

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2011
7.00 PM

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall

AGENDA

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2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations	
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Thursday 10 March 2011 at 7pm



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Committee Members:

Councillors: D Day (Chairman), N 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 4 NOVEMBER 2010**

Present: Councillors D Day (Chairman), N Arculus (Vice-Chairman),
J Goodwin, D Morley, J A Fox and N Sandford

Officers Present: Mike Heath, Commercial Services Director
David Denson, Head of Operations
James Cooper, Trees and Landscape Management Officer
Frazer Chapman, Senior Recreation Officer
Claire Boyd, Lawyer - Contracts and Procurement
Louise Tyers, Scrutiny Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors North and Rush and Councillor Goodwin was in attendance as substitute.

An apology for absence was also received from Councillor S Dalton, Cabinet Member for Environment Capital.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

The following declarations of interest were made:

Item 6 – Tree and Woodland Strategy

Councillor Sandford declared a personal interest as he was employed by the Woodland Trust.

Item 7 – Play Facilities, Playing Fields and Open Spaces

Councillor Fox declared a personal interest as she was a member of the Friends of Cuckoo Hollow.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 September 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2010 were approved as a correct record.

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

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

5. Response to Recommendations Made by the Committee

The Committee considered the responses made by the Executive to recommendations made in relation to:

- Norwood Lane and Paston Travellers Site
- Biodiversity Strategy
- Launch of Home of Environment Capital

ACTION AGREED

To note the responses to the recommendations made.

6. Tree and Woodland Strategy

The report introduced an updated Tree and Woodland Strategy which would provide direction for the care of Peterborough's trees and woodlands. It updated the 1998 Strategy and included changes that had taken place over the last twelve years, including the influence of the Biodiversity Strategy.

The draft Strategy included a number of key issues including a proposal to move away from response based reactive works to a programme of inspections which would be followed by tree works based upon those findings. A right tree in the right place framework was being developed which included options to eventually reduce overcrowding within residential areas. This would be followed by a programme of replacing existing, inappropriate space demanding trees with smaller alternatives.

Councillor Sam Dalton, Cabinet Member for Environment Capital, requested that a statement be read out on her behalf in support of the Strategy.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- A working group had been established in 2005/06 to revise the Strategy and a draft had been developed however the report made no mention of this group or its work. *The Strategy had been modified to bring it up to date and was based on the original Strategy. Since 2005/06 the responsibility for this work had transferred to a different department and unfortunately information had disappeared during the transfer so City Services had to start from scratch as supporting documents had gone missing. Reference to the working group could be included in the report when it went up to Cabinet.*
- Why had it taken so long to update the Strategy? *The Tree Team had other priorities including a massive backlog of work. There had also been a need to ensure that the Strategy tied in with a number of other strategies.*
- Did officers expect the Strategy to deliver an increase in the number of trees as some members believed that there would be a continual reduction in numbers? *Officers would be looking to consolidate and nurture what the city already had. There was a new push for a Forest for Peterborough led by PECT and we would be concentrating on areas rather than the numbers of trees. It was quality against quantity.*
- Subtle changes had been made to the document compared to the work in 2005/06 which fundamentally changed the thrust of the document.
- The Strategy did not mention expansion of woodland. It also did not mention low carbon transition plans, woodland creation or Professor Reid's report on flooding.
- Some members strongly believed that Peterborough had wonderful trees along with a good team looking after them.
- The original Strategy said that street trees would only be removed if there were sound arboricultural reasons to do so but this draft now said that they would be removed if there were arboricultural and social reasons. *There were issues with street trees which left the Council vulnerable to claims for compensation. We were trying to move forward but there was only a finite budget available.*
- Councillor Arculus advised that he had received complaints from some of his constituents saying that the Council was in breach of S154 of the Highways Act by not clearing overhanging branches on the highway. Was there a policy in place to ensure that this obligation was met? *City Services had a policy of working outside of the bird nesting season to get low hanging branches in order. Operatives tried to cut back sympathetically but that could not always be guaranteed.*
- How many fully qualified arboriculturists did the Council employ? *It was believed that there were two fully qualified arboriculturists across the Council, however a number of other staff had a lot of knowledge. City Services also had access to a consultant arboriculturist for advice if needed.*
- The 1998 Strategy had been adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document but due to changes it was not now. Did Officers plan to include this Strategy in the Local

Development Framework to give it strength during the planning process? *City Services would liaise with Strategic Planning to encourage them to include it.*

Councillor Sandford proposed that a separate meeting involving interested members should be held to enable them to compare the 2006 version of the Strategy with the current draft and to ensure that new initiatives were included.

ACTION AGREED

- (i) To hold an informal meeting of interested members to compare the 2006 version of the Strategy with the current draft.
- (ii) That the draft Tree and Woodland Strategy be considered further at our next meeting.

7. Play Facilities, Playing Fields and Open Spaces

The report provided an update on the play area improvement programme and playing field provision with the Council's green open spaces.

In 2003 Peterborough was found to have an oversupply of play facilities in comparison with other similar authorities however only 5% of the play facilities met National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) minimum standards. As a result of this Members agreed that the Council would consolidate its play area provision to create high quality neighbourhood facilities which provided safe but stimulating play opportunities for children.

The play area improvement programme was identified as a corporate priority and funding for these schemes was provided through a number of sources, including Section 106 developer contributions, Big Lottery Fund, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Playbuilder initiative and the Council's capital resources. Since 2007 the play area improvement programme had delivered 57 new and refurbished play areas.

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 and in October 2010 confirmation was received that two-thirds of the withdrawn Playbuilder funding would be re-allocated. Peterborough would receive £274,043.75 for this financial year but no further funding would be awarded and the programme would end in March 2011. However, this allocation would enable a further four play improvement projects to be developed and completed.

A comprehensive audit of the Council's green space play assets had been undertaken and the data was currently being analysed. This would provide new and up-to-date information about the condition of the play areas and would help to update the Play Strategy. The audit would also enable improved processes for managing and maintaining play areas which fell within the Authority's responsibility.

In 2006 an open space report was prepared, however much of the data contained within the report had now become out of date as the city and surrounding areas had grown. These were important issues which would be addressed by working with Planning to ensure that well designed, welcoming, safe and useable open space was delivered as an essential component of new developments. In recent years work had taken place to ensure that developer obligations concerning the design and creation of public open space to support new developments met the Council's requirements. The Recreation Team provided guidance to Planning officers and developers to ensure that open space facilities were developed which fulfilled the Council's planning policies and developers obligations. Officers had also recently advised Planning about the open space element of their new S106 policy document.

The Open Space report also provided data on allotment provision and need. Since the report was delivered the profile of allotments and community food growing had been raised. The Council currently had 1,800 plots along with a short waiting list. Allotment provision was currently being reviewed along with opportunities for informal allotment sites and community food growing initiatives. A complete review of the allotment letting and management process was underway and scheduled for completion by April 2011.

