

GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
10 NOVEMBER 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Steve Cox, Executive Director. Place and Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Marco Cereste - Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment	
Contact Officer(s):	James Collingridge – Head of Environmental Partnerships Richard Pearn – Head of Waste, Resources and Energy Mark Sandu – Operations Director, Peterborough Serco Strategic Partnerships Charlotte Palmer - Group Manager - Highways and Transport Andrew Lesiw – Managing Director, Westcombe Engineering	Tel. (01733) 864736

PORTFOLIO PROGRESS REPORT - CABINET MEMBER FOR WASTE, STREET SCENE AND ENVIRONMENT

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Councillor Cereste Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment	Deadline date: N/A
It is requested that the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee note the contents of this report.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is provide updates to the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee with overview service reviews, and on the progress of items under the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The report is being presented by Cllr Cereste at the request of the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee. The report will provide an overview of all the key portfolio areas.
- 2.2 This report is for the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:
- 1. City Centre Management:
 - 3. Environmental Capital:
 - 7. Waste Strategy and Management:

2.3 The Cabinet portfolio for Waste and Street Scene covers the following areas: -

- a) Peterborough Limited trading as Aragon Direct Services,
- b) Cemeteries and Crematoria
- c) Registrar and Coroner's Service
- d) Lead on the Council's energy strategy
- e) Responsible for Westcombe Engineering
- f) Waste Strategy and Management
- g) Climate Change) City Centre

2.4 The areas under this portfolio cover a breadth of services and contribute to all the priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy: -

- Creating opportunities – tackling inequalities;
- Creating strong and supportive communities;
- Creating the UK's environmental capital; and
- Delivering substantial and truly sustainable growth

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 **Aragon Direct Services**

4.2 The Aragon Direct Services (ADS) contract is now into its second year of operations and continues to deliver a breadth of services including: -

- Street Cleansing
- Waste and Recycling Collections
- Grounds Maintenance and Arboriculture
- Home to School Transport
- Property Maintenance
- Taxi testing and vehicle MOT's

4.2.1 ADS is overseen by a board of directors made up of senior ADS officers and PCC Councillors. The board is in place to oversee the running of the company and to have an overarching view on spend and business development.

PCC's client team hold fortnightly meetings with the Managing Director of ADS and fortnightly separate operation meetings with Heads of Service of ADS. Ultimately any changes to the governance or structure of ADS including performance will be reported to the Shareholder Cabinet Committee, and Cabinet in accordance with established governance of PCC companies.

ADS have continued to explore further commercial works to build on their portfolio. , Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions and the lockdown period this work has been delayed. However a key service area that ADS could supply as an additional service involves PCC trade waste which will then allow them to expand further in this region. The decision whether to award trade waste services to ADS is currently being considered and subject to approval via PCC's internal governance process.

4.3 **Overview of Service Areas and Performance**

4.4 **Street Cleansing**

4.4.1 ADS undertake street cleansing throughout the city, they currently empty 1,341 litter bins and 305 dog waste bins and since April 2020 ADS have already collected 303 tonnes of street sweepings.

ADS have continued to help the recovery of the city centre with additional cleansing, to 'Viricidal' clean bike racks and benches. , They have continued to have a dedicated city centre team to cleanse the city centre and use 'Hot Wash' machine on a cyclical basis.

As Autumn now approaches, ADS will implement their seasonal leaf fall cleansing regime which will utilise the large and small sweepers to clean roads and footpaths to remove leaf fall.

