy positively contributes indirectly to environmental issues through (a) its support and assistance on fuel poverty / energy efficiency measures; (b) its support of good quality design of new rural buildings and (c) from the community/social aspect of sustainability, by supporting the provision of affordable homes. As such, the strategy should be regarded as having indirect positive implications (rather than direct implications, because the strategy is mostly about empowering others to take action rather than taking action directly ourselves).

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- The Peterborough Housing Strategy 2008 -2011;
- GPP Rural Vision and Strategy.

Peterborough Rural Housing Strategy 2010-13 Executive Summary

Overview

As Peterborough's first Rural Housing Strategy, this document outlines a joint response between Peterborough City Council and the Greater Peterborough Partnership to address a number of rural housing issues as first identified in the GPP Rural Vision and Strategy. It provides a rural focus for existing approved planning and housing strategies and delivery proposals for the authority as a whole.

Objectives and Priorities

The objectives of the Rural Housing Strategy closely relate to its three key priorities;

- **Affordable Housing** – To increase the supply and methods of delivery of affordable housing in rural areas, for both people local to rural areas and for those looking to move in.
- **Fuel Poverty and Energy Inefficiency** – To improve the energy efficiency of rural housing stock and to prevent vulnerable households from falling into 'fuel poverty'.
- **In Keeping Design** – To give rural communities a greater voice on how future development best remains 'in keeping' with local character.

The role of the rural housing strategy is to enable and empower those living in rural areas. It will aim to set out the options available to rural communities in order to address the priorities of the Rural Housing Strategy and achieve its objectives. This strategy will evolve over time as rural communities become more empowered and engaged with its agenda.

The document provides an overview of rural Peterborough, including its demographic profile and other distinct socio-economic features. The document also provides the reader with background information in regards to the three priorities that the Rural Housing Strategy intends to address. A series of actions follow on from each of the chapters that focus upon the three priorities of the strategy. These actions are also summarised in a table towards the end of the document. To help further inform the reader, a glossary of terms (including relevant web links) is also provided.

Peterborough Rural Housing Strategy 2010-13

Foreword

As Peterborough's first Rural Housing Strategy, this document outlines a joint response between Peterborough City Council and the Greater Peterborough Partnership to address a number of rural housing issues as first identified in the GPP Rural Vision and Strategy. It provides a rural focus to compliment existing approved planning and housing strategies and delivery proposals for the authority as a whole.

The role of the rural housing strategy is to enable and empower those living in rural areas. It sets out the options available to rural communities, and provide the parishes with support and information they need to identify the range of options available to them to address their particular housing priorities. This document will work towards identifying pertinent issues, drawing upon available resources, and addressing issues at a community level. This strategy will evolve over time as rural communities become more empowered and engaged with its agenda.

The objectives of the Rural Housing Strategy closely relate to its three key priorities;

- **Affordable Housing** – To increase the supply and methods of delivery of affordable housing in rural areas, for both people local to rural areas and for those looking to move in.
- **Fuel Poverty and Energy Inefficiency** – To improve the energy efficiency of rural housing stock and to prevent vulnerable households from falling into 'fuel poverty'.
- **In Keeping Design** – To give rural communities a greater voice on how future development best remains 'in keeping' with local character.

This strategy is structured along the lines of its three key priorities, with references to the national, regional and local policy context. A glossary of the terms used within this document is also provided.

The role of the Rural Housing Strategy within the local strategic context

The priorities of the Rural Housing Strategy also reflect a number of the objectives of the authority-wide Peterborough Housing Strategy 2008-11, including;

- **Providing good quality, affordable housing**
- **The development of mixed and balanced communities**
- **To promote and implement environmental and energy efficiency standards**
(Peterborough Housing Strategy 2008-11)

In addition to the objectives of the Peterborough Housing Strategy, the aims of the Rural Housing Strategy also align to the four priorities of the Peterborough Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-21. These priorities are;

- **Creating opportunities and tackling inequalities**
- **Creating strong and supportive communities**
- **Creating the UK's environment capital**
- **Delivering substantial and truly sustainable growth**
(Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-21)

The Sustainable Community Strategy was produced by the Greater Peterborough Partnership and its partners. To achieve these priorities, the Sustainable Community Strategy sets out a

number of required outcomes. The outcomes of the Sustainable Community Strategy that link to the enabling style of the Rural Housing Strategy and its priorities include;

- **The empowerment of local communities**
- **The conservation of natural resources**
- **The creation of better places to live**

(Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-21)

The success of achieving the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-21 is assessed against the progress on a number of key outcomes. Within the Local Area Agreement, the success of delivering on the priority to 'create better places to live' will be measured, in part, by the number of affordable homes built across the authority. It is intended that the Rural Housing Strategy will contribute towards delivering some of these key priorities.

The objectives of the Rural Housing Strategy also align with a number of the objectives of the emerging LDF Core Strategy document, including;

- **Urban and Rural Character and Distinctiveness (Objective 3)**
- **Balanced mixed housing (Objective 7)**
- **Affordable Housing (Objective 8)**
- **Climate Change (Objective 17)**

(Jan 2010 'Submission' Core Strategy, PCC)

Rural Peterborough – An Introduction

Rural Peterborough consists of 26 parishes across five council wards, plus extensive areas without parishes. Seven city councillors represent rural Peterborough, along with numerous parish councillors. The rural area of Peterborough also borders the rural authorities of Fenland, South Kesteven, South Holland and East Northamptonshire.

