

<b>ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 8</b>
<b>17 SEPTEMBER 2009</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Director of Environment Capital**

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### **PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITY AND ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report is presented to the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee to update Members on performance of relevant outcomes contained in the Local Area Agreement, and to allow Members the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge performance where necessary. The report also covers the Environment Capital Work programme and Member are asked to comment on its contents.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members are asked to comment upon performance, to provide challenge where necessary and to suggest ideas and initiatives to support improvements in performance.
- 2.2 Members are also asked to comment upon and challenge the proposed initiatives included in the Environment Capital Work Programme.

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

- 3.1 This report contains information extracted from the regular Local Area Agreement reporting pack which is presented to the Greater Peterborough Partnership Executive.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Peterborough's Local Area Agreement contains four priorities: Creating Strong and Supportive Communities; Creating the UK's Environment Capital; Creating Opportunities, Tackling Inequalities; Substantial and Truly Sustainable Growth. Each of these priorities has four specific outcomes, beneath which sit a diverse range of actions and interventions to deliver lasting positive change for Peterborough.
- 4.2 This report focuses on performance in the Environment Capital priority, which is measured via four specific outcomes: Overall Consumption of Natural Resources, Increasing the Use of Sustainable Transport, Growing our Environment Business Sector and Making Peterborough Cleaner and Greener. The performance report for June 2009 is attached as Appendix A to this report.
- 4.3 A Red/Amber/Green flagging system is used to indicate overall performance against each of the outcomes described above – red indicates that the outcome is significantly behind target, amber indicates that the outcome is experiencing difficulties, and green indicates that the outcome is on target or has achieved its objectives.

4.4 Appendix B is the latest draft of the Environment Capital Work programme and comprises strategic projects aimed at maintaining momentum behind this important priority and ensuring that Peterborough can claim to be the UK's Environment Capital.

## **5. KEY ISSUES**

5.1 Overall the Environment Capital priority is reported as AMBER for this period. Specific comments relating to each outcome are included in the Appendix.

5.2 The "Use of Natural Resources" outcome has slipped from Green to Red status in June. This is due to a reduction in the overall amount of waste being collected coupled with an increasing level of contamination of the recycled materials. A detailed analysis of areas where such problems are most prevalent coupled with a focussed education campaign are aimed at improving overall recycling performance. It is probable that these actions will result in an improvement to Amber status over the coming months. Further work is required to ascertain what more can be done to achieve the LAA target for 2009/10.

5.3 The "Cleaner and Greener" outcome has slipped from Green to Amber in June due to an increase in fly tipping reports and enforcement activity. The combined impact is a rating of "not effective" in relation to National Indicator 196. It is hoped that this will improve to "effective" at least by the end of 2009/10 thanks to a range of specific measures including awareness raising campaigns, increased enforcement activity and training of neighbourhood wardens to increase investigation and enforcement capacity.

5.4 The Draft Environment Capital Work Programme comprises a number of strategic level outcomes aimed at ensuring that Peterborough achieves its ambition to become the UK's Environment Capital. All outcomes are adequately resourced by the lead organisation or partnership.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Failure to achieve positive outcomes in the Local Area Agreement may impact upon Peterborough's ambition to be the UK's Environment Capital. Efforts to bring performance back on track aims to ensure the achievement of this overall priority.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Local Area Agreement Reporting Pack is discussed widely amongst Greater Peterborough Partnership members.

## **8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

8.1 The key outcome following presentation of this report is that the Committee will have a clearer understanding of the structure of Local Area Agreement reporting, will feel better equipped to scrutinise and challenge performance, and will be able to offer new solutions to help improve performance wherever necessary.

8.2 Furthermore, the Committee may wish to comment on the actions contained within the draft Environment Capital Work Programme prior to its final adoption by the Environment Capital Partnership and GPP.

## **9. NEXT STEPS**

9.1 Any comments on LAA performance and ideas for action will be forwarded to the relevant Outcome Lead Officer for action. Further performance reports will be presented to the Committee on a regular basis.

9.2 Suggested amendments or additions to the Work Programme will be incorporated prior to adoption.

**10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

Local Area Agreement 2008-11.

**11. APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Extract from the Local Area Agreement Reporting Pack June 2009.

Appendix B: Draft Environment Capital Work Programme 2009/10

# Extract from the GPP/ LAA Reporting Pack

June 2009

**FINAL**



## Priority Comments

Creating the UK's Environment Capital (EC)		
Trevor Gibson	June 2009	A
<p>In spite of its 9 month green status, a few areas of concern are appearing with the Environment Capital priority. All relate the various elements of the waste stream. High levels of contamination are playing a key role in recyclate being rejected which both increases tonnage to landfill and a reduction in recycling rates. The increasing level of fly-tipping incidents increasing is also of concern although partially due to local definition of what constitutes such an incident. Action plans have been developed with a strong likelihood that targets will still be reached by the year end. Both challenges are being closely monitored by the Environment Capital Partnership. Sustainable transport progress remains strong with capital projects on track and continuing increases in bus patronage. The number of environmental goods and services companies has remained static for the month whilst the city continues to perform well in relation to. On the wider front the city's environmental profile continues to increase including a conference presentation in Italy, update meetings with senior DEFRA officials and the commencement of a feasibility study into showcasing Peterborough at the UN.</p>		

