

## **ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2010**  
**7.00 PM**

**Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall**

### **AGENDA**

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<b>1. Apologies for Absence</b>	
<b>2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations</b>	
<b>3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 July 2010</b>	<b>1 - 10</b>
<b>4. Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions</b>	
<b>5. Responses to Recommendations Made by the Committee</b>	<b>11 - 14</b>
<b>6. Biodiversity Strategy Progress Report 2009-10</b>	<b>15 - 42</b>
<b>7. Norwood Lane and the Paston Travellers Site</b>	<b>43 - 48</b>
<b>8. Progress on Delivery of the Environment Capital Portfolio and Launch of the Home of Environment Capital Initiative</b>	<b>49 - 62</b>
<b>9. Forward Plan of Key Decisions</b>	<b>63 - 76</b>
<b>10. Work Programme</b>	<b>77 - 78</b>
<b>11. Date of Next Meeting</b>	

Thursday 4 November 2010 at 7pm



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Committee Members:

Councillors: D Day (Chairman), Arculus (Vice-Chairman), N North, B Rush, D Morley, J A Fox and  
N Sandford

Substitutes: Councillors: J Goodwin, C Ash and D Fower

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Louise Tyers on telephone 01733  
452284 or by email – [louise.tyers@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:louise.tyers@peterborough.gov.uk)

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM - TOWN HALL ON 15 JULY 2010**

**Present:** Councillors D Day (Chairman), N Arculus (Vice-Chairman), JA Fox, N North, B Rush and N Sandford

**Also Present:** Councillor S Dalton, Cabinet Member for Environment Capital

**Officers Present:** Paul Phillipson, Executive Director of Operations  
Trevor Gibson, Director of Environment Capital  
Teresa Wood, Group Manager for Transport and Sustainable Environment  
Charlotte Palmer, Climate Change Team Manager  
Brian Armstrong, Wildlife Officer  
Bob Beaumont, Lawyer  
Louise Tyers, Scrutiny Manager

**1. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Morley.

**2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations**

The following declarations of interest were made:

Item 5 – Environment Capital – The Next Steps

Councillor Sandford declared a personal interest as he was a member of PECT who were mentioned in the report.

Item 8 – Revised Biodiversity Strategy

- Councillor JA Fox declared a personal interest as she was a member of the Biodiversity Working Group.
- Councillor Rush declared a personal interest as he was a member of the RSPB who were mentioned in the report.
- Councillor Sandford declared a personal interest as he was a member of the Biodiversity Working Group.

**3. Minutes**

**3.1 11 March 2010**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2010 were approved as a correct record.

Gresley Way Street Lighting

Councillor Sandford advised that the street lights at Gresley Way were still out and this was an unacceptable position. The Executive Director of Operations advised that he was disappointed that Councillor Sandford had not been kept updated on the position and he would ensure that an update was provided to Councillor Sandford.

### 3.2 10 June 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2010 were approved as a correct record.

#### 4. **Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions**

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

#### 5. **Environment Capital - The Next Steps**

The report provided an update on the progress of Environment Capital and the next stages in developing and launching the approach.

In adopting the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) the Council had committed itself to becoming the UK's Environment Capital. Environment Capital had widespread support which had been achieved through clear political direction and the efforts of a committed, cross-sector Environment Capital Partnership. Significant building blocks had already been put in place including the SCS, Local Area Agreement, the creation of an Environment Capital Cabinet portfolio and the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee itself. The approach also had the support of Opportunity Peterborough and of the wider business community as represented by the Economic Development Partnership.

There would be significant advantages in maintaining the current momentum in driving forward the Environment Capital agenda as it played a key role in driving the city's economic development, supported sustainable growth and provided a focus for building strong and supportive communities. Peterborough must continue to position itself as an environmental leader and enhance its reputation as a result. It must continue to build on the Environment Capital culture within the Council and throughout wider city stakeholders and the next stages must also include a range of projects and activities aimed at supporting the Environment Capital agenda. The Committee had previously seen early drafts of the city wide Development Plan which would be updated and improved as part of this work. The Council and other partners also needed to be aware of the impact of their activities and decisions on the environmental and wider sustainability agendas.

The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council together with the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital were committed to launching the Environment Capital approach this autumn and three work streams had now been established:-

**Stakeholder Engagement:** The Director of Environment Capital with support from GPP colleagues was working with partners to galvanise support for and input to the Environment Capital approach which would build and maintain a common approach and culture. This would involve delivering a clear definition, an outward facing prospectus and a briefing document aimed at all city ambassadors. To succeed, Environment Capital must also deliver improved outcomes for local residents and communities.

**Policy Development:** This would include the replacement of the Council's Environment Policy (2000) with a newly developed Environment Capital Policy which would form part of the Council's Major Policy Framework. A draft of this Policy would be brought to the September meeting of the Committee prior to its consideration by Council. The Policy would seek to ensure that Environment Capital principles were a consideration in all services, strategies and policies. The sustainable growth of the city would be supported by an Environment Capital Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which would drive sustainable developments across the city building on the Environment Capital Core Strategy policy.

**Marketing:** A newly formed team was leading the development of a marketing strategy to ensure that the new approach enhanced the city's regional, national and international profile. This profile would, in turn, support inward investment and economic development.

The city was currently leading on some areas of work and had received global recognition for its unique "Peterborough Model". This was a project being delivered through collaboration with IBM, Royal Haskoning and Green Ventures to create an accessible on-line tool for visualising the city's environmental performance. As a result of this and other initiatives, the city was gaining a significant reputation for its environmental experience and credentials.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Members were committed to the aspiration of becoming the Environment Capital but when would we declare ourselves as the Environment Capital? At the recent LGA Conference a display implied that we were already the Environment Capital. *We were in the early stages of the process and one of the strands of work was around marketing and we needed to leave issues such as terminology, concept, logo and launch to the experts. We had not made any presumptions on what we should call ourselves. The display at the LGA Conference was a decision taken at the time but the Peterborough Model was the focus of the stand.*
- When Jonathan Porritt visited Peterborough last year he advised that we should not market an aspiration. No details of an assessment process were mentioned in the report so how would we be assessed? *The process was not just a marketing exercise and there was real substance behind it. Jonathan's organisation, Forum for the Future, had developed a Sustainable Cities Index for larger cities and when we compared ourselves against that Index we came out mid-way. We were in discussions with the Forum to see if they would work with us to develop an Index for smaller cities.*
- If we were going to call ourselves Environment Capital then we needed to be at the top of the Index not mid-way down. We needed to be getting the city behind us as not all residents knew about Environment Capital. *The Citizens Panel had recently shown that more than 50% of people had heard about Environment Capital but it was accepted that they may not understand what it was. School children did know about our aspirations and we were trying to engage with them more.*
- Not everything we did would be measurable. There was a lot of work which was already going on which we were not shouting about, including the Eco-Schools Challenge. We were in discussions with City Services about working with primary schools to grow and plant trees from acorns and conkers.
- What was the Peterborough Model and how much did it cost, what were the benefits and with whom were we gaining a reputation? *The model was a way of showing environmental data and Phase 1 had used Google Earth to show data for environmental businesses. Phase 2 would include utilities and we were hoping to make real time information available. The benefits were collaborative working across the city as currently all of the utilities companies had separate plans and the model would enable all decision makers to be able to see how the city operated from an environmental perspective and this would lead to more effective decision making. The public would also be able to see how much energy was being used and they would then be able to make more informed choices on their lifestyles. We were being asked to speak at conferences and at other cities on the Model, which would always be called the 'Peterborough Model' regardless of where it was being used. It had been featured in the New York Times newspaper twice and had also been included within technical magazines. Phase 1 had cost £30k and Phase 2 would cost £70K which was being jointly funded by the City Council and Opportunity Peterborough however the other partners had also put in substantial resources.*
- What was the latest position with regard to food waste collections? *The funding was not currently available to take it forward but it was still something we would like to do.*

- Whilst members supported encouraging school children to grow trees it was a concern that shrubs and trees continued to be removed throughout the city. *Some trees were being delivered for planting this autumn. However it was concerning that over 1000 trees had been removed at the development for the new hospital and officers were looking to try and claw back some money to replace the trees that had been removed at that development.*
- It was noted that performance in meeting the targets for recycling was falling, why was this happening? *A lot of it was down to changes in packaging with manufacturers using less material. People were also making more choices about the type of packaging that they bought. The issues with the level of performance were common across the UK however the amount of waste going into the black bins was reducing.*
- Were officers and members aware of the Italian way of collecting food waste? In Italy food waste was placed in a central point in each street and collected daily. *We were not aware of that scheme and would raise it with the appropriate officers. We currently did not have the infrastructure in place to deal with food waste.*

It was moved and seconded that before the City Council declared Peterborough as the Environment Capital, agreed criteria should be met and an independent assessment should be undertaken. On being put to the vote this was agreed unanimously.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended to the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital that before the City Council declares Peterborough as the Environment Capital, agreed criteria should be met and an independent assessment should be undertaken.

## **6. Peterborough's Christmas Park and Ride Service 2010**

The report provided an update on the arrangements being made for this year's Christmas Park and Ride Service following the recommendations made at our meeting in February 2010. The recommendations we had made were:

- (i) to increase public confidence in the park and ride service it needed to run for a longer period up to Christmas; and
- (ii) a small charge should be imposed on the park and ride service so funds could be used to increase the period the service ran for.

A budget of £29,000 had now been allocated to the Christmas 2010 park and ride service and over recent years the service had operated for varying numbers of days. Passenger numbers on Saturdays were higher than on Sundays and usage was usually low at the beginning of the service and increased steadily before dropping off towards the end. Based on 2009 costs, the proposal for the 2010 service was to operate on nine Saturdays and six Sundays, therefore operating from Saturday 23 October to Saturday 18 December and Sunday 14 November to Sunday 19 December. The total estimated cost of providing the 2010 service was £29,428 plus any additional inflation costs.

The aim of the service was to attract car users away from the city centre but in recent years the Council had been criticised for not allowing walking passengers to use the service. Officers had looked at the park and ride charges for a number of other cities in the region and all made a charge. It was therefore being proposed to introduce a fare of £1 per adult passenger with a total estimated income of £9,948 but to be cautious an income of £7,500 should be achievable. This additional income would be used to supplement the £29,000 budget to enhance the 2010 service on three additional Saturdays at a cost of approximately £4,800, cover any contract inflation increases and also to promote the service. Due to budgetary constraints, the service had not been well publicised in previous years and this

income would provide an opportunity to enhance the promotion of the service, particularly given that there was a significant change to the service by way of introducing a charge.

The operation of the service was at the goodwill of Diligenta and Perkins who provided their car parks at Lynch Wood and Eastern Industry free of charge. These sites had now been confirmed for this year.

Teresa Wood advised that it had recently come to the attention of officers that the Queensgate Centre would be offering free car parking on Sundays and this meant that we now had to consider the viability of the charge we planned to introduce on Sundays.

Observations and questions were asked around the following areas:

- The impact of Queensgate offering free parking on Sundays would clearly have an impact on the park and ride service. *This situation was giving cause for concern and we would have to give further consideration as to whether we continued with charging for Sundays.*
- It was clear Sundays would be an issue and a number of possible options for Sundays were considered, including:
  - abolishing the charge for Sundays
  - charge 50p instead of £1
  - not to run the service on Sundays and increase the number of Saturdays
  - run the Sunday service until Queensgate starts offering free parking in December.
- Had providing the service on a Friday been considered, especially during December as this was often a day that people went out to do their Christmas shopping? *We could look at providing the service on Fridays in future years but we may need to look at operating from different sites as the current provision was able to be delivered because the car parks were not in use at weekends.*
- Had running the service on a number of Saturdays in the New Year been considered to cover the sales period? *We had tried this in past years but it had proved unsuccessful.*
- Had you considered using City Services buses and drivers to provide the service? *The current operators had been selected following a competitive tendering process in 2008.*
- Would people who held a concessionary bus pass have to pay the £1 charge? *Concessionary pass holders would not be charged the fee. Anyone would be able to use the service if they paid the charge, including foot passengers and cyclists.*

Officers would take away all of the comments made and would consider the best option for delivery of the service.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning decides on the best approach for delivering the Sunday Christmas Park and Ride Service within the ethos of an environment capital.

## **7. Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme**

The report presented details of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme, specifically the Council's responsibility to register as a full participant in the Scheme.

The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme was an obligatory emissions trading scheme which covered non-energy intensive users in both the public and private sectors. It was a central part of the UK's strategy to achieve the carbon emission

reduction targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008. Organisations who consumed energy over a set threshold in 2008 were required to participate in the scheme and purchase allowances to cover their emissions. The scheme consisted of overlapping phases of which each started with a qualification year, a 'Footprint year' and Footprint report, and then Annual Reports, sales and surrender of allowances and revenue recycling. Registration for the first phase of the scheme started in April 2010 and must be completed by the end of September 2010. The Council was required to register for full participation in the scheme because it met the qualification criteria.

The Scheme covered all carbon dioxide emissions generated by an organisation's consumption of energy, namely electricity, gas and oil. Sources of emissions included within the scheme were administrative offices, schools, leisure centres, and day care homes, whilst transport related emissions, domestic emissions and emissions related to certain types of street lights were excluded. The CRC also required that emissions from tenants were included where the landlord (PCC) was counterparty to the energy supply contract. This would include certain PFI and joint ventures where the Council was counterparty to the energy contract or is the majority

The costs of the scheme included:

- Registration fee: £950
- Annual subsistence charges: £1,290
- Allowances

For phase 1, allowances would be purchased from the Government at £12 per tonne of carbon dioxide emitted. This would cost the Council around £300k p.a. In subsequent phases of the scheme, allowances would be traded on a secondary market between participants, so the price would be subject to market variability.

