

CABINET

MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2014
9.30 AM

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall
Contact – gemma.george@peterborough.gov.uk, 01733 452268

AGENDA

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*Any agenda item highlighted in bold and marked with an * is a 'key decision' involving the Council making expenditure or savings of over £500,000 or having a significant effect on two or more wards in Peterborough. These items have been advertised previously on the Council's Forward Plan (except where the issue is urgent in accordance with Section 15 of the Council's Access to Information rules).*



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MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING HELD 22 SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT

Cabinet Members: Councillor Cereste (Chairman), Councillor Holdich, Councillor Elsey, Councillor Fitzgerald, Councillor Hiller, Councillor North, Councillor Scott, Councillor Seaton and Councillor Serluca.

Cabinet Advisers: Councillor Casey and Councillor Lamb.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hiller declared that in relation to item 4, 'report of the Solar and Wind Energy Review Group', he was a member of the original Solar and Wind Energy Working Group and his support for the financial element of the project was known, as evidenced by the report submitted to Cabinet, however he had not implied a predetermination of the scheme as a whole.

3. MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETINGS HELD ON 28 JULY 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2014 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

ITEMS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS

4. REPORT OF THE SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY REVIEW GROUP

Cabinet received a report which detailed the findings and recommendations arising from the Solar and Wind Energy Working Group, and the subsequent meeting of the Review Group as chaired by Councillor Thulbourn, to enable a final decision to be made on the projects in question.

Councillor Hiller introduced the item and provided an overview of the background to the issue, advising that following the decision made at the February 2014 meeting of Cabinet to progress the America Farm site through to planning stage, the decision had been called-in and recommendations arising from the subsequent Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee call-in meeting had been, in essence, for Cabinet not to progress the scheme until consideration had been given to the findings of a cross party working group.

Further key points were highlighted by Councillor Hiller including the remit of the Working Group, which had primarily been to review the viability of the proposals, to concurrently look into the likelihood of a profit and finally to make any suggestions as to alternative schemes; the number of times that the Group had met and the information which had been provided to it for review; the majority decision of the Group which had been that the scheme should not progress, concluding that the financial returns were not viable and the risks were too high, this viewpoint having not been held by Councillor

Hiller owing to the independently produced expert advice which had determined the opposite and that the scheme should proceed; the view of the Scrutiny Committee that the decision of the Working Group was not considered acceptable due to the lack of evidence provided in support of its majority viewpoint; the further meeting which had been held and chaired by Councillor Thulbourn to review the decision rationale of the Group and the conclusion being that the original Working Group had provided no evidence of the disparity of evidence submitted by the Council's Resource Department and the Group's majority conclusion and the lack of supporting scenarios or outcomes and an overview of the recommendations to Cabinet, in summary being for Cabinet to exercise caution in its methodology of progressing with the scheme and to consider further the potential for a financial shortfall on the original projections due to the delay in timescale.

Councillor Seaton addressed Cabinet, thanking both the Scrutiny Committee for its work and Councillor Thulbourn for his involvement and comments. It was acknowledged that the issue in question was an extremely emotive one, however it was important that progression be made on the basis of doing what was right for the residents of the city, and this progression must be evidence based. The original Working Group had not submitted any evidence in order to support its conclusions, as had been specified within its terms of reference.

Councillor Seaton further requested that at a future Group Leader's meeting, the issue of reports being submitted to meetings which only expressed a viewpoint and did not contain any supporting conclusions or arguments, be raised.

The Chairman addressed the meeting and confirmed that he would raise the issue of report content with Group Leaders at a future meeting. In relation to the issue under discussion, he advised that thousands of megawatts of solar power were being produced around the country from solar farms which had proven to be extremely profitable and viable, bringing in much investment. Energy prices were consistently on the rise and there were concerns that should there been a severe winter in future years, blackouts could be experienced, action therefore needed to be taken.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED**:

That any decision to progress the solar and wind projects be deferred until further consideration was given to the impact of:

- a) Any delay arising from the call-in by the Secretary of State of a planning decision, in terms of costs and profitability of the projects;
- b) A 30% reduction in subsidy (or a professional assessment of what might be a reasonable level of reduction in subsidy) for the projects; and
- c) A slowing or reducing sale rate of energy with a professional assessment of what a reasonable reduced rate could be.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The decision followed a request from the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee call-in meeting, held on 12 March 2014.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

To implement the decisions of 24 February 2014 to progress the America Farm project to planning permission.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

5. EMERGENCY STOPPING PLACES

Cabinet received a report following an in-depth review of potential Emergency Stopping Places (ESP) which had been developed by a cross party advisory group at the request of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Services.

The report requested Cabinet to consider the recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Services to trial three ESPs for Gypsy/Traveller use in locations at Paston, Eye and Thorney and East Wards.

Councillor Hiller introduced the report and advised that between March of 2013 and April 2014 there had been 150 unauthorised gypsy and traveller encampments on Council land which had ultimately cost both the Council and taxpayers £100,000 per year in eviction and clean-up costs.

Further key points highlighted by Councillor Hiller included the mess that was regularly left in community open spaces and children's play areas which included churned grass, broken and damaged fences and barriers and even human excrement; the transit facilities already provided by many towns and cities across the country, permitting travellers to stop for short periods of time; the transit facilities which had been previously created in Peterborough and its subsequent closure due to its proximity in relation to a permanent traveller site and the tensions this had created; the rationale behind the formation of the Working Group and the input from partners and officers into the process of selection of the sites; the number of sites which had been identified and visited totalling 75 and the associated suitability scoring method and the benefits that the implementation of ESPs would bring to the city.

Cabinet debated the report and key points raised, along with responses to questions provided by Councillor Hiller and the Council's Assistant Cohesion Managers included:

- Emergency Stopping Places would enable the Police and the Council to perform their duties in relation to this issue effectively;
- It was confirmed that there would be a limit of 28 days per site per year, and any further would require planning consent;
- Over 1000 sites had been initially looked at, with sites to the north and south of the city being considered;
- Arguments against certain sites had been considered and acted upon accordingly;
- The sites had been recommended by a cross party working group, there had been no political considerations when choosing the sites; and
- Councillors affected had been briefed, as had the local MPs and there had been no comments received suggesting that the trial should not go ahead.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED:**

To trial three Emergency Stopping Places (ESP) for Gypsy/Traveller use in locations in Paston, Eye and Thorney and East.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The introduction of ESPs in Peterborough would provide better management of short term Gypsy/Traveller encampments in the city. By providing dedicated places to stay, this would reduce the impact caused by unauthorised encampments to local communities and reduce costs to the city council associated with evictions costs, clean-up costs and officer time. ESPs or similar solutions are in place in many towns and

cities across the country and are generally accepted to be the most appropriate method of managing unauthorised encampments.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

To continue to manage unauthorised encampments as at present:

This was rejected due to the ongoing cost and impact to the community. Encampments were increasingly being established in high profile or densely populated areas and although significantly improved, the legal procedures that the Council had to follow did not provide a swift enough response to enable the local authority or police to move the Travellers on.

Provide formal transit pitches:

The experience in Peterborough suggested that this could cause significant community tensions. Additionally, there was a risk that transit pitches over time would become permanent as they tended to be occupied for significantly longer periods than that proposed for the Council's ESP provision.

6. PETERBOROUGH FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Cabinet received a report which introduced the statutory requirement for Peterborough to have a local flood risk management strategy and presented the resulting Draft Peterborough Flood Risk Management Strategy (FMS). Cabinet was to be consulted on the proposals and its approval was sought for public consultation to take place. The report further requested Cabinet to consider the formal recommendation from the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee that the City Council's Constitution be amended to make the FMS a Major Policy item.

Councillor Hiller introduced the item and advised that under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA 2010) Peterborough City Council had been made a lead local flood authority, with responsibility for coordinating the management of surface water flood risk.

Further key points highlighted by Councillor Hiller included the duty of Lead Local Authorities to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a 'local flood risk management strategy'; the proposal to publically consult on the draft document for a period of six weeks, and with any changes being made prior to the document being presented to Full Council for adoption early in 2015; the agreement by flood risk management authorities in Peterborough that the Strategy would cover all sources of flood risk, not just those managed by the City Council; the excellent relationship that the Council had with all risk management authorities allowing for better coordination of approach and to ensure that projects and schemes were as efficient as possible and that joint funding opportunities were sought for those schemes; and the Strategy being well received by the Scrutiny Committee and its recommendation that the Strategy become part of the Major Policy Framework.

Members congratulated the Flood and Water Management Officer on the production of the Strategy, which was of extremely high quality.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the Draft Peterborough Flood Risk Management Strategy for the purpose of it being publicly consulted on during October and November 2014;
2. To support the proposal of the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee to include further explanatory text in the Flood Risk Management Strategy prior to its publication, as set out in paragraph 5.7 of the report; and

3. To support the recommendation of the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee to amend the Constitution and thereby place the Flood Risk Management Strategy as a Major Policy Item.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The FMS would:

- Meet statutory requirements;
- Make Peterborough more resilient to flooding;
- Help to co-ordinate and attract investment into Peterborough for both flood risk management and wider environmental and amenity improvements;
- Assist with delivering a sustainable city that can embrace growth targets
- Be a reference guide for City Council officers, Flood Warden, Parish Council and communities who want to more know more about flood and water management.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Council was required to produce a local flood risk management strategy in accordance with its duties as a Lead Local Flood Authority. It was therefore not an option to not produce a strategy. The only available alternative was to produce a document that covered only the sources of flooding that Peterborough City Council was responsible for. This option was rejected in favour of preparing a plan in partnership with all other flood risk management authorities, covering all sources of flood risk. The chosen option was believed to be more useful for the reader, more efficient and more likely to enable Peterborough to draw down partnership funding.

7. ICT STRATEGY 2014-2019

Cabinet received a report which sought its approval of a new five year ICT Strategy that would underpin major transformation projects and enable the Council to transform the delivery of services to a customer specific approach utilising cloud technologies.

Councillor Seaton introduced the item and advised that the ICT Strategy was key and would provide a more cost effective operation and greatly improve the way services were delivered to local residents. The majority of the ICT services were purchased with a specific service area in mind, however the new approach would encompass the whole Council in a more joined up manner.

Further key points highlighted by Councillor Seaton included the extensive leap forward in efficiency and service quality that the technology would enable; the system adhering to the highest standards of government guidance to ensure security; the consultation that would be undertaken with partners, particularly schools; investment being covered by the efficiency plans being developed by each department and the retention of the provision of traditional approaches when required.

Cabinet debated the report and key points raised, along with responses to questions provided by the Council's ICT Strategy, Infrastructure and Programmes Manager included:

- The proposed cloud based system would be more secure than the one currently in place;
- Cloud principles had been released which had to be adhered to by the Local Authority; and
- Some of the main clients utilising the technology included Coca-Cola, Toyota, Phillips, GE Capital, Tokyo Post, and Burberry which demonstrated the faith that these large companies had in the security of the system.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the Council's ICT Strategy 2014-2019;
2. To authorise the Executive Director Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources to deliver future work streams arising from the Strategy; and
3. To authorise the Executive Director Resources to agree to changes to the ICT Managed Service contract with Serco resulting from the ICT Strategy.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The ICT strategy would help to fundamentally change the way that the Council operated and would lead to improved service provision and availability for all residents.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The alternative option for the ICT Strategy was to remain as was and to continue to use the current traditional technology that the Council had in place. This option had been rejected as it would not allow the Council to change the way that it operated in order to take advantage of the new solutions and practices that had emerged in the technology market. In order to meet the budget pressures that the Council was facing, the Council had to adapt its processes and utilise the flexibility and collaborative nature of these technologies to underpin its council wide transformation programmes.

8. SCHOOL ORGANISATIONAL PLAN 2014–2019 – DELIVERING LOCAL PLACES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

Cabinet received a report which outlined the proposal around meeting the statutory requirement for school places in Peterborough. The School Organisation Plan drew together the latest demographic data, the capital programme and identified the need for further school places. It also acted to support the growth agenda of the Council, including delivery of the ambitions set out in the Peterborough Local Plan.

Councillor Holdich introduced the item and advised that there had been difficulty in allocating school places due to the large number of new residents in the city. Between October 2012 and October 2013 there had been an additional 1100 young people in Peterborough's schools over and above that which the birth rate had catered for and over the summer period, from the closure of the schools to when they re-opened, there had been an additional 500 applications for school places, coming mainly from outside of the city.

Further key points highlighted by Councillor Holdich included the rebuilding and expansion of all of the secondary schools and the new schools due to be opened; the expansion of the primary schools, creating 1100 new places and the difficulties faced with regards to school placements due to the lack of knowledge with regards to people coming into the city.

Cabinet debated the report and key points raised, along with responses to questions provided by the Council's Assistant Director, Education included:

- Peterborough was a net importer of pupils from outside the city, there were a number of independent schools in the area and there was dynamic movement;
- There had been no new houses built in the Hampton area for a number of years, however the impact on school places was increasing year on year;
- A new secondary school was due to be built in Hampton and opening in 2017;
- Hampton was not the problem area that it had once been, and the choice for parents in the area had improved greatly; and

- Concern was expressed around the issue of the registration of the population in the city. If figures were accurate and suggested a large influx into the city, a case could be made to the government for more funding. This would assist in relieving some budget pressures. It was advised that this issue would be taken away and further explored.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED:**

To approve the School Organisation Plan in light of the pressures on school places and in terms of planning growth in the city.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The report was for Cabinet to approve. Appropriate action was being undertaken to deliver the statutory requirement for school places.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The alternative option was not to adopt the strategy, however the impact would have been a lack of co-ordination around new housing development and negotiations with developers and a lack of clarity for the public around the council's intentions around school place planning.

MONITORING ITEMS

9. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2015/16 TO 2024/25

Cabinet received a report as part of the Council's agreed process within the Annual Budget Framework which required it to consider the Council's Budget and Financial Strategy and to set provisional cash limits for the forthcoming year. The purpose of the report was to provide Cabinet with an update on the likely financial situation of the Council both within the current and future financial years, to outline national issues which would need consideration within the medium term financial strategy for 2015/16 onwards, including funding consultations and to outline the approach to the budget process and budget consultation.

Councillor Seaton introduced the item and advised that the current financial position faced by the Council was a difficult one. The budget put in place at the start of the financial year had highlighted significant levels of savings to be made as well as achieving additional income.

Further key points highlighted by Councillor Seaton relating to the current financial position included the emerging financial pressures which had been identified as part of the current financial year such as the ever increasing demand on services such as Children's; the numbers of vulnerable children requiring support being higher than was anticipated; the overspend predicted if no further action was taken, this being £1.3m, and the work being undertaken by officers to review all areas of spend to ensure the budget be brought back into balance.

There had previously been a good track record of managing pressures in recent years and it was anticipated that the financial situation could be managed by the end of the year end if action was taken promptly. Cabinet would be kept informed of progress.

In terms of future financial plans and the emerging financial picture for forthcoming year Councillor Seaton highlighted key points which included the Council's commitment to maintaining the future of the city and its people therefore retaining focus on education, jobs creation, economic prosperity and quality of life for residents; the loss of grant funding, equating to £40m; the combination of the loss in grant funding and added

financial pressures, such as Looked After Children, meaning a gap of £22m in the following years budget.

Councillor Seaton summarised that a balanced budget would need to be produced by April 2015 and Councillors had been working alongside officers, with the involvement of all Political Parties, through the cross party Budget Working Group.

Members commended the Resources team for the work undertaken and acknowledged the work involved.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the financial pressures in the current financial year, the continuing work by CMT to deliver a balanced budget and that the financial pressures widened the budget gap in 2015/16;
2. To note that the current local government funding consultation and continued uncertainty on future years' government funding for local authorities increased the uncertainty of the council's medium term financial strategy; and
3. Council approved the approach proposed for the budget process, including provision resource cash limits, and that Cabinet agreed the approach to consultation with the cross party Budget Working Group, exploring the options to commence consultation at the earliest opportunity.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Constitution required Cabinet to outline its approach to developing the medium term financial strategy. This process helped to ensure that the Council achieved a balanced budget, aligned to corporate priorities.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

An alternative option would be to do nothing. This was rejected because the constitution required the Council to outline the approach to the following year's budget setting by the end of the preceding month of September. The current medium term financial strategy for 2015/16 estimated a budget gap of £17.6m, and the council must set a balanced budget.

10. CHILDREN'S SERVICES UPDATE REPORT

Cabinet received a quarterly Director's update which reported on Children's Services improvement.

Councillor Scott introduced the item and provided an overview of the key points contained within the report which included an increase in early intervention assessments (CAFs); the number of single assessments completed in July 2014 100% of which had been completed within timescale; the significant number of child protection enquiries half of which had resulted in a case conference; the Looked After Children Awards which had taken place recently; the number of Looked After Children, remaining high owing to a number of complex cases; the multi-agency safeguarding hub which was almost in operation; the ongoing issues faced around the recruitment of social workers, for which there was a robust recruitment campaign underway and the improvement which had been seen over the last two years within the service.

Cabinet debated the report and key points raised, along with responses to questions provided by Councillor Scott and the Executive Director of Children's Services included:

- Concern was expressed at the possibility of there being historical issues with regards to child sex abuse, as per recent high profile cases in the press. It was

advised that there was no knowledge of any such issues in Peterborough. If historical concerns were reported, they would be investigated;

- There was a dedicated Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Team in place and discussions had been underway as to how more publicity could be given to child sexual exploitation issues within schools, other agencies and within the community;
- A presentation would be given at a future All Party Policy meeting to advise of the issues faced in relation to child sexual exploitation;
- It was commented that the dedicated CSE team was a budget pressure;
- The area of Looked After Children should be further explored in order to ascertain whether a case could be made for additional funding from government in order to relieve budget pressures and additional costs which had been faced by the Council; and
- It was requested that an in-depth presentation on some of the issues faced within Children's Services be given at a future Cabinet Policy Forum, in order for the Cabinet to better understand issues contained within future update reports.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED:**

To note the contents of the report. Key points (as of 2014) being:

- Increase in CAFs
- Fewer contacts
- Single Assessment launched
- Decrease in re-referrals
- Number of CP and LAC
- Recruitment and retention

11. OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

Cabinet received a report which updated Cabinet on the progress being made in response to petitions submitted to Full Council on 23 July 2014.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED:**

To note the action taken in respect of petitions presented to Full Council.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Standing Orders required that Council received a report about the action taken on petitions. As the petitions presented in the report had been dealt with by Cabinet Members or officers, it was appropriate that the action taken was reported to Cabinet, prior to it being included within the Executive's report to full Council.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Any alternative options would require an amendment to the Council's Constitution to remove the requirement to report to Cabinet.

Chairman
10.00am -11.14am

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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
24 NOVEMBER 2014	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Adrian Chapman, Assistant Director, Communities and Targeted Services	Tel. 01733 863887

THE HOMELESSNESS REVIEW 2014 AND STRATEGY 2013-2018

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : The Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Services	Deadline date : 17 December 2014
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For Cabinet to note and comment on the activity of the Housing Needs Service over the last year; 2. For Cabinet to comment on the Homelessness Review; and 3. For Cabinet to agree on the broad strategic aims of the Homelessness Strategy and recommend that the Strategy be adopted by Council. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following approval from the Strong and Supportive Scrutiny Committee on the 3 September 2014.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to review and comment on the information contained in the Homelessness Review, to comment and agree on the broad strategic aims of the Homelessness Strategy and to recommend the Strategy be taken forward and adopted by Council.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.1 'to take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the Council's Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the Council's overall improvement programmes to deliver excellent services'.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	24/11/2014
Date for relevant Council meeting	TBA	Date for submission to Government Dept (please specify which Government Dept)	n/a

4. The Homelessness Review 2014 and Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018

- 4.1.1 In the last year the Housing Needs team have undertaken a comprehensive review of the Peterborough Housing Register and made a number of changes to the Peterborough Allocations Policy. These changes were:

- Setting the entry criteria to the housing register to allow only those in the most urgent housing need to join, this includes; Homeless households, those who are threatened with homelessness, those living in insanitary or unsatisfactory housing conditions, those who need to move for social/welfare reasons or where failure to assist in moving will cause particular hardship.
- Only accept applications from those who have a local connection with Peterborough by; having lived in the area for 6 of the last 12 months or 3 of the last 5 years, those who are working in the city, those who need to move to the area for special reasons
- Excluding applicants who own suitable accommodation or those who have sufficient financial resources to secure suitable accommodation by other means from joining the housing register. (This will not apply to those over 55 and eligible for sheltered accommodation)
- Those who have behaved in an unacceptable manner continue to be excluded from applying. This will be determined by; The Council or RSL is satisfied that the applicant or a member of their household has previously been guilty of unacceptable behaviour which would make them unsuitable to be a tenant, or the applicant or member of the household has been served with an injunction by the council or their landlord to stop them behaving in a way which causes nuisance or annoyance to others, or the applicant or a member of the household has current tenancy arrears in excess of 8 weeks rent, or the applicant or a member of the household has any outstanding former tenant arrears.

4.1.2 Additionally, the bedrooms standards policy that has previously been more generous was changed and brought in line with the criteria that will be applied to housing benefit claims from April 2013.

4.1.3 In order to support the RSL's in managing the issue of the removal of the spare room subsidy ("bedroom tax") the allocation policy also made provision to give band 1 priority to those who were assessed as under occupying their social housing tenancy. This has been relatively successful, but the continued demand for 1 & 2 bedroom properties has meant that many households are still unable to move into smaller accommodation.

4.1.4 In addition to the above changes we also included a number of additional preference categories, which gave increased priority for those who had a long standing local connection with the city (through 5 years continuous residence), those making an economic contribution to the city through employment or voluntary work in the area and ex-servicemen and women who have been discharged from service in the last 5 years.

4.1.5 This has been a significant area of work, which has been completed with minimal interruptions to the provision of essential advice and homelessness services and with no additional resources.

4.1.6 The result of the review has been a significant reduction in the number of applications on the housing register from 9,703 in January 2013 to 2,688 at the end of October 2014.

4.2 Housing Advice Services

4.2.1 As well as the review of the housing register we have continued to offer advice services to those who contacted the service. In the last financial year we were contacted 25,009 times by clients for advice and assistance. Of which 5,418 were seen face to face by an officer in the Housing Needs team. The type of enquiries dealt with by the officers in the team were wide ranging and on a number of housing related subjects.

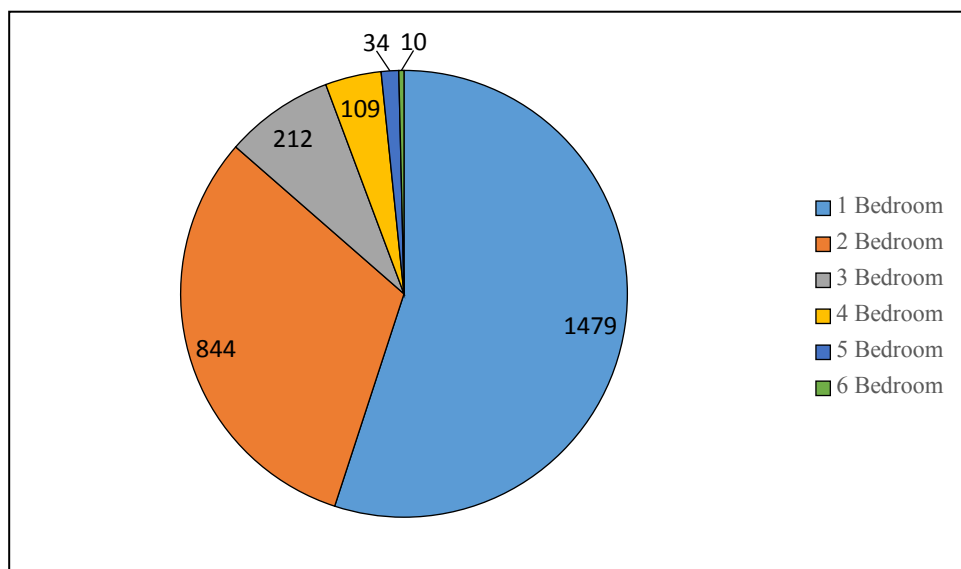
4.3 The Housing Register

4.3.1 As detailed previously the number of applicants who are now live on the housing register has reduced significantly, however the number of people who are approaching us for assistance is still as high as it has ever been. In the last 12 months we have seen 3517 clients face to

face who have either enquired about joining the housing register, had an application processed or amended a current application.

4.3.2 In the 12 months from April 2013 to March 2014 we accepted 965 new applications onto the housing register.

4.3.3 The total number of applicants on the housing register at the end of June 2014 was 2,688. The composition of these households varied, but the majority were either single applicants or couples with a one bedroom need. The chart below shows the current housing register broken down to show bedroom need.



4.4 Allocations

4.4.1 The Council still maintains its nominations agreements with the Housing Associations who have accommodation available in Peterborough and these properties continue to be allocated through the Council's choice based lettings scheme (Peterborough Homes).

4.4.2 Each week our partner Housing Associations advise us, which properties they have available to let and we advertise them to the people on our housing register. Applicants can then choose, which of the available properties they would like to be considered for.

Properties are then shortlisted by:

1. Who has expressed interest (eligible applicants)
2. Highest priority band
3. Who has been in their band longest
4. Who has been on the register longest

4.4.3 In 2013/14 we allocated 1217 properties through the choice based lettings scheme.

4.5 Homelessness Prevention

4.5.1 As detailed earlier in this report the Housing Needs Service adopts a housing options approach to clients who approach the authority for assistance and will seek to prevent a household's homelessness wherever possible. We have a number of options when preventing homelessness and have been successful in a large number of cases, which may have otherwise resulted in the household becoming homeless and the council having to accommodate in temporary accommodation, while seeking alternative accommodation.

We have done this by:

- Negotiating with householders/landlords to allow resolve the issues, which led to the threat of homelessness
- Liaising with Housing benefit to resolve payment issues
- Taking steps to improve security in the home to allow victims of domestic violence to remain in the home (Sanctuary Scheme)
- The Mortgage Rescue Scheme / Mortgage debt advice
- By supporting households to move to alternative affordable accommodation in the private sector

4.5.2 At the end of March 2014 we had completed on 24 mortgage rescues and had a small number, which were pending completion and funding had been agreed to ensure that these cases completed. We were the best performing authority in the East & South East areas and the reputation of the officer in the Housing Needs team was further enhanced by the HCA zone agent who referred a number of authorities to us for advice and guidance.

4.5.3 Unfortunately the Governments Mortgage Rescue scheme closed down on the 31 March 2014. However we still have a number of tools available to us to support households who find themselves in financial difficulty and where we are unable to keep them in their home we are able to support them to exit home ownership and move to alternative accommodation.

4.5.4 We continue to support both tenants and landlords in the private sector through our tenancy relations officer. We have now assisted 592 households and have been successful in the prosecution of 3 landlords who have been found guilty of illegal eviction and have 4 cases pending.

4.5.5 The Housing Needs Service continues to offer a Rent Deposit Scheme which enables persons to access an interest free loan to be used for the up front costs associated with securing a property in the private rented sector. This continue to be a successful option for the prevention and relief of homelessness and also increased access to permanent accommodation. In 2013/2014 a total of 232 households were assisted into private rented sector accommodation through this scheme totalling £100,521.

4.5.6 In addition the increased Discretionary Housing Payments fund (DHP) made available to all local authorities has been used to support households who were in receipt of housing benefits and may be at risk of homelessness to move to alternative private sector accommodation by paying up front fees such as deposits, rent in advance and reasonable administration fees. In 2013/2014 a total of 196 households were assisted into private rented sector accommodation through this scheme totalling £168,127.

4.5.7 Last year we reported to the Department of communities and local government that we were successful in preventing homelessness in 413 cases.

4.6 Homelessness

4.6.1 As well as the advice services offered by Housing Needs where a household approached us for assistance and we are satisfied that the applicant is homeless or threatened with homelessness within the 28 days we are under a duty to accept a homeless declaration and commence an investigation into whether the applicant is considered 'statutory homeless' and therefore owed a full housing duty.

4.6.2 In 2013/14 we accepted homelessness applications from 1095 households. This is marginally less than the previous 2 years, but remains considerably less than 4 years ago (1326). Of the 1095 applications, 250 were accepted as 'statutory homeless' and owed a full housing duty compared to a high of 395 in 2009/10. This is in contrast to the national picture, which has since slight increases in homelessness acceptances since 2010.

4.7 Rough Sleeping

- 4.7.1 2013/14 has been a challenging year in terms of dealing with rough sleeping in the city. We continue to offer support services to rough sleepers and the no second night out scheme, which was piloted in the city in partnership with Axiom Housing Association & Peterborough Streets, was successful in supporting those new to the streets into accommodation before they became entrenched. This resulted in the number of rough sleepers who were identified in Peterborough at the time of our annual rough sleeper count was lower than previous years.
- 4.7.2 The pilot has now drawn to a close and has been integrated into the daily work of Axiom's New Haven hostel and the Housing Needs team. Unfortunately the recent shock closure of Peterborough Streets has meant that the council has had to pick some additional work, but clients should not be adversely affected.
- 4.7.3 Most recently there is an apparent increase in street based activity, such as begging and rough sleeping, which we continue to address as and when it arises. Unfortunately some of more recent arrivals to the streets of Peterborough have migrated from other cities and do not have connections with Peterborough so are unable to access services here. While we continue to support rough sleepers by offering reconnections to the area from which they travelled many refuse our assistance as they are able to maintain their lifestyle from donations from members of the public. We will continue our work with the Police and anti social behaviour teams in order to address the issue with begging and rough sleeping in the city centre.

4.8 Homelessness Review 2014 & Homelessness Strategy 2013 - 2018

- 4.8.1 Cabinet is asked to review and comment on the attached documents (Appendix A) and give approval for the Homelessness Strategy to be taken forward to Council for adoption.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The revised action plan was compiled in consultation with the Homeless Strategy Steering Groups focus groups, held in November and December 2012. These focussed on the prevention of homelessness, increasing access to accommodation, rough sleeping and promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities. In addition the previous review document was presented to scrutiny committee and recommendations/amendments were made as a result.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 Approval is sought from Cabinet to recommend the Strategy for approval and adoption by the Council.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Homelessness review and strategy have been written to meet the requirements of Section 1 of the Homelessness Act 2002.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 To not conduct the homelessness review and formulate a strategy. Section 1(4) requires housing authorities to publish a new homelessness strategy, based on the results of a further homelessness review, within the period of five years beginning with the day on, which their last homelessness strategy was published.

9. IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 While the Housing Needs team have been successful in managing the impact of welfare reform on homelessness numbers in city. The roll out of universal credit across the rest of

the country and further improvements in the economic climate, which lead to a rise in the interest rate could result in the more homeowners being placed at risk of homelessness.

- 9.2 Continued investment in homelessness prevention activities is required in order to mitigate additional pressures on the council when meeting its statutory duty towards homeless households.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

Housing Act 1996 (as amended by Homelessness Act 2002)

Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities

Local Authorities' Homelessness Strategies, Evaluation and Good Practice

The Homelessness Review 2014

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Appendix A: The Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2013-2018

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1. Introduction

1.1. Changing Context for Homelessness Services

Since the general election in May 2010, the government has implemented a programme of change and reform. The national reform agenda has meant that local homelessness services needed to adapt quickly to deliver services more efficiently, and to mitigate potential homelessness impacts arising from welfare reforms such as those affecting Housing Benefit and the impending introduction of universal credit.

The list of developments in national policy below pick out some of the key changes that have had, and will have, a direct impact on the way in which local housing authorities deliver allocations, lettings and homelessness services.

- Comprehensive Spending Review – October 2010
- No Second Night Out – July 2011
- Localism Act - November 2011
- Welfare Reform Act - March 2012
- Allocations Code of Guidance – June 2012
- Making Every Contact Count – August 2012
- The Allocation of Housing (Qualification criteria for Armed Forces) Regulations – August 2012
- The Homeless (Suitability of Accommodation) Order – November 2012
- The Housing Act 1996 (Additional Preference for former Armed Forces Personnel) – November 2012

1.2. Preventing Homelessness Strategies – The Legal Imperative

This is the third Homelessness Strategy for Peterborough City Council and it reviews the current situation in the district, looks back at the achievements since the last strategy and sets out the work we will carry out with other organisations to reduce and prevent homelessness.

The Homelessness Act 2002 placed a requirement on all councils to formulate a Homelessness Strategy every five years. Councils are required to carry out a homelessness review of their area and produce a strategy to:

- Address the causes of homelessness in the area;
- Introduce initiatives to prevent homelessness wherever possible;
- Provide sufficient temporary accommodation for those households that are or may become homeless; and
- Ensure that appropriate support is available for people who have previously experienced homelessness in order to prevent it from happening again.

1.3. Benefits of Preventing Homelessness Strategies

Homelessness has a detrimental effect on individuals, families and communities and can undermine social cohesion. Homelessness is linked to alcohol and drug abuse, poor physical & mental health, crime & anti-social behaviour, poor educational attainment, debt, unemployment and the breakdown of support networks. Tackling the effects of homelessness can be costly to the public purse when compared to the costs associated with proactively seeking to prevent homelessness in the first place.

The Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG) continues to recognise the importance of preventing homelessness and set out 10 “local authority challenges” in the “Making Every Contact Count: A Joint Approach to Preventing Homelessness” report.

“So the vision of this report is simple, but bold. There is no place for homelessness in the 21st Century. The key to delivering that vision is prevention – agencies working together to support those at risk of homelessness” Grant Shapps, August 2012

1.4. Review of the Homelessness Strategy 2008 to 2013

The Council produced its first Homelessness Strategy in 2003 which was updated in 2008 with a strategy for the following 5 years. The Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013 identified four priorities around:-

- Service Standards
- Health & Emotional Wellbeing
- Education, Training & Employment
- Choice & Self Participation

The Previous Homelessness Strategy expired in 2013 and therefore an assessment of the current situation has been necessary to inform the strategic direction of the homelessness function for the next five years, 2013 - 2018.

1.5. The New Review and Strategy Documents

The Homelessness Review and Strategy 2013 - 2018 is contained within one document and provides an assessment of the current situation regarding homelessness, both nationally and locally, and a five year action plan for meeting the strategic objectives identified as part of the review.

The Homelessness Strategy is an annex to the Peterborough Housing Strategy 2011 - 2015.

Section 153 of the Localism Act 2011 came into force by commencement order on 7th June 2012 and prescribes the relationship between schemes and strategies that local authorities must have regard to in developing or modifying their local preventing homelessness strategies:

In formulating or modifying a homelessness strategy, a local housing authority in England shall have regard to—

- (a) its current allocation scheme under section 166A of the Housing Act 1996,*
- (b) its current tenancy strategy under section 150 of the Localism Act 2011*

1.6. Methodology of the New Review and Strategy

The review focuses on the following:

- Analysis of national and local homelessness trends and indicators of service user demands.
- An audit of existing provision e.g. use of temporary accommodation and provision of housing-related support.
- Review of current permanent accommodation options
- Review of demand
- An audit of advice and prevention services
- Using analysis and research to provide projections for how we anticipate homelessness is likely to manifest locally over the next 5 years.
- Insight from stakeholders eg. organisations we work with, members and local agencies.
- Review of partnership working
- The future provision

1.7. Consultation – Research & Information Gathering

We carried out a variety of desktop research on statistics held relating to homelessness, housing advice records and housing need in Peterborough. Data was also collated from children's services, national and regional research findings and local voluntary and supporting agencies and on demographics, housing and local incomes.

Partner/stakeholder focus groups took place during November 2012 dealing with all aspects of homelessness throughout the city. We approached voluntary and statutory organisations linked to homelessness to participate in the groups.

The Peterborough Homelessness Strategy Steering Group

As part of the Homelessness Strategy 2008 - 2013, a Homelessness Strategy Steering Group (HSSG) was established. One of the core functions of the group has been to lead on the

implementation of the strategic aims identified within the strategy and to monitor the outcomes and achievements. The steering group is made up of representatives from Peterborough City Council and other relevant statutory and voluntary organisations was established.

The members of the steering group are as follows:

Name	Role	Organisation
Denise Lewis	Manager	Peterborough Streets
Chris Mackett	Manager	St Giles Trust
Karen Chambers	Assistant Director Of Operations	Axiom Housing Association
Anne Keogh	Housing Strategy Manager	PCC
Pete Middlemiss	Manager	The New Haven Night Shelter
Kim Lawrence	Supported Housing Manager	Cross Keys Homes
Emma Foley	Advocate	Cambridgeshire Independent Advocacy (Ace Project)
Ali Manji	Area Manager	Cross Keys Homes
Sam Tucker	City Centre Policing	Cambs Constabulary
Allison Sunley	Head Of Commissioning And Targeted Services	PCC
Sister Mary Clare Mason		Faith & Cohesion Network
Alison Snelling	Service Manager	Aspire
Andy Barringer	Community Recovery Manager	Safer Peterborough Partnership
Sarah Hebblethwaite	Deputy Housing Needs Manager	PCC

2. Homelessness in Context

The Homelessness Act (2002) definition of homelessness remains the same as stated in the Housing Act (1996)

'Under s.175 a person is homeless he or she has no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere which is available for his or her occupation and which that person has a legal right to occupy. A person will also be homeless if where she or he has accommodation but cannot secure entry to it, or where he or she has accommodation that is a moveable structure (such as a caravan or house boat) and there is no place where it can be placed in order to provide accommodation. A person who has accommodation is to be treated as homeless where it would not be reasonable for him or her to continue to occupy it.'

In addition to the above local authorities will also have to consider whether households presenting to them are eligible for assistance (e.g. have a right to reside in the UK), in priority need (e.g. have dependent children or are assessed as vulnerable) and homeless unintentionally. Only once these criteria are satisfied is a household considered to be “statutorily homeless”.

2.1. The National Picture

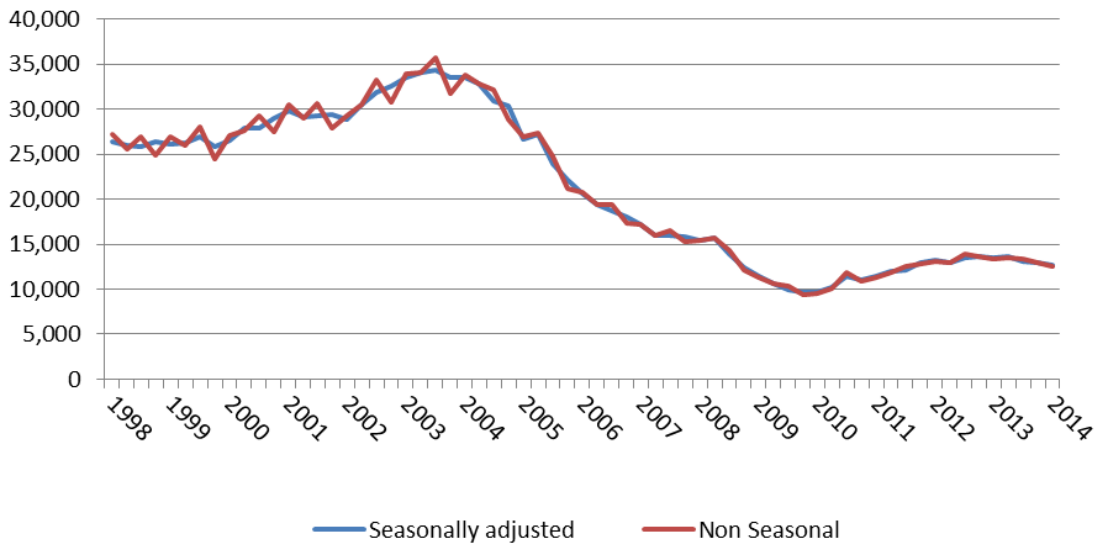
The number of households accepted as statutorily homeless by Councils in England peaked in 2003/04 at 135,430. Between 1997 and 2004 the number of households accommodated by Councils in temporary accommodation doubled, breaking the 100,000 mark in 2004.

Homelessness moved further up the political agenda with the recognition that urgent action had to be taken to address the housing crisis, in particular the rate of homelessness within the country and the number of households in temporary accommodation.

The government’s policy briefing released in June 2005 focused on ways of achieving this target, particularly the increased use of preventative measures and utilising the private rented sector as a source of settled accommodation. This drew together the examples of good practice where Councils had successfully introduced homelessness prevention measures and increased access to the private sector for many clients who may otherwise have been reliant on the limited stock of social rented housing.

The chart below shows the number of households who were accepted as “statutory homeless” and demonstrates that these measures had a significant impact in reducing the numbers of households who were accepted as homeless. However since the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in 2010 numbers had been slowly increasing until a slight reduction this year.

CHART 1- Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main homelessness duty 1998 – 2014 (England)

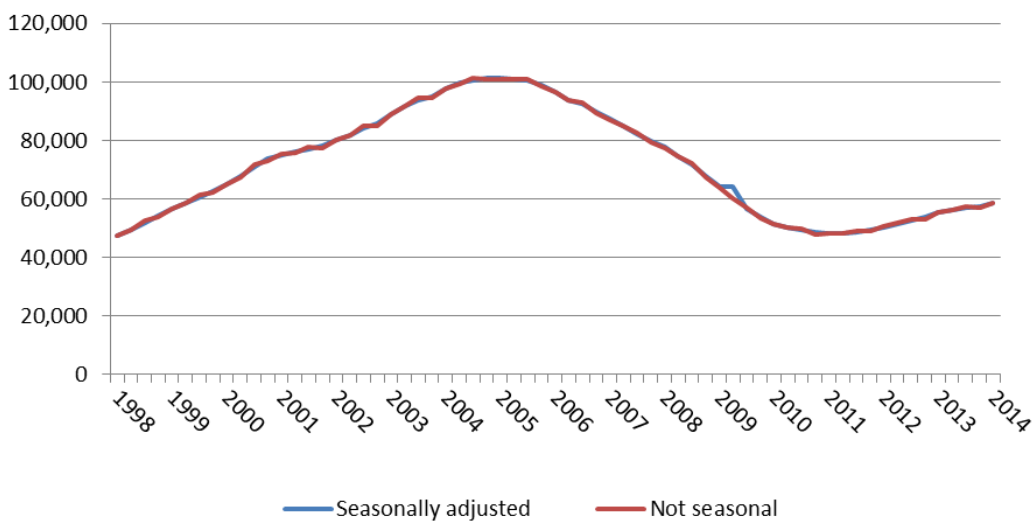


Source: DCLG Housing Statistical Release June 2014

2.1.1. Temporary Accommodation

In the last 4 years since the CSR demand for accommodation the increased demand for accommodation means it has become more difficult to secure suitable permanent accommodation for households who have presented to local authorities as homeless. The impact of this has meant that local authorities have had to spend increasing amounts of money on accommodating households in temporary accommodation while they wait for a suitable offer of accommodation to be made. The chart below shows the number of households that are currently accommodated in temporary accommodation and how that has slowly increased over the last 4 years.

CHART 2 – Number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter 1998 – 2014 (England)



Source: DCLG Housing Statistical Release June 2014

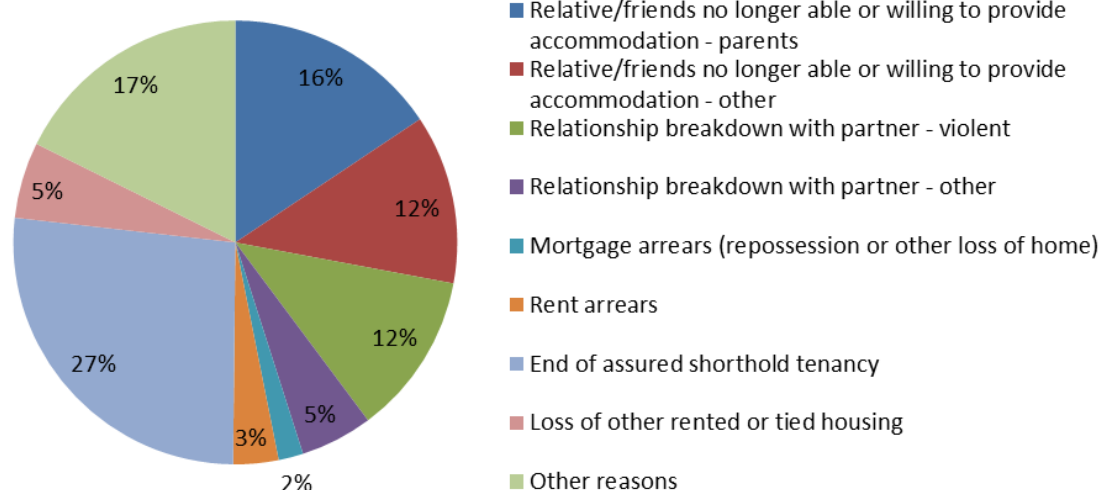
Of the 58,590 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2014, 12,430 (21%) were in accommodation in another local authority district. This is an increase of 36 per cent, from 9,130 (17%) at the same date last year.

Of the 12,430 accommodated in another local authority district, 11,540 were from London authorities (93% of the England total). This is an increase of 40% from the same date last year when 8,270 such households were in London.

2.1.2. Reasons for homelessness

Historically the main reason for homelessness amongst those who were accepted as statutory homeless was parents, relatives/friends not being able, or willing, to accommodate applicants any longer. However for the last 2 years this has changed and the most common reason is now the ending of an assured shorthold tenancy. The chart below illustrates the main reason for homelessness in the last quarter of 2013/14.

CHART 3 – The main reason for homelessness Qtr 4 2013/14



Source: DCLG Housing Statistical Release June 2014

2.2. The Local Picture

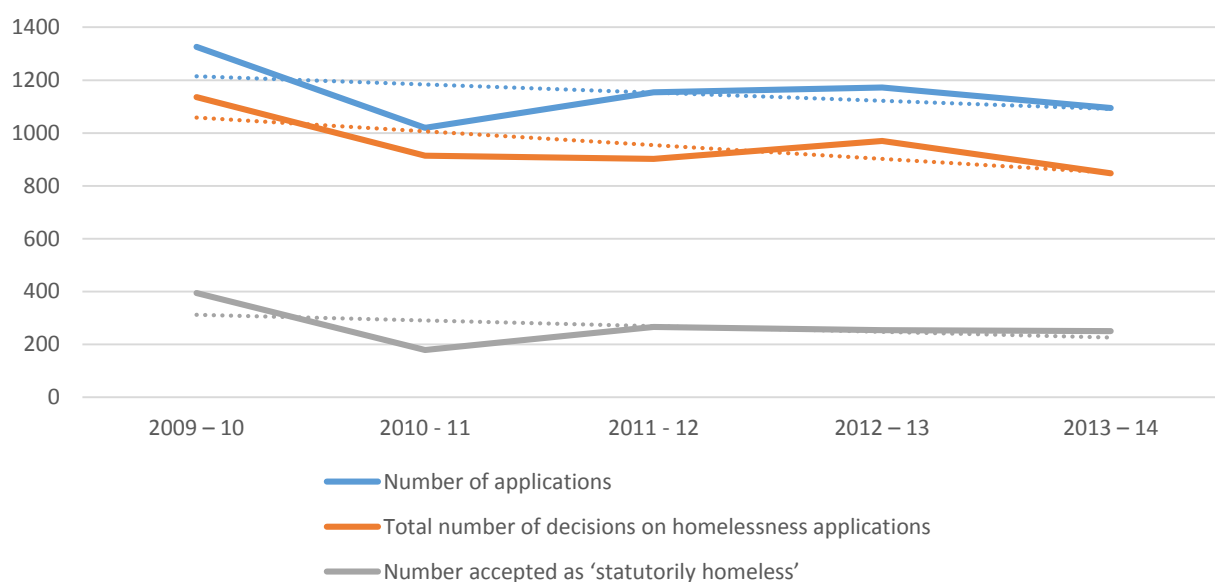
Peterborough has seen consistent population growth since 1971 and is the second fastest growing city in the country after Milton Keynes. The Census 2011 shows a further population growth from 156,059 (2001 census) to 183,961. Overall there has been a population growth of around 18% in Peterborough, whilst England and the East of England have seen a total growth of 8% and 9% respectively. According to the 2012 Sub national Population Projections the city's population is due to increase to around 230,000 by 2037 which is an increase of 25%.

Peterborough is a multi-cultural city. The 2011 Census identified that approximately 71% of Peterborough’s population classifies themselves as White British. The largest increases in ethnic minority groups were identified in White and Other White ethnic (10.6%) and Asian or Asian British, Pakistani (6.6%). Central and Paston wards have seen the largest increases to the proportions of Asian or Asian British Pakistani while Orton with Hampton shows the biggest increase in all of the ethnic groups.

In the period following the expansion of the European Union in May 2004 large numbers of Eastern European Nationals moved to Peterborough. These persons can be shown in the increase in White: Other White to 19,495.

Peterborough has seen consistent levels of homelessness throughout the lifetime of the previous homelessness strategy. The chart and table below show the number of homelessness applications, decisions and homelessness acceptances since 2009-10. The chart demonstrates a trend of slight reduction in all areas. This has been maintained against a national picture of slight increases in the same period of time.

CHART 4 - Number of applications, decisions and acceptances 2009 - 2014



	2009 – 10	2010 - 11	2011 - 12	2012 – 13	2013 – 14
Number of applications	1326	1019	1154	1172	1095
Total number of decisions on homelessness applications	1136	914	902	970	848
Number accepted as 'statutorily homeless'	395	179	266	254	250

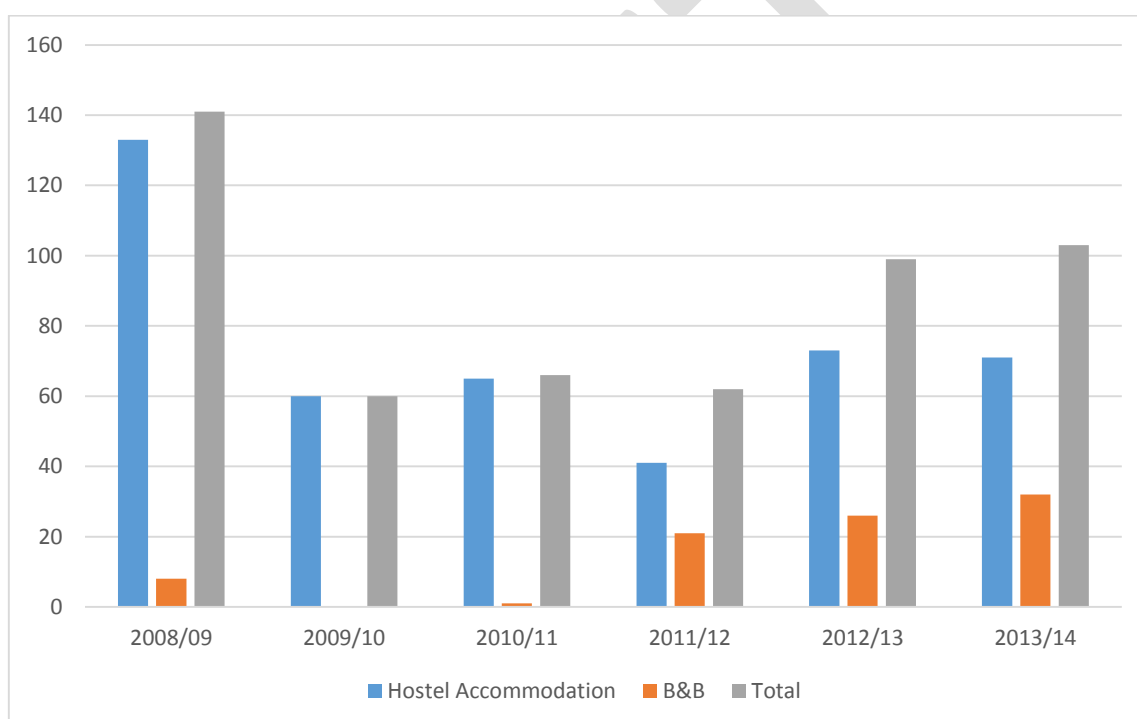
SOURCE – Local homelessness data

2.2.1. Temporary Accommodation

The council has been really successful in reducing the number of households who are accommodated in bed and breakfast from the highs of 2005/06 when expenditure on bed and breakfast accommodation peaked over 1 million pounds. We have been able to maintain numbers accommodated in temporary accommodation in much the same way that we have maintained homelessness presentation figures. The last 2 years have shown an increase in households provided with temporary accommodation, but these increases have been a seasonal high. The numbers have reduced soon after the end of March.

The table below shows the number of households accommodated by Peterborough City Council at the end of the financial year between 2009 – 2014

CHART 5 – TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION NUMBERS 2009 - 2014

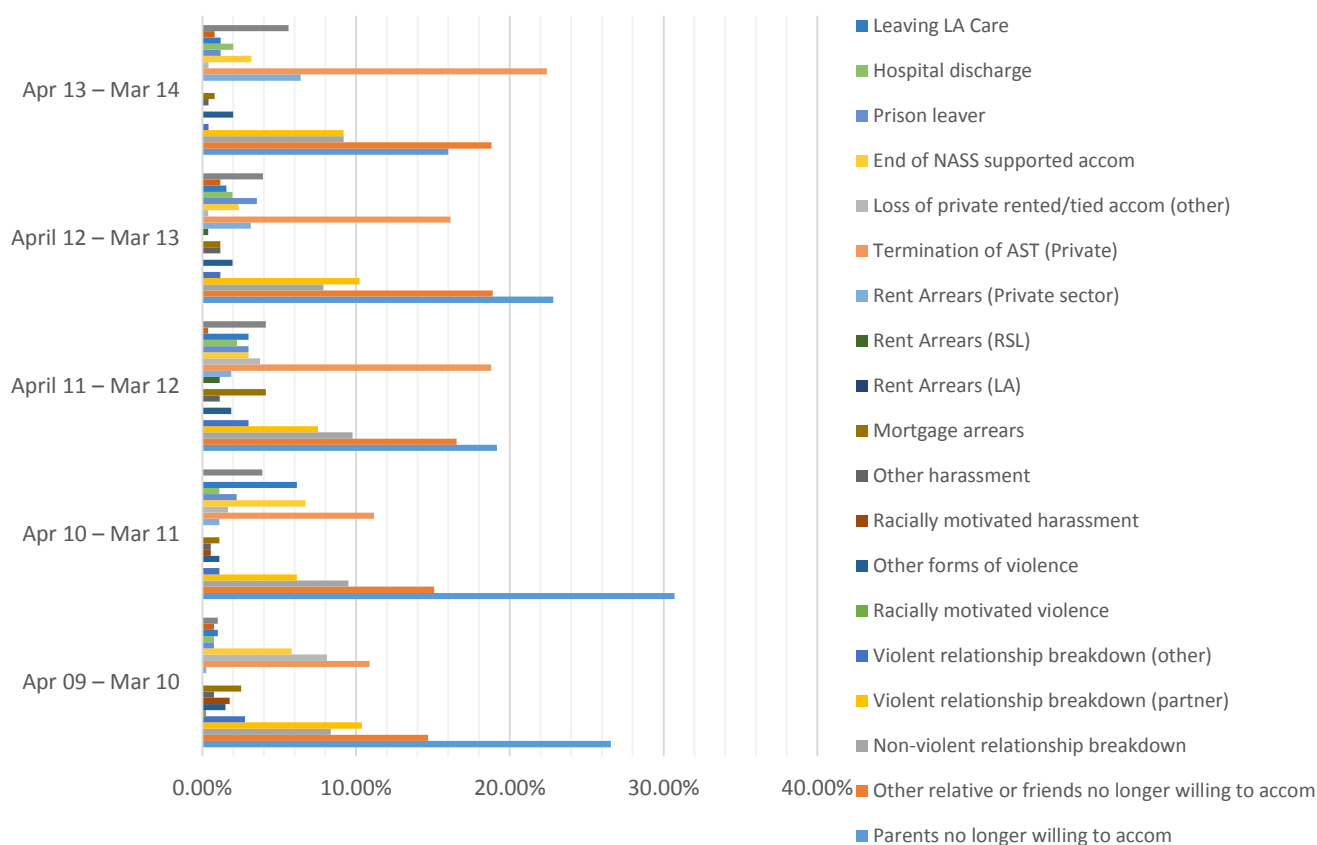


Peterborough City Council has not been placed into a position where we have had to find temporary accommodation outside of the city.

2.2.2. Reasons for homelessness

Peterborough has seen a similar trend to the national picture in terms of the reasons for households becoming homeless. The chart below shows the breakdown of reasons for homelessness and how that has changed over the last 5 years. The chart shows that over the last year the termination of an assured shorthold tenancy in the private sector has overtaken parents unable to continue to accommodate as the main reason for homelessness.

Chart 6 – Reasons for homelessness 2009 - 2014



SOURCE - LOCAL HOMELESSNESS DATA

While the approach of the Housing Needs service is to try and prevent homelessness where possible this can be difficult where private sector landlords are concerned. Many do not have the financial capital to be able to support a household who experience some form of income shock, when they have a change in employment status of a member of the household for example and have no option but to seek possession of their property. There is further work that could be done in terms of understanding the reasons for homelessness in this area to further develop the prevention tools we have in order to try and reduce the number of presentations from this area. Anecdotally, Housing Needs Officers reported that the most common reasons for the termination of an assured shorthold were:

- The Landlord wishing to take the property back for own use, or to sell.
- The non-payment or sporadic payment of rent.
- The property is in a poor state of repair.
- The tenant not conducting the tenancy satisfactorily.

2.2.3. Homelessness Household Composition

Peterborough is no different from the national picture when it comes to the type of households who are accepted as homeless. In the 1st quarter of 2014/2015 75% of households

had dependent children or were expecting their first child. Single people with either a physical disability or a mental illness accounted for 22%.

2.2.4. Rough Sleepers

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) requires local authorities to submit an annual figure indicating the numbers of people sleeping rough in their area. They can do this by means of an estimate or a count. Local Authorities can decide whether to count or estimate in order to determine their single figure and are encouraged to use the method that they think will reflect the number of persons sleeping rough in the local area.

In 2010 the Government widened the definition of rough sleeping to *'People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations or 'bashes.')*

The general perception of rough sleeping is usually based on the numbers of people seen begging or sitting in doorways during the day or in the evening; this is not usually a true reflection of the numbers of people actually sleeping rough.

In November 2012 Peterborough City Council consulted with Cambridgeshire police, faith groups, Peterborough Streets Day Centre, HMP Peterborough, and Aspire through the Task and Targeting Group to reach a decision on whether to carry out a formal count or an estimate. A decision was reached that the most accurate figure would be achieved through an estimate. In autumn 2012 Peterborough City Council submitted a multi-agency lead Rough Sleeper Estimate to government of 12.

This estimate was reached with the guidance and support of Homeless Link. The estimate records a single figure for the number of people thought to be rough sleeping in the local authority area on a typical night between 01 October and 30 November. The figure should be as robust as possible and using the guidance provided will help to get the most accurate estimate. This approach was also adopted when we conducted the most recent count in November 2013 when the total number of rough sleepers was 11.

Rough Sleeper Outreach Service

Peterborough City Council employs a Rough Sleeper Outreach Officer to assist individuals who find themselves sleeping rough after losing their accommodation. The Rough Sleeper Outreach officer has made great strides in ensuring that those who are rough sleeping are assisted before they reach a point where they are entrenched. In 2010, Peterborough was highlighted in the national media as a rough sleeping hotspot, with reported figures in excess of 70 individuals sleeping rough on any one night. Following the set up of a Task and Targeting group and a joint approach this number was quickly reduced with many being assisted to find work and accommodation, or being assisted to return to their country of origin. This work is

continuing and we are now taking steps to tackle a hard core of long standing rough sleepers in the city who we are working to assist through a personalised approach to leave the streets.

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3. Audit of Existing Provision

3.1. Temporary Accommodation

Local Authority Provided Temporary Accommodation

The Council has a duty to provide certain homeless households with temporary housing whilst it assesses homelessness applications and attempts to help them resolve their housing difficulties. As with many high demand areas, the limited number of social rented properties available for letting and the increasing demands on these properties leads to homeless households having to spend longer than would be desirable in temporary accommodation.

As part of the housing stock transfer in October 2004, the Council managed hostels were transferred to Cross Keys Homes who continued to manage and maintain them for use by the council to accommodate homeless households. Temporary accommodation, and in particular bed and breakfast, is recognised as being unsatisfactory for households. In many cases it provides accommodation with shared facilities away from families' usual support networks at a cost to both the Council and household. As a result, reducing the use of temporary accommodation and minimising the length of time households have to stay in this accommodation will remain a key priority for the Council.

Unfortunately the Council still has to use temporary accommodation for households where limited notice of impending homelessness or lack of availability of suitable alternative accommodation would mean that the household would be street homeless without the provision of accommodation. Over the last few years we have maintained capacity in the hostels, but we have often had to rely on local B&B providers to support clients when there has been no vacancies in the hostel accommodation or the clients have been barred from the hostel accommodation due to previous behaviour.

At the end of June 2014 we were accommodating 58 households in hostel accommodation and 2 households in B&B accommodation.

Alternative Supported Accommodation

Although the council supports households who are considered to be homeless and are assessed as vulnerable and in priority need, households who do not meet this criteria are generally not provided with accommodation and will be referred to one of the direct access hostel settings in the city.

New Haven Night Shelter

The New Haven Night Shelter is the city's direct access hostel. The shelter is owned and managed by Axiom Housing Association and provides temporary accommodation for single homeless persons. There are 18 bed spaces and one crash bed as part of No Second Night Out Project within the shelter. There is a Learn Direct suite on site and residents are encouraged to participate in training, volunteering and work seeking. The most frequent reasons for

homelessness were; eviction from private sector tenancy, relationship breakdown and parents/friends no longer willing to accommodate. There is daily Drop Service that enables homeless persons or persons threatened with homelessness to be assessed and signposted to appropriate services.

The shelter is usually fully occupied and residents are supported to secure permanent accommodation by key workers before their stay comes to an end. The majority of persons accessing the shelter are supported into private rented sector accommodation or into a supported housing setting within the city. Unfortunately demand is high for bed spaces at the shelter. Persons are often turned away before they are able to secure a bed.

Fairview Court

Fair View Court is a supported housing project managed by Axiom Housing Association in Oundle Road, Peterborough. It provides modern accommodation for up to 17 people who have previously experienced tenancy failure. The project through the support of partner agencies empowers people to move forward through training, support, and key working individuals to enable them to move through the support stages and into sustainable long term accommodation. The majority of residents in Fairview Court were receiving support for mental health needs.

The accommodation consists of furnished studio flats, a communal garden and lounge. There is also an on-site skills and development Centre, managed by Axiom Academy, which provides an innovative and quality learning training experience, meet individual needs. Social events and days out are also a part of the project's calendar. Residents are assigned a dedicated key worker who supports them to take positive steps towards living independently by providing emotional support and confidence building. We also work closely with partner agencies to support individuals with additional support needs such as drug and alcohol addictions.

Hope into Action

Hope into Action provides houses for the homeless in partnership with local churches. They train and enable church members to engage with and mentor those living in the house, whilst providing the necessary professional support. Hope into Action currently have 12 houses and accept referrals from agencies in the city including; Peterborough Streets, Housing Needs and HMP Peterborough.

The YMCA Timestop

Timestop offers direct access short term accommodation for single people aged 16 to 25 years old. They provide accommodation and support for up to 22 young people who are in housing need. All residents are supported for up to 3 months by an allocated key worker who helps them identify their needs and positively move forward with their lives. Residents are also provided with practical assistance in the form of emotional support, budgeting and work seeking. The majority of residents move on to supported accommodation provided by Peterborough Foyer or private rented sector accommodation.

Peterborough Foyer

Peterborough Foyer provides supported accommodation for young people aged 16 to 25 years old. It is owned and managed by Axiom Housing Association and provides 49 single rooms, including 14 low support move on beds. The Foyer provides extensive support through individual keyworkers and development of action plans and agreed outcomes. There is an on-site learning centre with Information Technology and study areas and Learn Direct and City and Guilds advice. Young people can stay in the accommodation for up to 2 years and usually move on to independent living.

Chronically Excluded Adults

Peterborough has a small number of individual resident who are considered to be very high needs and have usually experienced some form of previous tenancy failure due to anti-social behaviour or rent arrears, which has rendered them ineligible for the housing register or to chaotic to maintain stable accommodation. Many of this client group are also to high need to be accommodated by the supported housing projects listed above.

Peterborough is lacking support for this client group and they continue to go unsupported. There is a need for the city to establish a project similar to the CEA project in operation in Cambridgeshire, which works with the most chaotic and excluded adults in the county to improve outcomes for individuals and for society as a whole. It targets clients who have fallen between services in the past and employs a coordinator who uses a person centred approach to tailor a support package around each client's needs.

Case concerns and flexible approaches are discussed at operational level and escalated to commissioner level on occasions where barriers cannot be overcome at an operational level. The project is considered a national example of good practice and provides support to those setting up projects elsewhere.

Client's service use was measured 12 months prior to them entering the project, and found that of those entering the pilot (15 people) in the first year 46% had had a professional mental health intervention, and 43% had self-reported mental health issues. 75% had had a criminal justice intervention, and 43% had been in prison. All were homeless.

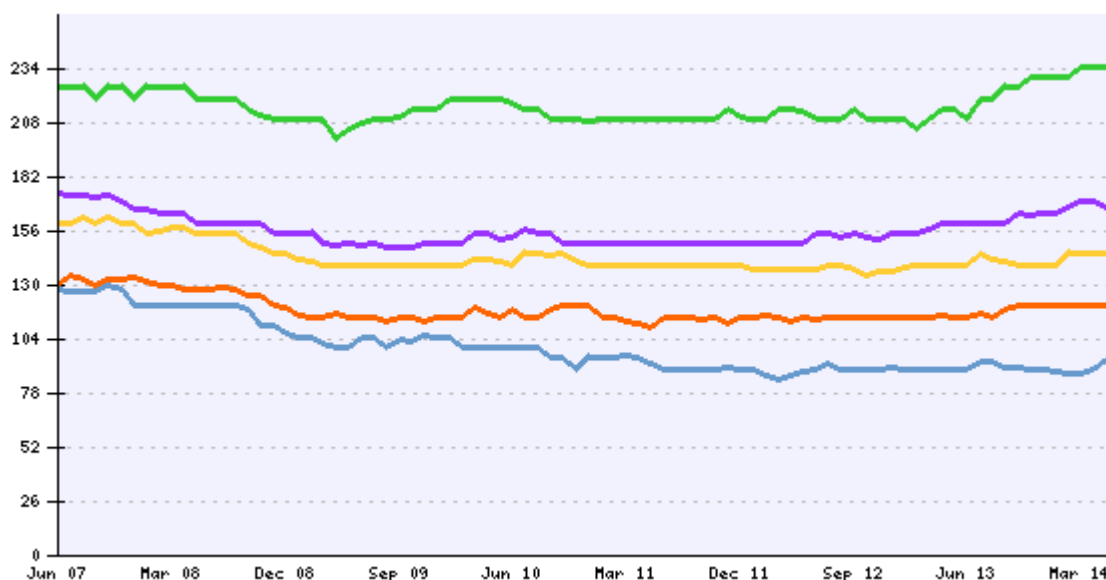
3.2. Permanent Accommodation

3.2.1. The Wider Housing Market






Since the financial crisis the property market in Peterborough has seen house prices drop quite significantly in some cases. However recent shoots in economic recovery have meant that house prices in Peterborough have steadily increased back to just below or around level that they were at in 2007.

However changes to the lending criteria of banks and lower income levels in Peterborough has meant that it is becoming increasingly more difficult for buyers to obtain the required mortgages in order to purchase a suitable property. The chart below shows the median property asking prices by type in Peterborough since 2007.

Chart 7 – Median Property asking prices in Peterborough 2007 - 2014



Legend

		Jun 2007	Jun 2014	Change
	Detached	£224,995	£235,000	+4%
	Semi	£159,995	£145,000	-9%
	Terraced	£130,000	£120,000	-8%
	Flat	£127,995	£92,000	-28%
	All	£173,995	£165,475	-5%

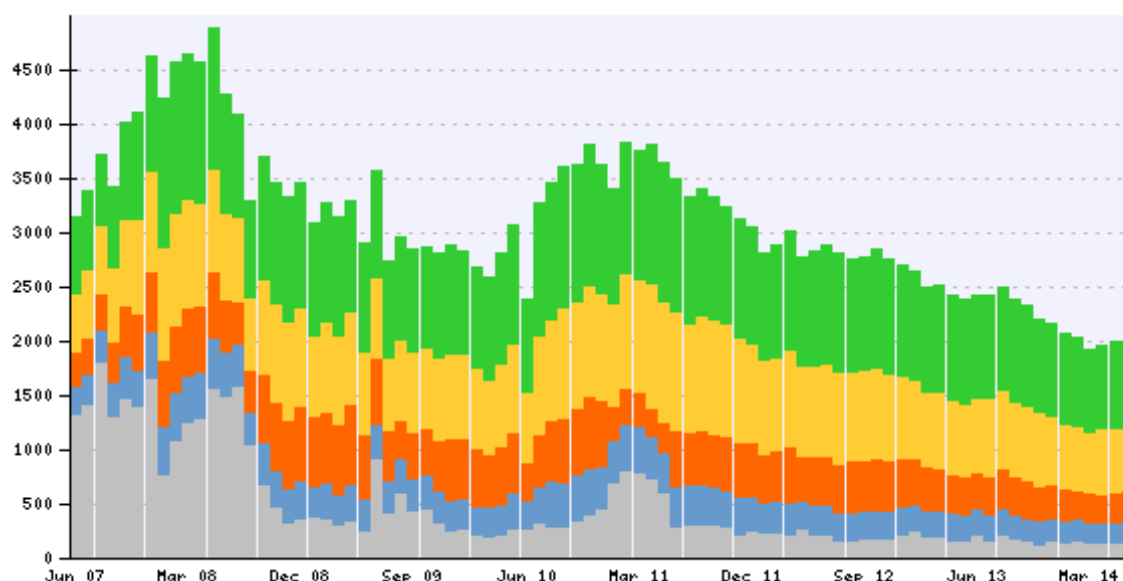
Source: www.home.co.uk

The cost of home ownership has substantially increased over recent years, resulting in home ownership becoming an unaffordable for many households who require housing. A Peterborough's resident average weekly income is lower than the national average (£508) and regional average of (£529) at £436. The median selling price for a detached property in Peterborough is £235,000 over 10 times the average income, whilst semi detached properties are over 6.3 times, terraced properties over 5.2 times and flats 4 times the average annual income.

