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**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
COMMUNITY  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2002**

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COS.39/02 "LISTENING TO THE RURAL VOICE" – A STRATEGY FOR RURAL  
CARLISLE

Pursuant to Minute OSM.19/02, copies of the Head of Economic Development's report EDU.2/02 containing a Strategy in response to the Rural White Paper and the findings of the "Rural Voice" consultations held in 1999 and 2000 had been circulated. The specific comments of Overview and Scrutiny Committees were sought for consolidation by Officers and submission to the Chairman of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee for final approval and onward transmission to the Executive.

The Economic Development Manager attended the meeting and presented the report which was written as a Delivery Plan of Carlisle City Vision and showed how the aspirations in City Vision could be taken forward in rural Carlisle.

The Economic Development Manager referred to the sections of the Strategy on developing the vision for communities in rural Carlisle in section 6 of the report and asked that Overview and Scrutiny Committees provide responses to the bullet points in that section. He stressed that any proposals which were omitted now would not be included in the Action Plan.

The Economic Development Manager then responded to Members' questions.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

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**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
CORPORATE RESOURCES  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2002**

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CROS.28/02 REFERENCES FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMITTEES

(a) "Listening to the Rural Voice" – A Strategy for Rural Carlisle

Further to Minutes OSM.19/02 and EX.55/02 the Economic Development Manager was in attendance and submitted Report EDU.02/02 containing the "Listening to the Rural Voice" – A Strategy for Rural Carlisle. The Committee had been asked to consider the Strategy and make comments in relation to the specific areas within the remit of this Committee.

The Economic Development Manager referred to the Sections of the Strategy which were of particular relevance to this Committee. In particular, he asked for Members' comments on paragraph 7.2 – Funding for Rural Carlisle and 7.3 – Monitoring the Strategy and Performance Targets.

In response to Members' questions, the Economic Development Manager advised that the Strategy would require a different approach to rural development and that this would have to be picked up in the Organisational Assessment Best Value Review. The Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy advised that once each Overview and Scrutiny Committee had commented on the Strategy, he would collate the comments into one collective response which would be submitted to the Chairman of this Committee for approval before being forwarded to the Executive.

Members welcomed the Strategy commenting that it was an important piece of work which must be actioned.

RESOLVED – (1) That paragraphs 7.2.1, 7.2.2, 7.2.3, 7.2.4 and 7.2.5 of the Strategy for Rural Carlisle be endorsed in full.

(2) That paragraphs 7.3.1, 7.3.2 and 7.3.3 be endorsed and taken on board in monitoring the Strategy and Performance targets.

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## **EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 MARCH 2002**

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### **IOS.23/02      REFERENCES FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

#### **(iii)      "Listening to the Rural Voice" – A Strategy for Rural Carlisle**

Pursuant to Minutes OSM.19/02 and EX.55/02 the Economic Development Manager was present at the meeting and submitted Report EDU.2/02 containing the "Listening to the Rural Voice" – A Strategy for Rural Carlisle. The Committee had been asked to consider the Strategy and make comments in relation to the specific areas within its remit.

The Economic Development Manager referred to the Sections of the Strategy which were of particular relevance to this Committee. In particular, he stated that the key was to ensure that the measures listed under each of the 'Vision' statements could be developed and that none had been omitted. He asked for Members' comments on paragraphs 6.8.5 – developing the vision for the Economic Prosperity theme and 6.9.12 – developing the vision for the Infrastructure, Environment and Transport theme.

The Economic Development Manager then responded to Members' questions.

In considering the matter Members raised the following concerns –

The changes to the planning system suggested in the Planning Green Paper entitled "Planning: Delivering a Fundamental Change" could impact on the Strategy for Rural Carlisle and should therefore be taken into account.

The Strategy should not be developed in isolation. Rather it should be looked at in conjunction with Cumbria County Council's Corporate Strategy Review for 2002/05, and integrated with the policies of all relevant organisations to ensure a corporate and wide ranging document.

The budgetary implications had not been included in the report and again it was extremely important to work in partnership from a funding point of view.

With regard to monitoring of the Strategy and targets measuring Parish Council 'vitality', a Member commented that she had been appalled to see Parish Councils described in the Cumberland News newspaper as "sleepy", that being based on a questionnaire. She added that Parish Councils were in fact very active and a vital part of the community. Another Member expressed the hope that that would be noted by the Officer and communicated to the Portfolio Holder for Community Activities.

The Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy advised that once each Overview and Scrutiny Committee had commented on the Strategy, he would collate the comments into one collective response which would be submitted to the Chairman of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval before being forwarded to the Executive.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy be requested to note the concerns outlined above when compiling the collective response to the Strategy.