

<b>STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 5</b>
<b>20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning**

**Contact Officer – Adrian Chapman**  
**Contact Details – 863887**

### **PORTFOLIO PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide Members with a progress report from the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning in relation to matters relevant to this Committee.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members are asked to scrutinise the progress made on the Cabinet Member's Portfolio by providing challenge where necessary and to suggest ideas and initiatives to support improvements in performance.

#### **3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The ambition of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to deliver a bigger and better Peterborough, taking advantage of the inherent opportunities we have and at the same time tackling the challenges we face in order to deliver a better quality of life for all. The priorities and actions from this Portfolio directly contribute to this ambition.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning is responsible for the following:
- a) Planning (Development Control), Highways and Transport, including car parking
  - b) Building Act 1984
  - c) Environmental Protection and Trading Standards, including functions undertaken as the Weights and Measures authority
  - d) Landscape Management and Grounds Maintenance (this applies to policy, administration and service standards)
  - e) Homelessness and Housing Options
  - f) Special Government directed Housing Schemes
  - g) Traveller sites
  - h) Supporting People programme
  - i) Flood risk management and planning
  - j) Approval of the Food Law Enforcement Plan and the Health and Safety Law Enforcement Plan
  - k) Close liaison with:
    - (i) Planning and Environmental Protection Committee
    - (ii) Licensing Committee
    - (iii) Scrutiny Committees
to review changes to policy and strategy within these service areas.

- 4.2 In addition, the Cabinet Member is responsible for overseeing the neighbourhood management approach and for most aspects of the work of the social inclusion manager.
- 4.3 The cross-cutting nature of this Portfolio requires the Cabinet Member to work closely with a wide range of other Cabinet Members and with senior officers to maximise opportunities for adding value and achieving efficiencies.

## **5. KEY ISSUES**

- 5.1 The following section sets out examples of the breadth and depth of delivery during this Municipal Year that the Cabinet Member has overseen.

### **5.1.1 Neighbourhood Management**

(i) The Cabinet Member has driven the neighbourhood management approach forward with great success. Local teams, under the co-ordinating role of the neighbourhood managers, are responsible for identifying priorities and acting on them, or ensuring that responses to calls for service from councillors and communities are positive.

(i) Of particular note is the creation and launch of the Operation Can-Do initiative, focussing on tackling entrenched issues in the Central ward, Millfield and New England areas. This is a multiple agency response to a series of complex and rapidly changing dynamics in the area associated with crime, ASB, prevalence of alcohol licensed premises, overcrowding, traffic issues, poor quality housing and community tension. Partners have made a 10-year commitment to working differently together in this area to bring about sustainable change, and this approach is seen as a pilot which could be replicable in other areas.

### **5.1.2 Housing and Homelessness Prevention**

(i) The council's Strategic Housing service is responsible for preventing homelessness and for striving to ensure everybody has somewhere safe, warm and affordable to live. Some examples of delivery from this service area include:

(ii) A comprehensive review of the existing social housing allocations policy, resulting in a full redraft based on new guidance made available to us by Government. The new allocations policy is currently open to public consultation (until 30/12/12), and, when the final version is adopted, will enable the council to ensure those most in need are provided with affordable social or privately rented housing.

(iii) The continued delivery of, and service improvements within, the Housing Needs service (formerly known as Housing Options). The service manages the allocation of social housing for all the social landlords in Peterborough, and prevents homelessness by providing quality housing advice and through the use of other options (e.g. the Mortgage Rescue Scheme or a project to support young single people). Some of the key service statistics are as follows, all since April 2012:

- Number of clients dealt with by Housing Needs = 11,420
- Number of households presenting as homeless to Housing Needs = 551
- Number of properties let through Housing Needs = 658
- Number of rent deposits given to secure tenancies for families in housing need = 187
- Number of mortgage rescue cases progressed = 58
- Number of requests for tenancy relations advice including illegal evictions = 153

(iv) A new and significant focus on bringing empty homes back into use. Our dedicated Empty Homes Officer provides monthly reports to the Cabinet Member highlighting key points, progress and potential blockages. This is subject to a separate agenda item at this committee meeting.

