

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
<b>17 JUNE 2013</b>			
The Impact of Welfare Reform	<p>The Commission recommends that the Head of Neighbourhood Services take the following action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare a Quality Impact Assessment on the impact of welfare reform on Rural Communities and present back to the Commission in September.</li> <li>2. Request the Citizens Advice Bureau to provide basic training on the Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme (PCAS) to Ward and Parish Councillors in Rural areas.</li> <li>3. To arrange a leaflet drop throughout the Hamlets in the Rural areas of Peterborough to provide information on the Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme.</li> <li>4. To arrange for posters to be placed in post offices, village Halls, schools and</li> </ol>	Adrian Chapman	<p>There is very little evidence locally or nationally to suggest that people living in rural communities are more or less adversely impacted by welfare reform changes. Welfare reform does not target people based upon their location, but seeks to cap and reduce the entitlement to certain welfare benefits. Certain groups of people, notably young, single adults and disabled people have been affected significantly by welfare reform. However, this is in both urban and rural settings.</p> <p>Data from the Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme over the last 14 months shows that fewer than 3% of clients come from a rural location. Whilst there will be pockets of poverty and deprivation across rural localities, the vast majority of issues and clients are from the areas of highest deprivation within the city centre.</p> <p>The impact of welfare reform was explored in detail at the joint scrutiny in a day event in January. A number of lines of enquiry have been developed from the event and will be explored further throughout the year.</p> <p>A more detailed and in depth analysis can be undertaken should the committee require it, however the assessment</p>

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p>mobile libraries throughout the Rural Villages of Peterborough.</p> <p>5. To prepare and arrange for a media article explaining the Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme to be placed in all village and Parish Council magazines and newsletters.</p>		<p>of data presented to joint scrutiny committees does not indicate that rural localities have been adversely affected by welfare reform.</p> <p>Information has been provided to all councillors on PCAS. Further information on PCAS was provided at the Scrutiny in a Day event in January. PCAS partners would be happy to meet with Members to provide more information on the work they do if required.</p> <p>Information on PCAS has been sent to all Councillors, schools, community groups, libraries, parish councils and other stakeholders across Peterborough. In addition, information can be found on the council's website about PCAS and how to access the services.</p>
<b>15 JULY 2013</b>			
Community First Responders in Rural Areas	The Commission recommends that Cabinet notes that many lives have been saved by the defibrillator in public places Scheme Nationally and requests that Cabinet calls upon government to introduce the Good Samaritans Law for this Scheme to promote more lives being saved.	Cabinet	Still to receive feedback from this recommendation.

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p>The Commission Recommends that Parish Councils investigate the issue around lack of Community First Responders in rural areas and take any necessary action to improve the number of Community First Responders</p>	<p>Adrian Chapman</p>	<p>A presentation on Emergency Planning was given to the Parish Liaison Committee and this recommendation could be taken forward as a matter arising on this topic.</p>
	<p>The Commission recommends that Neighbourhood Services investigate the possibility of locating Automatic External Defibrillators in community centres and village halls within rural areas.</p>		<p>Since this recommendation was given we have learned that the PCC defibrillators have been decommissioned. The officers that presented are working to establish whether other equipment can be made available and linked to the actions for emergency planning, as above</p>
<p>Support for the Development of Community Centres and Village Halls in Rural Areas</p>	<p>The Commission recommends that Neighbourhood Services support the work of Parish Councils in evidencing priorities which will enable them to more easily access funding.</p>	<p>Adrian Chapman</p>	<p>This work is now live and will be on-going. The Community Capacity Team are developing strong links with Parishes and are identifying area needs. All information is captured in a ward based 'project bank' and reviewed on a regular basis for prioritisation as funds become available in the area.</p>
	<p>The Commission recommends that the Community Development Manager provides training/information sessions to the Parish Councils regarding Community Asset Transfers if required.</p>		<p>Cabinet has now approved the Community Asset Transfer Strategy and a number of community led groups are exploring the asset transfer of the former play centres. Bretton parish Council are involved in this process in relation to Crofts Corner. Advice and information about this matter is available from the Community Capacity team on request</p>
<p>Scrutiny in a Day: Focus on Welfare Reform</p>	<p>The Commission welcomes the initiative and endorses the report</p>	<p>Adrian Chapman</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
<b>16 SEPTEMBER 2013</b>			
<b>Development of Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic (Pv) Panels (Solar Farms) and Wind Turbines</b>	<p>The Commission recommended that Cabinet reconsider going ahead with the Development of Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Panels and in doing that take into account the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative Plan B Option - Dual Use possibilities before any further planning application is submitted.</li> <li>• An investigation of alternative land use other than agricultural land</li> </ul>	Cabinet	Went to Cabinet on 24 February 2014.
<b>16 DECEMBER 2013</b>			
<b>Update on Proposed Ground Mounted and Wind Developments at Newborough, Morris Fen and America Farm</b>	<p>The Commission recommends that cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately stops both options 1 solar and 2 wind for the America Farm project due to the negative income predicted for the delayed project</li> <li>• Stops the solar panel option on all three sites (America Farm, Newborough and Morris Fen) due to the significant total expenditure of £296 million, a poor return of £21 million net income and a Net Present Value figure of only £10.5 million</li> </ul>		<p>The recommendations were taken to a Cabinet meeting on 24 February 2014 and the following was resolved: Cabinet considered the report and RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the project at America farm be progressed and taken to a planning committee for a decision subject to the satisfactory resolution of the outstanding English Heritage issues;</li> <li>2. That further consultation on the future development options for Morris Fen and Newborough projects be undertaken with farmers, individuals and key stakeholders;</li> <li>3. And that a report be brought to the March Cabinet meeting to determine a way forward for these two sites; and</li> <li>4. That at this stage the MTFs figures remain as set out in the budget report.</li> </ol>

