

GROWTH, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
19 MARCH 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place and Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Growth and Regeneration	
Contact Officer(s):	Nick Carter – Service Director Growth and Regeneration Rob Hill – Service Director Housing and Communities	Tel. 01733 747474

PORTFOLIO UPDATE FOR THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING, GROWTH AND REGENERATION

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Cllr Peter Hiller – Cabinet member Housing, Growth and Regeneration</i>	Deadline date: NA
<p>It is recommended that Housing, Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>1. <i>Note and provide scrutiny of the update report of the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing Growth and Regeneration.</i></p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This Cabinet Portfolio Holder Update report has been drafted at the request of the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 This report is an annual update on the work undertaken as part of the Housing, Growth and Regeneration Cabinet portfolio.

2.2 This report is for Growth, Resources and Communities 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 the Council:

1. Housing need (including homelessness, housing options and selective licensing);
2. Neighbourhood and Community Support (including cohesion and community safety);
4. Libraries, Arts and Museums;
5. Tourism, Culture & Recreation;
6. Adult Learning and Skills;
7. City Centre Management;
8. Economic Development and Regeneration including Strategic Housing and Strategic Planning;

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 PROGRESS

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

- Planning Services
- Building Control
- Economic Growth and Development, including tourism
- Housing Strategy
- Heritage, Leisure, and Libraries
- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping
- Community Safety and Enforcement
- Business Improvement District
- Adult Learning and Skills

4.2 The following sections set out progress and priorities against these themes. At the Committee’s request, there is a particular focus on the growth and regeneration aspects of the portfolio.

4.3 Planning Services

4.3.1 The main **strategic** focus of the planning service at present is the refresh of the Local Plan. Work formally commenced on the new Local Plan in April 2023, with a budget in place and the team being resourced. This followed a departmental restructure, which brought the strategic planning team back in-house following a period which saw our staff providing services to other councils.

4.3.2 A cross-party Member Working Group has been established to guide the progress of the development of the Local Plan. This is important because it offers opportunities for a full range of insight, and dissemination of key messages to all Members, via their representatives on the Working Group.

4.3.3 The Issues & Options (Regulation 18) consultation took place at the same time as a ‘Call for Sites’ (which invites landowners, land agents/traders/promoters, and developers to provide details of sites that are likely to be available for development during the life of the new Local Plan), between 2024 and 2044. Promotion of the consultation on social media was accompanied by an on-line questionnaire. Responses received are summarised below:

Table 1 – responses to Call for Sites

Call for Sites Submissions	Number	Hectares
Housing sites	93	2123.86
Employment sites	19	575.98
Biodiversity Net Gain bank sites	3	83.07
Other sites	23	313.33
Total (No/Ha)	138	3096.24

NB: sites put forward are currently being assessed, and the presence of a site on the list does not necessarily mean it will be taken forward as an allocation. A number of submitted sites overlap.

Table 2 – responses to the Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation

Online survey	Number
Comments using the standard form (No. of respondents)	379
Other comments – email responses (No. of respondents)	66
Other comments – social media poll	442
Local Green Space responses (No. of respondents)	37
Village Boundary changes (No. of respondents)	20

Note: the combined number of comments from the standard form and emails was 7,941.

4.3.4 Following the conclusion of the consultation and Call for Sites, a steady trickle of individuals and organisations have been in dialogue with officers, to continue to press their case either in support of 'their' site, or in opposition to one or more sites.

4.3.5 Work currently underway

A suite of independent reports has been commissioned, and more are on the way, to inform the progress of the Local Plan. Topics include flood risk, housing requirement, employment need, open space, and viability assessment

4.3.6 Next steps

The next formal stage of the development of the Plan is the second Regulation 18 stage, which is known as Preferred Option. This is due to be put before Cabinet, to seek authorisation to conduct a full public consultation during Summer this year. The Member Working Group will continue to inform the emerging local plan, ahead of the Cabinet meeting (for which we do not yet have a confirmed date, however in-principal discussions have taken place with a view to an early August Cabinet meeting for this purpose). Parish Councils have been offered early notification of this, in a briefing meeting, and the Member Working Group has discussed and agreed it is an appropriate way forward). The consultation will run for six weeks and will start shortly after the Cabinet meeting.

