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CABINET

**MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2015
10.00 AM**

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall
Contact – gemma.george@peterborough.gov.uk, 01733 452268

AGENDA

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Circulation
Cabinet Members
Scrutiny Committee Representatives
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 2 FEBRUARY 2015

PRESENT

Cabinet Members: Councillor Cereste (Chairman), Councillor Holdich, Councillor Elsey, Councillor Fitzgerald, Councillor Hiller, Councillor Scott and Councillor Seaton.

Cabinet Advisers: Councillor Casey.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor North, Councillor Serluca and Councillor Lamb.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2015 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

MONITORING ITEMS

It was agreed to take item 5, Annual Audit Letter 2013/14, as the next item of business.

4. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2013/14

Cabinet received a report following a referral from the Council's External Auditor (PricewaterhouseCoopers).

The purpose of the report was for Cabinet to consider and respond to the Audit Letter for 2013/14, prepared jointly by the Council's external auditors.

Councillor Seaton introduced the report and highlighted the main issues contained within. The Council had received a clean bill of health from the Auditors and as budgets became tighter, the need for rigorous financial management would become more important, therefore the hard work would need to continue going forward. Julian Rickett from PricewaterhouseCoopers added further points of clarification around the summary of the letter and the detailed reports as set out within. The lack of issues reflected well on the authority and based on the work undertaken, it was the Auditor's view that the Council was financially well run and managed.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED:**

To approve the Annual Audit Letter for the financial year 2013/14.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Council was required to consider the statutory Annual Audit Letter and make appropriate arrangements in response to recommendations.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The External Auditor may take on board responses received prior to its formal publication, although he had a duty to produce and arrange for the publication of the Annual Audit Letter as soon as reasonably practical. No specific alternative options were submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

5. A1139 FLETTON PARKWAY JUNCTION 17 A1(M) TO JUNCTION 2 ROAD WIDENING SCHEME, CONTAMINATION AND DRAINAGE ISSUES

Cabinet received a report from the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Services.

The report sought approval for the completion of the A1139 Fletton Parkway Junction 17(A1M) to Junction 2 road widening scheme and further sought approval for payments to cover the increased cost of the scheme. The report also provided background information explaining the reasons why the cost of delivering the scheme had increased from the original target cost.

Councillor Hiller introduced the report and highlighted the main issues contained within, providing further background to the scheme. The Council's Director of Growth and Regeneration added further points of clarification.

Cabinet debated the report and key points raised and responses to questions included:

- The significant risk to the authority of not undertaking the scheme would be that the growth agenda for the city would effectively be cut by a third;
- If the road was not widened, major structural work would have to be undertaken instead, representing a cost of around £9m to the Council in full;
- Money from Government and the Local Enterprise Partnership was about growth and not about maintenance of existing assets;
- A detailed risk assessment, as part of the bid, looked at a number of issues and there was an ongoing live risk register as part of the scheme. Risk was embedded into the programme;
- Contingencies were in place, however the level of contamination that was experienced could never have been foreseen;
- There were questions that had arisen with regards to the initial construction around the road, around drainage as well as contamination levels;
- It was believed that the capping layer had been constructed at only half the level at which it should have been;
- There had been other works done to the road and similar issues had not been experienced, this could have been down to the use of a different contractor in the roads initial construction;
- The amount of soil which would be generated from 5km of extra road would be enormous, this could not be piled up on the side of the road and the central reservation was no longer in existence;
- The site was very close to the national conservation site for great crested newts;
- There had been exploration undertaken with regards to depositing soil onto the roundabout bowls, however there were major risks with regards to slippage;
- Forty years ago construction techniques and environmental considerations were very different to how they were at the current time;
- The impact of the increasing traffic loads was significant and the widening of the road would assist in easing this impact. It would also assist with the facilitation of new businesses, creating thousands of jobs for the area;

- The widening of the road was an essential part of the development of the infrastructure for the city;
- The number of houses built on the Great Haddon development would have a further significant impact on the traffic issues;
- The costs were less to the Council, due to the funding secured, than would have been if the Council had undertaken the work itself;
- The widening scheme would have less of an impact on traffic flow as it would not necessitate a close of lane in any direction;
- The works came within budget and were much needed improvement; and
- The growth and prosperity of the city needed to continue and the works were required for this.

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

1. Approve Balfour Beatty to undertake the additional works necessary to complete the A1139 junction 17 A1(M) – junction 2 widening scheme; and
2. Authorise the virement of £4.502m to the project budget from the various budgets detailed within this report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The cost of building the scheme had increased from the original estimate at the target cost stage. The majority of the additional costs listed within the report to Cabinet were already inherent either in the ground or in existing infrastructure, but not obvious, predictable or accessible.

The Council had endeavoured to mitigate costs wherever possible, but had been hampered by tight working conditions, minimum road space constraints, the need to ensure free flowing traffic, and the programme critical path. The extra expenditure above the target cost was necessary in order to complete the scheme to an acceptable standard and provide an asset that would serve the city for at least the next 20 years. Importantly, the scheme had attracted significant external funding in recognition of its strategic importance. Furthermore, the Council would have faced an estimated cost of £9m to carry out major structural repairs to this section of Fletton Parkway within the next three to four years if the widening scheme had not progressed, a cost significantly in excess of the Council's contribution to the widening scheme.

The implications of not approving the extra expenditure to complete the scheme were outlined within the report to Cabinet.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Further scope reduction was considered at the target cost stage, such as not upgrading street lighting, but was discounted as it would have left a future maintenance liability and a burden on revenue budgets. Moreover the lighting was programmed for replacement in the near future and co-ordinating the works with the widening scheme reduced cost and mitigated further disruption on the strategic road network. As outturn costs increased consideration was also given to not upgrading the existing verge drainage. However, it was recognised that the poor condition of the drainage was a large contributory factor in the previous deterioration of the road structure and that drainage upgrade was necessary to guarantee the future structural integrity of the road.

Solutions to mitigate contaminated soil disposal costs were fully explored. Areas within the scheme were examined to see if soil could be sympathetically integrated into existing landscaped areas. The only realistic area for relocating large quantities of soil was the landscaped areas within the roundabout at junction 1. A proposal was investigated and priced but was discounted given risks to the overall programme,

limited cost savings, environmental constraints and the potential traffic impacts on the strategic road network and A1(M) through the need for severe traffic management.

The option of not completing the scheme had to be discounted given the need to maintain a safe highway.

Consideration was given as to whether the Council should run a separate procurement exercise as a result of the increase in project costs. This was discounted because its contract with Balfour Beatty was made on the terms of an NEC3 Option C Target Contract with Activity Schedule. This form of contract provided for Balfour Beatty to give to the Council an 'early warning' of any matter that could increase its prices. Following an 'early warning' and where it was assessed by the project manager that a 'compensation event' had occurred, the Council was notified of the 'compensation event'. Balfour Beatty was entitled to receive payment for the 'compensation event', once agreed by the Council.

Also, the Council would have incurred significant additional cost to run the procurement exercise including but not exclusively, procurement and contract costs and delays and demobilisation of Balfour Beatty, mobilisation of the new contractor and associated delays. This would also have prolonged the works and the impact on motorists in the area.

Chairman
10.00am - 10.30am

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
23 FEBRUARY 2015	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Lucia Serluca, Cabinet Member for City Centre Management, Culture and Tourism	
Contact Officer(s):	Lisa Roberts, Strategic Client Manager: Culture and Leisure	Tel: 01733 452386

PETERBOROUGH CULTURE STRATEGY 2015 - 2020

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Cabinet Member for City Centre Management, Culture and Tourism	Deadline date : n/a
That Cabinet approve the 'Peterborough Culture Strategy 2015 – 2020' (Appendix 1) and recommend its adoption to Council.	

1. ORGIN OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet from the Cabinet Member for City Centre Management, Culture and Tourism.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 To allow Cabinet to consider and approve the proposed Peterborough Culture Strategy 2015 - 2020.
- 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 service'.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	Yes	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	23 February 2015
Date for relevant Council meeting	4 March 2015	Date for submission to Government Dept <i>(please specify which Government Dept)</i>	N/A

4. PETERBOROUGH CULTURE STRATEGY 2015 – 2020

4.1 Culture and leisure services are long established priorities of the Council. The Council published a cultural strategy five years ago to deliver its priorities up to 2014.

Recognising the need to take a fresh look at its approach and priorities to develop a new culture strategy, the Council has developed a refreshed strategy – as set out in the document ‘Peterborough Culture Strategy 2015-2020’ attached as Appendix 1.

4.2 A REFRESHED CULTURE STRATEGY FOR PETERBOROUGH: OUR APPROACH

The Culture Strategy has been developed as **an ambitious statement of aspiration**. The draft strategy positions culture at the centre of Peterborough’s approach to improving quality of life and improving life chances. This is expressed through a clear ‘vision statement’ and underpinned by three inter-linked objectives:

- Increasing participation in cultural activity;
- Developing, retaining and attracting people with talent;
- Making better use of the city’s spaces – more places to go, more things to do

The document is pitched at existing *cultural producers* in the city; but it will have a wider resonance within the city if we can communicate effectively that

- a) There is a huge amount happening already that we are celebrating;
- b) This same activity represent the building blocks to go further.

The strategy is *allied to, supportive of and consistent with* our approach to improving the city centre, to growth and inward investment and to tourism (the visitor economy strategy).

It is intended that this Council strategy document is to be used in partnership with wider creative organisations and individuals in Peterborough.

The strategy focusses on arts, music, heritage, libraries and literature and festivals and events. The strategy does not address sport specifically, which will be the subject of further work in the coming year, nor is it a mirror image of a business plan for Vivacity. The Trust is one partner among many cultural organisations and individuals.

The strategy references and links to current city programmes such as:

- The heritage ambition
- The music hub and singing strategy
- The nationally funded creative people and places programme, awarded to Peterborough in 2013
- Creative learning pathways with Peterborough Regional College and children’s university
- Creative apprenticeships and traineeships
- Vivacity’s business plan

During the last year, the Cabinet Advisor for Culture, Cllr Graham Casey, has held a number of wide-ranging discussions with stakeholders. Key points made about the strategy include:

- Whilst the ‘Peterborough Culture Strategy 2015-2020’ is a Council document, it needs to be **a strategy for the whole of the City**;

- It should be **positive** – this is an important opportunity to recognise and celebrate how much Peterborough has to offer;
- It should be **ambitious** – and show how we will measure what we are trying to achieve;
- It should identify and commit to **specific priorities** – things we can do and/or support that will make a real difference.