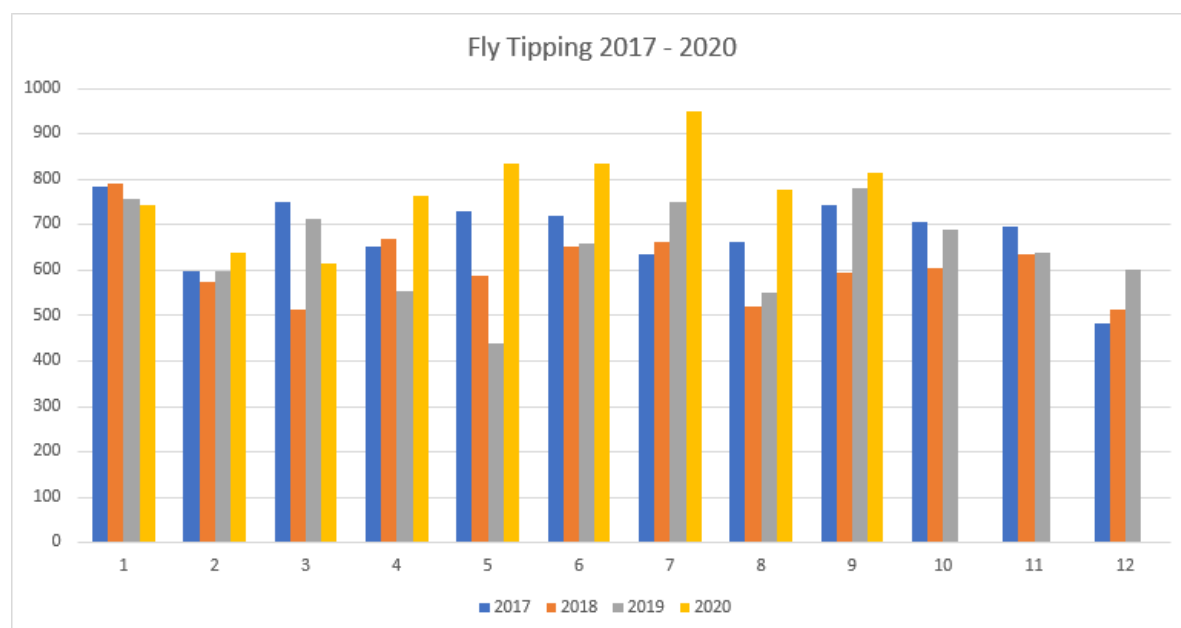
Work with community groups continues to grow supporting them with community Litter Pick days this has seen some great success across the city and has been gaining momentum. ADS provide litter pickers, bags and take away the arising following the events. We have also acquired some children's gloves and litter pickers so they can join in from an early age.

4.4.2 ADS continues to be an active member of the 'Discarded Needles Group' meetings, offering advice on the areas of the city where they are finding the most paraphernalia. The needle bins that where procured by ADS have been in situ and they have collected 247 needles from them since April 2020. Through the work with ADS the needle bins have been placed in areas of need though an evidence based approach, this has also resulted in 247 needles not being discarded in open space areas.

4.4.3 Fly tipping continues to be an issue across the city with an increase seen during the lockdown period and a lot of additional waste being produced.

ADS are working hard to clear waste resulting from fly tipping within their contractual KPI timeframe of 24 hours for hazardous and 48 hours for non-hazardous fly-tipping once this is reported to them. ADS is working with the Peterborough Enforcement Services (PES) team to look at the possibility to have a single visit resolution in most cases. A fly tip requires an enforcement officer to attend before it can be removed. However, we are investigating if ADS operatives can remove any evidence in situ so that fly tip can be removed quicker and completed in one visit for some of the more routine fly tips. As part of the Cross-Party working group on fly tipping CCTV Cameras where procured, have now been deployed during November 2020 at some 'Hot Spot' locations in compliance with data protection, Regulation Investigatory Powers legislation and Data Protection Impact Assessments.

The following table depicts the number of fly tips that have been removed by ADS per month since January 2017 as we can see there has been a rise since April 2020 with a peak in July 2020 however, we are starting to see this reduce slightly.



PCC have a dedicated page on the website to advise residents of safe local traders that they can

use to remove their waste as there is concern that a number of the larger fly tip we see in the rural areas could be the 'man with a van' type removal firms.

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/business/business-waste>

4.4.4 **RECAP Fly Tipping Group**

SCRAP It Fly Tipping Campaign is a toolset developed by Hertfordshire County Council and provided for councils to improve the management of their response to fly tipping.

SCRAP It Fly Tipping Campaign in conjunction with the Recycling for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) Partnership continues to work together on sharing intelligence and best practice in the fight against fly tipping. The Covid-19 situation has curtailed much of the practical aspect of the project however the project is continuing to deliver and move forward.

The PES team are currently investigating several fly tipping incidents which occurred since the start of lock down - 58 in total, we are also looking at how we can start PACE interview again in line with guidance.

The special CCTV cameras have been purchased but limited opportunity to use them considering the pandemic and associated issues. The situation has allowed works to be undertaken to explore opportunities with neighbouring councils on sharing different technologies for locations and incidents to bring the best equipment to bear as required.

4.5 **Waste, Recycling Collection and Waste Treatment**

- 4.5.1 ADS operate a fortnightly collection of residual and recycling waste from circa 85,000 properties with food waste being collected weekly. Garden waste continues to be a paid for service and we have 19,179 subscriptions so far this year compared to 21437 last year. Residents continue to take up the Direct Debit option with 8245 choosing to pay this way, breaking down the £45.00 charge over 3 payments and making it a recurring subscription for them.

