



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### *Committee Report*

Public

Date of Meeting: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Title: MANAGING RURAL POLICY

Report of: Head of Economic Development

Report reference: EDU.09/02

#### **Summary:**

The Council, at its meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>, approved a Strategy and Vision for Rural Carlisle. The Action Plans that will put the detail into the strategy are being worked up. This report seeks approval for a process that will oversee the development and management of the strategy through regular monitoring of the Action Plans.

#### **Recommendations:**

That the Committee agrees the format and the cycle of three annual reports to monitor Rural Policy as set out below, beginning with the July Committee cycle this year.  
That the Committee authorises officers to discuss representation by rural bodies at future O&S Committees where Rural Policy is being discussed.

<b>Contact Officers:</b>	David Beaty	<b>Ext:</b> 7120
	Jeanette Harold	7353
	Christopher Hardman	7190
	Laurie Brewis	7301

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: Report EDU 06/02 - Strategy for Rural Carlisle

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has approved a 'Vision and Strategy for Rural Carlisle'. This is a cross cutting document that draws together the key themes from City Vision, the Rural White Paper and the 'Listening to the Rural Voice' consultation. It provides a framework within which the City Council's activities can be co-ordinated, and it can be used to help develop and manage partnerships with other organisations. It is the means to manage rural policy at the local level, in due course incorporating the RAZ initiatives and others as they emerge.
- 1.2 The meat of the Strategy lies in the Action Plans that are currently being developed. There is one Action Plan for each 'City Vision' theme [Community, Economic Prosperity, Infrastructure, Health & Well being, plus one covering Funding]. These show how the vision statements in the Strategy will be translated into projects and activities. They will show what is intended, who is involved, what the outcomes are expected to be and the budgets or funding sources to be used. Together they should eventually provide a comprehensive picture of everything that is being done to support the rural area of Carlisle.
- 1.3 This report is about how Rural Policy could be managed. It asks for approval for a process that will enable Overview and Scrutiny Committees to oversee the implementation of Rural Policy and to influence its development and evolution.

## 2.0 THE ACTION PLANS

- 2.1 These are summary tables that show the key elements of all the activities that are being put in place to implement the strategy. A dummy version of a typical Action Plan page is reproduced as Appendix One to illustrate the information that will be available to Members.
- 2.2 The Action Plans are intended to be working documents that show how the Strategy is being implemented. Individual projects and spending allocations will be the subject of reports to the Executive and to Portfolio Holders and these will be subject to the Overview and Scrutiny process in the usual way. The Action plans provide the overview and the opportunity to focus on progress towards outcomes, performance against targets, gaps in provision, partnership issues, budget allocations and prioritisation within and between themes.

### **3.0 MANAGING THE STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The management of the Strategy will be undertaken through the officer Regeneration Group that is chaired by the Head of Economic Development, until any other arrangement is put in place following the Organisational Review.
- 3.2 This Group will be responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of the Strategy and will use the Action Plans as the management tool for this purpose. The group will work to an annual cycle involving three reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees per year. The reports will have different themes. The first in the calendar year will focus on progress and performance. The second, halfway through the year will be the opportunity to review direction and priorities and to consider budget and resource issues. The starting point will be the next [July] committee cycle, where the first set of Action Plans will be presented for scrutiny. The Action Plans will be reported to the Executive after each Overview and Scrutiny cycle.
- 3.3 A timetable for the annual cycle of reports is set out as Appendix 2 and the Committee is invited to approve this.

### **4.0 CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 The Rural Strategy and Vision was the subject of extensive consultation and the same should be true of the implementation process. The Committee may wish to consider inviting representatives of rural bodies [e.g. the Carlisle Parish Councils' Association] to participate in one or both of the meetings in the annual cycle proposed above. It may be that other organisations such as the Countryside Agency, or Voluntary Action Cumbria could also be involved. It could also be a means of linking the Rural Recovery work of the Carlisle-Eden LSP to the local scrutiny process.
- 4.2 Advice is sought on whether the above arrangement could be discussed with relevant rural bodies. The Committee is invited to suggest alternative means of ensuring the Strategy is monitored and developed in partnership and with appropriate levels of consultation if the proposal in the paragraph above is not felt to be appropriate

## 5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Committee agrees the format and the cycle of two annual reports to monitor Rural Policy as set out above beginning with the July Committee cycle this year.
- 5.2 That the Committee authorises officers to discuss representation by rural bodies at future O&S Committees where Rural Policy is being discussed.

Sample Action Plan Table [one set of tables for each policy theme]

Policy Theme [Community, Economic Prosperity etc]						
The 'Communities' vision statement , for example sets out what the strategy is trying to achieve under that particular theme - " a rural society that is fully engaged in decision making processes that affect local issues and has the capacity and support to address local problems and opportunities"						
	How the vision will be taken forward	Actions and Projects	What will happen Who is involved [lead individual or body identified]	Funding and Timetables	Outcomes and Targets	Links with
5 [I]	A list of the ideas that will give some substance to the vision; Example: - encouraging local democracy and the holding of Parish Elections	A list of the projects that will put the ideas in column one into effect; e.g. Parish Democracy Programme	E g. in the case of the Parish Democracy programme; - Training Raising Public awareness using road-shows etc Cumbria Assoc. of Local Councils [LEAD] etc	Sources of funding, confirmed/not confirmed total budget City Council contribution where applicable Period for which funding is available	Specifies the change that the project is helping to bring about – e. g. – greater participation in local democracy Targets: where possible shows how the change will be measured	Picks up links between projects listed under different themes e.g. Producers Markets and Health & Well being

Timetable and format for monitoring Rural Policy through Overview and Scrutiny in 2002 - 03

	Executive	Management O&S	Community O&S	Corporate Resources O&S	Infrastructure O&S
Overview of process	02.09.2002. 31.03.2003	30.05.2002 13.03.2003			
Progress and Performance			13.02.2003	20.02.2003	27.02.2003
Priorities, Policy & Budgets Review			18.07.2002	01.08.2002	08.08.2002

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