

<b>SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 8</b>
<b>5 OCTOBER 2009</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Deputy Chief Executive**

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## **RURAL HOUSING STRATEGY**

### **1. PURPOSE**

This is a report to the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities outlining the scope, purpose and objectives of the emerging Rural Housing Strategy.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Commission is recommended to:

1. Comment and give feedback on the strategy.
2. The Commission supports the principles.
3. The Commission accepts the content and actions.
4. Give consideration as to how the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities could oversee the implementation of actions within the strategy.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

A copy of the emerging Rural Housing Strategy is attached in draft form. The strategy represents a joint response from Peterborough City Council (PCC) and the Greater Peterborough Partnership (GPP) to rural housing issues identified in the GPP's Rural Vision and Strategy. The strategy document focuses upon the three priorities;

- Affordable Housing
- Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty
- In Keeping Design

The document is presently at draft stage. Housing Strategy is presently undertaking the action planning process with partners within PCC.

### **4. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

The priorities of the Rural Housing Strategy reflect a number of the objectives of Peterborough Housing Strategy 2008-11, including;

- Providing good quality, affordable housing
- The development of mixed and balanced communities
- To promote and implement environmental and energy efficiency standards

In addition to the objectives of the Peterborough Housing Strategy, the aims of the Rural Housing Strategy also align to the four priorities of the Peterborough Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-21. These priorities are;

- Creating opportunities and tackling inequalities
- Creating strong and supportive communities
- Creating the UK's environment capital
- Delivering substantial and truly sustainable growth

To achieve the above priorities, the Sustainable Community Strategy sets out a number of required outcomes. The outcomes of the Sustainable Community Strategy that link to the enabling style of the Rural Housing Strategy and its priorities include;

- The empowerment of local communities.
- The conservation of natural resources.
- The creation of better places to live.

The priorities of the Rural Housing Strategy also complement the following priorities of the Peterborough Corporate Plan;

- Planning and delivering of a safe, attractive and environmentally friendly city.
- Making Peterborough a better place in which to live and work.

## **5. CONSULTATION/KEY ISSUES**

The priorities of the Rural Housing Strategy are derived from those identified through consultation with parishes whilst drawing up the GPP Rural Strategy and Vision. The document and its priorities have been subject to consultation through an online survey at pre-draft production stage, and through consultation with the Rural Working Group at draft stage.

## **6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

## **7. APPENDICES**

Please find attached a working copy of the Rural Housing Strategy.