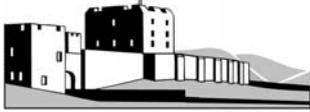


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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 13th November 2003

Title: MONITORING RURAL POLICY

Report of: Head of Economic and Community Development

Report reference: ECD34/03

Summary:

To provide an update report on progress in implementing the Rural Strategy “Listening to the Rural Voice” and the monitoring arrangements.

Recommendations:

Members are requested to make observations and comments on rural policy developments.

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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – November 13th 2003

Monitoring Rural Policy

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report seeks to monitor rural policy following the publication of the Carlisle Rural Strategy – “Listening to the Rural Voice”, July 2003. Members will recall that reports are submitted through the Overview and Scrutiny process twice a year. Following the last round of reports in March/April it was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (Minute OSM 33/03) that reports on monitoring rural policy would only be submitted to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee to avoid duplication through the committee process. It is also worth noting that rural policy comes under the Economic Prosperity Portfolio and therefore the relevant Portfolio Holder is Cllr Marilyn Bowman. Attached to this report are the original action plan tables from the Rural Strategy (Appendix A) and the proposed projects for 2004 (Appendix B).

2.0 Update from previous O&S reports (March/April 2003)

2.1 The previous reports on monitoring rural policy were submitted in March – April 2003 round. In these reports overarching rural issues were considered in addition to specific initiatives under each theme. This section aims to update members on issues raised in the previous report.

2.2 **Rural Regeneration Cumbria (RRC)**, as mentioned in the previous reports, will be the most significant player in terms of rural regeneration in Cumbria, not least in terms of the financial resources for project support. A report was submitted to the Executive on 1st September (Minute EX.205/03) outlining the role of the RRC in more detail and the arrangements for effective engagement with the City Council. In addition officers from the City Council met with Chris Torkington, Chief Executive, RRC to outline the approach to rural regeneration in Carlisle. Application procedures are now in place at the RRC and project offer letters are being issued. A number of delegated grant schemes have also been established to allow easy access to smaller amounts of grant aid.

2.3 **Vital Villages and Market Town Initiative (MTI)**, including the schemes underway in Longtown and Brampton, were reported in the last round. Members may be aware that there have been funding issues in terms of the Vital Villages scheme operated by the Countryside Agency. The programme is now open again for applications, however there is limited funding available this financial year. There are a number of parishes who are

interested or are pursuing parish planning work. Burgh-by-Sands is the only parish within Carlisle district to have completed their Parish Plan. The other parishes which are pursuing the initiative are Cumwhitton, Brampton cluster (including the parishes of Brampton, Burtholme, Castle Carrock, Farlam, Hayton, Irthington, Nether Denton and Upper Denton), Dalston, Wetheral and Stanwix Rural. Orton Parish Council is considering the Parish Plan scheme. Responsibility for the MTI programme has been transferred to the RRC. Consideration is being given to designating further MTI towns. The City Council and Brampton Parish Council have requested that Brampton be included for consideration.

2.4 The **Longtown Market Town Initiative** is now one year into its programme, the Regeneration Officer having begun her secondment to the programme in September 2002. Since then a comprehensive Action Plan for Longtown has been published underpinned by an extensive 'health check' and public consultation programme. The managing body for the MTI, the Longtown Investment Partnership will shortly become a Company Limited by Guarantee [the Longtown and District Enterprise Trust]. The City Council has agreed in principle to act as Accountable Body for an agreed package of programmes and a partnership agreement has been drawn up to guide the relationship. The extent of the City Council's role will depend on discussions on the content of the first delivery plan, which is being finalised.

2.5 Business support is a priority within the MTI programme and a Longtown Business Network has been formed with over 100 business involved. This is being lead by the Chamber of Commerce. The Sure-start programme for 0-4 years olds and their families is underway, and there is now a Neighbourhood Nursery. The Esk Riverside Development that is being lead by Arthuret Parish Council has recently been offered over £50,000 under the Countryside Agency's 'Doorstep Greens' initiative.

2.6 The Countryside Agency continues to strongly encourage local authorities to develop and implement **rural proofing** within all Council policies and decisions. Cumbria County Council is currently looking at proposals to develop rural proofing on a county wide basis. In order to ensure time and cost efficiency it would seem sensible to consider the County Council proposals when available. The possible joint area working arrangements between the City and County Councils could also facilitate the development of joint rural proofing systems.

2.7 The **Carlisle Parish Councils Association** (CPCA) has produced and adopted a Way Forward document which can be made available to members on request. The document sets out the CPCA position statement on a number of issues (including education, health, housing, planning, transport and community policing) and has the

agreement of all parishes within the Association (only 2 parishes within Carlisle district are not members). The development of the Way Forward will guide the work of the Association and could be used as a strong lobbying tool to achieve the CPCA aspirations.

2.8 The Rural Strategy **Action Plan tables** are attached to the report for information (Appendix A). The action plans form the basis of the development work in rural Carlisle. The tables are continually being reviewed and updated with a view to re-issuing the tables on an annual basis (next revision due July 2004). Observations and input into the tables from Members are welcome and should be directed through the Rural Support Officer.

3 Progress on rural initiatives

3.1 Following the report to the Executive on 1st September a budget bid has been submitted to support the full time continuation of the **Rural Support Officer** post. Members may recall that the previous post holder is on secondment to the Longtown Market Town Initiative programme for three years. The current post holder was recruited to cover the gap. The Council still supports 50% of the seconded post therefore additional funds are needed to ensure that the Rural Support Officer post is maintained on a full time basis.

3.2 A **Carlisle Rural Support Group** has been established to oversee and drive forward the implementation of the rural strategy. The Rural Support Group is seen as an essential way to fully engage key partners in the delivery of rural initiatives in Carlisle. The Group is made up of officer representatives from Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Carlisle Parish Councils Association (CPCA), Voluntary Action Cumbria (VAC), Rural Regeneration Cumbria (RRC), Carlisle and Eden Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and Carlisle Housing Association (CHA). An e-mail circulation list is also developing of partners who, although not actively involved, are interested in the development of rural policy and programmes in Carlisle, for example St Martins College.

3.3 In order to further facilitate the joint working between agencies operating within rural Carlisle, a **Rural Office** is due to be established on the 5th floor of the Civic Centre. The rural office should be established by the end of March 2004 following both the office re-organisation and the re-siting of the New Deal team. Accommodation will be provided for officers from a range of agencies including the VAC, Enterprising Communities, Longtown and District Enterprise Trust, Carlisle and Eden LSP and the County Council Neighbourhood Development.

3.4 Since the last reporting round a **Rural Mapping** project of all rural voluntary and community groups in Carlisle district has been undertaken. The project has been led by Carlisle Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) in partnership with VAC, Carlisle City Council and Cumbria County Council. The Rural Support Officer has represented the City Council. The project involved research through local contacts to map rural voluntary and community groups and determine their capacity. The intention of the work is to develop joint working arrangements between Carlisle CVS and VAC to support voluntary groups in Carlisle. The launch of the project is due to be held on 3rd December 2003. All rural Members of the City Council will be invited to the launch.

3.5 The City Council has operated an **IT support scheme** to provide Parish Council Clerks with IT equipment. The scheme has been operated for the past three years and is due to complete at the end of the financial year 2003/04. A budget bid has been submitted to continue the scheme on a small retention basis for a further three years. The budget bid is for £3,000 per annum which will ensure that the investment in IT equipment which has already been made can be maintained and kept up to date.

3.6 Village Halls provide a vital resource in rural areas. However it is increasing difficult for Village Hall Committees to find the necessary financial resources to carry essential maintenance and repairs let alone larger scale renovation and expansion programmes. Discussions are taking place with DEFRA around the possibility of utilising the Rural Enterprise Scheme to support **Rural Hubs**. Rural hubs are seen as providing a range of services and facilities within rural communities.

3.7 A **Rural Newsletter** is being produced to share information and best practice about projects and schemes happening within rural Carlisle. In addition the newsletter will increase awareness of support organisations and ensure that individuals and groups in rural Carlisle can access advice and support. The first edition will be published in mid November and includes contributions from a wide range of organisations. The newsletter will be further developed in response to comments and needs received from local groups.

3.8 Carlisle has a relatively low rate of new firm formation, and one of the Council's priorities will be to work with **business support** agencies to promote enterprise and to ensure that those interested in self employment or in setting up social and community businesses can access the support they require. The Council will also focus on specific opportunities to develop businesses. These include the Hadrian's Wall National Trail and forthcoming cycle - route as well as promoting the financial assistance available to rural businesses under programmes such as Distinctly Cumbria and the Cumbria Farm Tourism Initiative. The final strand of activity is around measures to support individuals that wish to

live and work in rural Carlisle. This involves initiatives to bring forward rural workspace and to exploit the opportunities of broadband once this is rolled out as part of Project Access in 2004.