At the same time the number of properties found advertised for sale has also reduced. The table below shows the differences in the number of properties advertised for sale in Peterborough over the same time. The combination of all of these factors. The more recent steady increases in average house prices, low income levels in the city, reduced availability of property to buy and the more stringent lending criteria has meant that more and more households are becoming reliant on affordable housing options.

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CHART 8 – Number of Properties found advertised for sale in Peterborough by type



LEGEND

	Jun 2007	Jun 2014	Change
Detached	697	795	+14%
Semi	531	574	+8%
Terraced	310	285	-8%
Flat	265	209	-21%
Unknown	1336	141	-
Total	3139	2004	-36%

Source: www.home.co.uk

Housing affordability is a key issue within the Peterborough housing market. In 2010 the city council and its partner neighbouring local authorities commissioned a study into local levels of housing need.

This study identified the following;

- 27 per cent of households in Peterborough cannot afford to rent or buy market housing without some form of subsidy. This is compared with 22.6 per cent of households across the sub-region.
- 81 per cent of lone parents in Peterborough are unable to afford market prices or rents without subsidy.
- 38 per cent of single persons are unable to afford market prices or rents without subsidy.
- 37 per cent of single pensioners are unable to afford market prices or rents without subsidy.
- At the current rate of household formation and housing supply, an average of 1,008 households will fall into housing need in Peterborough on an ongoing annual basis
- In rural areas, housing need as a proportion of supply is ten times higher than it is in the urban area of the city

3.2.2. Private Sector Accommodation

The Private Sector housing stock in the city is varied and represents a tremendous asset to the local community but this asset needs substantial targeted investment to ensure that the condition of the stock is raised and maintained to acceptable levels. The 2011 Census showed households renting from a private landlord or letting agency per ward to be an average of 20.5% and was most prevalent in the Central Ward with 38.1% and Northborough was the lowest at 7%.

The demand for affordable privately rented property in the District is high. In particular the demand for 1 and 2 bedroom properties. Across the Peterborough area the supply of properties is marginally lower than demand. Especially highlighted were 1 and 2 bed properties being in short supply. While the Housing Needs Service has good relationships with many private landlords in the city. There are still barriers with regard to landlords accommodating persons who will be in receipt of Housing Benefits. While many clients are able to manage their finances effectively, some experience issues with their claims due to non-provision of documentation required in order to process a claim and frequent changes in state benefit entitlements that result in suspension of their housing benefits claims. Unfortunately some landlords will not consider applicants who are in receipt of housing benefits at all because of these issues and some will not accept them because of the inherent delays in the processing of claims.

Private sector accommodation is becoming more expensive due to the higher demand within this sector. Many households who may previously have purchased a property are now renting. These households find themselves with less disposable income to build towards a deposit and therefore are unlikely to be able to purchase a property in the future.

In recent years the Housing Needs Service has had considerable success in encouraging households to access private rented sector accommodation, instead of making a homeless application, temporary accommodation and social housing.

There has been a steady increase in the number of households accessing private sector accommodation through Peterborough City Council's Rent Deposit Scheme and through Peterborough Streets' Crisis PRS Scheme.

3.2.3. Social Housing

Peterborough City Council transferred its housing stock to Cross Keys Homes Housing Association on 4th October 2004 with the aim to ensuring that its housing stock is used effectively to meet the housing needs of those in the area or, wishing to live in the Peterborough area. Cross Keys Homes promised to invest £108 million in improving tenants' homes over the first five years fitting new kitchens and bathrooms, front and back doors, double glazing and central heating systems. In addition they promised to spend nearly £5 million on estate and environmental improvements.

As part of the transfer Peterborough City Council & Cross Keys Homes made agreements on nominations to vacant properties, which currently allows PCC to nominate suitable potential tenants to 90% of their vacant properties. PCC has similar arrangements with the other Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) who have available accommodation in Peterborough.

In order to ensure fair allocation of the available properties that PCC has been asked to nominate to, the council is required by law to have a housing allocations scheme that demonstrates how the council priorities applications for housing and the procedures that they follow in allocating those homes. PCC manages the city's social housing register in partnership with the RSL's, which allows for there to be one central point for applications for new potential tenants and current tenants wishing to transfer.

The Peterborough Homes Partnership is made up of PCC, Cross Keys Homes, Axiom Housing Association, Circle Anglia, Hyde Minster, ECHG, L&H Group, Muir Housing, Accent Nene, BPHA and Home Group. Peterborough City Council operates a choice based lettings approach to the allocation of accommodation.

Each week RSL's advise Peterborough City Council of the properties that are available to let and they are then advertised. The advert is usually released on Tuesdays and the edition closes on the following Sunday at midnight. Applicants with a live application on the Peterborough Housing register can express interest (place a bid) in the properties, which they would like to be considered for. Applicants may bid for up to 3 properties per week. Successful applicants are then contacted the following week and invited to view the properties.

Following The Localism Act 2011 and the subsequent amendment to the Housing Act 1996, Local Authorities were granted the power to set their own qualifying criteria for people applying to join the housing register. This power enables councils to restrict their housing register to consider entry from only those in the most urgent housing need as well as exercising their right to set exclusions for other reasons based on locally set criteria.

In addition, recent government guidance highlighted that councils have the power to frame their allocations policies to give additional preference to particular groups of people. The guidance recommends that councils consider how they can use their allocations policy to support households who want to work, as well as those who, while unable to engage in paid employment, are contributing to their community in other ways, for example through voluntary work.

The introduction of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 has made changes to housing benefit entitlements, which will have a direct impact on social housing tenants from 1st April 2013. The amendments resulted in tenants of working age receiving housing benefit according to the number of bedrooms the household needs.

In April 2013 the council embarked of a comprehensive review of the Housing Register and made the following changes to the allocations policy.

- Setting the entry criteria to the housing register to allow only those in the most urgent housing need to join, this includes; Homeless households, those who are threatened

with homelessness, those living in insanitary or unsatisfactory housing conditions, those who need to move for social/welfare reasons or where failure to assist in moving will cause particular hardship.

- Only accept applications from those who have a local connection with Peterborough by; having lived in the area for 6 of the last 12 months or 3 of the last 5 years, those who are working in the city, those who need to move to the area for special reasons
- Excluding applicants who own suitable accommodation or those who have sufficient financial resources to secure suitable accommodation by other means from joining the housing register. (This will not apply to those over 55 and eligible for sheltered accommodation)
- Those who have behaved in an unacceptable manner continue to be excluded from applying. This will be determined by; The Council or RSL is satisfied that the applicant or a member of their household has previously been guilty of unacceptable behaviour which would make them unsuitable to be a tenant, or the applicant or member of the household has been served with an injunction by the council or their landlord to stop them behaving in a way which causes nuisance or annoyance to others, or the applicant or a member of the household has current tenancy arrears in excess of 8 weeks rent, or the applicant or a member of the household has any outstanding former tenant arrears.

Additionally, the bedrooms standards policy that has previously been more generous was changed and brought in line with the criteria that will be applied to housing benefit claims from April 2013.

In order to support the RSL's in managing the issue of the removal of the spare room subsidy ("bedroom tax") the allocation policy also made provision to give band 1 priority to those who were assessed as under occupying their social housing tenancy. This has been relatively successful, but the continued demand for 1 & 2 bedroom properties has meant that many households are still unable to move into smaller accommodation.

In addition to the above changes we also included a number of additional preference categories, which gave increased priority for those who had a long standing local connection with the city (through 5 years continuous residence), those making an economic contribution to the city through employment or voluntary work in the area and ex-servicemen and women who have been discharged from service in the last 5 years.

These changes have been implemented over the last year and having reviewed all application on the housing register has meant that the number of applications on the register has been greatly reduced.

Social Housing Supply

As detailed earlier in the review, home ownership is becoming more difficult to access for many households in the city and the increase dependence on the private sector has resulted in rent costs increasing and some households who are reliant on some form of benefits to support their income are unable to access this sector. Therefore there has become an

increased demand on affordable housing. Most recent figures from November 2011 shown below detail the rented housing stock by RSL. The table also shows the number of rented units completed in the last 3 years.

	Total stock as at 21.11.12	New Builds 2011/12	New Builds 2012/13	New Builds 2013/14
Accent Nene	1686	0	16	0
Axiom	1364	0	22	0
BPHA	529	44	3	40
Cross Keys Homes	9607	20	140	70
Home	435	0	0	2
HYDE Minster	975	3	49	0
Longhurst	124	0	0	7
Total	14720	67	230	119

Development is continuing this year and it is forecast that a further 350 units will be completed by the end of March 2015.

Affordable Rent Model

The introduction of the affordable rent tenure has a range of implications for future and existing housing provision in Peterborough. Firstly, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has set out an intention that the affordable rent tenure will 'form the principal element of the new [housing] supply offer', and that 'social rented housing will only be supported in limited circumstances'. This means that the supply of new HCA-funded social rented accommodation is likely to all but cease as the affordable rent tenure establishes itself as a funding priority.

Secondly, in order to maximise revenue and decrease reliance upon public subsidy, the HCA is encouraging its housing association delivery partners to convert a proportion of their existing social rented housing stock to the new affordable rent tenure as units become vacant for re-let to new tenants. This change has resulted in a reduction in the level of social rented housing stock available in Peterborough.

The introduction of the affordable rent model has resulted in an increased number of properties being assessed and rent levels being set at up to 80% of the eligible market rent.

The Peterborough Strategic Tenancy Policy seeks to ensure that rents remain affordable, that homelessness levels do not increase, that tenancy flexibilities are applied in a sensitive manner, and that tenant mobility is protected. The policy has been developed within the context of the council's overarching strategic objectives for housing, as set out in the Peterborough Housing Strategy 2011 to 2015.

Empty Homes

Peterborough City Council employs an Empty Homes Officer to work with partners to bring empty properties in the city back into use. Since 1st July 2011, the local authority have played at least some part in bringing back a total of 520 properties. This includes properties that have been taken off the list by simply sending a letter to enquire about the property's occupancy, to helping the owner sell or new owners refurbish.

Since recruiting an empty homes officer, Peterborough has seen a significant drop in the number of long-term empty properties left unoccupied by their owner's. With the exception of around 15 properties, all of those left empty long-term are privately owned, meaning action taken to get these properties back into use is much harder to pursue.

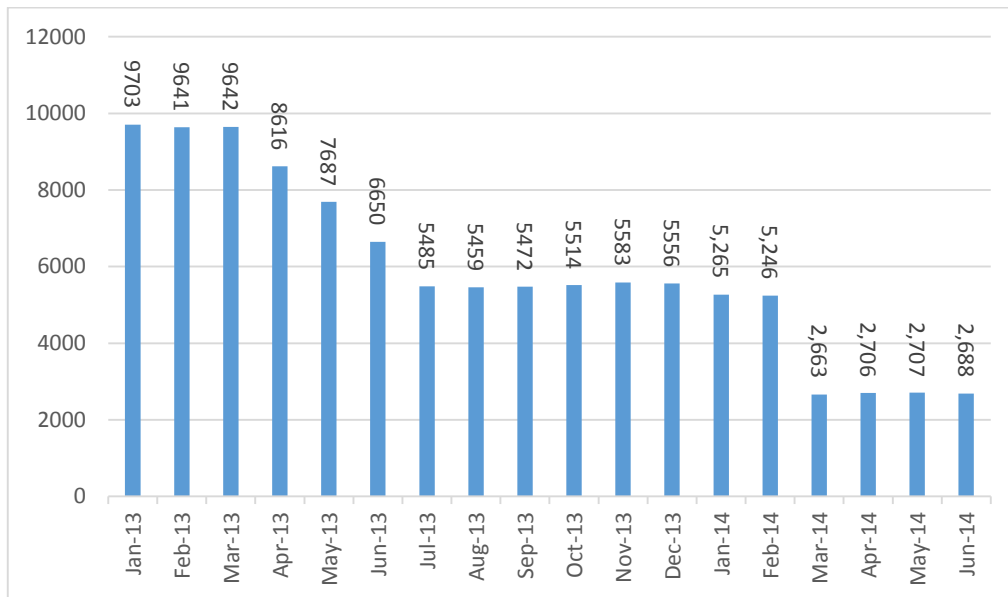
The reduction in the number of long-term empty properties can be attributed to a number of factors: The increased resource of a full-time Empty Homes Officer within the council dedicated to tackling this issue has meant that the pursuit and action against owners has been persistent, and also the support offered to owners has been consistent throughout.

In June 2014 Peterborough's empty homes officer, Adam Cliff was awarded the Empty Homes Practitioner of the Year Award by the Empty Homes Network in recognition of his achievements since joining the authority in 2011, following on from his Highly Commended award in June 2013.

4. Demand

As previously mentioned the demand for housing rented from a social landlord remains high. The table below shows the variation in the number of applications on the register since the aforementioned amendments were made to the Peterborough Allocations policy were applied.

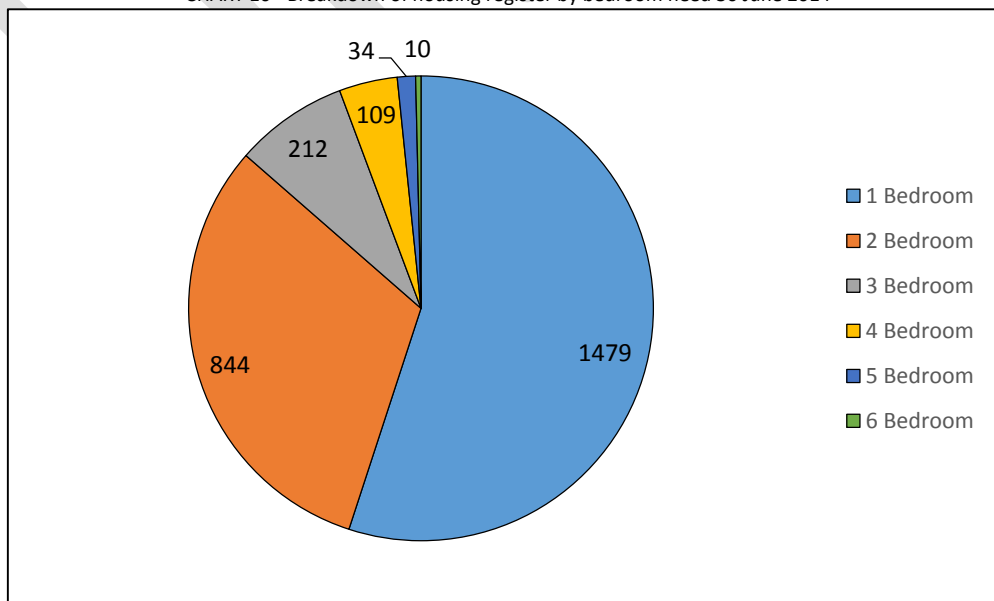
CHART 9- Live applications on the Peterborough Housing Register Jan 2013 – Jun 2014



Source – Local Housing Register data

Of the 2688 current live applications the majority are single person households or couples who have a 1 bedroom need. The chart below shows the breakdown of the housing register by bedroom requirement.

CHART 10 - Breakdown of housing register by bedroom need 30 June 2014



Source – Local Housing Register data

There is a common misconception that the majority of social housing is allocated to households who are not of British origin. While we have worked hard to dispel this myth this is still regularly quoted to us by clients who approach the council for assistance.

The table below shows the breakdown of the housing register by ethnic origin and includes the breakdown of the city as reported in the most recent census in 2011 as well as the percentage of allocations made by ethnic origin.

TABLE 11 - Ethnic origin data

Census		Allocations 2013-14	Housing Register Jun-14
70.9%	White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	70.8%	69.9%
0.7%	White: Irish	0.3%	0.6%
0.3%	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.1%	0.0%
10.6%	White: Other White	17.3%	19.1%
0.8%	Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black Caribbean	0.1%	0.1%
0.5%	Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black African	0.2%	0.0%
0.8%	Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Asian	0.0%	0.1%
0.7%	Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Other Mixed	0.4%	0.4%
2.5%	Asian/Asian British: Indian	0.2%	0.2%
6.6%	Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	1.7%	2.2%
0.1%	Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	0.0%	0.0%
0.5%	Asian/Asian British: Chinese	0.1%	0.1%
2.0%	Asian/Asian British: Other Asian	3.0%	3.2%
1.4%	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African	2.0%	1.5%
0.6%	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean	0.1%	0.2%
0.3%	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black	0.7%	0.5%
0.2%	Other ethnic group: Arab	0.0%	0.0%
0.6%	Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	3.2%	1.9%

Source – 2011 census & local housing register data

The table demonstrates that both live applications and allocations data does not vary significantly from the population breakdown of the city. The minor exception is the marginally increased number of applications and allocations made to the White: Other group, which will be made up of households of mostly Eastern European origin including Lithuanian, Polish, Slovakian & Latvian nationals who are generally residing in poor quality overcrowded accommodation in the city.

The council still maintains its nominations agreements with the Housing Associations who have accommodation available in Peterborough and these properties continue to be allocated through the council's choice based lettings scheme (Peterborough Homes).

Each week our partner Housing Associations advise us, which properties they have available to let and we advertise them to the people on our housing register. Applicants can then choose, which of the available properties they would like to be considered for.

Properties are then shortlisted by:

1. Who has expressed interest (eligible applicants)
2. Highest priority band
3. Who has been in their band longest
4. Who has been on the register longest

In 2013/14 we allocated 1217 properties through the choice based lettings scheme.

5. Advice & Prevention Services

The Housing Needs Service adopts a housing options approach when dealing with clients who approach the authority for assistance and will seek to prevent a household's homelessness wherever possible.

The number of clients contacting the service remains high. In the last financial year we were contacted 25,009 times by clients for advice and assistance. Of which 5418 were seen face to face by an officer. We have a number of options when preventing homelessness and have been successful in a large number of cases, which may have otherwise resulted in the household becoming homeless and the council having to accommodate in temporary accommodation, while seeking alternative accommodation.

We have done this by:

- Negotiating with householders/landlords to allow resolve the issues, which led to the threat of homelessness
- Liaising with Housing benefit to resolve payment issues
- Taking steps to improve security in the home to allow victims of domestic violence to remain in the home (Sanctuary Scheme)
- The Mortgage Rescue Scheme / Mortgage debt advice
- By supporting households to move to alternative affordable accommodation in the private sector

The team of specialist officers focussing on homelessness prevention are currently made up of 11 officers, however 3 of these posts are funded temporarily through grants received from the DCLG. The funding for these posts is due to end on the 31 March 2015 with no likelihood of further funding being made available.

The loss of these officers is likely to have a detrimental effect on the number of homelessness preventions achieved and will likely mean an increase in statutory homelessness acceptances and potentially longer stays in temporary accommodation while suitable permanent accommodation is found.

5.1. Rent Deposit Scheme & DHP

The Housing Needs Service continues to offer a Rent Deposit Scheme which enables persons to access an interest free loan to be used for the up front costs associated with securing a property in the private rented sector. This has created a real opportunity for the prevention and relief of homelessness and also increased access to permanent accommodation. In 2013/2014 a total of 232 households were assisted into private rented sector accommodation through this scheme totalling £100,521.

In addition the increased Discretionary Housing Payments fund (DHP) made available to all local authorities has been used to support households who were in receipt of housing benefits and may be at risk of homelessness to move to alternative private sector accommodation by paying up front fees such as deposits, rent in advance and reasonable administration fees. In 2013/2014 a total of 196 households were assisted into private rented sector accommodation through this scheme totalling £168,127.

5.2. Peterborough Streets Crisis PRS Scheme

Peterborough Streets were successful in receiving funding from the Crisis Private Rented Sector (PRS) Access Development Programme. This programme funds new community based services that help single people find and sustain good quality accommodation in the private rented sector (PRS). It provides sustainable solutions to single homelessness and enables single persons to resettle in the Private Rented Sector Scheme and enables Peterborough Streets to prevent homelessness. To date a total of 59 persons were assisted into accommodation.

Unfortunately we have recently been advised that Peterborough Streets are having to close down due to financial difficulties after just being successful in securing funding for this project for a further 2 years. At the time of writing this report we are in discussions with Crisis in the hope that we will be able to either, take on the project and deliver the outcomes in house through the Housing Needs Service or by finding an alternative voluntary sector partner.

5.3. Tenancy Relations Service

Peterborough City Council has a Tenancy Relations Officer based within the Housing Needs team. This service offers support to both tenants and private sector landlords. It aims to promote good relations between tenants and landlords and encourage good practice in the private rented sector. The service provides advice on disrepair, possession, deposit protection, security of tenure, rent and rent arrears and unlawful eviction. The service has been successful in establishing a framework for dealing with illegal evictions and utilised its power to prosecute under The Protection of Eviction Act 1977 by successfully prosecuting 3 landlords through the court system with another 4 cases currently pending alongside supporting 592 households since January 2012.

5.4. Mortgage Rescue Scheme

Peterborough City Council has been actively promoting the Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme. This Scheme enables a homeowner who is at risk of losing their home because of mortgage arrears to be assisted by working with a local housing association to purchase their property who then rents it back to them. This Scheme enables both homeless prevention and increases the stock levels of our partner housing associations. At the end of March 2014 we had completed on 24 mortgage rescues and had a small number, which were pending completion and funding had been agreed to ensure that these cases completed. We were the best performing authority in the East & South East areas and the reputation of the officer in

the Housing Needs team was further enhanced by the HCA zone agent who referred a number of authorities to us for advice and guidance.

Unfortunately the Governments Mortgage Rescue scheme closed down on the 31 March 2014. However we still have a number of tools available to us to support households who find themselves in financial difficulty and where we are unable to keep them in their home we are able to support them to exit home ownership and move to alternative accommodation.

5.5. Disabled Facility Grants

The Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 made provision for mandatory Disabled Facility Grants to provide adaptations to meet the needs of disabled residents. The Local Housing Authority must decide what are reasonable and practicable adaptations taking into consideration the age and condition of the dwelling and what is necessary and appropriate. The Local Housing Authority has a duty to consult with adult social care on what is necessary and appropriate and this is usually achieved through an Occupational Therapy Assessment of need.

The purposes for which mandatory disabled facilities grants may be given fall into a number of categories, namely:

- Facilitating Access and Provision
- to and from the dwelling
- to a room used/usable as the principal family room
- to a room used/usable for sleeping
- to a room in which there is a WC, bath or shower and a wash hand basin
- to the preparation and cooking of food
- Making a dwelling/building safe
- Providing a room suitable for sleeping
- Providing a bathroom
- Facilitating preparation and cooking of food
- Heating, lighting and power
- Enabling a disabled person to care for a dependent resident
- Access to a garden

In 2013/14 the DCLG allocated £750,069 to Peterborough for Disabled Facility Grants. The final amount spent (which included monies from Peterborough City Council's capital programme) was £1,674,015. The total number of Disabled Facility Grants delivered by the Care & Repair Home Improvement Agency was 303. This year so far, the DCLG's grant allocation is £691,000 which the Council have made up to £1,725,860. In 2013/14 a total of 186 grants were been completed with a total spend of spent £994,880.

The Housing Needs Service needs to continue to work in partnership to enable that the programme continues to prevent homelessness whilst ensuring that vulnerable persons housing needs are met.

6. Partnership Working

Hospital Discharges

The Health to Home Project was launched in January 2014 following a successful bid to the Department of Health Homeless Hospital Discharge Fund. The fund was set up to tackle the health inequalities faced by homeless persons and prevent homeless persons being discharged to the streets. The project was a partnership between Peterborough City Hospital, Axiom Housing Association, Peterborough Streets, Housing Needs and employed one Hospital based nurse and two outreach workers. Outcomes include; 50 homeless persons were assisted into accommodation, developing a Hospital Discharge Protocol, providing training and information sessions to nurses and a Homeless Persons Patients Charter.

Prison Releases

The Housing Needs Department have designated officers to ensure joint working between resettlement staff at HMP Peterborough and the Housing Needs service and promote homelessness prevention. This prevents offenders being discharge onto the streets and in turn making a crisis homelessness presentation at Housing Needs. The main aim of this work is to ensure that there is planned approach to the prison discharge and accommodation need. The early identification of those in housing need is essential in order to carry prevention intervention can avoid homelessness before individuals reach crisis point. This service will be further enhanced by the development of a Prison Discharge Protocol in late 2014.

16/17 year old protocol

The introduction of the Homelessness Act 2002 made a significant change to way that housing authorities dealt with homeless 16 & 17 year olds. Prior to 2002 16 & 17 year olds who became homeless not eligible for housing assistance and if homeless would have been supported by children's social services. The Homelessness Act 2002 amended Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 (homelessness) and included a new category of who the housing authority should consider to be in priority need for accommodation.

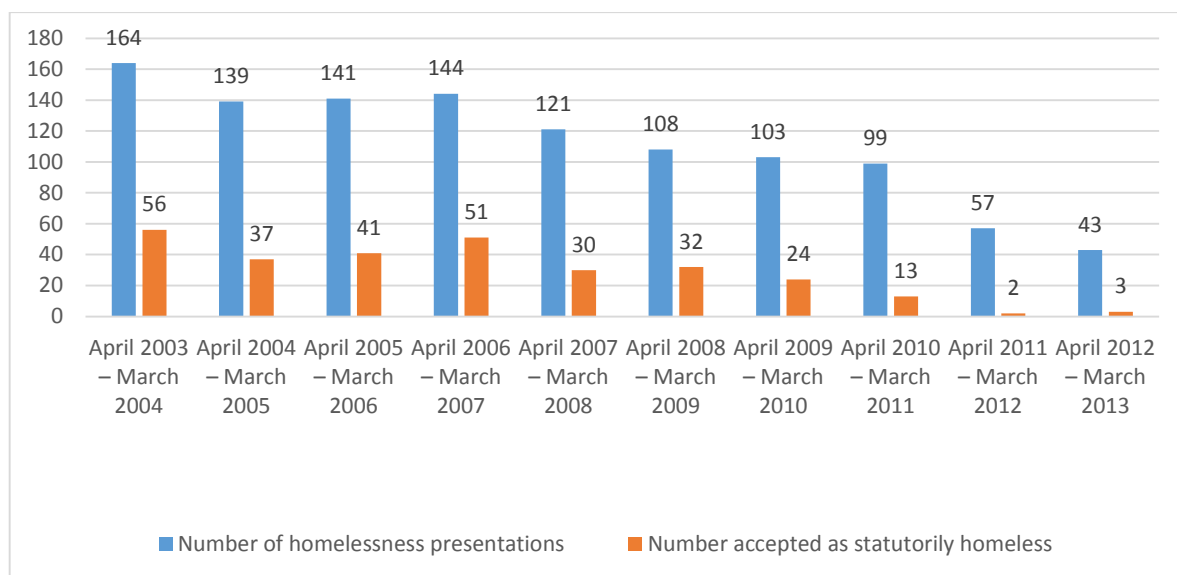
While housing authorities maintained close links with Children's Services many 16 & 17 year olds were not considered to meet the threshold for care and were not owed a duty under the Children's Act. Soon after the change in legislation the Housing Needs service saw a large number of young people becoming homeless and were under a duty to them.

Following a legal ruling in 2009 Housing Needs and Children's Services developed a joint working protocol, which focussed on preventing young people from becoming homeless. The main intervention in the protocol was to provide emergency expert support from the Adolescent Intervention Service (AIS). This support was focussed on supporting the young person to return home to parents and ensuring the relevant support was available for the young person and their parent to ensure the situation did not reach crisis point again. Prior to the development of the protocol many of the referrals to Housing Needs came from AIS,

connexions and other youth services so this new way of working was a significant shift in previous practices & thinking.

While the protocol has not been successful in every case it has demonstrated that preventative action has positively reduced numbers of those being accepted as homeless. The table below shows the impact the protocol has had on reducing homeless presentations and acceptances amongst this age group.

TABLE 12 – The number of homelessness applications and acceptances from those aged 16-17 2003-2014



SOURCE – LOCAL HOMELESSNESS DATA

7. The Future

Peterborough City Council is committed to preventing and relieving homelessness as well as improving partnerships with service providers in all sectors. The Housing Needs Service recognise that in order to provide a cost-effective and responsive service the Housing Needs team cannot achieve this in isolation. We need to continue to deliver our services in partnership with our statutory and voluntary partners.

The multi-agency Homelessness Strategy Steering Group will be key to the ongoing development and success of the new Homelessness Strategy. Whilst the Local Authority recognises the need to lead it also acknowledges that the success of the Strategy will only be achieved through shared ownership and a joint approach.

The key findings of this review are summarised below:

Support Services

- The Housing Advice delivered by the Housing Needs Service continues to receive high volumes of customer contact, which is unlikely to reduce with the further impending changes to the welfare system.
- The closure of Peterborough Streets has left the city with a gap in voluntary sector provision for rough sleepers, which the council will have to fill.

Resettlement Support

- There is very little resettlement support provided to people moving on from hostels or temporary accommodation to prevent the loss of tenancy, and repeat homelessness.

Provision of Support

- Homeless persons access health services at the NHS Walk In and at GP service at 63 Lincoln Road.
- Mental health services are unable to assess rough sleepers.
- Floating support would benefit people who do not fit into specific support categories.
- There is a need for further provision for the Chronically Excluded client group

Information and Advice

- Partner agencies identified delays in the processing of housing benefit as possibly contributing to homelessness.

Preventing Homelessness

- Mortgage/Debt advice services are essential in preventing homelessness amongst homeowners.
- Partner agencies reported homeless prevention could be increased by generic floating support.
- There is a need for more education in schools with regard to homelessness, and prevention.

Access To Accommodation

- Peterborough Strategic Tenancy policy aims to ensure that social rents remain affordable.
- There is a high demand for social housing in the city.
- The majority of applicants on the housing register require a one bedroom property.
- Homelessness acceptances in Peterborough remain stable while nationally they are increasing slowly.
- One of the identified barriers to accessing private sector accommodation is the subsequent lengthy inherent delays in processing housing benefit claims.
- Persons with a poor housing history often end up in poor quality accommodation.
- There are blockages in move on from supported housing projects, which need to be resolved.

Sufficient Accommodation

- There is a need to secure that sufficient accommodation is available for people who are, or who may become homeless.
- There are no accommodation services for persons who are chronically excluded.

Private Rented Sector Accommodation

- Rent Deposit Scheme is essential to enable the continued access to the private rented sector.
- The ending of funding for the private sector accommodation officer in March 2015 will have a negative impact on homelessness prevention.

Homelessness

- Welfare Reform will impact on the number of persons unable to meet their housing costs.
- The majority of homeless applications made to Peterborough City Council are from families.
- The emerging most frequently reported reason for households presenting as homeless to Peterborough City Council is 'termination of assured shorthold tenancy'
- The rough sleeper estimate for Autumn 2013 identified 11 rough sleepers.
- The Rough Sleeper Outreach Officer has continued to reduce rough sleeping.
- Court Desk identified approximately 50% of all homelessness prevention claims are linked to housing benefit delays.

Effective Partnerships

- There is a need for joint protocols and partnerships to be strengthened between housing and adult social care to further enable homeless persons to be supported.

Linking With Other Strategies

- There is a need for the homeless Strategy to link in with all appropriate strategies including health, housing, education and community safety.

The Homelessness Strategy
2013 – 2018

DRAFT

Visions and Strategic Aims

Our Vision is: To prevent and respond to homelessness by ensuring that we provide a range of effective targeted services that respond to our customer needs

We have 4 key strategic aims:

Strategic Aim 1 – Preventing and relieving homelessness through a robust partnership approach

We are aware that in order to provide cost-effective and responsive services we cannot work in isolation. We will deliver our services in partnership with our voluntary and statutory sector partners to provide the best possible solutions.

Strategic Aim 2 - Increasing access to accommodation

We will continue to maximise the opportunities for a range of accommodation choices for homeless persons and person threatened with homelessness and continuing to increase the accommodation choices available persons in housing need.

We will continue to develop and deliver a suitable private rented sector offer for all client groups that includes support for both clients and landlords. We need to ensure that those most affected by the welfare reforms are able to access a range of accommodation solutions and we will make best use of the private rented sector.

Strategic Aim 3 – Reduce and prevent rough sleeping

Rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness and where people are the most vulnerable. We will continue to build on our partnership approach to reducing and relieving rough sleeping. This work will include projects that will enable the city to deliver the No Second Night Out principles.

Strategic Aim 4 – Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities

Ensuring that homeless households are given the support to resettle within the community and thrive through purpose and encouragement.

Introduction

This is our third refresh of the Homelessness Strategy and sets out the strategic aims for Peterborough City Council and its partners for tackling and preventing homelessness between 2013 and 2018.

The strategy has been developed within the context of national and local issues and identifies four strategic aims that will drive forward the homelessness agenda in the coming years in Peterborough.

The 2002 Homelessness Act placed a duty on local authorities to develop a Homelessness Strategy to be renewed every five years.

The previous Homelessness Strategy published in 2008 made an important contribution to both tackling and preventing homelessness in Peterborough. The strategy built on partnership working whilst maximising homeless prevention opportunities and contributed to an increase in homeless prevention.

The key achievements from the 2008 Strategy include;

- Mortgage Rescue Scheme established and assisted 24 households who would have become homeless without intervention.
- Multi-Agency rough sleeping Task and Targeting Group established in April 2010.
- All homeless persons provided with information on where they can register with a GP.
- Framework established for tackling Unlawful Evictions and 3 successful convictions achieved.
- Rough Sleeper database established with multi-agency viewing rights.
- Tenancy Relations Officer post created and recruited to.
- Set up and success of the joint working protocol between Housing needs and Children's Services in order to assist 16 & 17 year olds who become homeless.
- Notification system established to notify the Local Education Authority (LEA) within 10 working days when children in temporary accommodation are not attending school.
- Continued joint working on prevention of homelessness with partners.
- Waiting times reduced by new delivery of Housing Needs Service.

This strategy will build on our achievements whilst strengthening our partnerships and seek to address our new challenges.

With the 2002 Homelessness Act, the government made homelessness prevention a priority by providing increased funding to tackle homelessness, setting challenging targets for prevention and placing requirements on local housing authorities to produce Homelessness Strategies. Homelessness strategies should be informed by a review of performance, current service provision and estimated future need. The Act states that these strategies should focus on prevention measures, as well as emphasising the importance of offering advice to all

people in housing need.

There are a number of National strategies and guidance that have helped to shape this Homelessness Strategy these include:

Making every contact count: A joint approach to preventing homelessness (2012) This report sets ten local challenges for housing authorities to ensure that every contact local agencies make with vulnerable people and families really counts to ensure that we prevent households, regardless of household make up from reaching a crisis point where they are faced with homelessness.

Sustainable Communities: settled homes; changing lives (2005) This report focuses on homelessness prevention, reduction in the use of temporary accommodation by 50% by 2010, from 2010 and B&B no longer suitable for 16/17 year olds.

Sustainable Communities: Homes For All (2005) This document introduces the requirement for Choice Based Lettings schemes in all local authorities in England by 2010.

Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM), September 2009 Too often people with multiple needs and exclusions fall between the gaps of services to the margins of our society. This manifesto proposes how the next government, statutory services and the voluntary sector can change that for good.

Tackling Homelessness (2006) This document recognises the role of registered providers of social housing in preventing homelessness through partnership working, sustainable communities, allocation and management policies and better use of existing stock.

No One Left Out: Communities Ending Rough Sleeping (Nov 2008) This strategy aimed to end rough sleeping in UK for more than one night by 2012.

No Second Night Out. This government plan sets out six joint commitments to ensure multi agency working to give local people the tools to tackle rough sleeping and put an end to second nights out on the street.

We have embraced homelessness prevention and have made considerable progress with developing tools and services that are able to maximise our opportunities to prevent homelessness.

We will continue to build on our partnerships and will develop innovative ways to deliver services and prevent homelessness alongside addressing the impact of Welfare Reform.

On the 8th March 2012 the Welfare Reform Act received Royal Assent. The Act legislates for the biggest changes to the welfare system in over 60 years. Many of these changes will have an impact on homelessness and homelessness prevention;

- 1 **The move towards a Universal Credit** - Direct payments to landlords will cease. This will result in landlords having no guarantee that rent will be paid and will directly impact of the numbers of private sector landlords willing to consider claimants alongside a possible increase in rent arrears that may lead to eviction and

homelessness.

- 2 **Restricting payments for people below the age of 35 years old** -Persons under the age of 35 years old will only be able to claim assistance to the level of shared room rate. This will mean that many young people leaving home for the first time will only be able to access shared accommodation. There will be an additional pressure on services working to house single people in the private rented sector as there are issues with supply and quality of this type of accommodation.
- 3 **Capping of total benefit received per household** – The benefits cap was implemented across the country in October 2013 and saw the total amount of benefit awarded to non working households capped at no more than £26,000 per annum. Larger families may see an unexpected reduction in their income, which in turn will affect their ability to meet their housing costs.
- 4 **Capping of Local Housing Allowance** - Could make households in receipt of benefits less attractive to landlords and could place strain on residents in areas of high rent who may choose to move to places like Peterborough because we are considered more affordable.
- 5 **Linking Housing Benefit entitlements for social housing tenants to the number of bedrooms needed per household for working age persons** - Tenants within the social housing sector who are under occupying their homes will have a reduction applied to their housing benefit entitlement. Households will have to meet this reduction from their other income. This could lead to an increase in rent arrears, eviction and homelessness.
- 6 **Up-rating Local Housing Allowance in line with the Consumer Price Index instead of the Retail Price Index** - This may mean that benefit claimants entitlement may not increase in line with the average rents in the city therefore reducing the number of affordable properties available in the private rented sector.
- 7 **Ceasing of Council Tax Benefit** - As part of Localism enabling Local Authorities to develop their own discount schemes with protection for pensioners. Leaving some vulnerable groups who have not previously paid any council tax with a bill.

All the above could place additional strain on the Housing Needs Service. Whilst households struggle to cope with their income reductions and struggle to meet their housing costs. Additionally, public spending cuts, changes to Housing Allocations to reflect localism, the introduction of affordable rents, new forms of tenure and the impact of un-ring fenced supporting people funding and imminent reductions to housing related support services that this will bring offer further challenges for the delivery of services. We will continue to monitor the impact of these changes through the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group and when necessary update the Strategy to tackle the impacts.

Changes to the homelessness duty – In November 2012, as a result of the Localism Act 2011, the law changed and gave Council's the power to discharge their homelessness duty into

suitable accommodation with a private landlord.

However, in order for the offer to be considered suitable the property and landlord must meet certain minimum standards.

The Council must be of the view that the accommodation is in a reasonable physical condition; that the landlord has taken reasonable fire safety precautions; has taken reasonable precautions to prevent the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning in the accommodation; the landlord is a fit and proper person; the property has a valid energy performance certificate (EPC) and gas safety certificate and that the tenancy is for a minimum fixed term of 12 months. Also, where applicants become homeless again within two years, the duty will be retained by the original authority.

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Strategic Aim 1 - Prevent homelessness and reduce levels of homelessness against the main causes for presentations through evidence based research and resource allocation.

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Deliver early intervention to prevent homelessness	1.To increase the number of households were homelessness is prevented by advice	Increase in number of homelessness preventions annually reported in P1E return		On-going	Housing Needs Team Joanne Colverson – Information & Data Officer
Develop self- help tools for those able to turn information into action.	1. Utilise websites and kiosks in the customer service centre to provide information relating to private sector landlords, social housing, tenant and landlord rights, direct access hostels, supported accommodation and homelessness. 2. Develop information pages for non-priority homeless persons	Self help tools created and available on the website and Customer service centre kiosks. An increase in the numbers of people accessing the website self help tools and CSC kiosks.		August 2015 Annually	Serco ICT Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager Joanne Colverson – Information & Data Officer Rob Smith – Review & Procedures Officer

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Work with RSL partners to develop an action plan to minimise homelessness as a result of welfare reform and the introduction of universal credit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish working group through the Financial Inclusion Forum. 2. Carry out research to establish 'jam jar' scheme. 3. Set up 'jam jar' scheme for RSL tenants in receipt of welfare benefits. 	<p>Working group established by October 2012.</p> <p>Complete Research by November 2012</p> <p>Establish 'jam jar' scheme prior to the introduction of universal credit</p>		<p>October 2012</p> <p>March 2013</p> <p>March 2013</p>	<p>RSL partners</p> <p>Financial Inclusion Forum</p> <p>Sharon Malia – Housing Programmes Manager</p>
Improve partnership working, joined up services, communication and understanding at operational level.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a joint training programme for front line staff. 2. Ensure all forums and meetings focus on improving communication, dispelling myths, joint working and assessing good practice. 	<p>Establish a rolling training programme for all partners.</p> <p>Encourage front line teams in customer services and children's services to introduce new starters to housing to gain an understanding of the systems and practices.</p> <p>Attendance at all housing related meetings.</p>		<p>April 2015</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Rob Smith – Review & Procedures Officer</p>

Develop specific projects to tackle the main causes of homelessness

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Reduce number of homeless presentations as a result of private landlords taking possession through s.21 accelerated procedure to end of an Assured Shorthold Tenancy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produce questionnaire to establish reasons for evictions, etc. 2. Contact Court to establish top 10 private sector landlords applying for possession orders. 3. Distribute questionnaires to Top 10 and through the Landlords Forum 4. Responses collated and key findings used to develop prevention tools. 	<p>Questionnaire produced by December 2014.</p> <p>Details obtained from the court.</p> <p>Questionnaires sent by June 2015</p> <p>Findings recorded and reported produced with recommendations for the development of prevention tools.</p>		<p>Dec 2014</p> <p>June 2015</p> <p>September 2015</p> <p>November 2015</p>	<p>Joanne Colverson – Information & Data Officer</p> <p>Gareth Brighton – HNO Tenancy Relations</p> <p>Private Sector Landlords</p>

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Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
<p>Provide tailored advice to homeowners at risk of homelessness Reduce the number of homeless presentations due to mortgage arrears.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to maximise the use of the Governments Mortgage Rescue Scheme 2. Develop systems to identify households at risk of homelessness due to mortgage arrears at an early stage 3. Develop the role of a Housing Needs Officer specialising in mortgage advice. 	<p>Promote the Governments mortgage rescue scheme amongst partners and increase uptake by 20% until the scheme ceases</p> <p>Develop procedures for dealing with pre action notifications received from mortgage lenders to engage with households before possession action in the courts is taken</p> <p>Provide training to the mortgage specialist to assist clients in exiting homeownership where homelessness prevention is not possible</p>		<p>Annually Ongoing</p>	<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Hayley Flaxman – HNO Mortgage Specialist</p> <p>Rob Smith – Review & Procedures Officer</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Reduce the number of homeless presentations due to parents no longer willing to accommodate.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop literature to dispel myths relating to youth homelessness 2. Work with supported housing providers to maximise opportunities for young people to access accommodation 3. Work with voluntary sector organisations to support a bid to re-establish education in schools programme 4. Work with social services to develop a protocol to ensure all 16/17 year olds who present to the authority are dealt with via joint assessment process at the point of crisis 	<p>Literature produced and distributed.</p> <p>Develop referral processes and pathways to ensure appropriate allocations of accommodation at supported housing projects</p> <p>Appropriate bids supported and funding used to deliver education in schools.</p> <p>Protocol created and implemented.</p>		<p>January 2015</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>October 2014</p> <p>March 2014</p>	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Peterborough Foyer</p> <p>YMCA Timestop</p> <p>Voluntary sector</p> <p>PCC Children services</p> <p>Education services</p> <p>Connexions</p> <p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Review the prison release procedure to maximise the opportunities to prevent homelessness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate (and monitor?) number of applications to join the housing register from HMP Peterborough 2. Investigate (and monitor?) the total number of homeless presentations following release from HMP Peterborough 3. Work with HMP Peterborough to develop a procedure for persons due to be released with no fixed abode 4. Draft, agree and implement prison discharge protocol 	<p>Report demonstrating demand on housing services from HMP Peterborough produced</p> <p>Procedure for NFA persons agreed and implemented.</p> <p>Protocol implemented.</p> <p>A reduction in the number of homeless presentations from people leaving prison with no local connection with Peterborough or without accommodation.</p>		<p>May 2015</p> <p>June 2015</p> <p>August 2015</p> <p>September 2015</p>	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>HMP Peterborough</p> <p>The One Service</p> <p>Hope into action</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Take steps to reduce the number of homeless presentations due to friends and relatives no longer willing to accommodate	<p>1. Integrate home visits into the process of taking a homeless application.</p> <p>2. Consider options for developing a bond scheme for this particular client group to enable them to move directly into private sector accommodation.</p>	<p>Integrated visits established.</p> <p>Bond Scheme implemented.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of homeless presentations due to friends and relatives no longer able to accommodate.</p>		<p>October 2015</p> <p>January 2016</p>	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Voluntary Sector</p>

Promotion of prevention of homelessness through an effective Housing Needs Service and a strengthened safety net.

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Take steps to reduce the number of homeless presentations due to hospital discharges.	1. Refresh, agree and implement Hospital Discharge Protocol. 2. Stop Hospital discharges to Bayard Place	Hospital Discharge Protocol implemented		October 2013	Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager Peterborough City Hospital CPMHT Jeanette Gibson – Housing Medical Advisor Adult Social Care

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Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
<p>Research the development of an eviction prevention fund using funds from Homelessness Grant to prevent families becoming homeless.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out research to establish average level of rent arrears for families presenting as homeless. 2. Project cost of piloting scheme to provide interest free loan to repay rent arrears and stay in current accommodation. 3. Present cost of establishing scheme against cost of accommodating in temporary accommodation. 4. Establish scheme. 	<p>Research completed.</p> <p>Report produced with clear recommendations.</p> <p>Scheme established.</p> <p>Reduction in homeless presentations and use of temporary accommodation.</p>		<p>May 2013</p> <p>December 2013</p> <p>January 2014</p> <p>March 2014</p>	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Carole Wheatley – Intelligence & Data Officer</p>
<p>Carry out quarterly Mystery shopper exercise of the Housing Needs Service.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with partner agencies to carry out quarterly mystery shopper exercise. 2. Utilise results of mystery shopping experience to improve service 	<p>Mystery shopper exercises completed.</p> <p>Effective Housing Needs Service.</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Partner Agencies</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Research reasons for repeat homelessness and develop an action plan to work to reduce levels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse applications and produce report for the reasons of repeat homelessness within the last 12 months. 2. Develop action plan 	<p>Reasons for repeat homelessness established</p> <p>Action plan developed</p> <p>Repeat Homelessness numbers reduced</p>		April 2015	<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Carole Wheatley – Intelligence & Data Officer</p>
Review staff training and requirements for all Housing Needs staff and develop staff training plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review individuals training history and training needs. 2. Establish individuals training plan. 	<p>Training identified and completed by all staff.</p>		Ongoing	<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Rob Smith – Review & Procedures Officer</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Invest time and resources into regional and national joint working through appropriate representation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend Regional Homelessness meetings. 2. Attend national and regional seminars. 3. Work with Homeless Link to ensure knowledge of national and regional good practice. 	<p>Attendance at both regional meeting and national and regional seminars.</p> <p>Good practice used to shape Housing Needs service.</p>		Ongoing	<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p>
Promote homelessness prevention as the cornerstone of the Housing Needs Service and & maximise prevention opportunities through utilisation of the available homelessness prevention grant	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximise opportunities to prevent homelessness by Housing Needs staff utilising Homelessness Prevention Fund in innovative and creative ways. 2. Promote homelessness prevention amongst other council departments and partners 	<p>Reduction in homeless presentations.</p> <p>Homelessness Prevention Fund utilised to prevent homelessness.</p>		Ongoing	<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>All Housing Needs Officers</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Carry out a review of the current homelessness prevention tools and their effectiveness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Map prevention tools and impact on reducing homelessness through statistical data. 2. Produce report to highlight effective prevention tools. 3. Utilise report to identify gaps and further develop current prevention tools. 	<p>Report produced outlining impact of prevention tools.</p> <p>An increase in homelessness prevention by utilising prevention tools.</p>		<p>October 2015</p> <p>January 2016</p>	<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Joanne Colverson – Intelligence & Data Officer</p>
Maximise opportunities for persons accessing private rented sector accommodation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote and develop Rent Deposit Scheme. 2. Maximise referrals of single persons to Crisis Private Rented Sector scheme. 3. Work with partners to make best use of funding sources 	<p>Increase in the number of Rent Deposits awarded.</p> <p>Increase in the number of persons assisted through the Crisis PRS Scheme.</p> <p>Increase in the number of persons accessing the private rented sector.</p>		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Axiom Housing Association</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Ensure applicants experiencing difficulties in meeting their housing costs are able to access appropriate specialist advice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Map current debt advice provision available in the city and analyse referral data 2. Investigate the possibility of prioritised advice for those who are threatened with homelessness within the next 28 days because of debt management issues 3. Consider funding where necessary to facilitate prioritised debt advice. 4. Produce an information leaflet for service users to advise what is available and where 5. Ensure all clients experiencing financial difficulties are referred to debt advice service. 	Increase in the number of clients accessing debt advice services.		April 2015	<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Hayley Flaxman – Housing Needs Officer</p> <p>Citizens Advice Bureau</p> <p>Salvation Army</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
<p>Take appropriate steps to ensure the removal of the eligibility for the 1 bedroom LHA rate for people aged between 25 – 34 does not lead to an increase in homelessness.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish who is affected by the LHA reforms. 2. Communicate with those affected and invite them to make contact with the service for advice and assistance. 2. Create and maintain a list of hostels that meet the DWP guidance to be excluded from housing benefit reforms. 	<p>Affected clients register established</p> <p>All affected claimants written to or visited</p> <p>List produced</p>		<p>August 2015</p>	<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>All Housing Needs Officers</p> <p>Serco – Housing Benefits</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Work with partner RSL's and private sector landlords to develop a tenant at risk panel to identify at earliest opportunity vulnerable tenants at risk of homelessness.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a working group including RSL's and key private sector landlords in the city. 2. Develop procedures to increase opportunities to prevent homelessness. 3. Utilise information through a Task and Targeting working group. 4. Pilot procedures for 3 months and review. 	<p>At risk panel established.</p> <p>Maximise opportunities for preventing homelessness.</p> <p>Pilot project established</p>		December 2015	<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Gareth Brighton – HNO – Tenancy Relations</p> <p>RSL partners</p> <p>Private Sector Landlords</p> <p>Sarah Scase – HNO – Rough Sleeper Outreach</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Work with RSL partners to develop a training flat for those who have experienced previous tenancy failure.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact LA's and Homeless Link to establish good practice when setting up training flat. 2. Investigate outcomes from MEAM training flat in Cambridge. 3. Establish a working group including partner agencies and RSL's to develop training flat. 	<p>Pathway developed for those who are excluded from accommodation because of behaviour or previous tenancy sustainment issues</p> <p>Accommodation and support is available for vulnerable persons whose behaviour does not meet social norms and who are currently excluded from hostels.</p> <p>MEAM flat established.</p>		<p>March 2015</p> <p>December 2015</p> <p>January 2016</p>	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>RSL partners</p> <p>CPMHT</p> <p>Housing Related Support</p> <p>Adult Social Care</p>
Develop a preventative approach and challenges through education programme.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate funding streams to enable voluntary sector organisation to bid to deliver schools program. 2. Support voluntary sector to submit bid for funding. 	<p>Funding stream identified and voluntary sector bid supported</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Serco – Central Funding Team</p> <p>All Voluntary Sector partners</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
<p>Utilise the media to maximise opportunities to prevent homelessness,</p> <p>Publicise welfare reform, the Housing register, and the Private rented sector</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the media team to establish a plan for promoting homelessness prevention, welfare reforms, housing register, and the options within the private rented sector. 2. Update the PCC website to display all the required information 3. Investigate the possibility of advertising accredited private landlords properties through the PCC housing needs website pages 	<p>Working relationship established with local media to promote homelessness prevention.</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Christine Spooner – Homeless Link</p> <p>PCC Media Team</p>
<p>Explore options for Housing Needs Service to utilise part of DHP pot as homelessness prevention tool.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research good practice with regard to utilising DHP pot to prevent homelessness. 2. Ensure that Housing Needs contributes to the review and development of the DHP policy. 	<p>DHP pot used to prevent homelessness.</p>		<p>October 2013</p>	<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Christine Spooner – Homeless Link</p> <p>Serco – Housing Benefit</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Raise awareness of Impact of welfare benefit reforms and discharging of duty into the private rented sector.	1. Deliver information workshop to partner agencies.	Information workshops delivered. Dispel myths.		Ongoing	Housing Needs Officers
Set up and facilitate quarterly Homelessness Strategy review & steering group meetings	1. Facilitate Homelessness Strategy Steering Groups on a quarterly basis.	Strategy Steering Groups delivered.		Ongoing	Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager
Promote homelessness prevention on a strategic level with partner RSL's through the CBL Operations Board	1. Continue to develop prevention agenda through the RSL partners Operations Board 2. Develop and implement pre eviction protocols with all partners	A reduction in RSL arrears, tenancy failure		Ongoing	Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager RSL Partners

Strategic Aim 2 - Maximise the opportunities for differing accommodation choices for persons seeking accommodation.

To continue to increase the accommodation choices available to persons in housing need.

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Maximise use of the Care & Repair service to assist people to remain in their homes.	1. Continue to utilise Care and Repair as a homelessness prevention tool.	Increased take up of scheme.		Ongoing	Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager Janette Gibson – Housing Needs Medical Advisor Russell Carr – Care & Repair Manager
Research alternatives to the rent deposit scheme in order to maximise the available funds to assist as many households as possible.	1. Carry out research to establish good practice. 2. Produce report highlighting savings to make alongside costs for administering Bond Scheme. 3. Identify and implement appropriate scheme.	Research carried out and report produced. Bond Scheme established.		December 2014 February 2015 August 2014	Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Develop relationships with private sector landlords.	1. Improve relations with private sector landlords through education delivered by Tenancy Relations Officer. 2. Ensure attendance at the Housing benefit private sector landlords forum & the quarterly NLA meetings. 3. Carry out survey with private sector landlords to establish barriers and suitable solutions in encouraging them to rent to benefit households.	Increase in the number of private sector landlords working with the Housing Needs service.		April 2014 April 2013 December 2014	Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager Gareth Brighton – HNO Tenancy Relations Private Sector Landlords

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Promote and support the Empty Homes Strategy	1. Work with Empty Homes officer to maximise opportunities for bringing empty homes back into use.	Increase in the number of empty homes brought back into use annually.		Ongoing	Adam Cliff – Empty Homes Officer Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager
Train Housing Needs staff to utilise the Disabled Facilities Grants to prevent homelessness	1. Promote Disabled Facilities Grant as homelessness prevention tool. 2. Maximise opportunities for disabled persons to remain in their current accommodation.	Disabled facilities grants used to prevent homelessness.		Ongoing	Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager Sharon Malia – Housing Programmes Manager

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Ensure the needs of homeless people are considered in relevant strategies	1. Attend meeting and events to ensure homeless persons are considered in all local strategies.	Housing representations at key meetings and events		Ongoing	Belinda Child – Strategic Housing Manager Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager
Ensure effective referral processes between Housing Needs and Children’s Specialist Services	1. Develop protocol and joint working procedures. 2. Deliver joint training to Housing Needs and Children’s Services. 3. Implement protocol and joint working. 4. Review on a quarterly basis.	Protocol and joint working procedures established. Joint training delivered. Protocol implemented. Quarterly reviews completed.		May 2013 August 2013 September 2013 Quarterly from December 2013	Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager Wendi Ogle Welbourne - Children’s Services

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Continue on-going support, advice and enforcement with private sector landlords to improve housing conditions and management.	1. Continue to work with private sector landlords providing both support and enforcement to improve housing conditions.	Fewer homeless presentations as a result of accommodation being unreasonable for persons to continue to occupy.		Ongoing	Jo Hodges – Senior Housing Enforcement Officer Housing Needs Team
Investigate the viability of introducing a private sector leasing scheme	1. Research good practice in this area. 2. Produce report establishing feasibility of scheme in Peterborough.	Report produced outlining feasibility of scheme in Peterborough.		December 2014	Belinda Child – Strategic Housing Manager Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Promote and encourage private landlords to become accredited with the NLA and develop an Approved Register of Private Sector Landlords in the city.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and produce report to establish the feasibility for establishing an Approved Private Sector Landlords list. Reintroduce landlord accreditation scheme to promote and encourage good practice within the private rented sector in the city. 	<p>Report produced with clear recommendations.</p> <p>Landlord accreditation scheme introduced with a substantial base of landlords to further market and promote the scheme</p>	<p>Increased access to private rented sector.</p> <p>Launched in February 2013, with some landlords already signed up, and further enquiries received</p>	December 2014	Adam Cliff – Empty Homes Officer
Work with Regional LA Partners to investigate a Local Lettings Agency	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Work with regional partners to utilise regional homelessness grant to develop a regional Social Lettings Agency 	Social Lettings Agency established.		January 2015	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Regional Local Authority Partners</p> <p>Homeless Link</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
To increase housing stock availability through the reuse of empty homes.	<p>1. To promote and actively market the Empty Homes Partnership to empty home owners.</p> <p>2. To increase interest in the scheme through members, the public and through media release</p>	<p>To increase stock availability by introducing a minimum of 100 properties to the scheme, and have them let through the CBL system.</p> <p>Promote the scheme so that all those eligible are aware of what is on offer to them.</p>	<p>Currently, there is one lease signed and in the hands of Cross Keys for refurbishment, with a further two in the pipeline to join the scheme in the near future.</p>	<p>March 2015</p>	<p>Adam Cliff – Empty Homes Officer</p>
To encourage bids from registered charities and providers, for funding from central government through the empty homes programme.	<p>1. To make aware those eligible and suitable for funding that the programme is available to them, and actively help with the bidding process and procedures.</p> <p>2. Work with those who bid to source and locate suitable properties from the empty homes database, and encourage the purchase or lease if successful in bidding.</p>	<p>To help in the bidding for two properties to be secured by the charity Hope Into Action, building on their success of the previous round of funding.</p> <p>Source and encourage charities of a similar nature to those who have secured funding, to bid for the available funding.</p>	<p>Hope Into Action have secured their first of two properties under the first round of funding gained, and are currently working on a second bid to secure funding for a further two properties, with the potential to house 3 people at any one time.</p>	<p>March 2015</p>	<p>Adam Cliff – Empty Homes Officer</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Explore options for the development of supported lodgings scheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact YMCA to discuss the feasibility of establishing supported lodging in line with model currently operated in Cambridgeshire. 2. Develop report to outline costs, savings to be made and recommendations for establishing model of supported lodgings. 3. Establish a supported lodging scheme in Peterborough. 	Supported Lodgings Scheme established.		<p>January 2016</p> <p>March 2016</p>	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>YMCA</p>
Maximise the opportunities for the best use of social housing stock	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refresh of Bedrooms Standards Policy in line with welfare reforms. 2. Promote the benefits of CBL2 and maximise the opportunities it brings to improve the CBL experience for customers 	<p>Bedroom Standards Policy refreshed.</p> <p>CBL2 established.</p>		August 2013	Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Dogs Trust supporting people to move into accommodation	Provide statements of positive impact dog has on clients stability Dog reference Veterinary certificates Pathway working group to pursued housing providers to develop positive pet policies	1. Create template to be used. 2. Establish procedure for providing statements		February 2015 April 2015	Sarah Scase – HNO – Rough Sleeper Outreach Dogs Trust
Refresh of allocations policy	1. Re-write allocations policy to reflect Localism Bill, and housing needs within the city.	New Allocation Policy agreed and implemented.	Completed	Ongoing	Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager
Explore options for rooms in a Home where the Landlord befriends	1. Investigate good practice in this area. 2. Explore feasibility through voluntary and faith based groups. 3. Identify suitable Landlords and pilot for 6 months.	Investigations complete. Feasibility established. Scheme piloted.		December 2016 January 2017 April 2017	Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager All voluntary sector and faith based partners

Strategic Aim 3 - Continue to reduce levels of rough sleeping

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Reduce flow of rough sleepers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with partner agencies to identify persons at risk of rough sleeping. 2. Deliver training sessions to partner agencies to prevent homelessness including tenant rights and responsibilities. 	<p>Training delivered.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of rough sleepers and street based activities.</p>		Ongoing	<p>Sarah Scase – HNO Rough Sleeper Outreach</p> <p>Aspire</p> <p>Drinksense</p> <p>Police</p> <p>UKBA</p> <p>Housing Forum members</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Reduce incentives for people to remain in street based lifestyles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with police and city centre services to reduce begging and busking. 2. Work with faith-based sector to ensure services are accessed by the needy not the greedy to sustain street based lifestyles. 3. Work with police and UKBA to continue to carry out enforcement action. 	Reduction in anti social and the numbers of persons becoming entrenched in street based lifestyle		Ongoing	Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager Police City Centre Manager Safer Peterborough Partnership UKBA

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Develop point of arrest service to persons with no fixed abode.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact police to discuss risks, positives, negatives of establishing a point of arrest service. 2. Create and agree protocol using good practice evidence. 3. Establish services to enable all rough sleepers in custody are contacted by the rough sleeper outreach officer. 	<p>Meet with police to discuss feasibility of the service.</p> <p>Protocol agreed.</p> <p>Service established.</p>		<p>January 2015</p> <p>March 2015</p> <p>June 2015</p>	<p>Sarah Scase – HNO Rough Sleeping Outreach</p> <p>Police</p> <p>UKBA</p>
Work with voluntary sector organisations to deliver 'No Second Night Out.'	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support partner agencies to deliver NSNO through the funding of the HTF. 	<p>NSNO implemented.</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Partner Agencies</p> <p>Axiom Housing Association</p> <p>Peterborough Streets</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Continue to work with faith sector to develop services to empower rough sleepers to leave the streets and not sustain street based lifestyles.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Map current service provision provided by Faith Sector. 2. Identify gaps and duplicated services. 3. Contact all Faith Based Groups to deliver information training including service awareness and referral routes. 	Faith sector provision mapped, gaps identified and training delivered.		<p>January 2015</p> <p>May 2015</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Sarah Scase – HNO Rough Sleeper Outreach</p> <p>All faith based groups</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Develop personalised budgets for entrenched rough sleepers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research and produce reports identifying good practice and cost based outcomes for personalised budgets. 2. Identify persons to be considered for personalised budgets and project cost in line with pilot projects. 3. Produce report on outcomes, associated costs and feasibility of establishing in Peterborough. 	Personalised budgets established for entrenched rough sleepers.		October 2015	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manger</p> <p>Christine Spooner -Homeless Link</p>

Strategic Aim 4 - Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Work with Job Centre Plus to identify key persons as a contact for all homeless persons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify contact at Jobcentre and arrange to meet. 2. Establish joint working procedures. 3. Protocol agreed and implemented. 	Contact identified and protocol established.		October 2014 December 2014 January 2015	Sarah Scase – HNO Rough Sleeper Outreach
Explore developing resettlement programme for people with substance misuse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrange meeting with Aspire to discuss resettlement programme. 2. Conclude on feasibility of establishing programme. 	Meeting arranged, and discussions completed. Feasibility established.		November 2015 January 2016	Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager Aspire
Work with Drink sense to consider community detox for alcohol dependant tenants at risk of homelessness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrange meeting with Drinksense to establish feasibility of community detox. 2. Conclude on feasibility of establishing community detox for this group. 	Meeting arranged and discussions completed. Feasibility established.		November 2015 January 2016	Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager Drinksense RSL Partners

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Work with partners on a strategic level to promote and develop access to mental health services for homeless persons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify referral routes into mental health assessment services 2. Ensure clients are referred into services where required 	<p>Referral routes identified.</p> <p>Referrals made and mapped to progress provision</p>		Ongoing	<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>CPMHT</p>
Work with partners to improve mental health amongst homeless persons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify level of support and map services alongside opportunities for improving mental health. 	Supported mapped and opportunities identified.		Ongoing	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite</p> <p>Adult Social Care</p> <p>Assertive Outreach Team</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Explore the need for detoxification facilities in Peterborough	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify key partner agencies. 2. Map existing services and levels of need. 3. Quantify cost of alcohol misuse to the city. 4. Produce report outlining findings and detailing clear recommendations 	Aims to enable that detoxification facilities are accessible to vulnerable adults in the city.	The investment in detox services should reduce costs to homelessness and health service by contributing to minimising harm and chaos experienced by service users.	<p>March 2016</p> <p>July 2016</p> <p>January 2017</p>	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Drinksense</p> <p>Safer Peterborough partnership</p>
Explore options for employment of unemployed homeless persons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out survey to explore the feasibility of housing needs service or partner agencies employing ex-service users 	The service may decide that the risks outweigh the benefits	Value for money savings to the public purse moving people out from benefit reliance	November 2014	<p>Sarah Hebblethwaite - Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Peterborough Streets</p> <p>PCVS</p> <p>Salvation Army</p>

Objective	Key Actions/Milestones	SMART targets	Progress	Timescales	Lead Officer/Key Partners
Work with partner agencies to refresh the Youth Homelessness Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify lead officers in Children's Services 2. Work with Children's Services to ensure that the housing needs of young people are identified and met 	Strategy reviewed and refreshed		<p>December 2014</p> <p>August 2015</p>	<p>Sean Evans - Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Youth Offending Service</p> <p>Adolescent Intervention Service</p> <p>Connexions</p>
Continue to develop joint working with the Learning Disabilities Partnership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue representation on the learning disabilities partnership board and associated forums 2. Ensure that service users with learning disabilities receive the required support to make applications and obtain suitable accommodation through the choice based lettings scheme 3. Develop literature relating to services offered by 	<p>Continued attendance at the LDPB</p> <p>Link into the service for the accommodation officer in adult social care to assist clients in applying for accommodation</p> <p>Literature produced and uploaded to the PCC website</p>		December 2014	<p>Hayley Flaxman – Housing Needs Officer</p> <p>Learning Disabilities Partnership Board</p>

	Housing Needs in easy read formats				
Supporting People to maximise the opportunities for creating a flexible floating support service to address the changing needs of vulnerable client groups.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out review of current floating support provision. 2. Identify gaps in current provision. 3. Produce report detailing gaps and provision identified. 	Focused services who are focused on homelessness prevention		<p>November 2014</p> <p>January 2015</p> <p>February 2015</p>	<p>Sean Evans – Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Sarah Hebblethwaite – Deputy Housing Needs Manager</p> <p>Sharon Malia – Housing Programs Manager</p>

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
24 NOVEMBER 2014	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member responsible:	Cllr Marco Cereste, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning, Housing, Economic Development and Business Engagement	
Contact Officers:	Simon Machen Director of Growth and Regeneration Richard Kay – Head of Sustainable Growth Strategy Gemma Wildman – Principal Planner, Housing and Strategic Planning Team	Tel. 453492 863796 863824

PETERBOROUGH CITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT (VERSION FOR ADOPTION)

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Director of Growth and Regeneration	Deadline date : 17 December 2014
<p>1. That Cabinet notes the conclusions of the independent Inspector who was appointed to examine the council's submitted Peterborough City Centre Development Plan Document.</p> <p>2. That Cabinet recommends to Council the adoption of the Peterborough City Centre Development Plan Document, incorporating modifications as recommended by the Inspector ('Main Modifications') and other minor editorial modifications ('Additional Modifications').</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following Council's decision on 4 December 2013 to approve the Peterborough City Centre Development Plan Document (DPD) (Proposed Submission Version), also referred to as the City Centre Plan, for the purposes of public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State. Such consultation has taken place and the DPD was submitted to the Secretary of State 1 April 2014. Subsequently, an independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State has carried out a public examination into the document. The Inspector has sent her report to the Chief Executive setting out her conclusions on the Plan.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the recommendations made by the Independent Inspector and subsequently, seek Cabinet's approval to recommend the City Centre Plan to Council for adoption.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.1, to take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic executive functions within the council's Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the council's overall improvement programmes to deliver excellent services.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	24 November 2014
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Date for relevant Council meeting	17 December 2014	Date for submission to Government Dept	N/A
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4. PETERBOROUGH CITY CENTRE DPD– THE INSPECTOR’S REPORT AND THE CITY CENTRE DPD RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION

Introduction

- 4.1 The preparation of the Peterborough City Centre DPD has reached its final stage. Following considerable public consultation over the last few years, we have now reached the stage where Council has to decide whether to adopt the DPD as part of its major policy framework.
- 4.2 Cabinet will recall that on 4 November 2013, the ‘submission’ version was considered before subsequently being approved by Council on 4 December 2013. That approval set in motion two key events:
- (i) the issuing of the City Centre Plan for its final public consultation stage (January-March 2013); and
 - (ii) the ‘examination’ of the City Centre Plan by an Independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State (July 2014), and the subsequent issuing of an ‘Inspector’s Report’ (November 2014) setting out her recommendations for modifications to the DPD.

