

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

Key Decisions Forward Plan

Supplementary Notices



PUBLISHED 25 MARCH 2010

INTRODUCTION

In order to ensure openness and accountability, the Forward Plan of key decisions has been prepared to set out clearly the **key decisions** that the Cabinet and Council Officers will be taking over the next twelve months.

The Plan is updated on a monthly basis and seeks to include all issues that are defined as “key decisions” in accordance with the Council’s Constitution and identifies which body will make the decision.

This document contains **Supplementary Notices**, that is notices for decisions that are required to be taken, but were not anticipated at the time of the last monthly update.

The Plan tries to anticipate the issues that will be the subject of a key decision within a given timescale. For each item, this Plan includes:

- a description of the item for decision
- who will take the decision
- the date or period within which it will be taken
- groups identified for consultation and how this will be undertaken
- the process and timescale for persons wishing to make representations
- a list of documents that will be used in consideration of the matter

Key Decision - Definition

The definition of a key decision is set out in Part 2, Article 13 “Decision Making” of the Council’s Constitution which states:

- A decision should be a Key Decision on financial grounds if it relates to any of the following:

expenditure or savings proposal not included within approved capital or revenue budgets (including new schemes, external funding bids, increased spending on or transfers/virements between budgeted schemes):

- estimated at over £50,000 in total (gross), or
 - where there are unbudgeted net revenue costs or other potential liabilities arising in current or future years.
- i. Any other initiative that relates to or would result in potential savings of over £50,000 in any year, which are not provided for in the approved budget.
 - ii. The allocation of revenue or capital grants (receivable or payable) or any general budget allocations where their specific use or method of allocation has not previously been approved by Cabinet. This also covers any proposals to delegate such arrangements.
 - iv. The award of contracts over £50,000.
 - v. Proposals that involve taking on the role of Accountable Body for a particular

initiative.

- vi. The carry forward of under- or overspends, irrespective of amount.
- vii. Increasing future years' spending forecasts in line with any flexibility authorised by Council, irrespective of amount.

With the exception of the following which shall not be a Key Decision:

- Transactions carried out as part of the efficient administration of the Council's finances in line with council policy and the s151 Officer's functions, e.g. treasury management.
 - Subsequent allocation of grants (receivable or payable) within a framework and criteria previously agreed by Cabinet.
 - Setting of fees and charges levels, including concessions, within the approved Budget and Policy Framework.
 - Incurring expenditure essential to meet any immediate needs created by an emergency threatening life and limb or related to major structural damage threatening the fabric of a building [see Financial Procedures section A 1.11 (f)].
- A decision should be a Key Decision on community impact grounds if it would have a significant and lasting impact on one or more of the following:
- (a) reputation of the Council
 - (b) the environment
 - (c) the local economy
 - (d) community safety
 - (e) human rights, equal opportunities or racial equality
- The Monitoring Officer would be responsible for the interpretation of the words **significant and lasting** in the community impact test.

The Plan does not, therefore, include:

- exempt or confidential information as defined in the Council's Constitution Part 4 Section 2, 10.03 and 10.04;
- any reference to decisions made by the Council's regulatory and other committees, i.e.
 - Licensing
 - Planning and Highways
 - Appeals
 - Standards
 - Audit
 - Personnel
 - Appraisal
- any decisions made by Cabinet or delegated to Officers which are not defined as **key decisions**.

Contacts

If you have any queries relating to the publication of this plan please contact Gill Noall, Head of Democratic Services, on 01524 582060.

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

FORWARD PLAN – SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS

Cabinet Member(s) with Special Responsibility	Decision	Date Decision Due
	Centenary House (Co-op Building Morecambe) - consultant appointment	Before 30 April 2010

Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

ITEM FOR DECISION:	Centenary House (Co-op Building Morecambe) - consultant appointment	
WARD:	Harbour Ward;	
SERVICE:	Planning Services	
DECISION MAKER:	Individual Cabinet Member and Officer Delegated Decisions	
RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:		
KEY DECISION CRITERIA:	Financial Threshold	
SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:	Following tender to approve the officer recommendation for appointment of consultants to undertake the feasibility study for Centenary House (co-op building) in Morecambe. The contract is for in excess of £50,000 and is therefore regarded as a key decision albeit one under the Chief Executive's delegated power.	
DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION	Before 30 April 2010	
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:	Tender documentation and consultants brief available on request.	
GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:		
PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:	The feasibility study arises from the process of review and consultation undertaken through the West End Masterplan and its recent mid term 'refresh' of priorities. Full details of the development of the West End Masterplan strategy and consultation process are available on the council's website: http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning-environment/forward-planning/regeneration-projects/morecambe-s-west-end/	
DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:	20 April 2010	