

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING
HELD AT 16:00PM, ON
MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2023
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Cabinet Members Present: Councillor Fitzgerald (Chair), Councillor Steve Allen, Councillor Jackie Allen, Councillor Ayres, Councillor Coles, Councillor Cereste, Councillor Hussain, Councillor Simons

Cabinet Advisor Present: Councillor Over, Councillor Ray and Councillor Gul Nawaz

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tyler.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations interest received.

38. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETINGS HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2023

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 18 September 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

39. PETITIONS PRESENTED TO CABINET

There were no petitions presented to Cabinet.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

40. SALES, FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW

The Cabinet received a report in relation to Sales, Fees and Charges Review.

The purpose of this report was for Cabinet to provide an overview of the activity being undertaken as part of the comprehensive review of Sales Fees and Charges and proposes some increases for immediate implementation

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Legal and Corporate Governance introduced the report and provided an overview of the key points. It was proposed that an amendment to the fees charged for a second garden waste bin be reduced from £50 to £30.

Cabinet Members debated the report and in summary responses to questions raised included:

- It was vital to keep reviewing sales, fees and charges in order to keep pace with inflation. Benchmarking had been done against other local authorities to ensure they were in line with what was being charged.

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

1. Endorse the increases in Fees and Charges as outlined in this report with the exception of the cost of the second Garden Waste bin (which is proposed to increase by £30 rather than £50).
2. Recommends to Full Council the approval of the increases to Fees and Charges as set out in this report.

41. PETERBOROUGH INTEGRATED RENEWABLES INFRASTRUCTURE (PIRI)

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the Peterborough Integrated Renewables Infrastructure (PIRI).

The purpose of this report was to consider the route to delivery of the PIRI project as detailed in this report and appendices.

A further report will be submitted to Cabinet in 2024 which should include the Full Business Case recommending construction, seeking approval to proceed with the construction of the project.

The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change introduced the report and provided an overview of the key points.

Cabinet Members debated the report and in summary responses to questions raised included:

- The legal entity with regards to the partnership arrangements are yet to be determined. It was likely this would be agreed at the commercialisation and procurement stages. Officers were looking at creating a special purpose vehicle, the arrangements for this had yet to be determined. It was also important at that stage to understand what role the Council was going to play in the partnership.
- Before any decision was made on the partnership arrangements these would be presented to Councillors.
- Officers had been working with several businesses in terms of the footprint of the project, primarily this was around the Fengate area and centre of the city. A recent networking event was held with key customers who confirmed they still wanted to be a part of this project. In the next phase of the project draft terms would be drawn up with these companies.
- In terms of references to politics officer confirmed that this was in relation to national politics, this was because the national government had the ability to make changes to the legislation that could affect how the project was delivered.
- This was a great example of how environmental changes should be done, it was not about stopping people doing things, but rather using modern technologies to deliver a green project.
- The whole PIRI project had seven phases of construction. At this time the Council was focusing on the first two phases. Further phases would take the project into the north of the city and potentially south of the river.
- This was the most important project the city had, it was about delivering the future and doing so in a proper way.
- The project was at a critical point, it was important that the project was adaptable, looking at how much energy could be generated and supplied through this network.

- In terms of expansion this initially would come down to the demand that the businesses require. It was too early to say how it would work. Officers were looking at balancing demand and supply as there was a risk of over committing.
- This was a great initiative and officers had worked hard to deliver this. This was a great project for the future and would provide a number of benefits to the city going forward.

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

1. the route to delivery of the PIRI project, via a partnership arrangement, as set out in section 4.2.2 of this report, including the procurement of a partner.
2. Authorising the Interim Director of Legal and Governance to enter into any legal agreements or documentation on behalf of the Council to facilitate the decision in recommendation one.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Should approval from Cabinet on 16 October 2023 be received, the work required to procure a potential partner will proceed. A full business case will be produced which will examine potential structuring arrangements. Following these steps Cabinet will be asked to approve the final delivery structure in order to complete the commercialisation phase of the project by October 2024.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The alternative structures considered are described in the main body of the report

42. DISPOSAL OF THE DICKENS STREET AND WELLINGTON STREET CAR PARKS

The Cabinet received a report in relation to the disposal of the Dickens Street and Wellington Street Car Parks.

The purpose of this report was to request approval for the disposal of assets, namely the Dickens Street and Wellington Street car parks.

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Legal and Corporate Governance introduced the report and provided an overview of the key points.

Cabinet Members debated the report and in summary responses to questions raised included:

- It was important that car parking was placed in the right areas of the city. The Council was trying to promote better commutable routes, along with more cycle routes. This would create better transport links into the city.

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

1. the disposal of the former Dickens Street and Wellington Street car parks.
2. Delegating authority to the Executive Director for Corporate Services, in consultation with the Executive Director for Place and Economy, the Interim Director of Legal and Governance, and the Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services to take all necessary steps to facilitate the decision in Recommendation 1, including completing due diligence, approving the final terms of disposal and entering into any necessary agreements.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The recommendation is put forward to seek approval to dispose of the car parks and to be able to take all necessary steps to facilitate the sale including negotiating with third parties.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

To do nothing – This option was discounted as the car parks are currently underutilised. Also, this area of the city is in need of regeneration through new development that benefits new and existing communities.

Chair
4pm to 4.35pm
16 October 2023