

TITLE OF REPORT: Refresh of the Climate Change Strategy

1. Aim

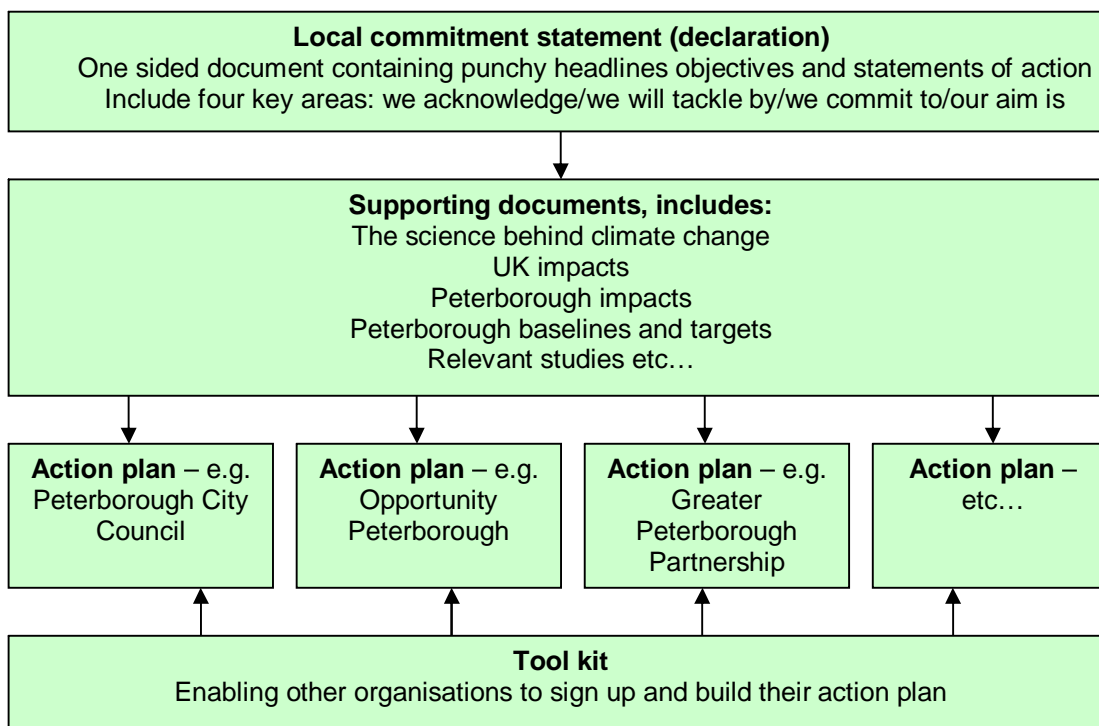
Peterborough City Council originally launched a Climate Change Strategy in 2007, a 30 page document summarising the science behind climate change, the global and local impacts and plan for action. In this fast paced area of work there is now a clear need to update and refresh the strategy. In order to acknowledge that climate change is not something that can be dealt with alone, by a single organisation the refresh of the strategy will deliver a city wide approach providing a mechanism for local organisations to sign up and make a commitment to reduce the impact their organisation has upon our local and global environment.

2. How will the new strategy work?

We propose to introduce a climate change strategy for the city of Peterborough which will focus upon adaptation and mitigation measures. The strategy will be committed to through a climate change declaration, supplemented by a series of documents putting climate change in to context for Peterborough. We will develop a mechanism to support the development and monitoring of individual action plans for organisations signing up to the strategy.

This approach recognises Peterborough's ambition to establish the city as the UK's Environment Capital.

The strategy will be formulated as follows:



This approach is known to have been adopted by at least one other local authority, Oxford. This has been particularly successful in engaging the local business community and offering technical assistance in the form of baseline tools, project assessment tools and templates for the production and monitoring of actions plans.

