

What Environment Capital means for Peterborough

In 1992, Peterborough was designated as one of only four UK Environment Cities and Peterborough Environment City Trust was set up in 1993 to drive environmental work across the city.

In recent years the city council and local partners have committed to developing the 'Home of Environment Capital' in Peterborough. Quite simply this is a challenge that Peterborough has set itself to deliver truly sustainable growth, ensuring a cleaner, healthier and more vibrant Peterborough for the future. Home of Environment Capital means that Peterborough is a city which places environmental issues at its heart, a city which aspires to be a role model in all aspects of sustainable development.

Background

Sustainable Community Strategy

Peterborough's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is the plan for the future of our city, the surrounding villages and rural areas. It is an ambitious and far reaching plan. It aims to substantially improve the quality of life of the people of Peterborough and to raise the profile and reputation of our city as a great place in which to live, work and visit. The plan is specifically designed to bring clear benefits to the people of Peterborough. Where we have advantages already, we want to build on them. We will seek to inject quality into everything we do, ensuring that as we build the bigger Peterborough, it is also very much a better Peterborough.

The SCS is the plan that will guide the work of all the partners in Peterborough – public, private, voluntary and community. It is also the plan for every individual. We all have a role to play if we are to build a Peterborough that is not only bigger, but very noticeably better – a Peterborough we can be even more proud of.

Vision

A bigger and better Peterborough that grows the right way – and through truly sustainable development and growth:

- Improves the quality of life of all its people and communities, and ensures that all communities benefit from growth and the opportunities it brings.
- Creates a truly sustainable Peterborough, the urban centre of a thriving sub-regional community of villages and market towns, a healthy, safe and exciting place to live, work and visit, famous as the Home of Environment Capital.

Priorities and Outcomes

The partners have identified the following four priorities which we need to deliver in order to achieve our vision:

1. Creating opportunities - tackling inequalities
2. Creating strong and supportive communities
3. Creating the UK's environment capital
4. Delivering substantial and truly sustainable growth

For the Environment Capital priority the following four outcomes have been identified:

OUTCOME 1 – Making Peterborough Cleaner and Greener - so that we become the UK's greenest city with attractive neighbourhoods, surrounded by beautiful countryside and thriving biodiversity

Outcome 2 – Conserving natural resources - so that we reduce Peterborough's overall consumption of the Earth's natural resources

Outcome 3 – Growing our Environmental Business Sector - so Peterborough is the natural location for green businesses

Outcome 4 – Increasing use of Sustainable Transport - so that Peterborough has the highest proportion of citizens using sustainable transport modes in the UK

In addition, and to fully meet the priority to grow Peterborough sustainably, a supplementary outcome has been added:

Supplementary outcome – Delivering Sustainable Growth - so that we provide better places to live for both new and existing communities, ensuring the highest environmental standards of new buildings

Single Delivery Plan

The Single Delivery Plan underpins Peterborough's Sustainable Community Strategy and is the delivery model for the Greater Peterborough Partnership core priorities. Programme Four 'A single framework for behaviour change in Peterborough with a focus on environment and health' draws together the environment and health agenda under the umbrella of 'Live Health Live Green' and has the following objectives:

- To increase active travel
- To increase sustainable foods and healthy eating
- To reduce domestic fuel poverty

Home of Environment Capital Major Policy

A major milestone in Peterborough's plans to create the UK's Environment Capital was reached in October 2010 when Peterborough City Council became the first UK city to sign a new high level eco policy commitment. This vital step forward demonstrates that even in tough times the environment is at the top of the council's agenda. This new policy sits above all others and every decision the council now takes must contribute towards protecting and preserving Peterborough's environment. With the adoption of the major policy, the council has voted for Peterborough to be known as Home of Environment Capital.

To view the full Home of Environment Capital Major Policy visit:

<http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/Environment-HomeOfEnvironmentCapital-MajorPolicy2012.pdf>

Communications and Marketing Strategy

The Environment Capital Communications and Marketing Strategy is currently being reviewed and rewritten and will be available in Autumn 2012.

