

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 7
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Report of the Community Capacity Manager

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DEVELOPING A RURAL VISION AND 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 document has been prepared with a supporting action plan and Parish Charter, working in partnership with the Parish Liaison Forum for the Scrutiny Committee's approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Commission is recommended to approve, in principle, the final draft of the Rural Vision & Parish Charter
- 2.2 The Commission is recommended to support a Cabinet Members Decision Notice be issued to authorise wider consultation with the Parish Liaison Forum in line with the principles of the working partnership outlined in the Parish Charter and to put forward the final recommendations for approval to Cabinet
- 2.3 The Rural Vision will be supported by a detailed action plan, and the Commission is recommended to use this to inform and shape its work programme for the next municipal year.

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 refresh the Rural Vision and Strategy document to bring it in line with current structures, activities and priorities.
- 3.3 In support of this activity the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities agreed up to 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 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 are the focus of the Rural Vision

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 final draft and the Parish Liaison Working Group oversees the delivery of the action plan, raising matters with the Commission as required.
- 7.2 That the Commission supports a media campaign to promote the adoption of the Rural Vision and Parish Charter and the valued role of Parish Councils across Peterborough.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 The Parish Liaison Working Group will continue to convene on a monthly basis to oversee the delivery of the action plan with updates provided to the Commission as required.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 2008 Rural Vision & Strategy

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Draft 2015 Rural Vision & Charter