The CRC scheme carried substantial civil penalties for non-compliance with the scheme:

<b>Reason</b>	<b>Financial penalty</b>	<b>Other</b>
Failure to register	£5000 plus £500 per working day	Publication of non-compliance
Failure to submit footprint report	£5000 plus £0.05 per day per tonne of carbon dioxide emitted	Publication of non-compliance
Failure to submit annual report	£5000 plus £0.05 per day per tonne of carbon dioxide emitted	Publication of non-compliance Administrator will block transfer of allowances out of participants account Bottom ranking in Performance League Table
Incorrect reporting	Fine for £40 per tonne of carbon dioxide incorrectly reported where the margin of error is greater than 5%	Publication of non-compliance
Failure to surrender allowances (Performance Commitment)	Fine for £40 per allowance that should have been obtained and cancelled	Must obtain and surrender outstanding balance of allowances ASAP Publication of non-compliance Administrator will block transfer of allowances out of participants account
Failure to keep adequate records	Fine of £5 per tonne or carbon dioxide of total emissions reported in most recent annual report	Publication of non-compliance



In addition, there were criminal penalties, including imprisonment for up to 3 years and fines up to £50,000, for falsification of data or non-compliance with enforcements.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- If schools decided to become academies, would they become responsible for reducing their own emission levels or would they still be included within our registration? *They would be included within our registration as that was what was detailed within the Act; however this may change with the new government.*
- What year would be our footprint year? *It would be this year, 2010/11.*
- Is the Scheme one which would encourage us not to do anything? *This was something that we would need political direction on. A session would be held with Members in September to discuss views on where we should be aiming as a Council.*
- Are there a number of quick fixes we could introduce now? *We had made an application to the Salix Fund for funding which if we could show a carbon reduction we would not have to pay back. It was about changing the opinions of people as there were lots of opportunities across the Council to reduce our emissions but we were constrained by the finances available.*
- It should be of concern that in some areas printers, computers and photocopiers were left on at all times and also heating was left on all day and over the weekend. *Discussions with Property Services had indicated that it would cost around £5m to get the Town Hall up to a high environmental standard so individual parts of the building would be looked at when they were being refurbished. Improvements could include automatic lighting, solar panels and mini wind turbines. Officers had also advised that it would be more expensive to switch the heating off at the weekend.*
- Part of the problem was to ensure that there were proper controls on radiators and heating systems. *The advice was to keep buildings at a minimum temperature but the buildings needed to be properly insulated. The Council had a very old estate and a priority would be to insulate and double glaze the buildings. There was lots of good work already being undertaken in the design of new build.*
- There was a need to rationalise and reduce the number of offices used by the Council. *An Estates Review was currently underway and would look not just at the Council's estate but also at all government owned buildings across the city.*
- There were now 23 Green Champions in place and officers would use them to spread the message to all members of staff.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended to the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital that the Council completes the registration process for the CRC in line with the legal requirements under the Climate Change Act and CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme Order 2010.

### **8. Revised Biodiversity Strategy**

The report presented the updated Biodiversity Strategy for the Committee to consider prior to its consideration by the Cabinet and Council.

The proposed update had previously been considered by the Committee in September 2009 and following that meeting the Committee recommended to Cabinet that it:

- (i) endorsed the Biodiversity Strategy prior to its consideration by Council as part of the Major Policy Framework; and
- (ii) considered the requirement for additional resources during the development of the Council Budget for 2010/11 alongside other budget pressures.

Prior to being presented to Cabinet the Strategy had been considered by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) where concerns had been raised in respect to the additional cost of using hand held hedge cutting tools (petrol hedge cutters) instead of the mechanised cutting of hedges and shrubs in the bird nesting season. In light of those concerns the Strategy was referred back to the Committee to consider possible amendments regarding manual cutting prior to resubmission to Cabinet. CMT also recommended that the Strategy should be separated into two documents, a concise report for Cabinet and a main policy document. Further updates had now been made to the Strategy in light of those recommendations including removing the policy with respect to works during the bird nesting season. It was proposed to refer this to Peterborough City Services to lead on its progression separately from the Biodiversity Strategy.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Whilst Members broadly supported the Strategy, the Bird Nesting Policy was important and it should be brought back to the Committee once it had been revised.
- There seemed not to have been much progress on the specific actions from the 2004 Strategy, for example creation of new areas of wildlife interest. The Annual Review reports must have clear statements on progress of the specific actions. *The Annual Report would be laid out by headings and it would clearly show what progress had been made.*
- Did planning have to adhere to the Strategy during its consideration of planning applications? *Planning did not have to adhere to the Strategy however the principles of it were already contained within national planning guidance, specifically Planning Policy Statement 9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation. The Strategy covered the wider functions of the Council other than planning.*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) endorse the revised Biodiversity Strategy prior to its consideration by Council as part of the major policy framework; and
- (ii) consider the requirement for additional resources during the development of future Council budgets alongside other budget pressures.

## **ACTIONS AGREED**

- (i) To endorse the updated Biodiversity Strategy and the measures outlined within it, which will replace the existing 2004 Strategy;
- (ii) To receive annual progress reports against the updated Strategy.
- (iii) To request that the Commercial Services Director lead on the development of the draft policy for works during the bird nesting season separately from the Biodiversity Strategy. Support to be provided from the Council's Officer Working Group for Biodiversity as required; and
- (iv) To request that the Commercial Services Director bring the final draft of the policy to a future meeting of the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee when it has been revised.

## **9. Scrutiny Big Debate - Issues Paper**

The report advised the Committee of the outcomes of the Scrutiny Big Debate event which was held in February 2010.

The Big Debate had involved an investigation by the four Scrutiny Committees in to how the economic downturn had affected the City in terms of its aspirations for growth, levels of crime, requirements to support vulnerable people and its credentials for environmental

sustainability with particular reference to transport. It was a pioneering piece of work that had been designed and delivered in consultation with the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

The scope of the review for this Committee had been to look at how Peterborough should counter the effects of the economic downturn to ensure delivery of the sustainable transport elements of the Local Transport Plan. The event had been held at Buckle's Solicitors on 2 February 2010 and involved a panel of representatives from various organisations who gave their personal perspectives on the future of sustainable transport in Peterborough and who were then challenged on those views by the audience. The event provoked lots of discussion and there had been a significant amount of positive feedback from attendees. Following workshops which were held on the evening a number of issues were suggested to take forward for further work. The Committee were now asked to delegate to the Group Representatives consideration of which items should be added to the Committee's work programme.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Due to the current budgetary constraints how realistic was the prospect that the suggestions could be taken forward? *Looking at the list there could be some quick wins but some would cost more money and would have to be considered alongside other pressures.*
- Possible areas of future work suggested included:
  - Introducing subsidised fares for young people
  - Introducing the availability of cross ticketing on all bus operators
  - Improving disabled access in the city and on public transport
  - Allowing cycles to use bus lanes around the city
  - Encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport to school, including introducing Bikeability into schools
  - Trialling the use of electric vehicles in the city
- Whilst supporting the suggestion of 20mph zones outside all schools across the city, how enforceable would it be? *The Executive Director advised that it would be virtually unenforceable due to the lead in drivers required before entering 20mph zones.*
- Could signs be used during school times showing 20mph and then the normal 30mph during other times? Schools where there was a danger should be targeted.
- Whilst the suggestion of providing a cycle bridge over the railway line at the station was probably not practical, the provision for cyclists over the existing Crescent Bridge needed drastic improvement. *It was felt that often cyclists were treated as second class citizens on the roads and for new road developments we were always looking to try and include a cycle path as part of the infrastructure.*
- Travelchoice were doing a lot of excellent work in encouraging people to walk, cycle, use public transport and car share.
- It was important that the Council led by example, including around charging officers and members for parking permits, particularly as charging had been included within the Council's budget. *The Executive Director advised that parking permits were a contentious issue which would involve a change to staff terms and conditions. Lengthy and productive negotiations had been held with the Trade Unions and the Council would be looking to progress with permit removal very soon as part of formal negotiations. We were looking at ways to support staff through the changes including introducing a supported cycle purchase scheme.*
- Removal of councillors' permits did not require a change in terms and conditions and could happen quickly. *The Cabinet Member gave her view that while she would be happy to pay for her permit she would not like to see it removed as she did not want to be worrying about whether her parking ticket would run out whilst she was in a meeting.*
- A number of ideas from the Big Debate were already progressing and officers would provide an update on what was happening.

## **ACTIONS AGREED**

- (i) To note the outcomes from the Scrutiny Big Debate.
- (ii) To delegate to the Group Representatives consideration of which items should be added to the Committee's work programme.
- (iii) To receive an update on the progress of the outcomes at a future meeting.

### **10. Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

The latest version of the Forward Plan, showing details of the key decisions that the Leader of the Council believed the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would be making over the next four months, was received.

#### **ACTION AGREED**

To note the latest version of the Forward Plan.

### **11. Work Programme**

We considered the Work Programme for 2010/11.

A referral had been made from the Gunthorpe, Paston, Walton and Werrington Community Committee that the Committee look at the issues around flytipping at Norwood Lane.

#### **ACTION AGREED**

To confirm the work programme for 2010/11.

### **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 9 September 2010 at 7pm

CHAIRMAN  
7.00 - 9.40 pm

<b>ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 5</b>
<b>9 SEPTEMBER 2010</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Report Author – Louise Tyers, Scrutiny Manager

Contact Details – (01733) 452284 or email [louise.tyers@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:louise.tyers@peterborough.gov.uk)

### RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the responses to recommendations made at previous meetings.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee consider the responses to the recommendations made and agree if, and how, the implementation of the recommendations will be monitored.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

10 June 2010

- 3.1 During the Committee's meeting on 10 June 2010 a recommendation was made following consideration of a report on tree pollarding. The recommendation was subsequently submitted to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning and the Executive Director for Strategic Resources.

15 July 2010

- 3.2 During the Committee's meeting on 15 July 2010 recommendations were made following consideration of reports on the Christmas Park and Ride Service and Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. The recommendations were subsequently submitted to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods & Planning and the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital.

- 3.3 A copy of all the recommendations made and responses are attached at Appendix 1.

#### 4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the responses and agree if, and how, the implementation of the recommendations will be monitored.

#### 5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any implications are contained within the individual response to the recommendation.

#### 6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Minutes of the meetings of the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee held on 10 June and 15 July 2010.

#### 7. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Recommendations and Responses Received.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### 10 June 2010

#### Recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning

Item	Recommendation	Response to Recommendation
Tree Pollarding	The Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning is recommended that consideration is given, during the Lot 3 process, to pollarded trees in one or two streets being left for 3-4 years to see if a longer maintenance regime was reasonable compared to the current two year programme.	The recommendation is supported and the bidders will be informed to take this into account within their proposals for Lot 3.

### 15 July 2010

#### Recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendation
Christmas Park and Ride	That the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning decides on the best approach for delivering the Sunday Christmas Park and Ride Service within the ethos of an environment capital.	<p>The £1 charge for Sundays required further consideration following confirmation as to whether there would be any free parking in the city centre on Sundays. The decision on whether to charge and what level of charge was left to officers to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning.</p> <p>It has now been confirmed that free parking is not available in the city centre on Sundays and therefore the £1 charge per passenger for the Sunday Park and Ride service has been recommended to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning.</p>

#### Recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital

Item	Recommendation	Response to Recommendation
Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme	It is recommended to the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital that the Council completes the registration process for the CRC in line with the legal requirements under the Climate Change Act and CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme Order 2010.	The Cabinet Member for Environment Capital made an Executive Decision on 11 August 2010 to authorise the submission of the application for registration under the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.

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<b>ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 6</b>
<b>9 SEPTEMBER 2010</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Executive Director - Operations**

**Report Author** – **Brian Armstrong, Wildlife Officer**  
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### **CITY COUNCIL'S BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY: PROGRESS REPORT 2009/10**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Provide information with respect to progress against the actions and targets contained in the PCC Biodiversity Strategy (2004).
- b) Allow feedback to be given by the Committee with respect to progress against the existing strategy.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the progress made against the City Councils 2004 Biodiversity Strategy and to make any recommendations with regards to the future implementation of the Strategy.

#### **3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

3.1 The 2004 strategy contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy and LAA via the LAA Biodiversity target which is based on National Indicator 197 (improved local biodiversity). It is more generally linked to the Community Strategy and National Indicators via the Cleaner/Greener agenda and sections of these documents. It has been agreed with the Greater Peterborough Partnership that reporting against the PCC Biodiversity Strategy will be used, along with other reporting, to give a more detailed picture of the breadth of the actions taking place for biodiversity under the LAA Biodiversity target.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 This report is submitted to the Committee by the PCC Biodiversity Officer Working Group as a progress report for 2009/10 against the existing PCC Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy was agreed in 2004 with a requirement for annual reporting on progress against the specific actions and targets of the strategy.
- 4.2 This progress report is against the 2004 PCC Biodiversity Strategy. An updated Biodiversity Strategy (2010) will shortly be taken to Cabinet for consideration.

#### **5. KEY ISSUES**

5.1 The key issues which the Committee need to consider are laid out in the appendices. All progress on required actions since the 2008/9 progress report have been achieved from within the Council's existing budgets. Future ability to progress against the 2004 strategy will be dependent on some changes to land management and maintaining existing resources where possible.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The 2004 Biodiversity report included consideration of cost and resource implications. It was made clear that the actions set out in the 2004 report would have to be achieved within existing resources and that it was envisaged that biodiversity gain could be made through adjusting rather than completely changing current practices. The adoption of the vision statement by Full Council strongly reinforced this.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Consultation and discussion has been undertaken with the Executive Director of Operations and the City Council's Biodiversity Officer Working Group.