One of the objectives of the open spaces report was to manage open spaces in a way which included all key stakeholders, and strengthened community 'ownership' of open spaces. The Recreation Team were working with the Neighbourhood Managers to develop and implement devolved management of two sites at Cuckoos Hollow and Holywell Ponds.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- How did officers decide which areas needed play facilities as Werrington North struggled to get play equipment? *Officers used the 2007 Play Strategy along with their knowledge of the play facilities. An audit of assets was being put together and this would enable officers to develop a programme for the next few years.*
- What did devolved management mean in relation to Cuckoos Hollow? *Devolved management was about community involvement in the management of sites. Cuckoos Hollow would be used as a template for future devolved management.*
- With the funding for Neighbourhood Councils being stopped what role would the Council's now have in managing open spaces. *The Director advised that he believed that the Councils would still have a role in the management of play areas.*
- Even though the funding for Neighbourhood Councils would be brought to an end next year, this year's allocation was still available. Next year the Councils would be allocated Planning Obligation Implementation Strategy (POIS) money which would hopefully mean more money for the Councils. *Officers would be meeting with the Neighbourhoods Team to talk about POIS and S106 monies.*
- Some Members felt that cutting the funding to Neighbourhood Councils was short sighted as these were the sort of decisions the Councils should be making.
- Councillor Arculus advised that in the past a residents association had asked the Council if they could install their own swing at the play site in Regency Way and were told they would have to pay for the asset and its management. *The Director advised that he could not see a problem if the swing was to be placed in an existing facility as long as it met the required standards. A new site may be more difficult as there would be higher costs. Officers would be happy to work the residents association.*
- Councillor Sandford advised that the MUGA at the Walton Recreation Ground should have had illuminations and six months ago City Services gave an assurance that they would be working however a constituent had advised that they were still not working. *The Director advised that the lights were functioning and users had to push a button to switch them. They were currently not working as the switch had been vandalised and needed to be repaired.*
- A draft Open Spaces Strategy was being developed in 2006, what had happened since then as the Full Council had been told that the Strategy would be one of the key strategies of the Home of Environment Capital Strategy? When a Strategy was developed would it be part of the Local Development Framework? *In 2006 work on the Strategy was brought into City Services and the Strategy was being developed and the Team had already undertaken a lot of work. Officers had commented on the Strategic Planning Policy which would be used to ensure provision of well designed open space.*
- There was currently not much open space in Peterborough and using the Forum for the Future Index Peterborough was 16 out of 20 cities for the provision of open space. Development of the Strategy should be taken forward as quickly as possible.
- What work was being done to ensure provision was uniform across all wards? *Allocation was done according to need and the audit would show where and what condition equipment was in. We needed to look at what we had and where it was and then we could base provision on need.*
- Central Park was being ruined by local youths hanging around, could the play areas be reserved for the people who wanted to use them for their proper purpose? *No smoking signs had been put up in the younger children's play area and we had received no complaints. We would ask the PSCOs to walk through the park.*

RECOMMENDATION

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning is recommended that the Executive proceed as quickly as possible to develop an Open Space Strategy and that it forms part of the Council's Local Development Framework.

ACTION AGREED

- (i) To support the play area improvement programme and the current plan for play improvement works.
- (ii) To support the 'Engaging the Community in Play' initiative.
- (iii) To support the continued development and improvement of PCC green space and recreation facilities for use by the community.
- (iv) To support engagement with Planning to secure well designed and welcoming public open space to sustain new developments.
- (v) To support the investigation and progression of devolved management regimes, by the community, for both Cuckoos Hollow and Holywell Ponds.
- (vi) To support the continuing review of public open space provision, management and maintenance, including allotments, play and playing pitches and updating the documents and action plans pertaining to these services.
- (vii) To support linking the open space policy to other policy areas, for example, Planning, Health, Transport and Biodiversity.

8. Review of the Impact of the Charge for Bulky Waste Collection

The report provided an update on the charged bulky waste collection service and the effects it had had on the service to the public, the service budget and on the general environment.

The Council had withdrawn its free bulky waste collection service following a decision taken by Members in February 2010, and a new chargeable service had been introduced on 1 April 2010. The new scheme allowed residents to have an unlimited amount of items collected for a one off price of £23.50.

The numbers of requested bulky collections had 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

Due to the substantial fall in collections, City Services had been able to redeploy an HGV driver back to the main fleet, and now used a 7.5 tonne vehicle to carry out the service, with some of the white goods requests being picked up by the WEEE facility collection vehicle.

The income for the period 1 April to end of September 2010 from bulky collections was £31,834.

One significant benefit of introducing a charging regime for bulky collections was 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 and the Council wasted time, money and fuel on those non-collections but the numbers had now fallen to 6% and in total this was 50 non-collections as opposed to 881 in the same four month period for the previous year.

The tonnages of bulky items going to landfill had also decreased substantially, both due to the obvious decrease in collections as well as the new system whereby the collections made were automatically sorted for recycling and reuse rather than going straight to the landfill site.

Contrary to popular belief there had not been a simultaneous increase in fly tipping tonnages collected in the Authority. Over the first six months there had been an increase of 87 reported incidents of fly-tipping. However, many of those reports were of individual items such as bags and the total number of incidents that had to be investigated, i.e. significant fly-tips, was down to 591 compared with 626 in 2009/10. This was 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.

Observations and questions were asked around the following areas:

- Now that manufacturers of white goods offered to take away old appliances had that had an impact on the number of collections? *That had had an affect along with people not replacing appliances as often due to the current economic downturn.*
- Did the charge of £23.50 cover the full costs of the provision of the service? *The service was covered by the charge and officers believed it had been set at a reasonable level.*
- Had there been any incidents of a number of people in a street getting together to save paying individual charges? *Officers had not seen any evidence that that was happening.*
- Councillor Fox advised that she had been told that at the Household Waste Facility a group had refused to pay the charge for trade waste. What happened in those cases? *If traders did not have a permit they were turned away. The operators had not raised any particular issues at the Dogsthorpe site.*

- Had anyone been prosecuted for dumping waste at recycling points? *People were prosecuted and enforcement was undertaken by the Neighbourhoods Team. We did take people to court but the fines and publicity was not as good as we would hope.*
- On the Council's website there was advice to householders on how to dispose of small quantities of asbestos, was this something we should be encouraging people to handle? *We were obliged to provide a facility to dispose of asbestos and had to find a way of dealing with requests. We had agreed to provide householders with two sacks along with a detailed note on how to handle the asbestos. Each of the bags was able to be tracked and was then stored in the asbestos facility at the Depot. We could collect the asbestos for a charge but that would not a cheap option.*

ACTION AGREED

- (i) To note the impact of the charge for bulky waste collections.
- (ii) To not receive any further reports on this issue unless the policy changes.

9. 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.

ACTION AGREED

To note the latest version of the Forward Plan.

10. Work Programme

We considered the Work Programme for 2010/11.

It was agreed to add the following items to the programme:

- Tree and Woodland Strategy (January 2011)
- Review of the Bus Service Review (January 2011)

ACTION AGREED

To confirm the work programme for 2010/11.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 20 January 2011 at 7pm.

CHAIRMAN
7.00 - 8.39 pm

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ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
20 JANUARY 2011	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

- 3.1 During the Committee's meeting on 4 November 2010 a recommendation was made following consideration of a report on Play Facilities, Playing Fields and Open Space. The recommendation was subsequently submitted to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning for consideration.

- 3.3 A copy of the recommendation made and the response 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 4 November 2010.

7. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Recommendations and Responses Received.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 November 2010

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations
Play Facilities, Playing Fields and Open Spaces	The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning is recommended that the Executive proceed as quickly as possible to develop an Open Space Strategy and that it forms part of the Council's Local Development Framework.	The recommendation has been supported by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning and work will progress in developing an Open Space Strategy.

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	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	

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations	Progress
	and an independent assessment should be undertaken.	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.	
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.	A report on the Christmas Park and Ride Service 2010 will be considered at the Committee's meeting in March.
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.	A progress report will be considered at the Committee's meeting in March.
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 	The Cabinet endorsed the revised Biodiversity Strategy prior to its consideration by Council.	The Biodiversity Strategy was approved by Council at their meeting on 13 October 2010.

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations	Progress
	<p>Council budgets alongside other budget pressures.</p> <p>The Commercial Services Director is requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="479 316 965 619">(i) to lead on the development of the draft policy for works 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 <li data-bbox="479 635 965 802">(ii) to bring the final draft of the policy to a future meeting of the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee when it is completed. 		This work is ongoing.

