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| ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | Agenda Item No. 6 |
| 9 SEPTEMBER 2010 | Public Report |

Report of the Executive Director - Operations

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CITY COUNCIL'S BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY: PROGRESS REPORT 2009/10

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Provide information with respect to progress against the actions and targets contained in the PCC Biodiversity Strategy (2004).
- b) Allow feedback to be given by the Committee with respect to progress against the existing strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the progress made against the City Councils 2004 Biodiversity Strategy and to make any recommendations with regards to the future implementation of the Strategy.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

3.1 The 2004 strategy contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy and LAA via the LAA Biodiversity target which is based on National Indicator 197 (improved local biodiversity). It is more generally linked to the Community Strategy and National Indicators via the Cleaner/Greener agenda and sections of these documents. It has been agreed with the Greater Peterborough Partnership that reporting against the PCC Biodiversity Strategy will be used, along with other reporting, to give a more detailed picture of the breadth of the actions taking place for biodiversity under the LAA Biodiversity target.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This report is submitted to the Committee by the PCC Biodiversity Officer Working Group as a progress report for 2009/10 against the existing PCC Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy was agreed in 2004 with a requirement for annual reporting on progress against the specific actions and targets of the strategy.
- 4.2 This progress report is against the 2004 PCC Biodiversity Strategy. An updated Biodiversity Strategy (2010) will shortly be taken to Cabinet for consideration.

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 The key issues which the Committee need to consider are laid out in the appendices. All progress on required actions since the 2008/9 progress report have been achieved from within the Council's existing budgets. Future ability to progress against the 2004 strategy will be dependent on some changes to land management and maintaining existing resources where possible.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The 2004 Biodiversity report included consideration of cost and resource implications. It was made clear that the actions set out in the 2004 report would have to be achieved within existing resources and that it was envisaged that biodiversity gain could be made through adjusting rather than completely changing current practices. The adoption of the vision statement by Full Council strongly reinforced this.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation and discussion has been undertaken with the Executive Director of Operations and the City Council's Biodiversity Officer Working Group.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 Feedback from the Committee will be used to inform the future focus of the PCC Biodiversity Officer Working Group.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Section 40).
- Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty, Defra, May 2007.
- Peterborough City Council Approach to Biodiversity submitted to the Environment Policy Overview Committee on 2 August 2004.
- Peterborough Sustainable Community Strategy (including Rural Vision Strategy and Environment Capital manifesto).

10. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Report of progress against actions and targets of Peterborough City Councils Biodiversity Strategy

Appendix B: Full reports from the members of the Biodiversity Officer Working Group