

# Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board

## Partnership Scrutiny – Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

22 September 2009

### Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on the progress to date of the scrutiny review of Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

This report is public

#### **Recommendations**

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The Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board is recommended to:

- (1) Note the contents of the report and that the review is ongoing.
- (2) Identify further actions to progress the review.
- (3) Consider the issues arising from the Sustainable Community Strategy that impact on the Council's partnership with Oxfordshire Rural Community Council.
- (4) To consider the issues Members wish to raise at the question and answer session with the Portfolio Holder Community Safety, Street Scene and Rural, the Strategic Director Environment and Community and the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council Chief Executive at the Board's October meeting.

#### **Details**

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##### **1 Partnership Scrutiny**

- 1.1 The Local Government and Public Health Involvement Act 2007 sets out the requirements for Local Authorities to assess the effectiveness of partnerships of which the Council is a member and to carry out the scrutiny of partnerships.
- 1.2 In March 2008, the Council adopted a Partnership Protocol and

comprehensive Partnership Working Framework. The Framework and the Council's Constitution describe partnership reviews as being part of the remit of the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board.

- 1.3 At the Board's meeting on 23 June 2009, Members resolved to undertake a scrutiny review of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council in summer 2009.
- 1.4 At the Board's meeting on 21 July 2009, Members agreed a scoping document and project plan for the scrutiny review of Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (attached as Appendix 1 and 2 respectively).

## **2 Partnership Scrutiny Review Progress**

### **Background Briefing**

- 2.1 Appendix 3 contains detailed background information on rural community councils and Oxfordshire Rural Community Council.
- 2.2 The Head of Urban and Rural Services and the Head of Safer Communities and Community Development attended the Board's July meeting to brief members on the work of Rural Community Councils and the structure and organisation of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. They briefed the Board on the Council's involvement with Oxfordshire Rural Community Council from a rural and countryside and transport perspective.

### **Site Visits**

- 2.3 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman visited Cropredy Parish Council on 24 August 2009 to meet with Parish Councillors from Cropredy and the neighbouring village of Claydon to discuss their involvement with Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. Notes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 4.
- 2.4 Further visits to villages and Parish Councils are currently being arranged. Members are asked to bring details of their availability to the meeting.

### **Rural Issues Arising from the Sustainable Community Strategy**

- 2.5 Appendix 5 contains information about rural communities in Cherwell.
- 2.6 The Community and Corporate Planning Manager and the Rural Development and Countryside Manager will be present at the meeting to brief members on the rural issues identified through the consultation on the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 2.7 Members will wish to reflect on what bearing these issues might have on the Council's partnership with ORCC.

## **Cherwell District Council Funding to Oxfordshire Rural Community Council**

- 2.8 Details of the Council's funding to Oxfordshire Rural Community Council for the last five years are attached at Appendix 6. Further work is required to establish the exact expenditure on urban and rural services prior to 2008/2009. This information will be distributed to Members before the next meeting.

### **Question and Answer Session**

- 2.9 Members will wish to note that the Chief Executive of Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Street Scene and Rural and the Strategic Director Environment and Community will be present at the October meeting for a question and answer session. Members will wish to consider what issues and questions they would like to raise at this meeting.

### **Implications**

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<b>Financial:</b>	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
<b>Legal:</b>	There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

### **Wards Affected**

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All

### **Corporate Plan Themes**

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A district of opportunity  
A safe and healthy Cherwell

### **Executive Portfolio**

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Councillor Nigel Morris  
Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Street Scene and Rural

## Document Information

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<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 1	Scrutiny Review Scoping Document
Appendix 2	Scrutiny Review Project Grid
Appendix 3	Background Briefing – Rural Community Councils and Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
Appendix 4	Notes from Cropredy Parish Council Visit, 25.08.09
Appendix 5	Cherwell District – Rural Communities
Appendix 6	CDC Expenditure with ORCC
<b>Background Papers</b>	
None	
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