

<b>SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 4</b>
<b>18 JUNE 2012</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## Report of the Solicitor to the Council

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### REVIEW OF 2011/2012 AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2012/13

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Commission with a review of the work undertaken during 2011/12 and to develop a work programme for 2012/13.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Commission considers the 2011/2012 year in review and makes recommendations on the future monitoring of these items where necessary.
- 2.2 That the Commission determines its priorities, and develops a work programme for the forthcoming year.

#### 3. REVIEW OF 2011/12

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities was established by Council at its annual meeting on 18 May 2009. During the year 2011/2012, the Commission considered the following issues:

- Planning Policy Update
  - Design and Development in Selected Villages Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Adoption:
  - Site Allocations Development Plan Document – Submission and Examination Stage:
  - Planning Policies Development Plan Document – approaching pre-submission stage
- School Bus Pick Up Points in Rural Locations
- Making Villages Energy Sustainable
- Footpaths and Cycle routes in Rural Areas
- Draft Housing Strategy 2011 - 2015
- Peterborough Enterprise Centre – Engagement with Rural Communities
- Presentation from Transport Police – Railway Crossings
- Budget 2012/13 and Medium Term Financial Plan
- Educational Attainment in Rural Areas
- Update on new Planning Issues, including draft Statement of Community Involvement
- Community Action Plans

- 3.2 For the information of the Commission, copies of the recommendations made during the year are attached at Appendix 1.

#### 4. WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

- 4.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the Commission is responsible for setting its own work

programme in line with the Council's key priorities and the Commission's remit.

4.2 The Commission's remit is:

- a) The Commission shall comprise 7 members and not more than 4 non-voting co-opted members.
- b) A member of the Cabinet shall not be appointed to the Commission.
- c) The quorum shall be 4 voting members.
- d) To discharge overview and scrutiny functions, excluding call-in, in relation to any area within the remit of the Scrutiny Committees which has potential for significant impact on the rural communities of Peterborough.
- e) To scrutinise the agencies, mechanisms and processes involved in delivering services to rural communities.
- f) To contribute to the development of policies, strategies and plans in relation to the delivery of services to rural areas.
- g) To advise on and monitor crime and disorder issues in rural areas.
- h) To establish time limited working groups to undertake specific enquiries.
- i) To consider any appeals from petition organisers who are not satisfied with the outcome of the Council's consideration of their petition.

4.3 A draft work programme which shows the items which are currently scheduled along with items carried over from last year is attached at Appendix 2.

**5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

5.1 Minutes of the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities held on 20 June, 18 July, 19 September, 21 November 2011 and 9 January, and 19 March 2012.

**6. Appendices**

6.1 Appendix 1 - Recommendations made during 2011/2012  
Appendix 2 – Draft Work Programme 2012/13