

City of Portsmouth MEMBERS' INFORMATION SERVICE

NO 43

DATE: FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2009

The Members' Information Service produced in the Democratic & Community Engagement Unit by Joanne Wildsmith has been prepared in three parts -

Part 1 - Decisions by the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members, subject to Councillors' right to have the matter called in for scrutiny.

Part 2 - Proposals from Managers which they would like to implement subject to Councillors' right to have the matter referred to the relevant Cabinet Member or Regulatory Committee; and

Part 3 - Items of general information and news.

Part 1 - Decisions by the Cabinet

The following decisions have been taken by the Cabinet (or individual Cabinet Members), and will be implemented unless the call-in procedure is activated. Rule 15 of the Policy and Review Panels Procedure Rules requires a call-in notice to be signed by any 5 members of the Council. The call-in request must be made to JOANNE WILDSMITH (Democratic Support Officer) and must be received by not later than 5 pm on the date shown in the item.

If you want to know more about a proposal, please contact the officer indicated. You can also see the report on the Council's web site at www.portsmouth.gov.uk

THERE ARE NO PART ONE ITEMS THIS WEEK

Part 2 - Proposals from Managers for Implementation

The following proposals have been brought forward. The Managers indicated will exercise their powers to approve the proposal unless a Councillor requests the item be referred for decision to the relevant Cabinet Member or Regulatory Committee. **Your request must be made to JOANNE WILDSMITH (Democratic Support Officer) and must be received by not later than 5 pm on Friday 6 November 2009 .**
An email or handwritten letter will suffice.

If you want to know more about a proposal, please contact the Officer indicated.

PORTFOLIO: PLANNING, REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2009

	WARD	SUBJECT AND PROPOSAL	OFFICER CONTACT
1		<p>Commercial Port – Award of Contract for Hydraulic Cylinders for Berth 4, Passenger Sideloader at Portsmouth Continental Ferry Port</p> <p>Proposal: Following a robust tender process and evaluation, that the Port Manager's Department award the contract for the manufacture and supply of three in number hydraulic cylinders for berth 4 passenger sideloader at Portsmouth Continental Ferry Port to WFE Hydraulics Service Ltd.</p> <p>Funding has been identified within the Port's repairs and maintenance revenue budget.</p>	<p>Julie Shotbolt Finance Officer Tel: 9285 5916</p>

PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES

The Head of Planning Services will exercise his powers to determine the following applications in accordance with the proposed decision for each application unless a Councillor requests the application be referred for decision to Committee.

Your request should be made to the **Head of Planning Services** by telephoning **Julie Watson** (☎023 9283 4826 or 023 9283 4339 answerphone) and must be received by not later than **5 pm on Friday 6 November 2009**. You can also make contact by letter or by e-mail to - planningreps@portsmouthcc.gov.uk - If you wish to know more about a particular application, please contact the Case Officer indicated.

Item No	Application No Ward	Location Description of Development	Planning Officer's Comments	Application Type Case Officer Proposed Decision
2	09/01287/PL AREG St Thomas	17 St Georges Road Portsmouth Retention of front canopy	<p>One e-mail of objection has been received from a neighbouring resident who lives within the terrace of houses. The objection is on the grounds that the works were done before planning permission was granted and, the canopy disrupts the uniformity of the terrace of houses.</p> <p>The provisions of Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, allows for the retrospective granting of planning permission for development which has commenced and/or been completed. This application relates to an end-of-terrace property located on the western side of St Georges Road on its junction with Warblington Street. This property falls within the Old Portsmouth Conservation Area. The properties along the terrace have small canopies above their front doors. The applicant seeks permission for the retention of a canopy on the front elevation of this property. The canopy is positioned above the front door and ground floor window. The materials used match the existing roof materials on this property. The canopy is considered a modest alteration to the front of this property and would serve to preserve the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. In these circumstances the scheme is considered capable of support.</p>	<p>Nicola Frampton Tel: 023 9283 4305 Permission</p>