Case Studies

A number of case studies have been developed to highlight projects that have taken place recently in the city. This includes:

Title	Web link
Powerdown Peterborough	http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/environment/climate_change/i_am_a_school/powerdown_fortnight_2011/school_case_studies.aspx

Salix – Regional Swimming Pool Voltage Optimisation	http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/environment/climate_change/what is the council doing/salix funding.aspx
Salix – Northborough Primary School Lighting Upgrade	http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/environment/climate_change/what is the council doing/salix funding.aspx
Salix – Town Hall Radiator Reflective Foil	http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/environment/climate_change/what is the council doing/salix funding.aspx
Gillian’s Footprint Counts	To be uploaded shortly
Real Time Energy Display	To be uploaded shortly

OUTCOME 1 – Making Peterborough Cleaner and Greener

So that we become the UK's greenest city with attractive neighbourhoods, surrounded by beautiful countryside and thriving biodiversity

Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans

Peterborough City Council's Biodiversity Strategy was approved by Full Council on 13 October 2010 to be adopted as part of the council's Major Policy Framework. The strategy was an update of the 2004 document which was subject to external consultation throughout 2009/10. The decision to update our current Biodiversity Strategy was taken to take account of the biodiversity duty brought in by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act as well as other changes that have taken place since the 2004 strategy was written. The biodiversity duty stipulates that:

"Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity"

The strategy currently consists of the following documents:

Appendix A – Vision statement and broad approach

<http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/env-bio-annexAvisionstatement.pdf>

Appendix B – Specific action to deliver vision and broad approach

<http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/env-bio-annexBactions.pdf>

Appendix C – Extraction of specific action and resource implications

<http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/env-bio-annexCextraction.pdf>

Appendix D – Consideration of external feedback on update of PCC Biodiversity Strategy

<http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/env-bio-annexDfeedback.pdf>

Local Nature Partnership

Following a series of capacity-building activities to gain cross sector support a proposal for a Local Nature Partnership (LNP) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough was submitted to DEFRA in early July. The outcome of this bid should be known by the end of July. The LNP is hoped to promote strategic and integrated working to benefit the natural environment.

Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area

Peterborough forms part of one of 12 Nature Improvement areas (NIA) within the UK. The aim of the Nene Valley NIA (41,350 hectares) is to achieve a step-change in the mechanisms for delivering nature conservation to create a resilient ecological network in the Nene Valley.

Uniquely, the Nene Valley NIA is situated within one of the highest growth areas in the UK with many competing pressures on land use, the ecosystem services it provides and the wildlife it supports. Many of these pressures also present opportunities to build upon its core area through the engagement of stakeholders, strategic planning of resources and economic investment, allowing restoration areas, buffer zones and stepping stones to be created. The Nene Valley NIA will bring partners together from every sector to facilitate a joined up approach in creating a coherent and resilient ecological network. The approach will be structured around five objectives which together will achieve the following aims:

1. Growth and Development will support, value and benefit the natural environment resulting in net gain in biodiversity by 2020.
2. Enhance public awareness, access and benefits of the NIA in a sustainable and sympathetic way, while ensuring that the designated sites at the core remain in favourable condition.
3. Improve ecological status of the river and enhance ecosystem service provision.
4. Strengthen the ecological network through effective engagement with farmers and landowners.
5. Investigate the potential to market the ecosystem services provided by the Nene Valley.

Trees and Woodlands Strategy

Peterborough City Council's Trees and Woodlands Strategy was approved by Full Council on 18 April 2012 to be adopted as part of the council's Major Policy Framework. The strategy was an update of the 1998 document which was subject to external consultation throughout 2011.

The decision to update our current Trees and Woodlands Strategy was taken to take account of the significant changes that have taken place over the last thirteen years. The updated draft strategy includes a number of key issues including a proposal to move away from response based reactive works to a programme of inspections, followed by tree works based upon those findings. A 'right tree in the right place' framework is also being developed which is hoped to avoid the selection and planting of inappropriate tree species.

