

CABINET

MONDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2018
10.00 AM

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

AGENDA

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*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 THE CABINET MEETING
HELD AT 10:00AM, ON
MONDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2018
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Cabinet Members Present: Councillor Holdich (Chair), Councillor Ayres, Councillor Cereste, Councillor Fitzgerald, Councillor Hiller, Councillor Lamb, Councillor Smith, Councillor Walsh and Councillor Seaton.

Cabinet Advisors Present: Councillor Allen and Councillor Fuller.

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

29. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETINGS HELD ON:

(a) 16 JULY 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

(b) 23 JULY 2018 - EXTRAORDINARY

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 23 July 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

30. PETITIONS PRESENTED TO CABINET

There were no petitions presented to Cabinet.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

With the consent of the meeting, the Leader agreed to reorder the agenda to consider Agenda Item No. 7 'Outcome of the Ofsted Inspection of Peterborough's Children's Services' first.

31. OUTCOME OF THE OFSTED INSPECTION OF PETERBOROUGH'S CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Cabinet received a report detailing the outcome of the Ofsted inspection of Peterborough Children's Services, at the request of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

The purpose of this report was for Cabinet to gain an overview of the inspection findings

about the impact of Children's Services and the broader partnership of agencies working with children and young people in Peterborough on improving outcomes.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services introduced the report and advised that it was the first time the authority had received a good grading across the board. Congratulations was passed onto the officers within the Children's Services teams. A great amount of work had been put in to implementing sustainable change with little budget. Leadership positions were now mostly held by permanent staff, which had been a problem for teams in the past. It was advised that the service would not be complacent and would continue to work to understand the lived in experience of children in the area and to make sure children could influence policy.

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

- Innovative work had been carried out within the Early Help Services to build capacity and ongoing resilience. This included training people in schools to be able to deliver training courses.
- It was advised that the Family Safeguarding Model had received a significant grant from the Government of £2.5 million. This, however, had been invested mainly in ICT upgrades and costs that would not be ongoing. As such, work was ongoing with partners to identify possible areas for contribution. It was hoped with careful management that the Model would continue to be sustainable.
- Children's Services teams were experiencing their lowest ever vacancy rates.
- It was noted that part of Children's Services included the Education Team, who had completed vital work in relation to virtual schools and children missing in education.
- It was considered that the increased levels of recruitment and retention of social workers had resulted from the extension of support provided and the manageable caseload level.
- Congratulations was passed on to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services on her oversight of the successful service.

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

1. Note the positive outcome of the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services under the new inspection framework: The Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services [ILACS];
2. Acknowledge the commitment and dedication of staff within Peterborough in children's and allied services and the support provided by partner agencies in improving outcomes for vulnerable children and young people in Peterborough;
3. Note the areas for development noted in the inspection report and agrees in principle to support officers in delivering continuing improvement, continuing the strong tradition of corporate and Member support for Children's Services identified by inspectors.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

While the outcome of the inspection was a positive one, there was always further learning to do. Services needed to continue to improve just to remain at the same

judgement. This was because Ofsted's expectations about service quality continued to become more demanding.

It was important therefore that Cabinet had the opportunity to review the progress made since the last inspection and to re-confirm the Council's commitment to the on-going development of children's services in Peterborough.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There were no applicable alternative options considered.

32. TO RETAIN THE FOOTBRIDGES ON JUNCTION 18*

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the footbridge at Junction 18, known as Rhubarb Bridge.

The purpose of this report was for Cabinet to review the recommendations made by the Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge) Cross Party Working Group. The Working Group was established to consider the whether it was feasible to reassign the proportion of the overall budget allocated to demolish the footbridges to instead make significant repairs to the bridge and to examine the long term solutions for a replacement bridge.

The Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development introduced the report and thanked the members of the Working Group for their work in taking into consideration the public's concerns and properly considering all options in a cross party approach. It was noted that following the initial repairs proposed the group would investigate the structural issues presented by the bridge and the long term solutions to these.

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

- It was noted that the bridge would have to be closed for a period while the repairs were ongoing.
- The current gradient of the bridge meant that it was not suitable for wheelchair users. Therefore the at-grade crossing would be required to ensure all were able to cross the road.
- The report of the Working Group had been accepted by the lead petitioner and the Cycle Forum.
- It was noted that there had been no response to the online report, however, this was not unexpected as the report was technical in nature. The Cycle Forum and other individuals and groups spoken with had been positive about the proposals.
- Following a query it was confirmed that the Department of Transport had been kept informed of the changes to the proposals and were fully supportive. There would be no issue the provision of funding.
- It was advised that current building standards were much higher than they had been when the bridge had first been built. Therefore, officers were confident in the quality of the build and would be able to get assurance through the contract with Skanska.
- No long term option had yet been investigated, as the options available for this would change drastically over the course of the 10 year period that the repairs were expected to last.

- It was noted that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority had provided funding of £250,000 in order to complete the initial survey.
- Following a question raised it was advised that although the bridge barriers were of a standard height, though individuals could climb over this barriers if they were so minded.
- It was noted that the Working Group were unanimous in their support of the recommendation.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to reassign the proportion of the overall budget allocated to demolish the footbridges to instead make significant repairs to the bridge structures at junction 18, rather than removing or replacing them as previously intended.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Cross Party Working Group had investigated the task set and had determined, on the basis of information considered, that it was technically and financially feasible to reassign the proportion of the overall budget allocated to demolish the footbridges to instead make significant repairs to the bridge at Junction 18 (Rhubarb Bridge).

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do not repair the bridges: The Council had funding to repair the bridge as part of the National Productivity Investment Fund. The Scheme and budget was included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. If the bridge was not repaired now then further funding will be needed in the near future in order to keep the bridge operational. In addition, if the Council did not spend the c.£1m on the repairs then it was likely there would be an underspend on the National Productivity Investment Fund which would have implications as the Council had a signed agreement with Department for Transport to spend £5.5m on the entire scheme.

Demolish the footbridge: Following public consultation, the majority of people wanted to keep or replace the footbridge so repairing it was the preferred option because it was technically and financially feasible.

Replace it with a new bridge: This would be far more expensive and following the review it was more cost effective to repair the existing structure.

33. PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the Council's Tree and Woodland Strategy.

The purpose of this report was for the Cabinet to consider the updated Tree and Woodland Strategy and if appropriate to refer it to Full Council as part of the Major Policy Framework.

The Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development introduced the report and advised that the last incarnation of the Strategy had been approved six years ago. The Strategy set out the statutory function of the public services and the development of the growing city. Also covered were the health and safety requirements, financial constraints, and impact on way of life. The Strategy had been considered by the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee and sought to ensure that trees and woodland were an asset to the city and not a liability.

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

- It was advised that considerable progress had been made in the five years since the previous strategy was approved, with a greater knowledge and understanding of resources available.
- Following a question it was confirmed that the most common nuisance report was tree encroachment on property, particularly where a large tree crown covered a small garden. The Strategy introduced scope to address these issues, particularly along the shelter belt.
- In relation to Ash Dieback, it was noted that Ash was present in Peterborough's tree population, comprising 8% and 18% of the shelter belt. It was considered that cases of Dieback would peak over the next few years. The Ash trees in the area were constantly monitored and there would be no planting of Ash at the current time.
- The service was currently operating within existing budgets, at approximately £700,000. Officers were aiming to minimise costs wherever possible, including the introduction of mechanical tree shears that could perform the work of 10 manual workers. It was also intended to limit tree planting to smaller transplants and wicks, which were less expensive to buy and plant.
- The approach to tree management would be to selectively remove trees and appropriate, rather than a whole scale approach. This would be carried out over a phased period with new planting to introduce diversity of age.
- The biggest change to the Strategy was the introduction of an 'i-tree' evaluation process that considered the ecological benefits of tree stock. It was considered that Peterborough's tree stock generated a £1.2 million of eco-system benefits.
- It was advised that good tree stock could neutralise 70 % of emissions.
- The advice from the Forestry Commission was not to remove Ash trees too early on if they were infected with Dieback, as many trees could take up to five years to die. As such, permission would not be granted to fell such trees pre-emptively.
- In response to a question it was confirmed that Sweet Chestnut trees were included in the tree population and would continue to be planted, though would not be dominant.
- Planting had an invaluable roll to play in improving air quality and the Council's tree stock was currently being used to improve water service run off.
- It was noted that more trees were being planted than were being felled.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to recommend the Tree and Woodland Strategy to Full Council for approval.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The strategy would help deliver the city's Environment Capital priority by providing clear strategic direction for the management of the council's tree resource and set targets with which the progress of the strategy would be measured.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The alternative option of not producing an updated strategy would mean that there would be no clear vision and targets associated with the management of the Council's Trees and Woodland, making progress difficult to monitor and the effective allocation of resources challenging. Therefore the alternative option of not updating the strategy was rejected.

34. **PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL AND CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SHARED SERVICES JOINT WORKING AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOLS**

The Cabinet received a report in relation to joint working with between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council.

The purpose of this report was to provide Cabinet with an overview of the Joint Working Agreement and Protocols and to seek approval.

The Director of Business Improvement and Development, Cambridgeshire County Council introduced the report and advised that the agreement had arisen from the increased level of joint working between the two councils, including a number of shared director positions. It was considered that creating an agreement such as the proposed would create more opportunities to work jointly, rather than waiting for them. Business cases would still be developed for each individual proposal for joint working, but the Agreement would provide a framework for these.

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

- Officers were congratulated in embracing the joint way of working.
- It was advised that the approach of the two councils was innovative, where other authorities were working jointly on an ad hoc basis, without a strategic outcomes based approach.
- It was noted that while officers would be working jointly, Members would only be taking decisions for their own authority.
- Joint working had not only been undertaken for back office processes, but also for front line staff, including the majority of the People and Communities Directorate. It was advised that the next phase, however, would be focussing once more on back office operations with commissioning services and the commercial agenda.
- The Agreement and Protocols has already been agreed by Members at Cambridgeshire Council at its General Purposes Committee, and would be submitted to their meeting of Full Council in October 2018.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to approve the principles set out in the Joint Working Agreement and Protocols.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The JWA and Protocols set out the principles which would govern the way in which CCC and PCC would identify and integrate their services to include a Sovereignty Guarantee designed to protect the separate legal and political identities of each Council.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

As new opportunities are identified for possible joint working / sharing or integration across the two Councils, individual business cases would be developed to determine the viability and would explore alternative options as appropriate. Both councils were signed up to the Shared Services agenda. If shared options were not pursued then the status quo would be maintained by working together on a piecemeal basis, which did

not provide the same level of opportunity for cohesion in service delivery and/or maximising the opportunities for building resilience and maximising resource potential. This JWA provided an opportunity to create a set of shared principles through which joint working arrangements could be explored and formalised in a systematic way also enabling effective management and oversight across representatives from both organisations.

MONITORING ITEMS

35. BUDGET CONTROL REPORT JULY 2018

The Cabinet received a Budget Control Report for July 2018.

The purpose of this report was to provide Cabinet with an update of the July 2018 Budgetary Control position.

The Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the report and advised that the Council's budgetary position had worsened by a small percentage, though this reflected a significant cost. An increased demand had been seen in the Child Protection Legal Services team and the Coroner's office. Additional expenditure had also been made in relation to the Amy contract, to extend this until February 2019. This, however, had been offset by a lower contribution to the Amey pension fund. It was further noted that a number of savings target had not been met and strengthened project management was being investigated. Plans were in place to mitigate any overspend.

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

- The current budget position was being considered in the context of the Medium Term Financial Strategy Tranche 2 due to be published for consultation in October 2018.
- It was noted that agreeing the budget in several tranches provided greater opportunity for savings to be made in year.
- The majority of the recorded overspend had arising from commissioning and permanency services. These issues were nationwide and the Council were already aware of the pressures faced.
- It was acknowledged that the Council did not have control of the number of children that entered the care process, however it could impact the number of children leaving the process.
- The budget position was reviewed on a monthly basis.

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

1. The Revenue Budgetary Control position for 2018/19 at July 2018 includes a £5.982m overspend position on the revenue budget.
2. The key variance analysis and explanations are contained in Appendix A to the report.
3. The estimated reserves position for 2018/19 is outlined in Appendix B to the report.
4. In year budget risks are highlighted in Appendix C to the report.

5. The Asset Investment and Treasury Budget Report is contained in Appendix D to the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The report updated Cabinet on the July 2018 budgetary control position.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There had been no alternative options considered.

36. OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the outcome of petitions received by the Council.

The purpose of this report was to update the Cabinet on the progress being made in response to petitions submitted to the Council.

The Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager introduced the report and advised that a petition in relation to the Herlington Post Office had been received and, having archived over 50 signatures, would be submitted to Cabinet for debate at its next normal meeting.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the actions taken in respect of petitions.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

As the petitions presented in the report had been dealt with by Cabinet Members or officers, it was appropriate that the action taken was reported to Cabinet.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There had been no alternative options considered.

Chairman
10:00am – 11:25pm
24 September 2018

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CABINET MEETING
HELD AT 10:00AM, ON
MONDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2018
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Cabinet Members Present: Councillor Holdich (Chair), Councillor Ayres, Councillor Cereste, Councillor Fitzgerald, Councillor Hiller, Councillor Lamb, Councillor Smith, Councillor Walsh and Councillor Seaton.

Cabinet Advisors Present: Councillor Allen and Councillor Fuller.

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

39. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019/20 to 2021/22

The Cabinet received a report detailing the consultation proposals for the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20 to 2021/22 – Tranche Two.

The purpose of this report was to form part of the Council's formal Budget and Policy Framework. This required Cabinet to initiate and propose service proposals and updated assumptions to set a balanced and sustainable budget for the financial years 2019/20 to 2021/22. There was a legal requirement to set a balanced budget for 2019/20.

The Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the report and advised that this tranche of the budget was the second of three for the year. Huge pressures had been put on local authorities with a cut to the Revenue Support Grant of over 80 per cent. The number of children in care was increasing as well as the need for support for the elderly. It was advised that the reductions proposed in relation to the bus service included a reduction in the subsidy for the 60's service, as not increase in demand had been seen, and a reduction in the Sunday evening service for routes 2 to 6, as these were little used.

Thanks were passed on to the Acting Corporate Director for Resources and the Corporate Management Team for their hard work.

The Cabinet Member for Resources would be monitoring the progress of the Government's Fair Funding Review. It was further noted that following Tranche 2 the Council faced a £3 million deficit for 2019/20 and £18 million for future years. More work would continue on initiatives to decrease this gap in future budgets. This included identifying the Council's 'core offer', commercialisation, rationalisation and further integration with partners.

The Cabinet Member noted the increase use of infographics and social media in engaging the public to take part in the budget consultation. It was advised that responses were already higher than previously experienced.

