



## **CABINET**

**WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2010**

## **DECISIONS**

**Present:**

Councillor B Hoare (Chair) Councillor PD Varnserry (Deputy Chair)  
Councillors Beardsworth, Church, Crake, B Markham and Perkins

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 10 February 2010. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

These decisions will come into force and then may be implemented on the expiry of three working days after the publication of this list.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Jo Darby at [jdarby@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:jdarby@northampton.gov.uk).

**THIS LIST OF DECISIONS PUBLISHED:**

THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2010

**DATE OF EXPIRY OF CALL IN:**

TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 17:00 HOURS

### **5. Issues Arising from Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
	None

**A. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - TO INVESTIGATE THE  
FACILITIES FOR OLDER CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS  
AND WHAT FURTHER FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES ARE  
REQUIRED**

The recommendations to Cabinet from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee are noted and it has been agreed that a copy of the report will be sent to the County Council.

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
	Councillor Church declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a member of WNDC Board

## **6. Outcome of Government's Quinquennial Review of West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC)**

1. Cabinet has noted the Government announcement following the Quinquennial Review of WNDC and welcomes the statement that the regeneration of Northampton remains a Government priority.
2. Cabinet has noted that many points which were pressed by the Council through Scrutiny and Cabinet and Council have been accepted in whole or part by the Government.
3. Cabinet has welcomed the commitment to return planning powers to the Borough Council and urges that this should happen as quickly as possible.
4. Cabinet has welcomed the commitment to replace WNDC with a locally accountable delivery vehicle at the end of its life and urges that this should happen earlier if at all possible.
5. Cabinet has reiterated this Council's view that any replacement for WNDC must have a prime and clear priority focus on the growth and development of Northampton as a town.
6. Cabinet has welcomed the Government's commitment to operational efficiency and instructs Officers to create one of the most, if not the most, efficient and effective Planning and Regeneration services in the country.
7. Cabinet has instructed the Chief Executive and the Director of Planning and Regeneration to work positively with WNDC and partners on the implementation of the conclusion of the Quinquennial Review and to report back to Cabinet and Scrutiny as required.

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
	None

## **7. Approval of Introductory and Secure Tenancy Agreements**

The draft Introductory Tenancy agreement and the draft Secure Tenancy agreement attached respectively in Appendices 2 and 3 of the Cabinet report are approved and authorisation is given to the variation of tenants' existing terms and conditions of tenancy.

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
	Councillor Church declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as a close relative of a retailer in St Giles Street

## **8. Definition of Town Centre Primary Retail Frontages and Primary Retail Area**

1. Cabinet has noted the proposed amended timetable for the adoption of the Central Area Action Plan as set out in the West Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme submitted to Government Office for the East Midlands in December 2009 and the changes to PPS4.
2. Cabinet has approved the primary and secondary frontages and a primary shopping area within the town centre for consultation.
3. The primary and secondary frontages and a primary shopping area are to be used to inform the Council's planning policy position in the determination of planning applications by it and West Northamptonshire Development Corporation.

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
	None

## **9. Wootton Conservation Area Re-Appraisal**

It is agreed that:

- The responses to the consultation and officer responses be noted.
- The appraisal and management plan, including the proposed boundary amendments, attached to the Cabinet report be approved.

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
	None

## **10. Award of Build Contract on the Local Authority new Build Scheme**

1. It is agreed that the Director of Housing in Consultation with the Portfolio Holder, is to be given delegated authority to approve the appointment of the successful tender and agree the final terms of contract.
2. It is agreed that the Borough Solicitor in Consultation with the Director of Housing and Portfolio Holder for Housing is to be given delegated authority to consider, amend if necessary and execute the local authority new build grant agreement with the Homes and Communities Agency.

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<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
<b>Item No</b>	None

### **11. Leisure and Sport Strategic Business Review - Facilities Strategy**

1. Cabinet has approved the Facilities Strategy, attached to the Cabinet report and produced by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP), as the basis for future development of such facilities.
2. It is noted that the Strategy will form part of the robust evidence base for the Local Development Framework (LDF), and that further consultation of the Strategy and proposals within it which are proposed to be adopted by the LDF will take place as part of the LDF process.

### **12. Performance**

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<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
<b>Item No</b>	None

#### **A. PERFORMANCE MONTHLY REPORT - DECEMBER 2009**

The contents of the report are noted.

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<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
<b>Item No</b>	None

#### **B. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING - DECEMBER 2009**

The report and the forecast under spend of £283k net of management action are noted

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<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
<b>Item No</b>	None

#### **C. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT MONITORING - DECEMBER 2009**

The report and the forecast overspend of £110k on the Net Cost of Services are noted.