The timetable is challenging, because the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) transitional arrangements require the new plan to be Submitted to the Secretary of State by the end of June 2025. We have taken this date, and worked back, to set the timetable. The June 2025 deadline must be met, and we are confident we will achieve this.

4.3.7 Meanwhile, the operational Planning Service continues to provide a good level of service to those seeking planning permission or who wish to engage with the service to discuss growth and regeneration aspirations.

4.4 Building Control

4.4.1 Our application numbers have increased on previous years as well as percentage of work won compared to the competition. This is largely down to targeting work and providing a better service. The service has also identified increased levels of illegal works, and action has been taken to address and check compliance and promote a safer and more compliant Peterborough for its residents.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) launched the 'Building Safety Act and Building Safety Regulator' in 2023. This sets a requirement to be registered and licensed to act and complete the Building Control function (deadline is April 6 2024).

The Government are also proposing the introduction of the Building Safety levy in which Building control will be tasked with the collection of money from developers who fall under this scheme. Second consultation has just finished, and we are now awaiting further information.

4.5 Economic Growth and Development

4.5.1 Committee Members will be aware of the breadth of activity relating to economic growth and development. In a previous meeting, officers briefed Members of the development of the Investment Prospectus, which sets out the ambitions we have for delivering good growth, and this has subsequently been officially launched.

The Prospectus and accompanying city tour investor video set out the investment opportunities in the city centre area as well as the projects that have been delivered to date. It also outlines the significant amount of external funding secured for the city. This has created a lot of interest in the market, and developers and investors are now contacting the council to see how they can be

involved the regeneration vision that has been set out for the city.

The prospectus will be launched at UKREIF, the national developer and investor forum that takes place annually in Leeds during May. Officers from the Council will be attending to exhibit the opportunity that Peterborough presents to investors, which will market the city on a national and international stage.

The paragraphs below set out updates in relation to specific schemes.

4.5.2 **Towns Fund**

Members will be aware that the Council secured £22.9m from the Towns Fund which has been match funded by the private and education sectors to provide a budget of £55m for the programme. All projects are to be delivered by April 2026 in line with the funding parameters.

The following projects are now live and in delivery stages.

(a) The Vine

The Vine is the flagship project within the programme with a budget of £13.7m. The project will deliver interventions over 2 sites in the city centre

The Vine - Central Library:

This project will see the refurbishment of central library providing:

- A modern library offer with access to technology and internet
- Flexible workspace for small businesses seeking to develop and flourish in the city
- Education and community space for learners and local communities

A procurement exercise has been completed for a design and build contractor as well as an operator for the flexible workspace and community space offer.

Officers are currently assessing bids for the work and will seek Cabinet approval to appoint the successful contractor and operator at the end of March 2024.

The Vine - Goods Shed Fletton Quays:

This project will seek to develop a food hall offering. The food hall will comprise a communal dining area, a bar and a diverse range of kitchens offering a range of street food. This will present an opportunity for budding entrepreneurs to develop their catering businesses in one location.

The project will also animate Fletton Quays and provide a destination for the new bridge that is planned, linking the embankment with the Fletton Quays area.

The Council has acquired the goods shed from the Peterborough Investment Partnership to deliver the project. Soft market testing has identified potential operators for the food hall and officers are in the process of finalising a preferred option to deliver the project. The food hall will be in operation at the same time as the bridge is completed, July 2025. The two projects are therefore co-dependent.

(b) Cygnets Bridge

The bridge will link the embankment with Fletton Quays and has a budget of £6.5m.

Following a comprehensive consultation exercise during the summer of 2023, a name for the bridge has been established – Cygnets Bridge. The detailed design phase of the project has now been completed and a planning application is now being prepared.

The bridge will be delivered at the same time as works to the goods shed in July 2025. The Council's highways and civil engineering contractor Milestone will be undertaking the construction of the bridge.

(c) The Green Technology Centre

The Centre for Green Technology is a project in partnership with Inspire Education Group (IEG), both in terms of student capacity and in delivering green skills for the future. It has a budget of £13.5m. It will provide a building for a dedicated green curriculum, the only one of its kind within 50 miles. This is greatly needed within the local economy and will deliver skills which are sought after by local business across Peterborough and the wider region.

The Project consists of a 3-storey new building, totalling 2,435M². The facility provides a mixture of large and medium workshop space, classrooms, staff room space and a lab. The space will be shared by electrical vehicle and other engineering on one side of the building, and new construction technologies on the other side. The project will have a number of renewable energy initiatives and be gas free supporting IEG's drive to Net Zero.

