

# LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

*Promoting City, Coast & Countryside*

# Key Decisions Forward Plan

## Supplementary Notices



PUBLISHED 12 JULY 2012

## 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	Proposed Introduction of Fees for Pre-Planning Application and Householder Development Advice	24 July 2012
Councillor David Smith	Acceptance of external funding for Lancaster District CSP	24 July 2012
Councillor Janice Hanson	Empty Homes Enforced Sale Procedure	24 July 2012
Councillor Janice Hanson	Consultation on the Meeting Housing Needs Supplementary Planning Document	4 September 2012

## Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

<b>ITEM FOR DECISION:</b>	Proposed Introduction of Fees for Pre-Planning Application and Householder Development Advice	
<b>WARD:</b>	All Wards	
<b>SERVICE:</b>	Regeneration and Planning	
<b>DECISION MAKER:</b>	Cabinet	
<b>RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Janice Hanson	
<b>KEY DECISION CRITERIA:</b>	Financial and Community Impact	
<b>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:</b>	<p>This matter relates to service activities which are in high demand but which the Development Management Team currently provides free of charge. This is in contrast to the core work of determining planning applications, which is fee-earning. Two of these activities, namely the provision of householder development advice and the provision of pre-planning application advice, are service areas where fees have been recently introduced by other local planning authorities, and we now seek support for the principle of introducing fees for these two service activities.</p>	
<b>DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION</b>	24 July 2012	
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:</b>	NA	
<b>GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:</b>	NA	
<b>PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:</b>	No formal consultation but discussions with other local planning authorities within the County. The matter has also been informally raised at a 'Meet the Planners' event with local planning agents and architects chaired by the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce.	
<b>DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:</b>	NA	

## Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

<b>ITEM FOR DECISION:</b>	Acceptance of external funding for Lancaster District CSP
<b>WARD:</b>	All Wards
<b>SERVICE:</b>	Head of Environmental Services
<b>DECISION MAKER:</b>	Cabinet
<b>RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor David Smith
<b>KEY DECISION CRITERIA:</b>	Financial Threshold
<b>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:</b>	Report to request that the City Council acts as accountable body for the external funding that the Lancaster District CSP receives in 2012/13
<b>DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION</b>	24 July 2012
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:</b>	NA
<b>GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:</b>	NA
<b>PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:</b>	NA
<b>DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:</b>	NA

## Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

<b>ITEM FOR DECISION:</b>	Empty Homes Enforced Sale Procedure	
<b>WARD:</b>	All Wards	
<b>SERVICE:</b>	Regeneration and Planning	
<b>DECISION MAKER:</b>	Cabinet	
<b>RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Janice Hanson	
<b>KEY DECISION CRITERIA:</b>	Financial and Community Impact	
<b>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:</b>	To seek the adoption of an Enforced Sale Procedure as a mechanism to bring problematical long-term empty dwellings in the private sector back into habitable use in cases where Council debts have been registered as a local land charge against the property and not discharged.	
<b>DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION</b>	24 July 2012	
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:</b>	Law of Property Act 1925, Land Charges Act 1975, Housing Act 1985, Human Rights Act 1998	
<b>GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:</b>	In House Legal and Financial Services have been consulted	
<b>PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:</b>	NA	
<b>DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:</b>	23 July 2012	

## Key Decision Taken by Cabinet or delegated Officer

<b>ITEM FOR DECISION:</b>	Consultation on the Meeting Housing Needs Supplementary Planning Document	
<b>WARD:</b>	All Wards	
<b>SERVICE:</b>	Regeneration and Planning	
<b>DECISION MAKER:</b>	Cabinet	
<b>RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Janice Hanson	
<b>KEY DECISION CRITERIA:</b>	Community Impact	
<b>SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF RELEVANT ISSUES:</b>	Seeking Cabinet permission to carry out statutory consultation on the document.	
<b>DATE OF CABINET MEETING/DATE FOR OFFICER DECISION</b>	4 September 2012	
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION:</b>	Draft of Meeting Housing Needs Supplementary Planning Document. No public access until Cabinet have agreed the draft. The draft then becomes available as a matter of course.	
<b>GROUPS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSULTATION:</b>	Statutory planning consultees, key stakeholders (planning agents, developers, registered providers etc), wider stakeholders via the LDF consultation database, the general public via publishing on the website.	
<b>PROCESS FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION MAKER:</b>	Information gathering on content has already been carried out with Key Stakeholders briefed and wider stakeholders contacted. Documents have also been published on the website. Following Cabinet the document will be subject to a statutory 6 week consultation period.	
<b>DATE FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BE RECEIVED:</b>	Statutory consultation ends 28 September 2012	
<b>REASON THE DECISION HAS BEEN DELAYED:</b>	To allow adequate internal consultation with the Development Management Team and others.	