Content of City Centre DPD

- 4.3 Before coming to the Inspector’s findings and recommendations, Cabinet may wish to remind themselves as to the purpose, content and status of the City Centre Plan. If adopted, it will become part of the statutory development plan, and, as such, will be part of the council’s major policy framework. The City Centre DPD is the final document of a suite of other plans (such as the Core Strategy) that together comprise the Local Plan for Peterborough. The City Centre Plan will replace the remaining twelve saved policies in the Peterborough Local Plan (First Replacement) (2005).
- 4.4 The City Centre DPD sets out the council’s long-term vision and objectives for the city centre; it sets out the policies and proposals that will help direct how new development and regeneration will be achieved and how the council’s vision for the city centre will be met.

The Inspector’s Role and the Inspector’s Report

- 4.5 Government regulations stipulate that an Inspector must be appointed by the Secretary of State to undertake an ‘examination’ of a proposed DPD, and consider all comments and objections that have been made. The Inspector holds a ‘hearing’ session as part of the examination process. The Inspector then subsequently issues an ‘Inspector’s Report’, which must state either:
- (i) That the City Centre DPD is ‘unsound’, and that it is impossible for changes to be made to it to make it ‘sound’; under this scenario the Council is not permitted to adopt the City Centre Plan DPD; or
 - (ii) That the City Centre DPD is ‘sound’ as submitted, or provided that certain modifications as recommended by the Inspector are made before it is adopted.
- 4.6 We are very pleased to report that the Inspector, Ms Christine Newmarch, has found our DPD ‘sound’ and, in effect, has given permission to the council to adopt it provided her recommended modifications are incorporated into the final adopted version. Her full report is attached at Appendix A. This includes a list of all modifications (see Appendix).

- 4.7 The Inspector concludes that the City Centre DPD provides an appropriate strategy and basis for the allocation of development sites in the city centre over the period to 2026, provided that a number of modifications are made to it. The modifications of consequence can be summarised as follows:
- Additional information added to the Townscape and Heritage section to address concerns raised about protecting views of the cathedral
 - Further information included in the Flood and Drainage section to clarify the process of reconnection to surface water and sewer system with particular reference to the former District Hospital site and City Core areas.

- 4.8 It is important to note that, in accordance with regulations, the recommended modifications in the Inspector's Report are 'binding' on the council. This means that the council cannot 'pick and choose' which of his modifications to accept or reject; it must accept them all (if the council wishes to adopt the DPD) or, indirectly, reject them all (and, thus, not adopt the DPD).

Adoption of the Peterborough Site Allocations DPD

- 4.9 Cabinet must decide whether to recommend to Council the adoption of the Peterborough City Centre DPD. Attached at Appendix B is the version which Cabinet is asked to recommend. This version incorporates all of the recommended modifications made by the Inspector. It also includes a number of minor changes which do not affect the soundness of the document, and which the council is permitted to make under new provisions introduced by the Localism Act 2011.
- 4.10 Appendix C of this report consists of that part of the Policies Map which accompanies the City Centre DPD, showing the precise location of all the future housing and employment sites as well as land safeguarded for other uses, as included in the DPD. The Inspectors Report does not include any changes to the submission Policies Map. If the DPD is adopted by Council, Inset 2 of the adopted Policies Map will be replaced by a new version.
- 4.11 To be absolutely clear on this matter, Cabinet (and then Council) can only support or reject the version as at Appendix B.
- 4.12 If Council agree the City Centre DPD as per Appendix B, then the document is 'adopted' and comes into effect immediately.
- 4.13 If Council does not agree the City Centre Document as per Appendix B, then, in accordance with the regulations, it is not obliged to adopt it. Under this scenario, the council would need to re-commence the preparation of a new City Centre Document, following the same cycle of extensive data collection, site appraisal, consultation and examination as before.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Extensive consultation, over many years, with the public and a wide variety of other stakeholders has taken place. Emerging drafts have also been considered by various, Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Council meetings. The Inspector was satisfied that we had undertaken appropriate consultation throughout.
- 5.2 There is no opportunity for further consultation or comment on the document.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet will recommend to Council that City Centre DPD, as amended as a result of the Inspector's recommended modifications, be adopted.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 As outlined in the report, Council only has two options available to it; either adopt the document with the modifications or not adopt the document. The former is recommended, as it is a statutory duty to prepare a City Centre DPD, and, in adopting it, Peterborough will have a clear and robust policy document setting out its vision, objectives and for the city centre.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The option of not adopting the DPD is not recommended, because in doing so the council:
- Would not have sufficient sites available to deliver the planned growth of the city set out in the adopted Core Strategy
 - Reduce potential investment in Peterborough, including fewer new jobs and homes.

9. IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The City Centre DPD will have implications for all sectors of society and all wards and parishes of the local authority area. The process of sustainability appraisal, based on social, economic and environmental criteria, ensures that all potential implications are taken into account in a systematic way.
- 9.2 Legal Implications: On adoption, the council must consider all relevant planning applications against the policies in the City Centre DPD.
- 9.3 Financial Implications: There are no immediate financial implications flowing from the adoption of the DPD.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

None



The Planning Inspectorate

Report to Peterborough City Council

by **C A Newmarch BA(Hons) MRICS MRTPI**

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Date: 10th November 2014

PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004 (AS AMENDED)

SECTION 20

**REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION INTO THE
PETERBOROUGH CITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT**

Document submitted for examination on 1 April 2014

Examination hearings held on 22, 23 and 24 July 2014

File Ref: PINS/J0540/429/7

Abbreviations Used in this Report

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CCP	City Centre Development Plan Document
CD	Core Document
CS	Core Strategy
DtC	Duty to Co-operate
DPD	Development Plan Document
LDS	Local Development Scheme
LTP	Local Transport Plan
MM	Main Modification
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPP	Peterborough Planning Policies
PSA	Peterborough Site Allocations
RS	Regional Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
SCS	Sustainable Community Strategy
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document

Non-Technical Summary

This report concludes that the Peterborough City Centre Development Plan Document (CCP) provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the City Centre of Peterborough, providing a number of modifications are made to the plan. Peterborough City Council has specifically requested me to recommend any modifications necessary to enable the plan to be adopted.

All of the modifications to address this were proposed by the Council, and I have recommended their inclusion after considering the representations from other parties on these issues.

The Main Modifications can be summarised as follows:

- Buildings and places which are important for their heritage value, nature conservation or sense of place will be conserved and enhanced;
- Specific requirements to protect views of the cathedral are included in area policies, and early engagement with the Council is encouraged for proposals potentially affecting views of the cathedral;
- The development brief for Wheel Yard is to include consideration of height, scale and the setting of the cathedral;
- A site within the Riverside South Policy Area is recognised as a registered community asset;
- The reconnection of surface water to the combined sewer system will only be permitted if it is demonstrably the only practical solution;
- Within the City Core Policy Area and the Railway Station Policy Area particular scrutiny will be given to the sustainability of drainage and flood risk;
- A development brief or Supplementary Planning Document will be provided for the Northminster Opportunity Area; and
- The Supplementary Planning Document for the Hospital Opportunity Area will apply to development proposals unless it has been superseded by a subsequent local plan policy or national policy.

None of the above changes alters the thrust of the Council's overall strategy for improvements, growth and regeneration in Peterborough City Centre.

Introduction

1. This report contains my assessment of the CCP in terms of Section 20(5) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). It considers first whether the Plan's preparation has complied with the duty to co-operate, in recognition that there is no scope to remedy any failure in this regard. It considers whether the Plan is sound and whether it is compliant with the legal requirements.
2. The starting point for the examination is the assumption that the local authority has submitted what it considers to be a sound plan. The basis for my examination is the submission version of the plan (dated April 2014), Core Document (CD) CD001a. This contains two minor changes compared to the version of the document published for consultation in January 2014 (CD012). The changes are set out in CD010, 'Changes made between Proposed Submission and Submission Version.' They do not materially alter the policies, proposals or thrust of the plan.
3. My report deals with the main modifications (MM) needed to make the CCP sound and legally compliant. They are identified in bold in the report (**MM**). In accordance with section 20(7C) of the 2004 Act the Council requested that I should make any modifications needed to rectify matters which make the Plan unsound/not legally compliant and thus incapable of being adopted. These main modifications are set out in the Appendix.
4. The MMs which are necessary for soundness all relate to matters which were discussed at the Examination hearing sessions. Following these discussions, the Council prepared a schedule of proposed main modifications (CD1119), and this schedule was subject to public consultation for six weeks. I have taken account of the consultation responses in coming to my conclusions in this report.
5. The Council's Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (CD002) shows that the policies and development sites contained in the CCP will bring significant benefits to the city centre. Since the modifications do not affect the overall strategy of the CCP, but are generally concerned with its effectiveness and the justification of its policies, I agree with the Council that further SA is not necessary.

Assessment of Duty to Co-operate (DtC)

6. Section 20(5)(c) of the 2004 Act requires that I consider whether the Council complied with any duty imposed on them by section 33A of the 2004 Act in relation to the Plan's preparation.
7. The submitted DtC Statement (CD011) explains that the boundary of the plan area lies at the centre of the Council's administrative area, and does not adjoin any other local planning authority area. Overall matters of strategy have been decided through the Peterborough Core Strategy (CS) Development Plan Document (DPD), 2011. The Council contends that the CCP does not contain any strategic matter as defined in subsection (4) of section 33A of the 2004 Act. It consulted the neighbouring planning authorities, county councils and prescribed bodies at the Consultation Draft stage of the preparation of the CCP

on this matter. None of these bodies assert that the plan addresses strategic matters for which joint working would have been necessary.

8. Furthermore, no representations were made to the submission version of the CCP indicating that any matters should have been the subject of joint working, and I am satisfied that the DtC has been satisfied.

Assessment of Soundness

9. The CCP sets out the Council's long-term vision and objectives for the city centre, together with policies and proposals which will help to direct how new development and regeneration will be achieved. It has been prepared within the context of the CS and the Peterborough Planning Policies (PPP) DPD, 2012, which together provide the principles, spatial strategy and district-wide planning policies for the Council's entire administrative area. The Peterborough Site Allocations (PSA) DPD, 2012, is complementary to the CCP insofar as it establishes the principle that development can be located on various sites within the part of the Council's administrative area which is outside the boundary of the CCP.
10. The CS, the PPP and the PSA DPDs were all prepared within the context of the Regional Strategy (RS) set out in the former East of England Plan, which identified Peterborough for significant growth and regeneration. The RS was, however, revoked in January 2013.
11. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in March 2012. At paragraph 182, the NPPF explains that, to be sound, a plan should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Main Issues

12. Taking account of all the representations, written evidence and the discussions which took place at the examination hearings I have identified five main issues upon which the soundness of the Plan depends.

Issue 1 – Whether the CCP is positively and effectively prepared in relation to its housing provision

The quantum of housing to be provided

13. The CS provides for a net increase of 4,300 homes in the city centre area. Some 329 of these were completed in the period April 2009 – 31 March 2013, leaving a balance of around 3,971 sites to be identified in the CCP. However, the CCP makes provision for the development of some 3,007 homes, which would be 964 fewer dwellings than set out in the CS. The Council's Evidence Report (CD005) explains that this reflects a reduced market demand for flats and high density housing, resulting in a lower number of larger dwelling units in the schemes permitted in the city centre.
14. The identified shortfall in the CCP area amounts to a very modest proportion of the overall housing provision of around 25,500 from 2009 -2026 across the Council's area. Significantly, the committed residential sites and new allocations in the part of the Council's area beyond the city centre together exceed the amount included in the CS by some 1,212 dwellings.

Consequently, the overall provision would exceed the provision required in the CS by approximately 248 dwellings. On this basis, the overall housing provision would be broadly consistent with the CS.

15. Moreover, up to date evidence in the Council's Housing Monitoring Report: 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 (CD114), and in its Core Document CD115, shows that sites for additional numbers of dwellings are now committed in the city centre. This further reduces the shortfall. Accordingly, its impact on the overall balance of the CS's spatial strategy between the city centre and the rest of the district is not material.
16. Peterborough city centre has relatively few houses and flats compared to other towns and cities of a similar size, and a correspondingly low city centre population. The Council estimates that there were around 1,350 dwellings in the city centre in 2009. The CCP aims to create new residential neighbourhoods to provide an attractive, vibrant location throughout the day and evening times. While there is some uncertainty concerning the initial number of homes in the city centre, the CCP will result in an estimated net provision for some 3,336 dwellings by 2026. This would be an uplift of around 356% compared to the 2009 estimate. This would be increased further by the additional units identified in the 2014 Monitoring Report.

The Railway Station Policy Area

The former Peterborough Hospital Site

17. Policy CC4 of the CCP identifies the former Peterborough Hospital Site as an Opportunity Area, reference CC4.1, with an indicative development capacity of 350 dwellings. A representor contends that this is inconsistent with the further requirement within the policy for development proposals to be in general conformity with the adopted Peterborough District General Hospital Site Supplementary Planning Document, 2010 (SPD) (CD036).
18. The SPD indicates that some 350-550 dwellings could be provided on the former hospital site, but since the adoption of the SPD, the Council has granted (31/10/2014) outline planning permission, Ref 14/00536/OUT, for the redevelopment of the former hospital site. The scheme includes up to 350 residential units together with a range of non-residential uses including a primary school, informal open space and landscaping. Consequently, a greater number of residential units would no longer be feasible within the site.
19. There is no evidence that the remainder of the SPD is out of keeping with the CCP. However, in order for the plan to be effective, I agree that a MM to paragraph 4 of policy CC4 is necessary. **MM9**, which requires that development proposal should be informed by, and in general conformity with, the SPD unless a requirement has been superseded by a local or national policy, and that any significant deviations from the SPD should be justified by a planning application, is therefore, necessary.

City Core Policy Area

Wheel Yard

20. Policy CC3 of the CCP indicates a development capacity of 20-25 dwellings for Wheel Yard (site reference CC3.4), with the requirement that these are to be delivered in accordance with an agreed development brief. A development brief has yet to be agreed, although the extent of the site (CC3.4) is shown on the Peterborough Policies Map Inset 2 (CD001b).
21. It was put to me at the hearing that an enlarged site area and greater number of dwellings would be appropriate at Wheel Yard. However, policy CC3 would not, in itself, preclude the consideration of proposals beyond the site boundary, subject to the policies in the Council's Local Development Framework as a whole and other material considerations. The representor is concerned about the financial viability of the development within the boundary of site CC3.4, but does not contend that the CCP is unsound with regard to development at Wheel Yard.
22. By contrast, English Heritage contends that a lower number of dwellings would be appropriate and on the basis of a need to demonstrate 20-25 dwellings could be provided at Wheel Yard without causing notable harm to the historic environment. However, since this is an indicative number of dwellings, and the CCP emphasises in Appendix C that the most appropriate design-led solution should take precedence over the figures in the plan's allocation policies, this is a matter for the development brief. Nonetheless, given the potential impact on the setting of the cathedral, **MM3**, requiring the development brief to include, among other matters, the height and scale of any development and the setting of the cathedral and its precincts, is necessary for the CCP to be effective.

Riverside South Policy Area

Railworld North site

23. It is contended that the requirement, in paragraph 5.5.8 of the CCP, for the access to the Railworld North site (ref CC6.3) to be from Thorpe Lea Road would not be effective in delivering the development of some 50 prestige homes since an easement across Council-owned land would be necessary. However, an agreement for the grant of an easement was signed by the Council and Railworld on 14 July 2014 (CD117). The agreement provides for the Council to grant a Deed of Easement for the construction of an access road from Thorpe Lea Road providing planning permission has been granted for residential development. Even so, it is submitted that plan should be amended to indicate that Thorpe Lea Road is the preferred, rather than the required, means of access, so as to avoid a 'ransom' situation.
24. The Council refused a planning application in 2011 for the construction of an access road from Thorpe Lea Road, but there is no evidence that permission would not be granted for a comprehensive scheme for housing development and an access road. Indeed, policy CC6 would support this.

25. Furthermore, the representor accepts that an alternative access from River Lane would not be ideal due to the character and ownership of part of River Lane and the layout of its junction with Thorpe Road. Accordingly, I find that the plan would be effective in this respect.

Railworld, South

26. The CCP is silent on the majority of the Railworld South site, other than a reference in paragraph 5.5.8 to the provision of an enhanced visitor attraction. The CCP does not explain the type of enhancement or the mechanism by which it will be provided, although at the hearing the representor explained that a two storey visitor centre of some 930sqm floor space was envisaged. It is intended that this would give access both to the Nene Valley Railway Peterborough Station and to covered sidings for the conservation and interpretation of railway items.
27. It is, however, contended that freestanding visitor attractions are not generally viable. No further viability information is before me, although the representor submits that the trustees of the site will be in a financial position to prepare a business case to demonstrate the viability of the Railworld South proposals following the release of funds from the development of the Railworld North site, discussed above.
28. The representor seeks a change to the CCP to provide for a mixed-use scheme for the Railworld South site to include residential development as well as the visitor attraction uses. The representor's submitted concept plan indicates that around 89 residential units could be provided on the site.
29. The CCP envisages substantial change within the Riverside South Policy Area during the plan period. It seeks locations for a further 125 dwellings in addition to those identified in policy CC6. No representations were made suggesting the Railworld South site for mixed use at the plan's consultation stage, and so it was not considered for residential development during the preparation of the CCP.
30. Around 74% of the site is within Flood Zone 2, but only some 7% is within Flood Zone 1, which it is submitted, is not dissimilar to the Railworld North site. The Environment Agency has not raised an objection to the redevelopment of the site, but has commented that the most vulnerable uses should be restricted to the area at lower risk of flooding. However, no flood risk, sequential or exception tests have been carried out as required by CS policy 22. In their absence, some doubt remains as to whether the site would be deliverable within the plan period. Nonetheless, since CCP policy CC6 would not preclude a mixed use scheme, including residential and enhanced visitor attraction uses at this site, it has not been demonstrated that the plan is not effective.

Green Back Yard

31. A representor submits that the lack of specificity for the location of 125 dwellings within policy CC6 makes the plan unsound. The Council concedes that no sites have been identified for these homes, but submits that sites for at least 125 dwellings could be provided within the Riverside South Policy Area.

32. I give some weight to the Council's decision to establish a Peterborough investment fund, which is intended to bring development forward in the city centre through a joint venture company (Cabinet Report 24 February 2014: CD072). The report identifies a range of vacant and under-used previously developed sites within the Council's ownership, which could be released for redevelopment through joint ventures. However, the Pleasure Fair Meadows Car Park is the sole site within the Riverside South Policy Area which was identified for disposal in Council's Cabinet Report. While there is no reason to doubt that housing could be provided on this site in a decked scheme without the permanent loss of car parking, there are no further details before me.
33. I accept that the Council may release further sites, that other sites not within the Council's ownership may come forward, and that the number of dwellings to be constructed on identified sites may increase. Given the scope for regeneration and redevelopment in this prime, central, location, this may be the case. However, the approach in policy CC6 does not provide a clear demonstration that the indicative number of dwellings set out in policy can be provided. Nevertheless, I consider that, on balance, the uncertainty concerning the provision of 125 dwellings is not sufficiently serious within the overall provision and flexibility of the CCP to make it unsound.
34. It is contended that policy CC6 should preclude housing development on the Green Back Yard site, to be consistent with the NPPF and so that its use as a community project is able to continue. The representor submits that the Green Back Yard accords with Government policy on promoting healthy communities set out in the NPPF. It occupies a Council-owned site on a licence, and is seeking greater security of tenure. However, that is not a matter for me in considering the soundness of the CCP.
35. The representor further submits that the development of the site will not be necessary to meet the housing requirements set out in the plan, as additional sites will come forward through, among other things, the conversion of office premises. The site is not, however, proposed for development in the CCP, and I have not identified the need for changes to the supply of housing sites within the policy area or the city centre as a whole. Nonetheless, the quantum of housing to be provided within the city centre should not be regarded as a maximum target since it is the Government's policy in the NPPF is to boost significantly the supply of housing.
36. Notwithstanding my findings above, paragraph 5.5.4 of the plan incorrectly refers to the Green Back yard site as community allotments. Although the land is used, in part, for growing food, it is a former allotment site, which no longer has the status of statutory allotments. Accordingly, **MM4** is necessary for the plan to be justified by evidence.

Riverside North Policy Area

37. Policy CC7 proposes the development of a maximum of 25 prestige homes at Bishops Road (site ref CC7.1). It is submitted that in addition to the criteria set out in the policy, additional justification for the location of the site and the number of dwellings is needed for the plan to be sound.
38. The Consultation Draft (CC014) of the CCP proposed the development of

approximately 50 prestige homes along the frontage of Bishops Road, but a site was not identified. The Evidence Report (CD005) explains that the site, which is currently a car park, has been identified in response to the public consultation. The number of dwellings proposed was reduced to take account of the character of the area. It has not been demonstrated that the proposal is unjustified.

Conclusion on Issue 1

39. The policies and proposals in the CCP will result in a significant boost to the number of dwellings in the city centre. I am satisfied that, subject to the MM3, MM4 and MM9, the CCP is realistic, and positively prepared with regard to its quantum of housing provision and its distribution within the plan area.

Issue 2 – Whether the townscape and heritage policies and proposals are sound

Heritage value

40. The vision for the future of Peterborough city centre provides, at paragraph 3.1.1 of the CCP, provides that those buildings and places 'that we love for their heritage value, for nature conservation, or simply for their sense of place, will be conserved and enhanced.' The Council accepts that the term 'that we love' is ambiguous, and should instead refer to buildings and places which are important for their heritage value. **MM1** overcomes this ambiguity, and is necessary to make the plan effective.

Design Panels

41. It is submitted that a reference to design panels is required for the CCP to be consistent with the NPPF. High quality design is a core principle of the NPPF, but although its paragraph 62 states that local planning authorities should have local design review arrangements in place, there is no requirement for this to be repeated in development plan policies.
42. The Council explained at the hearing that it has not considered it necessary for its design panel to meet for several years, as it has instead sought specialist advice from a local architect. The Council accepts that regular meetings of a fresh design panel would be appropriate as proposals for the regeneration of the city centre come forward, but does not accept the need to modify the CCP for this to occur. The arrangements to set up and publicise future design panels, while important, are not for my consideration as they do not go to the heart of the soundness of the CCP.

Views of Peterborough Cathedral

43. The CCP does not include policies to control the height of new buildings, alterations or extensions in the city centre. However, there is no evidence that generalised control over the height of buildings would assist in controlling views of the cathedral. Indeed, I accept the Council's submission that this could be counterproductive, and that a detailed analysis on a case by case basis, including the proximity and height of other buildings, would provide a more robust approach to protecting the views of the cathedral.

44. It is submitted that the CCP should explicitly identify key, critical views of the cathedral in order to support CS policy CS17. Map 3 of the Council's Evidence Report (CD005) shows strategically important cathedral views in diagrammatic form. The map is, therefore, indicative, and does not provide a definitive mapping of all the possible views of the cathedral from within the city centre and the surrounding area. Furthermore, it is based on survey work carried out by the Civic Society, which has not been updated for inclusion in the CCP. Its inclusion within the plan could, therefore, have the unintended consequence of detracting from, rather than ensuring, its effectiveness.
45. Nonetheless, for the effectiveness of the plan, paragraph 4.7.12 of the CCP needs to be strengthened to make clear that the area policies include specific requirements to protect views of Peterborough Cathedral. In addition, to make the CCP effective, it is necessary to encourage applicants to discuss with the Council at the earliest opportunity any development proposal which would have the potential to impact on the views of the cathedral. Accordingly, **MM2**, which addresses both these considerations, is necessary.
46. Paragraphs 5.2.4 and 5.2.5 of the CCP recognise that there may be opportunities to improve the connections between the cathedral, its precincts and the Northminster Opportunity Area. The CCP proposes that this be explored by means of a development brief or a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). However, for the plan to be effective, **MM8**, which specifies that the brief or SPD should relate to the Northminster Opportunity Area is necessary.

Conclusion on Issue 2

47. For the reasons explained above, I am satisfied that, subject to MM1, MM2 and MM8, the townscape and heritage policies and proposals in the CCP are sound.

Issue 3 – Whether the plan is sound in relation to strengthening retail and town centre activities

Railway Station Policy Area

Station East Opportunity Area

48. Policy CC4 supports and encourages high quality mixed use developments in the Railway Station Policy Area to create an attractive and legible gateway to the rest of the city centre. In the Station East Opportunity Area the policy provides for mixed-use commercial-led development which could include ancillary retail uses, bars, restaurants and leisure uses. These are expected to be small scale outlets which would serve the needs of rail passengers.
49. Concern has been expressed that they could undermine the regeneration of the city centre. A representor considers that the plan should be modified so that bars, restaurants and leisure uses in this area are also required to be ancillary to, and associated with, the railway station. However, at the hearing the representor accepted that there is not a need to add floor-space or other criteria to the policy. The Council will consider any retail proposals on a case by case basis and a sequential test would apply to proposals for main town centre uses in this area.

Rivergate Policy Area

Rivergate Shopping Area

50. CCP policy CC5 supports a retail-led, mixed use development, incorporating approximately 100 dwellings in the Rivergate policy area. Concern has been raised that this could undermine the CCP objective of strengthening the city core as the retail focus for Peterborough. The representor submits that an additional bullet point should be added to policy CC5 to specify that development at the Rivergate Policy Area should not provide any significant increase in the overall amount of Class 1 floorspace than exists now within the centre.
51. The GVA Peterborough Retail Study Update, 2013, (CD049) recommends (at paragraph 7.36) removing the part of the Rivergate Centre which is to the south of Bourges Boulevard from the Primary Shopping Frontage, as it does not form part of the core retail attraction in Peterborough. Though it is part of the Council's evidence base, the Retail Study has not been formally adopted by the Council. Although there is no dispute that the centre is not a primary shopping frontage, it nonetheless remains part of the city centre Primary Shopping Area, as defined by CS policy CS15 and shown on Inset 2 of the Council's Adopted Policies Map. Policy CC5 provides flexibility to widen the mix of uses within this part of the Primary Shopping Area, and to improve links through the area and its relationship to the river frontage.
52. There could be some short-term merit in the contention that a restriction on the quantum of retail floorspace within the Rivergate Shopping Area might help to strengthen the vitality of the Queensgate Shopping Area. However, in the longer-term, a shortage of retail floorspace in the Primary Shopping Area could increase pressure for further out-of-centre retail developments to the detriment of the vitality of the city centre as a whole. The representor's requested addition to policy CC5 is not, therefore necessary for the CCP to be effective.

Boongate Policy area

53. In the Boongate Policy Area policy CC9 allows for residential development at the Dickens Street (site ref CC9.1) and the Wellington Street (site ref CC9.2) car parks in order to create a more attractive gateway to the eastern edge of the city centre. A representor contends that the area is suitable for a range of town centre uses, and seeks a modification to reflect this, subject to compliance with relevant development plan policies.
54. The Boongate Policy Area is beyond the City Core Policy Area, and well beyond the Primary Shopping Area. Town centre uses would, therefore, conflict with the plan's objective of strengthening the city centre as a regional shopping destination, and with policy CC2, which addresses the extent of the Primary Shopping Area and the Primary Retail Frontages. In the absence of detailed submissions, it has not been demonstrated that the representor's proposed change is necessary for the plan to be effective.

City Core Policy Area

North Westgate Opportunity Area

55. The North Westgate Opportunity Area (Site ref CC3.5) is within the city core area. CCP policy CC3 provides for comprehensive mixed use redevelopment including retail, housing office and leisure uses. It is contended that the policy should be amended to allow the implementation of the development to be delivered in phases. There is, however, no conflict between the requirement for a comprehensive scheme to be agreed and its phased delivery. It has not been demonstrated that a MM is necessary for the plan to be effective in relation to the redevelopment of the North Westgate Opportunity Area.

Conclusion on Issue 3

56. The policies and proposals in the CCP are consistent with its objectives of strengthening retail and town centre activities. I am satisfied that they are realistic, positively prepared and otherwise sound.

Issue 4 – Whether the CCP is sound in relation to car parking in the city core area

57. The Car Parking Strategy for the area is set out in the Peterborough Long Term Transport Strategy and Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP), 2011-2016 (CD047). Within the city centre it includes discouraging long-term car parking, and working with partners to reduce the footprints of city centre car parks and, by so doing, make more land available for development.
58. It is contended by a representor that a balance needs to be struck between the Council's transport vision and the essential need for car parking to ensure the success of the retail core of the city. The representor proposes that the second paragraph of policy CC11 be amended to state that, in the city core, the provision of spaces as part of new development may require a planning obligation, rather than requiring an obligation to make an equivalent (or greater) reduction elsewhere.
59. The Council accepts that, given the necessary control over land which would be required, there are likely to be few circumstances in which a developer would be able to enter into a legal agreement to reduce the number of parking spaces on another site within the city core area. Nonetheless, though the scope to implement this part of policy CC11 may be limited, it is justified by the Council's adopted LTP. Furthermore, the Evidence Report (CD005) explains that the strategy is to consolidate rather than reduce the overall parking provision within the city centre, and to enhance the public realm. The CCP would be effective in delivering greater priority to pedestrians and cyclists, and in supporting the vitality and viability of the centre.

Conclusion on Issue 4

60. I am satisfied that the CCP is positively prepared, justified and otherwise sound in relation to car parking proposals within the city core area.

Issue 5 – Whether the CCP is sound in relation to Drainage and Flood Risk

61. The capacity of the drainage network is limited in the city centre, particularly the City Core and the Railway Station Policy Areas, due to the use of combined foul and surface water sewers. Paragraph 4.9.7 of the CCP refers to, and reiterates, the statement in the Council's Flood and Water Management SPD (CD038) that no new surface water connections to the combined or foul water systems will be permitted. The reference to the redevelopment sites such as the Hospital and Station Opportunity Area in paragraph 4.9.7 indicates that the restriction would apply to proposals for re-connections on existing developed sites as well as new connections, but this is not explicit.
62. The Council, therefore, accepts that in order to be effective, an additional sentence needs to be included after the third sentence of the paragraph to state that on such sites, re-connection of surface water to the combined sewer system will only be permitted if it is demonstrably the only practical solution. This is set out in **MM5**, and I agree that it is necessary for the plan to be effective in preventing any re-connection of surface water drainage to the combined sewer system, except where no other practical arrangement could be made.
63. Representors submitted that, in addition to MM5, changes should be made to policy CC1, which addresses the presumption in favour of sustainable development, and to policies CC3 and CC4, which set out the detailed policies for the areas where the combined sewers mainly exist. This would repeat both the text of the CCP and the SPD, and is not necessary. However, the Council accepts that, in the interests of effectiveness of the CCP, **MM6 and MM7** are necessary to cross reference these policies to paragraph 4.9.7 of the plan. I agree that the additional clarity arising from these MMs is necessary for the CCP to be effective.

Conclusion on Issue 5

64. The drainage and flood risk policies and proposals in the CCP are positively prepared. Subject to MM5, MM6 and MM7, explained above, I am satisfied that the CCP is sound in relation to drainage and flood risk.

Other matters

65. It is not necessary for the CS policies relating to, among other things, community involvement, biodiversity and nature conservation to be repeated in the CCP as planning proposals are required to be considered in the context of all the development plan policies for the area.
66. A concern has been raised that the City Market Traders have not been invited, engaged, nor informed about any consultation as to whether the City market is to remain at Laxton Square, or be re-located. Policy CC3 of the CCP states that the Council will support proposals to improve the market or, if necessary, work with market traders to identify a new location. The plan, therefore, accords with the aspirations of the City Market Traders to maintain a vibrant market and makes provision for consultation to take place in the future. It has not been shown that the plan has failed to be legally compliant or is unsound.

67. It is contended that the CCP is not legally compliant because it does not provide information concerning access to the documents in other formats. This matter is, however, addressed in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This explains that the Council is happy to make any document available in large type or to record its contents on to a CD, or to meet with any blind or partially sighted person to explain the content of any letter, notice or document. While including, or referring to, this information within the CCP would have been a comprehensive approach, it is not necessary since the SCI supports not only the preparation of the CCP, but explains how the Council will involve the community in the preparation of its Local Development Framework, Neighbourhood Planning and development control activities. Consequently, I am satisfied that the approach taken by the Council is not prejudicial to complying with its Public Sector Equality Duty.
68. English Heritage recommends that amendments are made to the description of the listed buildings and heritage assets in the Station East Opportunity Area. While this would add clarification to the plan, there is no contention that this goes to its soundness, and it is not a matter requiring a MM.
69. It has been submitted that the Implementation section of the CCP should state that no development should come into use until water and sewerage infrastructure is in place. However, CS policy CS12 provides that planning permission will only be granted if it can be demonstrated that there is or will be sufficient infrastructure capacity to support and meet all its requirements. CS policy 13 addresses developer contributions including those for necessary infrastructure. Furthermore, section 4.9 of the CCP emphasises the importance managing drainage and flood risk, and paragraph 7.1.5 sets out the mechanisms available for requiring the delivery of infrastructure. No further MM is necessary to address the effectiveness of the CCP in relation to water and sewerage infrastructure.
70. A representor has raised concerns regarding the retention of the Broadway Theatre. The building was vacant at the time of the hearing, and no proposals for its future were brought to my attention. However, as CCP policy CC10 does not propose the redevelopment of the building or preclude its retention, and does not affect the soundness of the CCP.
71. CCP policy CC7 for the Riverside North Policy Area provides that the area will remain predominantly open for social, recreational, leisure and cultural uses, while providing for up to 25 dwellings. The policy requires that any built development will include provision for a new swimming pool and other sports facilities. A representor contends that the policy should be more specific regarding the formal sports facilities to be provided. However, as the policy does not indicate the facilities should be for formal sport, no MM is necessary in this regard.
72. Representations made to, and considered by, the Council at earlier stages of the preparation of the CCP are not matters for my consideration, as my examination relates solely to the soundness of the CCP as submitted.

Implementation and monitoring

73. The implementation of the proposals in the CCP will further transform the city

centre, where widespread improvements are already in progress. It will be dependent on the provision of infrastructure including roads, school, water and electricity capacity.

74. The use of Supplementary Planning Documents, Development Briefs and S106 legal agreements and undertakings will be used to guide and control the proposals in the CCP. The delivery of the proposals will involve land holdings in the Council's portfolio and assets held by other organisations and businesses. However, the Council's investment fund and proposed joint ventures will assist in the implementation of the plan.
75. The key responsibilities, monitoring indicators and target for the strategy and the policy areas in the CCP are stated. These relates to the indicators and policies in the CS and the PPP. The risks are also identified.
76. These provisions for the monitoring and implementation of the CCP are clear, appropriate and sound.

Assessment of Legal Compliance

77. My examination of the compliance of the Plan with the legal requirements is summarised in the table below. I conclude that the Plan meets them all.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS	
Local Development Scheme (LDS)	The City Centre Plan is identified within the approved LDS dated April 2012 (CD033), which sets out an expected adoption date of December 2014. The City Plan's content and timing are compliant with the LDS.
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and relevant regulations	The SCI (CD034) was adopted in November 2012 and consultation has been compliant with the requirements therein, including the consultation on the post-submission proposed 'main modification' changes (MM)
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	The SA has been carried out and is adequate.
Appropriate Assessment (AA)	The Habitats Regulations AA Screening Report (January 2014), CD003, sets out why AA is not necessary.
National Policy	The City Centre Plan complies with national policy except where indicated and modifications are recommended.
Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)	Satisfactory regard has been paid to the SCS.
Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	The Peterborough City Centre DPD complies with the Duty, which has been addressed in the Council's assessment dated January 2014.
2004 Act (as amended) and 2012 Regulations.	The Peterborough City Centre DPD complies with the Act and the Regulations.

Overall Conclusion and Recommendation

- 78. The Plan has a number of deficiencies in relation to soundness and/or legal compliance for the reasons set out above which mean that I recommend non-adoption of it as submitted, in accordance with Section 20(7A) of the Act. These deficiencies have been explored in the main issues set out above.**
- 79. The Council has requested that I recommend main modifications to make the Plan sound and/or legally compliant and capable of adoption. I conclude that with the recommended main modifications set out in the Appendix the Peterborough City Centre Development Plan Document satisfies the requirements of Section 20(5) of the 2004 Act and meets the criteria for soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework.**

CA Newmarch

Inspector

This report is accompanied by the Appendix containing the Main Modifications

Appendix – Main Modifications

The modifications below are expressed either in the conventional form of ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions and underlining for additions of text, or by specifying the modification in words in *italics*.

The page numbers and paragraph numbering below refer to the submission local plan, and do not take account of the deletion or addition of text.

Ref	Page	Policy/ Paragraph	Main Modification
MM1	9	Paragraph 3.1.1, bullet point 3	Those buildings and places that we love <u>are important</u> for their heritage value, for nature conservation, or simply for their sense of place, will be conserved and enhanced.
MM2	24	Paragraph 4.7.12	In this respect, when considering development proposals within the city centre, careful consideration will be given to the impact that their height, scale and massing would have on strategically important views of the Cathedral, particularly those from key transport corridors and key open spaces <u>such as</u> (e.g. the Embankment and Stanley Recreation Ground) . <u>Where specific requirements are necessary to protect views of the Cathedral these are included in the relevant policy for that area. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposals with the Council at the earliest opportunity if there is any potential that the proposal may impact on, or give rise to opportunities for improved, Cathedral views.</u>
MM3	32	Policy CC3, Site Reference CC3.4	Wheel Yard (to be delivered in accordance with an agreed development brief <u>that covers, amongst other matters, the height and scale of any development and the setting of the Cathedral and Precincts</u>).
MM4	39	Paragraph 5.5.4	This area also contains a variety of uses including the Peterborough United Football Ground, Pleasure Fair Meadow car park, community allotments <u>(an area registered as a community asset)</u> and Railworld land either side of the river.
MM5	27	4.9.7	<i>After the third sentence of paragraph 4.9.7 insert</i> <u>On such sites, re-connection of surface water to the combined sewer system will only be permitted if it is demonstrably the only practical solution.</u>

Ref	Page	Policy/ Paragraph	Main Modification
MM6	32	Policy CC3	<p><i>Following the bullet points providing criteria for new development, insert</i></p> <p><u>Due to the sensitivities in this area, particular scrutiny will be given to the sustainability of the area with regard to drainage and surface water flood risk (see section 4.9 for further details).</u></p>
MM7	36	Policy CC4, paragraph 3	<p><i>Delete</i></p> <p>All development must ensure sustainability of the area with regard to on-site drainage and surface water flood risk</p> <p><i>Insert</i></p> <p><u>Due to the sensitivities in this area, particular scrutiny will be given to the sustainability of the area with regard to drainage and surface water flood risk (see section 4.9 for further details).</u></p>
MM8	30	Paragraph 5.2.5 Final sentence	<p>This will be explored through a future development brief or SPD for the <u>Northminster Opportunity Area area</u>.</p>
MM9	36	Policy CC4, paragraph 4	<p>Development proposals for the Hospital Opportunity Area should be <u>informed by</u>, and be in general conformity with, the adopted Peterborough District Hospital Site SPD, <u>unless a requirement within it has been superseded by a subsequent Local Plan Policy or national policy</u>. Any significant deviations away from the SPD should be justified with any <u>planning application</u>.</p>

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Peterborough Local Development Framework

Peterborough City Centre Development Plan Document

**Recommended to Cabinet - 24 November 2014
Recommended to Council - 17 December 2014**

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This is the adopted version of the Peterborough City Centre Development Plan Document.

It was adopted by resolution of Peterborough City Council, in accordance with the provisions of section 23 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, on X

Preface

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1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1** Peterborough city centre is set for widespread improvements, growth and regeneration. The Peterborough City Centre Development Plan Document (DPD), also referred to as the City Centre Plan, sets out the council's long-term vision and objectives for the city centre; it sets out the policies and proposals that will help direct how new development and regeneration will be achieved and how the council's vision for the city centre will be met.
- 1.1.2** This document forms part of the council's statutory development plan and sits alongside the adopted Peterborough Core Strategy (2011) and other adopted development plan documents. It will be used to promote and coordinate investment, and to help reach decisions on planning applications within the city centre.

What area is the "City Centre"?

- 1.1.3** The area forming the city centre and covered by this plan is shown on Map A. The city centre extends from the former District Hospital site in the west to Fengate in the east. It includes the residential areas in the vicinity of Lincoln Road and Bright Street in the north and the Peterborough United football ground in the south, as well as the principal shopping, office and entertainment areas and Cathedral Precincts in the very centre.

The City Centre Plan

- 1.1.4** The Plan starts by identifying issues and then presents the overall vision and objectives for the city centre. Chapter 4 then sets out an overall city centre strategy, with a focus on a number of issues such as shopping, housing, employment and the historic environment, which apply across the city centre.
- 1.1.5** The city centre area is then divided into eight "Policy Areas"; each one has its own policy setting out the vision, potential development opportunities and planning requirements for the area. They identify land available for new development and, in some cases, "Opportunity Areas" where there is real scope for transformation of the area through some form of comprehensive redevelopment. The eight Policy Areas are shown on Map B.



Introduction

City Centre Issues

- 1.1.6** Peterborough city centre is a successful, lively and diverse place with many positive attributes. It is a major focus in the region for shopping, leisure and employment opportunities, attracting visitors from an extensive catchment area. Peterborough has a strong historic environment and cultural heritage and at the heart of the city centre lie the cathedral, many other important listed buildings and heritage assets.
- 1.1.7** To ensure the continued success of the city centre, the following issues are addressed through this Plan.

City Centre Issues

Issue 1: Low levels of housing - Currently the city centre has relatively few houses and flats, resulting in a low city centre population, which results in an area that is not well used once the shops and offices have closed.

Issue 2: Cultural offer - The cultural offer is not fully developed and there is a significant opportunity to attract visitors into the city centre, particularly in the evening.

Issue 3: Declining retail ranking - Although the city centre has a wide-ranging retail offer, until very recently there had been relatively little investment in new retail development for many years. As a result, Peterborough's retail ranking has declined in the face of competition from other retail centres, other cities and internet shopping.

Issue 4: Lack of high quality office development - There has been little new office development in the city centre for many years. The city centre has not been able to successfully compete for investment with business parks located on the edge of the city.

Issue 5: Limited evening economy - The evening economy has improved in the last few years with new restaurants, particularly around Cathedral Square and linked to the wider public realm improvements. However, this is still a limited offer when compared to other towns and cities of a similar size.

Issue 6: River Nene - The River Nene is one of the city's most important assets but it currently fails to maximise its potential for leisure and is poorly connected to other parts of the city centre.

Issue 7: Access and movement - The transport network in and around the city centre currently prioritises accessibility by car at the expense of pedestrians and cyclists. For example, Bourges Boulevard acts as a barrier to easy and attractive movement for pedestrians seeking to make their way between key locations.

Issue 8: Drainage networks - Capacity in some sections of the city centre's network is currently limited due to the use of combined (foul and surface water) sewers. There is a need to improve this situation and ensure long term resilience of the city centre against heavy rainfall and flood events.

- 1.1.8** This Plan aims to address these issues by promoting land uses that support businesses and shops, whilst creating new residential neighbourhoods that benefit from a diverse mix of uses, cultural activity and amenities that are available throughout the day and evening. Ensuring people are living within, and using the city centre at all times of the day will enhance the safety of city centre users and provide an attractive and vibrant location.

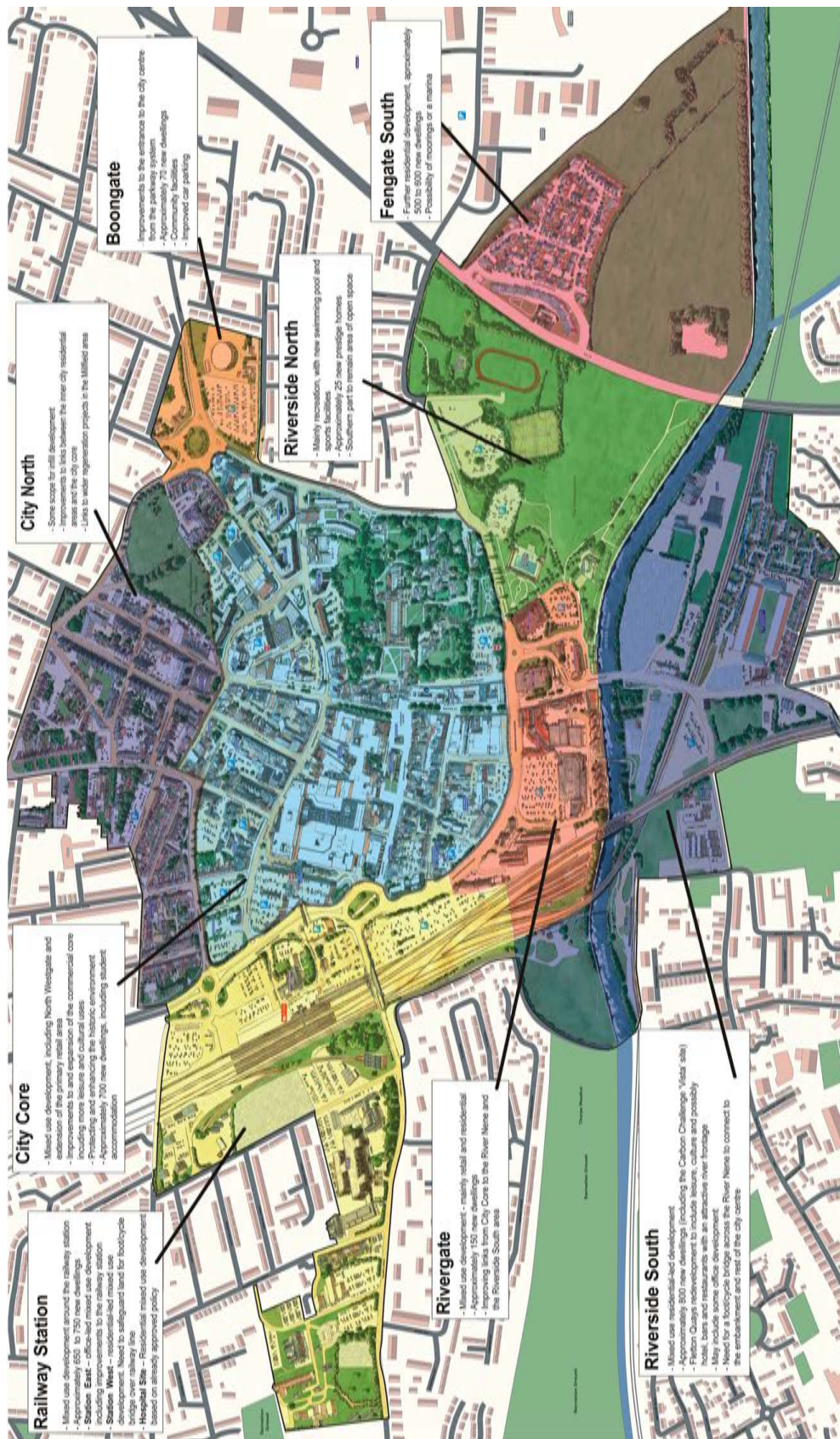
2.1 Summary Maps

Map A: City Centre Plan Area



Summary Maps

Map B: Summary of Policy Areas



City Centre Vision and Objectives

3.1 Our Vision for the Future of Peterborough City Centre

3.1.1 This chapter sets out the overall vision for Peterborough city centre in 2026. It also includes a number of key objectives which will help in achieving this vision.



Our Vision for the Future of Peterborough City Centre

By 2026 Peterborough city centre will have become an even more attractive, vibrant and distinctive place to visit, work and live, with a greater range of attractions and facilities.

- **Peterborough City Centre will have regained its position as a top retail centre and will be a strong regional destination for shopping, leisure, culture, business and entertainment throughout the day and evening.**
- **It will be easy to walk and cycle around the city centre with improved connections to the river and railway station along pleasant, safe streets and paths.**
- **Those buildings and places that are important for their heritage value, for nature conservation, or simply for their sense of place, will be conserved and enhanced.**
- **The city centre will include a thriving riverside setting with bars, restaurants and housing, with continuous riverside walks, an improved river environment and an iconic pedestrian and cycle bridge across the river to the Embankment.**
- **The city centre will be the centrepiece of an exemplary "environment capital". New development will embrace sustainability principles in key areas such as travel options, use of technology, the management of surface water and river environments, energy use and resource efficiency.**
- **The city centre will include new high-quality housing, offering a sought after place in which to live that meets 21st Century lifestyles.**

City Centre Vision and Objectives

Objectives

3.1.2 The following objectives will help to deliver the vision for the city centre. The table shows the fit with the objectives of the Peterborough Core Strategy, to demonstrate the consistency between the two documents.

Table 1: Objectives

Objective ref	Objective	Link with Core Strategy objectives
1 - Shopping	To strengthen Peterborough city centre as a regional shopping destination, maintaining and improving its position within the top 50 retail centres in the UK.	OB13
2 - Culture, Leisure and Tourism	To enhance the city centre as a hub for culture, tourism and leisure, complementing other land uses throughout the day and evening.	OB13, OB21, OB22, OB23
3 - Economic Prosperity	To enhance Peterborough as a location for business and skills, providing the facilities and setting for a range of businesses from start-ups to multi-nationals, with a particular emphasis on the environmental sector.	OB10, OB11, OB12, OB13
4 - Mixed Uses	To deliver a sustainable mix of complementary uses, which ensure vibrancy at different times of day, boost the night-time economy and assist in reducing travel demands. Uses must include residential (including affordable housing), retail, businesses, cultural and leisure facilities.	OB6, OB7, OB8, OB13, OB18
5 - Design Quality	To secure development with high standards of urban design and ensure that design issues are fully considered from inception to completion.	OB9, OB13, OB25, OB26
6 - Health, Safety and Wellbeing	To encourage opportunities to facilitate healthy and active lifestyles, with plentiful opportunities for people to walk, cycle or play in the open air and participate in indoor sports; and to create environments where people feel secure and their safety is not compromised.	OB5, OB13, OB16, OB22, OB26
7 - Environment Capital, Sustainability, and Climate Change	To contribute to Peterborough's ambition to create the UK's "Environment Capital", with new development striving to be as environmentally, socially and economically sustainable as practically possible and addressing or adapting to issues presented by climate change.	OB2, OB13, OB19, OB20, OB24
8 - Local Distinctiveness	To promote the distinct urban character of the city centre, including the protection and enhancement of the natural, archaeological and historic environment.	OB3, OB13, OB20
9 - Accessibility and Connectivity	To reduce, where possible, the need to travel (particularly by private cars), maximising the potential of sustainable transport modes; to enhance connectivity within the city centre	OB13, OB15, OB16, OB17

City Centre Vision and Objectives

Objective ref	Objective	Link with Core Strategy objectives
	(particularly to the River Nene and railway station) and to adjoining areas; and to ensure equality of access for all city centre users.	
10 - Delivery	To ensure all proposals are capable of being deliverable, including provision of appropriate utilities and taking account of flood risk issues.	OB1, OB13, OB27, OB28, OB29

3.1.3 Of the 29 Core Strategy objectives, 28 are listed above alongside a comparable objective for this City Centre Plan. The remaining Core Strategy objective not listed is OB14 which relates to district centres, and is therefore not applicable to the city centre.

City Centre Vision and Objectives

4.1 City Centre Strategy

4.1.1 The overall strategy for the city centre is to encourage and enable new development that will maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of the centre, whilst preserving and enhancing the quality of the local environment. This will undoubtedly involve changes: widening the retail, leisure, tourism and cultural offer, creating new jobs, making the best use of land that is currently vacant or underused and improving the experience and convenience for pedestrians and cyclists.

4.1.2 This chapter addresses the key features of this strategy via a number of topic areas:

- Sustainable Development
- Retail
- Economy and Employment
- Housing
- Leisure, Culture and Tourism
- Townscape and Heritage
- Green Spaces and the River Nene
- Drainage and Flood Risk

4.1.3 As transport issues are of such critical importance to the future of the city centre, they are addressed through a separate chapter of the Plan (chapter 6).



City Centre Strategy

4.2 Sustainable Development

4.2.1 Peterborough has the ambition to create the UK’s “Environment Capital”. Policy CS10 of the Peterborough Core Strategy states that development proposals will only be supported where they make a clear contribution to this aspiration. The City Centre Plan can assist through the promotion of sustainable growth in the city centre and, particularly as part of the new development proposed for the Opportunity Areas, by creating cleaner, greener, healthier and more vibrant places to live, work and visit. Such an approach fits well with the overarching national policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) towards sustainable development.

Policy CC1

Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

Development in the city centre should contribute to Peterborough’s ambition to create the Environment Capital of the UK including, where appropriate, taking steps to address the following principles of sustainable development:

- Achieving a mix of land uses
- Adopting best practice in design and construction standards
- Protecting and enhancing the existing environment
- Promoting sustainable modes of transport and reducing the need to travel
- Supporting the creation of jobs
- Contributing to healthy lifestyles

When considering development proposals in the city centre, the council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. It will seek to work proactively with developers and investors to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.

Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Local Plan and other development plan documents in the Peterborough Local Development Framework (and, where relevant, with policies in neighbourhood plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.



City Centre Strategy

- 4.2.2** The requirements of policy CC1 can also be met by taking into account Core Strategy policy CS16 (Urban Design and the Public Realm) and Policy PP2 (Design Quality) of the Planning Policies DPD, which set out the broad principles required to secure the highest design standards and quality in new development. This will ensure the delivery of attractive, lively, distinctive, safe, healthy and sustainable communities.
- 4.2.3** For the city centre, it is expected that urban design principles included in policies CS16 and PP2 could be supported by further documents such as design briefs or codes that will provide more detailed design guidance for Opportunity Areas or particular sites.

City Centre Strategy

4.3 Retail

- 4.3.1** For many people, the primary role of the city centre is that of a destination for shopping. It provides the greatest retail offer in the city, serving not only the residents of Peterborough but also those of surrounding villages and market towns well beyond the local authority boundary. Peterborough has an extensive range of well known “high street” shops. The Queensgate and Rivergate Shopping Centres are linked by a network of streets and public spaces, with an offer that includes a wide variety of cafes, restaurants, bars and financial and property outlets as well as retail shops and a market.
- 4.3.2** However, in recent years the city centre has experienced a decline in its overall retail ranking when compared to other towns and cities. Competition from internet shopping, out-of-town retail parks and neighbouring cities has reduced some of the trade that might otherwise have come to the city centre and there is an urgent need to extend and enhance the retail offer.
- 4.3.3** Until very recently there had been little investment in the heart of the retail area, but this is changing with improvements to the public realm around Cathedral Square, Bridge Street, Cowgate and King Street which have attracted new retailers, restaurants and bars to this part of the city. Extensions to the Queensgate Shopping Centre have accommodated national retail and restaurant operators.



- 4.3.4** Our strategy is to continue the focus of new investment into the heart of the centre, with the emphasis largely on consolidation within the existing shopping area. It is important that new retail developments complement and strengthen the main shopping area, which is defined as the Primary Shopping Area (PSA) in accordance with policies CS4 (The City Centre) and CS15 (Retail) of the Core Strategy.
- 4.3.5** The Primary Shopping Area, as shown on the Policies Map, includes the Queensgate Shopping Centre, the principal shopping streets around Westgate, Long Causeway, the Market and Bridge Street, extending south of Bourges Boulevard and into the Rivergate Shopping Centre

City Centre Strategy

and adjoining supermarket. The defined Area offers scope for physical expansion into the North Westgate Opportunity Area, as well as scope for intensification where there are existing unused or underused premises.

- 4.3.6** The main shopping streets which attract the largest footfall and act as linkages to other areas of the centre are defined as Primary Retail Frontages. In order to protect their function and character, premises in these streets will remain primarily in A1 and A3 use except where an alternative use would provide an active street frontage and maintain or enhance the vitality and viability of the area.

Policy CC2

Retail

The extent of the City Centre Primary Shopping Area and Primary Retail Frontages are defined on the Policies Map.

Proposals for retail development inside or outside the Primary Shopping Area will be determined in accordance with policies CS4 and CS15 of the Peterborough Core Strategy DPD.

Within the Primary Retail Frontages, development for uses within classes A1 and A3 will, in principle, be acceptable; in particular, the council will support A3 uses (such as cafés and restaurants) around Cathedral Square. Development for any use outside classes A1 or A3 will only be acceptable if the development would maintain a built frontage with a window display, would be likely to maintain or increase pedestrian footfall along the frontage and would not result in a concentration of non-A1 or A3 uses in that location.

- 4.3.7** The references to 'Primary Retail Frontage' in policy CC2 apply to the ground floor of the frontages defined on the Policies Map, except in the Queensgate Centre, where Primary Retail Frontages exist at ground and first floor level. Elsewhere, the use of upper floors above shops for a wide variety of uses, whether retail or other, is encouraged. In particular, the council would welcome proposals that make use of vacant property above shops for residential use, as part of the overall objective to increase the number of dwellings in the city centre.
- 4.3.8** Outside the Primary Shopping Area, the council may be prepared to permit additional small-scale convenience retail provision to meet the needs of residents in new residential areas, as well as ancillary retail uses in the Station East Opportunity Area. Details are contained in each of the relevant Policy Area statements in chapter 5.
- 4.3.9** Core Strategy policy CS15 (Retail) identifies five Local Centres which are located in the City Centre Plan area. The boundaries of these are defined on the Policies Map.

City Centre Strategy

4.4 Economy and Employment

4.4.1 Peterborough has a diverse economy, with a range of businesses and types of employment opportunities. It is an overall objective for Peterborough to enhance the city as a prime location for business investment and skills development. The city centre will be the focus of this and the Plan has an important part to play by ensuring the provision of modern office space in the right location to encourage inward investment and enable the expansion of existing businesses.

4.4.2 The city centre already offers a wide range of office provision, including many large purpose-built offices, particularly located in the Northminster area, as well as small-scale offices such as those in converted premises in the Priestgate area.

4.4.3 However, the city centre office stock is generally ageing and some is of poor quality, with increasing vacancy rates. Over the last 15 years there has been little investment in new office development in the centre and this has made it difficult to compete with out of town business parks.

4.4.4 Policy CS3 of the Core Strategy (Location of Employment Development) provides for the equivalent of at least 3.5 hectares of new employment land to be made available in the city centre, as part of Peterborough's overall provision for new employment development. This area of land would be capable of delivering in the region of between 52,500 and 87,500 square metres gross floorspace for development within the B1 use class (primarily offices), depending on the average plot ratio that might be achieved.



4.4.5 It is expected that the majority of new office development will take place through the comprehensive redevelopment of the Opportunity Areas, particularly the Station East Opportunity Area. The policies for each Policy Area (see chapter 5) identify suitable locations for new office and business development.

4.5 Housing

- 4.5.1** There are a number of existing residential areas in the city centre with a predominance of flats and apartments. However, when compared to other towns and cities of a similar size and scale, Peterborough has relatively few properties in the city centre, and particularly in the city core.
- 4.5.2** A key element of the strategy for the city centre, linked to the wider Core Strategy growth ambition, is to increase the number of homes in the city centre to help improve activity outside normal shopping and working hours.
- 4.5.3** There are already two new schemes under construction: the Carbon Challenge site, off London Road (295 dwellings), and at Potters Way, Fengate (272 dwellings); and there are further opportunities to significantly increase the number of dwellings. This will take place through the comprehensive regeneration of several large areas of vacant and underused land, such as land around the railway station and south of the River Nene, as well as through incremental change throughout the next fifteen years and beyond. Each Policy Area identifies suitable areas for new housing development, sometimes as part of a mix of other uses.
- 4.5.4** New housing development within the city centre will be encouraged to provide a mix of housing types and sizes, including affordable housing, in accordance with Core Strategy policy CS8 (Meeting Housing Needs), although care will be taken to ensure a balanced housing offer taking into account the existing tenure mix of a particular area.



City Centre Strategy

Student Accommodation

4.5.5 The University Centre Peterborough (UCP), part of Anglia Ruskin University, formally opened in 2009, offering 30 degree courses for approximately 600 students. The University will expand over the next 15 years and the number of students living and studying in Peterborough is expected to increase. Therefore, there is a need to provide student accommodation, much of which could be in the city centre.

4.5.6 Student accommodation can be provided by the private rented sector (and accredited landlords) as well as being purpose built. The council will support the provision of student accommodation in the city centre and particularly within the Northminster area, as city centre sites are sustainable locations, providing easy access to the campus buildings. This will help to achieve the objective of increasing the city centre population.

The Scale of new Residential Development

4.5.7 The Peterborough Core Strategy anticipates the provision of approximately 4,300 additional dwellings in the city centre over the period from 2009 to 2026. Appendix C updates this figure and shows how sites allocated in this Plan will contribute towards meeting the Core Strategy dwelling requirements for Peterborough as a whole.

4.5.8 The following table presents the approximate number of dwellings that are planned from each Policy Area. Further details of the available sites and areas proposed for new housing development are included in the policies for each Policy Area (see chapter 5) and there is an explanation of the assumptions behind the table in Appendix C.

Table 2: Scale of Residential Development

Policy Area	Committed at 1 April 2013	New Allocations	Opportunity Areas	Total
City Core	84	120 - 125	500	704 - 709
Railway Station	0	0	650 - 750	650 - 750
Rivergate	0	100	0	100
Riverside South	251	175	400	826
Riverside North	0	25	0	25
Fengate South	210	300 - 400	0	510 - 610
Boongate	0	70	0	70
City North	19	0	0	19
Total	564	790 - 895	1550 - 1650	2904 - 3109

4.6 Leisure, Culture and Tourism

- 4.6.1** The overall vision for the City Centre Plan is to create an attractive, vibrant and distinctive place to visit, work and live with a greater range of attractions and facilities. The provision of cultural, leisure and tourism facilities can have a major part to play in delivering this vision, as successful cities usually have strong cultural and leisure offerings.
- 4.6.2** Peterborough city centre has a rich and diverse heritage and currently provides a wide range of cultural and leisure facilities which attract many visitors to the city centre and help to boost the wider economy. Some of the main attraction include: the Cathedral, Peterborough Museum, Key Theatre, Regional Pool, Lido and sports facilities, Peterborough United's football ground and a range of restaurants, bars and night clubs.
- 4.6.3** In recent years there has been investment in the Museum and Art Gallery as well an extension and improvements to the Key Theatre. The enhancement of the public realm around Cathedral Square has also helped to improve the overall image of the city for visitors and the increased range of restaurants in this area have helped to make the city centre more vibrant and inviting.
- 4.6.4** However, despite the existing range, the recent improvements and investment, there is still a need for the city centre to expand its cultural offer. Firstly, more needs to be made of the existing assets such as the river and the embankment and the range of festivals and open air concerts held there. Secondly, there is a need to attract new facilities such as new built leisure uses, particularly a centrally located cinema and more bars and restaurants.
- 4.6.5** The city centre also provides an ideal location to establish a new Bronze Age museum to display the internationally significant collection of boats found at Must Farm, along with other items relating to Peterborough's Bronze Age history. The council will work with Vivacity (the organisation responsible for managing many of Peterborough's cultural and leisure facilities on behalf of the council) to identify a suitable location.
- 4.6.6** The provision of new cultural, leisure and tourism facilities will be delivered in accordance with Core Strategy policies CS4 (The City Centre) and CS18 (Culture, Leisure and Tourism) and relevant policies within this plan. Policy CS18 specifically states that new cultural and leisure facilities in the city centre should:
- Make the most of existing facilities
 - Aim to promote a flexible multi-use arena which is suitable for hosting a range of events
 - Improve the evening economy.
- 4.6.7** Peterborough's Cultural Strategy sets out how culture and leisure activities will be promoted and delivered in the city. It also includes the vision "To ensure that culture is at the heart of the city's growth so that those who live here now and in the future will enjoy a great place to live, work and play".
- 4.6.8** Culture and leisure uses are defined as main town centre uses through the NPPF and therefore the city centre should be the first choice and focus for such uses. The Plan identifies suitable areas for future culture and leisure uses as part of wider mixed-use developments. Chapter 5 includes policies for the eight Policy Areas and, where relevant, these include requirements for cultural and leisure uses to help deliver the overall vision for the city centre. In summary, the main areas for these uses are:
- **The City Core Policy Area** is seen as the heart of the city. Cathedral Square and surrounding streets will be a focus for bars and restaurants, and the square will be used for events and performances throughout the year. The North Westgate Opportunity Area has been identified for a mixed-used development, including retail and leisure uses.

City Centre Strategy

The Northminster Opportunity Area currently includes a number of bars, clubs and leisure buildings. It is seen as a main area for the night time economy; this will be enhanced through incremental development proposed within this area, and by making more of the links with Stanley Recreation Ground.

- **The Riverside South Policy Area** includes existing cultural and leisure facilities such as the Peterborough United football ground which attracts many visitors to the city centre on match days. There are plans to redevelop the stadium to an all-seater venue. The Policy Area also includes the Railworld visitor attraction.

Policy CC6 identifies the Fletton Quays Opportunity Area, which is proposed as a mixed-use area, including cultural and leisure uses. It will include a riverside walk with bars and cafes. A bridge linking to the Riverside North Policy Area offers the opportunity to create a cultural quarter. This Policy Area could be a suitable location for premises to display the Must Farm boats. This Opportunity Area may also include a hotel.
- **The Riverside North Policy Area** is currently a prominent area for leisure and culture, with the Key Theatre, Lido and other sports facilities (including the athletics track). The embankment also provides an important area of open space which is used to host festivals, concerts and the fair.

The River Nene is an important asset for the city centre which must be enhanced. The council will support improved access and facilities for angling and boating including the provision of new moorings to help boost tourism; this is discussed in more detail in section 4.8.

Policy CC7 sets out proposals for the expansion of the leisure, cultural and sports facilities for this area.

4.6.9 Over the next 15 years there are a number of projects that will help to improve and enhance the city's cultural and leisure offer, with the potential to attract more visitors to the city. These could include the following:

- A new sports village and the redevelopment of the Regional Pool and sports facilities to possibly include a new 50 metre swimming pool.
- Creating a Cultural Quarter which straddles the Riverside North and Riverside South Policy Areas, incorporating the Key Theatre.
- The creation of a museum or exhibition centre for the Must Farm boats.
- Improved access to the river.
- A city centre cinema, helping to improve the evening economy.
- More pieces of public art, linked to wider plans for improving main streets and routes through the City Core.

4.7 Townscape and Heritage

- 4.7.1** Peterborough is a historic settlement, containing a wide range of historic buildings and archaeological assets; most notably, the Norman Cathedral and surrounding precincts and St John the Baptist Church.
- 4.7.2** Today's city centre lies at the heart of the city's historic core and includes parts of the original medieval town centre and street pattern. Although the centre has seen significant modern development over the last 30 years, many of the historic buildings and places remain. Therefore, it is important that during the next phase of growth, the historic environment is both protected and enhanced.



- 4.7.3** There are two conservation areas in the city centre, identified on the Policies Map. The City Centre Conservation Area covers the heart of the city centre and the vast majority falls within the City Core Policy Area. The Park Conservation Area falls partly within the City North Policy Area and extends northwards beyond the city centre boundary.
- 4.7.4** There are many buildings of heritage value, including over 100 listed buildings and 100 buildings of local importance. Again, the majority are located in the City Core Policy Area, with almost 50 protected buildings within the Cathedral Precincts alone.
- 4.7.5** Investigations carried out within the city centre, particularly excavations and recording prompted by the Public Realm works in Cathedral Square in 2008, has identified a series of archaeological remains dating from the creation of the market square in the 12th century through to the 19th century. The archaeological deposits and remains, where present, survive in good conditions of preservation. Therefore, development proposals in the city centre have to be carefully assessed in order to protect the buried heritage assets.
- 4.7.6** Policies CS16 and CS17 of the Core Strategy DPD and policy PP17 of the Planning Policies DPD set out the council's policy for urban design, the public realm, the historic environment and heritage assets. They apply throughout Peterborough and require high quality and inclusive design and the protection and enhancement of the city's historic assets, including listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, historic parks and gardens, and locally designated assets. CS17 establishes a presumption against development that would unacceptably detract from critical views of Peterborough Cathedral by virtue of its height, location, bulk or design.
- 4.7.7** Policy PP11 of the Planning Policies DPD protects historic shop fronts and ensures replacement shop fronts are appropriate to the character of the historic building. Further guidance is available in the Peterborough Shop Front Design Guidance SPD (2013).

City Centre Strategy

4.7.8 These policies, along with the policies of this plan, form the basis for delivering the townscape and heritage strategy for the City Centre.



4.7.9 The strategy is to preserve and enhance the centre's heritage assets and their setting in a manner commensurate with their significance. There will be an emphasis on a high quality of design in all new development. The overall character and quality of the built environment of the city centre will continue to be improved through the implementation of the proposals set out in the council's Public Realm Strategy. Good quality, well designed new shop fronts and refurbishment of historic shop fronts, together with attractive street furniture, public art and green spaces all help to create a strong sense of place and a safe, welcoming environment.

4.7.10 Opportunities should be taken through the wider regeneration of the city centre to restore any heritage assets identified on the Heritage at Risk Register.

4.7.11 The plan proposes development on a significant scale over the next 15 years, with the potential for considerable changes to the townscape, including buildings with a 'city' scale and mass. Therefore, it will be important to ensure that the design of new developments responds with care and attention to the historic context and the setting of heritage assets, particularly the Cathedral.

4.7.12 In this respect, when considering development proposals within the city centre, careful consideration will be given to the impact that their height, scale and massing would have on strategically important views of the cathedral, particularly those from key transport corridors and key open spaces such as the Embankment and Stanley Recreation Ground. Where specific requirements are necessary to protect views of the Cathedral these are included in the relevant policy for that area. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposals with the Council at the earliest opportunity if there is any potential that the proposal may impact on, or give rise to opportunities for improved, Cathedral views.