3.9 Proposals for infrastructure renewal and scheduled air services at **Carlisle Airport** are being worked up by Haughey Airports Ltd. The case for public sector support is being taken forward by Rural Regeneration Cumbria in relation to the funding of the infrastructure works in the Master Plan, and by the NWDA directly in evaluating the case for support for scheduled services. The RRC regard the Airport as a key project not just for rural Carlisle, but for the whole Cumbria economy and are championing the Airport's cause regionally, nationally and in Europe.

3.10 A key issue which arose from the Listening to the Rural Voice consultation was the number and complexity of **rural funding** programmes. A funding fair was held in January 2003 to allow groups to have direct contact with funding bodies. Due to the success of the funding fair a similar event is planned for 28th January 2004. In addition there was an expressed need for funding sessions on specific topics. A Children and Young Peoples Funding session is being held on 6th November and rural funding advice sessions will be taking place throughout the year to various locations throughout rural Carlisle. These rural funding advice sessions will be run in parallel with Voluntary Action Cumbria's Village Hall Surgeries. Complexity of funding streams still remains an issue and support in this area should be seen as a priority given the unique opportunities which are available in rural Cumbria at the present time. A key role for the City Council may be the co-ordination of initiatives across rural Carlisle to both fulfil our governance role and to ensure that small community based projects are able to access the necessary resources.

3.11 In order to effectively develop and monitor implementation of projects a **Project Monitoring Database** is being established for all rural projects. The aim is to develop a simple database to track projects which are currently being developed or implemented. The system will ensure a comprehensive, up-to-date picture on rural projects is available through a centrally controlled system. The database will also build trust with funding bodies that progress is being made, particularly with large capital projects which have a long lead in time.

4 Next Steps

4.6 The next stage is the development a **comprehensive programme of rural projects** which will be taken forward in the next 12 months. Work is currently underway to ensure the programme is fully worked up and a paper will be presented at the joint City Council

and Parish Councils Association meeting on the 11th December. The Executive at their meeting on 1st September also asked that a further report be submitted outlining the project programme. Clearly there will be resource implications for the Council both in terms of staff time and financial resources. As part of the budget process, it was flagged up that budget consideration part way through the financial year may be needed. Several initiatives which are planned are already budgeted for and others can be implemented within existing budgets. Matchfunding however remains a particular concern, as the RRC, for example, can usually only fund up 50% of project costs.

4.2 Attached to this report (Appendix B) is the initial **working paper of rural projects** for implementation over the next 12 months. At this stage it is very much a working document and should be treated as such. Further input, clarification and details have been requested from internal officers and external partners. The paper is included here purely to give Members an indication of the type, scale and breadth of projects being pursued. It should be noted that some projects will be subject to feasibility or exploratory work which may indicate that the projects are not viable. As mentioned above the fully worked up paper will be presented on 11th December.

4.3 The Corporate Regeneration Group will be the main vehicle to develop the **corporate approach** to rural issues. In order to build a fully comprehensive picture of rural initiatives further engagement is needed both internally and externally. Following the publication of the Strategy considerable interest and commitment has been shown from external partners and the Rural Support Group will be the main external engagement mechanism.

5 Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 In conclusion it can be seen that considerable progress has been made in terms of rural policy since the last report. The publication of the Rural Strategy has been a major trigger to engage partners to move forward toward project implementation. The structures and systems are now in place or being developed to ensure that maximum benefit can be derived from the funding opportunities available in Cumbria. Capacity of rural groups and organisations to develop project still remains an issue and officer support for this sector will be essential in order to ensure effective delivery.

5.2 It is recommended that Members make observations and comments on rural policy developments.

□ **Developing Communities Theme**

“A rural society that is fully engaged in decision-making processes that affect local issues and has the capacity and the support to address local problems and opportunities”.