4.3 WHAT DOES THE STRATEGY COVER?

The strategy sets out:

i. Our vision

To bring local, regional, national and international interest in, and acclaim for the City's cultural offer based on the variety and quality of the inspiring experiences it offers. One city, many communities.

ii. Our priorities

1) To further increase participation in and enjoyment of cultural activities and celebrate our diversity – culture, connecting and reflecting our communities

The Culture Strategy is committed to creative engagement and participation across all areas in Peterborough – involving people to enable them to make their own decisions about what excites them, and to ensure that the cultural offer is relevant to local people.

Peterborough has a range of excellent cultural institutions and programmes which residents can enjoy. Many residents would like to engage more in cultural activities but encounter a range of barriers including time, transport, price, availability of information and familiarity. This priority aims to overcome these barriers and enable more people to participate in cultural activities.

2) To attract, develop, promote, retain and attract talent, including developing the local creative economy, complementing the city's growth

The Culture Strategy will aid in the development of opportunities for the next generation of cultural producers and practitioners, innovative and imaginative programming brokering new relationships between professional and non-professionals and cultural organisations, providing pathways through early years to higher education.

The strategy will outline projects that will experiment with programmes, locations and forms, and set ambitious targets for increasing levels of participation, both in numbers and levels of activities. There will be new pathways to excellence, developing and retention of talent.

3) To create places and spaces for culture – using the public spaces and our green open spaces to ensure there are 'places to go and things to do'

The aim of the 'Peterborough Culture Strategy 2015-2020' document, is to develop a stronger cultural infrastructure in the city's spaces through the development of networks, capacity and relationships, making links with the public realm works and exploiting underutilised spaces within the city. The aim for the strategy is to support high quality programming and the

production of new work through accessing and utilising under used spaces across the city.

iii. The impact we are seeking to have

- To raise the profile of culture and increase participation within the city
- To raise the profile of the city through culture and increase visitor numbers

Each of these are explored in more detail in the Culture Strategy document attached in Appendix 1

4.4 DELIVERY

The strategy does not require any additional Council funding. It seeks to make better use of all of the existing funding streams that support culture in the city – and to enable more external funding to be drawn in.

The Culture Strategy has been developed – on behalf of the Cabinet Advisor, and through a steering group – by the strategic client team. The partnership approach adopted during the development of, and subsequent consultation on the strategy, suggests the need for a small executive group made up of the same stakeholders to oversee progress with and implementation of the strategy.

We propose a core delivery group – Culture Peterborough – supported and informed by a wider range of stakeholders to take ownership of the strategy and oversee its delivery. The group will be built around the major cultural institutions in the city. The group will look at ways of involving the private sector within the approach. The proposed functions of Culture Peterborough include:

- Inform, own and oversee the delivery of the Culture Strategy;
- Provide a voice for the sector;
- Network and share information;
- Seek resources to deliver the strategy;
- Make strategic connections with and contribute to the Local Enterprise Partnership
- Advise on selected projects and programmes;
- Encourage collaboration in the sector;
- Monitor progress on the strategy and other key cultural projects.

The Council will play a key role in Culture Peterborough and will support its development. Specific priorities for the Council will include:

- Advocating the importance of culture;
- Supporting partnership working;
- Delivering selected events and programmes;
- Commissioning and funding key programmes and events;
- Linking culture to other key city priorities;
- Liaising with national and regional cultural bodies on behalf of the city.

4.5 IMPLICATIONS

As budgets become more constrained, the Council will need to ensure the very best possible return on any continuing investment in discretionary services. Through working in partnership with other organisations to deliver the cultural strategy, the Council will be able to deliver the outlined priorities without increasing resources.

5. CONSULTATION

This report has been developed with the Cabinet Advisor for Culture and Recreation and discussed with a wide range of stakeholders through the Culture Strategy Steering Group, including:

- Strong and Supportive Communities scrutiny committee
- Council departments
- Arts Council England
- English Heritage
- Opportunity Peterborough
- Vivacity
- Metal
- PHACE
- Peterborough Cathedral
- Peterborough learning partnership
- Peterborough regional college
- The heritage attractions groups
- Peterborough music makers
- Creative Peterborough
- Art in the Heart
- Peterborough music hub
- Individual artists from all disciplines

The Culture Strategy has been considered twice by the Strong and Supportive Community Scrutiny Committee on the 15th January 2014 and again on the 16th July 2014. The Committee's comments have been incorporated into the document in Appendix 1.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 For Cabinet to approve the Peterborough Culture Strategy 2015 – 2020 and to recommend its adoption to Council.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To approve the proposed Peterborough Culture Strategy, replacing the current strategy which expired at the end of December 2014.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The only alternative option considered was to not revise the strategy, however this would mean an outdated document, lacking focus on the Council's current priorities.

9. IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Financial implications

The Culture Strategy has been constructed in such a way that it should not have any financial impact on the Council and will be delivered by a wide range of culture groups and organisations. The Council, subject to consultation, will be reducing the service fee to Vivacity in 2015 by £750,000, which will have an impact on the two festivals which Vivacity produce

that are detailed within the strategy, resulting in a reduction in the duration of the festivals and festival programming.

The Council has invested in other cultural programmes such as Peterborough Presents which will deliver the majority of the strategy outcomes and supplements the current festivals programme for the Council and Vivacity.

9.2 Legal implications

The Council has a statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 regarding the library services (which are referenced in the Culture Strategy). The Council must:

1. Provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons in the area that want to make of it;
2. Promote the service; and
3. Lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area.

The legal implications regarding library services will be considered in a separate report 'Libraries Review' for Cabinet to approve on the 20th March 2015.

The other services provided by the Council under the Culture Strategy being arts, heritage and cultural events are discretionary services and there are no legal implications for these discretionary services.

10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 10.1 Existing Council strategies, the Funding and Management Agreement dated 1 May 2010 between the Council and Vivacity, and published documents by the Arts Council and Cities outlook 2014.

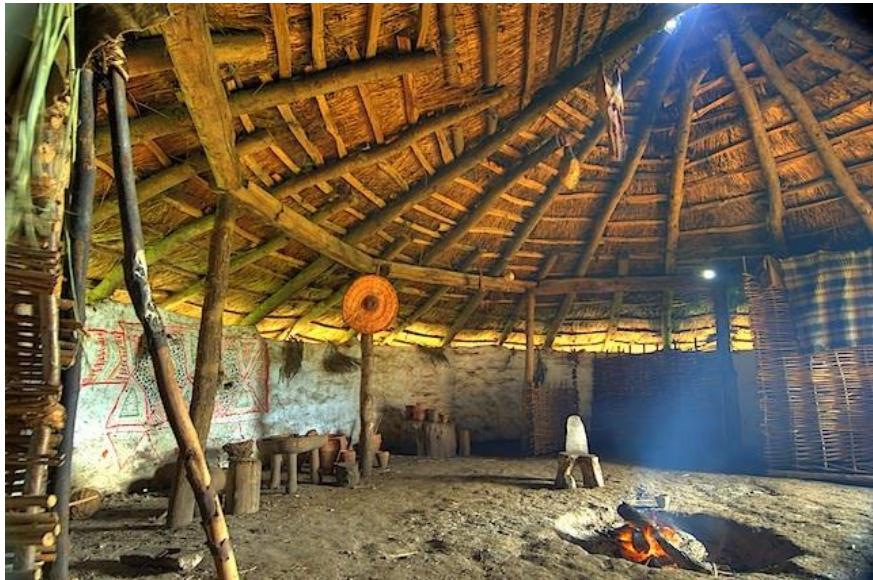
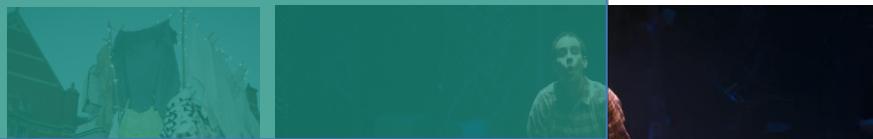
11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 There is one appendix to this report:

Appendix 1: Peterborough Culture Strategy 2015 -2020.

PETERBOROUGH CULTURE STRATEGY

2015 - 2020



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Images souced from Peterborough City Council, Vivacity & Metal Culture

FOREWORD

Councillor Graham Casey

'Peterborough: a great place to go, with great things to do'

Peterborough has been my home for over 25 years.

I am grateful for the warmth of the city's welcome and proud to serve as a Councillor for a city that continues to offer a warm welcome to new residents of all nationalities.

I know the importance and value of culture. I'm fortunate to be an enthusiastic consumer and even, at times, producer of culture. I understand the benefits culture can bring, whether it's the simple pleasure of being entertained, but also to be inspired and challenged.

I want to make it even easier for as many people as possible to see, hear and participate in high-quality cultural experiences in Peterborough.

This strategy is not about spending more money. It is both about making the very best use of the wealth of existing resources and partly about ensuring there is a long-term return on all the existing investments in culture.

The cultural strategy recognises the significance of the cultural and creative sectors in making Peterborough a cultural city, and advocates continued support and investment. It also addresses concerns facing the sector and considers how to maximise opportunities for the cultural life of Peterborough to flourish.

The cultural strategy builds on this and goes on to outline strengths, challenges, actions and aspirations.

The strategy identifies priorities for the city council and our cultural partners that will help provide the leadership and coordination our strategy requires.

I believe that the cultural offer, the activities, the organisations and individuals, the buildings and the inspirational work that goes on must be recognised and supported for the good of the city.

The culture strategy encompasses **arts, heritage, libraries** and **public space** for cultural activity. The strategy team has undertaken a wide range of research and consultation activities to develop a close understanding of Peterborough's cultural sector and potential actions for the cultural steering group and partners to implement.