4.8 Green Spaces and the River Nene

4.8.1 A key part of the strategy for the future of the city centre is the maintenance and improvement of green spaces and the River Nene for public enjoyment and the enhancement of the natural environment.

4.8.2 The city centre has a number of public green spaces which serve a variety of functions, ranging from places for relaxation and play to places for festivals and events. Of particular importance are:

- The Embankment
- The Cathedral Precincts
- Stanley Recreation Ground
- Bishops Road Gardens
- St John's Square



4.8.3 The Cathedral Precincts form a distinct and clearly defined area within the city centre and include large areas of green open space. Their heritage value is protected through their inclusion in English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, their designation as a scheduled monument and their inclusion within the City Centre Conservation Area, but their open space value needs to be acknowledged in its own right.

4.8.4 The council has taken steps to improve the availability of public open and green spaces through the recent creation of St John's Square, but our strategy is to secure further areas of green space as an integral part of new developments to meet the needs of future residents and other users of the city centre. These may include 'pocket' parks, gardens, terraces, squares, courtyards and green roofs, all in accordance with the open space standards set out in policy PP14 of the Planning Policies DPD. Wherever appropriate, the council will encourage new tree planting in accordance with the Peterborough Trees and Woodland Strategy.

City Centre Strategy

- 4.8.5** An improved natural habitat area, known as Embankment End Marsh, is being delivered as part of the Potters Way development within the Fengate South Policy Area.
- 4.8.6** Wherever possible, new and existing green spaces in the city centre should help to improve connectivity for pedestrians and function as part of the wider green grid network, providing access to, and linking habitats across, the Nene Valley and the open countryside.
- 4.8.7** Reconnecting the River Nene with the City Core, by improving the links for pedestrians and cyclists, and making the most of this important asset are also key elements of the strategy for the city centre. Riverside locations have the potential to create highly attractive settings for new development, but it is generally acknowledged that the potential of the river and surrounding area has not been fully exploited. Much of the development during the course of the 20th Century served to isolate the river front from the remainder of the city centre and, with the notable exception of the Key Theatre, there are few leisure uses that take advantage of the riverside.



- 4.8.8** The council's overall approach to the River Nene is presented in policy PP15 of the Planning Policies DPD. This addresses the Nene Valley as a whole, seeking to balance the competing pressures on the waterspace itself, the banks of the river and its townscape and landscape settings. Amongst other things, it supports development which would enhance recreation or bring landscape, nature conservation, heritage, cultural or amenity benefits. There is a significant opportunity for the river corridor to become a much improved environment that residents and visitors will enjoy and that provides higher quality habitats for wildlife in line with the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area designation and the principles of the Peterborough Flood and Water Management SPD. Improved access and facilities for angling and boating, such as new and improved moorings, will also be sought in conjunction with environmental improvements as part of an integrated approach to the Nene. PP15 also seeks greater public access and the achievement of continuous publicly accessible paths and cycle routes alongside the river.
- 4.8.9** These matters are addressed in more detail in the relevant Policy Areas in chapter 5, particularly the Riverside South, Riverside North and Fengate South Policy Areas.

4.9 Drainage and Flood Risk

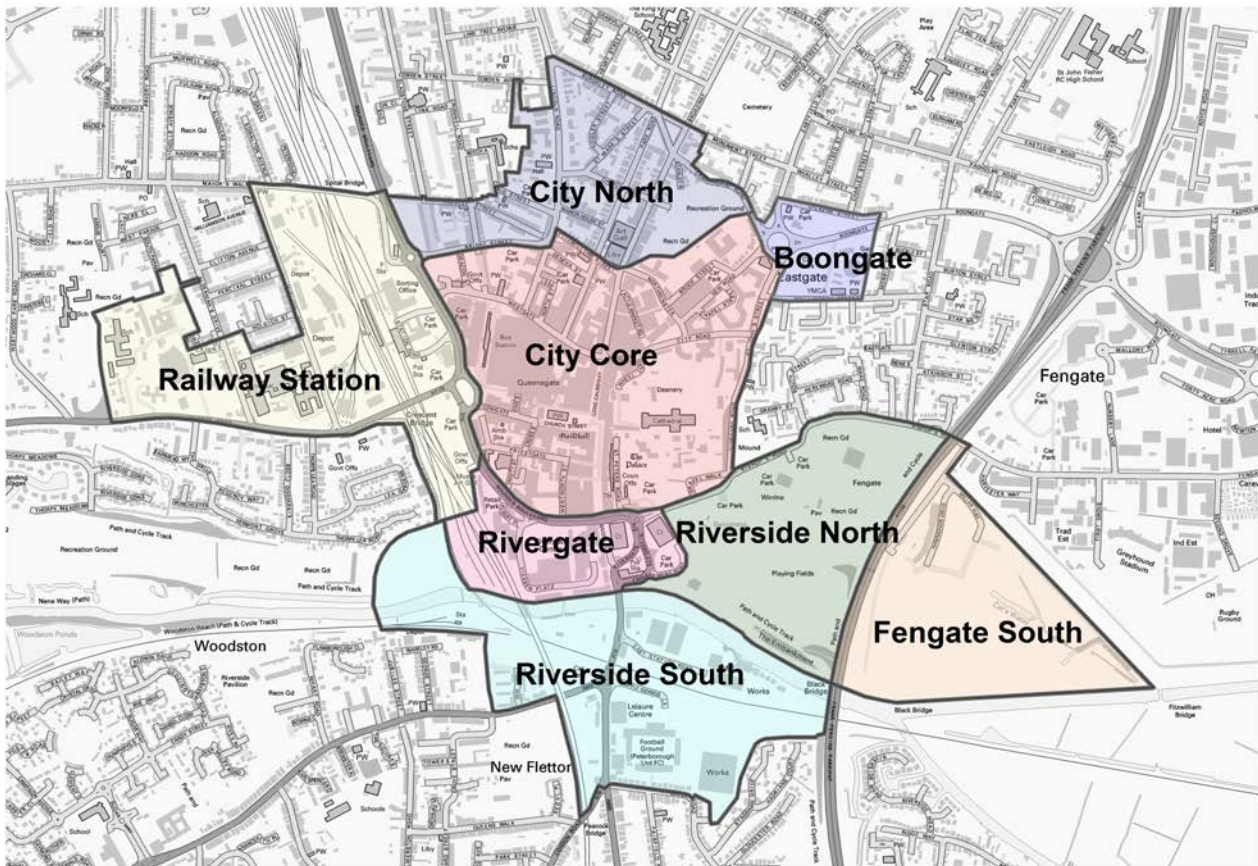
- 4.9.1** In the city centre, there are two main flood risk issues which the planned regeneration of a number of large brownfield sites offer an ideal opportunity to help address.
- 4.9.2** The first relates to the location of new development, as a number of development sites and Opportunity Areas are located along the banks of the River Nene and have site-specific flood risk issues. The second issue relates to increased surface water runoff in areas where there are drainage capacity issues, particularly in areas with combined foul and surface water sewers.
- 4.9.3** Core Strategy policy CS22 (Flood Risk) sets the overall policy approach for flood risk, which will also apply to development in the city centre. This policy is further supplemented by the Peterborough Flood and Water Management SPD, which provides advice and guidance to help reduce flood risk either through the location of development or through on-site drainage and management.
- 4.9.4** A sequential test has been carried out for all development sites and Opportunity Areas within the city centre, which has taken into account the outcomes of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (level 1 and 2) as required by policy CS22. However, a site-specific flood risk assessment will still be required for any sites located in flood zones 2 or 3 or in areas of special drainage interest, to demonstrate that development will be safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Any requirements for a site-specific flood risk assessment are set out in section 5, within the relevant policy, and chapter 4 of the Flood and Water Management SPD.
- 4.9.5** The design and layout of a site is also important and therefore a sequential approach should also be used to ensure that development with the highest vulnerability from flooding, such as housing, is located within areas of the site that are at lowest risk of flooding.
- 4.9.6** To ensure effective surface water management on site, open spaces and sustainable drainage systems must be built into designs at an early stage. Measures to control run off quality and quantity at source must be used. Management of surface water should produce multiple benefits for a site, by reducing flood risk and improving water quality as well as providing for amenity and biodiversity. Chapter 6 of the Flood and Water Management SPD provides further information.
- 4.9.7** The drainage network capacity in some areas of the city centre is currently limited due to the use of combined foul and surface water sewers. The Flood and Water Management SPD states that no new surface water connections to the combined sewer system will be permitted. On such sites, re-connection of surface water to the combined sewer system will only be permitted if it is demonstrably the only practical solution. This particularly applies to redevelopment sites such as the Hospital and Station Opportunity Areas, where surface water has historically drained into combined sewers. Section 6.9 of the SPD provides further information and explains how the priority should be for rainwater to discharge into the ground through soakaways and other infiltration systems, rather than into the sewer.
- 4.9.8** Management of water is important not only from a flood risk point of view but because of the need to improve the status of Peterborough's water bodies under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Where new activities or schemes have the potential to cause deterioration and lead to failures in achieving ecological objectives, sites will require a WFD assessment. Chapter 8 of the SPD provides further detail on the local impacts of the WFD, the assessment and reasons for which it might be required.
- 4.9.9** By incorporating the flood and water mitigation and management measures into the development of Opportunity Areas or development sites within the city centre, the future impact of flood risk can be reduced for the benefit of all.

City Centre Strategy

5.1 Policy Areas

5.1.1 This chapter focuses specifically on individual parts of the city centre, with policies and proposals which set out what the council would expect to happen in each one. There are eight distinct Policy Areas; the location and name of each one is shown on the following map.

Map C: City Centre Policy Areas



5.1.2 Each area has its own policy with specific planning requirements for that particular area. Where appropriate, the policies identify Opportunity Areas, which are large areas of underused or vacant land that have the potential for comprehensive redevelopment.

5.1.3 Although each area has its own policy, any development should not take place in isolation, but as an element which contributes towards the wider success of the city centre. It is also important to improve the links between areas so that pedestrians, in particular, can make their way between different destinations safely and conveniently.

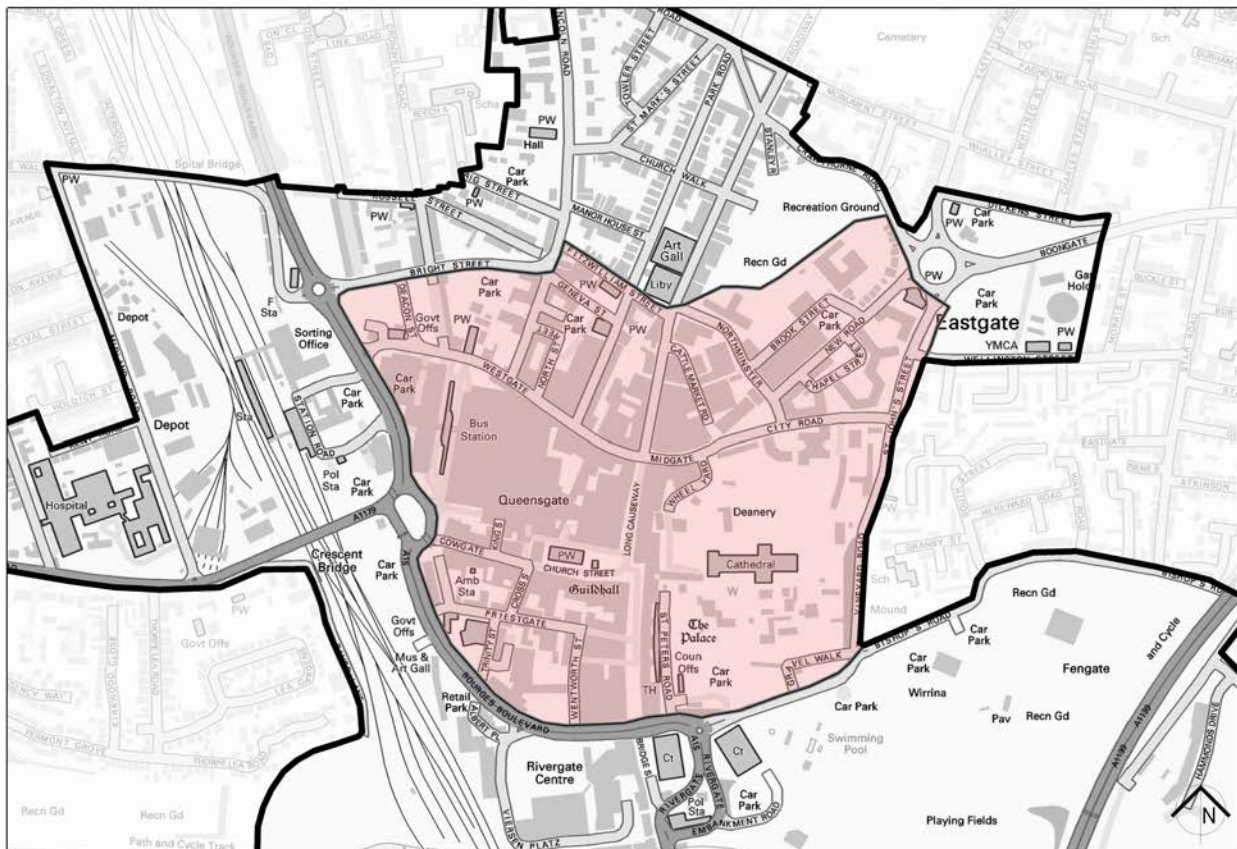
Policy Areas

5.2 City Core Policy Area

Description of the Area

- 5.2.1** This Policy Area is the heart of the city. It forms the established retail, commercial and civic focus, as well as the historic centre. It is the area most likely to attract visitors to the city. It is a special area which we should be very proud of, but there is always room for improvement.
- 5.2.2** The area forms the main shopping area. It includes the Queensgate shopping centre, and other shopping streets such as Bridge Street, Westgate, Long Causeway and Cowgate, as well as the Market. It will continue to be the primary focus for new retail development.
- 5.2.3** The City Core area has a street pattern which originates from medieval times, with many streets forming part of the City Centre or Park Conservation Areas. The Cathedral, Guildhall, St John's Church and the new public realm around the transformed Cathedral Square form the central focus point for the whole city.
- 5.2.4** To the north of the Cathedral is an area known as Northminster. This area includes offices, retail, a hotel, nightclubs and bars as well as the Market, with some temporary surface car parks. There are opportunities for redevelopment of individual sites to achieve more efficient use of land, and improve the setting of the Cathedral.
- 5.2.5** There may be opportunities to better reveal and connect the Cathedral with the City Core. This could include residential use adjoining the Cathedral Precincts, along City Road and Midgate. This will be explored through a future development brief or SPD for the Northminster Opportunity Area.
- 5.2.6** Towards the south-west is Priestgate, which contains many historic buildings. This area has a predominance of office use but also includes the Peterborough Museum and housing.
- 5.2.7** To the north, the area between Queensgate and Bright Street is currently an underused part of the city and it has been identified as the North Westgate Opportunity Area. There have been proposals in the past for substantial new retail-led developments, but changes in the nature of retailing and the wider economic context have meant that a more modest and mixed-use development solution is now more likely. It is proposed for redevelopment for a mix of uses, including retail, leisure, community and residential.
- 5.2.8** This Policy Area, and particularly the proposed North Westgate Opportunity Area, provides an important transition between the central commercial core and the inner city residential area to the north, which is characterised by comparatively high levels of deprivation and inequality. Development proposals here will have to be very carefully designed to better link these two areas, provide local commercial opportunities and avoid the scheme 'turning its back' on that adjacent residential community. It is anticipated that existing street patterns will be retained to maintain continuity. The council will use its compulsory purchase powers where necessary for land assembly to ensure the optimum redevelopment solution.
- 5.2.9** The area is bounded to the west and south by Bourges Boulevard, which currently acts as a physical barrier for pedestrians, so that connections with the station (Railway Station Policy Area) and to the River Nene (Riverside South Policy Area) are very poor.
- 5.2.10** This City Core Policy Area matches the City Core area identified in the council's Local Transport Plan 3.

Map D: City Core Policy Area



Vision for the Area

- 5.2.11** The City Core Policy Area will see high quality, mixed-use development and further improvements to the public realm. Opportunities to better integrate the Cathedral with the wider city centre will be explored.
- 5.2.12** There will be new retail and leisure provision, particularly further improvements to the Queensgate shopping centre and the North Westgate Opportunity Area. This will help to strengthen Peterborough's sub-regional role as a shopping destination.
- 5.2.13** Elsewhere, there will be more incremental new development, including residential, retail, cafes, bars and restaurants, combined with high quality public spaces. The evening economy will be diversified, for example through provision of a new cinema, to help create a more lively and attractive environment where people want to visit, work and live and which offers a wide range of uses for everyone of any age.
- 5.2.14** Building frontages will be protected and enhanced so that they remain active with a high footfall of customers during both the day and evening.
- 5.2.15** The transition between the area and inner city residential areas will be enhanced, with better connections more generally to other parts of the city centre, such as the station and the River Nene.
- 5.2.16** Despite these changes, the key feature of the area will continue to be the historic core and all opportunities to protect and enhance these features and heritage assets will be taken.

Policy Areas

Policy CC3

City Core Policy Area

Within the area designated as the City Core on the Policies Map, the city council will seek development of the highest quality which, in overall terms, strengthens the area as the retail, leisure, tourism and civic focus for Peterborough and its sub-region, broadens the range of land uses to include more city centre living and enhances the visitor experience for all.

New development must, where appropriate:

- improve the quality of the townscape, architecture and public realm;
- protect important views of the Cathedral;
- preserve or enhance the heritage assets of the area, and their setting, in a manner appropriate to their significance; and
- protect and enhance existing retail areas.

Due to the sensitivities in this area, particular scrutiny will be given to the sustainability of the area with regard to drainage and surface water flood risk (see section 4.9 for further details).

The following sites, as identified on the Policies Map, are allocated primarily for residential use:

Site Reference	Site Name	Status*	Indicative number of dwellings
Sites of less than 10 dwellings with planning permission at 31 March 2013			11
CC3.1	37 - 39 Brook Street	NS	10
CC3.2	Unex Group car park, Brook Street	NS	39
CC3.3	49 - 55 Priestgate	NS	24
CC3.4	Wheel Yard (to be delivered in accordance with an agreed development brief that covers, amongst other matters, the height and scale of any development and the setting of the Cathedral and Precincts)	NA	20 - 25
Other locations within Policy Area	Including flats above shops		100
Sub Total			204 - 209

The following sites are identified on the Policies Map as Opportunity Areas for mixed use development:

Site Reference	Site Name	Status*	Indicative number of dwellings
CC3.5	North Westgate	NA	200
CC3.6**	Northminster (to be delivered in accordance with a development brief or SPD for the area)	NA	300
Sub Total			500
Total			704 - 709

* Status at 1 April 2013. O = Outline. NS = Not started, with full planning permission. UC = under construction. NA = New Allocation. ** the indicative number of dwellings does not include committed sites CC3.1 and CC3.2.

Within the North Westgate Opportunity Area (CC3.5) planning permission will be granted for comprehensive mixed-use redevelopment including retail, housing, office and leisure uses, which is well integrated with the existing retail area. This must also include improvements to pedestrian connectivity between the site and the railway station. The design, layout and access arrangements must enhance the transition between the residential area to the north and the city centre.

Individual proposals which would prejudice the comprehensive redevelopment of this Opportunity Area will not be permitted. Any proposals for North Westgate should complement existing community regeneration projects coming forward in the City North Policy Area.

Development proposals within the Northminster Opportunity Area (CC3.6) should deliver a range of uses that provide high quality office development and approximately 300 dwellings including student accommodation. Development in this area should protect and enhance any historic assets, including in particular the Cathedral Precincts and Peterscourt.

The council will support proposals to improve the market or, if necessary, work with market traders to identify a new location.

Elsewhere in the City Core Policy Area, the city council will expect and support, in principle, proposals that would help to deliver the following:

- a net increase in dwellings, including apartments above existing commercial or new commercial development and the provision of student accommodation;
- improved connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists within the Policy Area and with surrounding areas, particularly improved access to the railway station and riverside;
- mixed-use development with active street frontages;
- development which encourages trips into the city centre for shopping, leisure (including a cinema), social and cultural purposes;
- additional high quality office space; and
- the conservation and restoration of historic shop fronts.

Policy Areas

5.3 Railway Station Policy Area

Description of the Area

- 5.3.1** This Policy Area is located to the west of the city centre and primarily comprises the former hospital site (which relocated to a new site in 2011), the railway station and associated operational railway land.
- 5.3.2** The Policy Area is bounded by Bourges Boulevard to the east, which creates a physical barrier between the railway station and the City Core Policy Area. Current access to the City Core for pedestrians is either via an underpass or a footbridge, neither of which are attractive, clear or easy options.
- 5.3.3** The area comprises large areas of under-utilised railway land, together with low density and derelict industrial land. This offers a significant opportunity for major mixed-use development and regeneration of a prominent part of the city.
- 5.3.4** Within this Policy Area there are three distinct Opportunity Areas: the site of the former hospital and the two station areas either side of the railway.
- 5.3.5** The railway station is undergoing significant investment and enhancement. Peterborough station is on the East Coast Main Line, approximately 45 minutes from London and 1 hour 30 minutes from Leeds and York. The Railway Station Policy Area is an excellent strategic location for new investment.

Hospital Site

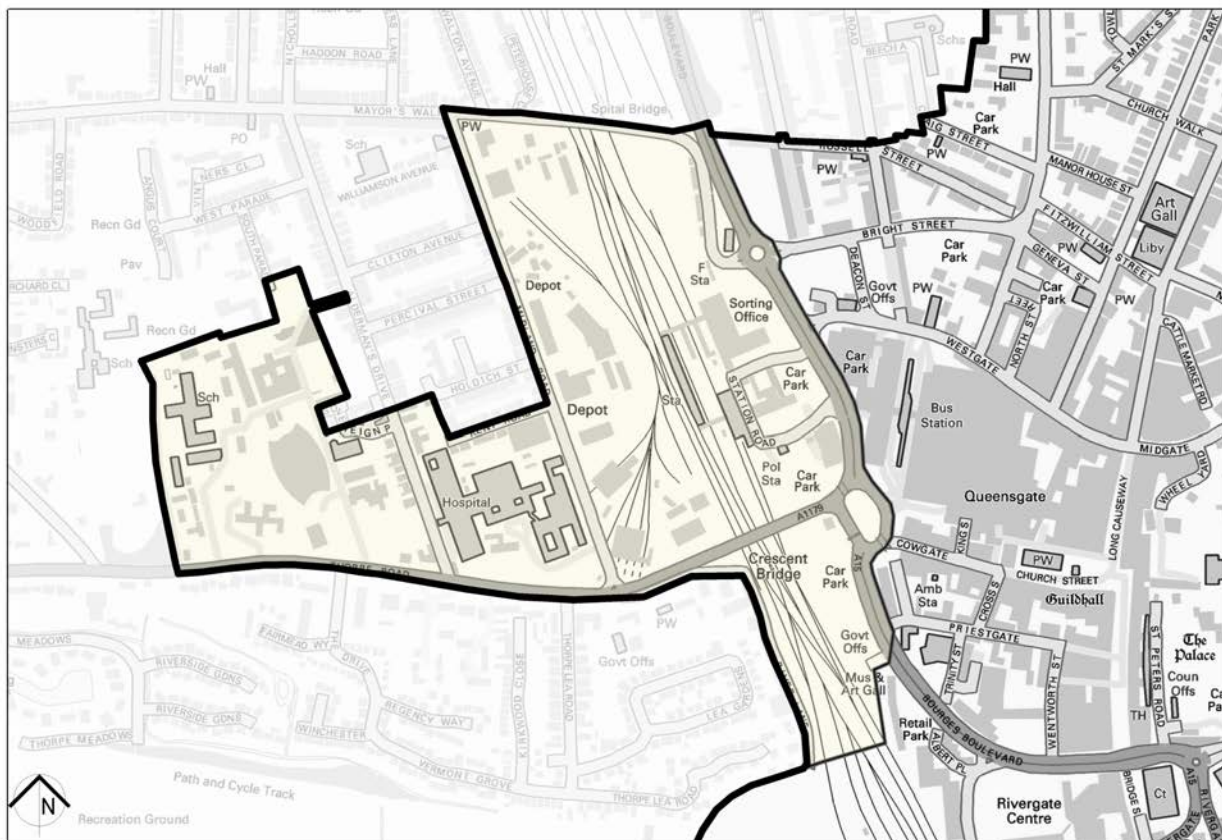
- 5.3.6** A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted for this site in 2010; it sets out the main requirements and land uses for the redevelopment of this area. This City Centre Plan does not seek amendments to that SPD (although some elements have been superseded by the Planning Policies DPD, which was adopted in December 2012).
- 5.3.7** The majority of the site is now vacant and forms a large area of underused brownfield land. The site is bounded to the south by Thorpe Road, which is a main arterial road to the city centre. The site is surrounded by existing residential areas with some low value employment sites on Midland Road; the surrounding properties are of varying age, style and density. There is an established local community.
- 5.3.8** The site is an irregular shape and not all of the land is available for development. The land is in several different ownerships, with the Primary Care Centre building to remain on-site. The land available for development comprises pockets of land which are not fully connected. This makes it essential that there is a clear, co-ordinated redevelopment scheme put in place, and why an SPD for this site has been produced.

Railway Station

- 5.3.9** The two Station Opportunity Areas are bisected by the main railway line and are not well connected. This is why this area has been split into two Opportunity Areas, to enable the delivery of the sites as separate parcels. The council will encourage extension of the station footbridge to provide passengers access to the station from Midland Road.
- 5.3.10** Many of the redundant industrial buildings detract from the overall quality of the area, as well as presenting a negative visual impression of the city for passengers who are either passing through or arriving at the station.

- 5.3.11** The Station East Opportunity Area includes a large area of open surface car parking for approximately 900 vehicles to the south as well as a multi-storey car park with 600 spaces linked to the station and Queensgate shopping area.
- 5.3.12** Directly opposite the station entrance is the Great Northern Hotel, which is identified as a building of local importance. Outline planning permission has been granted for an extension of the hotel and significant new office development. Outline planning permission has also been granted for office development and a supermarket on the adjoining, former Royal Mail site.
- 5.3.13** Within the Station West Opportunity Area, the southern part of the site was used as marshalling and goods yards and includes the Grade II* crescent wagon repair shop and associated Grade II lathe house.

Map E: Railway Station Policy Area



Vision for the Area

- 5.3.14** The redevelopment of this area is critical to the future success of the city. The overall vision for this Policy Area is to deliver a transformation from part of the city characterised by unused and underused land into one with a range of high quality, modern developments. There will be an improved railway station with easier and more attractive pedestrian access into the rest of the city centre, including, in particular, the main retail area.
- 5.3.15** There will be a high quality new city centre office development in Station East. The large vacant hospital site provides an opportunity to create a new, high quality residential neighbourhood which will integrate well into the existing local community and take advantage of the proximity to public transport and the city centre, reducing the need to travel by car.

Policy Areas

Policy CC4

Railway Station Policy Area

Within the area designated as the Railway Station Policy Area on the Policies Map, the city council will support and encourage high quality mixed-use developments which create an attractive and legible gateway into the rest of the city centre.

Redevelopment in the following Opportunity Areas, as identified on the Policies Map, should provide approximately the number of dwellings indicated as part of wider, mixed-use schemes.

Site Reference	Site Name	Status*	Indicative number of dwellings
CC4.1	Hospital Opportunity Area**	NA	350
CC4.2	Station West Opportunity Area***	NA	200 - 300
CC4.3	Station East Opportunity Area	NA	100
Total			650 - 750

* Status at 1 April 2013. O = Outline. NS = Not started, with full planning permission. UC = under construction. NA = New Allocation. ** This area includes 14 dwellings at Vawser Lodge (planning permission granted after 1 April 2013). *** This area includes 90 dwellings at Midland Road (planning permission granted after 1 April 2013).

Due to the sensitivities in this area, particular scrutiny will be given to the sustainability of the area with regard to drainage and surface water flood risk (see section 4.9 for further details).

Development proposals for the Hospital Opportunity Area should be informed by, and be in general conformity with, the adopted Peterborough District Hospital Site SPD, unless a requirement within it has been superseded by a subsequent Local Plan Policy or national policy. Any significant deviations away from the SPD should be justified with any planning application

Development proposals for the Station West Opportunity Area should:

- deliver predominantly residential development, although office development would also be supported;
- provide community uses;
- incorporate and enhance the listed railway sheds to the south of the site;
- safeguard land for, and assist delivery of, a foot/cycle bridge over the railway line, connecting to the Station East Opportunity Area; and
- help to facilitate a new 'west' entrance to the station.

Development proposals for the Station East Opportunity Area should deliver a mixed-use, commercial-led development, including:

Policy Areas

- high-quality office development;
- retail uses ancillary to, and associated with, the railway station (other than the consented convenience retail development on the former Royal Mail site);
- bars, restaurants and leisure uses;
- safeguarding of land for a foot/cycle bridge over the railway line, connecting to the Station West Opportunity Area; and
- assisting in the delivery of improved connections between the Area and the City Core.

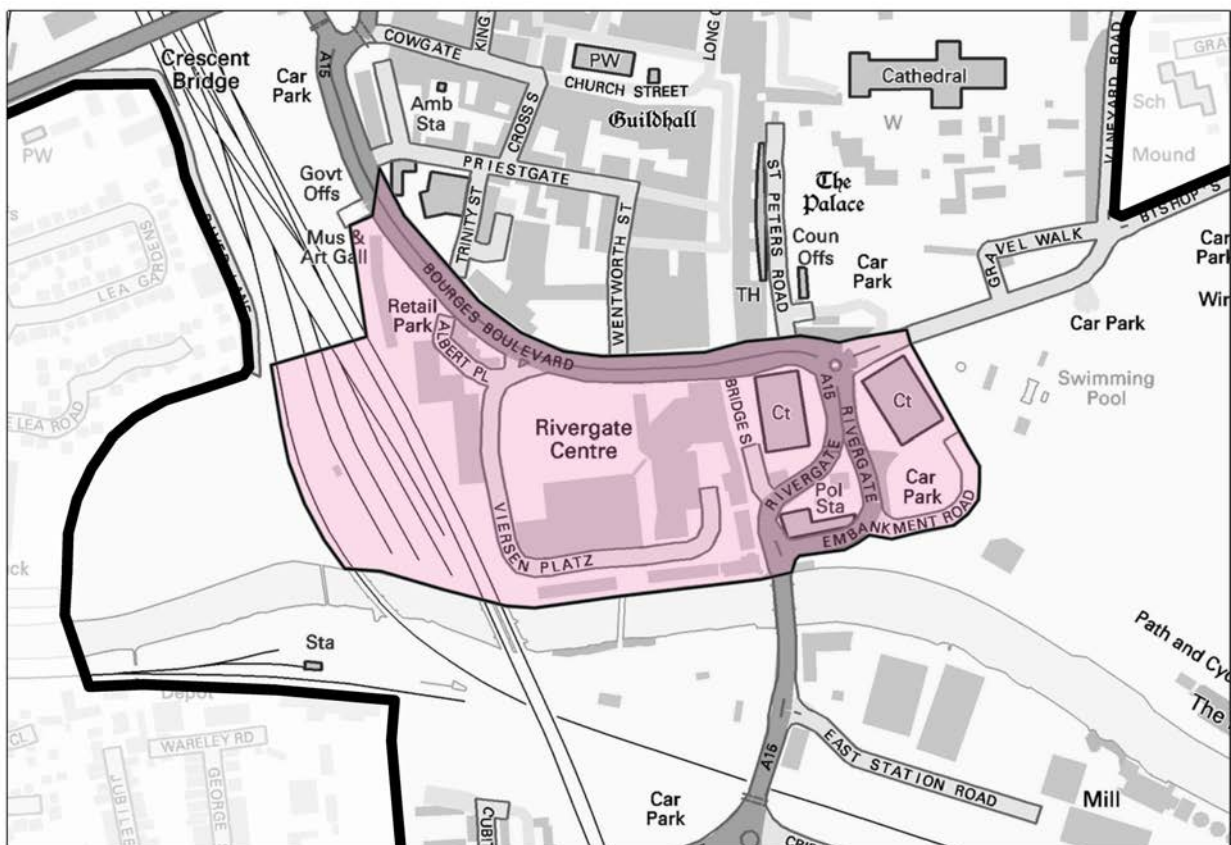
Policy Areas

5.4 Rivergate Policy Area

Description of the Area

- 5.4.1** The Rivergate Policy Area is an area of land between the City Core and the River Nene (Riverside South Policy Area). It is located south of Bourges Boulevard, with a supermarket, surface car park and the Rivergate shopping arcade at its centre. It also includes the Magistrates Courts and Crown Courts buildings and Bridge Street police station which appear as “islands” due to the Rivergate gyratory system. The mix of uses is completed with offices and shops in former railway warehouses to the west and flats overlooking the River Nene to the south.
- 5.4.2** Part of the Rivergate area along Lower Bridge Street is included within the City Centre Conservation Area.
- 5.4.3** This area provides an important link from the City Core to the River Nene and parts of the city centre further south, but Bourges Boulevard acts as a physical barrier to the ease of movement for pedestrians in both directions. Although Lower Bridge Street and the Rivergate Centre form part of the Primary Shopping Area they are seen as secondary retail areas by many visitors due to this physical separation.

Map F: Rivergate Policy Area



5.4.4 Vision for the Area

- 5.4.5** The vision for this area is to create a more prominent retail location that is better integrated with the City Core and that provides a well connected, attractive and active route to the River Nene, helping to draw people to the river and the Riverside South Policy Area.

- 5.4.6** This will be achieved through public realm improvements along the historic route of Bridge Street, as set out in the Public Realm Strategy, including a significant change to the function and character of Bourges Boulevard, as set out in chapter 6. There will be more active uses along Lower Bridge Street throughout the day and evening, with the possibility of some remodelling of the Rivergate Shopping Centre for retail and residential purposes.

Policy CC5

Rivergate Policy Area

Within the area designated as the Rivergate Policy Area on the Policies Map, the principle of a retail-led, mixed-use development, incorporating approximately 100 dwellings, will be supported provided that it:

- **assists the delivery of improved pedestrian and cycle connections through the area, and between the City Core, Riverside South and Riverside North Policy Areas;**
- **makes provision for active uses throughout the day and evening along Lower Bridge Street; and**
- **conserves the listed buildings located in the area, incorporating them sympathetically into the design solution.**

Where a development site adjoins the River Nene, opportunities should be taken to improve the river and/or its banks for boaters, anglers, wildlife and those wishing to access and enjoy the river.

Any proposals that would result in a comprehensive redevelopment of this area, including the Rivergate Centre and/or the Rivergate gyratory system, must be supported by a development brief, masterplan or SPD.

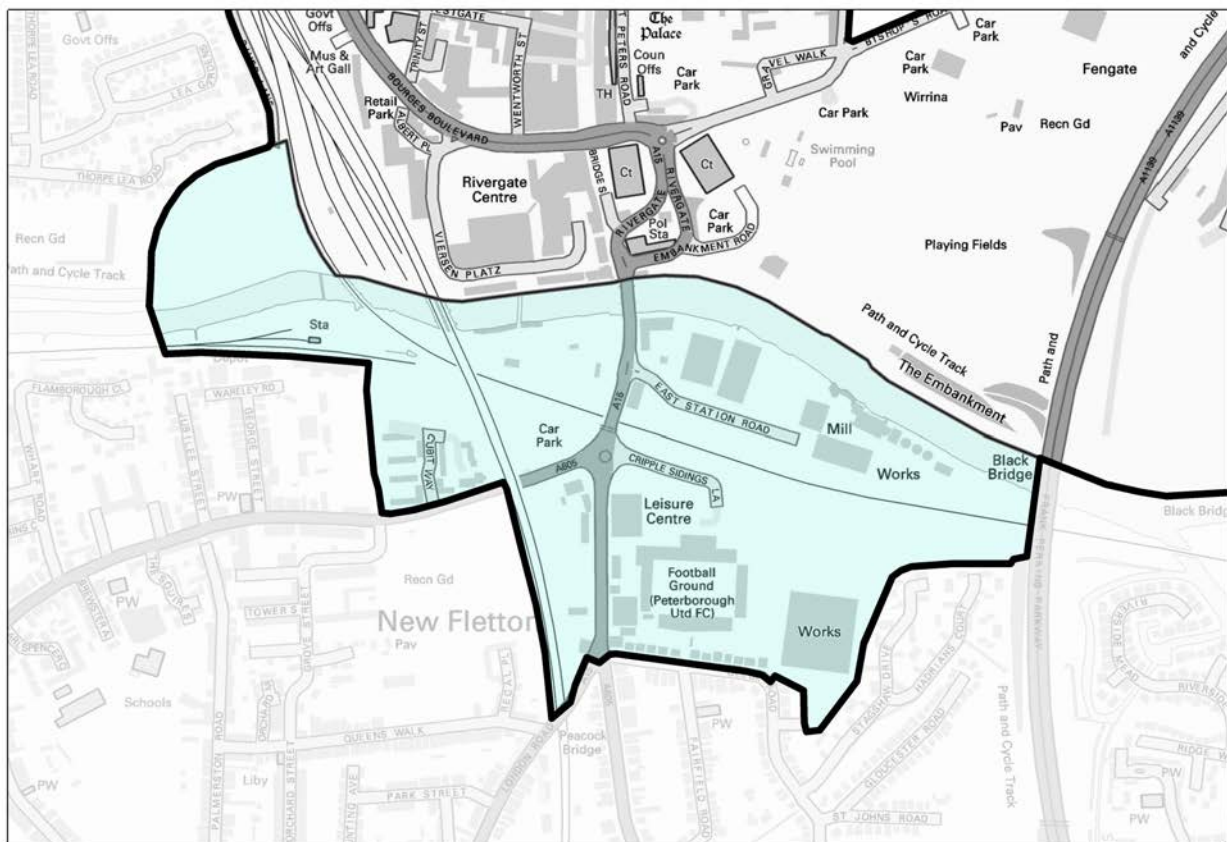
Policy Areas

5.5 Riverside South Policy Area

Description of the Area

- 5.5.1** This Policy Area is located to the south of the city centre and mainly south of the River Nene. The area includes former industrial land and contains a number of vacant and derelict sites in a prime central location.
- 5.5.2** The Fletton Quays Opportunity Area is located within this Policy Area, between the River Nene and the Peterborough to March railway line, and consists of approximately 6.8ha of derelict land which presents an excellent opportunity for high profile redevelopment of a major brownfield site.
- 5.5.3** The Carbon Challenge Site (Vista) is located south of the railway line; this site commenced construction in 2012 and will deliver 295 new zero carbon homes.
- 5.5.4** This area also contains a variety of uses including the Peterborough United Football Ground, Pleasure Fair Meadow car park, an area registered as a community asset and Railworld land either side of the river.
- 5.5.5** Currently this Policy Area is poorly connected to the City Core and other surrounding residential areas, and the railway lines act as barriers to movement. Part of the area is located in flood zones 2 and 3, particularly the areas to the west.

Map G: Riverside South Policy Area



Vision for the Area

- 5.5.6** This Policy Area will see substantial change over the plan period. There will be a number of major new mixed-use developments which will enhance the southern gateway into the city centre and make the most of the attractive riverside setting.
- 5.5.7** The Fletton Quays Opportunity Area will be transformed from an underused and derelict part of the city into a vibrant and attractive residential, leisure and cultural area, providing active uses such as bars and cafes along the river frontage. These will help attract visitors to this part of the city and to establish the river as a prominent feature of the city. Development will incorporate a pedestrian route alongside the river and an iconic pedestrian/cycle bridge over the river, connecting to other parts of the city centre.
- 5.5.8** The football ground will see transformation into a community stadium and there will be an enhanced visitor attraction at Railworld, on the south side of the river. Residential development will take place on the opposite north side of the river, off Thorpe Lea Road.
- 5.5.9** A consistent theme running through all of the changes in this area will be measures to make the river and its banks more accessible and more attractive for all users. There are excellent opportunities on these sites to combine the management of flood risk, the enhancement of wildlife and improved opportunities for boating as part of a holistic approach.

Policy CC6

Riverside South Policy Area

Within the area designated as the Riverside South Policy Area on the Policies Map, development will be supported, in principle, where it helps to secure the transformation of disused and underused land, in order to create an enhanced gateway into the city centre.

Wherever appropriate, developments should help to improve pedestrian and cycle links between the area and rest of the city centre and adjacent areas, and provide pedestrian access along the river frontage. A site-specific flood risk assessment will be required for all developments which have flood risk implications and this will need to demonstrate that the development will be safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere.

Collectively, the development of sites within the Policy Area should provide approximately 820 dwellings, in accordance with the number of dwellings indicated for each site, or area, below:

Site Reference	Site Name	Status*	Indicative number of dwellings
CC 6.1	Carbon Challenge Site	UC	251**
CC 6.2	Fletton Quays Opportunity Area	NA	400
CC 6.3	Railworld North (prestige homes)	NA	50
	Other locations within the Policy Area		125
Total			826

Policy Areas

* Status at 1 April 2013. O = Outline. NS = Not started, with full planning permission. UC = under construction. NA = New Allocation

** Dwellings still be completed on this site at 1 April 2013.

Within the Fletton Quays Opportunity Area, planning permission will be granted for a mixed-use development which delivers approximately 400 new dwellings. Offices, culture and leisure uses (excluding a cinema, unless it can be demonstrated that this cannot be provided within the City Core), with restaurants and bars along the river frontage will also be acceptable. Development should:

- maximise the advantages of the riverside setting with a high-quality design solution;
- deliver an attractive public riverside walk and cycle path with a new foot/cycle bridge across the River Nene to the Embankment;
- incorporate and enhance the listed buildings (railway engine sheds and goods sheds) and building of local importance (the Mill), with imaginative new uses;
- incorporate appropriate flood risk mitigation measures, as identified through a site-specific flood risk assessment;
- deliver opportunities to naturalise the river corridor and enhance biodiversity in ways that complement existing river functions and in line with the objectives of the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area.

Any retail use will be limited to that which is ancillary to serve the Opportunity Area itself.

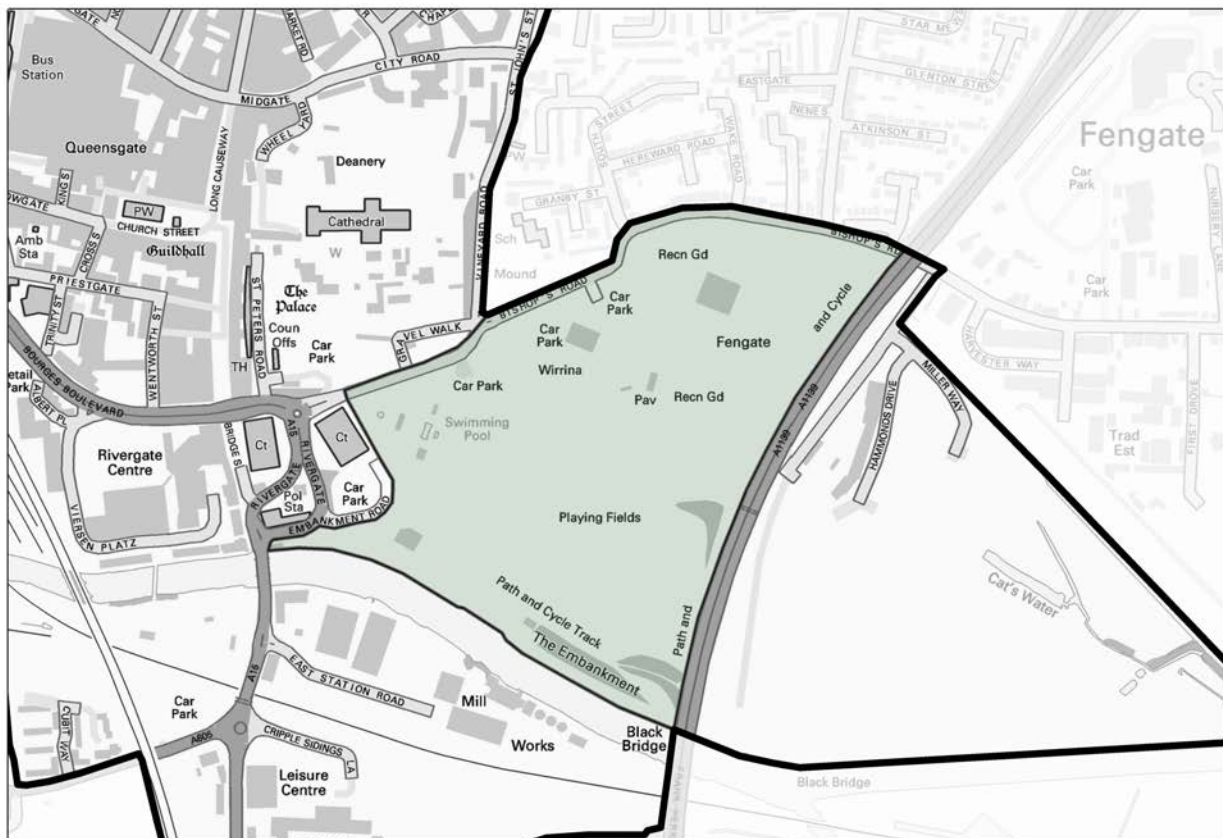
Individual proposals for development which would prejudice the comprehensive redevelopment of this Opportunity Area will not be permitted.

5.6 Riverside North Policy Area

Description of the Area

- 5.6.1** This area is located to the south and east of the Cathedral and to the west of the Frank Perkins Parkway. It includes the Embankment which will remain a protected area of open space, and the regional pool and athletics track to the north of the Policy Area.
- 5.6.2** The Policy Area also includes the Key Theatre and Lido, which is a Grade II listed building, and large areas of surface car parks along Bishops Road.
- 5.6.3** To some extent, the area is seen as a secondary part of the city centre due to the poor links and connectivity with the City Core and Riverside South Policy Areas. This means that this area of open space with a river setting in the city centre is relatively underused and not of the quality that it could be. The use of this space for large formal events is very positive and more needs to be done to encourage wider improvements to the use of this space.

Map H: Riverside North Policy Area



Vision for the Area

- 5.6.4** The vision for this area is to bring the southern part of the Embankment into much greater use, making the most of its riverside setting. This will be achieved through improving connections with other parts of the city centre, including the provision of a new foot/cycle bridge over the River Nene from the Fletton Quays Opportunity Area and improved foot/cycle links between the Rivergate area and the new residential development which is proposed to the east of Frank Perkins Parkway.
- 5.6.5** It is also a citywide vision to improve the existing sports facilities towards the north of the Policy Area; this may include provision of a new 50 metre swimming pool. There will also be improvements to the entrance and access to the sports area.

Policy Areas

Policy CC7

Riverside North Policy Area

The Riverside North Policy Area, as shown on the Policies Map, will remain a predominately open area for social, recreational, leisure and cultural uses.

Any built development will be confined to the northern part of the site and along the frontage to Bishops Road. Development proposed for this area will include provision for a new swimming pool and other sports facilities.

The following site, as identified on the Policies Map, is allocated for the provision of not more than 25 prestige homes.

Site Reference	Site Name	Status*	Maximum number of dwellings
CC7.1	Bishops Road	NA	25

NA = New Allocations

Any proposals for this area must:

- be of a high standard of design and low density;
- ensure that the height of dwellings does not exceed the height of the trees that exist around the western, southern and eastern sides of the site; and
- include additional landscaping.

This site includes existing trees and landscaping which must be retained and enhanced as an integral part of the design solution for the site.

Further residential development in this area (other than on site CC7.1) will not be supported by the council.

Elsewhere in this Policy Area, new development must be of high design quality and improve the pedestrian and cycle links to the City Core Policy Area and Fletton Quays Opportunity Area, including a new foot/cycle bridge over the River Nene.

The council will support proposals which will improve and enhance the Key Theatre by making the most of its riverside location and links to the Fletton Quays Opportunity Area.

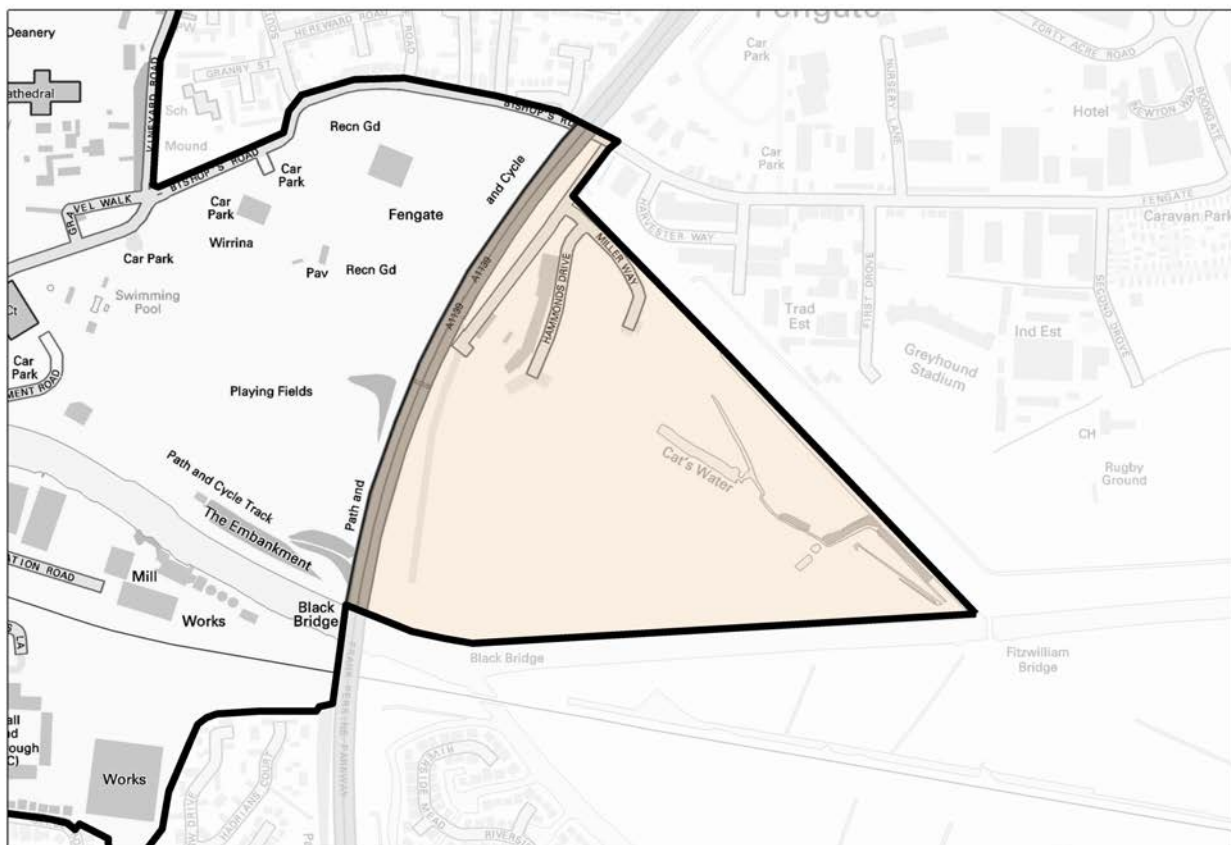
Views of the Cathedral from the south and south-east and the settings of the Lido and Customs House should be preserved.

5.7 Fengate South Policy Area

Description of the Area

- 5.7.1** The Fengate South Policy Area is located to the east of Frank Perkins Parkway. In the north of the area, a large area of former derelict land off Potters Way is being redeveloped for residential purposes, with the second phase under construction. The area to the south is currently an open area of land which is unused except on an informal basis for recreation. (This area was a former landfill site.)
- 5.7.2** In the east, the Policy Area includes an area of land of high biodiversity value which will be retained and managed as a natural habitat area.
- 5.7.3** The Policy Area is currently poorly connected to the wider city centre, although there are pedestrian links along the River Nene which form part of a river walk that runs the length of the site.
- 5.7.4** Parts of this Policy Area area are located within flood zones 2 and 3; therefore any future development will be restricted to the areas at a lower risk of flooding and will need to incorporate suitable flood mitigation measures.

Map I: Fengate South Policy Area



Vision for the Area

- 5.7.5** The vision for this area is the creation of an attractive river front residential development which will provide mainly family accommodation and associated community facilities.
- 5.7.6** Any development will incorporate and enhance the existing pedestrian route alongside the River Nene and improve the river frontage in accordance with policy PP15 of the Peterborough Planning Policies DPD. It will also enhance the existing access to the river.

Policy Areas

Policy CC8

Fengate South Policy Area

Within the area designated as the Fengate South Policy Area on the Policies Map, planning permission will be granted for residential and associated ancillary development on the following sites:

Site Reference	Site Name	Status*	Indicative number of dwellings
CC8.1	Potters Way	UC	210**
CC8.2	Fengate South	NA	300 - 400
Total			510 - 610

* Status at 1 April 2013. O = Outline. NS = Not started, with full planning permission. UC = under construction. NA = New Allocation

** Dwellings still be completed on this site at 1 April 2013.

Prior to the granting of any planning permission for residential development on the Fengate South site (CC8.2), the council will require the developer to submit a development brief or other evidence documents that address the following matters:

- how flood risk issues are to be addressed, including the location of dwellings in areas at lowest probability of flooding and the proposed flood risk mitigation measures;
- the arrangements for the remediation of the site to a standard suitable for residential and associated uses;
- transport issues, including vehicular access arrangements, measures to address transport impacts beyond the site and measures to improve pedestrian and cycle infrastructure from the area to the City Core (thus reducing the need to travel by car);
- impacts on biodiversity, including, in particular, any impacts on the Nene Washes SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar Site;
- visual and landscape impacts (including countryside and cathedral views);
- a design solution that creates a high quality residential environment with associated community facilities, providing an attractive frontage to the river with the possibility of moorings; and
- the creation of an attractive public riverside walk and cycle path which runs the length of the site, connecting with the foot and cycle paths from the Embankment west of the Parkway.

If proposals come forward for the development of a marina on this site, these will be supported in principle by the council, provided that it is demonstrated that the scheme is deliverable, taking into account the criteria listed above (to the extent that they apply to marina development).

The council will require the submission of sufficient information from the applicant to enable it to complete a project-level screening exercise under the Habitats Regulations, and, if that screening concludes that full Appropriate Assessment is needed, sufficient information to enable it to complete that Appropriate Assessment. This process will need to demonstrate that the development will not have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of the Nene Washes.

Policy Areas

Policy CC9

Boongate Policy Area

Within the area designated as the Boongate Policy Area on the Policies Map, planning permission will be granted for a high quality residential-led development which creates an enhanced gateway into the city centre.

The following sites, as identified on the Policies Map, are allocated primarily for residential use:

Site Reference	Site Name	Status*	Indicative number of dwellings
CC9.1	Dickens Street Car Park	NA	30
CC9.2	Wellington Street Car Park	NA	40
Total			70

* Status at 1 April 2013. O = Outline. NS = Not started, with full planning permission. UC = under construction. NA = New Allocation

The Wellington Street car park site will include residential development and a multi-storey car park providing at least the same number of parking spaces as exist on the site at present.

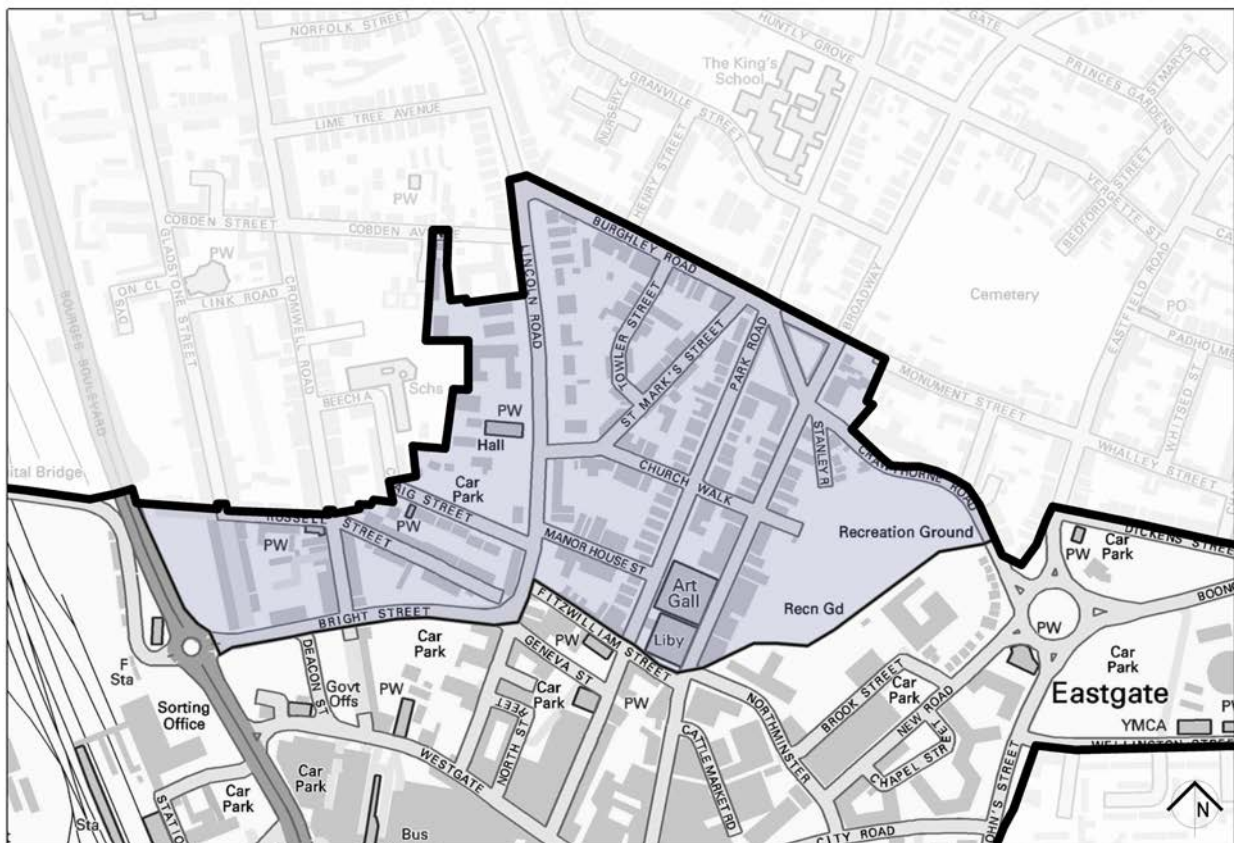
No residential development in this Policy Area will be permitted within the inner consultation zone around the Wellington Street gasholder station.

5.9 City North Policy Area

Description of the Area

- 5.9.1** This area is towards the north of the city centre and is seen as a transitional area between the commercial City Core and the inner city residential areas. It includes many public buildings such as the Central Library and the Broadway Theatre building. A large part falls within the Park Conservation Area and it includes a number of listed buildings and buildings of local importance.
- 5.9.2** The area has a mix of commercial and residential properties, including substantial Victorian/Edwardian villas and terraced housing. It includes the Stanley Recreation Ground, which is a valued area of green space.
- 5.9.3** Broadway is a key thoroughfare approaching the City Core from outlying residential areas to the north. The street includes small-scale commercial uses and small retail units, with several restaurants and bars.
- 5.9.4** The majority of this Policy Area forms part of the wider regeneration area covered by 'Operation Can-Do', which is a 10 year multi-agency initiative in the Gladstone, Millfield and New England areas, supporting a range of physical and community regeneration projects. To the east, many houses do not meet modern standards of insulation, heating and general upkeep.
- 5.9.5** The area adjoins the North Westgate Opportunity Area, where it is proposed that there should be a major redevelopment of vacant and underused land. Care will be needed to ensure that any scheme creates an attractive and integrative frontage onto Bright Street.

Map K: City North Policy Area



Policy Areas

Vision for the Area

- 5.9.6** This is a part of the city that will see incremental change over the lifetime of this plan, unless there is commercial demand for more fundamental change in some locations. At 1 April 2013 there were 19 dwellings with planning permission on a number of small infill sites.
- 5.9.7** Development will seek to create a sensitive transition between high density commercial uses to the south and terraced residential streets to the north. Particular effort must be made to ensure effective and seamless linkages between the commercial core and outlying residential areas.
- 5.9.8** New residential development will take place at various locations, and there will be infill development where this can be achieved in a sensitive manner. Given the high density of residential use and the need to maintain a balanced housing offer including family homes, the subdivision of houses to flats will not be supported.
- 5.9.9** The overall vision for the area is to create pride, safety and community cohesion as part of the overall 'Operation Can-Do' initiative, with any new development in the Park Conservation Area preserving or enhancing its character.

Policy CC10

City North Policy Area

Within the area designated as the City North Policy Area on the Policies Map development will be acceptable provided that it respects the character and built form of the surrounding area and, in the case of housing proposals, assists in improving the quality of the housing stock and the residential environment. The intensification of residential use through the subdivision of existing properties, including the creation of houses in multiple occupation, will not be supported.

The city council will support, in principle, development that would:

- **involve replacement dwellings (at a density no greater than the density of any dwellings demolished);**
- **improve the mix of uses, including, in particular, increases in open space and other community facilities;**
- **complement and support any community regeneration projects; and**
- **improve connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists to the City Core and, in particular, to North Westgate.**

The Stanley Recreation Ground will be protected and enhanced with new facilities for local users. Proposals for development adjoining the Recreation Ground should help to reconnect it to the rest of the city centre and ensure activity and overlooking across the open space to enhance the sense of safety.

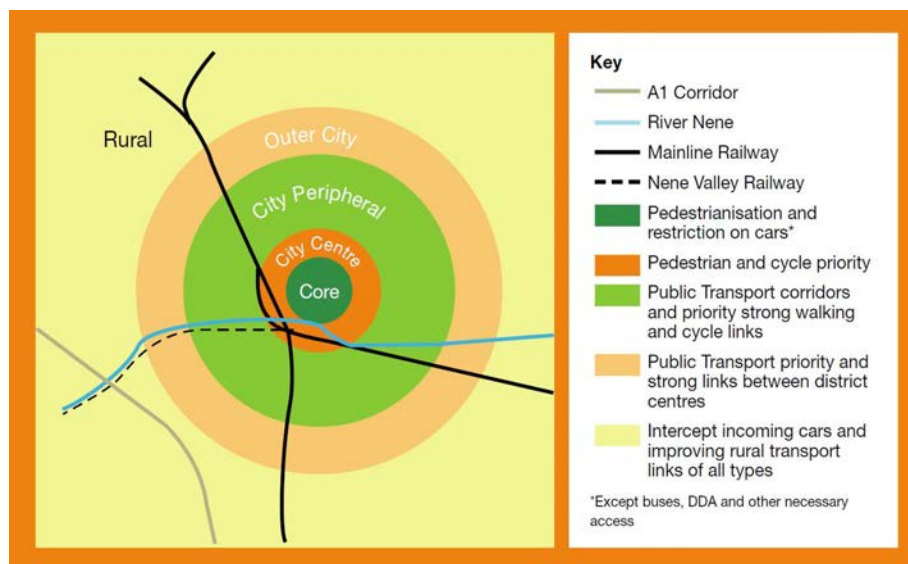
6.1 Transport

Introduction

- 6.1.1** This section sets out the transport strategy required to support the delivery of the City Centre Plan.
- 6.1.2** The levels of growth and major regeneration proposed for the city centre will have a significant impact on the wider strategic transport network and will require transport masterplanning to ensure improvements are in place to support growth.

Local Transport Policy

- 6.1.3** The main transport policies and infrastructure requirements are set out in the Peterborough Long Term Transport Strategy (2011 to 2026) (LTTS) and Local Transport Plan 3 (2011 to 2016) (LTP3), both of which were adopted in April 2011.
- 6.1.4** The LTTS covers the same 15 year timescale as the Core Strategy and this City Centre Plan. The overall growth targets and broad locations for growth set out in the Core Strategy, including city centre issues, were used to assess the transport situation and future impact on the network.
- 6.1.5** The LTP3 sets out the more short-term transport policies, infrastructure requirements, funding and timescales. It also defines a spatial strategy for the authority area, as set out diagrammatically below. Two zones align with this City Centre Plan: the 'city centre' has the same boundary as this City Centre Plan; and the smaller sub-section called the 'core' has the same boundary as the City Core Policy Area in this Plan.



- 6.1.6** The LTTS and LTP3 have policies and proposals covering a wide range of matters, only some of which have 'land use' implications. Taking the land use principles and policies set out in the LTTS and LTP3, an overarching land use Transport Vision has been prepared for this City Centre Plan and is set out on the following page.

Transport

City Centre Transport Vision

In 2026 the city centre will have become cleaner and greener with improved local air quality. There will be fewer non-stopping vehicles passing through the city centre and fewer vehicles will enter the city core. Public transport will continue to increase, helped by improved transport interchanges and a transformed railway station.

Additional priority will be given to **pedestrians** in the city centre and the city core. Particular attention will be given to improving **accessibility** for all including those with disabilities. There will be improved facilities for **cyclists** to encourage them to access the city centre and city core, and to provide alternative routes to bypass the city core for those on through trips. More high quality, attractive and accessible public realm will be provided, including improved wayfinding, making it easier for pedestrians to find the quickest, easiest and most pleasant routes through and around the city centre.

Bourges Boulevard will no longer act as a barrier to movement. It will be transformed to give greater priority to pedestrians, with additional pedestrian crossing points created, including a new landmark entrance from the railway station to the city core. Phase by phase, the number of non-stopping vehicles using Bourges Boulevard will fall.

A transformation of **car parking** provision will have been undertaken, based on the principle of relocating car parks out of the city core towards the edge of the city centre. Priority parking (and charging points) will be given to low emission vehicles or other more sustainable vehicles and vehicle users. New parking provision will allow for greater efficiency of land use, with less surface parking than today. New development will take advantage of this freed-up space.

The **River Nene** and its banks will become a transport gateway, for boats, pedestrians and cyclists.

Retail and other commercial activity will continue to have access for service vehicles, but arrangements for this will be carefully controlled to minimise unnecessary disturbance to the public.

6.1.7 The delivery of the vision will require investment from a wide range of sources. However, development proposals can also play their part, by complying with the following policy.

Policy CC11

Transport

Within the area of the City Centre Plan, all development which has transport implications will be expected to make a contribution to the delivery of the City Centre Transport Vision set out above (or any subsequent vision set out in a more recent Peterborough Local Transport Plan). This will be in the form of on-site provision, such as the creation of a high quality public realm; the provision of cycling infrastructure and/or attractive pedestrian facilities; and the making of appropriate accessibility improvements for people with disabilities; as well as off-site contributions (by way of a planning obligation) where these are necessary as a direct result of the proposed development.

Development which would have a negative impact on the ability of the council to achieve the City Centre Transport Vision will not be supported.

The council will resist the provision of additional car parking spaces within the City Core Policy Area. In this Policy Area, the provision of spaces as part of a new development may be allowed if there is a planning obligation, or other legally binding commitment, to make an equivalent (or greater) reduction in the number of spaces elsewhere in the Policy Area.

Elsewhere in the city centre (i.e. outside the City Core Policy Area), new residential development within Use Classes C3 and C4 will be required to make provision for car parking spaces in accordance with policy PP13 and Appendix A of the Peterborough Planning Policies DPD. There will be no minimum requirement for the provision of parking spaces in association with any other type of development (i.e. other than C3 and C4) and developers will be encouraged to explore the shared use of existing spaces or rely on spaces in public car parks to meet the needs of their development before the council will consider allowing any on-site provision of spaces. The council will only allow additional on-site or off-site spaces if the developer has provided a full justification for such a need (for example, on the basis of an essential operational requirement which cannot be met by the use of existing spaces off the site).

Explanatory text for the Vision

- 6.1.8 Pedestrian Connections:** The city centre has a number of barriers to pedestrian movement. The council will seek to remove these barriers to help people move around the city centre easily, in comfort and feel safe and secure. Part of this improvement will be through enhanced public realm and part through the improvements to pedestrian footways and pedestrian zones.
- 6.1.9 Accessibility:** The city centre should be as accessible as possible for all. The council will consult with disability forums and other disability organisations, the RNIB and other local and national organisations on city centre and city core proposals to ensure that the maximum benefit to disabled people can be incorporated into schemes.
- 6.1.10 Cycling Provision:** Infrastructure to support an increase in cyclists entering the city centre will be a priority for the council. Increased cycling leads to better air quality, less need for wasteful car parking spaces, less traffic on the city centre roads and healthier lifestyles.
- 6.1.11** However, the city centre should be regarded as a destination rather than a thoroughfare. This means cyclists are encouraged to get access into the city centre and core area but not to cycle through it. For those wanting to pass through, a number of city cycle routes will be created to allow cyclists to bypass the city centre.
- 6.1.12 Bourges Boulevard:** Bourges Boulevard was constructed as a dual carriageway during the new town expansion of the city and designed to contain the city centre. Peterborough city centre has since grown and expanded and it is now bisected rather than contained by Bourges Boulevard. This has led to access problems for residents and visitors, constraint on further growth and a lack of cohesion of the wider city centre. A number of options will be considered to improve Bourges Boulevard and the access points to the city core.
- 6.1.13** There are limited pedestrian and cycling crossing points. Visitors arriving at the railway station are forced into subways beneath the roundabout to access Cowgate and the city core. New pedestrian crossings will be provided at strategic points along Bourges Boulevard and the road itself enhanced through public realm improvements to create a much more attractive route into and through the city centre.

Transport

6.1.14 A phased approach to the treatment of Bourges Boulevard will be taken during the plan period. As development comes forward on sites adjacent to the road, additional pedestrian facilities will be provided. As a long-term measure, highway space will be reconfigured to enable greater priority for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.

