

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 5
11 JULY 2016	Public Report

Report of the Director of Governance

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REVIEW OF 2015/2016 AND FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/2017

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Commission with a review of the work undertaken during 2015/16.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Commission considers the 2015/2016 year in review and makes recommendations on the future monitoring of these items where necessary.

3. REVIEW OF 2015/16

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities was established by Council at its annual meeting on 18 May 2009. During the year 2015/2016, the Commission considered the following issues:

Information / Update

- Review of 2014/15 and Future Work Programme
- Appointment of Co-opted Members
- East Coast Main Line (ECML) Level Crossing Closure Programme
- Rural Communities: Introduction, Overview and Work programme

Monitoring / Calling to Account

- UnitingCare Partnership
- Environmental Aspect of Rural Areas
- Educational Attainment in Rural Schools
- Rural Transport
- Customer Experience Programme

Policy / Plans / Consultation

- Carers in Rural Communities including the Care Act for Carers
- Enabling Youth Work in Rural Communities
- Rural Road Safety
- Developing a Rural Vision and Parish Charter for Peterborough
- Joint Scrutiny of the Budget 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Plan – Phase One
- Joint Scrutiny of the Budget 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Plan – Phase Two
- Alternative Governance

- 3.2 For the information of the Commission, copies of the recommendations made during the year are attached at Appendix 1.

4. WORK PROGRAMME 2016/2017

- 4.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the Commission is responsible for setting its own work programme in line with the Council's key priorities and the Commissions remit.

The Commissions remit is:

The Commission shall comprise 7 members and not more than 4 non-voting co-opted members.
A member of the Cabinet shall not be appointed to the Commission.
The quorum shall be 4 voting members.
To discharge overview and scrutiny functions, excluding call-in, in relation to any area within the remit of the Scrutiny Committees which has potential for significant impact on the rural communities of Peterborough.
To scrutinise the agencies, mechanisms and processes involved in delivering services to rural communities.
To contribute to the development of policies, strategies and plans in relation to the delivery of services to rural areas.
To advise on and monitor crime and disorder issues in rural areas.
To establish time limited working groups to undertake specific enquiries.
To consider any appeals from petition organisers who are not satisfied with the outcome of the Council's consideration of their petition.

A draft work programme which shows the items identified for scrutiny at the work programming session held on 13 June is attached at Appendix 2.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 5.1 Minutes of the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities held on 16 June, 13 July, 7 September, 3 November 2015 and 11 January, 7 March 2016.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1 - Recommendations made during 2015/2016
Appendix 2 – Draft Work Programme 2016/2017