

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 5
20 JUNE 2011	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

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REVIEW OF 2010/2011 AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2011/12

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Commission with a review of the work undertaken during 2010/11 and to develop a work programme for 2011/12.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Commission considers the 2010/2011 year in review and makes recommendations on the future monitoring of these items where necessary.
- 2.2 That the Commission determines its priorities, and develops a work programme for the forthcoming year.

3. REVIEW OF 2010/11

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities was established by Council at its annual meeting on 18 May 2009. During the year 2010/2011, the Commission considered the following issues:

- Peterborough Women’s Enterprise Centre
- Passenger Transport Framework Tender
- Floating Support Contract: Cross Keys Homes Extension of Contract
- Safe and Vibrant Rural Centres and Communities
- Rural Economic Development
- Planning Policy & Strategy
- Supplementary Planning Document – Preparation
- Rural Housing Delivery Partnership
- The use of the Community Land Trust
- Site Allocations Document
- Emerging national initiatives, such as Local Housing Trusts
- Rural Exception Sites
- Rural Housing Strategy 2010-2013 – 6 month progress report
- Women’s Enterprise Centre – Engagement with Women in Rural Communities
- Speed Limits in Rural Areas
- Budget 2011/12 and Medium Term Financial Plan
- Peterborough Moped Initiative
- Funding and Rural Priorities
- Play Facilities, Playing Fields and Open Space
- Tree and Woodland Strategy
- Local Economic Assessment (LEA)

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

4. WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

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 Commission's remit.

4.2 The Commission's remit is:

- a) The Commission shall comprise 7 members and not more than 4 non-voting co-opted members.
- b) A member of the Cabinet shall not be appointed to the Commission.
- c) The quorum shall be 4 voting members.
- d) 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.
- e) To scrutinise the agencies, mechanisms and processes involved in delivering services to rural communities.
- f) To contribute to the development of policies, strategies and plans in relation to the delivery of services to rural areas.
- g) To advise on and monitor crime and disorder issues in rural areas.
- h) To establish time limited working groups to undertake specific enquiries.
- i) To consider any appeals from petition organisers who are not satisfied with the outcome of the Council's consideration of their petition.

4.3 A draft work programme which shows the items which are currently scheduled along with items carried over from last year 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 13 July, 7 September, 2 November 2010 and 6 January, 11 January, and 8 March 2011.

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 - Recommendations made during 2010/2011
Appendix 2 – Draft Work Programme 2011/12