

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
16 DECEMBER 2013	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Nigel North - Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Neighbourhoods	
Contact Officer(s):	Richard Kay– Group Manager of Strategic Planning, Housing and Environment Charlotte Palmer – Climate Change Manager	Tel. 453475 Tel. 453538

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL ACTION PLAN (ECAP)

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : Simon Machen – Director of Growth and Regeneration	Deadline date : 16 December 2013
1. That Cabinet approves the Environment Capital Action Plan for public consultation.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 The Environment Capital Action Plan (ECAP) has been prepared to outline how the city intends to deliver against the ‘Creating the UK’s Environment Capital’ strategic priority.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the ECAP for the purpose of public consultation. Officers propose to consult with the public and stakeholders on the draft ECAP in early 2014. The draft ECAP is attached at **Appendix A**.

2.3 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. No. 3.2.1 “to take responsibility of 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?	No	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	N/A
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4. ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL ACTION PLAN

Introduction

4.1 The Environment Capital Action Plan (ECAP) will provide, for the first time, a clear vision for how the ‘Creating the UK’s Environment Capital’ strategic priority will be delivered. The plan is based on the internationally recognised concept of One Planet Living, defined as a vision of a sustainable world where people lead prosperous, happy, healthy lives within their fair share of the earth’s resources (see section 10 - Background Documents for further details on the concept).

Structure of the ECAP and lead organisations

- 4.2 The draft ECAP is attached. It is intentionally short, easy to read and easy to engage with. It is hoped that everyone will understand, sympathise with and support at least one of the themes, no matter the person’s background, age, status, economic situation or beliefs.
- 4.3 To be clear, this is not an action plan focussing on the traditional ‘green agenda’. It is an action plan to foster healthier and happier lives, to support economic prosperity and security for residents and the city, and to help generate stronger, cohesive, supportive communities. And in achieving all this, it will also help improve our local environment and contribute to minimising, and mitigating against the effects of, climate change.
- 4.4 The plan is a city wide document (i.e. not just the council) and has been developed with stakeholders from key organisations across the city. The plan is broken down into ten areas based on the One Planet Living themes. Each theme is led by a key city stakeholder (detailed in table one, below), and comprises local and national context, interim targets to 2016 and a vision to 2050.
- 2013-2016 targets – these targets are, in the vast majority of cases, those that exist already in the City. If they are additional they focus on research which we aim to deliver by working with partners including local and national universities. Therefore these targets do not require additional resource, but do, for the first time, bring together all the positive action being done in the district
 - 2050 targets – these are designed to be truly visionary. At this stage we do not know if this target is possible but after adoption of the plan effort will focus on undertaking more in depth research into each theme area establishing the trajectory and revising the vision if necessary.
- 4.5 The ECAP is intended to be a true reflection of what stakeholders are able to commit to within existing resources and allows us to understand what these resources are. Crucially, whilst the ECAP is being led and developed by the City Council the plan will be a document that is owned by the City with the aim of delivering this shared priority.

Table one: Themes, Lead Officers and Lead Organisations

Theme	Lead	Organisation
Zero Carbon	Charlotte Palmer	Peterborough City Council
Zero Waste	Rachel Huxley	Peterborough Environment City Trust
Sustainable Transport	Dave Boddy	Skanska
Sustainable Materials	Sean Hanson	Serco
Local and Sustainable Food	Ben Middleton	Peterborough Environment City Trust
Sustainable Water	Julia Chatterton	Peterborough City Council
Land Use and Wildlife	James McCulloch	Nene Park Trust
Culture and Heritage	Kevin Tighe	Vivacity
Equity and Local Economy	Neil Darwin	Opportunity Peterborough
Health and Happiness	Sue Mitchell (to date - new lead being sought from December)	Peterborough City Council

Why is a plan needed?

- 4.6 Our aspiration in the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to create the UK's Environment Capital is difficult for people across the city to understand in terms of goals and targets. Since its adoption in 1998 a number of initiatives have taken place to drive the aspiration forward but these have never been brought together holistically to enable progress to be monitored and action scrutinised.
- 4.7 This plan aims to make the SCS aspiration tangible, demonstrating how the actions make economic sense, make us more resilient to change and promote health and wellbeing, all whilst improving the local environment.
- 4.8 For example, all of us who live or work in the geographic area of Peterborough, currently spends an average of £144m each year on energy. That is £144m leaving the Peterborough economy. Yet, if just a fraction of this energy was produced and used locally then this money would begin circulating in the local economy to the benefit of our residents and businesses.

Fit within the council's policy framework:

- 4.9 In 2010 the council adopted the 'Home of Environment Capital Major Policy' which committed the organisation to continually monitor and improve its performance across a number of environmental areas. The policy can be viewed here: <http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/env-EC-majorpolicy.pdf>. However, since the adoption of this plan there has been significant progress and refinement in delivering this strategic priority, and Environment Capital is increasingly being considered within the wider context (e.g. economy, social issues, cohesion) in which it sits. As such the preparation of the action plan, together with the council dropping the slogan 'Home of Environment Capital' in exchange for 'Creating the UK's Environment Capital', has indicated the need to refresh the major policy to set it in the wider context of what the Environment Capital aspirations means for Peterborough now and up to 2050. Therefore a review of it will be undertaken over the next few months, alongside the consultation on the attached Action Plan, so that Cabinet, then full Council, can adopt both an updated overarching major policy together with a final version of this action plan.

Next steps

- 4.10 A draft ECAP has been produced for, if Cabinet agrees, consultation (see below for details on consultation arrangements). Following consultation the ECAP will be revised accordingly and will be progressed through the democratic process ahead of full adoption in spring 2014. Progress thereafter will be monitored on a quarterly basis and an annual monitoring report of the plan will be prepared and made publically available. That monitoring report will indicate whether a refresh of the Action Plan is needed.
- 4.11 However, it should also be noted that the ECAP is a starting point. The challenge after adoption (and future reviews) will be to address how we collectively, as a city, fill the gap between 2016 and the 2050 vision. This will be the role of the Environment Capital Steering Group chaired by the Director for Growth and Regeneration, with regular progress monitored by the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 In order to develop the draft ECAP presented today, engagement has taken place with council officers and external organisations who have strategic as well as day-to-day responsibility for the delivery of the targets contained in the plan. They have all endorsed it.
- 5.2 The draft ECAP was considered by the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee (7th November 2013) and was well received. One recommendation, was made: to include the target 'to increase the number of people using public transport' within the sustainable transport section of the plan. At this stage of the plans development it is not possible to incorporate this target. This is because we are in the process, following the introduction of the new corporate highways contract with Skanska, at developing a process to enhance the level of monitoring undertaken across all modes of sustainable transport in order to ensure ongoing robustness of the data. We will therefore consider the inclusion of this, or a similar target in the final plan following consultation.
- 5.3 It is proposed, subject to approval from Cabinet, to publish the ECAP for public consultation from January 2014. The consultation will be undertaken by asking a pre-determined set of questions which will make it clear which parts of the plan we would welcome feedback, ideas and suggestions. Thus, whilst we do not propose to fundamentally change the format of the plan or move away from the ten One Planet themes, we will welcome views on the 2050 visions and in particular are keen to understand if there are more targets that already exist in the city that could be included between now and 2016. The consultation will be promoted via local media and social media outlets, the Environment Capital e-newsletter and via the networks of local stakeholders i.e. PECT and Opportunity Peterborough.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet will recommend the ECAP for public consultation.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the ECAP for public consultation. This is because the plan will help deliver the city's Environment Capital priority by providing clear strategic direction for the priority whilst creating, for the first time, a set of targets with which the progress of this priority will be measured.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The alternative option of not producing a plan would mean that there would be no clear vision and targets associated with the Environment Capital priority making progress difficult to monitor and the effective allocation of resources difficult. Therefore the alternative option of not producing the ECAP was rejected.

9. IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Legal Implications - None.
- 9.2 Financial Implications - There are no immediate financial implications on the city council. Where applicable, all targets contained within the plan are currently planned to be achieved within existing resources.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

More information about One Planet Living can be found at:
<http://www.oneplanetliving.org/index.html>

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