The Empty Homes Partnership between the council and Cross Keys Homes has been launched, which aims to bring upwards of 100 empty properties back into use over the next 2 and a half years. The project is funded through the Homes and Communities Agency and the partnership was successful in bidding for and receiving over £1m. The project identifies properties that have been empty for more than 6 months. Repairs are carried out through loan funding and the property is leased to Cross Keys Homes to house families on the housing register for up to 20 years. The landlord receives rent once the loan amount is repaid. The successful bid also included Huntingdonshire District Council, so Peterborough's Empty Homes Officer has been contracted to deliver this initiative within the Huntingdonshire District Council area too.

(v) An externally funded project to support those people who are most vulnerable to cold weather. The 'Warm Homes, Healthy People' project saw us partner with the Salvation Army and Age UK Peterborough to provide grants to the most vulnerable for the provision of new boilers, insulation and other interventions to maintain a warm and healthy home.

(vi) The continued delivery of the Care and Repair Home Improvement Agency service across Peterborough. The Care and Repair service delivers a wide range of interventions to enable people to retain independent living, including aids and adaptations, and minor and major changes to housing including the installation of level access showers, home extensions, and stairlifts. The key delivery statistics for the 2011/12 financial year are shown in table 1 below:

Peterborough Care and Repair Surveyors are currently providing surveying and project management services to Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Home Improvement Agency in delivering 100+ disabled Facility Grants on their behalf.

**Table 1**

<b>Type of work</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>	<b>Expenditure £000</b>
Minor Aids & Adaptations completed (<£1,000)	1354	£137
Assisted Technology jobs	29	inc in above
Handyperson Jobs	3010	£100
Major disabled adaptations (> £1,000 & average cost £5,000)	310	£1,700
Major Repairs & Heating (> £1,000 & average cost £5,000)	132	£900
Alternative funding cases & privately funded disabled adaptations	68	£112
Decent Homes work for Cross Keys	8	£8
Criteria visits	75	£0
Feasibility studies for Housing Programmes	32	£0
Preliminary Eligibility Tests	28	£0
Housing Health & Safety Rating System Surveys	82	£0
External Wall insulation installations	25	£177
Boiler & Gas Fire Services & Repairs re Winter warmth Project.	263	£40
Other works: Sanctuary scheme, WID, Surveyor charges, children's A&A	37	£32
<b>total</b>	<b>5453</b>	<b>£3,206</b>

(vii) The creation of Peterborough's first Foodbank which will support people who are in crisis to access food for themselves and their family. Whilst this is a cross-cutting initiative, it has been driven forward by the Housing teams because of its direct role in preventing homelessness and in supporting people to remain living in their own homes.

### 5.1.3 Regulatory Services

The Regulatory Services team delivers a range of statutory functions to support businesses and protect the public from harm. These functions include Environmental Health (food safety and health and safety), Licensing and Trading Standards. Recent examples of service delivery include:

#### ***Environmental Health***

(i) The key focus for the Food Safety and Health and Safety teams over recent months has been preventative work to ensure that businesses do not present E.coli and Legionella risks. The team support businesses through advice and guidance to obtain compliance with food and health and safety standards, but do take enforcement action, including closing premises and putting matters before the courts in serious cases.

(ii) In April the 'Scores on the Doors' scheme, which measured the quality of food premises, was replaced with the Food Standards Agency and Peterborough City Council joint scheme called the 'Food Hygiene Rating Scheme' (FHRS). Food businesses are now awarded a FHRS rating of between 0 (where urgent improvement is necessary) and 5 (rated very good) following a routine food hygiene inspection. The food business operator has the 'right to appeal' the rating awarded, the right to request a re-inspection for rescore and a 'right to reply' on the website to show what actions have been taken since the inspection to rectify the issues raised at the inspection. Ratings will be uploaded to the FHRS website and a certificate and sticker is provided for the business to display. More information can be found at the Food Standards Agency website at [www.food.gov.uk/ratings](http://www.food.gov.uk/ratings)

(iii) Environmental Health Officers and our internal Health and Safety team worked jointly to ensure that all of the City's water parks and fountains are fit for use and public health is protected after the Norovirus incident at Bretton Waterpark.

#### ***Licensing***

(i) The main focus of this team has been on issues associated with Alcohol licensing and Taxi licensing. The Licensing Team have been quick to utilise new measures resulting from changes to the Licensing Act by making representations against alcohol-associated premises licence applications where they are not in the best interest of the local community. There have been a number of examples of this in the Operation Can-Do area.