What are we aiming to achieve	What will be done	Who will be involved (lead partners in bold)	When will it happen	How much will it cost and who will fund it	What will be the outcome
To provide support and training for parish councils to encourage local democracy	Roll out the parish democracy programme (PDP)	CALC , CPCA, Carlisle CC, Cumbria CC, VAC, CA	Ongoing (PDP 3 year programme established February 2001)	PDP costs £160,000 over 3 years. Funded through various sources. Carlisle CC contributes £2,000 per annum	Increased turnout at local elections. Greater interest in and understanding of, local councils.
To increase access to and use of IT systems and communication channels	Programme to supply hardware and systems (including connection to LAN) to PC clerks	CPCA, Carlisle CC	Ongoing (Programme established October 2000)	Programme costs £9,000 per annum. Funded through Carlisle City Council	All PC clerks connected to local area network by end of 2003. Currently 25 PCs connected
To develop the role of CPCA	a) Consultation with CPCA on issues affecting rural Carlisle b) Increase representation of parish councils on relevant bodies (through CPCA)	CPCA , Carlisle CC	Ongoing	No additional funding required	Twice yearly meetings between PCs and Carlisle CC Executive. Consultation mechanism established through CPCA. PCs, through CPCA, represented on all relevant bodies.
To work to the agreed Codes of Practice	a) Implementation of the agreed Parish Charter b) Establish effective working practices between rural agencies	Carlisle CC , CPCA, VAC, Cumbria CC	a) Parish Charter developed 1998. Implementation to be reviewed 2003. Charter to be reviewed 2004 b) Carlisle rural office established 2003	No additional funding required	Parish Charter being effectively implemented. Rural office established and facilitating joint working.
To encourage devolution of decision-making and service delivery to PCs	CALC to advise on devolution issues	CALC , CPCA, Carlisle CC	Discussions to commence mid 2003	No additional funding required for developmental phase	All PCs aware of devolution opportunities
To ensure rural proofing is considered by higher tier authorities	Implement a rural proofing policy within Carlisle CC	Carlisle CC , CA, VAC	Development phase 2003. Implementation 2004	No additional funding required	All Carlisle CC policies to be rural proofed by end of 2004
To ensure linkages with the Carlisle and Eden LSP	Support CPCA to take a full and active role in the LSP and relevant sub-groups	CPCA , Carlisle CC	Ongoing	No additional funding required	CPCA currently represented on LSP. Ensure ongoing support.

Appendix A – Rural Strategy Action Plan Tables, July 2003

What are we aiming to achieve	What will be done	Who will be involved (lead partners in bold)	When will it happen	How much will it cost and who will fund it	What will be the outcome
To develop shared use facilities in key locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Establish 'one stop rural shop' in Civic Centre b) Implement findings of village hall feasibility studies c) Establish programme for mobile information service provision 	Carlisle CC , VAC, Cumbria CC, PCs, VHs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) One stop rural shop established mid 2003 b) Ongoing c) Business plans and funding bids prepared by mid 2003. Implementation 2004 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No additional funding required b) Individual schemes will have different cost implications c) Business plan will establish cost of provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Joint working with rural agencies and one stop access for rural support b) To be determined through individual schemes c) Information points established in key rural locations
To develop community led regeneration of Longtown and Brampton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Implement the Longtown MTI initiative b) Develop proposals for Brampton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Longtown Investment Partnership (with support from Carlisle CC, CA, NWDA and other partners) b) Brampton PC, Carlisle CC, VAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Longtown MTI programme established 2002 b) Proposals for Brampton initiated April 2003. Action plan phase completed by end February 2004 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Longtown MTI healthcheck and action plan phase £17,000 b) Brampton healthcheck and action plan phase approximately £20,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Longtown MTI action plan complete. Implementation programme ongoing b) Brampton healthcheck and action plan completed with proposals identified.
To develop local community plans in agreed locations	Develop parish plans utilising the vital villages programme	VAC , PCs, Carlisle CC	Parish plan development initiated 2003 (ongoing programme)	Parish plan funding £5,000 per parish from CA	Three parish plans initiated in 2003. Two parish plans launched by March 2004

□ **Economic Prosperity Theme**

“A well diversified and prosperous local economy with a strong agricultural sector and local market towns and villages that are economically and socially buoyant”.

What are we aiming to achieve	What will be done	Who will be involved (lead partners in bold)	When will it happen	How much will it cost and who will fund it	What will be the outcome
To promote rural Carlisle and identify investment opportunities to create employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Identify development opportunities and undertake promotion activity (M6 corridor project) b) Audit of rural workspace to increase promotion and occupancy c) Develop new or converted workspace d) Development of Carlisle Airport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Carlisle CC, Eden DC, South Lakeland DC, CIIA and NWDA b) Audit undertaken by NWDA c) NWDA, Carlisle CC, Private landowners, developers and agents d) Haughey Airports Ltd, Carlisle CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Completion by end of 2003 b) Completion by end of 2003 c) Timescale subject to outcome of NWDA audit (b) d) Dependant on private sector development of Airport site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Funded through NWDA "Team NW" budget £23,000 b) No additional funding required for audit c) Funding requirement depend on audit outcome d) Private investment venture 	Portfolio of opportunities for investment and business relocation, focussing particularly on Longtown, Brampton and Dalston and Carlisle Airport. Creation of high quality employment opportunities. Improved air services