According to mid-2007 population estimate, the population of the parishes that form the rural surroundings of Peterborough is around 19,750, representing 11.7 percent of the authority's total population. Census data indicates that rural parishes comprise of around 11.8 percent of the total households in the authority, with a population that is predominantly White British (98.5 percent) in terms of ethnicity. The age of those in the rural areas is rising significantly.

Statistics from the Peterborough Housing Needs Survey 2007 indicate that the majority tenure across rural Peterborough is owner-occupation with mortgage (50.5 percent), followed by owner-occupation without mortgage (27 percent). This figure is notably higher than the authority-wide averages of 43.1 percent owner-occupation with mortgage, and 25.1 percent without. In terms of social rented accommodation, 8.3 percent of households in rural Peterborough are housing association tenants in comparison with 19.7 percent authority-wide. Housing Needs Survey data also shows that a higher percentage of the rural population of Peterborough rent from the private sector (14 percent) in comparison with the city as a whole (12.2 percent).

In terms of housing stock, the Peterborough Housing Needs Survey found that 36.2 percent of all dwellings across rural Peterborough are detached compared with 21.4 percent city-wide. Semi-detached dwellings make up 28.4 percent of rural housing stock, compared with 25.6 percent city wide. Terraced housing is considerably less common across the parishes, making up 14.3 percent of rural stock compared with 26.4 percent city-wide). Only 2 percent of dwellings in rural Peterborough are flats, compared with 14.1 percent across the city as a whole.

In terms of bungalow stock, the rural areas compare favourably to the rest of city, with 18.7 percent of the stock consisting of bungalows compared with a city average of 12.3 percent.

In terms of house prices, the average of the five rural wards is £191,687.20 compared with a citywide average of £130,837 (Hometrack, May 2009). The average house price of dwellings sold in the three rural wards to the north and west of the city alone is £207,242 (Hometrack, May 2009). Barnack ward has the highest average house price of £267,713 (Hometrack, May 2009).

In terms of demand for social rented accommodation in the rural parishes covered by Peterborough, 3435 active applications on the Peterborough Homes Housing Register have selected at least one of the rural parishes as an area where they wish to reside. This equates to approximately one third of all applications.

The LDF Submission Core Strategy for the authority provides for major urban extensions into the rural area at Great Haddon, Norwood and also housing growth in several of the surrounding villages.

Priority 1 – Affordable Housing

National, regional and local research indicates that a lack of affordable housing is a major issue facing rural communities across the UK. In 2006 the Affordable Rural Housing Commission highlighted many of the disparities between rural and urban settlements across the UK, such as rural areas experiencing faster rates of house price growth when compared with rural areas, despite rural households earning lower average wages than their urban counterparts.

The government understands the impact that lack of affordability has upon the sustainability of rural communities. In a review of the rural economy and affordable housing, Matthew Taylor MP argued that villages run the risk of becoming 'gated communities of wealthy commuters unless affordable housing can be secured and retained within rural communities'. As one of his recommendations, Taylor encourages the creation of initiatives that allow rural communities to develop affordable housing for local people.

The East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy, 2008) has identified Peterborough as a major growth area within the region with the requirement to deliver 25,000 new homes by 2021. The emerging Core Strategy for Peterborough sets out how this growth will be disrupted across the authority, including an additional 400 units in Eye and Thorney and 300 in the Limited Growth Settlements.

Results of the recent Peterborough Place Survey, which measures the satisfaction of local people with services and what they deem as priorities, found that 'affordable decent housing' was viewed as a higher priority across the rural wards than across the city as a whole. Of respondents from the Barnack ward, 37.9 percent of respondents deemed affordable and decent housing as their priority, followed by 25.6 percent of Glinton Ward respondents and 21.7 percent of Eye and Thorney. These figures are compared with a city-wide average of 16.2 percent, and support the concerns of the Rural Working Group in regards to affordable rural housing.

Options for delivering Affordable Housing

This section of the strategy will highlight various options through which affordable rural housing is developed.

Affordable Housing Providers and s106 agreements

The main providers of affordable housing in rural communities are affordable housing providers, which in most instances will be Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), formerly known as housing associations. RSLs are not for profit bodies that operate to provide low cost housing for those in housing need. RSLs provide affordable housing through two main methods of delivery; 'section 106' agreements or through purchasing and developing sites like any other traditional developer. Section 106 agreements, or 'planning obligations', are one of the most common methods through which affordable housing is developed, especially as part of large housing developments.

S106 agreements are legally binding contracts negotiated between developers and the local authority in order to ensure planning applications are acceptable in planning terms. A standard s106 agreement will include various obligations that a developer must fulfil in order to undertake the development. For example, Peterborough Local Plan (Policy H21) states that on any residential development over the size of 25 units (or 15 unit in rural areas), there will be a requirement to provide 30 percent of the dwellings as affordable housing. This arrangement would be finalised through an s106 agreements prior to the granting of planning permission. The use of s.106 agreement therefore acts as a means through which the local authority can ensure the delivery of affordable housing on private sites.

However, due to the size and scale of development in most rural areas the majority of schemes are below the Local Plan threshold of 15 dwelling or 0.5ha. Therefore there is limited opportunity to deliver affordable housing via the use of s106 in rural areas. In addition to this, any affordable housing secured as part of an s.106 agreement will be let by a housing association in Peterborough and cannot be allocated solely to people local to the parish where the development is located. Developing housing as part of an s106 agreement is also heavily reliant upon private sector developments. Another issue facing rural areas is the cost and availability of suitable land restricts the activities of developers in rural areas.

