

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011

7.00 PM

Forli Room, Town Hall

AGENDA

Page No

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declaration of Interest**
At this point Members must declare whether they have an interest, whether personal or prejudicial, in any of the items on the agenda. Members must also declare if they are subject to their party group whip in relation to any items under consideration.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** 1 - 10
4. **Responses to Recommendations Made by the Commission** 11 - 14
5. **British Transport Police** 15 - 16

A member of the British Transport Police has been invited to attend the meeting to discuss the work done by British Transport Police officers in the Peterborough area, specifically on rail lines and crossings – Spalding to Werrington, Stamford to Werrington and rail crossings along these routes, particularly Bainton Green.
6. **Peterborough Moped Initiative** 17 - 18
7. **Effective Delivery of Rural Infrastructure - the implications of the 'New Localism'** 19 - 20
8. **Play Facilities, Playing Fields and Open Space** 21 - 30
9. **Tree and Woodland Strategy** 31 - 58
10. **Forward Plan of Key Decisions - 1 January 2011 - 30 April 2011** 59 - 74
11. **Work Programme** 75 - 80
12. **Date of the next Meeting**

Tuesday 8 March 2011



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Committee Members:

Councillors: D Over (Chairman), G Nawaz (Vice-Chairman), R Dobbs, D Sanders, D Harrington and A Shaheed

Substitutes: Councillors: J Stokes, J A Fox and D Fower

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Alana Diffey (nee Hair) on telephone 01733 452276 or by email – alana.hair@peterborough.gov.uk

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES
HELD ON
TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2010 AT THE BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM - TOWN HALL**

Present: Councillors D Over (Chairman), R Dobbs, D Harrington, D Sanders and J Stokes.

Officers Present: Mike Heath, Commercial Services Director
Louise Tyers, Scrutiny Manager
Anne Senior, Economic Participation Programme Manager
Richard Kay, Policy and Strategy Manager
Peter Tebb, Team Manager - Network (Planning, Transport & Engineering Services)
Ruth Lea, Lawyer Growth Team
Maxine Grimes, Partnership Officer
Matthew Hogan, Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer
Stephen Emeny, Governance Officer

Also in attendance: Georgette Rouncefield, Women's Enterprise Centre Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shaheed and Nawaz. Councillor Stokes attended as the designated substitute for Councillor Nawaz.

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2010 were approved as a correct record.

4. Responses to Recommendations Made by the Commission

The report provided an update of the responses to recommendations made by the Commission at previous meetings.

School Transport

Members were directed to the response of the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University in relation to the Commission's previous request to reconsider the current school transport service between Eye and Arthur Mellows Village College. The Cabinet Member had advised that there would be no changes to the provision of transport for the year 11 students at this time, however the situation would be monitored by the Council's Passenger Transport Team and the College. The College had recently reported that there had been no significant problems with the service so far.

Rural Policing

The Chairman read to the Commission a letter received from Chief Constable Simon Parr, which responded to the Commission's previous request for further support for the rural policing teams. The Chief Constable had advised that the Roads Policing Unit and Tactical Firearms Unit already provided regular support to rural communities as part of their general

patrolling, and also supported initiatives of the Rural Community Action Team when required. As a result of the current financial climate and the challenges facing the Constabulary, the Chief Constable advised that he was unable to guarantee increasing support to rural areas.

The Chairman advised that he had also corresponded with the British Transport Police with a view to developing an agreement around the policing of level crossings and how they were used by commuters in particular, and encouraging a more conspicuous police presence in rural areas.

Further Education in Agricultural and Farming Industry

The Governance Officer advised that in response to an earlier Commission recommendation, Anglia Ruskin University had responded that it does not currently offer courses in agricultural or farming related industry and had no plans to do so in the future.

ACTION AGREED

It was agreed not to take any further action at this time in relation to gaining extra support for Rural policing unless any significant problems developed in the rural areas, and to revisit the issue in twelve months time to reinforce why extra support is needed.

5. Peterborough Women's Enterprise Centre - Engagement with Women in Rural Communities

The Economic Participation Programme Manager, Partnership Officer and Women's Enterprise Centre Manager gave the Commission an update on work undertaken to promote the services of the Women's Enterprise Centre in rural areas following the recommendations of the Commission in July 2010. Officers advised that in response to these recommendations, Women's Enterprise Centre (WEC) information had been distributed to village halls, community centres and village shops, and contact had been made with parish councils and the Women's Institute (WI).

The WEC Manager gave an update on her work to engage with the rural communities, and made the following comments regarding the WEC's 'Feet on the Street' programme:

- Many villages had already been visited.
- Promotional materials had been made available in all libraries, mobile libraries, post offices and village shops. Work was being done to gather contacts for parish newsletters so that the WEC could advertise its services regularly.
- The WEC Manager had recently attended a WI conference where the WEC promoted its centre and services and explained that it was felt that working with the WI important in facilitating the delivery of enterprise introduction, business start up and personal development workshops in the local communities. It was anticipated that opportunities to give presentations through the WI would be available in the new year.
- A leaflet drop had recently been undertaken in Wittering, Eye and Glinton which had already shown an increased use in the service by women from rural communities.
- The WEC Manager had engaged with RAF Wittering and would attend a women's pamper evening in November to promote services and to engage with women. The WEC offered a programme called 'Base Opportunities' which was aimed at supporting service wives to start businesses which they could take with them when their spouses transferred.
- The WEC Manager had been working with Cllr Walsh, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Women's Enterprise to engage with parish councils.

It was acknowledged that whilst there had been a modest increase in service users from rural communities, it was felt that this ongoing work would see an increase in the coming months.

In response to questions raised by the Commission, officers advised:

- Women were setting up a variety of different businesses including business services, holistic therapies, falconry, catering, artists, jewellers. A list of the businesses being set up by women using the centre would be provided.
- Yaxley had been included due to the lack of clarity around rural boundaries.

The Chairman thanked the WEC for its work and increased engagement with women in rural areas.

ACTION AGREED

It was agreed that the WEC would continue to work with the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Women's Enterprise to engage with parish councils and give presentations at parish council meetings, and to keep members of the Commission informed regularly of work being undertaken so that Members could offer assistance where possible.

6. Update on Speed Limits in Rural Areas

The Team Manager – Network Network (Planning, Transport & Engineering) presented the report of the Executive Director of Operations which sought to inform the Commission on progress achieved regarding the:

- Government's current position in relation to the publication of the National Road Safety Strategy and the potential lowering of the speed limit on rural roads to 50mph; and
- Proposed implementation of 20mph speed limits around rural schools.

The Team Manager Network (Planning, Transport & Engineering) advised that the publication of the National Road Safety Strategy had stalled with the change of government, with a review published on the 16th of June which had made many recommendations. Consequently, the 50mph issue had effectively been put on the back burner.

With regard to the implementation of a 20mph speed limit around rural schools, the The Team Manager – Network (Planning, Transport & Engineering) advised that since the last meeting of the Commission, speed survey had been undertaken at all primary schools in rural areas during peak and off peak hours. Informal consultation had also taken place with ward councillors, head teachers and parish councils, which showed that the scheme received support for implementation. Funding had also been identified through the Local Transport Plan to implement the change.

The Team Manager – Network (Planning, Transport & Engineering) advised that the speeds that had been recorded were already very low in the main, with average speeds in the low 20s for most of the schools and whilst there had been cars travelling in excess of the limit, and in some cases notably, the volume in comparison to other traffic was relatively small.

The thrust of this change was to improve safety, and accident data for incidents outside schools showed that there had been four accidents; 2 in Eye and 2 in Glington, and whilst all those took place on school days and not necessarily during school hours, 1 incident involved a child suffering a slight injury.

The Team Manager – Network (Planning, Transport & Engineering) asked the Commission to reconsider its recommendation on the basis of the cost implications associated with implementing the change when weighed against the benefits expected to be derived.

Councillor Kirt of Glington Parish Council addressed the Commission and made the following comments:

- The Team Manager – Network (Planning, Transport & Engineering) had done an excellent piece of work in looking at this issue and whilst the evidence suggests that the change shouldn't be implemented so as to save £16,000 on the basis of 2 key considerations, being the average off peak and peak of below 30mph, and that in the last 5 years nobody had been killed or seriously injured.
- Whilst the average speed was recorded in the mid 20s, depending on the village, the peak speed could be excessive. Peakirk Parish Council did a speedwatch, and vehicles were caught going 56mph and 80 mph in the 30mph zone. As a result, peak speeds need to be taken into consideration.
- The Department for Transport (DFT) had issued information which suggested that if you are hit by a car, the speed that car is going has a great impact on your chances of survival, with a lower speed greatly improving your chances.
- Glington is used as a ratrun, and many rural villages are not happy with being treated this way. A change in speed limit may have a profound effect on how motorists view villages and may start to avoid them, which would lead to decreased noise and traffic and would revert back to a quiet village atmosphere. As an environmental city, the Council should consider reducing speeds as a way of reducing carbon emissions.
- In conclusion, it has been extremely lucky that there has been no fatality or injury when considering the peak speeds noted in the village speedwatch. It was acknowledged that whilst there were compelling arguments for keeping things as they were and for lowering the limit to 20mph, to not reduce speed limits and to then have a fatality or injury in a few months time would be disastrous.

The Commission thanked Cllr Kirt for his comments and agreed that the change would make a statement to motorists that villages would like motorists to monitor their speed whilst travelling through our communities.

In response to the matters raised by Cllr Kirt, the The Team Manager – Network (Planning, Transport & Engineering) made the following comments:

- Whilst conscientious motorists would likely slow down to 20mph, those already speeding would likely show disregard for any speed limit.
- Could not argue the fact that the lower the speed you are hit at, the better your chance of survival.

The Commission determined that to lower the speed limit was the desire of the rural majority and that the Commission should be listening. It was clarified that the lowering of the speed limit applied to outside rural primary schools only and included Arthur Mellows in Glington, for easier signage and to ease congestion in the area.

ACTION AGREED

That the Commission continue to support the implementation of the 20 mph speed limits in rural areas.

7. Planning and Policy Strategy in Rural Areas

The Commission received a report which provided an update on a number of rural planning and housing issues, together with a request for comments on items which would subsequently be considered by Cabinet.

(a) Village Design Supplementary Planning Document – draft for consultation

In presenting the item, the Policy and Strategy Manager informed the Commission that a Village Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD):

- Supported an overarching planning policy of the Council. The Council already had policies around design issues in rural areas, but Village Design SPDs allowed for specialised detail to be included.
- The Village Design Statements previously prepared by villages and parish councils had held virtually no weight in the planning system since 2004 when changes to government rules were introduced.
- Village Design SPDs were able to capture the most important parts of the village design statements to ensure that these issues once again held weight in planning matters.
- The document presented to the Commission was in draft format, but in summary these documents should be seen as an important tool for the Planning Committee when considering any rural planning application, so as to ensure good quality design and layout of buildings. Village Design SPDs were not about the allocation of new sites for development.
- The Principal Built Environment Officer had been working closely the parish councils on developing each village's Village Design SPD. This draft document was brought to the Commission to seek its views. The draft would be considered by Cabinet in December 2010 with public consultation to take place in January 2011, following which it would be further considered by the Cabinet.
- The Village Design SPDs were structured in two parts, the first which was to have some generic design policies which apply to all villages about building materials, brick walls, railings, frontage issues etc, and then more specific policies relating to the individual village, so that when a planning application for a new house is received, all of these criteria will be taken into consideration.
- The Village Design SPDs gave some power back to parish councils when it came time to comment on planning applications and to planning officers to negotiate, and grounds upon which Planning Committee may refuse applications.
- The preparation of Village Design SPDs were nearly complete for all villages and parish councils were very much welcoming the work.

During consideration, the following points were noted:

- The wording within the Policy Village Design SPD 1 had been lifted from the existing village design statement, and it was agreed by the Policy and Strategy Manager that some of the wording was open to interpretation. This would be reviewed and strengthened by the Policy and Strategy Manager to eliminate any possible legal loopholes and to enable them to be used by planning officers.
- Some Village Design Statements have been found to be up to 8 or 9 years old. The Principal Built Environment Officer has been working closely with Parish Councils to update these to make them relevant to today.

(b) Rural Housing Delivery Partnership

The Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer advised that the items raised in the report came out of work done around the Rural Housing Strategy, which was adopted in June 2010 and produced as a joint response by the Peterborough City Council & Greater Peterborough Partnership (GPP) to housing actions highlighted in the Rural Vision & Strategy. The Strategy focussed on three main priorities, being the provision of affordable housing for local people in rural areas, energy efficiency and fuel poverty, and village design.

The Rural Housing Delivery Partnership was the major item to come out of the Housing Strategy, and was established in April 2010 to increase supply of affordable housing available for households in 26 parishes around the city. The Partnership comprised 2 housing associations (Accent NENE and BPHA), 1 rural enabler (Cambridgeshire ACRE) and Peterborough City Council.

During consideration, it was noted that:

- The Chairman believed that delivery of affordable housing in rural areas for rural people was critical as villages often only had housing that was affordable to older

people and not younger people looking to start their first household. Affordable housing was key and was important for the sustainability of villages.

- Cllr Sanders, whilst acknowledging the Chairman's comments, suggested that not all villages were comfortable with the idea of increasing affordable housing in their villages.

(c) Community Land Trusts

The Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer informed the Commission that Community Land Trusts (CLTs) were a means of creating and securing community ownership of land and facilities for community benefit. Trusts were set up to acquire assets, for example houses, land, public houses, and to hold those assets in perpetuity for the benefit of the local community.

In response to questions raised by the Commission, the Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer:

- agreed that community acquisition of a failing pub with associated buildings and land for conversion to a shop, with affordable housing or sheltered accommodation, was the kind of work that the CLTs were designed for. Communities could involve Foundation East, a social bank that develops and finances CLTs and other community led organisations, for financial backing and support.
- Advised that any affordable housing or building works to be included in any work done by a CLT would need to go through the usual planning routes, and any local desires regarding appearance that formed part of the Village Design SPD would have to be taken into consideration.

It was noted that the forthcoming localism bill was expected to include a scheme called 'community right to buy' which allowed communities to acquire assets they feel strongly about, however officers were unsure as yet of how the scheme was to work.

ACTION AGREED

That the Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer approach Helpston and Barnack parish councils to talk about Community Land Trusts.

(d) Peterborough Site Allocations DPD

The Policy and Strategy Manager gave an overview of the Site Allocations Document which is part of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) and converts the headline of the core strategy into a map detailing the areas identified as being suitable for various forms of development. In 2009 all the possible sites known to the Council were put out for consultation. In March and April 2010, the Council put forward preferred sites.

The document had already been presented to the public via the Neighbourhood Council meetings throughout September 2010.

The Policy and Strategy Manager confirmed the following changes had been made to the Site Allocations Document, regarding the key services areas, since consultation with the public in March 2010:

- After comments and objections received from residents in the village of Eye regarding the development of land to the east of the village, plans for two hundred and fifty houses had been reduced to fifty houses. Other sites identified had not been changed.
- One site in the village of Thorney that had been previously rejected on transport and environmental issues had now been resolved and could now be included in the site allocations.

