

# EERF Action Plan 2009/10

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## **2009/10 Themes for EERF meetings**

10<sup>th</sup> June 2009: Access

16<sup>th</sup> September 2009: Health

9<sup>th</sup> December 2009: Further work on the impact of the downturn of the economy on rural communities

17<sup>th</sup> March 2010: Rural Development

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## Rural Forum Meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009

### Access

*This is in relation to the growth agenda. It will include looking at the issues that relate to access to services including green space.*

#### Key Issues

In view of the Governments commitment to developing new homes in the Growth Areas in the East of England Region

- Are there sufficient services available to support the growing population – health – food – transport – business?
- Has adequate provision been made in local plans to ensure that there is accessible green space for all?
- Do we have or will we have sufficient critical mass to sustain these services? If not what are the options?
- Are the partnerships in place to deliver these services?

#### Key Objectives

- To determine whether there has been appropriate planning, financial and partnership, made to ensure services will be in place and can support the demands of a growing population?
- What opportunities will arise from the rural communities, their businesses?

#### Purpose of the meeting

- To understand from the key organisations their plans.
- To influence organisations to develop sustainable plans
- To identify the benefits to rural communities of this sustained growth?

#### Outcome of the meeting

- To build on the work of Rural Action East's Rural Services Survey
- To correlate between the size of the population and the services needed to support it

#### Task Group/Lead Forum member

- Rural Action East
- CRC

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- Natural England

## **Key Strategic Partner**

- EERA

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## Rural Forum Meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009

### Health

*The aging population in the region and what are their needs.*

#### Key Issues

The East of England demographically has an aging population due to the in migration of people who are retiring early. Rural areas have many elderly people but also have many young people, migrants, and people in manual occupations etc all of whom have particular health issues.

In order to move the health agenda from an 'illness' service to a 'wellbeing' service this demands more active health monitoring, early id of symptoms and supportive systems to help people lead healthier lives. These newer services demand specialist support and the centralization of hospital and specialist provision is making rural access difficult. In a rural region we can end up with many rural people (of all ages) living a long way from these centers. For the old, young families and poor with personal transport access this presents real access problems.

#### Key Objectives

- To identify how we can get the benefits of the large specialist centers and health screening and preventative work accessible across our rural areas.
- To identify solutions such as peripatetic clinics, web enabled access either at home or in GPs surgeries etc.
- To address the needs of the communities living in rural areas.
- To develop the role of the Voluntary sector to support this sector

#### Purpose of the meeting

- To identify the impact on and access to the delivery of services and social care for the rural population of the region

#### Outcome of the meeting

- To provide the Government with evidence to develop health policy to support this sector.
- To identify benefits from the changing demographics
- To identify links with local involvement Partnerships

#### Task Group/Lead Forum member

#### Key Strategic Partner

- NHS

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## **Rural Forum Meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009** **Further work on the impact of the downturn of the economy on rural communities**

*Follow on from 2009 Annual Conference*

### **Key Issues**

- Follow on from 2009 Annual Conference, what has happened since March 2009 to support the rural communities
- Has the recession had a great impact on the region?

### **Key Objectives**

- To check progress on issues raised and actions agreed
- To deliver/develop further ideas for solution?
- Task and Finish group monitoring situation for Forum and CRC

### **Purpose of the meeting**

- To agree on actions put forward at Conference
- To develop further ideas

### **Outcome of the meeting**

Agreed action plan that is live and relevant to the ongoing situation

### **Task Group/Lead Forum member**

### **Key Strategic Partner**

- CRC
- Business Links
- EEDA

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## **Rural Forum Meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010** **Rural Development**

*Through the Leader approach and the remaining Axis 1, 2 and 3 funds from the Rural Development Programme for England assess what has been done on the ground and what else the Forum feel it ought to be supporting. This will tie in with the RDPE midterm review process.*

### **Key Issues**

- To understand what progress has been made through this programme to support the regional rural communities through this process

### **Key Objectives**

- To challenge EEDA and LAGs as appropriate on the outcomes and impact of the Axis 4 (Leader element) of the RDPE
- To understand the benefits that the programme has brought and where and in what form

### **Purpose of the meeting**

- To challenge the process or support it
- To provide evidence to feed in to mid term review

### **Outcome of the meeting**

- An understanding of the tangible benefits that the process will be aiming to achieve by 2013 and thereafter

### **Task Group/Lead Forum member**

EEDA

### **Key Strategic Partner**

- EEDA
- LAGs