

<b>ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 8</b>
<b>12 NOVEMBER 2009</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

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

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### **PROGRESS ON THE DELIVERY OF THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITY**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report is presented to the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee to update Members on the performance of the relevant outcomes contained in the Local Area Agreement (LAA), and to allow Members the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge performance where necessary.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Committee scrutinises the performance of the LAA priority by providing challenge where necessary and to suggest ideas and initiatives to support improvements in performance.

#### **3. LINKS TO THE 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 September 2009 is attached as Appendix A to this report and represents performance for the second quarter of 2009/10.
- 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.

#### **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 stayed at RED during the last quarter although there are signs of improvement including a reduction in the overall level of contamination in the recycled waste collected. This improvement may represent early impacts of a renewed focus on

education and awareness activity and is likely to lead to an improvement in performance by year end.

- 5.3 Performance against the cities carbon footprint has slipped behind target following a review of baseline data and a consequent change in target levels by DECC. Initiatives aimed at reducing this footprint continue to gather pace. Despite these efforts, the nature of the target change makes it likely that this indicator will remain red throughout 2009/10.
- 5.4 The “Cleaner and Greener” outcome has also remained at Amber as fly tipping reports and enforcement activity is still behind target. The combined impact is a rating of “not effective” in relation to National Indicator 196.
- 5.5 Action plans are in place across all indicators and are being closely monitored to ensure improvement wherever possible.

## **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.

## **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.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

- 10.1 Local Area Agreement 2008-11.

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix A: Extract from the Local Area Agreement Reporting Pack September 2009.

# Extract from the GPP/ LAA Reporting Pack

Sept 2009

**FINAL**



## Priority Comments

Creating the UK's Environment Capital (EC)		
Trevor Gibson	Sept 2009	A
<p>A few areas of concern remain from Quarter 1 across the priority primarily in relation to increased levels of flytipping and recycling performance being behind the stretch targets set for the year. Action plans are in place to address this and, whilst officers are optimistic that performance in both areas will improve by the end of 2009/10 they are unlikely to return to GREEN status within that timescale. A change since the last report is the apparent decline in performance in relation to the city's carbon footprint but this is not quite what it appears. The baseline figure in relation to this indicator is calculated by DECC and has recently been revised. As a consequence the target figures for CO2 per head of population have been revised to reflect the percentage reduction required over the LAA period. This has resulted in a major shift whereby the city is now behind its target for 2009/10. However, the city is able to demonstrate significant practical activities aimed at reducing the CO2 emitted through its continuing education and awareness campaigns. In other areas performance has largely been maintained. The Eco -innovation centre is close to capacity and the UKCEED team are optimistic about further growth in the environment goods and services sector. Cleansing activities and the management of wildlife sites continue to perform well against targets. Bus travel data will not now be available until the Quarter 3 report and despite some resource challenges in the Travelchoice team work is progressing well particularly in relation to school travel plans.</p>		

Creating the UK's Environment Capital (EC)				
Trevor Gibson				
Mar Q4 08/09	Jun Q1	Sept Q2		Prediction
<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Overall Consumption of Natural Resources (EC01)</b>	Likely to remain Red to March 2010
<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>Increase Use of Sustainable Transport (EC02)</b>	May slip to Amber by Dec 2009
<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>Growing our Environment Business Sector (EC03)</b>	Remaining Green
<b>G</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Making Peterborough Cleaner and Greener (EC04)</b>	Remaining Amber



## Outcome Comments

### Overall Consumption of Natural Resources (EC01)

<b>Charlotte Palmer/Mick Robb</b>	<i>September 2009</i>	<b>R</b>
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From Charlotte Palmer:

Work is progressing steadily in all areas relating to the climate change indicators with exception to NI186 in which progress is limited by the extent to which we will be able to achieve the targets laid out.

**NI186: Red**  
 In September data was published by DECC which included amendments in our original baseline from 8.2 to 8.3 tones per capita with current results for 2007 showing a per capita footprint of 8.1 tones. Because this information is being produced for years that have passed we are restricted as to the effect we can have on the outcome. We can however demonstrate strong ongoing progress in this area with the following initiatives completed to date:

Events and festivals throughout the city promoting the Your Footprint Counts campaign  
 Launch of the Heat Loss study in October which will allow residents to obtain individual heat loss values for their property  
 Distribution and continued use of the Climate Change Game  
 Distribution of Energy monitoring meters through city libraries

Whilst the overall result is red for this Indicator this is due to factors outside of our control.

**EC01a, EC01b and ECO1c: Amber**  
 All local indicators are progressing well; results from the 2009 citizen's panel data are expected shortly which will allow us to understand where improvements have been achieved and where future action should focus.

Work to ensure environmental education is delivered and embedded across the city has taken significant steps forward with an officer now funded and hosted by PECT ensuring schools requesting support in this area are given the assistance they require.

Overall: Amber

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From Mick Robb:

**Comments on NI192 and NI193:**

Recycling levels are still failing to meet the performance levels set. However, there are indications that initiatives put into place recently will help us to improve on current NI 192 and 193 levels towards the end of the year.

The level of material rejected through contamination at the MRF has reduced from 13% in April 09 to 8% during September. This is confirmation of progress made on several fronts. Ongoing publicity campaigns such as "Keep it Clean" have maintained a high profile along side the day to day actions of our Recycling Educations team and the diligence of recycling collection crews in tackling contamination in bins before it reaches the MRF.

### Increasing Use of Sustainable Transport (EC02)

<b>Teresa Wood</b>	<i>September 2009</i>	<b>G</b>
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Quarter 2, being the summer months, has included a number of events in which Travelchoice has participated. Two new e-newsletters have been launched – Foot:prints aimed at schools to promote sustainable travel to school and The Inner Tube for cyclists. Adult cycle training has been particularly successful over the summer with 34 people attending initial training courses and some further follow-up sessions booked.

Travelchoice is to be introduced into the rural areas during 2009-10. Rural area guide maps are currently being produced and work with parish councils on dissemination of information has commenced.

The Travelchoice team are again experiencing staff shortages and this will impact on the team's delivery and subsequently could impact on national indicators.

The new school travel officer started at the beginning of August. This will ensure that annual reviews of the school travel plans are undertaken and give a much needed push to encourage the remaining 12% of schools to produce a school travel plan. NI198 results were released in September and show a slight increase of 0.01% in car use for the school journey. However, the indicator is still well ahead of its target. With the new officer in post a number of promotions and events are planned to keep this target on track.

Quarter 1 figures have not yet been received from Stagecoach to enable us to calculate NI177 bus passenger journeys. In addition, the Citizen Panel results are currently being communicated and therefore results for NI175 will be available shortly



A study of Low Participation Areas has commenced to analyse bin use and misuse with a view to educating residents and enabling a more focussed media campaign to tackle specific issues in certain areas.

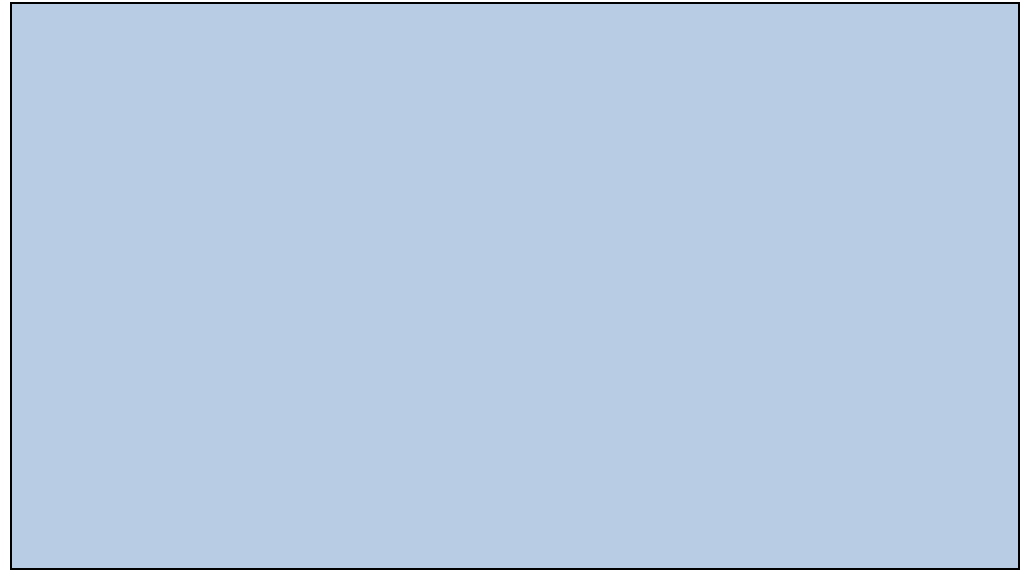
It is recognised that contamination levels are higher among non English speaking communities, and the council has now appointed two officers on a fixed term contract of one year as part of the Migration Impact Fund. These officers are multi lingual and will work mainly within the central areas of Peterborough to enable newcomers to the city to understand and use council services correctly, with the emphasis being on waste, recycling and street cleansing.

