

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2010
7.00 PM

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall

AGENDA

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1. Apologies for Absence	
2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations	
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11. Date of Next Meeting	

Thursday 20 January 2011 at 7pm



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Committee Members:

Councillors: D Day (Chairman), Arculus (Vice-Chairman), N North, B Rush, D Morley, J A Fox and
N Sandford

Substitutes: Councillors: J Goodwin, C Ash and D Fower

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Louise Tyers on telephone 01733
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM - TOWN HALL ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Present: N Arculus (Vice-Chairman), JA Fox, N North, B Rush and N Sandford

Also Present: Councillor S Dalton, Cabinet Member for Environment Capital
Councillor JR Fox, Representing the Leader of the Peterborough
Independent Forum

Officers Present: Paul Phillipson, Executive Director of Operations
Leonie McCarthy, Neighbourhood Manager - City Wide
Trevor Gibson, Director of Environment Capital
Brian Armstrong, Wildlife Officer
Bob Beaumont, Lawyer
Paulina Ford, Performance Scrutiny and Research Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Day and Morley.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

The following declarations of interest were made:

Item 6 – Biodiversity Strategy Progress Report 2009-10

- Councillor Rush declared a personal interest as he was a member of the RSPB.
- Councillor Sandford declared a personal interest as had been a member of the Biodiversity Working Group in 2002.
- Councillor Judy Fox declared a personal interest as she was a member of the Friends of Cuckoo's Hollow group.

Item 8 – Progress on Delivery of the Environment Capital Portfolio and Launch of the Home of Environment Capital Initiative

- Councillor Sandford declared a personal interest as he was a member of PECT.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2010 were approved as a correct record.

Councillor Sandford advised that despite assurances from officers that the street lights at Gresley Way were repaired this was not the case.

4. Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

5. Change to order of the Agenda

With the agreement of the Committee it was agreed that item 7. Norwood Lane and the Paston Travellers Site would be moved to item 5 on the agenda.

6. Norwood Lane and the Paston Travellers Site

The City Wide Neighbourhood Manager introduced the report by advising that the report had been brought to the Committee at the request of the Gunthorpe, Paston, Walton and Werrington Community Committee. The Community Committee had wished the Scrutiny Committee to gain a better understanding of the ongoing challenges with regard to fly tipping at Norwood Lane and the Paston Travellers Site.

A Solution Clinic had taken place on Monday 7 September to address the issues relating to fly tipping at Norwood Lane and the outcome was a 28 point action plan. Some of the actions identified were:

- Set up covert CCTV and work with rural police to start enforcement on people who were fly tipping on the lane with improved results expected within the next 6 months.
- A week of action to be held led by the Neighbourhood Manager and the Safer Peterborough Partnership. This would mean a big clear up of the Lane and travellers site.
- A mobile van to visit the site to engage with the travellers and advise them of the actions being taken.
- Putting a barrier in place at the beginning of the Lane allowing only people living at the site access with a key.
- A recommendation to move the permanent sites at the Oxney Road and Paston Travellers sites into housing within the City Council. Consultations were currently taking place with the Council.
- The need for an overarching strategy for gypsies and travellers.

The project plan for the 28 actions would be overseen by a project manager and the outcomes would be reported to the Cohesion Board.

Members were informed that the Paston site was in a bad state of repair and might have to be demolished therefore the future long term plan was to find other sites across the city but this was proving difficult. There was also a new development at Paston that might impact on Norwood Lane in the future.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Had any covert CCTV operations taken place? Members were advised that there had not been any in the last 12 months as it had proved to be an expensive exercise and not sustainable to maintain. However since that time some CCTV equipment had been identified for use from within the Council and officers to use the equipment had also been identified but they would require training. The cost of installation would be £12,000 but there would be no ongoing cost.
- How would the residents of the Paston traveller's site be involved in delivering the outcomes of the action plan? Members were advised that the community of travellers wanted to help and wanted to live like other residents in Peterborough. There would be a mobile van visiting the site with information on the actions and door to door knocking would ensure that all the travellers were fully aware of what was being proposed. This would also help in gaining an understanding of the community and engaging the travellers in the delivery of the outcomes.
- How can members help to implement the outcomes? Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, had visited the site and requested regular updates. She was also a member of the Cohesion Board which would monitor the performance to ensure that improvements were being delivered.
- Could anyone apply for a permit to take rubbish to the tip? The Executive Director of Operations advised that there were a number of travellers who had permits to carry out

legitimate business but he would need to find out what the criteria for obtaining a permit was.

- How much would it cost to install CCTV at Norwood lane? CCTV costs were about £12,000 initially but had no ongoing costs however it would need to be policed as it could be subject to vandalism.
- Members had noted that rubbish was also being dumped on a farmer's land at Norwood Lane and wanted to know how it would be cleared as this was private land. The officer advised that she would have to investigate and report back to the Committee.
- With regard to joint patrols with the local Police Rural Community Action teams how would the proposed reduction in funding affect these? The Officer advised that this was classed as business as usual and part of their daily work so should not impact on this.
- Members commented that it was not always travellers that dumped rubbish in Norwood Lane. If the site was fully cleaned up and policed it should provide a solution. Councillor JR Fox had attended the recent Solution Clinic and felt that the 28 point action plan would bring about some real changes.
- Fly tipping was a criminal offence so why had no one been prosecuted? The Executive Director of Operations advised that there had been covert work undertaken in some areas of the city which had produced a number of prosecutions but covert work was very difficult and very dangerous to deliver. Commercial entities that fly tipped were more difficult to catch.
- Members requested that a copy of the 28 point action plan be circulated to the Committee once it had been signed off.
- Members felt that there needed to be stronger enforcement from the Magistrates and that the Council needed to talk to them to get their support by giving stronger penalties and confiscating vehicles that had been used for fly tipping.. The Neighbourhood Manager agreed to highlight this within the action plan and to contact the Magistrates.
- What did the people who lived at the Paston site feel about having a barrier put in place at Norwood Lane? At the invitation of the Committee a member of the public addressed the Committee and advised that the barrier would be a problem to people visiting the site and felt that they would probably tear it down. Businesses who worked around Peterborough used the site as a tip and came between the hours of 6.00am to 9.00am or late at night. It was accepted that there were also a few people from the site who dumped rubbish there but he believed they would stop if the other people stopped. If the site was cleaned up it would deter people from dumping rubbish but if people saw rubbish there then they were inclined to add more rubbish.
- The Officer advised Members that the barrier would be a deterrent whilst other work on the site was being completed but the residents of the site would be consulted for their views.

ACTIONS AGREED

That the City Wide Neighbourhood Manager:

1. Circulate the 28 Point Action Plan to Members of the Committee once it had been approved by the Cohesion Board. This to be done via the Scrutiny Officer within one week of the meeting.
2. Bring the 28 Point Action Plan back to the Committee to be scrutinised to assess its impact at a future meeting the date of which to be agreed with Officers and Group Representatives.
3. Take into consideration all relevant comments made by the Committee.
4. Investigate how the rubbish left on private land at Norwood Lane would be cleared and report back to the Committee via the Scrutiny Officer.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Neighbourhood Manager includes within the Action Plan an additional action point that the Magistrates are requested to take stronger action and deliver stronger penalties for

fly tipping. The Neighbourhood Manager to contact the Magistrates to discuss this action and request their support in backing the Council's actions with regard to enforcement.

7. Responses to Recommendations Made by the Committee

The report informed the Committee of the responses to recommendations that had been made at previous meetings. The Committee were then asked to consider these and agree if the recommendations required further monitoring.

Observations and questions were asked around the following areas:

- Christmas Park and Ride. Members asked for clarification that the £1 charge per person as stated in the response was correct as they felt that this may deter people from using the park and ride service as a family of four would cost £4. The Executive Director of Operations advised that he would seek clarification and report back to Members.
- Tree Pollarding. Members requested that this item continued to be monitored in a year's time to ensure that the recommendation had been listened to and the impact it had made.
- Councillor Sandford requested that all recommendations and responses be included in the feed back report to ensure that all recommendations were monitored in the same way.

ACTIONS AGREED

1. The Executive Director of Operations clarify the agreed charge for the Christmas Park and Ride service and report back to the Committee via the Scrutiny Officer.
2. A report to come to the Committee in a year to report on the impact of pollarding trees in one or two streets on a less regular basis to see if a longer maintenance regime was reasonable compared to the current two year programme.

8. Biodiversity Strategy Progress Report 2009-10

The Wildlife Officer presented the report on the progress made against the City Councils 2004 Biodiversity Strategy.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- The philosophy of the original Biodiversity strategy was that the best way to improve biodiversity was not to focus on small isolated individual sites but to take a broader approach. There had been some small achievements but there had been a failure to adopt a larger scale landscape approach which needed a change to the management regime of parks and open spaces. The Wildlife Officer informed the Committee that the 2004 Biodiversity Strategy was a work in progress and that effecting a culture change took time. It was a strategy that had to be achieved within existing costs and this was a restricting element on delivering the strategy.
- The Committee accepted that the strategy was moving in the right direction albeit at a slow pace. Members noted that there had been a massive shrub and tree removal campaign and which was not part of the strategy and there needed to be more connection between the policy and practice.
- Members requested that a measure be put in place to assess the impact of the biodiversity strategy. The Wildlife Officer advised that this would be very difficult and an enormous task to measure all the wildlife. However there were certain species that could be measured like barn owls and the four spotted moth.
- Some of the actions in the strategy did not include timeframes and monitoring, was there some way that targets could be included in the current strategy. The Wildlife Officer advised Members that there was an appendix to the report which had come to the previous scrutiny meeting which did contain detail and costs and it would come to the

Committee on an annual basis for monitoring. There were a set of indicators that could be included in the strategy but would not always be specific to Council owned land.

- Members wanted assurance that the original vision of the Biodiversity Strategy which was that Biodiversity should become a consideration in the management of all our landscape was embedded. The officer advised Members that this was still the vision of the Strategy and was happening but slowly.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Wildlife Officer includes in the Biodiversity Strategy some specific indicators to provide quantitative data on flora, fauna and endangered species so the impact of the Strategy can be measured.

9. Progress on Delivery of the Environment Capital Portfolio and Launch of the Home of Environment Capital Initiative

The Director of Environment Capital and Cabinet Member for Environment Capital presented the report which advised on the progress being made with regard to the delivery of the Environment Capital portfolio and also informed the Committee about the proposals to launch the “Home of Environment Capital” initiative. The proposals would be considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 29 September.

The Sustainable Community Strategy embedded creating the UK’s Environment Capital and it remained a priority. There had been a number of work strands put in place to develop key elements of the work one of which was to draft a Home of Environment Capital – Major Policy 2010. This was a new policy and would replace the current Environment Policy which had been adopted in 2000. The new policy would link into all of the current strategies and policies which had been developed since the original policy in 2000. A Single Delivery Plan for the Home of Environment Capital was currently being developed and would include outcomes that would be measured. The Forum for the Future Sustainable Cities Index had been used for measurement of performance in the past however the Index was designed for large cities. This Single Delivery Plan would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee. A task and finish team had been set up to lead the development of a marketing and communications strategy to ensure that the new approach enhanced the city’s regional, national and international profile and to get the message out about the Home of Environment Capital.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- The Committee at the last meeting had been concerned that the public were not being fully engaged with the Environment Capital. Had any new work been done to promote this? Members were advised that no new work had been done since then but a key part of the new policy was about getting the message out.
- Why was the phrase ‘Home of Environment Capital’ being used instead of ‘The Environment Capital? Members were informed that the idea behind the phrase ‘Home of Environment Capital’ was based on Peterborough’s environmental reputation and the drawing of resources from within the Council, partners and across the city in a common vision. It was a good way of advertising to people who wanted to relocate to the city. The use of the word capital represented knowledge and expertise which indicated that Peterborough was the home of where it had started.
- In the Forum for the Future indicators there were some indicators which were performing very badly and the Quality of Life index had not been included. The Cabinet Member for Environment Capital advised that at the last meeting the Committee had recommended that an independent assessment needed to be undertaken and the Forum for the Future Index had therefore been used for this assessment. The categories and indicators which had been chosen were more relevant to the environment.

- Members were concerned that the Environment Policy document adopted in 2000 had been a substantial document and was now being replaced by a one and half page document which had no targets or action plan. Members were advised that supporting the new policy were a range of existing policies that had been put in place since the original Environment Policy had been adopted e.g. carbon management action plan, climate change, and biodiversity policy. The new policy would link into those documents therefore reducing the size of the new policy. The action plan would be the Single Delivery Plan which was currently being developed and would sit behind the policy with outcomes and more detailed targets. It should be noted that the National Indicators had now been abolished and the process of putting some new measures in place was currently being undertaken.
- Members felt that not many people knew about the Environment Capital and that there was a need to promote it more widely. Members were advised that the message had gone out nationally and there had been a lot of press releases but agreed that more work needed to be done. The Single Delivery Plan would provide a better vehicle to communicate the message and a marketing strategy was being developed.
- Members asked how people would get to know about the Home of Environment Capital. Members were advised that a marketing strategy was being developed and there would be a campaign to launch it. There would also be targeted messages and briefings to schools, communities and businesses.
- Members wanted to know if the policy would include the measures and targets when presented to full council. Members were advised that this would not be the case as all the key outcomes, measures and targets would be in the Single Delivery Plan which was currently being developed. The Committee would have an opportunity to scrutinise the Single Delivery Plan once it had been completed.
- How does Peterborough compare with Tyneside who were also claiming the same title of Environment Capital? Officers would investigate further.
- Earlier this month the Council had been mentioned in a press release from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) which stated that we had entered into a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) called the Greater Peterborough and Greater Cambridgeshire Local Enterprise Partnership. Councillors had not been consulted on this and wanted to know who had authorised the application. Had the application included any consideration of the aspirations of Peterborough being an Environment Capital and could more information be given? The Director of Environment Capital and Cabinet Member stated that they did not know who had authorised the submission or what the content of the submission was. The Executive Director of Operations advised that he had read the document and confirmed that there was environmental content within it however the partnership was aimed more around economic development and regeneration than environmental issues. The LEP would be considered through the remit of the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee when more information was available.
- At the invitation of the Committee, Wayne Stimson of the ECO Arts Project addressed the Committee. He felt that the phrase the Home of Environment Capital was very vague and needed to be redefined.
- At the invitation of the Committee, Richard Olive, a Member of GPP Environment Capital Committee addressed the Committee. He read a statement which contained information on other cities who aspired to achieve green capital status and highlighted areas where Peterborough was failing in environmental performance. He also commented that the new Home of Capital Environment Policy was weak and vague. As the statement included various facts and figures on environmental issues Mr Olive was asked that he submit his statement in writing to the Committee as it was very detailed.
- At the invitation of the Committee, Sally Plummer and environmentalist addressed the Committee. She stated that she was concerned that different Committee Members seemed to have different interpretations on what the term Environment meant and wanted to see a more unified approach to the meaning.

ACTION AGREED

That the Director of Environment Capital brings to a future meeting the Single Delivery Plan when completed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Member for Environment Capital is recommended to:

- (i) ensure that the Home of Environment Capital Policy makes reference to all of the other related policies and strategies; and
- (ii) rewrite the opening paragraph of the Policy to make clearer the intent of the Policy, including that details of the related policies and strategies that are yet to be included.

10. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The latest version of the Forward Plan, showing details of the key decisions that the Leader of the Council believed the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would be making over the next four months, was received.

Members noted that there was no mention in the Forward Plan with regard to the Local Enterprise Plan and Members requested further information on who had authorised this decision.

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the Forward Plan and agreed that there were no items to bring to the Committee.

11. Work Programme

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme for 2010/11 and discussed possible items for inclusion.

ACTION AGREED

To confirm the work programme for 2010/11. Councillor Sandford requested that the item Criteria for Resurfacing Footpaths be scheduled into the work programme in March.

CHAIRMAN
7.00 - 10.05 pm

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ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
4 NOVEMBER 2010	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Report Author – Louise Tyers, Scrutiny Manager

Contact Details – (01733) 452284 or email louise.tyers@peterborough.gov.uk

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the responses to recommendations made at previous meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee consider the responses to the recommendations made and agree if, and how, the implementation of the recommendations should be monitored.

3. BACKGROUND

9 September 2010

- 3.1 During the Committee's meeting on 9 September 2010 a recommendation was made following consideration of a report on the Launch of the Home of Environment Capital Initiative. The recommendation was subsequently submitted to the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Director of Environment Capital for consideration.

- 3.2 Also at the meeting on 9 September a recommendation was made following consideration of an item on the Norwood Lane and Paston Travellers Site. The recommendation was subsequently submitted to the Neighbourhood Manager (City Wide) for consideration.

- 3.3 A copy of all the recommendations made and responses are attached at Appendix 1.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the responses and agree if, and how, the implementation of the recommendations should be monitored.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any implications are contained within the individual response to the recommendation.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee held on 9 September 2010.

7. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Recommendations and Responses Received.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 September 2010

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations
Norwood Lane and Paston Travellers Site	It is recommended to the Neighbourhood Manager (City Wide) that the Action Plan for Norwood Lane and Paston Travellers Site is amended to include an action point that the Magistrates are requested to take stronger action and deliver stronger penalties for fly tipping. The Neighbourhood Manager to contact the Magistrates to discuss this action and request their support in backing the Council's actions with regard to enforcement.	The recommendation has now been included within the Action Plan for Norwood Lane and Paston Travellers Site.
Biodiversity Strategy	It is recommended to the Wildlife Officer that the Biodiversity Strategy includes some specific indicators to provide quantitative data on flora, fauna and endangered species so the impact of the strategy can be measured.	<p>Carrying out a detailed survey of every green space every year would be very resource intensive. However it would be possible to produce quantitative data for those areas which we were already monitoring. The three examples outlined to the Committee at the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Wildlife Sites, we have data on the management of the set of 107 CWS across Peterborough • 4 Spotted Moth, we have data for this species at its key site which lies on the edge of the Urban area. The numbers recorded in any one year are however influenced by the weather condition in that year and the previous year. • Barn Owls, we have data for the barn owl recovery project to the east of Peterborough which could be reported, however it should be appreciated that barn owl numbers have a natural 4 year fluctuation cycle, so it is not possible to compare between years but rather 4 year blocks.
Launch of Home of Environment Capital	<p>The Cabinet Member for Environment Capital is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) ensure that the Home of Environment Capital Policy makes reference to all of the other related policies and strategies; and (ii) rewrite the opening paragraph of the 	Both recommendations have been incorporated into the latest draft of the Policy which was subsequently agreed at Full Council on 13 October 2010.

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations
	Policy to make clearer the intent of the Policy, including that details of the related policies and strategies that are yet to be included.	

EARLIER RECOMMENDATIONS

10 June 2010

Item	Recommendation	Response to Recommendation	Progress
Tree Pollarding	The Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning is recommended that consideration is given, during the Lot 3 process, to pollarded trees in one or two streets being left for 3-4 years to see if a longer maintenance regime was reasonable compared to the current two year programme.	The recommendation is supported and the bidders will be informed to take this into account within their proposals for Lot 3.	This item has been included on the Committee's work programme for 2011/12.

15 July 2010

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations	Progress
Environment Capital – The Next Steps	It is recommended to the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital that before the City Council declares Peterborough as the Environment Capital, agreed criteria should be met and an independent assessment should be undertaken.	The most cost effective basis for this comparative work is the Forum for The Future's Sustainable Cities Index. The organisation assessed Peterborough as part of the Jonathan Porritt Master Class in November 2009. It is intended that Forum for the Future assess the city again as part of the 2010 Index later this year. It should be noted that the Index compares Peterborough with a number of much larger UK cities but it is one of only a few, reliable local authority comparators. This is likely to become more of a challenge with the deletion of the National Indicator site.	

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations	Progress
Christmas Park and Ride Service 2010	That the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning decides on the best approach for delivering the Sunday Christmas Park and Ride Service within the ethos of an environment capital.	The £1 charge for Sundays required further consideration following confirmation as to whether there would be any free parking in the city centre on Sundays. The decision on whether to charge and what level of charge was left to officers to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning.	<p>It has now been clarified that free parking will not be available in the city centre on Sundays and therefore the £1 charge per passenger for the Sunday Park and Ride service has been recommended to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning.</p> <p>It has since been clarified that a family ticket will be available which allows two adults and up to three children to travel for £2.50.</p>
Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme	It is recommended to the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital that the Council completes the registration process for the CRC in line with the legal requirements under the Climate Change Act and CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme Order 2010.	The Cabinet Member for Environment Capital made an Executive Decision on 11 August 2010 to authorise the submission of the application for registration under the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.	
Revised Biodiversity Strategy	<p>The Cabinet is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) endorse the revised Biodiversity Strategy prior to its consideration by Council as part of the major policy framework; and (ii) consider the requirement for additional resources during the development of future Council budgets alongside other budget pressures. <p>The Commercial Services Director is requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to lead on the development of the draft policy for works 	The Cabinet endorsed the revised Biodiversity Strategy prior to its consideration by Council.	<p>The Biodiversity Strategy was approved by Council at their meeting on 13 October 2010.</p> <p>This work is ongoing.</p>

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations	Progress
	<p>during the bird nesting season separately from the Biodiversity Strategy. Support to be provided from the Council's Officer Working Group for Biodiversity as required; and</p> <p>(ii) to bring the final draft of the policy to a future meeting of the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee when it is completed.</p>		

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
4 NOVEMBER 2010	Public Report

Report of the Commercial Services Director

Contact Officer – James Cooper, Trees & Landscape Management Officer
Contact Details - (01733) 425341

PETERBOROUGH TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with the draft Tree and Woodland Strategy which provides direction for the care of Peterborough's trees and woodlands. It updates the 1998 Strategy and accommodates the changes that have taken place over the last twelve years, including the influences of the Biodiversity Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee scrutinises the draft Tree and Woodland Strategy and endorses it for wider consultation.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Trees are the largest single item within the landscape and therefore have an impact. Woodlands are an invaluable resource and a superb educational opportunity and thus contribute to the agenda for learning and awareness of environmental issues. The SCS contains the priority for:

“Making Peterborough cleaner and greener so that we become the UK’s greenest city with attractive neighbourhoods surrounded by thriving biodiversity”.

Directives within DEFRA have the stated aims of **“Helping to enhance the environment and biodiversity to improve quality of life”** and **“Supporting a strong and sustainable green economy, resilient to climate change”**.

Supporting the findings and issues within the draft Strategy links to National Indicator 197 (Improved local biodiversity - active management of local sites) the rationale of this indicator being to “assess the performance of Local Authorities with regard to local sites and promoting them for educational purposes”.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The first issue for Members to consider is the proposal to move away from response based reactive works to a programme of inspections which will be followed by tree works based upon those findings; this also demonstrates our duty of care.
- 4.2 The next key issue is to look at the development of the right tree in the right place framework and the consideration of options to eventually reduce overcrowding within residential areas. This will be followed by a programme of replacing existing, inappropriate space demanding trees, with smaller alternatives.
- 4.3 The draft Tree and Woodland Strategy is attached at Appendix 1.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are financial implications associated within the current draft to which reference is made within the text of the strategy, notably planned inspections and programmes of works as directed by the findings of the inspections.
- 5.2 Environmental implications include the potential loss of habitat, diminution of biodiversity and depletion of trees and woodlands lost through neglect, overcrowding or senility through carrying on with current practices and emphasis on response based works to the detriment of planned works. The latter allows for promotion of habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement.
- 5.3 Pre-determined programmes for works to trees and woodlands demonstrate that the duty of care has been given due consideration and this includes minimising damage to property from falling trees as well as that to foundations from subsidence.
- 5.4 Trees and woodlands are very much city wide and a major feature within all Wards of Peterborough.
- 5.5 Care of and selection of trees carries with it implications for community safety with considerations of potential tree collapse and shading of street lights.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 To date consultation has been confined to interdepartmental colleagues directly associated with the care of trees and open spaces and those with a planning related logistical responsibility. External consultation with associations, Ward Members, Parish Councils and community groups will commence post approval of the initial draft.

7. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 7.1 That Members consider and support the findings and issues addressed within the document, acknowledging the idea of time related alterations to the overall landscape.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 Following completion of the consultation and consideration by the Committee the Strategy will be referred to the Cabinet for a decision.
- 8.2 Officers will continue to work on an allied action plan with options for tree works subject to availability of funding.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 9.1
- Peterborough Tree And Woodlands Strategy, June 1998
 - Peterborough Open Space Report, June 2006
 - Biodiversity Strategy, June 2004

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy

Peterborough Tree and Woodland Strategy



DOCUMENT 1: POLICIES & PRIORITIES, 2010.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Peterborough is located to the edge of the fens at a meeting point with higher land of the midlands. This junction produces a range of landscapes and associated habitats.

The eastern half of the district is reclaimed high quality fenland agricultural land. Originally Peterborough's urban margins would have been carr woodlands containing Alder, Birch, Ash and Oak, edging onto vast tracts of brackish marsh and river plains.

Westwards the land rises and meets the eastern reaches of Rockingham Forest. In which the trees have different characteristics, supporting a different range of plants and wildlife. Fields and roads are bounded with treed hedgerows linking a patchwork of woods.

Early settlements such as Flag Fen and Barnack resulted in forest clearance. With sea levels dropping and industrial drainage of the fens, impact on the residual forests intensified.

The rate of change has increased in the last couple of hundred years, the landscape developing into that we see today. The fens still contain a few small remnants of carr woodland that runs distinctively alongside rural roads.

In 1901 Peterborough had a population of 31,000 people. In the last thirty years this has grown to 160,000 with predictions of growth to realise 200,000 by 2020. The challenge is to achieve sustainability.

The Victorian parts of the city to those developed in the 1950's have a structured layout with tree lined roads and formal promenading within parks and open spaces. Along with rapid growth dating from the 1960's to the present a naturalistic approach to landscaping and tree planting was adopted as influenced by the garden city movement.

Trees and woodlands are dominant features within our landscape and collectively form one of Peterborough's most notable features. Trees and open spaces provide a range of important benefits for the public including promotion of good mental health.

This strategy sets out to maximise on the benefits of trees and woodlands, acknowledges their urban setting and the absolute necessity to manage their long-term care. This management is governed by legal responsibilities and influenced by national, regional and Council policy.

This strategy sets out objectives, policies and proposals for actions that will form the basis upon which Peterborough City Council will oversee the planting, maintenance and protection of its trees and woodlands.

1.1 Background

Peterborough is one of four environment cities. The Council therefore seeks to demonstrate its commitment to the environment through implementing appropriate works. All local authorities have a duty to manage trees and woods in a way that enhances safety and to protect significant trees for their amenity value.

This document will contribute to delivering the broad range of Council aims and incorporate the four environmental strategic priorities associated with creating the UK's environment capital in conjunction with priorities on community and land use planning issues. It has been influenced through consultation, the DEFRA 2007 publication 'Strategy for England's Trees, Woods & Forests' and will attempt to demonstrate the need for resources.

1.2 The Resource

An up to date survey of Peterborough's tree stock would be invaluable and a sound basis upon which to understand the resource. Very approximate estimates of tree numbers are available, these being 105,000 individual trees, growing on highway land, parks and open spaces and an estimated further 1,400,000 trees making up the Council's 280 hectares of woodland. A Forestry Commission's estimate indicates that 3% of the district is covered by woodland. The national average is 9%. The density of cover in the city varies greatly. Areas constructed by the Development Corporation contain more trees per hectare than the older pre D. C. suburbs. More trees and woods stand to the west of the city compared to the sparsely populated fens to the east. Sparse tree cover accelerates water run-off and has a negative impact on storm water capacity.

A significant proportion of the specimen trees in Peterborough are dominated by Norway Maple, Lime and Cherry. In the urban woods Ash and Sycamore dominate. Life expectancy of these trees is reduced by poor site conditions and nutrient deficient sub soils. 60 to 80 years is all that can be expected with as little as 40 for Cherry trees that are now reaching the ends of their lives. Peterborough's tree demographic mirrors that of the city's development, the vast majority of trees having been planted since the 1960's.

1.3 Positive Impact of Trees

There is increasing public awareness of the benefits that trees can provide. Residents have greater expectations of the environment in which they live. In urban areas there is demand for recreational open space and pleasant, tree-lined streets.

Benefits from Trees

Trees are essential to life and their value cannot be overstated. City woodlands are planted to provide beauty, screening for privacy or to reduce invasive traffic noise. The benefits can be identified as social, environmental, and economic gains.

Social Benefits.

The strong ties between people and trees are most evident in the resistance of residents to tree felling. Trees and woodlands contribute immeasurably to Peterborough's landscape and are particularly valuable in urban locations. Research has shown that hospital patients recover more quickly when able to view a landscape containing trees. Their aesthetic value improves the appearance of urbanity, giving variety of scale, form, colour and shape. Trees occupy considerable space. Within privately owned grounds planning is required for their accommodation. Careful selection and appropriate maintenance can enhance the environment for the tree owner without infringing on the lives of neighbours.

Environmental Benefits

Trees influence the environment in which we live. Wind speed is reduced, rain intercepted reducing storm runoff to potential flooding and air quality is improved. Temperatures in the vicinity of trees are cooler than those away from

them and hence there is a moderation to the heat island effect caused by urbanity.

Economic Benefits

Heating costs are reduced when a home has a windbreak provided by trees. Summer cooling costs are in a tree shaded home..

Indirect economic benefits of trees can also be identified. Lowered electricity bills are paid by customers when power companies are able to use less water in their cooling towers, build fewer new facilities to meet peak demand, use reduced amounts of fossil fuel in their furnaces and use fewer measures to control air pollution. Communities also save money if fewer facilities are required to control local storm water.

An attractive, healthy and vibrant city attracts investment. Well maintained trees and woodlands are integral to this.

1.4 Negative impacts

Within Peterborough a great many people live in very close proximity to trees, especially within the new townships. Such trees frequently belong to the Council but were originally planted by the Development Corporation. A high density of trees were set with the presumption that numbers would be reduced as their growth progressed. Current issues of overcrowding, blocking of daylight, leaves in gutters and fruit fall making paths slippery, are all prevalent.

The dilemma occurs when trees are causing problems for residents but at the same time are making major contributions to the local environment.

Past inappropriate species selection has produced much negative impact. Resulting problems may be difficult or impossible to resolve now. Specimens were chosen that were destined to outgrow the space available but were capable of making an instant impact. Height and spread are major issues of concern for residents today. Requests for topping or outright felling are frequent which is indicative that the situation now needs to be reviewed. It is not possible to continually prune trees so as to allow ease of living alongside them. Such a response would be expensive, ongoing and eventually lead to very poor quality and potentially unstable trees.