The Trees and Woodlands Strategy can be viewed at:

<http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/Appendix%20A%20Trees%20and%20Woodland%20Strategy%20Master.pdf>

Green Grid Strategy

The natural networks partnership is a group of organisations (including Natural England, PECT, The Wildlife Trust and Peterborough City Council) that work to deliver the Green Grid Strategy. The partnership represents a network of local organisations working together towards a shared vision.

A Green Grid is the sub regional network of protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces, and greenway linkages. The linkages include river corridors and flood planes, migration routes, Rights of Way and features of the landscape such as parks and open spaces, which are of importance as wildlife and pedestrian corridors.

The Green Grid Strategy will provide for multi-functional use e.g. wildlife, recreational and cultural experience, as well as delivering ecological services, such as flood protection and microclimate control. It should operate at all spatial scales from urban centers through to open countryside. The strategy will identify missing links within the network and potential projects that will provide new links and improve the existing network.

Forest for Peterborough

We're creating a Forest for Peterborough. Peterborough Environment City Trust is working with a range of partners, including Peterborough City Council, to plant a

forest for Peterborough. The full Business Plan and further information on joining the planting sessions can be viewed at: <http://www.pect.org.uk/forest>

OUTCOME 2 – Conserving natural resources

So that we reduce Peterborough's overall consumption of the Earth's natural resources

Carbon Management Action Plan

Peterborough City Council is committed to reducing its CO₂ emissions created through the running of our services. In April 2010, the council adopted its Carbon Management Action Plan (CMAP), which was the result of a nine month partnership with the Carbon Trust through the local authority carbon management programme. The CMAP describes a model for how we intend to achieve our ambitious 35% reduction in CO₂ emissions from 2008-09 levels by 2014. It also outlines steps to ensure carbon management is integrated into the council and maintained.

Through implementing this CMAP we commit to working at a local level to contribute to the UK Climate Change Act (2008). Taking action to put our house in order will also provide leadership to Peterborough's businesses and residential communities. The CMAP is available to view at: <http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/env-cc-ct-cmap.pdf>

Your Footprint Counts Action Plan

The Climate Change Team are currently in the process of developing a Your Footprint Counts Action Plan for the city. It is envisaged that this document will be written with the public in mind, providing simple facts and actions that individuals can choose to take on board and reduce their carbon footprint accordingly. The exact timescales have yet to be confirmed.

Waste 65+

As a City we currently produce approximately 100,000 tonnes of waste per year and it is predicted that this amount could increase by 45 per cent by 2030. Almost 45 per cent of the City's waste is currently recycled; the rest goes to landfill. The City's landfills are near capacity and the cost of disposing of waste in this way is increasing dramatically. Peterborough City Council is therefore working with residents to increase the amount recycled to at least 65 per cent by 2020. At the same time, rather than just throwing away non-recyclable 'black bin' waste, we are looking at ways to recover value from it by generating energy.

The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2008 to 2022 can be viewed at:

http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/PDF/env-waste-recycling-waste_management_strategy.pdf

Street Lighting Efficiency Project

New energy efficient street lighting which will reduce carbon emissions, cut energy bills and reduce long-term maintenance costs is being installed across Peterborough. The programme, originally outlined in the Medium Term Financial Strategy as an invest-to-save project for 2011 to 2016, will see 6,000 street lights across Peterborough upgraded to LED. The LED lanterns direct bright white light downwards onto the roads and footways reducing the amount of light pollution caused by the existing street lights.

The first phase of the project, commencing in February 2012, to install 1,200 energy efficient lamps will provide an annual carbon saving of approximately 132 tonnes. A further 5,000 lanterns will be changed over the next two years as part of the efficiency project which is due to be completed by 2013/14.