Appendix A – Rural Strategy Action Plan Tables, July 2003

What are we aiming to achieve	What will be done	Who will be involved (lead partners in bold)	When will it happen	How much will it cost and who will fund it	What will be the outcome
To support local agriculture including local produce initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop the market and infrastructure for local produce production and distribution through the 'Distinctly Cumbria' project b) Further develop local producers' markets and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cumbria Rural Partnership, Carlisle 'Distinctly Cumbria' Local Action Group b) 'Made in Cumbria', Carlisle CC, Longtown Investment Partnership, Harrison & Hetherington Ltd, Local Producers, Carlisle Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 7 year programme (2002 – 2008) b) Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Total project cost £14.7 million. £6.2 million from NWDA. £75,000 from Cumbrian local authorities (beginning in 2003/04). Private sector contributions b) Costs to be determined by growth in size and frequency 	Local awareness and engagement in programmes to develop producer capability and market opportunities leading to increased opportunities for local producer businesses
To encourage non-farming enterprises and diversification of the rural economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve access to informal planning advice for farmers and other landowners through the North West Rural Planning Service b) The provision of business advice and support to farmers c) The review of the Local Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CREA, NWDA, Carlisle CC b) Farm Business Advice Service, Rural Futures Programme, Farm Tourism Service, Cumbria Organics and the ERDF Facilitation Service Pilot, CREA, VAC c) Carlisle CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ongoing (scheme funded for a further 3 years from March 2003) b) Ongoing c) Deposit draft October 2003. Final Local Plan publication date subject to changes to development plan system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Total cost of scheme £742,000. Funded by NWDA and managed by CREA b) Funded through external programme c) No additional resources required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 1,400 farmers and rural businesses assisted b) Increase take up of farm business advice. Additional farms supported c) Number of people living and working in rural Carlisle sustained
To improve access to training, advisory services and infrastructure and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Produce a 'route map' to clarify the role of local support agencies and how to access b) Provision of IT training facilities through local outlets c) Provision of Broadband infrastructure serving 95% of rural population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Carlisle CC b) Cumbria 'Credits', Carlisle City Council, Carlisle College/Learndirect, Cumbria Learning and Skills Council c) Cumbria ICT Broadband Initiative Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Route map produced by end 2003 b) Ongoing (Brampton Business and Tele-Centre established 1998) c) County wide programme established 2002 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No additional funding required b) Brampton Business and Tele-Centre c) £30 million from NWDA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Greater awareness of support networks b) Increase in numbers accessing IT training c) Increased demand and provision of broadband services by local businesses
To promote enterprise (including community enterprise) and new business starts in the rural area and support individuals in agricultural or related employment secure alternative work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide guidance for individuals going through employment change options b) Support for business starts and development c) Encourage community enterprise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Employment Alternatives partnership (managed by Carlisle CC) b) Cumbria Chamber of Commerce, Rural Women's Network, Prince's Trust c) VAC (Enterprising Communities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ongoing programme b) Ongoing c) Ongoing programme (established 2002) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) £50,000 per annum, funded through various sources b) No additional funding programme c) Costs £700,000 over 3 years. Funded by various sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 260 individuals advised, 1,100 counselling sessions, 100 people into jobs, 50 training courses b) Increased numbers of businesses supported c) Advise and assist existing and new social enterprises

□ **Infrastructure, Environment and Transport Theme**

“A high quality and bio-diverse environment that is an economic and cultural asset to the whole of the City of Carlisle and the region. An area with access to a communications infrastructure and services that meet the needs of visitors, residents and businesses”.

