

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
4 JANUARY 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place and Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport	
Contact Officer(s):	Hannah Swinburne, Principal Climate Change Officer Ellie Cooper, Climate Change School Engagement Officer	Tel. 01733 453479

PETERBOROUGH SCHOOL CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Adrian Chapman, Executive Director of Place and Economy	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee scrutinise the work done under the Peterborough School Climate Change Programme and provide feedback for programme development.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is brought to the Scrutiny Committee to note the work done under the Peterborough School Climate Change Programme.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The report presents the work of the Peterborough School Climate Change Programme and seeks acknowledgement and feedback by the Scrutiny Committee to enable the work to be developed further.

2.2 This report is for Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

- 4. Climate Change;
- 5. Reducing Carbon Emissions and achieving Net Zero Carbon Emissions;

2.3 The Council declared a climate emergency and have made tackling climate change a corporate priority. The Peterborough School Climate Change Programme provides insight and support for schools to lower their carbon emissions, encouraging the development of school climate change action plans.

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 Background

Peterborough declared a climate emergency in 2019 and committed to make the council's activities net zero carbon, support the city in becoming net zero, and engage with residents, businesses, and communities to raise awareness and share best practice and updates. For Peterborough to become a net zero carbon city, all of our residents, schools, businesses and other organisations need to play their part and help to reduce their carbon emissions. Schools are important partners in addressing the climate emergency. To support schools to decarbonise, Peterborough City Council is offering a free School Climate Change Programme. The programme aims to develop whole school understanding and create whole school ownership of carbon reduction projects. Schools are supported to create carbon reduction action plans which include student-led projects. The programme is flexible, with various delivery options available to best suit schools and is available to maintained and academy schools across Peterborough. In addition to decarbonisation, projects may also result in financial savings, healthier pupils, the enhancement of climate knowledge and the development of skills such as project management and communication. The programme aims for pupils to develop a sense of project ownership to ensure that decarbonisation is delivered.

4.2 Programme details

The programme includes a schools guide. The schools guide provides schools with an overview of the programme, takes schools through the key steps we suggest they should take. The schools guide also includes the templates and guidance needed for the action team to complete the audits and the carbon reduction action plans.

There are several key steps to the programme;

- 4.2.1 Step 1: Schools are to identify a climate change action lead. This person is responsible for their school's programme.
- 4.2.2 Step 2: The climate change action lead is to then set up their school action team by deciding which students and staff members will be at the forefront of their school's net zero carbon delivery. Suggested student members include eco/school council representatives or specified classes. Suggested staff members include the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, Site Manager, Support Staff, or Kitchen Staff. A school's action team should include different members across the school community.
- 4.2.3 Step 3: Next, the action team are to carry out phase 1 of the action plan - audits. These audits are split into staff and student audits. The schools guide sets out the aim, purpose, and method of the different audits and models an example of each audit, see appendix 1. Staff are to complete the out-of-hours energy audit, the travel audit, and the carbon footprint calculator. Students are to complete the in-hours energy audit, the lighting audit, the heating audit, and the food audit. The audits have been designed to support schools in understanding their carbon emissions and highlight the decarbonisation solutions schools could adopt.
- 4.2.4 Step 4: Action team students then engage in a net zero carbon workshop, delivered by the council's Climate Change School Engagement Officer. Action team staff may also be present at the workshop to further support their students. The workshop looks at the issue of climate change, the cause, and encourages pupils to design carbon reduction solutions for their school. Additional cross-curricular resources are also available for schools to continue the net zero workshop work. Each additional resource is paired with a lesson plan and offers options suitable for different audiences.
- 4.2.5 Step 5: Following completion of the audits and student participation in the net zero workshop, the action team are to carry out phase 2 of the action plan. Phase 2 of the action plan looks at the decarbonisation steps schools are undertaking to achieve net zero carbon.
- 4.2.6 Step 6: The action team are to celebrate and showcase the actions that they have undertaken to achieve net zero carbon in their school. There will be opportunities within the programme to share

successes and events, such as via a termly newsletter, with opportunities for pupils to write articles and submit their work.

4.2.7 Step 7: The action team are to evaluate and review the actions that they have undertaken to achieve net zero carbon in their school. Evaluation and reviewing are embedded throughout the programme. For example, the audits and action plan templates include evaluation prompts such as “what went well” and “even better if”.

4.2.8 Once all steps are completed, schools are to repeat steps 4-7 to build a comprehensive decarbonisation action plan. School action plans can be built several academic years and the programme is flexible to allow schools to join the programme throughout the academic years.

4.3 Programme inclusiveness

The programme has been created to ensure that all schools can access the programme materials. Tasks and activities are designed for both primary and secondary schools with the needs of different learners being addressed. For instance, the student audits and the additional resources have considered different learners. EAL (English as an additional language) students, lower ability students, or pupil premium students can access the materials through the inclusion of definitions, images, and prompts. Similarly, higher ability students are presented with stretch and challenge opportunities to encourage critical thinking. The programme resources are also paired with lesson plans to ensure a straightforward delivery.