In addition to this issue, the cost and availability of suitable land restricts the activities of developers in rural areas. Also, dwellings on the majority of schemes delivered this way cannot be reserved solely for the benefit of the local community. However, there are some exceptions to this rule which are outlined below.

Exception Sites

To address the limited opportunity to deliver affordable housing through s.106 agreements in rural areas, the planning system allows for the release of sites adjacent to existing villages as 'rural exception sites'.

An 'exception site' is one which is not allocated by the local planning authority as a potential site for development, and may have certain features that ordinarily would reduce its chances of being developed i.e. located in the open countryside. However, it is possible for planning consent to be awarded to develop affordable housing upon an exception site if a local need for this type of accommodation has been demonstrated. The adopted Peterborough Local Plan (Policy H22) allows for the release of small sites adjacent to village envelopes in Rural Growth or Limited Growth villages. The policy prevents the development of rural exception sites within some of the smaller villages and rural settlements across Peterborough. However, a revised exception site policy proposed within the 'Core Strategy Preferred Options' document opens up the possibility for all rural settlements across Peterborough to develop upon an exception site for the purposes of providing affordable housing. Once again, a local need for affordable housing has to be proven in order for such a site to attract planning consent.

A major benefit of an exception site is that dwellings built upon it can be held by the local community in perpetuity for the purposes of fulfilling locally recognised housing need, with local people given preference for allocations. However, by ensuring the perpetual benefit for the community, the outright purchase of dwellings built on an exception site and designated for low cost home ownership is restricted, with a certain share of the equity in the property retained by the RSL. Presently, mortgage lenders are reluctant to finance house purchases where the buyer cannot purchase the property outright. However, as access to credit improves this stance may change.

To-date there are no examples of exception sites being developed within Peterborough. However, there are numerous examples of similar sites being developed elsewhere in the UK. A major factor in successfully developing affordable housing on an exception site is the effectiveness of local people in demonstrating that a need exists. This is one of the reasons why this strategy focuses upon playing an enabling role, as delivering affordable housing for rural communities relies upon the strength and support of local people.

Community Land Trusts

Community Land Trusts (CLTs) are another method through which rural communities can develop affordable housing in order to address local need. A CLT is a body that is set up to acquire land for the benefit of a local community. They usually operate to acquire 'common' or waste land (many of which will constitute 'exception sites'), either through gifts or at below-market rates in order to develop it for the purposes of affordable housing, premises for local enterprise or community facilities. The benefit of a Community Land Trust is that it provides communities with ownership of local assets, which can be utilised for the benefit of the local community and provide them with an income stream (i.e. rents, sale of leases etc...). Management of properties developed by a CLT can either be managed by the trust itself, financed by the revenue it earns from developments, or contracted-out to another housing provider. Both central government and the now dissolved East of England Regional Assembly have recently expressed a wish to promote CLT's as a means of meeting rural housing need.

Funding to assist communities in developing such a body is available through the Tudor Trust and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. Three separate funds are available. The 'feasibility fund' is available to enable a community to acquire a CLT consultant to provide assistance on how to set up a CLT. The 'technical assistance fund' is available to enable communities to draw up a business plan and receive legal, financial and procurement advice from a CLT consultant. The final fund can be broken into two components, with the pre-development and development finance available. The pre-development finance is available to obtain assistance in appraising sites, employing architects and gaining planning consent. The development finance is available in the form of capital loans to supplement the private finance used to build the proposed scheme.

Assistance in Delivering Affordable Housing

Both the development of 'exception sites' and the formation of a CLT require considerable amounts of specialist expertise. Cambridgeshire ACRE is a charitable local development agency which acts as the rural housing enabler for the county. It provides services, support and advice to rural communities on a range of issues, from developing affordable housing through to securing community assets. Cambridgeshire ACRE already carries out extensive work in other parts of Cambridgeshire, but not presently within Peterborough. In Cambridgeshire, a number of affordable housing providers and local authorities have formed a 'Rural Housing Partnership'. To deliver affordable housing through this model, Cambridgeshire ACRE carries out consultation with local parishes to identify those interested in developing affordable housing. Once parishes have been identified, an affordable housing provider from the partnership is allocated to the parish. The parish council and Cambridgeshire ACRE then, conduct a survey of

households to ascertain what housing need exists, and the parish and the affordable housing provider will also work to identify suitable sites. The information derived from the surveys can be used to decide what housing the parish requires, and can also assist the affordable housing provider when making a bid for government funding from the Homes and Communities Agency. Once housing need and a suitable site is identified, this paves the way for the affordable housing provider to explore developing. The appetite between local affordable housing providers to develop a Rural Housing Partnership will be explored as one of the actions leading from this strategy.

Initial Actions – Affordable Housing

This strategy proposes a set of initial actions which aim to inform rural communities of the methods through which they can develop affordable housing to meet local need. These actions are as follows –

- To explore developing a Rural Housing Partnership consisting of local affordable housing providers, the local authority, parish councils and Cambridgeshire ACRE.
- To develop links between rural communities and Cambridgeshire ACRE, with a view exploring all options available to rural communities who are interested in developing their own affordable housing stock.
- To develop links between rural communities, the Tudor Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and members of an existing CLT with a view to explore the methods and merits of rural communities forming a CLT for the purposes of developing affordable housing.
- To build links with and gather best practice on affordable rural housing delivery in authorities where in excess of 50 percent of the population reside in rural localities and/or small market towns (otherwise known as 'Rural 50' authorities, and 'Rural 80' authorities where the rural population exceeds 80 percent). A particular focus of such an exercise would be on how housing is delivered through s.106 in these areas, in addition to the other available methods.

