

Appendix A – Summary of responses to the Environment Capital Action Plan Public Consultation

Introduction

Consultation on a draft Environment Capital Action Plan took place between 15th January and 14th February 2014. Thank you to all of those who took the time to write to us with your comments. 35 individual responses were received.

The role of this report is to provide a summary of what was said. This report does not summarise every point made, but rather it tries to capture the most important or frequently mentioned issues. However, rest assured that all comments received have been read and have been considered before the proposals for changes have been presented for final approval by Full Council.

We have kept the comments as anonymous as possible because what is said is more important than who said it. However, if anyone feels we have substantially misinterpreted your views, then please let us know.

Next steps

On 24th March 2014, Cabinet will consider the final draft of the plan and if they are satisfied they will recommend that Full Council adopt the plan on 16th April 2014. 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.

Perceptions of Climate Change and Environment Capital

The consultation began by asking respondents three questions that related to their understanding of the city's Environment Capital aspiration and Climate Change:

	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Don't know
How would you rate your understanding of Peterborough's intention to create the UK's Environment Capital?	40%	31%	23%	0%	6%	0%
	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
To what extent do you agree or disagree that taking action to improve the local environment is a key priority for the city? (please tick one box only)	69%	14%	6%	9%	3%	0%
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following statement applies to you: 'I can personally help to limit the effects of climate change'? (please tick one box only)	60%	0%	11%	23%	6%	0%

This shows overall that 94% of respondents had at least a fair understand of the city's Environment Capital aspiration and 89% felt that taking action to improve the local environment was a key priority.

Comments relating to the 2050 Visions

One of the general views that was expressed in all of the theme areas was that the visions are very stretching and may be difficult to achieve in practice. In response, this was intentional. In order for the city to achieve its aspiration of living within the resources of one planet, significant change is required on a local, national and international scale.

Theme / 2050 Vision in draft ECAP	Summary of comments received and the council's response
<p>Zero Carbon - No net carbon emissions from energy consumption, achieved through high energy efficiency and renewable energy.</p>	<p>Overall 83% of respondents were satisfied with the vision. In general respondents felt that the target was stretching and that significant work will be required to achieve the vision, particularly relating to improving the efficiency of domestic and public buildings.</p> <p>Council response: However we propose to change the name of the theme to Zero Carbon Energy to better reflect the aim of this theme.</p>
<p>Sustainable Water - We will each use 80 litres of water or less daily and the city will be resilient to water scarcity, with an annual risk of flooding less than 1 in 100.</p>	<p>Overall 83% of respondents were satisfied with the vision. In general respondents were concerned about the ability of residents already on water meters to further reduce consumption. The need for increased rainwater harvesting and our ability to minimise the risk of flooding was also mentioned.</p> <p>Council response: No significant changes to the vision is proposed. However, we think it can be better phrased, as follows:</p> <p>“We will have high quality water environments, the annual risk of flooding will be less than 1 in 100 in the urban area and we will each use 80 litres of water or less daily.”</p>
<p>Land Use and Wildlife - A network of wildlife-rich, accessible places which are valued and enjoyed locally.</p>	<p>Overall 63% of respondents were satisfied with the vision. Comments were received relating to the desire to see a target for woodland creation. Further comments related to the need to balance development, biodiversity and access to green space. In addition comments were received that suggested geodiversity should be included within the vision.</p> <p>Council response: At this stage the target focusses on developing and expanding the already existing Forest for Peterborough tree planting project. Reflecting the comments, the vision is proposed to be changed to:</p> <p>A network of naturally diverse, wildlife-rich, accessible places which are valued and enjoyed locally.</p>
<p>Sustainable Materials - All goods purchased from sustainable sources and wherever possible sourced locally.</p>	<p>Overall 78% of respondents were satisfied with the vision. Some respondents expressed a view that it was unclear what some of the terms in the vision were defined as, who the vision related to and the difficulty of influencing and measuring the target.</p> <p>Council response: The vision is proposed to be changed to</p>