## **8. NEXT STEPS**

- 8.1 Feedback from the Committee will be used to inform the future focus of the PCC Biodiversity Officer Working Group.

## **9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 40).
- Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty, Defra, May 2007.
- Peterborough City Council Approach to Biodiversity submitted to the Environment Policy Overview Committee on 2 August 2004.
- Peterborough Sustainable Community Strategy (including Rural Vision Strategy and Environment Capital manifesto).

## **10. APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Report of progress against actions and targets of Peterborough City Councils Biodiversity Strategy

Appendix B: Full reports from the members of the Biodiversity Officer Working Group

**Appendix A: Report of progress against actions and targets of Peterborough City Councils Biodiversity Strategy**

	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
1	<p>Biodiversity should be incorporated in to all landscape management contracts/SLAs.</p>	<p>Biodiversity already features in a number of landscape management contracts; these include the mowing regimes of protected road verges and management of areas such as the Bluebell community area and Broadway cemetery.</p> <p>The production of biodiversity specifications for consideration at contract renewal continues to be investigated. The need to work within existing resources is however an over-riding factor.</p> <p>A specification with respect to working on watercourses with wolveroles was incorporated into the Drainage ditch management contract when it was renewed.</p> <p>Woodland and shelterbelt management is undertaken in a manner to sustain and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>A specification with respect to the implementation of hedge, shrub and tree works in the bird nesting season was developed as part of the update of the biodiversity strategy. Key feedback from RSPB and Natural England was secured from this specification.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Cost element of this has been identified as key. Has to work within existing resources. Pursuit of external funding for this area unlikely to be successful.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Concerns with respect of cost of implementation from Corporate Management Team.</p>	<p>Support of these efforts continues.</p> <p>Ways in which further biodiversity can be incorporated at no additional cost continue to be sought.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A.</p> <p>The Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee has referred this to Peterborough City Services to progress this independently of the Biodiversity Strategy. Support will be provided from the City Councils Officer Working Group for Biodiversity as required.</p>

	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
<b>2</b>	In the short-term reasonably significant areas should be identified for trialling new approaches to landscape management.	<p>A number of trials have been carried out and/or continue These include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunningdale trial woodland coppice area.</li> <li>• Crematorium Wildflower area.</li> <li>• Central Park Wildflower strip.</li> <li>• Dogsthorpe and Olive Road allotment Initiatives</li> </ul>	This will become clear as management of trial areas progress.	The trial areas approach continues and positive/negative aspects of management investigated. Dependant upon this, expansion of management for biodiversity within a site or to another similar site can then be given informed and realistic consideration.
<b>3</b>	All City Council and contract staff directly involved in the management of open space should be given training and guidance on good management practice to safeguard and promote Biodiversity.	<p>A number of training session have been carried out since the strategy was first adopted these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Drainage engineers and contractors have attending training on water voles and how works can be carried out in water vole habitat.</li> <li>• Biodiversity Training sessions have been offered by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and attended by PCC officers.</li> <li>• A briefing session has been held for PCC highways officers.</li> </ul> <p>The Natural and Historic Environment Team has continued general liaison and advice to officers and departments from across the City Council with respect to Biodiversity. In addition to those specifically represented on the Biodiversity Officer Working Group these also for example include highways and rights of way officers.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Not all departments were available to attend.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>A follow up Peterborough specific training session could be organised following adoption of an updated biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>Follow up meetings as required.</p> <p>Continue this role.</p>

	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
4	<p>Production of management plans for open spaces as has been done for Central Park. In this context, where appropriate, incorporate differential grass cutting regimes in parks, verges and large open spaces.</p>	<p>This is under investigation by the Officer group much information with respect to site management is already held.</p> <p>It will need to be linked to the trial areas discussed above. Plans would need to be written sequentially by the relevant officer to that site. It would not be possible to write management plans for all sites concurrently due to the magnitude of this task.</p> <p>The City Councils ancient woodland has been surveyed and widespread consultation undertaken. A management plan that will secure these valuable assets for decades to come has been produced. Investigations underway with Bereavement Services with respect to Pockocks wood and bringing this into favourable management for conservation and public access.</p> <p>Part of the works sponsored by Froglife at the Boardwalks Local Nature Reserve has included the production of a management specification for the site, works at the site for example by Peterborough Conservation Volunteers have proceeded in accordance with this plan.</p> <p>A biodiversity assessment of Central Park has been produced in support of its green flag status.</p> <p>The Bereavement Services Team produced</p>	<p>Linked to trial areas</p> <p>The production of management plans is potentially a very time consuming process.</p> <p>Any changes to management will need to be achieved within existing resources.</p> <p>Implementation of the plan is reliant on existing resources and accessing external funding.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Trial areas approach continues.</p> <p>Progress sequentially. Investigate sources of external funding.</p> <p>Ways in which management could be amended at no additional cost continue to be sought/investigated.</p> <p>Potential sources of external funding are identified in the plan that has been produced.</p> <p>Continue management in accordance with specification.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Maintain this status.</p>

	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
		a management plan for the memorial gardens which led, at the first attempt, to the award of the Green Flag in 2009. Development of the management plan resulted in the award of a further Green Flag in 2010.		
<b>5</b>	Establish measurable annual targets for the creation of new areas of wildlife interest.	<p>A sub group of the Natural Networks Group has been formed to attempt to combine the Natural Environment Audit, BAP targets and Green Grid Targets. This would in effect give a Peterborough Specific Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>A Skills for the Future Bid by Peterborough Environment City Trust which includes two posts which will digitise the Green Grid Strategy has been successful. This would allow the effective monitoring of this strategy by the Natural Networks Group and targeting of effort.</p>	<p>This is a potentially very time consuming process which could divert effort away from practical implementation.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue to work with Natural Networks targets subgroup.</p> <p>Progress as resources allow.</p> <p>Hosting of two project posts in the Natural and Historic Environment Team</p>
<b>6</b>	Where appropriate, consider gradual replacement of non-native species with native species.	<p>This has been investigated by the Officer Group; the appropriate and gradual nature of this action is viewed as being key. For example non native shrubs could only be replaced once they have reached the end of their lifespan. There would be a significant cost element to undertaking this in advance of such a time.</p> <p>Planting opportunities in the shelter belts have all been filled with native, and wherever possible locally sourced plants.</p>	<p>Cost of early replacement.</p> <p>Limited budgets are available for this item.</p>	Continue current efforts.

	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
7	<p>Give explicit support for small-scale community wildlife schemes, including encouraging community management of existing landscaping where requested and appropriate.</p>	<p>PCC Natural Environment Project grants have continued. Up to 15 community wildlife schemes are supported each year. The budget available for this item has however been reduced in the current financial year.</p> <p>Support for community projects has continued, as has support for projects such as Broadway Cemetery and Cuckoos Hollow groups.</p> <p>Peterborough Conservation Volunteers continue to undertake conservation tasks for Recreation Services on PCC sites and County Wildlife Sites with Support from the Natural and Historic Environment Team. These have included works at the Boardwalks Local Nature Reserve as well as Debdale, Basil Green ponds Barnack grassland and Ermine Street County Wildlife Sites.</p> <p>The probation services also undertake works on semi natural areas and Nature Reserves.</p>	<p>This has been successful in the reporting period; funding for the next reporting period has been allocated, albeit at a reduced rate.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Dependant on continued allocation of budgets.</p> <p>Continue to support these efforts.</p> <p>Maintain budget allocations and continue to support these efforts.</p> <p>Support to this group to continue.</p>
8	<p>Recognise the role of allotments and cemeteries in promoting Biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where there is local support, opportunity should be taken for the utilisation of disused allotments and closed</li> </ul>	<p>This approach has been trialled at the Dogsthorpe allotments site. For example young offenders have undertaken a pond creation scheme with the Froglife group. This is contributing to both of the parts of this action point.</p> <p>Where allotment sites are not utilised this is</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Limited resourcing to</p>	<p>This project is continuing to be supported.</p> <p>Recreation services have actively</p>

	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
	<p>cemeteries for promoting wildlife habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allotments and cemeteries that are in use have a part to play with respect to biodiversity. This is not intended to conflict with their operating requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>very difficult to achieve.</p> <p>The Allotments Officer has produced a wildlife leaflet for allotment holders.</p> <p>Meetings with allotments committees have been undertaken to discuss how the biodiversity of allotments can be increased and the possibility of using Natural Environment Grant funding to facilitate this. This grant has for example paid for hedging materials which have been planted at an allotment site by the users in the reporting period.</p> <p>In conjunction with sponsorship from Frog Life and utilising available sponsorship the tenants to various sites have constructed ponds to encourage amphibians.</p> <p>The wildlife value of cemeteries is well recognised. A wild garden of remembrance has been created at the crematorium and the Friends of Broadway Cemetery Group continue to appreciate the wildlife value of this site.</p> <p>A great deal of work to control bramble and scrub at the Broadway Cemetery Site has continued in the last reporting period.</p>	<p>bring disused plot back into active use.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Antisocial usage of this site continues to be a concern.</p>	<p>promoted allotments and allotment tenancies are continuing to increase as plots are cleared and brought into active use to meet the demand.</p> <p>Continue existing management and projects.</p> <p>Continue current efforts and Natural Environment Project grant funding.</p> <p>Continue these efforts.</p> <p>The efforts of Bereavement Services, supported by Officers from other relevant departments and bodies are ongoing.</p>



	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
		<p>The wildflower area at the Crematorium continues to develop with self propagation supported by careful planting of native species. As with Eastfield Cemetery, the balance between the demands of the bereaved and supporting biodiversity needs sensitive management.</p> <p>The Children's Memorial Garden at the Crematorium is maturing well with a good mix of indigenous planting supporting a range of butterflies, bees and other insects. The woodland pond has naturalised well and sports its own flora and fauna.</p> <p>Work is currently underway to develop a management plan for Pockocks Wood and to identify sources of funding, with the aim of re-opening the woodland to visitors.</p>	N/A	<p>Continue these efforts.</p> <p>Continue these efforts.</p> <p>Continue these efforts.</p>
9	Support initiatives to encourage wildlife friendly gardening, recognising the increasing amount of land devoted to this usage.	<p>Wildlife Gardening has been a strand of the Peterborough in Bloom competition since 2006.</p> <p>School wildlife projects have also been supported via the Natural Environment Projects Grants Scheme administered by the Natural Environment Team and also the eco schools initiative. In the reporting period this has for example included the planting of school orchards, restoration, creation and</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>None in the reporting period, possible concern with respect to budget allocations.</p>	<p>Support of urban wildlife initiatives is continuing both directly and also indirectly such as those with other organisations as Froglife and the Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>Continue these efforts.</p>

	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
		<p>enhancement of school ponds and wildlife areas.</p> <p>43 PCC schools have either registered, participated, or are currently working towards an eco-school award (see below) or are actively pursuing the DFE Sustainable Schools Framework which has the same aims; PECT have their own education officer who assists schools with the scheme. Many of these schools also have school gardens and wildlife spaces.</p>	N/A	Continue these efforts.
10	Give particular emphasis to the protection of ancient and semi-natural habitats through all the City Council's activities.	<p>The protection of these habitats continues to be emphasised in planning for example through the existence and use of local plan policies and formulation of policies and allocation of development sites in the Local Development Framework.</p> <p>The City Councils ancient woodland has been surveyed and a management plan that will secure these valuable assets for decades to come has been produced.</p> <p>Security concerns raised with respect to Pockocks wood by neighbouring businesses have been responded to in the reporting period. This has been led by Bereavement Services in conjunction with the Natural and Historic Environment Team as well as Peterborough City Services and Strategic Property.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Implementation of the plan is reliant on existing resources and accessing external funding.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Emphasis on the protection of ancient and semi natural habitats is being continued.</p> <p>Potential sources of external funding are identified in the plan that has been produced and are also suggested in the proposed update to the PCC biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Dialogue continues.</p>

	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
		<p>Further work has been undertaken during the past autumn/winter period at Broadway Cemetery, a County Wildlife Site, to raise tree canopies and remove unwanted self-sets. This has improved the ground flora as well as the aesthetic appearance of the site. Evidence indicates that wildlife is increasing at this cemetery and, hopefully, the bird and bat boxes previously provided are helping in this respect.</p> <p>A further County Wildlife Site survey was carried out at Eastfield Cemetery, on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2009, which identified a reasonable selection of grassland and shade plants, although only a few of the indicator species found in 1991 were found during this survey. Consideration is being given to the current mowing regime to see if there is any room for compromise between the needs of nature and the demands of the bereaved.</p> <p>Children's Services assets and school place planning team also operate a "landlord's consent" scheme whereby all schools are required to register capital works to their premises, this enables monitoring and advice to schools in respect of grounds works, planting schemes, ponds, etc. Occasionally works which are not in accordance with City Council policy or procedure, such as inappropriate felling or pruning of trees, can be intercepted via this scheme.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Overriding requirement of the demands of the bereaved.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue these efforts.</p> <p>Meeting to be held on site with the Wildlife Trust in the Autumn.</p> <p>Continue efforts in this area.</p>

