

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 4
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Report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital

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Portfolio Progress Report for the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital.

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report is provided to update the Committee on the progress of items relevant to this committee under the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the report and provide comments accordingly.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 This report supports the Sustainable Community Strategy by highlighting progress and change across a range of indicators and measures related to the objective to create the UK's Environment Capital.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This is an interim annual progress report for the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital. In April 2014 Council adopted the Environment Capital Action Plan (ECAP) which provides, for the first time, a clear vision for Environment Capital. The plan is based on the internationally recognised concept of living within the resources of one planet, a vision of a sustainable world where people lead healthy, happy lives within their fair share of the earth's resources.
- 4.2 A full annual report which details progress against each of the targets contained within the ECAP will be prepared and published in June each year. This report does not intend to provide an interim review of progress against the targets included within the ECAP, but does highlight progress in several key areas since adoption of the plan.

5. PROGRESS REPORT

- 5.1 **Zero Carbon Energy** – in October the city council published data which details the organisation's carbon emissions as part of various reporting requirements. In summary, this data shows that carbon emissions have decreased by 24% against the 2008/09 baseline year. To date this data does not include the benefits which are likely to be felt as a result of the upcoming energy efficiency works with Honeywell.

The Council has been awarded the 'Green' level Investors in the Environment Award demonstrating the organisations commitment to reducing its environmental impact. Investors in the Environment is a not for profit environmental accreditation scheme managed by Peterborough Environment City Trust. It is designed to help the business sector save money and reduce their impact on the environment.

The latest national data relating to the city's per capita CO₂ emissions shows an increase from 6.4 to 6.7 tCO₂. Whilst this represents an increase it is below the average increase measured across the region, England and the UK.

The first phase of the Vista development (Carbon Challenge) is nearing completion. It is understood from developers that both private sales and transfers to Cross Keys Homes are going well. Preparatory work on the second phase, further east along the line of the railway towards the parkway, has now commenced. Construction of the apartment block located at the London Road access has commenced and is scheduled to be completed in February 2015 and will comprise 48 affordable flats and 26 market flats. At the end of the 2013/14 financial year 108 houses (59 market and 49 affordable) were constructed, which equates to 36.6% of the total (295) and phase 2 (construction of 63 units) is on target.

In Glinton and Peakirk, the ZECOS (Zero Carbon Community) project, after completion of a detailed Material Flow Analysis, has found that it would technically be possible to offset 120% of the villages' current greenhouse gas emissions by using energy much more efficiently and by activating solar, biomass and potentially other renewable energy sources within the parish areas. Around £2.5 million currently spent on electricity/gas each year could be kept in the villages if local energy generation replaced conventional supply from the Big Six energy companies. These results were presented to the wider community for consultation, and the response was clearly in favour of focussing on behaviour change, making fabric improvements to properties and implementing solar pv proposals. The challenge now is to find a way of delivering these carbon reduction projects with clear financial benefits to the communities.

- 5.2 **Sustainable Water** – the Council have undertaken an assessment with Anglian Water to produce a baseline report which details the total amount of water consumed annually across the organisation since 2011. Work is now underway to identify where projects to reduce water consumption may be feasible. The city council have also been shortlisted for a 'We Love What You Do' award in Anglian Water's annual business awards which are due to be announced on the 26th of November.

Peterborough's Flood Risk Management Strategy (FMS) is now out to public consultation until Monday 8th December. Full Council have also added the strategy to the Major Policy Framework. The FMS has been prepared with input from the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, North Level District Internal Drainage Board, Middle Level Commissioners, Welland and Deeping Internal Drainage Board, the Highways Agency and the Local Resilience Forum. It provides a ten year plan for flood risk management in Peterborough. It is the first time that such a strategy has been prepared.

A significant partnership programme that will take place over the next 6 years to improve Marholm Brook, Werrington Brook and the Welland Catchment (into which they flow) is underway. A feasibility study was successfully undertaken last year and the business case is now being worked up for the full programme. This will include in-channel works, significant community and business engagement, management of pollutants at source and works to Cuckoos Hollow.

- 5.3 **Land Use and Wildlife** – In July, Victoria Gardens, located in Milfield received a Green Flag Award. This takes the city's tally to five awards (Central Park, Itter Park, the Crematorium and Manor Farm Park). Proposals are underway to re-submit the five existing Green Flag sites within the accreditation scheme, and two further sites are currently being worked on for possible submission in January 2015 (Bishops Road Gardens and Grimeshaw Ancient Woodland).

A significant number of trees have been planted as part of the Forest for Peterborough this year. At the end of the first quarter (April to June 2014) 70,624 trees had been planted in total. In addition a further 1,914 trees have been planted to commemorate WW1 on Council owned land in Ravensthorpe.

Current progress indicates that 79.5% of County Wildlife Sites are now in positive management. Work is ongoing to schedule this year's site visits targeting those where there is a high probability that they may fall out of positive management.