6.1.15 Car Parking: In the city centre there are over 8,800 publicly available car parking spaces, providing plentiful and affordable parking, making the city centre highly accessible. However, car parks, and particularly surface parks, occupy a significant area, limiting land available for development. The city's car parks are dispersed around the city centre and city core which directs traffic to inappropriate roads.

6.1.16 Surface car parks within the city centre, and particularly in the City Core (excluding Car Haven) - for example, sites CC3.1 and CC3.3 - will be consolidated in the city centre to provide areas for new development, whilst maintaining a level of car parking consistent with current provision.

6.1.17 The council will develop a parking strategy that:

- supports the vitality and viability of the city centre by providing, maintaining and managing an appropriate supply of parking space, for all motorised vehicles (cars, coaches, goods vehicles and motorcycles)
- supports and promotes the use of more sustainable modes, including vehicles with lower emissions (smaller engine size), low emission propulsion and multiple occupancy
- makes more land available for development and reduces pressures on both car parking spaces in the city centre and the city core road network
- except for the provision of parking bays for the disabled, reduces publicly available spaces in the core through relocation to the periphery of the city centre.

6.1.18 The provision of park and ride or other modal interchanges will be explored to reduce parking demand and the number of vehicles entering the city centre.

6.1.19 The provision of additional car parking spaces within the City Core Policy Area will not be supported. Elsewhere in the city centre for non residential development there will be a requirement to make use of existing public car parks before the provision of additional car parking spaces will be considered. This offers a flexible approach for each site and particularly Opportunity Areas.

6.1.20 The council will encourage provision of coach parking facilities to attract visitors to the city centre. Within the Opportunities Areas where there is a mix of uses including leisure (D2) the developer will be required to provide coach or bus parking spaces as set out in Appendix a (PP13) of the Planning Policies DPD. Individual parking requirements will be assessed for each application based on the mix of uses proposed.

6.1.21 The River Nene: The council is looking to improve mooring and boating leisure facilities as well as access from the river to the city core and other locations.

7.1 Infrastructure

- 7.1.1** It is recognised that infrastructure is required to support and in some cases enable the scale and location of growth set out in the Core Strategy. This includes up to 4,300 new dwellings and 3.5 hectares of employment land located within the City Centre Plan boundary. The infrastructure types and projects vary, and are inclusive of transport, education, health and utilities, such as electricity, water and waste.
- 7.1.2** All have been taken into account within the Peterborough Integrated Development Programme (IDP) (2009) which provided a full breakdown of infrastructure needs based on the Core Strategy.
- 7.1.3** Since 2009, and the subsequent adoption of the Peterborough Core Strategy, development has progressed although in some areas the rate of change has slowed due to the recession. The IDP has subsequently been updated to reflect this, and now forms the basis of its successor document known as the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule (IDS).
- 7.1.4** The Infrastructure Delivery Schedule (IDS) is a live document produced to identify the range of infrastructure types and projects required to support growth. Importantly, it identifies likely funding sources, delivery agents, timescales and priorities, and forms an important supporting document in relation to the council's planned adoption of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule in 2014. The document is produced through close working with key partners and infrastructure providers and will be regularly updated to reflect project delivery and change.
- 7.1.5** The mechanisms for requiring and encouraging infrastructure delivery include existing policy, planning conditions, S106 agreements and planning contributions (via the Peterborough Planning Obligations Implementation Scheme SPD); and in future the use of CIL funds. These mechanisms are broadly set out in the Peterborough Core Strategy (section 6.6, policies CS12 and CS13) and for this reason is not repeated here.
- 7.1.6** The council is also preparing to adopt a Planning Contributions SPD to coincide with the introduction of a CIL Charging Schedule, primarily to make clear the relationship between CIL and S106 for the purpose of infrastructure delivery.
- 7.1.7** The city centre by definition is the location of a number of key existing infrastructure networks, items and future projects, which relate to the city's wider growth, as well as the growth specifically earmarked for the city centre. Such infrastructure includes roads, parking, bridges, sewerage, railway station, the athletics track, the museum etc. many of which will need to be enhanced or upgraded to support the increase in the city's population.
- 7.1.8** Future housing development in the city centre is expected to result in a notable increase in population. It is important that these residents have access to health, education and other community facilities in convenient locations to minimise the need to travel. The provision of primary school places within the Central area is a pressure identified within the Draft Schools Organisation Plan 2013-18. A number of potential projects to address this are itemised within the IDS, the precise timing of which will be dependent on the pace and precise location of proposed growth within and close to the City Centre Plan area.

Infrastructure

Implementation and Monitoring

8.1 Implementation and Monitoring

8.1.1 This section outlines how the City Centre Plan and its policies will be implemented and monitored. It seeks to show how each policy will be delivered, by whom and when. In some cases, this will be via other policies, such as those in the Core Strategy, or through the production of Supplementary Planning Documents for specific areas of the city centre.

Implementation

8.1.2 Implementation of the City Centre Plan will be dependent on the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, schools, and water and electricity capacity. The infrastructure requirements are explained in the previous chapter, which identifies the key infrastructure to be secured and demonstrates that there is a good understanding of infrastructure and reasonable prospects of timely provision, to support the planned growth of the city centre.

Monitoring

8.1.3 Monitoring is a key element of the planning system as it allows the council to keep a check on targets and delivery. It allows the council and other partners the opportunity to identify any problems in the delivery of the policies and identify the need for intervention or management actions. It also highlights if there is a need to review any policies.

8.1.4 The council carries out comprehensive monitoring of all DPDs, which is reported on an annual basis for a year which begins on 1 April and ends on 31 March. The results for the monitoring of all DPDs are brought together through the Peterborough Monitoring Report.

8.1.5 The overall housing and employment requirements for the city centre are established through the Core Strategy. Policies CS2 and CS3 set the targets and this City Centre Plan identifies the available land to meet the targets. Therefore, the housing and employment requirements for the city centre will be monitored in accordance with the indicators and targets set out in chapter 7 of the Core Strategy for policies CS2 and CS3.

8.1.6 Any housing or employment areas identified in policies CC3 to CC10 will be monitored alongside all sites allocated in the Site Allocations DPD. The results of the housing and employment monitoring will be broken down by growth zones and will include a figure specifically for the City Centre.

8.1.7 The following tables show how the City Centre Plan policies will be implemented and monitored. As most of these subjects are covered by other city wide policies, such as those in the Core Strategy or Planning Policies DPD, they will be monitored using the indicators and targets which have already been adopted in those plans.

Implementation and Monitoring

City Centre Strategy

Policy CC1 Sustainable Development Implementation		
Key Responsibilities	Implementation	Risks
Peterborough City Council Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT) Greater Peterborough Partnership (GPP) Public and private developers	Through the implementation of the policies in the Core Strategy and Planning Policies DPDs identified below Through the continual submission and determination of planning applications Ensuring that new development meets the latest design standards including those relating to sustainable construction and energy efficiency measures as well as accessibility issues for disabled.	Additional cost to developers
Other Relevant Policies	Core Strategy DPD: CS4, CS10, CS11, CS16	Monitoring and Targets As Core Strategy policy CS10
		Planning Policies DPD: PP1, PP2

Policy CC2 Retail Implementation		
Key Responsibilities	Implementation	Risks
Peterborough City Council Public and private developers	Through the continual submission and determination of planning applications Annual monitoring of retail floor space and refreshes of the retail study	Reliance on private sector funding and developer interest Lack of developer interest in retail sites Out of centre developments reducing the capacity to support city centre retail
Other Relevant Policies	Core Strategy DPD: CS4, CS15	Monitoring and Targets As Core Strategy policy CS15

Implementation and Monitoring

Policy Areas

- 8.1.8** The following tables show how the delivery of each policy area will be implemented and monitored. As mentioned, the delivery of any sites or Opportunity Areas will be monitored via Core Strategy policies, particularly CS2 and CS3.
- 8.1.9** Delivery of development in the policy area will rely on private investment and public funding, and the willingness of landowners to make their land available.

Policy CC3 City Core Policy Area			
Key Responsibilities	Implementation	Monitoring Indicators and Targets	Risks
Peterborough City Council Private and public developers Landowners English Heritage Dean & Chapter, Peterborough Cathedral	North Westgate development coming forward Implementation of wider public realm improvements Through continual submission and determination of planning applications Improvements to Bourges Boulevard Master Plan for North Westgate Opportunity Area and Northminster Opportunity Area City Centre Conservation Area Appraisal Cathedral Plan	As Core Strategy policies CS2, CS3, CS4, CS15, CS16, CS17, CS18	Number of different landowners owing small parcels of land Fragmented approach Lack of interest in retail in City Centre
Other Relevant Policies	Core Strategy DPD: CS2, CS3, CS4, CS15, CS16, CS17, CS18 Planning Policies DPD: PP17		

Implementation and Monitoring

Policy CC4 Railway Station Policy Area		
Key Responsibilities	Implementation	Risks
Peterborough City Council Landowners Network Rail NHS Hospital Trust (and new land owners)	Hospital SPD Through continual submission and determination of planning applications Improvements to Bourges Boulevard Hospital – off site highway improvements Site clearance and remediation Development that fits around constraints of operational railway land	Number of different landowners owing separate parcels of land Fragmented approach Cost of site clearance and remediation Lack of interest in office development
Monitoring Indicators and Targets As Core Strategy policies CS2, CS3, CS4		
Other Relevant Policies Core Strategy DPD: CS2, CS3, CS4, CS15, CS16, CS17 Planning Policies DPD: PP17		
Policy CC5 Rivergate Policy Area		
Key Responsibilities	Implementation	Risks
Peterborough City Council Landowners ASDA UNEX Rivergate Centre Private and public developers Police Courts	Through continual submission and determination of planning applications Long term reconfiguration of Rivergate gyratory – but not necessary to meet policy Need for SPD or masterplan Through downgrading of Bourges Boulevard, improving pedestrian access to the area	Impact of increased retail floorspace at North Westgate
Monitoring Indicators and Targets As Core Strategy policies CS2, CS3, CS4, CS15		
Other Relevant Policies Core Strategy DPD: CS2, CS3, CS4, CS15 Planning Policies DPD: PP15		

Policy CC6 Riverside South			
Key Responsibilities	Implementation	Monitoring Indicators and Targets	Risks
Peterborough City Council Joint Venture Company Landowners – Railworld Milton Estates Peterborough United FC EDF	Establishing a joint venture company to support the council in the delivery of the Fletton Quays site Flood risk and mitigation measures. Through continual submission and determination of planning applications	As Core Strategy policies CS2, CS3, CS4, CS15, CS16, CS17, CS18, CS19, CS22	Lack of interest in development
Other Relevant Policies	Core Strategy DPD: CS2, CS3, CS4, CS15, CS16, CS17, CS18, CS19, CS22	Planning Policies DPD: PP15	
Policy CC7 Riverside North			
Key Responsibilities	Implementation	Monitoring Indicators and Targets	Risks
Peterborough City Council Vivacity Sport England Landowners	Through continual submission and determination of planning applications Working with Vivacity on provision of new sports facilities	As Core Strategy policies CS2, CS4, CS17, CS18, CS19, CS22	Lack of funding
Other Relevant Policies	Core Strategy DPD: CS2, CS4, CS17, CS18, CS19, CS22	Planning Policies DPD: PP15	

Implementation and Monitoring

Policy CC8 Fengate South			
Key Responsibilities	Implementation	Monitoring Indicators and Targets	Risks
Peterborough City Council Private and public developers Landowners Milton Estates Kier Residential	Completion of committed housing site at Potters Way Through continual submission and determination of planning applications	As Core Strategy policies CS2, CS4, CS22	Landowner's lack of interest in developing site during the plan period Additional cost of remediation and flood risk Outcome of screening and/or appropriate assessment under Habitats Regulations
Other Relevant Policies	Core Strategy DPD: CS2, CS4, CS22 Planning Policies DPD: PP15		
Policy CC9 Boongate			
Key Responsibilities	Implementation	Monitoring Indicators and Targets	Risks
Peterborough City Council Private and public developers National Grid	Through continual submission and determination of planning applications	As Core Strategy policies CS2, CS4	Landowner's lack of interest in developing site during the plan period
Other Relevant Policies	Core Strategy DPD: CS2, CS4		

Implementation and Monitoring

Policy CC-10 City North			
Key Responsibilities	Implementation	Monitoring Indicators and Targets	Risks
Peterborough City Council Private and public developers Health Police	Through continual submission and determination of planning applications Park Conservation Area Appraisal "Operation Can-Do" regeneration projects	Planning permissions granted for sub division of single dwelling - nil As Core Strategy policies CS2, CS3, CS4, CS6, CS15, CS17	
Other Relevant Policies	Core Strategy DPD: CS2, CS3, CS4, CS6, CS15, CS17 Planning Policies DPD: PP3		
Policy CC11 Transport			
Key Responsibilities	Implementation	Monitoring Indicators and Targets	Risks
Peterborough City Council Public and private developers Local Transport operators	Through continual submission and determination of planning applications Joint working with private operators of public car parks	As Core Strategy policy CS14	Lack of funding for transport projects
Other Relevant Policies	Core Strategy DPD: CS14 Planning Policies DPD: PP12, PP13 Peterborough Local Transport Plan 3: Chapter 13		

Implementation and Monitoring

Appendix A: Local Plan Policies to be Replaced

Appendix A: Local Plan Policies to be Replaced

Prior to the adoption of the Peterborough Core Strategy DPD, the most significant part of the statutory 'development plan' for the Peterborough area was the Peterborough Local Plan (First Replacement) (adopted in July 2005). The majority, but not all, of the policies in that Plan were saved by a Direction from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government beyond July 2008. Those which were not explicitly saved were therefore deleted and no longer formed part of the development plan.

Subsequently, the Core Strategy DPD (February 2011), the Site Allocations DPD (February 2012) and Planning Policies DPD (December 2012) have, upon adoption, deleted most of the saved 2005 Local Plan policies.

This City Centre Plan is proposing to delete the remaining 14 Local Plan policies, and these are set out in the table below.

City Centre Plan Policy	Policies in the Peterborough Local Plan (First Replacement) 2005 which are to be replaced
CC1 - Sustainable Development	
CC2 - Retail	CC1, CC2, CC3
CC3 - City Core	CC10
CC4 - Railway Station	CC12, CC13
CC5 - Rivergate	
CC6 - Riverside South	CC11
CC7 - Riverside North	CC6
CC8 - Fengate South	
CC9 - Boongate	
CC10 - City North	
CC11 - Transport	CC15, CC16
These policies in the Local Plan (First Replacement) 2005 are deleted as they are no longer necessary or are superseded by national policy	CC7, CC9, CC19, T12

Appendix A: Local Plan Policies to be Replaced

Appendix B: Relationship with Other Documents

Appendix B: Relationship with Other Documents

This Appendix explains how the City Centre Plan fits with other plans and strategies; how these have influenced the production of the Plan; and how the policies and proposals aim to deliver wider objectives.

National Planning Policy

Any DPD must be consistent with the principles and policies set out in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). At the heart of the NPPF is the requirement for all development to be sustainable and there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

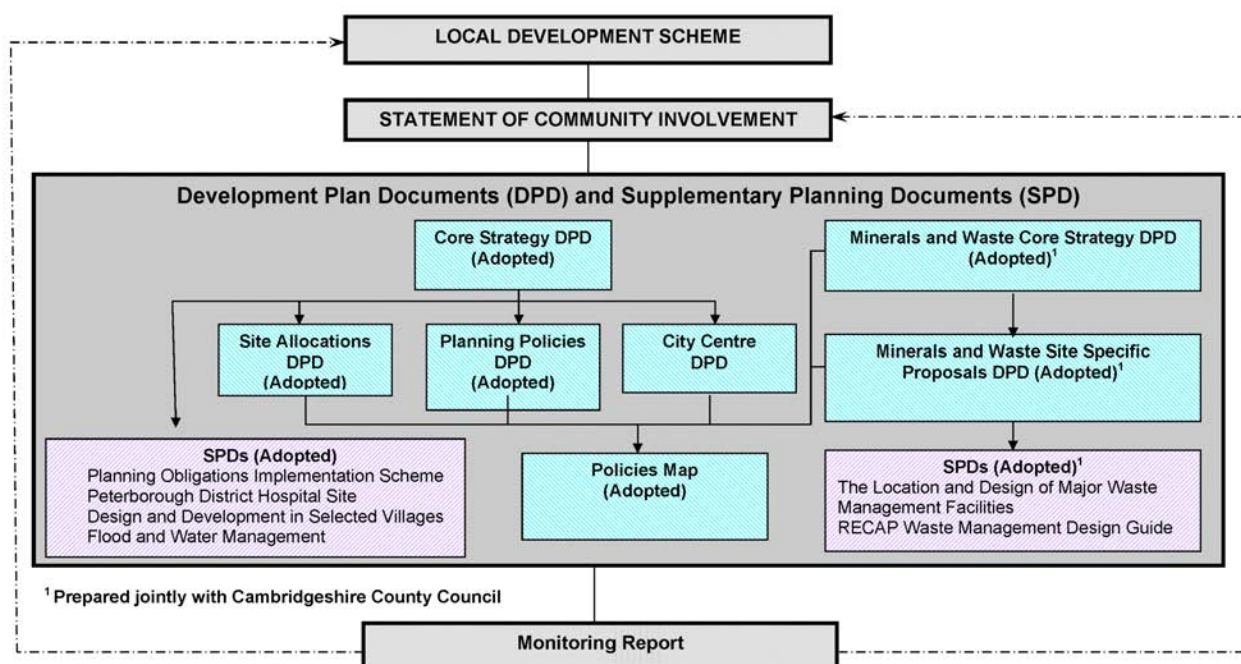
The City Centre Plan has been produced to reflect this presumption in favour of sustainable development. It has been separately assessed against a wide ranging sustainability framework, looking at the social, environmental and economic implications of the Plan. This assessment process is contained in a separate City Centre Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Local Planning Policy

The City Centre Plan forms part of the council's wider statutory development plan. It is one of the collection of DPDs to be taken into consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Figure 1 provides a basic summary of the documents that make up the wider development plan for Peterborough, and shows where the City Centre Plan fits within this context.

Figure 1



You will find definitions of the terms used in Figure 1 in the glossary (Appendix D).

Further information on the documents listed above can be found in the council's Local Development Scheme, which can be viewed at:

http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/planning_and_building/planning_policy/planning_policy_framework/local_development_scheme.aspx

Appendix B: Relationship with Other Documents

Peterborough Core Strategy DPD (February 2011)

The overarching plan for Peterborough is the Peterborough Core Strategy DPD. This sets the overall strategic vision and objectives for Peterborough and the broad principles for the location of new development. The Core Strategy establishes the ‘headlines’ for development to be accommodated within the City Centre Plan area. The City Centre Plan sits beneath the Core Strategy and provides more detailed planning policies and designations for the city centre.

The Core Strategy has a number of particularly important policies and ‘headlines’ to which this City Centre Plan must conform, and expand upon, as necessary. Policy CS4 is the most relevant as it sets the broad requirements for the city centre. The policies of particular relevance to the city centre are summarised as follows:

Core Strategy Policy	Applicable details for the City Centre, which this plan must conform to
CS2	Approximately 4,300 new dwellings in the city centre (at 1 April 2009)
CS3	Equivalent of at least 3.5 hectares of employment land; mixed use development in the city centre encouraged
CS4	Detailed policy on the city centre, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City centre to be developed and maintained as a centre of regional significance • Major cultural and leisure developments encouraged • Confirms the 4,300 dwelling target • Promoted for employment, especially B1 uses • Areas of change identified, but not limited to, South Bank, Hospital site, land beside the River Nene, railway station area, land for university • Public realm and natural environment improvements • Protection of historic environment
CS14	Enhance the city centre in order to improve connectivity and reduce need to travel
CS15	Peterborough City Centre (Primary Shopping Area) identified as top in the hierarchy of retail centres. Preference for all comparison goods retail proposals to be directed to the city centre. Some additional convenience floorspace.
CS17	Protection of views of the cathedral
CS18	Focus of new culture, leisure and tourism facilities in the city centre, which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the most of existing assets such as the river • Promote a regional multi-use venue for large scale events • Improve the evening and night time economy • Make use of sustainable travel modes (walking, cycling, public transport and water taxis) • Support the shared use of any university facilities such as sport and libraries <p>Large attractions should be located in the city centre</p>
CS19	Promotion of the River Nene as a sub-regional corridor for biodiversity and landscape retention, restoration and creation; and the promotion of access, navigation and recreation.

Appendix B: Relationship with Other Documents

All other policies in the Core Strategy apply across the whole city council area, including the city centre, particularly policies CS12 Infrastructure and CS16 Urban Design.

Peterborough Site Allocations DPD (April 2012)

The Peterborough Site Allocations DPD allocates sites for future housing and employment development to meet the growth requirements set by the Core Strategy. It applies to all of the local authority area except the city centre. The document identifies the boundary of the city centre and the area to be covered by the City Centre DPD.

Peterborough Planning Policies DPD (December 2012)

The Planning Policies DPD sets out the detailed policies and standards against which planning applications will be assessed. It applies throughout the local authority area; therefore many of the policies are relevant to any development which may be proposed in the city centre. There is no need to repeat policies in this Plan, but attention is drawn to specific policies from the Planning Policies DPD whenever relevant. Policies of particular relevance are as follows:

- PP2 - Design Quality
- PP12 - The Transport Implications of Development
- PP13 - Parking Standards
- PP14 - Open Space Standards
- PP15 - Nene Valley
- PP17 - Heritage Assets
- PP20 - Development on Land affected by Contamination

Peterborough Policies Map (December 2012)

The Policies Map is a separate document, which forms part of the statutory development plan. It shows the location and extent of sites allocated for development, and areas within which, or outside which, planning policies will apply.

The Policies Map will be updated each time that the council adopts a DPD which has policies for specific geographical areas. The current Policies Map was adopted alongside the Planning Policies DPD in December 2012.

The City Centre Plan only applies within the defined city centre boundary as shown on Inset 2 of the Policies Map. Therefore the adoption of the City Centre Plan will only result in the replacement of Inset 2.

Peterborough District Hospital Site SPD (June 2010)

An SPD was produced for the former District Hospital site to provide detailed guidance for the redevelopment of this large and important part of the city centre. The hospital site is located on the western edge of the city centre and has been identified as an Opportunity Area.

Policy CC4 (for the Railway Station Policy Area) requires that development proposals for the Hospital Opportunity Area (site CC4.1) should be in general conformity with the requirements of the SPD.

Peterborough Flood and Water Management SPD (December 2012)

The Flood and Water Management SPD supplements policy CS22 of the Peterborough Core Strategy DPD and policy PP16 of the Peterborough Planning Policies DPD. The SPD provides further advice for developers for city centre sites.

Appendix B: Relationship with Other Documents

Peterborough Shop Front Design Guidance SPD

This is an SPD providing guidance on the appropriate design of shop fronts, signage, external security shutters and canopies. It supports policy PP11 (Shop Frontages, Security Shutters and Canopies) of the Planning Policies DPD and policy CS16 (Urban Design and the Public Realm) of the Core Strategy DPD. It applies throughout Peterborough, including the area covered by this City Centre Plan.

Appendix C: Residential Development to meet Core Strategy Requirements

Appendix C: Residential Development to meet Core Strategy Requirements

This Appendix explains how the provision made for new residential development in this Plan contributes to the overall requirements established by the Peterborough Core Strategy.

Policy CS2 of the Core Strategy (dealing with the location of new residential development) makes provision for approximately 25,500 additional dwellings across the local authority area between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2026 and divides this figure between various areas of the city and surrounding villages, including approximately 4,300 dwellings for the city centre.

As the Core Strategy housing figures have a base date of 1 April 2009, the figures need updating to reflect completions that have taken place and permissions that have been granted over the last four years.

The updated Core Strategy housing figures are summarised in Table 4 (overleaf). The table is split into three rows. The first row updates and presents housing figures for the local authority area, excluding the city centre. These are based on actual completions and permissions and the indicative dwelling figures for sites allocated in the Peterborough Site Allocations DPD. The second row shows similarly updated figures for the city centre only (including the dwellings proposed on sites in this Plan). The final row shows the total for the whole local authority area and demonstrates how the Core Strategy target will be met.

The second column of the table presents the approximate dwelling requirement figure from the Core Strategy, for which provision must be made over period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2026. The third column provides details of the gross dwellings actually gained during the years from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2013. Once these have been deducted from the original Core Strategy requirements from 1 April 2009, a revised Core Strategy requirement for 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2026 appears in the fourth column.

The column headed “Committed Sites at 1 April 2013” provides details of the number of dwellings committed. Commitments are defined as dwellings which remain to be completed on sites under construction, dwellings which have full planning permission and dwellings which have outline planning permission as at 31 March 2013. The 2013 Housing Monitoring Report provides information on all committed sites.

The column headed “Required New Dwellings” shows the additional dwellings that are required in order to meet the Core Strategy target once the completions and commitments at 31 March 2013 have been subtracted from the original 2009 Core Strategy target. This identifies the approximate requirement for new dwellings that should be included in this Plan (3,407 dwellings).

For the City Centre, the column headed “New Allocations” shows the number of dwellings that are assumed to be deliverable from sites that are allocated in this Plan. These are sites without permission at 31 March 2013. The figure for the rest of the local authority area is the total number of dwellings from allocated sites in the Site Allocations DPD without planning permission at 31 March 2013. This figure is taken from the Peterborough Housing Monitoring Report 2013.

Appendix C: Residential Development to meet Core Strategy Requirements

Table 4: Dwelling Figures for the City Centre - Relationship with Core Strategy Dwelling Requirements

	Core Strategy 2009 to 2026	Completed ¹ April 2009 to 31 March 2013 (gross)	Core Strategy (as adjusted 2013 to 2026)	Committed Sites at ¹ April 2013	Required New Dwellings	New Allocations	Total Dwellings 2013 to 2026	Difference from Core Strategy (adjusted 2013 to 2026)
Local Authority Area Excluding City Centre	21,200	3,005	18,195	7,802	10,393	11,605*	19,407	+1,212
City Centre	4,300	329	3,971	564	3,407	2,443**	3,007	-964
Total	25,500	3,334	22,166	8,366	13,800	14,048	22,414	+248

* Sites identified in the Peterborough Site Allocations DPD without planning permission

**Based on the mid-point of dwelling numbers where there is a range identified in this plan.

Appendix C: Residential Development to meet Core Strategy Requirements

The column headed “Total Dwellings 2013 to 2026” shows the sum of the dwellings in “Committed Sites at 1 April 2013” and “New Allocations”. The difference between the Total Dwellings in this column and those in the “Core Strategy (as adjusted 2013 to 2026)” column are presented in the final column. For the city centre, this reveals the extent to which dwellings from sites allocated in this Plan would meet the approximate requirements from the Core Strategy.

Although the dwelling numbers from allocated sites in the city centre fall short of the approximate Core Strategy requirements, the overall requirement to provide 25,500 new homes by 2026 across Peterborough as a whole will be more than met during the plan period.

The reduced anticipated number of dwellings coming forward also reflects the market realities. Since the latter stages of finalising the Core Strategy (around 2009/2010) the market for flats and high density residential development schemes has dramatically fallen. It is no longer realistic to expect developers to deliver high density flat-based development.

The lower level of housing is more realistic, will still deliver the overall Core Strategy housing target and will still lead to a transformation of the City Centre into one which has a significant residential population.

In chapter 5 of this Plan, each Policy Area includes a list of allocated sites, some of which may already have planning permission (at 1 April 2013). For sites where no development has started, the indicative number of dwellings is the number of dwellings for which permission was granted. Where development has already started (at 1 April 2013), the figure is the remaining number of dwellings still to be completed in accordance with the permission.

For the Opportunity Areas and other allocated sites without permission, the indicative dwelling figure is an estimate based on the size of the site, the potential mix of uses and an assumption about density and net developable area; in some cases this is based on information from prospective developers. For the Opportunity Areas, the indicative number of dwellings is sometimes expressed as a range, in order to allow for some flexibility in the mix of other uses.

It is important to note that the indicative numbers of dwellings for each Policy Area are used to demonstrate how the approximate Core Strategy dwelling requirements can be met. It is emphasised that the dwelling numbers are only “indicative”, and do not represent a fixed policy target for each individual site unless otherwise stated.

Developers are encouraged to produce the most appropriate design-led solution, taking the mix of uses, all national policies and local policies into account, in arriving at a total dwelling figure, and they need not be constrained by a figure that appears in any of the policies in chapter 5.

Appendix C: Residential Development to meet Core Strategy Requirements

Appendix D: Glossary

Appendix D: Glossary

Adoption - the formal decision by the city council to approve the final version of a document, at the end of all the preparation stages, bringing it into effect.

Amenity - a general term used to describe the tangible and intangible benefits or features associated with a property or location, that contribute to its character, comfort, convenience or attractiveness.

Appropriate Assessment (AA) - a requirement of the European Habitats Directive. Its purpose is to assess the impact of plans and projects on internationally designated nature conservation sites.

Biodiversity - all species of life on earth including plants and animals and the ecosystem of which we are all part.

Brownfield Land (also known as Previously Developed Land) - land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. Development of such land is preferable to development of greenfield land under the sequential approach.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - A levy allowing the council to raise funds from owners or developers of land undertaking new building projects in their area.

Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) - power given to a local authority to obtain land for redevelopment purposes. This may include development undertaken by the private sector.

Conservation Area - a formally designated area of special historic or architectural interest whose character must be preserved or enhanced.

Core Strategy - a Development Plan Document (DPD) which contains the spatial vision, main objectives and policies for managing the future development of the area.

Development Plan - see Statutory Development Plan.

Development Plan Document (DPD) - A Statutory Planning Document that sets out the spatial planning strategy, policies and/or allocations of land for types of development across the whole, or specific parts, of the LPA's area.

Examination - a form of independent public inquiry into the soundness of a submitted DPD, which is chaired by an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. After the examination has ended the inspector produces a report which, if necessary, may include main modifications to make the document sound.

Infrastructure - a collective term which relates to all forms of essential services like electricity, water, and road and rail provision.

Local Development Framework (LDF) - the collective term for the whole package of planning documents which are produced by a local planning authority to provide the planning framework for its area, including DPDs such as the Core Strategy, Planning Policies DPD and the City Centre DPD.

Local Development Scheme (LDS) - a document which sets out the local planning authority's intentions and timetable for the preparation of new DPDs.

Local Planning Authority (LPA) - the local authority which has duties and powers under the planning legislation. For the Peterborough area, this is Peterborough City Council.

Appendix D: Glossary

Monitoring Report - a report that must be produced by the local planning authority (often on an annual basis) to explain how the the local development scheme is being implemented and the extent to which policies in the LDF are being achieved.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - the government's national planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

Previously Developed Land (PDL) - see Brownfield Land.

Policies Map - a map on an Ordnance Survey base map which shows where policies in DPDs apply. For an interim period it will also show where saved policies from Local Plans apply. It needs to be revised as each different DPD is adopted.

Statutory Development Plan - the overall term for a number of documents which, together, have a particular status under the planning legislation in decision-making. The Development Plan includes all adopted DPDs for the area.

Submission stage - the stage at which a DPD is sent to the Secretary of State as a prelude to its examination, having previously been published for public inspection and formal representations.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - A document which expands on policies or provides further detail to policies contained in a DPD.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - a formal, systematic process to assess the environmental, economic and social effects of strategies and policies in a DPD from the start of preparation onwards. The process includes the production of reports to explain the outcomes of the appraisal.

Sustainable Community Strategy - a document which plans for the future of Peterborough across a wide range of topics, setting out a vision and a series of aspirations. The local strategic partnership (Greater Peterborough Partnership) has responsibility for producing the document which sets out four main priorities that all partners work towards. It does not form part of the LDF.

Sustainable Transport - can be any form of transport other than the private car. The term most commonly relates to travel by bus, train or light rail, but walking and cycling are sustainable means of transport as well.

Water Framework Directive (WFD) - a European Directive (2000/60/EC) that requires member states to prevent any deterioration in the status of aquatic ecosystems and to make plans to protect and improve water bodies to achieve 'good ecological status'. The Directive applies to all surface freshwater bodies, groundwater, estuaries and coastal waters out to one mile.

Appendix E: Submission Policies Map

Appendix E: Submission Policies Map

The submission version of the City Centre DPD is accompanied by a Submission Policies Map.

The current version of the Peterborough Policies Map was adopted in December 2012. It consists of a large map of the whole local authority area at a scale of 1:25,000, together with Inset maps.

Inset Map 1 is a map of the urban area of Peterborough which is printed on the back of the main Policies Map. Inset Map 2 is a separate map of the city centre. There are separate maps (Insets 3 to 28) for the 25 villages.

The purpose of the Submission Policies Map is to show how the adopted map will be changed when the City Centre Plan is adopted. It is important to note that the adoption of the City Centre Plan will not replace the adopted Policies Map in its entirety. Firstly, it will only replace Inset Map 2 and secondly, it will only replace certain elements, leaving the remainder unchanged.

The contents of the Submission Policies Map shows the following items from this City Centre Plan:

- Policy Areas
- Opportunity Areas
- Primary Shopping Area
- Primary Retail Frontages
- Sites Allocated Primary for Residential Development
- Nene Valley

These will replace the following items shown on Inset Map 2 of the adopted Policies Map:

- Opportunity Areas
- Central Retail Area
- Primary Retail Frontages in City Centre
- City Centre Residential Areas
- Land Safeguarded for a Rail Link
- The Embankment
- Nene Valley

There are no other changes proposed. Therefore the following items will remain as shown on Inset Map 2 of the adopted Policies Map.

- City Centre Plan Boundary
- Local Centre
- Conservation Area
- Building of Local Importance
- Scheduled Monument
- Areas of Historic Landscape or Parkland
- Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance

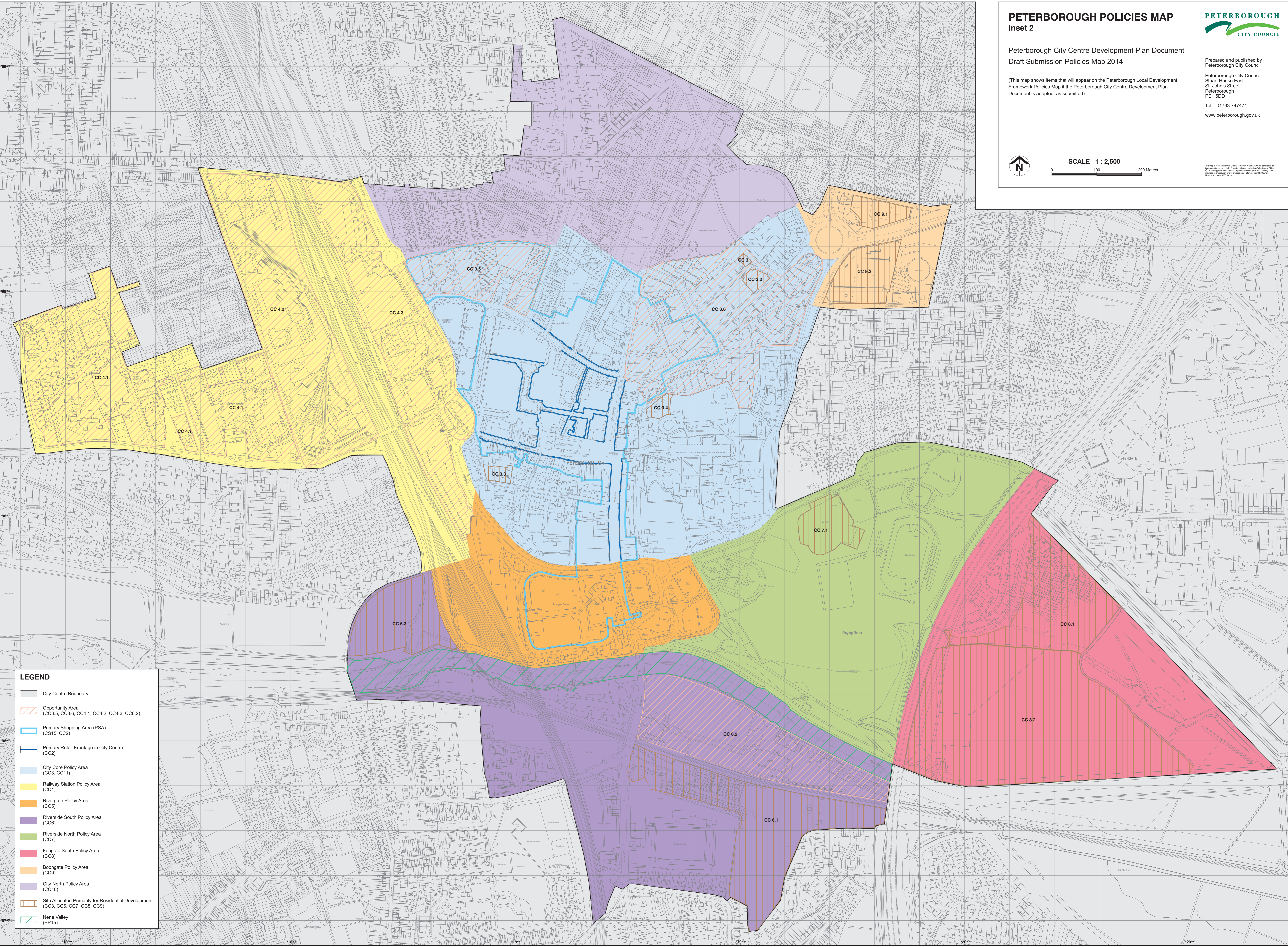
Appendix E: Submission Policies Map



SCALE 1 : 2,500

0 100 200 Metres

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LEGEND

- City Centre Boundary
- Opportunity Area (CC3.5, CC3.6, CC4.1, CC4.2, CC4.3, CC6.2)
- Primary Shopping Area (PSA) (CS15, CC2)
- Primary Retail Frontage in City Centre (CC2)
- City Core Policy Area (CC3, CC11)
- Railway Station Policy Area (CC4)
- Rivergate Policy Area (CC5)
- Riverside South Policy Area (CC6)
- Riverside North Policy Area (CC7)
- Fengate South Policy Area (CC8)
- Boongate Policy Area (CC9)
- City North Policy Area (CC10)
- Site Allocated Primarily for Residential Development (CC3, CC6, CC7, CC8, CC9)
- Nene Valley (PP15)

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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
24 NOVEMBER 2014	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Lucia Serluca, Cabinet Member for City Centre Management, Culture and Tourism Cllr Nigel North, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital	
Contact Officer(s):	Ricky Fuller, Strategic Commissioning and Transformation Adrian Chapman, Communities and Targeted Services	Tel 452482 Tel 863883

REVIEWING PETERBOROUGH LIBRARY SERVICES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : The Head of Strategic Commissioning and The Assistant Director for Communities and Targeted Services	Deadline date : 24 November 2014
<p>For Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To review and approve the results from the public consultation on the use of libraries and community centres and to consider how the responses inform the Council's spending plans for 2015 – 2016; 2. To approve the proposed approach to supporting community centres in the future, to secure a sustainable network of effective and efficient centres through a new model for community centres as detailed in 6.5. 	

1. ORGIN OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following a referral from CMT on 11th November 2014.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1
- (a) To allow Cabinet to consider the responses to the recent city-wide consultation on people's use of our libraries and community centres;
 - (b) For Cabinet to consider how these results will feed into the Council's spending plans for 2015 – 2016;
 - (c) For Cabinet to consider a different approach for community centres, including new criteria to guide decisions about future management arrangements.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.1 'To take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the Council's Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the Council's overall improvement programmes to deliver excellent services.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	
Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee	18th Nov 2014 & Feb 2015 (Anticipated)		
Date for relevant Council meeting	N/A	Date for submission to Government Dept <i>(please specify which Government Dept)</i>	N/A

4. LIBRARIES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES

- 4.1 An eight-week consultation took place between 4th August and 26th September 2014 to understand which libraries and communities centres people use around Peterborough, when and how often they use them and what they use them for. In total, 5,110 responses were received during the consultation period.
- 4.2 A weekly email update was sent by Councillor Lucia Serluca, Cabinet Member for City Centre Management, Culture and Tourism, to all 57 councillors asking them to encourage residents in their ward to complete the consultation questionnaire. In addition, Councillor Serluca and council officers attended a number of meetings to talk about the consultation including Peterborough Youth Council (16 Sept), Parish Council Liaison Group (24 Sept) and Community Action Peterborough (26 Sept).
- 4.3 The Council also consulted with all parish councils and clerks, registered community and resident groups, faith and community groups, voluntary sector partners such as the disability forum, Age UK and Peterborough Citizens' Advice Bureau and MPs.
- 4.4 In addition, the Council met with the management committees of the community centres to gather information about what the centres are used for, how they are managed, which sections of the community use them and when they have activities available. In total, 91% of the community centres participated in the fact finding exercise.

5. LIBRARIES

- 5.1.1 Libraries are a statutory service under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 which requires the Council as the library authority to provide a **comprehensive and efficient library service**. We are required to consult on any changes recommended for service delivery and it is essential that the public are consulted before any service changes are adopted.
- 5.1.2 The way customers use the library service is changing. Technology means that customers are doing a lot more things for themselves. According to management information held by Vivacity, 90% of book loans in Peterborough's libraries are now done through self-service kiosks. 51% of library members currently borrow books on a regular basis and 49% of members are using the libraries for a range of other activities. Staff now spend more time supporting customers to use computers, or supporting groups meeting in libraries, than they do dealing with 'traditional' library enquiries. The challenge the library service faces is how to provide an excellent, accessible, modern library service, with declining resources.
- 5.1.3 The Peterborough library service currently operates through 10 fixed buildings, a mobile library and an at-home service run by a team of volunteers who take books to those with mobility problems. In the city centre, Central Library is open 40 hours per week. Bretton, Werrington, Orton and Dogsthorpe are open 29 hours a week. Eye, Stanground, Thorney and Woodston are open 21 hours per week. The new Hampton library is open for 75 hours a week (21 hours with Library staff and 54 hours through self-service).

5.1.4 The mobile library makes 103 stops across Peterborough, covering villages out as far as Burghley House. It also supports nine 'micro-libraries' in a variety of places, from the Stagecoach bus garage to the Perkins' canteen. Libraries offer a range of services including books, newspapers and magazines; DVDs; free access to the internet via public computers and events and activities for children, families and adults. A request service is also offered for any book that is either still in print or likely to be held in a library in England.

5.1.5 In addition to the buildings-based and home delivery services, there is also 24/7 access to online digital services such as e-books, e-audio and information databases.

5.2 LIBRARIES – FINDINGS FROM THE CONSULTATION

5.2.1 The consultation ran for eight-weeks was available online via both the Council and Vivacity websites. Paper copies were also available from the Town Hall and Bayard Place receptions and every library and community centre. A large amount of work was undertaken to reach a wider audience so that we could consider the views of as many residents as possible.

5.2.2 All 20,000 library card users who Vivacity hold email addresses for were sent an email about the consultation on two separate occasions. In addition, all 1,500 members of the Citizens' Panel were asked to complete the questionnaire and an email was sent to the head teachers of all schools in the city to cascade throughout their schools.

5.2.3 In total, 5,110 responses were received to the consultation (the highest response rate to a consultation exercise received in recent years).

The full results of the consultation are attached at Appendix A and B.

The question 'what is most important to you about a library service?' received three strikingly significant responses:

- The books on the shelves (87.2% said extremely important)
- The location (70.4% said extremely important); and
- Access to information (55.6% said extremely important)

5.2.4 The consultation has shown that libraries are an overwhelmingly a local service, with 75% of library users travelling less than 2 miles to use a library, and 43% of library users walking to the library (rising to 90% for the users of Eye and Thorney library).

5.2.5 The public were also asked what factors would encourage more use of the library service, with accessing the library building outside normal hours receiving the highest response: 35.4% of respondents said this would be extremely important and 39.1% said it was quite important.

5.3 THE COST OF THE LIBRARY SERVICE

5.3.1 The Council is reviewing how it delivers every aspect of its business – both statutory and discretionary services – in the lead-up to agreeing a budget for 2015/16. This is against the backdrop of significant reductions in funding from Central Government, meaning the Council needs to secure savings totalling £22 million.

The library service as managed by Vivacity cost **£1,518,549** to deliver¹. This is made up of:

5.3.2

	Cost
People	-£1,013,526
Materials / book fund	-£271,218
Buildings	-£233,805
Total	-£1,518,549

5.4 LIBRARIES – NEXT STEPS

5.4.1 Given what we now know about how people use libraries, both nationally and locally, and the costs that are associated with libraries (as detailed above) we will explore how we can design different delivery models for libraries that would secure a financially sustainable offer, meet the needs of the public and fulfil the council's obligation under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

5.4.2 We will take into account the responses to the consultation as we explore:

- How technology can support extended access to libraries outside normal hours;
- Whether other services can be delivered from libraries to further improve access to information;
- Whether the current libraries are in the right locations to provide a comprehensive service.

Advice on the way forward will be presented to Cabinet in the New Year.

Cabinet will be asked to consider how to secure the future delivery of the library service for Peterborough and to approve a second public consultation on the way forward.

5.4.3 The timeline is outlined below:

Item	Dates 2014/15
Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee: consultation results	18 th Nov
Cabinet: consultation findings	24 th Nov
Corporate management team meeting	16 th Dec
Cabinet papers: ways forward for Peterborough libraries	9 th Jan
Cabinet discussion of future library model (and permission for second consultation)	19th Jan
2 nd Consultation starts	19 th Jan
Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee	Feb
2 nd Consultation ends	Noon 20 th Mar
Final consultation analysis	20 th Mar
Vivacity staff briefings	13 th Mar
Cabinet supplementary paper of final consultation results, and cabinet decision on the way forward	23rd Mar

¹ Full-year costs for 2013/14

6. COMMUNITY CENTRES

6.1.1 Peterborough currently has 52 community centres, the largest number of community buildings for a City this size in the UK. 33 operate in council-owned or leased premises, and are run by volunteer groups.

6.1.2 The following buildings are council owned or leased and have been subject to this review:

Bedford Hall	Hampton Community Room	Orton Goldhay Community Centre	Stanground Community Centre
Belsize Community Centre	Hampton Vale Community Centre	Orton Wistow Community Centre	St John's Hall
Bluebell Community Centre	Herlington Community Centre	Parnwell Community Centre	The Fleet
Copeland Community Centre	Hodgson Community Centre	Paston & Gunthorpe Community Centre	The Riverside Pavilion
Dogsthorpe Community Centre	Loxley Community Centre	Pyramid Centre	Walton Community Centre
East Community Centre	Matley Community Centre	Saxon Community Centre	Werrington Village Centre
Eye Community Centre	Millennium Centre	South Grove Community Centre	
Gladstone Park Community Centre	New England Complex	Southfields Community Centre	
Glington Village Hall	Newborough Village Hall	Stafford Hall	

6.2 COMMUNITY CENTRES – FINDINGS FROM THE CONSULTATION

6.2.1 The consultation findings has given the Council an evidence base regarding how people use (or would use) these community centres and what they value about them.

6.2.2 The full results of the consultation are attached at Appendix A and B.

6.2.3 However, unlike the very strong messages that residents have sent in response to the question, 'what is most important to you about a library service?' the same question 'what is most important to you in a community centre?' has elicited a much broader range of views.

6.2.4 Nevertheless the consultation has shown the social value many community centres have as places where a very wide range of activities are accessed and appreciated. Notable findings are listed below:

- Most responders visit their community centre once a week (34.5%).
- The highest type of usage is related to social events (43.8%) followed by community centres as polling stations (36.8%). The lowest specified usage is in

respect of commercial hire (3.0%).

- The age group which has used a community centre the most within the last 12 months is the over 65's, with the lowest usage among younger people aged 16 to 24 year olds.
- The majority of those respondents who have used community centres in the last 12 months said that they travel less than one mile to get to their centre.

6.2.5 In parallel with the consultation, analysis of local and national changes in the management and use of community centres has been undertaken, alongside a detailed review of activity in each centre in Peterborough. Visits were conducted with each organisation who run a community centre to collate and gather information on the usage of each centre. This information has been vital to understanding how each centre is used and the opportunities for different delivery models.

6.2.6 It is noted that although the council does collect information regarding community centres, this is the first time the council will have a complete over view of activity and service delivery area.

6.3 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AUDIT

6.3.1 A comprehensive audit was carried out with 30 of the associations who run a Council owned or leased community centre building. The audit reviewed the association's governance arrangements, utility costs and expenditure, policy audit and an over view of the association's activities, clubs and usage.

6.3.2 The associations greatly differ in usage and governance, there is no consistency in operations or level of dependency upon the Council. However it is noted that all associations visited do provide activities and/or services that have positive social impact.

6.3.3 For the purpose of this report a summary of activities has been produced and categorised as below:

Activity Theme	no of groups/clubs
Health and Wellbeing	49
Sports	48
Under 5's & youth groups	39
Special Interest groups	33
Education	26
Over 55 clubs	21
Leisure actives (games)	20
Governance	14
Church groups	12
Disability groups	3

6.3.4 Health & Wellbeing and Sports activities (including dance) have the largest number of different groups and clubs.

6.4 COST OF COMMUNITY CENTRES

6.4.1 The community centres listed in the table above in section 6 are all either owned or leased by the Council and managed by community volunteers who are members of a Community Association. The Council does not provide a staffing resource to any of the community centres. It does however support the running of some of the community centres through a

combination of contributions towards:

- Rent or lease costs
- Utilities and insurance
- Buildings maintenance and repairs

6.4.2 The table below summarises Council expenditure to support community centres in 2013/14.

Theme	Total cost of service
Rent or lease	-£16,029
Utilities	-£3,035
Insurance	-£15,843
Maintenance	-£95,264
Total	-£130,171

6.5. COMMUNITY CENTRES – NEXT STEPS

6.5.1 Having reviewed what people have said about how they use community centres, and having looked in some detail at the buildings themselves, we would like Cabinet to approve the development by officers of a new delivery model for community centres to deliver the following objectives:

- To offer improved facilities that directly meet local need;
- To meet the council's commitment to localism;
- To achieve financial efficiencies and self-sufficiency

6.5.2 The starting point is that some community centres:

- could run effectively now as community-owned/managed resources without the need for continuing Council involvement;
- are used by groups that lack either/both the capacity/capability to take on the responsibility for the buildings – but a third party could broker the arrangements on their behalf;
- may not have a viable long-term future.

6.5.3 The proposed approach (see Appendix C) will ensure that over the next 18 months the Council secures a sustainable set of arrangements.

6.6. COMMUNITY CENTRES - RISK AND ISSUES

6.6.1 All of the community centres currently supported by the Council are valued by the people who use them, even if there is limited use. Any closures that might make economic sense would need to be handled sensitively and tested also against any impact in terms of social value.

6.6.2 There is no immediate parallel pressure to resolve the future of community centres as with libraries and we are suggesting taking a slightly slower approach to this, with a view to having phases one and two of the community centre delivery model completed for March 2016 as outlined in Appendix C.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 An eight-week consultation took place between 4th August and 26th September 2014 to understand which libraries and communities centres people use around Peterborough, when and how often they use them and what they use them for. In total, 5,110 responses were received during the consultation period.
- 7.2 A weekly email update was sent by Councillor Lucia Serluca, Cabinet Member for City Centre Management, Culture and Tourism, to all 57 councillors asking them to encourage residents in their ward to complete the consultation questionnaire. In addition, Councillor Serluca and council officers attended a number of meetings to talk about the consultation including Peterborough Youth Council (16 Sept), Parish Council Liaison Group (24 Sept) and Community Action Peterborough (26 Sept).
- 7.3 The Council also consulted with all parish councils and clerks, registered community and resident groups, faith and community groups, voluntary sector partners such as the disability forum, Age UK and Peterborough Citizens' Advice Bureau and MPs.
- 7.4 In addition, the Council met with the management committees of the community centres to gather information about what the centres are used for, how they are managed, which sections of the community use them and when they have activities available. In total, 91% of the community centres participated in the fact finding exercise.

8. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 8.1 Cabinet to note that the results from the public consultation on libraries and community centres and to also consider how these results will feed into the Council's spending plans for 2015 - 2016
- 8.2 The assessment criteria for community centres to ensure an effective community service continued to be delivered through community centres by either Community Asset Transfer or by other future management arrangements as detailed in Appendix C. The timelines are below:

Date	Aspect
January – April 2015	Due Diligence
April 2015 – March 2016	Transition period for co-located facilities and establishment of citywide Trust or equivalent
April 2016	Community Asset Review completed

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1
- a. To review and approve the results from the public consultation on the use of libraries and community centres and to consider how the responses inform the Council's spending plans for 2015 – 2016;
 - b. To approve the proposed approach to supporting community centres in the future, to secure a sustainable network of effective and efficient centres through a new model for community centres as detailed in 6.5.

10. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 10.1 A 'do nothing' approach has been considered but discounted this on the grounds that the consultation undertaken suggests there is a strong case to bring greater coherence to our approach in delivering library and community centre services in the future.

11. IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Financial implications

The consultation will help inform the options for the council on the future of library services. It is anticipated that implementation of a new delivery approach would enable the Council to achieve budget reduction. The costs of any future consultations will be met from existing budgets.

11.2 Legal implications

The proposals set out in this report are consistent with both legislative requirements and the Council's support of local services.

The library service is a statutory duty on the Council under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, which sets out that Council's must:

1. Provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons in the area that want to make of it;
2. Promote the service;
3. Lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area.

The attached proposal and the impact assessment (available on the Council's website) sets out the potential impacts of the proposals. A further impact assessment will be carried out in Jan 2015.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 12.1 Existing Council strategies, the Funding and Management Agreement dated 1 May 2010 between the Council and Vivacity, and published documents by the Arts Council and Cities outlook 2014.

13. APPENDICES

- 13.1 There are three appendices to this report:

- Appendix A - Understanding the value of our libraries and community centres Aug-Sept 2014 Main findings
- Appendix B – Questionnaire main findings.
- Appendix C - Community Centre review flowchart.

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Peterborough City Council

Understanding the value of our libraries and community centres

August 2014

1. KEY FINDINGS

1.1 The consultation elicited 5110 responses, the majority responding using an on line questionnaire.

Library Service

- 1.2 Four-in-five respondents (81.6%) indicated that they currently 'use Peterborough library services and have a current membership card', and 4.2% of respondents 'use Peterborough library services but do not have a current membership card'.
- 1.3 14.2% of the overall sample either 'have used Peterborough library services, but not in the last 12 months' (9.7%) or 'have never used Peterborough library services' (4.5%).
- 1.4 Around a third of all respondents stated that they had used Central Library (32.4%) most often in the previous 12 months.
- 1.5 Bretton (17.1%), Werrington (16.4%) and Orton (11.4%) libraries were used most often by in excess of one-in-ten respondents while smaller numbers had most often visited Hampton (4.9%), Dogsthorpe (3.7%), Stanground (3.6%), Eye (2.8%), Thorney (2.6%) and Woodston (2.3%) libraries in the preceding 12 months. 2.2% stated that they had used the Mobile Library most often.
- 1.6 29.3% of respondents who have visited a Peterborough library in the previous 12 months stated that they had done so at least 'once a week' .
- 1.7 Respondents who had used Peterborough libraries in the previous 12 months were most likely to travel 'less than 1 mile' (41.6%) to visit their most used library. 43.1% stated that they 'walk' to their most used library.
- 1.8 Around three-quarters of respondents who have used Peterborough libraries in the previous 12 months stated that they visit libraries other than their most frequented either 'a few times a year' (34.0%) or 'once a year or less' (39.8%).
- 1.9 When respondents were asked which other libraries they use regularly, most mentioned was Central Library (30.0%). 30.4% stated that they use no other library regularly.
- 1.10 In terms of reasons for visiting libraries in Peterborough, the great majority stated that they do so in order to 'borrow books' (87.2%). One-in-five or more respondents do so in order to 'use computers and the internet' (26.2%), 'use the children's library' (23.7%), 'get information about local services/events' (23.2%), 'study/do research' (21.4%) and 'attend specific events' (19.6%).
- 1.11 85.7% of respondents stated that 'the books on the shelves' were 'extremely important' to them in a library service with an additional 12.6% giving 'quite important' responses.
- 1.12 Over half believed 'location' (70.4%) and 'access to information' (55.6%) to be 'extremely important' in this regard, while smaller numbers gave such responses in relation to 'on a convenient public transport route' (41.6%), 'educational events and activities' (36.0%), 'support available from people' (35.7%), 'being able to learn something and/or do homework' (34.3%), 'computers with internet access' (32.6%) and 'social events and activities' (24.9%).

- 1.13 74.5% of respondents stated that 'accessing the library building outside normal hours' would be either 'extremely' (35.4%) or 'quite important' (39.1%) in encouraging them to make more use of library services.

Community Centres

- 1.14 When asked to describe their use of community centres in the last 12 months, nearly a quarter of all respondents (24.0%) said 'I have regularly used my local community centre', and 15.1% said 'I use my community centre occasionally'. However, more than half (56.6%) of respondents said that either 'I have not used a community centre in the last 12 months' (21.5%) or 'I do not use community centres' (35.1%).
- 1.15 The community centres which respondents have used most often in the last 12 months (ranked first most frequently used) were found to be: Werrington Village Centre (5.0% of the overall sample), 'Belsize' (3.6%), 'New England/ Millfield' (2.1%), and 'Paston and Gunthorpe' (2.0%); followed by 'Hampton Vale' (1.8%), 'Eye' (1.6%), 'Copeland' (1.5%), 'Orton Wistow' (1.4%), 'Dogsthorpe' (1.4%), 'Stanground' (1.2%), 'The Fleet' (1.2%), and 'Bedford Hall' (1.2%). More than half of the overall sample (58.0%) have not used community centres in the last 12 months or did not answer the question.
- 1.16 Over a third of those respondents who have used community centres in the last 12 months stated that they visit their most frequently used community centre 'once a week' (34.5%), while smaller groups of respondents visit it 'every day during the week' (15.6%), 'every weekend' (4.4%), 'every 2-3 weeks' (8.0%), 'once a month' (11.2%), 'a few times a year' (21.9%), and 'once a year or less often' (4.4%).
- 1.17 The majority (77.6%) of those respondents who have used community centres in the last 12 months said that they travel 'less than one mile' (51.8%) or '1-2 miles' (25.8%) to get to this centre, while 22.4% travel 'more than 2 miles' to get there.
- 1.18 Just under half (48.5%) of those respondents who have used community centres in the last 12 months 'walk' to their most frequently used community centre.
- 1.19 Based on the total sample, the largest groups of respondents reported that they visit their most frequently used community centre on a 'Tuesday morning' (7.7%), 'Thursday morning' (7.2%), and 'Monday morning' (6.8%).
- 1.20 More than two-fifths of all Community Centre users (43.8%) said that they use/ are involved in 'social events', while over a third use 'polling stations' (36.8%), around a quarter are involved in 'fundraising events' (27.5%), 'local meetings' (26.4%), 'sports and exercise' (24.1%), and around a fifth use 'private hire' (21.5%) and 'arts, crafts and hobbies' (18.6%).
- 1.21 Respondents were presented with a list of 16 aspects of community centres and then asked to say how important they feel these aspects are – the response options being 'extremely important', 'quite important' and 'not important at all'. Overall, the aspects most likely to be considered 'extremely important' in a community centre were 'polling station' (45.3%), 'youth clubs or other children's activities' (40.7%), 'social events' (39.1%), 'local meetings' (38.9%), 'sports and exercise' (37.6%), 'pre-school' (35.5%), 'mums and tots' (35.0%), and 'private hire' (33.1%).
- 1.22 When asked what would encourage them to make more use of community centres, over three-quarters of all respondents (77.2%) said that providing 'social events and activities'

would be either 'extremely important' or 'quite important' in this, while 22.8% said this would be 'not at all important'. Over two-thirds (68.3%) of all respondents felt that having 'health and school services provided from community centres' would be 'extremely important' or 'quite important' in encouraging their use of community centres, while 31.7% said this would be 'not important at all'.

- 1.23 Over half (56.5%) of all respondents felt that 'accessing community services from other buildings' would be 'extremely important' or 'quite important' in encouraging them to make more use of community centres, while 43.5% felt this would be 'not important at all'.

Peterborough's Library Service

Section 1 – Your use of Peterborough library services

Q.1 Which of these statements best describes your use of Peterborough libraries? (4999)

(Please tick✓one box only)

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1. | I use Peterborough library services and I have a current membership card | 81.6% |
| 2. | I use Peterborough library services but I do not have a current membership card | 4.2% |
| 3. | I have used Peterborough library services but not in the last 12 months..... | 9.7% |
| 4. | I have never used Peterborough library services | 4.5% |

Please skip to Section 2 (Q.9) if you have not used Peterborough library services in the last 12 months.

Q.2 Which library have you used MOST OFTEN in the last 12 months? (4272) (Please tick✓one box only)

Central Library	32.4%	Stanground Library	3.6%
Bretton Library	17.1%	Thorney Library.....	2.6%
Dogsthorpe Library	3.7%	Eye Library.....	2.8%
Orton Library	11.4%	Hampton Library	4.9%
Mobile Library	2.2%	Werrington Library	16.4%
Woodston Library	2.3%	Other.....	0.6%

Q.3 How often do you visit this library? (4259) (Please tick✓one box only)

Every day	5.5%	Once a month	18.4%
Once a week	23.8%	A few times a year	18.1%
Every 2 – 3 weeks	33.0%	Once a year or less.....	1.2%

Q.4 How far do you travel to this library? (4239) (Please tick✓one box only)

Less than 1 mile	41.6%	More than 2 miles	25.0%
1 – 2 miles	33.4%		

Q.5 How do you travel to this library? (4261) (Please tick✓one box only)

Walk	43.1%	Taxi.....	0.2%
Cycle	9.9%	Car	35.3%
Bus	10.4%	Other.....	1.1%

Q.6 How often do you visit other libraries? (4112) (Please tick✓one box only)

Every day	1.2%	Once a month	9.3%
Once a week	6.2%	A few times a year	34.0%
Every 2 – 3 weeks	9.4%	Once a year or less.....	39.8%

Q.7 Which other library do you use regularly, if any? (4099) (Please tick✓one box only)

Central Library	30.0%	Stanground Library	1.2%
Bretton Library	8.9%	Thorney Library.....	0.3%
Dogsthorpe Library	2.9%	Eye Library.....	0.9%
Orton Library	4.0%	Hampton Library	2.3%
Mobile Library.....	1.1%	Werrington Library	5.0%
Woodston Library	1.5%	Other	5.1%
		No other library used regularly.....	30.4%

Q.8 Why do you visit the library? Is it to: (4237) (Please tick✓all that apply)

Borrow books	87.2%	Take part in a reading group.....	4.3%
Use computers and the internet	26.2%	Do a course	3.4%
Get help with form filling	1.9%	Enjoy a quiet place to read	14.6%
Get information about local services/events	23.2%	Meet other people.....	9.6%
Study/do research	21.4%	Other	7.4%
Use the children's library	23.7%		
Attend specific events	19.6%		
Search for work	6.0%		
Read newspapers and/or magazines.....	10.9%		

Section 2 - What is the most important to you?
 (Please answer these questions even if you have not used the library service)

Q.9 What is most important to you about a library service? (5110)

(Please tick✓ one box on each line)

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Quite important</u>	<u>Not important at all</u>
1. The books on the shelves (4803).....	85.7%	12.6%	1.8%
2. The range of downloadable e-books (4172).....	14.5%	31.9%	53.6%
3. Computers with internet access (4351).....	32.6%	29.8%	37.6%
4. DVDs, music CDs, audiobooks (4275).....	17.4%	44.7%	37.9%
5. Access to information (4451)	55.6%	32.8%	11.6%
6. Educational events and activities (4272)....	36.0%	38.2%	25.8%
7. Social events and activities (4246).....	24.9%	40.0%	35.1%
8. Being able to learn something and/or do homework (4214).....	34.3%	32.8%	32.9%
9. Support available from people (4226)	35.7%	38.1%	26.2%
10. Location (4500)	70.4%	24.1%	5.5%
11. On a convenient public transport route (4256).....	41.6%	29.3%	29.1%

Q.10 What would encourage you to make more use of library services?

(Please tick✓ one box on each line)

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Quite important</u>	<u>Not important at all</u>
1. Accessing the library building outside normal hours (4668).....	35.4%	39.1%	25.6%
2. Library services available from other buildings (4399).....	14.6%	41.7%	43.7%
3. Social events and activities (4325).....	20.6%	37.0%	42.4%
4. Other services provided from the library (please specify)			

Peterborough's Community Centres

Section 3 – Your use of Community Centres

Q.11 Which of these statements best describes your use of community centres in the last 12 months? (4944) (Please tick✓ one box only)

1. I have regularly used my local community centre	24.0%
2. I use my local community centre occasionally	15.1%
3. I have not used a community centre in the last 12 months (SKIP TO Q.18).....	21.5%
4. I do not use community centres (SKIP TO Q.18).....	35.1%
5. I use more than one community centre.....	3.0%

Please skip to Section 4 (Q.18) if you have not used community centres in the last 12 months.

Q.12 Which community centres have you used MOST OFTEN in the last 12 months? (Please rank the top three)

Name:.....

Name:.....

Name:.....

Q.13 How often do you visit your most frequently used community centre? (2074)
(Please tick✓ one box only)

Every day during the week	15.6%	Every 2 – 3 weeks	8.0%
Every weekend	4.4%	Once a month	11.2%
Once a week	34.5%	A few time a year	21.9%
		Once a year or less.....	4.4%

Q.14 How far do you travel to this community centre? (2036) (Please tick✓ one box only)

Less than 1 mile	51.8%	More than 2 miles	22.4%
1 – 2 miles	25.8%		

Q.15 How do you travel to this community centre? (2020) (Please tick✓ one box only)

Walk	48.5%	Taxi	0.8%
Cycle	5.4%	Car	38.3%
Bus	5.4%	Other.....	1.5%

Q.16 When do you visit your most frequently used community centre you mentioned at Q.12? (5110)

(Please tick✓ all that apply)

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>	<u>Evening</u>
1. Monday	6.8%	5.0%	3.9%
2. Tuesday	7.7%	4.8%	6.0%
3. Wednesday	6.3%	5.7%	4.7%
4. Thursday	7.2%	4.8%	6.1%
5. Friday	6.0%	4.6%	4.8%
6. Saturday	5.6%	6.1%	5.8%
7. Sunday	3.1%	3.2%	3.5%

Q.17 Which of the following do you use? (5110) (Please tick✓ all that apply)

(Missing Data Excluded)

Pre-school	15.4%	Council or other agency surgeries	11.1%
Social events	43.8%	Polling station	36.8%
Fundraising events	27.5%	Private hire.....	21.5%
Luncheon clubs	6.7%	Commercial hire.....	3.0%
Arts, crafts and hobbies.....	18.6%	Local meetings.....	26.4%
Sports & exercise	24.1%	Mums & tots.....	13.4%
Performing arts (theatre, dance & music).....	9.0%	Bingo.....	9.4%
Youth clubs or other children's activities	12.9%	Others, please describe.....	11.9%
Faith services or events	11.5%		

Section 4 - What is the most important to you?

(Please answer these Sections 4 & 5 even if you have not used community centres)

Q.18 What is most important to you in a community centre?

(Please tick✓ one box on each line)

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Quite important</u>	<u>Not important at all</u>
1. Pre-school (3880).....	42.5%	35.5%	22.0%
2. Social events (4162)	39.1%	39.8%	21.1%
3. Fundraising events (3915)	29.7%	42.2%	28.1%
4. Luncheon clubs (3880).....	17.5%	32.9%	49.6%
5. Arts, crafts and hobbies (4024)	28.4%	44.5%	27.2%
6. Sports and exercise (3999)	37.6%	36.9%	25.5%
7. Performing arts (theatre, dance or music) (3855).....	32.8%	25.5%	41.7%
8. Bingo (3784).....	11.2%	22.3%	66.5%
9. Youth clubs or other children's activities (3866)	31.5%	40.7%	27.8%
10. Faith services or events (3783).....	15.6%	27.3%	57.1%
11. Providing council or other agency surgeries (3816)	30.9%	27.2%	41.9%
12. Polling station (4082)	45.3%	35.9%	18.8%
13. Private hire (3907).....	33.1%	38.0%	28.9%
14. Commercial hire (3694).....	18.3%	33.7%	48.1%
15. Local meetings (3955).....	38.9%	38.8%	22.3%
16. Mums & tots (3754).....	35.0%	25.8%	39.2%
17. Other (Please specify)			

Section 5 – Your views about the future of Communities Centres

Q.19 What would encourage you to make more use of community centres?

(Please tick✓ one box on each line)

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Quite important</u>	<u>Not important at all</u>
1. Accessing community services from other buildings (4190)	18.6%	37.9%	43.5%
2. Health & school services provided from community centres (4220)	30.6%	37.7%	31.7%
3. Social events and activities (4465).....	38.6%	38.6%	22.8%
4. Other services provided from community centres (please specify)			

About you

So we can check this survey is representative of Peterborough overall, can you please complete the following questions.