9 September 2010

Item	Recommendation	Response to Recommendation	Progress
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.	A progress report on the delivery of the Action Plan will be considered at the Committee's meeting on 10 March 2011.
Biodiversity Strategy	It is recommended to the Wildlife Officer that the Biodiversity Strategy includes some	Carrying out a detailed survey of every green space every year would be very	

Item	Recommendation	Response to Recommendation	Progress
	<p>specific indicators to provide quantitative data on flora, fauna and endangered species so the impact of the strategy can be measured.</p>	<p>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. 	
<p>Launch of Home of Environment Capital</p>	<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 Policy to make clearer the intent of the Policy, including that details of the related policies and strategies that are yet to be included. 	<p>Both recommendations have been incorporated into the latest draft of the Policy which was subsequently agreed at Full Council on 13 October 2010.</p>	

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
20 JANUARY 2011	Public Report

Report of the Commercial Services Director

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

TREES AND WOODLAND STRATEGY

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Further to the last meeting of the Committee, this report provides Members with an updated draft of the Trees and Woodland Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee endorses the draft Trees and Woodland Strategy 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. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At the last meeting of the Committee a draft of the Trees and Woodland Strategy was considered. Following the debate at that meeting it was agreed that a separate meeting involving interested members would be held to enable them to compare the 2006 version of the Strategy with the submitted draft and to ensure that new initiatives were included.
- 4.2 The informal meeting was held in early December 2010 and was attended by Councillor Sandford, Executive Director of Operations, Head of Operations (City Services) and the Trees & Landscape Management Officer. Further meetings were also held with the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital.
- 4.3 An updated version of the draft Strategy is attached at Appendix 1 for endorsement.

4.4 The draft Strategy has also been sent to Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT) for comment and if any comments are received these will be reported at the Committee meeting.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

Minutes of the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee held on 4 November 2010.

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Trees and Woodland Strategy

Peterborough Tree and Woodland Strategy



DOCUMENT 1: POLICIES & PRIORITIES, 2011.

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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 the 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

Air-conditioning costs are lower in a tree-shaded home. Heating costs are reduced when a home has a windbreak.

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.”

“To expand the extent of woodland cover in response to opportunities created through external funding or working in conjunction partners i.e. PECT and the creation of the Forest For Peterborough.”

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 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. Partnerships can be guided by and qualify for funding from the Woodland Trust under the 'Space for People' initiative. The imminent tree planting campaign to create the Forest Of Peterborough is another example of productive partnership.

The planning process can contribute to the community by examining the existing provision of trees and woodland relative to predictions for future needs. Expertise within the planning process assists with identification of suitable trees that can grow to maturity within their proposed setting and available space. The process of Planning Gain through Section 106 Agreements can influence future provision. 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. Measures to maximise carbon sequestration will be investigated in conjunction with central government initiatives.

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. Hedgerows linking woodlands act as wildlife corridors and so greatly promote the extent and range of wildlife.

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.

Objective 6 To aspire to seeking certification from the Forest Stewardship Council.

Funding and officer time permitting, the Council will seek to demonstrate competence with professional stewardship of its trees and woodlands through certification. The latter has potential to enhance prospects for securing external funding.

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 in conjunction with specifically identified funding at some future date, 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 such as serious safety concerns 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.
- CTWG 6.3 As and when prospects materialise, to work with other organisations to secure additional funding for the management of existing tree stock as well as the planting of new woodlands in accordance with the aims of PECT.

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 contaminants. 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 stood 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. Since 1998 these townships have been surveyed and various works carried out but to date, insufficient resources have been available to carry out comprehensive and ongoing cyclical management of these trees. A current tree survey is now due, this to assess the situation after the works implemented so far.

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 programme 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.
- POS 1.4 Where appropriate and possible to increase the numbers of trees as a product of partnership working.

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 as well as to maximise capacity for carbon sequestration in conjunction with central government initiatives.
- 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 details of works proposed and to be a good neighbour ensuing that operations are undertaken in a manner sensitive to the wishes 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 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. It would be wise to bring these trees 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 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 D. C, 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. Tree planting in certain locations has resulted in ongoing and disruptive problems. Perhaps 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 4,000 trees on education sites managed by the Council. 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 Pockocks Wood.

At the moment these trees are not covered by a management program. 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 area's 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 PT 1

The Council will ensure that trees and woodlands are protected, developed and where circumstances permit through partnership working, expanded.

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.
- PT 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 such as irrefutable identification of subsidence.

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.

Contractors with poor technical abilities to carry out tree surgery can lead to poor results. 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 unnecessary damaged to trees in the form of unsuitable "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.

Protecting private 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 in conjunction with specifically identified funding at some future date, 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 such as serious safety concerns 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.

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, developed and where circumstances permit through partnership working, expanded.
- 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 such as irrefutable identification of subsidence.
- 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.

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 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 "Space for People"
Woodland Trust 2002, "Woods for People"

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ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
20 JANUARY 2011	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Operations

Contact Officer – Cathy Summers, Team Manager Passenger Transport
Contact Details - 01733 317463 or email cathy.summers@peterborough.gov.uk

BUS SERVICE REVIEW

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report is being presented at the request of the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee. The report follows changes to the subsidised bus network that were approved by Cabinet in February 2010. This report provides feedback on those changes.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee are asked to consider and comment on the contents of the report.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Peterborough's Sustainable Community Strategy is the plan for the future of our city and the surrounding villages and rural areas. It sets the direction for the overall strategic development of Peterborough. This report directly links to the Council's strategic priority, Creating the UK's Environment Capital.

- 3.2 In addition, this report helps to achieve the following indicators:

NI175 Access to services by public transport, walking and cycling
NI177 Local bus passenger journeys
NI185 CO2 reduction from local authority operations
NI198 Children travelling to school – mode of travel usually used

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Under the 1985 Transport Act, the Council has a statutory duty to secure the provision of such public transport services as the Council considers appropriate to meet any public transport requirements which would not otherwise be met commercially. The Council financially subsidises a number of journeys that fall under this category.
- 4.2 A review of Council subsidised bus journeys was undertaken as a result of improvements to commercially operated bus services reducing the need for some Local Link journeys. Subsequently, the number of passengers on these journeys reduced. In addition, a different way of delivering bus services to rural areas, providing either the same or better period of operation, was identified. This allows the vehicle to operate only at times when the service is needed rather than adhering to a rigid timetable and the bus operating with no passengers on board; wasting resources and emitting needless CO2 emissions.
- 4.3 Some Local Link services have seen an increase in patronage. Therefore it was suggested that a trial of improved frequency was undertaken to assess if this further increased passenger journeys or whether the same number of passenger journeys were undertaken but simply split over the more frequent departures.