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

- The Acting Corporate Director of Resources would provide a list of all the funding available in relation to the Fair Funding Review.
- The Youth Council were being consulted on 16 October and further consultation would take place with Children in Care, the Parish Councils and the Disability Forum.

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

1. The Tranche Two service proposals, outlined in Appendix E to the report as the basis for public consultation.
2. The updated budget assumptions, to be incorporated within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2019/20- 2021/22. These were outlined in section 5.4 of the report.
3. The revised capital programme approach outlined in section 5.7 and referencing Appendix D to the report.
4. The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019/20-2021/22-Tranche Two, as set out in the body of the report and the following appendices:
 - Appendix A – 2019/20-2021/22 MTFS Detailed Budget Position – Tranche Two
 - Appendix B – Local Government Finance Event Timeline
 - Appendix C – Performance Data
 - Appendix D – Capital Programme 2018/19 - 2021/22
 - Appendix E – Budget Consultation Document, including Budget Proposals
 - Appendix F – Equality Impact Assessments

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to note:

5. The future strategic direction for the Council outlined in section 5.6 of the report.
6. The forecast reserves position outlined in section 5.8 of the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Council must set a lawful and balanced budget. The approach outlined in this report work towards this requirement.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative option had been considered as the Cabinet was responsible under the constitution for initiating budget proposals and the Council was statutorily obliged to set a lawful and balanced budget by 11 March annually.

40. BUDGET CONTROL REPORT AUGUST 2018

The Cabinet received a Budget Control Report for August 2018. The purpose of this report was to provide Cabinet with an update of the August 2018 Budgetary Control position.

The Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the report and advised that the outturn position had worsened by approximately £500,000. It was further noted that the capital programme figure was lower than had been expected. This was, however, in line with trends from previous years. An increase towards the end of the year would become more difficult the greater the savings required.

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

- It was noted that while the capital programme was following observed trends, it was considered that extra vigilance was needed in times where pressure are not expected to ease. A Plan B was needed.
- Suggestion was made that further discussion take place between Cabinet Members in order to consider possible future steps.
- Comment was made that many of the areas of pressure faced by the Council were not within the Council's control.
- Discussion was had in relation to the impact of Brexit on Council pressures and that this needed to be taken into consideration.
- It was further noted that preventative measure should be considered once more as, although not a statutory requirement, did have a beneficial effect.

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

1. The Revenue Budgetary Control position for 2018/19 at August 2018 included a £6.482m overspend position on the revenue budget.
2. The key variance analysis and explanations that were contained in Appendix A to the report.
3. The estimated reserves position for 2018/19 as outlined in Appendix B to the report.
4. In year budget risks were highlighted in Appendix C to the report.
5. The Asset Investment and Treasury Budget Report as contained in Appendix D to the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The report updated Cabinet on the August 2018 budgetary control position.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

There had been no alternative options considered.

Chairman
10:00am – 10:16pm
15 October 2018

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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
19 NOVEMBER 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

Contact Officer(s):	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance	Tel. 01733 452390
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PETITION FOR DEBATE ‘HERLINGTON POST OFFICE’

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N
FROM : Director of Law and Governance
<p>It is recommended the Cabinet either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take the action requested in the petition if it is possible to do so. 2. Refer the petition to either a Cabinet Member or the relevant Scrutiny Committee for consideration having regards to the comments made in the debate. 3. Note the petition and comments but take no action for the reasons given in the debate. 4. Take any other action considered appropriate.

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 A petition has been received by the Council with contains more than 50 signatures from people who live, work or study in the city. As such, the right to a debate of the petition by a meeting of Cabinet has been triggered, according to the Petitions Scheme.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 As set out in the Council’s Petitions Scheme, if a petition contains more than 50 signatures from people who live, work or study in the city, it may trigger the right to be debated by a meeting of Cabinet or Scrutiny.

2.2 On 12 July 2018 a petition was received with the Council from Heather Skibsted. Following the undertaking of a verification process, the petition was confirmed to include 170 eligible signatures.

2.3 Ms Skibsted requested that the petition was debated by a meeting of the Cabinet, as per the Petitions Scheme.

2.4 The petition is titled ‘Herlington Post Office’. The petitions states ‘We oppose the planned closure of the Herlington Post office in Orton Malborne’ and calls upon the Council ‘to intervene to ensure that this essential public service continues’.

2.5 A copy of the petition is available to Members to view upon request.

- 2.6 The petition was referred to the executive director in order that the concerns and questions raised were responded to.
- 2.7 A response was provided to the lead petitioner as attached at Appendix 1.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Finance Implications – There are no financial, legal, or equalities implications arising from this report.
- 3.2 Governance Implications – This report will be debated following the presentation of the petition. The Leader Petitioner has three minutes to present this petition. The relevant Cabinet Member will put forward their proposal that will be debated following the normal rules of debate. The proposal will then be voted on and may either be carried or defeated.

4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 4.1 Peterborough City Council Petitions Scheme.

5. APPENDICES

- 5.1 None.

Telephone: 01733 863833
Facsimile: 01733 863877
E-Mail: jawaid.khan@peterborough.gov.uk
Please ask for: Jawaid Khan
Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Ms Heather Skibsted

Communities and Safety
People & Communities Directorate
Bayard Place
Broadway
Peterborough
PE1 1HZ
DX 12310 Peterborough 1
Telephone: (01733) 747474

Friday 27th July 2018

Dear Ms Skibsted,

Petition – Closure of Herlington Post Office

Thank you for your petition, the contents of which have been noted.

I have taken into consideration the concerns you have raised and enquiries were made to establish the current situation.

Herlington Post Office closed around two weeks ago as part of the national strategy based on business viability. I understand that currently the nearest two Post Offices are in the Orton Centre and at Oakleigh Drive, Orton Longueville.

I am intending to write to Post Office Ltd, which owns and runs the Post Office Network, to seek their explanation as to what steps have been taken to ensure the needs of all residents in the area are met adequately.

I will keep you updated as soon as we receive further information in this regard.

Yours sincerely

Jawaid Khan
Head of Community Resilience and Integration

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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
Date: 19 November 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Annette Joyce, Service Director – Environment and Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor John Holdich – Leader of the Council and Deputy Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Councillor Steve Allen – Cabinet Advisor to the Leader	
Contact Officer(s):	Annette Joyce, Service Director – Environment and Economy	Tel. 01733 452280

PETERBOROUGH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) DEVELOPMENT

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
From: Service Director – Environment and Economy	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that Cabinet approve the development of a Business Improvement District (BID) application for Peterborough City Centre.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 Peterborough City Council's current net budget for the City Centre Manager, Pedestrian Zone and its Events is £159,000. Over the next three years the budget for Events (£40,000) has been withdrawn whilst a £100,000 saving from City Centre Management and Pedestrian Zone has been included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Forecast.
- 1.2 As a result of these budget savings, City Centre Management would not be able to deliver what it currently does (including producing and facilitating the wide range of events in the City Centre). The Cabinet Advisor to the Leader (in his role as Cabinet Member for Culture, City Centre Management and Tourism) and the Leader did not wish to see a reduced investment in the City Centre. Moreover, their desire was to see greater investment in the City Centre so that residents and visitors have a vibrant, exciting, clean and safe City Centre everyone can be proud of and enjoy.
- 1.3 The development of a successful Business Improvement District (BID) in Peterborough City Centre would address this by providing that additional investment. This report to support a BID is therefore submitted to Cabinet at the request of the Cabinet Advisor to the Leader.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet support to develop a Business Improvement District (BID) in Peterborough City Centre. Investment in Peterborough City Centre is central to the Council's ambitions to support businesses and the City's vibrant and growing economy.

3. TIMESCALE

- 3.1 BID development timeline:

November 2018. Decision taken to develop a BID proposal.

January to April 2019. Business liaison and consultation on proposed BID Business Plan. Including forming a BID Steering Group and regular BID newsletter.

April 2019. Notification to Secretary of State and Local Authority of intention to hold a ballot - at least 84 days before the Notice of Ballot is issued.

April 2019. Notification to Local Authority of BID Business Plan. Including details of consultation undertaken, financial proposals. BID projects and proposed financial management arrangements - suggested 60 days before the Notice of Ballot is issued.

June 2019. Launch of BID Business Plan. Public meeting for businesses.

June 2019. Notice of BID ballot issued to businesses. Outlining that it will be an entirely postal ballot and stating the name and address for each business and the time and date by which all votes must be returned - at least 42 days before the end of the ballot.

July 2019. Ballot papers issued to businesses by the independent Electoral Reform Service and given 28 days to vote and return.

July 2019. Ballot day. Announcement made.

August 2019. 28 day appeal period to Secretary of State.

5-year BID term to commence. Any date within 365 days of the ballot result. Formation of Board of Directors, appointment of staff and BID begins operation. Suggested 1st September 2019.

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	N/A
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4. WHAT IS A BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)?

- 4.1 BIDs enable businesses within a defined geographical area such a town or city centre to identify a programme of initiatives that are additional to what is already being provided by the public sector, which will bring benefit to the local business community through for example, increased footfall and spend by shoppers.
- 4.2 The establishment of a BID will assist local businesses and help to provide greater resilience against threats such as internet shopping, out of town retail parks and neighbouring towns and cities, some of which have BID status.
- 4.3 There are 300 established BIDs across the UK including Cambridge, Nottingham, Leicester, Lincoln, Milton Keynes and Bedford. 95% of BIDs are re-elected after their first 5-year term demonstrating their value to businesses. Kingston-upon-Thames was the first BID to be developed in 2005 after legislation was introduced in 2003 and it is now in its third 5-year term.

5. CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT IN PETERBOROUGH

- 5.1 Peterborough Residents and Businesses alike benefit from good City Centre Management. The economic value of visitation to Peterborough is over £291m pa (£185.4m day and £94.9m staying visitors). The wider economic benefit across the visitor economy with additional and supplier effects is estimated at £376.4m. Peterborough direct tourism employment was estimated at 5,416.
- 5.2 A major objective of this service is to increase footfall, retail spend, parking income, employment, business opportunities and wealth. To this extent City Centre Management's role relates to:

- **Place Shaping:** Influencing, steering and helping to ensure our City Centre meets the future expectations of a growing population
 - **Place Making:** Providing an attractive and vibrant City Centre through initiatives such as presenting events, festivals, themed markets, floral displays and Christmas lighting
 - **Place Management:** Managing the City Centre, access, car parking, providing visitor Information and a safe environment
 - **Place Promotion:** Promoting the City Locally, Regionally and Nationally so we best benefit from the Visitor economy
- 5.3 Peterborough's City Centre Management services are currently fully funded and fully operated by Peterborough City Council. These services form part of the Environment and Economy Directorate which also manages Regulatory Services (Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Licensing and Safety), Parking, Tourism, Corporate Marketing and Communication and the services until February 2019 performed under the Amey contract (Street Cleansing, Refuse Collections, Parks and open Spaces, Transport, Building Maintenance and Cleaning).
- 5.4 City Centre Events are accommodated or organised by City Centre Management to; increase footfall to support the retail economy, provide vibrancy to the city centre, instil pride and a sense of belonging to Peterborough residents, increase car park income, promote diversity and support cultural and social cohesion.
- 5.5 Some events are directly produced by this service which includes taking full responsibility for every element of production, programming and promotion. Some events are facilitated or co-produced by this service which ranges from licensing them, contracting use of spaces, providing infrastructure, providing or advising on risk assessment, supporting promotion, liaison with emergency services, traffic management and the organising of road closures.
- 5.6 These events include the Perkins Great Eastern Run, Diwali Festival, Christmas Light Switch On event, visiting Christmas and Continental Markets, The Classic Car Show, Italian Festival, Pop Concerts on the Embankment and all visiting Circuses and Fairs. Excellent value for money is provided by Environment and Economy as their staff work these events at weekends, at evenings or over Christmas/New Year in addition to their substantive responsibilities and without additional pay. Hundreds of volunteers are also engaged, many from the Environment and Economy division.
- 5.7 Whilst some Local Authorities continue to operate City Centre Management in-house, many have created Public/Private City/Town Centre Management Partnerships operating as a Company. Many City Centre Partnerships have gone on to develop a BID (Business Improvement Districts). A BID is a business-led and business funded body formed to improve a defined commercial area.
- 5.8 Whilst under Local Authority control, there is little incentive for City Centre Businesses to invest and pay for City Centre Management services regardless of how much they appreciate or benefit from them.
- 5.9 Many of the responsibilities of City Centre Management have significant synergy with each other and the services currently performed by Amey, which from February 2019 will be operated by Peterborough Limited. These include:
- Amey manage Parks and Open Spaces. City Centre Management manage events and bookings of Parks and Open Spaces
 - City Centre Management/Markets have responsibility for £280,000 budgets for City Centre Cleaning and Refuse Collection performed by Amey
 - Markets staff manage the General Market, Pedestrian zone manage visiting Markets
 - Both City Centre Management and Amey staff work over 24 hours 7 days a week.

- 5.10 Budget pressures on Local Authorities nationally has meant that they have been unable to subsidise all non-statutory services to levels previously enjoyed. City Centre Management services (as described above) will largely need to be withdrawn from 2019 unless they can be part funded by City Centre Businesses via a successful BID application.
- 5.11 A BID's company might not be able to afford to employ people with the range of skills needed to perform all the roles they may wish to fund. Similarly the Council could not afford to solely fund such a team. In any event, we could see roles between BID's Company and Council significantly overlapping if they both did. The most efficient operating model to meet City Council needs and the requirements of a BID Company could be by operating City Centre Management Services through Peterborough Limited with a BID's Company and the Council commissioning it to carry out work on their behalf, thus sharing the cost between BID's Company and Council. This will be considered once Peterborough Limited is successfully operating services.

6. HOW WOULD A BID WORK AND HOW MUCH COULD BE RAISED?

- 6.1 A ballot will ask businesses to vote either for or against the creation of a Business Improvement District (BID) in the City Centre, and if there is a 'yes' at ballot, businesses will then invest between circa £1.5-2m* in place-making activities and City Centre improvements over the next 5 years. *Exact BID levy raised yet to be determined, awaiting rateable values from PCC rates department.
- 6.2 BIDs are funded by a levy on local businesses of usually between 1%-1.5% of a business's rateable value (not their business rates). As an example, a business such as Starbucks on Long Causeway in Peterborough City Centre has a rateable value of £51,500. This is not their business rates but the rateable value of the property set by the Valuation Office and used to calculate their rates bill. Dependent on the level set by the new Peterborough BID Steering Group, 1% of their rateable value is £515.00 in annual BID levy contributions, 1.25% is £643.75 and 1.5% is £772.50 each year.
- 6.3 For a BID to commence, the businesses in the defined BID area receive a copy of the 5-year BID Business Plan and a ballot paper, voting on the proposals during a confidential 28-day postal ballot. For the vote to be successful both a majority of a) business rateable value and b) by number of businesses must vote in favour of establishing a BID; this protects the interests of both the large and small businesses alike. It is anticipated that the vote will take place in Summer 2019. BIDs operate for a maximum of 5 years at which point a further vote must be held to establish if businesses wish to continue for a further 5 years.