Many home owners are worried about subsidence and the stability of foundations over shrinkable clay soils. Water demanding trees can drain the soils. These may not rehydrate until the following autumn. Species selection is the key to minimising this risk. Willow trees are quick growing, very easy to establish, cheap to purchase but totally unsuited to urbanity. Very thirsty, prone to dropping limbs and short lived they have nothing to offer but trouble in the wrong place.

Cherry trees were planted on mass but are now all rapidly approaching the ends of their lives. In addition, these trees have a marked tendency to grow surface running roots that can severely lift and damage footpaths. Slower, smaller and longer lived trees would offer far greater long term amenity value.

Old shelterbelts have now grown tall and spindly. Where these back onto housing residents frequently worry about stability, overhanging branches and lack of daylight. Tall shelterbelts tend to open out at their base, so losing their ability to screen roads and deaden traffic noise. Selection of tall evergreen shrubs rather than forest scale trees would possibly have matured to better effect.

2 THE VISION

The population of Peterborough is set to reach 200,000 by 2020. The Council's vision is to accommodate this growth in a sustainable way and one that will address issues of social and economic exclusion whilst maintaining and enhancing the quality of the environment.

The overall purpose of this document is to provide the framework for a strategic approach to the management of trees and woods:

“A sustainable tree and woodland population, for a growing city.”

Tree and Woodland protection is concerned with managing the balance between risks and benefits so as to ensure a sustainable outcome.

2.1 Aim

The Council's aim is:

“To sustainably maintain and improve the quality of the existing tree and woodland cover.”

The Council will act to enhance the quality and diversity of its trees and woodlands through a programme of regular tree inspections and maintenance. This programme will address the Council's legal responsibilities and enable it to respond to resident's concerns.

3 THEME 1: COMMUNITY AND PLACE

Objective 1 To ensure that trees and woodland are managed in a way that contributes to the aims and objectives of the Council.

Objective 2 To improve the local environment, the quality of people's lives and their appreciation of trees and woodlands.

Involving people in the decision making process for the planning, management and use of and woods will enhance feelings of ownership, community cohesiveness and promote the well being of neighbourhoods.

3.1 Community

When communities become involved in decision making and management they are more likely to use the resource with respect. Individual sites need to be evaluated for their contribution to the community and their recreational potential assessed.

Trees and woods offer a variety of outdoor opportunities for recreation and learning. The priority will be to provide high quality access near to where people live and work. To ensure woods remain valued as life long resource appropriate information needs to be freely available. This should include recognition of their historic, archaeological and cultural significance.

Partnership working promotes community involvement and so links to existing partners should be strengthened and new ones established by providing advice and support to communities with plans to create and maintain their own woodland.

The planning process can contribute to the community by examining the existing provision of trees and woodland relative to predictions for future needs. The process of Planning Gain through Section 106 Agreements can site these needs. At present 12% of Peterborough's population have access to woods of 2 hectares or more within 500m of their home. A further 19% already have such woods but they are not accessible. The Council could consider working with partners to improve access and where there is a deficiency in woods, plant new ones. Enhancements to the urban woods (shelterbelts) could go some way towards meeting requirements.

Consultation

Residents develop great fondness for trees and woodlands and hence resistance to tree felling is prevalent. A vital component of arboricultural management is selective felling. Weaker or diseased trees are removed. This creates the space required to let those remaining to grow on to maturity. Releasing information through a consultation protocol sighting why certain operations are necessary and with details of operational aims, could secure public support and assist Councillors. Emergency works to clear significant hazard should be exempt as these need to happen without delay.

3.2 Place

Trees provide visual and physical features which can be used to either separate or link areas, bringing seasonal change to an otherwise static urban landscape. They provide attractive settings to residential and business development, helping to create a sense of place and permanence. To enhance local distinctiveness selection must identify the most appropriate trees and management regime.

4 THEME 2: SUSTAINABILITY AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Objective 3 To identify and preserve trees and woodlands which are recognised for their contribution to maintaining a diverse environment.

The Council recognises the importance of trees and woodlands and shall preserve those of significance. When necessary the Council will protect trees using Tree Preservation Orders including selected trees identified as under threat from development .

Objective 4 To secure new tree and woodland planting as part of the sustainable growth of Peterborough.

The Council will ensure that new trees appropriate to the location are planted and that development proposals include this enhancement towards the goal of sustainability.

4.1 Sustainability

National and local policy makers have to appraise their policies and practices to ensure they are sustainable. This process is contained within Local Agenda 21 and constituent Biodiversity Action Plan. Biodiversity, the variety of life, including all species of plants and animals and their natural support systems, has an important role in the development of sustainable communities.

The Natural Environment and Rural Community Act 2006 directs that *“Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, in so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving bio-diversity.”* Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is referenced to all public authorities.

By Incorporating conservation of bio-diversity into relevant strategies, linking these to environmental planning and statutory obligations for enhancement within forward planning and development control, the Council can reach set targets..

Climate Change

Measures to adapt to the predicted effects of climate change will be incorporated into the strategy, taking full account of “Climate Change Strategy for Peterborough”.

Climate change has the potential to make a significant impact on trees and woodland. Adaptation is a key requirement. It should be addressed at the earliest opportunity to allow for long term management and applied maintenance that supports establishment. The difficulty is selecting planting stock that will thrive in both current and future climates. Young trees, street trees and those within hedgerows are likely to be the first affected. Water demanding species, and those prone to gale damage will be removed and replaced with more suitable choices

Specific cases of sensitivity can be sighted by examination of the following two trees:

Horse Chestnut has been a landscape feature since its introduction into the UK in the late seventeenth century. Easily recognised and commonplace this tree is now being severely disfigured and potentially threatened by Leaf Miner (*Cameraria ohridella*) which may well be spreading because of mild, wet winters resulting from global warming.

Beech trees are native to the British Isles but are now showing signs of stress brought on through the mild winters that do not allow for vernalization. Predictions are that Beech will prosper further north where the colder winters better suit.

Based on Forestry Commission figures mature woods sequester approximately 200 tonnes of carbon per hectare, therefore carbon held within woodland trees owned by the Council is estimated to be less than 1% of the City’s annual carbon output.

4.2 Natural Environment

The green infrastructure is a network of interlinked spaces in and around the city and between urban and rural areas. Trees and woods are a very important part

of this, and playing a vital role in defining Peterborough as an “Environment City”.

Trees and woodland, especially old trees and ancient woods, are amongst our richest habitats. The highest levels of biodiversity are often found in woods that are actively and sensitively managed. Their diversity is even greater when they form part of a mixed landscape in close proximity to other features such as ponds, grassland and even residential gardens.

The challenge in the future will be to maintain and enhance diversity. Planning and management needs to be aimed at providing a natural environment which is resilient to climate change. Climate change will impact on the range of native wild plants and animals and hence the character of our woods. Some invasive non native species will need to be checked.

Woodlands protect ground water from pollution and lessen the likelihood of flooding by intercepting rain before it reaches watercourses. Strategically planted shelterbelts intercept air pollutants. To realise integrated and multifunctional landscape management the council will need to work closely with external partners and a variety of landowners.

5 THEME 3: ASSET MANAGEMENT AND STANDARDS

Objective 5 To ensure that legal responsibilities are met.

The Council will develop and sustain procedures necessary to provide tree and woodland management in a way that accommodates liability. These procedures will include best practice and aim at the highest possible level of service relative to available resources.

5.1 Asset Management

Trees growing in an urban environment require a more intense and therefore expensive management regime than would be required for their survival within woodlands. In addition to this, consideration needs to be given to the expectations of the public.

Trees have been the subjects of disputes and litigation for a couple of centuries, this leading to the formation of a highly regulated industry accommodating concerns of damage to property, personal injury and lack of daylight.

The Council has “a duty of care to maintain its trees and woods in a safe condition”.

To meet this duty the Council will take appropriate action to lessen risk and so minimise exposure to liability. The Health and Safety Executive requires that an effective local authority system contains:

- An inventory of the tree and wood stock within its ownership and responsibility.
- An overall assessment of the risks these pose.
- Risk assessments of prominent individual trees based upon their location, species, size, age and history.
- Pro-active system of regular inspection by a competent person and a system of obtaining additional specialist advice when inspection reveals defects and factors outside the experience and knowledge of the inspector.
- A system to enable people to report damage to trees and to trigger inspection.

- A method of recording and reviewing the systems along with any remedial actions.
- Risk management plan.

This strategy will influence the Council's risk management plan for trees and woods, updating and implementing the original strategy and management plans

By introducing a pro-active tree management system and therefore minimising reactive works, optimum use of resources and a move towards achieving a defensible risk management system can be achieved.

Rotational management for each of the category of trees and woods will be based upon risk assessment and identification of priorities. More frequent tree inspections will be carried out where there is greatest cause for concern. Following this, allocation of resources can then be applied to best effect with appropriate consultation to take place in advance of the work.

For a pro-active tree strategy to be effective the Council will need to invest financially in its trees and woodlands In order to achieve a basic standard.

The benefits of pro-active management should become apparent as the level of demand for response based work diminishes, thus saving money by keeping ahead of complaints.

5.2 Standard of Service

In order to achieve sustainable tree management a strategic operational approach is essential. It has to be understood that surgery is not necessarily for the benefit of the trees but will buy time and enable them to remain in situ for a while longer, perhaps until more suitable and less vigorous replacements get established. The management and maintenance of trees is a skilled task. It often requires different services and organisations to work closely together in order to achieve appropriate management. Risk to public and property needs to be minimised in balance with risk of damage to the trees themselves.

An important part of delivering an effective risk management system is ensuring that the tree managers have the necessary skills, qualifications and experience.

A qualified arboriculturalist is integral to defensible tree and woodland management as is sighted within BS5837. This has been substantiated by industry best practice, peer review and confirmed in common law precedence.

Knowledge and skill is needed by those who undertake the works, i.e. pruning, planting and removing trees. Officers who inspect the trees, respond to service requests and specify works, must also be appropriately qualified.

Use of specific software can assist with monitoring customer concern, reacting to and prioritising works and the way these works are undertaken. It can lead directly to improvements in consultation and communication. Specific software can positively affect new woodland management plans and form an integral part of the street tree and village tree cyclical management programs.

6 COUNCIL TREES

Tree management directs maintenance operations to existing trees as well as operations to promote the establishment of new planting, incorporating a long term view of how best to care for this resource.

6.1 General

The City Council's tree stock can be divided into seven principal categories.

- **Street Trees:** Planted in pavements or road verges. These they help to filter traffic pollution, provide shade for car parking and improve the overall appearance of the street scene.
- **Residential Areas:** Growing within and around housing estates. Planted by the original Parks Department or the Development Corporation to enhance the local environment.
- **Parks and Open Spaces:** These are frequently the trees of greatest local significance and provide maximum visual amenity for both residents and visitors.
- **Woodlands:** These are some of the remaining pockets of the original Rockingham Forest that once covered the area. Grimeshaw Wood is a local accessible Nature Reserve and hence is a valuable amenity resource.
- **Urban Woods:** Formerly classed as shelterbelts they were mostly planted alongside the parkways and in areas that separated the new townships. They provide visual amenity and habitat for wildlife.
- **Village and Rural Trees:** The villages have a unique character, much of which is achieved by their content of historic trees as well as those growing within the surrounding countryside.
- **Other Sites:** The Council own and maintain numerous other sites such as schools, allotments, cemeteries and crematoria. Many such sites contain trees of local importance.

For consideration is the idea of introducing a tree database system that records details of tree numbers, their locations and condition. This would go some way in promoting the pro-active element of the contract which to date has only been implemented for street and village trees.

By maintaining a diversity of species and ages within the Council's tree stock, devastating threats such as disease, climate change and extensive over maturity can be minimised. Diversity can be used to achieve sustainability.

The intention is to respond to enquiries by giving details of the works to be done and when. Compromise will be necessary in situations where trees are generating complaints but at the same time are still offering good general amenity value. Individual cases will be assessed on their merits.

Council tree and woodlands general policies (CTWG)

These policies and priorities apply to all trees and woodlands managed by the Council.

Policy CTWG1

The Council will ensure that the tree and wood populations are protected, their establishment directed and where appropriate, expanded.

Priorities:

CTWG1.1 To provide and maintain a computer system which enables accurate analysis of the tree and woodlands, facilitates the management of resources and enables their prioritisation.

Policy CTWG 2

The Council will maintain its trees and woods in accordance with its obligations to observe duty of care and the safety of both people and property..

Priorities:

CTWG 2.1 To set out risk management plans for the tree population.

CTWG 2.2 To survey all Council owned trees and woods, incorporating risk management.

CTWG 2.3 To undertake maintenance works in support of duty of care.

Policy CTWG 3

The Council will maintain its trees and woodlands in such a way that demonstrates best practice, providing worthy examples for others to follow.

Priorities

- CTWG 3.1 To provide plans for long term management and development of trees and woodlands as essential components within the landscape.
- CTWG 3.2 To ensure the best use of resources is made during the planning of operations.
- CTWG 3.3 To supplement the Council's spending by seeking additional funding from external sources where ever possible.
- CTWG 3.4 To realise any economic potential of trees and woods where this does not conflict with the other policies and priorities of the Strategy.

Policy CTWG 4

The removal of trees and woods shall be resisted, unless there are sound arboricultural or pressing social reasons to indicate otherwise.

Priorities

- CTWG 4.1 The removal of healthy trees in response to complaints shall be Resisted unless the complaint has an overriding justification and no alternative management practice can be implemented.

Policy CTWG 5

The Council will encourage a better understanding of tree and wood management and in so doing promote community involvement.

Priorities

- CTWG 5.1 To identify trees and woods of particular interest and develop a Method of consultation with local residents on works to be undertaken..

CTWG 5.2 Establish and support a voluntary urban tree warden scheme to work with officers to encourage community involvement in tree planting and management.

CTWG 5.3 Develop a practical consultancy protocol supported by sufficient resources to ensure successful implementation.

Policy CTWG 6

The Council will encourage new and replacement planting placing great emphasis on use of appropriate tree species.

Priorities

- CTWG 6.1 To develop a planting plan that sustains the tree population, With emphasis on the long-term replacement of mature and over mature trees.
- CTWG 6.2 Identify a specific budget to fund the replacement of dead or inappropriate trees.

6.2 Street Trees

The City has approximately 14,000 street trees which have to survive in a difficult roadside environment. Utilities demand space as do road signs and streetlights. The limited space is made all the more challenging because of polluting car emissions, road salt, oil and other pollutants. Against the odds trees can and do survive, albeit with a limited life expectancy.

The character of Peterborough's street trees varies considerably, from the older Victorian planting in roads like Broadway, the inter-war developments such as Dogsthorpe, to the newer developments built by the Development Corporation. The Victorian areas contain large old trees, many of which are managed as pollards. Today there is access to a wider range of smaller ornamental trees that are suitable for restricted sites.

Today many of Peterborough's streets have tree populations that are over-mature. Such trees are vulnerable to climatic change, disease and damage. In a few years an over-mature population of street trees will be disappearing as individual trees deteriorate and have to be removed. In these areas new trees could be introduced between the mature specimens to ensure that there will be continuous future tree cover.

