

GROWTH, RESOURCES & COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
1 November 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Cllr Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport	
Contact Officer(s):	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director for Place & Economy	Tel. 07920 160441

PORTFOLIO HOLDER PROGRESS REPORT – Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Cllr Marco Cereste	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee:	
Considers and scrutinises this report and endorses the approach being taken under the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 The report is presented at the request of the Committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 This report is being presented to the Committee to allow them to scrutinise the work relevant to the Committee's remit that falls within the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport

2.2 This report is for the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee Meeting to consider under its Terms of Reference No. No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by the Council:

1. Housing need (including homelessness, housing options and selective licensing);
8. Economic Development and Regeneration including Strategic Housing and Strategic Planning;
9. Transport, Highways and Road Traffic;

3. TIMESCALES

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

4.1 The following aspects of the Cabinet Member's portfolio fall within the remit of this Committee:

- Housing
- Housing & Planning Strategy
- Transport, Highways and Road Traffic

The following sections set out progress and priorities against these themes.

4.2 Transport, Highways and Road Traffic

4.2.1 Peterborough Highway Services (PHS) is a partnership between Peterborough City Council and Milestone Infrastructure Ltd (formally Skanska), responsible for improving and maintaining Peterborough's highway network including roads, drainage, street lighting and bridges. Appendix A is a summary of the performance of the contract between April 2021 and March 2022. In addition, Appendix A also includes the report covering the period April 2020 and March 2021 which has not yet been presented to committee and is provided for background information.

4.2.2 During this period PHS has navigated the COVID-19 pandemic effectively and been able to deliver a full range of services despite the additional constraints and challenges. Most staff have continued to work from home, but the depot has remained operational throughout the year, helping to maintain a safe and accessible highway network.

4.2.3 PHS has continued to deliver high levels of performance having achieved an overall annual performance score of 97.23%. This score is built up from 27 individually weighted KPI's covering four domains – Operations, Customer Service, Commercial and Finance, and Added Value. Some of the key operational metrics are set out below:

- 99.8% of emergencies call outs were attended within the agreed timescale.
- 98.9% of Category 1 highway defects were repaired within the agreed timescales.
- 100% of street lighting Category 1 defects were repaired within the agreed timescales.
- 97.1 % of highway Category 2 defects were repaired within the agreed timescales.
- 99.7% of street lighting Category 2 defects were repaired within the agreed timescales.
- 44 precautionary winter treatment runs were undertaken (each comprising five routes) with all runs completed within the agreed timescales.

4.2.4 PHS is unusual in that environmental considerations feature so prominently in the performance of the contract since its commencement. Headline environmental KPIs include:

- Carbon – an average of 0.93 tonnes CO2e per £100,000 spend was emitted, well below the target of 2.35. This is a reduction of 60% compared to the 2015 baseline.
- Water – 15,895 litres of potable water were saved by using the rainwater harvesting system installed in the depot. This is below the target of 23,980 litres. This was in part impacted by major maintenance to the depot building and a lack of rainfall.
- Waste – 100% of construction waste produced by the contract was diverted from landfill, which remains above the 95% target.

Although not directly contributing to the KPI performance, Milestone demonstrated its commitment to sustainability by re-securing Green Level accreditation with Investors in the Environment in 2021. Another significant environmental development was the introduction of HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel to the depot fleet which delivers a 90% carbon saving when compared to diesel.