Finally I would like to commend all our cultural partners who strive to make a real difference in the city. I am proud of the work that we lead as a council and the work produced through our partners.

I hope this strategy will help galvanise the city's fantastic cultural organisations and individuals to work together to help delivery our shared vision for culture in Peterborough.



Our Vision

To bring local, regional, national and international interest in, and acclaim for, the city's cultural offer based on the variety and quality of the inspiring experiences it offers.

One city – many communities.

Our Priorities

- To further increase participation in and enjoyment of cultural activities and celebrate our diversity – culture, connecting and reflecting our communities.
- To attract, develop, promote, retain talent, including developing the local creative economy, complementing the city's growth.
- To create places and spaces for culture – using the public spaces and our green open spaces to ensure there are '*places to go and things to do*'.

Our Legacy

- To raise the profile of culture and increase participation in cultural activity within the city
- To raise the profile of the city through culture and increase visitor numbers.

CULTURE IN OUR CITY TODAY



Peterborough's history stretches back beyond the Bronze Age, yet in demographic terms, Peterborough is a **youthful** city. This makes Peterborough distinct from many other cities and areas in the UK. It is also a highly multicultural city, with people of different cultural backgrounds and heritage integrating and complementing one another to create a rich and dynamic cultural landscape. This strategy aims to reflect this dynamism and create opportunities which will enhance the city's heritage, arts, libraries and public spaces for local people and visitors alike.

These characteristics make Peterborough an exciting place to live and work.

- Peterborough is one of fastest growing city in the UK, the population has increased by 17% over the last decade to 183,000 (from 157,000)¹.
- The combination of a baby boom and inward migration from several countries including many from Eastern Europe has driven growth requiring 6,000 more primary school places.
- Peterborough's overall population is young – more than a third of the city's population is under 25.
- The city is diverse, with 20% of the population born outside of the UK and the City has the only primary school in the country where all of the pupils have English as a second language.

Peterborough has a thriving – but disparate – cultural offer already: To understand Peterborough's starting point the strategy takes into account the significant amount of work undertaken in this area over the last two years.

- The city council provides a wide range of cultural activities from facilitating local groups to produce their own activities in the city centre, such as the **Italian festival** the **Portuguese**

¹ Cities outlook 2014

festival, the **Polish festival**, **African Splash**, **Diwali festival** and a new introduction for 2014, a **Latvian festival**, enabling them to bring cultural activities to the widest possible audience.

- The city benefits from set calendar events, ranging from the **Christmas lights** switch on, **music on the square** to the **Great Eastern Run**. The council also support a wide range of commercial events such as the **Willow Festival**, **concerts** and the **Beer Festival**. During 2013 the council delivered and supported over 34 distinct cultural events for the city.
- The **arts** have seen tremendous growth in the last two years, with the development and expansion of a new programme at the **Key Theatre**. The aim is to develop this venue into a cultural 'hub'. In addition, the reopening of the **Broadway** for the 2013 winter season was a success. Both initiatives have demonstrated a real appetite for rich and diverse programmes, including comedy, drama, dance, spoken word, music, and film and community projects.
- The **City Gallery** has introduced new programmes, such as Saturday art schools and life drawing. Moreover, the success of the **Open Exhibition** has given artists living in the Peterborough area showcase opportunities to display their work alongside national and international exhibition programmes.
- The **Arts Festival** has developed into a true international festival in every sense, welcoming acts and performers from across the world to develop arts activities with local communities, heedless of barriers of language or background, and has attracted over 30,000 visitors each year.
- In 2012 the city produced a Heritage Ambition, which set the foundation for the long term strategy for Peterborough's Heritage. The contributions of the four Action Working Groups can be found at www.peterboroughheritage.org.uk
- Peterborough Heritage builds partnerships, ignites new celebrations of heritage, enables and supports new activity, and strives to tell the story of the city in a captivating, enjoyable and accessible way.
- Peterborough's annual **Heritage Festival** has also attracted over 30,000 visitors, and incorporates stalls, historical re-enactors, activities and historic materials. It is the UK's only city-centre-based multi-period living history festival and explores and celebrates over 3,500 years of cultural activity in and around the city.

Peterborough hosts and works with, a range of National Portfolio organisations and established arts organisations:

- **Eastern Angles**, **Britten Sinfonia**, **Metal**, **NNF (Bridge Organisation)**, and **SeaChange Arts** all have growing relationships that are embedded in the city. These groups have made significant inroads in developing local groups and audiences and producing insightful and quality experiences for the people of Peterborough.

- The **Natural History Museum** has an established and growing partnership with Peterborough Museum and support from the **British Museum** has started in relation to other elements of the museum's wide ranging collections.

The city has an emerging musical offer:

- The city's **Music Hub** is delivering a three year programme of music for schools, funded through national government, which is due to be extended through another funding cycle and will develop a singing strategy, school CPD, access to musical instruments to all children in Peterborough schools and school engagement.
- The growth of music has been extended through the development of the City's choirs. **Peterborough Young Singers** and other choirs in the city have seen an active uptake of singing activities, with the **Male Voice Choir** achieving national awards and success and **Peterborough Sings** leading on the development of a new **singing strategy**, making use of assets such as the **Cathedral, St John's Church** and the **Broadway Theatre**.
- Independent groups are growing in the city from **Blok Collective** and **Peterborough Music Makers**, to **Creative Peterborough** and **Beat This** who are now winning commissions and extending their activities, meaning more groups are being enabled to be independent and sustainable into the future.
- Peterborough hosts independent organisations offering dance of all varieties, music, singing, drama and art. Libraries and our community centres also offer venues for cultural activities for the very young from **Wildcats** and **Fit to Dance**.

The city has a strong literature offer:

- The city's **literature** scene has gone from strength to strength, from through the creation of the city's annual **poet laureate** competition through the developments at **John Clare Cottage** and the bringing of international authors to Peterborough's libraries.

The city's **heritage attractions** have not just a rich past but also an exciting future:

- Vivacity's heritage attractions not only provide access to historic venues and the rich stories of Peterborough but are also offer an authentic –and engaging context for the city. **Peterborough Museum** has recently been refurbished, and further improvements to gallery spaces and the visitor offer are ongoing, providing the city with a flagship attraction. The Museum's education service is working in partnership with the Natural History Museum to bring **Real World Science** to Peterborough's schools providing free, stimulating, hands on workshops.
- **Flag Fen** now hosts eight prehistoric Bronze Age log boats, found near the site at **Must Farm**. Most of the boats are in an incredible state of preservation due to the wetland nature of the area. Many were virtually intact and some have elaborate features including lifting

handles, grooves for transom boards, sterns and evidence of decoration. The boats are now being conserved for future generations and are open to the public to view at Flag Fen. This find has international significance and is a great opportunity to raise the profile of heritage in the city and country. One of the boats is already a resource for the National Curriculum, featuring in the British Museum-led 'Teaching History with 100 objects'.

- **Longthorpe Tower** is another Vivacity-managed attraction, housing the finest medieval wall paintings in Western Europe. Starting in 2015, a project will be launched to highlight the wealth of medieval art contained in the Tower, local churches and other venues in the area.
- The **Cathedral** has received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for £2.4 million to enable the Cathedral to offer visitors a richer understanding of the life of the buildings, both past and present, which have stood on the site. Exciting developments as part of the Cathedral's forthcoming 900th anniversary celebrations will include a new heritage centre, which will not only benefit the cathedral itself, but all heritage attractions in the City, through joint programmes and activity.
- **Sacrewell Farm** has recently been successful in gaining Heritage Lottery Funding to renovate its 18th century watermill, restoring this important historic building and providing a venue and opportunity for Heritage Skills learning.
- **Burghley House** has upgraded its visitor facilities recently, to present an exciting new interpretation of the finest Elizabethan mansion in the country. It has also launched an exciting programme of cross-disciplinary events to broaden its audience, including a highly popular season of outdoor cinema and a range of outdoor concerts.
- The city also has a rich **historic environment**, with spaces, buildings, countryside and villages reflecting over 3,500 years of continuous human occupation. We wish to raise the profile and usage of these rich and irreplaceable resources for a wide variety of cultural uses.

There are also other opportunities for school children to experience and enjoy culture:

- The schools offer has grown through partnerships with many cultural organisations offering both on site and classroom experiences where pupils can develop new skills and lifelong learning opportunities.
- Pupils' cultural contributions are celebrated through the **Music Awards** and the **Young People Film Awards**, held every year in the city with growing attendance.

There are opportunities for young people to acquire skills that can support a career in culture:

- Degree courses are available at **University Centre Peterborough** ranging from, performing arts, archaeology, community arts and theatre practice, English literature to media studies. These courses give students the opportunity to develop and learn within their own city, retaining and using the city's talent
- Peterborough's young people are benefitting from a new three year programme **Peterborough Cultural Partnership**, supported through the **Norfolk & Norwich Festival Bridge (NNF)**, that has identified four strands: encouraging young cultural leadership activity; developing and commissioning events and activities which are young people led and focused; creating opportunities for arts and culturally focused professional development; and developing better brokerage between the arts and cultural offer with schools
- 'Vivacity for Schools' has now been launched, providing a new one-stop dedicated resource for teaching staff. The website already has a live Vivacity for Schools portal, which will be developed further in partnership with teaching staff. New strands of the Vivacity for Schools offer will support the Peterborough Heritage, Arts, Culture Enterprise, (PHACE) such as a developing Continued Professional Development menu for local schools.
- Learning sits at the core of this Strategy - the growth of heritage education in the city has an ambition of its own. Peterborough itself is an awe-inspiring learning resource, steeped in rich and diverse history, heritage and culture. In the future, our desire is for Peterborough to be recognised as a centre of excellence for heritage learning. From early years to higher education, from traditional to experimental; our partnerships and initiatives will support, grow, and foster understanding and pride in the city by those who live here and those who visit.

Peterborough has made some significant progress in raising its profile already:

- The city has achieved for the first time European funding for culture, becoming part of the **ZEPA2** consortium, which aims to develop the sustainability of the arts festival, making links with Europe and producing a high-quality format, which will attract further investment.
- Peterborough has been successful in attracting funding for a national project, **Creative People and places**. This has now been re-named **Peterborough Presents**. The project will see local groups organising themselves to champion culture, and will set up networks with micro-funding opportunities. The aim is to generate 35,000 active users (organisations and individual), including **Step Up Community Association**.