The Council has recently agreed to a two month trial with HW Martins whereby we send non recyclable materials from the HWRC, from the MRF and from Street Cleansing to their Northampton facility which will turn this material into Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF). This process will not only divert this material from landfill, but will also improve our performance on Reuse and Recycling.

Street Cleansing arisings are now taken directly to the Nursery Lane Transfer Station, rather than to the Landfill site, where as much material as possible is diverted to recycling before being sent to RDF.

The council now has a contract in place to recycle wood and chipboard with AHS Recycling at Dogsthorpe, which will help us make progress towards achieving our targets.

Plans to implement a textile kerbside collection and a "Recycling on the Go" campaign in November should also help to divert waste from landfill and increase our recycling rates.



### Growing our Environmental Business Sector (EC03)

Gareth Jones

September 2009

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We are confident that growth in the environmental sector will pick up towards the end of the year, but expect to see strong growth in the new year as confidence is expected to return, particularly in the construction sector which is a big driver for environmental solutions. We are confident that the Eco Innovation Centre will be fully occupied by the start of 2010, and have a number of different virtual and physical tenants in the pipeline. We are also starting a new high growth business support programme which is aimed at growing local EnviroCluster businesses which will help us exceed our LAA targets further

### Making Peterborough Cleaner & Greener (EC04)

David Denson & Martin Baker

September 2009

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NI 195 and 197 are Green and 196 is Amber as against the agreed performance targets for the current year

The NI195 reports for the survey 09/10 tranche 1 are as follows:

Litter 2%, Detritus 4% and both graffiti and flyposting 0%. These figures are well below the predicted target at this point in time. The final figure for the financial year is based on the average of tranche 1, 2 and 3. The next survey results will be due in December.

The performance of the NI196, measure of enforcement against flytipping, was reported to a meeting of the GPP on the 10th September 2009 as it is still under performing. The target for the current financial year is "very effective". However, it is unlikely that the target will improve beyond "not effective" – amber status. It was accepted at the meeting that the amount of flytipping for the current financial year has increased on the previous financial year and there has been no reduction in the overall enforcement process.

Alison Ivatt and I have been regularly meeting and the general assumption is that the figure we have is near enough a true reflection of the fly tipping across Peterborough, but this we believe has increased by the fact of more staff aware and now reporting it in, more cleansing crews on the ground to report it in and as a result of better education more members of the public reporting fly tipping.

We have put in place the following actions:

1. Neighbourhood management teams will be starting to problem solve regular hot spots.
2. New Fly tipping signs are being put up across Peterborough in identified regular hot spot areas.
3. Cleansing team has been trained to investigate to ensure no missed opportunities of identifying offenders.
4. Enforcement has been involved in a surveillance operation on a particular hotspot and this went through to prosecution.

Enforcement actions continue, cautions have been given for this offence and successful prosecutions at court.

The population of Peterborough has increased with migrant workers/ transient population also financial circumstances for business cost of disposing of trade waste – both factors which have a negative impact on increase of NI 196. PCC is working towards problem solving this by increased education with translation options and campaigns with businesses as actions being taken.

NI 197. – Biodiversity – sites I positive management. No change from previous report. The service continues to meet its target.



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