Current recycling rates compared to this point last financial year are shown below.

We are currently slightly up but recognise that with each 1% that can be diverted into the correct recycling waste stream, this can save PCC circa £48,000. Where we have continual contamination issues, ADS have reinstated their officer who will visit the properties to offer education and advise on how they should be using their bins correctly.

We are also working on other communications campaigns to try and increase participation in using the Food Waste service as it is recognised that both the black and green bins are still seeing food waste deposited in them.

April 19 - September 19 = 39.84% Recycled/Composted

April 20 - September 20 = 40.71% Recycled/Composted

- 4.5.2 The current fleet of Refuse and Recycling vehicles are at the end of their economic life and are seeing increase breakdowns and more costly repairs needed ADS have put forward a proposal for a capital replacement scheme and have been trialling various types of vehicle including hybrid and fully electrical.

- 4.5.3 ADS continue to deliver waste services in line with PCC's Waste Policy that no residual side waste will be picked up and contaminated bins not collected, during lockdown we saw a large increase in residual tonnages and a lot of side waste being placed out. We have been monitoring these tonnages on a weekly basis and have just recently started to see a decrease in the residual tonnages which we hope will continue, these increased weights have put an additional burden on the teams who have worked extremely hard throughout the pandemic to ensure the city's waste is collected.

4.5.4 **Recycling Improvement - Education and Awareness Raising**

The new HRC in Fengate is already recycling more material than the Dogsthorpe site did however the development of the service is not yet complete. Part of the facility is specifically designed to permit the hand sorting of any bags of mixed waste that contain recycling and included within the contract is a role for educating site users as to how to prepare for recycling on site. Regrettably the Covid-19 pandemic has severely limited the ability to undertake such sorting and close

contact education so these services will remain delayed until a lessening of social distancing requirements.

Starting in late 2020 a second approach will commence with targeting of areas where contamination, poor participation or other issues are affecting the recycling performance of the city as a whole. Using information gathered from crews, inspections of collected material and data gathered by the onboard equipment, areas can be identified and communication efforts targeting the key issues can be undertaken in conjunction with ADS and the Prevention and Enforcement Service.

Officers are working with ADS and Viridor on the development of education and awareness raising tools that can be used remotely so we will be able to engage with schools and interested groups whilst social distancing measures remain the norm and preclude physical visits to the ERF and roadshow events.

4.5.5 **HRC**

The site has been performing well in segregating materials away from disposal. Performance to end of September 2020 is over 69% of received materials separated for recycling, reuse and composting. This is above the performance achieved at the Dogsthorpe site for the same period was 64%, however is depressed somewhat by measures employed to ensure social distancing is maintained on site.

The HRC has seen overall material, both residual wastes and recycling materials, up by on average over 15% for the first period ending September 2020.

The HRC is seeing a strong increase in the volumes/weights of materials associated with DIY, so rubble and hardcore, wood and metals, with a lower than one might expect volume of cardboard and similar packaging materials arising from home deliveries of good.

PCC and its contractor FCC have followed both the latest National Guidance specifically on the management of such facilities in the light of the Covid-19 situation, both that produced by the government and industry experts. Of note is the fact that FCC operate a significant number of these facilities and bring that experience and learning to Peterborough.

The Public Health team for Peterborough have been and continue to be involved in the management of the facility through the development and evolution of procedures and issuance of guidance taking account of the specific needs of Peterborough and the continually changing situation locally.

New signs have been installed including new floor stickers reminding people of the 2-metre Social Distancing rule as well as two number larger signs reiterating the need to remain vigilant and maintain social distancing also highlighting that visitors may be asked to leave if they fail to comply.

Additional staff members have been employed, initially on a temporary basis and these costs are being recorded as COVID impacts, specifically to increase the presence and guidance available on the top deck where parking and skip access is located as well as to manage the traffic entering the facility. Alternate parking bays have been closed off to improve the distance site users can maintain and this has led to reduced capacity that has necessitated the above-mentioned staffing increases and traffic management measures.

4.5.6 **Resources and Waste Strategy - RECAP**

A project is being undertaken across the RECAP Authorities (Cambridgeshire County Council and its constituent District Councils and Peterborough City Council), to develop proposals for waste and recycling collection to allow partners to move services towards ways of working that will align with the developing government Resources and Waste Strategy.