- A significant amount of funding has been invested in Peterborough's culture over the past 20 years, with £13.5million from Heritage Lottery Fund alone (in excess of £3.75 per head per year) for heritage projects including Vivacity's museum redevelopment. The Arts Council and also the Cabinet Office have funded new library initiatives, essential in terms of improving literacy levels across Peterborough.
- The city's Archive service has been recognised nationally by receiving the Pacesetter award for its innovative work using volunteers to catalogue and make significant archive documents more accessible for people.

To build on and bring coherence to all of this activity, this strategy suggests three interlinked priorities to be taken forward by all the cultural organisations active in the city, working towards common priorities and outcomes.

There will be a key role to be played Vivacity and its partner organisation Metal:

- **Vivacity** is the council's strategic partner for culture and leisure; an independent charitable trust responsible for the city's arts, heritage, library and sports services. Vivacity has expert knowledge and plays the lead role in the city for artist and audience development. It will build on the national recognition secured for the three year Forty Years On project – an ambitious and exciting programme of theatre, oral history and archive work, delivered in partnership with Eastern Angles.
- **Metal** is now established in the city and is leading work to develop artists that live locally and to map the current cultural activity in the city. Metal has also produced, with city council funding, a new website for networking culture and events across Peterborough, www.idea1.org.uk. The website is open to anyone who wants to promote or list events in the city, making it a one stop shop for finding out what's happening today, tomorrow or this month in Peterborough.



This strategy is intended to secure two, mutually reinforcing benefits over the next five years:

- **To raise the profile of culture and participation in cultural activity within the city**
- **To raise the profile of the city through culture and to increase visitor numbers**

As a result of the actions identified in this strategy, we expect:

- More people to take part in cultural activities more often – tracked through the ‘citizen panel’ survey
- More events to be taking place – tracked through online event guides, www.idea1.org.uk and Visit Britain
- More facilities being used to provide cultural activities – tracked through bookings and the cultural strategy steering group.

The people of Peterborough, individuals, community groups, and potential visitors will know:

- What’s on where and when;
- Who to ask for advice, guidance and support if they want to take part in, support or host a cultural event.

Cultural organisations, and their leaders, will develop and work together to:

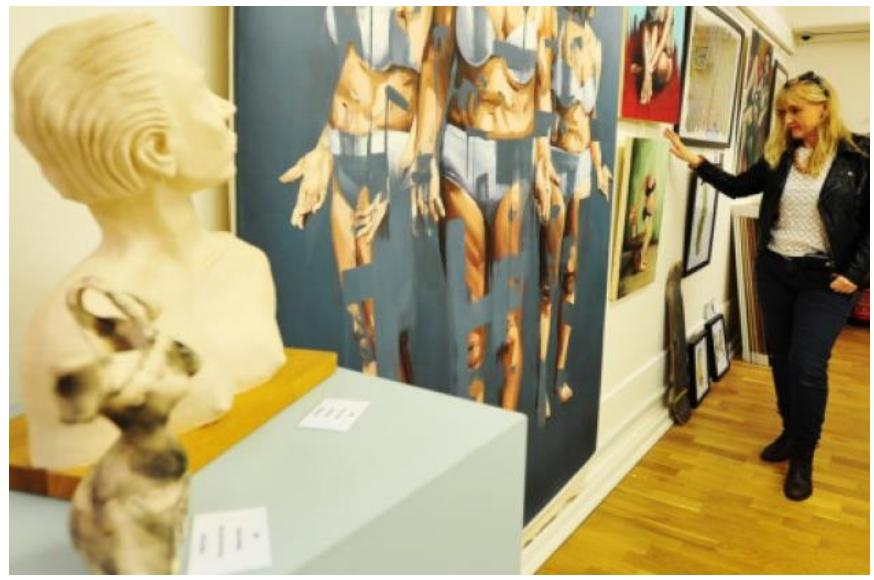
- Grow participation and develop audiences;
- Provide programmes that are relevant to and supportive of Peterborough’s ambitions;
- Promote a compelling range of marketing materials and activities, promoting cultural activities.

Peterborough’s cultural community will be:

- **Resilient** – there will be a determined effort to grow memberships and audiences and to speak to visitors from outside the city.
- **Strategic** – engaged in the long-term planning within the city to secure benefits for and from our residents, our visitors, our businesses and investors.
- **Collaborative** – operating productive and mutually beneficial partnerships with other organisations, individuals, community groups and businesses.
- **Ambitious** – focussed relentlessly on the quality of the offer, with the skills, knowledge and confidence to recognise, promote and support local performers, and
- **Confident** – enthusiastically promoting Peterborough.



OUR PRIORITIES



Priority 1: More people, more often – increasing participation in and enjoyment of cultural activities

Cultural activities can enrich people's quality of life, offering enjoyment and self-fulfillment, and opportunities to share experiences with others, helping to build and maintain a strong and cohesive society.

Participation in culture plays an important part in providing people with positive activities and transferable skills. It is also vital in ensuring the health and wellbeing of our citizens.

Peterborough is a vibrant, diverse, fast-growing and youthful city, which makes it an exciting place to live. The city's diversity is vitally important to the people who live and work here.

Participation levels are currently low compared to national benchmarks, reflecting both the socio-economic status of the city population and the lack of cultural infrastructure both inside and outside the city centre.

However, Peterborough's cultural offer has gained considerable momentum in recent years and there is now an opportunity to make a real difference and effect positive change through culture, through diverse and dynamic programming from Vivacity to National Portfolio Organisations and local groups, delivering high quality programmes and working with the community and arts practitioners to develop and enhance skills.

The Peterborough Presents programme aims to increase participation in cultural activity by providing locally relevant activities and programmes in a range of both traditional and non-traditional locations, as well as developing the capacity of the city's participatory culture and voluntary sectors.

Peterborough needs to attract audiences that actively engage with, create and shape events. This will be delivered through a combination of better programming, home-grown productions and using national tours to bring nationally significant work and productions to Peterborough.

Participation is also about communication. It is vital that all partners help communicate the breadth of cultural activities available, not simply their own, so that everyone knows what is on offer.

The youthful and diverse population are enthusiastic users of digital technologies and with the city's investment in high speed fibre infrastructure, new delivery and engagement mechanisms can be exploited for the benefit of culture in the city. In a city such as Peterborough, access to different forms of culture relevant to the local population is important and will help increase the number of people taking part in cultural activities.

Peterborough City Council is committed to creative engagement and participation across all areas in Peterborough – involving people to enable them to make their own decisions about what excites them, and to ensure that the cultural offer is relevant to local people.

Peterborough has a range of excellent cultural institutions and programmes which residents can enjoy. However, many residents would like to engage more in cultural activities but encounter a range of barriers including time, transport, price, availability of information and familiarity.

What will be done

- Work with internal departments, such as city operations, Travel Choice and Children's Services to sustain and extend engagement through service and partnerships.
- Work with our strategic partners, Vivacity and Metal, to sustain and extend engagement.
- Support the development of inclusive and inspiring programmes within Peterborough city centre and the surrounding wards and villages.
- Support targeted programmes such as Peterborough Presents, aimed at priority groups and prioritised engagement.
- Promotion and development of events programmes for the city and development of the night time economy and activity; celebrating and making visible that Peterborough is a diverse and culturally rich city.
- Develop the role that culture plays as integral part of wellbeing, especially in combatting physical and mental health issues.

What will be achieved

- Increased participation with a range of audiences, especially among young people, the elderly, diverse communities and voluntary-sector cultural organisations.
- Increased use of public spaces for cultural activity.
- Collaboration within and across the city which enables groups and organisations to grow.
- Cultural leaders across the sector are open to ideas and facilitate others through creative networks.
- A greater understanding of and confidence in Peterborough's potential to be a creative city recognised as both active and vibrant
- Increased membership of cultural and voluntary organisations.

Priority 2: Developing, retaining and attracting people with talent

Local people value the opportunity to make a contribution through engaging in cultural opportunities. These are beneficial in developing individuals' confidence and transferable skills as well as creating strong communities. People who actively participate in cultural activity are more likely to take a role in shaping their communities in other areas too. More people could benefit from volunteering opportunity within the culture sector².

The Young Producers networks will create opportunities for young people to develop as cultural leaders. Across the city, organisations will continue to support and promote the Arts Award as a way of recognising achievements and to increase opportunities to lead, manage and curate cultural activity.

Opportunities will be provided through the Peterborough Presents and PHACE programmes as well as the Peterborough cultural partnership. The basic entitlement will be through schools and colleges, with additional programmes for those who do not or cannot access culture in these settings, and further support for children and young people with identified talent.

Young people will be entitled to access quality cultural activities within and beyond the school curriculum, utilising opportunities such as the Peterborough Learning Partnership, Children's University, where children receive a stamp for each hour of activity in order to work towards the national certificates, accessing a wider range of cultural activities and venues across the city. To provide this entitlement, a wide-ranging partnership between the relevant parts of the public, private, voluntary, faith and third sectors, as well as residents is required.

In the past Peterborough has benefited from number visiting national portfolio organisations working and delivering quality programmes in the city. After seven years Peterborough now has its own national portfolio organisation, Metal Culture. Metal is in permanent residence in Peterborough and is integrating its offer with other city-based providers. This initiative seeks to maximise local resources and build capacity in the cultural sector.

Both Vivacity and Metal are key in attracting, developing and retaining cultural producers and programmers in the city. Programmes such as Community Bridge Builders, Connection–Culture and Chamber of Culture are underway through the Peterborough Presents programme to deliver this priority. All areas of work intend to develop skills and confidence, producing sustainable models of delivery and cultural programmes.

National partnerships within the heritage sectors, such as the strong collaborative work between Peterborough Museum and the Natural History Museum to deliver 'Real World Science, are in place to inspire young people to pursue further education and careers within the sector.

There is a strongly held ambition for city to be regarded as a centre of excellence for heritage learning. The website www.peterboroughheritage.org will complement and enhance the existing materials on the Vivacity learning webpages ensuring that this aspect of culture is well-reflected and represented throughout the city and nationally.