4.4

Communication

Several communication channels have been utilised to promote the Peterborough School Climate Change Programme to schools: school office emails; school staff emails; Peterborough schools newsletter; PECT’s school newsletter; Councillor input; colleague input; and Youth Council input.

4.5

Participation

One primary school (Paston Ridings Primary School), and four secondary schools (Manor Drive Secondary Academy, St John Fisher Catholic High School, Ormiston Bushfield Academy, and Queen Katharine Academy) are signed up to the Peterborough School Climate Change Programme.

All mentioned schools have set up their action teams and are currently completing phase 1 of the action plan - the audits. Manor Drive Secondary Academy have their net zero workshop booked in for January 2023 with the remaining schools aiming to have their workshops completed between February and March 2023.

Peterborough City Council are still actively encouraging participation for the Peterborough School Climate Change Programme. School action plans can be built over several academic years.

Manor Drive Secondary Academy’s Eco Club have completed their audits and have presented their findings in a whole-school assembly. The assembly outline included background information on climate change, the environmental issues observed at Manor Drive, and their net zero solutions:

“So what are we going to do about it? We want solutions and not problems. And we need your help as its your planet as well. As you can see we have been working alongside Peterborough City Council climate change team to change the way this school works, we have educated ourselves and others on the environment and most importantly we have laid the foundations for future eco club members to build upon. We want to start new campaigns and change what ‘normal’ looks like. For example, recycling is the new normal and anyone who throws a plastic bottle in the normal bin should be told that they are doing something wrong.”

“Thank you for listening and we hope you enjoyed the presentation, but before we go, we would like you to contribute your ideas on how we can reduce our harm to the planet

at Manor Drive. Look at the list of issues on the screen, talk to those around you and then in 2 minutes we'll ask you to share your ideas with the assembly. We need your help!" (Manor Drive Secondary Eco Club).

Manor Drive Eco Club Assembly Script.

4.6 Feedback

Positive feedback has been received from the participating schools and the feedback gained is being used to promote the programme to other Peterborough schools. One example is:

"Peterborough City Council's Climate Change Team have wholeheartedly supported the fledgling Manor Drive Secondary Academy Eco Club as we look to decarbonise our school and be a part of the School Climate Change Programme. The team's friendly manner and interaction with our students has given them an expert perspective on the issues right here at our school and around the world. We look forward to implementing the bespoke action plan with the aim to raising awareness amongst students and staff, reducing our carbon footprint and making a tangible difference in our city. Thank you so much for your support and enthusiasm so far!" (Manor Drive Secondary, Teacher of Humanities).

4.7 Next steps

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee notes and scrutinises the work done under the Peterborough School Climate Change Programme, provides any feedback as necessary and consider ways Councillors could support programme uptake.

Following the completion of audits, Peterborough City Council will deliver the net zero workshops and support schools to create their carbon reduction action plans.

Peterborough City Council are still actively encouraging participation for the Peterborough School Climate Change Programme. School action plans can be built over several academic years.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.1 The Peterborough School Climate Change Programme supports the council's commitment of Peterborough becoming a net zero carbon city. Schools are supported to decarbonise through creating carbon reduction action plans.

Following a Carbon Impact Assessment, the Peterborough School Climate Change Programme has been identified to have minimal impact on the council's carbon emissions. The Peterborough School Climate Change Programme has been identified to have a positive impact on the city's carbon emissions, particularly electricity and heating, travel, water, renewable energy, carbon capture, waste, goods, and food. The city's carbon emissions can be reduced if school decarbonisation action plans focus on any of these areas. The impact of the programme will be informed by the projects schools select, however even if schools are only able to undertake low-cost behavioural changes, the programme is still expected to result in reduced city-wide carbon emissions.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Conversations have taken place with staff at PECT who also deliver a schools programme to ensure the two programmes complement each other and no duplications exist. Given the flexibility of the programme there have been conversations to personalise the programme to school requirements.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 It is anticipated that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee will note and scrutinise the work done under the Peterborough School Climate Change Programme and provide feedback as necessary to help shape future programme delivery.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The Peterborough School Climate Change Programme is supporting schools to decarbonise. For Peterborough to become a net zero carbon city, schools need to help reduce their carbon emissions. Scrutiny Committee members are asked to provide feedback to support the continual improvement of the School Programme.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The report was presented at the request of the Scrutiny Committee. The option to not present the Peterborough School Climate Change Programme was not taken due to councillor interest and the importance of supporting schools to reach net zero.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 10.1 None. It should be noted however that the Peterborough School Climate Change Programme is funded by development contributions until August 2024. Should Peterborough City Council wish to continue to programme, further financial requirement to fund the post would be needed.

Legal Implications

- 10.2 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

Equalities Implications

- 10.3 The Independent Commission on Climate, established by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, detailed an approach to a just transition to net zero. Schools will be encouraged to promote equal access in their action plans.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 11.1 There were none.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix 1- Schools Guide

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