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**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
COMMUNITY  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 4 APRIL 2002**

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COS.65/02      CUMBRIA RURAL ACTION ZONE – DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

The Head of Economic Development submitted report TC.69/02 enclosing the consultation draft of the Rural Action Zone document entitled "Cumbria Rural Action Zone – "Next Steps" Strategy.

The document was to be considered by the Cumbria Strategic Partnership on 23 April 2002 and this Committee was being given the opportunity to comment on the document prior to its submission to the Executive on 15 April 2002 when the City Council's formal response would be determined.

The Head of Economic Development particularly drew Members' attention to the proposal in the consultation document that a Rural Regeneration Company be set up to pursue the Strategy and that it was important for the City Council to press for appropriate representation on this body.

Members made the following comments:-

- (a) Page 30 – Table 6.3 – Members considered that the projected gross employment effects were potentially over optimistic.
- (b) Page 65 – It was considered that Universities other than the University of Central Lancashire could become involved in learning and skills development within Cumbria.

**RESOLVED** – That the above comments be forwarded to the Executive.