

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
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Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

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GROWTH AREA FUNDING

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the current position of the Growth Area Funding programme, and the intended direction and expenditure until it ends in March 2011.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee considers and comments on the current position of the Growth Area Funding Programme and makes any recommendations it feels is appropriate.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 3.1 This report comments on the position of the Growth Area Funding programme. The programme is delivering a variety of schemes, some of which are important enablers for the city's wider growth ambitions as laid out in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The report is provided at the request of the former Scrutiny Committee and represents the third round of Growth Area Funding allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to Peterborough, the GAF3 programme is a series of projects running between 2008/9 and 2010/11 that range in value from £30k to £6m.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 In September 2008, a revised GAF3 bid was submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government by Opportunity Peterborough on behalf of the Council. This was a necessary step to confirm funding for 09/10 and 10/11. The bid document was comprehensive, setting out the growth context for the City as well as thirty-one project proposals that together requested a total of £25.3m. The total GAF3 award confirmed following this in December 2008 was £21.5m, broken down across the 2008/9 to 2010/11 period as:

- 2008/9 - £7,819,955
- 2009/10 - £6,838,274
- 2010/11 - £6,847,559

- 5.2 Importantly, whilst the 2008/9 money had been received, the remaining figures were indicative. On the 15 June 2009, the 2009/10 figure was confirmed, but on the 17 July 2009, DCLG wrote to all GAF3 accountable bodies informing them of proposed reductions to the 2010/11 figure. For Peterborough, this meant that the 2010/11 allocation would be £3,866,918 – a loss of £2,980,641, or about 43.5% for the year. The total GAF3 allocation would therefore drop from £21.5m to £18.5m. The programme was therefore revised to ensure that it would not become overspent and so that changes the original bid were taken into account.

5.3 The current GAF3 programme is in the table below, including the total capital and revenue allocations as well as the amounts of these spent to date. Brief background on each project is then provided; this is intentionally very high-level and is intended to provide outline context only. More information can be obtained on each project from the key contact listed, if desired.

Project	Status	Capital allocation	Revenue allocation	Capital Spent	Revenue Spent
Junction 8 Access	In delivery	£4.75m	-		
Public realm works phase 1	In delivery	£4m	-		
Junction 20 Upgrade Study	Phase 1 complete, phase 2 not yet in progress	£125k	-		
Bourges Boulevard Design	In delivery	£150k	-		
Intelligent Transport System	In delivery	£580k	£20k		
Water Cycle Study	In delivery	-	£35k		
LTTS and Park & Ride Feasibility	In delivery	£50k	£100k		
South Bank Eco Settlement	In delivery	£100k	£75k		
Stanground Bypass	Completed	£1.01m	-		
London Road 4 th Arm	Completed	£750k	-		
Hampton Joint Service Centre	In delivery	£2m	-		
Green linkages	In delivery	£240k	-		
John Clare county restoration	In delivery	£156k	£18k		
Green grid explorer	In delivery	£70k	-		
Green grid officers	In delivery	£150k	£36k		
Green quarter co-ordinator	In delivery	£70k	-		
Station quarter co-ordinator	In delivery	£60k	-		
Arena feasibility study	Not yet in progress	-	£30k		
Cultural gap analysis	In progress	-	£30k		
University business school	Not yet in progress	£1.5m	-		
<i>Environmental project allocation</i>	Not yet in progress	£250k	-		
South Bank and City West Regeneration	Reports to OP Board & PCC Cabinet Autumn 2009	£2.178m			
TOTALS		£18.189m	£344k	£	£

Junction 8 Access (Key Contact – Barry Kirk)

Junction 8 is in the north-east of Peterborough, at the intersection of the A1139 and A15 Paston Parkway. The project was designed to alleviate existing significant congestion at the junction during peak times, whilst building capacity to support future developments near to the junction, such as Paston Reserve. The need for future capacity was identified as a requirement within the Integrated Growth Strategy.

Public Realm Works Phase 1 (Key contact – Andrew Edwards)

Following the Public Realm Strategy published by Opportunity Peterborough in May 2008, this project takes forward works necessary for the redevelopment and creation of a vibrant city centre. Improvements to the public realm are expected to deliver a range of benefits, including improved evening footfall through Cathedral Square, better access to the Guildhall, St John's Church and various shop frontages, and perception improvements about the City Centre's safety.

Junction 20 Upgrade Study (Key Contact – Barry Kirk)

Junction 20 is in the north-east of the City at the intersection of the A47 and the A15 Paston Parkway. Congestion on this junction is expected to increase significantly as result of several factors, including the completion of the A1073 Improvement Scheme and the Paston Reserve housing site. This project will complete detailed study and designs that will enable the junction to be signalised in the future to alleviate these potential issues. Phase 1 of the scheme involved some future proofing of the junction undertaken during recent improvement works using GAF funding.

Bourges Boulevard Design

To develop a scheme to improve accessibility for sustainable transport on Bourges Boulevard.

Intelligent Transport System (Key Contact – Peter Tebb)

Part funded from the Local Transport Plan, the ITS was identified within the City Centre Framework Transport Report as providing the platform for and subsequent management of future growth. The project includes a variety deliverables to improve or / and sustain traffic flows through the City, such as urban traffic management and control, bus priority measures, and incident control systems.