As a result of the 1998 Tree and Woodland Strategy all street trees have been surveyed. The aim has been to carry out a four year cyclical maintenance program. The program is divided into the city wards. Several are selected to receive attention each year. This program is set to the maximum frequency that resources will permit.

Street tree policy (ST)

Policy ST 1

To endeavour to protect street trees from threats such as loss of verges and damage to same.

Priorities

ST1.1 Secure the necessary resources to maintain the street trees on a three year cyclical maintenance programme.

ST1.2 Work with and monitor the activities of utility companies in order to minimise accidental operational damage to trees.

Policy ST 2

To place a priority on the replacement of ageing street trees, particularly where these adjoin major traffic routes. To ensure selection of the largest growing varieties up to the limitations of the available space.

Priorities

ST2.1 To plant new and replacement street trees in appropriate sites, giving priority to streets where trees are currently standing or have been in the past.

ST2.2 In streets where tree planting is not possible in pavements or verges, to encourage residents to plant trees in their front gardens.

6.3 Trees in Residential Areas

A large proportion of public sector housing in the city was built by the Development Corporation. Extensive planting of both trees and shrubs took place on small open spaces in close proximity to these properties using a limited range of stock.

Quick growing species were often chosen and planted to provide rapid temporary greening of the new areas with extensive shrub beds and group planting of trees. Much of Peterborough lies over shrinkable clay soils which has led to problems with building subsidence as caused by large water demanding trees growing in close proximity to foundations. In addition, lack of thought was given to growth potential at maturity or to the need to thin out stock at a relatively early stage. This thinning work was never carried out on the scale required.

Present management concentrates on dealing with complaints from residents. These generally stem from the large number of trees planted within a restricted area at close proximity to housing.

It is estimated that there are over 50,000 individual trees in North and South Bretton, Orton Waterville, Paston and Ravensthorpe alone. To date, insufficient resources have been available to carry out the required cyclical management of these trees.

Residential area tree priorities (RA):

RA 1 To develop a cyclical management plan with sufficient funds to support operations.

RA 1.1 To commence a removal and replacement program to minimise the risk of structural damage by selecting trees that grow to a lesser size at maturity.

RA 1.2 Where replacement planting of any persuasion is inappropriate, to plant new trees nearby instead of the location that has been cleared.

6.4 Parks and Open Spaces

Trees are fundamental to the structure of parks and very important contributors to the environment of the area. The nature of different parks and green spaces is very variable. For example, Central Park has a declining tree population displaying over maturity in comparison to Bretton Park with younger but neglected stock now in great need of selective thinning. The latter is now urgently required to prevent very high losses over the next ten years. For this reason management has to be planned on a site by site basis.

Certain newer areas of Peterborough contain large open spaces of short grass and minimal structure planting. These areas are ideal for enhancement. By creating small woods so too can opportunities for wildlife be promoted at the same time as landscape enhancement.

Since 1998 several parks have been surveyed and essential works carried out. These include Central Park, Itter Park, Stanley recreation Ground and Cherry Orchard Recreation Ground. There are approximately 30,000 individual trees on these sites. To effectively manage these trees on a cyclical basis additional funding would be required.

Park and open space tree priorities (POS):

- POS 1. To develop a minimal cyclical management plan with allocated funding to support operations.
- POS 1.2 To ensure that trees are fully integrated within management and improvement plans for Parks and open spaces.
- POS 1.3 To commence a replacement program that incorporates a diverse range of tree species and where appropriate, to re-establish historic landscapes.

6.5 Woodland

The County of Cambridgeshire is one of the least wooded in the country with a coverage of only 1.9 %. That within the Peterborough area is up to approx. 3%. A considerable proportion of this is ancient semi-natural woodland which represents a valuable wildlife and landscape resource.

The City Council owns six ancient woods, managing Grimeshaw Wood (inc. Highlees Spinney), Pocock's Wood in Bretton and leasing the others to Nene Park Trust and Woodland Trust. These areas amount to approximately 27 hectares and have attracted the designation of Local Nature Reserves.

The typical composition of local ancient woodland is Oak, Ash and Field Maple, traditionally managed as coppice with standards for timber production. Such management ceased early last century and many woods have either become neglected or used for commercial forestry.

A new woodland management plan is required that will detail work prescriptions for the next 20 years and long term objectives to sustain them for the next 50. Neglect over the last 75 years in addition to close proximity of new urbanity has taken its toll. To implement a new woodland management plan additional resources are required.

The management plan would set a strategy ensuring preservation of integrity and that operations would be sensitive to matters of ecology and sustainability. In drawing this up extensive consultation would be required with local and regional groups. The plan would not only conform to the UK Forestry Standard but also assist with applications for grants from the English Woodland Grant Scheme.

Woodland policy and priorities

Policy CW 1:

The Council will aim at sustainability in the management of its woodlands as determined by guidance within a revised Woodland management Plan.

Priorities:

- CW 1.1 To maintain continuous tree cover and manage the woods towards sustainability.
- CW 1.2 To make provision for public access.
- CW 1.3 To maintain woodland boundaries, combat fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviour.
- CW 1.4 To improve the range of habitats with the woods.

- CW 1.5 To increase biodiversity, and control invasive species.
- CW 1.6 To preserve the historic features in the woods.
- CW 1.7 To increase the amount of standing and fallen deadwood where this does not compromise safety.
- CW 1.8 To provide educational opportunities.
- CW 1.9 Restore coppice interspersed with standards.
- CW 1.10 Encourage suitable natural regeneration.

6.6 Urban Woods

The areas originally classified as shelterbelts were planted by the Development Corporation in the 1970's and 80's as part of the landscape master plan. As time has passed the function of this planting has shifted and today the title of urban woods is more appropriate. These woodlands cover a total area of 250 hectares and have approximately 400 miles of boundary alongside roads, residential, commercial and industrial premises.

These trees are a mix of natives, those naturalised and shrub species that provide woodland like settings. The mix is predominantly made up of fast growing species which are now maturing. Components of the Development Corporation management plan were implemented but the time has come for a new management plan to direct operations in the light of the current urban woodland content and condition in 2010. Such a revision would support application to the English Woodland Grant Scheme and the Forestry Commission.

Serious neglect due to lack of funding is now badly affecting these urban woods, their quality and ability to fulfil two of their intended functions, notably to act as visual and sound deadening barriers. Neglected woodlands become difficult to manage in a sensitive or cost effective manner.

Policy UW 1:

The Council will manage the urban woods towards sustainability in accordance with the objectives and guidance set out in a revised Urban Woodland Management Plan.

Priorities:

- UW 1.1 To manage the woodlands on towards sustainability.
- UW 1.2 To manage the woods to provide continuous woodland cover.
- UW 1.3 To maintain and enhance landscape amenity.
- UW 1.4 To increase biodiversity and maximise wildlife habitats.
- UW 1.5 To provide opportunities for improved access and recreation.
- UW 1.6 To protect and preserve archaeological and cultural features.
- UW 1.7 To include measures that can assist with adaptation to climate change.
- UW 1.8 To identify potential new sites for woods and encourage their creation adjoining existing woods and where appropriate making full use of natural regeneration.
- UW 1.9 Replacement trees to be established by natural regeneration and enrichment planting.

Policy UW 2:

The Council will encourage community involvement, endeavouring to consult with residents when work is proposed and seek to address the problems of anti-social behaviour in urban woods.

Priorities:

- UW 2.1 A protocol for communicating work need and to be a good neighbour ensuing work is undertaken in a manner sensitive to the wishes and aspirations of residents.
- UW 2.2 To encourage public appreciation, recreational use, enjoyment and community involvement.

UW 2.3 Introduce measures to control vandalism, unauthorised tipping, the dumping of waste and litter and resident encroachment.

6.7 Village and Rural Trees

Many of the trees in the villages and rural areas are privately owned. In spite of this the Council still has responsibility for a significant proportion which total approximately 5000. These trees being on average approximately 200 years old are amongst the oldest managed by the Authority.

Locally, Elm was one of the most important trees. When Dutch Elm Disease struck this dominant hedgerow tree was lost. Considerable areas of relatively denuded landscape have not been replaced, particularly within areas of more intensive farming. To this day there remains a reliance upon Elm regeneration that exists within a continual state of growth followed by disease related decline. Planting of Ash or Oak would lessen dependency within the landscape upon this regeneration.

Distinctive village scenes can be maintained and enhanced by planting trees that originally generated such landscapes. In places this could mean selecting non native stock so as to stay with the original theme.

Age related risks of village trees and their close proximity to property necessitates that funding be identified for bi annual inspections to be followed by a programme of works based upon the findings, this followed by production of cyclical management plans. To date only a small proportion of trees alongside rural roads have been identified and inspected. These trees should be brought into cyclical management without delay so that the City Council can demonstrate duty of care.

Village and rural tree policies and priorities (VR):

Policy VR 1:

The Council will preserve and enhance the distinctiveness of village and rural trees.

Priorities:

VR 1.1 To complete surveying operations and introduce a management cycle of no greater than three years.

VR 1.2 To replace all trees which are removed in these areas

VR 1.3 To replant using suitable native trees except where this would result in loss of familiar vernacular.

6.8 New and Replacement Planting

Trees have a finite life expectancy that varies from flowering Cherry at approx 35 years to Yew that can live for 1000 years. Stress associated with the urban environment significantly reduces life spans. Surveys and inspections in the city have revealed the fact that large numbers of trees in the medium term and therefore even more so in the long term, are totally unsuitable for their locations. The present strategy requires that each tree removed is to be replaced. Constraints on resources only allows this to happen at high profile locations resulting in a year on year net reduction in trees numbers.

The great majority of enquiries and demands for service result from an initial inappropriate choice of species. The Development Corporation (DC) had the task of "greening the city " and this directed selection. The task was achieved but in terms of longevity the entire situation has moved on. Now and into the future the greatest cost savings in tree management can be realised by strict observance of the philosophy:

"Right Tree in the Right Place"

This should be followed every time a new or replacement tree is selected and planted so as to minimise problems of trees growing too tall or broad, associated loss of light, dropping of berries or leaves falling into gutters etc. Numerous short lived Cherry trees as planted by the DC, are coming to the ends of their lives. Quick, cheap and cheerful these trees are going to be missed but in terms of longevity, surface rooting tendencies and nuisance fruit fall, were an inappropriate choice. Trees were planted in some locations that were never really suitable for anything so consideration perhaps should now be given to spending money on stepping up specifications promoting establishment of fewer newly planted trees rather than focusing so heavily on numbers.

Within residential areas available space is a critical consideration. Adherence to Right Tree in the Right Place framework will ensure new planting is appropriately designed and located. Direction for tree and location selection is set out briefly in Appendix 4 "Right Tree in the Right Place Framework".

In some parts of the city there is minimal public open space resulting in a low number of trees. Those present are often privately owned. The Council could consider giving carefully selected trees to owner occupiers to make good this deficiency

Tree planting is an activity that residents can get involved with. At the same time the importance of watering, weeding and revisiting stakes and ties has to be acknowledged. Involvement should be encouraged as it significantly increases tree survival rates and creates a sense of ownership.

New and replacement tree priorities (NRP):

Priorities:

- NRP 1. To develop a detailed Right Tree in the Right Place framework for guiding tree selection on existing Council sites as well as for observation within the planning process..
- NRP 1.1 The Council will plant appropriate new and replacement trees To ensure that the current extent of tree coverage is maintained.
- NRP 1.2 To incorporate aftercare into all maintenance programmes.
- NRP 1.3 Formulate a planting program with greatest priority given to appropriate sites in deprived communities, key transport corridors and gateways, large open spaces with little existing natural vegetation and finally areas within new developments in this order.
- NRP 1.4 Recognise local distinctiveness when selecting and planting trees
- NRP1.5 Encourage community involvement, commemorative and sponsored planting schemes on Council land.
- NRP1.6 Use planning conditions within Section 106 Agreements to secure

funding for tree planting and subsequent establishment operations.

6.9 Other Sites

The city has many other trees within school grounds, churchyards, cemeteries, crematoria and other premises. Schools contain a significant number of prominent trees offering a huge educational resource.

Whilst there has been an assessment of the trees at schools a cyclical management program is still absent. There are approximately 3,000 trees on education sites managed by the Council and an unknown number at grant maintained locations. Initial work needs to be extended so as to bring all trees into a management program.

Trees within churchyards, cemeteries and crematoria are highly prominent, enhancing the distinctiveness of their location as well as being part of the local history. Bretton Crematorium was built in ancient woodlands and so the trees very much set the tone, especially being situated next to Pococks Wood.

At the moment these trees are not covered by a management programme. They are amongst the oldest trees in the city and those that carry the greatest level of risk but have yet to be entered into a schedule for cyclical works.

Other site priorities (OS):

Priorities:

- OS 1. To fund completion of surveys from which appropriate inspection and maintenance cycles will be determined.
- OS 1.1 To survey trees and woods for additions to the register of landmark trees.

6.10 Landmark Trees

Trees and woods offer a sense of permanence. Old woods and veteran trees are good indicators of an areas' past. However, with age comes the highest degree of risk and vulnerability to changing site conditions. It is important that veterans are identified and carefully managed to ensure their risk is minimised.

Landmark tree policy and priorities (LT):

Policy LT 1:

The Council will preserve and protect the trees on the landmark register.

Priorities:

LT 1.1 To continue to survey trees and woods so as to find and then register all landmark trees.

LT 1.2 to extend the resources available to ensure that all landmark trees can be adequately maintained.

7 PRIVATE TREES

Many notable trees within the city grow in private gardens. The majority of land owners take a positive view of their trees and are aware of the grant aid schemes and sources of advice to pay for maintenance works. There is potential for further planting and schemes to promote this in order to assist with greening of the city.

As the Local Planning Authority the Council has a statutory duty to protect trees of greatest amenity value. This section sets out the City Council's approach to the protection of privately owned trees.

Private tree and wood general policies (PT)

Policy PG 1

The Council will ensure that trees and woodlands are protected and developed.

Priorities

PT 1.1 To utilise and enforce planning powers to retain and protect trees through TPO's and conservation area status

PT 1.2 To comment and advise on strategy and other initiatives which affect trees and woods.

Policy PT 2

The Council will respond to tree issues within planning applications in such a way that ensures the retention of good quality tree and woodland coverage or ensures its creation.

Priorities

PT 2.1 To be guided by best practice for a consistent approach to reviewing planning applications.

PT 2.2 To consider prosecution when conditions of consent are breached or there are breaches of TPO's or the requirements of Conservation Area regulations.

PT 2.3 Trees and Woods be given significant consideration within planning applications, requiring submission of Arboricultural Impact Assessments and location plans.

PT 2.4 When granting permission set conditions for the retention, protection, planting and care of trees.

PG 2.5 Utilise commuted sums associated with Section 106 Agreements to fund the long term care of trees. To utilise and enforce planning powers to retain and protect existing trees threatened by new development including proposals for changes to existing properties.

Policy PT 3

The outright removal of trees and woods shall be resisted unless there are sound arboricultural or technical reasons to do otherwise.

Priorities

PG 3.1 To protect trees of amenity value.

Policy PG4

The Council will promote awareness and better understanding of tree and woodland management through use of community consultation and involvement.

Priorities

PT 4.1 To promote good standards of tree and woodland care.

PT 4.2 To encourage owners of notable trees that are worthy of

protection to adopt best practices for tree care.