The government strategy, subject to extended ongoing consultation, aims to bring consistency to the materials collected by councils across the country to improve the quality and quantity of

recycling collected nationally. By working with RECAP partners, funding for this system modelling exercise has been secured from DEFRA and the existing closeness in shared strategy and collection method places us well to share learning and adopt common approaches to reduce cost and improve services to residents.

Other provision in the expected policy suite aims to legislate to influence the producers of packaging to simplify its design for improved recycling and to ensure the costs of recycling, and treating non-recyclable packaging, is borne by the producers themselves. This aims to assist councils in future service design and delivery subject to how this is implemented. The modelling work aims where possible to take account of these implications to futureproof developing services.

4.6 **Grounds Maintenance and Arboriculture**

4.6.1 ADS have completed all the city-wide grass cutting for 2019/20 and have commenced shrub cutting. One biodiversity area (Hallfields Lane) suffered from several arson attempts last year as a result we left the cutting of the area until late September this year which has seen an improvement. We are also working with PECT to look at how we can enhance the area further with some understory planting around tree and the potential for further wildflowers in the Biodiversity area.

The Biodiversity area at Hastings Road has also been extremely successful with work from a voluntary group also planting wildflowers they have seen an increase in insects and their works has been greatly appreciated.

ADS have retained Green Flag status at 3 parks across the city and continue to work with 'friends of' groups to improve park facilities. This also includes working closer with the groups to apply for external funding for improvements and events within the parks.

We are working with more groups to look at them taking over areas of land this includes planting wildflowers and edibles, we have also working with groups such as PECT and Up The Garden Bath to improve open space areas and get more community ownership.

ADS worked hard over the COVID lockdown to support the council in closing all of its play areas and carried out weekly checks to ensure signage was in place. Following this, measures were jointly implemented by Public Health and PCC to re-open play areas with ADS installing signage and removing play equipment as needed to ensure appropriate social distancing measures were in place.

ADS are commencing the city wide Winter tree planting programme and are also working with other groups such as PECT to identify areas across the city that can be used for more large-scale whip planting.

4.7 **Home to School Transport**

4.7.1 ADS currently operate 30 Home to School routes for PCC. These are both mainstream and SEN. They also operate the Community Link Service that takes residents who cannot use public transport to and from the shops. This continues to be a valued and well utilised service; due to the timings we are also able to utilise Home to School vehicles in between their runs.

ADS are also looking to upskill their staff members as they have seen a lack of skilled PSV drivers in the market for the hours required to cover Home to School routes. As such they are training non-PSV drivers and Passenger Assistants to obtain their PSV licence. This will allow greater flexibility in service delivery and offer the resilience needed to cover for sickness etc.

During the lockdown period as schools were shut ADS offered to help with agencies transporting works to and from factories to allow social distancing in their vehicles. They also worked with a charity who were making PPE to transport materials.

4.8 **Property Maintenance**

- 4.8.1 ADS offer a Repairs and Maintenance helpdesk function for all PCC properties with a 24 hour on call-service where required. They also ensure that the council's statutory servicing obligations on our properties are fulfilled and a 5 yearly condition survey of our estate is conducted.

During lockdown ADS ensured that all the PCC estate continued to have its statutory testing undertaken to ensure offices were in a safe condition ready for reoccupation, they have also been installing COVID secure safety measure such as screens and sanitiser stations.

This is seen as an area of the business that can be further expanded with some schools already signing up to SLAs with ADS. However, we want to expand this further as ADS can offer a complete package with Property, Grounds Maintenance, and Cleaning. ADS are working on promotional materials they can use to promote these services within schools and have also consulted PCC service areas such as Strategic Property about promoting this more widely to academies .

4.9 **Bereavement Services**

- 4.9.1 Throughout the period of lockdown, the office, crematorium and cemeteries continued to operate effectively, ensuring that all national guidelines and legislation were adhered to. All staff continue to work under restricted conditions with consideration for the bereaved at the forefront of every staff members mind.

The mausoleum project is moving forward and although there has been a delay to building works commencing due to covid-19, the works have now begun and we will be in a position to contact families on the waiting list in the next few weeks to start to take reservations.

The Green Flag has once again been awarded to the Crematorium, indicating the high standards that are maintained within the grounds. The service has also retained the highest possible 'Gold Standard' award as assessed by the Charter for the Bereaved for both Cemeteries and the Crematorium.

Phase one of three complete refractory brick relines has just been completed on one of our three cremators. Cremators two and three are scheduled to be relined in the next financial year. This work is completed every five years to ensure the cremators are fit for purpose and comply with emission legislation.