- 4.4 The recommended bus service changes and trial increased frequency (see paragraph 4 of cabinet report of 8 February 2010) were approved by the Council's Cabinet in February 2010. A copy of the Cabinet report is attached at Appendix 1.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 Officers have been assessing the impact of the implementation of the recommendations previously approved. One of main changes was the withdrawal of a number of journeys operating in the rural area of the authority and replacement with the Call Connect service. As part of this change a number of children eligible for free school transport needed to transfer from the withdrawn services to a contracted home to school transport. In addition, a number of passengers were using the subsidised services even though a comparable commercial bus service was available. When assessing the impact of this change, the number of passengers using the previous service has been compared to the number of passengers using the Call Connect service. The number of passengers using the previous service naturally varied from day to day and after removing the number of school children and passengers that had a comparable commercial service available less than 10 passenger journeys per day would have no alternative means of transport other than the Call Connect service. By comparison on the Call Connect service, an average of 25 passenger journeys per day were made in October 2010 and an average of 30 passenger journeys per day were made in November 2010.
- 5.2 The other main change was the trial increased frequency of the Local Link 406 service from hourly to half hourly. Again, to assess the impact of this change, the number of passenger journeys made before and after were compared, with passenger numbers increasing from between 13% and 74%. As a result the half hourly frequency will continue.
- 5.3 There were a number of other changes as a result of the recommendations, such as the withdrawal of the evening journeys to the Showcase cinema, some evening journeys on the Local Link 406 and a number of Local Link journeys around Dogsthorpe. A small number of complaints have been received from residents affected by the changes. The majority of these complaints were concerning the withdrawal of the Local Link journeys around Dogsthorpe. Dogsthorpe is well served by commercial services operating on a 10 minute frequency during the daytime. As such, there are no plans to reintroduce any of the withdrawn bus journeys.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no implications as a result of this report. The implications of the bus service review recommendations were considered and are detailed in the cabinet report.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 No consultation has been undertaken prior to the preparation of this report. A number of areas of consultation were undertaken prior to the recommendations of the bus service review being presented to the Council's Cabinet. These are detailed in the Cabinet report.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 No further action is required as a result of this report.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 9.1 None

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix 1 – Bus Service Review Cabinet report of 8 February 2010.

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 5.3
8 FEBRUARY 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Community Development	
Contact Officer(s):	Teresa Wood - Group Manager, Transport and Sustainable Environment	Tel. 317451

BUS SERVICE REVIEW

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Paul Phillipson, Executive Director Operations	Deadline date : Enter relevant date of Council meeting if item is to be referred to full Council
1. To approve the final proposals to amend the subsidised bus network as detailed at 4, subject to budget proposals being agreed at council.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following a number of reports and consultation events that have already taken place. These include:

- 14.9.09 Cabinet Policy Forum
- 17.9.09 Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee
- 30.9.09 Rural Working Group
- 1.10.09 Consultation event for Parish and Ward Councillors
- 5.10.09 Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities
- 18.11.09 Parish Council Liaison Group
- 23.11.09 Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities
- 12.01.10 Corporate Management Team
- 25.01.10 Cabinet Policy Forum

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on what consultation has been undertaken as part of the bus service review and to consider the conclusions and recommendations.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.1. To take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the Council's Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the Council's overall improvement programmes to deliver excellent services.

2.3 URGENCY PROCEDURE

The Council's urgency procedure has been invoked in respect of this report and the Chairman of the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee has been informed in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Although the proposals discussed in the report are contained within the budget report at item 5.6 of this agenda, officers feel that it would be preferable for the proposals to be the subject of a separate report in the interests of democracy so as to allow a full and open debate on the issues.

3. **TIMESCALE.**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	8 February 2010
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4. **BACKGROUND**

All subsidised bus service contracts were incorporated into an initial overview assessment. From this assessment, the Local Link rural, morning and evening bus journeys warranted further assessment due to the low numbers of passengers carried and relatively high subsidy per passenger journeys. Patronage data from on-bus ticket machines and physical on-bus monitoring was analysed and used to assess the number of people impacted by the proposed changes. A consultation process was also undertaken as outlined above. To summarise the final proposals are:

- cease the following journeys on bus services:
 - 402 - all journeys, with replacement available on Call Connect or commercial services. Contracts to be provided to eligible school transport students.
 - 404 - all journeys, except Sunday journeys, with replacement available on Call Connect or commercial services. Contracts to be provided for eligible school transport students. Revise Sunday journeys.
 - 406 - all journeys before 0845 and all journeys after 1813, with replacement available within walking distance on Citi 2. In addition, other minor journey withdrawals, with replacement available within walking distance on Citi 2.
 - 407 - all journeys after 1728, with replacement available on Citi 1 and Citi 6.
 - 408 - Minor journey withdrawals and amendments, with replacement available on Citi 1 and Citi 3.
 - 410 - all journeys withdrawn between Newark and Dogsthorpe, with replacement available on Stagecoach Citi network. In addition, all journeys after 1815 withdrawn and Sunday service withdrawn, with partial replacement available on Stagecoach service 37. Service extended from Newark to Newborough to replace 411, timetable reworked as a result.
 - 411 - all journeys, except those carrying eligible students withdrawn, with replacement on reworked 410 timetable.
- enter into a partnership arrangement with Lincolnshire County Council to deliver a Call Connect service;
- reallocate funding and introduce one Call Connect service for the West area (from western edge of authority boundary to East Coast Mainline), with the intention of introducing a second vehicle for the East area at a later date;
- retain service LL403/413 - Ginton and Peakirk with a revised timetable;
- retain combined service LL410/411, as detailed above.;
- retain service 342 - Thorney to Whittlesey on Fridays;
- renew the existing de-minimis agreements with commercial operators to provide a number of journeys;
- reallocate funding to provide additional journeys on a 3 month trial basis to increase the frequency of more popular daytime journeys that are showing an increasing trend in passenger numbers from hourly to half hourly. Should the trial not show a further increase in passenger numbers the trial to be ceased and the service revert to hourly. However, should an agreed further increase in passenger numbers be achieved reallocate funding to provide the additional journeys on a permanent basis;
- reallocate funding to expand the recommended Monday to Saturday Call Connect service to operate on Sundays;
- implementation of promotion and communications plan; and

- implement changes from 4 April 2010, followed by withdrawal of listed journeys from 15 May 2010 to allow a cross over.

A further review of all subsidised bus services will take place after a 12 month period. This review will ensure that the recommendations have achieved the anticipated outcomes.

Whilst additional expenditure will be incurred to cover the cost of the Call Connect and school contract provision plus any redundancy costs incurred by City Services, it is envisaged that there will be overall savings. Final confirmation on savings cannot be given until authorisation is given to proceed with the bus service review recommendations followed by tendering and evaluation of the required school contracts has taken place. However, it is estimated that savings of approximately £200k can be achieved within Operations together with approximately £20k for Children's Services. City Services, whilst having additional costs such as redundancy, have identified efficiency savings through revised driver duties etc which is estimated to achieve an overall savings. City Services anticipate savings of least £70k.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken as detailed at 1 above.
- 5.2 Discussions have been held with both Stagecoach and Delaines, as main bus operators in the area. These discussions have been undertaken discreetly so as not to disclose any confidential or commercially sensitive information. Both Stagecoach and Delaines have indicated that they would not oppose changes to the Local Link network of services. They also advised that they are in support of dial-a-ride and Call Connect type services where commercially operated or conventional public transport is unable to meet the needs of the public.
- 5.3 City Services have already commenced consultation with staff who may be affected.

5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

The anticipated outcomes is that these final proposals to amend the subsidised bus network as detailed at 4 above are approved, subject to budget proposals being agreed at Council.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations will provide an improved subsidised bus network that links to a stronger commercial network provided by external bus operators.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The following alternative options have been considered and rejected:

- Continue all bus service journeys as existing. This option was rejected as it does not represent best value with council funds and does not provide an improved level of service to members of the public.
- Cease operating all journeys low usage journeys without replacement. This option was rejected as it does not provide alternative options and would leave some areas devoid of a bus service.
- Provide a dial-a-ride service on one or more days per week between the hours of 9.30 am and 2.30 pm. This option was rejected as it does not provided sufficient cover for the rural areas as can be provided by a Call Connect service.

8. IMPLICATIONS

Legal

Under the 1985 Transport Act, the Council has a statutory duty to secure the provision of such public transport services as the Council considers appropriate to meet any public transport requirements which would not otherwise be met commercially.

There is a service level agreement in place between the Operations directorate and City Services for the provision of public transport, community transport and home to school transport. The two directorates have agreed to review and subsequently amend the services to be provided by City Services in accordance with the provisions of the service level agreement.

Human Resources

City Services has commenced consultation with all employees who may be affected by the proposals.