What are we aiming to achieve	What will be done	Who will be involved (lead partners in bold)	When will it happen	How much will it cost and who will fund it	What will be the outcome
To preserve and enhance the built environment including the restoration and re-use wherever possible of buildings at risk	Support proposals for: a) Lanercost Priory b) Brackenhill Tower	EH , Carlisle CC, Private Landowners	a) Business Plan and Project Organiser currently being commissioned to determine timescale b) Funding bids likely to be submitted autumn 2003 for development work	a) Costs £600,000 Funding NWDA and private sector sources b) Costs £4 million Funding NWDA and other private sector sources	a) Lanercost Priory – Conservation Plan produced July 2002. Implementation Plan developed. Programme of works currently being determined b) Brackenhill Tower – Further bids to be submitted autumn 2003
To protect the local landscape as a high quality landscape	a) Development of policies and projects to enhance the landscape of Carlisle outside current designated areas b) Cumbria Landscape Project c) Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site Management Plan	a) Carlisle CC b) Cumbria Landscape Forum , Cumbria CC, Carlisle CC, DCs c) Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site Committee including Las and EH	a) Ongoing b) Cumbria Landscape Project bid submitted September 2002. Project start date January 2003. End date December 2005 c) Review of management plan distributed July 2002. Tourist study to be undertaken April 2003 - April 2004	a) No additional funding required b) Your Heritage Bid (£99,946) submitted September 2002. No funding required from Carlisle CC. c) No additional funding required. Tourism study funded by NWDA and One NE	a) Revised boundaries for areas of County Landscape importance aligned with Countryside Agency Character Assessment areas giving stronger justification to their protection b) To be determined following outcome of bid c) Master plan developed to boost economic benefit of Hadrian's Wall
To develop and support sustainable tourism initiatives that meet economic and environmental objectives	a) Develop Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site National Trail b) Market the 'Northern Borderlands' c) Develop cycling and walking trails d) Support the Hadrian's Wall bus service	a) Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site Committee , CA b) Carlisle CC c) Carlisle CC , Eden DC, CTB d) Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site Committee	a) Trail to be opened May 2003 b) Ongoing c) Eden Valley circular cycle route opened for 2003 season d) Service now operational	a) Funded through CA b) Funded through Carlisle CC tourism marketing budget c) Funded through Carlisle CC tourism marketing budget d) Additional financial assistance through One NE and CA	a) One new national trail following route of Hadrian's Wall b) Increase in tourism numbers and expenditure c) One new cycle route created d) Increased use of bus service

Appendix A – Rural Strategy Action Plan Tables, July 2003

What are we aiming to achieve	What will be done	Who will be involved (lead partners in bold)	When will it happen	How much will it cost and who will fund it	What will be the outcome
To promote countryside management and interpretation, in order to support rural tourism and agricultural diversification and re-structuring	Develop the role of the East Cumbria Countryside Project and link its activities to the promotion of Tourism and rural economic diversification	ECCP , Carlisle CC, Cumbria CC	Proposals under development. Discussions taking place between ECCP, Carlisle CC and Cumbria CC	TBC	TBC
To provide a mechanism to enable dialogue on planning policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop a planning facilitation service b) Develop a Plain English planning guide for farmers c) Review the Local Plan, ensuring rural residents, visitors and businesses are able to input into the process d) Develop additional planning guidance on identified issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Carlisle CC, CREA b) NWRA, DCs, Cumbria CC c) Carlisle CC. Consultation involves residents, businesses and PCs d) Carlisle CC, other agencies dependent on planning issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ongoing b) Under development c) Issues paper developed November 2002. Deposit draft October 2003. Final Local Plan publication date subject to changes to development plan system d) Dependent on outcomes of Supplementary Planning Guidance consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Pilot scheme funded by NWDA b) Funded by NWRA c) Funded through Carlisle CC Local Plan budget d) Funded through Carlisle CC Local Plan budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increased support and access to the planning system b) Leaflet sent to every farm in the region. Additional copies with LAs c) Every home sent initial summary consultation leaflet (Nov/Dec 2002). In-depth consultation with PCs d) Additional planning guidance statements

□ **Health and Well Being Theme**

“A rural area with facilities and services that meet local needs and (at least) national standards, and which provides the opportunity for rural residents to achieve a full and healthy lifestyle”.

What are we aiming to achieve	What will be done	Who will be involved (lead partners in bold)	When will it happen	How much will it cost and who will fund it	What will be the outcome
To address health and housing inequalities through rural regeneration programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure that health and housing needs are reflected in the Longtown MTI and future Brampton programmes b) Grant support to address housing needs through renovation grants, home repairs assistance grants and energy efficient grants c) Continued support for the Home Improvement Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Local regeneration partnerships (and partners) Carlisle CC b) Carlisle CC c) Carlisle CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ongoing b) Ongoing c) Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No additional cost b) Overall grant funding of over £1 million per annum c) Carlisle CC contributes £12,600 per annum supplemented by £27,000 from central government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Health and housing needs addressed as part of a wider rural regeneration programme b) Financial support to improve housing conditions c) In-depth support for those vulnerable sections of society
To determine the health needs of all Carlisle’s rural wards	Mapping exercise of health needs and regeneration issues	Carlisle CC	Completed November 2002	Funded from Carlisle CC existing budgets	Comprehensive information on health needs in rural wards
To link the health agenda with relevant existing strategies	Ensure integration of health inequalities and determinants of poor health in all appropriate strategies	Carlisle CC	Ongoing policy work	No additional funding required – covered as part of Carlisle CC internal work programme	Greater integration of health and housing needs
To develop a mechanism to audit and monitor rural service provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Engage with CPCA to determine appropriate mechanism for involvement and consultation b) Monitor rural service provision and access to facilities c) Develop Village Hall modernisation programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Carlisle CC, CPCA b) Carlisle CC, VAC, CA c) Carlisle CC, CPCA, VAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ongoing b) Ongoing c) Programme to be developed by autumn 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No additional funding required b) Funded by CA c) Exact cost to be determined. Possible funding sources include CA, RAZ, Carlisle CC, Cumbria CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increased community involvement in rural service provision b) 3 yearly rural service survey in produced by the CA c) Increase in village halls meeting DDA requirements and wider needs.

