

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
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Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

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PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL PORTFOLIO

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report is presented to the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee to update Members on progress with regard to the delivery of the Environment Capital portfolio.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to comment upon progress, to provide challenge where necessary and to suggest ideas and initiatives to support improvements in performance.

3. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

- 3.1 This report contains information extracted from the regular Local Area Agreement reporting pack and the 2009 Comprehensive Performance Assessment submission updated to reflect performance in the latter part of 2009.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This report focuses on performance in the Environment Capital portfolio, which is measured via four specific outcomes: Overall Consumption of Natural Resources, Increasing the Use of Sustainable Transport, Growing our Environment Business Sector and Making Peterborough Cleaner and Greener.
- 4.2 Progress against this outcome forms part of the portfolio of the Deputy Leader of the Council. Whilst the Local Area Agreement monitoring report elsewhere on this agenda focuses on performance against a range of Performance Indicator this report will outline qualitative performance across the portfolio.

5. DELIVERY PROGRESS

- 5.1 Strong progress continues to be made in relation to the Environment Capital priority despite declining performance against LAA targets. This is covered in a separate report on the Committee's agenda. A number of highlights are set out in the paragraphs which follow.
- 5.2 The City Council, Opportunity Peterborough, IBM, Royal Haskoning and Green Ventures are engaged in a new collaboration to support Peterborough's ambition of being one of the leading sustainable cities in the UK.
- 5.3 The companies are working on an exciting City Visualisation project which will display Peterborough's environmental performance in real-time and be a key tool in helping the city systems to become smarter and more efficient. These changes aim to cement Peterborough's place

as Environment Capital and directly impact the quality of life for people living and working in Peterborough for future generations.

- 5.4 The first phase of the project is to use the latest technologies to build a new online platform which can visualize a city scale integrated view of the energy, water, transport and waste systems. Gathering and displaying this key data in an understandable form will enable the city to understand both current environmental performances and make informed decisions and strategies to maximise sustainability. The aim is to accelerate the pace of change by engaging public and professionals in understanding the whole city system.
- 5.5 The *Peterborough Model* platform will allow people living in Peterborough to view the overall performance of the city and provide feedback on areas to improve. Utilities, government agencies and businesses in the local area will have a visual platform that will help them to co-ordinate their plans to make Peterborough more sustainable. The Peterborough Model will enable the big local players to identify the areas where improvement can be made and collaboration can achieve sustainability targets while saving money.
- 5.6 The City Council has now adopted its Carbon Reduction Strategy setting out how it intends to reduce its carbon footprint through a range of costed, practical measures within its property portfolio and vehicle fleet.
- 5.7 The draft Core Strategy has been adopted by Council containing a unique policy which will require all new developments in the city to contribute positively to Environment Capital. The Strategy will now go through its final consultation and examination in public prior to adoption in late 2010. In the meantime work has commenced on the Special Planning Document which will translate the overarching policy into practical measures to improve the sustainability of buildings as the city grows.
- 5.8 Research into Peterborough's Enviro-Cluster will shortly publish its findings. This will form the basis of the city's low carbon economy and form a central plank of Opportunity Peterborough's Economic Development Strategy.
- 5.9 A successful bid to the Future Jobs Fund will shortly see a group of trained advisors working with households across the city to support changes in behaviour in areas such as travel and energy and water use.
- 5.10 A complimentary project will assess the energy efficiency of over 10,000 homes and support the installation of energy efficiency improvements such as upgraded insulation. This work will complement the Council's existing home energy conservation work.
- 5.11 The successful "Big Debate" suggested a range of potential measures to significantly improve a shift to more sustainable forms of transport.
- 5.12 A new Environment Capital Steering Group has been established to drive forward the Environment Capital agenda across the Council and partnership.
- 5.13 An updated Environment Capital Development Programme is attached for information at Appendix 1.

Conclusions

- 5.14 For Peterborough, becoming The Environment Capital will create a city which encourages and supports its people in making significant and real improvements to their quality of life. Through this we will deliver truly sustainable growth for the city, ensuring a cleaner, greener, healthier and more vibrant Peterborough for the future.
- 5.15 Success in Creating the UK's Environment Capital will be directly related to the support and actions of every citizen, business and organisation in the city. The greater the support the sooner we will reach our goal.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Failure to achieve positive outcomes in relation to the Environment Capital Portfolio may impact upon Peterborough's environmental performance and also its reputation as a leading environmental city.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Environment Capital Portfolio is discussed widely amongst Greater Peterborough Partnership members particularly the Environment Capital Partnership.

8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 8.1 The key outcome following presentation of this report is that the Committee will have a clearer understanding of progress within the Environment Capital Portfolio, will feel better equipped to scrutinise and challenge performance, and will be able to offer new solutions to help improve progress and performance wherever necessary.

9. NEXT STEPS

- 9.1 Any comments on Environment Capital Portfolio performance and ideas for action will be considered by the Deputy Leader in consultation with key Council officers and partners.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

Local Area Agreement 2008-11.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Environment Capital Development Programme

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