Q.20 Are you (4656):

Female.....65.5%

Male.....34.5%

Q.21 Which of these age groups do you fall into? (4995)

16 to 24 years.....	4.3%	55 to 64 years	19.0%
25 to 34 years.....	11.3%	65 to 74 years	20.2%
35 to 44 years.....	17.6%	75 years or over.....	10.0%
45 to 54 years.....	16.4%	Prefer not to say	1.2%

Q.22 What is your ethnic group? (4855)

A White

- 1. English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British85.9%
- 2. Irish0.9%
- 3. Gypsy or Irish Traveller0.1%
- 4. Any other white background, write in3.4%

B Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups

- 5. White and Black Caribbean.....0.2%
- 6. White and Black African0.1%
- 7. White and Asian0.5%
- 8. Any other mixed/ multiple ethnic background, write in0.5%

C Asian / Asian British

- 9. Indian2.8%
- 10. Pakistani.....1.8%
- 11. Bangladeshi0.2%
- 12. Chinese0.4%
- 13. Any other Asian background, write in.....0.6%

D Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British

- 14. African1.2%
- 15. Caribbean.....0.4%
- 16. Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background, write in0.1%

E Other ethnic group

- 17. Arab.....0.1%
- 18. Any other ethnic group, write in.....0.8%

Everything you say in this questionnaire is confidential. However the responses to this questionnaire may be reported as statistics and mapped geographically so that specific issues emerging within neighbourhoods can be targeted more efficiently. If you agree to your address being given in order for responses to be mapped please write in your address and postcode below.

Address:

.....

Postcode:

.....

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact NWA on the Freephone number: 0800 316 3630.

All surveys are carried out in accordance with the MRS Code of Conduct

www.mrs.org.uk
www.nwaresearch.co.uk

Understanding the value of our libraries and community centres Aug-Sept 2014

Main findings

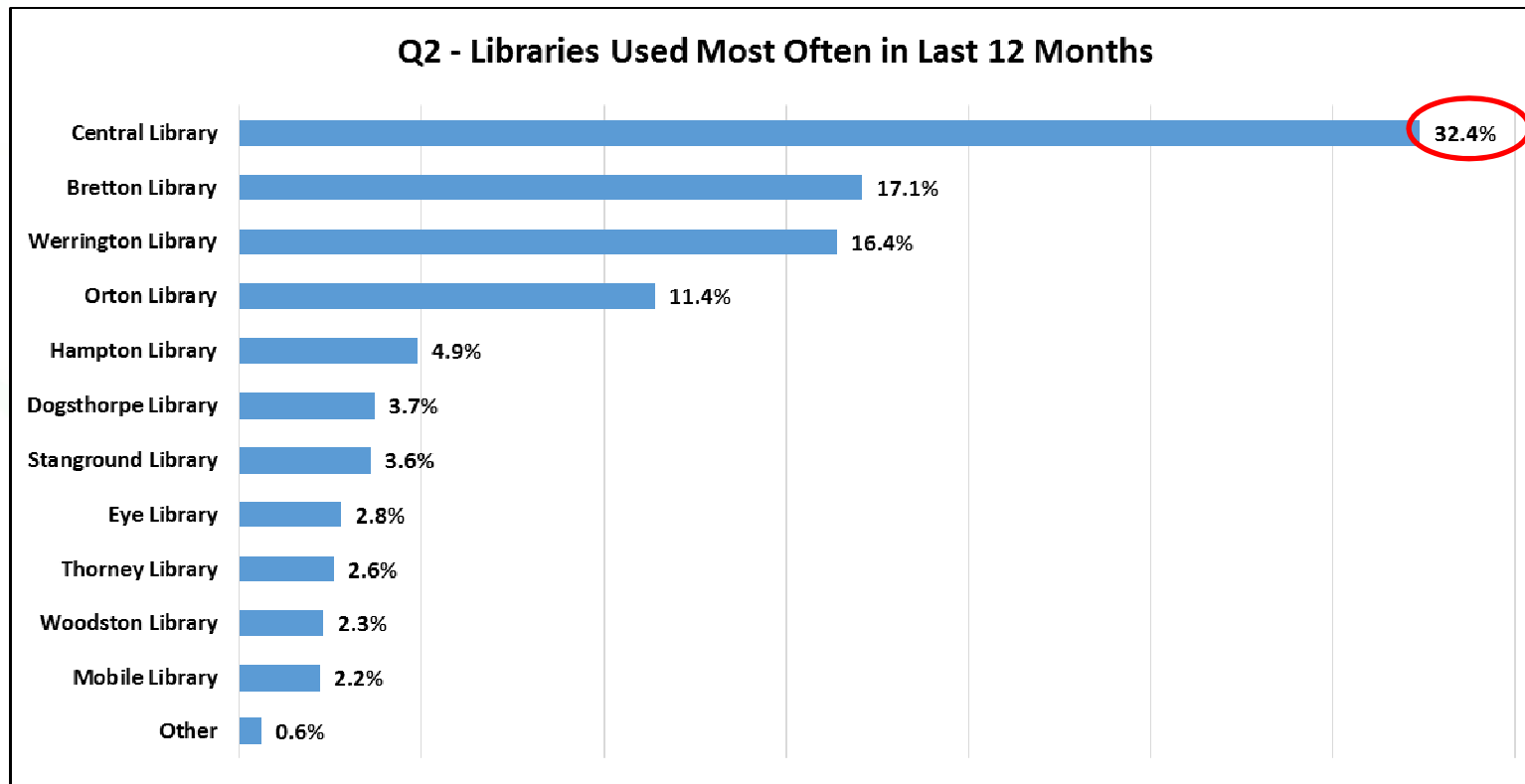
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Libraries consultation: Aug-Sept 2014

The most significant findings (in respect of libraries) from the consultation are:

- All of our libraries are valued by the people who use them.
- By far, the most important considerations for respondents are:
 - the books on the shelves – rated extremely (85.7%) or quite (12.6%) important (it is worth noting that the most cited reason for visiting a library is to borrow books; (87.2%), and the next most popular reason is to use a computer and internet (26.2%);
 - the location of the libraries – rated extremely (70.4%) or quite (24.1%) important; and
 - the ability to ‘access information’ – rated extremely (55.6%) or quite (32.8%) important.
- Libraries are an overwhelmingly local service – 75% of library users travel less than 2 miles to use a library, with 43% of library users walking to the library (rising to 90% for the users of Eye and Thorney library).
- A significant city centre offer is important – 30% of library users across the city *also* use Central Library.
- Opening hours are important – $\frac{3}{4}$ of respondents felt accessing the library ‘outside of normal hours’ was either extremely or quite important.

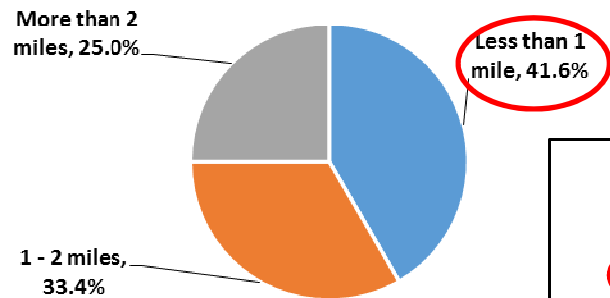
Libraries consultation: Aug-Sept 2014



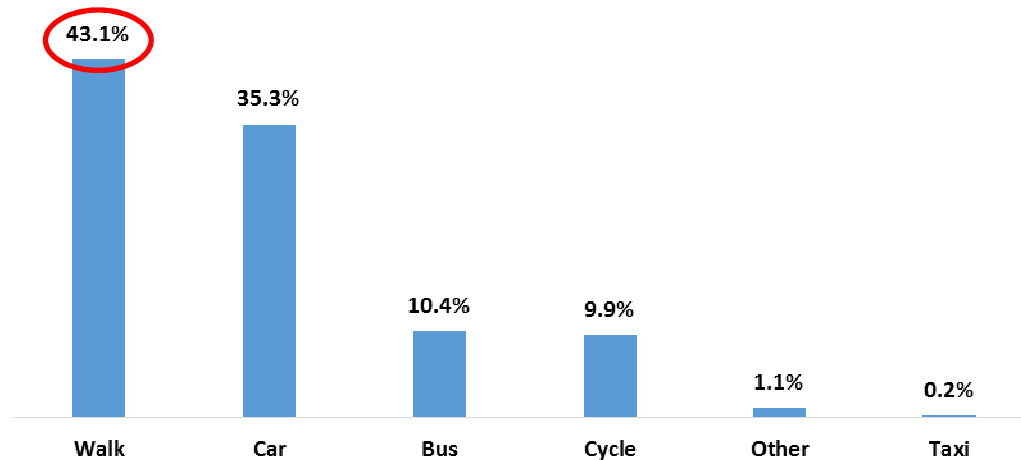
- A third of all respondents stated that they had used Central library (32.4%) most often in the previous 12 months
- Bretton, Werrington and Orton were the next most popular libraries visited

Libraries consultation: Aug-Sept 2014

Q4 - Distance Travelled to Most Used Library

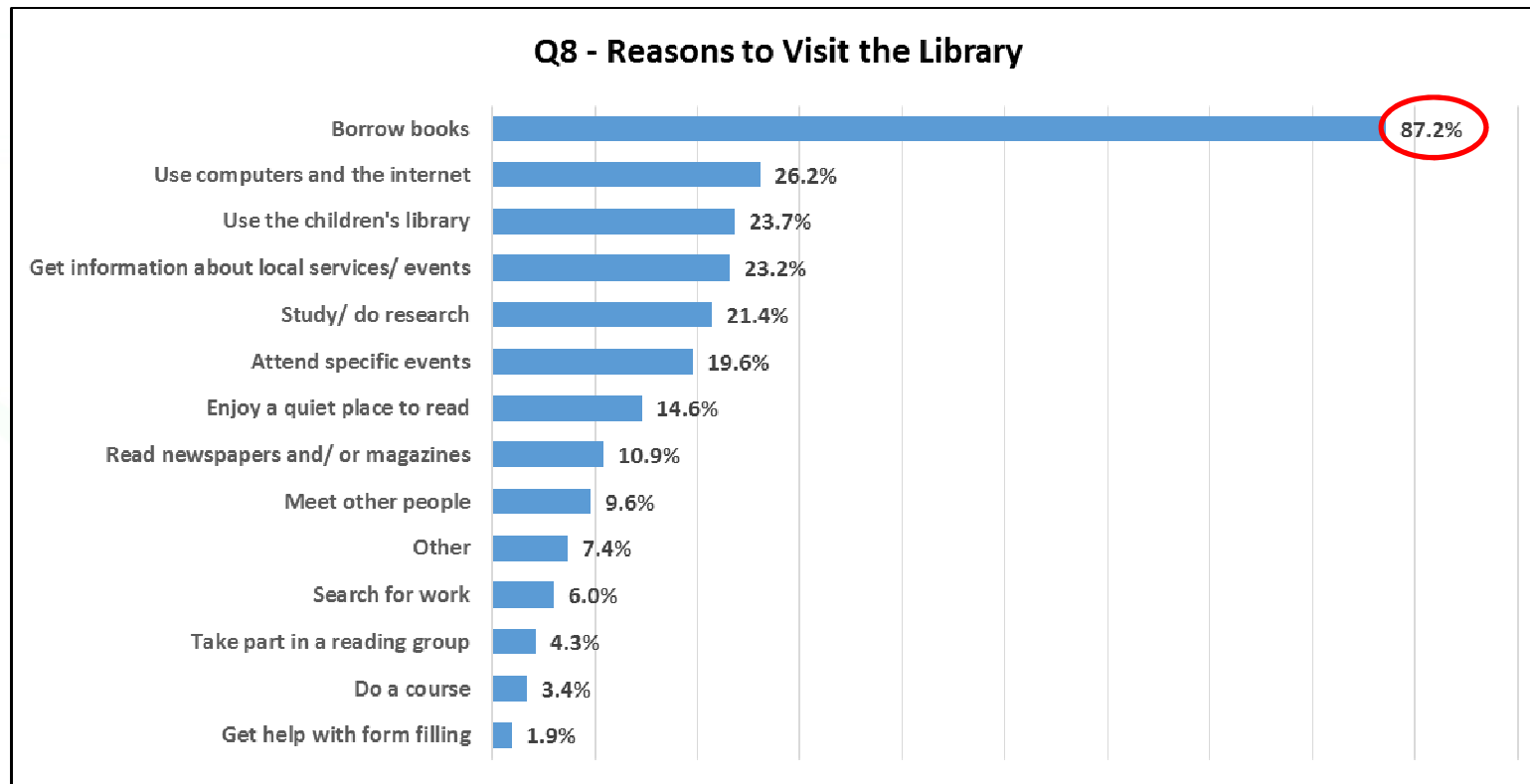


Q5 - Mode of Travel to Most Used Library



- Respondents who had used the libraries in the previous 12 months were most likely to travel 'less than 1 mile' (41.6%) to visit their most used library
- 43.1% stated that they 'walk' to their most used library

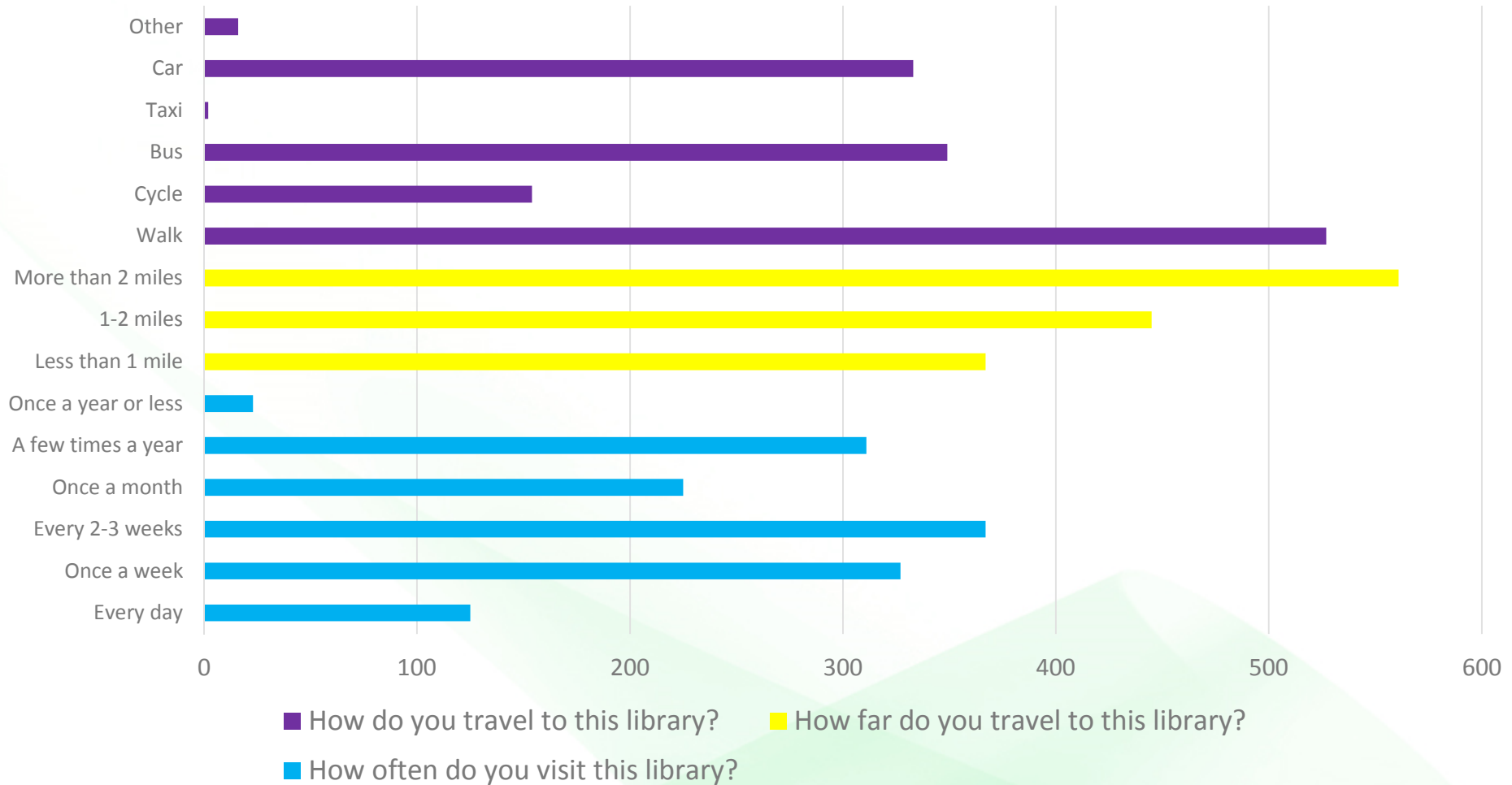
Libraries consultation: Aug-Sept 2014



- 87.2% of all respondents visit libraries in order to do so to borrow books
- One-in-five or more respondents do so in order to 'use computers and the internet'

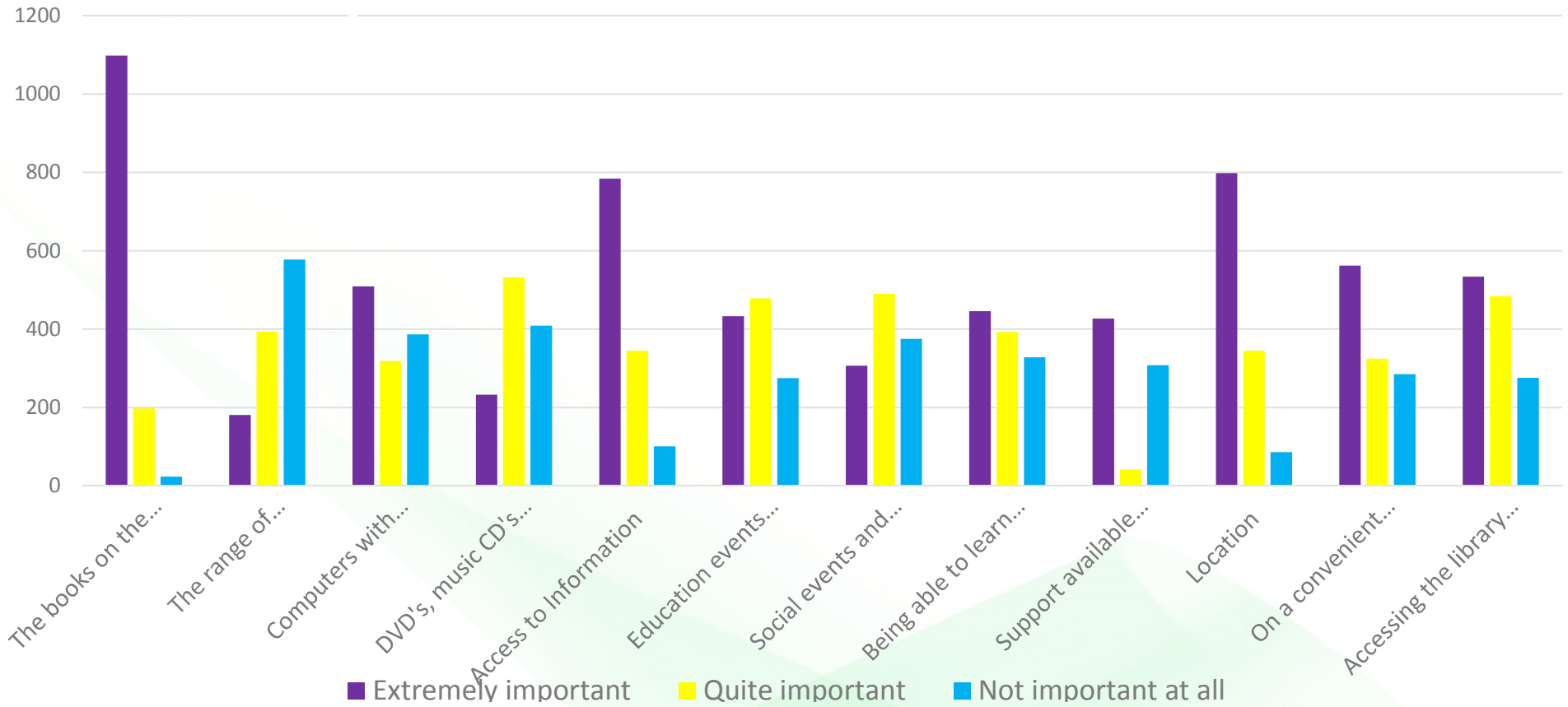
Central Library

232

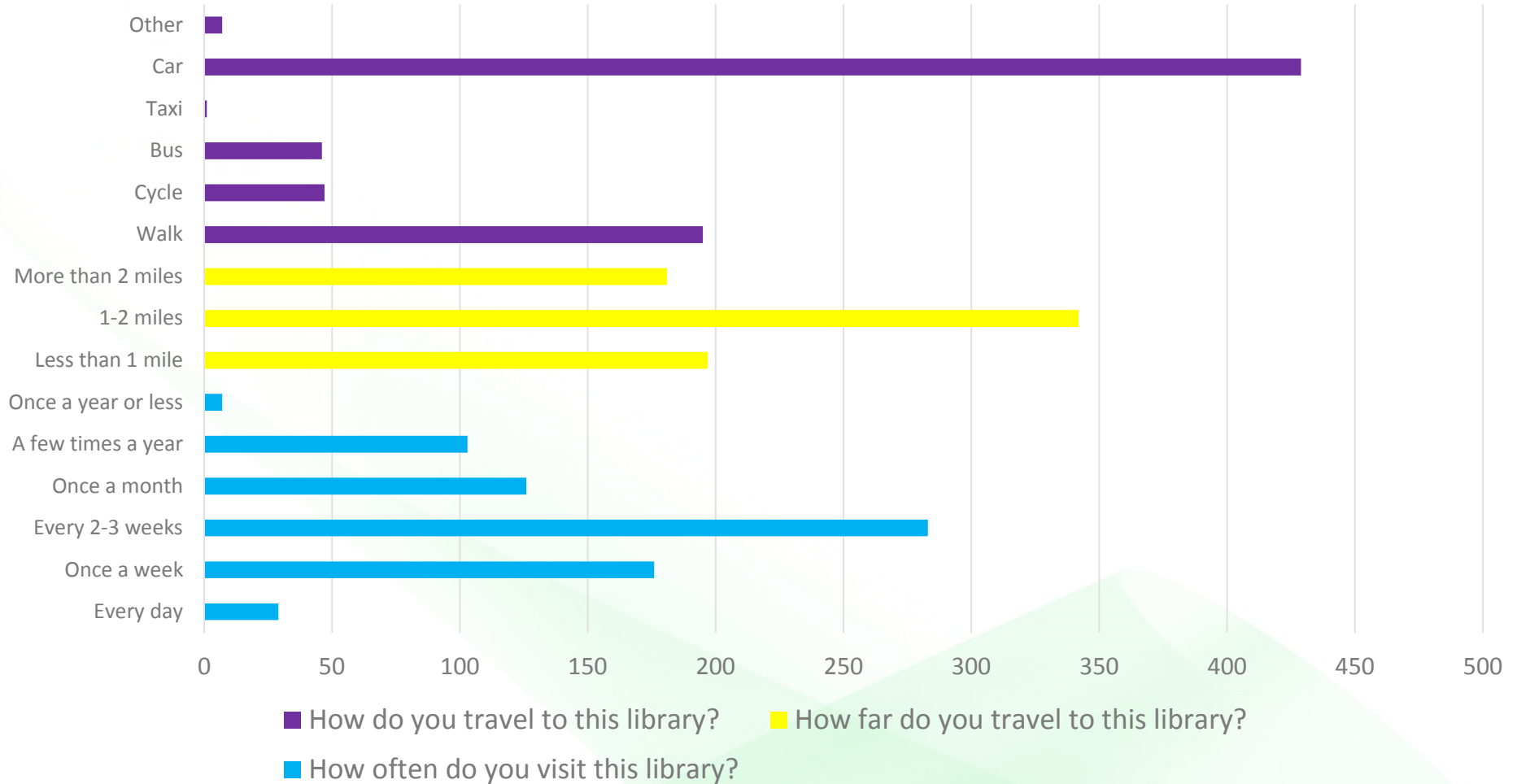


Central Library

233



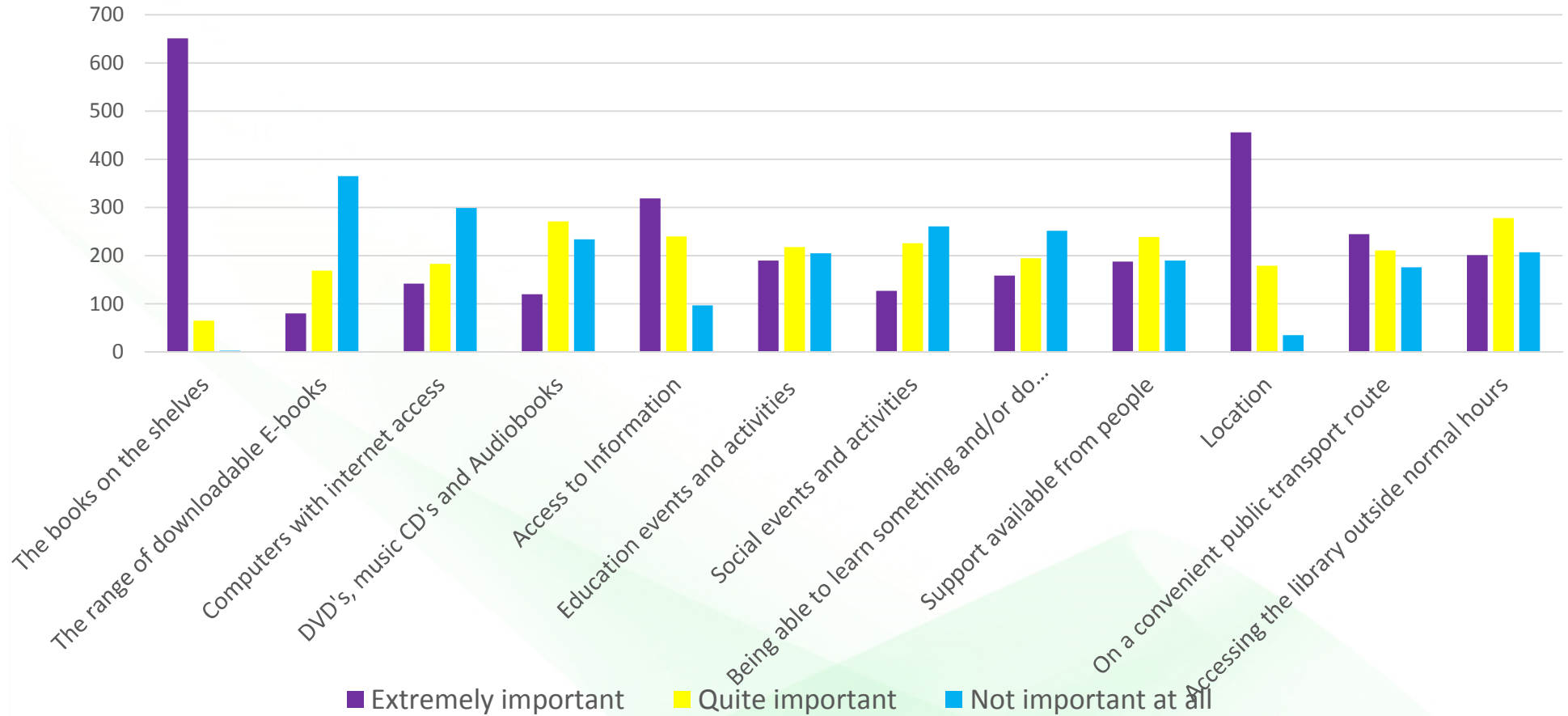
Bretton Library



234

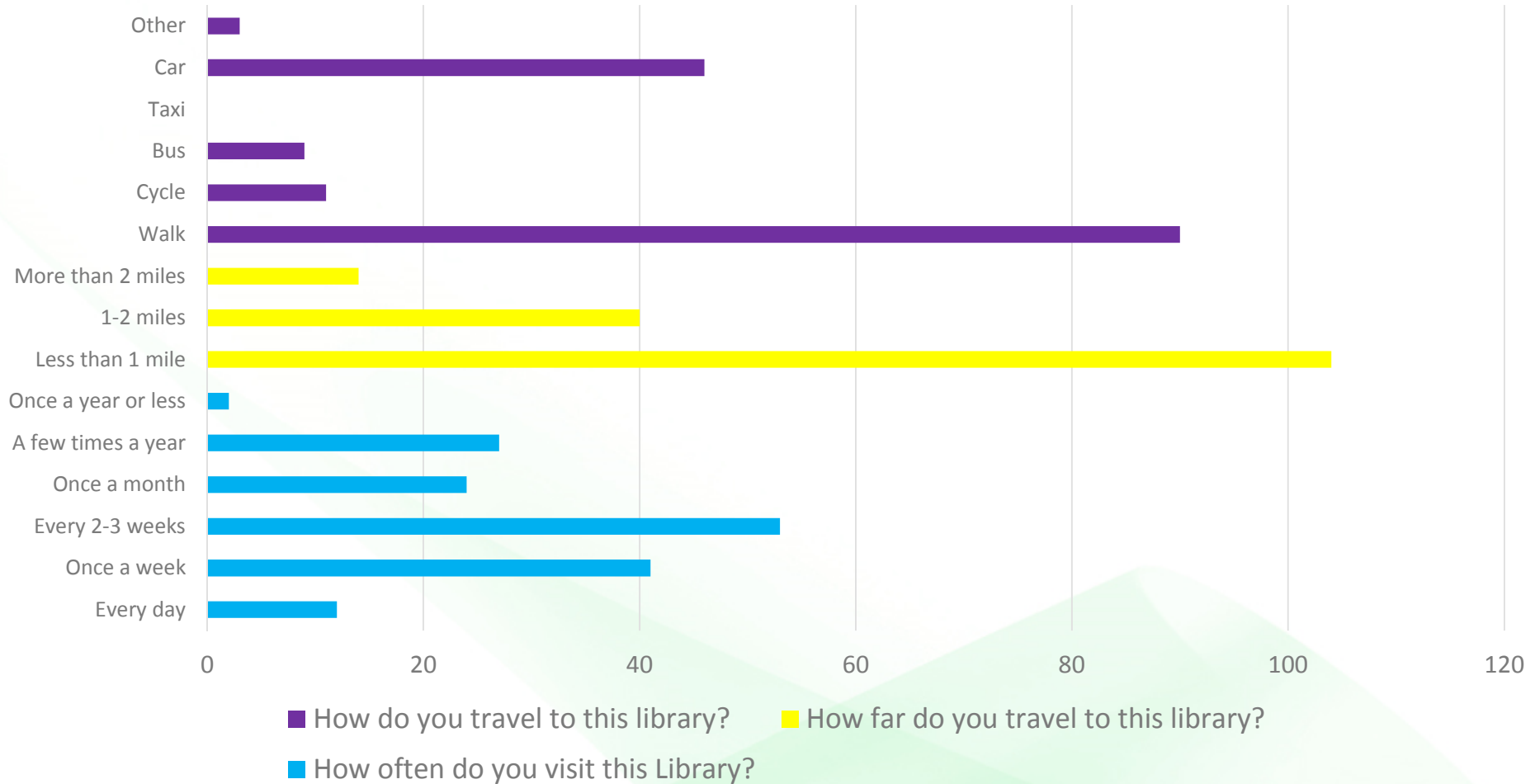
Bretton Library

235



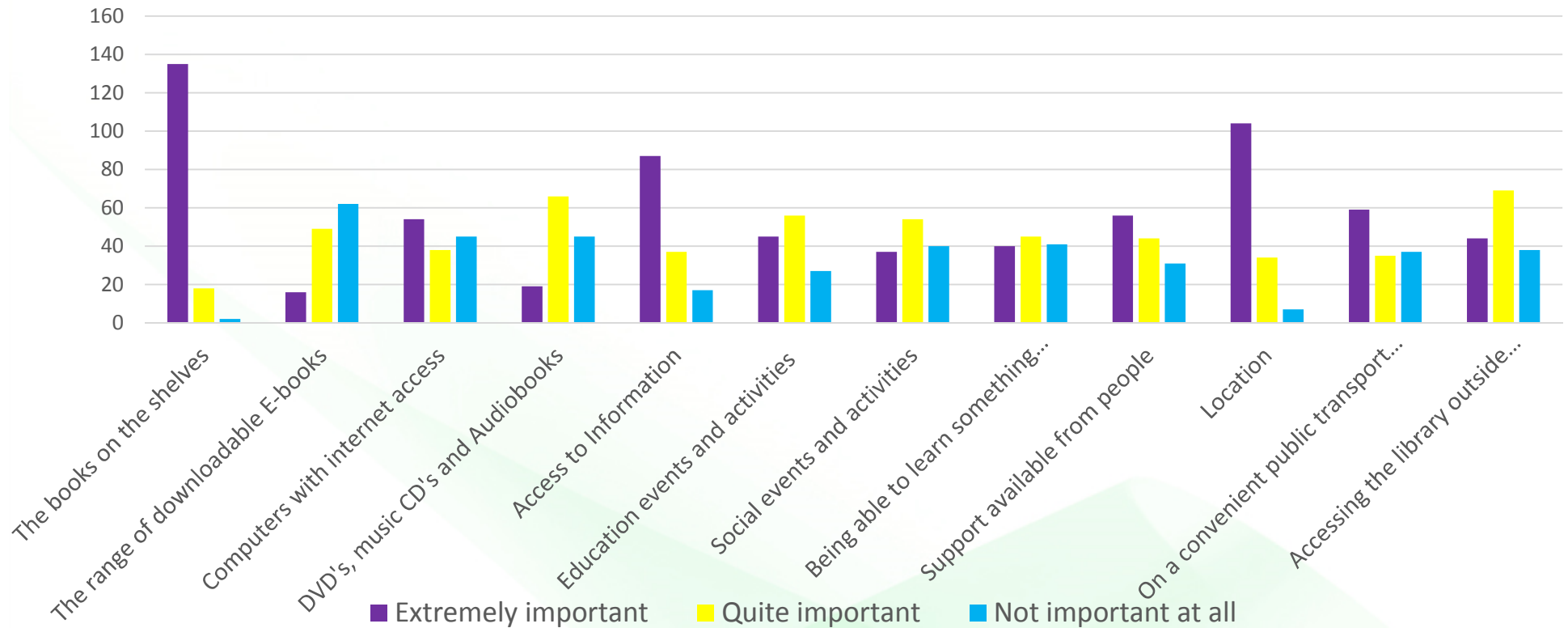
Dogsthorpe Library

236



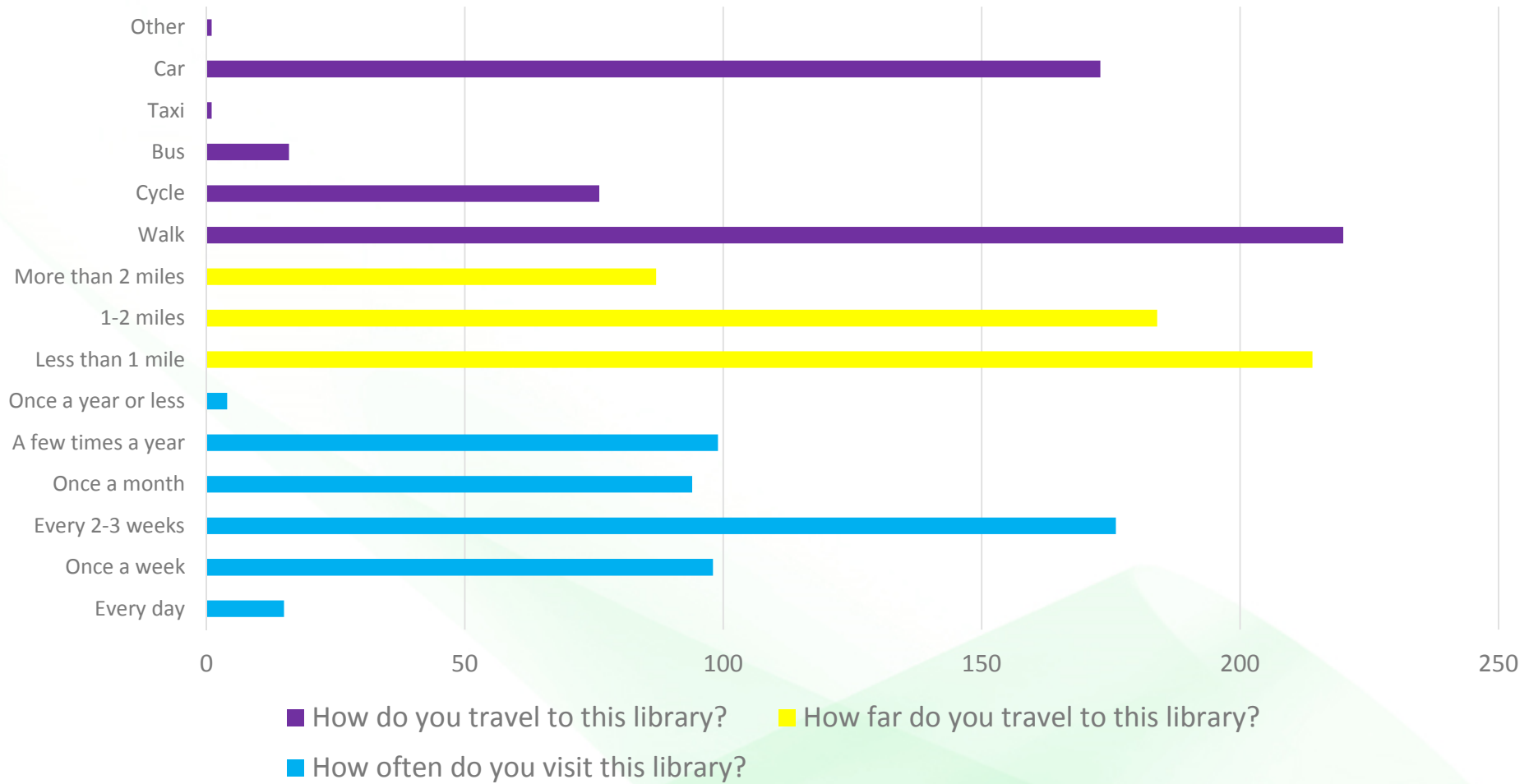
Dogsthorpe Library

237



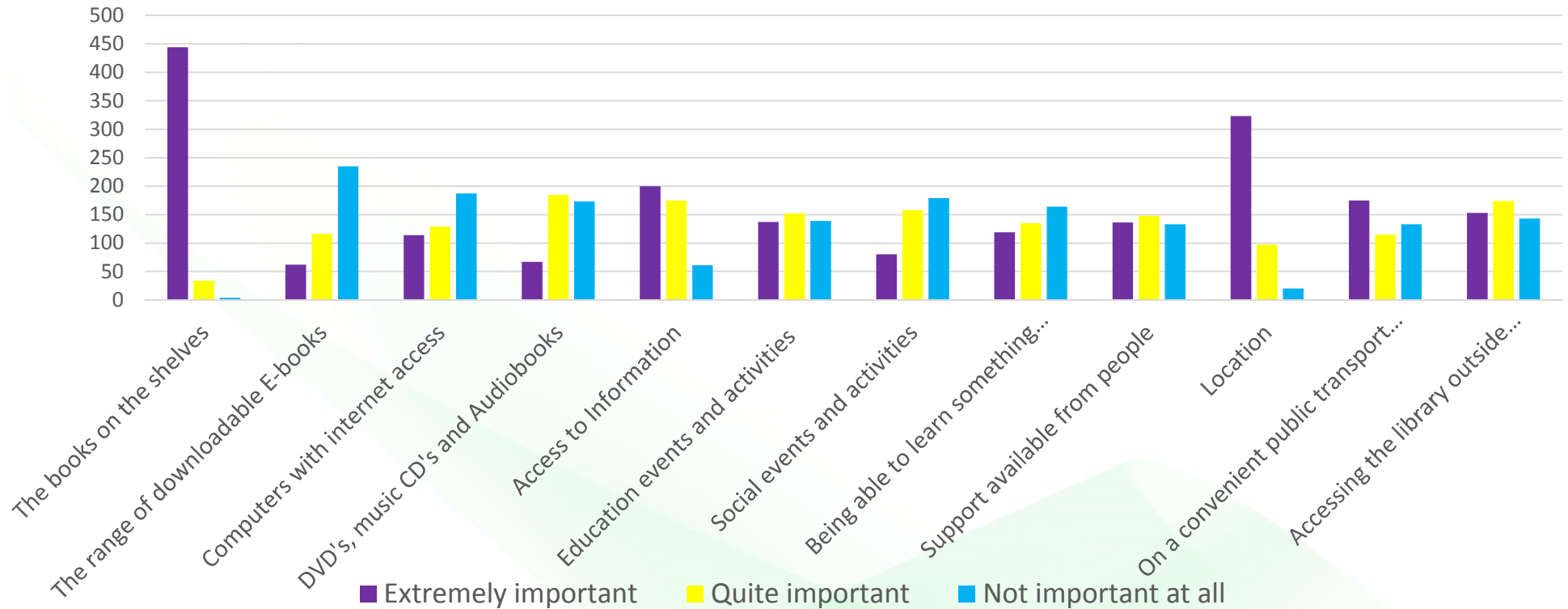
Orton Library

238



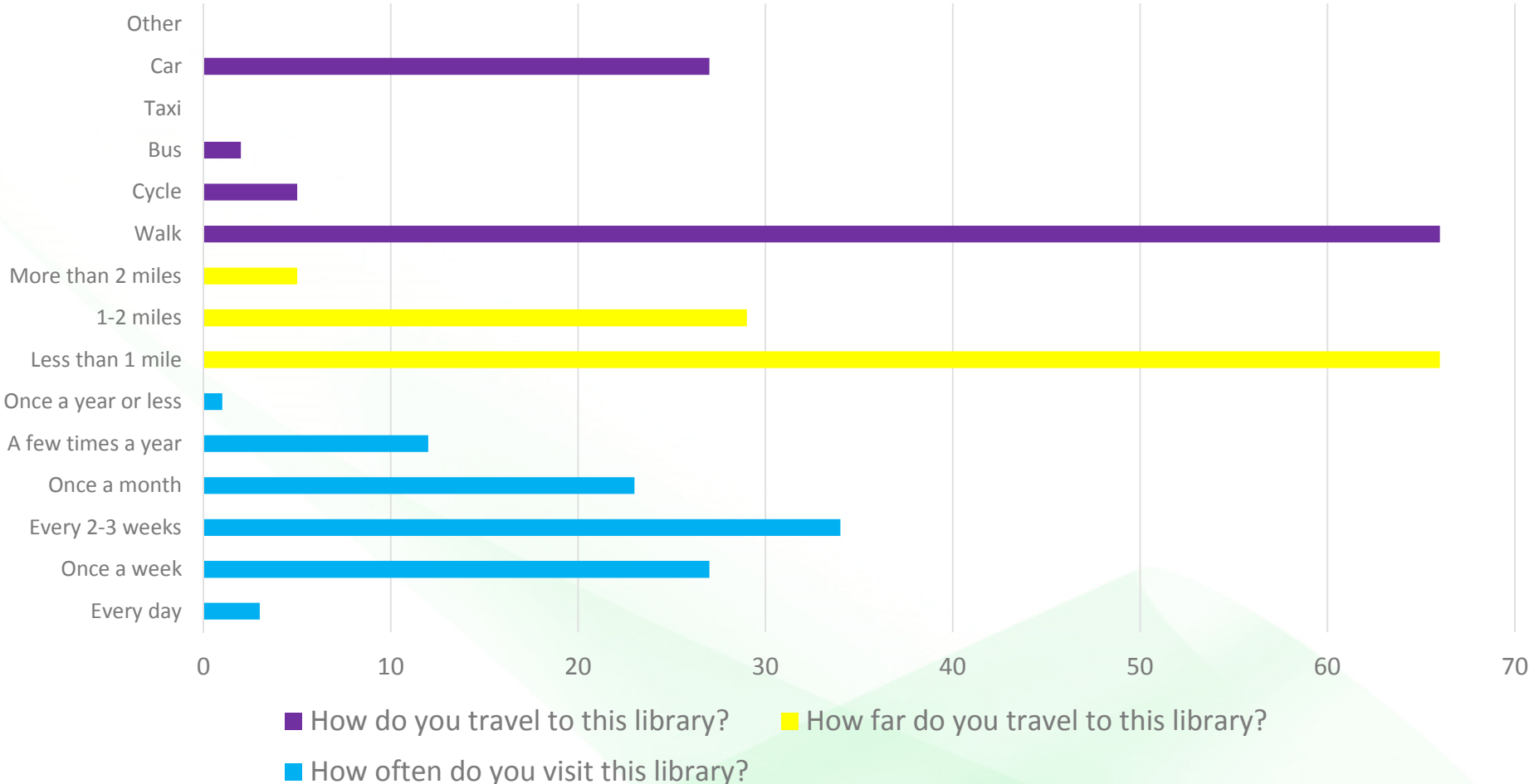
Orton Library

239



Woodston Library

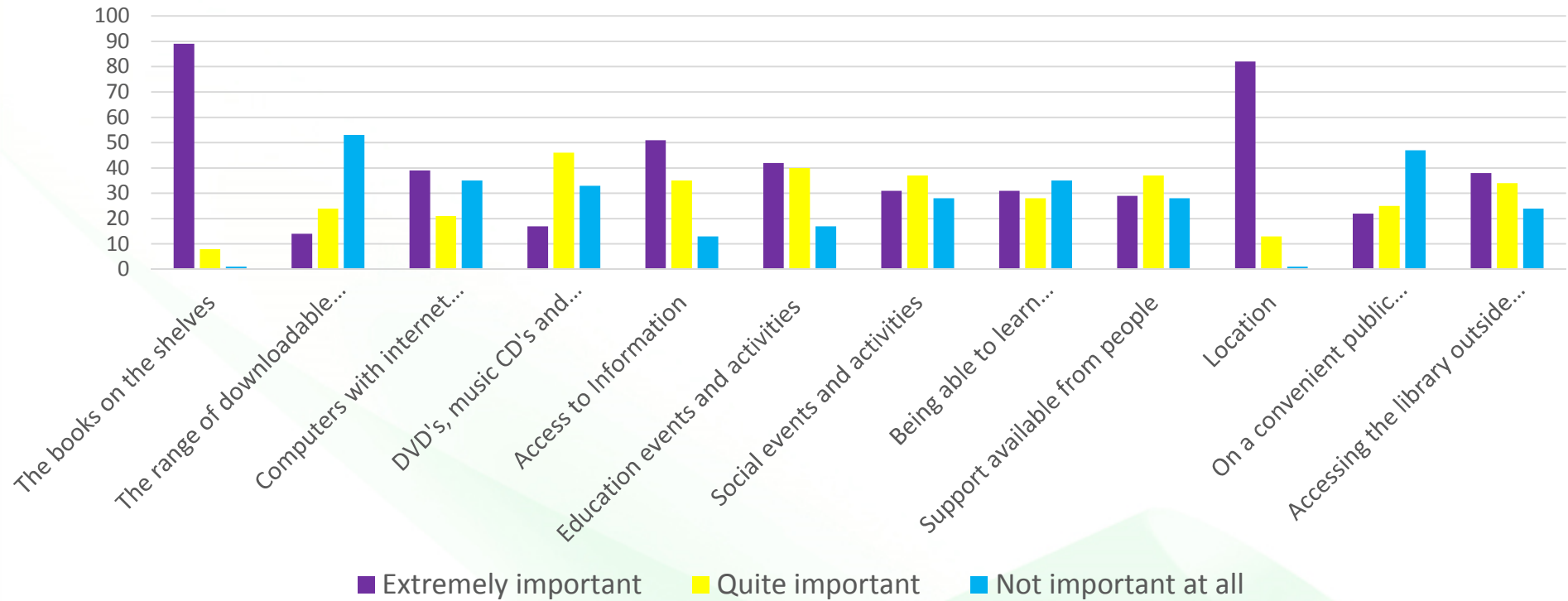
240



Delivering together

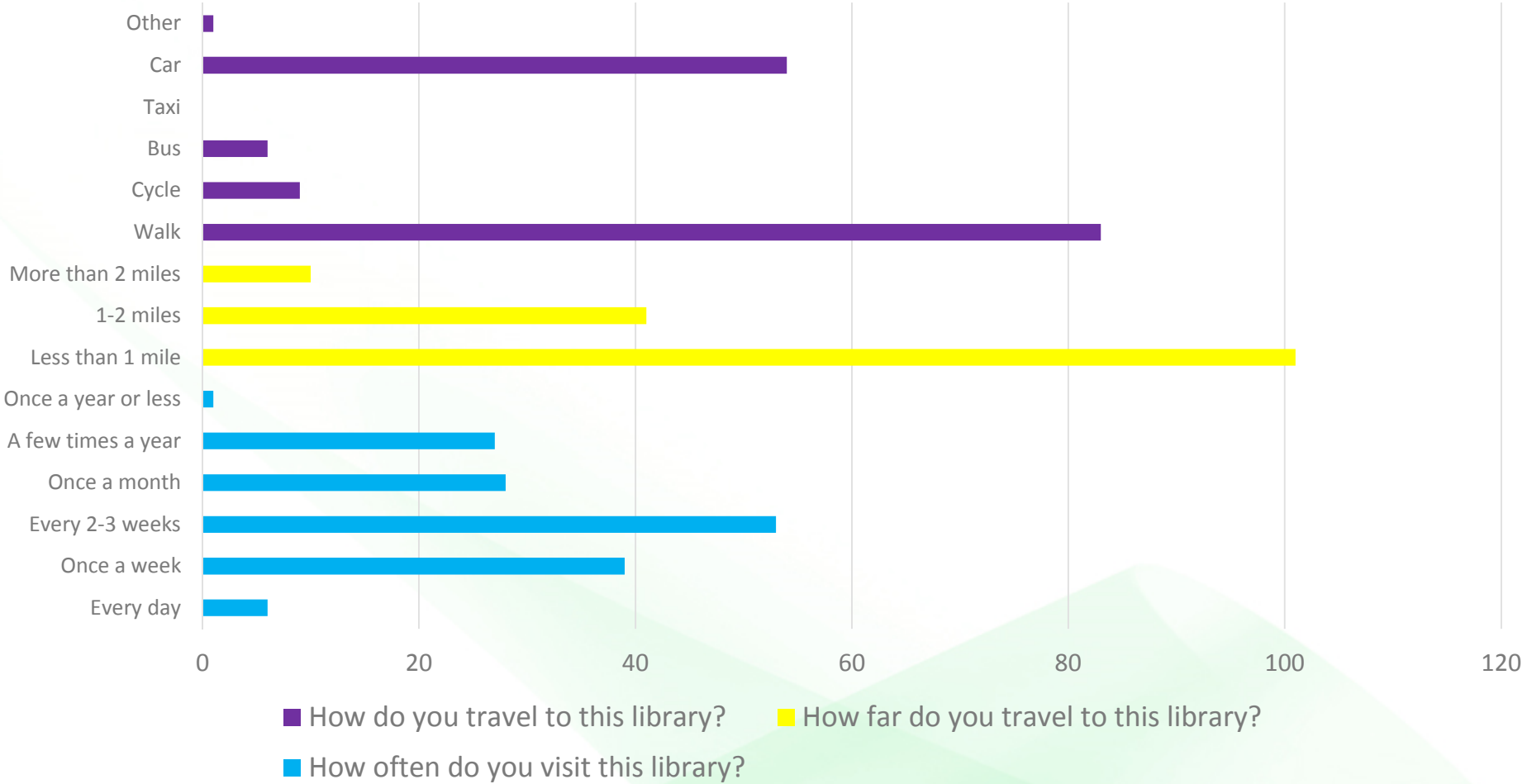
Woodston Library

241



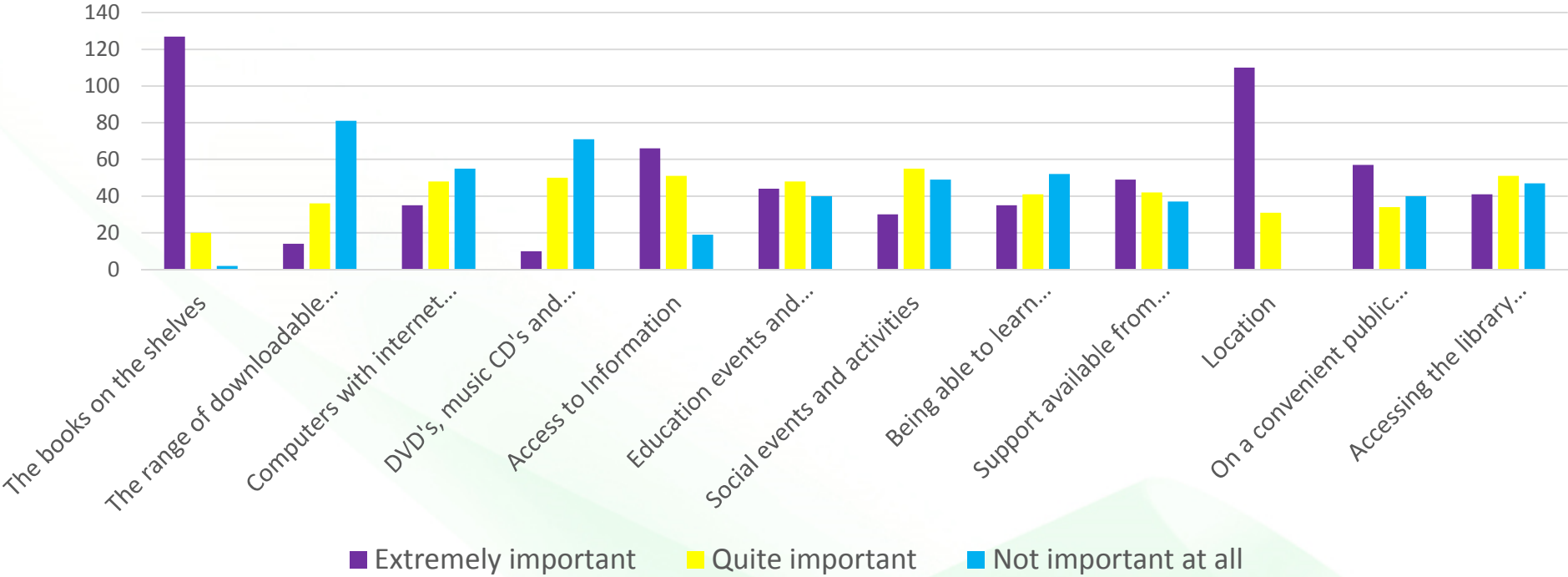
Stanground Library

242

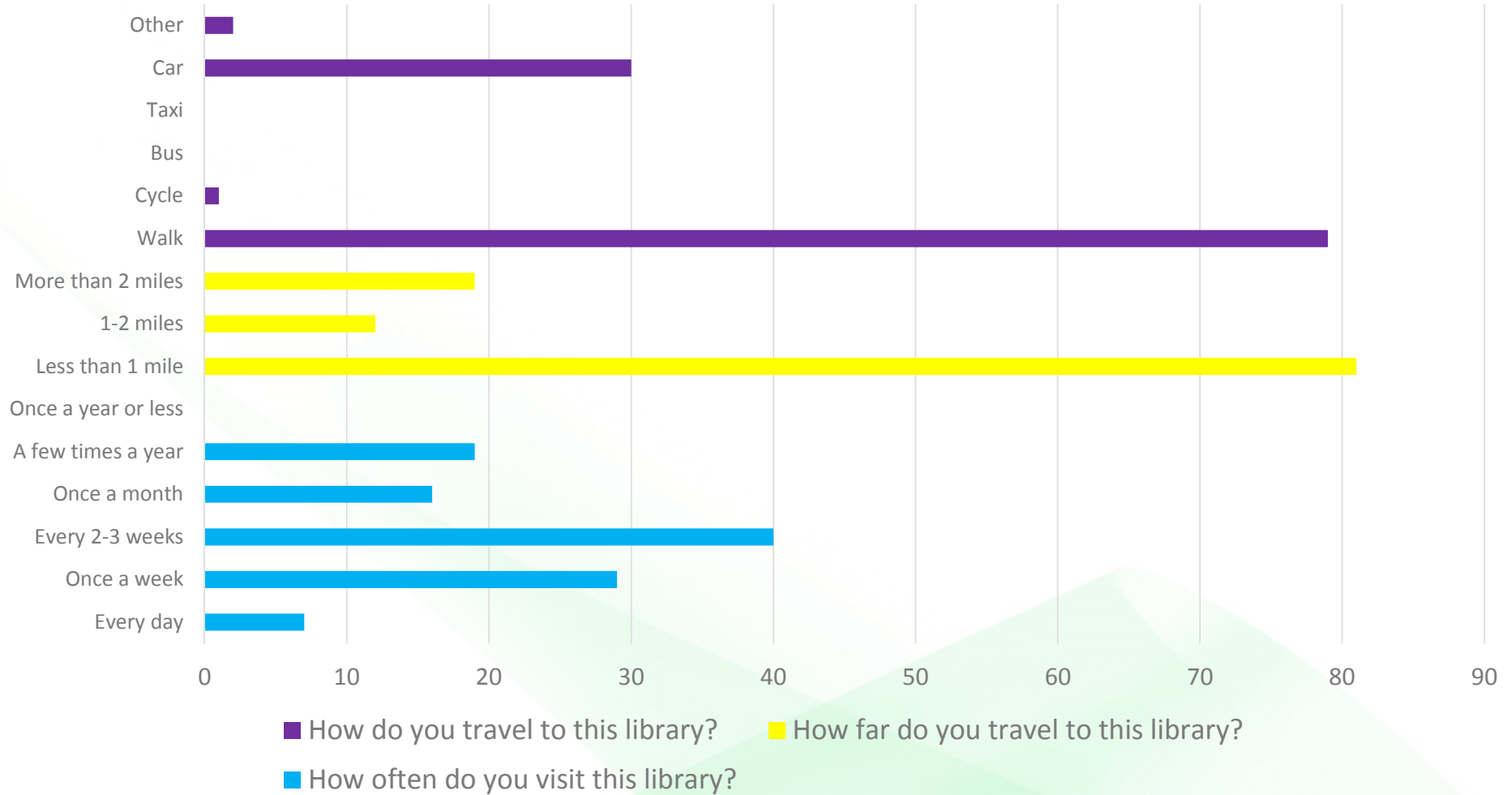


Stanground Library

243



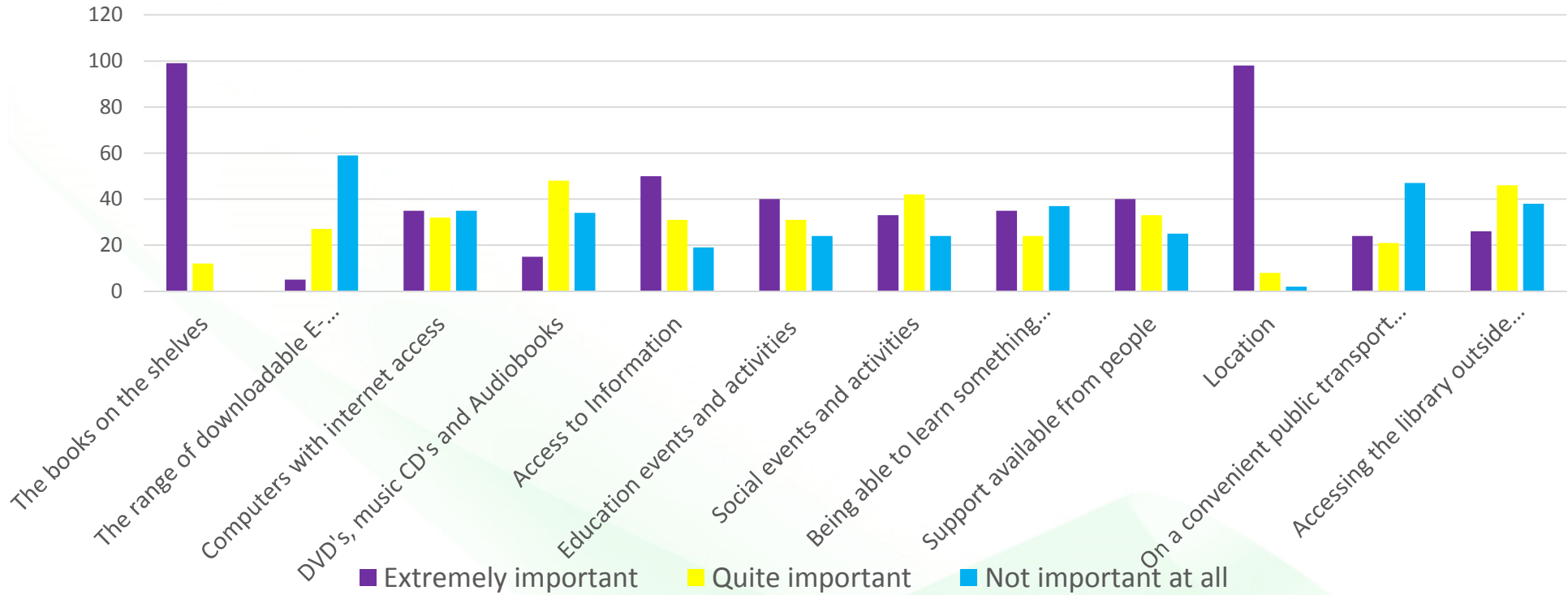
Thorney Library



244

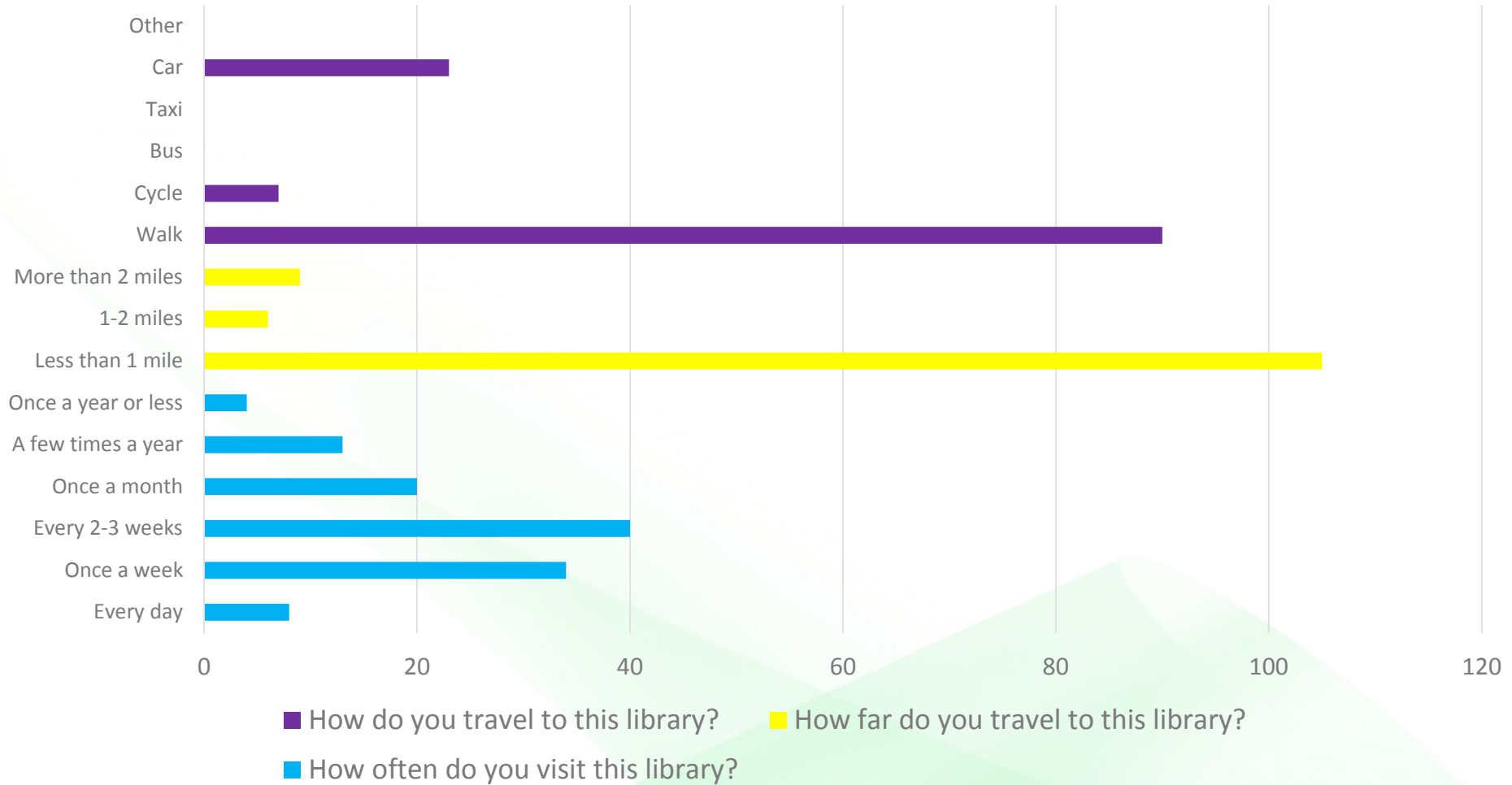
Thorney Library

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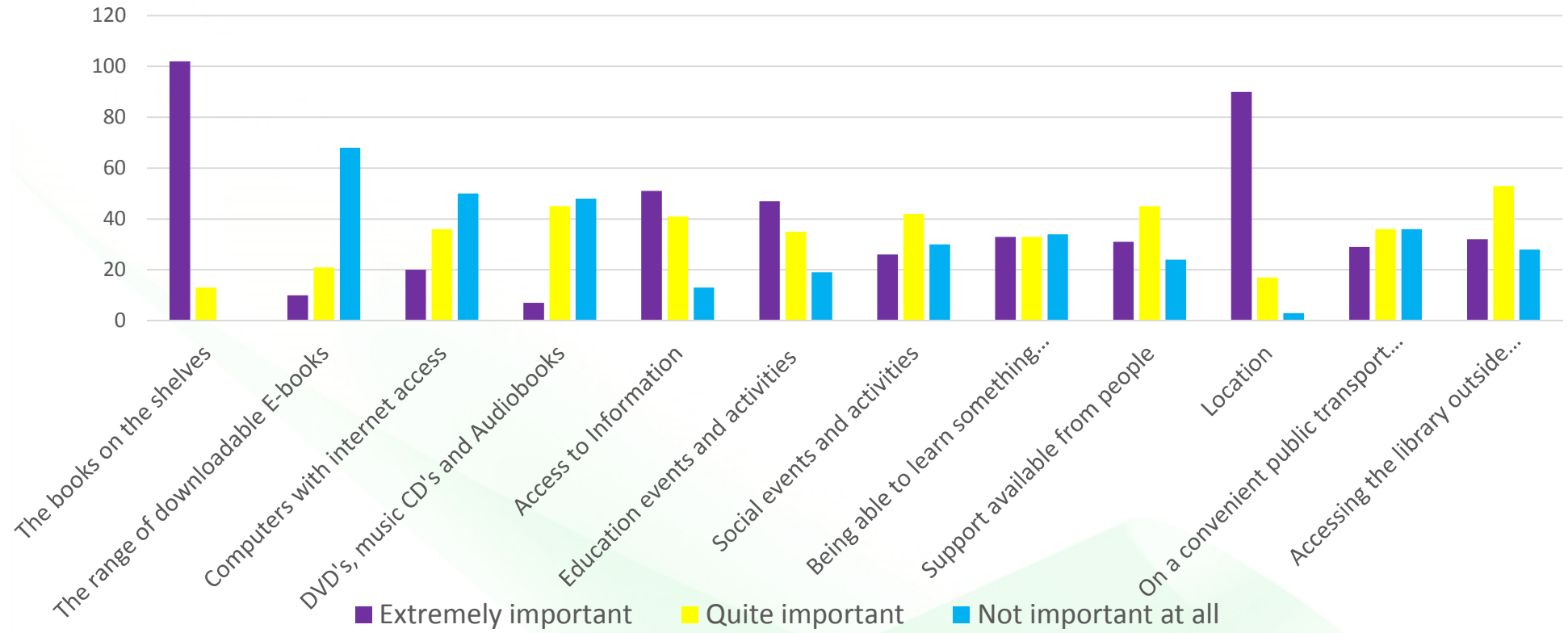
Eye Library