A first draft of the declaration document has been produced, this is as follows:

Peterborough Climate Change Declaration

We acknowledge that:

- Scientific consensus and evidence demonstrates that Climate Change is happening
- Climate Change will have significant and far reaching effects upon our residents, businesses and biodiversity
- The cost of inaction on Climate Change will be far higher than the cost of tackling Climate Change now
- We are responsible for limiting our carbon emissions and prepare to adapt to the unavoidable effects of Climate Change

We will tackle Climate Change by adopting a five step plan:

- Step one: Mobilise our organisation – build the team and determine the scope
- Step two: Set baseline, forecast and targets for action
- Step three: Identify and quantify options – identify the risks and opportunities presented by climate change
- Step four: Finalise implementation plan – design a cost-effective strategy to cut emissions and save money
- Step five: Implement the action plan – monitor and report on progress

We commit to:

- Work with government to contribute, at a local level, to delivery of the Climate Change Act
- Monitor and publish progress against our action plan
- Encourage all sectors of our local community take the opportunity to adapt and mitigate the impacts of Climate Change

Our aim is to:

We will empower Peterborough with the knowledge, skills and tools to ensure our city is sustainable today and tomorrow, whilst adapting to the challenges Climate Change will bring



Bloggs
Joe Bloggs
Chief Executive Officer



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Chief Executive Officer



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The supporting documents will be developed with local partners by updating existing sections of the climate change strategy and sighting links to relevant documents including the energy study and the water cycle study.

The action plan and toolkit area of the refresh is the aspect that we envisage will exemplify Peterborough's approach. We are currently in negotiation with the Carbon Trust* to formulate a toolkit package which will make it as easy and effective as possible for local partners to sign up. The toolkit will be most useful for small to medium size business which

are unlikely to have extensive internal resources to establish their carbon footprint and plan actions to make reductions. The toolkit will include:

Copy of the declaration to sign up to
 Background documents, i.e. local climate impacts
 Baseline Carbon Footprint tool
 Carbon reduction assessment tool
 Template for action plan
 Progress monitoring tool

We propose that all of the documents will be available as downloadable copies via the Environment Capital website.

*Peterborough City Council have embarked upon the Carbon Trusts Local Authority Carbon Management Programme, this is a reputable scheme which works with local authorities to establish baseline carbon footprints and produce an action plan for reduction. The Carbon Trust support a wide range business sectors and this scheme would ensure the necessary support is available for the Peterborough business community.

4. Timescales

Within Peterborough City Council the deadline for completing the refresh of the climate change strategy is the 31st March 2010, in line with our commitment to partake in the Carbon Trust scheme. We therefore propose a timescale as follows:

Aspect	Date
Draft climate change declaration	September 09
Present to the GPP Board. Gain input as to how the strategy and toolkit and will be of use to LSP's and businesses	September 09
Refresh areas of the 2007 climate change strategy, i.e. impacts for Peterborough	September 09
Draft text for sighting of relevant studies, i.e. energy study	October 09
Formulate and agree aspects of the toolkit, i.e. Carbon trust support	November 09
Determine host destination	November 09
Host workshop for all members (and relevant officers) to gain feedback and make necessary amendments	December 09
Obtain formal sign off of the document*	Dec/Jan
Draft Carbon Action Plan for Peterborough City Council*	December 09
Develop relevant website to include necessary information	Jan – March 2010
Launch the refresh of the climate change strategy, toolkit and Carbon action plan for Peterborough City Council*	March 2010
Ensure relevant scrutiny processes are adhered to throughout	Ongoing

*Key areas of this work are specific to Peterborough City Council

The aim of the workshop in December is not only to gain relevant input from Members but to also gain positive local attention to the climate change challenge because this event will tie in to the international convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

5. Next steps

In order to ensure this method is successful it is critical that we gain feedback from various stakeholders. This approach will be presented to the Environment Capital Partnership on Thursday 10 September 2009 and to the Greater Peterborough Partnership Board, as a workshop item on 16 September 2009.