

<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY PANEL</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 6</b>
<b>4 NOVEMBER 2008</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Director of Strategic Resources**

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### **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to notify the Panel of the Executive Decisions which have been taken and which relate to the Panel's remit.

#### **2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

##### **2.1 Peterborough Public Realm Strategy**

Cabinet considered the Public Realm Strategy (now renamed the "Streets, Squares and Spaces Strategy") which, if agreed by Council, would become part of the Council's Major Policy Framework as a strategy to improve/redevelop an area of the city. The strategy examines the background and context to the city centre's public realm; sets out strategic aims and objectives; identifies different character areas and the design principles that should apply to each one; establishes principles for the use of materials and detailing; and makes proposals for management and maintenance.

There are 10 principles underlying the strategy:

- The re-attachment of the railway station to the historic core
- The re-attachment of the river to the city centre
- A fine grain - small units and many doors
- A vibrant place in the evening as well as in the day
- Residents in the city centre
- A city centre designed for cyclists and walkers
- Places to sit and places to eat
- Public spaces as informal arenas
- Public spaces as arenas for festivals and events
- A public realm that is distinctively Peterborough

**CABINET RESOLVED TO:**

Agree the Streets, Squares and Spaces Strategy as the Authority's overall strategy for improvements to the public realm of Peterborough city centre and recommend the approach to Full Council.

### *Reasons*

The Strategy is recommended for approval as part of the package of measures which contribute to two of the Council's strategic priorities – to plan and deliver a safe, attractive and environmentally friendly city; and to make Peterborough a better place in which to live and work. It will contribute to the priority outcome of the Sustainable Community Strategy – Creating a safe, vibrant city centre and sustainable neighbourhood centres. Improvements to the public realm have also been demonstrated to contribute to the economic growth of cities, with measurable impact on surrounding property values.

### *Alternative Options Considered*

The alternative option is not to produce and approve a Public Realm Strategy. This was rejected because, if there was no strategy, the state of the public realm would continue to deteriorate; the quality of the environment in comparison to that of neighbouring cities would deter shoppers, tourists, visitors and businesses; individual works in the public realm would be carried out in an ad hoc fashion, producing an incoherent city centre; and the potential to capture contributions to public realm improvements through planning obligations would be reduced.

### **3. IMPLICATIONS**

Implications are contained within each individual decision notice.

### **4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

The Panel is asked to consider the Executive Decisions which are relevant to the remit of the Panel and which have been made since the last meeting and if felt appropriate, to identify any decisions they may wish to examine in more detail.

### **5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

Executive Decision notices from 17 September 2008.