The PSV drivers are not assigned to specific routes, and are assigned routes on a rota basis. Therefore an exercise would need to be undertaken to identify whether any PSV drivers would need to be made redundant. This would be undertaken in accordance with Council's redundancy process through formal consultation.

If routes are to be transferred to another provider, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations may apply and so an exercise would need to be undertaken to establish the assignment of drivers to the routes to be tendered through formal consultation.

Procurement

One of the outcomes of this review may be to procure a new Call Connect or dial-a-ride type services and some school transport replacement services. Discussions have taken place with Lincolnshire County Council and the Council's Procurement team on a possible partnering arrangement. The Procurement team have confirmed Lincolnshire County Council's tendering arrangements are compliant with the Council's. It was also confirmed that better value can be achieved by entering into partnership procurement arrangements.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Proposed timetables for all services are available.

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 8
20 JANUARY 2011	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Operations

Contact Officer(s) – Peter Garnham & Andy Tatt
Contact Details – 453458 & 453469

CRITERIA FOR RESURFACING FOOTPATHS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The report has been requested by the Committee to enable scrutiny of the criteria for deciding which footpaths are resurfaced and if necessary make appropriate recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 No significant change to the current footway scheme selection criteria is considered necessary however in consideration of factors such as the Government's localism agenda and ongoing budget pressures the following recommendations are proposed to improve upon current practice:-
1. That the Committee supports the proposal to increase by up to 50% the current programme of footway micro-asphalt surface treatments in future years in order to provide a significant preventative maintenance benefit to Peterborough's residents and visitors at minimal additional cost. Funding for this is likely to come at the expense of other footway or carriageway schemes however it is felt essential that more resource is directed to such preventative treatments in order to arrest the deterioration of the network and avoid more expensive treatments being required at a later date.
 2. That the Committee supports the proposal to work more closely with Neighbourhood Teams to capture and understand the needs of the communities from the local perspective and apply these findings to programmes as and where appropriate. This may require a formal process to be put in place whereby Neighbourhoods are able to canvas their communities asking what they actually feel are the priorities at a local level; potentially these priorities may not be shared across the greater Peterborough area.
 3. That the Committee supports the proposal to undertake a review of the current Hierarchy 1a, 1 and 2 footways in order to establish whether the existing network is representative of Peterborough's high use footways within the current available budget.
 4. That the Committee considers whether a defined minimum proportion of 20 – 25%, of LTP, Capital and Revenue scheme allocations should be applied to Peterborough's footway and cycleway network to safeguard against the potential for carriageway schemes to take precedent as the wider network takes the strain in the coming years.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

<p>3.1 Creating opportunities - tackling inequalities</p>	
<p>Improving health – so that everyone can enjoy a life expectancy of the national average or above and benefit from speedier access to high quality local health and social care services.</p>	<p>Transport networks are an important part of any community and footways and cycle ways are probably more so at a local level in that they allow the free and easy movement of people on a daily basis whether this be children travelling to and from school or residents visiting friends, neighbours or the local shops. Indeed, in the majority of cases all journeys must begin and end on these local networks even if this is the short walk to the car or to the bus stop. The condition of footways and cycle ways is important in order to ensure that vulnerable people particularly the elderly or disabled can feel safe and able to make short journeys to use local amenities at their convenience. It is hoped that by providing conditions conducive with the use of more sustainable modes of transport more people will choose to make short trips on foot or bicycle as an alternative to the car with the obvious health benefits.</p>
<p>Supporting vulnerable people – so that everyone can access support and care locally to enable them to maintain independence, should they be affected by disadvantage or disability at any point in their lives.</p>	
<p>Creating strong and supportive communities</p>	
<p>Empowering local communities – so that all communities and individuals are engaged and empowered, and take their opportunities to shape the future of Peterborough.</p>	<p>Through closer links via the Neighbourhood Council’s local communities will be provided with the opportunity to have their say on what happens in their area. This may be particularly important where the needs within the community do not align with the maintenance need that is based rigidly on set engineering principles.</p>
<p>Creating the UK’s environment capital</p>	
<p>Conserving natural resources – so that we reduce Peterborough’s overall consumption of the Earth’s natural resources.</p>	<p>Peterborough has an established network of independent footways and cycle ways that allow users in many cases to travel without having to use the road network, in many cases local journeys can be quicker on foot or bicycle than they are in a car. Through the focused maintenance of the footway and cycle way network more people will choose to walk or ride and leave the car at home. The annual slab replacement programme is completed with all waste slabs being crushed, graded and reused as sub-base material on other footway schemes.</p>
<p>Increasing use of sustainable transport – so that Peterborough has the highest proportion of citizens using sustainable transport modes in the UK.</p>	
<p>Delivering substantial and truly sustainable growth</p>	
<p>Creating a safe, vibrant city centre and sustainable neighbourhood centres – so that people have more diverse and improved places to visit and enjoy.</p>	<p>The promotion of sustainable transport modes such as walking and cycling will support the aim to build strong communities with residents feeling less isolated and more likely to use local networks to access nearby amenities. This can only improve community spirit and make the area feel a better place to live. All footway treatments, even cost effective treatments such as footway micro-asphalt (slurry), have a significant visual benefit to neighbourhoods and communities and can engender pride in a street.</p>
<p>Creating better places to live – so that we provide better places to live for both new and existing communities, ensuring the highest environmental standards of new building</p>	

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Highway maintenance is a wide ranging service that includes the following activities: -

- Reactive maintenance – responding to inspections, complaints or emergencies
- Routine maintenance (Cyclic) – providing works to a regular consistent schedule generally

for patching, repainting faded road markings, investigating drainage problems, repairing and replacing worn and damaged road signs etc.

- Programmed maintenance (Planned) – providing larger schemes primarily resurfacing, surface treatments or reconstruction of carriageways and footways to a planned schedule.
- Regulatory maintenance – inspecting and regulating activities of others
- Winter Service – providing salting and clearance of snow and ice
- Emergency response – providing a planned emergency response to weather related and other emergencies affecting the network

- 4.2 Programmed or Planned maintenance schemes may be more expensive than routine or reactive treatments in initial cost, but should be designed to have a lower whole life cost, therefore providing value for money. The determination of priorities between competing schemes needs to be based more objectively to ensure the benefits are realised.
- 4.3 Area Highway Inspectors carry out a basic assessment of the condition of footways during routine safety inspections within their geographic areas and this is complemented by ad-hoc inspections triggered by reports from the public, Councillors or other parties.
- 4.4 Where an Inspector believes that it is not economically viable to restore a section of the network to a satisfactory condition with limited routine maintenance works he/she will complete an assessment form (see Appendix A) identifying the location and type of treatment he /she feels appropriate. Once complete this form is submitted to the Highway Maintenance Team Senior Engineer who will initially complete a desk top audit of the information provided before adding the site to the Highway Maintenance Scheme proposal database to be surveyed and rated accordingly.
- 4.5 Throughout the year the Senior Engineer surveys sites on the database applying three other factors namely, condition, hierarchy and cost to complete the assessment process. Having established the applicable factors to the surveyed site the factors are multiplied together and ranked accordingly against each other with a maximum score possible of 100.
- 4.6 When assembling maintenance schemes it is important to consider other programmes of work affecting the network both internally in the case of improvement and street lighting schemes and externally in the case of major works proposed by utilities and developers. In some cases opportunities to co-ordinate works can be achieved and where applied these support Peterborough's goals to minimise disruption in accordance with LTP2 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.
- 4.7 A final judgement is then used to decide on which schemes should go forward for inclusion in the Draft Highway Maintenance Programme that is submitted to the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee each year. The programme for 2011/12 is currently being developed and will be considered at the Joint Scrutiny meeting which is proposed for late February.
- 4.8 The significant difference between the method used to rate carriageway and footway schemes is that carriageway schemes can be prioritised using formal structural condition surveys the outputs of which, in addition to priorities, inform timing and treatment types using the United Kingdom Pavement Management System (UKPMS).
- 4.9 Current formal footway condition surveys (Detailed Visual Inspections or DVI's) are confined to a small fraction of the total footway/cycleway network (see Appendix C) and results are used primarily to confirm our former National Indicator BVPI 187 now collected as a Local Indicator to inform LTP2.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 **Maintenance Costs** associated with the different treatments available are often significant and have to be considered as part of an on going maintenance strategy with budget allocations having a direct impact on treatment selection (see table below).