Following the retirement of two long standing colleagues, with over 60 years' service between them, in May and August this year their replacements are now in post following a smooth transition period in-line with the Bereavement Services succession plan.

4.10 **Register Office**

- 4.10.1 Death registrations have continued to be taken throughout the pandemic, although the majority have been taken over the telephone. This has been well received by bereaved families as no need to travel and quicker electronic transfer of documentation. At the peak of the pandemic 334 deaths were registered in April.

The Register Office re-opened for birth registration appointments on 24 June once all Covid 19 safety measures were in place with 1200 babies waiting to be registered – this has now reduced by over half this number with the remaining backlog due to be cleared by December. Urgent requests continue to be met. In July 541 births were registered compared to 0 in April. New parents have been able to apply for benefits etc. by using baby's NHS number so are not disadvantaged by having to wait to register.

Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies re-commenced on 4 July which was the first day government guidelines allowed. A maximum of 6 guests at the Register Office are permitted to allow for 2 metre social distancing. Ceremonies are to be concluded in the shortest time possible as per government guidelines with no readings or extra vows and minimal photos. All guests are required to wear masks. At the outside venues 30 guests were allowed to attend if space permitted but this was reduced to 15 in September 2020.

Over 250 ceremonies have been moved to date. The administration fee for this has been waived as has the difference in between this year's and next year's fee. All couples are contacted and advised about the restrictions that are in place to decide whether to proceed under these arrangements. Many have moved to next year.

Citizenship ceremonies have also recommenced, although only at the Register Office and not yet at the Town Hall. Small groups of 6 new citizens attend and receive their naturalisation certificate. All those waiting before lockdown have now been cleared.

Full certificate production is not yet underway locally as customers can contact the General Register Office for their historical certificates. Urgent applications or those for events this year continue to be produced in Peterborough.

The Law Commission has recently published its consultation paper 'Getting Married: A Consultation Paper on Weddings Law'. This makes provisional proposals for a comprehensive new legislative scheme to replace the outdated, restrictive current law of weddings, much of which dates from 1836. Amongst the proposals are to allow weddings conducted by independent celebrants and non-religious belief organisations (such as Humanists), for weddings to take place in a location chosen by the couple and for greater freedom as to the form the wedding takes. Responses are required by 3 December and one will be submitted by the Peterborough Registration Service

4.12 **Westcombe Engineering "WE"**

4.12.1 WE's talented workforce continues to adapt and grow as the business continues to change. These much-needed changes within the business have been made to improve inefficiencies and have been put into place with the involvement of all of its employees, tapping into differences, skills, knowledge, and experience. Combining all these qualities has ensured WE have developed a business to date that is both efficient and productive and will ensure it meets ever-changing customer's needs and expectations.

This year in particular, WE workforce has had to continually adapt even further to accommodate new and different work, ever changing working environment, new technology, new machines, and methods. They have all risen to the challenge as both individuals and as a team to achieve these demanding challenges head on successfully. WE will no doubt see the benefits of this hard and determined work over the next year or so, as WE begin to see projects come to fruition.

WE have further extended its workforce with the addition of our second apprentice, a real find. He has added further value to WE's business along with a thirst for knowledge and a desire to continually learn and improve.

WE lost a long-term employee to VR earlier this year and with him 20 plus years of experience and knowledge. WE will be looking to recruit to fill this gap as we begin to see new orders arrive.

WE have been shortlisting for an additional internship work placement student over the summer period (delayed due to COVID-19). A placement student will be joining us for a tester session on Wednesday 2nd September 2020 following a successful interview. These work placement appointments are extremely important as WE continue succession planning for its workshop employees.

With the recent addition of a 2nd Apprentice and the loss of an experienced employee through VR, WE current ratio stands at 60% of staff having a disability, which is fantastic for a high precision engineering environment such as Westcombe Engineering.

There is absolutely no doubt that the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic in the 1st quarter of this year has and will continue to cause significant disruption within the manufacturing sector, causing severe operational, social, and financial consequences. In fact, WE unknowingly felt the impact of the early stages from November 2019, as its China export orders began to slow

up. It has forced WE to rethink risk management and contingency plans, workforce safety protocols, manufacturing operations and new ways of working opportunities, whilst compiling the next 5 years business plan.

