

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 10
4 MARCH 2015	PUBLIC REPORT

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING

1. DECISIONS FROM CABINET MEETING HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2015

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

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

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

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

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

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2013/14

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

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

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED**:

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

2. DECISIONS FROM CABINET MEETING HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2015

PETERBOROUGH CULTURE STRATEGY 2015-2020

Cabinet received a report from the Cabinet Member for City Centre Management and Tourism.

Culture and Leisure Services were long established priorities of the Council. The Council published a cultural strategy five years ago to deliver its priorities up to 2014.

Recognising the need to take a fresh look at its approach and priorities to develop a new culture strategy, the Council had developed a refreshed strategy, as set out within the document 'Peterborough Culture Strategy 2015-2020'.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED**:

To approve the Peterborough Culture Strategy 2015-2020 and to recommend its adoption to Council.

FUTURE OF WIND AND SOLAR PROJECTS

Cabinet received a report which followed an internal review by officers and consideration by the Cabinet Member.

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

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

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

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve the cessation of the solar/wind projects at the farms of Newborough and Morris Fen and that the two planning applications be withdrawn;
2. That in respect of America Farm, no further action is to be taken due to the insufficient information available at this stage; and
3. That in line with the Council's budget strategy, all cost be written off on the basis of a worst case scenario that the remaining scheme does not proceed.

BUDGET 2015/16 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) 2024/25

Cabinet received a report which formed part of the Council's formal budget process set out within the constitution and legislative requirements to set a balanced budget for 2015/16 and medium term financial strategy to 2024/25.

The purpose of the report was to recommend to Council budget proposals for 2015/16 through to 2024/25, in line with the final local government finance settlement for 2015/16 and in advance of some Department for Education specific grants being finalised. The draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was presented during the Cabinet meeting of 19 January and, subject to updated information contained within the report, was the basis for Cabinet to recommend the budget for approval by Council. Attached to the report were the relevant documents Cabinet referred to within the report.

The report also provided an update on budget consultation responses received so far, recognising that that the consultation remained open until 2 March and that some meetings with key stakeholder groups were still to take place.

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

1. Note the updates on the budget since the Cabinet's meeting on 19 January including: the announcement of the final Local Government Finance Settlement, the Council decision on 28 January of the Council Tax Support Scheme and the impact on the tax base.
2. Have regard to the consultation feedback received to date and statutory advice detailed in the report when determining the budget recommendations, noting that consultation

remains open and further update will be provided at the Cabinet meeting and to the Council meeting.

3. Agree the budget proposals in the report, which include the updates detailed in paragraph 4.1 and additional proposals as agreed at the meeting, be approved and recommended to Council on 4 March 2015, namely:
 - a) The budget is set in the context of council priorities;
 - b) The budget for 2015/16 takes note of the budget monitoring position for 2014/15;
 - c) The revenue budget for 2015/16 and proposed cash limits for 2016/17 to 2024/25 (including investment and savings proposals);
 - d) The capital programme for 2015/16 and proposed cash limits to 2024/25 and associated capital strategy, treasury management strategy and asset management plan;
 - e) A council tax freeze in 2015/16 with indicative increases for planning purposes of 2% for 2016/17 to 2024/25;
 - f) That education funding is spent at the level of funding resources available to both schools and the council in 2015/16 and future estimates to 2024/25;
 - g) The budget is supported adequately with reserves, provisions and robust budget estimates set in the context of the risks outlined in the report;
 - h) The proposals for setting fees and charges for 2015/16;
 - l) To allocate £70,000 from the risk management contingency for 2015/16 to enable the library proposals to be amended to allow a staff presence at all times within the larger libraries across the city, and to assist with the implementation plans (noting that Cabinet will not make a final decision on library options until their meeting of 20thMarch);
 - J) To increase the capital sum for Street Cleansing by£200,000 in order to enable further investment into making services more efficient and to help keep our city clean; with the capital financing costs in 2015/16 of £4k being met from the risk management contingency, and
 - K) To maintain the risk management contingency at a minimum level of £500,000.
4. Note the approved and submitted declaration of the deficit on the Collection Fund with regards to business rates for 2014/15 and the business rates forecast for 2015/16.
5. Approve the discretionary retail relief scheme, the discretionary reoccupation relief scheme and the transitional relief scheme for businesses for 2015/16; and
6. Have regard for the continuing uncertainty of national public finances and that it may become necessary to amend the budget in year if there are national changes to public spending following the general election in May.

OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

Cabinet received a report following the presentation of petitions to Full Council on 28 January 2015.

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

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED:**

To note the actions taken in respect of petitions presented to Council (as detailed below).

i. Petition relating to Fulbridge Road Allotments

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

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

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

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

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

3. CALL-IN BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OR COMMISSION

Since the publication of the previous report to Council, the call-in mechanism has been invoked twice.

- i. This was in respect of the decision taken by Cabinet on 19 January 2015 relating to 'Strategic Partnership between Peterborough City Council and AVIC International Corporation (UK) Ltd'. The call-in request was considered by the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee on 3 February 2015. Following consideration of the reasons stated on the request for call-in and the response to the call-in, the Committee did **not** agree to the call-in of this decision on any of the reasons stated.

Under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution (Part 4, Section 8, and paragraph 13), implementation of the decision would take immediate effect.

- ii. This was in respect of the decision taken by Cabinet on 2 February 2015 relating to 'A1139 Fletton Parkway Junction 17 A1(M) to Junction 2 road widening scheme, contamination and drainage issues – JAN15/CAB/11'. The call-in request was considered by the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee on 16 February 2015. Following consideration of the reasons stated on the request for call-in and the response to the call-in, the Committee did **not** agree to the call-in of this decision on any of the reasons stated.

Under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution (Part 4, Section 8, and paragraph 13), implementation of the decision would take immediate effect, however the following recommendation was also made:

That a report be brought back to the Committee at the beginning of the next municipal year which provides a full review of the Fletton Parkway Scheme to include the following information:

- i. The different procurement options for highway contracts including fixed price and target cost contracts.
- ii. Details of the different stages of delivery of major highway schemes, using the Fletton Parkway Junction 17-2 scheme as an example.

4. SPECIAL URGENCY AND WAIVE OF CALL-IN PROVISIONS

Since the publication of the previous report to Council, the urgency provisions have not been invoked.

5. CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

CABINET MEMBER AND DATE OF DECISION	REFERENCE	DECISION TAKEN
Councillor Gavin Elsey 26 January 2015	JAN15/CMDN/09	Coroner Shared Service with Cambridgeshire County Council The Cabinet Member agreed the secondment of a Cambridgeshire County Council Coroner's Officer to the Coroner's Service of Peterborough.
Councillor Gavin Elsey 26 January 2015	JAN15/CMDN/10	Proposals for the Future Coroners Service The Cabinet Member approved: 1) The business case for the merger of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire's coronial areas to be combined into a single coronial area by the end of April 2015, 2) The application to the Ministry of Justice from Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to consider making an order for a single coronial area on the grounds of the business case; and 3) The Council to enter into discussions with CCC to explore a shared support service for the Council's coroner's office; and 4) That delegated authority be given to the Director of Governance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Street Scene, Waste Management and Communications, to agree the terms of a shared support services agreement with CCC, provided it is beneficial to the Council.
Councillor Peter Hiller 6 February 2015	FEB15/CMDN/13	The Mobile Homes Act 2013 Fees Policy The Cabinet Member authorised a period of 8 weeks for public consultation in relation to a Fees Policy document, including utilising the option to calculate annual fees on a banding basis, and the exemption of certain sites from its annual fee charge.

<p>Councillor Peter Hiller</p> <p>12 February 2015</p>	<p>FEB15/CMDN/14</p>	<p>Award of Grant to the Environment Agency</p> <p>The Cabinet Member approved the award of a grant of £34,000 to the Environment Agency ('the Agency') for them to use in delivering workstream one of the Werrington Brook Improvements Programme. The Agency is leading workstream one.</p>
<p>Councillor Lucia Serluca</p> <p>23 February 2015</p>	<p>FEB15/CMDN/15</p>	<p>Provision of CCTV Services</p> <p>The Cabinet Member approved the execution of a service agreement between Peterborough City Council and Cross Keys Homes Limited for the provision of CCTV services to Cross Keys Homes Limited by the Council for which the Council receives payment.</p>