- Following a large number of objections regarding developments in Helpston, the density of proposed housing had been reduced from approximately fifty to thirty.
- The size of the development near Newborough had been changed so that it was a better fit within the existing village.
- Allocations for proposed developments in Wittering did not receive a significant number of objections.

During consideration, the following points were noted:

- The development of a new village would require an update to the Core Strategy as it currently did not provide for this.
- Any new developments in key service areas would need to include an increase in the infrastructure of local facilities so that additional pressure was not placed on existing services and to ensure the sustainability of new developments.
- The next stage for the core strategy would be for the independent inspector to issue a Binding Report, due to be issued in December 2010 or shortly after. The core strategy would then go before Council in February 2011, and legally Council have only two options at that point, being to accept the Binding Report in its entirety, or to not accept the report and to start writing a core strategy afresh.

Cllr Sanders made the following comments in relation to the site allocations document as it related to the villages of Eye and Thorney:

- A re-write of the core strategy was supported by the local MP and he supported this view as he did not agree that the current Core Strategy is in keeping with the views of villages surrounding Peterborough and contained more houses than required.
- Comments from local residents regarding the developments in Eye were incorrectly portrayed to the Planning Committee. Comments were made by the Planning Team that Eye Parish Council had no issues with growth outside of the village envelope. The Planning team did not meet with Eye Parish Council, only the Chairman, Clerk and one Parish Councillor. Councillor Sanders had met with every member of Eye Parish Council and that they were aggrieved that they had been misquoted and had requested a transcript of the Planning Committee meeting where this issue was discussed.
- Cllr Sanders had attended a meeting where Planning Officers advised the Planning Inspector that Eye Parish Council did not have a Village Plan, however the village plan had been submitted to the City Council on 10 July 2010 to Peterborough City Council. Due to staff turnover, there had been a delay in the plan being processed however this was now under way.
- Cllr Sanders reiterated the comments from the Rural North Neighbourhood Council meeting that Eye residents did not want growth outside of the current village envelope in Eye or Eye Green. The fifty houses currently contained in the Site Allocations Document were still too many.
- Cllr Sanders stated that he did not want the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities to support the Site Allocations Document in its entirety. The residents of Eye Village did not want future growth in any way, shape or form outside of the village envelope, and that this view had been well documented at two public meetings. Further, Cllr Sanders stated that residents of Eye wanted the removal of the village from policy SA5, of the Core Strategy Document.

Cllr Sanders submitted a letter from a resident of Eye to the Chairman, which Cllr Sanders believed reflected the views of the majority of the residents in the village of Eye and requested this letter be submitted to Cabinet and be adopted within the minutes of this meeting.

ACTION AGREED

That the letter submitted by Cllr Sanders be included, unedited, as an appendix to the draft minutes of this meeting and that those and the comments raised in relation to the

Peterborough Site Allocations DPD Document be forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 8 November 2010.

(e) Emerging National Initiatives

The Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer advised that details were still emerging from central government regarding the impact of the anticipated localism bill on local housing trusts and on planning in general. The Strategic Planning, Policy and Enabling team would keep a close eye on information as it became available. The Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer reiterated that the work coming out of the Rural Housing Strategy was extremely relevant to the localism agenda, and the emerging Peterborough Housing Strategy would also lend its support to community led housing initiatives.

(f) Rural Exception Sites

The Policy and Strategy Manager gave an overview of what rural exception sites were in planning terms, explaining that these had always been an option for rural areas but were seldom used. Rural Exception sites were a means by which villages could bring forward affordable housing, as the planning system would give more favourable consideration to an application for 100% affordable housing on a site that wasn't on the site allocations map, when compared with a development proposed by the private sector for profit.

It was noted that parish councils had only become aware of Rural Exception Sites in the last 18 months to 2 years and that parishes may see these sites as a type of conservation policy, for example that an exception site means that no development will take place, but it means the opposite as it means a site that is an exception to planning policy.

ACTION AGREED

That information outlining Rural Exception Sites and their use be circulated to Parish Councils.

(g) Rural Housing Strategy

The Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer gave an update on the implementation of the Rural Housing Strategy, and highlighted the following actions and progress for the Commission's attention:

- Best Practice for Rural Affordable Housing Delivery: Peterborough City Council had been working at establishing better contacts with other local authorities who had a high proportion of the population living in rural areas in order to establish best practice regarding the delivery of rural affordable housing. Links had been made with Northumberland County Council and the Development Trust Association, which had led to working with Foundation East with regard to Community Land Trusts.
- Energy Efficiency Project Toolkit: Officers were working to produce a toolkit that sets out how energy efficiency programs, such as the Green Ginton Project, can be replicated across Peterborough. This was to be implemented by the Environment Capital Officer of the Greater Peterborough Partnership however this post was now vacant. Once the outcomes of the proposed restructure in the Operations Directorate were known, it was hoped that the most appropriate officer could be identified and this work could continued.
- Roll out community energy challenge to rural areas of Peterborough: Officers had previously secured £3,000 in funding which was used to purchase the 60 energy meters being used by the Climate Change Team in the Community Energy Challenge. The challenge seeks to have two communities compete to see which can reduce its energy consumption the most over a set period of time. The Climate

Change Team had approached members but were experiencing difficulties in engaging with rural communities.

- Your Footprint Counts Campaign: The energy efficiency campaign run by the Climate Change Team, was to be further promoted in rural areas over autumn and winter, with the Team using thermal imaging cameras in villages to identify areas of high energy inefficiency.
- To promote Planning Aid: To encourage rural communities to engage with an organisation called Planning Aid, which seeks to assist rural communities in getting involved in the planning system. Now that the GPP's Rural Working Group has temporarily disbanded, officers are looking for the most appropriate means by which to promote the group.

8. Forward Plan

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.

No items on the forward plan were identified as areas for scrutiny.

9. Work Programme

The Commission reviewed and confirmed its work programme for the remainder of the municipal year.

10. Date of the next Meeting

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 11 January 2011 commencing at 7.00pm.

The meeting began at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.00 pm

CHAIRMAN

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SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 4
11 January 2011	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Contact Officer(s) – Alana Diffey, Governance Officer

Contact Details – Tel: 01733 452276, email: alana.diffey@peterborough.gov.uk

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMISSION

1. PURPOSE

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Commission's meeting on 2 November 2010, recommendations were made following consideration of a report regarding the ...

- 3.2 The recommendations were subsequently submitted to the Cabinet Member for

- 3.3 A copy of the recommendations made and the 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 responses to the recommendations.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 6.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities held on 2 November 2010.

7. APPENDICES

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Recommendations made by the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities at its meeting on 2 November 2010 and responses to these recommendations.

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Recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods & Planning and the Network Team Manager

Item	Recommendation	Response from the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning
Speed Limits in Rural Areas	The Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning is recommended that 20mph speed limits are introduced around rural schools.	<p>I've given this proposal due consideration and, whilst officers are unsupportive of this implementation, I do feel, on balance, it's a worthwhile recommendation to support.</p> <p>In supporting this recommendation however I do recognise the argument against, and in particular I have reservations regarding the effectiveness of legislation attempting to reduce the average speed of vehicles outside rural schools from what, according to the official speed surveys, appears to be particularly low already.</p> <p>I hope to be reassured, in future speed surveys after implementation perhaps, that the action recommended by the SCRC has been worthwhile.</p>

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SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 5
11 January 2011	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Contact Officer(s) – Alana Diffey, Governance Officer

Contact Details – Tel: 01733 452276, email: alana.diffey@peterborough.gov.uk

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Commission that PC Christopher Thompson-Chambers of the British Transport Police will be attending the meeting to discuss level crossing and rail line issues in rural Peterborough.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Commission considers the issues raised during discussion and to make recommendations where necessary.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Promoting safe and vibrant rural centres and communities was identified by the Commission as part of its work programme for the 2010-2011 year.
- 3.2 The British Transport Police were approached in November 2010 at the request of the Chairman to attend the January meeting of the Commission to discuss the coverage by the British Transport Police officers of the rail lines and crossings surrounding Peterborough, in particular between:
- Spalding to Werrington;
 - Stamford to Werrington; and
 - Rail crossings along these routes, particularly Bainton Green.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the issues raised during discussion and to make recommendations where necessary.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 5.1 None.

6. APPENDICES

- 6.1 None.

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SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 6
11 January 2011	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Operations

Contact Officer(s) – Anne Senior, Economic Participation Programme Manager
Contact Details – 01733 864106

PETERBOROUGH MOPED INITIATIVE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Economic Participation Programme team would like to introduce to the Commission the opportunity to champion the “Peterborough Mopeds” initiative within the rural areas of Peterborough.
- 1.2 This initiative helps people across Peterborough gain access to employment. The scheme is open to anyone aged between 16-65 years old with little or no access to public transport and with no private transport of their own. This is seen as a complimentary service to Peterborough’s travel choice network and is particularly suited to residents who currently live in the rural areas.
- 1.3 We are sure this initiative would be of interest to the members of the Commission and residents of the rural communities, though it is not exclusive to rural areas as there are many people within the urban areas of Peterborough who work night shifts that have already taken advantage of this scheme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Commission scrutinises the content of the report and presentation on the Peterborough Moped Initiative and makes any appropriate recommendations.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Economic Participation Programme and in particular the activities of the project link directly the achievements of the Local Area Agreement and National Indicators as listed below:

LAA priority	Regenerating Neighbourhoods
LAA outcome	National Indicator
	NI153 – working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 “Peterborough Mopeds” is a moped gifting project that assists those seeking work, or those who are in danger of losing their job due to transport issues.
- 4.2 Mopeds are purchased together with related safety equipment, each applicant will be trained to statutory Compulsory Basic Training standard and the moped loan, alongside safety equipment and insurance, will commence once the applicant has a job offer. The applicant’s contributions consist of £40 per week over the 15 week payment period.

- 4.3 This project is designed to break the vicious circle of needing private transport to be able to get a job and not being able to afford such transport without a job and has been developed with the full support of end users.
- 4.4 Although this is an entirely new method of operation in Peterborough, it is based on KickStart's 11 years' experience of moped loans across the eastern region, and utilises well-established working relationships with agencies dealing with employment, education and training issues.
- 4.5 Peterborough mopeds are working closely with Peterborough Job Centre Plus and have been provided with a desk to work from within the Job Centre to enable the project to interact directly with clients who may need this scheme to enable them to secure employment.
- 4.6 This project funded by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA). EEDA's investment has been made as part of a joint programme of work with Peterborough City Council to help people in Peterborough overcome barriers to employment.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The scrutiny committee are asked to consider the information on the Peterborough Moped's project and to make any appropriate recommendations for future development.

6. APPENDICES

- 6.1 None.

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 7
11 January 2011	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Operations

Contact Officer – Leonie McCarthy (Neighbourhood Manager - City-wide)

Contact Details – 01733 - 864308

Effective Delivery of Rural Infrastructure – the implications of the ‘New Localism’

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To scrutinise the current process for identifying, prioritising and funding rural infrastructure, and any scope for improvements, in the light of the ‘New Localism’ agenda.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To debate the opportunities this creates for Peterborough’s rural areas and to make recommendations where necessary.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 This report opens up discussion on how the Strategy can be more effectively delivered in the rural areas of Peterborough.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Historically the rural communities of Peterborough have felt that their views and suggestions were not listened to by the City Council. The approach of the coalition Government seeks to give much more weight to local views. This is an opportunity to review if the current approach in Peterborough is appropriate for the future, or needs improved. This work will be aligned with Rural Structures for governance currently under review i.e. Rural North Neighbourhood Council and the Rural Affairs Committee.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 While it is for Members of the Commission to decide on the key issues for them, the suggested key issues are:
- What is, and should be, the actual process?
 - Who is, and should be, responsible for the process?
 - What are current priorities, and should they be different in future?

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The report has no direct implications for an individual Ward nor city-wide. However the findings of the Rural Scrutiny Commission may make recommendations that do have implications, which will require separate approval.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 None.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 Depending on the views of members, any findings will be directed to the relevant officer, or member forum, such as Cabinet.

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 None.

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 8
11 January 2011	Public Report

Report of the Commercial Services Director

Contact Officer(s) – Frazer Chapman, Senior Recreation Officer, City Services
Contact Details – 01733 425435

THE PROVISION OF PLAY FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – THE PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME AND THE PLAYING FIELD REPORT (GREEN SPACE) PLUS OPEN SPACE INITIATIVES

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an information update about the play area improvement programme, plus information about play improvement and refurbishment works which have been completed since the last report, presented March 2009.
- 1.2 Also, to inform Members about projects which are scheduled to be completed by April 2011. The report also informs Members about playing field provision within the Council's green spaces including, recommendations for the future.
- 1.3 In addition, the report provides information pertaining to the design, development, maintenance and management of Peterborough City Council (PCC) green space (including developers S106 obligations).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members, continue to support the play area improvement programme and approve the current plan for play improvement works.
- 2.2 That Members support the 'Engaging the Community in Play' initiative.
- 2.3 That Members, support the continued development and improvement of PCC green space and recreation facilities for use by the community.
- 2.4 That members support engagement with Planning to secure well designed and welcoming public open space to sustain new developments.
- 2.5 That Members support the investigation and progression of devolved management regimes, by the community for Holywell Ponds.
- 2.6 That Members support the continuing review of public open space provision, management and maintenance, including allotments, play and playing pitches and updating documents and action plans pertaining to these services.
- 2.7 That Members support linking open space policy to other policy areas, for example, Planning, Health, Transport and Bio-diversity.

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

- 3.1 Children's play helps make the City a better place in which to learn and work, and supports the agenda for learning and ensuring that children are safe. Play areas can create a vibrant local centre which are attractive and which are expected to be used and visited by pedestrians from the local catchment area rather, than individuals using private transport. The vision of the City's play strategy produced in March 2007 continues to be:

“The health and well being of Peterborough's children and young people will be improved by imaginative and dynamic play provision and management of spaces and opportunities for play”.

This links to National Indicator, NI 199 (Children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas DCSF DSO) the rationale of this indicator being 'to ensure that local authorities invest in safe and stimulating play facilities, leading to an increase in satisfaction (and take-up amongst children) in local authorities'.

- 3.2 The Department of Education has funded a new Play England initiative called the 'Engaging Communities in Play Programme'. This new programme aims to **'increase the involvement of community and voluntary groups in shaping local play opportunities, especially in relation to the play areas delivered through the play pathfinder and Playbuilder capital programmes'**. **A one-day information and workshop event, called Play Shaper, will be held in February in the New Ark Adventure Playground. This event, promoted by both PCC and Play England will seek to inform play and health professionals plus, community groups about Engaging Communities in Play and how to do it.**
- 3.3 The Peterborough Play Partnership was formed in 2007 to steer the action points for improving play areas in Peterborough, detailed in the 2007 Play Strategy. Improving Peterborough's play areas via the action points in the 2007 Play Strategy, was driven forward and funded by the Playbuilder initiative. Responsibility for steering and leading the Peterborough Play Partnership group now sits with the City Services' Recreation Team and it is anticipated that the PPP will consider and construct policies for engaging with the Engaging Communities in Play programme.
- 3.4 In September 2006, ATKINS, delivered an open space report to Peterborough, the vision for PCC green space is:
- “To encourage a diverse network of sustainable open space of high quality which meets the needs of those living and working within the City and encourages the development of more inclusive communities, safeguards natural resources and cultural heritage, provides recreational and educational opportunities and helps to promote sustainable development”.**
- 3.5 Whilst no National Indicators govern green space, welcoming, well maintained green space can contribute towards adherence to a plethora of NIs. Examples include, NI3 – civic participation in local area, NI13 – healthy life expectation at age 65, NI110 – young peoples' participation in positive activities and NI8 – adult participation in sport plus NIs which address health and obesity concerns.
- 3.6 In October 2010, the National Indicator Set was replaced by one comprehensive list for measuring performance. However, the objectives of the NI Sets for example 'healthy life expectancy at 65' remain important and pertinent to green space.