PT 4.3 To set up a tree warden scheme to reach and encourage volunteers and educate same with active involvement in trees.

PG 4.4 To prepare and circulate code of practice for (1) pre-application guidance and (2) working on development sites where proposals have potential impact.

Policy PT 5

The Council will encourage new and replacement tree and wood planting, using appropriate tree species.

Priorities

PT 5.1 To require developers to submit details of tree species and numbers within their proposals.

PT 5.2 To promote tree and wood planting where it is considered this will enhance general amenity.

PT 5.3 To encourage actions that will increase woodland cover in the locality.

7.1 Trees and Development

The growth of Peterborough's population and economy provides a great opportunity for a strategic approach to tree and woodland planting. There are a number of initiatives to enhance the natural environment. They all offer opportunity to increase tree and woodland cover but each one has its own agenda and priorities. Efforts should be made to secure their coordination and compatibility.

Economic activity and future development will bring into being attractive green residential and business environments. Developers will be key players in the majority of land use changes. As such they need to respect existing trees and where appropriate, incorporate tree planting within new developments.

Use should be made of planning conditions and Section 106 Agreements to secure funding to pay for landscape enhancement and tree management. Long term management plans will be required along with stated lump sums allocated to them.

Development proposals and their potential threats to existing trees are responsible for triggering the majority of new TPO's. Plans are often submitted indicating trees for retention that are in such poor condition that they are barely worthy of this cover.

Proposals to construct extensions onto existing buildings potentially takes building lines ever closer to boundary trees, resulting in conflict if this impact is not detected at the application stage and accommodated.

Developers often assume that all trees on a site will have to be retained and consequently view trees as a hindrance rather than an asset. It is still common for planning applicants to submit inadequate details to support the decision making process regarding trees in relation to proposed development. This requires more officer time and expense.

The extent of tree protection is frequently below that it should be during development and measures to accommodate construction can fall short. To ensure that trees are successfully retained it is vital that the root system is properly protected from direct and indirect damage and hence the need for reference to British Standard 5837 "Trees in Relation to Construction".

Tree and Development policies (TD)

Policy TD 1

The Council will reject development proposals with inadequate provision for the retention of trees and woods.

Priorities:

TD 1.1 To utilise and enforce planning powers to retain and protect existing trees within new development as well as trees threatened by proposed changes to existing properties.

TD 1.2 To monitor and enforce planning conditions of consent. where necessary.

7.2 Protecting Trees

So as to support the proactive use of orders as well as the necessity to reappraise the value of old orders funding is required to pay for officer time. This time can also be applied to enforcing statutory powers applicable to Conservation Areas or offering advice to tree owners on how best to look after their property and avoid inappropriate pruning etc.

The implementation of statutory restrictions on the rights of landowners is always a potential source of conflict. However, many of our finest trees and woodlands would not be here today if such protection had not been applied.

The quality of private tree care is variable. Some owners are indifferent and some motivated but poorly advised. Greatest contributions come from tree owners who take pride in their trees, seek the best advice and engage quality contractors to implement work.

Statutory Protection.

In accordance with the duty as set out in the Town and Country Planning Act the Council will incorporate policies relating to Trees and Woodlands within its Local Plan through the review process.

There are over 350 TPO's and 29 Conservation Areas. Pressure from development could best be dealt with by a pro-active use of TPO's. However, limited resources prevent this from happening and so TPO's tend to be used reactively when a threat to the retention of a tree is identified.

Since 2007 the Council has prioritised and reviewed many of the older TPO's. This process has now halted due to a lack of resources.

Working on trees protected by Orders or within Conservation Areas places a duty on the tree owner to apply for permission from the Council for consent to undertake the work. The Council has a duty to respond to these applications within 8 or 6 weeks respectively.

Protection through Advice.

Free advice is given by the City Council and is seen as an important contribution to the general protection of trees. When advice is sought in conjunction with planning applications and TPO's this enables the provision of an efficient and cost effective service.

Arboriculture is an established technical discipline in which qualifications at various levels are available. Ongoing research continually changes the technical competence requirements of professionals and hence the public should seek out a reliable source for advice and look for membership of appropriate professional bodies.

There are a large number of people with poor technical abilities who carry out tree surgery work. This can lead to poor results for the tree as well as its owner. There are only a few reputable companies capable of working to British Standard 3998, 1989, operating in the Peterborough area. This factor alone results in unnecessarily damaged to trees in the form of unsuitable and unsympathetic "pruning".

The Arboricultural Association produces a list of contractors and consultants who have been examined and found to reach the required standard. More local assessment and advice is required.

Private protecting trees policies (PP)

Policy PP 1

There will be a presumption against the cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of any protected tree. The Council will not give consent to fell a protected tree or woodland unless it is satisfied that this is necessary and justified. Any such consent will be conditional upon appropriate replacement.

Priorities:

PP 1.1 The Council will continue to protect significant trees.

PP 1.2 Consent for works will be provided if the Council is satisfied that the long term health and appearance of the tree is not impaired.

- PP 1.3 The work does not unjustifiably inhibit or prevent the full and natural development of the tree.
- PP 1.4 The work is necessary for the continued retention of the tree.
- PP 1.5 The work is consistent with good arboricultural practice.
- PP 1.6 The work is consistent with sound woodland management.
- PP 1.7 To maintain records of TPO's and complete the appraisal of older TPO's. Where necessary revoke old Orders and serve new.
- PP 1.8 To develop an internet based system for inspection of TPOs and the making of applications to carry out works to protected trees.
- PP 1.9 Consider TPO's for all appropriate trees on land no longer the responsibility of the Council.

8 IMPLEMENTATION

To secure the long term health of the region's trees and woodlands the philosophy of the right tree in the right place must be widely understood. This will enable national, regional and local policy to be implemented to best effect.

Key to supporting this strategy will be resources. Delivery of the direction will require local interpretation and setting of priorities, the latter to be based upon assessment of local need, available resources and whole landscape consideration.

It is not possible to anticipate every situation and therefore whilst these policies guide decisions they should not be considered totally prescriptive. Individual policy should not be considered in isolation but all relevant policies should be taken into account when reaching a decision.

Allied to this document is the need for a Supplementary Action Plan to co-ordinate the priorities and available resources.

Many different departments and agencies potentially have an interest in the benefits of this strategy and can affect its delivery. The Action Plan will indicate from where major contributions are sought from others and where the strategy is likely to assist them to determine their own priorities.

The policies will assist the Council in making strategic decisions on development and growth, economic planning, developing sustainable communities and direct asset management. Increasing the inclusiveness of local communities in these issues will be important, both for decision making, but also for active participation in management. Private owners should be encouraged and advised of the wider importance of their trees and woods and be involved in partnerships.

Partnerships will greatly assist the Council to identify and secure external funding and sponsorship, and contribute to achieving the aim and objectives of the strategy. The English Woodland Grant Scheme as well as the Forestry Commission are two organisations that can be approached in the making of applications for funding.

8.1 Measures of Success

Implementing this strategy will lead to greater operational activity in tree and wood management. Equally, it will increase an appreciation and understanding of trees and woods.

To evaluate the impact of the strategy and decide how to act and revise the priorities a range of indicators of the present state, and trends over time are needed. These indicators should include: extent, condition, management, use and an assessment of their contribution to quality of life.

Outcome indicators relevant to the strategic objectives are as follows:

Reducing the cost of insurance claims year on year.

Reducing the number of emergency call outs to damaged or failed trees

8.2 Strategy Review

This strategy is an evolution of the 1998 Tree and Woodland Strategy. It updates that strategy and reflects the Council's key responsibilities to manage its own tree stock, to protect trees of amenity value and to secure new tree and woodland planting as the city grows.

There should be annual progress reviews to facilitate budgeting and allocation of resources. More detailed reviews at five year intervals could examine policies, aims and objectives, all of which could then be changed or adjusted if required.

The formation of a Tree Forum is recommended, this to meet twice a year and represent both the Council and community groups.

9 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Policies for Council owned trees and woods

General policies (CTWG); applicable to all Council trees and woods.

CTWG 1: The Council will ensure that the tree and woodland populations are protected, their establishment directed and where appropriate, expanded.

CTWG 2: The Council will maintain its trees and woods in accordance with its Obligations to observe duty of care and the safety of both people and property .

CTWG 3: The Council will maintain its trees and woodlands in such a way that demonstrates best practice, providing worthy examples for others to follow.

CTWG 4: The removal of trees and woods shall be resisted unless there are sound arboricultural or pressing social reasons to indicate otherwise.

CTWG5 The Council will encourage a better understanding of tree and wood management and in so doing, promote community involvement.

CTWG6 The Council will encourage new and replacement planting, placing great emphasis on use of appropriate tree species.

Street tree policy (ST)

ST1: To endeavour to protect street trees from threats such as loss of verges and damage to same.

ST 2: To place a priority on the replacement of ageing street trees, particularly where these adjoin major traffic routes. To ensure selection of the largest growing varieties up to the limitations of the available space.

Woodland policy (CW)

CW 1: The Council will aim at sustainability in the management of its woodlands as determined by guidance within a revised Woodland Management Plan.

Urban Woods (UW)

UW 1: The Council will manage the urban woods towards sustainability, in accordance with the objectives and guidance set out in a revised Urban Woodland Management Plan.

UW 2: The Council will encourage community involvement, endeavouring to consult with residents when work is proposed and will seek to address the problems of anti-social behaviour in urban woods.

Village and rural tree policy (VT):

VR 1: The Council will preserve and enhance the distinctiveness of village and rural trees.

Landmark tree policy and priorities (LT):

LT 1: The Council will preserve and protect the trees on the landmark register.

Appendix 2: Policies for Privately owned trees and woods

General policies (PT) applicable to ALL Private trees and woods

- PT 1 The Council will ensure that the trees and woodlands are protected and developed.
- PT 2 The Council will respond to tree issues within planning applications in such a way that ensures the retention of good quality tree and woodland coverage, or its creation.
- PT 3 The outright removal of trees and woods shall be resisted unless there are sound arboricultural or technical reasons to do otherwise.
- PT 4 The Council will promote awareness and better understanding of tree and woodland management through use of community consultation and involvement.
- PT 5 The Council will encourage new and replacement tree and wood planting, using appropriate tree species.

Tree and Development policies (TD)

- TD 1 The Council will reject development proposals with inadequate provision for the retention of trees and woods.

Protecting Private trees policies (PP)

- PP 1 There will be a presumption against the cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of any protected tree. The Council will not give consent to fell a protected tree or woodland unless it is satisfied that this is necessary and justified. Any such consent will be conditional upon appropriate replacement.

Appendix 3: Service Request Responses

Daylight Loss

Action will normally only be considered where the separation between the tree and the window of the nearest habitable room is less than 6m for trees with a height of over 12m, or less than half the height of the tree for smaller trees, or where the separation between the edge of the canopy and a vertical line through that window is less than 2m.

A 'habitable room' means a dining room, lounge, kitchen, study or bedroom but specifically excludes WCs, bathrooms, utility rooms, landings and hallways.

Where a situation falls within these guidelines cases will be prioritised according to proximity and account will also be taken of the orientation of the affected window. Further consultation may modify initial decisions. Opinions expressed by the community will be taken into account and hence will influence operational instructions.

Direct Root Damage

As with subsidence, cases of direct root damage will be considered on an individual basis. A balance will be struck between the nuisance experienced by individuals and the benefits offered by the tree to the wider community.

Drain Blockage

Trees do not have the capacity to break into a sound drain, but they will ruthlessly exploit any existing fault. The removal of one tree will not prevent other vegetation from exploiting the same opportunity.

The Council's presumption is that the appropriate way to deal with tree root blockage of drains is to ensure that the drains are watertight. Accordingly, the Council will not normally take action in response to complaints that Council managed trees are blocking drains

Honeydew

As with leaves, honeydew is not readily controllable by pruning. Certain trees such as Lime are more prone to producing this than others and in many respects it may be best to tackle honeydew with a routine cleansing response. Pruning will not normally be regarded as correct response to honeydew and will certainly not be the sole way of alleviating such problems.

Leaves, Seeds and Fruit

Leaves and seeds are carried freely on the wind and are beyond the control of the Council. The presumption is that residents will be prepared to remove saplings, clear leaves from pathways and gutters and remove small twigs that have landed within their gardens. Pruning will not normally be undertaken to attempt to reduce the fall of leaves, seeds or fruit.

Obstruction of the Highway

The Council will seek to maintain adequate clearance of the highway relative to the type of traffic using that route. Complaints about low branches over the highway will be investigated and dealt with promptly.

Obstruction of street lights and road signs

The Council will endeavour to ensure that trees under their management do not obscure road signs or prevent street lamps from illuminating the highway.

The purpose of street lamps is to illuminate the public highway and where adequate illumination of the highway is present, the Council will not normally take action to improve the levels of illumination of private property.

Safety

Where there is a clear and foreseeable threat to the personal safety of residents or to property emanating directly from the condition of a tree, action will be taken to minimise that risk.

Indirect risk such as slippery leaves on pavements will only be dealt with through pruning in unusual circumstances and where no other options are available.

The presentation of unfounded fear of a tree to an informed judgement will not normally result in action to prune the tree.

Subsidence

Tree related subsidence damage is a complex issue and each case will be considered on an individual basis.

Where damage has occurred the Council will require that adequate assessment and monitoring is undertaken to demonstrate that the tree is involved and that such evidence be submitted in support of any request for action.

Requests for action based on an unquantifiable possibility of damage occurring at an unspecified time in the future will not be considered unless there other overriding reasons to take action.

Television and other radio equipment

There is no right to good reception and in many cases it is possible to resolve issues of tree related poor reception by finding an engineering solution. The Council will only consider requests to prune trees to improve reception after all the following conditions have been met:

- Efforts have been made to find an engineering solution to the problem and have not been successful.
- The work required is consistent with good arboricultural practice and will not unduly affect the amenity or health of the tree.
- The work required can be executed within current financial constraints.

Appendix 4: Right Tree in the Right Place Framework.

Landscape Impact

- Consider the existing use of the space and question whether the presence of trees would be a positive addition?
- Identify the landscape type and what constraints this will place on the selection of species.
- Examine existing habitats so as to assess their compatibility with additional trees and woodlands and therefore the latter's ability to add value.
- Establish the history of tree cover to determine whether new additions would be appropriate.

Site Constraint

- Maintain local distinctiveness.
- Consider the presence of underground and overhead services.
- Meet the statutory safety requirements of access for pedestrians and vehicles.
- Assess impact on the nearest buildings to be sure that future potential problems can be minimised, particularly subsidence.
- Prioritise sites to where greatest public benefit can be realised.

Species Consideration

- Select species known to thrive on the soil type, its compaction, nutrients and available water.
- Consider space available relative to size of tree at maturity unless the tree is destined for controlled management such as coppicing or pollarding.
- Select the largest growing species the site will reasonably accommodate.
- Consider use of natural regeneration where appropriate.
- Where possible use native species.
- Maintain diversity within the tree population.
- Consider the species tolerance to disease and wind damage.
- Consider potential nuisance of fruit fall in the autumn, slippery paths and associated requests for service to deal with problems.

**Community
Consideration**

- Consider potential impact on neighbours.
- Consult with local community prior to introducing new large scale planting.