	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
		<p>All trees on school sites are managed by City Services, Parks, Trees and Open Spaces Department. This enables closer monitoring of school grounds and from this may lead to the acquisition of additional school grounds maintenance contracts, thus ensuring that a greater proportion of schools will be managed in accordance with City Council policy.</p> <p>The Natural and Historic Environment team has led on the achievement of the National Indicator Target for Biodiversity (percentage of County Wildlife Sites in positive management). This has included close liaison with key partners such as the Wildlife Trust, Biological Records Centre and Peterborough Geology group. Peterborough Conservation Volunteers have also played a vital role in undertaking work on Peterborough sites to maintain and bring them into positive management. Within this surveys, provision of advice to landowners and activities have been carried out on behalf on the Natural and Historic Environment Team by the Wildlife Trust via a Service Level Agreement. This agreement has been updated and re-issued in the reporting period.</p> <p>Continued support for the long standing Peterborough Barn Owl recovery programme. This is now recognised as one</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>None in the reporting period, possible concern with respect to continued</p>	<p>Continue efforts in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts and budget allocations in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts and budget allocations in this area.</p>

	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
		<p>of the most successful of these programmes in the UK. Monitoring in the last year has also included additional boxes erected in the previous reporting period which replacement those lost or which had fallen into disrepair over the last 14 years. The data from this ongoing monitoring scheme has proved crucial in the provision of advice to the Planning Department with respect to a number of strategic planning applications for example for wind farm proposals and public enquiries and how they would relate to this key environmental feature of the Unitary Area. Press releases for this project and a new webpage have been published in the last 12 months.</p> <p>Continued support for monitoring and habitat management for the rare four spotted moth in Peterborough. This has been particularly valuable in the reporting period in the provision of advice to the planning department with respect to the proposed development of a neighbouring site. The monitoring has also allowed the extension of the neighbouring County Wildlife Site and its continued assessment as being in positive management which has directly contributed to the National Indicator 197 target included in the Local Area Agreement.</p> <p>The Natural and Historic environment team continues to play an active role with the County Biodiversity and Peterborough</p>	<p>budget allocations.</p> <p>None in the reporting period, possible concern with respect to continued budget allocations.</p> <p>None in the reporting period, possible concern with respect to continued</p>	<p>Continue efforts and budget allocations in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts and budget allocations in this area.</p>

	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
		<p>Natural Networks Partnerships.</p> <p>Operational works within the shelterbelts has been followed by chipping the cut back into the belt and the stacking of the logs for their gradual decay and production of invertebrate habitat.</p>	<p>budget allocations.</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue efforts in this area.</p>
11	<p>Investigate and exploit external funding opportunities for creating and enhancing the Biodiversity value of City Council managed land.</p>	<p>All members of the Officer Group have access to the Funding Database on the BAP partnership web pages.</p> <p>The seeking of external funding would have to be linked to a number of actions outlined above.</p> <p>The Natural and Historic Environment team has supported the development of a Skills for the Future Bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund by Peterborough Environment City Trust. This includes two posts which will be hosted within the team which will map and update the Green Grid Strategy as a live electronic (GIS) document and undertaken field surveys of habitat networks. 2 built environment pots will also be hosted within the team.</p> <p>The Natural and Historic Environment team has supported the development of a Countywide pond restoration project by the County Biodiversity Partnership. This will apply for funding to external bodies such as the WREN landfill tax fund. At least 5 of the</p>	<p>N/A at the present time - linked to other actions.</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Dependant on securing external funding.</p>	<p>Linked to actions/areas above for which for which external funding could be sought.</p> <p>Additional detail is laid out in this respect in the proposed update to the PCC biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Continue efforts in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts in this area.</p>

	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
		<p>ponds to be restored would be in the Peterborough area.</p> <p>Debdale Pond in Orton Warterville has received attention under guidance from PCS from the local open space friends group in an attempt to clear the banks and allow sunlight to gain entry. In addition there has been a local schools bird box campaign utilising the mature trees on site.</p> <p>In 2010 PCS began a review of the management techniques deployed within the shelter belts and an assessment initiated for their potential to accommodate multiple habitats at levels ranging from the forest floor to the top This is to be an ongoing process and one that will feed into the futuristic Tree &amp; Woodland Strategy.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Continue efforts in this area.</p> <p>Continue efforts in this area.</p>
<b>12</b>	Support the proposals to establish a Biological Records Centre for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.	The Biological Records Centre is now a reality. A data officer was employed by the BRC Partner organisations in October 2004. A bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund by the County Biodiversity Partnership and BRC partners was successful and allowed the establishment of the BRC from June 2005. The centre is hosted by the Wildlife Trust and based in Cambourne. PCC and other authorities and organisations in Cambridgeshire continue to support this centre. It has completed the establishment phase funded by HLF and has progressed into a self sustaining operation.	N/A project progressing very well.	Support for the BRC is ongoing. Continued budget allocations essential.

	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
		<p>The Natural and Historic Environment Team and Planning Policy have continued to support the Biological Records Centre which has provided data for a number of PCC projects and reports including those associated with the Local Development Framework, Annual Monitoring Report and National Indicator 197.</p>		
13	<p>An increasing number of organisations are establishing 'machinery rings' to share the cost of landscape management equipment between organisations.</p>	<p>Detailed consideration has been made by Peterborough City Services with respect to the potential for this type of working. PCS have concluded that the pool of machinery currently held is of a high standard. This is held under constant review. The grounds maintenance team for the Northern/Rural area has access to a very wide ranging pool of specialist grounds maintenance machinery and equipment. Arrangements to loan/inter exchange machinery for specific undertakings with other areas has occurred in the past and can quickly and conveniently put in place within the bounds of current rates/budgets. Other/outside contractors also undertake specific allocated works when this is considered to be advantageous. These sub contractors will mostly have their own specialist machinery/equipment or if required will be provided with machinery to ensure works are completed to the required specification. These contractors tend to be local, readily/conveniently available and are familiar with the highly competitive rates and</p>	N/A	<p>To be reinvestigated if identified as required.</p>



	<b>Key Recommendations and Action Points from the biodiversity strategy</b>	<b>Update on Progress/Action underway</b>	<b>Barrier to Progress</b>	<b>Future Action</b>
		<p>specifications sought by contract services. PCS are therefore content that at the present time the availability of specialist equipment and contractors is well served within current budget considerations.</p>		
<b>14</b>	<p>Continue to review the use of pesticides in the City Council's land management.</p>	<p>COSHH regulations require that this is undertaken and therefore this is ongoing for all users of pesticides.</p> <p>The use of pesticides in the Council's cemeteries has been significantly reduced and is now only used for weed control on paths and roads.</p> <p>The use of pesticides in the Crematorium gardens has been significantly reduced by a policy of manual hoeing and weeding of the beds, etc. Pesticides are now only used for treating the roses or for weed control on paths and roads.</p>	N/A	N/A

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## **Appendix B: Full reports from the members of the Biodiversity Officer Working Group**

### **1. Bereavement Services**

#### **Cemeteries**

- 1.1 Further work has been undertaken during the past autumn/winter period at Broadway Cemetery, a County Wildlife Site, to raise tree canopies and remove unwanted self-sets. This has improved the ground flora as well as the aesthetic appearance of the site. Evidence indicates that wildlife is increasing at this cemetery and, hopefully, the bird and bat boxes previously provided are helping in this respect.
- 1.2 A further County Wildlife Site survey was carried out at Eastfield Cemetery, on 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2009, which identified a reasonable selection of grassland and shade plants, although only a few of the indicator species found in 1991 were found during this survey. Consideration is being given to the current mowing regime to see if there is any room for compromise between the needs of nature and the demands of the bereaved.
- 1.3 The use of pesticides in the Council's cemeteries has been significantly reduced and is now only used for weed control on paths and roads.

#### **Crematorium**

- 1.4 The wildflower area continues to develop with self propagation supported by careful planting of native species. As with Eastfield Cemetery, the balance between the demands of the bereaved and supporting biodiversity needs sensitive management.
- 1.5 The Children's Memorial Garden is maturing well with a good mix of indigenous planting supporting a range of butterflies, bees and other insects. The woodland pond has naturalised well and sports its own flora and fauna.
- 1.6 Work is currently underway to develop a management plan for Pockocks Wood and to identify sources of funding, with the aim of re-opening the woodland to visitors.
- 1.7 The Bereavement Services Team produced a management plan for the memorial gardens which led, at the first attempt, to the award of the Green Flag in 2009. Development of the management plan resulted in the award of a further Green Flag in 2010.
- 1.8 The use of pesticides in the Crematorium gardens has been significantly reduced by a policy of manual hoeing and weeding of the beds, etc. Pesticides are now only used for treating the roses or for weed control on paths and roads.

### **2. Children's Services**

- 2.1 Children's Services has responsibility for all trees on school sites and have commissioned City Services City Services, Parks, Trees and Open Spaces Department in the maintenance and management of school trees. This enables officers to regularly visit and offer advice for school grounds generally, including the addition of features which will enhance grounds as wildlife habitats. 43 PCC schools have either registered, participated, or are currently working towards an eco-school award (see below) or are actively pursuing the DFE Sustainable Schools Framework which has the same aims; PECT have their own education officer who assists schools with the scheme.

Eco Schools Awards Available: Bronze, Silver, Green Flag which must be renewed every 2 years.

School Name	type of school	Eco School Award (or Sustainable School)	Date awarded/registered	school garden but not in other scheme*
Abbotsmede Primary	primary	bronze	01/12/2008	Well developed garden and links to John Clare cottage
All Saints C of E Junior School	primary	bronze	01/09/2008	
Arthur Mellows Village College	secondary	registered	09/06/10	
Barnack C of E Primary School	primary	-	-	yes
Bishop Creighton Primary School	primary	-	-	yes
Braybrook Primary School	primary	bronze	-	
Brewster Avenue Infant School	infant	Sustainable School	2009	yes
Ormiston Bushfield Academy	secondary	bronze	01/01/2008	yes
Castor C of E Primary School	primary	Registered	06/05/10	yes
Discovery Primary School	primary	Bronze	02/10	yes
Dogsthorpe Infant School	infant	registered	01/11/2008	Yes
Dogsthorpe Junior School	junior	silver	01/05/2008	yes
Eye C of E Primary School	primary	Silver	02/10	yes
Eyescroft Primary School	primary	bronze	01/12/2006	
Fulbridge School	primary	bronze	01/11/2006	
Gladstone Primary School	primary	Sustainable school	03/10	yes
Gunthorpe Primary School	primary	bronze	01/07/2008	yes
Hampton College	secondary	Silver	07/10	
Hampton Hargate Primary School	primary	bronze	01/02/2008	
Hampton Vale Primary School	primary	-	-	
Heltwate School	special	-	-	yes
Heritage Park Primary School	primary	-	-	
Highlees Community Primary School	primary	bronze	01/03/2008	
Jack Hunt School	secondary	Silver	06/10	
John Clare Primary School	primary	bronze	01/01/2009	yes
Ken Stimpson Community School	secondary	registered	01/10/2008	
Leighton Primary School	primary	silver	01/07/2008	yes
Longthorpe Primary School	primary	registered	16/03/2006	
Marshfields School	special	-	-	
Matley Primary School	primary	Sustainable School	02/10	yes
Middleton Primary School	primary	registered	15/05/2007	
Nene Valley Primary School	primary	silver	01/07/2006	yes

School Name	type of school	Eco School Award (or Sustainable School)	Date awarded/registered	school garden but not in other scheme*
NeneGate School	special	-	-	yes - currently being developed
Newark Hill Primary School	primary	Bronze	04/10	Yes
Newborough C of E Primary School	primary	Sustainable school	27/09/2007	Yes
Northborough Primary School	primary	Sustainable school	2009	Yes (they have an Orchard)
Norwood Primary School	primary	Sustainable school	02/10	newly constructed outdoor space, veg garden coming soon
Oakdale Primary School	primary	Sustainable school	2009	
Old Fletton Primary School	primary	bronze	07/01/2009	yes
Orton Longueville School	secondary	Sustainable school	02/10	
Orton Wistow Primary School	primary	registered	29/06/2006	
Parnwell Primary School	primary	Silver	05/10	
Paston Ridings Primary School	primary	-	-	
Peakirk cum Glinton C of E Primary School	primary	Sustainable school	02/10	Yes (newly developed with small wooded area)
Peterborough High School	independent (4-19)	Green Flag	07/10	yes
Phoenix School	special	Registered	15/03/10	
Queen's Drive Infant School	infant	Sustainable school	2009	yes - currently being developed
Ravensthorpe Primary School	primary	-	-	
Sacred Heart RC Primary School	primary	Green Flag	07/10	yes
Southfields Infant School	infant	Green Flag	12/09	yes
Southfields Junior School	junior	silver	01/05/2007	yes
St Augustine's C of E Junior School	junior	4th Green Flag	07/10	They now have an allotment as well as gardens in grounds
St Botolph's C of E Primary School	primary	bronze	01/11/2008	
St John Fisher Catholic High School	secondary	Bronze	01/10	
St John's Church School	primary	Registered	19/03/10	
St Thomas More RC Primary School	primary	Sustainable school	02/10	yes
Stanground College	secondary	-	-	
Stanground St John's C of E Primary School	primary	Registered	01/04/10	
The Beeches Primary School	primary	registered	28/02/2006	
The Duke of Bedford Primary School	primary	-	-	

School Name	type of school	Eco School Award (or Sustainable School)	Date awarded/registered	school garden but not in other scheme*
The King's School	secondary	silver	01/06/2008	yes
The Thomas Deacon Academy	city academy	registered	01/05/2008	New allotment being developed on site
The Voyager School	secondary	Silver	07/09	
Thorpe Primary School	primary	-	-	
Watergall Primary School	primary	-	-	yes
Welbourne Primary School	primary	bronze	01/07/2006	
Welland Primary School	primary	-	-	
Werrington Primary School	primary	1st Green Flag	01/02/2009	
West Town Primary School	primary	-	-	
William Law Primary School	primary	Silver	03/10	New orchard planted and small garden
Winyates Primary School	primary	-	-	
Wittering Primary School	primary	-	-	
Woodston Primary School	primary	Sustainable school	-	yes

- 2.2 Children's Services assets and school place planning team also operate a "landlord's consent" scheme whereby all schools are required to register capital works to their premises, this enables monitoring and advice to schools in respect of grounds works, planting schemes, ponds, etc. Occasionally works which are not in accordance with City Council policy or procedure, such as inappropriate felling or pruning of trees, can be intercepted via this scheme.
- 2.3 The PCC in-house school building design team have adopted the sustainability agenda with a passion. Their first project was Newborough Primary School where a sedum roof, passive ventilation, grey water recycling and PV cells were all incorporated. Orton Wistow project included all of these features and a ground sourced heat exchange system. Wherever possible these will become standard items in design. A substantial grant was awarded to incorporate further carbon reducing elements in the new Welland School replacement scheme. This is currently in the M&E modelling stage, and should start on site in the New Year (2011).
- 2.4 Schools are funded mainly from Government grants and the vast majority of the funding is devolved to them to make their own management decisions. Therefore, they do not have to comply with City Council procurement regulations. This means that they can use their own preferred contractors, and are free to specify and order works. There may be occasions where schools are acting outside of the City Council's policies practices for preserving biodiversity, although hopefully this would be quite rare and would be checked via the landlords consent scheme.
- 2.5 All trees on school sites are managed by City Services, Parks, Trees and Open Spaces Department. This enables closer monitoring of school grounds and from this may lead to the acquisition of additional school grounds maintenance contracts, thus ensuring that a greater proportion of schools will be managed in accordance with City Council policy.