(ii) The current taxi licensing provisions on the whole have been in place for many years now, as a consequence a complete review and overhaul is being undertaken and proposed changes will be consulted upon shortly. The team have continued to undertake enforcement operations to ensure drivers are, in legal terms, considered fit and proper to hold a licence, and vehicles meet the relevant standards.

(iii) The Service has both refused and revoked a number of taxi driver licences where the driver has received criminal convictions.

(iv) Regular joint operations with the Police which targeted private hire drivers unlawfully plying for hire have resulted in licence revocations. Other enforcement action against both private hire vehicles and hackney carriages has resulted from road safety checks, some vehicles being taken off the road.

## ***Trading Standards***

(i) A key focus for this service is working with businesses, both small and large, to ensure they meet essential legal public protection requirements while also simplifying and reducing the regulatory burden for them. There will always be a minority of businesses that are rogues, these often focusing their activity on the most vulnerable in our society. In relation to these the service will continue to take robust action to protect the public.

(ii) The launch of a new multi-agency partnership, aimed at cutting smoking death rates and clearing the streets of illegal tobacco, which is also a significant source of crime. As part of this initiative an illegal cigarettes and tobacco campaign was launched in a move to raise awareness of the dangers of illegal tobacco in our area – which comes in the form of smuggled or counterfeit cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco. It is sold at around half the price of legal tobacco and can have devastating effects on our communities.

(iii) In anticipation of the Olympics officers advised businesses on the use of Olympic symbols and their legal responsibilities as well as sharing intelligence with other authorities in relation to counterfeiting activities relating to Olympics merchandise

### **5.1.4 Enforcement**

The Neighbourhoods Enforcement teams deliver a range of enforcement activity to protect the public from harm and to ensure those that flout the law are identified and appropriately dealt with. Their work includes housing enforcement, pollution control, civil (parking) enforcement, and enforcement against environmental crime (flytipping, littering, graffiti etc).

#### ***Housing Enforcement***

(i) Continuing to challenge our Housing Enforcement officers to ensure they bring forward relevant enforcement cases for action. In doing so, this ensures that the issues associated with problematic landlords, overcrowding, unlicensed houses in multiple occupation and life threatening hazards are brought to the public's attention and dealt with through the courts.

(ii) Some examples of housing related enforcement activity in recent months include:

- The launch of the Operation Can-do housing survey, which will provide robust data on housing conditions, occupancy, environmental efficiency and attitudes to anti social behaviour, environmental issues and housing in the area
- The use of powers under the Law of Property Act 1925 for the first time to enforce the sale of a derelict property on Fletton Avenue. The Enforced Sale procedure is now being developed to enable officers to recover debt accrued by the council
- A private landlord was successfully prosecuted and fined £15,000 for operating an unlicensed HMO

#### ***Pollution Control***

(i) The very varied work of this team has resulted in valuable technical submissions to support a wide range of planning applications, including green energy solutions for the city. Officers have checked and licensed a range of manufacturing processes to ensure they meet the required standards to prevent pollution, and have resolved multiple statutory noise and odour complaints.

(ii) A successful outcome has been achieved in relation to a significant rat problem in Eye. The service received a complaint from a resident whose neighbour was regularly feeding a high population of rats from his garden shed, which resulted in the number of rat sightings in the area increasing significantly. Officers served a notice under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act and arrangements have now been made to remove the rats. Officers have re-visited the area and have seen a great improvement.

(iii) Officers helped to ensure the Willow Festival was a success by investing a significant amount of resource into advising festival organisers on how to measure and ensure that the noise emitted from the event did not exceed acceptable levels. As a result the festival was a success and did not cause a nuisance to people living in the surrounding areas or present a hazard to those who attended the event.

### ***Civil Enforcement***

(i) The effectiveness and flexibility of this service has increased in 2012 under the guidance of the Cabinet Member, due to both the new CCTV enforcement vehicle and the addition of two additional Civil Enforcement Officers. The Service is further being enhanced with the replacement of the handheld technology used by the officers, and replacement vehicles.

(ii) Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers are now fully operational in Civil (Parking) Enforcement in addition to their other duties

### ***Enforcement against Environmental Crime***

(i) The team deal with a varied array of environmental crimes issues, the main areas of focus being fly-tipping, accumulations of business waste, fly-posting and littering. Impacts are maximised through a flexible approach, undertaking enforcement operations at the times crimes occur rather than working 9 to 5, and by concentrating on evidenced hot spots areas.