7. WHAT MIGHT A BID FUND?

- 7.1 An advisor was appointed by the Service Director of Environment and Economy to carry out a City Centre Business Survey in Spring 2018, consulting with local businesses to identify the issues that affect their business and ascertain the improvements they would like to see introduced. In total 181 City Centre businesses participated in the survey.
- 7.2 Potential BID projects identified from the study include:
- enhanced Christmas lights throughout the entire City Centre
 - additional street cleaning regime
 - hosting more festivals, events and visiting markets
 - increased hanging baskets and entering the Britain In Bloom awards
 - entering The Great British High Street awards
 - achieving Purple Flag status for the City which recognises evening economy safety standards
 - introducing new BID Rangers/Ambassadors to provide public reassurance, assist members of the public and deal with ASB
 - installing free WiFi and footfall counters throughout the City Centre

- introduce new business awards
- design and distribute a business directory
- launch a City Centre loyalty card
- offer a retailer radio scheme to share intelligence amongst retailers and pubs.

7.3 BID Objectives will include:

- Create a strong collective business voice in Peterborough City Centre
- Increase footfall and boost trade
- Improve the economic opportunities and the trading environment for businesses in Peterborough City Centre
- Create a new brand and identity for Peterborough City Centre
- Market Peterborough to a local, regional and national audience through high profile marketing campaigns, multi-channel media advertising, year-round events, festivals and markets
- Capitalise on the heritage and location of Peterborough City Centre
- Increase the awareness of businesses and City Centre events by marketing directly to residents and employees
- Supply businesses with useful data on City Centre performance e.g. footfall, car park, dwell time.

8. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A BID?

8.1 The benefits of a BID include:

- Businesses work in partnership with the Local Authority
- A sustainable model for City Centre management
- Provides the additional investment on a scale unachievable by businesses working alone / in silo and targeted where businesses decide
- A better-connected business community
- Collective marketing campaigns that deliver better value and results
- BID levy is ring-fenced for use only in the BID area – unlike business rates
- New trading opportunities between BID levy payers
- A long-term plan that gives businesses the skills and confidence to invest and grow
- An effective business voice that can lobby to prioritise investment in priority areas
- Businesses working together following the business plan that they have voted to support
- Sustainable business model for businesses in Peterborough City Centre
- There are many benefits for the office sector as well as the retail sector, this would include initiatives such as driving down occupancy costs for businesses including exploring a Peterborough City Centre business recycling service and other collective buying opportunities such as training, advertising, insurance costs, utilities, broadband to ensure the BID levy operates as an investment as opposed to a cost on business
- Make the City Centre more welcoming, attractive and safer
- Encourage and incentivise the thousands of employees within Peterborough City Centre to shop and spend locally
- Act as a vehicle to attract larger scale funding.

9. CONSULTATION

9.1 The advisor that undertook the business survey has significant experience in delivering successful BIDs across the country including Lichfield City Centre, Epsom Town Centre, Beddington Industrial Area, Staines-upon-Thames town centre and the district of North Nottinghamshire / Bassetlaw. Their experience of BIDs reveals that Peterborough City Centre is highly likely to be successful in achieving BID status given that many of the national companies have policies on BIDs. Companies within the City Centre that vote yes to BIDs include John Lewis, Waitrose, Marks & Spencers, Boots, Network Rail, Nandos, Starbucks, Waterstones, Metro Bank, Wilkos, Natwest, HSBC, JD Wetherspoons, EE, Vodafone, WH Smith, Costa Coffee, Subway, Greggs, McDonalds, Clarks and Specsavers. Queensgate Centre Director also confirmed he was involved in the Luton BID development.

The business survey also revealed a significant appetite for a business-led approach within the City Centre.

- 9.2 During the BID development a new BID Steering Group made up of local businesses and stakeholders will be formed representative of the proposed BID area – they will determine and agree the improvements and initiatives the BID will fund and these will be detailed within the BID Business Plan document that businesses vote on, the final BID boundary will be determined and the levy percentage agreed.
- 9.3 A minimum threshold can be implemented meaning that all businesses below the threshold would be exempt from both the vote and the levy charge. For example if the BID threshold was set at £12,000 rateable value this would be in line with business rates exemption and would mean all small businesses currently in receipt of rates relief would also be exempt from the BID vote and the levy payment. The BID Steering Group could also place a cap on the maximum that any one single business would need to contribute to the BID. This could apply both in the case of high rateable value of property owned such as Waitrose, or against a number of business premises owned by the same business situated within the BID area such as a Council. The proposed cap would be a maximum of between £5-10k levy per business entity per year. This cap would also apply to the Council as a ratepayer.

10. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 10.1 To support the development of a Business Improvement District (BID) in the City Centre.

11. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 11.1 If we did not proceed with a BID then the Council will have to cease certain City Centre Management functions and events over the next two years (including the deletion of the post of City Centre Manager) as the budget for these activities is reduced.

12. IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Council financial and resource implications

The cost of holding the 28-day independent postal ballot is estimated by Electoral Reform Services to be £2,000-3,000 depending on the number of businesses to be balloted within the defined BID boundary; this includes producing and sending the official Notice of Ballot two weeks prior to the ballot followed by the ballot paper and Business Plan. Also replacement ballot papers as required. As a guide £3,000 would be the total cost for 500 businesses.

Other costs (these were the exact costs incurred during the Epsom BID development):

- BID Business Plan design and artwork inclusive of maps/charts and proof-reading, 36-page document estimated to be £2,300.
- Photographer for BID Business Plan of stakeholders, local businesses and key areas/buildings estimated to be £900.
- Printed and bound 36-page A4 landscape business plan estimated to be £1,000.

Post-ballot the Council will be legally responsible for billing, collecting and enforcing payment of the BID levy through the existing business rates system. Receipts would be held in a ring-fenced BID fund before being paid over to the BID in its entirety. The Council can determine whether businesses pay their levy in one instalment which reduces administration costs. The BID will pay an annual fee to the Council to cover the cost of levy collection and administration. This is often calculated at 3% of the total BID levy income.

These would be met from within current budgets.

12.2 Council financial implications post ballot

If the recommendation to proceed with BID development is approved, the capping of a levy would limit the Council's liability to a maximum of £5-10k a year. The total amount of £1.5million - £2million raised during the 5-year BID term includes the impact of the £5-10k cap on business contributions.

12.3 Implications for businesses

If a vote is successful (it requires a simple majority of numbers and by rateable value) approximately 300-500* businesses will be affected and will need to pay an additional levy on top of their business rates. This levy will not be applied to small businesses that are in receipt of Small Business Rates Relief ensuring that small businesses are protected from paying an additional levy. *Exact number to be determined from PCC rates data. The BID company must demonstrate comprehensive consultation with businesses affected to ensure that their ideas are incorporated in the BID Business Plan, and that they understand the implications of voting 'yes' or 'no'.

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

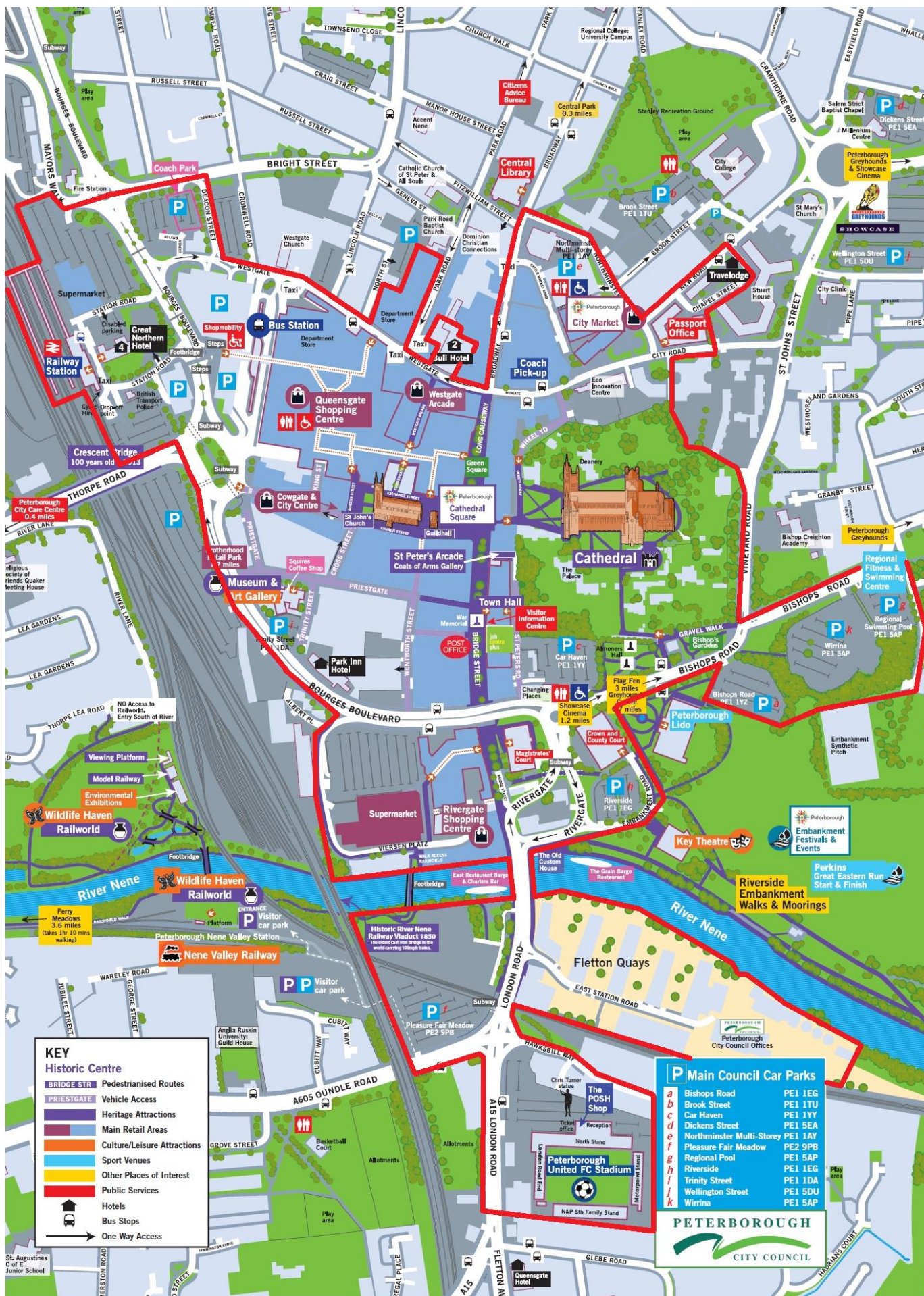
13.1 None.

14. APPENDICES

14.1 Appendix 1 – Draft BID Boundary Map

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Draft BID Boundary



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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
19 November 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Lou Williams; Service Director Children & Safeguarding	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Sam Smith - Cabinet Member for Children's Service	
Contact Officer(s):	Lou Williams; Service Director Children & Safeguarding	Tel. 01733 863612

COUNCIL TAX EXEMPTION FOR CARE LEAVERS

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Corporate Director: People and Communities	Deadline date:
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the content of the report; 2. Agrees that in the absence of any national scheme, it is not appropriate for the Council to exempt care leavers from Council Tax; 3. Supports the Director of Children's Services in writing to Central Government to suggest the implementation of a national scheme that provides some exemption from Council Tax to all vulnerable young people and adults up to the age of 25 living away from home; 4. Supports the Director of Children's Services in writing to colleague Directors and seek support in lobbying for a national scheme. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet at the request of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 This report provides Cabinet with information to enable Members to consider whether adopting a scheme whereby care leavers who are the responsibility of Peterborough City Council are exempted from paying Council Tax would be an effective way of ensuring the Council is providing the best form of support to care leavers while making best use of available resources.
- 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 with the Council's Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the Council's overall improvement programmes to deliver excellent services'.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1. Councils have been requested to consider whether care leavers for whom they hold responsibility should be exempted from paying Council Tax via a number of routes.
- 4.2. In August 2016, for example, the Communities and Local Government Select Committee recommended that care leavers be made exempt from council tax to '*at least the age of 21*'.
- 4.3. A number of charitable organisations have also lobbied Councils, asking that consideration be given to exempting care leavers from Council Tax.
- 4.4. Accordingly, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services requested that a report be presented to Cabinet that summarised the benefits and any disadvantages of taking such a proposal forward, enabling Cabinet to make an informed decision on the issue.
- 4.5. The lack of any nationally coordinated approach to provision of Council Tax relief for care leavers has resulted in some variation of approaches being adopted by those councils who are seeking to provide such relief. The majority of those authorities that have set up or are considering adopting some form of Council Tax relief to care leavers to date have been unitary authorities. A number of these have only considered young people living in their area who they also previously looked after. Unitary authorities are, of course, both responsible for care leavers and for collecting Council Tax.
- 4.6. Approaches that provide relief to specific groups of care leavers immediately leads to a risk of challenge from other care leavers who could argue that they are being discriminated against. A council that only applied an exemption to care leavers living in their area could, for example, be liable to challenge by other care leavers who happen to be living outside the Council area, often as a result of decisions not made by them but as the consequence of decisions about where they were placed while they were in care.
- 4.7. This risk could be avoided in respect of care leavers for which Peterborough has responsibility but who are living elsewhere by coming to an arrangement with the relevant local authorities or with the individual care leaver. This might include reimbursing either the authorities concerned for exempting Peterborough care leavers from their Council Tax liabilities, or by reimbursing individual young people for the cost of their Council Tax.
- 4.8. Were Peterborough City Council to solely grant an exemption to care leavers living in the City who were previously in care to Peterborough, there would be risk of challenge by care leavers placed by other local authorities in the City. They may successfully be able to argue that they should also be eligible for similar relief as to that provided to other care leavers living in the same City.
- 4.9. Peterborough has considerable numbers of young people placed here who are in care to other authorities, and it is likely that a significant proportion will remain in the City after they reach the age of 18. This means that while we do not have accurate figures, it is likely that there are a considerable number of care leavers who were previously looked after by other local authorities living in Peterborough.
- 4.10. Even if it were possible to develop a scheme that was practical to operate and addressed the above challenges, there are a number of other considerations that are relevant in deciding whether, all things considered, providing support to care leavers in this way is a sensible approach.
- 4.11. All local authorities have a number of statutory duties to provide support to care leavers. These have recently been extended further by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017. This legislation increased the age up to which care leavers are eligible to receive support from 21 to 25 years of age.
- 4.12. While seeking a fair and workable way of exempting care leavers from paying Council Tax may seem superficially attractive, the reality is that paying bills is part of taking responsibility for oneself as an adult. Providing this relief for a period risks making the actual transition into

having to eventually pay Council Tax a more difficult one as the young person concerned will have become used to managing on a budget that does not include having to meet this obligation.