246



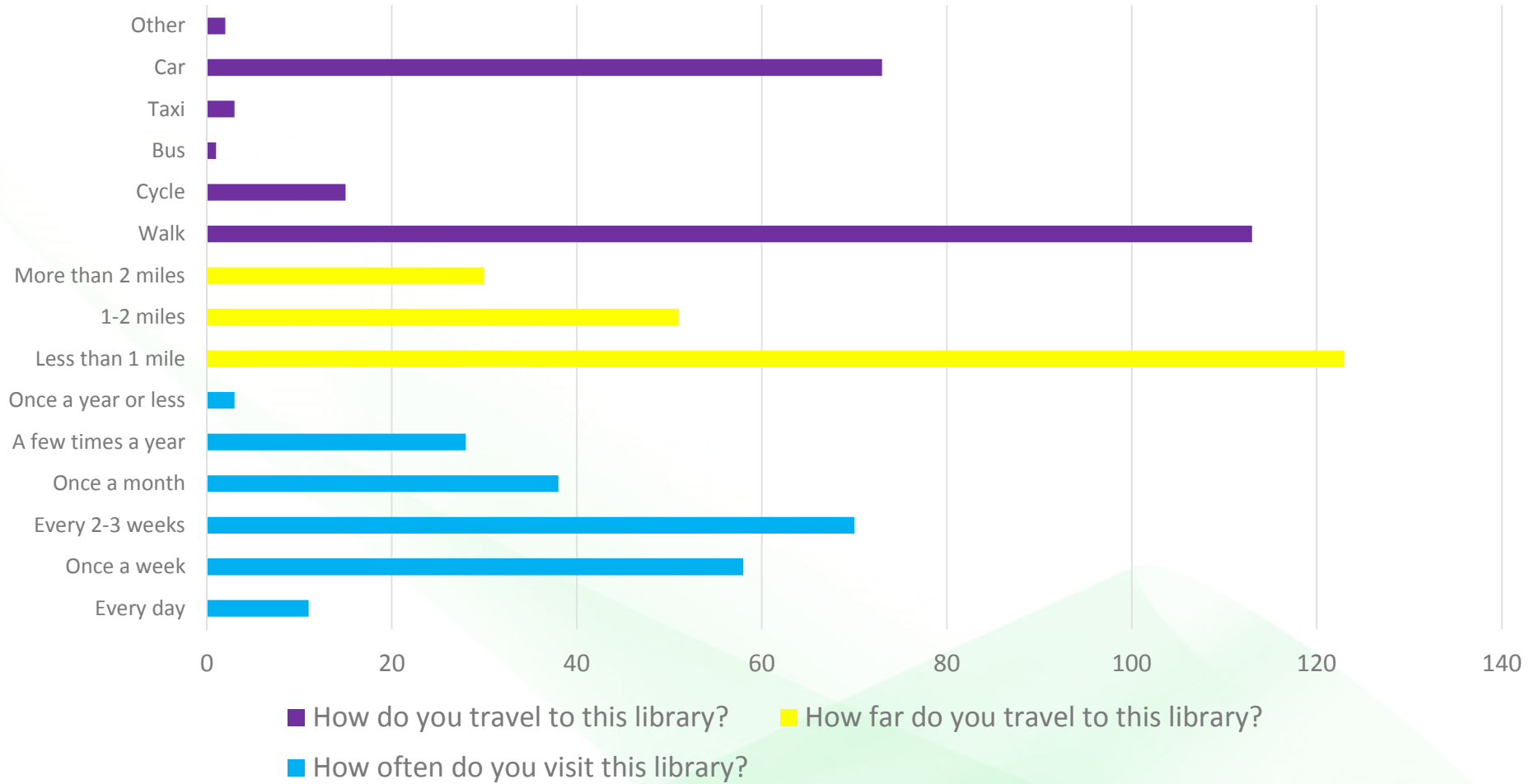
Eye Library

247



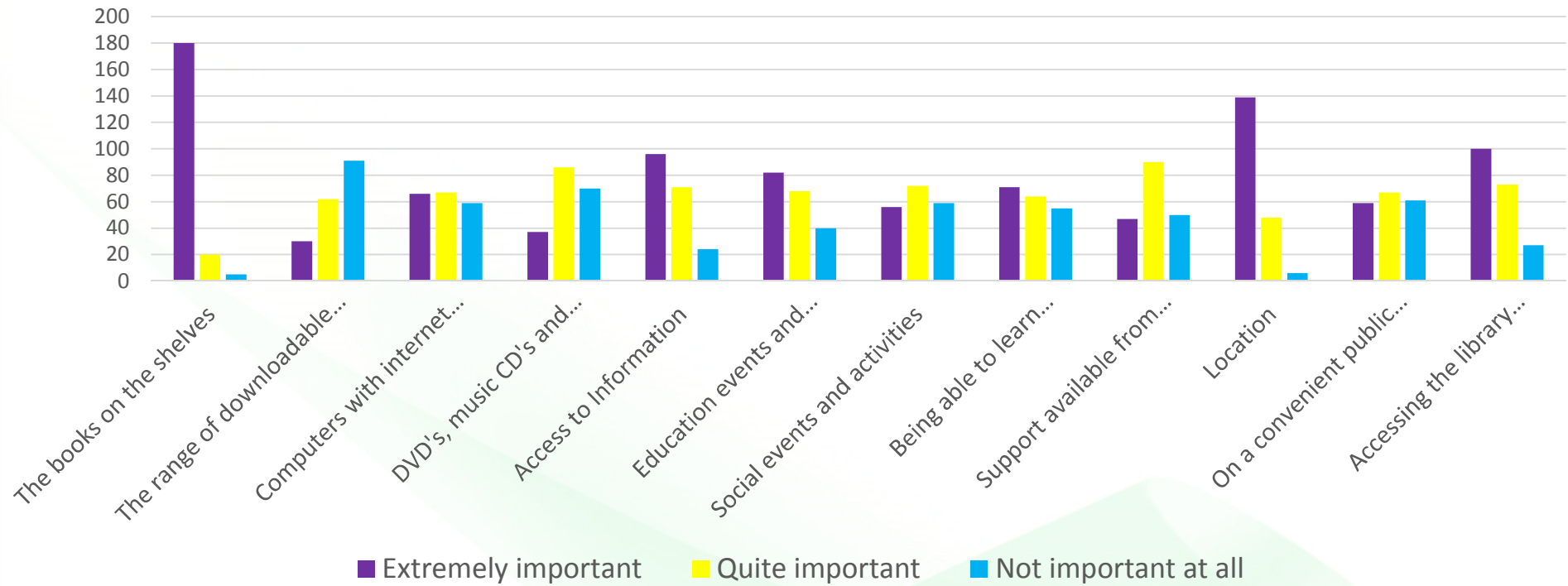
Hampton Library

248



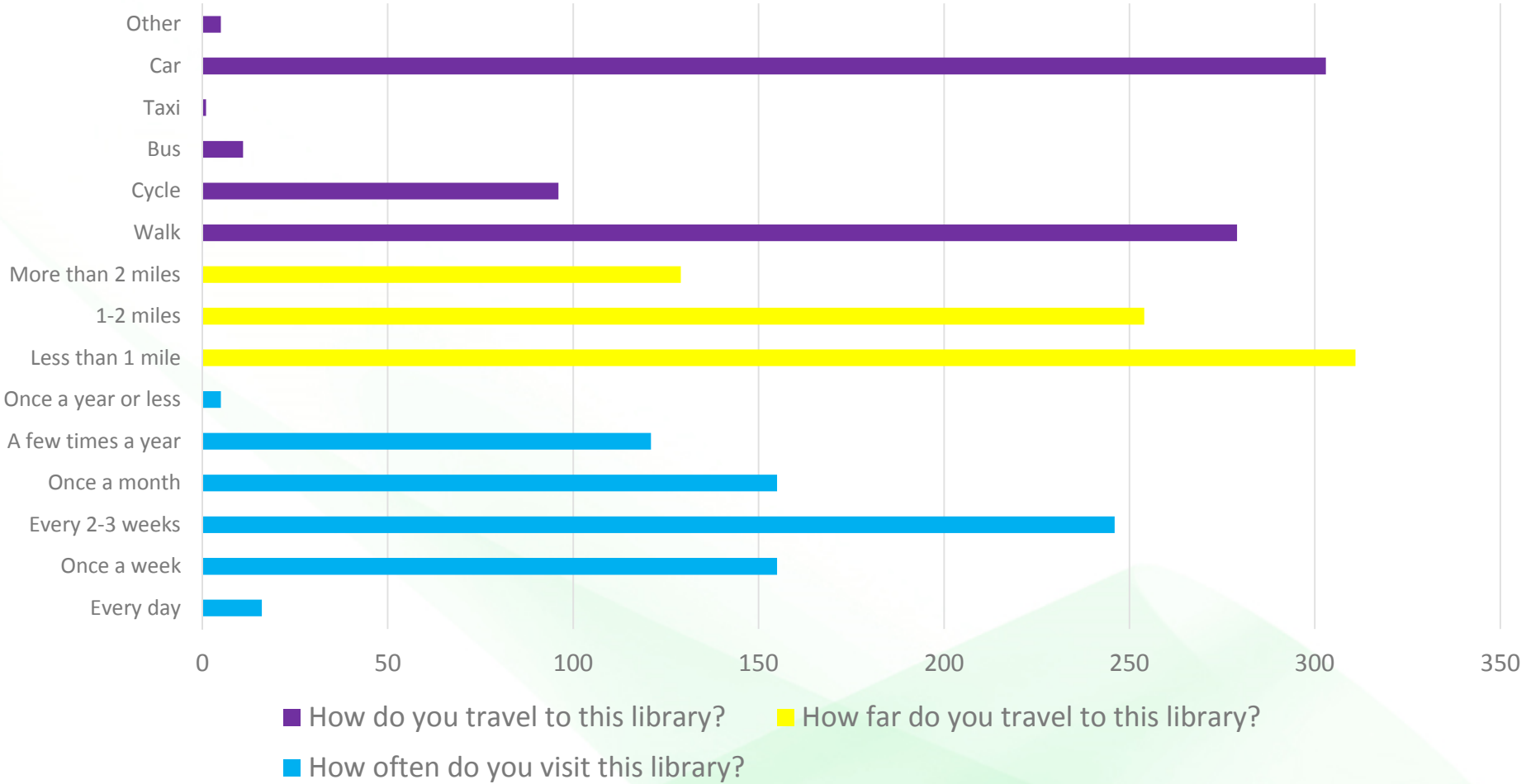
Hampton Library

249



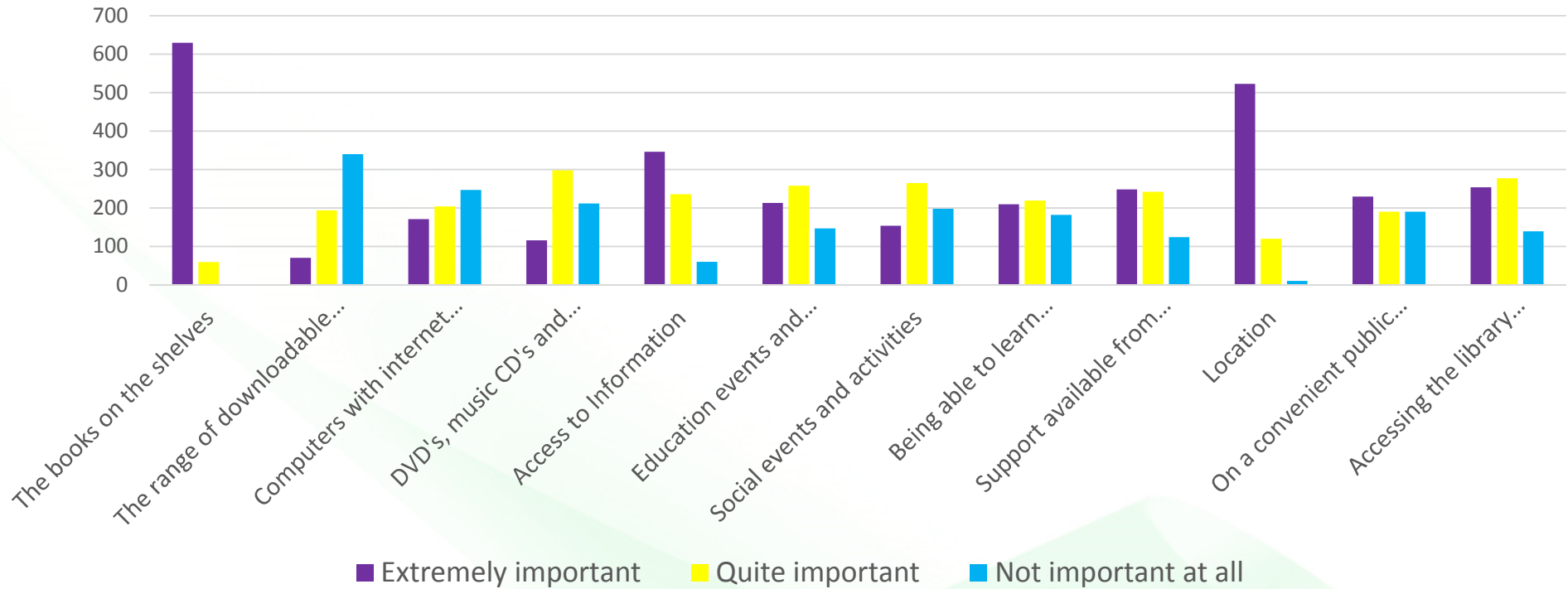
Werrington Library

250



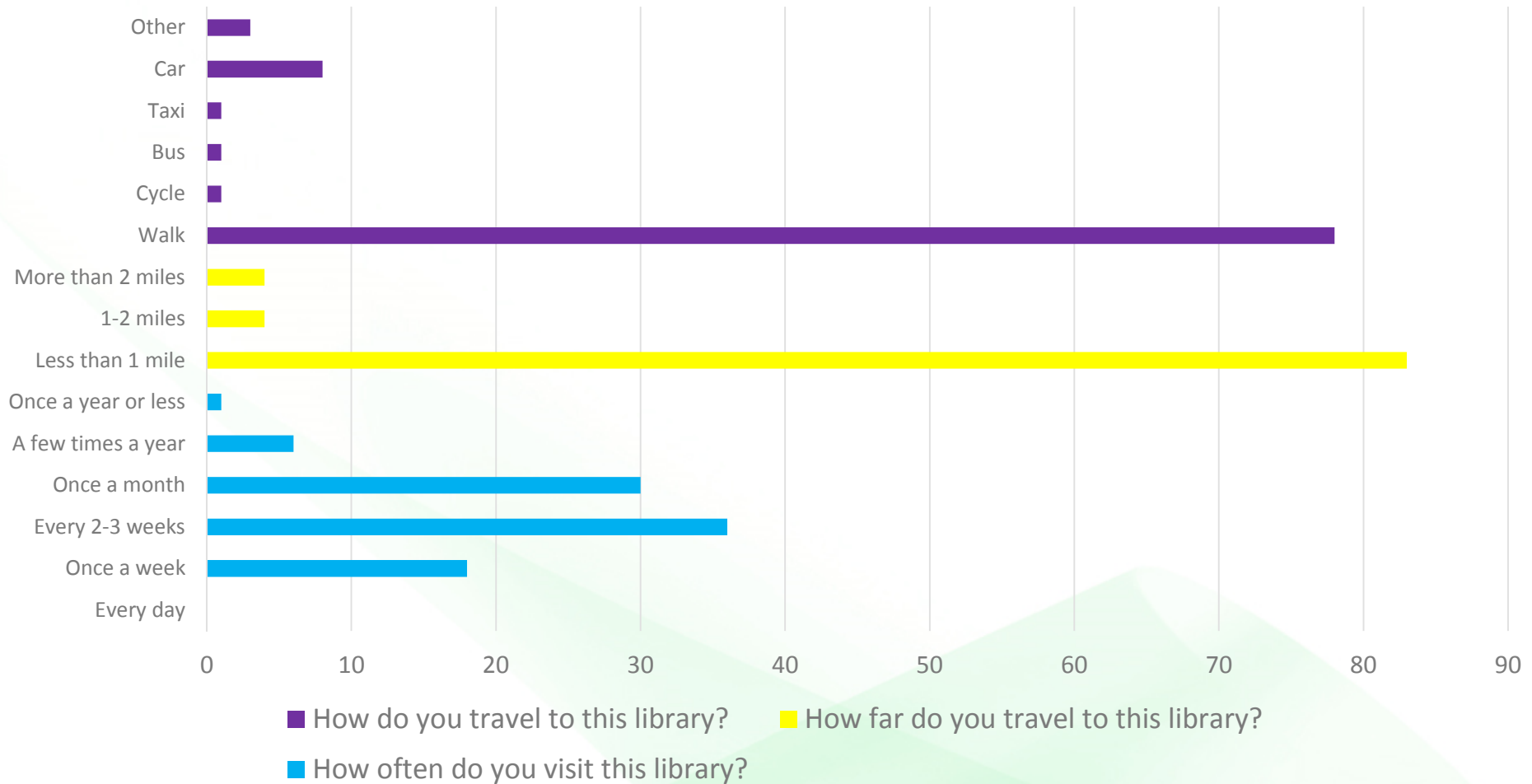
Werrington Library

251



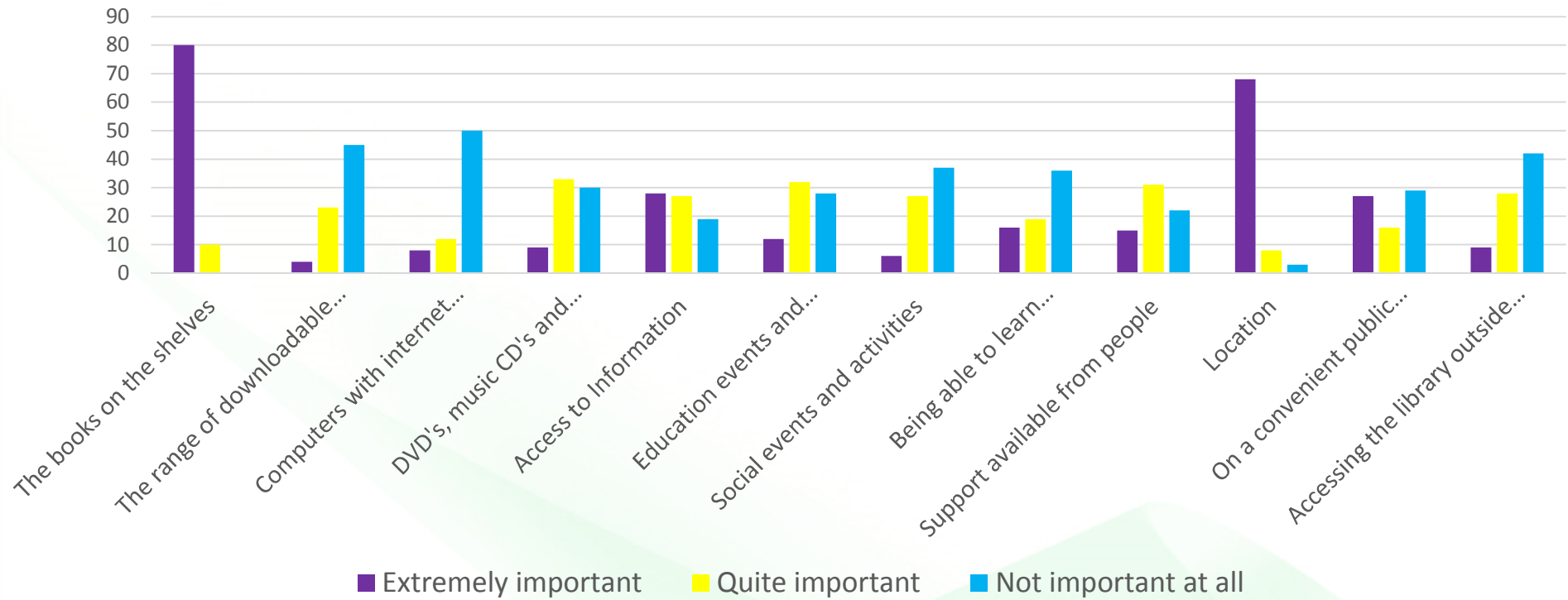
Mobile Library

252



Mobile Library

253



Understanding the value of our community centres

- When asked to describe their use of community centres in the last 12 months, nearly a quarter of all respondents (24.0%) said 'I have regularly used my local community centre', and 15.1% said 'I use my community centre occasionally'. However, more than half (56.6%) of respondents said that either 'I have not used a community centre in the last 12 months' (21.5%) or 'I do not use community centres' (35.1%).
- The community centres which respondents have used most often in the last 12 months (ranked first most frequently used) were found to be: Werrington Village Centre (5.0% of the overall sample), 'Belsize' (3.6%), 'New England/ Millfield' (2.1%), and 'Paston and Gunthorpe' (2.0%); followed by 'Hampton Vale' (1.8%), 'Eye' (1.6%), 'Copeland' (1.5%), 'Orton Wistow' (1.4%), 'Dogsthorpe' (1.4%), 'Stanground' (1.2%), 'The Fleet' (1.2%), and 'Bedford Hall' (1.2%). More than half of the overall sample (58.0%) have not used community centres in the last 12 months or did not answer the question.

Understanding the value of community centres

- Over a third of those respondents who have used community centres in the last 12 months stated that they visit their most frequently used community centre 'once a week' (34.5%), while smaller groups of respondents visit it 'every day during the week' (15.6%), 'every weekend' (4.4%), 'every 2-3 weeks' (8.0%), 'once a month' (11.2%), 'a few times a year' (21.9%), and 'once a year or less often' (4.4%).
- The majority (77.6%) of those respondents who have used community centres in the last 12 months said that they travel 'less than one mile' (51.8%) or '1-2 miles' (25.8%) to get to this centre, while 22.4% travel 'more than 2 miles' to get there.
- Just under half (48.5%) of those respondents who have used community centres in the last 12 months 'walk' to their most frequently used community centre.

Understanding the value of our community centres

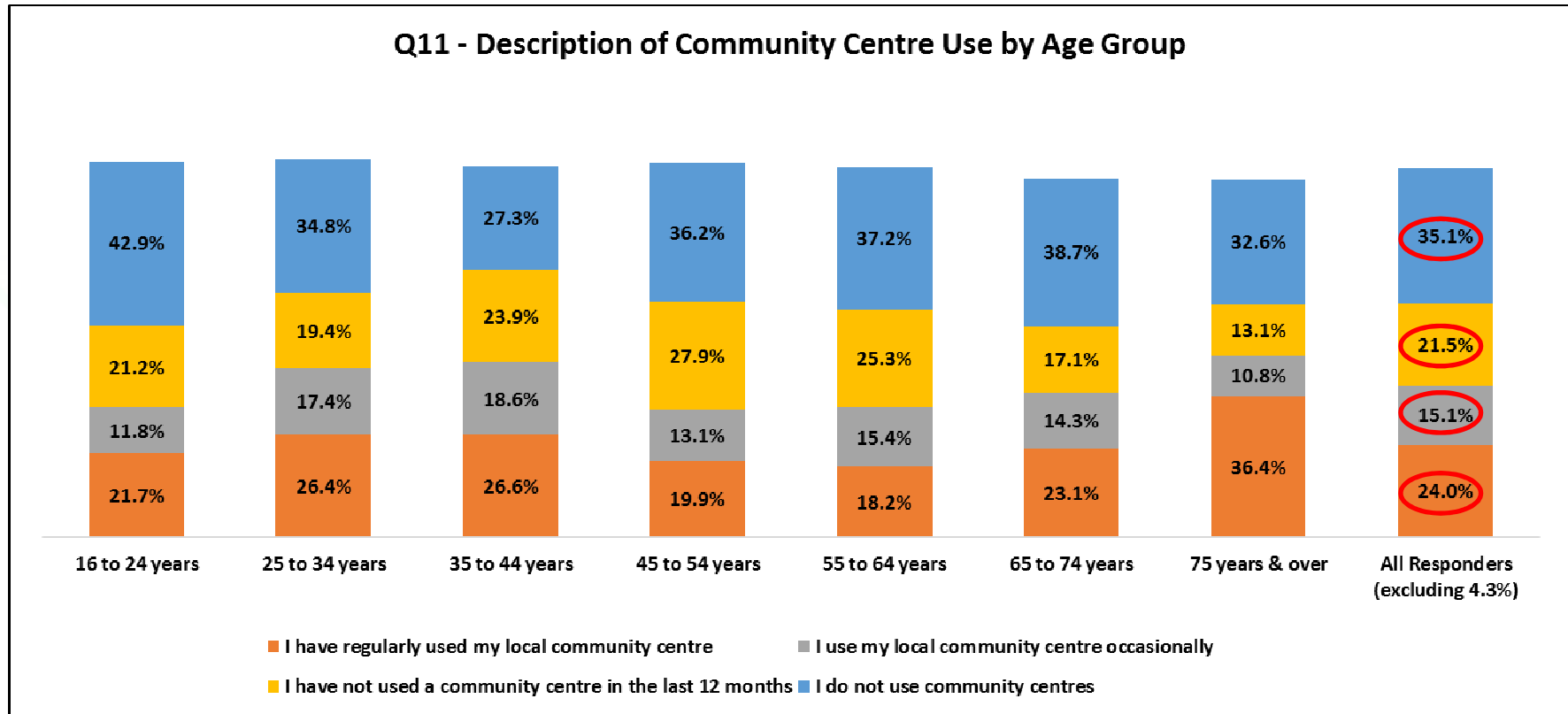
- Based on the total sample, the largest groups of respondents reported that they visit their most frequently used community centre on a 'Tuesday morning' (7.7%), 'Thursday morning' (7.2%), and 'Monday morning' (6.8%).
- More than two-fifths of all Community Centre users (43.8%) said that they use/ are involved in 'social events', while over a third use 'polling stations' (36.8%), around a quarter are involved in 'fundraising events' (27.5%), 'local meetings' (26.4%), 'sports and exercise' (24.1%), and around a fifth use 'private hire' (21.5%) and 'arts, crafts and hobbies' (18.6%).

Understanding the value of our community centres

- Respondents were presented with a list of 16 aspects of community centres and then asked to say how important they feel these aspects are – the response options being ‘extremely important’, ‘quite important’ and ‘not important at all’. Overall, the aspects most likely to be considered ‘extremely important’ in a community centre were ‘polling station’ (45.3%), ‘youth clubs or other children’s activities’ (40.7%), ‘social events’ (39.1%), ‘local meetings’ (38.9%), ‘sports and exercise’ (37.6%), ‘pre-school’ (35.5%), ‘mums and tots’ (35.0%), and ‘private hire’ (33.1%).
- When asked what would encourage them to make more use of community centres, over three-quarters of all respondents (77.2%) said that providing ‘social events and activities’ would be either ‘extremely important’ or ‘quite important’ in this, while 22.8% said this would be ‘not at all important’. Over two-thirds (68.3%) of all respondents felt that having ‘health and school services provided from community centres’ would be ‘extremely important’ or ‘quite important’ in encouraging their use of community centres, while 31.7% said this would be ‘not important at all’.

Community centres consultation: Aug-Sept 2014

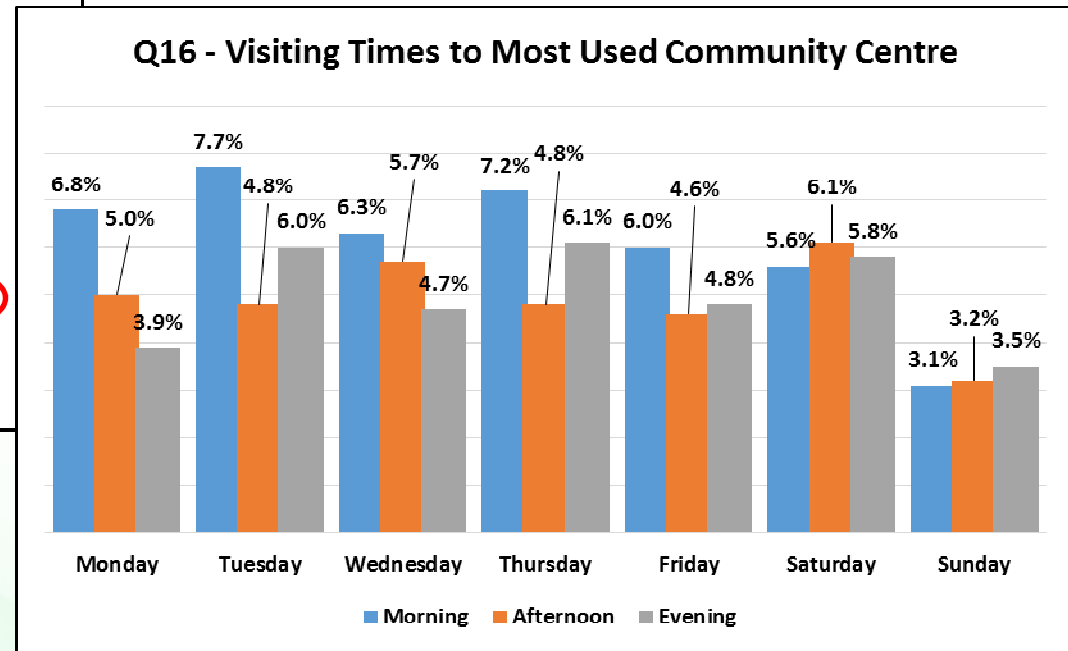
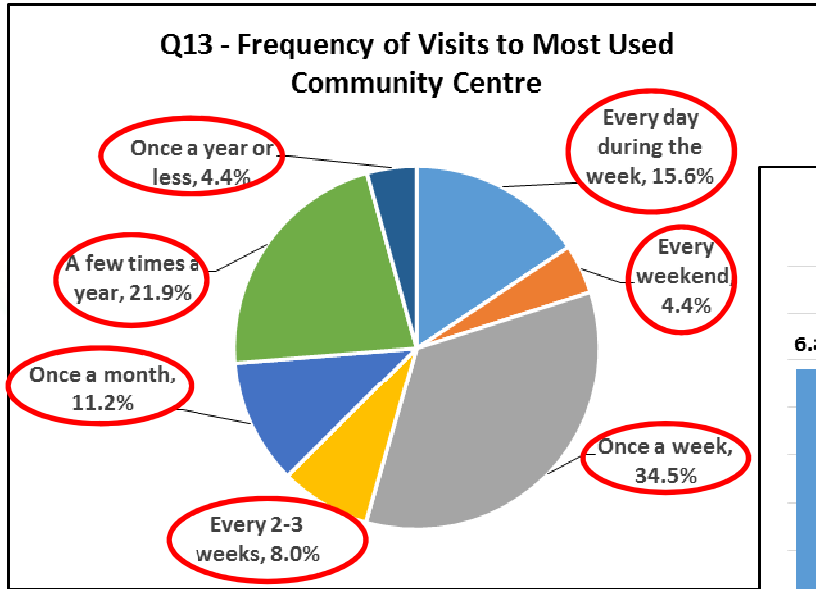
258



- When asked to describe their use of community centres in the last 12 months, nearly a quarter of all respondents (24.0%) said 'I have regularly used my local community centre', and 15.1% said 'I use my community centre occasionally'. However, more than half (56.6%) of respondents said that either 'I have not used a community centre in the last 12 months' (21.5%) or 'I do not use community centres' (35.1%).

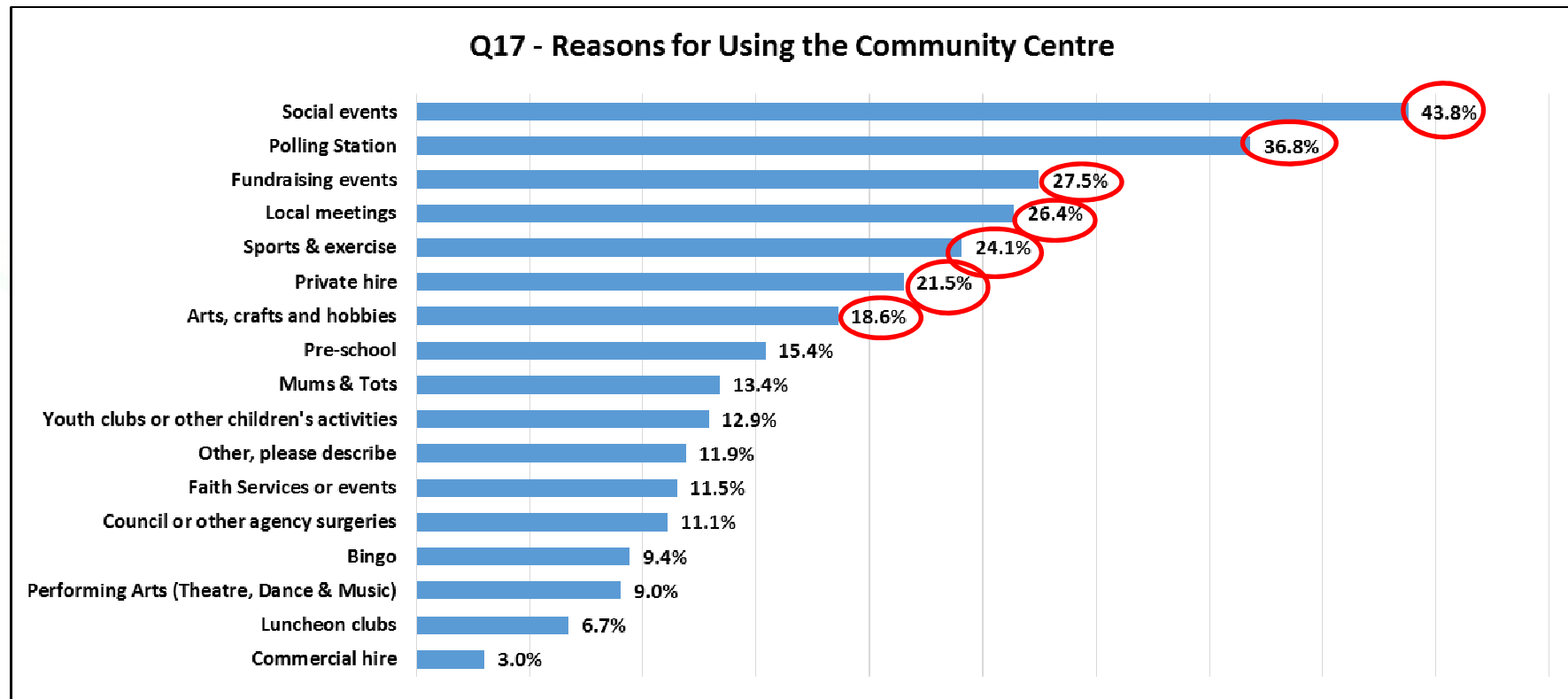
Community centres consultation: Aug-Sept 2014

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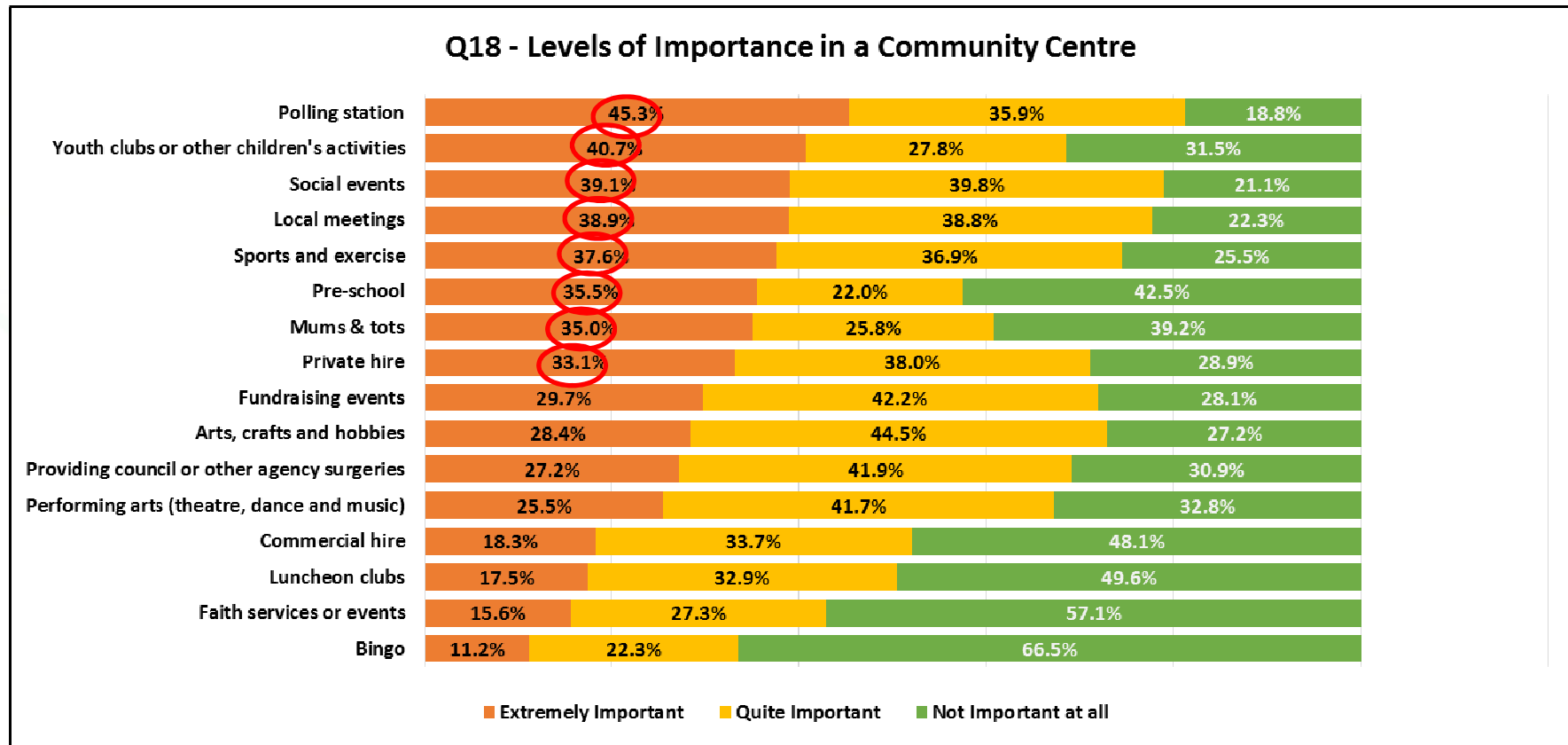
- Over a third of those respondents who have used community centres in the last 12 months stated that they visit their most frequently used community centre 'once a week' (34.5%), while smaller groups of respondents visit it 'every day during the week' (15.6%), 'every weekend' (4.4%), 'every 2-3 weeks' (8.0%), 'once a month' (11.2%), 'a few times a year' (21.9%), and 'once a year or less often' (4.4%).

Community centres consultation: Aug-Sept 2014



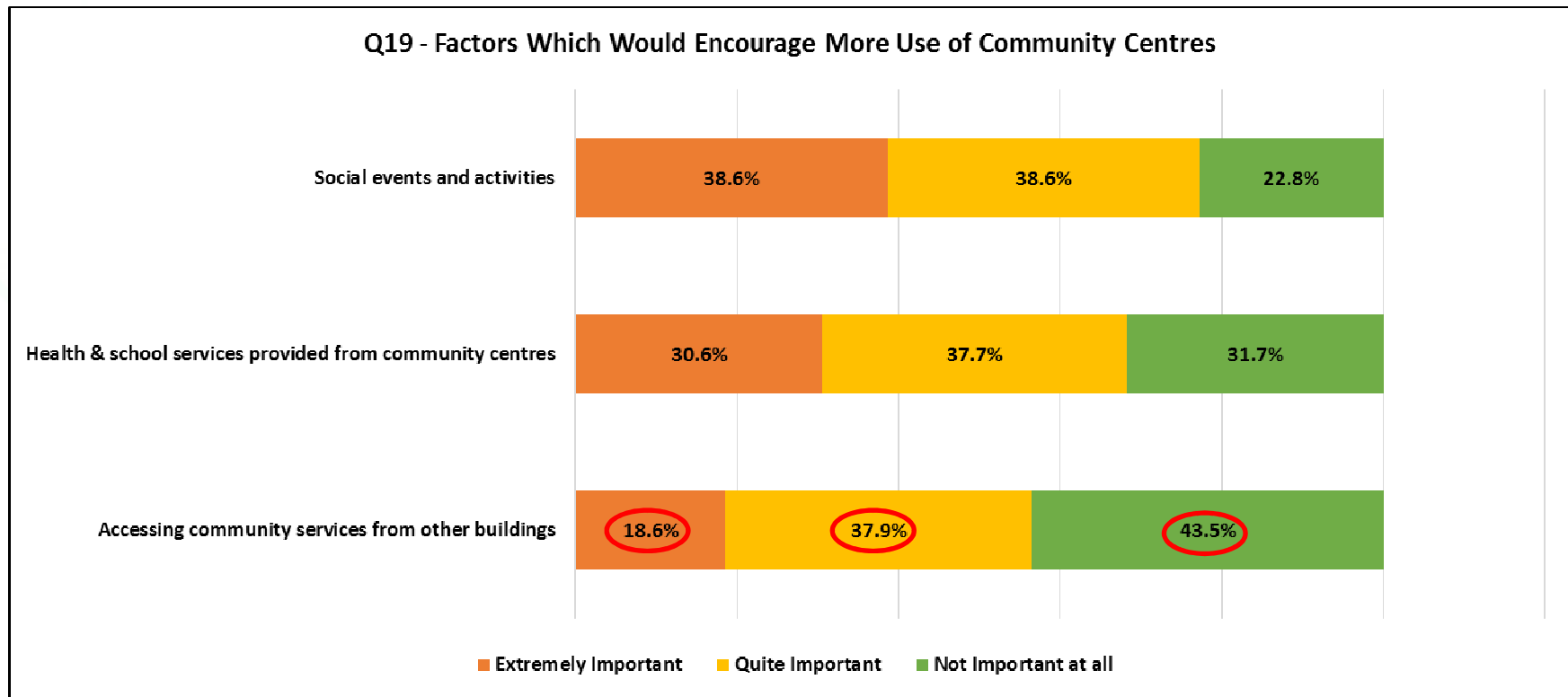
- More than two-fifths of all Community Centre users (43.8%) said that they use/ are involved in 'social events', while over a third use 'polling stations' (36.8%), around a quarter are involved in 'fundraising events' (27.5%), 'local meetings' (26.4%), 'sports and exercise' (24.1%), and around a fifth use 'private hire' (21.5%) and 'arts, crafts and hobbies' (18.6%).

Community centres consultation: Aug-Sept 2014



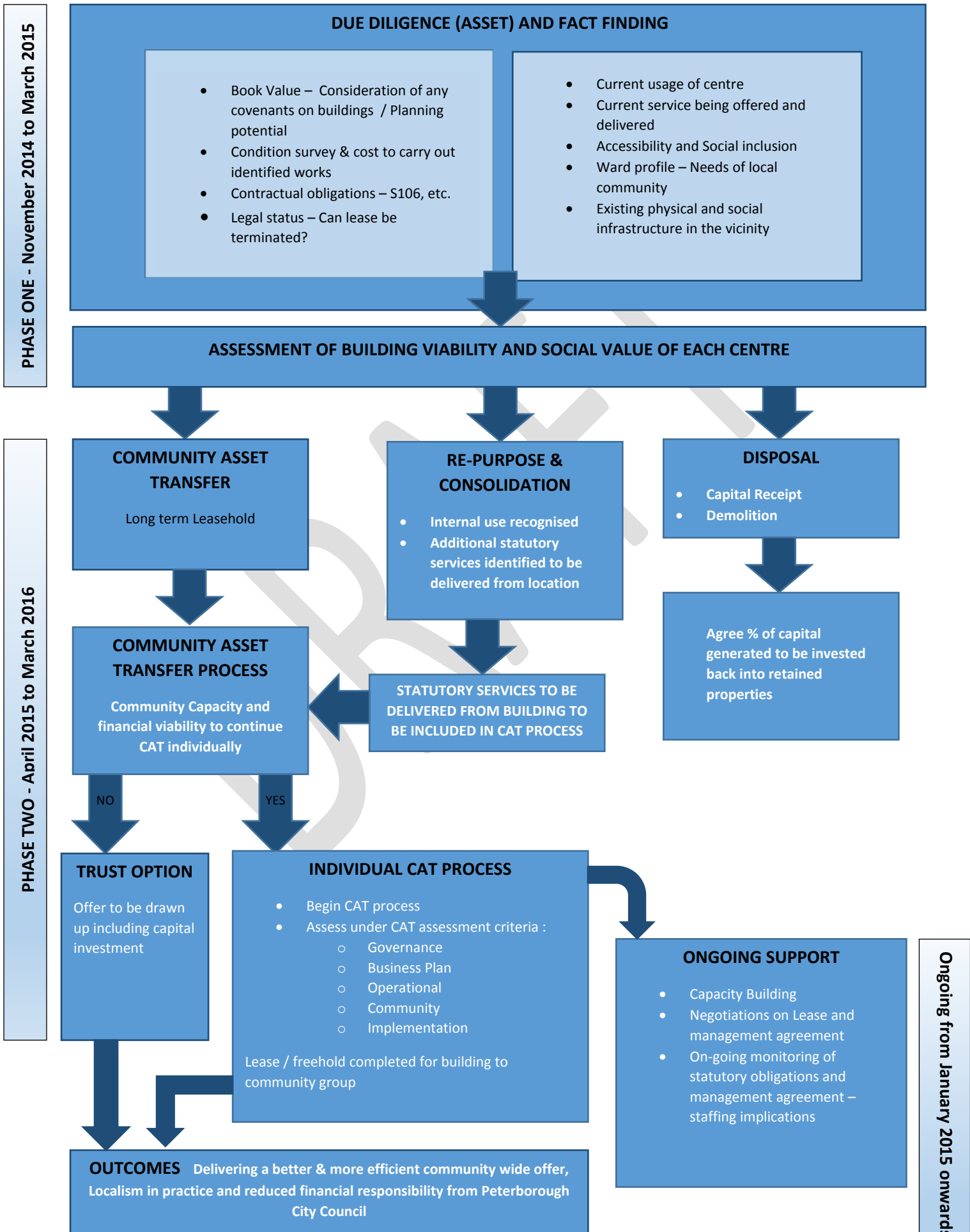
- Overall, the aspects most likely to be considered 'extremely important' in a community centre were 'polling station' (45.3%), 'youth clubs or other children's activities' (40.7%), 'social events' (39.1%), 'local meetings' (38.9%), 'sports and exercise' (37.6%), 'pre-school' (35.5%), 'mums and tots' (35.0%), and 'private hire' (33.1%).

Community centres consultation: Aug-Sept 2014



- Over half (56.5%) of all respondents felt that 'accessing community services from other buildings' would be 'extremely important' or 'quite important' in encouraging them to make more use of community centres, while 43.5% felt this would be 'not important at all'.

COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSET REVIEW
Delivering a better and more efficient community wide offer



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CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
24 NOVEMBER 2014	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor David Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources	
Contact Officer(s):	John Harrison, Executive Director Resources Steven Pilsworth, Head of Strategic Finance	Tel. 452520 Tel. 384564

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2015/16 TO 2024/25

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Cabinet Member for Resources	Deadline date : 14 November 2014
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the context for the amended budget process in light of the unprecedented financial challenge the Council faces in setting a balanced budget for 2015/16 (section 5) 2. Takes a two phased approach to consultation on formulation of the 2015/16 Budget, publishing the Phase 1 proposals immediately as the basis to seek feedback from Scrutiny and views from all residents, partner organisations, businesses and other interested parties (section 6). 3. Convenes on 15th December 2014 to consider feedback in order to seek the endorsement of the Council meeting of 17th December 2014 to the Cabinet's approach to consultation, savings proposals and plan to implement those proposals at the earliest opportunity. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Cabinet meeting of 22nd September 2014 considered a report 'Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 to 2024/25' and within this report considered that it may be necessary to review the budget process and timetable having regard for the comments arising from the cross party budget working group to explore the options to commence consultation at the earliest opportunity.
- 1.2 The corporate management team, Cabinet and the cross party Budget Working Group have explored options to release budget proposals in two stages, enabling views of all residents, partner organisations, businesses and other interested parties to understand the scale of the financial challenge and feedback their views commencing with the first tranche of budget proposals.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 This report comes to Cabinet as part of the council's Budget and Policy Framework that requires Cabinet to initiate and propose budget proposals to set a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to:
 - approve the first phase of Cabinet's budget proposals for consultation to contribute towards closing the budget gap of £25m. Subject to Scrutiny feedback and comments from all residents, partner organisations, businesses and other interested parties, Cabinet will recommend budget proposals to Council in December 2014 to implement at the earliest opportunity.

- approve and outline the approach for the remaining budget process.
- outline the financial challenge the council faces in the current financial year and in setting a balanced budget for 2015/16.

2.3 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.1 which states to take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the Council's Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the Council's overall improvement programmes to deliver excellent services.

3. **TIMESCALE**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	Yes	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	24 November 2014
Date for relevant Council Meeting	17 December 2014	Date for submission to Government department	

4. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

4.1 The report outlines the financial position of the Council for 2015/16, as well as Cabinet's approach to tackling the challenge by releasing budget proposals in two phases. The deficit is currently forecast to be £24.8m and the proposals total £16.8m. This leaves a further £8m of budget savings to be brought forward in January 2015 (sections 5 and 6)

4.2 The report also outlines the current 2014/15 budget position indicating a £0.7m overspend. It is imperative that the budget is balanced by the end of the financial year to ensure that the council does not need to use reserves and will look to implement savings agreed in phase one as soon as possible alongside other mitigations identified by the corporate management team (section 7).

5. **FINANCIAL POSITION AND BUDGET PROPOSALS**

5.1 The budget proposals must be set in the context of the incredibly challenging financial position that all councils face. Peterborough is no exception to this. Since the financial crash of 2008, the public sector has seen unprecedented reductions in funding. In the five years to 2015/16, the council has seen its government funding cut by £44m, which equates to nearly 40 per cent of its government grant.

5.2 For next year (2015/16) the council will see its government grant reduced by £12.3m. In addition, it faces financial pressures of £12.5million as a result of an increasing demand for services and legal changes. This means we face an enormous challenge of finding nearly £25million of savings and efficiencies to balance our books.

5.3 Cabinet's first tranche of budget proposals accompanies this report and includes both savings and investment. It is intended that these proposals will be scrutinised by members within a shortened timescale for the reasons outlined above and be recommended to Council for consideration and approval during December 2014. However, these proposals will not provide a balanced budget for 2015/16 and it will be necessary for Cabinet to identify and consult on a second tranche of savings commencing January 2015 to deliver the remaining £8m of budget proposals to balance the budget.

	2015/16 £k	2016/17 £k	2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k
Budget Deficit b/fwd	17,603	22,236	23,593	26,107	28,610
New pressures	7,139	7,078	7,672	8,005	8,488
Budget Deficit - (Expenditure budgets exceed funding estimates)	24,742	29,314	31,265	34,112	37,098
New savings (phase 1)					
Grant income	-1,207	0	0	0	0
Income	-937	-937	-937	-937	-937
Efficiencies and new savings	-13,149	-12,078	-12,693	-12,923	-13,340
Service reductions	-1,160	-1,160	-1,135	-1,105	-1,105
Service deletion	-335	-335	-335	-335	-335
Total savings (phase 1)	-16,788	-14,510	-15,100	-15,300	-15,717
Saving proposals still to find (phase 2)	7,954	14,804	16,165	18,812	21,381

5.4 In reducing the council's overall grant which incorporated the council tax support funding, the council estimates that the government has reduced the funding it gives to provide the scheme by around a further £1m in 2015/16. As a result, Cabinet is considering options to reduce the amount of council tax support the council provides working age claimants to ensure that the scheme continues to remain cost neutral. To achieve a cost neutral position on the council's own budget, the council would need to increase the reduction from its current 30% to 40% to deliver around £0.5m of savings. The decision to approve next year's scheme will be taken by Council in January 2015, having had regard to consultation feedback. This proposal has its own specific consultation process, but links back to the overall budget process.

5.5 The phase 1 budget proposals document can be found in appendix A. The second tranche of budget proposals will follow after Christmas and Members and interested parties will again be able to provide feedback on the second tranche of budget proposals.

6. CONSULTATION APPROACH

6.1 Cabinet have been working over a period of five months and several meetings with the cross party Budget Working Group to seek views on all Cabinet budget proposals including the opportunity to make alternative suggestions. As part of these meetings, the Budget Working Group explored options to commence consultation at the earliest opportunity

6.2 The budget process will have two phases for Cabinet to put forward budget proposals, recommending these proposals to two separate Council meetings. The first meeting held in December will be to consider the first tranche of budget proposals. The second meeting will be the formal process to set a lawful and balanced budget for the remaining budget proposals to be published during January 2015 and recommended by Cabinet for approval by Council on 4 March 2015. This timeline is outlined below:

Meeting	Content	Date
Phase One (first tranche)		
Cabinet	Release of first tranche of budget proposals	24 November 2014
Scrutiny	Formal scrutiny of budget proposals	3 December 2014
Cabinet	To recommend the first tranche of budget proposals to Council having regard to feedback	15 December 2014
Council	Approve the first tranche of budget proposals	17 December 2014

Phase Two (second tranche) including the remaining budget documents for council tax, reserves and the medium term financial strategy		
Cabinet	Release of second tranche of budget proposals	19 January 2015
Scrutiny	Formal scrutiny of budget proposals	9 February 2015
Cabinet	To recommend the second tranche of budget proposals to Council having regard to feedback	23 February 2015
Council	Approval of budget and council tax	4 March 2015

- 6.3 Alongside the budget process, there is a legislative requirement to approve the council's council tax support scheme annually each year. The timeline is as follows:

Meeting	Content	Date
Cabinet	Recommend the scheme to Council for approval	19 January 2015
Council	Approve the Council Tax Support Scheme	28 January 2015

- 6.4 The following budget events will be held during phase one to enable residents, partner organisations, businesses and other interested parties to feedback on budget proposals and council priorities:

- a) Staff meetings
- b) Discussion with the trade unions
- c) Discussion with the business community
- d) Borderline Peterborough Local Commissioning Group
- e) Peterborough Housing Partnership
- f) Greater Peterborough Partnership City Leaders forum
- g) Disability Forum
- h) Connect Group
- i) Schools Forum
- j) Parish Councils
- k) Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme
- l) Youth Council

- 6.5 A hard copy of the phase one budget proposals and Budget Conversation document will be available in all libraries and Town Hall and Bayard Place receptions. The council will also receive responses via an on-line survey on its website.

- 6.6 We will also promote the Budget Conversation through the local media and through the council's Facebook and Twitter accounts to encourage as many people as possible to have their say.

- 6.7 The Council will look to repeat this approach with the phase two proposals released in January.

7. BUDGET MONITORING 2014/15

Revenue

- 7.1 The September report to Cabinet identified the council's forecast year end position stood at a £1.3m over spend, summarising the key issues causing the overall overspend. The corporate management team continue to regularly review the council's financial position to deliver a balanced budget this year and based on the latest departmental reports the over spend has reduced to £0.7m. It is imperative that the budget is balanced by the end of the financial year to ensure that the council does not need to use reserves and will look to implement savings agreed in phase one as soon as possible alongside other mitigations identified by the corporate management team.

Capital

- 7.2 The capital programme approved for 2014/15 within the MTFs was £260.8m and increased to £285.0m as a result from delays in projects from 2013/14 as summarised in the financial report to Cabinet in June 2014. Since the beginning of the financial year, there has been a further reduction in expected spend to £268.4m as at 31 October 2014. This is mainly due to a revision to the schools programme, deferring the affordable homes budget based on current schemes and various large slippages into future years. The spend to date is £49.0m with further spend to the end of the financial year still to be incurred of £219.4m if there is no change to the continuation of capital projects.
- 7.3 The Capital Programme is funded via three core elements, external third party income (including grants), capital receipts generated from the sale of Council assets, and borrowing.

8. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 8.1 Following the release of the first tranche of budget proposals to tackle the financial gap and outlining Cabinet's priorities and vision for Peterborough, Cabinet is seeking the opinions of all residents, partner organisations, businesses and other interested parties to understand which council services matter most. The council must set a balanced budget for 2015/16 within the financial resources it will have next year and the feedback received will help inform Cabinet in considering budget proposals within the second tranche.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Council must set a lawful and balanced budget. The approach outlined in this report work towards setting a lawful and balanced budget.

10 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 10.1 Cabinet considered releasing all budget proposals in the New Year after the provisional finance settlement announcement as Cabinet had done so over previous financial years. The cross party Budget Working Group expressed a desire to release budget proposals earlier than in previous years. Cabinet considered the cross party Budget Working Group's view and recognise that as work is continuing to identify and propose further budget proposals, and given the unprecedented scale of the savings to find, Cabinet agreed to publish their budget proposals in two stages.

11. IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Elected Members

Members must have regard to the advice of the Section 151 Officer. The Council may take decisions which are at variance with this advice, providing there are reasonable grounds to do so.

It is an offence for any Members with arrears of Council Tax which have been outstanding for two months or more to attend any meeting of the Council or its committees at which a decision affecting the budget is made, unless the Members concerned declare at the outset of the meeting they are in arrears and will not be voting on the decision for that reason.

11.2 Legal Implications

In terms of the Council's executive arrangements, the adoption of the Council's Budget is a role shared between the Cabinet and the Council. The Cabinet (Leader) is responsible for formulating the budget proposals and full Council is responsible for approving (or not) those proposals and setting the budget and council tax requirement.

The principal purpose of the Budget is to set the upper limits of what the executive (Leader, Cabinet or officer under delegated executive authority) may decide to spend the Council's resources on. The Council cannot through the Budget overrule an executive decision as to how to spend the money, but the Budget will require the Cabinet to exercise their responsibilities for decision making so as not to make a decision where they are 'minded to determine the matter contrary to, or not wholly in accordance with the authority's budget'. This means that a decision that leads to excess expenditure, a virement from one budget heading to another over the amount allowed by Council in the Budget Book or expenditure of unexpected new money outside of the Budget is required to have approval of the Council before the Leader and Cabinet can make that decision.

When it comes to approve the budget on 4th March 2015, the Council is under a legal duty to meet the full requirements of section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which includes the obligation to produce a balanced budget.

A principle of fairness applies to consultation on the budget proposals, both consultation under s65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and that which operates as a set of rules of law. These rules are that:

1. consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage;
2. the proposer must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit of intelligent consideration and response;
3. adequate time must be given for consideration and response; and
4. the product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising any statutory proposals.

Added to which are two further principles that allow for variation in the form of consultation, which are

5. the public authority may be influenced by the identity of those whom it is consulting; and
6. the demands of fairness are higher when an authority contemplates depriving someone of an existing benefit or advantage as opposed to removing a future benefit.

It should be noted that the consultation to be undertaken as a result of this report is on the Budget proposals, and consequently the Cabinet's general approach to the phased process. It is not on the various decisions to take whatever actions that may be implicit in the proposals and later adoption of that budget, each of which may or may not require their own consultation process.

11.3 Human Resource Implications

In order to deliver the phase one changes outlined in this document the council is proposing to restructure a number of teams and departments which may result in a number of posts being affected. The table below explains the staffing implications including the outcome of the recent voluntary redundancy process.

The council's approach to minimising any compulsory redundancies will be the same as in other years, including deleting vacant posts, redeployment of affected staff and seeking voluntary redundancies where we are able to do so.

This information relates to council staff only. The phase one proposals will also impact on the council's partners. Cabinet will outline the impact of the phase two proposals when they are published in January.

Staff implications	Total
Total number of affected posts	55
Less vacant posts to be deleted	-12
Posts be to found through redundancies	43
Less voluntary redundancy acceptances	-13
Compulsory redundancy total	30

In addition to the figures in the table above, the council has accepted a further five voluntary redundancies for various reasons.

11.4 Equality Impact Assessments

All budget proposals published in this first tranche have been considered with regards to equality issues and where appropriate equality impact assessments have been completed and available on the council's website.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

n/a

Appendix A – Phase 1 Budget Proposals

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Medium Term Financial Strategy Phase 1 Budget Proposals Document from Cabinet

November 2014

**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL
5pm on 14 November 2014**

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the first of two sets of budget proposals that will be considered by Cabinet to ensure Peterborough City Council has a balanced budget for 2015/16.

These proposals have been set in the context of the incredibly challenging financial position that all councils face. Peterborough is no exception to this. Since the financial crash of 2008, the public sector has seen unprecedented reductions in funding. In the five years to 2015/16, the council has seen its government funding cut by £44m, which equates to nearly 40 per cent of its government grant.

For next year (2015/16) the council will see its government grant reduced by £12.3m. In addition, it faces financial pressures of £12.5million as a result of an increasing demand for services and legal changes. This means we face an enormous challenge of finding nearly £25million of savings and efficiencies to balance our books, while continuing to invest in the city to ensure Peterborough is a great place to live, work, visit and stay.

In doing so, the council maintains its unerring focus on three big issues for the people of Peterborough – prosperity, education and quality of life. These issues are at the heart of everything the council does and in particular how we make increasingly difficult decisions about where to spend the money we have available to provide services.

The first set of budget proposals, published on Friday 14 November, look to make savings of £16.8m. A second set of proposals, which will need to close the remaining £8m gap in the budget, will be published in the New Year. This second set will also include proposals for council tax. To be clear, many difficult decisions remain.

On Friday 14 November the council launches a city-wide Budget Conversation. This will be in two parts. Firstly, we want to know what local residents and business people think about the initial proposals presented in this document. Secondly, we want people's help to identify how to close the remaining gap. More information on the Budget Conversation is available on page 5.

This document does not seek to outline all of the services we provide or how our total budget is spent. Rather it outlines the financial challenges we face and how we intend to respond to these challenges. A chart on page 8 (appendix 1) outlines our total budget for 2014/15 of £149.9m and how much is spent in each department. All items included in this document are changes, amounting to £16.8m, to that total net budget.

We have also included the investments we are intending to make in the coming year to ensure we have enough school places for all the children that need them, can meet new requirements for adult social care services set out in national changes and to ensure children and families are supported and safe from harm.

We aim to be open and transparent about our proposed spending plans and publish the first round of proposals at this time to give residents, partner organisations, businesses and other interested parties the chance to give their comments.

2. PRIORITIES

The Cabinet remains firm in its priorities this year against the funding challenges it faces. It is worth reiterating those priorities against those challenges and they are as follows:

- Growth, regeneration and economic development of the city to bring new investment and jobs. Supporting people into work and off benefits is vital to the city's economy and to the wellbeing of the people concerned;

- Improving educational attainment and skills for all children and young people, allowing them to seize the opportunities offered by new jobs and our university provision, thereby keeping their talent and skills in the city;
- Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults;
- Pursuing the Environment Capital agenda to position Peterborough as a leading city in environmental matters, including reducing the city's carbon footprint.
- Supporting Peterborough's culture and leisure trust, Vivacity, to continue to deliver arts and culture;
- Keeping our communities safe, cohesive and healthy.

As part of our Budget Conversation, we are keen to seek views from residents on the services that are most important to them. Further details can be found on page 5.

3. COST INCREASES AND PRESSURES

At the same time as unprecedented reductions in funding, we are also experiencing significant financial pressures. We have a range of statutory services that we are required by law to provide, and with demand for these services increasing, we have a legal duty to meet these extra demands. Whilst there are considerable pressures in the budget, nevertheless there is still a strong commitment by the Cabinet to invest in priority areas.

This paper, therefore, also outlines the financial pressures we are facing which we need to fund. Some of the most significant are also outlined below:

- An increasing elderly population, with people living longer and other adults developing more complex needs;
- From April 2015 the statutory delivery of adult social care will be covered by the Care Act 2014. This act represents the greatest change to adult social care legislation since the National Assistance Act 1948 and brings with it a general duty for the council to promote and protect the wellbeing of residents;
- Increased numbers of children in care including those with increasingly complex needs resulting in higher cost placements;
- Investing £32m in schools over the next two years to provide more primary and secondary places.

We remain fully committed to the growth, regeneration and economic development of the city to bring new investment and jobs. We want to build upon the progress we have made in the past year in bringing new companies into the city by continuing to position Peterborough as the destination of choice, not only for our own residents, but for visitors and investors in the future.

4. APPROACH TO TACKLING THE FINANCIAL GAP

The majority of this document outlines the Cabinet's first phase proposals for how we will tackle the financial gap. These proposals demonstrate the Cabinet's commitment to the priorities set out in Section 2 which are to protect, as far as possible, the services you care about the most and our vision for the city.

Our approach now is focused on the following:

- Reducing the demand residents have for our services and enabling them to live independent and healthy lives;
- Providing services that prevent residents needing critical and more expensive services and where there is a need to provide specialist services, ensuring that those services properly meet residents' needs or allow them to choose the care they want to purchase;
- Building a strong and healthy economy which provides jobs for our residents, helps to reduce dependency on welfare benefits, and enabling the council to benefit financially from business rates and New Homes Bonus and reinvesting this to support the needs of our residents;
- Focusing on educational attainment in schools and developing university provision to give our young people and residents the skills to take up the new job opportunities;
- Income generating in new ways to make the council less dependent on taxing its residents and on government funding and giving us the independence to support our residents and their needs.

With a lot less money to go around there are going to have to be very significant changes. We are looking to see how some services can be delivered differently in order to save money but it is now clear that some services will be reduced and others may have to stop altogether.

It is also clear that councils can expect further grant reductions in the next parliament, and as a result we are expecting a significant budget gap to close in 2016/17. Decisions made now must also consider the future financial position of the council.

5. BUDGET CONVERSATION

The Cabinet wants to hear the opinions of all residents, partner organisations, businesses and other interested parties as part of the budget setting process in the form of a Budget Conversation.

As has been outlined in this document, the city council has seen its government grant cut by nearly 40 per cent in the five years up to the end of 2015/16 – that's £44million.

In the next financial year we face an enormous challenge of finding savings of nearly £25million to balance our books, while continuing to invest in the city to ensure it is a great place to live, work, visit and stay.

Therefore we need your help.

Inevitably, less money means very significant changes, not just to the way services are delivered, but the removal of some services altogether.

We want to understand your views on the first round of budget proposals contained within this document. In addition, there are some services where we have more flexibility over the level of service we provide. We want to understand which of these services matter to you the most, so that we can consider this when drafting our second round of proposals to identify further savings.

It is important to add that with so many savings to find, our room for manoeuvre is very limited and it is unlikely that everyone will get the exact outcome they would like.

It really is important that we have the views of as many people as possible before making final decisions.

The Budget Conversation will ask the following questions:

1. Do you have any comments to make about the first round budget proposals?

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2. Having read the first round proposals document, how much do you now feel you understand about why the council must make savings of £25million in 2015/16? Tick the answer you agree with.

- A great deal
- A fair amount
- Not very much
- Nothing at all

3. There are some services that the council has very little flexibility in providing. These include care for the elderly and vulnerable, services that protect vulnerable children and families and municipal waste collection. However, there are services that the council has more flexibility over and these include maintenance of our parks and open spaces, helping people to lead healthier lives and community work with young people, to name just a few. In order to help us, please indicate which of the following services you value the most. We need to understand your priorities so please list from one to five in order of your preference. (Please list only five)

- Combatting flytipping, graffiti and anti-social behaviour
- Libraries
- Cultural services, including the key theatre and museum
- Maintenance of parks and open spaces
- Street cleansing
- Meals on wheels service for elderly and vulnerable residents who cannot cook for themselves
- Support to enable vulnerable people to access employment
- Providing financial support to subsidise public transport
- Supporting investment into the city from across the country and creating new jobs
- Bringing communities together to make Peterborough a safer and more cohesive place to live
- Helping people who have drink and drug problems, including children and young people and those with mental health problems
- Helping people who have experienced or perpetrated domestic abuse, including children and young people
- Healthy living support services such as healthy eating and exercise programmes, stop smoking support, sexual health services
- Outreach services in the community to support young people
- Support for the mayoral role and responsibilities
- City centre events programme

Please state your priorities here in order of preference (1 being the service most important to you):

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....
- 5.....

4. If you have any specific ideas about how the council can save money and protect services, please state these here:

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.....

So that we can check this survey is representative of Peterborough overall, please complete the following questions.

5. Are you?

- Male
- Female

6. Please tick which of the following best describes who you are:

- Resident
- Business person
- Member of council staff
- City councillor
- Work, but don't live in Peterborough
- Member of community or voluntary organisation
- Regular visitor
- Other (please state).....

7. Which of these age groups do you fall into?

- Under 16
- 16 to 24 years
- 25 to 34 years
- 35 to 44 years
- 45 to 54 years
- 55 to 64 years
- 65 to 74 years
- 75 years or over
- Prefer not to say

8. What is your ethnic group?

- A White**
- 1. English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British

2. Gypsy or Irish Traveller
3. Any other white background

B Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups

4. White and Black Caribbean
5. White and Black African
6. White and Asian
7. Any other mixed/ multiple ethnic background

C Asian / Asian British

8. Indian
9. Pakistani
10. Bangladeshi
11. Chinese
12. Any other Asian background, write in

D Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British

13. African
14. Caribbean
15. Any other Black/ African/ Caribbean background

E Other ethnic group

16. Any other ethnic group

9. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes.....

No

To get involved in the Budget Conversation, visit our website at www.peterborough.gov.uk and read and complete the questionnaire online.

Alternatively, hard copies of the Budget Consultation document and the first phase proposals document are available from the reception desks of the Town Hall and Bayard Place and in all council libraries. These can be returned in person, by emailing budget@peterborough.gov.uk or by post to: Financial Services Manager, Peterborough City Council, Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG.