Increasingly the team is also supporting the movement of unauthorised Traveller encampments through pre-eviction site checks and managing evictions.

(ii) Land owners were made to take responsibility of an accumulation hot spot in Eaglesthorpe after a 6 month investigation. The area of land, measuring 56m<sup>2</sup>, was being used as a communal dumping ground for many years. After various land searches three land owners were identified, each of whom were contacted and informed of their responsibilities to have the land cleared under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949. None of the owners cleared the waste, so a Notice was issued to each owner. The land was cleared by Enterprise and all three owners have now accepted responsibility for the land and are going to turn it around by laying turf, keeping the area open for communal access.

(iii) 'Peterborough Paws In The Park' responsible dog ownership event was held in Central Park in August and was a great success. Comments from the public regarding the event were positive, as the event offered something for dog owners to improve their pets' behaviour and become more informed on the issues that impact upon them legally.

(iv) Officers rapidly ensured the removal of a semi-submerged barge from the embankment before hundreds of people gathered for the Willow Festival. The barge raised serious safety concerns so officers worked tirelessly and at short notice to identify the barge's owner and instruct its removal before the start of the festival. The owner was cooperative and the barge was successfully removed at no cost to the authority or the tax payer.

### **5.1.5 Social Inclusion**

(i) The Social Inclusion function is responsible for identifying and mitigating those aspects of public service policy and delivery that impacts negatively on a person's ability to engage fully in society. The current workload includes a focus on tackling financial inclusion, tackling poverty, working with and building the capacity of the voluntary sector, working with Gypsies and Travellers, and leading on the council's equalities and diversity work (reporting in for this aspect through the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Safety).

(ii) Some recent examples of delivery under the guidance and leadership of the Cabinet Member include:

- The creation and implementation of the Family Poverty Strategy, with a particular focus on tackling financial exclusion (this Strategy is overseen by the Creating Opportunities/ Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee)
- Co-ordinating the development of new, more robust unauthorised Traveller procedures that make full use of the available legislation to remove encampments as swiftly as possible
- Supporting the cross-party advisory group on Traveller emergency stopping places
- Negotiating new grant arrangements with the voluntary sector with the aim of ensuring that voluntary sector partners help us to identify funding needs and priorities
- Strategic and operational management of the St George's Community Hydrotherapy Pool

#### 5.1.6 Strategic Planning

(i) In order to facilitate and deliver growth, the city council needs a sound, up-to-date and proactive policy and strategy in place to steer and encourage sustainable growth. The Cabinet Member has overseen excellent progress in this regard over the past 12 months.

(ii) First, the city council has a statutory duty to prepare a 'local plan' (which comprises a collection of documents) to support and encourage growth. Following successful adoption of a Core Strategy in early 2011, the council has had four further planning policy documents found 'sound' by a government appointed Inspector, which is possibly a national record for a single district (i.e. to have had five government approved 'sound' plans within 18 months). The full list are:

- Core Strategy (Adopted 2011)
- Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (Adopted 2011)
- Site Allocation Document (Adopted 2012)
- Minerals and Waste Site Allocations and Policies Document (Adopted 2012)
- Planning Policies Document (due for adoption by Council in December 2012, following a sound inspector verdict in October)

Work continues on the final elements of the Local Plan, in particular a 'City Centre Plan', a draft of which is to be considered by Cabinet in December following consideration by Planning Committee and Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny in November. This Plan will set detailed planning policy for the city centre, including identifying specific 'opportunity areas' for new development.

(iii) Second, to support delivery of the Local Plan and to ensure the right infrastructure (including community infrastructure such as parks, play areas and other community facilities), are provided at the right time, the council is currently consulting on a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The CIL will ensure developers pay towards the necessary infrastructure, which in turn will help ensure the city can grow sustainably and create desirable communities. Background documents to the CIL consultation include full details of all the infrastructure projects the council would like to see implemented over the next 15 years or so.