### 3. Climate Change

- 3.1 The climate change strategy refresh is currently underway. This is required due to the pace of work in the climate change area which means that parts of the 2006 strategy are now

out of date. The new strategy is proposed to be city wide and will encompass work on mitigation and adaptation to climate change across many subject areas including biodiversity.

## 4 Natural Environment

The Natural and Historic Environment Team by its nature continues to be involved with much biodiversity activity both within the City Council and in partnership with external partners. A significant proportion of the team's activity is focussed in providing expert advice to the Planning Departments with respect to the development of the Local Development Framework as well as planning applications and the implementation of development within the Unitary Area.

### 4.1 Recent/ongoing activities. These include:

- a) Leading on the achievement of the National Indicator Target for Biodiversity. This has included close liaison with key partners such as the Wildlife Trust, Biological Records Centre and Peterborough Geology group. Peterborough Conservation Volunteers have also played a vital role in undertaking work on Peterborough sites to maintain and bring them into positive management.
- b) Support to the development of a Skills for the Future Bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund by Peterborough Environment City Trust. This includes two posts which will be hosted within the team which will map and update the Green Grid Strategy as a live electronic (GIS) document and undertaken field surveys of habitat networks. 2 built environment pots will also be hosted within the team.
- c) Continued support for the long standing Peterborough Barn Owl recovery programme. This is now recognised as one of the most successful of these programmes in the UK. The data from this ongoing monitoring scheme has proved crucial in the provision of advice to the Planning Department with respect to a number of strategic planning applications for example for wind farm proposals and public enquiries and how they would relate to this key environmental feature of the Unitary Area. Press releases for this project and a new webpage have been published in the last 12 months.
- d) Liaison and advice to officers and departments from across the City Council with respect to Biodiversity. In addition to those specifically represented on the Biodiversity Officer Working Group these also for example include highways and rights of way officers.
- e) Surveys, provision of advice to landowners and activities carried out on behalf on the Natural Environment Team by the Wildlife Trust via a Service Level Agreement which has been updated and re-issued in the reporting period.
- f) Continued support for monitoring and habitat management for the rare four spotted moth in Peterborough. This has been particularly valuable in the reporting period in the provision of advice to the planning department with respect to the proposed development of a neighbouring site. The monitoring has also allowed the extension of the neighbouring County Wildlife Site and its continued assessment as being in positive management which has directly contributed to the National Indicator 197 target included in the Local Area Agreement.
- g) Representation of the City Council with and support to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre which has provided data for a number of PCC projects and reports including those associated with the Local Development Framework, Annual Monitoring Report and National Indicator 197.
- h) Representation of the City Council with and support to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and its associated projects. The work of the

partnership has recently included the development of a ponds restoration project which will restore at least 30 ponds across the County with at least 5 of these within the Peterborough area. A funding bid to Wren and Esme Fairburn funders is likely to be submitted early in the next reporting period.

- i) Representation of the City Council within and support to the Natural Networks Partnership.
- j) Administration and technical support to the City Councils Natural Environmental Grant Scheme which has supported a significant number of projects with schools, Parish Councils and other organisations.
- k) Continued support to the planning department to enable the integration of Biodiversity into new development. This has for example included recent and ongoing developments at, Hempstead, Haddon as well as wind farms, road schemes and minerals and waste sites. A planning application checklist has also been produced based upon the Natural England standing advice for use by planning applicants and planning officers.
- l) Continued support to the Planning Policy Team with respect to the production of Local Development Framework.
- m) Liaison with and support to local conservation organisations such as the Wildlife Trust, Buglife, Froglife and the Landyke Trust and their sites and projects.
- n) Provision of support and guidance to landowners and community groups in relation to biodiversity, this has included Schools and Parish Councils.
- o) Provision of biodiversity education via schools liaison, interpretation, guided walks and presentations, including bat, bluebell and wildflower walks and an easter egg hunt.
- p) Support to the Peterborough Green Festival for example through Officer support to the planning of this event, provision of activities as part of the festival.
- q) Administration and support to the Peterborough Tree and Pond Warden Networks. The City Council continued as a full member of the Tree Council and was therefore able to continue to fully support the tree Warden Network.
- r) Work carried out in Partnership with Froglife and Peterborough City Services at the Boardwalks Local Nature Reserve was concluded. This had included removing significant overshadowing by willows around the ponds in the site and concluded with excavation of material from the ponds in the autumn. This has directly contributed to the positive management of this site and therefore the achievement of the Biodiversity target under the LAA.
- s) Continued support to Peterborough Conservation Volunteers where their activities have taken place on PCC owned sites and Peterborough County Wildlife Sites.

4.2 **Current activities:** In addition to the continuation of many of the activities listed in 4.1 current activities and projects of note include:

- a) Leading and co-ordinating the update of the City Councils biodiversity Strategy, which is due to be reviewed by Cabinet in September.
- b) Support to PECT with respect to the production of work and training plans for Skill for the Future placements which will be hosted with the team.



- c) Continued support to the County Wildlife Sites System and progression against the LAA/National Indicator target.

4.3 **Future Activities:** Where relevant and budgetary approval is received it is planned to continue activities listed in 4.1 and 4.2 such as the Natural Environment Projects Grant. Other planned future activities and projects of note include:

- a) To continue to work with a project group of the Biodiversity Partnership to prepare a project bid for pond restoration across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- b) To finalise the updating of the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy and associated member processes.
- c) To continue to work with PECT to ensure that the Skills for the Future posts hosted by the team are well recruited and a success.
- d) To work with bereavement services to investigate the production of a management plan for Pockocks wood and possibly the accessing of external funding for woodland management works.
- e) To work with green grid partners on the Forest of Peterborough initiative.

## 5.0 Property Design and Maintenance

5.1 Local Authorities have an explicit duty to consider biodiversity in the discharge of their functions. In accordance with this duty and the City Councils Environmental Strategy the Property Design and Maintenance division actively champion biodiversity and sustainability in a number of ways, the majority of which are already incorporated into standard practice through the careful specification and monitoring of contracts. For example:

- ensuring trees are adequately protected when development takes place
- planting new trees for any that have to be removed when development takes place,
- the control of waste and pollution,
- the sustainable sourcing of materials,
- the temporary storage of soils that might otherwise be removed from site,
- good site fencing to ensure that areas damaged by the very disruptive nature of construction activity to a minimum

5.2 At a design level specific features within recent developments have included green roofs at Eye Children's centre, Woodston School and John Clare School where there is also a bio-fuel boiler, timber frame and recycled paper for wall insulation.

5.3 Green Roofs are now being included on most major schemes and this includes proposed sedum roofs on extensions at Hampton Hargate, Paston Ridings, Discovery, Beeches, Longthorpe and Welland schools. At Hampton Hargate discussions continue with Buglife with a view to upgrading biodiversity value by developing a brown roof to mimic the rapid colonisation found on many brown field sites. Planting schemes at schools and new childrens centres, apart from being wildlife friendly, have also included growing willow structures which provide educational play opportunities.

5.4 Procedurally we shall be looking to include a simple biodiversity audit within feasibility studies and the inclusion of appropriate wildlife friendly features within new schemes e.g. nesting features, roosting plates, bat boxes and bricks and composting areas.

5.5 Waste management plans are now a feature of all construction work.

5.6 By designing with the ethos of removing the need to consume electrical energy for lighting and ventilation, we seek to make significant reductions on existing and new buildings

potential carbon footprint thus having a positive environmental impact in the short and long term.

## **6.0 Peterborough In bloom**

- 6.1 An annual garden competition has been co-ordinated for the last 4 years, 2010 being the fifth year; this includes a wildlife friendly category. This receives a steady percentage of entrants and the gardens are judged on a wide variety of elements, all contributing to biodiversity.

## **7. PETERBOROUGH CITY SERVICES**

Action in support of biodiversity & sustainability taken or planned 2009/10

- 7.1 The G50 parkway grass cutting specification has been changed to max height of sward to equal 100 mm where it was previously 75 mm. This not only reduces an operational carbon footprint but allows for colonisation of wildflowers.
- 7.2 The cutting regime for shrubs has been altered to flail works from the traditional cutter bar which results in a quicker operation for carbon diminution as well as a reduction in collection requirement followed by transportation to tip.
- 7.3 Operational works within the shelterbelts has been followed by chipping the cut back into the belt and the stacking of the logs for their gradual decay and production of invertebrate habitat.
- 7.4 An agreement has been made between Betterland and City Services through which garden waste collected from the brown bins is taken and composted, the latter being used to grow plants purchased by the Authority for amenity landscaping.
- 7.5 The composting facilities at Bretton Park have been expanded and the resultant material reintroduced over the shrub and annual beds. Estimated tonnage amounts to that within the region of 80 tonnes 09/10.
- 7.6 The Crematorium has obtained the Green Flag award within the time period with support for associated issues of sustainability.
- 7.7 As a component of the In Bloom campaign a move has been made towards recycling of the dead heads cut from bedding. In previous years the outcome was to transport material to tip.
- 7.8 The Boardwalks at Thorpe Meadows has been opened up by thinning the canopies of the Willow trees overhanging the numerous ponds. This action has been taken to promote amphibian habitat creation and hence was financially supported by Frog Life.
- 7.9 Debdale Pond in Orton Warterville has received attention from the local open space friends group in an attempt to clear the banks and allow sunlight to gain entry. In addition there has been a local schools bird box campaign utilising the mature trees on site.
- 7.10 In 2010 a review of the management techniques deployed within the shelter belts began and an assessment initiated for their potential to accommodate multiple habitats at levels ranging from the forest floor to the top. This is to be an ongoing process and one that will feed into the futuristic Tree & Woodland Strategy.

### **ALLOTMENTS:**

- 7.11 In conjunction with sponsorship from Frog Life and utilising available sponsorship the tenants to various sites have constructed ponds to encourage amphibians.

## PLAY PROVISION:

- 7.12 In conjunction with Wild Play numerous activities have taken place to educate children to recognise, understand and value wildlife. Examples include the Stanground Brownies enjoying an evening at Stanground Community Woodlands who were led on a wildlife walk and leaf hunt, this followed by the making of butterfly feeders, clay leaves and a session of natural music.
- 7.13 The Wild Adventure Day at Southey Woods was supported by ten families taking part in a range of activities including den building, making tree cookies and going on a bug hunt. Activities were undertaken that could reflect those typically associated with a Greenwatch meeting.
- 7.14 Additional venues chosen for their educational potential include Eye Green Nature Reserve, Stanground Wash and Hampton Hargate Community School.

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<b>ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 7</b>
<b>9 SEPTEMBER 2010</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Executive Director of Operations**

**Contact Officer(s) – Leonie McCarthy, Neighbourhood Manager – City Wide**  
**Contact Details - 01733 864308 or email [leonie.mccarthy@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:leonie.mccarthy@peterborough.gov.uk)**

### **NORWOOD LANE AND THE PASTON TRAVELLERS SITE**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 At a meeting of the Gunthorpe, Paston, Walton and Werrington Community Committee held on 23 June 2010 at the Honeyhill Centre in Paston, the Community Committee requested that a report highlighting the issues relating to fly tipping at Norwood Lane and the Paston Travellers Site, including suggested solutions to the issue, be brought to the Scrutiny Committee. This is to enable Members to gain a better understanding of the background and context to this ongoing challenge, and to scrutinise the recommended actions.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee support the proposed actions outlined within this report to rectify the issues relating to Norwood Lane and the Paston Travellers Site.

#### **3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

- 3.1 The issues surrounding the Norwood Lane site impact across the whole Sustainable Community Strategy, but most specifically have serious environmental, social and cohesion implications.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Paston Travellers Site (situated off Norwood Lane) is accessed via Newborough Road. The access road is very long and for over 15 years has been a hotspot for fly tipping. The fly tipping is a mixture of household and business waste, often with dangerous material included such as asbestos.

