

---

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 29 MAY 2003**

---

**OSM.33/03 MONITORING THE RURAL STRATEGY**

The Economic Development Manager presented a report on future arrangements for Monitoring the Rural Policy. It was proposed that update reports on progress on the rural policy and rural strategy action plans continue to be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny at six monthly intervals. In order to make the best use of officer time it was proposed that reports be directed through the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which would take overall responsibility for rural issues. This approach would increase the ownership and profile of rural issues.

Members expressed concern that as the Rural Strategy covered so many different aspects of the works of each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, it may not be appropriate to allocate monitoring to just one Committee. In response to a Member's question, Dr Taylor confirmed that under the City Council's Constitution, Rural/Urban Policy fell within the terms of reference of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Mr Beaty confirmed that the next monitoring report was due to be produced in Autumn 2003. This timescale would allow consideration of how the Council could engage with the Rural Regeneration Company. The Chairman of the Community Overview and Scrutiny stated that when the monitoring reports are available, they could be sent to the Chairmen of the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees, as well as to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In addition, a Local Government Association inquiry into rural revival had emphasised the need for ownership and leadership from local authorities on rural issues and recommended the establishment of a "Rural Advocate" within the local authority to champion rural issues. It was noted that the City Council already has a portfolio holder with this responsibility and a number of Members who voice rural issues.

**RESOLVED – (1)** That the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee takes overall responsibility for rural issues and receives the six monthly monitoring reports on rural policy, but that the monitoring reports should also be sent to the Chairmen of the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

**(2)** That, as part of the report to the Executive, on the City Council's engagement with the Cumbria Rural Regeneration Company, it be noted that there is a "Rural Advocate" within the City Council.