For further information on the Street Lighting Efficiency Project visit:

http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/traffic_travel_and_parking/roads_and_pavements/street_lighting/efficiency_programme.aspx

Energy Services Company (ESCo)

Energy Services Company (ESCo) is a broad term used to describe an independent agency that develops, installs, and finances projects designed to improve energy efficiency, usually featuring sustainable energy sources. ESCOs are becoming an increasingly important tool for local authorities to take a more active role in developing the UK's low carbon infrastructure.

An ESCO usually takes the form of a limited company, although other delivery vehicles are possible. It may be wholly owned by the public or private sector, or a joint venture. A greater degree of local authority ownership allows the authority to secure additional objectives such as the alleviation of fuel poverty, rather than pure profit.

It is generally accepted that large, centralised energy generating stations waste a considerable amount of the energy they produce. By locating energy production close to where it is used, energy can be produced more efficiently, reducing the impact on the environment. Changes to regulations, concern about climate change, growing costs of traditional energy, together with the opportunity to make money from low and zero-carbon energy are increasingly focussing attention onto decentralised energy.

Decentralised energy forms an important part of the government's localism agenda. For the first time, communities, local authorities and other public sector organisations are being actively encouraged to become energy producers as well as consumers. There are increasing opportunities to make money and put assets to more productive use, whilst at the same time meeting wider social and environmental objectives.

In June 2011, the council approved the establishment of an ESCo to pursue the provision of low and zero-carbon energy schemes. The intention is to produce and supply energy, of various types, but initially the main supply source would be through photovoltaic cells (PV), commonly known as solar energy. In the future the council will look at other sources, for example wind. The energy produced will be made available for use in the Peterborough area, both by domestic and business users. One key advantage of this is that it allows everyone to potentially have access to energy from renewable sources, including those for whom domestic solar panels are not an option, for example those who live in flats, or whose roofs are unsuitable. This is an important benefit that supports Peterborough's status as Environment Capital.

Green Deal

Peterborough is currently assessing its position on the Green Deal and this section will be updated in due course.

Climate Change Adaptation

Regardless of any mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we are now committed to facing a changing climate due to the 30-40 year time lag inherent within the climate system. Being unprepared could lead to costs, disruption and distress from the projected increase in frequency and severity of extreme weather events under climate change. There is thus a growing urgency to begin to *adapt* to the climate change that is already unavoidable because of our historical emissions.

Adaptation is the process or outcome of a process that addresses how we identify, cope with, and manage the impacts of climate change. It should help ensure services, assets, businesses and the economy are resilient to a changing climate. Although the UK central government and Defra direct the formulation of adaptation policy, the focus of delivery is expected to be at the regional and local level, since it is here that climate impacts are most directly felt. Local authorities have the capability to effectively address the impacts of climate change through their roles as providers of services such as housing and building control, waste, leisure and environmental health, as well as through their functions as planning authorities, community leaders and estate owners.

Adaptation is not cost-free, but planned adaptation is usually less expensive than responding to an emergency or retrofitting to cope with altered climate risks. Unlike mitigation, adaptation may provide immediate local benefits as adaptation measures could equip us to cope better with current extreme weather events.

The council therefore intends to progress the process of introducing climate change adaptation within the organisation, and hence begin to prepare itself to provide continuity of service to its community in the face of climate change. We aim to firstly review and update the work of a previous Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) by incorporating recent local extreme weather events. We shall then proceed to develop and undertake a risk-based assessment of significant vulnerabilities and opportunities to weather and climate, both now and in the future, and to identify and prioritise risks to be considered for action. The council shall then propose and undertake a methodology for identifying appropriate adaptive responses to these risks, and formulate a draft adaptation action plan for publication in early 2013.

Flood and Water Management

As a Lead Local Flood Authority, Peterborough City Council has a key role to play in the delivery of flood and water management. The council is working on the following projects:

- Producing planning policy to guide new developments towards both better protection against flood risk and the protection of aquatic environments.
- Preparing a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to detail how the council and partners will manage flood risk in the future – linked to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010
- Undertaking a project to look at opportunities for improvement to habitats and water quality along the Nene – linked to the Water Framework Directive
- Working with partners to look at ways of reducing the water consumption of the council and Peterborough's communities.
- Preparing to be able to adopt drainage systems in new developments as part of a national move to ensure more effective site drainage that creates wider amenity benefits as well as greater protection from surface water flooding
- Strengthening emergency planning practises and raising community awareness of flood risk through working with the emergency services, community flood wardens and the Neighbourhood Management team.