² The value of arts and culture to people and society, Arts Council England 2014

Peterborough will develop opportunities for the next generation of cultural producers and practitioners. This will include innovative and imaginative programming, brokering and building new relationships between professionals and non-professionals and cultural organisations. This approach will create pathways through early years to higher education. These projects will experiment with programmes, locations and forms, and set ambitious targets for increasing levels of participation, both in numbers and levels of activity. There will be new opportunities to engender excellence, to develop talent and retain it.

What will be done

- Working with learning partners across the city to support and encourage learning at all ages through culture.
- Promoting the empowering role of informal learning in underpinning personal and community development, through reading, creative activity and cultural experiences.
- Supporting continuing professional development activities for cultural producers and programmers, through programmes such as Peterborough Presents, cultural producers networks and Peterborough cultural partnership
- Continued support and celebrating excellence through the Arts Award and the Children's University
- Support for the development of phase two of the music hub and music partnership to support young people through music pathways
- Support for local and national cultural programmes which inspire cultural development

What will be achieved

- A current and relevant cultural offer to all schools.
- Opportunities for young people to develop skills and to stay or return to the city.
- Sharing of knowledge and experience, development of skills within the city.
- Opportunities to develop and enhance skills, an increase in the number of creative courses offered in Peterborough.
- Easily accessed and understood signposts for creative practitioners in the city.
- The development of cultural hubs.
- An increase in the numbers of national portfolio organisations working and staying in Peterborough.
- A Peterborough based National Portfolio Organisation.

Priority 3: Places to go and things to do – making the best use of our city spaces

Peterborough is an historic city ringed by new town development. It is essential that cultural services are developed in order **to maintain and increase the vitality of the city** to ensure that growth remains a strength.

One of the ambitions for this strategy is to use culture to **reconnect the satellite settlements to the city**, both physically and emotionally. Public space, infused with cultural resources will become the meeting points, and places to showcase and enjoy great art and cultural activity, drawing from the city's many and diverse communities. Research shows that people are increasingly going to lead more isolated lives, with many working from home and/or living alone. Opportunities to meet in a variety of public spaces and commercial premises for a wide variety of purposes will become increasingly important and valuable.

Peterborough has a number of venues and facilities focused in the city centre which produce and offer excellent work and programmes, however the city does not have the venues or facilities which would be associated with cities of a similar size. **Peterborough does not have a cultural quarter like many other comparable cities.** In order to improve access to cultural activities, Peterborough needs to improve or open up access to cultural facilities in the city centre and the surrounding Wards, delivering programmes at the neighborhood level, using facilities in the community and vacant properties.

Key organisations across the city play a valuable role in running and programming cultural venues. Many are supported through volunteers and membership. Opportunities need to be given to enable people, independently, to find and use spaces within the city that are not established venues. The city needs to map current spaces, both commercial and vacant, and produce a plan for the city. This will provide a sign post for city spaces where people can broker activity.

Broadening access to spaces within the city for cultural activities will have a direct impact on the city's economy. The cultural offer within the city is an integral part of the success of Peterborough's tourism; a reason for people to come and to stay. It is also a key contributor to the quality of life that is important both in retaining existing business and attracting new employers and investors.

Commercial events and visible, free, cultural programmes across the city have a key role to play at the best of times. However, in times of recession, this role is arguably even more important.

Peterborough's public spaces will benefit from a stronger cultural infrastructure brought about through the development of networks and relationships, across public realm works and open spaces within the city. The aim is to support high quality programming and the production of new work through accessing and utilising under used spaces across the city.

What will be done

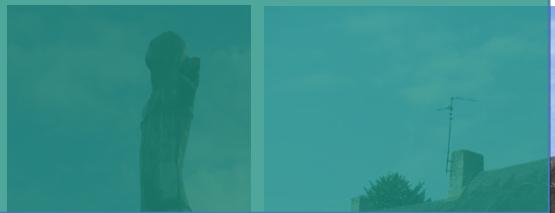
- Review all our community assets, including school buildings and libraries to understand how and where cultural activity can be accessed and supported, exploring the potential for creating a cultural quarter.
- Support creative activities – in the community, in libraries, in the museum, in the cathedral, in our parks and open spaces.
- Highlight the role of culture in relevant investment strategies such as the visitor economy strategy.
- Mapping and utilisation of spaces within the city for cultural activity, exploiting existing assets, creating an online directory of venues and spaces, where people can broker/book activities and space (guidance/signposting).
- Work with partners to develop and strengthen the communication of initiatives for the city's cultural calendar (including through the idea 1 website for events promotion) – to residents, businesses, visitors
- Continue to use current resources effectively to support cultural provision for the city; maintaining and developing the quality, freshness and uniqueness of programmes
- Highlight and increase usage of the unique and irreplaceable resources that we have in the city, from historic buildings and landscapes, to green spaces and environmental assets.

What will be achieved

- A 'cultural spaces' policy for council assets, identifying and seeking to use spaces when they are vacant
- A space plan of the city, covering all current assets, both publically owned and commercial
- Clear guidance and signposting on how to book public space
- Increased use of current city assets, from the public, private and third sector venues
- Development of community assets to increase access to joined up services
- Growth of cultural companies resident in the city
- The development and use of school facilities for community use
- Creating new audience to feed demand for activity



MOVING FORWARD: KEEPING ON TRACK



The cultural strategy recognises the significance of the cultural and creative sectors in making Peterborough a vibrant, culturally and economically healthy city, and advocates continued support in culture and cultural activities. The strategy also addresses concerns facing the sector and considers how to maximise opportunities for the cultural life of Peterborough to flourish.

Peterborough City Council is well placed to lead the development of the strategy and to oversee its delivery. However, the diverse nature and scope of the cultural sector is such that a range of other organisations will be central to ensuring that there is full engagement in the process. This is particularly the case in Peterborough where the city council already has predominantly a commissioning role and operates via a network of funded delivery partners

The development of this strategy was overseen by the cultural strategy steering group. This successful partnership approach and subsequent consultation on the strategy, suggests the need for a small executive group informed by and interconnected with a wider consultative forum. It is therefore proposed to establish a core delivery group – Culture Peterborough – supported and informed by wider creative forums, such as Peterborough Presents, Creative Peterborough, Peterborough cultural partners, Opportunity Peterborough and Peterborough learning partners. Together, this creative alliance of organisations, individuals and artists will take ownership of the strategy and oversee its delivery.

The consortium will be built around the major cultural institutions in the city. The group will be an open and relatively free-form group that has seamless links with the wider cultural sector. Specifically, the group will look at ways of involving the commercial and private sector within the consortium.

The proposed functions of Culture Peterborough will include:

- Inform, own and oversee the delivery of this strategy;
- Provide a voice for the sector;
- Networking, lobbying and information-sharing;
- Seek resources to deliver the strategy;
- Make strategic connections with and contribute to the Local Enterprise Partnership
- Advise on selected projects and programmes;
- Encourage collaboration in the sector;
- Monitor progress on the strategy and other key cultural projects.

The city council will play a central role in the culture Peterborough group and will support the development of the Forum. The specific priorities for the Council will include:

- Advocating the importance of culture;
- Supporting partnership working;
- Delivering selected events and programmes;
- Commissioning and funding key programmes and events;
- Linking culture to other key city priorities;
- Liaising with national and regional cultural bodies on behalf of the city.



Delivering the strategy

The budget challenge

The culture and the creative sector is not immune from the impact of the unprecedented public spending deficit. Work is already underway between the city council and the sector to identify responses to the challenges ahead.

In summary, the approach will include:

- Encouraging greater collaboration and links between organisations, artists, programmes and projects. Changes in school and NHS structures could provide opportunities for cultural agencies to come together to deliver a single, coordinated package of cultural activity.
- Driving down costs through shared services; smarter procurement, review of delivery structures, and where possible engagement of volunteers.
- Supporting organisations to access funding and to develop the skills required for sustainability. This will aim to ensure that Peterborough gets its fair share of future grant funding.

Action Planning

Progress on delivering the strategy will be done in three ways:

- Open annual review involving the sector and wider public each year;
- Annual action plan agreed by March of each year. This will set out what needs to be done, by whom and by when;
- Agree a set of indicators which measure strategic progress (e.g. participation levels) and also measure progress of key programmes and projects. The indicators will also take account of the objectives and outcomes set by key partners such as Arts Council England. As national performance indicators disappear, a key measure of success will be customer, citizen and tourist satisfaction with the city's cultural programmes.

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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
23 FEBRUARY 2015	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Gavin Elsey, Cabinet Member for Street Scene, Waste Management and Communications	
Contact Officer(s):	John Harrison, Executive Director Resources	Tel: 01733 452520

FUTURE OF WIND AND SOLAR PROJECTS

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : John Harrison, Executive Director Resources	Deadline date : n/a
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet approves the cessation of the solar/wind projects at the Farms of Newborough and Morris Fen and the two planning applications be withdrawn. 2. That in respect of America Farm project a further report be presented to Scrutiny when the costs of grid connection have been established and a final business case can be considered. 3. That in line with the Council's budget strategy all cost be written off on the basis of a worst case scenario that the remaining scheme does not proceed. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following an internal review by officers and consideration by the Cabinet Member.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the way forward in respect of the two wind and three ground mounted solar PV projects namely:

- Farms of Newborough (wind and solar)
- Morris Fen (wind and solar)
- America Farm (solar only)

2.2 In October 2014, it was stated that Cabinet would receive a report that the plans for wind and solar schemes at Newborough Farm and Morris Fen in Thorney are to be ceased. Final evaluations are currently taking place to determine whether the third scheme at America Farm should progress.

2.3 At full Council on 8 October 2014 a motion was debated:

'That this Council recommends that the Cabinet halt the solar farm project in Northborough, Thorney and Eye with immediate effect. With the overwhelming local opposition to this project and the political realities within the Department for Communities & Local Government it is now the consensus that the time is right to call a halt to this project. At a time of serious financial difficulties it is the right time to release Council resources from a project that has been stalled for too long and is unlikely to be delivered at all.'