Primarily, the Safety and Health of our employees at WE continues to be paramount. The business was closed for 6 days from Thursday 26th March, whilst the PHE and UK Government COVID-19 advice and guidance were studied in detail. We continued to develop a safe, robust COVID-19 return to work Risk Assessment along with proposed changes to the workplace which were reviewed and approved by the PCC Health and Safety team and were also discussed as a benchmark example at the joint Corporate HR/HS meeting 26th April 2020.


To date WE have concentrated on solving the immediate challenges required to keep its business as stable as possible. WE have continued to work tirelessly with its customers and suppliers to gain a better understanding of their production demand changes, labour support challenges and supply chain ecosystem constraints.

WE have compiled the next 5-year business plan to further develop the business. WE need to focus on building a business that is as future-proof as possible using new technology solutions and its talented workforce as a foundation. This strategy will not only increase resilience, protect operations, and support workers through the crisis, but will also help sustain a competitive advantage to accelerate business growth once economies start to rebound. WE have continued to invest in capital plant, equipment, and people to ensure the business is in a strong position to deliver both existing and new project orders.

Some highlights WE have achieved during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown and 2019/2020 that WE are particularly proud of:

1. 86% of our workforce phased return safely back to work by end of April 2020.
2. Advanced Handling £70K order to supply Tesco with pallet tilt device for moving food pallets around their stores during COVID-19 Pandemic.
3. 12th May 2020, Anglia Business News Update interview and coverage of Westcombe Engineering and how we successfully coped with continuing to work through COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, whilst other companies within similar industry sectors closed.
4. Securing new business orders CAT Marine, Caterpillar totalling an annual revenue of £300K
5. Continued investment in plant, equipment, and personnel to support new project order intake.
6. 14th October 2019, another good news story for PCC and the City, titled Westcombe Engineering giving people lives not services.
7. 15th May 2020, Westcombe Engineering featured by Peterborough City Council and in the PT Leaders Column as an example of good practice both in changes to working practices to ensure staff were protected and in developing the business despite the COVID-19 restrictions.
8. Following 3 phases of prototype design orders Westcombe Engineering fought off fierce American competition to secure an order intent worth £1.2 million over the next 3 years to manufacture and supply 6 high precision machined parts which will be assembled within the battery module to allow electrification conversion of American yellow school buses. Please see link below for further information about this exciting project.
https://www.cummins.com/news/releases/2019/08/30/over-100-blue-bird-electric-school-buses-plugging-districts?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=electric-schoolbus&utm_content=blue-bird-100-electric-school-buses

9. □

	<p><u>Over 100 Blue Bird electric school buses plugging into districts Cummins Inc.</u></p>
	<p>Across North America, some students going back to school this fall will ride electric school buses. More than 100 electric school buses, powered by a Cummins fully electric drivetrain, have been ordered to date from Blue Bird Corporation, a school bus manufacturer highly focused on alternative fuel technologies. Blue Bird electric buses are already operating in California, North Dakota and ... www.cummins.com</p>

10. Continued reduction in our dependency upon our main customer Caterpillar (mining and transportation division) 2015 @ 98%, 2019 @ 64%.
11. Securing new orders for Caterpillar Excavators Division, supplying a new design of 2 sizes of aluminium fan extensions, globally to China, Brazil and India. A fan extension is used on every single engine built and is solely supplied by Westcombe Engineering. We are currently working through development trial phase on a 3rd fan extension for supply. Total approx. annual revenue of in excess of £200K.
12. Continued development of our local employees and employment opportunities for local adults with disabilities who would otherwise be claiming benefit to practice and demonstrate their many and valuable talents.

4.13 Climate Change

4.13.1 On 24 July 2019, Full Council approved a wide-ranging Motion relating to climate change which had the effect of this council declaring that there is a climate emergency. Subsequently, in November 2019 Cabinet agreed to establish a cross party Climate Change Member Working Group to help the council formulate proposals and monitor actions. In March 2020 the council adopted a Carbon Management Action Plan (Council-CMAP) setting out: the top 20 'pledges' or actions for 2020/21; the current 'baseline' position, in terms of carbon emissions arising from both citywide and council activities, where they are quantifiable; proposed actions, both short and more medium term; and, details about how the actions within the document could be funded.

Progress has been made against each of the top 20 'pledges' as follows:

Continuing to rationalise office floorspace, thereby reducing energy demands. For example, excess floorspace at the Town Hall will be leased. This is in progress with refurbishments currently taking place in the Town Hall (north) ahead of a planned lease in April 2021 with further opportunities being explored for other sites in parallel. Alongside this it is clear that energy usage is likely to have significantly declined during the pandemic and opportunities to identify ways to retain some of these benefits are being explored.

