

**LANCASTER**  
**CITY COUNCIL**

*Promoting City, Coast & Countryside*

**Key Decisions**  
**Annual Forward Plan**

**Monthly Update**

**1 February 2011**  
**31 May 2011**



## INTRODUCTION

In order to ensure openness and accountability, this 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 is one of the regular monthly updates to the Forward Plan published annually.

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 Debbie Chambers, Democratic Services Manager, on 01524 582057.



# LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

## FORWARD PLAN – SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS

Cabinet Member(s) with Special Responsibility	Decision	Date Decision Due
Leader of the Council	Review of Council Resources to Support Partnership Arrangements	Issue withdrawn from Forward Plan
Councillor Stuart Langhorn	Next Generation Broadband Pilot - Rural Development Programme for England Funding Bid	Issue withdrawn from Forward Plan
Councillor Stuart Langhorn	Treasury Management Strategy 2011/12	15 February 2011
Councillor Stuart Langhorn	Budget & Policy Framework 2010/11	15 February 2011
Councillor David Kerr	Chatsworth Gardens Funding Report	19 April 2011

# LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

## Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

This issue will no longer be a key decision and will not require decision by Cabinet.

<b>ITEM FOR DECISION:</b>	Review of Council Resources to Support Partnership Arrangements
<b>WARD:</b>	All Wards;
<b>SERVICE:</b>	Community Engagement
<b>DECISION MAKER:</b>	Cabinet
<b>RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>KEY DECISION CRITERIA:</b>	Financial and Community Impact
<b>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:</b>	To present proposals for future use of council resources to support partnership activities in order to secure key services, allow the council to deliver in areas where it has a role as a statutory partner and to introduce more efficient, flexible working arrangements
<b>DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION</b>	
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:</b>	Exempt item due to confidential personnel information
<b>GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:</b>	Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership.
<b>PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:</b>	Informal consultation with partners at an early stage followed by more formal consultation on proposals supported by Cabinet.
<b>DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:</b>	27 December 2010

# LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

## Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

This issue will no longer be a key decision and will be subject of an individual cabinet member decision.

<b>ITEM FOR DECISION:</b>	Next Generation Broadband Pilot - Rural Development Programme for England Funding Bid
<b>WARD:</b>	All Wards;
<b>SERVICE:</b>	Regeneration and Policy
<b>DECISION MAKER:</b>	Cabinet
<b>RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Stuart Langhorn, Leader of the Council and Portfolio holder for LDLSP Management Group Board
<b>KEY DECISION CRITERIA:</b>	Financial and Community Impact
<b>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:</b>	Report on the outcome of a bid to the NWDA for a rural 'Next Generation Access' broadband pilot under their RDPE funding stream. The project also includes elements which could improve the wider district's broadband connectivity.
<b>DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION</b>	
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:</b>	Cabinet report to be published
<b>GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:</b>	Rural Broadband Stakeholder Group Statutory consultees
<b>PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:</b>	Via the lead project officer, email <a href="mailto:progers@lancaster.gov.uk">progers@lancaster.gov.uk</a> .
<b>DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:</b>	22/10/10

## Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

<b>ITEM FOR DECISION:</b>	Treasury Management Strategy 2011/12	
<b>WARD:</b>	All Wards;	
<b>SERVICE:</b>	Financial Services	
<b>DECISION MAKER:</b>	Cabinet	
<b>RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Stuart Langhorn, Leader of the Council and Portfolio holder for LDLSP Management Group Board	
<b>KEY DECISION CRITERIA:</b>	Financial and Community Impact	
<b>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:</b>	Formal approval of Treasury Management Strategy by Cabinet is required before 01 April, though some aspects also require full Council and will be referred on accordingly. The Strategy sets out overall borrowing and related budget assumptions for 2011/12.	
<b>DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION</b>	15 February 2011	
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:</b>	N/A	
<b>GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:</b>		
<b>PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:</b>	The Council's professional advisors will be consulted. Should timescale permit, the proposals will be presented to Budget & Performance Panel for consideration.  No public consultation is proposed.	
<b>DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:</b>	See above	



## Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

<b>ITEM FOR DECISION:</b>	Budget & Policy Framework 2010/11
<b>WARD:</b>	All Wards;
<b>SERVICE:</b>	Financial Services
<b>DECISION MAKER:</b>	Cabinet
<b>RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Stuart Langhorn, Leader of the Council and Portfolio holder for LDLSP Management Group Board
<b>KEY DECISION CRITERIA:</b>	Financial and Community Impact
<b>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:</b>	As part of the forthcoming budget and planning process, issues that require key decisions to be taken may well arise.
<b>DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION</b>	15 February 2011
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:</b>	Not applicable at present.
<b>GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:</b>	N/A at present
<b>PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:</b>	As set out in the Budget timetable.
<b>DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:</b>	N/A

## Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

<b>ITEM FOR DECISION:</b>	Chatsworth Gardens Funding Report
<b>WARD:</b>	Harbour Ward;
<b>SERVICE:</b>	Regeneration and Policy
<b>DECISION MAKER:</b>	Cabinet
<b>RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor David Kerr, Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder for LDLSP Health and Wellbeing
<b>KEY DECISION CRITERIA:</b>	Financial and Community Impact
<b>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:</b>	To inform Cabinet of the outcome of funding discussions with the Homes and Communities Agency for Chatsworth Gardens as per the previous resolution made by Cabinet August 2010.
<b>DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION</b>	19 April 2011
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:</b>	<p>Previous Cabinet Reports</p> <p>ARUP Housing Exemplar Options Feasibility Study (exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>Winning Back Morecambe's West End Masterplan</p> <p>Morecambe Action Plan 2002</p> <p>Lancaster District Housing Strategy 2004/08</p>
<b>GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:</b>	
<b>PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:</b>	Previously extensive community consultation for the Masterplan and Chatsworth Gardens has been undertaken. The current proposals for Chatsworth Gardens are in-line with this. Further consultation is planned once a more certain position is obtained i.e. funding.
<b>DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:</b>	Representations to Head of Regeneration and Policy by e-mail before the date of the meeting.