For more information please visit www.peterborough.gov.uk/water

OUTCOME 3 – Growing our Environmental Business Sector

So Peterborough is the natural location for green businesses

Opportunity Peterborough

Opportunity Peterborough (OP) is the city's economic development company. It has a key role in supporting business and growing the number of jobs in the city. The city has strength in a number of core sectors. The Environmental Goods and Services sector is one with a growing presence in the city. Working with local partners OP is seeking to encourage greater inward investment and job growth in this sector in support of the city's Home of Environment Capital ambition.

During 2012/13, OP is focusing on the following five priorities:

- a) Ensuring that Peterborough is visible to investors
- b) Supporting local business ambitions
- c) Creating conditions to increase skills level across our communities
- d) Increasing our knowledge of the local economy and utilising intelligence effectively
- e) Ensuring that Peterborough gets maximum value from the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership

For more information visit: <http://www.opportunitypeterborough.co.uk/>

Investors in the Environment

Operated by the environment charity Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT) Investors in the Environment is a not for profit environmental accreditation scheme. It is designed to help businesses save money and reduce their impact on the environment. Investors in the Environment provides all of the help and support a business needs to get started and ensures recognition is received.

Participating businesses can work towards one of three levels of accreditation: Bronze, Silver and Green or begin by simply making a free pledge? This demonstrates commitment to the environment and means participants will receive a monthly newsletter packed full of events, hints, tips and news.

For more information on Investors in the Environment visit: <http://www.ije.uk.com/>

EnviroCluster Business Plan 2012-13

Greater Peterborough is home to 340 environmental businesses which contribute £560m to the local economy each year and employs 5,800 people. These businesses are part of a triple helix, along with the public and academic sectors, which together create a substantial cleantech cluster.

UK CEED, a 28 year old not-for-profit organisation which focuses on supporting eco-innovation and environmental enterprises, identified the potential for Peterborough to harness this cluster and create synergies between the cluster participants to create a strengthened local economy in the field of the environmental industries. Through this cluster, companies can become more innovative, more competitive and more economically active, through partnerships with other cluster participants. This effectively drives growth in new business opportunities, jobs, Peterborough's reputation and ultimately in the local economy. It was these benefits which led UK CEED to launch the Encluster (now EnviroCluster), in 2002.

For more information on the EnviroCluster and the 2012-13 EnviroCluster Business Plan visit: <http://www.envirocluster.co.uk/>

For more information on UK CEED visit: <http://ukceed.org/>

OUTCOME 4 – Increasing use of Sustainable Transport

So that Peterborough has the highest proportion of citizens using sustainable transport modes in the UK

Local Transport Plan

Improving transport for everyone who lives, works or travels in Peterborough is a priority for Peterborough City Council. To enable us to provide the best possible transport service in and around the city, we produce a Local Transport Plan (LTP) every five years.

The city's third transport plan (LTP3) came into effect in April 2011 and contains the transport high level strategy up to 2026 and the more detailed plan covering the period up to 2016. It sets out the challenges and issues for our existing and future transport systems and how we will seek to address them.

The LTP3, and past LTPs, can be viewed at:

http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/traffic_travel_and_parking/strategies_policies_and_plans/transport_planning.aspx

The integrated transport programme of works for 2012/13 can be viewed at:

<http://democracy.peterborough.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=10368>

Travelchoice

In 2004, the Department for Transport (DfT) awarded Peterborough city (along with Darlington and Worcester) Sustainable Travel Demonstration Town status. The five year project, branded locally as Travelchoice, brought an additional £3.24m funding for projects aimed at showcasing initiatives to encourage sustainable travel and to reduce the need to travel by car, underpinned by high quality research to understand people's travel behaviour and the underlying reasons for dependence on the car.

