

**CABINET RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
AT ITS MEETING ON 19 JANUARY 2011**

Item	Recommendation	Response to Recommendations
<p>Neighbourhood Council Review – Part One</p>	<p>Cabinet is requested to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree that the principle of delegating as much revenue and capital funding as possible is a driving principle behind Neighbourhood Councils, in line with the spirit of the new Localism Bill, and that this principle is agreed by Councillors and shared with officers. 2. Commit to reviewing the Constitutional delegations to Neighbourhood Councils in support of maximising funding delegated to them. 3. Agree that the current level of £25,000 funding is guaranteed from 2011/12 onwards as a minimum sum available to each Neighbourhood Council to be offset by any POIS monies that become available to each Neighbourhood Council. 4. Agree that the process for determining and allocating POIS monies be carefully assessed and agreed to ensure that all parts of Peterborough benefit from growth and new development. 	<p>Cabinet received a report on the outcome of a review of Neighbourhood Councils which had been undertaken by the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Task and Finish Group. Cabinet was asked to consider the conclusions and agree the recommendations of Part One of the review.</p> <p>Following amendments to some of the proposed recommendations, Cabinet RESOLVED to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree that the principle of delegating as much revenue and capital funding as possible is a driving principle behind Neighbourhood Councils, in line with the spirit of the new Localism Bill, and that this principle is agreed by Councillors and shared with officers. 2. Commit to reviewing the Constitutional delegations to Neighbourhood Councils in support of maximising funding delegated to them. 3. Agree that the current level of £25,000 funding is guaranteed from 2011/12 for the medium term financial plan as a minimum sum available to each Neighbourhood Council to be offset by any POIS monies that become available to each Neighbourhood Council. 4. Agree that the process for determining and allocating POIS monies be carefully assessed and agreed to ensure that all parts of Peterborough benefit from growth and new development.

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	<p>5. Agree that mainstream revenue budgets are disaggregated, wherever possible, feasible and legal, and delegated to Neighbourhood Councils. In agreeing to this a pilot programme to be implemented focussing on a specific part of Council activity before a more expansive roll-out programme.</p> <p>6. Agree that Neighbourhood Plans are produced for each of the Neighbourhood Council areas in line with the thinking articulated in the Localism Bill in order to help determine how all funding and other resources delegated to Neighbourhood Councils should be spent.</p> <p>7. Agree that the Community Leadership Fund is maintained at £10,000 per ward, but that 25% of that budget is allocated by Councillors to meet needs identified through the Neighbourhood Council Neighbourhood Planning process.</p> <p>8. Agree that the frequency of Neighbourhood Council meetings be maintained at four per year in each area and that any future change to this pattern should see an <i>increase</i> rather than <i>decrease</i> in the frequency of meetings.</p>	<p>5. Agree that mainstream revenue budgets are disaggregated, wherever possible, feasible and legal, and delegated to Neighbourhood Councils. In agreeing to this a pilot programme to be implemented focussing on a specific part of Council activity before a more expansive roll-out programme.</p> <p>6. Agree that Neighbourhood Plans are produced for each of the Neighbourhood Council areas in line with the thinking articulated in the Localism Bill in order to help determine how all funding and other resources delegated to Neighbourhood Councils should be spent.</p> <p>7. Agree that the Community Leadership Fund is maintained at £10,000 per ward, but that 25% of that budget is allocated, if all ward members agree, to meet needs identified through the Neighbourhood Council Neighbourhood Planning process.</p> <p>8. Agree that the frequency of Neighbourhood Council meetings be maintained at four per year in each area and that any future change to this pattern should see an increase rather than decrease in the frequency of meetings.</p>

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	<p>9. Agree that a thorough review be conducted of all other community-based meetings with a view to combining meetings wherever possible.</p> <p>10. Agree that the ongoing but separate review of the Rural North Neighbourhood Council be included in the overall review of Neighbourhood Councils to ensure shared learning and avoidance of confusion and misinformation.</p> <p>11. Agree that Neighbourhood Management Delivery meetings, led by the relevant Neighbourhood Manager, be created in all Neighbourhood Council areas as a means of engaging and progressing actions between Neighbourhood Council meetings.</p> <p>12. Agree that minimal staffing costs be maintained by ensuring only essential Council officers are present at each Neighbourhood Council meeting.</p> <p>13. Agree that ALL Councillors are encouraged, through a flexible and modern programme of continuous training and development, to actively</p>	<p>9. Agree that a thorough review be conducted of all other community-based meetings with a view to combining meetings wherever possible.</p> <p>10. Agree that the ongoing but separate review of the Rural North Neighbourhood Council be included in the overall review of Neighbourhood Councils to ensure shared learning and avoidance of confusion and misinformation.</p> <p>11. Agree that Neighbourhood Management Delivery meetings, led by the relevant Neighbourhood Manager, be created in all Neighbourhood Council areas as a means of engaging and progressing actions between Neighbourhood Council meetings.</p> <p>12. Agree that minimal staffing costs be maintained by ensuring only essential Council officers are present at each Neighbourhood Council meeting.</p> <p>13. Agree that ALL Councillors are encouraged, through a flexible and modern programme of continuous training and development, to actively participate in all aspects of Neighbourhood Council business, this training and development programme to incorporate</p>

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	<p>participate in all aspects of Neighbourhood Council business, this training and development programme to incorporate the broader aspects of Neighbourhood Management, Localism and Big Society.</p> <p>14. Agree that the Special Responsibility Allowance for Neighbourhood Council Chairs is no longer awarded; reflecting the greater role to be played by ALL Councillors in relation to Neighbourhood Councils and that each of the seven Neighbourhood Councils should elect its own Chair who should be a Councillor from one of the wards represented at that Neighbourhood Council.</p> <p>15. Agree that the Recommendations form part of an overall implementation plan for Neighbourhood Councils alongside the recommendations that emerge from part two of the Review to be overseen by the cross-party working group formed from the task and finish group; and that the Constitution be updated accordingly to reflect any recommended changes.</p>	<p>the broader aspects of Neighbourhood Management, Localism and Big Society.</p> <p>14. Agree that the agreed recommendations form part of an overall implementation plan for Neighbourhood Councils alongside the agreed recommendations that emerge from part two of the Review to be overseen by the cross-party working group formed from the task and finish group; and that the Constitution be updated accordingly to reflect any agreed recommended changes.</p> <p>Cabinet further RESOLVED to:</p> <p>1. Agree that a rural Councillor be a member of the review panel for the separate review of the Rural North Neighbourhood Council indicated in recommendation 10 above.</p> <p>2. Disagree that Special Responsibility Allowance for Neighbourhood Council Chairs is no longer awarded; reflecting the greater role to be played by ALL Councillors in relation to Neighbourhood Councils and that each of the seven Neighbourhood Councils should elect its own Chair who should be a Councillor from one of the wards represented at that Neighbourhood Council.</p> <p>REASONS FOR THE DECISION</p> <p>This report came to Cabinet following a request from the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee to conduct a review of Neighbourhood Councils. The review has taken into account the learning and experience from the first year of operations, in order to produce the recommendations for their continued development.</p>