

EERF Steering Group

(2.45 - 4.00pm), 19th September 2008

London Room, Fairways Suite, Waterfront Complex, Wyboston Lakes,
Bedfordshire

Minutes

Attendees

Andrew Budden	Diana Bradley (minutes)
Stuart Crowgey	John Yates (Chair)
John Mullen	Pat Holtom
Sally Williams	Sarah Prentice
Suzanne Roast	

Apologies

Kate Belinis	Sarah Hughes
Martin Collison	Kirsten Bennett
Lisa Roberts	

1. Minutes and actions from previous Steering Group 12th June 2008

The minutes were **agreed** as an accurate record of the meeting. All actions were completed apart from Item 5 Review of the Sub Groups, which was discussed later in the agenda.

2. Actions from EERF meeting

Pat reported that further work is needed to finalise the Inward Investment Paper.

ACTION: Sally and Pat to finalise the Inward Investment Paper to be circulated to the Steering Group, the Rural Forum and Economic Development Officers.

3. Objectives and Outcomes for EERF meeting 12th December

Andrew Budden has booked Woolpit Village Hall in Suffolk for the next EERF meeting on 12th December. He will also be organising the catering for the day. Sarah Prentice asked if a site visit for the secretariat could be arranged. It was agreed that a site visit would take place.

ACTION: Sarah Prentice has approached Andrew Budden for a suitable date for a site visit and the visit has been arranged for 17th October.

The theme for the meeting is Social Inclusion. With regards to the agenda Andrew Budden suggested some potential speakers.

David Wood could be approached to give a presentation on the Social Deprivation Report.

Andrew suggested a follow up item from the Annual Conference in March. Ian Cooper would be willing to take this forward and possibly give a presentation. The Chief Executive of the Rural Community Councils could also be invited to speak.

The Steering Group agreed that it would be useful to have some evidence from all six counties in the region on social inclusion on which to base discussions. Suzanne Roast offered to contribute some statistics for the Essex County area. John Day at MENTER is currently writing a Report and could contribute some information. Sarah Hughes is currently working on BME issues and could provide further details.

Suggested areas for discussion at the next EERF meeting include:

Voluntary Sector
Orkis Report on Social Deprivation
Rural Services Survey
BME
Housing Report

ACTION: Andrew Budden to organise catering for the meeting and draft the agenda.

ACTION: Andrew Budden has approached David Wood and Ian Cooper to speak at the next Rural Forum meeting.

ACTION: Andrew Budden to invite the Chief Executive of the Rural Community Councils to see if they would be prepared to speak at the next Rural Forum meeting

ACTION: Suzanne Roast to forward relevant statistics for the Essex County area.

4. Budget 2008/09: update and guidance

Stuart Crowgey reported that the EERF is currently operating within budget. All the County Forums have sent in their application forms for extra funding apart from Norfolk. There will be guidance put together for EERF members about claiming expenses.

Some of the other RAF's receive sponsorship and part of the Co-ordinator role will be to explore opportunities for similar sponsorship for the Rural Forum.

5. Update on Co-ordinator

Stuart Crowgey reported that the deadline for applications for the EERF Co-ordinator post is Friday 19th September. A sift will take place on Monday 22nd September followed by interviews. Hopefully the new co-ordinator will be in post on 1st October 2008.

John Yates announced to the Steering Group that he has agreed to take on the Chair of Chairs role for Regional Forums as from 1st April 2009. This extra role will require admin support and this is something that could be added to the co-ordinators role from April 2009. Extra funding will also be provided for this role from Defra but John does not yet know the exact details.

6. Nomination of Ed Bennett to the EERF

The Steering Group agreed to thank Ed Bennett for his interest but to advise him and the Haven Gateway Partnership that they already have a number of routes into the EERF.

ACTION: John Yates to write a reply to Haven Gateway Partnership.

7. CLG consultation on 'Transforming lives, transforming places: A framework for regeneration

The consultation paper has been sent to the Steering Group. The paper will now be sent the full Forum for consultation. Replies are needed by the end of October.

ACTION: Secretariat to email the paper to Forum Members noting date for replies to the consultation.

8. Sub-Groups going forward

Housing Sub Group – are currently reviewing the Terms of Reference.

Market Towns East - will in future not be a Sub – Group but will reconvene as a Task and Finish Group when needed as agreed at the last Steering Group meeting.

RRDF – Stuart will attend the next RRDF Steering Group meeting on 8th October.

Learning and Skills – Martin Collison did not attend the meeting to give an update.

9. AOB

Stuart suggested that the at the next Steering Group meeting the new Co-ordinator could be asked to look at the Action Plan and link this to potential new Task and Finish Groups.

The Group was reminded that the objectives for the next EERF meeting need to be finalised at the next Steering Group meeting in November.

10. Date of next meeting

Friday 7th November if absent members agree this date.

ACTION: Suzanne Roast to ask about meeting room availability at Essex RCC.

Diana Bradley
Secretariat
30th September 2008