The project broke ground in October 2023, and continues to make good build progress. It is expected that the project will be complete November 2024, with new students studying the new curriculum.

(d) Activity Centre

The Activity Centre is a project in partnership with Nene Park Trust (NPT) with a budget of £11m. It is to develop a new family fitness and sports facility with a specialist Olympic standard facility including new training/competition areas, family entertainment and an outdoor performance space and room for spectators.

Part one of the project has been completed with the delivery of a new car park. The next stage is the main build. The cost plans and market testing are all complete. Additional funding strategies are in place to close the funding gap to deliver the sports facility for the people of Peterborough.

(e) Lincoln Road Public Realm Improvements

The project is focussed on the re-development of Lincoln Road to create a new and engaging public space to create green spaces for health and wellbeing and improve the perception of the commercial centre of Lincoln Road. The wider pavements also bring opportunities for markets and seating areas which will support local businesses. It has a budget of £3.4m.

The preliminary design is being completed and engagement for statutory consultations are in plan for parking and speed restrictions. It is expected that Milestone will deliver the construction phase, including street furniture and planting and the works will be complete for end 2025.

(f) Connectivity & Accessibility for Peterborough Station

This project is linked to the Station Quarter project outlined below. The Connectivity and Accessibility project through the Towns Fund has a £1.5m budget to deliver accessibility improvements between the station and the town centre. The Towns Fund Board have agreed that the project is linked to the Station Quarter project and the Towns Fund monies are used to deliver the city link, an at grade route at the Queensgate roundabout, which is expected to start work in 2024.

4.5.3 **Station Quarter**

The Council, in partnership with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, has secured £48m for the redevelopment of the station quarter. The Council has also contributed a further £1.5m to the project from the Towns Fund project to help fund a work package that will improve accessibility between the city centre and the station.

An Outline Business Case (OBC) has been developed in partnership with Network Rail and LNER. The OBC has identified 6 packages of work:

- The city link – this will involve infilling the subway between the station and city centre. This will vastly improve access to the station by removing obstacles such as steps and ramps.

It will also provide natural surveillance which will improve safety and the fear of crime in the subway area. This package of work will commence during 2024.

- Reconfiguration of the current station building so the entrance faces the city centre. This will improve navigation to the city centre as the spires of the Cathedral will be visible to station users as they exit the station building.
- A new station building on the western side of the rail-track, so the station is accessible from the east *and* west of the railway.
- A multi-storey car park next to the new station building. This will release the current surface car parking for development of homes, retail and commercial premises. It will also capture traffic heading to the station across the Crescent Bridge, reducing traffic flow onto the roundabout and into the city.
- A new station square outside the current station building providing a much more attractive environment for visitors to the city on arrival.
- A new junction at Thorpe Road to ensure smooth transition of traffic to the new station building and multistorey car park.

The OBC has been scrutinised by the department for transport (DFT) Centres of Excellence. Officers attended the DFT investment board at the end of February to present the OBC and seek approval to draw funds for the Final Business Case (FBC) so the project can move into delivery phases.

Assuming that formal approval follows, the project will move to Final Business Case from March 2024, and extensive consultation with interested groups, including those with lived experience expertise, and local communities can commence before the development scheme is finalised and moves to the construction phase.

4.5.4 **City Centre Capacity Study**

Funding from Homes England has been secured to commission a capacity study of all the opportunity sites in the city centre. Tibbalds has been appointed to undertake the work. The study commenced in January of this year and is due to report at the end of March this year.

The study will cover the following elements:

- A peer review of the current development strategy set out by the council
- The capacity of the sites for residential, commercial and leisure development
- The typology of residential development – e.g., apartments, student accommodation or houses
- The tenure of accommodation – e.g., private sale, private rent, affordable housing, and social rent
- The phasing strategy for when to bring each site to the market for development

This study is vitally important to inform the development strategy for the city centre, to ensure the nature of development meets current and future needs of residents settling in the city, and to ensure that the pace of growth is appropriate.

4.5.5 **Middleholme**

Middleholme is a 42-acre brownfield site that sits adjacent to the embankment on the far side of the parkway. It is the site of an old refuse tip, and the land is therefore surplus to requirements. The Council controls approximately 40% of the site with the remainder in the ownership of the Milton Estate.