Appendix A – Rural Strategy Action Plan Tables, July 2003

What are we aiming to achieve	What will be done	Who will be involved (lead partners in bold)	When will it happen	How much will it cost and who will fund it	What will be the outcome
To identify opportunities to increase affordable housing provision in rural Carlisle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Carry out rural housing needs surveys b) Carry out an audit of social housing schemes already developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Carlisle CC, CRHT b) Carlisle CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ongoing programme b) Audit to be completed by December 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Carlisle CC provides funding to CRHT to carry out rural housing needs surveys b) No additional resources required (part of internal programme) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Priorities for rural housing need surveys are Longtown (March 2003) Burgh by Sands (initiated April 2003) and Laversdale (initiated summer 2003) b) Audit to identify location of social housing provision, successful schemes and lessons/models for future development
To identify actual homelessness levels	Production of a homelessness strategy detailing in-depth needs	Carlisle CC (with consultant support)	Strategy produced by July 2003	Funded through Carlisle CC internal resources	Comprehensive figures and homelessness needs identified to enable specific actions to be targeted
To increase private sector housing improvements as identified in the local housing condition survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Carry out an in-depth rural unfit property survey b) Develop a programme of works to tackle rural hotspots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Carlisle CC b) Carlisle CC, Private householders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To be completed by end 2003 b) Dependent on outcome of the survey above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Funded through Carlisle CC internal resources b) Dependent on outcome of survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the number of unfit properties Contribution to area renewal
To continue to develop the energy efficiency programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Loft insulation b) Affordable warmth programme c) Mobile energy efficiency advice unit 	Carlisle CC – Energy Efficiency Advice Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ongoing scheme initiated in rural Carlisle and Eden b) To be launched in summer 2003 c) Proposed scheme for 2003/4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 1,400 properties benefited in rural North Cumbria. Funded through Scottish Power and NPower (approx £100,000 in rural areas) b) TBC c) Possible funding from CRRC 	Increase energy efficiency in rural areas and reduce the incidence of fuel poverty
To develop an improvement programme for social housing	Neighbourhood Investment Plans developed for social housing in Longtown, Brampton and Dalston and a Rural Investment Plan	<p>Longer term (3-5 year) action plans produced for same areas</p> <p>CHA in partnership with Carlisle CC, Health partners, Police, Cumbria CC (Social Services) and other partners</p>	Neighbourhood Investment Plans produced by June 2003 and Action Plans produced by April 2004	Funded through internal resources	<p>£52 million invested by CHA in social housing stock improvements and community investment programmes over the next 5 years (urban and rural Carlisle)</p> <p>Increase in letting potential</p> <p>Future consideration of provision, need and affordability</p>

□ **Funding for Rural Carlisle Theme**

“A high quality and bio-diverse environment that is an economic and cultural asset to the whole of the City of Carlisle and the region. An area with access to a communications infrastructure and services to meet the needs of visitors, residents and businesses”.