Priority Two – Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty

Energy efficiency was highlighted by the Rural Working Group as a part of an overall housing-related issue when it created the Rural Strategy and Vision. The concerns of the group are reflected in research by Peterborough City Council into Housing Stock Projections (2007), which found evidence of a polarisation in the condition of private stock between urban and rural areas of the city. Issues highlighted in the document include -

- A higher percentage of rural dwellings which are 'non-decent' (as defined by the government's 'Decent Homes' standard)
- A higher number of rural dwellings with inadequate thermal comfort
- A higher number of rural dwellings with category one hazards (as defined under the 'Housing Health and Safety Rating System')
- A higher level of disrepair within rural dwellings
- A higher level of private rural stock that is energy inefficient
- A higher level of 'fuel poverty' within rural areas

The research established that 11.6 percent of rural households in private dwellings were defined as vulnerable, with 5.6 percent of these households living in accommodation that was considered to be 'non-decent'.

Green Audits and the 'Green Glington' project

There are examples of rural communities within Peterborough working in partnership with local authority departments to address the issue of energy efficiency for themselves. The 'Green Glington' project was first conceived in autumn 2008 by Glington Parish Council following a neighbourhood survey which was carried out amongst village residents. A major finding of this survey was an interest of a large number of residents in generating their own energy. A small steering group was set up consisting of Parish Councillors, Peterborough City Council and Greater Peterborough Partnership representatives, Energy Saving Trust staff, local teachers and members of the Glington community.

Prior to renewable energy sources being explored, a home energy survey was carried out by members of the parish council in order to establish the energy efficiency of housing stock within the village. By August 2009, information on 526 of 690 homes has been collected, with every participant receiving a report regarding the existing and potential energy performance of their property. In addition to the survey, the Energy Saving Trust hosted a 'Green Glington' exhibition in the village in order to promote lifestyle changes that help achieve energy efficiency, and grants for vulnerable households to address issues such as 'fuel poverty'. Once the survey is completed, it is anticipated that the information will be used to target grant assistance at vulnerable households in inefficient dwellings. The opportunity for renewable energy will also be explored further.

Fuel Poverty

Heavily linked to energy efficiency is the issue of 'fuel poverty', and resulting 'fuel debt'. A household is defined as being in 'fuel poverty' when it is required to spend ten percent of total income in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime. 'Fuel debt' is an inevitable result of 'fuel poverty', and is an issue with the greatest consequences for vulnerable households, including the elderly and those with a disability. The factors that contribute to fuel poverty often reinforce each other. For example, people experiencing fuel poverty are more likely to spend long periods of time at home and may therefore need to consume more fuel. Such households are likely also to have little capital to invest in energy efficiency measures or improved heating systems. For those who live in privately rented accommodation there is little incentive to make such investments. Individuals can find themselves in fuel debt as the result of energy inefficiencies, but also as a result of inaccurate meter readings and underpayment on direct debits leading to the debt accruing on utility bills.

To address the issue, the government has outlined a commitment to end fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010 in its Fuel Poverty Strategy. As highlighted in the previous section of this strategy, research by Peterborough City Council has indicated that higher levels of fuel poverty exist between rural households than their urban equivalent. Peterborough City Council has an adopted Affordable Warmth Strategy, which sets out aims that are designed to address the issue of fuel poverty. Due to their relevance, some of the actions highlighted within the Affordable Warmth strategy have been adopted within this strategy as actions for addressing rural energy efficiency.

Initial Actions – Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty

- To promote and raise awareness of the work undertaken as part of the Glington Project with other parishes, and to facilitate the undertaking of village-wide energy audits as a basis for further work on fuel poverty and energy efficiency.
- To augment the above action through the production of a green audit toolkit, which allows projects similar to Green Glington to be easily replicated elsewhere across rural Peterborough.

- To organise village open days (similar to the one held as part of the Green Ginton project) to inform residents of energy efficiency schemes and renewable energy measures available to households.
- To raise awareness of the housing grants and assistance available for vulnerable rural householders to address issues relating to fuel poverty, disrepair and energy inefficiency.
- To promote the work of Peterborough City Council's Fuels and Renewals team in rural areas where issues of fuel poverty and energy inefficiency are greatest

Priority Three – In Keeping Design

The final priority to be addressed in this strategy, and one identified in consultation with the parishes, is that of the 'in-keeping design' of new housing developments within rural areas. Control over the design of dwellings, including their impact upon local character and amenity, falls within the remit of the Development Control team within the local authority. Peterborough City Council has outlined its preferred policy on the impact of new development in rural areas within the Submission Core Strategy. Option CS20 states that 'new development in and adjoining the countryside should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting, retaining and enhancing the distinctive qualities of the landscape area'.

There are methods through which rural communities can attempt to influence design of development within their locality. A Village Design Statement is a document created by local people which outlines the visual character of the village and demonstrates how local character and distinctiveness can be protected and enhanced in new development. A successful Village Design Statement also compliments local planning policy, and is focused upon managing change as opposed to preventing it. A number of the parishes across Peterborough already have adopted village design statements, including –

Barnack and Pilsgate
 Castor and Ailsworth
 Ginton
 Helpston

Thorney
 Ufford
 Wansford
 Wothorpe

The above village design statements were produced prior to the adoption of the new Local Development Framework system for planning policy. Under the old system, they held the status of 'supplementary planning guidance'. Under the new planning system Village Design Statements can hold the status of 'approved council guidance'. They allow communities to provide guidance to planning officers in regards to;

- Existing residential design features
- Preferred design features for residential dwellings i.e. brick styles
- Natural views and areas of local significance and character that the village would like to preserve

To give Village Design Statements much more weight in the planning decision making process, such statements would be required to be adopted by Peterborough City Council as 'Supplementary Planning Documents' (SPDs). This is a regulated process that can take considerable time and additional expense.