A joint project team has been set up with the Milton Estate, with a view to preparing an outline planning application early in 2025. For the last 9 months the project team has been following a process of de-risking the site in terms of remediating the ground conditions, access, flood mitigation and ecology. Homes England has funded the remediation study. The de-risking

strategy will remove any unknown factors and will enable the Council to negotiate a better fee from a development partner.

Joint procurement of a multi-disciplinary team with Milton Estates is the next step, to help develop the outline planning application. It is anticipated that the application will be developed and submitted early in 2025, after which the site can be marketed for disposal to a developer.

4.5.6 ***Dickens Street / Wellington Street Car Parks***

Following Cabinet approval to declare the sites surplus to requirements in October 2024, negotiations are ongoing to bring forward a solution for both sites.

4.5.7 There are a number of other sites set out in the investment prospectus and updates on progress relating to these will follow in due course.

4.5.8 ***Economic Development***

The Economic Development service is responsible for driving sustainable and inclusive growth across Peterborough. It does this primarily to improve the lives and life chances of the residents of Peterborough, ensuring that they have good quality, well paid, secure employment opportunities, as well as opportunities to develop the skills they need to access the labour market. The key priorities for the service are to develop and deliver the Economic Growth Strategy and the Visitor Economy Strategy.

Key measures of success for the service will be:

- Increased GVA (gross value added)
- Increased number of jobs
- Increased productivity
- Increased wages
- Reduced youth unemployment

(a) Economic Growth Strategy

Volterra have been commissioned to develop an Economic Growth Strategy for the Council and work started on its development in December 2023. Early work has identified 5 core objectives:

- Delivering sustainable economic growth on the road to Net Zero
- Innovation and industrial diversification to ensure economic resilience
- Inclusive growth through upskilling and empowering residents
- Improving the city's attractiveness through regeneration and urban development
- Connectivity and infrastructure improvements

The action plan resulting from this work will establish the foundational work programme for the Economic Development team.

The development and delivery of this strategy will be overseen by the newly created Peterborough Business Advisory Board, the first meeting of which took place on 1 March 2024. The Advisory Board will be made up of councillors, officers, and senior business representatives from across the city who will provide advice and guidance on the development and execution of economic policy and interventions to support sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

(b) Visitor Economy Strategy

The Economic Development team currently has a Visitor Economy Manager working on contract to develop and start to deliver a Visitor Economy Strategy. This strategy will lay the foundations for activity to start to take a more structured approach to changing perceptions of the city internally and externally, promoting the city and Greater Peterborough area as a fantastic visitor destination, and re-engaging local communities to build a greater sense of civic pride.

The two primary areas of challenge now are the status of the Visit Peterborough website and the

lack of marketing support. Positive discussions are ongoing with the current website partner and opportunities for substantial improvements to the site have been identified. Market research is currently underway to understand options for the commissioning of services to provide the necessary levels of marketing support.

One major project for the Visitor Economy Manager at present is the development of a feasibility study for the enhancement of the Guildhall into a community space for communities from across the city, as well having the potential to fulfil a role as the Visitor Information Centre, and the centrepiece for entertainment in Cathedral Square.

(c) Bondholder Network

The Bondholder Network is a fee-paying membership network of businesses from across Peterborough and beyond. We currently have around 70 members for whom we run 8-9 business breakfasts per year, averaging attendance of c.50 delegates per breakfast. Members also receive a monthly newsletter and have the opportunity to promote their businesses to each other via our member's portal. We also host a black-tie dinner at Peterborough Cathedral once a year with attendance of c.350 guests. The last of these was held in October 2023 and was a great success. Plans are already underway for 2024's dinner.

(d) Business Support

The Economic Development team has secured c.£300,000 of Shared Prosperity Funds with which to deliver a digital incubator/digital accelerator project. This money must be spent by the end of March 2025 but capacity issues within the team have meant that this project has not yet launched. Positive discussions are progressing with ARU Peterborough about that organisation taking on delivery of the project.

(e) Inward Investment

Historically, the Economic Development team has had a very positive relationship with UK Trade and Investment (now DBT) and worked with them and other partners to regularly secure 500+ jobs per year in the city and surrounding area. Under contract with the CPCA the team also used to deliver and coordinate inward investment services across Huntingdonshire, Fenland, and East Cambridgeshire.