4. BACKGROUND - PLAY

- 4.1 In 2003 Peterborough was found to have an oversupply of play facilities in comparison with other similar Authorities. However, at that time, only 5% of play facilities met National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) minimum standards. At that time there were 330 designated play areas within Peterborough. It is fair to say that the arrangements in place at that time supported quantity over quality and many of the “doorstep” play areas (LAPs) were inadequate rather than safe. As a result of this Members agreed that the Council would consolidate its play area provision to create high quality neighbourhood facilities which provide safe but stimulating play opportunities for children; we continue to do this.
- 4.2 The play area improvement programme was identified as a corporate priority and was registered with the Programme and Project Management Team. Funding for these schemes was provided through a number of sources; the main funding being from Section 106 developer contributions, Big Lottery Fund, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Playbuilder initiative and the Council’s capital resources.
- 4.3 Since 2007 the play area improvement programme has delivered 57 new and refurbished play areas.
- 4.4 In August 2008, the Council received confirmation that it had received £1.1 million funding from the DCSF Playbuilder programme. Over a two year period 15 new and refurbished play area projects have been successfully delivered; £720K of Playbuilder funding enabled these works. These have become flourishing play areas which have greatly improved the community value of the Council’s green space and play facilities. The play improvement projects have provided innovative and stimulating play areas using contemporary play equipment and inclusive landscaping to encourage creative and physically demanding play.
- 4.5 In June 2010 funding for DCSF Playbuilder programme was withdrawn by the new central coalition government whilst they carried out a review of the various grants that had been made.
- 4.6 In October 2010 confirmation was received from the Home Office and Department of Education that two-thirds of the withdrawn Playbuilder funding would be re-allocated. Peterborough City Council will receive £274,043.75 for this financial year 2010/2011; no further funding will come from the Playbuilder funding initiative; the programme will end in March 2011. However, this will enable a further four play improvement projects to be developed and completed (see Appendix 1).
- 4.7 As this report is presented to Members, a comprehensive audit of the Council’s green space play assets has been undertaken and the data is currently being analysed. This will provide valuable new and up-to-date data about the condition of PCC play areas to facilitate updating the 2007 play strategy and describing new action points for delivering further improvement works. The audit will also enable improved processes for managing and maintaining play areas which fall within the Authority’s responsibility.
- 4.8 Members have previously accepted the rationale for prioritising improvement works using the following criteria:
- Level and quality of provision in each Ward with NPFA standards
 - Level of the Risk Assessment for each site
 - Play value of play areas and comparison with recognised play standards
 - Availability of resources

The recent play asset audit will underpin the programming and delivery of play improvement projects for several years.

4.9 Play area improvement works completed since 2007 and scheduled for delivery by April 2011 include:

Completed	Scheduled for completion by April 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dell – Fletton – PCC capital • Oakdale Avenue – Stanground Central – PCC capital • Werrington Recreation Ground – Werrington South – PCC capital • Hodgson Avenue – Werrington North – S106 • Ambleside Gardens – Werrington South – PCC capital • William Law School (duel use) – Werrington North – PCC capital & CLF • Maxey Parish Field – Northborough – PCC capital • Northborough Parish Field – Northborough – S106 • Beckingham – Orton Longueville – PCC capital • Botolph Green - Orton Longueville – S106 • Oakleigh Drive - Orton Longueville – S106 • Longthorpe Memorial Hall – West – S106 • Watergall- Bretton North – PCC Capital • Tirington - Bretton South – PCC Capital • Quorn Close – Newborough – S106 • Cleve Place -Thorney and Eye – S106 • Little Close -Thorney and Eye – S106 • Thorney Park - Thorney and Eye – PCC Capital • Crabtree – Paston – Big Lottery • Morris/Wellington Street – East – PCC Capital • Bishops Road – East – PCC Capital • Henshaw, Parnwell – East - Fairshare • Saltersgate, Parnwell – East - Fairshare • Heron Park- Parnwell – East - Fairshare • Central Park – Park – S106 • Itter Park – Walton – PCC Capital/CLF • Walton Recreation Ground – Walton – PCC Capital • Stanley Recreation ground – Central – Urban 2/S106 • Hobsons Field – Central - Urban 2/S106 • Gunthorpe Recreation Ground – 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluebell Avenue – DCSF Playbuilder • The Dell – PCC capital • Russell St – PCC capital • Braybrook – PCC capital • Hoylake Drive – 3 stock items to be added - PCC capital • Fletton Rec – 2 stock items to be added - S106 • Appleyard – 2 stock items to be added - PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Bradwell Road – 2 stock items to be added PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Vermont Grove – 2 stock items to be added PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Buckland Close – 2 stock items to be added PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Tansor Garth – Old equipment to be replaced with stock items PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Baker Park – Gym equipment – S106 • Welland Rd Rec – S106 • Longthorpe – S106 • Thurning Avenue – S106

<p>Paston – PCC capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cerris Road – Dogsthorpe – S106/GDP • Myrtle Avenue – Dogsthorpe – S106/GDP • Sycamore Avenue – Dogsthorpe – S106/GDP • Fulbridge Road – Dogsthorpe – S106/GDP • Saxby Gardens – Dogsthorpe – S106/GDP • Welland Road Recreation Ground – North – PCC Capital • Woodfield Park – Dogsthorpe – DCSF Playbuilder – complete refurbishment • Orton Wistow School Dual Use - Orton Waterville – S106 new items added • Park Farm - Stanground East – S106, CLF & residents Group – complete refurbishment • Bluebell Avenue – DCSF Playbuilder • The Dell – PCC capital • Russell St – PCC capital • Braybrook – PCC capital • Hoylake Drive – 3 stock items to be added - PCC capital • Fletton Rec – 2 stock items to be added - S106 • Appleyard – 2 stock items to be added PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Bradwell Road – 2 stock items to be added PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Vermont Grove – 2 stock items to be added PCC Capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Buckland Close – 2 stock items to be added PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Tansor Garth – Old equipment to be replaced with stock items PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Baker Park – Gym equipment – S106 • Welland Rd Rec – S106 • Longthorpe – S106 • Thurning Avenue – S106 Fletton Avenue Recreation Ground – Fletton – Playbuilder – complete refurb • Ailsworth Recreation Ground - Glinton 	
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<p>and Wittering – S106 – complete refurbishment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glinton Recreation Ground - Glinton and Wittering – Playbuilder – complete refurbishment • Wittering Parish Field - Glinton and Wittering – Playbuilder – complete refurbishment • Gladstone Park – Central – Playbuilder – complete refurbishment • Hampton Court – Ravensthorpe – playbuilder – complete refurbishment • Cranford Drive – Ravensthorpe – S106 new items added • Celta Road Recreation Ground – Fletton – S106 new items added • Chapel Street - Stanground Central – S106 new items added • Byron Close - Stanground Central – complete refurb – S106 • Plough Lane – Newborough – S106 new items added • Matley – DCSF Playbuilder • St Johns – DCSF Playbuilder • Ambleside Gardens – DCSF Playbuilder • Leighton – DCSF Playbuilder 	
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Provision for Older Children

- 4.10 Increasing numbers of facilities have been provided for older children; with a significant number of skate parks, wheeled sports areas and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) designed and built across the city.
- 4.11 The Council currently has the following facilities for older children:

9 Skate Parks:

Woodfield Park, Welland
 Welland Rd Rec Ground, Dogsthorpe
 Unity Park, Paston
 Werrington
 Bretton Park
 Cleve Place, Eye
 Horseshoe Land, Orton Goldhay
 Whittlesey Rd, Stanground
 Fletton Rec Ground, Oundle Rd,

2 BMX tracks

Herlington, Orton Malborne
 Bretton Park

15 Multi-Use Games Areas:

Fletton Rec Ground
 New England Rec Ground

Saltersgate, Parnwell
 Swale Avenue, Gunthorpe
 Whittlesey Road, Stanground
 Fulbridge Road, Dogsthorpe
 Hobsons Park, Cromwell Rd
 Woodfield Park, Welland
 Sycamore Avenue Rec, Dogsthorpe
 Manton, South Bretton
 Bluebell Land, Dogsthorpe
 Helpston
 Ailsworth
 Walton Rec Ground
 Unity Park

and the following table shows the facilities completed since January 2007 and those scheduled for completion by April 2011:

Completed	Scheduled for Completion Before April 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulbridge Road Recreation Ground Multi Use Games Area – North • Hobsons Multi Use Games Area – Central • Manton, Multi Use Games Area - South Bretton <p>Big Lottery Fund Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New England Recreation Ground - Floodlighting existing multi-use games area- Central Ward • Fletton Recreation Ground - Floodlighting existing multi-use games area - Fletton • Walton Recreation Ground- Floodlit MUGA - Walton • North Bretton Skate Park- North Bretton, £90,000. £10,000 from Bretton Parish Council, £38,000 from Big Lottery and £52,000 from DCSF (Playbuilder) (JN) <p>Section 106 Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ailsworth Recreation Ground - MUGA and shelter • Stanground Skatepark - £98,000, £50,000 S106. match-funded by Youth Bank Funding scheme. (JN) <p>Residential developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alma Road multi-use games area - Park Ward 	<p>Big Lottery Fund Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celta Road Recreation Ground - MUGA (work underway)) (JN) <p>Capital Programme Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Werrington concrete skatepark (work began construction in November 2010) £90,000 plus £13,000 to go towards lighting from Young Peoples funds. (JN) <p>Big Lottery Fund Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 play sculptures (Rockstakz) funded by the Big Lottery - £45,000. One sculpture has been installed on Thurning Avenue Playing Fields, Stanground. The second play sculpture has been installed on the open space between Bringhurst and Clayton in Orton Goldhay. (JN) <p>Other Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorney Park MUGA, donated by the Council - installation funded by Thorney Parish Council

- 4.12 Facilities for older children are particularly important as many young people feel that there are insufficient opportunities for them; they do not necessarily like structured meeting arrangements such as, youth clubs or, formal organisations. As a result they may gather in areas which are attractive to them, for example, shopping areas, street corners or, other public spaces. This assemblage may create concerns about noise, boisterous behaviour or perceptions of threat, particularly for elderly residents who may live in the area. By providing MUGAs and skateparks, often linked to youth shelters (which are covered facilities that allow young people to congregate in inclement weather) then some elements of the sensitivity to nuisance are managed and thus reduced.
- 4.13 A report about PCC playing field provision, with action points, has been prepared (2010) as a requirement for the Building Schools for the Future programme. The report offers valuable insight into how playing field provision should be developed and how PCC should respond to need.
- 4.14 The playing field report highlighted the importance of providing informal five and seven-a-side pitches via PCC green space and suggested that responsibility for the provision and management of formal league pitches should shift to schools.
- 4.15 The playing field report describes the importance of multi-use games areas for providing valuable sports facilities and indicates that the successful provision of recreational facilities in PCC green space is underpinned by flexibility.

5. BACKGROUND – OPEN SPACE/GREEN SPACE

- 5.1 In 2006 an open space report was prepared; however, many of the key data elements contained in the report, describing quality, quantity and need, have become inaccurate as the city and surrounding areas have grown. For example, the reports' data for Eye is now out of date because the village has grown; it now lacks sufficient green space to support a growing population and to sustain a new community. These are important issues which will be addressed by working with Planning to ensure that well designed, welcoming, safe and useable open space are delivered as an essential component of new developments. Data within the 2006 report is being reviewed and updated to provide Planning with accurate data about public open space.
- 5.2 In recent years increasing work has taken place to ensure that developers' obligations concerning the design and creation of Public Open Space to support new developments and subsequent communities meet the Council's appropriate specification and requirements. Recreation Team officers provide guidance to Planning officers and/or developers to ensure that open space facilities are developed which fulfil the council's Planning policies and developers obligations. Officers have recently advised Planning about the open space element of their new S106 policy document.
- 5.3 The recent work with Planning on S106 obligations shows that a coherent and working Open Space strategy needs to be linked with other policy areas, for example Planning, Transport and Health.
- 5.4 The 2006 Open Space report offered data on play provision and need. This element has been successfully addressed as part of the ongoing play programme.
- 5.5 The 2006 Open Space report offered data on playing pitch provision and need and this has been reviewed and updated in the 2010 Play Field report.
- 5.6 The 2006 Open Space report offered data on allotment provision and need. Since the report was delivered in 2006 the profile of allotments and community food growing has been raised by both the media and government initiatives.
- 5.7 Peterborough City Council has 1,800 plots and a short waiting list.

- 5.8 We are reviewing allotment provision and use and also, opportunities for informal allotment sites and community food growing initiatives.
- 5.9 A complete review of the allotment letting and management process is underway and scheduled for completion by April 2011.
- 5.10 The 2006 report had the following objective -
'to manage open spaces in a way which includes all key stakeholders, and strengthens community 'ownership' of open spaces'
- 5.11 The City Services Recreation Team are working with the Neighbourhood Managers to develop and implement the devolved management (to the community) of Holywell Ponds.
- 5.12 The review of open space provision, need and management is a big piece of work which is being broken down into manageable elements for example, play and allotment provision.
- 5.13 The review of all elements of open space provision, need and management is anticipated to take 12-24 months and will overlap City Services move; the Lot 3 initiative.

6. KEY ISSUES

- 6.1 The key issue for Members to consider are the on-going programme of improvements to existing and prospective play areas and to ensure that all will reach the appropriate standards (challenging, rewarding and inclusive, etc) as the programme continues.
- 6.2 That the 2010 audit of play assets will enable the 2007 action points from the Play Strategy to be reviewed and updated.
- 6.3 That supporting provision of play and recreational facilities for older children and young adults as outlined in 4.9, reduces anti-social behaviour and encourages the community to use green space facilities.
- 6.4 Inspection and maintenance regimes for existing play areas have been improved as new processes have been developed and put in place. Improved maintenance schedules have been set according to use, condition and budget, plus using informed data from the 2010 play asset audit.
- 6.5 That all elements of open space provision, management and maintenance are reviewed to ensure delivery of socially inclusive green space, meeting the needs of those of every age, gender and ethnic group.
- 6.6 Well designed, welcoming and attractive green space are an integral part of successful urban regeneration and underpin the quality of new developments. Members are asked to consider the importance of Parks, Open Spaces and Trees working with Planning to secure S106 funding to design, create, manage and maintain well used and thriving community green space.
- 6.7 That Members acknowledge the importance of collecting data about green space, play, allotments, playing pitches, the need, provision, maintenance and management, etc, to substantiate and evidence applications for S106 and other funding streams to support improving public open space.
- 6.8 That Members consider and approve the review of allotment processes to deliver a more efficient and inclusive service.
- 6.9 That in order to develop a coherent open space strategy, Members consider and approve linking the development, management and use of open space, with other policy areas, for example, Planning, Transport, and Health.

7. IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report does not have any specific financial or legal implications in respect of existing play, allotment or recreational facilities as they are maintained within defined budgets and inspection and maintenance are carried out by, or under the supervision of employees qualified in this area.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation with community groups, Parish Councils, Ward Members and other Departments is an important aspect of the play and open space improvement programme, ensuring that all interested parties are a key part of the design and build process. Each new play area and/or green space improvement project will be developed with community consultation to secure designs which match need. For example, a key component of our skatepark projects is the input of potential users on the design and layout for new skatepark projects.
- 8.2 An important component of the open space review and updating process will be liaison with other policy areas.
- 8.3 This report was considered by the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 4th November 2010.

9. NEXT STEPS

- 9.1 Officers will continue with the programme for improving existing play and green space facilities and for creating new and well designed amenities in accordance with established policies and using good practice. The next report will be produced in 2012 unless a request is made to produce an update earlier.
- 9.2 Officers will continue to review and update existing green space reports and policies with the vision and objectives to create public open space which meets the needs of users, engages with non-users and sustains and supports the communities living and working in Peterborough.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 10.1
- Peterborough Play Strategy 2007
 - Peterborough Open Space Report 2006
 - Peterborough Playing Field Report 2010

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 None

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 9
11 January 2011	Public Report

Report of the Commercial Services Director

Contact Officer(s) – James Cooper, Trees & Landscape Management Officer
Contact Details - 01733 425341

PETERBOROUGH TREE & WOODLAND STRATEGY

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a document that offers a strategy for directing the care of Peterborough's trees and woodlands. It updates the 1998 Tree & Woodland Strategy and accommodates the changes that have taken place over the last twelve years, including the influences of the Bio Diversity Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities scrutinises the draft Tree and Woodland Strategy and makes any recommendations as necessary.

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

- 3.1 Trees are the largest single item within the landscape and therefore have impact. Woodlands are an invaluable resource and a superb educational opportunity and thus contribute to the agenda for learning and awareness of environmental issues. The SCS contains the priority for

“Making Peterborough cleaner and greener so that we become the UK’s greenest city with attractive neighbourhoods surrounded by thriving biodiversity”.

- 3.2 Directives within DEFRA have the stated aims of **“Helping to enhance the environment and biodiversity to improve quality of life”** and **“Supporting a strong and sustainable green economy, resilient to climate change”**.

- 3.3 Supporting the findings and issues within appendix 1 links to National Indicator 197 (Improved local biodiversity - active management of local sites) the rationale of this indicator being to “assess the performance of Local Authorities with regard to local sites and promoting them for educational purposes”.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This document represents an update of the 1998 Tree & woodland Strategy, the latter lacking contemporary impact as identified through time served observation and review.

- 4.2 This report was considered by the Environment Scrutiny Panel on the 4th November 2010 during which a number of matters were raised and a further meeting was set up with members of the committee to consider the points raised and for a comparison to be made between the current report and concerns that some matters had been omitted from an earlier draft as prepared by a trees and woodlands working group. The meeting took place on the 7th December 2010 and a number of matters raised at that meeting have been incorporated into the attached draft strategy.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The first key issue for members to consider is the proposal to move away from response based reactive works to a programme of inspections followed by tree works based upon the findings, this also in demonstration of duty of care.
- 5.2 The next key issue is to look at the development of the right tree in the right place framework and the consideration of options to eventually reduce overcrowding within residential areas followed by a programme of replacing existing, inappropriate space demanding trees, with smaller alternatives.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are financial implications associated within the current draft to which reference is made within the text, notably planned inspections and programmes of works as directed by the findings.
- 6.2 Environmental implications include the potential loss of habitat, diminution of bio-diversity and depletion of trees and woodlands lost through neglect, overcrowding or senility through carrying on with current practices and emphasis on response based works to the detriment of planned works. The latter allows for promotion of habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement.
- 6.3 Pre-determined programmes for works to trees and woodlands demonstrate that the duty of care, has been given due consideration and this includes minimising damage to property from falling trees as well as that to foundations from subsidence.
- 6.4 Trees and woodlands are very much city wide and a major feature within all Wards of Peterborough.
- 6.5 Care of and selection of trees carries with it implications for community safety with considerations of potential tree collapse and shading of street lights.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 To date consultation has been confined to interdepartmental colleagues directly associated with the care of trees and open spaces and those with a planning related logistical responsibility. External consultation with associations, Ward Members, Parish Councils and community groups will commence post approval of the initial draft.

8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 8.1 That Members consider and support the findings and issues addressed within the document, acknowledging the idea of time related alterations to the overall landscape.

9. NEXT STEPS

- 9.1 Following completion of the consultation and consideration by the Committee referral will be made to the Cabinet for a decision.
- 9.2 Officers will continue to work on an allied action plan with options for tree works subject to availability of funding.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 10.1
- Peterborough Tree And Woodlands Strategy, June 1998
 - Peterborough Open Space Report, June 2006
 - Biodiversity Strategy, June 2004

Peterborough Tree and Woodland Strategy



DOCUMENT 1: POLICIES & PRIORITIES, 2010.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Peterborough is located to the edge of the fens at a meeting point with higher land of the midlands. This junction produces a range of landscapes and associated habitats.

The eastern half of the district is reclaimed high quality fenland agricultural land. Originally Peterborough's the urban margins would have been carr woodlands containing Alder, Birch, Ash and Oak, edging onto vast tracts of brackish marsh and river plains.

Westwards the land rises and meets the eastern reaches of Rockingham Forest. In which the trees have different characteristics, supporting a different range of plants and wildlife. Fields and roads are bounded with treed hedgerows linking a patchwork of woods.

Early settlements such as Flag Fen and Barnack resulted in forest clearance. With sea levels dropping and industrial drainage of the fens, impact on the residual forests intensified.

The rate of change has increased in the last couple of hundred years, the landscape developing into that we see today. The fens still contain a few small remnants of carr woodland that runs distinctively alongside rural roads.

In 1901 Peterborough had a population of 31,000 people. In the last thirty years this has grown to 160,000 with predictions of growth to realise 200,000 by 2020. The challenge is to achieve sustainability.

The Victorian parts of the city to those developed in the 1950's have a structured layout with tree lined roads and formal promenading within parks and open spaces. Along with rapid growth dating from the 1960's to the present a naturalistic approach to landscaping and tree planting was adopted as influenced by the garden city movement.

Trees and woodlands are dominant features within our landscape and collectively form one of Peterborough's most notable features. Trees and open spaces provide a range of important benefits for the public including promotion of good mental health.

This strategy sets out to maximise on the benefits of trees and woodlands, acknowledges their urban setting and the absolute necessity to manage their long-term care. This management is governed by legal responsibilities and influenced by national, regional and Council policy.

This strategy sets out objectives, policies and proposals for actions that will form the basis upon which Peterborough City Council will oversee the planting, maintenance and protection of its trees and woodlands.

1.1 Background

Peterborough is one of four environment cities. The Council therefore seeks to demonstrate its commitment to the environment through implementing appropriate works. All local authorities have a duty to manage trees and woods in a way that enhances safety and to protect significant trees for their amenity value.

This document will contribute to delivering the broad range of Council aims and incorporate the four environmental strategic priorities associated with creating the UK's environment capital in conjunction with priorities on community and land use planning issues. It has been influenced through consultation, the DEFRA 2007 publication 'Strategy for England's Trees, Woods & Forests' and will attempt to demonstrate the need for resources.

1.2 The Resource

An up to date survey of Peterborough's tree stock would be invaluable and a sound basis upon which to understand the resource. Very approximate estimates of tree numbers are available, these being 105,000 individual trees, growing on highway land, parks and open spaces and an estimated further 1,400,000 trees making up the Council's 280 hectares of woodland. A Forestry Commission's estimate indicates that 3% of the district is covered by woodland. The national average is 9%. The density of cover in the city varies greatly. Areas constructed by the Development Corporation contain more trees per hectare than the older pre D. C. suburbs. More trees and woods stand to the west of the city compared to the sparsely populated fens to the east. Sparse tree cover accelerates water run-off and has a negative impact on storm water capacity.

A significant proportion of the specimen trees in Peterborough are dominated by Norway Maple, Lime and Cherry. In the urban woods Ash and Sycamore dominate. Life expectancy of these trees is reduced by poor site conditions and nutrient deficient sub soils. 60 to 80 years is all that can be expected with as little as 40 for Cherry trees that are now reaching the ends of their lives. Peterborough's tree demographic mirrors that of the city's development, the vast majority of trees having been planted since the 1960's.

1.3 Positive Impact of Trees

There is increasing public awareness of the benefits that trees can provide. Residents have greater expectations of the environment in which they live. In urban areas there is demand for recreational open space and pleasant, tree-lined streets.

Benefits from Trees

Trees are essential to life and their value cannot be overstated. City woodlands are planted to provide beauty, screening for privacy or to reduce invasive traffic noise. The benefits can be identified as social, environmental, and economic gains.

Social Benefits.

The strong ties between people and trees are most evident in the resistance of residents to tree felling. Trees and woodlands contribute immeasurably to Peterborough's landscape and are particularly valuable in urban locations. Research has shown that hospital patients recover more quickly when able to view a landscape containing trees. Their aesthetic value improves the appearance of urbanity, giving variety of scale, form, colour and shape. Trees occupy considerable space. Within privately owned grounds planning is required for their accommodation. Careful selection and appropriate maintenance can enhance the environment for the tree owner without infringing on the lives of neighbours.

Environmental Benefits

Trees influence the environment in which we live. Wind speed is reduced, rain intercepted reducing storm runoff to potential flooding and air quality is improved. Temperatures in the vicinity of trees are cooler than those away from

them and hence there is a moderation to the heat island effect caused by urbanity.

Economic Benefits

Air-conditioning costs are lower in a tree-shaded home. Heating costs are reduced when a home has a windbreak.

Indirect economic benefits of trees can also be identified. Lowered electricity bills are paid by customers when power companies are able to use less water in their cooling towers, build fewer new facilities to meet peak demand, use reduced amounts of fossil fuel in their furnaces and use fewer measures to control air pollution. Communities also save money if fewer facilities are required to control local storm water.

An attractive, healthy and vibrant city attracts investment. Well maintained trees and woodlands are integral to this.

1.4 Negative impacts

Within Peterborough a great many people live in very close proximity to trees, especially within the new townships. Such trees frequently belong to the Council but were originally planted by the Development Corporation. A high density of trees were set with the presumption that numbers would be reduced as their growth progressed. Current issues of overcrowding, blocking of daylight, leaves in gutters and fruit fall making paths slippery, are all prevalent.

The dilemma occurs when trees are causing problems for residents but at the same time are making major contributions to the local environment.

Past inappropriate species selection has produced much negative impact. Resulting problems may be difficult or impossible to resolve now. Specimens were chosen that were destined to outgrow the space available but were capable of making an instant impact. Height and spread are major issues of concern for residents today. Requests for topping or outright felling are frequent which is indicative that the situation now needs to be reviewed. It is not possible to continually prune trees so as to allow ease of living alongside them.

Such a response would be expensive, ongoing and eventually lead to very poor quality and potentially unstable trees.

Many home owners are worried about subsidence and the stability of foundations over shrinkable clay soils. Water demanding trees can drain the soils. These may not rehydrate until the following autumn. Species selection is the key to minimising this risk. Willow trees are quick growing, very easy to establish, cheap to purchase but totally unsuited to urbanity. Very thirsty, prone to dropping limbs and short lived they have nothing to offer but trouble in the wrong place.

Cherry trees were planted on mass but are now all rapidly approaching the ends of their lives. In addition, these trees have a marked tendency to grow surface running roots that can severely lift and damage footpaths. Slower, smaller and longer lived trees would offer far greater long term amenity value.

Old shelterbelts have now grown tall and spindly. Where these back onto housing residents frequently worry about stability, overhanging branches and lack of daylight. Tall shelterbelts tend to open out at their base, so losing their ability to screen roads and deaden traffic noise. Selection of tall evergreen shrubs rather than forest scale trees would possibly have matured to better effect.

2 THE VISION

The population of Peterborough is set to reach 200,000 by 2020. The Council's vision is to accommodate this growth in a sustainable way and one that will address issues of social and economic exclusion whilst maintaining and enhancing the quality of the environment.

The overall purpose of this document is to provide the framework for a strategic approach to the management of trees and woods:

“A sustainable tree and woodland population, for a growing city.”

Tree and Woodland protection is concerned with managing the balance between risks and benefits so as to ensure a sustainable outcome.

2.1 Aim

The Council's aim is:

“To sustainably maintain and improve the quality of the existing tree and woodland cover.”

The Council will act to enhance the quality and diversity of its trees and woodlands through a programme of regular tree inspections and maintenance. This programme will address the Council's legal responsibilities and enable it to respond to resident's concerns.

3 THEME 1: COMMUNITY AND PLACE

Objective 1 To ensure that trees and woodland are managed in a way that contributes to the aims and objectives of the Council.

Objective 2 To improve the local environment, the quality of people's lives and their appreciation of trees and woodlands.

Involving people in the decision making process for the planning, management and use of woods will enhance feelings of ownership, community cohesiveness and promote the well being of neighbourhoods.

3.1 Community

When communities become involved in decision making and management they are more likely to use the resource with respect. Individual sites need to be evaluated for their contribution to the community and their recreational potential assessed.

Trees and woods offer a variety of outdoor opportunities for recreation and learning. The priority will be to provide high quality access near to where people live and work. To ensure woods remain valued as life long resource appropriate information needs to be freely available. This should include recognition of their historic, archaeological and cultural significance.

Partnership working promotes community involvement and so links to existing partners should be strengthened and new ones established by providing advice and support to communities with plans to create and maintain their own woodland. Partnerships can be guided by and qualify for funding from the Woodland Trust under the 'Space for People' initiative. The imminent tree planting campaign to create the Forest Of Peterborough is another example of productive partnership.

The Forestry Commission is an organisation that makes grants available through the process of application and presentation of proposals. Partnerships are supported and carry the best prospects for securing awards.

The planning process can contribute to the community by examining the existing provision of trees and woodland relative to predictions for future needs. The process of Planning Gain through Section 106 Agreements can site these needs. At present 12% of Peterborough's population have access to woods of 2 hectares or more within 500m of their home. A further 19% already have such woods but they are not accessible. The Council could consider working with

partners to improve access and where there is a deficiency in woods, plant new ones. Enhancements to the urban woods (shelterbelts) could go some way towards meeting requirements.

Consultation

Residents develop great fondness for trees and woodlands and hence resistance to tree felling is prevalent. A vital component of arboricultural management is selective felling. Weaker or diseased trees are removed. This creates the space required to let those remaining to grow on to maturity. Releasing information through a consultation protocol sighting why certain operations are necessary and with details of operational aims, could secure public support and assist Councillors. Emergency works to clear significant hazard should be exempt as these need to happen without delay.

