

GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES RECOMMENDATION MONITORING REPORT 2021/22
 Recommendations included are applicable to the new Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date Recommendations Made	Portfolio Holder / Directorate Responsible	Agenda Item Title	Recommendation Made	Action Taken	Progress Status
7 JULY 2021	Climate Change Working Group / Place and Economy	TO INFORM STRATEGIC DIRECTION IN RESPONSE TO THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON CLIMATE'S INTIAL REPORT	To consider the capacity of Peterborough City Council to play its full part in developing and implementing an area wide action plan with a view to making recommendations regarding officers' skills and availability.	Due to be considered by a meeting of the Climate Change Working Group in November 2021, in line with the publication of the final report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate. Comprehensive briefing pack on climate work, including response to recommendation, to be provided in January 2022. Response provided on 31/01/2022 and circulated to Members.	Completed
7 JULY 2021	Climate Change Working Group / Place and Economy	TO INFORM STRATEGIC DIRECTION IN RESPONSE TO THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON CLIMATE'S INTIAL	Alongside a Carbon Management action plan, the City will need an emergency resilience and adaptation plan which considers in detail and addresses the impact of climate change our community and considers the impact on our most vulnerable communities.	Due to be considered by a meeting of the Climate Change Working Group in November 2021, in line with the publication of the final report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate.	Completed

		REPORT		<p>Comprehensive briefing pack on climate work, including response to recommendation, to be provided in January 2022.</p> <p>Response provided on 31/01/2022 and circulated to Members.</p>	
7 JULY 2021	Climate Change Working Group / Place and Economy	TO INFORM STRATEGIC DIRECTION IN RESPONSE TO THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON CLIMATE'S INITIAL REPORT	Recommend engagement with tenant farmers and partner landowners at an early stage, e.g., to encourage non-traditional use of land.	<p>Due to be considered by a meeting of the Climate Change Working Group in November 2021, in line with the publication of the final report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate.</p> <p>Comprehensive briefing pack on climate work, including response to recommendation, to be provided in January 2022.</p> <p>Response provided on 31/01/2022 and circulated to Members.</p>	Completed
7 JULY 2021	Climate Change Working Group / Place and Economy	TO INFORM STRATEGIC DIRECTION IN RESPONSE TO THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH	Recommend that Peterborough City Council works with the Combined Authority to transform the road network to favour pedestrians and cyclists.	Due to be considered by a meeting of the Climate Change Working Group in November 2021, in line with the publication of the final report of the Cambridgeshire and	Completed

		INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON CLIMATE'S INITIAL REPORT		<p>Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate.</p> <p>Comprehensive briefing pack on climate work, including response to recommendation, to be provided in January 2022.</p> <p>Response provided on 31/01/2022 and circulated to Members.</p>	
7 JULY 2021	Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment	TO INFORM STRATEGIC DIRECTION IN RESPONSE TO THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON CLIMATE'S INITIAL REPORT	Review any decisions that might discourage the use of Brown Bins in Peterborough.	<p>Recommendation accepted by the Cabinet Member.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>"We are currently seeing sign-ups to the garden waste service increase steadily with the new service going live WC / the 2nd of August, sign-ups are currently at 1934 compared to 21271 at the end of last years scheme. We tend to see subscriptions continue throughout the season so would hope to be on par with last year"</p>	Completed
7 JULY 2021	Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment	TO INFORM STRATEGIC DIRECTION IN RESPONSE TO THE	Considers the use of electric waste collection vehicles, as has been achieved in Oxford.	Recommendation accepted by the Cabinet Member.	Completed

		CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON CLIMATE'S INITIAL REPORT		Response: "The electric vehicles that were used in Oxford have been trialed in Peterborough, unfortunately, you can not get an electric RCV that has a food pod on at present due to the batteries being placed where the pods go. We require vehicles with food pods to allow us to carry on delivering the weekly food waste service"	
8 SEPTEMBER 2021	Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment	TREE MANAGEMENT – POTENTIAL REVIEW OF THE TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY, SCOPING FOR APPROPRIATE EXCEPTIONS AND REVISED TREE PLANTING TARGETS	The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee recommended to the Strategic Planning Manager that the replacement tree policy should not be just based on numbers but on the benefits and impacts such as biodiversity, mitigating the impact of climate change, net carbon benefits and net gain and should be in line with the current planning policy.	Response received from the Strategic Planning Manager below:	Completed

The replacement tree policy is a policy established in the Trees and Woodland Strategy, a Strategy reserved for Full Council approval only. As such, only Full Council could adopt such a change. Nevertheless, the suggestion is intended to be included as part of a wider tree related report to Cabinet scheduled for 15 November. In that report, it will refer to the Scrutiny Committee recommendation together with an officer comment on whether it is recommended that Cabinet make such a recommendation up to Full Council for incorporation in an updated Trees and Woodland Strategy. That report to Cabinet has not yet been finalised at officer level. However, officers are presently minded not to recommend such a change to the policy. This is because officers opinion is that the practical implementation of this approach would be difficult, as replacing one tree for several trees in a specific location is not always possible. The costs would also be considerably more (once maintenance has been factored in), and no budget is available for this. Moreover, officers are conscious of the substantial increase in tree planting as being recommended by the Climate Cross Party Working Group, which will require widespread planting throughout the city in any event. Attempting to factor in a further large scale tree planting programme via a greater than 1-for-1 replacement policy will place further demands to implement, both financially and officer time. On balance, therefore, Scrutiny Committee's request is not presently minded to be supported by officers.