Inward investment activity has been much slower over the last couple of years for a number of reasons. The CPCA contracted a third party to deliver economic development services, including inward investment, across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area under the Growth Works brand. This cut off direct access to UKTI and greatly reduced the number of enquiries reaching Peterborough. Peterborough also effectively ran out of employment land to develop, and with very low vacancy and churn rates within the commercial property market there was very little to proactively promote.

The Economic Development team is currently developing a new Economic Growth Strategy and as mentioned above, a new Local Plan is also being developed. With the addition of a new Economic Development Manager, a post currently being recruited for, this will pave the way for a reinvigoration of proactive inward investment promotional activity.

4.6 **Housing Strategy**

- 4.6.1 On 15 January 2024 Cabinet gave approval for the draft Housing Strategy which was developed and prepared in collaboration with the relevant service areas within the Council, to go out for public consultation. The consultation period commenced on 22 January and will close on 4 March.

A Microsoft survey form to provide feedback was shared alongside the draft strategy that includes questions requiring a mix of check box responses and free text responses to enable more detailed comments and views to be recorded.

The consultation process has been supported by a range of initiatives from our Communications team to help reach the widest possible audience. This includes: promotion of the launch of the

consultation on the home page of the council's website; full details on the consultation portal including access to the draft strategy document and the consultation survey form; an article in the local press; an interview on local radio to publicise the consultation; notifications and ongoing updates on the council's social media platforms to encourage participation; and efforts to restimulate interest at the later stages of the consultation by encouraging councillors and officers to repost the information about the consultation to their contacts and constituents.

Our approach to reaching a more targeted audience has been via direct email to a list of 272 stakeholders (not including parish and local councillors) at the start of the consultation period, providing a link to take them to the consultation portal. This was followed up with a reminder email 3 weeks into the consultation period.

Next Steps

At the end of the consultation period, a key issues report summarising the feedback received will be prepared. Any issues raised by consultees will be considered and a response will be included in the report as required. Where issues or suggestions relate to specific housing related service areas or functions, this response will be informed by liaison with the relevant officers and service area. This may include proposed amendments or additions to the strategy to address the issue raised where appropriate.

A final version of the housing strategy incorporating any proposed amendments arising from the consultation will be presented to Cabinet in June 2024 to request recommendation to Council for adoption. This will be accompanied by the finalised consultation key issues report which will be published with the adopted strategy on the council's website.

4.7 Heritage, Leisure, and Libraries

- 4.7.1 In September 23, Cabinet approved the establishment of a new subsidiary of Peterborough Limited to improve our operational oversight of Culture and Leisure services and achieve best value through the establishment of a not-for-profit organisation. Peterborough Culture Heritage Learning and Libraries (PCHLL) has now been formally registered with Companies House. Culture and Leisure services will operate under PCHLL once the contract is signed, expected to be completed in April 2024.
- 4.7.2 Vivacity Premier Fitness memberships have increased as a result of a recent refurbishment and replacement equipment. Events in the cultural services have also seen improvements across the network of services this year.
- 4.7.3 This year has seen successful funding applications through the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to improve the tennis facilities at Central Park and Itter Park.
- 4.7.4 Peterborough Culture Alliance (PCA) appointed its inaugural Director in the Summer thanks to funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The new director, Sughra Ahmed, has overseen an application to the Arts Council for additional funds to grow and deliver within the sector on behalf of the city. If successful, this will allow more support for community groups, hyper local work and to see more events being delivered. PCA will support across the council to make sure culture is part of growth and regeneration and is part of developments. A city-wide survey has also been developed to understand what residents see as culture, how they engage with the sector and if not why. The results will be collated and shared in the coming months as a baseline for the city.

4.8 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

- 4.8.1 Peterborough City Council's Housing Needs Service fulfils the Council's legal obligation to make an appropriate offer to those households presenting to us as homeless, we provide advice and support to all those eligible to meet our duties regarding prevention and relief of homelessness. Over the last 12 months the Service has continued to work toward implementing a new operating model embedding teams in First Contact, Early Help, Prevention, Pathways, Accommodation

Management and Rough Sleeper Support. Although this move has been difficult to complete expeditiously due to coping with rising demand the structure creates the basis for future improvements in working with those at risk of homelessness at an earlier point. Demand to the service has increased by 20% over the last 12 months.