- 4.13. Further, as noted above, care leavers are rightly entitled to a broad range of support, including support with budgeting and the provision of financial support where a young person is in clear financial difficulty. The Council fully accepts our responsibilities to support care leavers in all areas of their lives as they make the transition from young adulthood into independence.
- 4.14. This availability of support is in contrast to the position of other vulnerable young people who do not have the benefit of statutory support as care leavers but who may frequently be struggling with the pressures of learning to live independently while dealing with often fractured relationships with family. Indeed it is likely that the population of young people struggling to live independently following difficult family backgrounds but who were not previously in care will include some of the very most vulnerable. It is therefore arguable that providing support to all young people living independently through measures such as Council Tax relief is an approach that would have far greater impact than one that only provides exemption solely to care leavers.
- 4.15. The final question is whether adopting an approach whereby care leavers receive exemption from Council Tax represents the best use of scarce resources. Based on the current profile of young people aged 18-20, the full year cost of providing Council Tax relief to care leavers aged under 21 is likely to be in the region of £50,000 per annum, based on the assumption that similar numbers remain in full time education as now [and so are exempted from having to pay Council Tax] and on the cost of a Band A property in Peterborough. This amount includes a notional sum of £9,000 per annum in additional administrative costs.
- 4.16. As noted above, recent legislation has extended the upper age limit of eligibility to support for care leavers to 25 years. There is a risk that this may open authorities to challenge that any Council Tax eligibility scheme should be in place for all care leavers aged up to 25. It is harder to estimate the costs of exempting care leavers of Council Tax up to this age but they are likely to be in the region of between £200,000 and £250,000 per annum. Costs would increase not only because of the higher number of eligible care leavers, but because a smaller proportion are likely to be in full time education and so exempt from Council Tax as age increases.
- 4.17. These are the estimated costs were the Council able to restrict any scheme that provides Council Tax relief solely to young adults who were formerly in the care of Peterborough. Costs would be much higher and much less predictable in the event that any care leaver placed by another authority was able to successfully argue that they should receive the same benefits by judicially reviewing any scheme of a similar nature operating anywhere in the country.
- 4.18. It is worth noting here that the Council has already identified significant additional resources to meet the added responsibilities of providing support to care leavers aged 21-25, as required by the Children and Social Work Act, 2017. In developing this legislation, central Government indicated that additional resources would be provided to Councils to support their new responsibilities in this area. The actual allocation of funding to Peterborough was only around 10% of the actual cost of providing this additional support.
- 4.19. Given the challenging financial position, any additional funding would need to be identified from elsewhere. In this context, especially given the practical considerations and the need to support young people to develop independence including in the area of being responsible for paying bills, it is unlikely that providing additional funding in this area should reasonably be considered a priority.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant managers and staff.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 That Cabinet:

- Notes the rationale for the recommendation not to implement any programme of exemption from Council Tax in the absence of any national scheme that would ideally offer support to all vulnerable young people and adults living apart from their families;
- Supports the Director of Children’s Services in promoting the development of such a national scheme that results in an equitable model of support of all care leavers, regardless of where they happen to live, while also providing additional support to other vulnerable young people who do not benefit from the support available to care leavers.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The principal reasons for the recommendations relate to the difficulties associated with implementing any scheme locally while avoiding the risk of challenge from other individuals or groups who could argue that they are being discriminated against.

7.2 There are also other reasons, including that care leavers are already provided with considerable support and given the financial realities facing all local authorities, any additional financial support to this group would need to result from reductions in services elsewhere.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 The alternative option is to implement a scheme that attempts to provide Council Tax exemption for Peterborough care leavers, regardless of where they may be living and that does not expose the Council to the risk of broader challenge. The challenges in achieving this combined with the financial impact are sufficient to rule out this approach.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, as no change to present Council Tax arrangements is recommended there is no change in the present financial arrangements.

Legal Implications

9.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report, as the recommendation is not to change the current support to care leavers as required by the legislation relating to care leavers, which includes the Children Act 1989 and relevant regulations, as well as the Act referred to at para 4.11

Equalities Implications

9.3 There are no equalities implications, either positive or negative.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

10.1 None.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 None.

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
19 NOVEMBER 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Simon Machen - Corporate Director of Growth and Regeneration	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Peter Hiller - Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning and Economic Development	
Contact Officer(s):	Richard Kay – Head of Service - Sustainable Growth Strategy James Fisher – Wildlife Officer	Tel. 863795 Tel. 453543

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Corporate Director of Growth and Regeneration	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that Cabinet recommends the Biodiversity Strategy to Full Council for approval.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following consideration by the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 10 January 2018 and Cabinet 15 January 2018, prior to four weeks public consultation from 2 March to 29 March 2018.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to present the City Council's updated Biodiversity Strategy for the Cabinet to consider and if appropriate to refer it to Full Council for consideration as part of the major policy framework.
- 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 improvement programmes to deliver excellent services.'*

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	19 November 2018
Date for relevant Council meeting	12 December 2018	Date for submission to Government Dept.	N/A

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The current Strategy was adopted at Full Council in 2010 and now is considered to be an appropriate time to review the Strategy.

The new strategy aims to:

- Retain the existing Vision and Approach;
- Revise actions already completed and add new actions where appropriate;
- Provide a clearer structure to the strategy (helped by Defra's recommendations as to how public authorities can show regard for biodiversity) under four key headings:
 - 1) Promoting Biodiversity in Planning;
 - 2) Showing Regard for Biodiversity on Public Authority Managed Land & Buildings;
 - 3) Protected Sites;
 - 4) Green Infrastructure.

Of particular note in terms of proposed revisions since the 2010 version, Members attention is drawn in particular to:

- The strategy is now more closely aligned with that set out in the new draft Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity SPD
- Greater emphasis on habitat connectivity, reflecting current Government guidance and policies
- Seeking to expand areas of open space managed to benefit wildlife and bringing existing wildlife sites into more beneficial management
- Summary report setting out Council's progress against delivery of the objectives set out in the strategy to be included in, or linked to, the Council's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 A four week public consultation on the strategy was carried out in March 2018, following Cabinet approval in January 2018. A range of local organisations were invited to comment during this consultation period. These included:

- The Wildlife Trust
- Natural England
- Nene Park Trust
- Froglife
- Buglife

5.2 A total of 2 consultation responses were received. These comments and observations have been incorporated, where appropriate, within the revised Strategy presented. A summary of the consultation comments is included within Appendix A.

5.3 The objectives and actions set out in the draft strategy were widely supported by the Wildlife Trust, however a few minor revisions were recommended including the wording regarding biodiversity in planning to ensure the actions reflected the recently updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in relation to delivering biodiversity net gain.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet will recommend the adoption of the PCC Biodiversity Strategy to Full Council. The adoption of the revised Biodiversity Strategy will ensure the Council is meeting its legal requirements of having due regard to biodiversity whilst following a refreshed strategy which provides an updated framework from the current version adopted in 2010.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 In exercising its functions, the Council has a duty under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. It is important therefore that the Council sets out a clear strategy to ensure biodiversity is considered in all Council strategies, plans, programmes and practices. The Council's constitution determines that the Strategy is a 'major policy item', and therefore can only be adopted by Full Council.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 Alternative options considered were:

Option 1 - do not update the 2010 Biodiversity Strategy. This which would represent a missed opportunity to: refresh the now outdated list of actions; present information in a clearer format; and reflect current Government advice. As such, this is not the preferred option.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 Adoption of the Strategy does not introduce any additional financial costs and does not require any additional investment. The Strategy is not intended to introduce financial implications for the Council, but instead to provide guidance to assist with meeting current legislative and policy requirements.

For information, delivery of the actions in the current adopted Biodiversity Strategy has been estimated to cost approximately £20k per year but has also brought in approximately £16k of income to the Council. It should also be noted that during the past five years, the delivery of the Strategy has secured approximately £185k of additional grants and funds.

Legal Implications

9.2 The Strategy is not intended to introduce legal implications for the council but instead to provide guidance to assist with meeting current relevant environmental legislation.

Equalities Implications

9.3 There are no anticipated equalities implications arising from this decisions.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

10.1 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 40)

The Biodiversity Duty for Public Authorities, Defra Guidance, 2014

Peterborough City Council Approach to Biodiversity submitted to the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee in 2010

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services, Defra 2011

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 - PCC Biodiversity Strategy - Consultation Comments
Appendix 2 - PCC Biodiversity Strategy - Final Version for Adoption

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PCC Biodiversity Strategy Responses to Consultation

Document section	Comments received	PCC response
Table 1 - Objective 1 Biodiversity in Planning (Pages 5-6)	<p>It is considered that the applicant should make significant efforts to go beyond the requirement to consult with Natural England (NE). There are many sites within the Fens which are not SSSI, Ramsar, SPA or SACs but, nonetheless, are of local importance forming an integral component of England's ecological network and have an important role to play in both the Middle Level Commissioners and Whittlesey and District IDBs biodiversity objectives.</p> <p>Development has been delayed because of the relevant parties' failure to consult with all the relevant bodies.</p>	Comments are noted, however it is not considered necessary to revise the text of the strategy based on the response submitted as IDB's are already consulted on planning applications where appropriate, and the value of ecological networks is adequately addressed elsewhere within the strategy.
Vision	Support the vision. We welcome the inclusion of aims to join up, buffer and enhance habitats as part of wider ecological networks, and to achieve a net gain in biodiversity, in line with Lawton review/Making Space for Nature and NPPF principles.	Noted.
Table1, Promoting Biodiversity in Planning,	The following should be added at the end of	Agree, objective should be revised to include

Objective 1 – Biodiversity in Planning	the paragraph: “as well as enhancement measures to deliver a net gain in biodiversity.”	reference to net gain.
Table1, Promoting Biodiversity in Planning, Objective 1 – Biodiversity in Planning, Specific actions for PCC to Deliver Objective	Support all actions listed, with two modifications. In line with the new NPPF “where possible” should be removed from the second action, so the action reads “All developments to demonstrate no net loss to biodiversity and achieve net gains.” The third action should refer to Natural Cambridgeshire’s “Developing with Nature Toolkit” to give it its official title.	Agree, action should be revised to reflect new NPPF. Agree, action should be revised to correctly reference toolkit.
Table1, Promoting Biodiversity in Planning, Objective 2 – Biodiversity Data	Support the objective and action	Noted.
Table1, Showing regard for biodiversity in managing PCC land, Objective 3 – Green Spaces, Specific actions for PCC to Deliver Objective	Support the actions listed.	Noted.
Table1, Showing regard for biodiversity in managing PCC land, Objective 4 – Non-native invasive species	Support, but note that for some species such as Japanese Knotweed there is a legal duty to control non-native invasive species irrespective of whether there is a threat to local habitats or species.	Agree, action should be revised to reference legal duty.
Table1, Showing regard for biodiversity in objective and actions. managing PCC land, Objective 5 – Priority Habitat and species targets.	Support objective and actions.	Noted.
Table1, Showing regard for biodiversity in	Support objective and actions.	Noted.

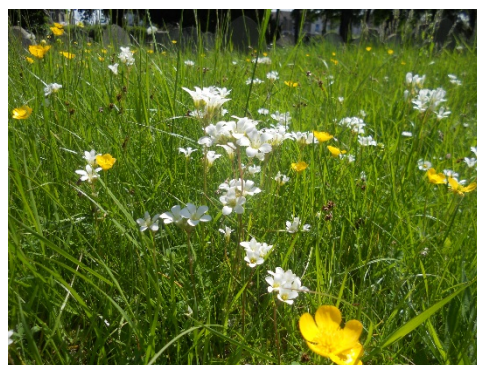
managing PCC land, Objective 6 – Local Wildlife Groups		
Table1, Showing regard for biodiversity in managing PCC land, Objective 6 – Local Wildlife Groups	Support objective and actions.	Noted.
Table1, Showing regard for biodiversity in managing PCC land, Objective 7 – Awareness Raising	Support objective and action.	Noted.
Table1, Showing regard for biodiversity in managing PCC land, Objective 8 – Wider Understanding	Support the objective and action. Could an additional action of working with partners such as conservation organisations and others to increase wider understanding be added?	Agree, actions should be revised to include reference to working with partners.
Table1, Showing regard for biodiversity in managing PCC land, Objective 9 – Involvement	Support the emphasis on taking action.	Noted.
Table1, Protected Sites and Areas, Objective 10 – Statutory Sites, Specific actions for PCC to Deliver Objective	We suggest rephrasing the second action to: “Assist Natural England with the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs, for example through supporting the creation of habitat links to connect SSSIs within the wider landscape”	Agree, actions should be revised to include more appropriate phrasing.
Table1, Protected Sites and Areas, Objective 11 – Non-Statutory Sites	Support.	Noted.
Table1, Protected Sites and Areas, Objective 11 – Non-Statutory Sites, Specific actions for PCC to Deliver Objective	Support the first three actions as written. We suggest rephrasing the fourth action to: “Maintain a regular programme of re-survey or monitoring visits to County Wildlife Sites in	Agree, actions should be revised to include more appropriate phrasing, however specific reference to an SLA with the Wildlife Trust is not to be included.

	the Peterborough area, partly through a service level agreement between the Wildlife Trust and City Council.”	
Table1, Protected Sites and Areas, Objective 12 – Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area	Support objective and actions.	Noted.

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Version for Adoption by Council December 2018

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PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

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PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Our Vision

The Council fully supports the vision set out in Peterborough’s Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity SPD (2018) to create an ecological network across Peterborough that is rich in wildlife, providing connectivity of valuable habitats between areas of high quality natural green spaces, delivering multiple benefits to both people and wildlife, whilst enabling the city to grow sustainably and providing a high quality of life for all.

To achieve this vision the Council recognises that whilst Peterborough supports many valuable wildlife sites, these are often poorly connected to surrounding habitats and that significant enhancements may be required to better buffer, expand and join up these habitats.

The Council recognises that Biodiversity and the Natural Environment enhance wellbeing and quality of life by enhancing the places in which we live, work and play. It can provide economic benefits through tourism and the production of quality local produce. Natural habitats can absorb flood waters, help treat pollutants and act as windbreaks. There are also cultural and aesthetic aspects to Biodiversity, for example through the writings of John Clare.

The Council also recognises that Biodiversity is a truly cross-cutting theme. The Council will therefore, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity¹. As such it will be considered in all Council strategies, plans, programmes and practices.

The City Council recognises that biodiversity is under threat from habitat and population fragmentation, climate change, invasive non-native species as well as development and land pressures. The City Council will play its part in countering these threats, working to protect and enhance, sites, habitats and species of biodiversity importance, including the protection and provision of a network of wildlife corridors and stepping stones to establish links between sites and populations of known wildlife interest.

The City Council will work with partners to seek to achieve a net gain in Biodiversity in the Unitary Area by protecting these key habitats, species, and habitat networks; mitigating against potentially damaging impacts; seeking compensation where damage is unavoidable; and enhancing existing or creating new habitats of value wherever possible.

Our approach

To achieve this vision for Biodiversity, the City Council adopts the following broad approach to show how the Council is demonstrating progress against Defra's recommendations as to how public authorities can show regard for biodiversity. This approach sets out the Council's objectives under the four key headings of Promoting Biodiversity in Planning, Showing Regard for Biodiversity on Public Authority Managed Land & Buildings, Protected Sites and Green Infrastructure. Specific actions have then been identified to deliver these objectives as set out in Table 1 below.

¹ As required by section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.



Table 1

	Objective	Specific Actions for PCC to deliver objective
Promoting Biodiversity in Planning		
	<p>1) Biodiversity in Planning: Ensure that biodiversity is protected and enhanced within the planning system in Peterborough and deliver the key principles for biodiversity set out in national planning guidance. Where full protection is not possible mitigation and compensatory measures should be put in place as well as enhancement measures to deliver a net gain in biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Services department to seek advice of internal advisors, and relevant statutory and non-statutory conservation bodies with regard to specific development proposals as well as during the development of related planning policy documents. • All developments to demonstrate no net loss to biodiversity and achieve net gains. • Encourage all major (EIA) development schemes to adopt the approach to biodiversity and green infrastructure promoted by Natural Cambridgeshire’s Developing with Nature Toolkit. • Monitor net impacts to priority habitats, which are recorded for all EIA developments, seeking to ensure all schemes result in overall priority habitat gain. • Promote the protection, extension and creation of priority habitats via the planning system.

	Objective	Specific Actions for PCC to deliver objective
	<p>2) Biodiversity Data: Ensure that up to date biodiversity data is available and used appropriately to support this approach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support CPERC via appropriate service level agreements to ensure up to date ecological data is provided to help inform planning decisions and to enable the Council to report annually on its progress of ensuring that Local Sites are in positive conservation management (i.e. those sites which are being managed in order to conserve their nature conservation interest).
<p>Showing Regard for Biodiversity on Public Authority Managed Land & Buildings</p>		
	<p>3) Green Spaces: Increase and diversify wildlife interest in green spaces and provide access to sites of wildlife interest for all sections of the community. Also to promote accessibility to wildlife by creating these new habitats in public areas and encourage their creation in private areas such as schools and Council-owned places of work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Pollinator Action Plan for Peterborough in partnership with local environmental bodies to help deliver the Buglife B-Lines initiative locally (please see Glossary for further information) • Identify suitable additional green spaces where the frequency of grass cutting may be reduced to one or two cuts per year or where natural regeneration will be appropriate, expanding on existing ‘biodiversity areas’ network, seeking to remove arisings wherever feasible. • Modify management of selective green spaces to encourage wildflowers, using native wild-flower seeds/ plants to further enhance grassland as required. • Where PCC owned or managed land forms part of a wildlife corridor (e.g. road verges), its management will aim to facilitate its role as a part of the ecological network it is part of. • Continue to review the use of pesticides, including neonicotinoid insecticides (NNI’s) which are currently subject to a temporary moratorium banning the use of three major NNI’s, on Council managed land (including through external service providers), seeking to reduce or eliminate their use wherever possible, such that their use is consistent, minimised and very carefully targeted in line with COSHH regulations requirements. • The loss of hedges and shrubs will be resisted unless there are sound horticultural or other reasons to indicate otherwise e.g. the maintenance of highway safety, disease,

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	Objective	Specific Actions for PCC to deliver objective
		structural damage or the hedging or shrubs are at the end of their useful life expectancy.
	4) Non-native invasive species: Take action to deal with invasive non-native species, prioritising where these are present on sites of wildlife importance; or where these are on land in the authorities control and threaten habitats and species of importance or the coherence of habitat networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ best practice procedures to deal with invasive non-native species (which locally include Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Orange Balsam, New Zealand Pygmyweed and Parrots Feather) on sites of wildlife importance; or where these are on land in the authorities control and threaten habitats and species of importance or the coherence of habitat networks, noting the Local Authorities legal duty to control these species on all its land.
	5) Priority Habitat and Species targets: Contribute to the achievement of the Priority Habitats and Species Targets relevant to the authorities functions and area 2. To continue to support the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Specialist Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to bring all Council-owned open spaces which support priority habitats and/ or species into positive management via appropriate habitat restoration and long term management techniques. Sites currently identified include Fletton Fields/ Melrose Drive balancing ponds, Cherry Orton Road Pond, Basil Green Pond, Botolph Green Pond, Tenterhill Recreation Ground, Cuckoos Hollow and Werrington Meadows. • Support city-wide initiatives to create new priority habitats e.g. Forest for Peterborough. • Support existing long-term monitoring and enhancement of key priority species including Peterborough's Barn Owl and Kestrel population and Four-spotted moth colony.
	6) Local wildlife groups: Assist local voluntary wildlife groups in their aims of protecting wildlife and promoting interest in conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support and technical advice for small-scale community wildlife schemes, including encouraging community management of existing landscaping where appropriate. • Work with conservation bodies such as Peterborough Conservation Volunteers, Buglife, Froglife, Nene Coppicing and Crafts and the Wildlife Trust, as well as residents associations, to support their greater involvement in the management of Council-managed wildlife sites and informal green-spaces.

² www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/natureconservation/action/partnership

	Objective	Specific Actions for PCC to deliver objective
	7) Awareness raising: Make every attempt to ensure that employees and members of Peterborough City Council are aware of the importance of and need to safeguard, enhance and promote Biodiversity through the City Council's activities and thereby contribute to the achievement of this approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC Wildlife Officer and Natural & Historic Environment Team to provide advice and guidance to all relevant Council departments with regards to green infrastructure and biodiversity.
	8) Wider understanding: Promote wider understanding and enjoyment of Peterborough's wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide relevant information for residents on the Council's website to promote local wildlife such as wildlife-friendly gardening and general wildlife advice. • Work with partners such as conservation organisations to further explore opportunities to promote wider understanding of wildlife locally.
	9) Involvement: Promote active interest and involvement in wildlife issues at the local, national and international levels by all sections of the community at home, in the workplace, as a leisure activity and as part of the local economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote opportunities for conservation volunteering on the Council's website.
Protected Sites & Areas		
	10) Statutory Sites: Take reasonable steps consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, International Sites and Local Nature Reserves 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with Froglife, seek to further enhance the only PCC owned SSSI & SAC (treebelt which runs along the southern edge of the Fletton Parkway), by managing the woodland and associated amphibian habitats for the benefit of great crested newts and other priority species in line with the wider site management plan. • Assist Natural England with the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs, for example through supporting the creation of habitat links to connect SSSIs within the wider landscape.

³ As required by Section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

	Objective	Specific Actions for PCC to deliver objective
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with Natural England in their role as statutory advisor in planning and development matters pertaining to Nationally and Internationally designated sites. • Identify suitable locations that may be designated as new Local Nature Reserves (LNR's), seeking to meet The Council's Open Space Standards.
	<p>11) Non-Statutory Sites: Work with the Wildlife Trust, GeoPeterborough and Local Sites Partnership to further the conservation and enhancement of Local Wildlife and Geological Sites. Also to ensure that up-to-date information is available for all local sites in Peterborough and work with partners to deliver the targets of the Environment Action Plan with respect to Local Sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All PCC-managed County Wildlife Sites to be positively managed to conserve and where possible enhance the site for the criteria for which they are designated CWS. • PCC are responsible for 13 out of Peterborough's 106 wildlife sites: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Eye Green LNR 2) The Boardwalks LNR 3) Bretton Woods complex LNR 4) Pocock's Wood 5) Debdale pond 6) Broadway Cemetery 7) Holywell Fish Ponds 8) Stanground Newt pond (part of) 9) Protected Verges Network consisting of a) Southey Lodge verge (Langley Bush Road); b) Stamford Rd./Heath Rd./ Ailsworth Rd./King St. verges (Includes "Marholm road" west of King Street Crossroad); c) Barnack road verges; d) Bedford Purlieus-Wittering road verge and e) Highfield road • The Council will ensure that all protected road verges are managed using best practice techniques which involves mowing in late summer/ early autumn and all arisings removed. • Maintain a regular programme of re-survey or monitoring visits to County Wildlife Sites in the Peterborough area.
	<p>12) Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area: Support the objectives of the Nene Valley NIA within the Peterborough Unitary Authority area,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide support and advice to the NIA Board and associated initiatives within Peterborough.

	Objective	Specific Actions for PCC to deliver objective
	aiming to create more and better-connected habitats which provide the space for wildlife to thrive and adapt to climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with the Nenescape Landscape Partnership Scheme to ensure successful delivery of HLF funded projects within Peterborough.
Green Infrastructure		
	13) Peterborough Nature Partnership: Working with the emerging PNP, contribute towards delivery of the priority projects identified in the GI & Biodiversity SPD to help form a coherent and less fragmented green infrastructure network of habitats across the authority area; which will be robust to the effects of and facilitate adaptation to climate change by species and habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will work with partners to coordinate the monitoring and delivery of priority GI projects identified in the GI & Biodiversity SPD.

Monitoring & Reporting

Annual Report

At the end of each financial year, a summary report setting out the Council's progress against the delivery of the objectives described in Table 1 will be included in, or alongside, the Council's statutory Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). This will also assist in showing how the Council is meeting its statutory duties of having regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Single Data List 160-00 (Local Sites) Reporting

The Government requires all local authorities to report annually on their progress of ensuring that Local Sites are in positive conservation management (i.e. those sites which are being managed in order to conserve their nature conservation interest). Peterborough is currently in the top ten best performing local authorities in England and aims to maintain this situation during the period of this strategy. Please refer to the Glossary for further background information.

Glossary of Terms

B-Lines & Pollinator Action Plans:

B-Lines is an initiative from conservation charity Buglife which aims to establish a series of 'insect pathways' running through the countryside and towns, along which they are restoring and creating a series of wildflower-rich habitat stepping stones. They link existing wildlife areas together, creating a network, like a railway, that will weave across the British landscape. This will provide large areas of brand new habitat benefiting bees and butterflies, but also a host of other wildlife. Buglife has set up a B-Lines Hub:

They have also produced guidance for local authorities on producing pollinator action plans:

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/sites/default/files/Helping%20Pollinators%20Locally.pdf>

Local Sites & SDL 160-00:

The Single Data List is an ongoing project to measure the conservation and management of local sites. Local Sites are non-statutory areas designated at local level for their significant nature conservation value. They include both local wildlife sites (designated for significant biodiversity value) and local geological sites (designated for their significant geological value).

There are more than 40,000 Local Sites in England, covering contrasting landscapes in coastal, rural and urban situations. Although they do not have any statutory status, many are equal in quality to the representative sample of sites that make up the series of statutory Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). They are an important component of England's ecological network and have an important role to play in meeting national biodiversity objectives. The single data list is an important tool for monitoring the trends in management of these sites. The data also contributes to the Biodiversity 2020 indicators which are used to measure the success of England's biodiversity strategy. Further information is available using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-sites-in-positive-conservation-management--2>

Priority Habitats and Species:

UK Priority Habitats and Species are those which are of particular conservation importance throughout the UK. They are recognised in national and local planning policy. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership has reviewed the Local Priority Species (formerly Local Species Action Plans). Over 200 UK Priority Species are found in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Further information can be found using [this link](#)

SSSI:

A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is one of the country's very best wildlife and/or geological sites. Peterborough currently has 17 SSSI's either fully or partially within the unitary authority area. Further information can be found using [this link](#)

SAC:

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are sites designated under the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora). Peterborough currently has 3 SAC's either fully or partially within the unitary authority area. Further information can be found using [this link](#)

LNR:

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are for both people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. They offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it. Peterborough currently has 5 LNR's within the unitary authority area. Further information can be found using [this link](#)

NIA:

The Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA) is one of 12 NIAs that were selected through a national competition announced in the Natural Environment White Paper in 2011. It seeks to re-create and re-connect natural areas along the Nene and its tributaries from Daventry to Peterborough. Further information can be found using [this link](#)

Peterborough Nature Partnership:

The desire to establish a Peterborough Nature Partnership (PNP) was recognised during the drafting of Peterborough's Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity SPD, as a successor to the Natural Networks Partnership. It is currently anticipated that the PNP will lead on the coordinated delivery of the priority projects identified in the GI & Biodiversity SPD, supporting the project lead organisations in addressing specific delivery issues as well as in seeking appropriate funding.

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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
19 NOVEMBER 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr David Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources	
Contact Officer(s):	Peter Carpenter, Acting Director of Corporate Resources Kirsty Nutton, Head of Corporate Finance	Tel. 452520 Tel. 384590

BUDGET CONTROL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2018

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Corporate Director: Resources	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Revenue Budgetary Control position for 2018/19 at September 2018 includes a £4.910m overspend position on the revenue budget. 2. The key variance analysis and explanations are contained in Appendix A. 3. The estimated reserves position for 2018/19 is outlined in Appendix B. 4. In year budget risks are highlighted in Appendix C. 5. The Asset Investment and Treasury Budget Report is contained in Appendix D. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following discussion by the Corporate Management Team (CMT).

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 This report provides Cabinet an update as at September 2018 of the Budgetary Control position.

- 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 improvement programmes to deliver excellent services', and*

No. 3.2.5 *'To review and recommend to Council changes to the Council's Constitution, protocols and procedure rules'.*

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. SEPTEMBER 2018 BUDGETARY CONTROL - REVENUE

- 4.1 The revenue budget for 2018/19, agreed at Full Council on 7 March 2018, was approved at £147.456m.

	£m
Approved Budget 2018/19	147.456
Use of reserves per MTFS	4.231
Revised Budget 2018/19	151.687
Drawdown of reserves during 2018/19	1.023
Revised Budget 2018/19	152.710

4.2 The 2018/19 year-end outturn position, is currently forecast to be £4.910m over spent. This is based on reported departmental information as at the end of September 2018.