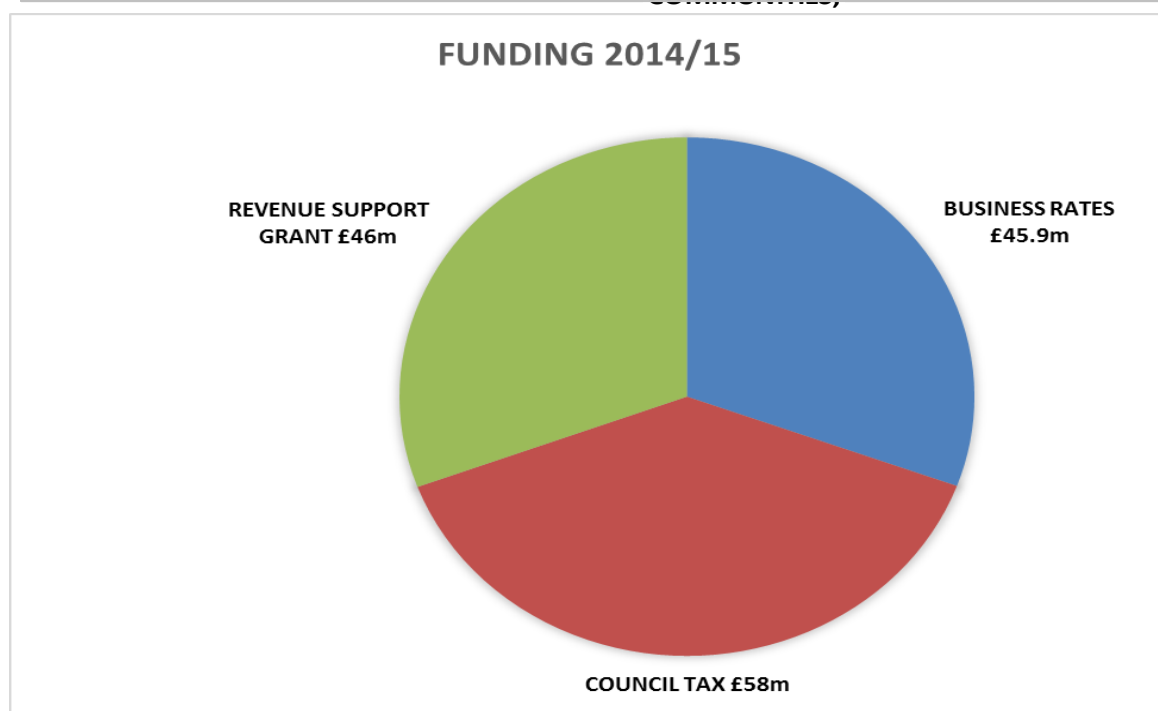
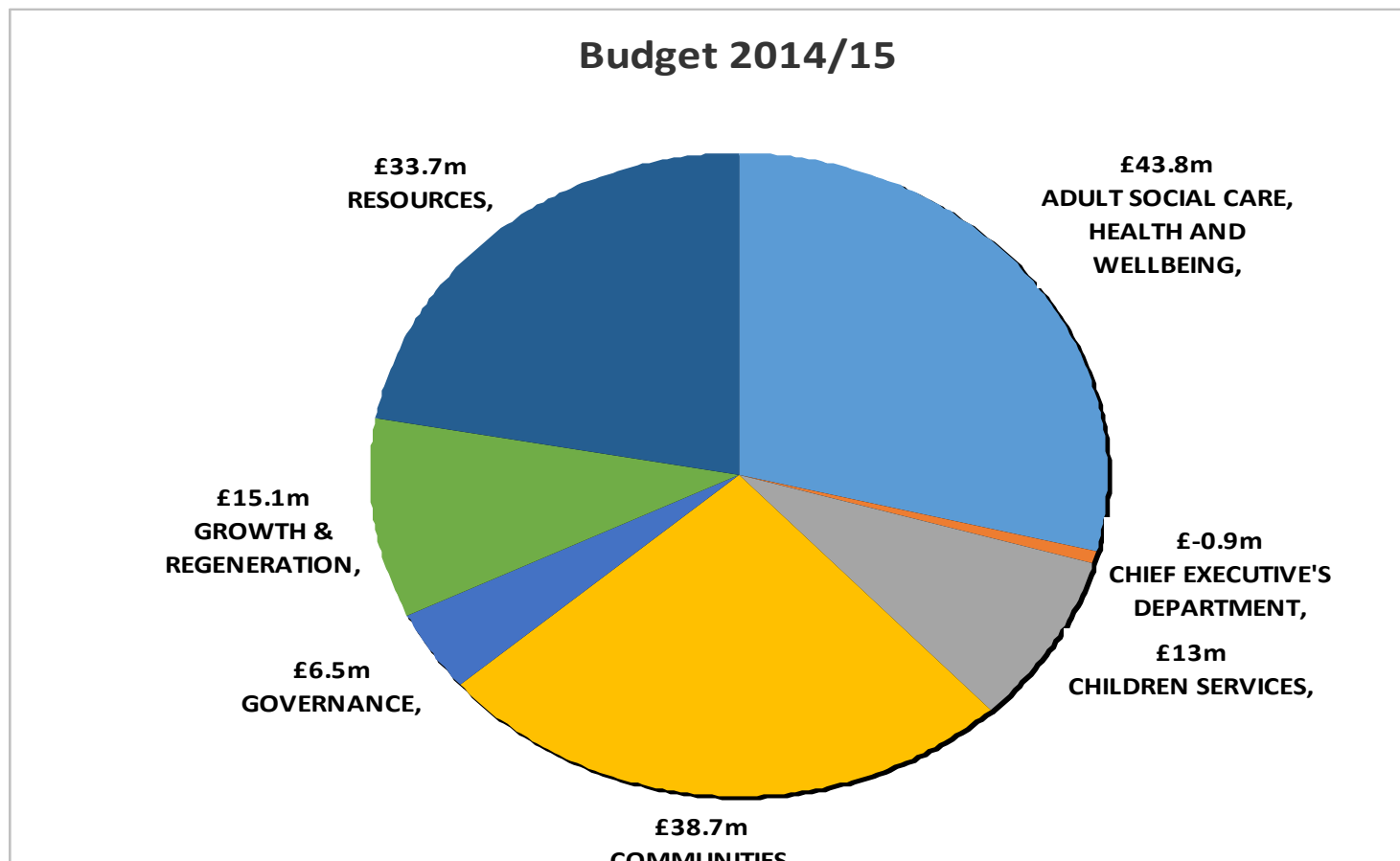
Comments received up to 5pm on Thursday 11 December 2014 will be considered by Cabinet on Monday 15 December 2014. Council will consider the phase one proposals on Wednesday 17 December 2014.

Cabinet will then use the feedback received on priorities to develop the phase two proposals that will be published in January for consultation. Council will consider these phase two proposals, along with the level of council tax, at its meeting on 4 March 2015.

APPENDIX 1 – Overall council budget and funding

The council's annual net budget in 2014/15 is £149.9m (this excludes school budgets and monies we receive from government to distribute for benefits).

The current department net spend on services is as follows:



APPENDIX 2

ADULT SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING - SERVICE IMPLICATIONS **(SAVINGS/INVESTMENTS)**

The Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing directorate oversees all those services responsible for helping people stay healthy and independent for as long as possible.

Adult Social Care is responsible for providing council-run services and buying in and overseeing services from a range of organisations for the people of Peterborough. Those services include assessing and reviewing people's needs and managing their care, safeguarding adults who could be at risk of abuse, and providing intensive support to help people get over a fall or an illness to reduce their need for long-term care, known as re-ablement. We provide ongoing long-term support for those with complex needs and enablement for people who can be supported to reach their potential for independence over a longer period.

Private, independent and voluntary organisations also support people to maintain their independence and stay living in their own homes through a range of residential, home-based and community support services.

Our assessment and care delivery services for people with mental health needs are provided by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT).

Care Act 2014

From April 2015 the statutory delivery of adult social care will be covered by the Care Act 2014. This act represents the greatest change to adult social care legislation since the National Assistance Act 1948 and brings with it a general duty for the council to promote and protect the wellbeing of residents.

From April 2015, Adult Social Care services will include:

Provision of information and advice and universal services - This includes providing accessible information, advice, guidance and advocacy services via community and voluntary sector organisations or the council itself, including online. There is also the requirement to ensure availability of universal services to prevent and reduce future care and support needs and to seek out local people with unidentified social care needs. This will include a much larger population than before.

Assessment, eligibility and person-centred care and support planning – The council is the first point of contact for anyone needing adult social care services. We assess care needs and support people to complete self-assessments. The overall aim is to support people to be as independent as possible for as long as possible. Where people are receiving social care services we carry out regular reviews of their needs to ensure their plan continues to meet their needs. The Care Act 2014 introduces a national eligibility test for access to these services to replace the previous locally set threshold. There is a new duty to provide independent advocacy for anyone who might have substantial difficulty in being fully engaged in any aspect of adult social care, including understanding how adult social care operates and the assessment, care planning and review processes work.

Support for carers - The Care Act recognises the essential role which carers provide and strengthens the council's responsibilities in supporting carers, such as family members or friends, to continue in their caring role. This provision is a new and extended responsibility for the council.

Assessing and making arrangements for support for self-funders - The Care Act increases the council's responsibility to support self-funders, ensuring the same rights to information, advocacy and support services are available to all. This might include access to universal services, or the council commissioning services, to ensure the rights of self-funders are promoted and respected. From April 2016, a maximum threshold will be set, which, when reached, passes responsibility to funding care and support costs to the council.

Safeguarding - We take a statutory local lead on adult safeguarding including making enquires if an adult is at risk of abuse or neglect, and putting in place a protection plan. The role of the safeguarding adults board will be strengthened to co-ordinate the activity of partners and the changing duties and responsibilities under the act.

Working with partners - We do not deliver our Care Act duties working alone, we must also work in an integrated way with partner organisations. We have new duties to maintain a diverse, high-quality and sustainable market of providers of adult social care services. We have duties to assess the needs of prisoners and others in secure accommodation, and to provide services to meet care and support needs. We must also support young people with social care needs in transition to adulthood. The Care Act also brings enhanced duties, powers and expectations to co-operate with local agencies and to integrate with the NHS.

Who do we support?

We support anyone with social care needs that can be seen to have a significant impact on their wellbeing. This support will range from information and advice, to a short period of focussed support to get someone back on their feet, to long-term support services such as direct payments, home care or residential care. People might require support because of a long-term condition such as frailty, dementia, physical disability or a learning disability or because of an episode of illness or mental illness.

Social care transformation

It is clear that with the increasing demands on adult social care services, coupled with the continued reduction in government funding, that councils need to look again at how they support people to help them stay healthy for as long as possible and maintain their independence, while supporting them to stay living in their own homes, avoiding the need for them to move into residential or nursing homes. In preparation for the Care Act we have been transforming our services during 2014/15 to invest more in enablement services to help people who have a fall or an illness to regain control of their lives as soon as possible and reduce their need for long-term care.

We are also increasing our investment in preventative services, information and advice to help reduce the number of people who need statutory support. Our new front-door information and advice and see and solve services will be operational this winter. We are also working on integrated plans with health partners to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and to support health and wellbeing in the community wherever possible.

For those people who do need ongoing social care services, for example some people with learning disabilities who may require life-time care, we will ensure that we provide funding in a fair and clear way by allocating them personal budgets to give them choice and control over the services they receive – a personalised approach. Because people who continue to live in their own homes tend to do better, we will only fund residential care when absolutely necessary.

Public Health

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transferred public health responsibilities to all councils from 1 April 2013. We now receive a specific sum of money from the government that can only be spent on activities that improve public health. We received a grant of £9.3m for 2014/15 and will receive £9.3m for 2015/16. We will have to account to the Department of Health on how the grant is being spent. This new grant will focus on the following objectives:

- To help people live healthy lifestyles and make healthy choices
- To reduce health inequalities between different social groups in the city and amongst hard to reach groups
- To carry out health protection functions delegated from the secretary of state
- To ensure that healthcare advice is available to all residents

Examples of these objectives will include providing health checks, sexual health services, drug and alcohol services, school nursing, tackling child and adult obesity and carrying out vaccination programmes. Some of our other services already support these objectives, and it is therefore appropriate to use some of the Public Health grant to fund these.

National and local context

As people live longer, all councils across the country are facing increasing demand for adult social care services as many of their elderly residents develop more complex needs. This is placing significant pressure on adult social care services nationally. Peterborough is no exception to this.

Peterborough is the fastest growing city in the country by population and, after children, the fastest growing sector of the population are those aged 65 to 74 and those aged 85 plus. According to the Office for National Statistics (2011 Census), Peterborough's estimated population was 184,500 and will increase to an estimated 192,400 by 2021. This represents an 11 per cent growth in population between 2010 and 2021. The number of people aged 85 and over is set to increase by 52 per cent during this period. In 2014 there are approximately 27,300 older people living in Peterborough, 3,700 of whom are aged 85 and over.

As life expectancy increases older people are living with multiple long-term conditions associated with ageing. The table below shows the Department of Health forecast for Peterborough of increasing trends for a number of conditions associated with ageing.

Condition	2014	2020	% Growth
Dementia	1,935	2,226	15%
Heart Attack	1,335	1,512	13%
Stroke	629	714	14%
Bronchitis and Emphysema	460	521	13%
Falls	7251	8314	15%
Bladder Continence	4,461	5,097	14%
Diabetes	3,402	3,851	13%

There are approximately 3,400 people aged 18 to 85 living in the city with a learning disability, of these around 730 (21%) have a moderate or severe learning disability. Around 1,200 people aged 18 to 64 in the city have autistic spectrum disorders.

There are almost 11,300 people aged under 65 with a moderate or serious disability living in the city. Of these 8,800 have a moderate disability and 2,500 have a serious physical disability. About 5,150 people are thought to have a disability that means they require some sort of help with personal care.

During the coming year about 28,000 people aged 18 to 64 and 5,000 people aged 65 and over are expected to suffer from some kind of mental health disorder. This will include 1,900 older people who live with dementia. Many of these people may need to access our mental health support services.

Supporting people with dementia is a growing pressure on adult social care budgets in the UK. Responding to the Census in 2011, around 17,500 Peterborough residents declared that they provided some level of non-paid care to a family member, friend or neighbour. The council currently undertakes around 500 assessments of carers per year. With the Care Act we expect the number of carers contacting us for assessment and support to double in the first year.

Summary position

The current budget for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing is £43.8million. There have been pressures on the budget in the current year, arising primarily from increased demand for services. The proposals presented on the next page would save £7million in 2015/16.

The proposals as presented also include additional investment through the Care Act, the Better Care Fund and other initiatives totalling £1.7million in 2015/16.

SAVINGS – REVENUE

Better Care Fund – protecting social care

The Better Care Fund, announced by the government in June 2013, transfers funding from health providers to local authorities to enable both sectors to jointly agree how money is spent. The funding is to encourage more joined-up health and social care services and to reduce admissions to hospital, which will benefit individuals and reduce costs to the council and health providers. An element of the funding has been provided to enable the council to protect social care services at a time when the population is growing and there are more people with long-term conditions. This proposal is expected to deliver a saving of £1.207million in 2015/16.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Better Care Fund – protecting social care	-1.207	0	0	0	0

Continuing Health Care

In the 2013/14 budget, a review was agreed to ensure that all those people entitled to fully-funded NHS care were receiving it. That work will continue in 2015/16 and is expected to identify further people who should be funded through the NHS Continuing Health Care programme as opposed to Adult Social Care. The anticipated saving for 2015/16 is £625,000.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Continuing Health Care	-625	-625	-625	-625	-625

Assistive technology

Assistive technology is the use of devices which enable people to live independently and carry out everyday tasks for themselves that may not otherwise be possible because of disability or mobility issues. It enables alerts and alarm systems to be installed in people's homes which are particularly useful for people with dementia. They alert the Lifeline call centre if a person tried to open their front door in the middle of the night or pressure pads that alert the call centre if they get out of bed.

In certain situations assistive technology provides a useful and cost effective solution to more traditional means of support. The use of assistive technology has begun to be developed in Peterborough in the past year. This proposal is to expand the service further as one of the prevention services to enable people to live in their own homes for longer and reduce the need for residential and nursing care.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Assistive technology	-250	-500	-500	-500	-500

Re-ablement

Re-ablement services offer intensive support to meet an individual's specific needs for a period of time to enable those who have suffered an illness or injury to return to independent living. There is good evidence that these services are effective and reduce the need for ongoing specialist social care support, helping the council to make savings. We made significant changes to our re-ablement services during 2013/14 and 2014/15 to the benefit of individuals, and will further develop the services to deliver additional savings in 2015/16.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Re-ablement	-350	-350	-350	-350	-350

Joint funding protocol review

The council and the NHS provide a range of care and support services for adults. The joint funding protocol determines how a person's care and support costs should be split between the NHS and Adult Social Care, based on an individual's needs. A review of the joint funding protocol is being undertaken to ensure there is an appropriate share of care and support costs between Adult Social Care and the NHS. This review is expected to generate a saving of £250,000 in 2015/16.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Joint funding protocol review	-250	-250	-250	-250	-250

High cost placements review

A review of high cost care packages will be undertaken to identify whether the care that people are receiving is the most appropriate for meeting their needs and the most cost effective for the council. The review will look at whether the council is paying appropriate rates for the care provided by external agencies and whether there are more appropriate and cost effective ways of meeting people's care and support needs and giving opportunities to be more independent.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
High cost placements review	-800	-800	-800	-800	-800

Low cost care packages review

A review of low cost care packages will be undertaken to identify whether the care that people are receiving is the most appropriate for meeting their needs and the most cost effective for the council. Low cost care packages are those that are less than £250 per week. This review is part of Adult Social Care's transformation and personalisation programme which looks to ensure the council can continue to meet the needs of residents when there are increasing demands for services and an ageing population. One aspect of the programme is providing people with accurate information to enable them to live independently for as long as possible. This could include befriending services and information about places they can get advice, guidance and support in the community. These initiatives encourage people to engage in activities within their communities and are intended to reduce dependence and isolation.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Low cost care packages review	-400	-400	-400	-400	-400

Electronic call monitoring

Providers of care to people in their own homes are required to use electronic call monitoring equipment which records the time they spend with people on each visit. All providers will be asked to use this equipment to ensure that the time home care workers spend with people is accurately recorded and monitored. This is to ensure people are receiving the care which has been put in place to meet their needs, and that the council is paying for the actual care provided. In addition, the council will work with providers of domiciliary care to change the way they arrange and deliver services to ensure they are as efficient and effective as possible; an example being making sure that visits to people are co-ordinated in such a way that it makes best use of workers' time.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Electronic call monitoring	-500	-500	-500	-500	-500

Transformation of Adult Social Care services

The Adult Social Care transformation programme was launched in 2013/14 and changed the focus of services to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of residents in the face of increasing demand and an ageing population and adults with long-term health conditions. There are three strands to the programme:

- Firstly, there is an emphasis on prevention and ensuring people have access to accurate advice and information about the support that is available to them, therefore helping people to make decisions and resolving the enquiry at the earliest opportunity. Accurate advice and information supports people to make informed choices and helps them to live independently for as long as possible without needing direct services provided by the council. This includes improving our customer services support to ensure people know about community support including befriending services, information sources or places to get advice. This approach will align with the council-wide work to develop customer and digital strategies.
- Secondly, we are putting more resources into enablement services for those people who could benefit from support to live more independently. This can range from supporting people with disabilities into employment and more independent forms of living. For others it may be acquiring skills in daily living and aspects of personal care. The support is tailored to meet the needs of the person and may require input from sensory rehabilitation, speech and language therapists and occupational therapists.
- Thirdly, it is about supporting those people who do need long-term care to maintain their independence and help them stay living in their own homes for as long as they can by tailoring support to meet their individual needs, rather than providing residential care or other one-size-fits-all services.

As a result of this programme, there is expected to be a reduction in demand for Adult Social Care services which will continue in the coming years as the programme continues.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Transformation of Adult Social Care services	-363	-363	-363	-363	-363

Interim beds

This proposal looks to reduce the amount of money the council spends on providing interim beds in residential homes for people who are discharged from hospital. Better use of re-ablement services and

assistive technologies will be used to assist people to regain their independence as quickly as possible and to live independently, therefore reducing the cost of the care and the amount of support that they receive.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Interim beds	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100

Adult Social Care demography changes

Adult Social Care undertakes regular assessments of the city's population to determine future demands for its services, taking into account contributing factors such as population growth and those living with long term conditions. Recent assessments have indicated a change in the previously held assumptions of the numbers of people requiring Adult Social Care services now and in the future, and the levels of care required. In addition, a greater focus on the transformation of services and promoting independence should mean that fewer people are accessing services than previously expected. As a result there can be a part-release of previously assigned budget generating a saving for 2015/16.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Adult Social Care demography changes	-1,072	-1,514	-2,033	-2,561	-3,019

Day opportunities for under 65s

In the 2014/15 budget the council agreed that greater emphasis should be placed on supporting people to maintain their independence for as long as possible, to stay living in their own homes, and to play a bigger part in the community in which they live. A review of day opportunities for people with learning and physical disabilities was commissioned to see if services provided by the council were meeting the needs of the people using them or if they could be offered differently and improved.

The council currently runs two traditional day centres that operate principally around leisure based activities. In addition, there are three other locations that provide support around employment opportunities and eight independent sector providers (learning disabilities and physical disabilities) which offer a variety of other traditional type day opportunities for approximately 210 people.

In March 2014, Cabinet concluded that this model no longer met the needs of local people and asked for a proposal that invested time in supporting people to maintain their independence in the community through greater use of personal assistants and enablement and re-ablement services which look to make people more independent and less reliant on Adult Social Care. This could include supporting people to gain skills which will help them to find a job, or skills that will support them to live independently.

The new model being proposed includes:

- Investment in up to four new community satellite sites located across Peterborough, near to where current service users reside
- Investment in a centre for people with complex needs
- Investment in employment development services
- Investment in supported employment services in micro enterprises
- Reshaping the independent sector provision to be able to provide a wider range of services.

This proposal is to redesign the day opportunities offered to under 65s and how they are delivered. The expected saving in 2015/16 is £600,000.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Day opportunities for under 65s	-600	-600	-600	-600	-600

Development of extra care housing schemes

Extra care housing schemes offer housing with care provided. Most people who require this form of care are older people who find it attractive because it offers them independent living in a home of their own with other services on hand if they need or want them. Extra care housing is able to accommodate people who would otherwise be frequent users of residential care services. The council wants to develop the use of extra care housing schemes by encouraging more people to consider it as an option. In addition, it will work with extra care housing schemes to encourage them to take residents with a higher dependency, thereby reducing the number of people who have to live in a residential care home which may not be the best option to meet their needs and will often be more expensive.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Development of extra care housing schemes	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100

Community-based care

The council's general preference is for people to receive care in their own homes wherever possible. However, in certain cases this is not the best option for the individual nor cost effective for the council. In such situations alternative care and support arrangements need to be considered, though this will always be on a case by case basis. This initiative will review practice to ensure consistency across social work teams and that all factors are taken into account when making decisions about care options. At all times the care needs of the individual will be paramount.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Community-based care	-400	-400	-400	-400	-400

INVESTMENTS – REVENUE

Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund has been introduced by the government to promote more joined up services between health and social care to improve the care and support people receive. One of the mandatory requirements under the Better Care Fund is to implement seven-day working for joined up teams. This will require additional investment in staffing and additional payments for providers for weekend working.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17 £k	2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k
Better Care Fund	250	250	250	250	250

Care Act

The Care Act is a major piece of new social care legislation which is placing additional responsibilities on all councils to provide support for self-funders, carers and people in prisons and a number of other changes. The changes highlighted will come into effect from April 2015. Other changes, relating to a limit on the care costs which an individual has to pay for residential care, will come into effect in April 2016. The Care Act comes with additional funding from government. This investment proposal is the additional money needed to meet the main requirements of the act for the changes arising in April 2015.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17 £k	2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k
Care Act	800	800	800	800	800

Fees and charges

In recent years a number of changes have been made to the council's charging policy which have generated additional income for the council. Before the change in eligibility criteria, it was estimated there would be scope to generate additional income of £180,000. However, this is no longer realistic due to the change in eligibility and the fact that scope for additional charges is now very limited. This investment is required to account for the previous assumption on charging policy income.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17 £k	2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k
Fees and charges	180	180	180	180	180

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (DOLS)

A recent legal case around Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (DOLS), which is known as the West Cheshire judgement, meant that all councils had to significantly increase the number of DOLS assessments undertaken. The assessments were previously undertaken in residential care settings, though have now been extended to other forms of care. This has increased the number of assessments which need to be undertaken, alongside legal and other costs associated with the assessment. This investment is to reflect the need to meet the increased spend associated with this national change.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17 £k	2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k
Deprivation of liberty Safeguarding (DOLS)	250	250	250	250	250

Transport savings

Assumptions were made in previous years' budget proposals around savings which could be made with regards to transport relating to day service provision. A reassessment of the position has identified that although some savings should be able to be achieved in conjunction with the review of day services, the level of saving previously anticipated is no longer achievable. This investment is required to meet the costs of providing transport relating to day service provision.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17 £k	2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k
Transport savings	240	240	240	240	240

APPENDIX 3

CHILDREN'S SERVICES - SERVICE IMPLICATIONS (SAVINGS/INVESTMENTS)

Children's Services provides school places and ensures children in Peterborough have access to a high quality education. The department also provides early help and safeguarding services to the most vulnerable children and their families. The budget proposals protect funding for education and children's social care services as they both remain key priorities for the council. There is a continued focus on recruitment, both with social workers and foster carers, to reduce the number of children placed out of Peterborough in expensive, independent, fostering and residential placements.

Children's Services is responsible for overseeing and providing services for families and children in Peterborough. Our vision is 'Helping Children to be their Best' through:

- Providing children and families with early support
- Helping families with problems and keeping children safe
- Giving the best opportunities to children and young people in care
- Working with schools and others to make sure that children succeed
- Supporting our staff to be outstanding

The department is supported by other services across the council for areas such as school place planning, finance, programme management, commissioning, performance management and workforce development. The responsibility for buying in services from other organisations for children and families sits within the Communities directorate. Savings made in these areas directly impact upon Children's Services despite being located elsewhere in this document.

Education

This service is responsible for ensuring schools in Peterborough provide the best possible education for children and young people. This includes providing a range of support for pupils with special educational needs and ensuring schools are providing the best educational opportunities for children and young people to help them reach their full potential.

There have also been significant pressures arising from the increase in the population of Peterborough. This has particularly impacted upon education, both in terms of school places and also the need to provide services to a greater number of children and young people. On the whole, these pressures have been managed within existing resources.

Safeguarding - families and communities

This department is responsible for protecting Peterborough's most vulnerable children and families, including those who need protection from significant harm and children in care. It also recruits and supports foster carers and adoptive parents.

The pressures on social care have been, and continue to be, significant –

- Recruitment of social care staff - the challenge of recruiting social work professionals remains acute with a national shortfall in the profession. The challenge has been exacerbated in Peterborough by neighbouring local authorities also experiencing a shortfall. This has meant increased costs in terms of agency fees, advertising and recruitment campaigns and a review of salaries to ensure we are competitive in the market. We are developing a number of different proposals to aid retention of social work staff, including a new social work academy providing training and support to newly qualified staff to retain them in the service. We will also explore a

bursary funded scheme with the Department for Education to enable us to develop trainees. Invest to save proposals are also being developed.

- Child sexual exploitation – the council has played a leading role in a high profile police investigation to uncover incidents of child sexual exploitation in the city. So far this has involved more than 100 victims and a number of successful prosecutions amounting to over 100 years of imprisonment for the perpetrators. This has resulted in additional costs for a dedicated team which includes four additional social workers plus victim support and high-need placement costs.
- Supporting children in need - we are looking at different models of service delivery for social care in 2015/16 following the next Ofsted inspection. These proposals will look at a family based multi-disciplinary approach which will be delivered in schools and the community. We will also look at employing more experienced unqualified staff who can support the work of qualified staff so that they can focus on direct work with families. This will not affect the current budget proposals but will be taken into consideration the following year.

The current budget for the Children’s Services department is £13million. The following proposal would save £150,000 in 2015/16.

The proposals as presented also include investments totalling £2.3million in 2015/16.

SAVINGS – REVENUE

Meeting the needs of challenging behaviour in schools

In response to an increased numbers of behaviour related issues in schools, funding was allocated in 2014/15 to support the costs of providing direct support to children and young people and to provide schools with the skills to better manage behaviour. This was to ensure children and young people could remain in mainstream education and not go into specialist and more expensive placements.

It is proposed that in 2015/16 this support will come from the council’s pupil referral service which provides full-time education for children who have been, or are at risk of being excluded from school, or who cannot go to mainstream school for other reasons. As a result, the additional funding provided in the 2014/15 budget is no longer needed which provides a saving of £150,000 in 2015/16 and beyond.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Meeting the needs of challenging behaviour in schools	-150	-150	-150	-150	-150

INVESTMENT – REVENUE

Social care workforce

In order to support the growing demands on the service whilst ensuring a high quality service, further investment needs to be made into social care of £2.3million. This investment is needed for the following reasons:

- Savings included in previous year’s budgets have not been delivered in full due to an increase in demand for services. In addition, it has proved impossible to reduce management costs and re-organise services with increasing demands and pressures. Further savings proposals are being considered and will feature as part of the 2016/17 budget round.
- Recruitment and retention of staff – the need to attract and retain high quality social workers and team managers is a significant challenge. In order to attract experienced team managers we have had to introduce market supplements. We have also had to recognise experience in social

workers roles through introducing a career progression scheme which sees opportunity for those who remain in post to continue up the pay scales as they take on further responsibilities.

- More children coming into the social care system has meant that we need to increase our number of social workers from 82 to 87. This number is based upon ensuring that social workers hold, on average, a caseload of 23 which we considered to be appropriate and safe.
- The challenge to recruit permanent social workers is significant. In order to maintain current staffing levels we are having to recruit more agency social workers, however we continue to run recruitment campaigns for permanent staff. Currently around 25 per cent of our social workers are from agencies. There are also challenges in finding experienced team managers and we currently employ a number through agencies at additional costs.
- In order to support the important work around identifying child sexual exploitation and supporting victims, a temporary dedicated team was created in 2014/15 which will remain in place for 2015/16. The team will be reviewed in terms of emerging cases in this area. This team includes four social work posts and a team manager.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Social Care Workforce	2,296	1,893	1,893	1,893	1,893

APPENDIX 4

COMMUNITIES - SERVICE IMPLICATIONS (SAVINGS/INVESTMENTS)

Communities is responsible for assessing the needs of all the city's residents and deciding on the right services to meet those needs. It undertakes all the people services commissioning for the council to ensure the services we provide or buy-in are the right services, delivered at the right time, for the right people and in the right place and at the right price to ensure we are giving real value for money. It also delivers a wide range of community and targeted services including housing and health improvement and community and safety services.

Communities is split into three areas:

Communities and targeted services

This division delivers services that build confidence, capacity and resilience within our communities, by ensuring residents are involved in the development and delivery of both preventative and targeted support. This includes housing, community development and cohesion, healthy lives and improvement, 0 to 19 children services, short break services for children with disabilities and the work of the SaferPeterborough partnership; including community safety, youth work and youth offending services. The focus of the team is to identify difficulties early and provide services whilst ensuring they don't escalate.

Strategic commissioning and prevention

This division identifies the needs of residents and the best services to meet those needs. It ensures there is a sufficient quantity of good quality providers in the city and that services commissioned represent value for money. These include services for children on the edge of and in care, independent school placements, services for vulnerable adults including older people and adults with learning and mental health difficulties, sexual health services, school nursing and substance misuse services, as well as emotional health and well-being services and services addressing domestic abuse. This division also includes the integrated processes team which supports children and their families who, without effective multi-agency support, would be likely to develop increasingly complex difficulties. It also includes the access to resources team which commissions placements for children in care.

Adult Social Care commissioning

This division leads the transformation of commissioning in Adult Social Care to ensure that services provided correlate with the council's ambition to support people to live independently and to learn the skills they need to gain employment and to go about their daily lives. This includes an increased focus on prevention, information and advice, re-ablement and transitional support to maximize opportunities for people to remain active and independent. Essential to this is ensuring there is a good range of commissioned support available to offer choice and options tailored to individual need.

The current budget for the Communities department is £38.7million. The following proposals would save £0.9million in 2015/16.

The proposals as presented also include investments totalling £2.2million in 2015/16.

SAVINGS – REVENUE

Redesign of direct intervention, supervised contact and family group meeting services

This proposal looks to redesign the services which provide support to children's social care. This support includes direct work with children and families, supervised contact and family group meetings. This will include a reduction in one management post, resulting in a saving of £50,000 in 2015/16.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Redesign of direct	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50

intervention, supervised contact and family group meeting services					
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Foster Care Agency

Currently the city council has a bank of 154 foster carers who provide temporary homes for children and young people who cannot live with their parents for a variety of reasons. However, the demand for foster homes is greater than the number of foster carers we have available. In addition, the carers we have available don't always match the children that need a foster home, for example when a home is needed for teenagers or children from different backgrounds. Therefore the council uses external fostering agencies, which are costly because they need to make a profit. The cost of placing a child in a foster home provided by an external fostering agency is at least double compared to when a child is placed with one of the city council's own foster carers.

As a result the council is constantly striving to recruit additional foster carers. Since March 2013 it has bolstered the number from 114 to 154 and aims to increase this number to 175 by April 2015. This work will continue in earnest, to reduce the amount the council spends annually on placing children in homes provided by private fostering agencies. This is expected to save £375,000 in 2015/16.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Foster Care Agency	-375	-750	-750	-750	-750

Increase income generated by early years support team

The council's early years team works with childcare providers to support them to improve the service they provide to children and families. The team charges for this support which generates an income for the council. This proposal looks to increase the income this team makes, which in turn generates a saving for the council to help it manage with reducing budgets and to protect other council services.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Increase income generated by early years support team	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100

Improving public health awareness

The council is responsible for ensuring residents are able to live healthy lives by, for example, helping them to stop smoking, reducing their weight or increasing their physical fitness. Currently these services are provided by a small central team. However, the council has many other officers who work directly with residents who could be supporting people to live healthier lives as part of their role. For example, our housing officers who visit people in their homes to identify and remedy hazards could also be looking for signs of unhealthy lifestyles and then support that resident to bring about a healthy change, whether it's quitting smoking or doing more exercise. Therefore, this proposal is to reduce the size of the central public health team, retaining a smaller, core specialist team. Its main role will be to ensure that as many officers as possible across the council and other agencies are equipped with the information and knowledge they need to help our residents improve their health and their life expectancy.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Improving public health awareness	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50

Adolescent intervention service

The adolescent intervention service is part of the council's young people's service which supports young people aged 8 to 19. It is responsible for delivering direct support to young people and their families. There are other teams in the council providing support to young people and families and it is the intention to integrate some of the adolescent intervention service workers into these teams, for example the youth offending service, youth in localities and housing needs, to reduce management costs and the number of staff needed. This will mean that housing, youth in localities and youth offending services will be able to pick up some of the cases that would ordinarily have been supported by the adolescent intervention service, particularly the complex or higher risk cases. We are also investing more into our community and voluntary sectors through programmes such as Connecting Families, and so other lower risk cases will be referred to these programmes.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Adolescent intervention service	-323	-323	-323	-323	-323

INVESTMENT – REVENUE

Support for looked after children

In 2014/15, the budget was set to fund 360 children in care based on the predicted numbers for 1 April 2014. The number of children in care has increased to 385, a trend we are seeing nationally. This investment is needed to pay for the additional costs associated with looking after these children in our care. As the Communities department is responsible for providing and buying in those services for children in care this investment is being proposed in this department.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Support for looked after children	1,837	2,179	2,773	3,106	3,589

Mental health employment services

Mental health employment services provide personalised support to people with mental health needs. They aim to increase confidence, independence and resilience to enable people to better manage their mental health and achieve their personal goals. The cost of providing these services was more than we expected in 2014/15 and therefore investment is needed to secure the services that people need.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Mental health employment services	80	80	80	80	80

Neighbourhood investment - care and repair and community centres

The council runs a Care and Repair Home Improvement Agency to assist disabled, elderly and vulnerable people to access and pay for handy person skills in order to fix things that go wrong in their home or to install new equipment. The service had an ambitious income target that it has been unable to achieve and therefore investment is needed to continue to deliver the service.

In addition, we have been working to transfer council-owned community centres to others, such as community groups and the private, voluntary and independent sectors. We have managed to do this with some centres, but not all. This means that for those we have not been able to transfer we still have to pay service costs for the buildings and this has caused a budget pressure.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Neighbourhood investment - care and repair and community centres	200	200	200	200	200

Older people services

There has been a delay in the delivery of changes to the way the council provides day services for older people, due to the need to consider this in the broader context of its strategy for delivering services for older people. Savings will be made in day service costs by making better use of the Dementia Resource Centre facilities, though there will still be a budget pressure in 2015/16 of £75,000 which will require additional investment. Going forward we will look to implement the strategy for delivering services for older people, therefore creating savings which will negate the need for further investment.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Older people services	75	75	75	75	75

APPENDIX 5

GOVERNANCE - SERVICE IMPLICATIONS (SAVINGS/INVESTMENTS)

The Governance department consists of:

Commercial operations

This team works with local businesses and other organisations to build a stronger local economy by attracting visitors to Peterborough and helping to build its reputation as a leading tourist destination. The team supports city centre retailers and oversees everything to do with the city centre from CCTV cameras and car parks to events such as the Perkins Great Eastern Run, cultural festivals and the Christmas light switch-on. It also oversees the City Market and a number of street markets.

Legal services

This team provides legal services to all council departments and to Rutland Council.

Governance

This team supports Full Council, Cabinet and committee meetings, civic services to the Mayor and support services to councillors as well as a range of other related services. It also manages elections and the electoral register.

Regulatory services

This team provides regulatory and licensing services such as trading standards, environmental health, health and safety, and enforcement teams who deal with issues such as noise nuisance and air quality.

Communications

The communications team supports all council departments by advising how best to explain their services to residents. It promotes the council through the media, produces staff communications for up to 2,000 people, writes communications strategies for major initiatives, produces press releases, marketing campaigns and manages the council's website and social media.

Performance management

This team provides a central performance management function.

Human resources

This team provides human resource services to all departments such as support on recruitment, advice on disciplinary matters, redundancy and professional development.

The current budget for the Governance department is £6.5million. The proposals presented below would save £0.8m in 2015/16.

SAVINGS – REVENUE

Restructuring within regulatory services

Regulatory services control food safety, noise nuisance, licensing of venues and taxis, public health and illegal trading. This proposal looks to move regulatory services into the commercial operations division. As a result there will be a restructure of the teams.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Restructuring within regulatory services	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200

Elections

The council carries out the voting and counting process for local, parish, general, European and police and crime commissioner elections. These elections happen in different years in differing combinations. The budget allowed for the elections is therefore generous to allow for all possible combinations. This proposal reduces the budget to an amount which reflects the actual spend on the elections based on prior expenditure. An exceptional year exists in 2016 when the council elects all of its councillors. The budget is increased in that year alone to reflect the additional cost.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Elections	-100	150	-100	-100	-100

Communications

The communications team supports all council departments and councillors by advising them how best to explain the council's services to residents. This is to ensure residents are fully aware of the services provided on their behalf. This proposal looks to save £200,000 in the communications budget by carrying out a restructure of the team.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Communications	-200	-200	-200	-200	-200

Coroner's office

The coroner service is an independent office supported by the council. As part of government reforms, councils were expected to employ a medical examiner to support the work of the coroner. Those reforms have not been brought forward and so the budget is being reduced.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Coroner's office	-150	-150	-150	-150	-150

Parking revenue

This proposal looks to increase charges in three council car parks, including a ten per cent increase in Bishop's Road and Riverside car parks and 12 per cent in Car Haven. It also looks to introduce a flat rate weekend parking fee to encourage more people to use the multi-storey car park on Northminster.

It is also proposed to charge blue badge holders to park in council car parks. This would bring council car parks in line with privately run car parks in the city. This proposal will be subject to separate consultation. On-street parking for blue badge holders, including St Peter's Road in the city centre, will remain free. If this proposal was approved, blue badge holders would be allocated additional time free of charge, on top of the time they have paid for, to enable them to get to their location, go about their business and return to their vehicle. In addition, in recent years parking machines have been upgraded so they are accessible by disabled people and the council also operates cashless parking, Ringo, so that people can purchase additional parking time without returning to their vehicles.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Parking revenue	-112	-112	-112	-112	-112

APPENDIX 6

GROWTH AND REGENERATION - SERVICE IMPLICATIONS (SAVINGS/INVESTMENTS)

The Growth and Regeneration directorate consists of the following:

Peterborough highway services

This partnership with Skanska, the council's highway contractor, is responsible for maintaining and improving our roads and street lights, gritting roads in the winter, planning the future of transport in Peterborough and its surrounding villages, and for public transport.

Planning services

This service includes surveyors, planners and other technical teams who work with residents and businesses to ensure new development fits with the city's growth plans. The service also works with schools and local communities to help make our city greener and is responsible for our environment capital aspiration, to reduce Peterborough's carbon footprint, improve recycling rates and encourage less car travel.

Opportunity Peterborough

The council's wholly-owned company Opportunity Peterborough supports our agenda to grow the city by 20,000 jobs and 25,500 houses by 2026, by attracting inward investment, marketing the city and supporting skills.

Growth joint venture company

This new partnership is supporting the regeneration of city centre sites in the council's ownership including Fletton Quays (also known as South Bank/Riverside Opportunity Area).

Emergency planning and resilience

This team is responsible for ensuring the council and the city have contingency plans in place for any major emergency.

The current budget for the Growth and Regeneration department is £15.1million. The proposals presented below would save £1.2million in 2015/16.

SAVINGS - REVENUE

Increase in traded or shared planning services and reduction in staffing

We already generate income from other councils by supporting their planning services. For example, we are currently producing a Local Plan for the three central Lincolnshire authorities. In the coming financial year, we will expand this further to generate more income. Some vacant posts in the planning service will also be deleted meaning there will be a slower turnaround when dealing with householder and small scale planning applications. It will take two to three weeks longer for the council to decide these types of application.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Increase in traded or shared planning services and reduction in staffing	-175	-175	-175	-175	-175

Planning service - reduction in legal and consultant budget

There can sometimes be a need to employ specialist legal and consultant advice when deciding complex planning applications or when the council has a major public inquiry. More closely reflecting what we currently spend, a saving of £40,000 can be made.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Planning service - reduction in legal and consultant budget	-40	-40	-40	-40	-40

Reduction in Local Plan budget

The council's Local Plan is now largely adopted. As a result, savings can be made in this area as there will be no costs associated with the public examination of documents in the next few years.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Reduction in Local Plan budget	-63	-63	-63	-63	-63

Reduction in tree management

In the past three years good progress has been made with surveying of council-owned trees in streets and public open spaces. To-date, a total of 12 urban wards have been surveyed and now surveying has commenced in rural villages. The saving identified will slow the progress of these surveys, but the number of trees and the amount of work needed in remaining wards should be less significant, minimising any impact. Work in lower risk shelter belts and woodland zones will be limited, in the short term, to that necessary for the safety of the public and the health of trees.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Reduction in tree management	-127	-127	-127	-127	-127

Concessionary fares

Older residents, or those with specific disabilities, can access free travel on buses. The council has to reimburse bus companies for these concessionary fares. Analysis of the number of concessionary fare journeys taking place each year has taken place and this saving reflects the actual level of demand for concessionary bus travel. This saving will not impact on people's ability to travel for free.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Concessionary fares	-450	-250	-250	-250	-250

Street lighting maintenance

The council is responsible for 24,000 street lights across the city and adopts new ones each year as the city grows. In the past few years the council has begun to replace lantern bulbs with new LED energy efficient bulbs which have a far greater lifespan. So far about 7,500 LED bulbs have been installed. As a result there is a reduced maintenance cost for the council as bulbs do not need to be replaced as often. Future maintenance will also be prioritised on the basis of public safety.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Street lighting maintenance budget	-55	-55	-30	0	0

Peterborough highway services – staffing reduction

Four vacant posts will be deleted in the service. This can in part be achieved through efficiency of the council's new highway services partnership with Skanska and a review of the highway capital investment programme over the next few years. There will also be a reduction in the level of support the council can provide to local communities about transport schemes and issues, in sustainable transport, and in support to partner organisations.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Peterborough highway services – staffing reduction	-130	-130	-130	-130	-130

Climate change – staffing reduction

One vacant post will be deleted in the climate change team. This will reduce the amount of educational support that the council can provide to schools, businesses and communities about the environment and climate change.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Climate change – staffing reduction	-28	-28	-28	-28	-28

Climate change – removal of Powerdown budget

The Powerdown initiative was launched in 2011 to teach school children about the effects of climate change and to get them actively thinking about how they can reduce their impact on the environment. Sponsorship will be sought to pay for future events which take place as part of the Powerdown initiative, therefore creating a saving of £12,000 in 2015/16.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Climate change – removal of Powerdown budget	-12	-12	-12	-12	-12

Growth capital programme

A detailed review of the highway capital programme for 2015/16 onwards has been undertaken and the programming of schemes reviewed in order to help meet budget pressures. In addition, the council has successfully secured government funding for a number of schemes included in the capital programme, thereby reducing the amount it will need to invest, including junction 20 of the A47 and the second phase of the Bourges Boulevard improvement works. Revenue savings arise from these changes, through reducing the council's borrowing requirement.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Growth capital programme	-720	-1,345	-1,165	-865	-823

Highways contract inflation

There is an annual contractual review of inflation levels which is built into all council contracts. This proposal relates to the Peterborough Highway Services contract with Skanska. An estimate of the inflation level for this contract in 2015/16 has been reviewed and is lower than anticipated, therefore generating a saving.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Highways contract inflation	-144	-144	-144	-144	-144

APPENDIX 7

RESOURCES - SERVICE IMPLICATIONS (SAVINGS/INVESTMENTS)

The Resources department consists of the following:

Strategic finance

- Finance
- Internal audit

Strategic commissioning/transformation

- Serco Strategic Partnership (business support, shared transactional services, business transformation, procurement, customer services, finance systems, strategic property) and ICT partnership
- Waste management and waste disposal including the energy from waste plant
- Amey Strategic Partnership (formerly Enterprise Peterborough) which includes refuse collection, street cleaning, parks, trees and open spaces, traveller site management, building cleaning, and passenger services
- Vivacity (culture, recreation and libraries)
- Registration and bereavement services
- Westcombe Engineering
- City Fibre – broadband partnership

Corporate property and children's resources

- School place planning including admissions, schools building programmes and transport
- Financial management for Children's Services and schools (including the Schools Forum)
- Programme and project management for Children's Services
- Corporate property including asset disposals
- City College Peterborough

Energy and the Energy Services Company (ESCo)

- Renewable energy and energy efficiency schemes
- The council's wholly-owned Energy Services Company (ESCO) - Blue Sky Peterborough

The current budget for the Resources department is £33.7million. This includes the capital financing budget and certain corporate budgets, including the contingency for a potential pay award.

The following proposals would save £6.7million in 2015/16. The proposals as presented also include investments totalling £0.9million in 2015/16.

SAVINGS – REVENUE

External audit – reduced fees

The fees the council pays to external auditors has reduced in recent years. On occasions members require external auditors to scrutinise additional work. For example, in 2013/14 Audit Committee

requested a review of the council's invest to save budget, costing £20,000. The saving identified would depend on no such requests arising. Any requests that do arise would be charged to the relevant department or project, or managed as a corporate risk.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
External audit – reduced fees	-30	-40	-40	-40	-40

Reorganisation of finance team

A reorganisation of the finance team will be undertaken following a review of the council's senior management. The finance teams supporting Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing, Children's Services and Communities will be merged.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Reorganisation of finance team	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100

Insurance and risk management

The council uses two forms of insurance. It has external policies with insurance companies for areas where there are the most claims against the council or where there is a legal requirement to have an insurance policy in place. For lower risk areas, the council self-insures by holding a reserve budget which it uses to cover claims against the council not covered by external policies. The external insurance policies incur annual premium payments of £800,000. The self-insuring reserve totals £4.7 million, of which £900,000 was used in 2013/14.

The external policies were retendered in 2013/14 generating a small saving. Further savings are proposed by removing the council's terrorism insurance which costs £59,000 per year. Nationally councils are reviewing the level of risk posed by terrorism and amending their insurance policies accordingly. Areas of the country deemed at lower risk of a terrorism incident, such as Peterborough, have removed their terrorism insurance. In addition, a reduction in the self-insuring reserve is proposed following an expert review of the council's insurance policies in parallel with commercial risks and probabilities.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Insurance and risk management	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100

Strategic client team review

The strategic client team manages our partnerships with Serco, Amey and Vivacity. We propose to continue to reduce costs by looking for further efficiencies across our internal team.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Strategic client team review	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100

Property review

We continue our drive to reduce costs by ensuring we are making the best use of all the buildings we own and use. This proposal is to review the offices, shops and other business accommodation we own to assess whether we should look to sell any premises or invest in them to enable us to increase the rental income we receive. We may also look to buy more properties that could potentially increase the income received.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Property review	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100

Serco Strategic Partnership

The Serco Strategic Partnership manages many of our back office functions including our business support staff, the council tax and benefits teams known as shared transactional services, customer services and finance systems. Under the terms of the contract the council is due payments from Serco for growth during the length of the contract. This payment was originally due in 2016/17 however it will now be paid in 2015/16.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Serco Strategic Partnership	-266	266	0	0	0

Repairs and maintenance

This proposal is to reduce the amount of money the council spends on repairing and maintaining all its buildings including offices and community centres. Each request for work will be considered to determine whether it is essential.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Repairs and maintenance	-130	-130	-130	-130	-130

Schools capital programme

A thorough review has been undertaken to establish where funding in 2014/15 can be saved to offset pressures in future years. In order to support the current budgetary pressure, the following are proposed:

- Reduce 2014/15 schools capital programme by £5.1million. As a result of attracting further government funding for school places in the rebuilds of West Town and Orton St Johns primary schools, the council has been able to redirect funding so that council borrowing is no longer required to support the 2014/15 schools capital programme.
- A number of projects have been delayed as a result of issues outside of our control. Other schemes are waiting for updated profiles on spend to determine costs for this year. Current estimates suggest that we can slip £2million worth of spend into 2015/16 and therefore reduce our borrowing requirements in year.

The revenue savings of this borrowing are shown in the table below.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Schools capital programme	-411	-324	-324	-324	-324

Resources capital programme

We have reviewed the Resources capital programme for 2015/16 and beyond to ensure that only essential schemes are undertaken. For example, within the capital budget for work to council buildings, only those works relating to essential building maintenance, necessary health and safety works or to meet requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act will continue as planned.

One of the schemes which it is proposed will be delayed by two years is the building of a new Household Recycling Centre at Fengate. In the meantime it is proposed the council continues to use the current Household Recycling Centre on Welland Road.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Resources capital programme	-430	-276	-36	-38	-39

Capital project financing

The cost of borrowing has been reviewed based on the latest version of the council's capital programme for 2014/15 and 2015/16. Taken into consideration has been the projects included and the impact of interest rate forecasts, therefore generating a saving of £900,000 in 2015/16.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Capital project financing	-900	0	0	0	0

Waste management – energy from waste plant

An energy from waste plant is currently being constructed at Fengate. Once completed, the plant will enable Peterborough to deal with its own waste locally and save money in the process. It will process up to 85,000 tonnes of waste per year, which includes additional capacity to cope with Peterborough's predicted growth. It will also produce renewable electricity equivalent to the amount required to power around 15 per cent of Peterborough homes. The plant is on schedule to be completed in August 2015, at which stage Viridor will be testing the facility before it becomes fully operational. Waste that would have been landfilled will be used for this testing phase, therefore reducing the amount of landfill tax owed by the council. This will generate a previously unexpected saving for the council of £750,000 in 2015/16 as a result of the plant being completed earlier than planned.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Waste management – energy from waste plant	-750	-100	-100	-100	-100

Amey contract

Every area of council business has been reviewed to make savings to help us to balance our books in 2015/16 and beyond, including those organisations that run services on our behalf.

Amey provides refuse collection, street cleaning, building cleaning, passenger services and services relating to parks, trees and open spaces. The following proposals are part of a package of measures that would achieve a saving of £543,000 in the Amey contract and waste management.

Street scene services

A number of changes are proposed to the way street scene services are provided. This proposal, which will generate savings of £165,000 in 2015/16, includes the following:

- Overall capital investment of around £814,000 in a number of areas to move to a more efficient and cost effective service this includes:
 - 4 small mechanical sweepers - £457,500
 - 2 precinct sweepers - £174,750
 - 1 pedestrian waste collection machine - £18,375
 - 600 floor mounted bins - £163,500
- We will invest and increase the mechanical equipment available to keep our city centre clean. This will include two mechanical sweepers and a motorised waste collection machine. As a result, we will look to reduce staffing costs in the city centre. This reduction will impact mainly on the outlying streets of the city centre. This proposal makes a saving of £33,000.
- Around 600 lamp post bins will be replaced with new floor mounted bins, therefore tripling litter bin capacity across the city. This should lead to less litter on the streets, which will generate a saving as fewer litter collections will be needed. This proposal makes a saving of £17,000.
- We will seek sponsorship for the new litter bins and other areas of environmental services to generate an income of £40,000.
- A 30 per cent reduction in the staffing currently allocated to cleansing and litter picking in 1,886 streets. This reduction in staff will be supported by an investment in four new small sweepers enabling the smaller team to be more efficient. This proposal makes a saving of £75,000.

In addition, the council has launched a Cleaner Greener campaign which encourages residents and visitors to take pride in the city. The campaign aims to reduce levels of flytipping and littering, which will support the above proposals to generate a saving for the council.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Street scene services	-165	-165	-165	-165	-165

Parks, trees and open spaces

A number of changes are being proposed to the way services relating to the city's parks, trees and open spaces are provided.

This proposal, which will generate savings of £278,000 in 2015/16, includes the following:

- Fewer litter collections in the city's parks and open spaces. The proposal is to reduce the frequency of these collections by around 20 per cent. This proposal makes a saving of £10,500.

- Reduce maintenance in cemeteries and parks by around 25 per cent. This includes the frequency of grass cutting, flower bed maintenance including weeding and pruning and footpaths not being swept as frequently.
- Seek commercial and community partners to take on the running of specific services (such as the central park aviary and other water features). Taken together, these two proposals will generate a saving of £100,000.
- Cutting of parkway verges will be reduced by around 20 per cent, however visibility for traffic will be maintained at all times. This proposal makes a saving of £10,000.
- Grass cutting will be reduced from ten cuts a year to eight. This proposal makes a saving of £38,500.
- Shrubs which are ageing or have reached the end of their life will be removed. This proposal makes a saving of £83,000.
- Four of the city's seven bowling greens will be closed. Currently there are bowling greens at Bushfield in Orton, Central Park (2), East Community Centre, Itter Park, Ringwood in Bretton, Stanground and Werrington. In addition, six grass tennis courts at Central Park and five at Itter Park will be closed. Clay tennis courts at both parks will remain open. This proposal makes a saving of £36,000.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Parks, trees and open spaces	-278	-278	-278	-278	-278

Waste management – removal of bring bank sites

A wide variety of items can now be recycled in household recycling bins including aerosols, all plastic bottles, paper and card, cardboard and packaging card, glass bottles and jars, jam jar lids and large metal sweet/biscuit tins. The new Recycle for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) contract allows residents to include new materials in their recycling bins including plastic tubs, trays, punnets, carrier bags, foil and aluminium trays. Currently residents can also dispose of these items in 23 bring bank sites across the city. This proposal is to remove these facilities, on the basis that each household can dispose of items in their household recycling bin.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Waste management – removal of bring bank sites	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45

Waste management – reduce treatment costs

This proposal is about generating a saving in the council's budget by encouraging higher recycling rates across the city. Currently 52 per cent of waste is recycled in Peterborough, which includes food waste. This proposal looks to increase the amount of waste the city recycles, thereby reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and the associated costs of doing so. The council is charged per tonne for waste that is landfilled and these costs will rise in the future.

The new Clean and Green campaign will encourage residents to recycle as much as possible in their household bins, including food waste. This will remind people of what they can do to support a reduction in landfill costs and the benefits this will generate in terms of cost savings and the impact on the environment. The campaign may also include community incentives which have been proven to deliver

results elsewhere. In addition, the new Recycle for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) contract allows residents to include new materials in their recycling bins including plastic tubs, trays, punnets, carrier bags, foil and aluminium trays. This will further help to increase the amount of waste recycled.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Waste management – reduce treatment costs	-55	-55	-55	-55	-55

Pre-paid payment cards

Pre-paid payment cards are used by people who receive personal budgets but don't have a bank account. A personal budget is an agreed amount of council money that a person can use to arrange and pay for their care and support, following an assessment of their needs. Payment cards better enable the council to manage direct payment funds to ensure that they are not misused, overspends can be clawed back from the account instantly, and they also help tackle fraud by identifying potential inappropriate use earlier. They can also be better for individuals as it promotes money management and budgeting skills, reduces bureaucracy, is much quicker and easier than opening a bank account and allows quicker access to funds and greater flexibility of operation. This proposal looks to make greater use of pre-paid payment cards which will lead to reduced administration costs for the council.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Pre-paid payment cards	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50

Business support

The council spends £3.5million each year with Serco on business support. The proposal is to reduce this spend by £1million in 2015/16. All council departments will be asked to review the number of hours of business support they currently receive to deliver the savings.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Business support	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000

Inflation

Each year the council makes assumptions on the level of inflation that is required across the council. A detailed review of expenditure against inflation assumptions has identified a reduced need for inflation in 2015/16, most of which can be permanently removed from the council's baseline budget.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Inflation	-1,107	-1,107	-1,107	-1,107	-1,107

Council tax support scheme – option 1

The government changed council tax benefit as part of its welfare and localism reforms so that councils set and administer the benefit under a local scheme, known as council tax support. The government also reduced the amount of money councils have available to provide council tax support, which in

Peterborough in 2013/14 meant a shortfall in funding of £2.4million. As a result the council introduced a new council tax support scheme, which meant a 30 per cent reduction in council tax benefit received by every working age claimant. This ensured the scheme was cost-neutral to the council. Pensioners were excluded from the changes.

In reducing the council's overall grant, the government has reduced the funding it gives to the council to provide the scheme by around a further £1million in 2015/16. As a result, this proposal looks to reduce the amount of council tax support the council provides working-age claimants to 35 per cent, to ensure the scheme can remain cost neutral.

Council members need to consider this issue at a specific meeting in late January. As such this proposal will not form part of the decisions to be made at Council in December, and there will be dedicated consultation on this proposal, which can be found on the council's website. It is included here as the proposal would generate a saving. If the proposals were rejected, then further savings across the council's budget would need to be found.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Council tax benefit scheme – option 1	-250	-250	-250	-250	-250

Council tax support scheme – option 2

Further to the above option, a second option is to increase the reduction in council tax support provided to working-age claimants to 40 per cent. This would generate an additional saving for the council of £250,000. This money could then be used to help the council make the savings it needs in order to balance its budget and to protect other council services.

This will also follow the consultation route outlined above.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Council tax benefit scheme – option 2	-250	-250	-250	-250	-250

INVESTMENT – CAPITAL

Schools capital programme

We are responsible for ensuring there are sufficient school places to meet people's needs. We are also responsible for providing transport where children have to access schools which are some distance from their home, often as a result of a shortage of school places.

We have some clear objectives in terms of school place planning:

- Offering local places for local children, with the aim to meet parental preference for catchment schools.
- Offering a range of different schools for all parts of the city including community schools, foundation schools, trust schools, faith schools and academies.
- Offering high quality places for children to learn that encourage high levels of achievement.
- Avoiding significant changes to catchment areas.
- Limiting the use of mobile classrooms to areas where demand is temporary.

The school organisation plan outlines the pressure on school places and the requirement to build more capacity within the city. Peterborough has a rapidly growing school population – it has the second highest birth rate in the country and also the second highest rate of inward migration into schools outside normal points of admission (reception and year 7) such as the start of the school year in September.

The pressures in Peterborough are so variable that in the space of a year pressures on wards within the city change. Whilst planning can take place where growth is known, the capital programme is largely changeable as pressures change and our spend is under constant review. We hold an annual budget for capital maintenance and also for mobiles (both purchasing and relocating).

The agreed five year capital programme for new school places is as follows:

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
New school places capital programme	19,000	13,100	7,100	2,800	TBC

The funding of this capital programme for schools is made up of three elements –

1. Direct grant from governments – the council receives a Department for Education (DfE) grant for capital maintenance of schools. We also receive an allocation for basic need (growth) but the DfE has indicated that for 2015/16 and 2016/17, our growth is not sufficient to warrant further funding.
2. Developer contributions through section 106 and community infrastructure levy/planning obligations implementation scheme
3. Council borrowing

Peterborough has been allocated no government funding for growth in its pupil numbers for 2015/16 and 2016/17. Our budget had been built assuming the following –

	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Budgeted grant	6,458	6,458	4,958	458
Expected grant as at July 2014	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000
Shortfall	4,458	4,458	2,958	-1,542

We have submitted new estimates for our pupil number pressures to the Education Funding Agency (EFA - an executive agency, sponsored by the DfE) and we remain hopeful that we will continue to receive the level of grant funding we expected. Dialogue is currently underway with the EFA around the shortfall in funding and we continue to monitor changes in pupil numbers. If the funding is not forthcoming, additional borrowing will be required to meet the needs of our growing population. We will also make further representations on the shortfall in funding direct to government ministers. Priority projects for the next three years include:

	Details of scheme	Anticipated completion
Mobile classrooms	Purchase, re-siting and rental (where applicable) of mobile classrooms to support increased numbers.	Ongoing
Phoenix	Expansion planned for children with physical disability and severe learning difficulties. A proposal is being developed to replace existing temporary mobiles with an expansion using the Tunnel Playcentre site. Will create an additional 54 places.	September 2015
St Michael's	In line with the expansion of the housing	September

	development, negotiations are currently underway with Persimmon over the land needed for the expansion. It is proposed to increase the size of the school from 210 to 420 places.	2016.
City College	In light of increased learners with learning difficulties aged 14 plus, the council secured a grant of £660,000 to increase provision for this important group.	April 2015
Southfields	In light of rising pupil numbers in Stanground and following two years of bulges in pupil numbers (single class increases), we are working with Kier to deliver an additional 210 places (1 form entry).	July 2016
Nenegate	Pressure on meeting high level behaviour needs are significant. We are proposing a 2 classroom extension with minor refurbishment works so the school can take children from age 10 rather than 11.	June 2015
Hampton Gardens	New secondary school proposed for Hampton. This is a joint scheme with Cambridgeshire County Council to create 1,500 new secondary school places.	September 2017
Discovery	Following an expansion two years ago, it is now necessary to expand all year groups across the school. A three classroom extension with minor refurbishment works is proposed.	August 2015
Thorpe	One form entry expansion (210 children) to support the growing needs for school places in the city.	September 2015
Heltwate	There appears to be a greater number of children with severe learning difficulties at a younger age than in previous years. We are proposing to provide reception places at the school for the first time (age 4).	September 2015
Orton St John's	The school rebuilding is part of the Priority School Building Programme and funded direct by the government. The council will have to pay for the rebuilding of the nursery at a cost of around £300,000.	June 2015
West Town	This scheme moves the school to a new site on Midland Road, currently occupied by the former hospital. We have been successful in a bid to the Priority School Building Programme. The proposal is for a new build which doubles the size of the existing school. We intend to retain the existing school site for education provision.	September 2016
Pupil referral unit	Our pupil referral unit is currently split over three sites – two of which are in poor condition. We are looking to consolidate two sites and improve the condition of the other.	September 2015

The key challenges and risks around delivering school places is the following –

- Hampton Leys secondary – although assumed in the current programme we only have a maximum of £13million to fund the cost although these costs may be higher.
- Great Haddon (three primary schools and a secondary) and Norwood/Paston Reserve (two primary schools and a secondary) currently have no funding allocated but could come on line in the next five to ten years.

- The programme assumes no further growth in pupil numbers either through migration or further increases in birth rates.
- The cost of construction and steel are rising. We have reduced costs by more than £500 a square meter during the recession but prices are rising. No assumption is made in the capital programme for this. We are constantly looking for ways to reduce costs including refurbishing older buildings rather than building new schools.
- Bids have already been submitted for three new priority school building programme schemes. These may create additional capacity but are principally aimed at modernising the lowest quality accommodation we have in schools. The schools involved are Marshfields, Norwood and Southfields.

Schools funding 2015/16

Funding for schools and elements of the education service is received in a specific pot of money from the government called the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This is allocated annually based upon the number of pupils in the city in October the previous year (based this year upon October 2014). We are responsible for proposing use of this funding to support schools in agreement with the statutory body known as the Schools Forum. This forum consists of headteachers, early years' providers, church representatives and council officers.

Since 2011 the government has been working to improve the schools funding system with the aim of making it simpler, fairer and more transparent. Significant changes were made in 2013/14 to reduce the number of factors local authorities could use in their funding formula and bring consistency across local authorities in the way funding is allocated.

These changes only affected the way funding was allocated to schools and not the allocations to local authorities. Local authorities are funded on a historic funding system called 'spend plus methodology' which locks in old historic funding decisions and levels from 2005. The government has announced that in 2015/16 it is determined to address the inconsistencies in the level of funding between local authorities. This will be achieved by introducing minimum levels of funding using a formula based on each local authority's characteristics. If a local authority already attracts at least these minimum funding levels, then there will be no change to the amount of funding per pupil that it receives. If a local authority attracts less than these minimum funding levels for the pupils and schools in its area, the budget will be increased so that it meets those levels.

The DfE has allocated in 2015/16 an additional £350million to meet this requirement of minimum levels of funding and it has been announced that Peterborough's funding share will increase (along with 45 other authorities funding) by £600,000. The Schools Forum has considered these changes and agreed to allocate this funding out to schools by two factors:

1. Basic entitlement – a per pupil allocation
2. Deprivation – allocated based upon two need factors, free school meals entitlement and the postcode profile of where children live

The dedicated schools grant can be broken down as follows:

Dedicated schools grant	Explanation	£m
Schools block	Funding allocated direct to schools via the funding formula	140
High needs block	To support children with additional education needs in schools and specialist placements. It also funds key support services to schools and individual young people.	27
Early years block	Funding to support placements in early years settings for 2, 3 and 4 year-olds.	16
Total		183

The funding for schools is driven by a rate per child of funding for Peterborough which is set at £4,490 for children in primary and secondary schools and £4,541 for children in early years education. Our pupil number has increased by 4.1 per cent in the space of a year – an increase of 1,246 children. Our funding has increased from last year as the funding for the Thomas Deacon Academy, City of Peterborough Academy Secondary and Special School are being added to the dedicated schools grant which had previously been funded directly. This adds around £11million.

INVESTMENT – REVENUE

Adoption reform grant

In 2013/14, the government set up a specific funding stream to support local authorities in attracting more adoptive placements for looked after children. It was expected this grant would continue beyond 2013/14 but the government has announced that it will be reduced in 2014/15 and removed from 2015/16 onwards. We continue to invest in the adoption services to find high quality places for the most vulnerable children in the city and therefore an investment in the council's budget is needed in this area.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Adoption reform grant	617	617	617	617	617

Private finance initiative (PFI)

Under the requirements of the schools PFI contract (for the redevelopment of Jack Hunt, Ken Stimpson and the new build of The Voyager), the cost of utilities falls to the council. The cost of providing energy – both in terms of volume and cost - has been under pressure and has created an ongoing budget pressure of £164,000. We are working hard with the facilities management provider to reduce the costs and have commissioned CIPFA to work with us to review our PFI contract with a view to further savings.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Private finance initiative	164	164	164	164	164

Support services to Communities and Children's Services

There has been an increasing demand for services in both Communities and Children's Services. As a result, we have had to increase the support we provide for projects, the investment in our management information databases and business support. In addition, we are having to fund additional costs for providing insurance for our buildings.

Issue	2015/16 £k	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Support services to Communities and Children's Services	150	150	150	150	150

APPENDIX 8

STAFF IMPLICATIONS

Vacancy and redundancy

In order to deliver the phase one changes outlined in this document we are proposing to restructure a number of teams and departments which may result in a number of posts being affected. The table below explains the staffing implications.

Our approach to minimising any compulsory redundancies will be the same as in other years, including deleting vacant posts, redeployment of affected staff and seeking voluntary redundancies where we are able to do so.

This information relates to council staff only. The phase one proposals may also impact on our partners. We will outline the impact of the phase two proposals when they are published in January.

Staff implications	Total
Total number of affected posts	55
Minus 12 vacant posts to be deleted	= 43
Minus 13 voluntary redundancy acceptances	= 30
Compulsory redundancy total	30

In addition to the figures in the table above, the council has accepted a further five voluntary redundancies for various reasons.

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
24 NOVEMBER 2014	PUBLIC REPORT

Contact Officer:	Gemma George, Senior Governance Officer, Democratic Services	Tel. 01733 452268
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OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Directors	Deadline date : N/A
It is recommended that Cabinet notes the action taken in respect of petitions presented to Full Council.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following the presentation of petitions to Full Council.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the progress being made in response to petitions.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.3 – ‘To take a leading role in promoting the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area’.

2.3 The present petitions scheme is currently under review and a report will be presented to Full Council in due course.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

4.1 Petition relating to the provision of play equipment for the under-fives in Helpston

This petition was presented to full Council on 8 October 2014 by a member of the public, Ms Peat, and requested exploration into the provision of play equipment in Helpston.

The Council’s Community Capacity Assistant Manager responded stating that ‘it is very encouraging that you have so much support from the community of Helpston towards the installation of play equipment in the village. As you are aware, there has been great progress over the last few months regarding this’.

Council officers are due to meet with all interested parties to try to agree a way forward.

Specifically, two issues are being worked through in light of the interest in, and support, for the proposal, these being:

- i) which is the right location for enhanced play provision for under 5s in the village; and
- ii) can we identify sufficient funding to cover the costs of the work?

A further update is to be provided once more work has been done on these two questions.

4.2 **Petition objecting to the proposed planning application of development of a garage site behind 18 Acacia Avenue, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough**

This petition was presented to full Council on 8 October 2014 by Councillor Asif Shaheed which requested that consideration be given, for the implementation of traffic calming measures in Croyland Road, Walton.

The Council's Transport Planning Officer responded stating that 'we receive a number of requests for safety schemes each year, both internally and externally to the council. As there is a limited budget available to implement these requests we use a standard assessment procedure to determine priority for funding.

Requests with sufficient priority from the assessment are progressed to the Transport & Engineering Project Board, where a decision is made on including the request as a scheme in the Capital Works Programme.

Requests with insufficient priority from the assessment do not progress any further.

Following the assessment it was found that average speeds during the morning and afternoon were 21 and 25 miles per hour respectively; this is presently below the 30 miles per hour speed limit that is in effect on Croyland Road.

As a result of the assessment your request will not be progressed any further at this time'.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 As the petitions presented in this report have been dealt with by Cabinet Members or officers, it is appropriate that the action taken is reported to Cabinet, prior to it being included within the Executive's report to full Council.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 There have been no alternative options considered.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal implications.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 8.1 Petitions presented to full Council and responses from officers.