

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM - TOWN HALL ON 20 JULY 2010**

Present: Councillors M Dalton (Chairman), S Allen (Vice-Chairman), D Day and S Lane, D Morley and M Todd

Also Present: Councillor S Dalton, Cabinet Member for Environment Capital

Officers Present: Jenny Harris, Lawyer
Louise Tyers, Scrutiny Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Arculus, Peach and Murphy. Councillors Morley and Todd were acting as substitutes.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 June 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2010 were accepted as an accurate record.

4. Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

5. Environment Capital - The Next Steps

We welcomed Councillor S Dalton to the meeting and she presented the report which provided an update on the progress of Environment Capital and the next stages in developing and launching the approach.

In adopting the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) the Council had committed itself to becoming the UK's Environment Capital. Environment Capital had widespread support which had been achieved through clear political direction and the efforts of a committed, cross-sector Environment Capital Partnership. Significant building blocks had already been put in place including the SCS, Local Area Agreement, the creation of an Environment Capital Cabinet portfolio and the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee itself. The approach also had the support of Opportunity Peterborough and of the wider business community as represented by the Economic Development Partnership.

There would be significant advantages in maintaining the current momentum in driving forward the Environment Capital agenda as it played a key role in driving the city's economic development, supported sustainable growth and provided a focus for building strong and supportive communities. Peterborough must continue to position itself as an environmental leader and enhance its reputation as a result. It must continue to build on the Environment Capital culture within the Council and throughout wider city stakeholders and the next stages must also include a range of projects and activities aimed at supporting the Environment Capital agenda. The Committee had previously seen early drafts of the city wide Development Plan which would be updated and improved as part of this work. The Council

and other partners also needed to be aware of the impact of their activities and decisions on the environmental and wider sustainability agendas.

The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council together with the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital were committed to launching the Environment Capital approach this autumn and three work streams had now been established:-

Stakeholder Engagement: The Director of Environment Capital with support from GPP colleagues was working with partners to galvanise support for and input to the Environment Capital approach which would build and maintain a common approach and culture. This would involve delivering a clear definition, an outward facing prospectus and a briefing document aimed at all city ambassadors. To succeed, Environment Capital must also deliver improved outcomes for local residents and communities.

Policy Development: This would include the replacement of the Council's Environment Policy (2000) with a newly developed Environment Capital Policy which would form part of the Council's Major Policy Framework. The sustainable growth of the city would be supported by an Environment Capital Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which would drive sustainable developments across the city building on the Environment Capital Core Strategy policy.

Marketing: A newly formed team was leading the development of a marketing strategy to ensure that the new approach enhanced the city's regional, national and international profile. This profile would, in turn, support inward investment and economic development.

The Cabinet Member advised that whilst environment capital was well imbedded one of the next steps would be to look at whether the public were aware of what we were trying to achieve. We needed to become 'Action Peterborough' and not 'Brand Peterborough'.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- Private businesses often produced large amounts of waste, were the Cabinet Member and officers talking to the Chamber of Commerce to see how environment capital encompassed them? *Officers were talking to them and not just about waste. Performance on the national indicators for recycling was currently falling but this was due to changes in packaging and people making more informed choices about how they brought products.*
- How did our drop in recycling compare to other cities? *The Cabinet Member believed our performance put us mid-table but we were one of the highest ranked unitary authorities.*
- How did the Cabinet Member and officers plan to embed the environment capital agenda down at community level? *We were currently not doing enough in the communities but we were looking to do more with Travelchoice and the Climate Change Team. The Climate Change Team were keen to go out into local areas and were looking to reach out to councillors to invite them into their areas. New builds at schools, which showed the children how things worked, were also working very well.*
- How could the work be co-ordinated down to communities, as it appeared to be done in a very ad-hoc way? *Neighbourhood Councils could be used as a way to spread the word. The Cabinet Member was very happy to take back any suggestions on how it could be done better.*
- How could issues such as carbon reduction be taken down to a local level? *Our carbon emissions were measured as an authority but we were looking to drive carbon reduction out as currently schools were responsible for about 50% of our emissions.*
- Some housing tenants found it difficult to get work done on their homes such as improving insulation as it was often not clear how to get the work done. *The Cabinet Member would take that comment on board.*

- The Cabinet Member advised that it could be possible to perhaps look at building something into staff's contracts about having a responsibility for environment capital. Also, perhaps including a green objective in staff's Performance and Development Reviews.
- IBM were using Peterborough in their cinema adverts nationally and this needed to be shouted about more. *The Peterborough Model, which we were working with IBM on, was receiving large amounts of international recognition. Regardless of any other authorities using it, it would always be referred to as the Peterborough Model.*
- Whilst members supported the aspiration to become the Environment Capital what was the timeline and what measures would we have to achieve before we could declare ourselves? *We were looking to launch environment capital around October/November and were currently looking for a suitable platform to launch it, for example, the Christmas lights switch on. As there was nothing that defined environment capital we were looking at what wording to use.*
- Who were the stakeholders we were looking to engage? *The Council, GPP, PECT and Opportunity Peterborough were looking to appoint an environment capital champion to take forward the work. A large range of other organisations were also supporting the work.*
- Liaison with local businesses outside of the environment sector was important. Everyone supported the aspiration but needed something to grab on to about how and when we would achieve it. The timeline was still too vague.
- Had the City thought about working towards European Environment City? *We were currently one of four environment cities in the UK but we could look at what was needed for European environment city.*
- We needed to look at having a high profile figurehead for environment capital, similar to how Roy Kinnear was used by the Development Corporation in the seventies. *At the recent green carpet film awards, Chris Packham and Stephen Fry were both featured supporting what we were trying to achieve in Peterborough.*

ACTION AGREED

To note the current progress on Environment Capital.

6. Scrutiny Big Debate - Issues Paper

The report advised the Committee of the outcomes of the Scrutiny Big Debate event which was held in February 2010.

The Big Debate had involved an investigation by the four Scrutiny Committees in to how the economic downturn had affected the City in terms of its aspirations for growth, levels of crime, requirements to support vulnerable people and its credentials for environmental sustainability with particular reference to transport. It was a pioneering piece of work that had been designed and delivered in consultation with the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

The scope of the review for this Committee had been to look at how the City could continue to grow and overcome the effects of the economic downturn. The event had been held at the Town Hall on 17 February 2010 and involved representatives from various organisations who gave their personal perspectives on the future of the city. The event provoked lots of discussion and there had been a significant amount of positive feedback from attendees. Following workshops which were held on the evening a number of issues were suggested to take forward for further work. The Committee were now asked to delegate to the Group Representatives consideration of which items should be added to the Committee's work programme.

Observations and questions were raised around the following areas:

- The issue around building more executive family homes to encourage senior managers to live inside rather than outside the city had been discussed for a long time. It would be helpful to receive updates on what was happening at future meetings during the year.

ACTIONS AGREED

- (i) To note the outcomes from the Scrutiny Big Debate.
- (ii) To receive an update on the progress of the outcomes at a future meeting.
- (iii) To receive updates on the building of executive family homes at our meetings in November 2010 and March 2011.

7. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The latest version of the Forward Plan, showing details of the key decisions that the Leader of the Council believed the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would be making over the next four months, was received.

The Chairman advised that he had recently used his urgency powers in relation to an Executive Decision relating to the Bridges Refurbishment Programme as he was satisfied that any delay in the implementation of the decision would have prejudiced both the Council's and the public interest.

ACTION AGREED

To note the latest version of the Forward Plan.

8. Work Programme

We considered the Work Programme for 2010/11.

We considered the items which were still to be scheduled. We requested that a report on the SERCO ICT Managed Service contract be brought to the meeting in November, along with an update on the site allocations document.

ACTION AGREED

To confirm the work programme for 2010/11.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14 September 2010 at 7pm

CHAIRMAN
7.00 - 7.48 pm