This motion, following debate, a vote was taken (24 for, 4 against, 17 abstentions) and the

motion was CARRIED.

- 2.4 The Council's published budget strategy for consultation is set out below:

The financial impact on the Council's budget has been based on the worst case scenario which is as follows:

1. *That none of the schemes will receive approval and all project costs are charged to the capacity building reserve; and*
2. *That all net costs and income are removed from the budget and medium term financial plan.*

- 2.5 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.3 to take a leading role in promoting the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area.

3. **TIMESCALE** (*If this is not a Major Policy item, answer NO and delete second line of boxes*).

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. **PROPOSED WAY FORWARD FOR THE TWO WIND AND THREE GROUND MOUNTED PROJECTS**

4.1 **BACKGROUND**

Attached at Appendix 1 are the list of the reports that have been considered to date and their recommendations.

4.2 **FARMS OF NEWBOROUGH AND MORRIS FEN**

- 4.2.1 On 2 October 2014 the Government announced that support for large scale solar projects will be scrapped from April 2015. This is on the back of changes to national planning guidance on wind and solar schemes, national funding uncertainties for onshore wind schemes and local opposition to the proposed solar farm schemes, which have severely hampered the Council's ability to generate income from the projects.

- 4.2.2 Also taken into consideration was the report from the Solar and Wind Energy Review Group which was presented to the Cabinet meeting on 22 September 2014. Since that meeting further discussion has taken place around the areas identified by the review group which include delays which may be encountered by the Government calling in planning decisions relating to renewable energy projects; the impact of reductions in subsidy; and a slowing or reducing sale rate of energy.

- 4.2.3 In the light of all these factors it is recommended that the wind and solar schemes at these locations should not progress and the planning applications in respect of each be formally withdrawn (planning application numbers 12/01906/R3FUL and 12/01905/R3FUL respectively).

4.3 **AMERICA FARM**

- 4.3.1 The factors associated with the reasons for not progressing with the other two schemes are not applicable to this project and whilst the final scheme will be subject to the normal rigours of the planning process, it is believed that this scheme should progress to the next stage of the business case.

4.3.2 **Agricultural grading and land use**

The Council has commissioned a soil survey in accordance with DEFRA guidance which confirms the land to be grade 3a and not grade 1 as older records indicated.

The report adds that installation of a solar array would not result in permanent loss of agricultural land.

During the 25 year lifetime of the solar array, the land could be grassed down and grazed by sheep. Sowing with grass would reduce further peat decomposition also potentially reducing the release of trapped carbon within these soils into the atmosphere, and well managed grazing combined with sowing with appropriate grass seed mixes could be beneficial to long term soil fertility and the biodiversity of the site.

4.3.3 **Planning**

The original proposal, under planning application reference number 12/01904/R3FUL which has still to be formally determined by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), is for the installation of up to 8MW solar farm on America Farm.

An overview of the planning issues is attached at Appendix 2.

4.3.4 **Determination by the Local Planning Authority (“LPA”)**

The LPA, whether through delegation to the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee, or by delegation to Officers, must take decisions on planning applications in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The LPA must only take into account material planning considerations, which can include public views where they relate to relevant planning matters. Local opposition or support for a proposal is not in itself a ground for refusing or granting planning permission, unless it is founded upon valid material planning reasons.

The Council’s Constitution provides that planning applications which are likely to be of significant public interest may be determined by the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee, and it is proposed that this application will be determined by the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee.

In addition, the Secretary of State is monitoring the Council’s current applications, including this one, and may choose to exercise their right to call in the application for determination.

4.3.5 **Landlord**

- a) The Council has gained vacant possession of America Farm through the tenant surrendering his lifetime tenancy. The short-term farm business tenancy granted to the tenant for a one year period to allow time to wind down his business has now come to an end. A tenancy to an adjoining owner has been agreed for the period of six months from the 1 October 2014 to provide security for the site. There will be a new tenancy available as part of the development including grazing if it goes ahead.

Whilst further work is undertaken on the business case, the land is to be offered to existing Council farm tenants and other known local farmers on a short-term tenancy for production of a crop this summer.

- b) The land at Newborough and Morris Fen would remain in agricultural use.

4.3.6 **Financial**

There is a need to review the overall size of the scheme following the government subsidy announcement for large scale ground mounted schemes (>5MW). Whilst this announcement provides certainty in the future it does mean that the optimal size of the scheme is likely to

be 5MW, subject to further financial assessment. The 7.2MW planning application will allow flexibility subject to this financial assessment.

The impact of this will require further modelling to consider the viability of the scheme but this cannot be completed until the technical work has been concluded and we have agreement from the statutory consultees. The financial impact on proceeding with the next stage of the process is outlined in para 9.1.4.

4.3.7 Technical

The grid in this area of the city has limited capacity and originally the three schemes had made allowance for £20m of grid costs particularly due to the nature and size of the other two potential solar developments. A separate stand-alone connection for Americas Farm had previously been considered, but UKPN have since advised that this is no longer technically viable. A request for an estimate of grid connection costs was obtained from UKPN in 2014. UKPN estimated a cost of £14.9m because severe operational constraints on the distribution network around Peterborough meant that a 38km long connection to Walpole grid sub-station would be required to take power generated by the project, in addition to a new 33/132kV transformer.

This could obviously not be contained within the scheme cost of viability and as such the Council has explored three alternative options.

- a. **UKPN ‘PLUG AND PLAY’** this has been piloted in March and Norfolk and in effect provides for substantially reduced grid upgrade costs in return for UKPN having the right to suspend operation of electricity generators when necessary to prevent overloading of the network. Discussions are continuing to determine whether this is a feasible option and the timescales for rollout to the area.
- b. **CENTRICA.** This would involve connecting into the power station. Discussions are in progress.
- c. **GREEN ENERGY PARKS.** The development is currently in progress and the Council is exploring the feasibility of connecting into its grid connection.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The reports set out at Appendix 1 provide an overview of the significant consultation and discussions to date.
- 5.2 Given the motion debated by full Council on 8 October 2014 and that this report’s first recommendation accords with that motion, it is not believed that any further consultations is needed on the proposed cessation of the Farms of Newborough and Morris Fen schemes.
- 5.3 It is proposed that the final business case for the America Farm solar scheme will be presented to Scrutiny prior to any consideration by Cabinet. This would be in advance of any planning committee consideration.
- 5.4 Furthermore, prior to any planning addendums being submitted, Council will hold additional “developer consultations” where the Council will update the communities directly impacted by the proposals to inform of them of progress, current status and to respond to any direct queries from members of the public.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 Agreement to:

- Cease the Farms of Newborough and Morris Fen solar and wind schemes; and
- Allow the America Farm solar scheme to proceed to next stage following resolution of grid connection matters

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That the Farms of Newborough and Morris Fen schemes be ceased as a result of local opposition, planning and financial considerations.
- 7.2 That in view of the potential resolution of grid connection issues and financial viability of the project, the America Farm solar scheme be subject to further evaluation of planning, technical and financial considerations before a business case be presented.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The Farms of Newborough and Morris Fen solar and wind schemes be progressed. This is not deemed to be feasible due to the implications identified in this report. It is also not feasible to consider a reduced scheme in these locations for wind and/or solar for the same reasons.
- 8.2 That the America Farm solar scheme should not progress further and not be subject to final evaluation. However, the scheme is a potentially viable one and at this stage further evaluation regarding the grid connection and associated costs needs to be conducted before any final decision should be made.

9. IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Financial

A) GENERAL:

- 9.1.1 As part of the budget consultation phase 2 proposals published on Friday 9 January 2015, Cabinet made the following statement in respect of the three wind and ground mounted projects:

Wind and Solar Farms

Previous budget plans included income from the energy generated from the development of two wind and three solar farms. It was flagged at that time that if the projects did not go ahead then the budget gaps we face would widen.

On 2 October 2014, the Government announced that support for large scale solar projects would be scrapped from April 2015. This was on the back of changes to national planning guidance on wind and solar schemes, national funding uncertainties for onshore wind schemes and local opposition to the proposed solar farm schemes. Also taken into consideration was the report from the Solar and Wind Energy Review Group which was presented to the Cabinet meeting on 22 September 2014.

As a result, Cabinet announced on 7 October 2014 that it was to halt the renewable schemes at Newborough and Morris Fen. A motion was also put forward to Council on 8 October 2014 to halt these schemes.

Final evaluations are currently taking place to determine whether the third scheme at America Farm should progress. It is anticipated this will be reported to Cabinet in this municipal year together with the decision to cease the projects at Newborough and Morris Fen.

The financial impact on the Council's budget has been based on the worst case scenario which is as follows:

1. *That none of the schemes will receive approval and all project costs are charged to the capacity building reserve; and*
2. *That all net costs and income are removed from the budget and medium term financial plan.*

There is a one-off benefit in 2015/16, when project costs were expected to be higher than the income generated. There is however a significant budget pressure of £1,263,000 in 2016/17, rising to over £5m from 2018/19 onwards – this is because the net profit will no longer accrue from the schemes.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17 £k	2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k
<i>Removal of expected net profit from wind and solar farms</i>	-419	1,263	4,810	5,295	5,769

The table above is a forecast of future net profits and does not represent actual cash flow.

- 9.1.2 Normally capital costs are spread over the life of a specific scheme. If a scheme does not proceed all costs incurred on that scheme are met straight away. Attached at Appendix 3 are the schedule of costs analysed by project, nature of the costs and the source. These costs will be met from reserves the impact of which has already been incorporated into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 9.1.3 In respect of the planning fees it should be noted that the fees paid to the Council for the three schemes total £454k. The cost of planning service dealing with the applications was £32k beyond the existing budgeted costs of the planning service. The Council has therefore made a profit of £422k which led to an improved financial position of the Council's budgetary outturn in 2013/14.
- 9.1.4 The scheme at America Farm awaits the outcome of the evaluation regarding options for a viable grid connection. The forecast costs for concluding the evaluation and other works including environmental studies £65k. If the scheme does not go ahead these costs will need to be met from existing budgets and not spread over the life of the scheme.