Appendix 5: References

Arboricultural Association 2005, "Tree Surveys: Guide to Good practice"
British Standard 3998 "Tree Work"
British Standard 5837 "Trees in Relation to Construction"
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
DEFRA 2007, "A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests"
Department of Environment 1973, "Circular 90/73 Inspection, Maintenance and Planting of Roadside Trees on Rural Roads"
Department of Environment 1975 "Circular 52/75 Inspection of Highway Trees"
Department of Environment 1978, "Circular 36/78 Trees and Forestry"
DETR 2000, "Tree Preservation Orders, Guide to the Law and Good Practice"
Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
Health and Safety Executive 2007, "Management of Risk from Falling Trees"
Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
Peterborough City Council 1998, "Tree and Woodland Strategy"
Peterborough City Council 2005, "Growing the Right Way"
Peterborough City Council 2006, "Climate Change Strategy"
Peterborough City Council 2006, "Management of Ancient Woods"
Peterborough City Council 2006, "Peterborough Open Space Strategy"
Peterborough City Council 2007, "A Place for People to Grow"
Peterborough City Council 2007, "Urban Woods Management Plan"
Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999
Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Woodland Trust 2002, "Woods for People"

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
4 NOVEMBER 2010	Public Report

Report of the Commercial Services Director

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THE PROVISION OF PLAY FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – THE PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME AND THE PLAYING FIELD REPORT (GREEN SPACE) PLUS OPEN SPACE INITIATIVES

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update about the play area improvement programme, plus information about play improvement and refurbishment works which have been completed since the last report in March 2009. Also, to inform Members about projects which are scheduled to be completed by April 2011.
- 1.2 The report also informs Members about playing field provision within the Council's green spaces including, recommendations for the future. Plus, information pertaining to the design, development, maintenance and management of PCC green space (including developers S106 obligations).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members, continue to support the play area improvement programme and approve the current plan for play improvement works.
- 2.2 That Members support the 'Engaging the Community in Play' initiative.
- 2.3 That Members, support the continued development and improvement of PCC green space and recreation facilities for use by, the community.
- 2.4 That members support engagement with Planning to secure well designed and welcoming public open space to sustain new developments.
- 2.5 That Members support the investigation and progression of devolved management regimes, by the community, for both Cuckoos Hollow and Holywell Ponds.
- 2.6 That Members support the continuing review of public open space provision, management and maintenance, including allotments, play and playing pitches and updating documents and action plans pertaining to these services.
- 2.7 That Members support linking open space policy to other policy areas, for example, Planning, Health, Transport and Biodiversity.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Children's play helps make the City a better place in which to learn and work, and supports the agenda for learning and ensuring that children are safe. Play areas can create a vibrant local centre which are attractive and which are expected to be used and visited by pedestrians from

the local catchment area rather, than individuals using private transport. The vision of the City's play strategy produced in March 2007 continues to be:

“The health and well being of Peterborough’s children and young people will be improved by imaginative and dynamic play provision and management of spaces and opportunities for play”.

This links to National Indicator, NI 199 (Children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas DCSF DSO) the rationale of this indicator being 'to ensure that local authorities invest in safe and stimulating play facilities, leading to an increase in satisfaction (and take-up amongst children) in local authorities'.

3.2 The Department of Education has funded a new Play England initiative called the 'Engaging Communities in Play Programme'. This new programme aims to **'increase the involvement of community and voluntary groups in shaping local play opportunities, especially in relation to the play areas delivered through the play pathfinder and Playbuilder capital programmes'**.

3.3 The Peterborough Play Partnership (PPP) was formed in 2007 to steer the action points for improving play areas in Peterborough, detailed in the 2007 Play Strategy. Improving Peterborough's play areas via the action points in the 2007 Play Strategy, was driven forward and funded by the Playbuilder initiative. Responsibility for steering and leading the PPP group now sits with the City Services' Recreation Team and it is anticipated that the PPP will consider and construct policies for engaging with the Engaging Communities in Play programme.

3.4 In September 2006, ATKINS, delivered an open space report to Peterborough, the vision for PCC green space is:

“To encourage a diverse network of sustainable open space of high quality which meets the needs of those living and working within the City and encourages the development of more inclusive communities, safeguards natural resources and cultural heritage, provides recreational and educational opportunities and helps to promote sustainable development”.

3.5 Whilst no National Indicators govern green space, welcoming, well maintained green space can contribute towards adherence to a plethora of NIs. Examples include, NI3 – civic participation in local area, NI13 – healthy life expectation at age 65, NI110 – young peoples' participation in positive activities and NI8 – adult participation in sport plus NIs which address health and obesity concerns.

3.6 In October 2010, the National Indicator Set was replaced by one comprehensive list for measuring performance. However, the objectives of the NI Sets for example 'healthy life expectancy at 65' remain important and pertinent to green space.

4. BACKGROUND - PLAY

4.1 In 2003 Peterborough was found to have an oversupply of play facilities in comparison with other similar Authorities. However, at that time, only 5% of play facilities met National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) minimum standards. At that time there were 330 designated play areas within Peterborough. It is fair to say that the arrangements in place at that time supported quantity over quality and many of the “doorstep” play areas (LAPs) were inadequate rather than safe. As a result of this Members agreed that the Council would consolidate its play area provision to create high quality neighbourhood facilities which provide safe but stimulating play opportunities for children; we continue to do this.

4.2 The play area improvement programme was identified as a corporate priority and was registered with the Programme and Project Management Team. Funding for these schemes was provided through a number of sources, the main funding being from Section 106 developer

contributions, Big Lottery Fund, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Playbuilder initiative and the Council's capital resources.

- 4.3 Since 2007 the play area improvement programme has delivered 57 new and refurbished play areas.
- 4.4 In August 2008, the Council received confirmation that it had received £1.1 million funding from the DCSF Playbuilder programme. Over a two year period 15 new and refurbished play area projects have been successfully delivered; £720K of Playbuilder funding enabled these works. These have become flourishing play areas which have greatly improved the community value of the Council's green space and play facilities. The play improvement projects have provided innovative and stimulating play areas using contemporary play equipment and inclusive landscaping to encourage creative and physically demanding play.
- 4.5 In June 2010 funding for the DCSF Playbuilder programme was withdrawn by the coalition government whilst they carried out a review of the various grants that had been made.
- 4.6 In October 2010 confirmation was received from the Home Office and Department of Education that two-thirds of the withdrawn Playbuilder funding would be re-allocated. Peterborough City Council will receive £274,043.75 for this financial year 2010/2011 but no further funding will come from the Playbuilder funding initiative and the programme will end in March 2011. However, this will enable a further four play improvement projects to be developed and completed (see Appendix 1).
- 4.7 As this report is being prepared and presented to Members, a comprehensive audit of the Council's green space play assets has been undertaken and the data is currently being analysed. This will provide new and up-to-date data about the condition of PCC play areas to facilitate updating the 2007 play strategy and describing new action points for delivering further improvement works. The audit will also enable improved processes for managing and maintaining play areas which fall within the Authority's responsibility.
- 4.8 Members have previously accepted the rationale for prioritising improvement works using the following criteria:
- Level and quality of provision in each Ward with NPFA standards
 - Level of the Risk Assessment for each site
 - Play value of play areas and comparison with recognised play standards
 - Availability of resources

The recent play asset audit will underpin the programming and delivery of play improvement projects for several years.

- 4.9 Play area improvement works completed since 2007 and scheduled for delivery by April 2011 include:

Completed	Scheduled for completion by April 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dell – Fletton – PCC capital • Oakdale Avenue – Stanground Central – PCC capital • Werrington Recreation Ground – Werrington South – PCC capital • Hodgson Avenue – Werrington North – S106 • Ambleside Gardens – Werrington South – PCC capital • William Law School (duel use) – Werrington North – PCC capital & CLF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluebell Avenue – DCSF Playbuilder • The Dell – PCC capital • Russell St – PCC capital • Braybrook – PCC capital • Hoylake Drive – 3 stock items to be added - PCC capital • Fletton Rec – 2 stock items to be added - S106 • Appleyard – 2 stock items to be added - PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maxey Parish Field – Northborough – PCC capital • Northborough Parish Field – Northborough – S106 • Beckingham – Orton Longueville – PCC capital • Botolph Green - Orton Longueville – S106 • Oakleigh Drive - Orton Longueville – S106 • Longthorpe Memorial Hall – West – S106 • Watergall- Bretton North – PCC Capital • Turrington - Bretton South – PCC Capital • Quorn Close – Newborough – S106 • Cleve Place -Thorney and Eye – S106 • Little Close -Thorney and Eye – S106 • Thorney Park - Thorney and Eye – PCC Capital • Crabtree – Paston – Big Lottery • Morris/Wellington Street – East – PCC Capital • Bishops Road – East – PCC Capital • Henshaw, Parnwell – East - Fairshare • Saltersgate, Parnwell – East - Fairshare • Heron Park- Parnwell – East - Fairshare • Central Park – Park – S106 • Itter Park – Walton – PCC Capital/CLF • Walton Recreation Ground – Walton – PCC Capital • Stanley Recreation ground – Central – Urban 2/S106 • Hobsons Field – Central - Urban 2/S106 • Gunthorpe Recreation Ground – Paston – PCC capital • Cerris Road – Dogsthorpe – S106/GDP • Myrtle Avenue – Dogsthorpe – S106/GDP • SycamoreAvenue – Dogsthorpe – S106/GDP • Fulbridge Road – Dogsthorpe – S106/GDP • Saxby Gardens – Dogsthorpe – S106/GDP • Welland Road Recreation Ground – North – PCC Capital • Woodfield Park – Dogsthorpe – DCSF Playbuilder – complete refurbishment • Orton Wistow School Dual Use - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradwell Road – 2 stock items to be added PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Vermont Grove – 2 stock items to be added PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Buckland Close – 2 stock items to be added PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Tansor Garth – Old equipment to be replaced with stock items PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Baker Park – Gym equipment – S106 • Welland Rd Rec – S106 • Longthorpe – S106 • Thurning Avenue – S106
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<p>Orton Waterville – S106 new items added</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Farm - Stanground East – S106, CLF & residents Group – complete refurbishment • Bluebell Avenue – DCSF Playbuilder • The Dell – PCC capital • Russell St – PCC capital • Braybrook – PCC capital • Hoylake Drive – 3 stock items to be added - PCC capital • Fletton Rec – 2 stock items to be added - S106 • Appleyard – 2 stock items to be added PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Bradwell Road – 2 stock items to be added PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Vermont Grove – 2 stock items to be added PCC Capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Buckland Close – 2 stock items to be added PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Tansor Garth – Old equipment to be replaced with stock items PCC capital – funded out of last year budget but installation held up by supply of safety matting • Baker Park – Gym equipment – S106 • Welland Rd Rec – S106 • Longthorpe – S106 • Thurning Avenue – S106 Fletton Avenue Recreation Ground – Fletton – Playbuilder – complete refurb • Ailsworth Recreation Ground - Glington and Wittering – S106 – complete refurbishment • Glington Recreation Ground - Glington and Wittering – Playbuilder – complete refurbishment • Wittering Parish Field - Glington and Wittering – Playbuilder – complete refurbishment • Gladstone Park – Central – Playbuilder – complete refurbishment • Hampton Court – Ravensthorpe – playbuilder – complete refurbishment • Cranford Drive – Ravensthorpe – S106 new items added • Celta Road Recreation Ground – Fletton – S106 new items added 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapel Street - Stanground Central – S106 new items added • Byron Close - Stanground Central – complete refurb – S106 • Plough Lane – Newborough – S106 new items added • Matley – DCSF Playbuilder • St Johns – DCSF Playbuilder • Ambleside Gardens – DCSF Playbuilder • Leighton – DCSF Playbuilder 	
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Provision for Older Children

4.10 Increasing numbers of facilities have been provided for older children; with a significant number of skate parks, wheeled sports areas and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) designed and built across the city.

4.11 The Council currently has the following facilities for older children:

9 Skate Parks:

Woodfield Park, Welland
 Welland Rd Rec Ground, Dogsthorpe
 Unity Park, Paston
 Werrington
 Bretton Park
 Cleve Place, Eye
 Horseshoe Land, Orton Goldhay
 Whittlesey Rd, Stanground
 Fletton Rec Ground, Oundle Rd,

2 BMX tracks

Herlington, Orton Malborne
 Bretton Park

15 Multi-Use Games Areas:

Fletton Rec Ground
 New England Rec Ground
 Saltersgate, Parnwell
 Swale Avenue, Gunthorpe
 Whittlesey Road, Stanground
 Fulbridge Road, Dogsthorpe
 Hobsons Park, Cromwell Rd
 Woodfield Park, Welland
 Sycamore Avenue Rec, Dogsthorpe
 Manton, South Bretton
 Bluebell Land, Dogsthorpe
 Helpston
 Ailsworth
 Walton Rec Ground
 Unity Park

and the following table shows the facilities completed since January 2007 and those scheduled for completion by April 2011:

Completed	Scheduled for Completion Before April 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulbridge Road Recreation Ground Multi Use Games Area – North • Hobsons Multi Use Games Area – Central • Manton, Multi Use Games Area - South Bretton <p>Big Lottery Fund Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New England Recreation Ground - Floodlighting existing multi-use games area- Central Ward • Fletton Recreation Ground - Floodlighting existing multi-use games area - Fletton • Walton Recreation Ground- Floodlit MUGA - Walton • North Bretton Skate Park- North Bretton, £90,000. £10,000 from Bretton Parish Council, £38,000 from Big Lottery and £52,000 from DCSF (Playbuilder) (JN) <p>Section 106 Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ailsworth Recreation Ground - MUGA and shelter • Stanground Skatepark - £98,000, £50,000 S106. match-funded by Youth Bank Funding scheme. (JN) <p>Residential developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alma Road multi-use games area - Park Ward 	<p>Big Lottery Fund Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celta Road Recreation Ground - MUGA (Pending Planning approval) (JN) <p>Capital Programme Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Werrington concrete skatepark, due to start in October / November 2010 - £90,000 plus £13,000 to go towards lighting from Young Peoples funds. (JN) <p>Big Lottery Fund Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 play sculptures (Rockstakz) funded by the Big Lottery - £45,000. One to be installed on Thurning Avenue Playing Fields, Stanground. The second to be installed on the open space between Bringhurst and Clayton in Orton Goldhay. Both to be installed by mid-October. (JN) <p>Other Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorney Park MUGA, donated by the Council - installation funded by Thorney Parish Council

- 4.12 Facilities for older children are particularly important as many young people feel that there are insufficient opportunities for them; they do not necessarily like structured meeting arrangements such as, youth clubs or, formal organisations. As a result they may gather in areas which are attractive to them, for example, shopping areas, street corners or other public spaces. This assemblage may create concerns about noise, boisterous behaviour or perceptions of threat, particularly for elderly residents who may live in the area. By providing MUGAs and skateparks, often linked to youth shelters (which are covered facilities that allow young people to congregate in inclement weather) then some elements of the sensitivity to nuisance are managed and thus reduced.
- 4.13 A report about PCC playing field provision, with action points, has been prepared (2010) as a requirement for the Building Schools for the Future programme. The report offers valuable insight into how playing field provision should be developed and how PCC should respond to need.
- 4.14 The playing field report highlighted the importance of providing informal five and seven-a-side pitches via PCC green space and suggested that responsibility for the provision and management of formal league pitches should shift to schools.

- 4.15 The playing field report describes the importance of multi-use games areas for providing valuable sports facilities and indicates that the successful provision of recreational facilities in PCC green space is underpinned by flexibility.