Creating the UK's Environment Capital (EC)				
Trevor Gibson				
Apr	May	Jun		Prediction
G	G	R	<b>Overall Consumption of Natural Resources (EC01)</b>	To reach Amber Mar 2010
G	G	G	<b>Increase Use of Sustainable Transport (EC02)</b>	May slip to Amber by Dec 2010
G	G	G	<b>Growing our Environment Business Sector (EC03)</b>	Remaining Green
G	G	A	<b>Making Peterborough Cleaner and Greener (EC04)</b>	Remaining Amber



## Outcome Comments

### Overall Consumption of Natural Resources (EC01)

**Paul Pace**

*June 2009*

**R**

All indicators falling under the waste & recycling category are currently failing to meet the profiled performances this month, however the indicators on Climate change remain stable.

- The poor performance in relation to the waste and recycling targets; continuous high levels of contamination which are plaguing the council's City Services collection teams . Vehicles containing recycling are being rejected due to high levels of contamination, and this material is then sent direct to landfill. (This has a double impact, firstly on the overall recycling performance under the LAA but also a second impact with increasing the landfill tonnage).
- The other factor in this outcome is that the council has also seen a reduction in the amount of organic material taken by the public to the householder recycling centre at Dogsthorpe.

The plans to address this failing performance are:

- Publicly in the form of positive recycling and composting stories has gone out and will continue to go out into the public domain which will help reiterate the recycling messages (what can and can't be recycled and composted).
- The council has secured a poster campaign slot through the City Wide JC Decaux Poster campaign running 28/07/09 to 24/08/09; these posters named "Keep It Clean" will help reiterate the recycling messages, key aim is to reduce the escalating contamination rate which is currently seeing material which should be recycled sent to landfill.
- Officers are currently also involved in discussions with several companies regarding exploring other options to recycle more of the councils waste, these areas of opportunities include; reusing and recycling the councils bulky waste, carpets, mattresses, and diverting some of our black bin waste away from the landfill into a refuse derived fuel (rdf) to produce energy from the waste.

With this ongoing proposed work as above and the work around introduction of a weekly recycling service for food waste (currently proposed latter in this year), officers currently forecast any reductions now in the councils recycling, re-use and composing rates should be recovered to align to the end of year targets, however timely and continued actions/ resources need to be re-directed into the rising contamination problem and other areas of opportunity to turn around this trend.

Partners can continue to offer support and assistance by promoting the council's co-mingled green recycling bin at festivals and other events, particularly focussing on educating the residents on what it does and doesn't accept!

### Increasing Use of Sustainable Transport (EC02)

**Teresa Wood**

*June 2009*

**G**

Work on the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital programme for 2009-10 is progressing well with Safer Journeys to School projects at Southfields Infant and Junior schools, Stanground St Johns school and Brewster Avenue Infant school. In addition, cycling and walking improvements, more cycle parking and improvements to bus infrastructure are progressing. Bus passenger numbers for 2008-09 increased by 3.79% to 12,971,507 which is slightly under the target of 13.1m.

June saw the conclusion of a very successful Beacon Year where Peterborough engaged with many local authorities and stakeholders to disseminate Peterborough's best practise and to learn from others.

The Accessibility and Travel group received Highly Commended in the public services category of the eWell-being awards in June for their ICT based initiatives which create environmental and social benefits. This includes real time passenger information, text and go, interactive journey planning and the car share website.

Two new officers have been appointed – school transport officer and climate change technical officer. However, the sustainable travel officer post remains vacant and this could affect the delivery of the walking and cycling projects, including LTP capital projects.



**Growing our Environmental Business Sector (EC03)**

**Gareth Jones**

*June 2009*

**G**

No update from last month. The number of LCEGS companies and organisations remains unchanged since last month but we are still working towards the outcome of “growing” the environmental business sector which we are doing through business support surgeries and clinics. We are also starting to plan a major growth initiative for the sector which will include a couple of the elements from our LAA action plan. The Eco Innovation Centre is also running close to capacity which will inhibit future growth, so we are working on plans to increase the number of offices and meeting rooms in the Centre.

**Making Peterborough Cleaner & Greener (EC04)**

**David Denson**

*June 2009*

**A**

Currently two of the three services are green and one amber

NI 195 – The inspections (300) for the first tranche for this new financial year will be completed over the next 4 months and submitted to DEFRA at the end of July with the first results being included in the August report.

NI 196 – The “Fly capture” reports currently show we are Amber for this service. In April 09 we had a 30% increase on the April 08; May we had a 40% increase on May 08 (although this was also increased by administration error on input); June we had an 11 % increase on June 08. Officers are currently investigating a number of areas of concern including how and what is recorded as flytipping?

NI 197 – Currently 64 out of the 107 sites in the Peterborough Unitary area are classed as being in positive management. = 60%. The LAA target for 2009/10 is for 67/107 County Wildlife Sites to be in positive management/62%.

Efforts to bring sites into positive management have successfully commenced in 2009/10 and will be focussed using the existing surveys for these sites and analysis carried out by the Biological Records Centre. Re-survey of 15 County Wildlife Sites is underway during 2009/10 to assess if sites continue to be of nature conservation value as well as to target efforts with respect to bringing sites into positive management.



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