

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 6
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Report of the Executive Director of Operations

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COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to note and agree the purpose and function of Community Action Plans (CAPs) for the Neighbourhood Committees.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members of the committee are asked to note the contents of the report, and confirm their support or otherwise for the purpose of the Community Action Plans and their function within the structures of the Neighbourhood Committees, local communities and council and wider partner service delivery.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Our communities understand the area in which they live and local people's hopes and aspirations will inform the plans, which will be used to guide policy and service delivery in the future.

The priorities within the CAPs are aligned to the Single Delivery Plan.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Localism Act sets the framework for a new system of Community-led planning in England and it is proposed that Community Action Plans are a key feature to support this approach in Peterborough.

A CAP will help to tell the story of the area and identify what the 'big' issues are such as levels of crime, employment opportunities, health etc. not only from statistics and data that has been gathered, but importantly from what the community itself tells us.

Local communities can get involved in shaping their area by identifying the things that affect them the most, what they would like to see changed and what services they want to see delivered locally. This information will be used to develop short, medium and long term goals and identifying priorities for the future. The CAP will say what we want to achieve and by when over the next ten years. Although this is a long term plan, most importantly it will be reviewed annually to make sure the goals are still relevant.

All work generated by the CAPs will be held accountable by the Neighbourhood Committees, who will be updated with progress made at the quarterly meetings.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The CAPs will provide a focus for service delivery and a platform to prioritise resources which directly respond to evidenced need within the community.

The establishment of Neighbourhood Committees in Peterborough supports the Local Authorities preferred way of delivering services through a Neighbourhood Management approach. A function of Neighbourhood Committees is to develop action plans to support their delivery and monitor their implementation.

Seven CAPs will be written in total, one for each Neighbourhood Committee area. The CAPs will detail both priorities that have city-wide and local implications.

The CAP will be a public document with an internal working document which will detail further actions and provide background information.

The CAPs will be developed to cover a ten year period but will be reviewed and updated annually.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Neighbourhood Managers are confident that the CAPS can focus work in each area to assist moving away from reactive ways of working and will further develop the roles of Neighbourhood Committees.

The CAPs will be a tool for managing expectations by forward planning for an area.

There will be a CAP for each Neighbourhood Committee detailing priorities and vital community data in the area.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Neighbourhood Manager for each area is currently consulting with all elected members and Parish Councillors.

Other consultation taken place is as follows:

- Neighbourhood Committee meetings;
- Neighbourhood Panel meetings;
- Requests and concerns reported by community members;
- Consultation and Action Planning events; and
- Consultation with partner agencies

The consultation is very much an ongoing process and will not cease once the CAPs have been written for this year. The work will continue and will help to inform the Plan when it is reviewed annually.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 The CAPs will be made public in April when the Neighbourhood Managers and partner organisations will begin to carry out the work that is identified in the plans.

Updates on the priorities will be provided at the Neighbourhood Committee meetings and the CAPs will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.