
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE HELD ON

PLP.17/23 CARLISLE RURAL STRATEGY

The Regeneration Manager submitted an update on the Carlisle Rural Strategy. (ED.06/23)

The Regeneration Manager reported that the Strategy had been developed following a workshop with Members and set out six aims designed to deliver economic, demographic and environmental sustainability rural communities and businesses of Carlisle.

In considering the report Members raised the following comments and questions:

- Would new technology for farming be included in the Strategy?

The Regeneration Manager acknowledged that new technology for farming was essential.

- How would services be made more accessible to rural communities, especially given the current cost of living and infrastructure issues.

The Regeneration Manager informed the Panel that the Strategy aimed to strengthen and enhance rural hubs. A rural hub would provide all the services required so individuals would not have to travel longer distances to a larger town or city to access essential services.

- A Member highlighted the challenges facing rural communities including transport and lack of good broadband. He noted that rural communities needed technology to develop businesses and services.

The Regeneration Manager agreed that digital connectivity was an issue and good connectivity would be a solution to some of the other issues rural areas faced.

The Corporate Director of Economic Development reminded the Panel that digital connectivity had been an issue identified in the Borderlands Project. The project had issued vouchers to help people improve their connectivity, however, this was in 2018/19 and technology had changed significantly in that time. The digital connectivity project would need to be revisited and updated.

- A lot of partnership work was undertaken with Eden District Council, how would the Local Government Reorganisation affect the projects?

The Corporate Director of Economic Development responded that there was a statutory duty to co-operate with other authorities and cross border partnership would continue.

- What would happen to the Strategy next?

The Corporate Director of Economic Development explained that the staff structure was different at the new authority and the Strategy would go to the new Policy Development Team to inform decision making and policy development.

RESOLVED - That the Carlisle Rural Strategy be welcomed.