

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
10 JANUARY 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Steve Cox, Executive Director Place & Economy, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Nigel Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment	
Contact Officer(s):	Hannah Swinburne, Principal Climate Change Officer	Tel. 01733 453479

PETERBOROUGH CLIMATE COMMITMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment	Deadline date:
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet agrees to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sign up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment. 2. Encourage organisations across Peterborough to also sign up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 In July 2019 Peterborough City Council declared a climate emergency; committing to become a net zero carbon organisation by 2030, and to support the city to do the same.

Local businesses and organisations have signed up to a Peterborough Climate Commitment, to improve their environmental impact. This commitment aligns with the council's earlier commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the natural environment through its tree planting ambitions.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- 1) Inform Cabinet of the Peterborough Climate Commitment
- 2) Ask Cabinet to sign the Council up to the Commitment

- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.2, *'To promote the Council's role as community leader, giving a 'voice' to the community in its external relations at local, regional and international level, and fostering good working relationships with the Council's partner organisations, Parish Councils and the relevant authorities for Police, Fire, Probation and Magistrates' Courts Services.'*

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	No	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	10 January 2022
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Introduction

A number of local businesses and city leaders have signed up to a Peterborough Climate Commitment. This group invites local organisations to join their ambition to create a largescale movement across the city. The commitment aims to unite organisations across the city to take urgent action to become a net zero carbon city by 2030, an ambition which the council shares.

4.2 Commitments

There are several activities which supporters of the commitment are expected to complete, these are:

1. Have a clear understanding of their environmental impact.
2. Routinely monitor their processes to understand how they are reducing their environmental impact.
3. Continuously take further action to become more sustainable and reduce their environmental impact.

These actions are expected to take place over three key areas:

- a. Reducing emissions.
- b. Improving our natural environment.
- c. Reducing the consumption of resources.

4.3 Council's ongoing activity

Peterborough City Council produces an annual carbon management action plan which details the council's carbon emissions from the previous year and the activities the council will commit to over the coming year/s to reduce its emissions. The council also has commitments to improve our natural environment through its ambitious trees and woodland strategy. The canopy coverage on the land Peterborough City Council owns is monitored and there is an ambition to increase canopy cover to 25% by 2035. Opportunities to reduce the consumption of resources are explored within the climate change programme of work.

4.4 Signing up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment

The ambition of the commitment is to lead, challenge, educate, celebrate and unite efforts being made across the city. Peterborough City Council has a key role to play in each of these aspirations.

4.5 Global carbon reduction needs coordinated effort from individuals, businesses, community groups and governments. A large number of organisations across our city signing up to this commitment will help to deliver our city-wide net zero aspirations. The council has been a clear leader in tackling climate change since its declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. It is hoped that the council's endorsement of the Peterborough Climate Commitment will encourage other organisations to sign up also and accelerate their environmental improvement activities.

4.6 Council officers have met with the organising group of businesses and local organisations to help guide the development of the commitment and recommend its adoption by Cabinet.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The Peterborough Climate Commitment was developed by a group of local organisations including city leaders and businesses. The Commitment has been adopted by a number of local organisations with further sign-ups expected through expanded communications.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet will sign up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment. As a city leader, it is hoped that this endorsement will encourage other organisations to sign up and accelerate their environmental improvement activity.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is recommended that Cabinet sign up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment as it aligns with the Council's carbon emissions and natural environment ambitions.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The alternative option is to not sign up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment, however this was not considered due to the Council's previous commitments to tackle climate change and the decision to increase tree planting ambitions.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 The council is already committed to lowering greenhouse gas emissions through its declaration of a climate emergency. The council is also committed to improving our natural environment through its tree planting activities. Therefore, signing up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment does not present an additional financial pressure.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 The council is already committed to lowering greenhouse gas emissions through its declaration of a climate emergency. The council is also committed to improving our natural environment through its tree planting activities. Therefore, signing up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment does not present additional legal considerations.

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 There are no direct equality implications associated with signing up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment. Any projects which are developed in line with this commitment will be evaluated for their impact to equality.

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 9.4 There are no direct greenhouse gas emissions or savings associated with signing up to the Peterborough Climate Commitment. Carbon savings may be achieved through activities delivered in line with the commitment.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 10.1 Peterborough City Council Climate Emergency Declaration

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 - Peterborough Climate Commitment

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