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
			<p>REASONS FOR THE DECISION</p> <p>Continuing with the solar farm at America Farm and subsequent successful completion would realise for the Council a net income of £6.64m over the 25 year period.</p> <p>Continuing with the Option (1) Solar Farm only development and if successfully completed would realise for the Council a net income of between £93.62m and £86.67m over the 25 year period.</p> <p>This decision was Called In and heard by the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee on 12 March 2014. The decision was <b>Called-in</b> and referred back to Cabinet to re-consider within ten working days, by 26 March 2014.</p> <p>The decision is to be referred back to the Cabinet with the following recommendation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Wind and Solar Member Working Group consider the Cabinet's decision when it meets on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and shall report on that decision and the issues raised by the Call-In and discussed at this meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, including alternative options; and</li> <li>2. That the Cabinet shall not act on the decision made by it on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014 until it has received and considered the report of the Wind and Solar Member</li> </ol>

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES  
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE DURING 2013-2014**

**APPENDIX 1**

<b>MEETING DATE / ITEM</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>REFERRED TO</b>	<b>RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
			<p>Working Group and the comments of the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee on that report.</p> <p>3. There will be an extraordinary meeting of the Committee, if necessary, so as to receive the Working Groups report as soon as is reasonably practicable.</p> <p>The report of the working group is being presented to the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee at its first meeting of the year on 17 July 2014.</p>
<b>1 APRIL 2014</b>			
<b>Scrutiny in a Day Overview Report</b>	<p>In light of the new Welfare Reform Act and introduction of 'Spare Room Subsidy', the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities is concerned that rural communities do not have enough one and two bedroom social housing properties to allow for young families to remain in their own rural community. The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities therefore, recommends to Cabinet that the Housing Strategy is reviewed to take in to consideration their concerns with a view to providing more one and two bedroom social houses.</p>	Cabinet	On hold until the new Commission agrees to investigate the issue.

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
<b>Better Care Fund</b>	The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities Recommends that the Health and Wellbeing Board reviews its membership and considers having representation from non-Cabinet Members as well as Cabinet Members.	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn	Following the Health & Wellbeing Peer Review membership of the Health & wellbeing Board will be considered at the next Board meeting in July 2014. The recommendations from the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities will be raised.
<b>Troubled Families in Rural Communities</b>	The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities Recommends that a dedicated connector is recruited to deal with families in rural areas.		<p>We continue to be committed to ensuring that the Connecting Families programme reaches all areas of Peterborough and whilst we do not have a dedicated rural Connector, our Connectors are currently working with families in rural locations to improve school attendance, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and help adults back into work. The programme also works with the schools serving those rural communities, such as Arthur Mellows, to ensure that all children that could qualify onto programme are being referred.</p> <p>If the number of referrals into the programme from rural areas increases we will consider whether a rural-focussed Connector would be of value.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank