

ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
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Report of the Executive Director of Operations

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ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report updates the Committee on performance against the Council's Environment Capital ambition as measured by Forum for the Future through its Sustainable Cities Index 2010.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the city's performance as measured by the Sustainable Cities Index and identify issues it may wish to consider in more depth at future meetings.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Adopting this approach will ensure that subsequent Scrutiny meetings will directly contribute to the objectives and outcomes contained in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

This committee in particular most directly contributes to the 'Creating the UK's Environment Capital' priority in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Peterborough's Sustainable Community Strategy contains four priorities: Creating Strong and Supportive Communities; Creating the UK's Environment Capital; Creating Opportunities, Tackling Inequalities; Substantial and Truly Sustainable Growth. Each of these priorities has four specific outcomes, beneath which sit a diverse range of actions and interventions to deliver lasting positive change for Peterborough.

By adopting the Sustainable Community Strategy, the council has committed itself to becoming the UK's Environment Capital, building on the longstanding experience as one of four Environment Cities in the UK. The "journey" from Environment City to Environment Capital is considered appropriate given the shift towards global environmental challenges such as climate change as well as the city's ambition to grow substantially and sustainably.

Environment Capital now has widespread support as a key focus and unique selling point for Peterborough which has been achieved through clear political direction and the efforts of a committed, cross-sector partnership working.

- 4.2 At its meeting in July, the Committee resolved that before the City Council launched its Environment Capital approach, agreed criteria should be met and an independent assessment should be undertaken. The most cost effective basis for this comparative work is the Forum for the Future Sustainable Cities Index. The organization assessed Peterborough as part of the Jonathan Porritt Master Class in Nov 2009. Forum for the Future has recently assessed the city against 2010 Index. It should be noted that the Index compares Peterborough with a number of much larger UK cities but it is one of only a few, reliable local authority comparators. Peterborough is the only city which voluntarily submits itself to this additional scrutiny with regard to its sustainability

performance.

In order that progress and trends can be tracked and, in the absence of a defined set of comparative indicators, it was agreed that the city would again use the Index as its preferred measurement methodology. Earlier this year, Forum for the Future was commissioned to compare the city against the 2010 Index and Britain's' twenty largest cities.

The results (including comparative 2009 performance) are as follows:-

Index 2009	Score		Index 2010	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
Environmental Performance	11.625	11th	12.0	7th =
Quality of Life	6.5	16th	9.0	14th =
Future Proofing	16.75	3rd	13.75	5th =
Overall	34.875	10th	32.250	10th

(N.B. Scores for each basket are out of a maximum of 21. The overall score is the sum of the three baskets and is, therefore, out of a total of 63. Rank position is from 1 to 21.)

Overall, the city has retained its position. Whilst slipping back slightly under the “future- proofing” basket of measures it has improved its score and position against environmental and quality of life measures. The following sections look briefly at each of the baskets in a little more detail.

4.3 Environmental performance

This basket focuses on environmental performance using data on air quality, waste, resource use and ecological footprint.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE	Data	Index 2009		Index 2010	
		Score	Rank	Score	Rank
Air quality	12.4 µgm-3 per km2	21.0	1st	11.1 µgm-3 per km2	21.0 1st
Biodiversity	61% of Local Sites under positive management	20.5	1st =	71% of Local Sites under positive management	21.0 1st
Waste	570.78 kg per person in 2007/8	1.0	21st	558.00 kg per person in 2008/9	1.0 21st
Ecological footprint	5.24 ha per person in 2004	4.0	18th	4.57 ha per person in 2006	5.0 17th
BASKET		11.625	11th	12.0	7th =

As can be seen from the above table, the City performs well in this area compared with the 20 largest UK cities. It has substantially improved on its 2009 rank position. Peterborough leads the way on air quality and biodiversity although the waste per head of population remains a concern alongside the ecological footprint. The latter measures the amount of global land needed to sustain each resident of the local authority. Amongst other things, the calculation takes into consideration domestic fuel use, car fuel use, meat, fish and vegetable consumption.

Turning specifically to the waste produced per head of population, the figures for 2009/10 and the estimates for 2010/11 have reduced for the amount of household waste collected per person (BVPI 84a) to 493.06 kg in 09/10 and 486.27kg in 10/11, a significant decrease from the 2008/09 figure of 558 kg. This still makes us high compared to the other 20 cities, which appear to be reducing the figure at a faster rate. It is worth recognizing that the nature of the large cities in this comparison needs to take into account the different nature of the waste generated. Peterborough is likely to produce more household waste as it collects garden waste at the kerbside which is not common practice in big cities.

4.4 Quality of Life

This basket attempts to measure what the city is like to live in and how it is performing on social sustainability. Whilst not normally topics within the scope of this Committee, it is included here for completeness.

QUALITY OF LIFE		Index 2009		Index 2010		
	Data	Score	Rank	Data	Score	Rank
Employment	5.6% claiming JSA in July 2009	10.0	12th	4.5% claiming JSA in July 2010	11.0	10th
Education	56.0% with NVQ2 or higher	5.0	17th	51.1% with NVQ2 or higher	2.0	20th
Health	78.70 years life expectancy	14.0	8th	79.35 years life expectancy	15.5	6th =
Transport - access	NA	NA	NA	196.5 mins per month	9.0	13th
Green space	1.22 GF & GP awards per 100'000	8.0	14th	1.75 GF & GP awards per 100'000	10.0	12th
BASKET		9.25	12th		9.5	14th=

The quality of life score and rank have reduced slightly since the 2009 assessment although the overall basket has seen improvements in relation to the percentage of individuals claiming job seekers allowance, life expectancy and the number of green spaces per 100,000 inhabitants.

The Transport indicator measures the number of minutes per month per household spent walking and/or taking public transport or cycling to four key services: food, GP, further education and secondary school. The research necessary to calculate this indicator was not commissioned as part of the brief but the work has since been undertaken though the results were not available for the report deadline. The figure used in the table above is an all city average. The actual figure may alter the relative rank position and, therefore, Peterborough's overall rank (see 4.2 above). Members will be provided with a verbal update at the Committee.

4.5 Future Proofing

The future proofing indicators seek to capture how cities are addressing some of the strategic issues that require local, civic leadership including preparations for climate change, resilience to changes in the food supply chain, re-use of resources and dynamism and innovation in the local economy.

FUTURE PROOFING		Index 2009		Index 2010		
	Data	Score	Rank	Data	Score	Rank
Climate change	13.0 points for policy, strategy and action planning	10.0	12th	12.0 points for policy, strategy and action planning	2.0	20th
Local Food	14.73 allotments per 1,000 people	20.0	2nd	14.05 allotments per 1,000 people	21.0	1st
Economy	31.23 VAT registrations per 10,000 people	16.0	6th	35.34 biz births per 10,000 people	11.0	11th
Recycling	46.21% of waste recycled (April 2007-March 2008)	21.0	1st	47.95% of waste recycled (April 2008-March 2009)	21.0	1st
BASKET		16.75	3rd		13.75	5th=

The city has slipped back slightly on this basket though continues to perform well against the other

cities, however, it ranks first in relation to its recycling rate and on allotment availability.

Whilst the performance on the climate change indicator is disappointing, it must be noted that this is assessed on 2010 performance. A significant amount of positive work has been undertaken since the adoption of the Carbon Management Action Plan which is likely to substantially improve performance against the 2011 Index. An update on the Carbon Management Action Plan is due to be published in November 2011. In addition, as it is no longer a statutory requirement, Peterborough has not progressed the climate change adaptation work as far as some other authorities. However, the partnership with Rutland County Council offers the opportunity to progress this work and this is currently being explored.

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 Within the scope of this Committee's responsibilities, Members are asked to focus on a number of areas for improvement within the document, namely, but not exclusively: -

- Kg of waste produced per head of population.
- Ecological footprint and
- Climate Change

5.2 Members may also wish to identify issues for closer scrutiny by including these in the Committee's future work programme.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 For the city to achieve its ambition of becoming the UK's Environment Capital, it must show a strong and evidenced track record of environmental achievement backed by a focus on addressing areas for improvement. The Sustainable Cities Index is one mechanism through which the city's response to key challenges can be monitored and areas for improvement identified.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 The Environment Capital initiatives and projects outlined in this report are subject to individual and specific consultation as part of their development and implementation.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 The outcomes of the latest Sustainable Cities Index will be used to focus on key areas of improvement where these are within the sphere of influence of the local authority.

It is intended to commission Forum for the Future later in 2011 to benchmark Peterborough against the 2011 Sustainable Cities Index.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

9.1 Peterborough in the Sustainable Cities Index 2010 – Forum for the Future.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 None