

GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
16 JANUARY 2017	Public Report

Report of the Corporate Director for Growth and Regeneration		
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ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND ACTION PLAN

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with the opportunity to comment on an emerging review of the Council's environment policy framework.
- 1.2 The current citywide (i.e. greater than just the City Council) Environment Capital Action Plan (adopted April 2014) expired at the end of 2016. Separately, the Environment Capital Major Policy was adopted in 2010 and as such is becoming outdated and no longer fit for purpose. Work has been undertaken, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital, to replace all existing environment related policies and plans with two new environment policy documents. Both documents are currently in their draft stage. The first is simply an updated version of the existing citywide document and the second is a document that focuses on the policy position, achievements and targets specific to just the Council (and which feeds off the citywide version). All targets contained within the second document have been provided by the relevant officers and as such will be a true reflection of what the Council is able to commit to within existing resources and anticipated grant funding.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

3. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND RELEVANT CABINET PORTFOLIO

- 3.1 This report directly contributes to the objectives and outcomes contained in the Sustainable Community Strategy and, in particular, the aspiration to 'create the UK's Environment Capital'.
- 3.2 The report falls within the Cabinet portfolio of Communities and Environment Capital.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Creating the UK's Environment Capital Major Policy was adopted in 2010. The city's first Environment Capital Action Plan was adopted in 2014, which incorporated Council and city wide targets to 2016. A monitoring report detailing progress made against these targets will be published on our website shortly.

The two proposed documents, which are attached to this report in draft format, are intended to set out the policy and plan for how the Council's Strategic Priority will be achieved by different city stakeholders. This approach demonstrates how delivering the Priority makes sense economically, how it makes the city more resilient to change and how it improves our health and wellbeing based on the internationally recognised concept of One Planet Living. This is a vision of a sustainable world where people lead healthy, happy lives within their fair share of the earth's resources covering ten different interconnected themes: Zero Carbon Energy;

Sustainable Water; Land Use and Wildlife; Sustainable Materials; Local and Sustainable Food; Zero Waste; Sustainable Transport; Culture and Heritage; Equity and Local Economy and; Health and Wellbeing.

The documents are intended to be a true reflection of what the Council and city stakeholders are able to commit to within existing and anticipated resources and allow us to understand what these resources are. Crucially, whilst the documents are being led and developed by the Council, the city plan is owned by the city with the aim of delivering this shared priority. The adoption of these documents will allow us to move purposefully forward. The challenge thereafter will be to address how we collectively, as a city, fill the gap between 2020 and the 2050 vision. The documents are broken down into three key areas for each theme:

	Environment Action Plan: City-wide 2016 - 2020	Environment Action Plan: Peterborough City Council 2016 - 2020
A vision to 2050	Intended to be truly visionary. At this stage we do not know if this target is possible but after adoption we will continue to focus effort on undertaking more in depth research into each theme area establishing the trajectory and revising the vision if necessary.	This area remains the same across both documents.
Context	This section details some highlights of activities that have taken place throughout the duration of the first Environment Capital Action Plan.	This section includes facts that allow the theme to be seen in context and highlights some achievements by the Council so far. It also highlights existing policies and strategies adopted by the Council that directly or indirectly support the thematic area.
Targets to 2020	This section brings together targets that, in the vast majority of cases, already exist across partner organisations in the city.	These targets will be, in the vast majority of cases, those that exist already across the Council. If they are additional they focus on research or seeking funding which we aim to deliver by working with partners including local and national universities. Therefore these targets do not require additional resource. Note: This document also contains a clear and concise policy statement detailing the Council's commitment.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 Within the scope of this Committee's responsibilities, Members are asked to note the content of this report.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 For the city to achieve its environmental aspirations, it must show a strong and evidenced track record of environmental achievement backed by a focus on addressing areas for improvement. This report provides documentation that will ensure Peterborough is able to direct existing resources with a consistent approach.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Public consultation on the two documents is planned to commence from the 23rd January 2017 for three weeks. The responses received as part of the public consultation will be reviewed and fed into the documents as appropriate prior to consideration (and adoption) by Cabinet and Full Council.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 Feedback from the Committee will be reported to Cabinet at its meeting in March where Cabinet will be asked to recommend the document for adoption at Full Council.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 N/A.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix A – Environment Action Plan: City-wide 2016 – 2020

Appendix B – Environment Action Plan: Peterborough City Council 2016 - 2020

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