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<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
<b>Item No</b>	None

#### **D. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING, PROJECT APPRAISALS AND VARIATIONS - DECEMBER 2009**

1. The following variations to schemes in the capital programme for 2009-10 are approved.

<b>Scheme Reference, Description &amp; Directorate</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>2009-10 £</b>	<b>Future Years £</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
<b>Budget Increase</b>				
2007-08 GI0009 V03 E-Payments Chip & Pin  Finance & Support	There were unforeseen complications during the project, which resulted in the need for additional resource to ensure project deadlines were met. The E-returns did not work when they went live, which meant that each individual E-return had to be rebuilt. The additional budget required will be funded by an increase in prudential borrowing.	4,103	-	Prudential Borrowing
2008-09/GF045B V05 CMP Building Energy Management System  Environment & Culture	An increase in budget is necessary due to additional work being required. The unallocated Salix grant funding and prudential borrowing that is ringfenced for carbon management projects will fund this.	673	-	50% Salix Grant, 50% Prudential Borrowing
<b>Budget Decrease</b>				
2008-09 GF036 V06 & 2009-10 GF066 V01 CMP Pipework Insulation  Environment &	Pipework insulation has been completed at Lings Forum, Mounts Baths, Danes Camp Leisure Centre and the Guildhall.	(4,374)	-	50% Salix Grant, 50% Prudential Borrowing

Culture	The cost of all of these pieces of work are less than originally thought, therefore the budgets need to be reduced. There will be no savings arising from this variation; the funding will be reinvested in other carbon management projects, in line with the terms and conditions of the external funding.			
2009-10/GF057 V01 Danes Camp Flume Relining  Environment & Culture	A supplier has been found that can carry out the project in a method that causes little disruption to the pool's timetable therefore eliminating the necessity to close. The project costs are also much less than originally budgeted for which reduces the amount of capital funding required.	(8,000)	-	GF Revenue Contribution
<b>Movement Between Years</b>				
2008-09/GF057 V01 Upton Country Park Pedestrian & Cycle Bridge  Planning & Regeneration	The delivery of the project is delayed due to a third party land ownership issue and incorrect base data provided by the Environment Agency. The original cost estimate did not have a sufficient	(654,000)	1,321,217	Section 106

	allowance for the necessary temporary works and access costs to construct the bridge. The revised cost has been compiled with input from a civil engineering contractor.			
2009-10/GF067 V01 Camp Hill MUGA  Environment & Culture	Due to construction lead times and time to source materials being longer than originally stated, construction will now take place next financial year.	(47,150)	47,150	The Big Lottery
2009-10/HRA002 V03 Cooper Street Heating Improvements Phase 2  Housing HRA	As a result of the recent severe weather conditions and the outcome of the risk assessment undertaken, works on this project will not be completed this financial year. It is proposed to slip £586,640 into next financial year, so that works can carry be completed in warmer weather, when tenants will not require their heating.	(586,640)	586,640	MRA
2009-10/HRA004 V06 Decent Homes & Poor Condition  Housing HRA	Slippage into next financial year is required due to contract start date on site being later than initially planned.	(765,000)	765,000	HRA Earmarked Reserve, MRA & RTB Capital Receipts
2009-10/HRA005 V03 Garage Roofs & Doors  Housing HRA	A garage review is underway, identifying the sites for improvement or development. It is	(21,882)	21,882	MRA

	not appropriate to carry out works until the review is complete and the overall position on garages has been assessed. It is therefore requested to slip the remaining budget for this project into next financial year in order to fulfil the works highlighted from the review.			
2009-10/HRA009 V02 Environmental Enhancements  Housing HRA	This project was slow to start due to: 1) Issues with residents consultation. 2) Design of schemes. 3) Leaseholder consultation. Therefore not all of the budget will be spent in 2009-10 and it is proposed to move £24,520 into 2010-11.	(24,520)	24,520	MRA
2009-10/HRA013 V03 Adhoc Doors & Window Replacements  Housing HRA	Slippage is required into the next financial year due to planned works being delayed because of the severe weather conditions during December and January.	(12,000)	12,000	MRA
2009-10/HRA015 V03 Lifts Refurbishment  Housing HRA	The start date of this project was delayed due to issues with section 20 notices. Works will start this financial year, but will not be completed until 2010-11.	(130,000)	130,000	MRA



Further details of these variations can be seen at Annex A of this report.

2. The following is noted:

- a) The capital programme monitoring position as at end of December 2009, including forecast outturns, revenue expenditure funded by capital and slippage into 2010-11, as set out at Annex B, C and D.
- b) The funding arrangements for the 2009-10 capital programme as set out at Annex E.

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<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b>
<b>Item No</b>	None

#### **14. The Service and Maintenance of Hard Wired Sheltered Housing Schemes and Private Life Lines**

1. Cabinet has approved an extension to the current contract for a maximum period of 12 months to:
  - allow for the tender of a new contract to ensure quality of service and value for money
  - ensure provision of essential maintenance service to the Council's emergency alarm installations
2. Cabinet has agreed to delegate any further decisions regarding an extension of the existing contract to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
3. A further report is to be received by cabinet on the proposed award of the new contract at a later date.