(iv) Third, it is essential that the public is well aware of its rights in getting involved in the planning system, and are encouraged to get involved at all opportunities. To ensure communities are aware of their rights (including new ones in the Localism Act), the council adopted on 5 November 2012 a new 'Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI) which explains how the public can get involved in planning decisions. It also sets out a clear step by step guide for any community wanting to prepare their own 'neighbourhood plan'. The draft SCI was well received at all Neighbourhood Committees when presentations were given to them in the summer. Parish Councils have particularly welcomed the clarity the document gives, and have appreciated the one-to-one support officers have given them when requested.

(v) Fourth, one of the most fundamental needs of any citizen is a roof over their head and a place they can call home. And such a home should be safe, affordable and healthy. To enable these, and other housing actions to be achieved, the council adopted a Housing Strategy in February 2012, including a detailed action plan. The Cabinet Member has again overseen excellent progress being made on delivering those actions, as can be seen in the latest monitoring report (July 2012 - <http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/env-cc-housing%20monitoring%20report.pdf>). The Cabinet Member can also report that, despite the continued national economic downturn and difficulty for home buyers in securing mortgages, house building continues relatively strongly in Peterborough, including affordable homes with a target of delivering over 250 new affordable homes this year well on track.

(vi) Fifth, with the wet summer being a useful reminder, the council (which is now a Lead Local Flood Authority under the 2010 Flood and Water Management Act) has made significant progress putting in place policy measures to protect our residents and business from flood risk. In particular, the Cabinet Member will shortly be recommending to Council the adoption of a Flood and Water Management SPD, which will ensure all development proposals are, as best as possible, located in low risk flood areas (surface water and river flooding) and make special efforts to minimise the increase in flood risk elsewhere. It also assists developers in their new duty to provide detailed surface water drainage solutions for their developments. Other flood related policy initiatives will be forthcoming over the next 12 months.

#### 5.1.7 **Building Control and Planning Compliance**

The Cabinet Member has overseen the following key developments from this service area:

- Income is only 11% down from predicted levels and is expected to be on target at the end of this year
- Positive customer feed back is currently running at 100%
- The service is working on:
  - 15 retail fit-outs across the country with Age UK
  - 3 school projects with Carillion
  - a large project at Peterborough Regional College with Jefferson Sheard (currently at planning stage)
- The service has a large involvement with the Peterborough Development and Environment Awards 2012 – judging has been completed and the website is now being updated, with trophies and certificates being prepared.
- Results from a customer survey carried out with Compliance service customers between July to September 2012 highlighted only around 8% adverse feedback (10 cases out of 125)

#### 5.1.8 **Planning Development Management**

The Cabinet Member has overseen the following key developments from this service area:

##### (i) Service Enhancements

To enable easier access to historic planning applications, we have made available online our 'plotting sheets'. This enables private individuals and property search companies to quickly check the planning history of land and property in the city without needing the help of planning staff. This service has been very popular with customers and we have received great feedback. We have recently introduced QR codes on our site notices and neighbour application notification letters meaning that customers can get to look at the applications much quicker than before. Finally to help applicants submit the right information with their planning application, we have developed the online 'one-stop-shop' tool. By simply identifying the type of development you want to do, the tool will guide you through the information that needs to be submitted with the application. This enables us to process the applications more quickly.



(ii) Major Development Proposals

Although we are in hard economic times, Peterborough has continued to see some exciting projects coming forward through the planning system such as:

- Mixed use schemes at both the ING and Great Northern Hotel sites in the Railway Quarter
- Food supermarket at the Garden Park development, Eye

And it is particularly encouraging to see that many large schemes are actually being implemented including:

- The extension to the Queensgate Centre which will bring Primark to the city before Christmas this year
- A new private neurological hospital /care facility in Bretton
- A new office for the Kelway Group in Hampton
- The access road to the Great Haddon employment area
- Brotherhood Retail Park

(iii) Natural & Built Environment

Major successes this year have been the delivery of the new war memorial in the City Centre and the Cowgate improvements which will be completed in time for the switch on of the Christmas lights. The funding for the Cowgate improvements has come from the Section 106 contributions arising from the Brotherhood Retail Park development. A new challenge arose this year with the need to facilitate at short notice a management scheme for the Council's tree stock which has involved strong partnership working with Enterprise Peterborough. Already a substantial start has been made on implementing the programme. This year has also seen the publication of the Council's Historic Environment Records online.