5. BACKGROUND – OPEN SPACE/GREEN SPACE

- 5.1 In 2006 an open space report was prepared; however, many of the key data elements contained in the report, describing quality, quantity and need, have become inaccurate as the city and surrounding areas have grown. For example, the report's data for Eye is now out of date because the village has grown; it now lacks sufficient green space to support a growing population and to sustain a new community. These are important issues which will be addressed by working with Planning to ensure that well designed, welcoming, safe and useable open space are delivered as an essential component of new developments.
- 5.2 In recent years increasing work has taken place to ensure that developers' obligations concerning the design and creation of Public Open Space to support new developments and subsequent communities meet the Council's appropriate specification and requirements. Recreation Team officers provide guidance to Planning officers and/or developers to ensure that open space facilities are developed which fulfil the council's Planning policies and developers obligations. Officers have recently advised Planning about the open space element of their new S106 policy document.
- 5.3 The recent work with Planning on S106 obligations shows that a coherent and working Open Space strategy needs to be linked with other policy areas, for example Planning, Transport and Health.
- 5.4 The 2006 Open Space report offered data on play provision and need. This element has been successfully addressed as part of the ongoing play programme.
- 5.5 The 2006 Open Space report offered data on playing pitch provision and need and this has been reviewed and updated in the 2010 Play Field report.
- 5.6 The 2006 Open Space report offered data on allotment provision and need. Since the report was delivered in 2006 the profile of allotments and community food growing has been raised by both the media and government initiatives.
- 5.7 Peterborough City Council has 1,800 plots and a short waiting list.
- 5.8 We are reviewing allotment provision and use and also, opportunities for informal allotment sites and community food growing initiatives.
- 5.9 A complete review of the allotment letting and management process is underway and scheduled for completion by April 2011.
- 5.10 The 2006 report had the following objective –

'to manage open spaces in a way which includes all key stakeholders, and strengthens community 'ownership' of open spaces'
- 5.11 The City Services Recreation Team are working with the Neighbourhood Managers to develop and implement the devolved management (to the community) of two sites; these are Cuckoos Hollow and Holywell Ponds.
- 5.12 The review of open space provision, need and management is a big piece of work which is being broken down into manageable elements for example, play and allotment provision.
- 5.13 The review of all elements of open space provision, need and management is anticipated to take 12-24 months and will overlap with City Services move; the Lot 3 initiative.

6. KEY ISSUES

- 6.1 The key issue for Members to consider is the on-going programme of improvements to existing and prospective play areas and to ensure that all will reach the appropriate standards (challenging, rewarding and inclusive, etc) as the programme continues.
- 6.2 That the 2010 audit of play assets will enable the 2007 action points from the Play Strategy to be reviewed and updated.
- 6.3 That supporting provision of play and recreational facilities for older children and young adults as outlined in paragraph 4.9, reduces anti-social behaviour and encourages the community to use green space facilities.
- 6.4 Inspection and maintenance regimes for existing play areas have been improved as new processes have been developed and put in place. Improved maintenance schedules have been set according to use, condition and budget, plus using informed data from the 2010 play asset audit.
- 6.5 That all elements of open space provision, management and maintenance are reviewed to ensure delivery of socially inclusive green space, meeting the needs of those of every age, gender and ethnic group.
- 6.6 Well designed, welcoming and attractive green space is an integral part of successful urban regeneration and underpins the quality of new developments. Members are asked to consider the importance of Parks, Open Spaces and Trees working with Planning to secure S106 funding to design, create, manage and maintain well used and thriving community green space.
- 6.7 That Members acknowledge the importance of collecting data about green space, play, allotments, playing pitches, the need, provision, maintenance and management, etc, to substantiate and evidence applications for S106 and other funding streams to support improving public open space.
- 6.8 That Members consider and endorse the review of allotment processes to deliver a more efficient and inclusive service.
- 6.9 That in order to develop a coherent open space strategy, Members consider and endorse linking the development, management and use of open space, with other policy areas, for example, Planning, Transport, and Health.

7. IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report does not have any specific financial or legal implications in respect of existing play, allotment or recreational facilities as they are maintained within defined budgets and inspection and maintenance are carried out by, or under the supervision of employees qualified in this area.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation with community groups, Parish Councils, Ward Members and other Departments is an important aspect of the play and open space improvement programme, ensuring that all interested parties are a key part of the design and build process. Each new play area and/or green space improvement project will be developed with community consultation to secure designs which match need. For example, a key component of our skatepark projects is the input of potential users on the design and layout for new skatepark projects.
- 8.2 An important component of the open space review and updating process will be liaison with other policy areas.

9. NEXT STEPS

- 9.1 Officers will continue with the programme for improving existing play and green space facilities and for creating new and well designed amenities in accordance with established policies and using good practice. The next report will be produced in 2011 unless a request is made to produce an update earlier.
- 9.2 Officers will continue to review and update existing green space reports and policies with the vision and objectives to create public open space which meets the needs of users, engages with non-users and sustains and supports the communities living and working in Peterborough.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 10.1
- Peterborough Play Strategy 2007
 - Peterborough Open Space Report 2006
 - Peterborough Playing Field Report 2010

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Play Capital Budget – Letter from the Secretary of State for Education



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0870 0012345 ministers@education.gsi.gov.uk

Chief Executives
Directors of Children's Services

20 October 2010

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to inform you that the exercise to identify savings to the 2010-11 play capital budget has been completed and I can now inform you of your local authority's revised allocation for this financial year (see table at Annex A). This will enable you to make final decisions locally about which play projects should proceed.

I know how important it is that children and families have safe, free local places to play; and the hard work that local authorities are doing to make this a reality. However, the play grant has had to make a contribution to the savings necessary to tackle the budget deficit.

In determining the level of savings, the aim has been to achieve a fair distribution across authorities so that the revised allocations cover expenditure already incurred, contractual commitments and, as affordable, give local authorities headroom to support projects valued locally that are not yet contractually committed.

Based on the information provided by local authorities, I have therefore decided to make a total saving of £20.8m to the original play capital budget of £75m. This means that every local authority will still receive a substantial play capital allocation for 2010-11, whilst ensuring that no contractual commitments have to be broken.

This has been achieved by applying a standard percentage reduction to each local authority's original allocation. The Department is also providing additional funding to cover the value of contractual commitments that local authorities have notified to my officials if these would otherwise exceed the revised allocation.

The Grant Determination Letter for this grant, giving the specific terms and conditions will follow shortly. As you know, the ring-fence attached to this grant has

been removed in order to give you more flexibility to manage your own local budgets.

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for working so diligently with Departmental officials during this exercise.

With every good wish,



MICHAEL GOVE

2010-11 Play capital grant allocations by local authority

	Authorities to which grant is to be paid	Amount of grant to be paid
Wave 2 play pathfinders	Blackpool	£554,327.50
	Cornwall	£553,618.75
	Kirklees	£554,049.00
	Lambeth	£597,131.00
	Luton	£586,598.00
	Merton	£629,237.50
	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	£556,881.25
	Oxfordshire	£862,258.00
	Sandwell	£650,622.50
	Wigan	£632,049.38
Wave 1 Playbuilders	Bolton	£275,131.88
	Brent	£276,295.63
	Bury	£274,111.25
	Calderdale	£274,357.50
	Coventry	£275,007.50
	Croydon	£275,826.88
	Derby City	£274,118.13
	Gateshead	£274,574.38
	Halton	£273,610.63
	Hampshire	£280,410.00
	Islington	£287,883.75
	Lancashire	£483,597.00
	Leicester City	£283,875.63
	Lewisham	£401,363.00
	Lincolnshire	£413,176.00
	Middlesbrough	£455,464.00
	Northamptonshire	£443,700.00
	Northumberland	£440,982.00
	Nottinghamshire	£276,901.88
	* Peterborough *	£274,043.75
	Plymouth	£274,204.38
	Reading	£303,657.00
	Redbridge	£440,979.00
	Sefton	£275,041.25
	Slough	£439,010.00
	Solihull	£275,117.50
	Somerset	£276,011.88

	Southampton	£274,441.88
	Southend-on-Sea	£439,377.00
	Staffordshire	£277,348.75
	Stockton-on-Tees	£439,545.00
	Suffolk	£443,229.00
	Tameside	£273,975.63
	Thurrock	£326,000.00
	Wandsworth	£275,610.00
	Worcestershire	£431,081.00
Wave 2 Playbuilders	Barking & Dagenham	£430,075.00
	Barnet	£373,886.88
	Barnsley	£373,796.25
	Bedford Borough	£333,400.00
	Bexley	£563,000.00
	Birmingham	£387,178.75
	Bournemouth	£371,725.00
	Bracknell Forest	£368,804.38
	Bradford	£379,831.88
	Brighton & Hove	£373,460.63
	Bromley	£371,946.88
	Buckinghamshire	£596,605.00
	Central Bedford	£436,410.00
	Cheshire East	£333,400.00
	Cheshire West & Chester	£333,400.00
	City of Kingston-upon-Hull	£377,511.25
	Cumbria	£576,846.00
	Darlington	£373,696.88
	Derbyshire	£376,947.50
	Devon	£576,000.00
	Doncaster	£376,115.63
	Dorset	£409,819.00
	Durham	£603,579.00
	Ealing	£600,354.00
	Essex	£614,958.00
	Gloucestershire	£510,611.00
	Greenwich	£377,611.88
	Hammersmith & Fulham	£527,259.00
	Haringey	£376,924.38
	Harrow	£595,428.00
	Hartlepool	£462,838.00
	Havering	£371,344.38
	Herefordshire	£387,200.00
	Hertfordshire	£381,070.00
	Hillingdon	£597,163.00

Hounslow	£373,948.13
Isle of Wight	£395,000.00
Kent	£386,331.25
Kingston-upon-Thames	£369,313.13
Leeds	£379,445.00
Leicestershire	£603,850.00
Liverpool	£377,422.50
Manchester	£380,318.13
Medway	£373,618.13
Milton Keynes	£372,135.00
Newham	£379,663.13
Norfolk	£377,716.25
North East Lincolnshire	£373,464.38
North Lincolnshire	£593,382.00
North Somerset	£369,845.00
North Yorkshire	£600,339.00
Oldham	£550,000.00
Poole	£370,140.00
Redcar & Cleveland	£373,885.00
Richmond-upon-Thames	£369,341.88
Salford	£374,346.25
Sheffield	£377,655.00
Shropshire	£371,183.75
South Gloucestershire	£591,574.00
South Tyneside	£374,095.00
Southwark	£379,361.25
St Helens	£372,406.25
Stockport	£593,836.00
Stoke-on-Trent	£375,150.00
Surrey	£379,931.25
Sutton	£592,940.00
Swindon	£403,519.00
Telford & Wrekin	£372,299.38
Torbay	£499,505.00
Trafford	£370,963.75
Wakefield	£374,441.88
Walsall	£374,538.13
Waltham Forest	£375,853.75
Warrington	£573,000.00
Warwickshire	£597,868.00
West Berkshire	£585,671.00
West Sussex	£377,249.38
Westminster	£377,757.50
Wiltshire	£372,235.00

Windsor & Maidenhead	£411,635.00
Wirral	£373,990.63
Wokingham	£367,103.13
York	£371,012.50
City of London	£62,500.00
Isles of Scilly	£80,000.00
Rutland	£62,500.00

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 8
4 NOVEMBER 2010	Public Report

Report of the Commercial Services Director

Contact Officer – Mick Robb, Section Head Waste Management

Contact Details – (01733) 425384

REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF THE CHARGE FOR BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Peterborough City Council withdrew its free bulky waste collection service following a decision taken by Members in February 2010, and a new chargeable service was introduced on 1 April 2010. This report is designed to give an update on the progress of the new scheme and the effects it has had on the service to the public, the service budget and on the general environment.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To scrutinise the impact of the charge for bulky waste collection, including the benefits that are being achieved in respect of the diversion from landfill together with the reduction in the tonnage of flytipping over the last 6 months.
- 2.2 To indicate whether or not any further reports are required in respect of this service.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The bulky collection service contributes to the Council's strategic priority of creating the UK's environment capital in that the new system is enabling the Council to more effectively sort and recycle items being collected from domestic premises. As shown later in the report the amount of bulky items going to landfill has reduced.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The service has traditionally been split into two distinct parts, due to legislation which demands separate treatment of waste electrical equipment (referred to as White Goods) and general waste (referred to as Bulky Waste). These two streams have therefore been collected in different vehicles and are subject to the following separate reports showing the numbers collected over the past 31 months, January 2008 until the end of September 2010.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The old bulky waste collection scheme allowed residents to have one collection per financial year of up to five items, but did not include builder's waste or hazardous waste, although quotes could be given for such materials. The new scheme allows residents to have an unlimited amount of items which were previously free, collected for a one off price of £23.50. Any items which did not qualify for the old free collection service will be removed after a quote has been given by the City Council.
- 5.2 Numbers of requested bulky collections has fallen sharply since the introduction of the new chargeable service, as shown in the tables below:

Bulky collections (Non electrical)

Month	2008	2009	2010
January	754	709	605
February	816	684	802
March	831	1039	1065
April	1300	1144	393*
May	1046	976	188*
June	908	1007	189*
July	933	933	181*
August	841	864	202*
September	852	909	200 *
October	881	799	
November	749	707	
December	634	704	

Totals: 10545 10475 3825
Since 1st April 1353*

White Bulky collections

Month	2008	2009	2010
January	608	612	493
February	601	579	553
March	656	837	805
April	911	917	247*
May	814	709	122*
June	658	784	117*
July	742	732	118*
August	560	630	122*
September	656	628	115 *
October	591	549	
November	520	489	
December	465	474	

Totals: 7782 7940 2692
Since 1st April 841*

- 5.3 Due to the substantial fall in collections, we have been able to redeploy an HGV driver back to the main fleet, and we now use a 7.5 tonne vehicle to carry out the service, with some of the white goods requests being picked up by our WEEE facility collection vehicle.
- 5.4 As individuals now ask for collections of white goods and other household waste only a single charge is levied although for collection records this is separated. The income for the period 1 April to end of September 2010 from bulky collections is £31,834.
- 5.5 One significant benefit of introducing a charging regime for bulky collections is that prior to charges being levied a significant proportion of waste was not presented for collection. Across a year 23% of requests for bulky collections resulted in wasted journeys. The Council wasted time, money and fuel on these non-collections and the numbers have now fallen to 6% and in total this is 50 non-collections as opposed to 881 in the four month period for the previous year.

Landfill and Flytipping

- 5.6 The tonnages of bulky items going to landfill, has also decreased substantially, both due to the obvious decrease in collections as well as the new system whereby the collections made are automatically sorted for recycling and reuse rather than going straight to the landfill site. The tonnages for April and May 2010 include some other work not related to the bulky collection service, so figures from June onwards are more accurate for the purpose of comparison.

