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| GROWTH, RESOURCES & COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | AGENDA ITEM No. 6 |
| 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 | PUBLIC REPORT |

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| Report of: | Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council | |
| Cabinet Member(s) responsible: | Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council | |
| Contact Officer(s): | Adrian Chapman, Executive Director for Place & Economy | Tel. 07920 160441 |

PORTFOLIO HOLDER PROGRESS REPORT – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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| RECOMMENDATIONS | |
| FROM: Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald | Deadline date: N/A |
| <p>It is recommended that Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>Considers and scrutinises this report and endorses the approach being taken under the portfolio of the Leader of the Council relevant to this Committee.</p> | |

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 The report is presented at the request of the Committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 This report is being presented to the Committee to allow them to scrutinise the work relevant to the Committee's remit that falls within the portfolio of the Leader of the Council.

2.2 This report is for Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by the Council:

- 3. Equalities;
- 8. Economic Development and Regeneration
- 12. Digital Services and Information Management.

3. TIMESCALES

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| Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan? | NO | If yes, date for Cabinet meeting | NA |
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The following aspects of the Leader's portfolio fall within the remit of this Committee:

- Equalities and Diversity
- Economic Development and Regeneration
- Digital Services and Information Management

The following sections set out progress and priorities against these themes.

4.2 Equality & Diversity

4.2.1 There has been considerable movement forward on equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) within the council:

- The EDI Action Plan was agreed and signed off by the EDI Member Working Group and has been published on the intranet and council website. The plan can be found at this link: [Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan - Peterborough City Council](#)
- A dedicated space on the council's intranet has been created, with all Members and staff having access
- Regular 'EDI Conversations' continue and cover many subjects such as faith awareness at work and reporting and responding to discrimination at work. The conversations are all-staff briefings held virtually
- An EDI Business Partner has been appointed who will be responsible for taking EDI further both internally and externally, ensuring that the action plan is carried out and for setting the strategy for the council
- An EDI Staff Network has been set up, which is a place for staff and Members to join and promote equality and inclusion within the workplace

4.2.2 The EDI Member Working Group is chaired by the Cabinet Adviser to the Leader, and, following recent staffing changes, the senior officer support for the group will be jointly provided by the council's Assistant Director for HR (Human Resources) and the Executive Director for Place and Economy.

4.3 Economic Development and Regeneration

4.3.1 Promoting Peterborough

Inward investment activity this year has predominantly focussed on supporting existing investors and developers with their ongoing growth projects; working with investment funds and developers who have expressed interest in strategic city centre sites; and supporting a small number of potentially large occupiers interested in establishing offices in the city.

The quantity of enquiries received so far has been lower than in previous years. This may be down to a combination of the current economic climate as well as reduced availability of development land and vacant properties in the city.

Visit Peterborough promotional activity continues to improve with growing audiences and a recent focus on low cost summer holiday activities. Facebook followers have increased 10% to c.2,600 since April and website visits have increased to 170,000 for the April-August period this year compared to 99,000 for the same period last year.

Positive relationships were developed with LPH Concerts who staged large performances on the embankment in early summer. Discussions with influential stakeholders regarding sponsorship and the membership scheme continue positively. Work is ongoing to establish a Visitor Information Centre in the city centre and discussions regarding the city's Christmas programme have begun.

4.3.2 Smart Manufacturing Alliance

The Smart Manufacturing Alliance, a joint venture between Opportunity Peterborough and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, was officially launched in October of 2021. This is a new networking organisation tasked with supporting manufacturing businesses across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to improve productivity, innovation, and sustainability, and create a world class manufacturing cluster. The Alliance has so far secured 23 members with a further 15 in the pipeline and has hosted a number of events for existing and prospective members. This includes hosting a manufacturing sector marquee at the recent Cambridgeshire County Day celebrations at Newmarket Racecourse.

4.3.3 **ACMI4.0**

Advanced Capacities for Manufacturing – Industry 4.0 (ACMI4.0) is an ERDF (EU) funded business support and grant funding programme being delivered by Opportunity Peterborough and the Smart Manufacturing Alliance. Manufacturing SMEs (Small Medium Enterprises) and businesses in their supply chains can benefit from 12hrs support and up to £20,000 funding to support investment into industry 4.0 technologies such as 3D printing, AI (Artificial Intelligence), automation, sensors, and much more.