- 4.2.5 A positive health and safety culture is promoted within the partnership with the contract achieving over 1.7m person-hours without a Lost Time Injury. During this reporting period there has, unfortunately, been two Lost Time Injuries, one of which became a RIDDOR (reporting of injuries, diseases, and dangerous occurrences regulations) incident that required reporting to the Health and Safety Executive. Both incidents were investigated by senior management and improvement actions taken.
- 4.2.6 Delivering efficiencies is an integral part of the contract. A total of £1.598m efficiencies (comprising £0.665m Cashable Savings and £0.933m Cost Avoidance) were delivered in the Financial Year 2021/22.
- 4.2.7 The Council has again participated in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) annual survey which captures public satisfaction on services delivered by local authorities. In 2021, the Council was ranked 39th for Overall Satisfaction of the 111 authorities participating across the UK. Of the 27 key benchmark indicators included within the survey, Peterborough was above the national average in 66% instances (18 out of 27).
- 4.2.8 During 2021/22, PHS continued to develop and deliver a number of capital improvement projects across the city. The key projects that have been completed or are under construction include the bearings replacement to Nene Bridge, APV Baker Footbridge, A605 Whittlesey Access, Orton Mere Cycleway, Active Travel measures, resurfacing and safety barrier upgrade works along the A1139 Frank Perkins Parkway between Junction 3 and Junction 8.
- 4.2.9 There were also a large number of schemes that are progressing, and continue to do so, through planning and design phases, most notably improvements to Junction 15 (A1260 / A47), Junction 3 (A1260 / A1139), A16 Norwood, Fengate Access, the River Nene Pedestrian Bridge and the Lincoln Road / Taverners Road junction improvements. A Smart Cities Junction Trial at the intersection of A605 Fletton Avenue / A15 London Road and Glebe Road and the development of a City Centre transport vision have also been progressed during the past financial year, aiding traffic monitoring and the production of business cases.
- 4.2.10 During 2021/22, PHS continued to develop and deliver a number of capital improvement projects across the city. The key projects that have been completed or are under construction include the bearings replacement to Nene Bridge, APV Baker Footbridge, A605 Whittlesey Access, Orton Mere Cycleway, Active Travel measures, resurfacing and safety barrier upgrade works along the A1139 Frank Perkins Parkway between Junction 3 and Junction 8.
- 4.2.11 The partnership is proactive in seeking ways to improve the service. In 2021/22 this has included a review of StreetWorks management and compliance, continued development of a project governance framework, and the development of a depot dashboard to improve operational performance.
- 4.2.12 Social value initiatives have now recommenced following the restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Milestone has supported PECT's Junior Forester programme and provided employability and careers support to a number of schools via Growth Works.
- 4.2.13 In April 2021, formal agreement was reached to extend the PHS contract by five years. Central to reaching this agreement was high levels of service performance over many years and the strong collaboration relationship that has been developed. This has taken the contract completion date to the 30 September 2028.

4.3 **Housing & Planning Strategy**

- 4.3.1 Work on the overall Planning review is continuing. The timetable for sharing a revised structure with all staff in the Planning Service has now moved to the end of October due to the ongoing work on budget setting.

4.3.2 Discussions are ongoing with Fenland District Council about the future of our SLA (Service Level Agreement) with them to deliver Planning Policy services beyond the end of this financial year. Our own plans to commence a refresh of the Peterborough Local Plan from April 2023 and capacity within the team will be major factors that determine whether the SLA is renewed.

4.3.3 Consideration is now being given to the process to be adopted to develop a new Housing Strategy.

4.4 **Housing (including homelessness prevention, temporary accommodation supply, rough sleeping, housing needs)**

4.4.1 The review of our housing services, supported by CIPFA, is ongoing. This includes a stakeholder engagement exercise, review of service delivery in both Housing Needs and Housing Enforcement, and evaluating the role the local authority plays in the wider housing context. It is anticipated that this work will be concluded by the end of the year and changes in service delivery as a result of the joint working and recommendations being taken forward in time for the new financial year.

4.4.2 **Homelessness**

Demand for homelessness services continues to remain high. While the number of approaches can vary week to week the service is averaging around 70 new approaches each week.



4.4.3 **Temporary accommodation**

The Housing Needs team has now decanted all residents from the temporary accommodation and St Michaels Gate and the lease has been brought to an end. This has meant that some households have been relocated to alternative temporary accommodation and loss of the units has meant that the team are having to make use of B&B accommodation until alternate supply is brought on stream.

The number of households accommodated in temporary accommodation at the end of September 2022 is at the same level as it was at the end of March 2022, which is positive given the continual high demand for services we have been experiencing at the same time. Over the coming months the team will be working continue to procure alternative accommodation options for both temporary and permanent move-on so that a reduction in B&B use and overall numbers in temporary accommodation can be achieved.

4.4.4 **Rough Sleeping**

Following the lifting of the announcement embargo we can now confirm that we have been successful in attracting additional funding into the city for our work in relation to rough sleeping.

Over the next 3 years Peterborough has received £2.91m. This funding will be used to provide support services to rough sleepers. This includes providing additional capacity in the Council's rough sleeper outreach team as well as commissioned services to provide targeted support around immigration, employment, prison, and hospital discharges.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation relevant to each aspect of the portfolio has been carried out as part of 'business as usual' operations.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 Following debate and discussion at committee, it is anticipated that Members will be fully informed as to the progress and priorities of the portfolio holder, and the portfolio holder will be able to consider suggestions that come forward during that debate.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 Scrutiny committees in Peterborough receive an annual report from all portfolio holders, as part of their responsibility to scrutinise key areas of work.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 NA

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 None

Legal Implications

- 9.2 None

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 None

Rural Implications

- 9.4 None

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 9.5 This report contains no proposals for changes to service delivery and therefore there is no decision to take which may impact carbon emissions of the council or the city.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 None

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