

## **MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING HELD 4 NOVEMBER 2013**

PRESENT

**Cabinet Members:** Councillor Cereste (chair), Councillor Holdich, Councillor North, Councillor Scott, Councillor Seaton and Councillor Walsh.

**Cabinet Advisers:** Councillor Casey, Councillor Dalton, Councillor Goodwin and Councillor Todd.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Elsey and Fitzgerald.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD 23 SEPTEMBER 2013**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2013 were agreed as an accurate record.

## **STRATEGIC DECISIONS**

### **4. PETERBOROUGH CITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT**

Cabinet received a report following approval of the Consultation Draft version of the City Centre DPD (from now on referred to as the City Centre Plan) on 10 December 2012, and following public consultation and further evidence gathering since that date.

Councillor Cereste introduced the report highlighting the importance of a vibrant city centre for the city in general.

Cabinet debated the Plan and report and comments included:

- Some rewording should be made to the document to include all disability groups and organisations;
- The need for adequate tourist coach and bus drop off and pick up areas should be addressed in the document; and
- Transport options for cultural activities could be addressed in future.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

Recommend the Peterborough City Centre DPD (Proposed Submission Version) to Council for approval for the purposes of public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State, subject to the following amendments:

- i) References to 'disability forums' to be amended to 'disability forums and other disability organisations';

- ii) Page 72 of the Development Plan Document, implementation detail for Policy CC1 to include 'and accessibility issues for disabled'; and
- iii) Ensure the provision of drop off and pick up areas for coaches and buses by including the following wording at 6.1.20 of the DPD:  
"The council will encourage provision of coach parking facilities to attract visitors to the city centre. Within the Opportunities Areas where there is a mix of uses including leisure (D2) the developer will be required to provide coach or bus parking spaces as set out in Appendix A (PP13) of the Planning Policies DPD. Individual parking requirements will be assessed for each application based on the mix of uses proposed."

## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

Cabinet was recommended to approve the City Centre Plan (Proposed Submission version) for public consultation and submission. This was because it would help deliver the city's growth targets set out in the Core Strategy, it would help to encourage and coordinate further investment in the city centre and the regeneration of a number of large brownfield sites in the City Centre such as the former hospital site, the railway station and North Westgate.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

The Council was required to produce a City Centre Plan in accordance with its approved Local Development Scheme (LDS) (April 2012) and Core Strategy. The option of not producing a City Centre Plan would mean that the Council would not be working in accordance with its LDS and would not be in a position to deliver the growth and regeneration for the city centre. Therefore the alternative option of not producing the City Centre Plan was rejected.

## **5. STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP**

In accordance with rules of procedure relating to exempt information, Cabinet agreed that it was not necessary to go into exempt session when considering item 5 in the agenda and continued the meeting in public.

Cabinet received a report following a referral from the Executive Director of Resources seeking its approval to enter into a partnership arrangement with CityFibre Holdings, referred to in the report as CFH, to enable Peterborough to meet its aspiration to provide wider access to digital services.

Councillor Seaton introduced the report highlighting that the partnership sought to future-proof high speed internet provision across the city and by doing so attract new business and investment. The provision could also change the way public services and teaching were delivered. The Executive Director of Resources added that the continued development of the city relied upon the communication infrastructure.

Cabinet debated the report and comments included:

- This would be another attraction for new businesses;
- Future delivery of cultural activities could be enhanced by this;
- This was as important for the future of the city as the railways were; and
- Many new companies were showing interest in Peterborough.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve a strategic partnering agreement with CityFibre Holdings in order to endorse CityFibre Holdings strategy for fibre infrastructure projects in the City of Peterborough funded through private sector investment by CityFibre Holdings;

2. Authorise the Executive Director of Strategic Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources to deliver future work streams for connectivity to the fibre network;
3. Agree to a Change Control Notice for the Council's existing ICT Managed Service Contract with Serco to enable;
  - The provision of connectivity to the Council of a dark fibre network
  - Serco to enter into a contract with CityFibre Holdings for the provision by CityFibre (at CityFibre's own cost) of a dark fibre network with connectivity
  - Serco to implement a new model of provision of the Council's current network infrastructure to a dark fibre model; and
4. Authorise the Executive Director of Strategic Resources to agree changes to the ICT Managed Service contract with Serco resulting from provision of the dark fibre network.

#### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The investment in the city will further enhance the policy around the home of the environment capital, will boost the local economy through business growth and it also will generate new jobs.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

The Council does not enter into such an agreement and the opportunity for investment in the city and the benefits that a pure fibre network could bring to businesses and residents would be missed.

10.20 a.m.