3.2 Place

Trees provide visual and physical features which can be used to either separate or link areas, bringing seasonal change to an otherwise static urban landscape. They provide attractive settings to residential and business development, helping to create a sense of place and permanence. To enhance local distinctiveness selection must identify the most appropriate trees and management regime.

4 THEME 2: SUSTAINABILITY AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Objective 3 To identify and preserve trees and woodlands which are recognised for their contribution to maintaining a diverse environment.

The Council recognises the importance of trees and woodlands and shall preserve those of significance. When necessary the Council will protect trees using Tree Preservation Orders including selected trees identified as under threat from development .

Objective 4 To secure new tree and woodland planting as part of the sustainable growth of Peterborough.

The Council will ensure that new trees appropriate to the location are planted and that development proposals include this enhancement towards the goal of sustainability.

4.1 Sustainability

National and local policy makers have to appraise their policies and practices to ensure they are sustainable. This process is contained within Local Agenda 21 and constituent Biodiversity Action Plan. Biodiversity, the variety of life, including all species of plants and animals and their natural support systems, has an important role in the development of sustainable communities.

The Natural Environment and Rural Community Act 2006 directs that *“Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, in so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving bio-diversity.”* Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is referenced to all public authorities.

By Incorporating conservation of bio-diversity into relevant strategies, linking these to environmental planning and statutory obligations for enhancement within forward planning and development control, the Council can reach set targets..

Climate Change

Measures to adapt to the predicted effects of climate change will be incorporated into the strategy, taking full account of “Climate Change Strategy for Peterborough”.

Climate change has the potential to make a significant impact on trees and woodland. Adaptation is a key requirement. It should be addressed at the earliest opportunity to allow for long term management and applied maintenance that supports establishment. The difficulty is selecting planting stock that will thrive in both current and future climates. Young trees, street trees and those within hedgerows are likely to be the first affected. Water demanding species, and those prone to gale damage will be removed and replaced with more suitable choices

Specific cases of sensitivity can be sighted by examination of the following two trees:

Horse Chestnut has been a landscape feature since its introduction into the UK in the late seventeenth century. Easily recognised and commonplace this tree is now being severely disfigured and potentially threatened by Leaf Miner (*Cameraria ohridella*) which may well be spreading because of mild, wet winters resulting from global warming.

Beech trees are native to the British Isles but are now showing signs of stress brought on through the mild winters that do not allow for vernalization. Predictions are that Beech will prosper further north where the colder winters better suit.

Based on Forestry Commission figures mature woods sequester approximately 200 tonnes of carbon per hectare, therefore carbon held within woodland trees owned by the Council is estimated to be less than 1% of the City’s annual carbon output.

4.2 Natural Environment

The green infrastructure is a network of interlinked spaces in and around the city and between urban and rural areas. Trees and woods are a very important part

of this, and playing a vital role in defining Peterborough as an “Environment City”.

Trees and woodland, especially old trees and ancient woods, are amongst our richest habitats. The highest levels of biodiversity are often found in woods that are actively and sensitively managed. Their diversity is even greater when they form part of a mixed landscape in close proximity to other features such as ponds, grassland and even residential gardens. Hedgerows linking woodlands act as wildlife corridors and so greatly promote the extent and range of wildlife.

The challenge in the future will be to maintain and enhance diversity. Planning and management needs to be aimed at providing a natural environment which is resilient to climate change. Climate change will impact on the range of native wild plants and animals and hence the character of our woods. Some invasive non native species will need to be checked.

Woodlands protect ground water from pollution and lessen the likelihood of flooding by intercepting rain before it reaches watercourses. Strategically planted shelterbelts intercept air pollutants. To realise integrated and multifunctional landscape management the council will need to work closely with external partners and a variety of landowners.

5 THEME 3: ASSET MANAGEMENT AND STANDARDS

Objective 5 To ensure that legal responsibilities are met.

The Council will develop and sustain procedures necessary to provide tree and woodland management in a way that accommodates liability. These procedures will include best practice and aim at the highest possible level of service relative to available resources.

5.1 Asset Management

Trees growing in an urban environment require a more intense and therefore expensive management regime than would be required for their survival within woodlands. In addition to this, consideration needs to be given to the expectations of the public.

Trees have been the subjects of disputes and litigation for a couple of centuries, this leading to the formation of a highly regulated industry accommodating concerns of damage to property, personal injury and lack of daylight.

The Council has “a duty of care to maintain its trees and woods in a safe condition”.

To meet this duty the Council will take appropriate action to lessen risk and so minimise exposure to liability. The Health and Safety Executive requires that an effective local authority system contains:

- An inventory of the tree and wood stock within its ownership and responsibility.
- An overall assessment of the risks these pose.
- Risk assessments of prominent individual trees based upon their location, species, size, age and history.
- Pro-active system of regular inspection by a competent person and a system of obtaining additional specialist advice when inspection reveals defects and factors outside the experience and knowledge of the inspector.
- A system to enable people to report damage to trees and to trigger inspection.

- A method of recording and reviewing the systems along with any remedial actions.
- Risk management plan.

This strategy will influence the Council's risk management plan for trees and woods, updating and implementing the original strategy and management plans

By introducing a pro-active tree management system and therefore minimising reactive works, optimum use of resources and a move towards achieving a defensible risk management system can be achieved.

Rotational management for each of the category of trees and woods will be based upon risk assessment and identification of priorities. More frequent tree inspections will be carried out where there is greatest cause for concern. Following this, allocation of resources can then be applied to best effect with appropriate consultation to take place in advance of the work.

For a pro-active tree strategy to be effective the Council will need to invest financially in its trees and woodlands In order to achieve a basic standard.

The benefits of pro-active management should become apparent as the level of demand for response based work diminishes, thus saving money by keeping ahead of complaints.

5.2 Standard of Service

In order to achieve sustainable tree management a strategic operational approach is essential. It has to be understood that surgery is not necessarily for the benefit of the trees but will buy time and enable them to remain in situ for a while longer, perhaps until more suitable and less vigorous replacements get established. The management and maintenance of trees is a skilled task. It often requires different services and organisations to work closely together in order to achieve appropriate management. Risk to public and property needs to be minimised in balance with risk of damage to the trees themselves.

An important part of delivering an effective risk management system is ensuring that the tree managers have the necessary skills, qualifications and experience.

A qualified arboriculturalist is integral to defensible tree and woodland management as is sighted within BS5837. This has been substantiated by industry best practice, peer review and confirmed in common law precedence.

Knowledge and skill is needed by those who undertake the works, i.e. pruning, planting and removing trees. Officers who inspect the trees, respond to service requests and specify works, must also be appropriately qualified.

Use of specific software can assist with monitoring customer concern, reacting to and prioritising works and the way these works are undertaken. It can lead directly to improvements in consultation and communication. Specific software can positively affect new woodland management plans and form an integral part of the street tree and village tree cyclical management programs.

6 COUNCIL TREES

Tree management directs maintenance operations to existing trees as well as operations to promote the establishment of new planting, incorporating a long term view of how best to care for this resource.

6.1 General

The City Council's tree stock can be divided into seven principal categories.

- **Street Trees:** Planted in pavements or road verges. These they help to filter traffic pollution, provide shade for car parking and improve the overall appearance of the street scene.
- **Residential Areas:** Growing within and around housing estates. Planted by the original Parks Department or the Development Corporation to enhance the local environment.
- **Parks and Open Spaces:** These are frequently the trees of greatest local significance and provide maximum visual amenity for both residents and visitors.
- **Woodlands:** These are some of the remaining pockets of the original Rockingham Forest that once covered the area. Grimeshaw Wood is a local accessible Nature Reserve and hence is a valuable amenity resource.
- **Urban Woods:** Formerly classed as shelterbelts they were mostly planted alongside the parkways and in areas that separated the new townships. They provide visual amenity and habitat for wildlife.
- **Village and Rural Trees:** The villages have a unique character, much of which is achieved by their content of historic trees as well as those growing within the surrounding countryside.
- **Other Sites:** The Council own and maintain numerous other sites such as schools, allotments, cemeteries and crematoria. Many such sites contain trees of local importance.

For consideration is the idea of introducing a tree database system that records details of tree numbers, their locations and condition. This would go some way in promoting the pro-active element of the contract which to date has only been implemented for street and village trees.

By maintaining a diversity of species and ages within the Council's tree stock, devastating threats such as disease, climate change and extensive over maturity can be minimised. Diversity can be used to achieve sustainability.

The intention is to respond to enquiries by giving details of the works to be done and when. Compromise will be necessary in situations where trees are generating complaints but at the same time are still offering good general amenity value. Individual cases will be assessed on their merits.

Council tree and woodlands general policies (CTWG)

These policies and priorities apply to all trees and woodlands managed by the Council.

Policy CTWG1

The Council will ensure that the tree and wood populations are protected, their establishment directed and where appropriate, expanded.

Priorities:

CTWG1.1 To provide and maintain a computer system which enables accurate analysis of the tree and woodlands, facilitates the management of resources and enables their prioritisation.

Policy CTWG 2

The Council will maintain its trees and woods in accordance with its obligations to observe duty of care and the safety of both people and property..

Priorities:

CTWG 2.1 To set out risk management plans for the tree population.

CTWG 2.2 To survey all Council owned trees and woods, incorporating risk management.

CTWG 2.3 To undertake maintenance works in support of duty of care.

Policy CTWG 3

The Council will maintain its trees and woodlands in such a way that demonstrates best practice, providing worthy examples for others to follow.

Priorities

- CTWG 3.1 To provide plans for long term management and development of trees and woodlands as essential components within the landscape.
- CTWG 3.2 To ensure the best use of resources is made during the planning of operations.
- CTWG 3.3 To supplement the Council's spending by seeking additional funding from external sources where ever possible.
- CTWG 3.4 To realise any economic potential of trees and woods where this does not conflict with the other policies and priorities of the Strategy.

Policy CTWG 4

The removal of trees and woods shall be resisted, unless there are sound arboricultural or pressing social reasons in the form of consistent demands for service response to to indicate otherwise.

Priorities

- CTWG 4.1 The removal of healthy trees in response to complaints shall be Resisted unless the complaint has an overriding justification and no alternative management practice can be implemented.

Policy CTWG 5

The Council will encourage a better understanding of tree and wood management and in so doing promote community involvement.

Priorities

- CTWG 5.1 To identify trees and woods of particular interest and develop a Method of consultation with local residents on works to be undertaken..

- CTWG 5.2 Establish and support a voluntary urban tree warden scheme to work with officers to encourage community involvement in tree planting and management.

- CTWG 5.3 Develop a practical consultancy protocol supported by sufficient resources to ensure successful implementation.

Policy CTWG 6

The Council will encourage new and replacement planting placing great emphasis on use of appropriate tree species.

Priorities

- CTWG 6.1 To develop a planting plan that sustains the tree population, With emphasis on the long-term replacement of mature and over mature trees.
- CTWG 6.2 Identify a specific budget to fund the replacement of dead or inappropriate trees.
- CTWG 6.3 As and when the prospect arises, to work with other organisations to secure additional funding streams for the management of tree stock.

6.2 Street Trees

The City has approximately 14,000 street trees which have to survive in a difficult roadside environment. Utilities demand space as do road signs and streetlights. The limited space is made all the more challenging because of polluting car emissions, road salt, oil and other contaminants. Against the odds trees can and do survive, albeit with a limited life expectancy.

The character of Peterborough's street trees varies considerably, from the older Victorian planting in roads like Broadway, the inter-war developments such as Dogsthorpe, to the newer developments built by the Development Corporation. The Victorian areas contain large old trees, many of which are managed as pollards. Today there is access to a wider range of smaller ornamental trees that are suitable for restricted sites.

Today many of Peterborough's streets have tree populations that are over-mature. Such trees are vulnerable to climatic change, disease and damage. In a few years an over-mature population of street trees will be disappearing as individual trees deteriorate and have to be removed. In these areas new trees could be introduced between the mature specimens to ensure that there will be continuous future tree cover.

As a result of the 1998 Tree and Woodland Strategy all street trees have been surveyed. The aim has been to carry out a four year cyclical maintenance program. The program is divided into the city wards. Several are selected to receive attention each year. This program is set to the maximum frequency that resources will permit.

Street tree policy (ST)

Policy ST 1

To endeavour to protect street trees from threats such as loss of verges and damage to same.

Priorities

ST1.1 Secure the necessary resources to maintain the street trees on a three year cyclical maintenance programme.

ST1.2 Work with and monitor the activities of utility companies in order to minimise accidental operational damage to trees.

Policy ST 2

To place a priority on the replacement of ageing street trees, particularly where these adjoin major traffic routes. To ensure selection of the largest growing varieties up to the limitations of the available space.

Priorities

ST2.1 To plant new and replacement street trees in appropriate sites, giving priority to streets where trees are currently standing or have been in the past.

ST2.2 In streets where tree planting is not possible in pavements or verges, to encourage residents to plant trees in their front gardens.

6.3 Trees In Residential Areas

A large proportion of public sector housing in the city was built by the Development Corporation. Extensive planting of both trees and shrubs took place on small open spaces in close proximity to these properties using a limited range of stock.

Quick growing species were often chosen and planted to provide rapid temporary greening of the new areas with extensive shrub beds and group planting of trees. Much of Peterborough lies over shrinkable clay soils which has led to problems with building subsidence as caused by large water demanding trees growing in close proximity to foundations. In addition, lack of thought was given to growth potential at maturity or to the need to thin out stock at a relatively early stage. This thinning work was never carried out on the scale required.

Present management concentrates on dealing with complaints from residents. These generally stem from the large number of trees planted within a restricted area at close proximity to housing.

It is estimated that there are over 50,000 individual trees in North and South Bretton, Orton Waterville, Paston and Ravensthorpe alone. To date, insufficient resources have been available to carry out the required cyclical management of these trees.

Residential area tree priorities (RA):

RA 1 To develop a cyclical management plan with sufficient funds to support operations.

RA 1.1 To commence a removal and replacement programme to minimise the risk of structural damage by selecting trees that grow to a lesser size at maturity.

RA 1.2 Where replacement planting of any persuasion is inappropriate, to

plant new trees nearby instead of the location that has been cleared.

6.4 Parks and Open Spaces

Trees are fundamental to the structure of parks and very important contributors to the environment of the area. The nature of different parks and green spaces is very variable. For example, Central Park has a declining tree population displaying over maturity in comparison to Bretton Park with younger but neglected stock now in great need of selective thinning. The latter is now urgently required to prevent very high losses over the next ten years. For this reason management has to be planned on a site by site basis.

Certain newer areas of Peterborough contain large open spaces of short grass and minimal structure planting. These areas are ideal for enhancement. By creating small woods so too can opportunities for wildlife be promoted at the same time as landscape enhancement.

Since 1998 several parks have been surveyed and essential works carried out. These include Central Park, Itter Park, Stanley recreation Ground and Cherry Orchard Recreation Ground. There are approximately 30,000 individual trees on these sites. To effectively manage these trees on a cyclical basis additional funding would be required.

Park and open space tree priorities (POS):

- POS 1. To develop a minimal cyclical management plan with allocated funding to support operations.
- POS 1.2 To ensure that trees are fully integrated within management and improvement plans for Parks and open spaces.
- POS 1.3 To commence a replacement program that incorporates a diverse range of tree species and where appropriate, to re-establish historic landscapes.