Treatment Type	Life	Cost per sq.m
<u>Footway Reconstruction</u> The complete footway structure is removed and a totally new footway constructed.	25 years	£38.00
<u>Footway Resurfacing</u> The removal of the existing surfacing material, usually to a depth of 70mm, and resurfacing with new.	25 years	£27.00
<u>Footway Overlay</u> On suitable sites it is possible to overlay the surface of an existing footway with a new surface course.	15 years	£9.50
<u>Footway Micro-asphalt (slurry seal)</u> This method is effective in sealing an existing footway where the surface course is beginning to fail. It involves the application of a thin layer of bitumen emulsion and fine aggregate and in addition to extending the life of the footway by preventing water ingress (sealing the surface) it also provides a consistent finish and texture.	6 years	£4.40

- 5.2 In addition to the above treatments a slab replacement footway programme has been undertaken following a best value review of the service in 1999 and a policy adopted of using bituminous refurbishment as a construction treatment unless the site is within a conservation area. The LTP consultation process identified a clear public preference for replacing slab footways with bituminous footways and during the financial years 07/08, 08/09 and 09/10 approximately 36,600m² of slab footways were replaced with bituminous footways.
- 5.3 Budgets are under increasing pressure and this impacts upon the Council's ability to maintain current service levels and standards. With this in mind a shift toward a 'holding strategy' would be prudent with a larger portion of available budgets being targeted toward preventative maintenance measures that are cost effective and not only provide an engineering solution but also a real visual improvement to the street scene in any community.
- 5.4 Using the figures from the draft Highway Maintenance Programme 2011/12 it is evident that some 22,700m² of footway is planned to be treated with footway micro-asphalt at a cost of £100k (£4.40/m²) as opposed to 14,731m² of footway planned for resurfacing or slab replacement at an average cost of £276k (£19.00/m²).
- 5.5 Slurry seal surface treatment is not an appropriate maintenance choice for all footways given that many are already beyond the intervention point for such a treatment. However, in the current financial climate it would be appropriate to extend our surface treatment programme in order to arrest the deterioration of the footway network as a whole and to prevent more expensive treatment options at a later date. When considering future maintenance strategies it should be borne in mind that the use of surface treatments such as footway slurry seal is usually limited to two treatments maximum and therefore it can only be expected to delay more significant work rather than to replace the need for it totally.
- 5.6 Another benefit of footway surface treatments sometimes overlooked but often recognised by residents is the improvement to the visual street scene with aged footways normally looking tired and worn with minor surface blemishes, previous repairs and utility openings. This treatment gives the appearance of a new footway at a fraction of the cost (see Appendix B).
- 5.7 **Third party insurance claims** on Peterborough's transport network follow a typical trend experienced by other authorities and described in the 'Highway Risk and Liability Claims' document published in July 2009 by the UK Roads Board and the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Claims received in Peterborough in the 08/09 and 09/10 years for incidents on footway and cycle

ways whilst being on average four times less frequent as carriageway claims were in fact more costly to the authority by a factor of 1:3. A good example would be comparing a trip or rocking slab with a pothole where the former is likely to result in personal injury and in an elderly person can lead to serious complications by contrast the latter would rarely lead to loss of control and serious or fatal injury.

5.8 **Carriageway and footway funding** – Given the insurance claim statistics above the question could be asked as to whether the current emphasis toward carriageway schemes should be reconsidered with the view that the overall proportion of funding directed to footpaths and cycle ways should be increased. This would support Peterborough’s LTP transport priority ‘tackling congestion’ and help to attract car drivers to the alternatives of walking or cycling (Indicator reference ‘Cong’ 4, 7, 9, 10 & 11) but would also put more strain on the road network. The table below shows the budgetary split (shown as a percentage) between carriageway, footway and other assets in respect of the 08/09 to 10/11 LTP, Capital and Revenue scheme allocations with the 11/12 proposals in red.

	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12
Carriageway	75%	71%	59%	69%
Footway	13%	18%	25%	13%
Other	12%	11%	16%	18%

5.9 The evidence supports a steady increase in footway funding as a proportion of the available budget since 08/09 however this has not been able to be sustained as we move into the 2011/12 financial year. This is predominantly as a result of the harsh winter of 09/10 that caused widespread damage to Peterborough’s road network with footways being less affected by winter damage. It is to be expected that the current severe winter will result in similar problems on the network and where the Government provided emergency funding in 10/11 this cannot be counted on in future.

5.10 There is a danger that as budgets come under more pressure there could be a temptation to reduce footway budgets in an effort to maintain carriageway schemes. Through more rigorous selection of carriageway schemes and extended holding treatments such as surface dressing and micro-asphalt surfacing road condition can be maintained without the need to reduce footway expenditure. The setting and agreement of a virtual proportion of carriageway and footway major maintenance budgets would be welcomed in order to ensure consistency, promote sustainability and engender ownership across the wider community and authority.

5.11 **Footway Hierarchy’s** are applied to Peterborough’s footway network which is broken down into appropriate classifications relevant to what use a particular section of the network is put to. This classification impacts directly on how a particular section of the network should be maintained and are identified in the Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management as follows: -

Cat	Name	Description
1 (a)	Prestige Walking Zone	Very busy areas of towns and cities with high public space and street scene contribution
1	Primary Walking Zone	Busy urban shopping and business areas and main pedestrian routes
2	Secondary Walking Zone	Medium usage routes through local areas feeding into primary routes, local shopping centres etc.
3	Link Footways	Linking local access footways through urban areas, busy rural routes
4	Local Access Footways	Footways associated with low usage, short estate road to main routes and cul-de-sacs

5.12 Peterborough’s Category 1(a), 1 and 2 footways are shown in Appendix C and account for only approximately 13km of Peterborough’s total 1,157km footway and cycleway network. Whilst much work has been done during the life of LTP2 to reassess carriageway hierarchies and we are now able to apply these hierarchies to our carriageway scheme assessment process with confidence,

the same however cannot be said for our footway network at the current time. Some residents and communities may consider there to be other similar footways to those shown in Appendix C across the greater Peterborough area that are not classified with the same hierarchy and this would suggest the need for a review not only of the current routes but all of Peterborough's footways. Given the scale of this task it is recommended to focus on a review of only Cat 1(a), 1 and 2 footways as these are likely to be high usage, high amenity routes that will impact not only on scheme selection but other maintenance functions such as potential winter service footway reactive snow and ice clearance programmes.

- 5.13 The condition of footways is reported on annually at a local level (BVPI 187) in accordance with LTP2. These values are based on formal walked condition inspections of the Cat 1(a), 1 and 2 footway network known as Detailed Visual Inspections (DVI's). It is likely that any significant increase in the length of these category footways whilst providing the benefit of a more representative sample will have an impact on condition survey budgets.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is important that communities are able to influence future footway programmes and only through proper and timely consultation we will be able to make the best use of the resources available, working closer with communities to achieve shared goals.
- 6.2 With the continued pressure on budgets it is vital that we continue to apply asset management principles when considering the needs of the network and seek cost effective solutions to our maintenance needs. Through a shift toward completing more preventative maintenance solutions such as surface treatments we will be able to manage the deterioration of the network keeping the roads, footways and cycle ways safe and available for all to use, although in the longer term there remains a need for more comprehensive works. Equally, only by seeking to improve our knowledge of our network in the case of footway hierarchies and condition surveys will we be able to make informed decisions to optimise expenditure.
- 6.3 It is likely that a review of our high use, high amenity footways will result in an increase in length and this will have an inevitable impact on the budget available for condition surveys to satisfy National and Local Indicators.