B) EXTERNAL AUDIT MATTERS:

- 9.1.5 PWC as part of their external audit work for 2013/14 looked over the schemes following matters raised by an elector. This work is summarised below:

What PWC investigated

We looked at this as 'targeted work' as part of our work on Use of Resources.

What PWC concluded

We gave an unmodified conclusion (i.e. unqualified) on Use of Resources.

Impact it had on final accounts

We completed the targeted work on Use of Resources in relation to this matter. No formal detailed objection in relation to 2013/14 was received from the elector. As a result we were able to issue our completion certificate in relation to our work for 2013/14.

Cost of the investigation

Additional work was required in considering the matter raised, meeting with the person to discuss the matter and our role as auditors and undertaking the targeted work as set out above. This has meant that costs over and above the scale fee have been incurred. The costs in relation to this element of our work amount to £8,235.

9.1.6 The Council spent £38k in providing information to the external auditor in support of their dealing with the matter raised by the elector.

9.2 **Legal**

9.2.1 Section 11(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 had provided that local authorities may sell energy but only that produced from a heat source. This restriction was removed by The Sale of Electricity by Local Authorities (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1910) thereby allowing local authorities to sell energy they produce from renewable energy sources back to the national electricity grid. This change came into force on 18 August 2010. “Renewable energy sources” includes energy from wind, solar, aerothermal, geothermal, hydrothermal and ocean energy, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas, and biogases, and thus encompasses the wind and solar options referred to within this Report.

America Farm was originally purchased to be used for agricultural use. In order for the land to be used for the purposes of a solar farm, the land will need to be appropriated for such use in accordance with s.122 Local Government Act 1972. In order to appropriate the land it will be necessary to establish that the land is no longer required for the purpose for which it is held immediately before the appropriation. It is intended that appropriation of the land will be considered following the grant of planning permission for the project. Once planning has been obtained a further report will be presented to Cabinet to consider appropriation of the land.

It is noted that Councillor Cereste and Councillor Holdich both have pre-declared interests in this matter and will not be taking part in any discussion or voting in connection with the matters contained in this report.

9.3 **Strategic Priorities: Environment Capital**

The proposals support the Council in its aspiration to become home of Environment Capital.

9.4 **Property**

The Sustainable Growth and Environmental Capital Scrutiny Committee are currently preparing a draft Strategy for the Retention and Development of the Farms Estate that will be presented to Cabinet of consideration.

10. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

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APPENDIX 1 – SCHEDULE OF ALL REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Date	Report Title	Decision making body	Recommendations approved
8 th October 2014	Motion from Cllr Nick Thurlbourn at Full council - That this Council recommends that the Cabinet halt the solar farm project in Northborough, Thorney and Eye with immediate effect.	Full Council	Following debate, a vote was taken (24 for, 4 against, 17 abstentions) and the motion was CARRIED .
22 nd September 2014	Report of the Solar and Wind Energy Review Group	Cabinet	<p>Cabinet considered the report and RESOLVED:</p> <p>That any decision to progress the solar and wind projects be deferred until further consideration was given to the impact of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Any delay arising from the call-in by the Secretary of State of a planning decision, in terms of costs and profitability of the projects; b) A 30% reduction in subsidy (or a professional assessment of what might be a reasonable level of reduction in subsidy) for the projects; and c) A slowing or reducing sale rate of energy with a professional assessment of what a reasonable reduced rate could be. <p>REASONS FOR THE DECISION</p> <p>The decision followed a request from the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee call-in meeting, held on 12 March 2014.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED</p> <p>To implement the decisions of 24 February 2014 to progress the America Farm project to planning permission.</p>
17 th July 2014	Report of the Solar and Wind	Sustainable Growth and	1. The Committee noted the report; and

	Energy Review Group	Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee	<p>2. The Committee asks Cllr Thulbourn to Chair another meeting of the Working Group established to review the financial elements of the Solar (Photovoltaic) Panels and Wind Turbines Project to review the evidence considered and, if possible, to present a report directly to Cabinet at its meeting to consider this issue at the end of the month.</p>
24th March 2014	Call-in Referral from Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee of 12 March 2014 – Executive Decision – Update on Proposed Ground Mounted and Wind Developments at Newborough, Morris Fen and America Farm – FEB14/CAB/16	Cabinet	To consider the recommendations arising from the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny meeting of 12 March 2014 and confirmed that it would not act upon the decision made by it on 24 February 2014 until it had received and considered the report of the Wind and Solar Member Working Group and the comments of the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny committee on that report.
12th March 2014	Request for call-in of an executive decision: Update on Proposed Ground Mounted Solar and Wind Farms at America Farm, Morris Fen and Newborough FEB14/CAB/16	Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee	<p>The decision is to be referred back to the Cabinet with the following recommendation</p> <p>1. That the Wind and Solar Member Working Group consider the Cabinet's decision when it meets on the 18th March 2014 and shall report on that decision and the issues raised by the Call-In and discussed at this meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, including alternative options; and</p> <p>2. That the Cabinet shall not act on the decision made by it on 24th February 2014 until it has received and considered the report of the Wind and Solar Member Working Group and the comments of the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee on that report.</p>

			<p>3. There will be an extraordinary meeting of the Committee, if necessary, so as to receive the Working Groups report as soon as is reasonably practicable.</p>
24 th February 2014	Update on Proposed Ground Mounted Solar and Wind Farms at America Farm, Morris Fen and Newborough	Cabinet	<p>Cabinet considered the report and RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the project at America farm be progressed and taken to a planning committee for a decision subject to the satisfactory resolution of the outstanding English Heritage issues; 2. That further consultation on the future development options for Morris Fen and Newborough projects be undertaken with farmers, individuals and key stakeholders; 3. And that a report be brought to the March Cabinet meeting to determine a way forward for these two sites; and 4. That at this stage the MTFS figures remain as set out in the budget report.
4 th February 2014	Construction of four additional wind turbines to a maximum height of 100 metres (to vertical blade tip) with ancillary infrastructure including temporary construction compound, access tracks and crane hardstandings. French Farm, French Drove, Thorney, Peterborough	Planning and Environmental Protection Committee	<p>To approve the application, as per officer recommendation, subject to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The signing of a legal agreement; 2. Conditions numbered C1 to C8, C10 to C17 and C19 to C21 as detailed in the committee report; and 3. The amended conditions C9 and C18 as detailed in the update report.
16 th December 2013	Update on the proposed ground mounted and wind developments at Newborough, Morris Fen and America Farm	Extraordinary, Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities	<p>The Commission recommends that cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately stops both options 1 solar and 2 wind for the America Farm project due to the negative income predicted for the delayed project • Stops the solar panel option on all three sites (America Farm, Newborough and Morris Fen) due to the significant total expenditure of £296 million, a poor return of £21 million net

			<p>income and a Net Present Value figure of only £10.5 million</p> <p>ACTION AGREED</p> <p>The Commission agreed that the Executive Director of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talks with Mr Olive outside of the meeting regarding issues raised and informs the Commission of the outcome in writing. • Advises the Commission on the cost of having 11 Officers in attendance for the meeting. • Provides members with written replies to all questions asked at the meeting. • Provides a valuation of the land which would be used for the project. • Provides information on the Net Profit Value for each site. <p>The Commission agreed that the Area Manager of Development Management in his seconded role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send a briefing note to the Commission regarding the depth of the poles for the solar panels.
16 th September 2013	Development of Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic (Pv) Panels (Solar Farms) and Wind Turbines	Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities	<p>The Commission recommended that Cabinet reconsider going ahead with the Development of Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Panels and in doing that take into account the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Plan B Option - Dual Use possibilities before any further planning application is submitted. • An investigation of alternative land use other than agricultural

			<p>land</p> <p>ACTIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The renewable Energy Finance Manager would provide the Commission with the projected sunk costs including the impact of the reduced power purchase agreement. 2. The Commission agreed for the Executive Director of Strategic Resources to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Inform the Commission of the cost for Bluesky Peterborough's financial model to go to a public inquiry. b. Bring a separate report back to the Commission on Wind Turbines next year. c. Bring a report to the Commission on Dual Use including both proposals to a future meeting before the proposals were agreed. d. Provide a report on available land for the Ground Mounted Solar Panels. e. Liaise with Lee Collins, Area Manager Development Manager and obtain details around the sensitivities around the two sites near America Farm. f. Provide a report on the future of farms estate and tenant farmers
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10th July 2013	Motion at Full Council raised by Cllr Harrington	Council	Councillor Harrington moved the following motion: That this Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the widespread concern and opposition to energy park plans on tenant farms; the financial and project risks are considerable and that the council has moved away from its core activities in the establishment of Blue Sky Peterborough on which Councillors and officers hold directorships; 2. Believes that enough time and money has already been spent on solar farm energy schemes; and 3. Recommends to Cabinet that it takes note of residents' concerns and cuts its losses through the introduction of a moratorium on any further expenditure on solar farm schemes on our tenant farms and on the Blue Sky Peterborough organisation. <p>A recorded vote was requested and the motion was DEFEATED (20 for, 27 against, 2 not voting).</p>
17th June 2013	Installation of Solar Farm, Land to the East of Black Drove, Thorney, Peterborough	Planning and Environmental Protection Committee	RESOLVED: (Unanimous) to defer the application, as per the revised Officer recommendation. Reasons for the decision: The decision was deferred to allow for further archaeological works to be undertaken on the site following the additional comments received from English Heritage.
19th November 2012	Request for call-in of an executive decision: Development of Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic (Pv) Panels (Solar Farms) and Wind Turbines - NOV12/CAB/134	Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee	The Committee did not agree to the call-in of this decision on any of the reasons stated.
5th November 2012	Development Of Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic (Pv) Panels (Solar Farms) And Wind Turbines	Cabinet	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the updated strategy for the development of renewable energy parks at each of the three council owned agricultural sites (America Farm, Morris Fen and Newborough farms) since the report to Cabinet dated 10 July 2012, in respect of ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels and wind turbines;