Cabinet Recommendations from 15 November 2021:

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Endorse the tree planting and other related recommendations of the Climate Member Group to Full Council, as set out in Appendix 1, subject to the following change:

“6. That Council investigates all reasonable options to secure additional external revenue funding, of around £70,000 per annum, in order to secure (a) additional staffing support (cost c£50,000 pa) to: undertake the work required to bid for funds; to maintain the evidence base to support locations to deliver new planting; undertake ground truthing of sites identified for potential planting; and overall manage the delivery of the ambitious tree planting programme, the scale of which will be similar to that achieved under the Development Corporation programme of the 1970s/80s; and (b) a small funding pot (c£20,000 pa) to be used to help directly deliver the tree planting targets in any particular year where 100% grant funding cannot be secured.”

2. Recommend to Full Council that the Trees and Woodland Strategy, in addition to any amendments arising from recommendation 1, be further amended by way of (a) an updated Tree Risk Management Plan, as set out in Appendix 2; and (b) introduction of new operational guidelines in respect of daylight loss and vegetation encroachment, as set out in para 4.24.
3. Welcome the national ‘Queen’s Green Canopy’ scheme, and instruct officers to (a) take all reasonable opportunities to promote the scheme with the public, encouraging the public and businesses to ‘plant a tree for the Jubilee’; (b) determine whether any of the council’s land holdings due to have tree planting introduced over the next two winters be specifically designated (with appropriate signage) as a ‘Queen Green Canopy’ planting (such as a new copse, woodland or orchard), and (c) where appropriate, submit where appropriate tree planting done by the council over the next 2 winters to the national Queen’s Green Canopy database, so that the council’s contribution can be recognised.

Response to Scrutiny recommendation in Cabinet report (agenda item 6).

4.21 On 8 September 2021, the Scrutiny Committee had a wide-ranging discussion relating to tree matters, including consideration of whether the Trees and Woodland Strategy had the right policy framework to tackle nuisance trees (such as whether exceptions to standard policy be introduced).

4.22 Officers did not recommend making such changes to the Strategy, and this was, following discussion, endorsed by Committee. However, as an alternative way to tackle the ‘nuisance’ issues raised by Scrutiny, officers did recommend greater clarity in the Strategy in respect of operational guidelines to which Aragon work to, specifically in relation to encroaching trees and loss of daylight. Scrutiny Committee endorsed these new proposed guidelines, and recommended them to Cabinet.

4.25 The aforementioned Scrutiny Committee discussed a number of other potential amendments to the Trees and Woodland Strategy, and one aspect in particular was recommended. The Committee was concerned that the current Strategy operated on the basis that when a council owned tree was felled, a replacement was on the basis of 1 for 1, and the replacement potentially being a very small tree. The precise reference within the Strategy is para 9.2.24, bullet points 1 and 2, which state as follows:

- Council owned street trees that are removed will be replaced on a one for one basis, using established nursery grown standard trees.

- Trees felled owing to them being inappropriate for their location will replanted on a one for one basis, typically elsewhere within the ward. The size of nursery stock used within these location will vary to the planting location.

4.26 The Committee recommended that the replacement tree policy should not be just based on numbers but on the benefits and impacts such as biodiversity, mitigating the impact of climate change, net carbon benefits and net gain, and should be in line with the current planning policy (whereby developers must replace trees on a development site on a greater than 1-for-1 basis).

4.27 Officers opinion is that the practical implementation of this approach would be difficult, as replacing one tree for several trees in a specific location is not always possible. The costs would 54 also be considerably more (once maintenance has been factored in), and no budget is available for this. Moreover, officers are conscious of the substantial (10-20x fold) increase in tree planting as being recommended by the Working Group, which will require widespread planting throughout the city in any event. Attempting to factor in a further large scale tree planting programme via a greater than 1-for-1 replacement policy will place further demands to implement, both financially and officer time. On balance, therefore, Scrutiny Committee's request is therefore not supported by officers, and Cabinet are not asked to recommend any changes to Full Council in this regard.

Full Council Decision on 8 December 2022:

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to agree that the Trees and Woodland Strategy, in addition to any amendments arising from Cabinet resolution 1, be further amended by way of (a) an updated Tree Risk Management Plan, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report; and (b) introduction of new operational guidelines in respect of daylight loss and vegetation encroachment, as set out in para 4.24 of the report.

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EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON 15 FEBRUARY 2022	Cabinet	'SAVE BRETTON OAKTREE' PETITION - ACTION TO BE TAKEN	RECOMMENDATION The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee RESOLVED to recommend that Cabinet determine that the consent to fell the tree at 9 Barnard Way, Bretton should not be implemented, and instead undertake an alternative course of action. This action should be that the Council: 1. Obtains a further independent expert assessment (ie. not from the experts who have already provided	Recommendation sent to Cabinet on 16 February 2022 for decision at Cabinet on 21 February 2022. See below for Cabinet response.	Completed
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			<p>assessments) of the issues relating to the mature oak tree and the property at 9 Barnard Way, Bretton, with such an assessment reviewing the existing reports and clarifying any inconsistencies, and</p> <p>2. Obtain a detailed report on the effectiveness, cost and implications of providing root barrier treatment.</p>		
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Cabinet considered the report and the recommendation of the Growth, Resources and Environment Scrutiny Committee and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment to determine whether the consent to fell the tree at 9 Barnard Way, Bretton be implemented or not, subject to:
 - Obtaining a further independent expert assessment (i.e. not from the experts who have already provided assessments) of the issues relating to the to mature oak tree and the property of 9 Barnard Way, Bretton, with such an assessment reviewing the existing reports and clarifying any inconsistencies; and
 - Obtaining a detailed report on the effectiveness, cost and implications of providing root barrier treatment.

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