The report has implications on a city-wide basis.

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

Peterborough City Council Local Transport Plan 2005 – 10

Peterborough Highway Asset Management Plan 2010

Well maintained Highways 'Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management 2005

Highway Risk and Liability Claims – A practical guide to Appendix C of The UK Roads Board Report 'Well Maintained Highways: Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management'

8. APPENDICES

- 8.1 Appendix A - Asset Assessment Form
Appendix B – Footway Slurry seal – Before & After photographs
Appendix C – PCC Cat 1(a), 1 and 2 Footway Network

Request for streets to be included in the "On Going Combined Scheme List"

Inspector: Date:

Street	Asset			Treatment									Assessment			TOTAL SCORE	
	Carriageway	Cycleway	Footway	Resurface	Surface dressing	Micro asphalt	Slurry seal	Slab replacement	Crack sealing	Drainage	Anti-skid	Safety fencing	Chevron block cleaning	Condition Factor	Hierarchy Factor		Cost Factor
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>																
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>																
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>																
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>																
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>																
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>																
.....	<input type="checkbox"/>																

Condition Factor

- 1:- As new no defects
- 2:- Good condition requiring little local remedial work. No public liability defects
- 3:- Average Condition containing numerous defects requiring local remedial action. This level may indicate preventative maintenance required.
- 4:- Below average condition with many defects. This level indicates a condition where resurfacing may be required.
- 5:- Severely deteriorated condition requiring reconstruction.

Hierarchy Factor

Carriageway

- 4:- "A" road or high use "B" road
- 3:- "B" road or high use "C" road
- 2:- "C" road or high use unclassified road
- 1:- Unclassified road

Cycleway

- 4:- High use cycleway
- 3:- Medium use cycleway
- 2:- Low use cycleway

Footway

- 5:- City centre
- 4:- Busy urban
- 3:- Urban or busy rural
- 4:- Rural

Cost Factor

- 1:- Little additional cost incurred by deferring scheme
- 2:- Moderate additional cost incurred by deferring scheme due to remedial works required to ensure that the site remains safe or where delay would result in more expensive treatment at a later date.
- 3:- High level of additional cost incurred by deferring scheme due to remedial works required to ensure that the site remains safe or where delay would result in substantially more expensive treatment being required at a later date.
- 4:- Very high level of additional cost incurred by deferring scheme leading to substantially more expensive treatment being required at a later date.

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Appendix B - Footway Slurry seal – Before & after photographs

BISHOPS ROAD



BEFORE



AFTER

Appendix B - Footway Slurry seal – Before & after photographs



BEFORE



AFTER

Appendix B - Footway Slurry seal – Before & after photographs



BEFORE



AFTER

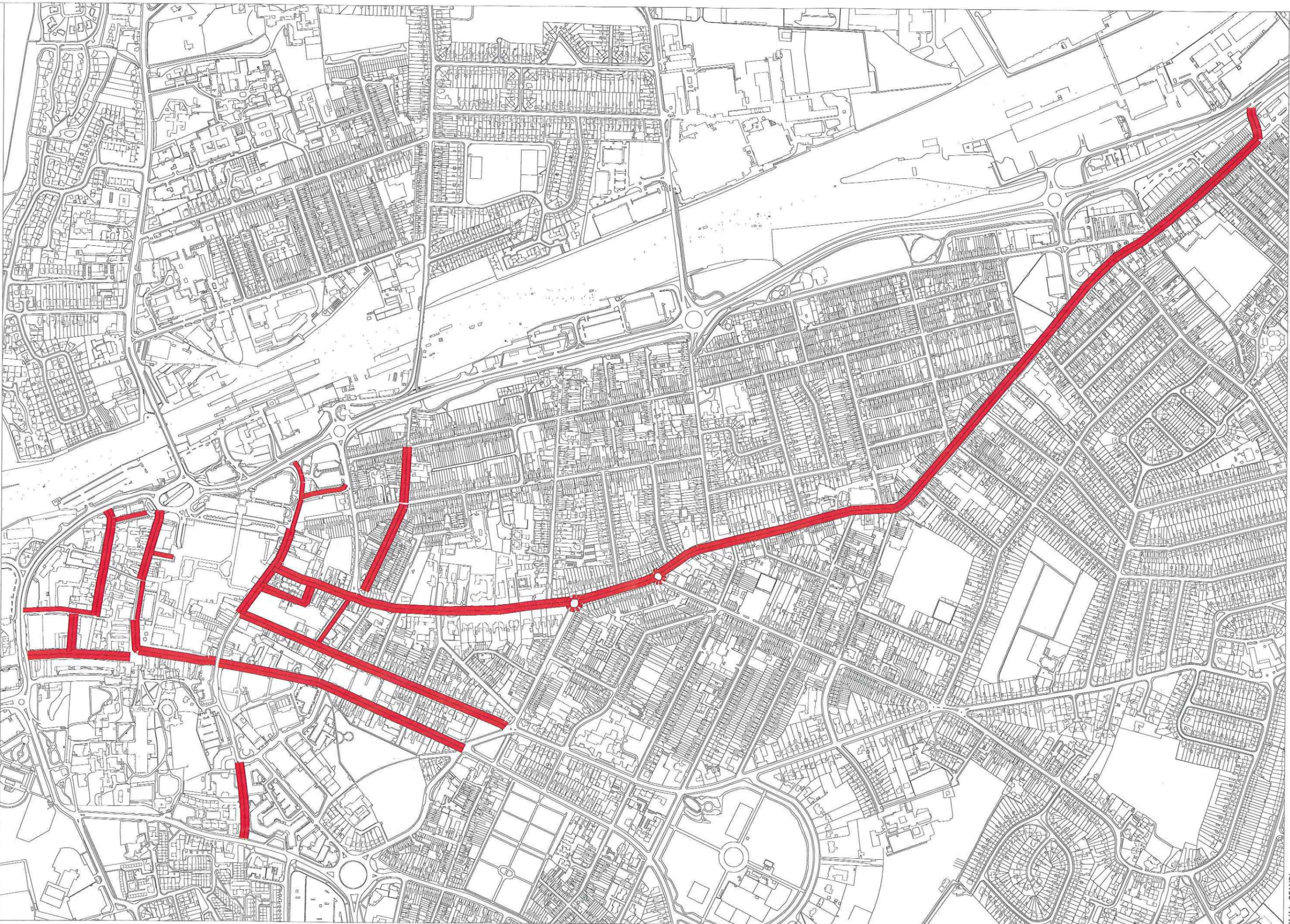
Appendix B - Footway Slurry seal – Before & after photographs



BEFORE



AFTER



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ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 9
20 JANUARY 2011	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 OF KEY DECISIONS

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.
- 3.4 A revised Forward Plan is scheduled to be published prior to this meeting and copies will be made available at the meeting.