Extensive research during the period 2004 to 2008 demonstrated that these interventions realised a 9% relative reduction in car use in the targeted areas (35% increase in public transport, 14% increase in walking and 12% increase in cycling).

This research, and that of Darlington and Worcester, is available at:

http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/travelchoice/innovation/about_travelchoice.aspx

In 2009, following a successful five years, the council made the decision to embed Travelchoice into core business and the project continues today and has been further enhanced through a further DfT grant, Local Sustainable Transport Fund, providing funding to 2014/15.

Check out how you can walking, cycling, use public transport or car share more at:

<http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/travelchoice.aspx>

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

The Government announced, as part of the Local Transport White Paper, the creation of a Local Sustainable Transport Fund to help build strong local economies and address the urgent challenges of climate change. It reflects the Government's core objectives of supporting economic growth by improving the links that move goods and people and meeting its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The aim is to facilitate best practice in the delivery of a wide range of sustainable transport packages and presents local authorities with the opportunity to

introduce a package of sustainable travel solutions that will support economic growth while reducing carbon.

Peterborough City Council completed and submitted its proposal to the Department for Transport and was successfully awarded the maximum grant of £5m. The bid includes sustainable transport improvements, both soft measures and infrastructure, and aims at increasingly integrating sustainable travel into our mainstream travel planning. The bid is grouped under four key packages:

1. Working with individuals, communities and neighbourhoods
2. Workplace travel planning
3. Healthier travel
4. Young people's travel

Each package contains a number of measures; for instance package 1 Working with individuals, communities and neighbourhoods includes infrastructure and soft measures to integrate travel modes at the bus and rail station and improve accessibility in and to the city centre as well as a mini park and ride facility and improved walking and cycling links in rural areas. Package 4 Young people's travel includes provision for a bike it officer to work in schools and independent travel training amongst other initiatives.

The full bid document can be viewed at:

<http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/LSTF%20Bid%20document.pdf>

SUPPLEMENTARY OUTCOME – Delivering Sustainable Growth

So that we provide better places to live for both new and existing communities, ensuring the highest environmental standards of new buildings

Local Plan

The Peterborough [Local Plan \(First Replacement \) 2005](#) is part of the Statutory Development Plan for Peterborough. It was adopted on 20 July 2005, but its policies are gradually being replaced by policies in separate documents. This collection of separate documents is sometimes referred to as the [Local Development Framework](#) or, more simply, as the 'Local Plan'. It includes the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations Document.

The Local Plan is an essential set of documents to help deliver sustainable growth in the city. Collectively they set planning policies on a wide range of matters, including the need for sustainable transport, open space and eco-friendly homes and businesses.

Supplementary Planning Document – Live Healthy Live Green

As part of the council's commitment to Environment Capital, there is an opportunity for new development, especially large scale development, to make a significant contribution to facilitating healthy and green lifestyles. To make this happen, it has been agreed that a Supplementary Planning Document and associated programme is prepared.

This document will be available in draft around the end of 2012 and finalised by June 2013 and will include a period of public consultation.

Housing Strategy (including Fuel Poverty)

The Housing Strategy 2011-15 (adopted February 2012) sets out the council's housing-related agenda over the next four years, and identifies the four overarching objectives that will drive the housing agenda in Peterborough over this period. These are:

- To support the delivery of substantial yet truly sustainable growth
- To secure the regeneration of and improvements to Peterborough's housing stock
- To meet existing and future housing need
- To create mixed and sustainable communities

The strategy covers a wide range of housing issues and sets out a series of measures designed to help tackle fuel poverty, to increase the supply of prestige and affordable homes, to support the accommodation requirements of our fledging university, to reduce levels of rough sleeping, and to meet a range of housing needs, including households with a need for specialist housing.

The Peterborough Housing Strategy 2011 to 2015 and a separate executive summary can be downloaded below.

<http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/env-cc-Housing%20Strat.pdf>

<http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/env-cc-HSExecSummary.pdf>