

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 6
12 JANUARY 2015	Public Report

Report of the Community Capacity Manager

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DEVELOPING A RURAL VISION & PARISH CHARTER FOR PETERBOROUGH

1. PURPOSE

The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities has agreed to support the refresh of the Rural Vision and Strategy document, originally prepared in 2008. This report outlines the history and new approach for this refresh and how the Commission can give ongoing support for the vision, needs and priorities of Peterborough’s rural communities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Commission is recommended to:

- (i) Agree the framework around which the Rural Vision and Parish Charter for Peterborough will be developed and implemented
- (ii) Agree the draft general content of the Rural Vision in line with common themes and current activities within the Community Serve Programme which supports the role, functions and priorities of (rural) Parish Councils
- (iii) Agree to the co-option of 4 rural members of the Parish Liaison Forum onto the Scrutiny Commission

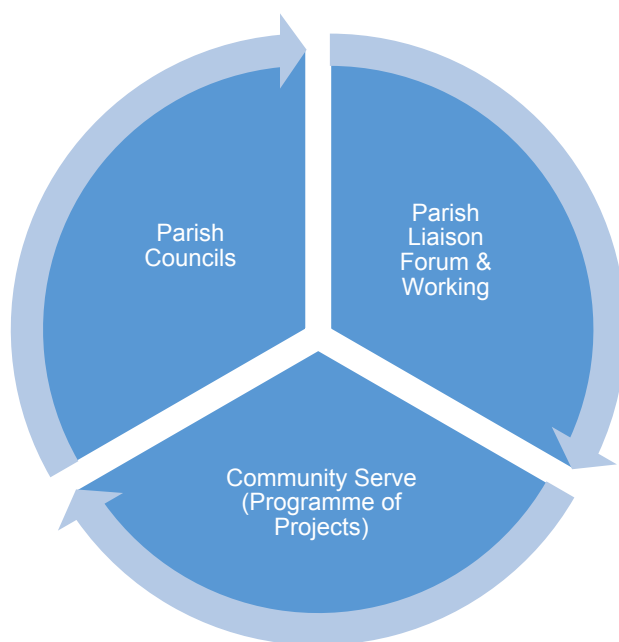
3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A Rural Working Group was originally set up in 2006, made up of representatives from Peterborough Parish Councils and the National Association of Local Councils. Together, with the support of the Greater Peterborough Partnership, they developed the Rural Vision and Strategy which was then aligned to the council’s strategic priorities and measures within the Local Area Agreement 2007/2008.
- 3.2 In response to the Commission’s request at their November 2014 meeting, the Community Capacity Team are supporting the current Parish Liaison Working Group to draft a refresh of the Rural Vision and Strategy document to bring it in line with current structures, activities and priorities.
- 3.3 The Parish Liaison Working Group is a Sub Group of the Parish Liaison Forum which meets on a quarterly basis and is open to all the Parish Councils in Peterborough (Rural and Urban). The Parish Liaison meetings are hosted by the City Council and Chaired by Cllr Nigel North, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environmental Capital.

- 3.4 The remit for the Parish Liaison Working Group which meets on a monthly basis also covers:
- Preparing the agenda for the Parish Liaison Meetings
 - Planning and preparing the Annual Parish Conference
 - Supporting and promoting the exploration of local interest groups to establish new Community Councils in un-parished areas of the city
 - Supporting and promoting the role and opportunities of Parish/Community Councils in the current working environment
- 3.5 In response to the agreement at the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities, four members of the Parish Liaison Forum will be co-opted onto the Commission from January 2015 to enable an aligned, positive and meaningful working relationship between the two parties when addressing matters of common interest.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 To support a greater focus on working with, supporting and representing the needs of rural communities, the Cabinet have agreed to allocate special responsibility for rural issues to Cllr Peter Hiller, the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Services and Ward Councillor for Northborough Ward. Cllr Hiller will attend future meetings of the Commission upon invitation and whenever available, to contribute to and learn from the debates and discussions held.
- 4.2 The following diagram depicts the current governance framework for the development and delivery of current activities that will directly benefit rural communities



- 4.3 The current 'Community Serve' Programme currently hosts a range of active projects all of which are relevant and will benefit rural communities via the above delivery framework e.g.
- Community Asset Transfer
 - Active Parish Support Programme
 - Community Outreach Project

- 4.4 Each Parish Council area is unique and operates autonomously. As part of the Parish Support Programme each area is encouraged to have a local strategy plan to highlight needs and priorities. Certain themes however inevitably emerge across the rural communities that are common for all and it is these common themes that will be the focus of the Rural Vision



- 4.5 Attached at appendix 1 is the proposed framework for the Rural Vision and Parish Charter. If agreed, this will be developed with the Working Group and presented back for final approval at the next Rural Commission meeting.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Rural Vision and Parish Charter 2015 must be developed with the full participation of the rural Parish Councils in Peterborough
- 5.2 The Rural Parish Council's local strategies, Neighbourhood Plans and/or Forward Plans must be taken into consideration in the development of an overarching Rural Vision to ensure effective and joined up delivery of the agreed priorities.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 To date the draft refresh of the Rural Vision for Peterborough has not been consulted upon beyond the members of the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities and the Parish Liaison Working Group. Widespread consultation will need to take place, including all members of the Parish Liaison Forum, to ensure completeness.

7. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 7.1 That the Commission approves the initial draft and a final document be presented for sign off at the March 2015 meeting.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 Subject to the approval of the initial draft Rural Vision 2015 to date, the Parish Liaison Working Group will continue to convene on a monthly bases to finalise the document and develop a supporting working action plan, whilst ensuring all common themes and activities are fully aligned.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 2008 Rural Vision & Strategy

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Draft 2015 Rural Vision & Charter

APPENDIX 1: DRAFT Rural Vision & Parish Charter 2015

Background

Peterborough is made up of a total of 24 wards, five of these wards can be considered rural, using the ONS definition which defines areas as rural if they are outside of settlements with more than 10,000 resident population. These wards are Glinton and Wittering, Newborough, Northborough, Eye and Thorney, and Barnack. In Peterborough, approximately 12% of the population can be considered as living in a rural ward.



Our rural area is made up of...

- 5 Wards
- 23 Parishes
- 21,776 residents = 12% of total Population
- 26,307 Hectares = 77% of total Land Mass
- Growth in population over last 10 years of 2,678 people (10% of overall city's growth)

Sustainable Community Strategy

The sustainable community strategy aims to deliver a bigger and better Peterborough through improving the quality of life for all. All policies, procedures and strategies that form part of the overall community strategy will have a direct or indirect relevance for rural issues.

The priorities are:

- Creating opportunities, tackling inequalities
- Creating strong and supportive communities
- Creating the country's environmental capital
- Delivering substantial and sustainable growth

Ownership of and governance for the Rural Vision and Parish Charter for Peterborough

A Rural Vision and Strategy for Peterborough was originally developed in 2008 by a working group comprising Parish representatives, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils and the Greater Peterborough Partnership. The aim was to develop a long term and sustainable framework for engaging rural communities.

Today all Parish Councils in Peterborough have the regular opportunity via the Parish Liaison Forum to network with peers, share information and best practise and identify and embrace opportunities for working together to address mutually common themes that impact across all areas.

The Parish Liaison Forum has a working sub group with a remit of:

- Planning and preparing the agenda for the quarterly Parish Liaison Meetings
- Planning and preparing the Annual Parish Conference
- Supporting and promoting the exploration of local interest groups to establish new Community Councils in un-parished areas of the city
- Supporting and promoting the role and opportunities of Parish/Community Councils in the current living & working environment

This group will also support the development and implementation of the Rural Vision and Parish Charter with opportunities for full participation of all Parish Councils and the City Council via the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities and Community Serve Programme Board.

The Shared Vision

The Rural Vision aims to provide a framework for achieving sustainable and viable rural communities in Peterborough and outlines the commitment for how Peterborough City Council will work in partnership with Parish Councils to ensure that services are delivered more effectively and meet the needs of the local communities.

Objectives

1. To recognise and promote current activities and programmes that support rural communities
2. To identify the priorities within rural communities to inform linked strategies and plans
3. To provide baseline data and information from which to measure success
4. To develop, implement, monitor and evaluate an annual action plan to ensure continuous alignment and ability to influence strategic priorities locally and across the city
5. To develop a Parish Charter for Peterborough to *'Improve joint working between the city council and Parish Councils so that services are delivered more efficiently and meet the needs of the local community'*

Implementing the shared vision

An Annual Action Plan will be developed to reflect priorities under the following themed headings:

- a. Transport, Utilities & Communications (*incorporating: transport networks, public realm, waste management, electricity, water, gas & ICT connections*)
- b. Education & Skills (*incorporating: pre-school, primary, secondary and post-16 education*)
- c. Environmental Sustainability (*incorporating: flood risk management, carbon emissions reduction, strategic green open spaces*)
- d. Community & Leisure (*incorporating: Community buildings, parks and open spaces, Indoor sports and recreational facilities, crematorium and burial grounds, libraries, museums and lifelong learning*)
- e. Health & Well Being (*incorporating: Primary Health Care facilities, emergency services*)
- f. Economics (*incorporating: social & micro enterprises, farm diversification & productivity, tourism, culture & heritage*)

Reference and useful information:

For more information regarding Parish Councils, PCC Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities and CAPALC refer to: www.peterborough.gov.uk/



Parish Charter for Peterborough

Foreword

Peterborough City Council recognises the significant role that Parish Councils have in the lives of Peterborough's diverse communities.

This Charter has been developed in partnership with Peterborough's Parish Councils and represents a mutual agreement to improve joint working between the City Council and Parish Councils so that services are delivered more efficiently and meet the needs of the local community.

Cllr Nigel North, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environmental Capital.

Words from CAPALC

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