	All building materials purchased in the city will be from sustainable sources and wherever possible sourced locally.
Local and Sustainable Food - 80% of food consumed will be produced and processed within 100 miles of the city.	Overall 74% of respondents were satisfied with the vision. In general there were concerns about how local land can be secured for the purpose of growing food and how people can have access to facilities to grow their own food. Council response: We accept meeting the vision will be a challenge, but we still believe it to be an appropriate vision to work towards. No change to the vision.
Zero Waste - Household waste will decrease to 250kg and 100% will be recycled, reused or recovered.	Overall 78% of respondents were satisfied with the vision. There were some concerns about how proposed changes to household collection services may affect the vision and the need to increase peoples understanding about the benefits of recycling. Council response: The vision is proposed to be changed to Annual household waste will decrease to 250kg per person and 100% will be recycled, reused, composted or recovered.
Sustainable Transport - A pedestrian, public transport and cycle first city and 90% of all journeys will be zero emission	Overall 78% of respondents were satisfied with the vision. In general respondents felt that there was a significant amount of work required to achieve this aim including increased safety measures for pedestrians and cyclists, an improved cycle network and alternative options for rural residents. Council response: Comments noted, but no change to the vision.
Culture and Heritage - We will be recognised as a high quality culture and heritage destination with active residents.	Overall 82% of respondents were satisfied with the vision. Respondents felt that Peterborough had a lot to offer from this perspective but that more work is required to develop a strong local culture and harness the support of volunteers. Council response: Comments noted, but no change to the vision.
Equity and Local Economy - A high skilled, low poverty, circular economy aided by the highest concentration of environmental businesses in the UK.	Overall 74% of respondents were satisfied with the vision. In general there was some concern that the vision was too stretching and that the term 'circular economy' was unclear. Council response: The vision is proposed to be changed to A 'high skilled / low poverty' economy aided by the highest concentration of environmental businesses in the UK.
Health and Happiness - We will live longer, healthier, more fulfilling lives, with health equality for all residents.	Overall 70% of respondents were satisfied with the vision. Some respondents felt that the role of green space should be incorporated into the vision and that the terms contained within it should be defined further. Other comments felt that the theme should be renamed 'Health and Wellbeing' to align with other local and national policy.

	Council response: To rename the title of the theme to ‘Health and Wellbeing’ but no change to the vision. Green space already covered by the third theme.
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Comments relating to the targets to 2016

One of the general views expressed in all of the theme areas was that there are other organisations operating across the city who may have targets that can be included in the plan. Work will continue, after adoption of the plan, to work with these organisations to raise awareness of the Environment Capital aspiration and develop further targets for inclusion in later versions of the plan.

Targets to 2016	Summary of comments received and the council’s response
<p>Zero Carbon</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce city council CO₂ emissions by 35%. 2. Increase the number of businesses registered with Investors in the Environment from 78 to 124. 3. Reduce per capita CO₂ from 7.2 to 5.9 tonnes. 4. All approved developments greater than 10 homes or 1000sqm floor area shall achieve an emissions ratio at least 10% better than building regulation standards. 	<p>Overall 95% of respondents were satisfied with the targets. In general comments related to the need to increase energy efficiency in buildings and on new developments, both of which are already included as targets in the plan.</p> <p>Council response: Since publication of the plan the data relating to per capita CO₂ emissions has changed and therefore it is proposed to update the target accordingly to:</p> <p>“3. Reduce per capita CO₂ emissions to 5.8 tonnes.”</p>
<p>Sustainable Water</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baseline the council’s water consumption and set a target for reduction. 2. Reduce the number of pipe blockages by 50%. 3. Produce planning guidance to develop a sustainable river corridor. 	<p>Overall 86% of respondents were satisfied with the targets. Respondents raised concerns about the lack of focus on the wider environmental benefits of water courses both from a biodiversity and recreational perspective. In addition respondents raised concerns about the work already undertaken by Anglian Water and the need to refer to these targets.</p> <p>Council response: The wider benefits issue has been addressed by the proposed amendment to the vision. We propose replacing the second target with two further targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Promote the ‘drop 20’ litres of water campaign across the city. 4. Anglian Water have decreased pipe blockages across Peterborough by 70% since 2010. This significant reduction will be maintained. <p>In addition we propose replacing the third target with:</p>

	<p>3. Produce integrated environment and recreation improvement plans for Peterborough's principal rivers.</p>
<p>Land Use and Wildlife</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of sites in positive management from 79% to 81%. 2. Increase the number of trees planted as part of the Forest for Peterborough from 8,000 to 55,000. 3. Secure funding to increase the number of Green Flags from 4 to 5. 	<p>Overall 81% of respondents were satisfied with the targets. This area of the plan received the highest number of responses overall. Comments focussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the need for less intensive grass cutting regimes for which further trials are planned for 2014/15 which may allow a target to be included going forward. - Definition of what a site in positive management means. Some comments raised concern about the lack of aspiration this target suggests - The need to include local geological sites in the target. - A further target was suggested by Nene Park Trust <p>Council response: Positive management refers to sites that have been designated for their substantive nature conservation importance, either wildlife or geology. Positive management of them refers to those which are being managed in order to conserve their nature conservation interest in the last five years. The target equates to 81% of 113 sites. It should be noted that a 2% increase is considered to be extremely challenging when Peterborough is already recorded within national reporting as being the 4th best in the country. Geological sites now covered in the vision.</p> <p>Amend/add the following targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Secure funding to increase the number of Green Flags to 6. 4. Nene Park Trust will continually raise the quality of its facilities and improve the participation and engagement of visitors.
<p>Sustainable Materials</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The council will achieve level 5 in the government procurement framework. 2. Develop planning guidance to support the use of sustainable materials. 3. Seek funding to develop a city wide sustainable local procurement framework. 	<p>100% of respondents were satisfied with the targets. Responses focussed on the need to define what 'level 5 in the government procurement framework' referred to. In addition the need to consider aggregate extraction.</p> <p>Council response:</p>