4.3 This has reduced by £1.572m (32%) in comparison to a £6.482m overspend position forecast at the end August 2018, which was reported to Cabinet on 15 October 2018. The main reasons for the improvement are outlined in the following table:

	£m
Previously reported forecast position (August 2018)	6.482
Employee Costs	0.103
Highways Development Team savings and income	(0.151)
Bus Services - applying BSOG funding to existing services and reduced Voluntary Partnership Arrangement (Stagecoach)	(0.105)
Sand Martin House rent saving due to the occupancy date being later than anticipated	(0.128)
Temporary accommodation reduction in overspend due to a reduced demand coming through the team.	(0.144)
Capital Financing costs have reduced due to a reduced capital programme and the application of capital receipts.	(0.893)
Additional interest income from extending a loan arrangement with Empower Community Management LLP in respect of solar installations	(0.198)
Improvement in income forecast from parking	(0.094)
Other minor Variances	0.038
Current Month forecast	4.910

4.4 CMT have put plans in place to manage and scrutinise expenditure throughout the council, to mitigate the financial impact of the forecast overspend identified. There has been recent improvement in the position highlighting positive progress towards balancing the current year position.

4.5 The current overspend is largely isolated in one area, children's services, which was outlined in detail when reported at the Cabinet meeting on 23 July 2018, although there are a number of other key areas of overspend to be aware of. These are as follows:

- Demand within children's services £4.5m
- Demand within adults services £0.8m
- Peterborough Serco Strategic Partnership -Transformation costs, Business support and variable costs £2.0m
- Amey contract extension £1.0m
- Parking Services £0.6m
- ICT £0.5m
- Volumes within the Coroners service £0.2m

4.6 These pressures are currently being mitigated in part by the one-off use of capital receipts,

generated from the sale of Council assets, and the reduced financing needs of a smaller capital programme. The move to a truly sustainable budget will require a reduction of “One-off” savings, as by nature these are not repeatable.

- 4.7 The financial negotiations with Amey have now concluded regarding the costs of extending the contract to 1 February 2019. The additional estimated costs to the 1 February 2019 is £0.958m, these are included within the forecast position outlined in this report. A full report will come to Cabinet in December which will set out ongoing costs of this contract which will be delivered through a Local Authority Trading Company which will be 100% controlled by the Council.
- 4.8 The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government recently announced that an additional £240m would be made available to Local government to support adult social care services, helping to alleviate winter pressures placed on the NHS. This grant should be received within the current financial year, with Peterborough's allocation of the grant confirmed at £0.794m. This has not been included within the forecast within this report and will be incorporated next month once the grant letter and conditions are received.
- 4.9 The summary budgetary control position is outlined in the following table:

	Budget 2018/19	Cont. from reserves	Revised Budget 2018/19	Forecast Spend 2018/19	Cont. to reserves	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Previous Month Variance	Movement
Directorate	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Chief Executives	1,583	55	1,638	1,582	0	(56)	-3%	(56)	0
Governance	4,654	75	4,729	4,958	0	229	5%	235	(6)
Growth & Regeneration	23,850	366	24,216	25,294	0	1,078	4%	1,461	(383)
People & Communities	84,459	328	84,787	88,953	0	4,166	5%	4,326	(160)
Public Health	(126)	198	72	72	0	0	0%	0	0
Resources	37,268	0	37,268	36,810	0	(458)	-1%	565	(1,023)
Total Expenditure	151,687	1,023	152,710	157,669	0	4,959	3%	6,531	(1,572)
Financing	(151,687)	(1,023)	(152,710)	(152,759)	0	(49)	0%	(49)	0
Contribution to Capacity reserve	0		0	0		0	0%	0	0
Net	0	0	0	4,880	0	4,910	3%	6,482	(1,572)

5. APPENDICES

5.1 Further information is provided in the following appendices:

- Appendix A – Detailed revenue budgetary control position and explanation of key variances and risks
- Appendix B – Reserves position
- Appendix C – Budget risk register
- Appendix D - Asset Investment and Treasury Budget Report

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Appendix A – Detailed Revenue Budgetary Control position and explanation of key variances and risks

Chief Executives

	Budget 2018/19	Cont. from reserve	Revised Budget 2018/19	Forecast Spend 2018/19	Cont. to reserve	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Previous Month Variance	Movement
Budget Group	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Chief Executive	241	0	241	222	0	(19)	-8%	(19)	0
HR	1,342	55	1,397	1,360	0	(37)	-3%	(37)	0
Total Chief Executives	1,583	55	1,638	1,582	0	(56)	-3%	(56)	0

The Chief Executive's department is reporting a small staffing and supplies and services related underspend of £0.056m

Governance

	Budget 2018/19	Cont. from reserve	Revised Budget 2018/19	Forecast Spend 2018/19	Cont. to reserve	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Previous Month Variance	Movement
Budget Group	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Director of Governance	340	0	340	288	0	(52)	-15%	(27)	(25)
Legal Services	1,590	18	1,608	1,766	0	158	10%	112	46
Constitutional Services	2,053	0	2,053	2,028	0	(25)	-1%	(7)	(18)
Performance & Information	191	57	248	240	0	(8)	-3%	1	(9)
Coroners Service	480	0	480	636	0	156	33%	156	0
Total Governance	4,654	75	4,729	4,958	0	229	5%	235	(6)

Currently the Governance department is forecasting £0.229m overspend.

Coroner Service

There is a forecast pressure of £0.156m within this area. The final 2017/18 costs were greater than expected and not fully recognised in that financial year. The forecast overspend in 2018/19 is due to backlog of referrals, budget pressures from additional staff hired, and a number of complex cases. The Council is awaiting further detail from Cambridgeshire County Council on the overspend and will be reported in due course, however this pressure is likely to continue into future years and a bid for investment is expected to be brought forward in Tranche 3 of the process.

Legal Services

There is a forecast overspend of £0.158m within the legal team largely due to staffing costs as a result of increased workloads relating to Child Protection, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Homelessness and a compensation payment.

Growth & Regeneration

	Budget 2018/19	Cont. from reserve	Revised Budget 2018/19	Forecast Spend 2018/19	Cont. to reserve	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Previous Month Variance	Movem ent
Budget Group	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Development and Construction	173	0	173	247	0	74	43%	40	34
Director, OP & JV	(67)	0	(67)	(47)	0	20	-30%	25	(5)
Peterborough Highway Services	9,147	0	9,147	9,086	0	(61)	-1%	45	(106)
Sustainable Growth Strategy	1,465	194	1,659	1,546	0	(113)	-7%	(90)	(23)
Waste, Cleansing and Open Spaces	12,266	0	12,266	12,402	0	136	1%	159	(23)
Westcombe Engineering	91	0	91	91	0	0	0%	0	0
Corporate Property	1,227	152	1,379	1,688	0	309	22%	436	(127)
Resilience & Health & Safety	249	0	249	209	0	(40)	-16%	(41)	1
City Centre Management	318	0	318	515	0	197	62%	231	(34)
Marketing & Communications	254	0	254	348	0	94	37%	95	(1)
Parking Services	(2,096)	0	(2,096)	(1,553)	0	543	-26%	640	(97)
Regulatory Services	670	20	690	565	0	(125)	-18%	(123)	(2)
Service Director Environment & Economy	153	0	153	197	0	44	29%	44	0
Total Growth and Regeneration	23,850	366	24,216	25,294	0	1,078	4%	1,461	(383)

Currently the Growth and Regeneration department is forecasting £1.078m overspend.

Peterborough Highway Services

Street lighting energy costs are budgeted to reduce as the Street Lighting LED Programme replaces the old lighting with more energy efficient units. However, the savings are taking longer to deliver than originally envisaged, and combined with energy price increases, this is leading to a forecast overspend of £0.148m.

Due to a high workload and agency staff covering vacant posts employee costs are forecast to overspend by £0.103m. However additional income of £0.151m has been generated which offsets this pressure.

Various small savings have been identified including Concessionary fares £0.055m and Transport Planning matching Combined Authority funding £0.074m. Offset by Queensgate Bus Station rates £0.011m, staff recharges £0.020m, Network Management utility debtor invoices not paid £0.036m, others £0.006m.

Bus Services - applying BSOG funding to enhance and develop further existing services and reduced Voluntary Partnership Arrangement (Stagecoach) £0.105m

Sustainable Growth Strategy

Savings on Employee costs £0.058m, additional income £0.090m, miscellaneous small pressures £0.034m.

Waste, Cleansing and Open Spaces

Income from electricity sales at the Energy from Waste facility is currently higher than budgeted, leading to a favourable forecast of £0.503m. This is due to the performance of the plant and the escalating energy prices which offsets the pressure that the council is seeing on the electricity that it buys. Final earnings for 2017/18 income at the Energy from Waste plant have also now been confirmed and this was higher than expected by £0.177m.

The new Household Recycling Centre is due to open early 2019, therefore the budgeted investment is not fully required in 2018/19 saving £0.120m. However there are costs of £0.060m relating to the existing site contract extension costs.

Materials Recycling Facility fees for legal advice and support for resolving contract issues, together with claims for waste contamination and increased fees are expected to cost an additional £0.350m creating a pressure.

The financial negotiations with Amey have now concluded regarding the costs of extending the contract to 1 February 2019. The additional costs to the 1 February is £0.958m, resulting in a forecast overspend on the budget. The Council also expects to receive a pension rebate due to lower contribution rates from the Amey contract. This is due to lower contribution rates payable when comparing the contract and actuarial review which results in a £0.550m favourable position offsetting a proportion of the additional costs.

Further overspends relate to the closure of the WEE facility being delayed £0.020m, an income shortfall for charging for bins in new properties £0.066m, and specialist pavement cleansing in the City Centre £0.032m.

Corporate Property

Sand Martin House income is forecast to be lower than originally anticipated. This is due to the nature of the listed buildings and the works required, commercial unit income and office sub-let income having been delayed or reduced, resulting in at £0.337m forecast overspend. There has been a saving of £0.128m on Sand Martin House rent as the occupancy date was later than anticipated. Revenue costs associated with the feasibility and abortive works for capital projects amounts to £0.100m. A budget will need to be established for this in future years.

City Centre Management

The level of income from Market stalls and the pedestrian area will be £0.151m lower than budgeted as, although this brings a net income to the council, the target for this is currently unachievable. A promotional discount to bring in new stall-holders has resulted in five new traders, and the generation of income will continue to be closely monitored throughout the year. Other small pressures £0.046m.

Parking Services

At present the forecast income is £0.423m lower than the budget for off street car parking, including staff car parking. This forecast is based on a reduction in current parking volumes and the additional multi-storey car park capacity which is not yet operating commercially. There is also a forecast pressure relating to the costs from National Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates), security, cleaning, and Ringo (debit/credit card charges), which totals £0.120m.

Regulatory Services

Employee cost savings £0.125m.

People & Communities

	Budget 2018/19	Cont. from reserve	Revised Budget 2018/19	Forecast Spend 2018/19	Cont. to reserve	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Previous Month Variance	Move ment
Budget Group	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Adults	44,185	0	44,185	43,560		(625)	-1%	(627)	2
Commissioning & Commercial Operations	14,098	250	14,348	18,923		4,575	32%	4,576	(1)
Children's & Safeguarding	10,898	0	10,898	10,897		(1)	0%	3	(4)
Director	812	0	812	822		10	1%	13	(3)
Education	5,494	0	5,494	5,526		32	1%	19	13
Communities	8,710	78	8,788	8,963		175	2%	342	(167)
Dedicated Schools Grant	262	0	262	262		0	0%	0	0
Total People and Communities	84,459	328	84,787	88,953	0	4,166	5%	4,326	(160)

Further Breakdown in to the key service areas:

	Budget 2018/19	Cont. from reserve	Revised Budget 2018/19	Forecast Spend 2018/19	Cont. to reserve	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Previous Month Variance	Movemen t
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Adults:									
Independent Sector Placements	32,067		32,067	32,817		750	2%	750	0
Adult Social Care Teams	7,352		7,352	7,162		(190)	-3%	(112)	(78)
Block Contracts	6,352		6,352	6,260		(92)	-1%	(92)	0
Financing	(3,074)		(3,074)	(4,121)		(1,047)	34%	(1,173)	126
Home Service Delivery Model	1,488		1,488	1,442		(46)	-3%	0	(47)
Total Adults	44,185	0	44,185	43,560	0	(625)	-1%	(627)	2
Commissioning & Commercial Operations:									
Permanency Service	12,523		12,523	17,060		4,537	36%	4,537	0
Clare Lodge	(1,171)	250	(921)	(922)		(1)	0%	(1)	0
Commissioning & Commercial Operations - Other	2,746		2,746	2,785		39	1%	40	(1)
Total Commissioning & Commercial Operations	14,098	250	14,348	18,923	0	4,575	32%	4,576	(1)
Children's & Safeguarding:									
Children's Social Care	6,821		6,821	6,824		3	0%	4	(1)
Children's - Other	4,077		4,077	4,073		(4)	0%	(1)	(3)
Total Children's & Safeguarding	10,898	0	10,898	10,897	0	(1)	0%	3	(4)
Director:									
Director	2,137		2,137	2,147		10	0%	13	(3)
Department Savings target	(1,325)		(1,325)	(1,325)		0	0%	0	0
Total Director	812	0	812	822	0	10	1%	13	(3)
Education:									
Home To School & Childrens Social Care Transport	4,001		4,001	4,013		12	0%	14	(2)
School Improvement Traded Service	(937)		(937)	(937)		0	0%	0	0
Education - Other	2,430		2,430	2,450		20	1%	5	15
Total Education	5,494	0	5,494	5,526	0	32	1%	19	13
Communities:									
Housing	2,392		2,392	2,444		52	2%	212	(160)
Cultural Services	2,371		2,371	2,586		215	9%	214	1
Targeted Youth Support Service (TYSS)	1,572		1,572	1,474		(98)	-6%	(100)	2
Prevention Enforcement Service (PES)	552		552	499		(53)	-10%	(52)	(1)
Communities - Other	1,823	78	1,901	1,960		59	3%	68	(9)
Total Communities	8,710	78	8,788	8,963	0	175	2%	342	(167)
Dedicated Schools Grant	262		262	262		0	0%	0	0
Total People and Communities	84,459	328	84,787	88,953	0	4,166	5%	4,326	(160)

Adults- Independent Sector Placements

A pressure of £0.750m is reported in relation to Adults Placement costs. This relates to residential nursing packages (£0.651m adverse to date) and Transforming Care (£0.151k adverse to date). Additional Client and Health income is partially offsetting this pressure. This pressure is being mitigated with savings in other services within adults, see detail below.

Adults- Adult Social Care Teams

Overall there is a £0.190m forecast underspend on all operational teams. Within this there are savings on staffing £0.162m, Occupational Therapy equipment £0.025m, other £0.003m.

Adults- Block Contracts

There is currently a favourable variance in respect of the recovery of an £0.080m overpayment to an Extra Care provider. An overall underspend of £0.012m is forecast due to one off Direct Payments to Carers. Carer support is predominantly covered in Independent Sector Placements with services such as carers sitting services and respite.