- 4.8.2 First contact team average daily contacts average 90 per day and homeless approaches have increased from an average of 64 per week at the start of April 2023 to 87 in February 2024. At the time of writing, 3,307 households approached the service regarding their homelessness.
- 4.8.3 Although faced with the challenges set out above the service has managed to steadily improve prevention successes by 55% over the last 12 months supporting 884 households to prevent or relieve their homelessness and has reduced the use of costly bed and breakfast accommodation by 17% helping the council to manage its overall budget pressure and improving outcomes for those affected.
- 4.8.4 The Rough Sleeper team continue to make a real impact on rough sleeping in the context of increased pressures driving people toward having to sleep on the streets. Our annual rough sleeper count held at 24 from the previous year which is a real achievement.
- 4.8.5 Our relationships with partners continues to grow through the Homelessness Strategy Group and The Safer off the Streets Partnership, Partners are building their capacity and confidence to deal with homelessness issues and there has been excellent joint working to implement and add value to our Sever Weather Emergency Protocol Accommodation Offer as well as linking with Community / Family Hubs to explore ways of working together to prevent homelessness.

4.9 Community Safety and Enforcement

- 4.9.1 The Safer Peterborough Partnership (SPP) continues to meet quarterly working toward key priorities agreed by all agencies in 2023/2024. Work has recently commenced on drafting a new 3-year strategic plan for 2024 - 2027 which will be presented to the SPP Board and to this committee for scrutiny in the coming months.
- 4.9.2 A review has taken place of both the Safer Peterborough Delivery Group and Problem-Solving Group which has led to improving the partnership response to Anti-Social Behaviour. Over the last year the problem-solving group has resolved 126 medium/high risk cases relating to ASB that could not be solved in isolation without an enhanced multi-agency approach.
- 4.9.3 As part of a multi-agency Safer Streets 5 initiative, the council received £88,326 Home Office funding. Funding was awarded to reduce dwelling burglaries in a selected area of the city, and has helped provide temporary CCTV cameras, additional CCTV monitoring along with engagement and home assessments.
- 4.9.4 The City Centre is a priority focus area for the council and has been adopted as an improvement programme within the Economy and Inclusive Growth Portfolio Board.

Key operational updates include the following:

- The city centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) has been renewed for 3 more years, which effectively empowers the council to enforce anti-social activity through the issuing of a fixed penalty notice.
- Four new City Centre Enforcement Officers have been recruited; the number of enforcement officers will increase to 8 from 1 April leading to more uniformed visibility in the city centre. The main focus will be on tackling issues such as ASB, Street Drinking as well as the enforcement of the PSPOs.

- A multi-agency city centre operations meeting takes place weekly to set priorities for the week ahead as well as review of previous weeks activities.
- We are working to increase the city market and events offer by exploring commercial opportunities and working with third-party providers. This last year has seen an increase in the number of seasonal markets, which has been well supported by shoppers / residents and we are aiming to expand this further over the coming years.
- A 'Nighttime Economy' group has been established with partners to look at the city centre and deliver further solutions to tackle community safety and other concerns. Focused on the evenings, our aim is to build on efforts that improve safety and promote the city nighttime economy as a welcoming environment that helps growth the economy.

4.9.5 Parking Enforcement

On 5 February we introduced Moving Traffic Enforcement cameras at a number of locations in the city. A full upgrade of all pay and display ticket machines has also taken place. A review of the blue badge process has also taken place allowing for more application to be made online resulting in efficiencies. Over the coming months additional Civil Enforcement Officers will be recruited due to increases in service demand and new sites will be investigated for moving traffic enforcement.

4.9.6 Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Service

During 2023/24 the DASV Partnership has continued to embed the requirements of the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act, including the requirements of the local authority to provide safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse. This year this has included the embedding of target hardening to enable victims to stay safely in their own homes, and the expansion of dispersed accommodation across the county.

The Partnership has also worked closely with Housing to support them in their work towards DAHA (Domestic Abuse and Housing Alliance) Accreditation. It has also worked to implement a City Council wide domestic abuse policy.

A Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Needs Assessment has been undertaken across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and will inform the refreshing of the VAWG Strategy for 2024/25. The Safe Accommodation Strategy has also been refreshed and is due to be ratified by cabinet.

The IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Adviser) Service have continued to see increased referrals and now have established routes into service from health and housing, as well as working with high and medium risk referrals from the police.

