



East of England Rural Forum

East of England Rural White Paper

Aim

Overarching **aim** of White Paper will be:

"To produce a visionary document that sets out a 5 year plan of how to develop opportunities for rural communities in the East of England, in order to grow the rural areas against the current state of the region's economy."

Key Objectives

- To develop priorities to enable the Forum to have a strong rural voice in the region
- To influence key stakeholders at national, regional and local level
- To strategically influence the emerging agendas and manifestos across the main political parties
- To refocus priorities for rural communities in the region
- To engage through this process and afterwards with Forum “sister” groups, such as Environment Forum, Sustainable Food and Farming Group and Sustainability East

Key Stages

1. Develop an evidence base to inform the drafting of the paper
2. Prepare a draft paper setting out:
 - Benefits of the process and aspirations
 - Gap analysis
 - Priorities, goals and objectives
 - Delivery plan
3. Consult on draft document
4. Finalise the draft of the Regional White Paper
5. Submit draft to EERF
6. Publication and launch Spring 2010

Stakeholders

- Members of EERF – *Owners of Paper*
- EEDA
- GO East
- EERA
- Environment Agency
- Forestry commission
- CRC

Outcomes

Our Regional Rural White Paper would:

- Define a prioritised and phased programme that will support the growth of rural communities through developing opportunities and identifying solutions to key issues.
- Identify a set of priorities that public and private investment could align with in terms of developing policy, local strategy and investment on the ground.
- Enhance the way that rural constituents work in the region through mutual agreement and ownership of a single delivery plan.
- Inform at a national level the region's rural priorities.

Timescales

Action	Date
EERF Approve	16 th September
Invite Consultants to tender	21 st September
ITT closes	9 th October
EERF WP Task and Finish Group meet	w/c 12 October
Consultants start work	19 th October
EERF meeting – Consultation Exercise	9 th December
Final Paper presented to WP Task and Finish Group	10 th March 2010
Launch of Paper at either AGM or Annual Conference	17 th Mar or Apr/May 2010

Proposal

" The EERF accepts the recommendation of the Steering Group to produce a regional rural white paper and supports actions for its delivery."



Questions?