There has been a significant increase in the number of fly tipping incidents in the past year with the following consequences:

- Limited access for emergency vehicles accessing the site
- Residents being unable to leave or enter the site
- Attendance of the fire service on numerous occasions due to burning of rubbish
- Residents reporting toxic fumes
- Damage to vehicles entering and exiting the site

The site is cleared regularly by colleagues in City Services, with significant annual costs.

## 5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 Significant increase in fly tipping on the site over the past 12 months has resulted in:

- national media coverage, usually negative
- Increased illegal activity on the site
- Emergency services unable to access the site in an emergency or for appointments
- Increased complaints from neighbours living in the surrounding area

Health and safety risks:

- For residents in proximity to the site from toxic gases where onsite fly tipping has occurred
- Children playing in very dangerous conditions including being surrounded by glass and metal
- Site is at risk of flooding during heavy downpour due to blocked drains
- No fire points or access on the site leaving the Travellers vulnerable to fire hazards

Resulting in community cohesion issues including:

- Council staff and other colleagues having concerns and fears accessing the site resulting in a risk of the community not receiving fair and accessible services
- Increased community tension between the resident Traveller population and surrounding non-Traveller community.

5.2 There are currently no mechanisms in place to catch fly tippers and identify the perpetrators. From intelligence, it is known that whilst some fly tipping is being carried out by a few individuals from the site, the majority is put there by businesses and members of the general public.

5.3 Travellers living on the site are fearful to report individuals and have been verbally and physically attacked on previous occasions when they have tried to approach fly tippers.

5.4 **Current solutions being undertaken:**

- A Solution Clinic has been set up which will bring partners together from all related agencies, national and regional expertise in working with the Traveller community and members of the Traveller Community, to address the issues at Paston Travellers Site. The aims of the Solution Clinic are to improve environmental and community safety issues at Paston, whilst also building community relations with the Gypsy and Traveller community living on the site.
- Closer working relationships with representatives from the community on the Paston Travellers site over the last few months to develop a solution for dealing with the ongoing issues of flytipping and other matters.
- We have carried out investigations into inserting a bund to restrict the width of the road thus restricting the opportunity to flytip waste along the lane. Other alternatives have also been looked into including the possibility of having a permanently placed overt CCTV camera. This could be used when necessary to identify offenders and bring about prosecutions when offences occur as well as acting as an ongoing deterrent.

5.5 More recently, we have committed, with the agreement of representatives from the Travellers site, to undertake a programme of events in the next 3-6 months. This will include intelligence gathering through the use of covert CCTV operations and joint patrols with the local Police Rural Community Action Team (RCAT). These patrols will conduct stop checks on vehicles and drivers transporting waste in the local area ensuring licences and paperwork for waste disposal are up to date and in order. All this is to be followed up with positive action where evidence and circumstance allow, including issuing Fixed Penalty Notices to illegal waste transporters and prosecution cases brought against those found to have Flytipped in the area.

Our intention is to find the perpetrators of these offences, take enforcement action against them and promote the message that this area will no longer tolerate flytipping.

- 5.6 We have looked into changing the layout of the road, but the costs involved would be in the region of £65k and we have been informed that this would not guarantee the cessation of flytipping in the area.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 If no action is taken to reduce / stop the fly tipping activities, the Council and its partners will continue to incur significant costs each year in connection with this site as in the last two financial years significant costs have already been incurred.
- 6.2 The Gypsy and Traveller Community has been identified as a 2010/2011 priority in the Peterborough Cohesion Strategy. In addressing the issues which are highlighted in this report, we can ensure that residents who currently live on the Paston site have the same quality and standard of living as other residents in Peterborough.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 A meeting has been held with residents from the site and PCC staff to address the issues on the Paston Travellers Site. The Travellers felt that while there were significant issues for the Site generally, they were only keen at this stage to have the road clearance addressed before any other actions were taken relating to the site.

## **8. NEXT STEPS**

- 8.1 A meeting was held on 1 August with City Services to ascertain how the PCC CCTV equipment could be installed and monitored by the Neighbourhoods Department in partnership with the Police.
- 8.2 Solution Centre Clinic to be held on 6 September.

## **9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1 None.

## **10. APPENDICES**

- 10.1 Newspaper Article – Evening Telegraph - May 11 2010

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# Charity not deterred by fun day cancellation

FUNDRAISERS are down but not out, despite wet weather causing the cancellation of their charity event.

The Bridge for Heroes had a whole series of fun family events planned for outside the Plough pub, in Farcet Fen, last Sunday, May 2, but had to scrap it after the rain came.

The charity is looking to raise £400,000 to open up the former Bridge Hotel, in Sutton Bridge, near Spalding, into a holiday centre for injured soldiers, and was hoping for a bumper crowd at the event.

But now the group is quickly re-organising to hold a similar fun day later this month on May 26, this time in Sutton Bridge.

Publicity officer Phillip Potts said: "We'd hoped for a good weekend, but unfortunately the weather was atrocious and we couldn't run the event on health and safety grounds."

"It was a shame because it would have been a fantastic day, as we had about 16 stalls, children's and adult bouncy castles, a surfing machine and inflatable sumo wrestlers."

"But we are going to keep rolling on and hold our next fundraiser at the Recreation Field in Sutton Bridge, so we are hoping people who were disappointed by the cancellation will be able to join us for that."

Last weekend was not a total bust for the Bridge for Heroes however, after a series of local bands played inside the pub on the Saturday to a good crowd.

Support for the charity is growing as well, with the Royal Anglian Regiment agreeing to raise money on its behalf during the year.

The group is the brainchild of former Gulf war veteran Mike Taylor and would provide about 480 servicemen with a free five-day break there every year.

It would create 22 full-time and 49 part-time jobs, with parts of the hotel being turned into a subsidised gym and cinema, as well as providing work attachments for those with disabilities.

# Funds boost for charity

VOLUNTEERS for a city charity have collected £1,200 to help Parkinson's disease sufferers.

Parkinson's UK volunteers raised the cash at a collection at Serpentine Green shopping centre at Hampton on April 24.

The collection coincided with many fund raising events being held throughout the country for Parkinson's Awareness Week.

Nigel Evenett, treasurer for the Peterborough branch, thanked everyone who contributed or gave up time on the day.

He said: "I'm new to Peterborough but I'm already impressed with the sense of community here."

The cash collected will go toward helping Peterborough people with Parkinson's and supporting their family and carers.

The charity provides one-to-one help from support workers, as well as weekly movement and coordination classes such as tai chi and pilates.

Anyone interested in further information about the branch should contact Susan Lamb on 01733 340540 or visit the website, www.parkinsonsuk.org.uk

# Lane fly-tipping costs £52,000

By ADAM UREN

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**FLY-TIPPERS** who regularly turn a quiet Peterborough lane into a garbage-filled grot-spot are costing taxpayers up to £52,000 a year.

The filthy state of Norwood Lane, in Paston Ridings, has been immortalised on YouTube by a disgusted city resident and picked up by city blogger Jonathan Frascella, who suggested it could be the "worst road in the UK".

Peterborough City Council has also described it as the worst grot-spot in the city.

It has revealed that its teams clear it every four to six weeks at a cost of £4,000 each time, costing the council up to £52,000 a year.

Couches, wooden pallets and mounds of tyres are among the rubbish dumped into the road.

David Denson, head of operations for the council's city services, said that each clean-up takes five to seven working days to do and often by the time their work is done, rubbish is already being dumped back on the road.

Cllr Peter Hiller, portfolio holder for city services, said: "Our teams are of aware of it and it costs the taxpayer a lot of money."

"It's a reprehensible practice but unfortunately there are no easy solutions."

"We are investigating whether we can carry out some covert surveillance in areas particularly known for fly-tipping."

"I would certainly say Norwood Lane is one of the worst."

Fly-tippers who leave clues about their identities when dumping their rubbish on the road are tracked down whenever possible by the council and can face a maximum fine of £50,000 if caught.

The road leads to Norwood Lane Travellers' Site but the council's traveller liaison officer said people should not jump to conclusions and blame them for the mess because residents and businesses are just as culpable.

He said: "The rubbish is not just being dumped by the travellers who live on the site - local residents and businesses are also responsible for this fly-tipping."

Until the issue is sorted, Peterborough faces internet notoriety with blogger Mr Frascella saying he was shocked when he saw the state of the road.

He said: "When I first saw the video on YouTube I just thought it was horrific. It's really obvious that this has been going on for quite a while and I was quite shocked by what I saw."

Paston councillor Sue Day said it had always been a problem on the road but so far nobody had a solution. She said: "What could be done? You can't close the road and CCTV is expensive. It's especially irritating when the waste centre is less than



**FLY-TIPPING:** Even though the council has recently finished a cleaning blitz Norwood Lane is still a grot-spot. (METP-10-05-10RH4) Picture: ROWLAND HOBSON.

## The problems in Paston Ridings

- Peterborough City Council clears rubbish from Norwood Lane every four to six weeks, or eight to 13 times per year.
- People successfully prosecuted for fly-tipping can receive a maximum £50,000 fine and six months in jail.
- The fire brigade has been called to the road seven times this year so far, mostly for unattended rubbish fires, with two false alarms.
- A video of the road uploaded onto YouTube has so far had more than 225 viewings and been posted onto Twitter, Facebook and the ET website.

a mile down the road." City MP Stewart Jackson said that the council should look to the example of other authorities to see how to deal with the issue.

He said: "They need to look to the experience of other local authorities and see how they implement better surveillance and work with the Environment Agency."

"I think persistent fly-tippers should be named and shamed like kerb crawlers and repeated anti-social behaviour offenders."



**TYRE-ING:** It takes city council teams a week to clear the road, but these tyres were dumped after cleaners had finished their work. (METP-10-05-10RH9) Picture: ROWLAND HOBSON.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Car left ransacked after a failed theft

A WOULD-BE thief was left empty-handed after ransacking a car in Peterborough. They entered an unlocked garage in Brookfurlong where they smashed the back window of a Vauxhall Astra and searched inside it. It happened between 7pm on May 4 and 5.20pm on May 5. Anyone with information should call police on 0345 4564564 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### Police hunt vandals who scratched car

A CAR has been damaged by vandals in Bourne. The Honda Civic vehicle was parked in a driveway on Thyme Avenue, in Bourne, when the incident happened, between April 24 and 27. Offenders scratched the back of the vehicle. Contact Lincolnshire Police on 0300 111 0300 with information.

### Clothes thief steals from washing line

A THIEF stole items of clothing from a washing line in Chatteris. The offender struck on May 6 between 8.30am and 3.15pm in Clare Street, Chatteris, near Peterborough. A police spokesperson said: "The offender entered a rear garden and stole items of clothing from a washing line." Anyone with information is asked to call police on 0345 456 4564.

### Bin stolen by crook from back garden

A BIN has been stolen from a back garden in Peterborough. The thief managed to steal the bin from the back yard of a home in Ellindon, Bretton. It happened between 9.40pm on May 5 and 3.30pm on May 6. Anyone with information about theft should call police in Peterborough on 0345 4564564 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

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<b>ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 8</b>
<b>9 SEPTEMBER 2010</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital**

**Report Author – Trevor Gibson, Director of Environment Capital**

**Contact Details – (01733) 317401**

### **PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL PORTFOLIO AND LAUNCH OF THE HOME OF ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL INITIATIVE**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report is presented to the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee to update Members on progress with regard to the delivery of the Environment Capital portfolio following comments made at its meeting in July 2010 and to consider proposals for launching the “Home of Environment Capital” initiative later in the year.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider and comment on the progress towards and proposed process for launching Environment Capital later in 2010 which will be reported to Cabinet on 29 September and Council on 13 October for consideration.

#### **3. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

- 3.1 “Creating the UK’s Environment Capital” is one of four priorities in the Sustainable Communities Strategy aimed at delivering *“a truly sustainable Peterborough, the urban centre of a thriving sub-regional community, of villages and market towns, a healthy, safe and exciting place to live, work and visit and famous as the environment capital of the UK.”*

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 This report focuses on the next steps in relation to “creating the UK’s Environment Capital” following an outline report of the approach to be taken which was considered by this Committee at its July meeting and also by the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee in the same month.
- 4.2 Peterborough’s Sustainable Communities Strategy contains four priorities: Creating Strong and Supportive Communities; Creating the UK’s Environment Capital; Creating Opportunities, Tackling Inequalities; Substantial and Truly Sustainable Growth. Each of these priorities has four specific outcomes, beneath which sit a diverse range of actions and interventions to deliver lasting positive change for Peterborough.
- 4.3 By adopting the Sustainable Communities Strategy, the Council has committed itself to becoming the UK’s Environment Capital, building on the longstanding experience as one of four Environment Cities in the UK. The “journey” from Environment City to Environment Capital is considered appropriate given the shift towards global environmental challenges such as climate change as well as the city’s ambition to grow substantially and sustainably.
- 4.4 Environment Capital now has widespread support as a key focus and unique selling point for Peterborough which has been achieved through clear political direction and the efforts of a committed, cross-sector Environment Capital Partnership.

- 4.5 Significant building blocks are already in place including the Sustainable Communities Strategy referred to above, the Local Area Agreement, the creation of an Environment Capital Cabinet portfolio and the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee itself. A wide range of Council policies and strategies also support the approach which has the support of Opportunity Peterborough as a key tool in driving economic development and of the wider business community as represented by the GPP Growth Partnership.
- 4.6 The city is currently leading on some areas of environmental activity and is receiving global recognition for its unique “Peterborough Model”. This project is being delivered through collaboration with IBM, Royal Haskoning and Green Ventures to create an accessible on-line tool for visualising the city’s environmental performance. As a result of this and other initiatives, the city is gaining a significant reputation for its environmental innovation, experience and credentials.

