

Report



meeting **COMMUNITY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **27th July 2004** agenda item number

Progress Report – Rural Strategy Study Group

Update

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** The report updates Members on the progress to date of the Rural Strategy Study Group .

2. Background

- 2.1** The Community Services Select Committee received two reports, in September 2003 and January 2004, outlining relevant issues and a suggested methodology for a Scrutiny Study Group to be formed to research rural issues in Nottinghamshire.
- 2.2** The Study Group was duly formed, chaired by Councillor Joyce Bosnjak, with its focus on deciding whether or not the County Council should pursue a rural strategy. This allowed for an exploration of county issues in addition to investigating best practice programmes from elsewhere.
- 2.3** County Councillors on the Study Group are : Councillors Roy Barsley, Sue Bennett, Joyce Bosnjak (Chair), John Hemsall, Brian Smith, Keith Walker and Yvonne Woodhead, in partnership with representatives from relevant authorities and agencies, and officer support from the County Council.

3 Issues

- 3.1** A programme framework was developed for the duration of the study group's scrutiny of this area. A number of presentations have already been made by departmental officers and the Chief Executive focusing on rural issues impacting on their own areas of expertise. In addition five working groups have been established to concentrate on an area of interest involving rural affairs. The groups concerned have been named : Governance, Economy,

Access to Services, Land Use and Diverse Communities. Leads have now been appointed for each of these themed working groups.

- 3.2 Letters have been prepared from the Chair to local partner organisations inviting them to give presentations to the study group outlining their work programmes and any issues they feel have been overlooked in service provision.
- 3.3 Looking ahead, the Study Group is aiming to undertake site visits and possibly organise a rural conference. A final report for the consideration of the Community Services Select Committee is envisaged by March 2005.
- 3.4 *NOTE : A meeting of this group is scheduled for 26 July and a verbal update will be provided on issues arising from, and action undertaken at this meeting.*

4. Recommendation

This report is provided for the information of members only.

Lynn Senior
Head of Scrutiny

Background Papers :

- 1. Minutes of Study Group meetings held on 24 May and 28 June.