6.5 Woodland

The County of Cambridgeshire is one of the least wooded in the country with a coverage of only 1.9 %. That within the Peterborough area is up to approx. 3%.

A considerable proportion of this is ancient semi-natural woodland which represents a valuable wildlife and landscape resource.

The City Council owns six ancient woods, managing Grimeshaw Wood (inc. Highlees Spinney), Pocock's Wood in Bretton and leasing the others to Nene Park Trust and Woodland Trust. These areas amount to approximately 27 hectares and have attracted the designation of Local Nature Reserves.

The typical composition of local ancient woodland is Oak, Ash and Field Maple, traditionally managed as coppice with standards for timber production. Such management ceased early last century and many woods have either become neglected or used for commercial forestry.

A new woodland management plan is required that will detail work prescriptions for the next 20 years and long term objectives to sustain them for the next 50. Neglect over the last 75 years in addition to close proximity of new urbanity has taken its toll. To implement a new woodland management plan additional resources are required.

The management plan would set a strategy ensuring preservation of integrity and that operations would be sensitive to matters of ecology and sustainability. In drawing this up extensive consultation would be required with local and regional groups. The plan would not only conform to the UK Forestry Standard but also assist with applications for grants from the English Woodland Grant Scheme.

Woodland policy and priorities

Policy CW 1:

The Council will aim at sustainability in the management of its woodlands as determined by guidance within a revised Woodland management Plan.

Priorities:

- CW 1.1 To maintain continuous tree cover and manage the woods towards sustainability.
- CW 1.2 To make provision for public access.
- CW 1.3 To maintain woodland boundaries, combat fly-tipping and other

anti-social behaviour.

- CW 1.4 To improve the range of habitats with the woods.
- CW 1.5 To increase biodiversity, and control invasive species.
- CW 1.6 To preserve the historic features in the woods.
- CW 1.7 To increase the amount of standing and fallen deadwood where this does not compromise safety.
- CW 1.8 To provide educational opportunities.
- CW 1.9 Restore coppice interspersed with standards.
- CW 1.10 Encourage suitable natural regeneration.

6.6 Urban Woods

The areas originally classified as shelterbelts were planted by the Development Corporation in the 1970's and 80's as part of the landscape master plan. As time has passed the function of this planting has shifted and today the title of urban woods is more appropriate. These woodlands cover a total area of 250 hectares and have approximately 400 miles of boundary alongside roads, residential, commercial and industrial premises.

These trees are a mix of natives, those naturalised and shrub species that provide woodland like settings. The mix is predominantly made up of fast growing species which are now maturing. Components of the Development Corporation management plan were implemented but the time has come for a new management plan to direct operations in the light of the current urban woodland content and condition in 2010. Such a revision would support application to the English Woodland Grant Scheme and the Forestry Commission.

Serious neglect due to lack of funding is now badly affecting these urban woods, their quality and ability to fulfil two of their intended functions, notably to act as visual and sound deadening barriers. Neglected woodlands become difficult to manage in a sensitive or cost effective manner.

Policy UW 1:

The Council will manage the urban woods towards sustainability in accordance with the objectives and guidance set out in a revised Urban Woodland Management Plan.

Priorities:

- UW 1.1 To manage the woodlands on towards sustainability.
- UW 1.2 To manage the woods to provide continuous woodland cover.
- UW 1.3 To maintain and enhance landscape amenity.
- UW 1.4 To increase biodiversity and maximise wildlife habitats.
- UW 1.5 To provide opportunities for improved access and recreation.
- UW 1.6 To protect and preserve archaeological and cultural features.
- UW 1.7 To include measures that can assist with adaptation to climate change as well as to maximise capacity for carbon sequestration.
- UW 1.8 To identify potential new sites for woods and encourage their creation adjoining existing woods and where appropriate making full use of natural regeneration.
- UW 1.9 Replacement trees to be established by natural regeneration and enrichment planting.

Policy UW 2:

The Council will encourage community involvement, endeavouring to consult with residents when work is proposed and seek to address the problems of anti-social behaviour in urban woods.

Priorities:

- UW 2.1 A protocol for communicating details of works proposed and to be a good neighbour ensuing that operations are undertaken in a manner sensitive to the wishes of residents.

UW 2.2 To encourage public appreciation, recreational use, enjoyment and community involvement.

UW 2.3 Introduce measures to control vandalism, unauthorised tipping, the dumping of waste and litter and resident encroachment.

6.7 Village and Rural Trees

Many of the trees in the villages and rural areas are privately owned. In spite of this the Council still has responsibility for a significant proportion which total approximately 5000. These trees being approximately 200 years old are amongst the oldest managed by the Authority.

Locally, Elm was one of the most important trees. When Dutch Elm Disease struck this dominant hedgerow tree was lost. Considerable areas of relatively denuded landscape have not been replaced, particularly within areas of more intensive farming. To this day there remains a reliance upon Elm regeneration that exists within a continual state of growth followed by disease related decline. Planting of Ash or Oak would lessen dependency within the landscape upon this regeneration.

Distinctive village scenes can be maintained and enhanced by planting trees that originally generated such landscapes. In places this could mean selecting non native stock so as to stay with the original theme.

Age related risks of village trees and their close proximity to property necessitates that funding be identified for bi annual inspections to be followed by a programme of works based upon the findings, this followed by production of cyclical management plans. To date only a small proportion of trees alongside rural roads have been identified and inspected. It would be wise to bring these trees into cyclical management without delay so that the City Council can demonstrate duty of care.

Village and rural tree policies and priorities (VR):

Policy VR 1:

The Council will preserve and enhance the distinctiveness of village and rural trees.

Priorities:

VR 1.1 To complete surveying operations and introduce a management cycle of no greater than three years.

VR 1.2 To replace all trees which are removed in these areas

VR 1.3 To replant using suitable native trees except where this would result in loss of familiar vernacular.

6.8 New and Replacement Planting

Trees have a finite life expectancy that varies from flowering Cherry at approx 35 years to Yew that can live for 1000 years. Stress associated with the urban environment significantly reduces life spans. Surveys and inspections in the city have revealed the fact that large numbers of trees in the medium term and therefore even more so in the long term, are totally unsuitable for their locations. The present strategy requires that each tree removed is to be replaced. Constraints on resources only allows this to happen at high profile locations resulting in a year on year net reduction in trees numbers.

The great majority of enquiries and demands for service result from an initial inappropriate choice of species. The Development Corporation had the task of "greening the city " and this directed selection. The task was achieved but in terms of longevity the entire situation has moved on. Now and into the future the greatest cost savings in tree management can be realised by strict observance of the philosophy:

"Right Tree in the Right Place"

This should be followed every time a new or replacement tree is selected and planted so as to minimise problems of trees growing too tall or broad, associated loss of light, dropping of berries or leaves falling into gutters etc. Numerous short lived Cherry trees as planted by the D. C, are coming to the ends of their lives. Quick, cheap and cheerful these trees are going to be missed but in terms of longevity, surface rooting tendencies and nuisance fruit fall, were an inappropriate choice. Tree planting in certain locations has resulted in ongoing and disruptive problems. Perhaps consideration should now be given to spending money on stepping up specifications promoting establishment of fewer newly planted trees rather than focusing so heavily on numbers.

Within residential areas available space is a critical consideration. Adherence to Right Tree in the Right Place framework will ensure new planting is appropriately designed and located. Direction for tree and location selection is set out briefly in Appendix 4 “Right Tree in the Right Place Framework”.

In some parts of the city there is minimal public open space resulting in a low number of trees. Those present are often privately owned. The Council could consider giving carefully selected trees to owner occupiers to make good this deficiency

Tree planting is an activity that residents can get involved with. At the same time the importance of watering, weeding and revisiting stakes and ties has to be acknowledged. Involvement should be encouraged as it significantly increases tree survival rates and creates a sense of ownership.

New and replacement tree priorities (NRP):

Priorities:

- NRP 1. To develop a detailed Right Tree in the Right Place framework for guiding tree selection on existing Council sites as well as for observation within the planning process..
- NRP 1.1 The Council will plant appropriate new and replacement trees To ensure that the current extent of tree coverage is maintained.
- NRP 1.2 To incorporate aftercare into all maintenance programmes.
- NRP 1.3 Formulate a planting program with greatest priority given to appropriate sites in deprived communities, key transport corridors and gateways, large open spaces with little existing natural vegetation and finally areas within new developments in this order.
- NRP 1.4 Recognise local distinctiveness when selecting and planting trees

NRP1.5 Encourage community involvement, commemorative and sponsored planting schemes on Council land.

NRP1.6 Use planning conditions within Section 106 Agreements to secure funding for tree planting and subsequent establishment operations.

6.9 Other Sites

The city has many other trees within school grounds, churchyards, cemeteries, crematoria and other premises. Schools contain a significant number of prominent trees offering a huge educational resource.

Whilst there has been an assessment of the trees at schools a cyclical management program is still absent. There are approximately 4,000 trees on education sites managed by the Council. Initial work needs to be extended so as to bring all trees into a management program.

Trees within churchyards, cemeteries and crematoria are highly prominent, enhancing the distinctiveness of their location as well as being part of the local history. Bretton Crematorium was built in ancient woodlands and so the trees very much set the tone, especially being situated next to Pockocks Wood.

At the moment these trees are not covered by a management program. They are amongst the oldest trees in the city and those that carry the greatest level of risk but have yet to be entered into a schedule for cyclical works.

Other site priorities (OS):

priorities:

- OS 1. To fund completion of surveys from which appropriate inspection and maintenance cycles will be determined.
- OS 1.1 To survey trees and woods for additions to the register of landmark trees.

6.10 Landmark Trees

Trees and woods offer a sense of permanence. Old woods and veteran trees are good indicators of an area's past. However, with age comes the highest degree of risk and vulnerability to changing site conditions. It is important that veterans are identified and carefully managed to ensure their risk is minimised.

Landmark tree policy and priorities (LT):

Policy LT 1:

The Council will preserve and protect the trees on the landmark register.

Priorities:

LT 1.1 To continue to survey trees and woods so as to find and then register all landmark trees.

LT 1.2 to extend the resources available to ensure that all landmark trees can be adequately maintained.

7 PRIVATE TREES

Many notable trees within the city grow in private gardens. The majority of land owners take a positive view of their trees and are aware of the grant aid schemes and sources of advice to pay for maintenance works. There is potential for further planting and schemes to promote this in order to assist with greening of the city.

As the Local Planning Authority the Council has a statutory duty to protect trees of greatest amenity value. This section sets out the City Council's approach to the protection of privately owned trees.

Private tree and wood general policies (PT)

Policy PG 1

The Council will ensure that trees and woodlands are protected and developed.

Priorities

PT 1.1 To utilise and enforce planning powers to retain and protect trees through TPO's and conservation area status

PT 1.2 To comment and advise on strategy and other initiatives which affect trees and woods.

Policy PT 2

The Council will respond to tree issues within planning applications in such a way that ensures the retention of good quality tree and woodland coverage or ensures its creation.

Priorities

PT 2.1 To be guided by best practice for a consistent approach to reviewing planning applications.

PT 2.2 To consider prosecution when conditions of consent are breached or there are breaches of TPO's or the requirements of Conservation Area regulations.

PT 2.3 Trees and Woods be given significant consideration within planning applications, requiring submission of Arboricultural Impact Assessments and location plans.

PT 2.4 When granting permission set conditions for the retention, protection, planting and care of trees.

PG 2.5 Utilise commuted sums associated with Section 106 Agreements to fund the long term care of trees. To utilise and enforce planning powers to retain and protect existing trees threatened by new development including proposals for changes to existing properties.

Policy PT 3

The outright removal of trees and woods shall be resisted in the absence of sound arboricultural or technical reasons such as irrefutable identification of subsidence.

Priorities

PG 3.1 To protect trees of amenity value.

Policy PG4

The Council will promote awareness and better understanding of tree and woodland management through use of community consultation and involvement.

Priorities

- PT 4.1 To promote good standards of tree and woodland care.
- PT 4.2 To encourage owners of notable trees that are worthy of protection to adopt best practices for tree care.
- PT 4.3 To set up a tree warden scheme to reach and encourage volunteers and educate same with active involvement in trees.
- PG 4.4 To prepare and circulate code of practice for (1) pre-application guidance and (2) working on development sites where proposals have potential impact.

Policy PT 5

The Council will encourage new and replacement tree and wood planting, using appropriate tree species.

Priorities

- PT 5.1 To require developers to submit details of tree species and numbers within their proposals.
- PT 5.2 To promote tree and wood planting where it is considered this will enhance general amenity.
- PT 5.3 To encourage actions that will increase woodland cover in the locality.

7.1 Trees and Development

The growth of Peterborough's population and economy provides a great opportunity for a strategic approach to tree and woodland planting. There are a number of initiatives to enhance the natural environment. They all offer opportunity to increase tree and woodland cover but each one has its own agenda and priorities. Efforts should be made to secure their coordination and compatibility.

Economic activity and future development will bring into being attractive green residential and business environments. Developers will be key players in the majority of land use changes. As such they need to respect existing trees and where appropriate, incorporate tree planting within new developments.

Use should be made of planning conditions and Section 106 Agreements to secure funding to pay for landscape enhancement and tree management. Long term management plans will be required along with stated lump sums allocated to them.

Development proposals and their potential threats to existing trees are responsible for triggering the majority of new TPO's. Plans are often submitted indicating trees for retention that are in such poor condition that they are barely worthy of this cover.

Proposals to construct extensions onto existing buildings potentially takes building lines ever closer to boundary trees, resulting in conflict if this impact is not detected at the application stage and accommodated.

Developers often assume that all trees on a site will have to be retained and consequently view trees as a hindrance rather than an asset. It is still common for planning applicants to submit inadequate details to support the decision making process regarding trees in relation to proposed development. This requires more officer time and expense.

The extent of tree protection is frequently below that it should be during development and measures to accommodate construction can fall short. To ensure that trees are successfully retained it is vital that the root system is properly protected from direct and indirect damage and hence the need for reference to British Standard 5837 "Trees in Relation to Construction".

Tree and Development policies (TD)

Policy TD 1

The Council will reject development proposals with inadequate provision for the retention of trees and woods.

Priorities:

- TD 1.1 To utilise and enforce planning powers to retain and protect existing trees within new development as well as trees threatened by proposed changes to existing properties.

TD 1.2 To monitor and enforce planning conditions of consent. where necessary.

7.2 Protecting Trees

So as to support the proactive use of orders as well as the necessity to reappraise the value of old orders funding is required to pay for officer time. This time can also be applied to enforcing statutory powers applicable to Conservation Areas or offering advice to tree owners on how best to look after their property and avoid inappropriate pruning etc.

The implementation of statutory restrictions on the rights of landowners is always a potential source of conflict. However, many of our finest trees and woodlands would not be here today if such protection had not been applied.

The quality of private tree care is variable. Some owners are indifferent and some motivated but poorly advised. Greatest contributions come from tree owners who take pride in their trees, seek the best advice and engage quality contractors to implement work.

Statutory Protection.

In accordance with the duty as set out in the Town and Country Planning Act the Council will incorporate policies relating to Trees and Woodlands within its Local Plan through the review process.