## 5. PROGRESS ON THE WORK STRANDS

- 5.1 **Environment Capital Major Policy:** The newly developed, draft Environment Capital Policy is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. If adopted, the new policy will form part of the Council’s Major Policy Framework and effectively replace the current Environment Policy adopted in 2000. It links the policy commitments back to the Sustainable Communities Strategy and the four priorities contained within it.
- 5.2 The draft policy seeks to ensure that Environment Capital principles are a consideration in all Council services, strategies and policies.
- 5.3 It is intended that key partners across the city will adopt tailored versions of the new policy for their own organisation.
- 5.4 **Delivery:** The Executive Director of Operations will be the lead in ensuring that the policy is embedded throughout the organisation. It is expected that responsibility for specific elements of the policy will be allocated to Cabinet Members, Directors and Heads of Service as appropriate. The policy will be delivered through a range of existing policies and strategies including, the Local Transport Plan, Biodiversity Strategy, Climate Change Strategy, Carbon Reduction Strategy, Trees and Woodland Strategy, Core Strategy and so on. Future reviews of such documents will ensure that all relevant aspects of the Environment Capital Major Policy are fully considered and incorporated. New documents, such as the emerging Environment Capital Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will complete the approach.
- 5.5 A Single Delivery Plan for the Home of Environment Capital is currently being developed for publication and will bring together a range of prioritised projects and initiatives across the city all of which are key to achieving the Sustainable Community Strategy goal.
- 5.6 Home of Environment Capital will only succeed if our actions as a city match our aspirations. This will mean making a real, positive difference to the lives of all of who reside in, work in and visit Peterborough.

*For Peterborough citizens:* Home of Environment Capital means we will pioneer exciting environmental projects that lead the way in green living. The results make us proud and give us a better quality of life. We will use this approach to make sure that we continue to improve our day-to-day performance whilst growing our reputation as a leading city. (E.g. Green Glinton, Eco-Arts Project, Travel Choice, Future Jobs Fund and the Green Back Yard).

*For the local stakeholder:* Home of Environment Capital is our USP. It is central to everything we do in the city and how we promote ourselves. It is a clear, differentiated position that puts us at the forefront of finding solutions for urgent national and international challenges. Through this we will play to our strengths, build our self confidence and develop our reputation whilst drawing investment and talent into the city. (E.g. “The Peterborough Model”, Environment Capital Single Delivery Plan)

*For the business person:* Home of Environment Capital is a way of bringing new ideas, new investment and greater visibility to our city. Making Peterborough synonymous with the environment

plays to our strengths and positions the city to benefit from a low carbon economy. Home of Environment Capital is a positive message that we can substantiate through real examples that deliver investment and build Peterborough's reputation. (E.g. Opportunity Peterborough Green Business Marketing Campaign, the Eco-Innovation Centre, Enviro-Cluster)

*As a way of introducing Peterborough to others:* Peterborough is an aspiring, fast growing city that pilots solutions to accelerate its pace of change towards sustainable living. We are Home of Environment Capital and proud to lead the way as environmental experts. We have everything we need to be a living laboratory to trial new thinking and new technologies. This approach is great news for citizens and businesses, and makes us a key player in the race towards sustainability. (E.g. "The Peterborough Model", Environment Capital Marketing Campaign)

5.7 **Stakeholder Engagement:** The Director of Environment Capital, with support from GPP colleagues, has consulted with a wide range of partners to galvanise support for and input to the Environment Capital approach in order to build and maintain a common approach and culture across the city. Whilst individual views have varied, organisations such as GPP, PECT, the Growth Partnership, Opportunity Peterborough and the Environment Capital Partnership have been broadly supportive of the new approach. As discussed at the July meeting of this Committee, promotion of the Home of Environment Capital must be backed by positive actions which deliver improved outcomes for local residents and communities. Getting the key messages out to residents and businesses alike is crucial to its success.

5.8 **Launch and Communications:** A task and finish team comprising marketing and communication expertise from a wide range of partners including, PCC, OP, PECT, GPP, UKCEED and voluntary and business sector representatives, is leading the development of a marketing and communications strategy to ensure that the new approach enhances the city's regional, national and international profile. This profile will, in turn, support inward investment and economic development.

Peterborough has been an Environment City for 15 years, and 'creating the UK's environment capital' for a further 2 years. Now the city is repositioning itself as 'home of environment capital': This gives Peterborough a unique differentiation backed up with nearly two decades of substance and progress. Sustainability helps us deliver on a range of agendas to create a better, stronger city: health, economy, education, growth, inward investment.

A number of options for branding were considered by the group. Following consultation with the leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment Capital the phrase "**Home of Environment Capital**" was considered to be the most appropriate and effective. It should be noted that this supports rather than replaces the Sustainable Community Strategy priority referred to previously. A logo has been developed as part of the strategy and is reproduced in Appendix 2. The design complements the now widely used city marketing campaign "Peterborough...the Future is You".

Key messages include:

- Home of Environment Capital will be good for Peterborough
- All of us can help build a better future for the city by getting behind Home of Environment Capital
- Home of Environment Capital is our city's ethos – we may not be the best at everything, but we are striving to consistently put sustainability first, and all working towards the same goal.

A launch campaign is being planned for the Autumn.

5.9 **Performance Management:** At its meeting in July, the Committee resolved that before the City Council launched its Environment Capital approach, agreed criteria should be met and an independent assessment should be undertaken. The most cost effective basis for this comparative work is the Forum for The Future's Sustainable Cities Index. The organisation assessed Peterborough as part of the Jonathan Porritt Master Class in November 2009 and a summary of the approach and the 2009 assessment is included as Appendix 3. It is intended that Forum for the Future assess the city again as part of the 2010 Index later this year. It should be noted that the

Index compares Peterborough with a number of much larger UK cities but it is one of only a few, reliable local authority comparators. This is likely to become more of a challenge with the deletion of the National Indicator site.

5.10 The success of the Major Policy will be assessed and monitored through an officer checklist which will accompany future reports and decisions. The checklist will cover all aspects of the policy set out in Appendix 1. Key deliverables, outcomes and performance measures will be developed as part of the Single Delivery Plan mentioned previously.

5.11 The Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee may wish to review both the performance data and checklists at future meetings.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The launch of the Home Environment Capital initiative will ensure that sustainability is embedded throughout Council services and across a range of key city stakeholders.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Major policy has been considered by a wide range of Stakeholders as set out in Section 5.

## **8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

8.1 The launch of Environment Capital, backed by a major policy, a range of high profile projects, a SPD and a bespoke marketing campaign will maintain Peterborough's position as a leading city from the environmental perspective with positive benefits for the city's future development and all of its communities. The Committee is asked to comment on the proposals set out in the report in order that these comments can be reported to Cabinet on 29 September 2010 and to Council on 13 October 2010 for consideration.

## **9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008 - 2011
- Local Area Agreement 2008-11.
- Environment Policy 2000
- Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2011.
- Peterborough – Home of Environment Capital Communication Strategy (Draft) August 2010

## **10. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Draft Home of Environment Capital – Major Policy

Appendix 2 – Proposed Home of Environment Capital Logo

Appendix 3 - Extract from Forum for the Future Sustainable Cities Index

## Home of Environment Capital – Major Policy 2010

### **Introduction:**

Peterborough is the UK's Home of Environment Capital - a place where environmental issues are put first in a city which aspires to be a role model and leader in all aspects of sustainable development.

As the Home of Environment Capital, Peterborough not only delivers sustainability but thinks sustainably. Environment Capital is as much about the intellectual response we bring to the challenges of the future as it is about the way we manage resources and grow our economy.

Our agenda has moved far beyond that of an Environment City. We are using the sustainability agenda to improve quality of life for all our people - residents, visitors and workers alike. Our Environment Capital will provide solutions to our health outcomes and will support our on-going work to build strong and safe communities. It will inspire and influence everything we do - not as an add-on policy, but as an integral way of thinking across the whole of our agenda.

As the Home of Environment Capital, we seek, as thought leaders, to raise the bar for sustainable development across the country. We will use our Environment Capital to pilot new solutions for all aspects of the sustainability agenda and we will share our learning - and learn from others - to ensure that the UK leads the world in solving our environmental challenges.

For the people of Peterborough being the Home of Environment Capital means living in a city and villages where quality of life constantly improves through the adoption of sustainable solutions to today's and tomorrow's issues. Where health gets better because we exercise more, use sustainable forms for transport and have access to high quality nature. Where education constantly improves and delivers young people ready to take up jobs in the industries of the future particularly in a growing low carbon economy. Where communities get stronger as we build cleaner and greener neighbourhoods.

### **Policy Statement:**

Peterborough City Council is committed to improving the environment in its progress towards a sustainable city. The policies and activities undertaken and promoted by the Council have many impacts on the environment. The Council has a leading role in "the Home of Environment Capital", by contributing to the creation of a high quality local environment, both now and for future generations and in reducing the adverse impact of the city on global communities.

To that end, it has adopted the Sustainable Communities Strategy which has, as one of four priorities, "Creating the UK's Environment Capital".

The Council will continually monitor and improve its environmental performance and comply with relevant legislation, policies and codes of practice to achieve the four outcomes supporting the Environment Capital priority as follows:-

### **Making Peterborough Cleaner and Greener:**

- We will minimise, and wherever possible eliminate, the release of substances which will cause demonstrable damage to the environment or its inhabitants.
- We will protect, and where possible and appropriate, enhance habitats and bio-diversity.
- We will continue to improve and enhance the urban and rural environment.

### **Conserving Natural Resources:**

- Reducing the impacts of climate change and our contribution to the causes.
- We will make sustainable use of renewable natural resources where practicable. We will conserve non-renewable resources, and where practicable use recycled materials.

- We will minimise the creation of waste, and will recycle materials where this is cost effective and to the environmental benefit. We will ensure transportation and disposal of our waste to comply with current safe practice.
- We will seek to minimise waste of energy, and will ensure that, where energy is used, the greatest possible proportion becomes useful heat, light or power. We will use environmentally safe and, where practicable, sustainable energy sources and will invest in, demonstrate and promote, the benefits of energy efficiency.

**Increasing the Use of Sustainable Transport:**

- Through our "TravelChoice" initiative, will use the least polluting transport methods compatible with our necessary service provisions, implement Travel Plans for our employees and elected members and use planning controls and other procedures to encourage the development and use of such Plans by all other employers in the City and their employees.

**Growing our Environment Business Sector:**

- Using the Enviro- Cluster and Eco-Innovation Centre as a base, to support the development of the "green" and low carbon business sector through our Economic Development and related activities.

**General:**

- In addition, the Council will ensure, the development and implementation of a **Single Delivery Plan**, that "Home of Environment Capital" contributes to the wider Sustainable Communities Strategy including the priorities:-  
**Creating Strong and Supportive Communities, Substantial and Truly Sustainable Growth and Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities**



Proposed “Home of Environment Capital Logo



Peterborough

HOME OF ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL

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## FORUM FOR THE FUTURE – SUSTAINABLE CITIES INDEX 2009

(Extract from Forum for the Future Sustainable Cities Index)

### Definitions:

The indicators, in their groups, provide a snapshot of sustainability in each of the cities assessed. The “basket” entitled “Quality of Life” has not been included as it covers health, education and employment which, although having strong links to Environment Capital, are covered by other policies and strategies.

### Environmental Impact Basket

This basket gives an indication of the cities’ environmental performance through the inclusion of data on air and water quality, resource use and ecological footprint:-

- air quality – the annual mean of Nitrogen Oxides as NO<sub>2</sub>
- river water quality – the percentage of rivers where biological and chemical quality was deemed to be good or fair
- ecological footprint – the impact of services, food, housing, transport and consumables on the environment
- household waste collected per head.

### Future-Proofing Basket:

The indicators in this basket aim to reflect the preparedness of the city for the future and readiness to respond to the challenge of sustainability:-

- local authority commitments on climate change – local authorities were given points based on three criteria
- green business per capita – the number of green businesses listed on yell.com
- biodiversity – percentage of land deemed to favour biodiversity
- recycling – per cent of household waste recycled or composted.

<b>Environmental Impact</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Air Quality	1st
Biodiversity	1st
Waste	21st
Ecological Footprint	18th
<b>Overall Rank</b>	<b>11th</b>

<b>Future-Proofing</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Climate Change	11th
Food	2nd
Economy	6th
Recycling	1st
<b>Overall Rank</b>	<b>3rd</b>

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<b>ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 9</b>
<b>9 SEPTEMBER 2010</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Solicitor to the Council**

**Report Author** – Louise Tyers, Scrutiny Manager

**Contact Details** – 01733 452284 or email [louise.tyers@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:louise.tyers@peterborough.gov.uk)

### **FORWARD PLAN – SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2010**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This is a regular report to the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee outlining the content of the Council's Forward Plan.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The latest version of the Forward Plan is attached at Appendix 1. The Plan contains those key decisions, which the Leader of the Council believes that the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Member(s) will be making over the next four months.
- 3.2 The information in the Forward Plan provides the Committee with the opportunity of considering whether it wishes to seek to influence any of these key decisions, or to request further information.
- 3.3 If the Committee wished to examine any of the key decisions, consideration would need to be given as to how this could be accommodated within the work programme.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Details of any consultation on individual decisions are contained within the Forward Plan.

#### **5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None

#### **6. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Forward Plan of Executive Decisions

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**PETERBOROUGH CITY  
COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN  
1 SEPTEMBER 2010 TO 31 DECEMBER 2010**

## FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - 1 SEPTEMBER 2010 TO 31 DECEMBER 2010

During the period from 1 September 2010 To 31 December 2010 Peterborough City Council's Executive intends to take 'key decisions' on the issues set out below. Key decisions relate to those executive decisions which are likely to result in the Council spending or saving money in excess of £500,000 and/or have a significant impact on two or more wards in Peterborough.