Chelmsford Borough Council has produced guidance that assists rural communities in developing their own village design statements, including how to make it a powerful and relevant document. The option to replicate such guidance for the benefit of the parishes across Peterborough forms is an initial action within this strategy in order to achieve in-keeping design.

Assistance with community planning and understanding the planning system

There are a number of both voluntary and private organisations which can help rural communities in creating Village Design Statements. One such voluntary organisation is Planning Aid, which is an independent body funded by the CLG. Planning Aid works with communities to help them play a role in planning, by helping them understand the planning process and respond to planning applications which could affect them, and to apply for planning consent in their own right. Planning Aid has shown an interest in advising rural communities in Peterborough to produce VDS documents as part of this strategy, and also playing a role in informing groups such as the Rural Working Group and parish councils about the services they offer.

In-Keeping Design – Initial Actions

- To investigate whether resources can be made available to convert existing Village Design Statements into Supplementary Planning Documents.
- To work with parishes who wish to create their own village design statements
- To inform rural communities about the services offered by Planning Aid, and enable them to better engage with the planning system.
- To prepare and publish guidance on how the parishes can create Village Design Statements, allowing rural communities to comment on their wishes for the likely aesthetics and character of future rural development.

Additional Information

Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities

Following a restructure of the Peterborough City Council cabinet in May 2009, the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities has been set up to review services and policies which have an impact upon communities across the parishes. It is the intention that the new scrutiny commission will take an overview of the delivery of the actions contained within the Rural Housing Strategy. The draft version of the Rural Housing Strategy is due to undergo scrutiny from the newly formed commission in October 2009.

Peterborough City Council Neighbourhood Services Delivery Model

Peterborough City Council has implemented a new approach to delivering neighbourhood services, such as community safety and environmental enforcement. Four teams have been established, three of which are responsible for a geographically defined area of the authority, and one other that deals with authority-wide issues. Each team will have its own neighbourhood manager which will be responsible for and accountable to that particular locality. The influence of this model upon the aims and actions of the Rural Housing Strategy will become clearer once the new arrangements become more embedded.

Peterborough Rural Housing Strategy 2010-13
Action Plan

Priority Area	Key Actions	Measurable Outcome	Timescale for completion	Lead Agency	Partners
1. Affordable Housing	To initiate a Rural Housing Partnership consisting of local affordable housing providers, the local authority, parish councils and Cambridgeshire ACRE.	RSLs consulted and feedback received	Q1 2010-11	Housing Strategy team @ PCC	Cambridgeshire ACRE, Environmental Capital Officer @ GPP, Partner RSLs
	In the event of a RHP being successfully established, to develop links between the Cambridgeshire ACRE and rural communities who are interested in developing affordable housing stock through exception sites.	Cambs ACRE to join Rural Working Group. Meetings and events between parishes and Cambs ACRE held	Q2 2010-11	Environment Capital Officer @ GPP	GPP Rural Working Group, Housing Strategy team @ PCC, Parish councils,
	To develop links between the rural communities, the Tudor Trust and members of an existing CLT, with a view to explore the methods and merits of forming a community land trust for the purposes of developing affordable housing.	Meetings and events between parishes and Tudor Trust and existing CLT held	Q3 2010-11	Environment Capital Officer @ GPP	GPP Rural Working Group, Housing Strategy team @ PCC, Parish Councils, Cambs ACRE
	Build relationships and gather best practice information from 'rural 80' and 'rural 50' authorities on how they deliver affordable housing through all available methods, including s.106	Best practice gathering exercise completed, and report of recommendations produced and disseminated to parish councils	Q3 2010-11	Housing Strategy team @ PCC	Environment Capital Officer @ GPP, Parish Councils

Priority Area	Key Actions	Measurable Outcome	Timescale for completion	Lead Agency	Partners
2. Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty	Promote and share best practice of energy efficiency activity between rural parishes.	# homes made energy efficient	On-going	Fuels and Renewals team @ PCC Environmental Capital Officer @ GPP Climate Change Team @ PCC	Parish Councils
	Produce a toolkit/"how to" guide allowing energy efficiency/fuel poverty programmes to be replicated elsewhere across rural Peterborough.	Toolkit/"how to" guide completed	Q4 2010-11	Environmental Capital Officer @ GPP	Fuels and Renewals Team @ PCC
	Seek and pursue opportunities to facilitate village-wide energy audits (particularly to the east of the authority) as a basis for further work on fuel poverty and energy efficiency.	# homes made energy efficient External funding/resources secured	On-going	Environmental Capital Officer @ GPP	Parish Councils
	To initiate adding energy efficiency and fuel poverty to the agenda of rural Neighbourhood councils, Rural Working group and Parish Liaison	To increase number of parishes requesting further information RE energy efficiency and fuel poverty	Q2 2010-11	Environmental Capital Officer @ GPP	Neighbourhood Councils, Rural Working Group, Parish Liaison Chair Fuels and Renewals Team @ PCC

2. Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty (Continued)	To initiate adding energy efficiency and fuel poverty to the agenda of parish councils.	To increase number of parishes requesting further information RE energy efficiency and fuel poverty	Q2 2010-11	Environmental Capital Officer @ GPP	Parish Councils Fuels and Renewals Team @ PCC
	For GPP Environment Capital Officer to assist Fuels and Renewals team in developing links with rural community groups/organisations in order to raise the profile of fuel poverty and energy efficiency assistance in rural areas.	Fuels and Renewals team to attend rural community events/meetings in order to raise awareness of the fuel poverty/energy efficiency/disrepair grants and assistance available for vulnerable rural households.	On-going	Environmental Capital Officer @ GPP Fuels and Renewals Team @ PCC	Parish Councils
	Roll out the 'Community Energy Challenge' into rural areas of Peterborough	Community Energy Challenge conducted in at least two rural parishes	Q2 2010-11	Climate Change Team @ PCC Parish Councils	
	Further promote the 'Your Footprint Counts' campaign in rural areas	'Your Footprint Counts' road shows held in at least one rural parish	Q2 2010-11	Climate Change Team @ PCC	Parish Councils

Priority Area	Key Actions	Measurable Outcome	Timescale for completion	Lead Agency	Partners
3. In Keeping Design	To investigate whether resources can be made available to convert existing Village Design Statements into Supplementary Planning Documents.	Situation established	Q2 2010-11	Planning Policy @ PCC	
	Parish councils and/or rural communities to create their own village design statements, supported by Planning Aid and/or PCC	On going	On-going	Parish councils/ Rural Communities	Planning Policy @ PCC Planning Aid
	To inform rural communities about the services offered by Planning Aid, and enable them to better engage with the planning system.	Meetings and events between parishes and Planning Aid held	Q4 2010-11	GPP Rural Working Group	Planning Aid
	To prepare and publish updated guidance on how the parishes can create Village Design Statements	Guidance published	To timetable into the 2010/11 Planning Policy work programme	Planning Policy @ PCC	Planning Aid

Glossary of Terms

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing includes social rented and intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable housing should meet the needs of eligible households including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices.

Affordable Housing Provider

An organisation that builds and/or manages housing on an affordable basis. The term includes housing associations, and private developers who build and sell property on a shared-ownership basis.

Affordable Rural Housing Commission

The Affordable Rural Housing Commission was set up by Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to explore issues regarding access to affordable housing for those who live and work in rural areas. For further information, see <http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/projects/affordablehousingcommission/overview>

Build Cost

Build cost simply refers to the actual cost of developing units of housing, including building materials, land purchase and administration costs (such as architect and planning application fees), but excluding any developer profit.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Cambridgeshire ACRE is an organisation which engages with the rural communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by supporting community participation, providing funding advice, facilitating community-led planning and setting up new projects. They also run a specialist service that assists rural communities to develop affordable housing. For further information, see <http://www.cambsacre.org.uk/>

Community Land Trust

A Community Land Trust is a body set up by members of a community for the purposes of procuring and developing land for the benefit of that community, such as the provision of affordable housing. For further information, see <http://www.communitylandtrust.org.uk/>

DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government)

Amongst other issues, the Department for Communities and Local Government sets policy on local government, housing, urban regeneration and planning. For further information, see <http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/>

Decent Homes Standard

By 2010, central government is aiming for all social rented housing stock up to 'decent homes' standard. The criteria for the standard is quite detailed, but defined in simplest terms a 'decent home' is one which is 'warm, weatherproof and have reasonably modern facilities'. In addition to the social sector, the government has charged local authorities with the task of ensuring that 70 percent of all vulnerable households are living in homes that meet the standard by 2010. For further information, see <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/decenthome>

Development Control Team

The Development Control team is based within Peterborough City Council, and is responsible for the determination of planning applications and other associated applications, such as listed building consent.

East of England Plan

The East of England plan is the main spatial planning document covering the whole region. Peterborough as an authority falls under its remit. The document covers all aspects of spatial planning, from housing quota and economic development, through to transport and waste management. For further information, see http://www.gos.gov.uk/goee/docs/Planning/Regional_Planning/Regional_Spatial_Strategy/EE_Plan1.pdf

East of England Local Government Association

The East of England Local Government Association is the regional governance body which produces many strategic documents, such as the East of England plan and the Regional Housing Strategy. For further information, see <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/>

East of England Regional Housing Strategy

The Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England sets out the strategic direction for the delivery of housing in the East of England. It is produced by the East of England Regional Assembly. For further information, see <http://www.eera.gov.uk/What-we-do/developing-regional-strategies/regional-housing-strategy/>

Energy Saving Trust

The Energy Saving Trust is a not-for-profit body which provides free, impartial advice on energy efficiency and addressing issues relating to climate change. For further information, see <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/>

Exception Site

An 'exception site' is one which is not allocated by the local planning authority as a potential site for development, and may have certain features that ordinarily would reduce its chances of being developed i.e. 'green field' sites. However, it is possible for planning consent to be awarded to develop affordable housing upon an 'exception site' if a local need for this type of accommodation has been identified. For further information, see <http://www.ruralhousing.org.uk/PDFs/Fact%20Sheets/What%20is%20an%20Exception%20Site%20July%202008.pdf>

Fuel Debt

Fuel Debt is a by-product of fuel poverty. Households can fall into fuel debt as a result of high utility bills, something which is usually the result of energy inefficiencies or inaccurate and undetected billing and meter readings.

Fuel Poverty

A household is defined as being in 'fuel poverty' when it is required to spend ten percent of total income in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime.

