

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
24 MARCH 2014	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Nigel North - Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Neighbourhoods	
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Environment Capital Action Plan (ECAP)

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Simon Machen – Director of Growth and Regeneration	Deadline date : 24 March 2014
1. That Cabinet recommends the Environment Capital Action Plan to Council for approval.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Environment Capital Action Plan (ECAP) has been prepared to outline how the city intends to deliver against the ‘Creating the UK’s Environment Capital’ strategic priority.
- 1.2 Cabinet will recall that at its meeting of 16 December 2013, a draft ECAP was approved for the purposes of consultation. Such consultation has taken place (details in this report) and a revised ECAP is being brought back to Cabinet for approval prior to consideration by Council.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek support for the ECAP by Cabinet and, if such support is forthcoming, for Cabinet to recommend the ECAP to Council for adoption.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No 3.2.1 “to take responsibility of 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”.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	No	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	
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4. ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL ACTION PLAN

Introduction

- 4.1 The Environment Capital Action Plan (ECAP) will provide, for the first time, a clear vision for how the ‘Creating the UK’s Environment Capital’ strategic priority will be delivered. Put

simply, Environment Capital means changing the way we do things to live within the resources of the planet we have. If everyone on Earth lived as the average Peterborian, British or European citizen does, we would need three planets' worth of resources to sustain us. This means, on average, each of us is using too much of the world's resources to produce the food we eat, treat the waste we produce, and generate the energy we use. The plan is broken down into ten different areas each of which include a vision of a sustainable Peterborough where people lead prosperous, happy, healthy lives within their fair share of the earth's resources.

Structure of the ECAP

- 4.2 The ECAP, as amended following consultation, is attached. As Cabinet will recall from its consideration of the draft ECAP it is intentionally short, easy to read and easy to engage with. It is hoped that everyone will understand, sympathise with and support at least one of the themes, no matter the person's background, age, status, economic situation or beliefs.
- 4.3 To be clear, this is not an action plan focussing on the traditional 'green agenda'. It is an action plan to foster healthier and happier lives, to support economic prosperity and security for residents and the city, and to help generate stronger, cohesive, supportive communities. And in achieving all this, it will also help improve our local environment and contribute to minimising, and mitigating against the effects of, climate change.
- 4.4 The plan is a city wide document (i.e. not just the Council) and has been developed with stakeholders from key organisations across the City. The plan is broken down into ten areas and comprises local and national context, interim targets to 2016 and a vision to 2050.
- 2013-2016 targets – these targets are, in the vast majority of cases, those that exist already in the City. If they are additional they focus on research which we aim to deliver by working with partners including local and national universities. Therefore these targets do not require additional resource, but do, for the first time, bring together all the positive action being done in Peterborough.
 - 2050 targets – these are designed to be truly visionary. At this stage we do not know if this target is possible but after adoption of the plan effort will focus on undertaking more in depth research into each theme area establishing the trajectory and revising the vision if necessary.
- 4.5 The ECAP is intended to be a true reflection of what stakeholders are able to commit to within existing resources and allows us to understand what these resources are. Crucially, whilst the ECAP is being led and developed by the Council the plan will be a document that is owned by the City with the aim of delivering this shared priority.

Why is a plan needed?

- 4.6 Our aspiration in the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to create the UK's Environment Capital is difficult for people across the City to understand in terms of goals and targets. Since its adoption in 1998 a number of initiatives have taken place to drive the aspiration forward but these have never been brought together holistically to enable progress to be monitored and action scrutinised.
- 4.7 This plan aims to make the SCS aspiration tangible, demonstrating how the actions make economic sense, make us more resilient to change and promote health and wellbeing, all whilst improving the local environment.

Fit within the Council's policy framework:

- 4.8 In 2010 the Council adopted the 'Home of Environment Capital Major Policy' which committed the organisation to continually monitor and improve its performance across a number of environmental areas. The policy can be viewed here: <http://www.peterborough.gov.uk/pdf/env-EC-majorpolicy.pdf>. However, since the adoption of this policy there has been significant progress and refinement in delivering this strategic priority, and Environment Capital is increasingly being considered within the wider context (e.g. economy, social issues, cohesion) in which it sits. As such the ECAP demonstrates how the City will deliver against this priority.

Next steps

- 4.9 Should Council decide to approve the ECAP subsequent action will focus on two key areas. The first will include monitoring progress which will be delivered by gathering quarterly performance data and using this to produce an annual monitoring report which will be made publically available. The second action will focus on continuing to work with organisations across the City to identify further targets that can be included in the plan going forward.
- 4.10 However, it should also be noted that the ECAP is a starting point. The challenge after adoption (and future reviews) will be to address how we collectively, as a City, fill the gap between 2016 and the 2050 vision.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 A consultation took place on the draft ECAP between 15 January and 14 February 2014. Broadly speaking, the ECAP was well supported by those who commented on it. A summary of the comments received and proposed alterations arising as a result of comments received can be found at Appendix A.
- 5.2 In short, however, having considered carefully the comments received, there appears no reason to fundamentally amend the approach, vision and targets as were set out in the draft ECAP. Instead, just a limited number of refinements to the ECAP have been made.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet will recommend the Environment Capital Action Plan to Council for adoption.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the ECAP. This is because the plan will help deliver the city's Environment Capital priority by providing clear strategic direction for the priority whilst creating, for the first time, a set of targets with which the progress of this priority will be measured.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The alternative option of not producing a plan would mean that there would be no clear vision and targets associated with the Environment Capital priority making progress difficult to monitor and the effective allocation of resources difficult. Therefore the alternative option of not producing the ECAP was rejected.

9. IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Legal Implications - None.

9.2 Financial Implications - There are no immediate financial implications on the city council. Where applicable, all targets contained within the plan are currently planned to be achieved within existing resources.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

N/A