To date, 19 manufacturing businesses have received world class analysis and support regarding their Industry 4.0-readiness with a further 12 scheduled, and two have had grant funding applications approved with a further 10 applications being developed.

4.3.4 **Strategy**

Opportunity Peterborough continues to represent the city's interest in the development of strategic work such as the development of the CPCA's Economic and Skills Strategy, and as a member of the East Anglian Productivity Forum, part of a national programme run by The Productivity Institute.

4.3.5 **Towns Fund**

The eight Towns Fund projects in the programme are progressing well. Seven of the eight projects have been submitted to DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) for approval and funding, with the following progress:

- Two were approved and funding received in Autumn 2021 (representing £320k). These are the Embankment Masterplan Feasibility and The Digital Incubator; these are both complete. Any future work and next steps are outside of the scope of the original funding, although an application to the Shared Prosperity Fund to develop the next stage of the Digital Incubator project has already been made.
- The two projects led by third party partners, Green Technology Centre, and The Activity Centre, both received approval from DLUHC representing funding of £3.5m in total, and the first stage of the grant funding was received in August.
- Three projects were submitted to DLUHC in July. These are the River Nene Pedestrian Bridge, Lincoln Road regeneration, and Peterborough Station Quarter. Confirmation has been received that the projects have passed the DLUHC internal review processes, and they have now entered the payment stage subject to finance checks. This will represent funding of £6.0m in total.
- All three of these projects are subject to public consultations. The Lincoln Road public consultation ran from July to August, with over 300 survey responses and about 180 people engaged face to face at the consultation events. The project stakeholders will be updated through September on the outputs. The public consultations for the Bridge and Station Quarter will take place in the Autumn of 2022.
- The eighth and final project in the programme is the Vine. The Vine project is to provide a library, culture, and community hub in the City Centre. A Vine Operators Model for RIBA stages 1-3 has been commissioned. Furthermore an estimated cost has been provided by an architectural consultancy for the structural refurbishment of the former TK Maxx building. The Operational model and structural design and costs are being scrutinised and challenged by officers and a summary report and next steps is expected in Autumn 2022.

4.3.6 **Peterborough Station Enhancements**

A Levelling Up Fund bid for around £48million for the first phase of redevelopment of the area around Peterborough Train Station – known as Station Quarter – has been submitted. If successful, the project will involve creating a new western entrance to the station with a car park – to create a double-sided station, with a new wider footbridge over the train lines. This will alleviate pressure on city centre roads, making it easier and safer to travel around the city by bicycle. Green areas with biodiversity, community spaces and better connections to the city centre will make it safer and more attractive for bikes and pedestrians. The enhancement of Peterborough Train Station will improve rail passenger journeys and encourage more rail travel, which will have a positive economic impact on the city and regionally, as the city is

already well connected to key areas of Eastern England and the rest of the UK. In addition, it will support Peterborough in attracting more knowledge-intensive and high-level employers through its transport links.

The bid was submitted in early August, and we expect to hear back from DLUHC in Autumn 2022 to find out if it has been successful.

4.3.7 **Physical Regeneration**

University

The University Phase 1 has been completed. Officers from the Council were involved in the snagging process and handover of the building to ARU with practical completion being signed off in August, on time and on budget. An open day was held at the end of August which was attended by around 2000 potential students. Over 40% of applicants for the 2022/2023 entry have been from PE postcodes. Phase 2 is well underway and Phase 3 is being prepared for planning. This is a remarkable achievement for Peterborough and partners ARU and will help enhance the reputation of the City on a national and international stage.

Middleholme

The Middleholme site is part owned by the council and part owned by the Milton Estate. The combined land area is in excess of 42 acres and provides a huge opportunity to develop a mixed use, residential led development with high quality housing located riverside. The site requires significant remediation as there are potentially toxic materials in the ground. Reports outlining the strategy for site remediation have now been received by officers and a grant of £500k has been secured to contribute to the cost of works to clean the site so it is ready for development. This development presents a significant opportunity to secure benefits for the Council in terms of financial income and providing quality jobs and homes for new and existing communities. A monthly project meeting has been set up between the council and Milton Estates to develop a strategy to bring the site forward and to explore options for development partner procurement.