Greater Peterborough Partnership

The Greater Peterborough Partnership (GPP) is Peterborough's Local Strategic Partnership, the body that unites representatives from the public, private, faith, community and voluntary sector together to work collectively together towards the vision and priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy. For further information, see <http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/>

Green Field Site

Greenfield land is a term used to describe a piece of previously undeveloped land, in a city or rural area, often used for agriculture, landscape design, or just left to nature. In contrast, brownfield land is an area that has previously been developed.

Housing Association

Housing Associations (also known as Registered Social Landlords) are independent not-for-profit bodies that provide low-cost social housing for people in housing need. Any trading surplus is used to maintain existing homes and to help finance new ones. They are major providers of new homes to rent, whilst many also run shared ownership schemes to help people who cannot afford to buy their own homes outright.

Housing Health and Safety Rating System (and Category One Hazards)

The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) is the risk assessment procedure for residential properties. Under the system, a category one hazard is defined as one which carries serious risk of injury or death. For further information, see <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/rentingandletting/housinghealth/>

Intermediate Tenure

Intermediate tenures come in two forms; rented and for low cost home ownership. They are designed to fill the gap in the market between social housing and market housing. Properties rented on an intermediate basis by an affordable housing provider, are let at rents equivalent to 80 per cent of market rates. Low cost ownership comes in many forms, including schemes where ownership is shared between the occupier and an affordable housing provider, and schemes where the government can offer home buyers an interest free equity loan. There is a scheme which combines both forms of intermediate tenure – where properties are let at an intermediate basis for five years, and then the tenant has the option to buy. Intermediate tenures can be accessed through regional ‘homebuy agents’. For an example, see <http://www.orbitfirststep.org.uk/main.cfm>

Local Area Agreement

A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a document that sets out the actions that are required in order to meet the priorities of the geographic area covered by a local authority. In Peterborough, the LAA is closely linked to the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-21, which sets out the local priorities to make Peterborough a better place to be. The actions within the Local Area Agreement are designed to achieve the priorities of the Sustainable Communities strategy, and measure the extent to which these are achieved. For further information on LAAs, see <http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/performanceframeworkpartnerships/localareaagreements/>

Local Development Framework

A Local Development Framework (LDF) is the selection of documents produced by a local authority which covers policy in regards to how planning will be managed in that area. The LDF consists of a core policy document, which states all main council policies (such as the percent of affordable housing sought on developments), and a proposals map showing the location of proposed strategic sites for development. It can also include additional documents that elaborate upon specific policies relevant to certain issues. Peterborough City Council's LDF is presently going through a period of consultation prior to it being adopted. For further information on LDFs, see <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/ldf/ldfguide.html>

National Affordable Housing Programme

The National Affordable Housing Programme is the major public funding source for affordable housing in the UK. Affordable Housing Providers can apply to the scheme for funding to support housing developments that meet certain central government criteria, and the strategic aims of local government. For further information, see <http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/server/show/nav.446>

‘Non-decent’ dwelling

A ‘non-decent’ dwelling is one which does not meet the Decent Homes standard.

Peterborough City Council 'Submission' Core Strategy

This document forms part of the LDF. It is a document which outlines a series of as yet un-adopted key planning policies. The latest version of the core strategy has been approved by the elected members of Peterborough City Council, and has now been submitted to central government for approval. For further information, see

http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/planning_and_building/planning_policy/draft_development_plans/core_strategy.aspx

Peterborough Housing Needs Assessment

This document is a piece of research into the housing need that exists across both the city of Peterborough, and the housing market sub-region that it falls into. The document forms the basis of many policies relating to housing and planning. For further information, see

http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/housing/strategies_policies_and_plans/housing_strategy/peterborough_sub-regional_shma.aspx

Peterborough Local Plan 2005

The Peterborough Local Plan 2005 is a document containing the adopted policies of Peterborough City Council in relation to how planning is managed. It is soon to be superseded by a new approach to planning policy called the Local Development Framework, which is presently passing through a period of consultation. For further information on the plan, see

http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/planning_and_building/planning_policy/peterborough_local_plan.aspx

Peterborough Rural Working Group

The Peterborough Rural Working Group is a panel of representatives from rural communities, including both ward and parish councillors. The purpose of the group is to formulate a collective voice for the rural communities, and the group was heavily involved in the production of Peterborough Rural Vision and Strategy. For further information, see

<http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/partners-rural.php>

Peterborough Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-21

The Peterborough Sustainable Community 2008-21 has been produced by the Greater Peterborough Partnership in partnership with its partners from the public, private, voluntary and faith sectors. The document outlines the agreed joint priorities of the city, which should in turn be reflected in the business plans of the individual partners. The Local Area Agreement sets out the agreed actions that are required to achieve the aims of the Sustainable Community Strategy. For further information, see

<http://www.gpp-peterborough.org.uk/documents/SustainableCommunityStrategy.pdf>

Place Survey

Place surveys are questionnaire-based research into the thoughts, experiences and opinions of local people in regards to a number of key areas, including satisfaction with public services, local decision making and community safety. Local authorities are required to undertake Place Surveys every two years.

Planning Aid

'Planning Aid' is a charity that offers people the opportunity to get involved in the development of their local areas. They provide free and independent professional planning advice to community groups and individuals who cannot afford to pay professional fees. Planning Aid works with communities to help them understand and play a role in the planning process. They are an independent source of advice and information on planning issues, and are not part of central or local government. For further information contact: East of England Planning Aid, 38 Cambridge Place, Cambridge, CB21NS. General enquiries: 01223 351597

Email: eeco@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk Web: www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

'Rural 50' Authority

A Rural 50 Authority is an authority with at least 50 percent of its population (but less than 80 percent) living in rural settlements or larger market towns.