(iv) Government's Plans for the Modernisation of the Planning System

The Government has identified areas where change is needed in the planning system in order to facilitate economic recovery. Some of the Government's ideas relating to the viability of development and the renegotiation of Section 106 agreements set before the recession have been in operation in Peterborough for the last 3 years. This demonstrates the foresight of the service and its commitment to deliver the right growth for the City.

## 5.1.9 Transport and Engineering

*(i) Service summary*

Last year the Cabinet Member oversaw the amalgamation of the Network Management and Infrastructure, Planning and Delivery groups, bringing all aspects of Peterborough's transport and engineering functions into one team. The Transport and Engineering group's function can be summarised as providing for the continued good and sustainable operation of the transport system. This includes:

- network management
- signal operation
- traffic management
- highway maintenance
- structures
- drainage
- project planning and scheme delivery
- and future planning

The group also has responsibility for developing transport policy, the street-lighting asset & related projects, public transport, community transport, school transport, development control and promoting sustainable transport through Travelchoice.

*(ii) What has been achieved in 2011/12*

In a challenging climate the Transport and Engineering Group has continued to deliver a substantial range of projects and initiatives that are integral to maintaining and improving Peterborough's transport system and meeting objectives of growth and advancing Peterborough's sustainable credentials. These include:

- The Local Transport Plan and Long Term Transport Strategy
- Completion of the new A1073 and associated projects
- The start of the street lighting efficiency programme
- Extensive structural bridge bearing replacement and repair works on the A1260 and A1139.
- A series of service and system improvements in ITS, highway maintenance and asset management.

## **5.2 Forthcoming Priorities**

5.2.1 From April 2013 the council will become responsible for the Public Health function that currently falls under the remit of the NHS. In Peterborough, the Public Health function and delivery staff will be integrated into the existing Neighbourhoods Department so that synergies between the various functional areas can be identified and maximised.

The vision for Public Health is to improve and protect the nation's health and wellbeing, and improve the health of the poorest fastest. The new Public Health outcomes framework details the outcomes that the council is required to deliver and there is a significantly close fit between these outcomes and the work of the Neighbourhood Department.

5.2.2 National reforms in the welfare system are to be welcomed, but it is recognised that there will be local impacts of these reforms that need to be carefully planned. Under the direction of the Cabinet Member, the Head of Service for Neighbourhoods has formed and leads a Welfare Reform Action Group which brings together key service providers from across the council, the wider public sector and the voluntary sector. Its aim is to identify and mitigate the risks associated with reform in order that those people in genuine need of advice and assistance are identified and measures put in place to support them.

5.2.3 Achieving the right balance between needing to find savings and efficiencies whilst developing and enhancing our approach to working with and supporting communities and businesses is critical, especially as the council begins to prepare its budget for the coming years. Increasingly, the Cabinet Member will be seeking ways of working more collaboratively with partners and across the council to ensure the right services are delivered in the right way in the right places and at the right price.

5.2.4 The integration of the four main transport and engineering contracts into one new core contract, which will further strengthen our ability to deliver all aspects of the service in a efficient and effective manner. Transport functions into one contract provides an opportunity for greater levels of cross team working and planning that could yield significant benefits to the authority through a comprehensive whole life-cycle approach to planning and scheme design.

5.2.5 The major challenges to the transport group will stem from continued budgetary pressures that are inevitable in the current economic climate and reduced funding from central Government. At the same time the transport group is integral to the authority's capacity to meet its growth agenda and will need to continue to improve the network to accommodate the increasing need to travel of businesses and residents. The group will also have to strive to further reduce the environmental impact of existing and new infrastructure.

- 5.2.6 A vibrant, thriving, safe, attractive and sustainable city centre is key to Peterborough's future bringing economic prosperity, inward investment and a greater sense of pride. With the regeneration work already completed in the city centre, broader delivery of city centre regeneration through the planning process is now underway. The new City Centre Plan will shortly be published for public consultation, and a number of recently approved and forthcoming development schemes are taking place.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 It is anticipated that the Scrutiny Committee will comment on and make recommendations relating to the updates provided in this report in order that delivery potential is maximised for the benefit of our communities.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Consultation relating to any specific action or initiative contained within this report takes place as required.

## **8. NEXT STEPS**

- 8.1 Comments and recommendations made by Scrutiny Committee members will be considered as part of the ongoing development and delivery of specific business areas.

## **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 None

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