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Approve the proposal to submit planning applications in respect of development of ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels; 3. Note that subject to planning permission being received for ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels a contract for their installation is likely to be awarded to Mears Ltd under a framework agreement approved under a decision by the Cabinet Member for Resources (reference Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels Framework Agreement - JAN12/CMDN/002); 4. Note that subject to the outcome of necessary studies and continued negotiations a further report will be brought back to Cabinet for consideration prior to submitting planning applications for wind turbines; 5. Welcome the support of scrutiny; 6. Request officers work with rural communities and key stakeholders in formulating proposals for a planning application and considers how their suggestions can be incorporated into the development of the solar project, as far as is possible without restricting the viability of the project overall; 7. Note that in relation to determining the appropriate amount and range of community funds resulting from the developments, there is no agreed national or local tariff for such contributions. The level of contribution will be negotiated based on the type of development (wind or ground mounted) and the overall scale of the development. At the scrutiny committee a figure of around £6.7m, based on another local scheme, was discussed as being the expected level of contribution from this scheme. There is sufficient flexibility within the overall financial parameters of the scheme to make an appropriate level of contribution. It would be inappropriate to agree any level of contribution at this stage as this will be subject to negotiation as part of the
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			<p>next stage development of the proposals;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Request officers submit a further written update to the Cabinet and scrutiny members of a further analysis of the financial proposals and contingency arrangements but notes that the figures are considered appropriate for the purpose of the decision today, also noting that the financial appraisal has been subject to due diligence by Deloitte and Davis Langdon; 9. Confirm that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the integration of farming with renewable energy generation is already under consideration as part of the proposals. 2. That the sensitivities around the two sites near America Farm (Oxney Grange and Flag Fen) will be taken into detailed consideration as part of the planning process.
2nd November 2012	Development of ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels (solar farms) and wind turbines	Joint Meeting of the Sustainable Growth & Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Issues	<p>The Joint Meeting of the Sustainable Growth & Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities advises Cabinet that it broadly supports the recommendations detailed in the Cabinet report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the updated strategy for the development of renewable energy parks at each of the three council owned agricultural sites (America Farm, Morris Fen and Newborough farms) since the report to Cabinet dated 10 July 2012, in respect of ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels and wind turbines; 2. Approves the proposal to submit planning applications in respect of development of ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels; 3. Notes that subject to planning permission being received for ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels a contract for their installation is

			<p>likely to be awarded to Mears Ltd under a framework agreement approved under a decision by the Cabinet Member for Resources (reference Solar Photo-voltaic (PV) Panels Framework Agreement - JAN12/CMDN/002)</p> <p>4. Notes that subject to the outcome of necessary studies and continued negotiations a further report will be brought back to Cabinet for consideration prior to submitting planning applications for wind turbines;</p> <p>The Joint Meeting further recommends:</p> <p>5. That the Cabinet ensure that the needs and demands of the rural communities are fully addressed.</p> <p>6. That the Cabinet further explore paragraph 8.4.7 of the Cabinet report with officers and understands the process for determining the appropriate amount of community funds, and also at this stage seeks information from officers of the likely range of community funds.</p> <p>7. That table 8.2 of the Cabinet report is updated to reflect what is actually known at this time and what is contingency.</p> <p>8. That Cabinet investigate the feasibility of dual use of the land at each site taking particular account of the sensitivities of the area around America Farm for Oxney Grange and Flag Fen.</p>
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Appendix 2 – Overview of planning issues

The Council has continued to carry out additional surveys as requested by English Heritage and collect information which will form part of the additional package of information to be submitted as an addendum to the LPA for consideration. This includes:

Archaeological Geophysical Survey

Report Conclusion:

- No indisputable archaeological remains have been detected, although there are a few anomalies of possible archaeological significance which perhaps merit further investigation.

Archaeological Test Pitting

Report Conclusion:

- Due to the lack of any archaeological features encountered during the excavations, it is considered that any future development is unlikely to impact on any significant archaeological remains.

Archaeological Augur Survey

Report Conclusion:

- No further work is recommended on the core samples retrieved.
- No archaeological remains were recorded during the test pitting
- If any further archaeological work on the site is planned this should be supplemented by geoarchaeological work. That is, consultation with a geoarchaeologist.

English Heritage Consultation meeting (extract from 04/02/2014, minutes)

The results of the above reports were provided for consultation with English Heritage and discussed at a meeting with AECOM acting on behalf of the Council.

Conclusions:

- No further excavation is required at this stage on either site;
- AECOM will discuss with the Council the possibility of carrying out an hydrological impact assessment of the pins foundations on the clay substrate and submission of hydrology baseline;
- AECOM will discuss with the Council completion of the photomontages for the America Farm setting assessment – this is to be sent to English Heritage for consideration before formal submission of the amendments to both schemes;
- No further excavation was required at this stage on either America Farm or Farms of Newborough.

Consultation with English Heritage – America Farm (extract from email from Debbie Priddy, 25/07/2014)

Setting (Photomontages provided)

- “Our conclusion is that there will be some harm to the significance of the designated heritage asset, given that the proposed development will result in the site being experienced in an increasingly industrialised landscape

resulting from the increasing number of energy-generation developments. The local planning authority will wish to weigh this harm against any public benefits of the proposed development.”

Hydrological Monitoring and Modelling

- “As per my last e-mail, we believe that the proposed hydrological monitoring and modelling should be put in hand in order that there is absolute clarity about the current water levels , and also the extent of hydraulic connectivity between the peat and the gravels below, so that the potential dewatering impacts of the proposed development are clearly understood.”

Hydro-geological Assessment (as requested by Debbie Priddy, correspondence above)

Conclusion:

- It is concluded that the installation of the foundations for the solar panels will have no substantial impact on the groundwater conditions in the Nordelph Peat and hence will not adversely affect the moisture content of the peat;
- In the absence of any significant effect on the moisture content of the peat, it is concluded that the waterlogged nature of the peat will continue and that the potential for preservation of archaeological remains will remain.

Hydrological monitoring on site is continuing to determine the natural fluctuations in the groundwater levels during dry periods.

Clarification of the following points has been sought before formal amendments can be submitted to the LPA:

- Agreed that no further excavation is required at this stage on the Site.

Work ongoing and to be done:

- Further consultation with English Heritage regarding Hydrological and ground investigation surveys;
- Ecological/Ornithological Surveys are continuing to ensure retain best data for site;
- Good practice requires that these surveys are to be updated every two years;
- Consultation with Natural England and RSPB regarding birds utilising the site; and
- Continuation of groundwater monitoring.

APPENDIX 3 SCHEDULE OF COSTS:

SUMMARY	Location	Solar			Wind		Total
		America Farm	Morris Fen	Newborough Farm	Morris Fen	Newborough Farm	
Size (Megawatt power generated (MW))	MW 7.2	MW 26.5	MW 37	MW 6.15	MW 12.3	MW 89.15	
Description of spend		£	£	£	£	£	£
Public Consultation Costs		747	2,749	3,838	638	1,276	9,247
Pinsent Mason - Legal Advice		2,122	7,810	10,905	1,813	3,625	26,275
Pinsent Mason (Davis Langdon /EC Harris) - Technical Advice		40,428	148,798	207,756	34,532	69,065	500,580
DLA Piper - Legal Advice (Planning)		4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0	12,000
James Howlett - Legal Advice (Land Issues – Initial Advice)		168	168	168	168	168	840
Freeth Cartwright - Legal Advice (Land Issues – Further Advice)		422	422	422	422	422	2,112
Deloitte - Financial Modelling & Advice		34,200	125,876	175,752	29,213	58,426	423,467
Communication Support		14,270	14,270	14,270	14,270	14,270	71,351
AECOM - Technical Advice		122,376	450,413	628,878	104,530	209,060	1,515,257
Planning Application Fees – Meteorological Mast		0	0	670	0	0	670
Planning Application Fees - America Farm		61,024	0	0	0	0	61,024
Planning Application Fees - Morris Fen		0	138,699	0	0	0	138,699
Planning Application Fees - Newborough Farms		0	0	253,346	0	0	253,346
Site works - Met Mast		0	0	41,488	0	0	41,488
Site works - Archaeology		0	0	65,129	0	0	65,129
Compensation Costs		127,645	0	0	0	0	127,645
Staffing Costs		12,140	12,140	12,140	12,140	12,140	60,700
Total		419,543	905,346	1,418,763	197,726	368,452	3,309,830

NB: Figures in the above table included forecast on-going costs to the 31st March 2015 including for example the costs of removing the Met mast from and reinstatement of the ground at Newborough Farm.

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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
23 FEBRUARY 2015	PUBLIC REPORT

Contact Officer:	Gemma George, Democratic Services Manager	Tel. 01733 452268
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OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : Directors	Deadline date : N/A
It is recommended that Cabinet notes the action taken in respect of the petition presented to Council.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following the presentation of a petition to 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.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.3 – ‘To take a leading role in promoting the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area’.
- 2.3 The present petitions scheme is currently under review and a report will be presented to Council in due course.

3. TIMESCALE

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

4.1 Petition relating to the Fulbridge Road Allotments

This petition was presented to Council on 28 January 2015 by Councillor Julia Davidson, on behalf of Werrington Allotments Association, the purpose being:

1. To obtain assistance from Peterborough City Council in making the fences and gates along the access road to the site more secure following a spate of thefts and acts of vandalism; and
2. To obtain assistance from Peterborough City Council in making the fencing and gate at the rear of the site more secure as it has fallen into disrepair and unauthorised access is being gained by intruders.

Amey's Partnership Manager responded stating that "*I can confirm that both Peterborough City Council and Amey have been actively engaged with the self-managed allotment, to date we have helped fund the new locks that have been installed to replace the old combination code ones, we have also funded further wire mesh to the rear fence of the allotment to prevent intruders being able to climb over the old wooden frame.*

The main fence around the access road is in a good state of repair and fully secures the site, we have addressed the issues with the locks and are now looking at how we can further help secure the rear area. We have also as you are aware been in contact with the Police who have offered further advice and help where possible.

There has also been a meeting onsite to discuss the future options of the allotment taking on part of the land to the rear where most of the intruders are gaining entry. We have now received quotes to move and replace the existing fence and to fence off the full rear area around the shrub belt, the initial quotes for this work are £17,893. This has been communicated back for further discussion and we are looking at ways in which the allotment association can do some of the work to bring down costs'.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 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 There have been no alternative options considered.

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 Petition presented to Council and responses from officers.