'Rural 80' Authority

A Rural 80 Authority is an authority with at least 80 percent of its population living in rural settlements or larger market towns.

Rural Housing Enabler

Rural Housing Enablers work with rural communities to provide independent advice and support, act as a facilitator and help them through the process of providing affordable housing. The Rural Housing Enabler for Peterborough is Cambridgeshire ACRE.

S.106 Agreement

S.106 agreements are those struck between developers and the local authority in order to support planning applications. The agreements included in a s.106 agreement can be broad, but they are usually utilised to ensure that a local community affected by development actually benefits from it. This is usually through the provision of affordable housing on the development where the s.106 agreement is in place, or as a financial contribution from a developer towards schools and other local services.

Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities

The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities was set up following a reshuffle of the Peterborough City Council cabinet in May 2009. It has been set up to review services and policies which have an impact upon communities across the parishes

Village Design Statement

A Village Design Statement is a document created by local people which outlines the visual character of the village and demonstrates how local character and distinctiveness can be protected and enhanced in new development.

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
14 JUNE 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Contact Officer:	Carol Tilley, Corporate Governance Manager, Democratic Services	Tel. 01733 452344
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UPDATE - PETITIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : Directors	
1. That Cabinet notes the action taken in respect of petitions presented to full Council.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following the presentation of petitions to full Council.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the progress being made in response to petitions in accordance with Standing Order 10.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.1 – ‘to take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the Council’s Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the Council’s overall improvements programmes to deliver excellent services’.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

4.1 **Petition to retain playing field adjacent to Norwood School for public use outside school hours:**

This petition was presented to full Council on 14 October 2009 by Councillor Fower.

The Council’s Assistant Director of Children’s Services has undertaken extensive consultation with members of the local community, parents, staff and school governors as a result of this petition, and an earlier petition against the proposal to erect a high security fence around the playing field adjacent to Norwood School. The outcome in respect of both was agreement that the fence would be replaced in its original position, the design changed to a 1.5 metre high bow-topped style railing and that the gates would be locked during the school day and open to enable community use at other times. It should be noted that the fence encloses only the school playing field, which is part of a much larger space accessible to the community at all times.

4.2 Petition to rebuild The Dell Park / Recreation Ground:

This petition was presented to Council by Councillor Lee.

Following receipt of this petition, the Council's Head of Operations visited the site, together with Councillor Lee as the local ward Councillor. Councillor Lee wrote to petitioners on 16 March 2010 advising as follows:

- The Council would seek to carry out improvements to the play area (during the financial year 2010/11) using grant available under the 'Play Builder' scheme;
- It is proposed to replace the concrete area with a grassed play area which would encourage use of natural play (final design to be dependent on the outcome of a user consultation exercise);
- The metal grid entrance areas will be removed and replaced with gated access.
- Broken benches in the area will be removed and new benches installed;
- Old metal framed play equipment and rotten tree stumps outside no. 92 The Dell would be removed.

4.3 Petition opposing allotment development on park land between Hallfields Lane and Gunthorpe Road

This petition was presented to Council on 24 February 2010 by Councillor Fower.

A response was sent to Councillor Fower on 23 March 2010 advising that the Government Office is prepared to grant consent to the disposal of statutory allotment land at Itter Crescent for residential development subject to the re-provision of allotment land elsewhere. The petition opposing allotment development on park land between Hallfields Lane and Gunthorpe Road underlined the views expressed at a local consultation exercise, held in 2009.

The site at Hallfields Lane / Gunthorpe Road is one of several possible sites under consideration and further consultative exercises will be held in respect of all proposed sites, after which time all viable options will be assessed on the basis of key comparators to identify the most favourable option.

4.4 Petition opposing allotment development at Werrington Paddock

This petition was presented to Council on 14 April 2010 by Councillor Fower.

A response was sent to Councillor Fower on 27 April 2010 reiterating the position outlined in 4.3 above and advising that the land at Werrington Paddock is one of several possible sites under consideration. The Council has noted the level of local objections in respect of this proposal, which follow a local consultative exercise and receipt of the petition, and will continue to hold further consultation exercises in respect of all proposed sites. All viable options will then be assessed on the basis of key comparators to identify the most favourable option.

4.5 Petition opposing proposals to increase caravan pitches for gypsies/travellers in Eye

This petition was presented to Council on 14 April 2010 by Councillor Cereste and Councillor Sanders.

The Council's Planning Policy and Strategic Manager responded on 19 April 2010 and advised that the petition would be considered as a formal representation to the ongoing Site Allocations Draft Planning Document consultation and would be dealt with alongside all other

formal representations. The lead petitioner would be advised and ongoing contact throughout the process would be maintained.

4.6 Petition opposing a planning application due to traffic noise/pollution- Great Haddon development

This petition was presented to Council on 14 April 2010 by Councillor Seaton.

The Council's Head of Planning Services responded on 29 April 2010 and advised that the petition would be reviewed and considered as part of the wider consultation process in respect of this application. Assurance has been given that representations will be fully taken into account during the decision making process.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Standing Orders require that Council receive a report about the action taken on petitions. As the petition presented in this report has been dealt with by Cabinet Members or officers it is appropriate that the action taken is reported to Cabinet, prior to it being included within the Executive's report to full Council.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 Any alternative options would require an amendment to the Council's Constitution to remove the requirement to report to Council.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal implications.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 8.1 Petitions presented to full Council and responses from officers.

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