There are over 350 TPO's and 29 Conservation Areas. Pressure from development could best be dealt with by a pro-active use of TPO's. However, limited resources prevent this from happening and so TPO's tend to be used reactively when a threat to the retention of a tree is identified.

Since 2007 the Council has prioritised and reviewed many of the older TPO's. This process has now halted due to a lack of resources.

Working on trees protected by Orders or within Conservation Areas places a duty on the tree owner to apply for permission from the Council for consent to undertake the work. The Council has a duty to respond to these applications within 8 or 6 weeks respectively.

Protection through Advice.

Free advice is given by the City Council and is seen as an important contribution to the general protection of trees. When advice is sought in conjunction with planning applications and TPO's this enables the provision of an efficient and cost effective service.

Arboriculture is an established technical discipline in which qualifications at various levels are available. Ongoing research continually changes the technical competence requirements of professionals and hence the public should seek out a reliable source for advice and look for membership of appropriate professional bodies.

There are a large number of people with poor technical abilities who carry out tree surgery work. This can lead to poor results for the tree as well as its owner. There are only a few reputable companies capable of working to British Standard 3998, 1989, operating in the Peterborough area. This factor alone results in unnecessarily damaged trees in the form of unsuitable and unsympathetic "pruning".

The Arboricultural Association produces a list of contractors and consultants who have been examined and found to reach the required standard. More local assessment and advice is required.

Private protecting trees policies (PP)

Policy PP 1

There will be a presumption against the cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of any protected tree. The Council will not give consent to fell a protected tree or woodland unless it is satisfied that this is necessary and justified. Any such consent will be conditional upon appropriate replacement.

Priorities:

PP 1.1 The Council will continue to protect significant trees.

- PP 1.2 Consent for works will be provided if the Council is satisfied that the long term health and appearance of the tree is not impaired.
- PP 1.3 The work does not unjustifiably inhibit or prevent the full and natural development of the tree.
- PP 1.4 The work is necessary for the continued retention of the tree.
- PP 1.5 The work is consistent with good arboricultural practice.
- PP 1.6 The work is consistent with sound woodland management.
- PP 1.7 To maintain records of TPO's and complete the appraisal of older TPO's. Where necessary revoke old Orders and serve new.
- PP 1.8 To develop an internet based system for inspection of TPOs and the making of applications to carry out works to protected trees.
- PP 1.9 Consider TPO's for all appropriate trees on land no longer the responsibility of the Council.

8 IMPLEMENTATION

To secure the long term health of the region's trees and woodlands the philosophy of the right tree in the right place must be widely understood. This will enable national, regional and local policy to be implemented to best effect.

Key to supporting this strategy will be resources. Delivery of the direction will require local interpretation and setting of priorities, the latter to be based upon assessment of local need, available resources and whole landscape consideration.

It is not possible to anticipate every situation and therefore whilst these policies guide decisions they should not be considered totally prescriptive. Individual policy should not be considered in isolation but all relevant policies should be taken into account when reaching a decision.

Allied to this document is the need for a Supplementary Action Plan to co-ordinate the priorities and available resources.

Many different departments and agencies potentially have an interest in the benefits of this strategy and can affect its delivery. The Action Plan will indicate from where major contributions are sought from others and where the strategy is likely to assist them to determine their own priorities.

The policies will assist the Council in making strategic decisions on development and growth, economic planning, developing sustainable communities and direct asset management. Increasing the inclusiveness of local communities in these issues will be important, both for decision making, but also for active participation in management. Private owners should be encouraged and advised of the wider importance of their trees and woods and be involved in partnerships.

Partnerships will greatly assist the Council to identify and secure external funding and sponsorship, and contribute to achieving the aim and objectives of the strategy. The English Woodland Grant Scheme as well as the Forestry Commission are two organisations that can be approached in the making of applications for funding.

8.1 Measures of Success

Implementing this strategy will lead to greater operational activity in tree and wood management. Equally, it will increase an appreciation and understanding of trees and woods.

To evaluate the impact of the strategy and decide how to act and revise the priorities a range of indicators of the present state, and trends over time are needed. These indicators should include: extent, condition, management, use and an assessment of their contribution to quality of life.

Outcome indicators relevant to the strategic objectives are as follows:

Reducing the cost of insurance claims year on year.

Reducing the number of emergency call outs to damaged or failed trees

8.2 Strategy Review

This strategy is an evolution of the 1998 Tree and Woodland Strategy. It updates that strategy and reflects the Council's key responsibilities to manage its own tree stock, to protect trees of amenity value and to secure new tree and woodland planting as the city grows.

There should be annual progress reviews to facilitate budgeting and allocation of resources. More detailed reviews at five year intervals could examine policies, aims and objectives, all of which could then be changed or adjusted if required.

The formation of a Tree Forum is recommended, this to meet twice a year and represent both the Council and community groups.

9 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Policies for Council owned trees and woods

General policies (CTWG); applicable to all Council trees and woods.

CTWG 1: The Council will ensure that the tree and woodland populations are protected, their establishment directed and where appropriate, expanded.

CTWG 2: The Council will maintain its trees and woods in accordance with its Obligations to observe duty of care and the safety of both people and property .

CTWG 3: The Council will maintain its trees and woodlands in such a way that demonstrates best practice, providing worthy examples for others to follow.

CTWG 4: The removal of trees and woods shall be resisted unless there are sound arboricultural or pressing social reasons to indicate otherwise.

CTWG5 The Council will encourage a better understanding of tree and wood management and in so doing, promote community involvement.

CTWG6 The Council will encourage new and replacement planting, placing great emphasis on use of appropriate tree species.

Street tree policy (ST)

ST1: To endeavour to protect street trees from threats such as loss of verges and damage to same.

ST 2: To place a priority on the replacement of ageing street trees, particularly where these adjoin major traffic routes. To ensure selection of the largest growing varieties up to the limitations of the available space.

Woodland policy (CW)

CW 1: The Council will aim at sustainability in the management of its woodlands as determined by guidance within a revised Woodland Management Plan.

Urban Woods (UW)

UW 1: The Council will manage the urban woods towards sustainability, in accordance with the objectives and guidance set out in a revised Urban Woodland Management Plan.

UW 2: The Council will encourage community involvement, endeavouring to consult with residents when work is proposed and will seek to address the problems of anti-social behaviour in urban woods.

Village and rural tree policy (VT):

VR 1: The Council will preserve and enhance the distinctiveness of village and rural trees.

Landmark tree policy and priorities (LT):

LT 1: The Council will preserve and protect the trees on the landmark register.

Appendix 2: Policies for Privately owned trees and woods

General policies (PT) applicable to ALL Private trees and woods

- PT 1 The Council will ensure that the trees and woodlands are protected and developed.
- PT 2 The Council will respond to tree issues within planning applications in such a way that ensures the retention of good quality tree and woodland coverage, or its creation.
- PT 3 The outright removal of trees and woods shall be resisted unless there are sound arboricultural or technical reasons to do otherwise.
- PT 4 The Council will promote awareness and better understanding of tree and woodland management through use of community consultation and involvement.
- PT 5 The Council will encourage new and replacement tree and wood planting, using appropriate tree species.

Tree and Development policies (TD)

- TD 1 The Council will reject development proposals with inadequate provision for the retention of trees and woods.

Protecting Private trees policies (PP)

- PP 1 There will be a presumption against the cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of any protected tree. The Council will not give consent to fell a protected tree or woodland unless it is satisfied that this is necessary and justified. Any such consent will be conditional upon appropriate replacement.

Appendix 3: Service Request Responses

Daylight Loss

Action will normally only be considered where the separation between the tree and the window of the nearest habitable room is less than 6m for trees with a height of over 12m, or less than half the height of the tree for smaller trees, or where the separation between the edge of the canopy and a vertical line through that window is less than 2m.

A 'habitable room' means a dining room, lounge, kitchen, study or bedroom but specifically excludes WCs, bathrooms, utility rooms, landings and hallways.

Where a situation falls within these guidelines cases will be prioritised according to proximity and account will also be taken of the orientation of the affected window. Further consultation may modify initial decisions. Opinions expressed by the community will be taken into account and hence will influence operational instructions.

Direct Root Damage

As with subsidence, cases of direct root damage will be considered on an individual basis. A balance will be struck between the nuisance experienced by individuals and the benefits offered by the tree to the wider community.

Drain Blockage

Trees do not have the capacity to break into a sound drain, but they will ruthlessly exploit any existing fault. The removal of one tree will not prevent other vegetation from exploiting the same opportunity.

The Council's presumption is that the appropriate way to deal with tree root blockage of drains is to ensure that the drains are watertight. Accordingly, the Council will not normally take action in response to complaints that Council managed trees are blocking drains

Honeydew

As with leaves, honeydew is not readily controllable by pruning. Certain trees such as Lime are more prone to producing this than others and in many respects it may be best to tackle honeydew with a routine cleansing response. Pruning will not normally be regarded as correct response to honeydew and will certainly not be the sole way of alleviating such problems.

Leaves, Seeds and Fruit

Leaves and seeds are carried freely on the wind and are beyond the control of the Council. The presumption is that residents will be prepared to remove saplings, clear leaves from pathways and gutters and remove small twigs that have landed within their gardens. Pruning will not normally be undertaken to attempt to reduce the fall of leaves, seeds or fruit.

Obstruction of the Highway

The Council will seek to maintain adequate clearance of the highway relative to the type of traffic using that route. Complaints about low branches over the highway will be investigated and dealt with promptly.

Obstruction of street lights and road signs

The Council will endeavour to ensure that trees under their management do not obscure road signs or prevent street lamps from illuminating the highway.

The purpose of street lamps is to illuminate the public highway and where adequate illumination of the highway is present, the Council will not normally take action to improve the levels of illumination of private property.

Safety

Where there is a clear and foreseeable threat to the personal safety of residents or to property emanating directly from the condition of a tree, action will be taken to minimise that risk.

Indirect risk such as slippery leaves on pavements will only be dealt with through pruning in unusual circumstances and where no other options are available.

The presentation of unfounded fear of a tree to an informed judgement will not normally result in action to prune the tree.

Subsidence

Tree related subsidence damage is a complex issue and each case will be considered on an individual basis.

Where damage has occurred the Council will require that adequate assessment and monitoring is undertaken to demonstrate that the tree is involved and that such evidence be submitted in support of any request for action.

Requests for action based on an unquantifiable possibility of damage occurring at an unspecified time in the future will not be considered unless there other overriding reasons to take action.

Television and other radio equipment

There is no right to good reception and in many cases it is possible to resolve issues of tree related poor reception by finding an engineering solution. The Council will only consider requests to prune trees to improve reception after all the following conditions have been met:

- Efforts have been made to find an engineering solution to the problem and have not been successful.
- The work required is consistent with good arboricultural practice and will not unduly affect the amenity or health of the tree.
- The work required can be executed within current financial constraints.

Appendix 4: Right Tree in the Right Place Framework.

Landscape Impact

- Consider the existing use of the space and question whether the presence of trees would be a positive addition?
- Identify the landscape type and what constraints this will place on the selection of species.
- Examine existing habitats so as to assess their compatibility with additional trees and woodlands and therefore the latter's ability to add value.
- Establish the history of tree cover to determine whether new additions would be appropriate.

Site Constraint

- Maintain local distinctiveness.
- Consider the presence of underground and overhead services.
- Meet the statutory safety requirements of access for pedestrians and vehicles.
- Assess impact on the nearest buildings to be sure that future potential problems can be minimised, particularly subsidence.
- Prioritise sites to where greatest public benefit can be realised.

Species Consideration

- Select species known to thrive on the soil type, its compaction, nutrients and available water.
- Consider space available relative to size of tree at maturity unless the tree is destined for controlled management such as coppicing or pollarding.
- Select the largest growing species the site will reasonably accommodate.
- Consider use of natural regeneration where appropriate.
- Where possible use native species.
- Maintain diversity within the tree population.
- Consider the species tolerance to disease and wind damage.
- Consider potential nuisance of fruit fall in the autumn, slippery paths and associated requests for service to deal with problems.

- Community Consideration**
- Consider potential impact on neighbours.
 - Consult with local community prior to introducing new large scale planting.

Appendix 5: References

Arboricultural Association 2005, "Tree Surveys: Guide to Good practice"

British Standard 3998 "Tree Work"

British Standard 5837 "Trees in Relation to Construction"

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

DEFRA 2007, "A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests"

Department of Environment 1973, "Circular 90/73 Inspection, Maintenance and Planting of Roadside Trees on Rural Roads"

Department of Environment 1975 "Circular 52/75 Inspection of Highway Trees"

Department of Environment 1978, "Circular 36/78 Trees and Forestry"

DETR 2000, "Tree Preservation Orders, Guide to the Law and Good Practice"

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Health and Safety Executive 2007, "Management of Risk from Falling Trees"

Forestry Commission, "The case for trees".

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Peterborough City Council 1998, "Tree and Woodland Strategy"

Peterborough City Council 2005, "Growing the Right Way"

Peterborough City Council 2006, "Climate Change Strategy"

Peterborough City Council 2006, "Management of Ancient Woods"

Peterborough City Council 2006, "Peterborough Open Space Strategy"

Peterborough City Council 2007, "A Place for People to Grow"

Peterborough City Council 2007, "Urban Woods Management Plan"

Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Woodland Trust "Space for People"

Woodland Trust 2002, "Woods for People"

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 10
11 January 2011	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Contact Officer(s) – Alana Diffey, Governance Officer

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FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS – 1 JANUARY 2011 – 30 APRIL 2011

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This is a regular report to the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities outlining the content of the Council's Forward Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Commission identifies any relevant items for further investigation and inclusion within its work programme if appropriate.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The latest version of the Forward Plan is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. 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. 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. CONSULTATION

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

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 6.1 None.

7. APPENDICES

- 7.1 Forward Plan of Key Decisions from 1 January 2011 to 30 April 2011.