	Bulky collections - tonnes		
	2009	2010	Difference
April	76.26	60.56	-20.59%
May	65.4	60.52	-7.46%
June	66.48	46.5	-30.05%
July	42.44	12.36	-70.88%
August	64.58	24.5	-62.06%
September	69.48	30.92	-55.50%
October	50.02		
November	41.94		
December	44.84		
January	47.42		
February	49.84		
March	91.12		

- 5.7 Contrary to popular belief there has not been a simultaneous increase in fly tipping tonnages collected in the Authority, as substantiated by figures shown in the table below:

	Flytipping Tonnages		
	2009	2010	Difference
April	150.1	29.21	-80.54%
May	70.86	21.02	-70.34%
June	119.48	18.24	-84.73%
July	105.84	42.6	-59.75%
August	89.62	49.6	-44.66%
September	88.39	45.62	-48.39%
October	28.34		
November	16.48		
December	28.02		
January	83.84		
February	90.16		
March	17.46		

Fly tipping Incidents

	2009	2010
April	849	695
May	678	647
June	758	841
July	635	638
August	591	725
September	691	743
October	620	
November	633	
December	531	
January	645	
February	583	
March	771	
Total	7985	

- 5.8 Over the first six months there has been an increase of 87 reported incidents of fly-tipping. However, many of these reports were of individual items such as bags and the total number of incidents that have had to be investigated, i.e. significant fly-tips, is down to 591 compared with 626 in 2009/10. This is borne out by the reduction in weight of fly-tipped material which has gone down from 534 tonnes to 206 tonnes in the first six months of this year.

Bulky Prices

- 5.9 There is a great variation in the charges made for bulky collections nationally and include below some examples for information:

<u>Authority A</u>	1 item = £20 2 or 3 = £26 4 to 6 = £30 7 to 10 = £40 Fridge = £20
<u>Authority B</u>	Up to 3=£20 Fridge = £20
<u>Authority C</u>	Up to 4 = £21.65 Each item over 4 = £10 Fridge = £15
<u>Authority D</u>	Up to 8 bags =£ 5 Each bulky item = £10
<u>Authority E</u>	Up to 5 = £20.10 Fridge = £30
<u>Authority F</u>	Up to 3 = £34.50 4 to 7 = £45.20
<u>Authority G</u>	1 item = £10.50 2 to 5 = £16 6 to 15 = £23
<u>Authority H</u>	Up to 8 items collected on an order. You can place up to 4 orders in one year. Each order costs £21.63 or you may be eligible for a discounted service cost of £5.41 if you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The bulky collection service as amended has been implemented city wide.

7. NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 Members of the Committee are asked to note the contents of this report and the benefits that are being achieved in respect of the diversion from landfill together with the reduction in the tonnage of flytipping over the last 6 months and to indicate whether or not any further reports are required in respect of this service.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 9.1 None

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 9
4 NOVEMBER 2010	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Report Author – Louise Tyers, Scrutiny Manager

Contact Details – 01733 452284 or email louise.tyers@peterborough.gov.uk

FORWARD PLAN – NOVEMBER 2010 TO FEBRUARY 2011

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This is a regular report to the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee outlining the content of the Council's Forward Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The latest version of the Forward Plan is attached at Appendix 1. The Plan contains those key decisions, which the Leader of the Council believes that the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Member(s) will be making over the next four months.
- 3.2 The information in the Forward Plan provides the Committee with the opportunity of considering whether it wishes to seek to influence any of these key decisions, or to request further information.
- 3.3 If the Committee wished to examine any of the key decisions, consideration would need to be given as to how this could be accommodated within the work programme.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Details of any consultation on individual decisions are contained within the Forward Plan.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

None

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Forward Plan of Executive Decisions

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**PETERBOROUGH CITY
COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN
1 NOVEMBER 2010 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2011**

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - 1 NOVEMBER 2010 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2011

During the period from 1 November 2010 To 28 February 2011 Peterborough City Council's Executive intends to take 'key decisions' on the issues set out below. Key decisions relate to those executive decisions which are likely to result in the Council spending or saving money in excess of £500,000 and/or have a significant impact on two or more wards in Peterborough.

This Forward Plan should be seen as an outline of the proposed decisions and it will be updated on a monthly basis. The dates detailed within the Plan are subject to change and those items amended or identified for decision more than one month in advance will be carried over to forthcoming plans. Each new plan supersedes the previous plan. Any questions on specific issues included on the Plan should be included on the form which appears at the back of the Plan and submitted to Alex Daynes, Senior Governance Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Town Hall, Bridge Street, PE1 1HG (fax 01733 452483). Alternatively, you can submit your views via e-mail to alexander.daynes@peterborough.gov.uk or by telephone on 01733 452447.

The Council invites members of the public to attend any of the meetings at which these decisions will be discussed and the papers listed on the Plan can be viewed free of charge although there will be a postage and photocopying charge for any copies made. All decisions will be posted on the Council's website: www.peterborough.gov.uk. If you wish to make comments or representations regarding the 'key decisions' outlined in this Plan, please submit them to the Governance Support Officer using the form attached. For your information, the contact details for the Council's various service departments are incorporated within this plan.

NEW ITEMS THIS MONTH:

Traffic Signals Maintenance Contract
Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (November and December)
Council Tax Base 2011/12
Museum Redevelopment Project
Award of Contract for Extension at Leighton Primary School
Award of Contract for Extension at the Beeches Primary School
Termination of Transitions Service Contract with YMCA

NOVEMBER

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
<p>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of Coneygree Lodge, Coneygree Road - KEY/01NOV/10</p> <p>To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, Executive Director – Strategic Resources, the Corporate Property Officer and the Cabinet Member Resources, to negotiate and conclude the sale of Coneygree Lodge at Coneygree Road.</p>	November 2010	Cabinet Member for Resources	Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee	Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments & external stakeholders as appropriate	Richard Hodgson Head of Strategic Projects Tel: 01733 384535 richard.hodgson@peterborou gh.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made

<p>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of land adjacent to Pupil Referral Unit (former Honeyhill School) Paston Ridings - KEY/02NOV/10</p> <p>To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, Executive Director – Strategic Resources, the Corporate Property Officer and the Cabinet Member Resources, to negotiate and conclude the sale of land adjacent to the former Honeyhill School.</p>	November 2010	Cabinet Member for Resources	Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee	Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments & external stakeholders as appropriate.	Richard Hodgson Head of Strategic Projects Tel: 01733 384535 richard.hodgson@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
<p>The Future of Peterborough Community Services (the provider arm of the Primary Care Trust) - KEY/03NOV/10</p> <p>For Cabinet to approve proposals from the Primary Care Trust regarding the future of Peterborough Community Services, including adult social care.</p>	November 2010	Cabinet	Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues	Internal Departments and Relevant Stakeholders as appropriate.	Denise Radley Executive Director of Adult Social Services & Performance Tel: 01733 758444 denise.radley@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.

<p>Drug and alcohol misuse services for children and young people - KEY/04NOV/10 Provide an integrated drug and alcohol misuse service offering early intervention, prevention, targeted and specialist interventions to targeted groups of young people in Peterborough.</p>	November 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Women's Enterprise</p>	Health Issues	Relevant Internal Stakeholders	<p>Pam Setterfield Assistant Head of Children & Families Services (0-13) Tel: 01733 863897 pam.setterfield@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.</p>
<p>Traffic Signals Maintenance Contract - KEY/05NOV/10 Novation of contract from Traffic Signals UK Limited to Telent Technologies Services Limited</p>	November 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning</p>	Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee	Relevant internal departments	<p>Susan Fitzwilliam ITS Development Officer Tel: 01733 452441 susan.fitzwilliam@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken</p>
<p>Scheme of works at the Triangle, New England - Award of Contract - KEY/06NOV/10 Award of contract to construct Triangle Safety Scheme through Midlands Highways Alliance (MHA) – Medium Schemes Framework 1 (MSF) contract.</p>	November 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning</p>	Environment Capital	Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.	<p>Stuart Mounfield Senior Engineer Tel: 01733 453598 stuart.mounfield@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public Report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.</p>

<p>Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy - KEY/07NOV/10 Agree actions for dealing with grant reductions in 2010-11 financial year. Draft budget proposals and Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2015/16 to be agreed as a basis for consultation.</p>	November 2010	Cabinet	Sustainable Growth	Report forms the basis of consultation with stakeholders, prior to further consideration by Cabinet in February 2011 and subsequent endorsement at full Council.	Steven Pilsworth Head of Strategic Finance Tel: 01733 384564 Steven.Pilsworth@peterborou gh.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.
<p>Review of Charges for Allotments - KEY/08NOV/10 To agree the charges for the use of Allotments for the forthcoming year.</p>	November 2010	Cabinet Member for Resources	Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee	Relevant ward members, internal Departments and external stakeholders as appropriate.	Commercial Services Director	Public Report to be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made
<p>Award of Contract for Extension at the Beeches Primary School - KEY/09NOV/10 Award of Contract for Extension to increase pupil numbers at the Beeches Primary School, following competitive tendering process.</p>	November 2010	Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal departments and external stakeholders.	Alison Chambers Asset Development Officer alison.chambers@peterborou gh.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.

<p>Award of Contract for Extension at Leighton Primary School - KEY/10NOV/10 Award of Contract for Extension to increase pupil numbers at Leighton Primary School, following competitive tendering process.</p>	November 2010	Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal departments and relevant stakeholders.	Alison Chambers Asset Development Officer alison.chambers@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken
<p>Contract Award - Adult Drug Treatment Services - KEY/11NOV/10 To award the contracts for the delivery of Adult Drug Treatment Services</p>	November 2010	Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Women's Enterprise	Strong and Supportive Communities	Internal departments as appropriate Safer Peterborough Partnership	Gary Goose Community Safety Strategic Manager Tel: 01733 863780 gary.goose@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.
<p>Termination of Transitions Service Contract with YMCA - KEY/12NOV/10 To authorise termination of the contract due to reduction in funding.</p>	November 2010	Cabinet Member for Children's Services	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal departments and external stakeholders.	Oliver Hayward Commissioning Officer - Aiming High Tel: 01733 863910 oliver.hayward@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.

<p>Floating Support Contract: Cross Keys Homes Extension of Contract – KEY/13NOV/10 Extension of contract to provide a generic floating support service for clients with housing support needs.</p>	November 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning</p>	Strong and Supportive Communities	Internal Departments and Relevant Stakeholders as appropriate.	<p>Belinda Child Housing Strategic Manager belinda.child@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
<p>Passenger Transport Framework Tender – KEY/14NOV/10 Requirements for special educational needs and mainstream school contract.</p>	November 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</p>	Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities	Internal stakeholders.	<p>Cathy Summers Team Manager - Passenger Transport Contracts and Planning cathy.summers@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.
<p>Security Framework Contract – KEY/15NOV/10 Award of framework contract split into two lots: security services such as manned security guarding, patrolling, key holding and alarm response for PCC sites; and cash collection and cash in transit services, delivering services for the council such as collecting cash from parking meters and banking it securely.</p>	November 2010	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	Sustainable Growth	Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate	<p>Matthew Rains P2P Manager Tel: 01733 317996 matthew.rains@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken

DECEMBER

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
<p>Peterborough Planning Policies DPD – ‘Preferred Options’ version - KEY/01DEC/10 To agree draft planning policies, for subsequent public consultation</p>	December 2010	Cabinet	Sustainable Growth	Internal and External as appropriate.	Richard Kay Strategic Planning Manager richard.kay@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is made.
<p>Village Design Supplementary Planning Document (Draft version for consultation) - KEY/02DEC/10 To agree a draft SPD, for subsequent public consultation.</p>	December 2010	Cabinet	Sustainable Growth / Rural Communities	Internal and External as appropriate	Richard Kay Strategic Planning Manager richard.kay@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be made available from the governance team one week before the decision is made.
<p>Museum Redevelopment Project - KEY/03DEC/10 To authorise the award of the contract for the Museum Redevelopment project.</p>	December 2010	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning	Strong and Supportive Communities	Consultation will take place with relevant internal stakeholders as appropriate	Steven Pilsworth Head of Strategic Finance Tel: 01733 384564 Steven.Pilsworth@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.

<p>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of Land and Buildings - Vawser Lodge Thorpe Road - KEY/04DEC/10</p> <p>To authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, Executive Director – Strategic Resources, the Corporate Property Officer and the Cabinet Member Resources, to negotiate and conclude the sale of Vawser Lodge</p>	December 2010	Cabinet Member for Resources	Sustainable Growth	Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments & external stakeholders as appropriate	Richard Hodgson Head of Strategic Projects Tel: 01733 384535 richard.hodgson@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken
<p>Council Tax Base 2011/12 - KEY/05DEC/10</p> <p>To agree the calculation of the council tax base for 2010/11</p>	December 2010	Cabinet	Sustainable Growth	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Steven Pilsworth Head of Strategic Finance Tel: 01733 384564 Steven.Pilsworth@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken
<p>Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy - KEY/06DEC/10</p> <p>Consider Local Government Finance settlement and agree updates to draft budget proposals and Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2015/16 if necessary</p>	December 2010	Cabinet	Sustainable Growth	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Steven Pilsworth Head of Strategic Finance Tel: 01733 384564 Steven.Pilsworth@peterborough.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.

<p>Peterborough Local Investment Plan - KEY/07DEC/10 Document for submission to the Homes and Communities Agency, drawn largely from the Integrated Development Programme (Adopted December 2009). The LIP is the first stage towards applying for funding from the HCA for primarily housing-related project aspirations in the City.</p>	December 2010	<p>Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, Strategic Planning and Economic Development</p>	Sustainable Growth	Internal and External stakeholders as appropriate.	<p>Andrew Edwards Head of Peterborough Delivery Partnership Tel: 01733 384530 andrew.edwards@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.</p>
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JANUARY

THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO KEY DECISIONS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY.

FEBRUARY

THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO KEY DECISIONS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY.

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**ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11**

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
20 January 2011 (Papers to be despatched on 12 January 2011)	Balance Between Environmental Education and Enforcement To further consider the balance between environmental education and enforcement. Contact Officer: Adrian Chapman	Follow up report from July 2009
	Update on the Council's Carbon Reduction Commitment To scrutinise the progress made on reducing the Council's carbon emissions. Contact Officer: Charlotte Palmer	
	Criteria for Resurfacing Footpaths To scrutinise the criteria for deciding which footpaths are resurfaced and if necessary make appropriate recommendations. Contact Officer: Andy Tatt	Requested by Councillor Sandford
10 March 2011 (Papers to be despatched on 2 March 2011)	Progress on the Environment Capital Portfolio (Councillor Samantha Dalton) To scrutinise the progress of the Environment Capital Portfolio. Contact Officer: Trevor Gibson	Invitation sent to the Cabinet Member on 23 June 2010.
	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment To scrutinise Peterborough's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. Contact Officer: Julia Chatterton	
	Norwood Lane and Paston Travellers Site Action Plan To scrutinise the impact of the Action Plan on the Norwood Lane and Paston Travellers Site. Contact Officer: Leonie McCarthy	

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
	<p>Review of the Christmas Park and Ride Service</p> <p>To scrutinise the provision of the Christmas Park and Ride Service for 2010, including assessing the impact of the introduction of a charge.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Teresa Wood</p>	

TO BE SCHEDULED

- Long Term Transport Strategy (when available)
- Integrated Ticketing on Bus Services
- Cross City Bus Network and Other Travel Modes – To consider the options for a cross city bus network following a Motion from Council in December 2009.
- Launch of the Home of Environment Capital Initiative - To scrutinise the Single Delivery Plan when completed.
- Costs of the Waste 2020 Programme – To consider the costs of the Programme including the analysis of the figures submitted by Friends of the Earth

FOR 2011/12

- Tree Pollarding – Monitoring of recommendation on longer tree pollarding regime.