4.10 **Adult Learning and Skills**

4.10.1 ARU-Peterborough

Responsibility for scrutiny of the council's role in the university partnership, and of higher education more generally, rests with the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee. However, a brief update is provided below given its significant role in the economic growth of our city.

The first phase of the university opened in September 2022. The curriculum has been co-designed with employers, creating knowledge transfer partnerships and access to research and development, in tandem with increasing the skills levels of local people to progress into highly skilled employment opportunities. ARU have enrolled over 1000 students in its first year; almost 50% have PE postcodes and 120 are international students.

The Research and Development Facility (Phase 2) has completed and houses ARU on the ground floor, including an XRP technology centre, and a variety of research and development tenants will occupy the upper floors.

The second teaching building (Phase 3) is currently being built and is progressing at rapid pace in time for its opening to students in September 2024.

Work is underway to refresh the business cases for Phases 4 and 5 and focus groups have been formed to progress the overall Outline Planning Application for the whole campus.

4.10. City College Peterborough
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It is vital to the success of our economic growth and development that we have an adult skills service focused on providing opportunities for people to enter the workforce, or to increase their earnings through better employment. Our adult education service is delivered from City College Peterborough, and we are reviewing the way we deliver the service in the city to ensure it is fully aligned to our growth and economic development targets.

As a result of this, there is currently an in-house 100-day review underway at City College to ensure:

- a) it has a robust, sustainable, and fit for purpose business plan
- b) that the College delivers a service that is aligned with the Council’s revised corporate and financial objectives
- c) robust and transparent governance is in place and is consistent with the Corporate Strategy.

Adult Skills

Within the Adult Skills area, the college has delivered a diverse range of courses tailored to cater to individuals who are furthest away from educational opportunities, qualification courses aimed at enhancing essential skills (ESOL, English, Maths, and Digital), and vocational courses aligned with priority sectors in the city. Among the vocational courses available are:

- Health Care
- First Aid and Mental Health First Aid
- Digital Skills for Work
- Marketing
- Business Admin & Customer Service
- Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools
- Early Years

The three-year trends of data against this year’s current data are below:

	End of year results			End of term 1 results
	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Attendance, Retention, Achievement, Pass Rate	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Number of Enrolments in total (ESFA & CPCA combined)	3081	2920	3268	1189
Attendance	87%	85%	83%	89%
Retention	96%	96%	94%	98%
Pass Rate	96%	93%	95%	96%
Achievement	93%	89%	90%	Too early

Age	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
19-24	138	126	129	63
25-59	1280	1268	1467	773
60+	107	149	111	68

Ethnicity	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
Not known	298	149	141	56
Other	661	838	951	674
White British	569	558	613	174

Study Programmes for young people

Study Skills Programmes at the John Mansfield Campus have offered a diverse range of vocational courses tailored for 16–24-year-old learners, providing them with a unique opportunity to cultivate practical skills essential for their future endeavours. During 23/24, 290 learners have enrolled on the following vocational courses:

- Motor Vehicle
- Hairdressing and Barbering
- Creative Industries
- ESOL
- Business and Enterprise
- Health and Social Care
- Supported Interns
- Occupational Studies
- Animal Care
- Hospitality and Catering
- Step Up
- SEA (Support Educate Autism)
- SFI (Skills for Independence)
- ICE (Individualised Curriculum Education)

Completing courses has equipped learners with understanding the theory but it also hones their critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork abilities. We build hands-on knowledge through work experience and guest speakers to aid the transition into their chosen pathways. To date, 64 learners have successfully completed work experience.

150 (53%) young people within the provision have an EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan), of which 147 (98%) are HNF (high needs funded). EHCP learners' needs are met through the Study Programme which offers a holistic, wraparound service for all young people, to ensure the foundation to their future, is built to withstand the trials they may face. This is further enhanced through Wellbeing support, an in-house counselling service (group and individual), preparing for adulthood mentoring and targeted support if required.

4.10. Skills and Employment Strategy

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Volterra have been commissioned to develop a Peterborough-specific Skills and Employment Strategy and 5-year implementation plan for the Council. Early work has identified 5 core themes:

1. Inclusive growth driven through skills and empowering residents
2. Developing a pipeline of skills through enhancing children's prospects
3. Lifelong learning and skills advancement
4. Tackling long-term inequality and economic inactivity
5. An adaptable and upskilled workforce that meets the needs of employers

The implementation plan will be crucial to ensure deliverability and accountability of the strategy. This will be engagement-led, collaborative and flexible and will align with the emerging Economic Development Strategy and the Local Plan Review.

