

## Home of Environment Capital – Major Policy 2010

### **Introduction:**

Peterborough is the UK's Home of Environment Capital - a place where environmental issues are put first in a city which aspires to be a role model and leader in all aspects of sustainable development.

As the Home of Environment Capital, Peterborough not only delivers sustainability but thinks sustainably. Environment Capital is as much about the intellectual response we bring to the challenges of the future as it is about the way we manage resources and grow our economy.

Our agenda has moved far beyond that of an Environment City. We are using the sustainability agenda to improve quality of life for all our people - residents, visitors and workers alike. Our Environment Capital will provide solutions to our health outcomes and will support our on-going work to build strong and safe communities. It will inspire and influence everything we do - not as an add-on policy, but as an integral way of thinking across the whole of our agenda.

As the Home of Environment Capital, we seek, as thought leaders, to raise the bar for sustainable development across the country. We will use our Environment Capital to pilot new solutions for all aspects of the sustainability agenda and we will share our learning - and learn from others - to ensure that the UK leads the world in solving our environmental challenges.

For the people of Peterborough being the Home of Environment Capital means living in a city and villages where quality of life constantly improves through the adoption of sustainable solutions to today's and tomorrow's issues. Where health gets better because we exercise more, use sustainable forms for transport and have access to high quality nature. Where education constantly improves and delivers young people ready to take up jobs in the industries of the future particularly in a growing low carbon economy. Where communities get stronger as we build cleaner and greener neighbourhoods.

### **Policy Statement:**

Peterborough City Council is committed to improving the environment in its progress towards a sustainable city. The policies and activities undertaken and promoted by the Council have many impacts on the environment. The Council has a leading role in "the Home of Environment Capital", by contributing to the creation of a high quality local environment, both now and for future generations and in reducing the adverse impact of the city on global communities.

To that end, it has adopted the Sustainable Communities Strategy which has, as one of four priorities, "Creating the UK's Environment Capital".

The Council will continually monitor and improve its environmental performance and comply with relevant legislation, policies and codes of practice to achieve the four outcomes supporting the Environment Capital priority as follows:-

### **Making Peterborough Cleaner and Greener:**

- We will minimise, and wherever possible eliminate, the release of substances which will cause demonstrable damage to the environment or its inhabitants.
- We will protect, and where possible and appropriate, enhance habitats and bio-diversity.
- We will continue to improve and enhance the urban and rural environment.

### **Conserving Natural Resources:**

- Reducing the impacts of climate change and our contribution to the causes.
- We will make sustainable use of renewable natural resources where practicable. We will conserve non-renewable resources, and where practicable use recycled materials.

- We will minimise the creation of waste, and will recycle materials where this is cost effective and to the environmental benefit. We will ensure transportation and disposal of our waste to comply with current safe practice.
- We will seek to minimise waste of energy, and will ensure that, where energy is used, the greatest possible proportion becomes useful heat, light or power. We will use environmentally safe and, where practicable, sustainable energy sources and will invest in, demonstrate and promote, the benefits of energy efficiency.

**Increasing the Use of Sustainable Transport:**

- Through our "TravelChoice" initiative, will use the least polluting transport methods compatible with our necessary service provisions, implement Travel Plans for our employees and elected members and use planning controls and other procedures to encourage the development and use of such Plans by all other employers in the City and their employees.

**Growing our Environment Business Sector:**

- Using the Enviro- Cluster and Eco-Innovation Centre as a base, to support the development of the "green" and low carbon business sector through our Economic Development and related activities.

**General:**

- In addition, the Council will ensure, the development and implementation of a **Single Delivery Plan**, that "Home of Environment Capital" contributes to the wider Sustainable Communities Strategy including the priorities:-  
**Creating Strong and Supportive Communities, Substantial and Truly Sustainable Growth and Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities**