

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
20 JANUARY 2011	Public Report

Report of the Commercial Services Director

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TREES AND WOODLAND STRATEGY

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Further to the last meeting of the Committee, this report provides Members with an updated draft of the Trees and Woodland Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee endorses the draft Trees and Woodland Strategy for wider consultation.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Trees are the largest single item within the landscape and therefore have an impact. Woodlands are an invaluable resource and a superb educational opportunity and thus contribute to the agenda for learning and awareness of environmental issues. The SCS contains the priority for:

“Making Peterborough cleaner and greener so that we become the UK’s greenest city with attractive neighbourhoods surrounded by thriving biodiversity”.

Directives within DEFRA have the stated aims of **“Helping to enhance the environment and biodiversity to improve quality of life”** and **“Supporting a strong and sustainable green economy, resilient to climate change”**.

Supporting the findings and issues within the draft Strategy links to National Indicator 197 (Improved local biodiversity - active management of local sites) the rationale of this indicator being to “assess the performance of Local Authorities with regard to local sites and promoting them for educational purposes”.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At the last meeting of the Committee a draft of the Trees and Woodland Strategy was considered. Following the debate at that meeting it was agreed that a separate meeting involving interested members would be held to enable them to compare the 2006 version of the Strategy with the submitted draft and to ensure that new initiatives were included.
- 4.2 The informal meeting was held in early December 2010 and was attended by Councillor Sandford, Executive Director of Operations, Head of Operations (City Services) and the Trees & Landscape Management Officer. Further meetings were also held with the Cabinet Member for Environment Capital.
- 4.3 An updated version of the draft Strategy is attached at Appendix 1 for endorsement.

4.4 The draft Strategy has also been sent to Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT) for comment and if any comments are received these will be reported at the Committee meeting.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

Minutes of the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee held on 4 November 2010.

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Trees and Woodland Strategy