What are we aiming to achieve	What will be done	Who will be involved (lead partners in bold)	When will it happen	How much will it cost and who will fund it	What will be the outcome
To co-ordinate funding through the Market Town Initiative and Vital Villages Programmes	Produce Action Plans for a) Longtown and b) Brampton c) Support parishes who express an interest to develop parish plans through the Vital Villages programme	a) Longtown Investment Partnership , NWDA, CA, Carlisle CC, Cumbria CC b) Brampton PC , Neighbouring PCs, Carlisle CC, VAC c) PCs , VAC, Carlisle CC	a) Longtown Action Plan produced and published. Annual delivery plan for 2003/4 to be produced. NWDA mini-SRB scheme for implementation of projects to commence 2003/04 b) Brampton Action Plan process to commence April 2003 to be completed by February 2004 c) Three parish plans to be initiated in 2003. Two parish plans launched by March 2004. Parishes currently expressing an interest Dalston and Wetheral	a) Cost £17,000 Funded by CA and NWDA b) Likely cost approx. £20,000. Funded by CA, NWDA c) Likely cost between £5,000 - £10,000 per plan Funded through CA and other partners	a) One action plan produced detailing comprehensive programme for improvement in Longtown and area b) One action plan produced detailing comprehensive programme for improvement in Brampton and area c) Parish plans produced giving details of possible future projects
To disseminate information about rural funding opportunities	a) Encourage wider use and awareness of the VAC Funding Advice Service b) Hold funding advice events for parishes and rural bodies c) Encourage wider use and distribution of funding bodies newsletters (eg RAZ, L+) d) Raise awareness and profile of local success stories and rural projects through publicity campaigns	a) VAC b) Joint initiative between VAC, Carlisle CVS, Carlisle CC, Cumbria CC c) Carlisle CC (awareness raising), funding bodies to distribute eg CRRC, L+ d) Carlisle CC , local press	a) Ongoing b) First funding fair held January 2003. Events will be held on an annual basis c) Ongoing d) Carlisle CC to initiate campaign following launch of rural strategy – summer 2003	a) Funded through VAC resources b) January 2003 funding fair cost £1,000 which was funded by Carlisle CC and Cumbria CC c) No additional resources required d) No additional resources required at this stage. Costs will be reviewed	a) Number of groups supported b) 90 individuals attended funding fair in January 2003 (of which 30 attended the rural funding session). Aim to attract similar numbers to future events. Explore the option of a specifically rural event/s c) Number of new groups/individuals receiving information d) Publicity campaign launched – summer 2003

Appendix A – Rural Strategy Action Plan Tables, July 2003

What are we aiming to achieve	What will be done	Who will be involved (lead partners in bold)	When will it happen	How much will it cost and who will fund it	What will be the outcome
To support communities in project development and funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support existing Carlisle CVS training programme and establish training programme to meet needs identified through funding fair b) Encourage use and take-up of existing funding support workshops eg L+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Carlisle CVS and Carlisle CC b) Carlisle CC, funding agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Existing programme ongoing, Carlisle CC led programme to be initiated April 2003 (depending on demand) b) Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CVS programme funded through own resources. New training programme supported by Carlisle CC contribution to be determined b) No additional resources required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CVS training programme outputs to date: 43 events, 594 individuals trained, 309 organisations assisted (these figures refer to urban and rural areas). New training programme will support 15-20 new groups depending on demand b) Number of additional groups accessing workshops

Appendix B

Proposed Rural Strategy Projects – 2004

Developing Communities Theme

Project	Who to contact. Lead Officer
Parish Plans Development	Claire Rankin
CALC support – Quality Parishes Scheme	Claire Rankin/CALC
CPCA Project Development Support	Claire Rankin/CPCA
Rural Newsletter	Claire Rankin
Rural Office	Claire Rankin/David Beaty
Parishes IT Continuation	John Nutley/Claire Rankin
Rural Proofing	Claire Rankin/County Council
LSP Support Project	Cathy Connolly
Village Hall Hubs Programme	Claire Rankin/VAC
Rural Services	Claire Rankin/County Council
Brampton Action Plan	Claire Rankin/VAC
Longtown Delivery Plan	Pat Jefferson/David Beaty
Longtown Projects (tbc)	Pat Jefferson
Wetheral Parish Plan	VAC/Individual Parish Councils/Claire Rankin
Dalston Parish Plan	
Stanwix Rural Parish Plan	
Orton Parish Plan	

Economic Prosperity Theme

Rural Business Support/Enterprise Development	Don Taylor
M6 Corridor	David Beaty
Rural Workspace (Farm diversification)	David Beaty/Don Taylor
Carlisle Airport	David Beaty
Local Produce Work	Don Taylor
Local Plan Review	Chris Hardman
Brampton B&TC Development	Don Taylor
Employment Alternatives	Don Taylor
Farm Connect Cumbria	Don Taylor
Social Enterprise	Don Taylor/Claire Rankin

Infrastructure, Environment and Transport Theme

Lanercost Priory	Richard McCoy
Brackenhill Tower	Richard McCoy
Hadrians Wall	John Bell
ECCP initiatives	Phil Gray

Health and Well Being Theme

Rural Housing Paper	CPCA/Claire Rankin
Rural Housing Needs Surveys	Kamla Pattni/CRHT
Audit of Social Housing Schemes	Kamla Pattni
Rural Unfit Property Survey	Allan Dickson

Appendix B

Energy Efficiency Mobile Unit	Suzanne Burgess
CHA Rural Investment Plans	CHA/Denise Raper

Funding for Rural Carlisle Theme

Rural Funding Advice Sessions	Claire Rankin
Funding Fair	Neil Griffiths
Specialist Funding Sessions	Neil Griffiths