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**PETERBOROUGH CITY
COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN
1 JANUARY 2011 TO 30 APRIL 2011**

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - 1 JANUARY 2011 TO 30 APRIL 2011

During the period from 1 January 2011 To 30 April 2011 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 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. 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:

Interpretation & Translation Services - KEY/03JAN/11

Peterborough Local Investment Plan - KEY/01FEB/11

Affordable Housing: Revised Council Policy for Awarding Grants - KEY/02FEB/11

Supply of Utility in respect of Electricity, Gas and Oil to Council Owned properties managed by Strategic Property Unit - KEY03/FEB/11

Local Transport Plan Capital Programme of Works 2011/12 - KEY/01MAR/11

Supply of Temporary Agency Workers - KEY02/MAR/11

Bayard Place - replacement of air-conditioning system (legislative works) - KEY/03MAR/11

JANUARY

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
<p>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of Coneygree Lodge, Coneygree Road - KEY/01NOV/10</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 Coneygree Lodge at Coneygree Road.</p>	<p>January 2010</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments & external stakeholders as appropriate</p>	<p>Alastair Smith Temp Capital Projects Officer Tel: 01733 384532 alastair.smith@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made</p>

<p>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of land adjacent to Pupil Referral Unit (former Honeyhill School) Paston Ridings - KEY/02NOV/10</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 land adjacent to the former Honeyhill School.</p>	<p>January 2010</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments & external stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Sandra Neely Temp Capital Projects Officer Tel: 01733 384541 sandra.neely@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.</p>
<p>Review of Charges for Allotments - KEY/08NOV/10</p> <p>To agree the charges for the use of Allotments for the forthcoming year.</p>	<p>January 2011</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Relevant ward members, internal Departments and external stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Commercial Services Director</p>	<p>Public report to be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made</p>

<p>Contract Award - Adult Drug Treatment Services - KEY/11NOV/10 To award the contracts for the delivery of Adult Drug Treatment Services</p>	<p>January 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Women's Enterprise</p>	<p>Strong and Supportive Communities</p>	<p>Internal departments as appropriate Safer Peterborough Partnership</p>	<p>Gary Goose Community Safety Strategic Manager Tel: 01733 863780 gary.goose@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.</p>
<p>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of Land and Buildings - Vawser Lodge Thorpe Road - KEY/04DEC/10 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>January 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments & external stakeholders as appropriate</p>	<p>Sandra Neely Temp Capital Projects Officer Tel: 01733 384541 sandra.neely@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken</p>
<p>Award of Contract - Paston Ridings Primary School - KEY/08DEC/10 Award of Contract for Extension to increase pupil numbers at the Paston Ridings Primary School following competitive tendering process.</p>	<p>January 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</p>	<p>Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities</p>	<p>Internal departments and external stakeholders</p>	<p>Alison Chambers Asset Development Officer alison.chambers@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken</p>

<p>Security Framework Contract - lot 2 - KEY/09DEC/10 Award lot 2 of framework contract; cash collection and cash in transit services, delivering services for the council such as collecting cash from parking meters and banking it securely.</p>	January 2011	Cabinet Member for Resources	Sustainable Growth	Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate	Matthew Rains P2P Manager Tel: 01733 317996 matthew.rains@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is made
<p>Extension of contract for Emergency Duty Team Service with Cambridgeshire County Council - KEY/10DEC/10 To extend the current contract with Cambridgeshire County Council</p>	January 2010	Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Neighbouring authorities and internal departments	Oliver Hayward Commissioning Officer - Aiming High Tel: 01733 863910 oliver.hayward@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken
<p>Grant Support to Anglia Ruskin University - KEY/11DEC/10 The approval of a capital grant to support Anglia Ruskin University's purchase and refurbishment of the Guild House.</p>	January 2011	Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University, Cabinet Member for Resources	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate	Andrew Edwards Head of Peterborough Delivery Partnership Tel: 01733 452303 andrew.edwards@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.

<p>Lot 3: Operational Services - KEY/01JAN/11 To identify the preferred bidder, commence the formal TUPE consultation and award the contract for the Lot 3 strategic partnership for operational services</p>	January 2011	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning</p>	Sustainable Growth	Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate	<p>Margaret Welton Principal Lawyer - Waste 2020 Tel: 01733 452226 margaret.welton@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken
<p>Manor Drive Managed Service – Procurement through the Services Competitive Dialogue Process - KEY/02JAN/11 To (1) recommend outsource of services, (2) approve initial shortlist of suppliers and (3) authorise further shortlisting decisions through the competitive dialogue process by the Executive Director of Strategic Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	January 2011	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	Sustainable Growth	Internal departments, Unions, Staff	<p>Andrew Cox Senior Category Manager andy.cox@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken
<p>Interpretation & Translation Services - KEY/03JAN/11 Award of contract for interpretation and translation services for the Council</p>	January 2011	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Women's Enterprise</p>	Strong and Supportive Communities	Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate	<p>Matthew Rains P2P Manager Tel: 01733 317996 matthew.rains@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.

FEBRUARY

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
<p>Peterborough Local Investment Plan - KEY/01FEB/11 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>	<p>February 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth</p>	<p>Internal and External stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Andrew Edwards Head of Peterborough Delivery Partnership Tel: 01733 452303 andrew.edwards@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.</p>
<p>Affordable Housing: Revised Council Policy for Awarding Grants - KEY/02FEB/11 To agree revised policy and process for awarding affordable housing grants</p>	<p>February 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth</p>	<p>Internal as appropriate</p>	<p>Richard Kay Strategic Planning Manager richard.kay@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.</p>

<p>Supply of Utility in respect of Electricity, Gas and Oil to Council Owned properties managed by Strategic Property Unit - KEY/03FEB/11</p> <p>To award the contract for supply of Electricity and Gas to the single source supplier under the nationally awarded EU compliant ESPO framework agreement.</p>	<p>February 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth</p>	<p>Internal consultation where appropriate</p>	<p>Mandy Sterling Strategic Sourcing Manager Tel: 01733 384607 mandy.sterling@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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MARCH

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
<p>Museum Redevelopment Project - KEY/03DEC/10</p> <p>To authorise the award of the contract for the Museum Redevelopment project.</p>	<p>March 2011</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning</p>	<p>Strong and Supportive Communities</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with relevant internal stakeholders as appropriate</p>	<p>Steven Pilsworth Head of Strategic Finance Tel: 01733 384564 Steven.Pilsworth@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.</p>

<p>Local Transport Plan Capital Programme of Works 2011/12 - KEY/01MAR/11 To approve the proposed LTP Capital Programme of Works for 2011/12</p>	March 2011	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning</p>	Environment Capital	Relevant internal stakeholders and the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee	<p>Michael Stevenson Project Engineer Tel: 01733 317473 michael.stevenson@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	A public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is taken.
<p>Supply of Temporary Agency Workers - KEY/02MAR/11 To approve a framework agreement to supply temporary agency following a competitive tendering exercise.</p>	March 2011	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Women's Enterprise</p>	Sustainable Growth	Internal consultation as appropriate	<p>Mandy Sterling Strategic Sourcing Manager Tel: 01733 384607 mandy.sterling@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.
<p>Bayard Place - replacement of air-conditioning system (legislative works) - KEY/03MAR/11 To authorise the award of the contract for the replacement of the air-conditioning system at Bayard Place</p>	March 2011	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	Sustainable Growth	Consultation will take place with relevant internal stakeholders as appropriate	<p>Julie Robinson-Judd Head of Strategic Property Tel: 01733 384544 julie.robinson.judd@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken

APRIL

There are currently no Key Decisions scheduled for April.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG

Communications
Strategic Growth and Development Services
Legal and Democratic Services
Policy and Research
Economic and Community Regeneration
Housing Strategy
Drug Intervention Programme and Drug and Alcohol Team
HR Business Relations, Training & Development, Occupational Health & Reward & Policy

COMMERCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT Nursery Lane, Fengate, Peterborough PE1 5BG

Property Services
Building & Maintenance
Streetscene and Facilities
Finance and Support Services

STRATEGIC RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Director's Office at Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG

Finance
Internal Audit
Information Communications Technology (ICT)
Business Transformation
Strategic Improvement
Strategic Property
Waste
Customer Services
Business Support
Shared Transactional Services
Cultural Trust Client

CHILDRENS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT Bayard Place, Broadway, PE1 1FB

Families and Communities
Commissioning and Performance
Learning

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT Bridge House, Town Bridge, PE1 1HB

Planning Transport & Engineering (Development Management, Construction & Compliance, Infrastructure Planning & Delivery, Network Management)

Commercial Operations (Resilience, Commercial CCTV, Strategic Parking, City Centre, Markets & Commercial Trading, Passenger Transport)

Neighbourhoods (Regulatory Services, Safer Peterborough, Strategic Housing, Cohesion, Social Inclusion)

Operations Business Support (Finance, Economic Participation)

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S CABINET MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Leader of Peterborough City Council is offering everyone a chance to comment, or raise queries on the decisions highlighted on the Council's Forward Plan.

Your comments and queries can be submitted to the Council's Governance Team using the form overleaf, or alternatively by telephone or email. The Governance team will then liaise with the appropriate Cabinet Member and ensure that you receive a response. Members of the Cabinet, together with their areas of responsibility, are listed below:

Councillor Cereste	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning and Economic Development
Councillor Lee	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning
Councillor S Dalton	Cabinet Member for Environment Capital
Councillor Elsey	Cabinet Member for Business Engagement
Councillor Hiller	Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning
Councillor Holdich	Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University
Councillor Lamb	Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care
Councillor Scott	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Councillor Seaton	Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Walsh	Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Women's Enterprise

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS OR QUERIES TO PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S CABINET

Your comment or query:

How can we contact you with a response?
(please include a telephone number, postal and/or e-mail address)

Name

Address

.....

Tel:

Email:

Who would you like to respond? (if left blank your comments will be referred to the relevant Cabinet Member)

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES
PRIORITIES & WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11**

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
13 July 2010 (Papers to be despatched on 5 July)	Peterborough Women's Enterprise Centre	Listed on Agenda for 13 July 2010
	Passenger Transport Framework Tender	Listed on Agenda for 13 July 2010
	Floating Support Contract: Cross Keys Homes Extension of Contract	Listed on Agenda for 13 July 2010
	Rural Housing Strategy 2010-2013	Moved to 7 September 2010
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7 September 2010 (Papers to be despatched on 27 August)	Safe and Vibrant Rural Centres and Communities	Listed on Agenda for 7 September 2010
	Rural Economic Development	Listed on Agenda for 7 September 2010
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2 November 2010 (Papers to be despatched on 25 October)	Planning Policy & Strategy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supplementary Planning Document – Preparation 2. Rural Housing Delivery Partnership 3. The use of the Community Land Trust 4. Site Allocations Document 5. Emerging national initiatives, such as Local Housing Trusts 6. Rural Exception Sites 7. Rural Housing Strategy 2010-2013 – 6 month progress report (To scrutinise the progress of the Rural Housing Strategy six months after its adoption, prior to the report being submitted to Cabinet for its consideration) 	Listed on Agenda for 2 November 2010

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
	Contact Officer: Richard Kay, Planning Policy and Strategy Manager	
	<p>Women's Enterprise Centre – Engagement with Women in Rural Communities</p> <p>Contact Officer: Anne Senior/Maxine Grimes, Economic Participation Programme</p> <p>To consider the outcomes of the engagement with women in rural communities.</p>	Listed on Agenda for 2 November 2010
	<p>Speed Limits in Rural Areas</p> <p>Contact Officer: Peter Tebb, Peter Tebb, Team Manager – Network, Environment, Transport & Engineering Services</p> <p>To receive a report on the Government's current position in relation to lowering the speed limit on rural roads to 50 mph and work Council has undertaken in relation to this matter, and a full update on the implementation of 20 mph speed limits around rural schools.</p>	Listed on Agenda for 2 November 2010
	<p>Leisure and Tourism in Rural Areas</p> <p>Contact Officer(s): Annette Joyce, City Operations Manager (Tourism) Kevin Tighe, Chief Executive, Vivacity (Leisure)</p> <p>To scrutinise work being done to the enhancement and promotion of the rural environment for leisure and tourism activities.</p>	Moved to 8 March 2011
	<p>Local Transport Plan (LTP)</p> <p>Contact Officer: Mark Speed</p> <p>To scrutinise the Local Transport Plan and to make any necessary recommendations prior to its adoption in April 2011.</p>	This item will be discussed at a joint Scrutiny meeting in January 2011.
<p>6 January 2011 (Joint Meeting of the</p>	<p>Budget 2011/12 and Medium Term Financial Plan</p> <p>To scrutinise the Executive's proposals for the Budget 2011/12 and Medium</p>	

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
Scrutiny Committees and Commissions)	Term Financial Plan. Contact Officer: John Harrison/Steven Pilsworth	
11 January 2011 Reports due: Thursday 23 December 2010 (Papers to be despatched on 31 December 2010)	British Transport Police To invite a Member of the British Transport Police to attend the meeting to discuss work specifically on rail lines and crossings between Spalding to Werrington, Stamford to Werrington and the crossing at Bainton Green.	PC Christopher Thompson-Chambers of BTP confirmed attendance on 16.12.10
	Peterborough Moped Initiative To scrutinise the Peterborough Moped Initiative which aims to support people aged 16-65 with access to public transport in order to gain access to public transport. Contact Officer: Maxine Grimes, Maxine Grimes, Economic Participation Partnership Officer	Listed on agenda for 11 January 2011.
	Funding & Rural Priorities Contact Officer: Leonie McCarthy & Julie Rivett, Neighbourhood Management	Listed on agenda for 11 January 2011.
	Play Facilities, Playing Fields and Open Space Contact Officer: David Denson, Head of Operations	Listed on agenda for 11 January 2011.
	Tree and Woodland Strategy Contact Officer: David Denson, Head of Operations	Listed on agenda for 11 January 2011.
8 March 2011 Reports due: Thursday 24	Leisure and Tourism in Rural Areas Contact Officer(s): Annette Joyce, City Operations Manager (Tourism) Kevin Tighe, Chief Executive, Vivacity (Leisure)	

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
February 2011 (Papers to be despatched on Monday 28 February)	To scrutinise work being done to the enhancement and promotion of the rural environment for leisure and tourism activities.	
	<p>Local Economic Assessment (LEA)</p> <p>To scrutinise the draft Local Area Assessment during its consultation phase.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Neil Darwin, Director of Economic Development, Opportunity Peterborough</p>	Moved from 11 January 2011 at request of Opportunity Peterborough, to allow further work with stakeholders to take place.

Items for 2011/2012

June 2011	<p>Planning Policy DPD</p> <p>To scrutinise the outcomes of the Planning Policy DPD consultation with regard to policies affecting Rural Communities</p> <p>Contact Officer: Richard Kay, Policy and Strategy Manager</p>	Added to work programme as agreed with Andrew Edwards on 20 December 2010.
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Priorities for 2010-2011 as determined at the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities meeting held on 8 June 2010

PRIORITY	ACTION	SUCCESS CRITERIA
Creating Strong and Supportive Communities	<i>Making villages safe</i>	To continue to reduce car speeds down to 50 mph along rural roads To develop cycleways and quiet roads To monitor the implementation of the 20 mph speed limits for rural schools
	<i>Empowering local communities</i>	To continue to support the work of the Neighbourhood Councils
	<i>Building pride in Peterborough</i>	A visible presence in the rural areas
Substantial and Truly Sustainable Growth	<i>Increasing economic prosperity</i>	To plan for rural economic development, eg. farmers' markets, leisure events such as the Bainton Literary Festival which kickstart other development
	<i>Creating better places to live</i>	To encourage 'affordable' housing to meet the needs of villagers End to speculative tacked-on estates
	<i>Infrastructure of the future</i>	An imaginative vision of what the villages could be like in ten years time
	<i>Safe and vibrant city and other centres</i>	To work closely with the Cambridgeshire Constabulary to encourage patrolling and a visible police presence in rural areas
Creating the UK's Environment Capital	<i>Conserving natural resources</i>	To encourage the enhancing of the rural environment and opening it up for leisure and tourism
	<i>Increasing the use of sustainable transport</i>	To encourage cycling or use of busses, call connect and other sustainable transport provision
	<i>Growing the Environmental Business Sector</i>	To encourage rural business To support the 'Women's Business Centre' to work in rural areas
Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	<i>Regenerating neighbourhoods</i>	Investment in rural infrastructure
	<i>Improved health</i>	To recognise what health provision there is in the rural areas
	<i>Improving education and skills</i>	To review education and training for rural business

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