- 5.4 **Sustainable Materials** – As part of the Peterborough DNA project, a £3m programme funded by Innovate UK to shape a smarter more sustainable city, a new online portal has been created called Brainwave. Brainwave allows people to post information about challenges and discuss potential solutions. Masteroast, an international coffee roasting company based in Fengate, was experiencing a challenge with their waste. Each week they have 800-1200 sacks of coffee delivered in hessian bags – they were able to find a use for some of these bags but the majority were inevitably being sent to landfill. After posting this challenge on Brainwave, two local entrepreneurs formed a brand new organisation – Peterborough Reuse. With the support of Peterborough DNA the hessian bags will now be reused for a multitude of uses including a line of shopping bags; riverbanks reinforcement as part of flood protection schemes; and mulch for tree planting.
- 5.5 **Local and Sustainable Food** – There has been an increase in the number of Fairtrade schools as well as places of worship, businesses, community groups and retailers across the city. This means that the city is getting closer to fulfilling the requirements to the scheme in order to achieve Fairtrade city status. The rest of the goals (including local authority support and promotion) have been achieved.

Peterborough DNA has provided funding to support a student from Peterborough to complete an MSc in Sustainability. Part of the course involved completing a feasibility study into the potential for introducing a sustainability accreditation scheme across Peterborough's food outlets. This would see outlets tested against a range of criteria and the most sustainable amongst them being awarded a green star. Work will now be undertaken to identify further external funding sources to take this scheme forward.

- 5.6 **Zero Waste** – The construction of the £76 million Energy from Waste facility is currently underway and is nearly 60% complete, with most major items of plant i.e. the steam turbine and the boiler installed. Once complete the facility will be capable of processing 85,000 tonnes of 'black bin' waste per year and generating green electricity in the process. The progress of the facility is currently on time and running to schedule. The commissioning of the facility, which involves the final stages of testing before the site becomes fully operational, will commence in early Autumn 2015. The facility will be fully operational by December 2015 accepting both the Council's black bin waste and commercial waste from the surrounding area.

At the beginning of September a new recycling contract (in partnership with the five Cambridgeshire District Councils) commenced. All the recycling collected in the green bins is being sent to Amey Cespa's state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) which can process mixed recyclable materials. The facility, which opened in December 2012, contains state-of-the-art sorting equipment to separate materials including plastics, cardboard, metals and paper into individual streams so they are ready for recycling. The technology includes 11 different types of state-of-the-art equipment – including suction systems, an overband magnet and a glass breaker - to separate the materials before they are baled up on site. As a result of this new contract residents of Peterborough will soon be informed of the additional materials they will be able to put in their green bin, this will be part of the wider communications campaign as part of the Clean and Green Campaign.

- 5.7 **Sustainable Transport** – A funding boost of £900,000 from the Department of Transport will be used to encourage even more people in Peterborough to leave their cars at home and walk, cycle or get the bus. The money comes from a £64 million fund which is being shared across 44 local authorities and will allow the city council's Travelchoice team to continue working with schools, businesses and residents to reduce single occupancy car journeys and increase the number of people using sustainable transport, therefore reducing congestion and CO2 emissions.

August saw the first ever Travelchoice month with over 10 different events taking place ranging from cycle cinemas, to a deal or no deal public transport giveaway and pedal powered music stage for Party in the Park. It is estimated that over 2000 people attended at least one of a range of events that aimed to promote sustainable travel in the city in an informative and engaging way to enable people to make informed travel choices and to reduce the need to travel by car.

- 5.8 **Culture and Heritage** – Improvements to Long Causeway started in May aimed at revitalising and enhancing the public realm, to complement those successfully carried out in Bridge Street. A new central square depicting John Clare with curved seating and a focus on new public art capturing the city's environmental aspirations including poems written by city children will take centre stage. In addition, a new interactive screen will be installed in the square which will allow people to access and engage with environmental information. The digital content for the screen is being developed as part of Peterborough DNA and will see digital experts from across the city volunteer their time during a 24 hour 'hack-a-thon' to create a fun and exciting digital experience.
- 5.9 **Equity and Local Economy** – positive progress has been made in a number of areas relating to equity and local economy. This includes a reduction in unemployment levels from 3.7% in May 2014 to 3.1% in June 2014. A report from Centre for Cities shows that Peterborough has the second highest private sector jobs growth of any UK city at 5.45%, ahead of London and Cambridge. The city is also 7th for the highest proportion of private sector employment, ahead of London and Cambridge (3.6 private to public ratio).
- 5.10 **Health and Wellbeing** – In early 2014 two new fitness facilities opened in Hampton. The success of these facilities along with the wider offer from Vivacity, has led to the target for the number of attendees to these facility's to be exceeded.

The Peterborough Park Run has gone from strength to strength with the first anniversary run seeing 378 runners and 44 volunteers take part. Park Run is a free event organised by volunteers that provides support and encouragement to individuals wishing to take on a 5k time trial event. The run takes place every Saturday morning at Ferry Meadows. The last year has seen a huge rise in participants, which range from complete beginners who are initially only able to walk the three lap course, to joggers wishing to test themselves out in a friendly, uncompetitive environment.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report. It is provided for information and comment.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 This document has been produced in collaboration with colleagues across the Growth and Regeneration Directorate.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 In June each year a full annual progress report will be prepared and made publically available. This will detail progress against each of the targets included in the city's Environment Capital Action Plan. Should Scrutiny Committee seek further detail on any aspect of this report, then a subsequent more detailed report will be made available.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 None

10. APPENDICIES

- 10.1 None