	<p>'Level 5' can be found by viewing the Sustainable Procurement in Government: Guidance to the Flexible Framework at www.gov.uk.</p> <p>Add target:</p> <p>4. In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 25% of total aggregates sales will be comprised of secondary and recycled aggregates.</p>
<p>Local and Sustainable Food</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek funding to carry out a feasibility study into local, sustainable food production 2. Achieve Fairtrade city status 3. Develop planning guidance to support local food. 	<p>Overall 90% of respondents were satisfied with the targets. Comments focussed on concern about the ability of planning guidance to influence local food production.</p> <p>Council response: It is considered that this will be addressed through the targets that have been included.</p> <p>No change to the targets.</p>
<p>Zero Waste</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase materials recycled or recovered at the household recycling centre from 80 to 90%. 2. Build a new Household recycling centre. 3. Seek funding to develop an action plan to reduce landfill of non-municipal waste (<i>i.e.</i> non-domestic). 	<p>Overall 90% of respondents were satisfied with the targets. Comments related to the council's existing target to achieve a recycling rate of 65% and to charge for the use of plastic bags in local shops.</p> <p>Council response: No change to the targets.</p>
<p>Sustainable Transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of businesses with travel plans from 30 in 12/13 to 60. 2. Increase the number of pupils receiving Bikeability training from 951 to 1300 annually. 	<p>Overall 94% of respondents were satisfied with the targets. The comments received focussed on concerns about the accessibility of bus services and the need to include targets relating to increased use of different sustainable travel modes.</p> <p>Council response: To include the following target:</p> <p>3. To further develop a robust monitoring network to enable in depth transport modal data to be collected.</p>
<p>Culture and Heritage</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of active library members by 3% annually from a baseline of 23,967. 2. Increase the number of people attending theatre performances by 10% each year from a baseline of 50,000. 3. Increase the number of people attending arts events from 40,000 to 60,000 by 2016. 	<p>Overall 90% of respondents were satisfied with the targets. Whilst in general the comments were positive there was some concern about the perceived separation of culture and heritage from the natural environment.</p> <p>Council response: The Plan is intended to be a holistic document and whilst it is broken down into ten different theme areas they are intended to be mutually supportive and cross cutting. However, the following changes are proposed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of active library members by 3% annually from a baseline of 22,971. 2. Increase the people attending theatre performances by 10% over three years from a baseline of 50,000.

	4. 24 culture and heritage sessions via Greeniversity per quarter.
Equity and Local Economy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of jobs in the cleantech cluster by 10%. 2. Reduce city wide unemployment by 1% annually. 3. Undertake a housing stock survey to ascertain homes in fuel poverty and subsequently target resources with the aim of achieving the Government's target to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016. 	<p>Overall 100% of respondents were satisfied with the targets. The comments related to the need to carry out a housing stock survey, which is already included as a target in the plan.</p> <p>Council response: No change to the targets.</p>
Health and Happiness <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of attendances in sport and physical activities provided by Vivacity from 1.056 million to 1.3 million per annum. 	<p>Overall 95% of respondents were satisfied with the targets. The comments received questioned the lack of links between this theme and the benefits of the natural environment.</p> <p>Council response: The Plan is intended to be a holistic document and as such the vision and targets included within other theme areas i.e. land use and wildlife also support the Health and Happiness/Wellbeing theme. In addition, we continue to work with city health professionals to ensure that targets being developed across the city will be incorporated in to the plan going forward.</p> <p>No change to the targets.</p>

In addition the following changes have been made to the 'local and national context' section in order to ensure the most up to date information is included at the time of recommending the plan for approval.

Current statement	Proposed amendment
Per capita CO ₂ emissions have reduced from 8.1 tonnes (2005) to 7.2 tonnes (2010).	Per capita CO ₂ emissions have reduced from 8.1 tonnes (2005) to 6.3 tonnes (2011).
Peterborough has 4 Green Flag Awards	Peterborough has 5 Green Flag Awards
The council only offers Fairtrade tea and coffee	In 2007 the council committed to support the city's aspiration to achieve Fairtrade city status
Via Enterprise Peterborough 75% of fresh produce and 40% of meat is from East Anglia.	Via Amey 75% of fresh produce and 40% of meat is from East Anglia.
Each Peterborough resident emits 640,000 average balloons worth of CO ₂ each year.	Removed
80% of Peterborough residents have water meters.	75% of Peterborough residents have water meters.
The UK has 1,585,854ha of Global FSC certified forest area.	The UK has 1,595,374ha of Global FSC certified forest area.

Peterborough has 1,000 listed buildings, 60 ancient monuments & 29 Conservation Areas.	Peterborough has 1,056 listed buildings, 65 scheduled monuments and 29 conservation areas.
	Peterborough has Ferry Meadows: The most visited country park in the UK