Adults- Financing

Projects have been delayed to mitigate overspends in other People and Communities budgets. This action was implemented earlier in the year and has been increased to cover further emerging pressures.

Adults- Home Services Delivery Model

There is a £0.034m underspend on vacant posts and £0.010m on commissioned surveyor work, other underspends are £0.002m.

Commissioning- Permanency Service (TACT)

The Council is forecasting to overspend by £4.537m within this area. This is the result of agreeing to pay TACT an additional £0.637m in relation to the financial year 2017/18 and £3.9m in relation to financial year 2018/19. An upwards trend in the number of children coming into care, and the mix of placement types used, is feeding into the forecast overspend position. Although TACT are using their specialist expertise to recruit foster parents and adoption placements, progress towards achieving a balanced placement mix is in transition meaning there are still a number of placements with high associated costs.

Clare Lodge

A reserve contribution of £0.250m has been agreed which offsets the forecast overspend arising from the delayed opening of the new High Dependency Unit. A risk exists around Occupancy levels (income) and the use of Agency staff related costs.

Commissioning and Commercial Operations- Other

A £0.044m forecast overspend is reported against Play Centres, which is the result of a delay in the Community Asset Transfers. This is partially offset by other small underspends are £0.005m.

Children's Social Care

Staffing costs are forecast to underspend by £0.007m, Financial Assistance overspend £0.013m, and other underspends £0.003m. A risk exists around Financial Assistance and the use of Agency staff to cover substantive posts.

Director

It is assumed that all Department Savings targets will be achieved or will be offset by pipeline savings. There is a pressure of £0.014m due to staff regrading, and other small underspends £0.004m.

Education- Home to School and Children's Social Care Transport

An adverse variance of £0.012m is reported with regard to Passenger Transport Team staffing budget. The Home to School Transport forecast indicates a small underspend. There are over 190 pending transport applications so a zero variance has been reported.

Education- Other

An adverse variance of £0.079m is reported in relation to the underachievement of income on School Academy conversions. This income target was introduced as a result of charging schools to recover a proportion of the cost the local authority incurred to administer the conversion. However, as the pace of schools converting has reduced against previous estimates this target is unlikely to be achieved. A reduction in business rates was also built in to the budget as a result of the relief academies receive for holding charitable status. As outlined in the funding section, NNDR (business rates) are showing a favourable position. A favourable variance of £0.050m is reported in regard to School Attendance Fines along with other small variances of £0.009m.

Communities- Housing

Housing is forecast to overspend by a total of £0.052m. Temporary Accommodation costs are forecast to overspend by £0.187m. The forecast has reduced by £0.144m from the £0.331m overspend reported in August, this is due to a reduction in the number of households requiring temporary accommodation, in comparison to previously forecast. This is offset by a projected underspend on staffing of £0.142m. Other budget headings are forecast to overspend by £0.007m.

Communities- Cultural Services

Cultural Services is forecast to overspend by £0.215m. This represents the non-achievement of the £0.250m 2017/18 and 2018/19 MTFS savings, offset by other savings of £0.035m.

Communities- Targeted Youth Support Service (TYSS)

The TYSS is forecast to underspend by £0.098m, this relates to holding staff vacancies pending new service implementation. This comprises a forecast underspend of £0.132m on employee costs, offset by other pressures of £0.034m.

Communities- Prevention Enforcement Service (PES)

The PES is forecast to underspend by £0.053m. This comprises a £0.134m forecast underspend on staffing and an underspend of £0.112m against non-staffing budgets. There is also an under recovery of £0.193m in relation to income from Penalty Charge Notices, Fixed Penalty Notice & CCTV.

Communities – Other

There is a forecast overspend of £0.059m. This comprises a £0.101m adverse variance against non-staffing budgets offset by a £0.042m underspend on staffing.

Public Health

Budget Group	Budget 2018/19	Cont. from reserve	Revised Budget 2018/19	Forecast Spend 2018/19	Cont. to reserve	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Previous Month Variance	Movement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Children 0-5 Health Visitors	3,718	198	3,916	3,916	0	0	0%	0	0
Children 5-19 Health Programmes	879	0	879	879	0	0	0%	0	0
Sexual Health	1,830	0	1,830	1,830	0	0	0%	0	0
Substance Misuse	2,299	0	2,299	2,299	0	0	0%	0	0
Smoking and Tobacco	317	0	317	317	0	0	0%	0	0
Miscellaneous Public Health Services	1,661	0	1,661	1,661	0	0	0%	0	0
Public Health Grant	(10,905)	0	(10,905)	(10,905)	0	0	0%	0	0
Children 5-19 Healthy Schools Programme	65	0	65	65	0	0	0%	0	0
Healthy Peterborough	10	0	10	10	0	0	0%	0	0
Total Public Health	(126)	198	72	72	0	0	0%	0	0

Public Health savings are on track to be delivered.

Resources

Budget Group	Budget 2018/19	Cont. from reserve	Revised Budget 2018/19	Forecast Spend 2018/19	Cont. to reserve	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Forecast Variance 2018/19	Previous Month Variance	Movement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Director's Office	112	0	112	200		88	79%	86	2
Financial Services	3,284	0	3,284	3,334		50	2%	45	5
Programme Management Office	139	0	139	124		(15)	-11%	(15)	0
Capital Financing	18,321	0	18,321	15,592		(2,729)	-15%	(1,836)	(893)
Corporate Items	4,955	0	4,955	4,919		(36)	-1%	(36)	0
Peterborough Serco Strategic Partnership	5,765	0	5,765	7,870		2,105	37%	2,105	0
ICT	5,302	0	5,302	5,889		587	11%	538	49
Energy	780	0	780	288		(492)	-63%	(294)	(198)
Cemeteries, Cremation & Registrars	(1,390)	0	(1,390)	(1,406)		(16)	1%	(28)	12
Total Resources	37,268	0	37,268	36,810	0	(458)	-1%	565	(1,023)

Capital Financing and Capital Receipts

The forecast underspend for Capital Financing has increased to £2.729m as a result of the decision to apply additional capital receipts to offset the minimum revenue provision (MRP) in the 2018/19 financial year. In addition, the reprofiling of schemes, delays in the timing of capital expenditure and interest rates remaining lower than forecast in the MTFs for the beginning of the year, all contribute

to the cost of new borrowing being forecast lower than originally budgeted. The forecast cost of raising new loans has been based on a capital programme of £118m, of which £73m is based on new borrowing as the timing of the Empower loan repayment is still to be determined. This is based on the capital programme as contained in the Tranche Two Cabinet report. It is still expected for this borrowing requirement to reduce in future months due to reprofiling of the capital programme to a more deliverable level of £100m, however exact details are to be confirmed and therefore has not been factored into the forecast outturn.

Peterborough Serco Strategic Partnership (PSSP)

The overspend forecast in this service is from a combination of three key areas. There is a £0.850m pressure due to the Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) and business transformation (strategic improvement core cost). All items on the ADP should be linked to funding streams as core funding was reduced to nil in last year's budget. This figure will reduce once these allocations are delivered. The following savings that were included in the 2018/19 MTFS, are currently not on track to be achieved.

- The £1m Serco variable spend saving. IT consumable and machine spend has been reduced from previous year's spend via a gatekeeping process. However, overall variable spend with Serco has not yet reduced, due to ongoing programmes of work. Whilst budgets are in place for these works, these are mainly one off, and it has not been possible to make the planned ongoing budget reduction of £1m. The pattern of spend will be kept under constant review and the forecast outturn updated should a reduction in expenditure be experienced in the remaining months which will be used to inform the MTFS setting process.
- The Serco Business support saving of £0.100m.

These pressures are being reviewed to assess the future years MTFS implications. There is also a £0.155m pressure forecast in relation to the PSSP contract inflation budget being different to the assumption applied in the MTFS.

ICT

Savings that were expected to be generated through the implementation of a technology platform across Social Care (PeopleToo) is not now expected to be achieved as planned, creating a £0.137m pressure. The budgeted return on loans to partners to deliver this project has also not materialised as planned creating a £0.131m pressure through loss of interest receipt.

Savings targets in relation to Digital Roadmap project, including guaranteed resale income and also savings through decommissioning ICT Legacy systems and departmental efficiencies are not expected to be fully achieved, causing a £0.792m pressure.

There is a pressure against the core contract budget in 2018/19 due to one-off costs associated with new change controls being implemented £0.219m. However, a rebate received in year within the core contract budget, following a prior year change control notice reconciliation has offset the above pressures by £0.741m.

Energy

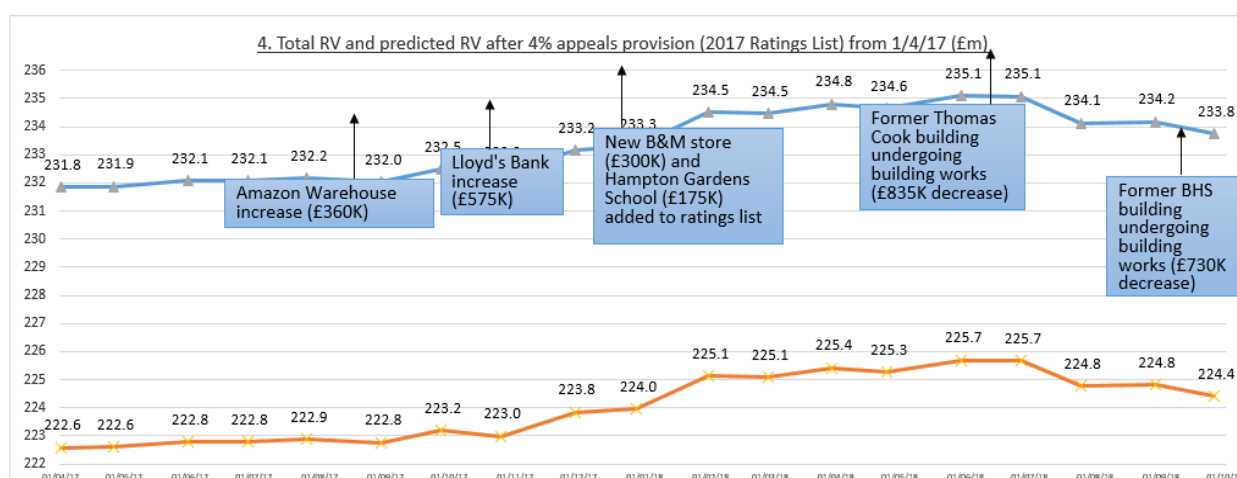
The Council has received additional interest income from extending a loan arrangement with Empower Community Management LLP in respect of solar installations.

Financing

The following table show how the Council's expenditure is funded via council tax, business rates, non-specific grants and use of reserves.

Budget Group	Budget 2018/19 £000	Cont. from reserves £000	Revised Budget 2018/19 £000	Forecast Spend 2018/19 £000	Cont. to reserves £000	Forecast Variance 2018/19 £000	Forecast Variance 2018/19 %	Previous Month Variance £000	Movement £000
Council Tax	(68,110)		(68,110)	(68,110)		0	0.00%	0	0
Council Tax - Adult Social Care precept	(5,328)		(5,328)	(5,328)		0	0.00%	0	0
NNDR Income	(45,465)		(45,465)	(45,514)		(49)	0.11%	(49)	0
NNDR Levy	216		216	216		0	0.00%	0	0
NNDR S31 grants	(3,128)		(3,128)	(3,128)		0	0.00%	0	0
NNDR Tarriff	2,370		2,370	2,370		0	0.00%	0	0
Revenue Support Grant	(15,056)		(15,056)	(15,056)		0	0.00%	0	0
Parish Precept	(586)		(586)	(586)		0	0.00%	0	0
New Homes Bonus	(5,152)		(5,152)	(5,152)		0	0.00%	0	0
Section 31 Grant	(5,742)		(5,742)	(5,742)		0	0.00%	0	0
Contribution from/to Grant Equalisation Reserve	(4,231)		(4,231)	(4,231)		0	0.00%	0	0
Contribution from/to Reserves	0	(1,023)	(1,023)	(1,023)		0	0.00%	0	0
Contribution to Capacity Reserve	0		0	0		0	0.00%	0	0
Collection Fund - Council Tax	(1,188)		(1,188)	(1,188)		0	0.00%	0	0
Collection Fund - NDR	(287)		(287)	(287)		0	0.00%	0	0
Total Financing	(151,687)	(1,023)	(152,710)	(152,759)	0	(49)	0.03%	(49)	0

The following graph outlines the change in the Rateable Value of the properties and the key changes to the properties



Appendix B - Reserves

The Council's departmental reserves and the capacity building reserve are monitored throughout the year and feed into the budget setting process accordingly. The following table summarises the expected balance for all reserves for 2018/19 to 2021/22

Out of the total reserves balance only £10.4m is deemed available or uncommitted, due to restrictions placed on the remaining reserves.

Summary of Reserves	Balance Brought Forward 1.4.18	Cont. from reserves	Cont. to reserves	Movement between reserves	Forecast Balance 31.03.19	Forecast Balance 31.03.20	Forecast Balance 31.03.21
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Fund Balance	6,000	0	0	0	6,000	6,000	6,000
Available Reserves							
Capacity Building Reserve**	12,714	(13,613)	4,687	1,548	5,336	5,301	5,301
Grant Equalisation Reserve*	8,445	(4,231)	0	0	4,214	4,214	4,214
Development Equalisation Reserve	1,233	(1,233)	0	0	0	0	0
Departmental Reserves	5,197	(4,295)	0	0	902	902	902
Subtotal	27,589	(23,372)	4,687	1,548	10,452	10,417	10,417
Ring-Fenced Reserves							
Insurance Reserve***	4,936	0	0	(1,548)	3,388	3,388	3,388
Schools Capital Expenditure Reserve	1,208	0	0	0	1,208	1,208	1,208
Parish Council Burial Ground Reserve	51	0	0	0	51	51	51
Hackney Carriage Reserve	203	0	0	0	203	203	203
School Leases Reserve	243	(15)	0	0	228	178	178
Future Cities Reserve	240	(240)	0	0	0	0	0
Public Health Reserve	428	(198)	0	0	230	230	230
Subtotal	7,310	(453)	0	(1,548)	5,308	5,258	5,258
Total Available, Ring-Fenced reserves & General Fund Balance	40,899	(23,825)	4,687	0	21,760	21,675	21,675

* £4.2m drawn down per approved 2018/19 MTFS

** Capacity Building Reserve

- May be used to finance transformational costs associated with delivery of savings plans outlined in the 2019/20 – 2021/22 MTFS
- £4.4m of Capital receipts will be transferred to Capacity reserve during 2018/19.
- The forecast overspend in 2018/19 of £4.9m will be required to be funded from the Capacity reserve.