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 JANUARY 2011 TO 30 APRIL 2011**

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - 1 JANUARY 2011 TO 30 APRIL 2011

During the period from 1 January 2011 To 30 April 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:

Interpretation & Translation Services - KEY/03JAN/11

Peterborough Local Investment Plan - KEY/01FEB/11

Affordable Housing: Revised Council Policy for Awarding Grants - KEY/02FEB/11

Supply of Utility in respect of Electricity, Gas and Oil to Council Owned properties managed by Strategic Property Unit - KEY03/FEB/11

Local Transport Plan Capital Programme of Works 2011/12 - KEY/01MAR/11

Supply of Temporary Agency Workers - KEY02/MAR/11

Bayard Place - replacement of air-conditioning system (legislative works) - KEY/03MAR/11

JANUARY

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>	<p>January 2010</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments & external stakeholders as appropriate</p>	<p>Alastair Smith Temp Capital Projects Officer Tel: 01733 384532 alastair.smith@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made</p>

<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>	<p>January 2010</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments & external stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Sandra Neely Temp Capital Projects Officer Tel: 01733 384541 sandra.neely@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.</p>
<p>Review of Charges for Allotments - KEY/08NOV/10</p> <p>To agree the charges for the use of Allotments for the forthcoming year.</p>	<p>January 2011</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Relevant ward members, internal Departments and external stakeholders as appropriate.</p>	<p>Commercial Services Director</p>	<p>Public report to be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made</p>

<p>Contract Award - Adult Drug Treatment Services - KEY/11NOV/10 To award the contracts for the delivery of Adult Drug Treatment Services</p>	<p>January 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Women's Enterprise</p>	<p>Strong and Supportive Communities</p>	<p>Internal departments as appropriate Safer Peterborough Partnership</p>	<p>Gary Goose Community Safety Strategic Manager Tel: 01733 863780 gary.goose@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.</p>
<p>Delivery of the Council's Capital Receipt Programme through the Sale of Land and Buildings - Vawser Lodge Thorpe Road - KEY/04DEC/10 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>	<p>January 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member, Ward councillors, relevant internal departments & external stakeholders as appropriate</p>	<p>Sandra Neely Temp Capital Projects Officer Tel: 01733 384541 sandra.neely@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken</p>

<p>Award of Contract - Paston Ridings Primary School - KEY/08DEC/10 Award of Contract for Extension to increase pupil numbers at the Paston Ridings Primary School following competitive tendering process.</p>	<p>January 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University</p>	<p>Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities</p>	<p>Internal departments and external stakeholders</p>	<p>Alison Chambers Asset Development Officer alison.chambers@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken</p>
<p>Security Framework Contract - lot 2 - KEY/09DEC/10 Award lot 2 of framework contract; cash collection and cash in transit services, delivering services for the council such as collecting cash from parking meters and banking it securely.</p>	<p>January 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth</p>	<p>Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate</p>	<p>Matthew Rains P2P Manager Tel: 01733 317996 matthew.rains@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is made</p>
<p>Extension of contract for Emergency Duty Team Service with Cambridgeshire County Council - KEY/10DEC/10 To extend the current contract with Cambridgeshire County Council</p>	<p>January 2010</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities</p>	<p>Neighbouring authorities and internal departments</p>	<p>Oliver Hayward Commissioning Officer - Aiming High Tel: 01733 863910 oliver.hayward@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken</p>

<p>Grant Support to Anglia Ruskin University - KEY/11DEC/10 The approval of a capital grant to support Anglia Ruskin University's purchase and refurbishment of the Guild House.</p>	<p>January 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University, Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities</p>		<p>Andrew Edwards Head of Peterborough Delivery Partnership Tel: 01733 452303 andrew.edwards@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance Team one week before the decision is made.</p>
<p>Lot 3: Operational Services - KEY/01JAN/11 To identify the preferred bidder, commence the formal TUPE consultation and award the contract for the Lot 3 strategic partnership for operational services</p>	<p>January 2011</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth</p>		<p>Margaret Welton Principal Lawyer - Waste 2020 Tel: 01733 452226 margaret.welton@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken</p>
<p>Manor Drive Managed Service – Procurement through the Services Competitive Dialogue Process - KEY/02JAN/11 To (1) recommend outsource of services, (2) approve initial shortlist of suppliers and (3) authorise further shortlisting decisions through the competitive dialogue process by the Executive Director of Strategic Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>January 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth</p>	<p>Internal departments, Unions, Staff</p>	<p>Andrew Cox Senior Category Manager andy.cox@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken</p>

<p>Interpretation & Translation Services - KEY/03JAN/11 Award of contract for interpretation and translation services for the Council</p>	<p>January 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Women's Enterprise</p>	<p>Strong and Supportive Communities</p>	<p>Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate</p>	<p>Matthew Rains P2P Manager Tel: 01733 317996 matthew.rains@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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FEBRUARY

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
<p>Peterborough Local Investment Plan - KEY/01FEB/11 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>	February 2011	Cabinet	Sustainable Growth	Internal and External stakeholders as appropriate.	Andrew Edwards Head of Peterborough Delivery Partnership Tel: 01733 452303 andrew.edwards@peterborou gh.gov.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.
<p>Affordable Housing: Revised Council Policy for Awarding Grants - KEY/02FEB/11 To agree revised policy and process for awarding affordable housing grants</p>	February 2011	Cabinet	Sustainable Growth	Internal as appropriate	Richard Kay Strategic Planning Manager richard.kay@peterborough.go v.uk	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.

<p>Supply of Utility in respect of Electricity, Gas and Oil to Council Owned properties managed by Strategic Property Unit - KEY/03FEB/11</p> <p>To award the contract for supply of Electricity and Gas to the single source supplier under the nationally awarded EU compliant ESPO framework agreement.</p>	<p>February 2011</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	<p>Sustainable Growth</p>	<p>Internal consultation where appropriate</p>	<p>Mandy Sterling Strategic Sourcing Manager Tel: 01733 384607 mandy.sterling@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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MARCH

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
<p>Museum Redevelopment Project - KEY/03DEC/10</p> <p>To authorise the award of the contract for the Museum Redevelopment project.</p>	<p>March 2011</p>	<p>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Strategic Commissioning</p>	<p>Strong and Supportive Communities</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with relevant internal stakeholders as appropriate</p>	<p>Steven Pilsworth Head of Strategic Finance Tel: 01733 384564 Steven.Pilsworth@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.</p>

<p>Local Transport Plan Capital Programme of Works 2011/12 - KEY/01MAR/11 To approve the proposed LTP Capital Programme of Works for 2011/12</p>	March 2011	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning</p>	Environment Capital	Relevant internal stakeholders and the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee	<p>Michael Stevenson Project Engineer Tel: 01733 317473 michael.stevenson@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	A public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is taken.
<p>Supply of Temporary Agency Workers - KEY/02MAR/11 To approve a framework agreement to supply temporary agency following a competitive tendering exercise.</p>	March 2011	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion, Safety and Women's Enterprise</p>	Sustainable Growth	Internal consultation as appropriate	<p>Mandy Sterling Strategic Sourcing Manager Tel: 01733 384607 mandy.sterling@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken.
<p>Bayard Place - replacement of air-conditioning system (legislative works) - KEY/03MAR/11 To authorise the award of the contract for the replacement of the air-conditioning system at Bayard Place</p>	March 2011	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources</p>	Sustainable Growth	Consultation will take place with relevant internal stakeholders as appropriate	<p>Julie Robinson-Judd Head of Strategic Property Tel: 01733 384544 julie.robinson.judd@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	A public report will be available from the governance team one week before the decision is taken

APRIL

There are currently no Key Decisions scheduled for April.

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

Meeting Date	Item
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
	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
	Review of the Christmas Park and Ride To scrutinise the provision of the Christmas Park and Ride Service for 2010, including assessing the impact of the introduction of a charge. Contact Officer: Cathy Summers
	Update on the Council's Carbon Reduction Commitment and Carbon Management Action Plan To scrutinise the progress made on reducing the Council's carbon emissions. Contact Officer: Charlotte Palmer
	Neighbourhood Services Working to Improve the Environment To consider the work being undertaken by Neighbourhood Services to improve the environment. Contact Officer: Peter Gell

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