This Forward Plan should be seen as an outline of the proposed decisions and it will be updated on a monthly basis. The dates detailed within the Plan are subject to change and those items amended or identified for decision more than one month in advance will be carried over to forthcoming plans. Each new plan supersedes the previous plan. Any questions on specific issues included on the Plan should be included on the form which appears at the back of the Plan and submitted to Alex Daynes, Senior Governance Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Town Hall, Bridge Street, PE1 1HG (fax 01733 452483). Alternatively, you can submit your views via e-mail to [alexander.daynes@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:alexander.daynes@peterborough.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01733 452447.

The Council invites members of the public to attend any of the meetings at which these decisions will be discussed and the papers listed on the Plan can be viewed free of charge although there will be a postage and photocopying charge for any copies made. All decisions will be posted on the Council's website: [www.peterborough.gov.uk](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk). If you wish to make comments or representations regarding the 'key decisions' outlined in this Plan, please submit them to the Governance Support Officer using the form attached. For your information, the contact details for the Council's various service departments are incorporated within this plan.

### NEW ITEMS THIS MONTH:

- Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the sale of surplus Allotment land off Fletton High Street/Monarch Avenue
- Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of land adjacent to PRU (former Honeyhill School) Paston Ridings
- Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of Coneygree Lodge, Coneygree Road
- Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of Land and Buildings - Vawser Lodge Thorpe Road
- Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the sale of Land at Dickens Street Car Park
- Museum Capital Project
- Novation of Contract: Materials Recycling Facility
- Ormiston Bushfield Academy - Development Agreement
- Peterborough Local Investment Plan
- Review of Charges for Allotments
- Scheme of works at the Triangle, New England - Award of Contract
- Stanground South Primary School – stage 5



## SEPTEMBER

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
<p><b>The Future of Peterborough Community Services (the provider arm of the Primary Care Trust)</b> For Cabinet to approve proposals from the Primary Care Trust regarding the future of Peterborough Community Services, including adult social care.</p>	September 2010	<b>Cabinet</b>	Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues	Internal Departments and Relevant Stakeholders as appropriate.	Denise Radley Executive Director of Adult Social Services & Performance Tel: 01733 758444 denise.radley@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
<p><b>Award of Contract - Heltwate School</b> To award the contract for refurbishment of the school</p>	September 2010	<b>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</b>	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal departments as appropriate	Alison Chambers Asset Development Officer  alison.chambers@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.

<p><b>Legal Services for the Medium Term Financial Strategy</b> To appoint a legal services partner for the provision of legal advice in relation to the MTFS who have experience of implementing joint ventures, designing financial models for major construction and development projects and providing legal agreements and design work.</p>	September 2010	<b>Cabinet Member for Resources</b>	Strong and Supportive Communities	Internal Departments and Relevant Stakeholders as appropriate.	Andrew Cox Senior Category Manager  andy.cox@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
<p><b>Floating Support Contract: Cross Keys Homes Extension of Contract</b> Extension of contract to provide a generic floating support service for clients with housing support needs.</p>	September 2010	<b>Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning</b>	Strong and Supportive Communities	Internal Departments and Relevant Stakeholders as appropriate.	Belinda Child Housing Strategic Manager  belinda.child@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
<p><b>Grant Support to Anglia Ruskin University</b> The approval of a capital grant to support Anglia Ruskin University's purchase and refurbishment of the Guild House.</p>	September 2010	<b>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University, Cabinet Member for Resources</b>	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal Departments and Relevant Stakeholders as appropriate.	Howard Bright Growth Delivery Manager Tel: 452619 howard.bright@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.

<p><b>Stanground South Primary School - stage five</b> A decision is required to determine the 'School Competition' for South Stanground being run in accordance with the legislation relating to the commissioning of a new school for this development. Bids were invited (through the competition process) and one bid was received. The Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University will decide whether to accept or reject the bid received.</p>	September 2010	<b>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</b>	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal Departments and Relevant Stakeholders as appropriate.	Alison Chambers Asset Development Officer  alison.chambers@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.
<p><b>Passenger Transport Framework Tender</b> Requirements for special educational needs and mainstream school contract.</p>	September 2010	<b>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</b>	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal stakeholders.	Cathy Summers Team Manager - Passenger Transport Contracts and Planning  cathy.summers@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.

<p><b>Ormiston Bushfield Academy - Development Agreement</b> To enter into a Development Agreement with Ormiston Academies Trust for the development of the Ormiston Bushfield Academy.</p>	September 2010	<b>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</b>	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.	Brian Howard PFI Project Manager Tel: 01733 863976 brian.howard@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.
<p><b>Ormiston Bushfield Academy</b> To award a contract to design &amp; build the new Ormiston Bushfield Academy school buildings from the Partnerships for Schools National Framework of Contractors.</p>	September 2010	<b>Chief Executive</b>	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal Departments and Relevant Stakeholders as appropriate.	Brian Howard PFI Project Manager Tel: 01733 863976 brian.howard@peterborough.gov.uk	None.
<p><b>Extension of the Banking Services Contract with Barclays Bank</b> Peterborough City Council's contract with Barclays Bank who provide our banking services is due to expire on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and the contract needs to be extended for a further 2 years.</p>	September 2010	<b>Cabinet Member for Resources</b>	Sustainable Growth	Internal Departments and Relevant Stakeholders as appropriate.	Sian Warren Capital Accounting Manager Tel: 863924 sian.warren@peterborough.gov.uk	Public Report will be available from the governance Team one week before the decision is taken

<p><b>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the sale of surplus Allotment land off Fletton High Street/Monarch Avenue</b></p> <p>To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, Executive Director - Strategic Resources, the Corporate Property Officer and the Cabinet Member Resources, to negotiate and conclude the sale of surplus land at Fletton High Street/Monarch Avenue.</p>	<p>September 2010</p>	<p><b>Cabinet Member for Resources</b></p>	<p>Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments and external stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Executive Director - Strategic Resources</p> <p>John.harrison@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.</p>
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<p><b>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of land adjacent to PRU (former Honeyhill School) Paston Ridings</b> To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, Executive Director – Strategic Resources, the Corporate Property Officer and the Cabinet Member Resources, to negotiate and conclude the sale of land adjacent to the former Honeyhill School.</p>	September 2010	<b>Cabinet Member for Resources</b>	Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee	Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments & external stakeholders as appropriate.	Executive Director - Strategic Resources  John.harrison@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
<p><b>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of Coneygree Lodge, Coneygree Road</b> To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, Executive Director – Strategic Resources, the Corporate Property Officer and the Cabinet Member Resources, to negotiate and conclude the sale of Coneygree Lodge at Coneygree Road.</p>	September 2010	<b>Cabinet Member for Resources</b>	Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee	Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments & external stakeholders as appropriate	Executive Director - Strategic Resources  John.harrison@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made

<p><b>Review of Charges for Allotments</b> To agree the charges for the use of Allotments for the forthcoming year.</p>	September 2010	<b>Cabinet Member for Resources</b>	Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee	Relevant ward members, internal Departments and external stakeholders as appropriate.	Commercial Services Director  Mike.heath@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made
<p><b>Section 75 Pooled funding arrangements for substance misuse services</b> Variation to the existing partnership agreement under the National Health Act 2006 to pool funding from NHS Peterborough and PCC to commission drugs services. The variation takes into account the slight changes to governance and structure of the former Drug and Alcohol Action Team, now part of the Safer Peterborough Partnership, and additional funding made available to NHS Peterborough for integrated drug treatment within HMP Peterborough.</p>	September 2010	<b>Cabinet Member for Resources</b>	Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues	Internal stakeholders as appropriate	Karen Kibblewhite Community Safety And Substance Misuse Manager Tel: 01733 864122 karen.kibblewhite@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made

<p><b>Novation of Contract: Materials Recycling Facility</b> Decision to allow a transfer of the existing contract for the materials recycling facility from Viridor Resource Peterborough Limited to Viridor Waste Management Limited.</p>	September 2010	<b>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning</b>	Environment Capital	Internal and External Stakeholders as appropriate	Margaret Welton Principal Lawyer - Waste 2020 Tel: 01733 452226 margaret.welton@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.
<p><b>Peterborough Local Investment Plan</b> Document for submission to the Homes and Communities Agency, drawn largely from the Integrated Development Programme (Adopted December 2009). The LIP is the first stage towards applying for funding from the HCA for primarily housing-related project aspirations in the City.</p>	September 2010	<b>Leader of the Council</b>	Sustainable Growth	Internal and External stakeholders as appropriate.	Andrew Edwards Head of Peterborough Delivery Partnership Tel: 01733 384530 andrew.edwards@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.
<p><b>Museum Capital Project</b> To allocate funding to the Museum Redevelopment project to provide match funding for a Heritage Lottery Funding bid.</p>	September 2010	<b>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning</b>	Strong and Supportive Communities	Consultation will take place with relevant internal stakeholders as appropriate	Steven Pilsworth Head of Strategic Finance Tel: 01733 384564 Steven.Pilsworth@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.



## OCTOBER

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
<p><b>Scheme of works at the Triangle, New England - Award of Contract</b> Award of contract to construct Triangle Safety Scheme through Midlands Highways Alliance (MHA) – Medium Schemes Framework 1 (MSF) contract.</p>	<p>October 2010</p>	<p><b>Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning</b></p>	<p>Environment Capital</p>	<p>Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Stuart Mounfield Senior Engineer Tel: 01733 453598 stuart.mounfield@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public Report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.</p>
<p><b>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of Dickens Street Car Park</b> To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, Executive Director – Strategic Resources, the Corporate Property Officer and the Cabinet Member Resources, to negotiate and conclude the sale of Dickens Street Car Park.</p>	<p>October 2010</p>	<p><b>Cabinet Member for Resources</b></p>	<p>Sustainable Growth</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments &amp; external stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Andrew Edwards Head of Peterborough Delivery Partnership Tel: 01733 384530 andrew.edwards@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.</p>

<p><b>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of Land and Buildings - Vawser Lodge Thorpe Road</b></p> <p>To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, Executive Director – Strategic Resources, the Corporate Property Officer and the Cabinet Member Resources, to negotiate and conclude the sale of Vawser Lodge</p>	<p>October 2010</p>	<p><b>Cabinet Member for Resources</b></p>	<p>Sustainable Growth</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments &amp; external stakeholders as appropriate</p>	<p>Richard Hodgson Head of Strategic Projects Tel: 01733 384535 richard.hodgson@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken</p>
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## NOVEMBER

There are currently no Key Decisions scheduled for November.

## DECEMBER

There are currently no Key Decisions scheduled for December.

**ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11**

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
<p><b>4 November 2010</b> (Papers to be despatched on 27 October 2010)</p>	<p><b>Progress on the Environment Capital Portfolio (Councillor Samantha Dalton)</b> To scrutinise the progress of the Environment Capital Portfolio. <b>Contact Officer: Trevor Gibson</b></p>	<p>Councillor S Dalton has confirmed attendance.</p>
	<p><b>Consultation on the Local Transport Plan</b> To scrutinise the draft Local Transport Plan and make any appropriate recommendations. <b>Contact Officer: Mark Speed</b></p>	
	<p><b>Costs of the Waste 2020 Programme</b> To consider the costs of the Waste 2020 Programme including the outcome of the analysis of the figures submitted by Friends of the Earth. <b>Contact Officer: John Harrison</b></p>	<p>Requested at the meeting on 14 January 2010</p>
	<p><b>Trees and Woodland Strategy; Open Spaces Strategy; and Playing Fields Strategy</b> To consider the draft Trees and Woodlands Strategy, Open Spaces Strategy and Playing Fields Strategy prior to their consideration by the Executive. <b>Contact Officer: Mike Heath</b></p>	
	<p><b>Review of the Impact of the Bus Service Review</b> To scrutinise the impact of the bus service review which commenced in April 2010. <b>Contact Officer: Cathy Summers</b></p>	<p>Requested by Councillor JA Fox.</p>
<p><b>3 February 2011</b> (Papers to be despatched on 26 January 2011)</p>	<p><b>Review of the Impact of the Charge for Bulky Waste Collection</b> To scrutinise the impact of the charge for bulky waste collection and whether it has had any impact on the number of incidents of flytipping. <b>Contact Officer: Mike Heath</b></p>	<p>Requested by the Committee on 11 March 2010.</p>

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
	<p><b>Balance Between Environmental Education and Enforcement</b></p> <p>To further consider the balance between environmental education and enforcement.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Adrian Chapman</b></p>	Follow up report from July 2009
	<p><b>Preparations for the Floods and Water Management Act</b></p> <p>To further consider the Council's preparations for the Floods and Water Management Act.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Julia Chatterton</b></p>	Follow up report from July 2009
	<p><b>Update on the Council's Carbon Reduction Commitment</b></p> <p>To scrutinise the progress made on reducing the Council's carbon emissions.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Charlotte Palmer</b></p>	
<p><b>10 March 2011</b> (Papers to be despatched on 2 March 2011)</p>	<p><b>Progress on the Environment Capital Portfolio (Councillor Samantha Dalton)</b></p> <p>To scrutinise the progress of the Environment Capital Portfolio.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer: Trevor Gibson</b></p>	Invitation sent to the Cabinet Member on 23 June 2010.

#### TO BE SCHEDULED

- Criteria for Resurfacing Footpaths (requested by Councillor Sandford)
- Long Term Transport Strategy (when available)
- Integrated Ticketing on Bus Services
- Cross City Bus Network and Other Travel Modes – To consider the options for a cross city bus network following a Motion from Council in December 2009.