

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 7
16 JUNE 2015	Public Report

Report of the Corporate Director, People and Communities

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SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES: INTRODUCTION, OVERVIEW AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2015/16

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report sets out the approach to be taken at the first Scrutiny Commission of the municipal year, during which Members will be presented with an overview of the issues, opportunities, priorities and challenges in connection with the rural communities theme, with the aim of establishing a scrutiny work programme for the year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To discuss the detail contained in the presentation that will be given during the meeting, and to agree a scrutiny work programme for the year.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Adopting this approach for the first Scrutiny meeting of the year will ensure that a scrutiny work programme is developed and agreed which directly contributes to the objectives and outcomes contained in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The presentation that will be given at the commission meeting will serve to consolidate progress made in the previous year, current and forthcoming issues, and national and local policy changes to create an overall framework against which members will be able to identify and agree those aspects of the theme that they wish to scrutinise during the year.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The presentation that will be given at the commission meeting will:
- Provide an overview of the rural communities theme, including what it entails and what progress has been made
 - Provide a summary of the legislative framework within which aspects of this theme operate
 - Provide information to help identify priorities
 - Suggest aspects of the theme that members may wish to scrutinise throughout the year

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Members will be provided with sufficient information and evidence to enable them to be confident about their role on this scrutiny commission, and to identify a work programme for the year.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Information provided during the meeting will be drawn from a range of sources, including from across the Council and our partners.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 Following the commission meeting, a work programme will be produced, lead officers identified and timescales set to ensure maximum effectiveness of the scrutiny process.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

9.1 Various sources have been used to prepare the presentation.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 N/A