

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 7
11 January 2011	Public Report

Report of the Executive Director of Operations

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Effective Delivery of Rural Infrastructure – the implications of the ‘New Localism’

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To scrutinise the current process for identifying, prioritising and funding rural infrastructure, and any scope for improvements, in the light of the ‘New Localism’ agenda.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To debate the opportunities this creates for Peterborough’s rural areas and to make recommendations where necessary.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 This report opens up discussion on how the Strategy can be more effectively delivered in the rural areas of Peterborough.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Historically the rural communities of Peterborough have felt that their views and suggestions were not listened to by the City Council. The approach of the coalition Government seeks to give much more weight to local views. This is an opportunity to review if the current approach in Peterborough is appropriate for the future, or needs improved. This work will be aligned with Rural Structures for governance currently under review i.e. Rural North Neighbourhood Council and the Rural Affairs Committee.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 While it is for Members of the Commission to decide on the key issues for them, the suggested key issues are:
- What is, and should be, the actual process?
 - Who is, and should be, responsible for the process?
 - What are current priorities, and should they be different in future?

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The report has no direct implications for an individual Ward nor city-wide. However the findings of the Rural Scrutiny Commission may make recommendations that do have implications, which will require separate approval.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 None.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 Depending on the views of members, any findings will be directed to the relevant officer, or member forum, such as Cabinet.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

9.1 None.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 None.