

ITEM 9(a) – FOR INFORMATION

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
20 MARCH 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Irene Walsh - Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital	
Contact Officer(s):	Richard Kay – Head of Service - Sustainable Growth Strategy Charlotte Palmer – Environment Transport and Future City Manager	Tel. 863795 Tel. 453538

ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND ACTION PLANS (EAPS)

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Corporate Director of Growth and Regeneration	Deadline date : 12 April 2017
It is recommended that Cabinet recommends the ‘Environment Action Plan: City-Wide’ and ‘Environment Action Plan: Peterborough City Council’ documents to Council for adoption.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Environment Action Plans (EAPs) have been prepared to outline how the city intends to deliver against the ‘Creating the UK’s Environment Capital’ strategic priority.
- 1.2 A public consultation has taken place (details in this report) which has helpfully informed the final EAPs being brought to Cabinet for approval prior to consideration by Council.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek support for the EAPs by Cabinet and, if such support is forthcoming, for Cabinet to recommend the EAPs to Council for adoption.
- 2.2 The current citywide (i.e. greater than just the City Council) Environment Capital Action Plan (adopted April 2014) expired at the end of 2016. Separately, the Environment Capital Major Policy was adopted in 2010 and as such is becoming outdated and no longer fit for purpose. Work has been undertaken, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital, to replace all existing environment related policies and plans with two new environment policy documents. The first is simply an updated version of the existing citywide document and the second is a document that focuses on the policy position, achievements and targets specific to just the Council (and which feeds off the citywide version). All targets contained within the second document have been provided by the relevant officers and as such will be a true reflection of what the Council is able to commit to within existing resources and anticipated grant funding.
- 2.3 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.9: *To commission reviews by and determine any changes of policy proposed by the Scrutiny Committees making recommendations to Council about proposed changes to the Council’s major policy and budget framework.*

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	20 MARCH 2017
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Date for relevant Council meeting	12 APRIL 2017	Date for submission to Government Dept	N/A
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4. ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND ACTION PLANS

- 4.1 The Creating the UK's Environment Capital Major Policy was adopted in 2010. The city's first Environment Capital Action Plan was adopted in 2014, which incorporated Council and city wide targets to 2016. A monitoring report detailing annual progress made against these targets is published on our website.
- 4.2 The two proposed documents, which are attached to this report in a recommended final format at Appendix B & C, are intended to set out the policy and plan for how the Council's Strategic Priority will be achieved by different city stakeholders. This approach demonstrates how delivering the Priority makes sense economically, how it makes the city more resilient to change and how it improves our health and wellbeing based on the internationally recognised concept of One Planet Living. This is a vision of a sustainable world where people lead healthy, happy lives within their fair share of the earth's resources covering ten different interconnected themes: Zero Carbon Energy; Sustainable Water; Land Use and Wildlife; Sustainable Materials; Local and Sustainable Food; Zero Waste; Sustainable Transport; Culture and Heritage; Equity and Local Economy and; Health and Wellbeing.
- 4.3 The documents are intended to be a true reflection of what the Council and city stakeholders are able to commit to within existing and anticipated resources and allow us to understand what these resources are. Crucially, whilst the documents are being led and developed by the Council, the city plan is owned by the city with the aim of delivering this shared priority. The adoption of these documents will allow us to move purposefully forward. The challenge thereafter will be to address how we collectively, as a city, fill the gap between 2020 and the 2050 vision. The documents are broken down into three key areas for each theme:

	Environment Action Plan: City-wide 2016 - 2020	Environment Action Plan: Peterborough City Council 2016 - 2020
A vision to 2050	Intended to be truly visionary. At this stage we do not know if this target is possible but after adoption we will continue to focus effort on undertaking more in depth research into each theme area establishing the trajectory and revising the vision if necessary.	This area remains the same across both documents.
Context	This section details some highlights of activities that have taken place throughout the duration of the first Environment Capital Action Plan.	This section includes facts that allow the theme to be seen in context and highlights some achievements by the Council so far. It also highlights existing policies and strategies adopted by the Council that directly or indirectly support the thematic area.
Targets to 2020	This section brings together targets that, in the vast majority of cases, already exist across partner organisations in the city.	These targets will be, in the vast majority of cases, those that exist already across the Council. If they are additional they focus on research or seeking funding which we aim to deliver by working with partners including local and national universities. Therefore these targets do not require additional resource. Note: This document also contains a clear and concise policy statement detailing the Council's commitment.

- 4.4 Should Council decide to approve the EAPs subsequent action will focus on three key areas. The first will be to work with partners to help deliver the targets within the plans. The second action will include monitoring progress which will be delivered by gathering

quarterly performance data and using this to produce an annual monitoring report which will be made publicly available. The third action will focus on continuing to work with organisations across the city to identify further targets that can be included in the plan going forward.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 A consultation took place on the draft EAP's between 23 January and 12 February 2017. In addition officers attended the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 16 January 2017. A summary of the comments received and proposed alterations arising as a result of comments received can be found at Appendix A.
- 5.2 In short, however, having considered carefully the comments received, there appears no reason to fundamentally amend the approach, vision and targets as were set out in the draft EAPs. Instead, just a limited number of refinements to the EAPs have been made, as detailed in Appendix A.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet will recommend the Environment Action Plans to Council for adoption.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the Environment Action Plans. This is because the plans will help deliver the city's Environment Capital priority by providing clear strategic direction for the priority whilst creating 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 Environment Action Plans was rejected.

9. IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Environmental – The plans have positive implications for the environment as they set out a strategic plan to deliver against the Environment Capital Priority.
- 9.2 Legal Implications - None.
- 9.3 Financial Implications - There are no immediate financial implications on the Council. Where applicable, all targets contained within the plans are currently planned to be achieved within existing resources and anticipated grant funding.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 10.1 The first Environment Capital Action Plan was adopted in 2014 and can be viewed on the Council's website. The link is:
<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/campaigns/environment-capital/>

11. APPENDIX

Appendix A – Summary of Responses to the Environment Action Plan Consultation
Appendix B – Environment Action Plan: City-Wide 2016 -2020
Appendix C – Environment Action Plan: Peterborough City-Council 2016 -2020

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