In addition to the strategy and implementation plan, a number of skills related projects are in flight:

- (a) Shared Prosperity Fund project for a Digital Incubator service in Peterborough: the Digital Incubator project will support existing and new businesses to make it easy to invest and grow in our city. It will provide early-stage digital businesses to grow, support the development of an innovative digital economy in Peterborough, creating high skilled, high value jobs. It will support non-digital first businesses to understand and adopt new technologies, increasing their resilience and competitiveness, and their ability to grow and create jobs.
- (b) Shared Prosperity Fund project to deliver Carbon Literacy training to residents and businesses: Carbon literacy training to community members to ensure that as many people as possible are equipped to develop carbon reduction projects and communicate effectively on the climate emergency with their network of partners, staff, and clients. The carbon literacy training will be offered to schools, businesses, parish councils, community groups, charities, and public sector organisations. To qualify for the training scheme, participants must pledge to undertake significant actions to reduce carbon emissions. These actions, as well as future actions directed by the increased knowledge in the organisation, will aid the city to become net zero carbon more rapidly than would be achieved otherwise. A trainer has been recruited and a pipeline of projects will be developed throughout the city.
- (c) Shared Prosperity Fund project for Supported Internships in Peterborough (countywide): working closely with key stakeholders this project will identify those individuals most in need. There will be three main activities: (1) Personal Skills Analysis to guide individuals in understanding and identifying opportunities for re-skilling, up-skilling, and re-training. This will involve working directly with individuals to identify opportunities to transition into or back into work following an extended period of economic inactivity, into new roles with their existing skills, or to identify training that will support them in transitioning to a new role; (2) Delivering real -world experiences of work through funded internships. Funding will be provided to employers to provide new work opportunities.
- (d) Shared Prosperity Fund project for Skills Brokerage (countywide): in early 2024, a Skills Brokerage Service to link residents and those retraining for new jobs to employers and skills providers to improve the supply of skills to our growth sectors will be launched.
- (e) Shared Prosperity Fund project for an All-Age Careers Service (countywide): in early 2024, a new “all-age careers service” will be launched by the Combined Authority with constituent councils participating in the delivery supply chain.
- (f) Towns Fund Green Technology Centre - Construction of a £13.5m Centre for Green Technology. Referred to above.
- (g) Adult Social Care Health Academy: working with the Combined Authority, in January 2024 we launched the Health Care Academy to professionalise the Adult Social Care sector, for care professionals to see themselves as skilled professionals and for the wider community to see a career in care as an attractive prospect. The KPIs for this ambitious programme are linked into the transformation work around skills within the council’s Economy and Inclusive Growth portfolio board.
- (h) The Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP): is a business-led and locally owned approach to bringing together employers, education and training providers and other key local stakeholders to better understand the priorities for the region’s post-16 technical education landscape. The LSIP is set in statute in the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022. This means that the DfE is committed to funding independently led employer-driven activity to shape skills provision at a regional level. Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce and Industry (the Chamber) is the appointed Employer Representative Body (ERB) for the development of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LSIP. The emerging Peterborough Skills and Employment Strategy will ensure it incorporates and not duplicates the approach taken by the Chamber.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.1 The Housing, Growth and Regeneration portfolio contributes towards all of the council's corporate priorities. All of our residents need a good home, need to have the opportunity for good work, and need to be able to live in areas which are modern, and which provide ample opportunity for leisure and enjoyment. Delivering the ambitions relevant to this portfolio will help to tackle inequalities and improve prosperity for all our residents, helping to reduce increasing demand in social care and other services enabling those services to focus on those that need the most help and support.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Consultation is incorporated as a key element of the individual project, programmes and services set out in this report.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 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

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

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

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 Not Applicable

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 10.1 Not applicable in relation to this report. However, the financial implications relevant to projects, programmes and services described in this report are considered as and when they require relevant individual decisions.

Legal Implications

- 10.2 Not applicable in relation to this report. However, the legal implications relevant to projects, programmes and services described in this report are considered as and when they require relevant individual decisions.

Equalities Implications

- 10.3 Not applicable in relation to this report. However, tackling inequalities is an overriding priority for this portfolio, achieved through delivering sustained economic growth.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 11.1 None.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 None.

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