

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
25 NOVEMBER 2015	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Peter Hiller. Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development	
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RURAL VISION AND PARISH CHARTER

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities	Deadline date : N/A
Cabinet is recommended to approve the Rural Vision and Parish Charter for adoption and implementation across the council services.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following recommendation from the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities meeting held 7 September 2015.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to consider approval of a Rural Vision and Parish Charter for all rural villages and all rural and urban Parish Councils in Peterborough as attached at **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its terms of reference no. 3.2.3 'to take a leading role in promoting the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area'.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. CRITICAL ITEMS/ISSUES FOR FOCUS

- 4.1 The Rural Vision and Parish Charter have been developed with the full participation and support of the Parish Councils in Peterborough, and once adopted they will inform policies and plans across the Council.
- 4.2 The rural parish council's local strategies, neighbourhood plans and/or forward plans will be taken into consideration in the implementation of the Rural Vision to ensure effective and joined up delivery of the agreed priorities.
- 4.3 The Parish Charter is a strong demonstration of the Council's recognition of the role Parish Councils play in communities and the commitment to how relations between them and the council can be enhanced and made mutually more effective.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 A 12-week public consultation period concluded on 31 July 2015. In total 26 responses

were received covering 19 out of 26 parished areas of the city.

- 5.2 All comments and views received in response to the consultation have been recorded. Where appropriate, editorial changes have been made within the final draft documents. The Parish Liaison Working Group (a working group of the Parish Liaison Forum) will develop responses to each of the comments received, which will in turn be shared with all Parish Councils.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 Cabinet approves the final drafts and the Parish Liaison Working Group oversees the delivery of a supporting action plan, raising matters with the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities as required.
- 6.2 The documents inform policies and plans as well best practice.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Demand for services is increasing and the ways in which those services are delivered needs to change. Historically, councils (and other public sector services) have delivered a universal service to all of our residents. Whilst this approach is effective to meet some of our residents' needs, it can be expensive, inefficient and lack the flexibility to respond to the different requirements that diverse communities face. If we are to meet the present and future needs of our city, then we must explore ways of doing things differently.
- 7.2 The Council has always worked with communities to understand their needs and jointly develop solutions. In many cases, individuals and communities play a vital role in helping to deliver local services.
- 7.3 The Council acknowledges the important role that parish councils play as the first tier of local government. It is further recognised that parish councils can be very effective by influencing and shaping the decisions that affect their communities as well as being a vehicle for devolving certain services and of revitalising local communities
- 7.4 The Vision and Charter are a reflection of the Council's commitment to strengthening the relationship with parish councils and the local communities they serve.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Do Nothing. This is not an option if the Council wish to effectively strengthen the capacity and resilience within communities.

9. IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There will be a cross-service impact in relation to commissioning, consultation, training and engagement.
- 9.2 There will be a requirement to improve pathways and operational processes to enable the principles contained within the documents, once adopted, to be effective.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 10.1 Appendix A: Final Draft 2015 Rural Vision and Parish Charter.