

Vibrant Rural Communities: Action Plan

Delivering the Recommendations

In September 2010, the East of England Rural Forum published a rural white paper for the East of England – '*Vibrant Rural Communities*'*. This described our vision for rural areas over the next ten years and proposed recommendations for its achievement.

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of our Action Plan for the realisation of that vision.

This Action Plan describes in more detail the recommendations and actions and identifies those bodies and organisations we will work with for their delivery.

The actions are grouped into five delivery themes:

- Broadband and Telephony Services;
- Economic Growth and Skills;
- Housing and the Built Environment;
- Sustainable Development;
- Access to Services

Action in all these areas is necessary if our rural communities, their people, businesses and natural environment, are to fulfil their potential and contribute to a greener, more prosperous and sustainable future.

The actions were developed in consultation with representatives from more than 120 organisations including businesses, the public sector and community groups from across the East of England.

Our Action Plan is intended to be a living document which will be regularly reviewed and updated by the Forum. With its sister paper, *Vibrant Rural Communities*, it provides both context and actions for local communities, public sector bodies and LEPs so that together, we can help people living in rural areas in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk to become more successful, economically and socially.

I welcome any comments you have on our proposals and look forward to working with you to deliver our actions and making our rural communities truly vibrant!



Pat Holtom
Chairman East of England Rural Forum

PS Please forward to colleagues who you believe may find our ideas of interest.

* See <http://www.eerf.org.uk/Strategic-Rural-White-Paper.shtml>