

<b>SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 6</b>
<b>25 January 2010</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## Report of the Executive Director of Operations

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### CLIMATE CHANGE AND RURAL AREAS

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider the current and future actions that can be undertaken to address the impacts Climate Change may have upon the rural communities of Peterborough.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities scrutinises the current actions of the Council and provides recommendations for future initiatives.

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

- 3.1 This area of work relates directly to the Sustainable Communities Strategy, specifically the priority to create the country's environment capital and deliver substantial and truly sustainable growth. This area of work is governed through the National Indicator set, NI 186 and NI 188. Delivery of these indicators ensures Peterborough City Council leads action with local partners and residents to ensure the city is suitably placed to deal with the inevitable consequences that climate change will bring.

#### 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2008, the UK became the first country in the world to adopt legally binding targets for CO2 reductions by passing the Climate Change Act. The UK is now committed to reducing emissions by 80% of 1990 levels by 2050. In order to drive action forward the Government introduced three National Indicators in 2008. These indicators are:

NI185 – CO2 reduction from local authority operations  
NI186 – Per capita CO2 reduction  
NI188 – Adapting to climate change

- 4.2 Carbon emissions in Peterborough are primarily broken down in two categories – business and commercial, transport and domestic. In order to achieve reductions the Climate Change Team have embarked upon:

- 4.3 **Your Footprint Counts** – a campaign designed to increase understanding and awareness of climate change issues, providing people with the knowledge they need to adopt behavioural change.  
**'Going Green' game** – working with pupils at Hampton College this game was designed and distributed to all Peterborough schools and has achieved a national *Green Apple* award.  
**Climate Change Card Game** – a pack of cards, designed specifically for Peterborough, based

on the Top Trumps theme.

**Efergy Loan scheme** – energy monitoring meters are available for residents to borrow from libraries across the city. The technology allows residents to see their energy usage real time and take action to reduce their overall consumption.

**Heat Loss Study** – in March 2009, an aerial thermal imaging study was undertaken across the urban area of Peterborough. The results were launched in October with residents being able to identify the individual heat loss value of their property via the city council website. In order to extend this service to Peterborough’s rural communities we are in the process of procuring a hand held thermal imaging camera which will be available for use upon request.

**Road show events** – the team attend 12 events throughout the summer months promoting the Your Footprint Counts scheme and associated initiatives.

**Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management Programme** – the city council has embarked upon this scheme to ensure real reductions in CO2 are achieved. The outcome of the scheme will be a Carbon Management Action Plan detailing how the authority will achieve a 35% reduction in emissions from its own operations by 2014.

**Education programme** – we are currently developing an education support package to assist teachers with the delivery of climate change in the classroom and achieving Eco Schools status.

4.4 In addition to this work delivered directly by the Climate Change Team the Travelchoice team continue to work proactively to reduce emissions arising from transport.

4.5 Peterborough City Council recognises that the rural communities have an important role to play and as such we would like to consult with the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities to determine actions suitable for the rural areas of Peterborough.

## 5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 Whilst considerable work has begun to raise awareness of climate change issues we understand that these may require tailoring to suit rural communities, we therefore seek input from the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This report has the potential to impact Peterborough residents and businesses on a city wide scale. All action taken forward from this report and discussion will be dependent upon the allocation of suitable resources from internal or external sources.

## 7. CONSULTATION

7.1 This is the first step of consultation with rural communities.

## 8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 To be discussed and agreed at the meeting.

## 9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

9.1 Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985  
None.

## 10. APPENDICES

10.1 None.