Homes England

Officers from the Council and Homes England have met to explore opportunities to accelerate housing development in the city. Regional representatives from Homes England will be visiting the city in September to tour large strategic sites such as Middleholme, Fletton Quays and North Westgate as well as potential housing infill sites. This tour of sites will be followed up with a workshop with Homes England in October to develop a plan to bring sites forward through enabling grant funding.

Developers

Developer interest in City Centre development remains strong despite the current challenging economic conditions, with a number of city tours of sites arranged over the autumn.

4.3.8 **Growth and Regeneration Function**

Work has been progressing within the council to build leadership capacity and technical expertise via a new economic growth and regeneration function. Working closely alongside a transformed planning service, this team will help to drive forward good growth in our city whilst ensuring appropriate links are made right across the council and into other partners services to ensure we are planning well for the future and that all our residents benefit.

Part of this work is the implementation of the decision made by Cabinet earlier this year to transfer Opportunity Peterborough into the Council (subject to staff consultation). While Opportunity Peterborough has functioned well independently the move will ensure that the work is more strategically aligned with the Council's priorities for the development of the local economy. The service will keep the brand Opportunity Peterborough as this is well established and recognised by local business leaders. Although the process is complex, work is underway to consult with affected staff, and a desktop audit of commercial agreements, staff contracts and finances has started.

4.4 **Digital Services**

4.4.1 At the Scrutiny meeting on 6 January 2022 the key aspects of the IT strategy were set out for review along with a summary of the work done to date. The following is an update on project activity since that meeting.

Some key updates since January are shown below:

- Vivacity and City Culture – during March, the digital services project team supported the transition of services to Peterborough Limited.
- Chromebook replacement - this project is progressing well. 129 devices were issued in June. Roll out has slowed over the holiday period but is on track to complete by February 2023.
- HR System (Resourcelink) – the system has been migrated to Cloud which enables staff to access the HR management tool via the web. Work is progressing to implement the timesheet and expenses module during the second half of 2022/23.
- IT Service Desk Management (Hornbill) implementation – the new IT Service Desk Management tool has been deployed and is working well and has received positive feedback.

4.4.2 **Organisational change**

Another key strategic aim was the restructure of the IT & Digital Service shared with Cambridgeshire County Council and the final phase of the work has now concluded with the new structure live from 1st September. Transitional activities are now underway to implement this fully.

4.4.3 **IT & Digital Strategy**

As noted in January the IT & Digital strategy that was initiated and approved in 2019 is being reviewed and updated in line with the ongoing work that is being undertaken on the Corporate Strategy and Priorities for the Council.

The overall themes that have emerged from this review are below:

- Communities
- Partners
- Sustainability
- Workforce
- Inclusion

These themes are underpinned by the related strategies of Data, Security & Technology.

The next stages of work will include Member engagement sessions.

4.4.4 **Cyber Security**

Cyber security is an increasing area of risk mainly due to the fallout of the invasion of Ukraine and heightened tension with Taiwan. A cyber security programme has been set up to encapsulate all aspects of cyber security that needs covering, overseen by a monthly strategic Cyber Security Board and a monthly Cyber Security Group meeting.

Peterborough City Council received a Cyber Grant from DLUHC, and mandatory staff and Member training is being rolled out.

A Phishing test has been performed and has informed that further training is required.

4.4.5 **Support for the wider organisation**

Work continues to deliver the financial savings that have been identified within IT budgets. In some instances, there are wider implications of work that require changes to working practices for staff across the organisation. These are being progressed with strong support from senior management. Support is also being provided for directorates as they review their transformational opportunities.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation relevant to each aspect of the portfolio has been carried out as part of 'business as usual' operations.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 Following debate and discussion at committee, it is anticipated that Members will be fully informed as to the progress and priorities of the portfolio holder, and the portfolio holder will be able to consider suggestions that come forward during that debate.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 Scrutiny committees in Peterborough receive an annual report from all portfolio holders, as part of their responsibility to scrutinise key areas of work.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 NA

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 None

Legal Implications

- 9.2 None

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 None

Rural Implications

- 9.4 None

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 9.5 This report contains no proposals for changes to service delivery and therefore there is no decision to take which may impact carbon emissions of the council or the city.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 None