Continuing to plant new trees on its own land (and encourage others to do likewise), thus capturing (or 'sequestering') carbon from the atmosphere. The council will also work with Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT) to determine whether a local carbon off-setting programme can be put in place, to fully take account of the carbon savings from tree planting. Cambridgeshire County Council have recently commissioned an item of work with Cambridge University to research the feasibility of undertaking a localised carbon offsetting scheme. The project looks to identify large energy consuming businesses and methods of offset that could be delivered locally i.e. tree planting and renewable energy generation. Whilst this won't all be applicable to Peterborough (businesses identified etc) the mechanism would be replicable and therefore we will continue to monitor this project.

Reviewing its entire electricity and gas contracts, and, where practical to do so, will seek to amend to 100% renewable electricity tariffs and 100% carbon off-set gas tariffs as soon

as possible. The Council switched to a renewable energy tariff for electricity from 1st October 2020. Work is underway to identify options for gas.

Appraising the impact (carbon savings, financial savings and public opinion) of the streetlight dimming programme commenced in winter 2019/2020, to determine whether further dimming is practicable. Further dimming has been agreed in response to the Covid-19 emergency. This additional programme of dimming has seen street lights across the city reduced by 40% during the hours of darkness. During the summer months it is estimated that this saved in region of 89MW and 22.6 tonnes of carbon which is the equivalent to a monetary value in the region of £13,000. Proposals to maintain this level of dimming or consider alternative options are being considered as part of the Council's budget setting process.

Replacing, by January 2021, the Mayor's car with an Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle. The lease on the existing car is due to be renewed in 2021 and options for suitable vehicles are currently being explored.

Undertaking a thorough appraisal of the carbon emissions arising from our Farm Estate land, and develop options and proposals to reduce such emissions and, potentially, use of such land to generate renewable energy and/or peat restoration to act as a regenerating carbon sink. Discussions continue between officers, colleagues and tenant farmers to explore opportunities that may potentially exist on the farm estate. Alongside this work is being undertaken, at a high conceptual level, to understand what might be possible in terms of renewable energy generation, soil types and operational efficiencies.

Rolling out further guidance and training for staff in relation to the recently introduced 'Carbon Impact Assessment' procedure – a new assessment which requires all Council decisions to be assessed for the carbon implications of the decision being made. Officers continue to complete Carbon Impact Assessments for decisions made across the Council. We are in the process of refining this process and developing opportunities to provide training to staff to help further develop their understanding of potential impacts.

Including, as a new and important role for the Council's 'change champions' network of staff (60 employees), a responsibility to help educate wider staff on how they can help reduce their carbon impact, and consider whether all annual individual staff performance targets can include a carbon related task. Officers are currently in the process of working with a smaller group of Change Champions to determine how this programme of work will be developed, particularly taking account of changed ways of working due to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Further developing the cross-party Climate Change Member Working Group, so that each political party of the Council can both champion carbon savings, scrutinise decision making and steer further carbon savings initiatives and ideas. The Group continues to meet, virtually throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, and has extended its membership to include the city's Youth MP.

Working with ADS, the Council's wholly owned company responsible for matters such as waste collection and maintaining public open spaces, concluded a review into alternative options for its vehicle fleet, and set out a programme of how its vehicle fleet will become less carbon intensive. ADS are currently developing a programme of work to upgrade/renew their vehicle fleet. They have secured support from DfT/BEIS who will work with them to review the options that exist for the various vehicle types and will use this to develop a programme which will work towards the target of a zero emission fleet by 2030. This recognises that some vehicles could theoretically change to ultra-low emission now, however others i.e. refuse collection vehicles are less viable. In addition to this a meeting has taken place between colleagues at Skanska and Aragon to discuss the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel in some vehicles. Discussions are now underway with vehicle suppliers to see if the use of such fuels would invalidate any lease agreements.

Working with Skanska, the council's highways partner, to trial a 'zero carbon' compound for one of its major highway schemes, through the use of renewable energy initiatives. This is currently being trialled in the city and opportunities to view this in operation can be arranged.

Completing an energy opportunity assessment for: Sand Martin House; Regional Swimming Pool; Hampton Premier Leisure & Fitness Centre; Bushfield Sports Centre; Clare Lodge; to identify measures that can be taken to reduce consumption and/or generate renewable energy and deliver at least one of these. All of the energy assessments have now been completed and received. Officers are in the process of reviewing the assessments to identify how feasible the recommendations are and a meeting is scheduled with the Council's property team to agree the next steps that are required. In addition the Government have recently launched a Public Sector Decarbonisation fund and officers are in the process of identifying the feasibility of securing funds.