Part 3 - Information and News Items

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2009

	WARD		OFFICER CONTACT
3		<p data-bbox="398 225 974 256">Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel</p> <p data-bbox="398 300 1467 331">The Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel met on Tuesday 27th October to</p> <ul data-bbox="398 375 1747 486" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="398 375 1523 406">• to continue their review into whether to recommence building council homes<li data-bbox="398 411 1747 486">• to consider a report on the investigation of suspected housing benefit fraud and request that the topic be removed from their work programme	<p data-bbox="1787 225 2004 400">Anna Martyn Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9268 8360</p>
4		<p data-bbox="398 528 1758 560">Standards Committee – Monday 2 November 2009 at 4 pm in the Executive Meeting Room</p> <p data-bbox="398 603 1691 667">The Standards Committee will meet in the Executive Meeting Room, 3rd Floor, Guildhall on Monday 2 November 2009 at 4pm to consider reports on the following</p> <ul data-bbox="398 710 1758 1093" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="398 710 1724 774">• Quarterly report on progress in relation to complaints made relating to alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct by Members<li data-bbox="398 790 1680 853">• Report of investigation under section 59 of the Local Government Act 2000 into alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct<li data-bbox="398 869 1758 933">• Exempt Report received from the Ethical Standards Officer (ESO) of the Standards Board for investigation (referred to in Agenda Item 5).<li data-bbox="398 949 1332 981">• Local Government Ombudsman’s Annual Report - Complaints<li data-bbox="398 997 1187 1029">• Safeguarding Report - Vetting and Barring Scheme<li data-bbox="398 1045 1680 1093">• Oral Update from Mervyn Cowdrey (Independent Member of Standards Committee) on Standards for England Conference 2009 <p data-bbox="398 1134 1724 1198">Please also note that from 6pm, members of Governance & Audit Committee have been invited to attend this meeting to enable both committees to consider</p> <ul data-bbox="398 1246 907 1278" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="398 1246 907 1278">• Revisions to Standing Orders.	<p data-bbox="1787 528 2004 703">Vicki Plytas Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9283 4058</p>

	WARD		OFFICER CONTACT
5		<p>Cabinet Member for Community Safety's Decision Meeting - Wednesday 4 November at 4pm in the Executive Meeting Room, Guildhall</p> <p>At his meeting Councillor Fazackarley will consider the following reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service User and Care Involvement in Substance Misuse Services • Safer Portsmouth Partnership Communication Strategy • Portsmouth Hidden Violence Strategies 2009-13 • Bail Accommodation Support Service 	<p>Joanne Wildsmith Democratic Services Tel: 9283 4057</p>
6		<p>Culture & Leisure Decision Meeting – 5 November at 10 am in the Executive Meeting Room, Guildhall</p> <p>At this meeting, the Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure, Councillor Lee Hunt, will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proposal that there should continue to be free entry to Southsea Castle for holders of a Portsmouth City Council library card following a trial over the summer, and that the provision of a café within the Castle should be considered. Similar free entry is offered at the D Day Museum • A review of community events in 2009 – Live at the Bandstand, Tea Dance and Opera in the Park • An update about improvements in the Allotments service to provide more allotments, a better service and to promote water conservation. There will be an Allotments Open Day next February to promote good allotment husbandry. • A report about the successful outcome to the joint Interreg IV funding bid with Caen City Council for a three year project with Portsmouth and Caen schools to explore each other's culture • The draft Theatre strategy, on which there will be widespread consultation, with the final strategy expected to be submitted in March 2010 • A proposal for a joint museum storage project with Southampton • An update about the Dickens 2012 activities to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens • An update about the Havelock Community & Children's Centre • An update about the Play Pathfinder scheme for Orchard Road • An appointment to the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Council for the period to November 2011 	<p>Lin Chaplen Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9283 4053</p>

	WARD		OFFICER CONTACT
7		<p>Cabinet – 9 November</p> <p>At the meeting of the Cabinet on Monday 9 November at 1pm in the Executive Room in the Guildhall, the following items are expected to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-poverty Strategy • Efficiency Review • Trafalgar Gate Link Road • Scrutiny Panel reports on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improving Neighbour Relationships with private and social lets b) review of the Council's contract with Colas • Income from Seafront Concessions • Update on Review of Housing Finance • Commission on Mobile Homes • Seafront Cycling • Southsea Library/Advice Centre • Portsea Ambulance Station 	<p>Joanne Wildsmith Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9283 4057</p>
8		<p>Special Cabinet Meeting – 24 November</p> <p>A special meeting of the Cabinet will be held on Tuesday 24 November at 1pm (prior to Council at 2pm) to consider the World Cup Bid</p> <p>This replaces the special meeting originally planned for 6 November regarding the World Cup Bid. Please note in diaries.</p>	<p>Joanne Wildsmith Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9283 4057</p>
9		<p>Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee – Annual Report 2008/09</p> <p>Copies of the report, which explains the principal work of the Joint Committee during the 2008/09 financial year, have been placed in the Group Rooms. It is also publicly available to view on the Crematorium's website: www.portchestercrematorium.org.</p>	<p>Joanne Wildsmith Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9283 4057</p>

