

LANCASTER
CITY COUNCIL

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

Key Decisions Forward Plan

Supplementary Notices



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 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
Councillor Janice Hanson	Morecambe Bay Nature Improvement Area	17 January 2012
Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox, Councillor Karen Leytham	Climate Change Invest to Save Projects	Before 17 January 2012
	Climate Change Invest to Save Projects Award of Contract	Before 31 January 2012
Councillor Eileen Blamire	Corporate Plan and Resource Framework 2012/15	17 April 2012

Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

ITEM FOR DECISION:	Morecambe Bay Nature Improvement Area	
WARD:	All Wards	
SERVICE:	Regeneration and Policy	
DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Janice Hanson,	
KEY DECISION CRITERIA:	Financial Threshold	
SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:	The City Council is asked to act as accountable body for a fund which a wide range of partnership organisations around the bay are to bid for. The fund will be for improvement projects relating to a wide range of nature conservation activities.	
DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION	17 January 2012	
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:	The Natural Environment White Paper - The Natural Choice What the Natural Environment White Paper means for local authorities Making Space for Nature (2010) - A Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network Morecambe Bay NIA Summary of Vision and Strategic Objectives	
GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:	See below.	
PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:	An extensive consultation process has been undertaken by Natural England.	
DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:	The consultation period is now complete.	

Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

ITEM FOR DECISION:	Climate Change Invest to Save Projects	
WARD:	All Wards	
SERVICE:	Community Engagement	
DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox, Councillor Karen Leytham	
KEY DECISION CRITERIA:	Financial Threshold	
SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:	To seek Cabinet's re-affirmation of their decision to continue with solar PV projects on municipal buildings and communal housing schemes.	
DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION	Before 17 January 2012	
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:	Cabinet Report 4 October 2011 - minute no. 45	
GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:	NA	
PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:	NA	
DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:	NA	

Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

ITEM FOR DECISION:	Climate Change Invest to Save Projects Award of Contract	
WARD:	All Wards	
SERVICE:	Community Engagement	
DECISION MAKER:	Officer Delegated Decisions	
RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:		
KEY DECISION CRITERIA:	Financial Threshold	
SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:	To award companies on to the Council's Framework Agreement for renewable energy and award the first contract for solar PV to municipal buildings and communal housing schemes (subject to Cabinet's prior approval to continue with these projects).	
DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION	Before 31 January 2012	
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:	Cabinet Report 4 October 2011 - minute no. 45	
GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:	N/A	
PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:	N/A	
DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:	N/A	

Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

ITEM FOR DECISION:	Corporate Plan and Resource Framework 2012/15
WARD:	All Wards
SERVICE:	Democratic Services
DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet
RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Eileen Blamire
KEY DECISION CRITERIA:	Financial and Community Impact
SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:	To present to Cabinet the Corporate Plan and Resource Framework for the 3 year period commencing 2012/13 and seek any amendments.
DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION	17 April 2012
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:	NA
GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:	Development of the corporate plan informed by wide consultation undertaken with groups and individuals in the district in late 2011.
PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:	In writing or via email to the Assistant Head of Community Engagement (Partnerships): amharrison@lancaster.gov.uk
DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:	12 April 2012