Preparing a bespoke Action Plan for schools ('School-CMAP') by summer 2020, setting out how schools can cut their carbon emissions. The Council is in the process of recruiting a Climate Change Officer (schools) who will be tasked with: developing targeted educational resources to enhance primary and secondary pupils understanding of environmental issues including climate change and renewable energy; working with schools to develop an in depth understanding amongst office and teaching staff of climate change issues by providing tailored information on a school by school basis, supporting individual schools to take ownership of carbon reduction projects and produce their own CMP; and, support the work of the Youth Council to enhance their understanding of climate change issues and support them through the process of developing and delivering projects that will directly and indirectly reduce carbon emissions.

Putting in place arrangements, by March 2021 (including a city wide partnership forum), to facilitate the preparation of a district wide Action Plan ('District-CMAP'). This Action Plan, which is prepared in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, will set out how we can cut our carbon emissions collectively across the Peterborough area. Work is underway to develop this plan. Baseline emissions data has been established and members have adopted a 'task and finish' approach to the development of the plan which commenced with a workshop focussing on transport emissions in October.

Working with a willing Parish Council, to prepare a template parish based Action Plan ('Parish-CMAP'), and subsequently encouraging all Parish Councils to come up with their own targets and projects. An initial meeting has taken place with a representative from Peakirk Parish Council and officers are in the process of agreeing the basic structure for a Parish-CMAP. This will then be used as a template for other Parish Council's to adapt as required.

Preparing a second Council-CMAP by March 2021, setting out progress over 2020/21, and proposals and targets for 2021/22. Data has been requested from all of the necessary sources in order to begin to prepare the second plan.

4.14 City Centre

- 4.14.1 We have had regular meetings leading the Peterborough input to the bi-weekly City Centre Exit Strategy Group, sharing insights and learning from colleagues in Cambridge City Council in terms of communications to businesses.

There has been regular advice to affected businesses and we have worked with the PES and ADS to temporarily close St Peters Arcade to allow social distancing and we are now working with businesses to enable St Peter's Arcade to become part of expanded social distanced/COVID safe café culture.

There has been individual work with businesses who have contacted PCC for support with social distancing measures and collaboration with Queensgate Shopping Centre to coordinate messages at each stage of lockdown. For example recent joint communications on #CoverUpPeterborough and work to encourage social distancing. There was also active

promotion of businesses during the #EatOuttoHelpOut scheme via social media.

We have continued to help businesses to continue to trade and sought to reassure people that they could come back into the city post Lockdown safely. To help the city re-open safely we deployed 100 social distance signs on benches, 100 bins had stickers applied, 20 large banners and "Peterborough United" signage installed to welcome people back to the city and over 1000 vinyls were put on the pavements to encourage social distancing.

The PES coordinated Police, PES officers and volunteers to support the reopening of the city centre.

Most recently we have secured £800k capital spend from the CPCA to enable the development of a Covid 19 secure cafe culture in the City Centre. This work was carried out in collaboration with Peterborough Positive (Peterborough BID) and we are grateful for the advice and guidance supplied by Opportunity Peterborough colleagues and support of the local business community. The improvements to the City Centre will include items such as improved street lighting for the café culture area and City Centre Wifi.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation through the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee. There has also been ongoing consultation with community groups, resident associations and third party organisations such as Peterborough Environmental Trust, and as set out in the body of this report.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 It is anticipated that the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee will note the content of this report and any comments will be fed back to aid in future improvements to the services delivered.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 To allow scrutiny of the Portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The alternative option was to not present this report to the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee. This option was not taken forwards as it was important to allow clear and transparent scrutiny of these front line services.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 This report is to give an overview / progress update as such there are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 This report is to give an overview of service updates as such there are no legal implications. As regards to specific services, legal advice has been sought, and will be sought on an ongoing case by case basis.

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 This report is to give an overview / progress update as such there are no anticipated equality implications.

Rural Implications

9.4 This report is to give an overview / progress update as such there are no rural implications.

Carbon Impact Assessment

9.5 This report does not contain any decisions that will have an impact on Carbon Dioxide emissions. It allows for an update on the Progress of Councillor Cereste's Portfolio. However it does highlight the progress being made under the Climate Emergency and the work through ADS to plant more trees on PCC land.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

None.