	WARD		OFFICER CONTACT
10		<p>Housing Benefit & Council Tax Benefit Changes with effect from 2 November 2009</p> <p><u>Child Benefit Disregard</u></p> <p>Child benefit will no longer be counted as income when an assessment is made for housing benefit and council tax benefit. Many families that were not previously entitled to housing benefit and/or council tax benefit, may now qualify to receive extra financial help towards their rent and /or council tax charge. If customers are already receiving housing benefit and/or council tax benefit, their benefit entitlement will automatically be recalculated.</p> <p><u>Capital Threshold for Pensioners</u></p> <p>The capital threshold for customers who have reached the qualifying age for state pension credit will increase from £6,000 to £10,000. This change will mean that up to £10,000 of savings/investments will be disregarded when an assessment for housing benefit and/or council tax benefit is made. The upper limit of £16,000 for those not receiving guarantee pension credit will still apply. If customers are already receiving housing benefit and/or council tax benefit, their benefit entitlement will automatically be recalculated.</p>	<p>Alan Knight Benefits Manager Tel: 9284 1460</p>
11		<p>Cabinet Member for Environment - Decision Meeting - Wednesday 4 November 2009 at 10.00am in room K of the Civic Offices, Portsmouth.</p> <p>Councillor Eleanor Scott will consider the following reports;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move from "colour separated" to "mixed colour" glass bottle banks - to move from colour separated bring banks to mixed glass bring banks which is expected to increase the "yield" of glass collected and improve the recycling rate for the city. • Waste Reduction in Portsmouth Schools - to agree the creation of the Waste Reduction in Portsmouth Schools partnership, which will ensure that services are co-ordinated efficiently. • Trafalgar Gate Link Road - Relocation of Kennels - to seek approval to the relocation of the stray dog kennel service to Burrfields Road to allow the construction of the Trafalgar Gate Link Road Phase 1 and to consider and approve the design option for the kennel facility. • Monitoring of 2009/10 Cash Limits and Capital Programme for the period ended 30 September 2009 - update on the forecast outturn revenue expenditure against the cash limited budget and the forecast capital expenditure against the capital programme. 	<p>Lucy Wingham Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9283 4662</p>

	WARD		OFFICER CONTACT
12		<p>Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care - Cancellation of Decision meeting - Tuesday 10 November 2009</p> <p>Councillor Leo Madden has cancelled his decision meeting scheduled for 10 November due to the lack of business requiring a decision to be made at this time. His next scheduled meeting is 2 February 2010.</p>	<p>Lucy Wingham Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9283 4662</p>
13		<p>Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People Decision Meeting – Friday, 6 November 2009 at 12 noon in Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, Civic Offices (please note change of venue to Conference Room A)</p> <p>The following item will be considered by the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People:</p> <p>School Improvement Policy</p> <p>Information report to the Cabinet Member of the new School Improvement Policy and Procedures.</p>	<p>Teresa Deasy Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9283 4056</p>
14		<p>Local Government Association – LGA Alerts – Information sent to Local Authorities for week commencing Monday 26 October 2009 - Checklist 43/09</p> <p>Each week the LGA sends 'LG alerts' information sheets to member authorities. The full text of all LG alerts are available to local authorities on LGA net – the Local Government Association internet service at http://www.lga.gov.uk</p> <p>ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Property level flood protection grant scheme As part of its response to the Pitt Report, the Government initiated a £5 million grant scheme to help local authorities provide property level flood protection to households in areas of high risk. LGA alert Reference: 188/09</p> <p>IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Freedom to lead: developing a new accountability framework The LGA group is launching a debate about how councils and their partners can be given greater freedom to respond to local priorities . LGA alert Reference: 191/09</p>	<p>Local Government Association (LGA) Email: info@lga.gov.uk Tel: 020 7664 3131 www.lga.gov.uk</p>

	WARD		OFFICER CONTACT
	Contd/...	<p>LGA GROUP EVENTS</p> <p>Smith Square Evening Debates - autumn series 2009 The LGA's autumn series of Smith Square debates began on 26 October. These free evening events will take place at Local Government House, Smith Square, London and will begin at 6pm. LGalert Reference: 186/09</p> <p>LGA Policing White Paper conference The government will be producing a White Paper on Policing in the autumn. This is due to be published at the start of November and will inform the Policing Crime and Security Bill to be included in the Queen's Speech in mid- November. For a chance to discuss the more detailed proposals coming out of the White Paper the LGA will be holding a one day conference on Wednesday 20 January 2010. LGalert Reference: 189/09</p> <p>LGA Violence Against Women and Girls conference The government will be implementing a Violence Against Women strategy. This announcement was followed by an extensive consultation by the Home Office in the first part of 2009 on what could be done to reduce violence against women. LGalert Reference: 190/09</p> <p>REGENERATION</p> <p>Hidden Talents II - Getting The Best Out of Britains Young People To follow up on our well-received first publication, Hidden Talents: Re-engaging young people, which summarised the evidence on the issues surrounding young people not in education, employment or training. We describe a very different new policy framework for engaging young people in productive activity. LGalert Reference: 187/09</p>	