Water Cycle Study (Key Contact – Simon Pickstone)

To help prevent limitations to future growth, this project provides an assessment of the environment and infrastructure capacity for water supply, sewage disposal, flood risk management, and surface water drainage. The project is part funded from GAF, with the remainder being made up of funding from PCC and the Environment Agency.

Long Term Transport Strategy and Park and Ride Feasibility

To produce a Long Term Transport Strategy for Peterborough to deliver the growth agenda and form the basis of the development of the third Peterborough Local Transport Plan. To also take forward the development of a Park and Ride site.

South Bank Eco Settlement (Key Contact – Phil Harker)

This project is to help bring forward work on the South Bank Eco Settlement, helping ensure developer interest and delivery of a potential 1,100 unit housing site in the City Centre area.

Stanground Bypass (Key Contact – Barry Kirk)

The project was to pay for an upgrade to the Stanground Bypass's construction so that it would be able to accommodate greater levels of traffic than at present, supporting future developments without necessitating future develops to reconstruct the road.

London Road 4th Arm (Key Contact – Richard Cranwell)

This project upgrades the junction of London Road and Oundle Road. As the only major route into the City Centre from the South, it is already heavily trafficked and congestion and delays were increasingly likely as City growth was realised. Previous upgrades funded from GAF2 have improved vehicular capacity and flow, and these latest modifications build on these to provide a fourth arm access to the help unlock the South Bank development site.

Hampton Joint Service Centre (Key Contact – Fiona O'Mahoney)

This is intended to deliver one thousand square metres of medical space, to be leased by the PCT, and two thousand square metres of sports and cultural space, including six hundred square metres for a library. Other facilities will include a four-court badminton area, a gym, and a multifunction room.

Green linkages (Key Contact – James Fisher)

This project implements improvements to the Green Wheel cycle network, enhancing surfacing, signage and interpretation, as well as identifying areas along the route that would benefit from landscape and biodiversity improvements.

John Clare county restoration (Key Contact – James Fisher)

This project will increase the levels of accessible green open space and wildlife habitats in an area identified through the Green Grid Strategy where this is inadequate.

Green grid Explorer (Key contact- James Fisher)

The project is designed to improve access to information, encouraging greater use of the City's Rights of Way network, parks, and open spaces. This involves interactive mapping and other web-based technologies that will be increasingly available through 'smart-phones'.

Green grid officers (Key Contact – James Fisher)

This provides the project management and leadership to deliver the John Clare County Restoration and Green Grid Explorer, as well as encouraging community use of these and other green assets.

Green quarter co-ordinator (Key Contact – Steve Bowyer)

Funding a two year resource, this aims to bring forward "high quality, environmentally sustainable commercial buildings in the area close to the railway station". A mixed use development, it would primarily be office space and would be delivered to the BREEEAM Excellent standard as a minimum.

Station quarter co-ordinator (Key Contact – Steve Bowyer)

Funding a two year resource, this aims to bring forward a 22 hectare development of land around the railway station, including 500,000 square metres of office space and 800 homes.

Arena feasibility study (Key Contact – Steve Bowyer)

A new multifunctional arena has been discussed as a desirable project for Peterborough for some time, but there has been a lack of detail and clarity about exactly what this would look like, how it would operate, and where it would be located. This project will address these factors.

Cultural gap analysis (Key Contact – Steve Bowyer)

This analysis will look at all areas of cultural provision in the city, identify catchment area capacity and audience and compare Peterborough against other cities of a similar size and demographic. From this, it will make recommendations about where interventions can be put in place to deliver improvements in the most effective way.

University business school (Key Contact – Shahin Ismail)

The plans for Peterborough's university status involve the creation of a series of higher education centres across the city, each with different specialism and focussing on a different market segment. This project was designed to support the establishment of the business school centre, intended to be located at the Lynchwood Business Park. The centre would offer a range of programmes, training provision and consultancy services, with qualifications awarded at all levels including degree, masters and doctorate.

Environmental project allocation (Key Contact – Shahin Ismail)

Peterborough has clear environmental ambitions that were supported by a number of GAF3 projects. Changing circumstances have resulted in some of the projects not proceeding, which has arguably had a negative reputational impact. To demonstrably support the city's Environment Capital aspirations, £250k of capital funding has been set aside until the end of October 2009 and made available for project bids. These project bids will need to pass PCC's Governance Board to be accepted, and will need to demonstrate that:

- There is direct support for the city's growth agenda in the project, and
- The project will support and directly contribute to our Environment Capital plans, and
- The project is deliverable in its entirety before the end of March 2011

South Bank and City West Regeneration (Key Contact – Shahin Ismail)

PCC's Cabinet in December 2000 and OP's Board in January 2009 agreed to establish new activity arrangements to progress the city centre regeneration progress criteria to activity stage. A report will go the PCC's Cabinet and OP's Board in October to commence this new arrangement. South Bank and City West schemes will be the initial focus.

6. NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 The GAF Programme is being actively managed and monitored through the Council's Project Governance Board, and this will continue until the end of the programme.

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

None

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