*** it should be noted that there has been a transfer of reserves from the Insurance reserve totalling £1.548m, following the actuarial review of the balances. This also includes an estimate for additional risk the council may be exposed to as a result of the Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo).

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Budget Risk Register - The following table highlights the risks which have been identified within the 2018/19 Budget

Dept	Risk	Description	Rag rating	£000	Preventative Management Action taken, or planned
Res	PSSP Indexation	The indexation claim on PSSP contract is still under negotiation with Serco.	Red		Talks are still in progress and hope to have a better view of position and impact at end of next month
Res	ADP resource plan	There are Business Transformation costs within the core PSSP contract that were assumed to be rechargeable as part the ADP resource plan. Some dispute over funding means this needs to be assessed and there is a risk of no funding built in to meet the current costs.	Red		Budget Manager working to gain an understanding the original position on what was in the core fee and what the ADP was designed to do, and then to compare that to what our costs are covering now, and ultimately where they should be funded from.
Res	Saving - Serco Variable Spend reduction	No confirmed extraction for this saving. IT consumable and machine spend has been reduced from previous year's spend via a gatekeeping process. However, overall variable spend with Serco has not yet reduced, due to ongoing programmes of work. Whilst budgets are in place for these works, these are mainly one off, and it has not been possible to make the planned ongoing budget reduction of £1m	Red	1,000	IT consumable and machine spend has been reduced from previous year's spend via a gatekeeping process but appropriate budgets to allocate these savings against are still being identified
Res	Saving - Business Transformation	No Notice of Change (NOC) in place for the achievement of this saving, which was a Serco led initiative leaving all Transformation spending to be funded on a project by project basis.	Red	225	
Res	Saving - Shared and Integrated Services Programme (exc Finance)	No confirmed extraction for this saving	Red	155	
Res	Saving - Business Support	No NOC in place for achievement of this saving	Red	100	
G&R	Corporate Property	Income for letting space at the Town Hall and Fletton Quays is not yet secured	Red		tbc
G&R	Parking Income	Further reduction in income - Staff parking with the move to Sandmartin House, impact of wider agile working, off and on street parking fees	Amber	0	tbc
Gov	Cost of Coroner Service	2018/19 contract costs - lack of clarity on costs charged by Cambridgeshire County Council	Amber	0	tbc
P&C	Independent Sector Providers (ISP)	Additional pressures on Nursing Residential, Delayed Transfer of Care (DTC), Sleep In payments following Mencap court case and Transforming Care service users could increase the ISP overspend	Red	0	tbc
P&C	Homelessness	Demand led area. Should demand increase or mix between accommodation types changes, forecasts could alter	Amber	0	tbc
P&C	TACT placements	Demand led area. If placement mix changes or demand increases, only needs one or two cases to impact significantly	Amber	0	tbc
P&C	Traveller sites	Clearing of traveller sites	Red		tbc
P&C	Clare Lodge	Risk around loss of Income, & the cost of Agency Staff if recruitment and retention strategies are not successful	Amber		

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Appendix D - Asset Investment and Treasury Budget Report as at September 2018

Introduction

The following report provides an update on the Council's Asset Investment Plan and the Treasury activity as at September 2018. It also provides an estimate of the borrowing requirement for 2018/19 to fund this plan.

Asset Investment Plan 2018/19

The revised Asset Investment Plan budget as at September 2018 is £117.5m, which includes £16.1m for Invest to Save (I2S) Schemes. The agreed investment as per the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFS) was £158.7m. The movement between the MTFS position and the £181.3m as at April 2018 was a result of slippages mainly due to delays completing projects from 2017/18.

The actual investment expenditure as at September 2018 is £36.5m (62.1% of the revised budget to date). The latest forecast for expenditure is that it should not exceed £100.0m, therefore the Council is expecting to spend a further £63.5m before March 2019.

The following table shows the breakdown of the Council's Asset Investment over the directorates and how this investment is to be financed.

Directorate	MTFS Budget £000	1st April Budget £000	Current Budget FY £000	Revised Budget YTD £000	Actual YTD £000
Governance	49	49	-	-	-
Growth & Regeneration	53,669	61,721	47,939	23,970	18,331
People & Communities	60,453	66,333	43,336	21,668	14,735
Resources	16,195	1,119	10,120	5,060	3,137
Invest to Save	28,350	52,065	16,107	8,053	272
TOTAL	158,716	181,287	117,502	58,751	36,475
Grants & Contributions	40,486	46,335	42,158	21,079	18,322
Capital Receipts – repayment of loans	1,000	1,000	24,150	500	1,000
Borrowing	117,230	133,952	51,194	37,172	17,153
TOTAL	158,716	181,287	117,502	58,751	36,475

Borrowing and Funding the Asset Investment Plan

It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the level of borrowing it considers to be affordable. The Council's approved Prudential Indicators (affordable, prudent and sustainable limits) are outlined in the Treasury Management Strategy approved as part of the MTFS. The Council borrows only to fund the Asset Investment Plan. The current plan assumes that £51m of the budgeted expenditure will be funded by new borrowing alongside £24m from the repayment of loans.

The Council's total borrowing as at the end of September 2018 was £413.6m (see following table). The level of debt is measured against the Council's Authorised Limit for borrowing of £706.5m which must not be exceeded and the Operational Boundary (maximum working capital borrowing indicator) of £659.7m. These limits are set to enable borrowing in advance

of need to take advantage of favourable loan rates in consideration of future years capital investment programme.

Borrowings	Less than 1yr £000	1-2yrs £000	2-5yrs £000	5-10yrs £000	10+yrs £000	Total £000	Ave. Interest Rate %
PWLB	0	-	11,628	15,715	312,244	339,587	3.6
Local Authority	14,000	20,000	22,500	0	0	56,500	1.7
Market Loans	0	0	0	0	17,500	17,500	4.5
LEP Loan	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Total Borrowing	14,000	20,000	34,128	15,715	329,744	413,587	3.4
% of total Borrowing	3%	5%	8%	4%	80%		
Borrowing Limit (PI)	40%	40%	80%	80%	100%		

The majority of the debt is taken on a 10+yr basis. The Corporate Director: Resources believes it to be prudent to take advantage of a relatively low long term fixed rate of interest as it mitigates some of the risk of PWLB rate rises. Long term interest rates remain relatively low e.g. the standard PWLB rate for 50yr loans including the certainty rate was 2.56% at end of September 2018. The historically low PWLB rates are a result of the investor fears and confidence creating an ebb and flow situation between favouring more risky assets i.e. equities, or the safe haven of bonds and have been fluctuating recently due to uncertainty over Brexit negotiations.

The following table shows the activity in Loans held by the Council for the year to date, with £16m of loans being repaid and £10m of new borrowing taken to fund the capital programme:

Loans Portfolio £000		
April 2018 b/f		419,587
repayment of loans to date	(16,000)	
new loans in year	10,000	
net increase/(decrease) to date		(6,000)
Loans portfolio as at September 2018		413,587

Total interest payable on existing loans for the year (£413.6m) is expected to be £13.9m.

As at September 2018 the Council held £16.8m of S106 and Planning Obligation Implementation Scheme (POIS) funding available for funding Asset Investment projects. To date £8.7m has been earmarked for specific projects. The process for allocation requires project managers to successfully submit project plans meeting the criteria for which the contributions were intended. The S106 Officer is responsible for approving S106 allocations.

Investments

The Council aims to achieve the optimum interest on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate the Council considers it appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cashflow fluctuations. This financial year investment returns have been from Barclays (the Council's banking provider), CCLA Money Market funds, the Debt Management Office and Local Authorities.

As at September 2018 the Council's external investments totalled £12.2m and have yielded interest to date of £0.069m, which reflects both relatively the low cash balances held to minimise the cost of borrowing and low interest rates being available in the economic climate

Capital Receipts

Capital Receipts are used as part of a contribution to fund the Minimum Revenue Provision as approved in the MTFs. Close monitoring of the receipts from asset sales is maintained as any significant change will now have a direct impact on the revenue position.

Capital Receipts are monitored on a monthly basis and each sale given a status of Red, Amber or Green to identify the likely receipt before March 2019. The MTFs includes a contribution of £2.9m Capital Receipts to fund the MRP, with the revised receipts figure including a further £6.7m rolled forward from uncompleted disposals in 2017/18.

Capital Receipts To Off Set Revenue MRP Charge RAG Status	MTFS Budget £000	Revised Budget £000	Received to Date £000	Not yet received £000
Green	-	7,901	2,604	5,297
Amber*	2,922	4,670	-	4,670
Red	-	-	-	-
Total (not inc Investment Assets)	2,922	12,571	2,604	9,967
Investment Assets	-	-	-	-
Total Capital Receipts	2,922	12,571	2,604	9,967

*Revised budget includes an amount relating to Bayard Place

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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 10
17 OCTOBER 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources	
Contact Officer(s):	Pippa Turvey, Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager	Tel. 452460

OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Directors</i>	Deadline date: <i>N/A</i>
It is recommended that Cabinet notes the actions taken in respect of petitions.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted following the submission of E-Petitions, the presentation of petitions to Council officers, and the presentation of petitions at Council meetings.

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 submitted to the Council.
- 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*'.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

E-Petitions Presented

Bretton Court

The petition was submitted by Alan Gasparutti on 17 October 2018. The petition contained 16 valid signatures and called on the Council 'to renovate and repair Bretton Court, and make it suitable to accomodate [sic] the homeless within Peterborough [sic]'.

As the petitions contained less than the minimum number of signatures required by the Petitions Scheme (20) the lead petition was advised that the petition was rejected as invalid and no further action was taken.

Petitions Presented to Councillor Officers

Anti Social Behaviour

The petition was submitted by Fiona Onasanya MP on 14 September 2018. The petition contained 151 valid signatures and is in relation to 'anti social behaviour around the shops at Central Avenue, Dogsthorpe.'

The Head of Services for Prevention and Enforcement responded and advised that the Council had been previously made aware of concerns at the location referred to and, in August 2018, a site meeting took place with the lead Council officers, shop owners, residents and Ward Councillors Dennis Jones and Bella Saltmarsh to discuss similar issues to those raised in the petition.

This led to the identification of a number of actions, which the Council have been working through with the relevant departments to overcome. Examples include: increased parking patrols, working with the Police to request support for ASB / Drug activity, refocusing CCTV cameras to build evidence and monitor activity, working with Cross Keys Homes to implement crime reduction solutions around the shops etc. Since the Council's intervention, local Councillors have continued to visit the area and have reported a decrease in anti-social behaviour in the area and calls for service are reduced.

The Head of Services is confident that recent actions are making a difference, however, noted that the petition raises ongoing concerns. The petitioner was invited to discuss their issues in further details if they wished to do so.

Petitions Presented at Council Meetings

Kings Garden Residents Petition

The petition was submitted by John Peach on 17 October 2018. The petition contained 40 valid signatures and called on the Council to take 'urgent action to make residents feels safer within their homes and the police to actively investigate the constant anti-social behaviour. To investigate the tenants Cross Keys Homes are putting into Elizabeth Court and for Cross Keys Homes to increase the checks made to make on other residents within the area to feel safe and secure.'

The Assistant Director for Community Safety responded and clarified that Elizabeth Court is owned by Cross Keys Homes and is leased by Peterborough City Council to provide temporary accommodation to homeless households. The occupants are not tenants of Cross Keys Homes, and nor do they allocate the placements - this work is carried out by the City Council Housing Needs team. Cross Keys Homes are responsible for overseeing the management of the site and we work in close partnership with them to respond to problems identified such as anti-social behaviour.

It was further advised that a multi-agency meeting was convened with colleagues from Housing Needs (City Council), the ASB team (City Council), and Cross Keys Homes. This has identified that whilst some issues have been reported to services, they are relatively low in number and not all are directly related to Elizabeth Court. It is apparent that there are a number of other anti-social issues in and around this location, most strongly connected to gatherings in the alleyway that links to Park Road.

From the meeting, a number of actions have been agreed to help improve this issue. Some examples include:

- Joint assessments of the proposed placements of homeless households with Cross Keys Homes and the Housing Needs service, to ensure that all potential occupants of properties at Elizabeth Court are a suitable match for this community
- Security improvements to Elizabeth Court to prevent non tenants using the location

- Review of CCTV provision and installation of more signage to notify that the property is being monitored
- Joint work with Police colleagues to respond to allegations of ASB and criminality
- Targeted engagement with residents of Kings Court. Our ASB manager will write to residents to invite more information on the issues to build a clearer picture, as we recognise reporting is low.

The Council will continue to monitor and see through these tasks over the coming weeks, and will provide an update to the petitioner as this progresses.

Cherry Tree Pub

The petition was submitted by Councillor Dowson on 17 October 2018. The petition contained 1286 valid signatures and called on the Council 'to take a more proactive approach towards saving the Cherry Tree Public house. A designated community asset, now standing empty for two years.'

Due to the number of signatures, following the initial response from officers the lead petitioner may request to have the petition debated at Scrutiny, Cabinet or Council.

The Property Records Coordinated responded and acknowledged that the property has been listed as an Asset of Community Value since September 2017, accepted on the register due to its stated history and in recognition of its recent use and value as an asset to the community as stated in the petition.

It was further advised that, unfortunately, the property being listed as an Asset Of Community Value will not provide Peterborough City Council any legal basis to assist in the petition's aims to return the property to full use. The provisions provided by being a listed asset are only invoked upon the intended sale of the premises or upon receipt of a planning application to change the use or demolish the property.

The Petitioner was referred to the below extract from guidelines issued during the application process:

In most cases, once an asset is listed the owner cannot then dispose of it without:

- *Notifying the local authority of their intent to sell the asset or grant a lease of more than 25 years.*
- *Waiting until the end of a six week "interim moratorium" period if the local authority does not receive a request from a local community interest group to be treated as a potential bidder.*
- *Waiting until the end of a six month "full moratorium" period if the local authority receives a request from a local community interest group to be treated as a potential bidder.*

It is important to note that the owner does not have to sell the asset to the community interest group. Listing as an Asset of Community Value may also be taken into account in any application for planning permission. This will not necessarily prevent a change of use but in certain circumstances may add additional protection to the existing use of the asset.

Unfortunately as it appears that in this case the private owners do not wish to sell or alter the use of the building these conditions will not be triggered. Enquiries have been made into the legal position and at this time, as the building is not a listed historic building there are no provisions within law under these circumstances to force the private owner to sell or put the property to any particular use.

5. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

5.1 As the petitions presented in this report have been dealt with by Cabinet Members or officers, it is appropriate that the action taken is reported to Cabinet.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 There have been no alternative options considered.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal, financial, or equalities implications arising from the issues considered.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

8.1 Petitions presented to the Council and responses from officers.

9. APPENDICES

9.1 None.