

Revised Action Plan 2008/09 for 3rd and 4th Quarters

Quarter Three

Rural Forum Meeting: 12 December 2008 – Social Inclusion

TABLE TO SHOW KEY ISSUES AND OUTCOMES AS IDENTIFIED DECEMBER 2007

Key issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage at a local with communities to ensure that they become stronger and more prosperous to support groups that have traditionally encountered social exclusion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify issues that exist for those who are “socially excluded “ from society in rural areas
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify how rural dwellers can participate fully in urban opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage key agencies to ‘build in’ actions to address rural/remote related needs and engage and support for activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver more action on the ground from within the local communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influence IIC partnerships and mainstream social/education etc, including councils
Suggested Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies of projects making a long term difference that address issues of social deprivation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of sustainable funding for this work Clarification of lead government agency. IE, Defra / DCLOG
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of changes over last five years, since Countryside Agency intervention and withdrawal and how CRC are taking up the mantle
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies recognise need to review delivery and change it if necessary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people in rural areas, engaged in their future opportunities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at interactive solutions in relation to skill, services/ transport etc.

Purpose of the meeting

To explore where social deprivation exists in the region and identify through good practice examples how best to overcome these problems.

Outcome of the meeting

- To share information of where social deprivation exists
- To complete the picture across the region looking to see how all counties are addressing the issues
- To use the information gained to influence local, regional and national strategy.
- To identify whether need a "Task and Finish " Group to monitor the progress of the outcomes and develop a framework of how to use them appropriately
- To develop a position paper on Social Deprivation in the East of England

Task Group/Lead Forum member

Andrew Budden has led on the development of agenda for Forum meeting. He has identified 4 key speakers:

- Dr Tom Smith, Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion, to report on their Deprivation Report for Norfolk and Suffolk.
- Dr David Wood, Rural Action East to report on the Rural Services Survey.
- John Day, Menter to report on work that has been carried out on issues that face travellers across the East of England region.
- Wil Gibson to report on work carried out by Suffolk ACRE on the Local Volunteer programme in Suffolk that has encouraged volunteers to in communities to help themselves as the face rural deprivation.

Key Strategic Partner

- CRC

Quarter Four

Rural Forum Meeting: 18th March 2009 – Land Use and Local Food

TABLE TO SHOW KEY ISSUES AND OUTCOMES AS IDENTIFIED DECEMBER 2007

Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land: the new debate- Connections between people and the land• Examine pressures on rural land use especially in growth areas• Parish Planning: How do they influence sub regional/ regional agenda• Planning regulations and land use, if relevant look at new planning system (i.e., successor to LDF).
Suggested Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Influence, SFFS group, RDPE, Local Food Planners• Redundant buildings converted to accommodate new local food related to growth. (via Leader approach bids)• Need to allow development in rural areas to encourage eco growth. Recorded and acted upon by planners and central government PPG's• Promote to schemes that are establishing quality mark for local produce and central register of approved producers.

Food Security

Purpose of the meeting

- To ensure that Forum members are aware of the wider national food policy
- To demonstrate how health and food are linked together
- To demonstrate why Public Sector Procurement is the most constructive way forward in this debate.

Outcomes of the meeting

- To inform and support Defra in developing an integrated food policy, identifying key issues relevant to those that live and work in the East of England
- To use information gained to influence further local, regional and national strategy
- To share the knowledge of food security and public sector procurement between Forum members
- To influence and take the agenda wider – to include health and education

- To develop the debate to enable training for skills to be taken to a higher level
- To identify how to access capital for restructuring
- To link to the Growth debate (competition for land and increased population)

Task Group/Lead Forum member

- SSFF

Key Strategic Partner

- Defra via the SSFF (re the work that Defra are putting together on their Food policy work)

Suggested Agenda

- Update on Food security – Marie Francis
- Update on Defra food Policy Review
- Health and Food in the region – how it is linked together
- Accessing Local Food – the role of the supermarkets.
- Public Sector Procurement
- Examples of where good things are happening and why

Annual Conference: 4th March 2009: Economic downturn of the economy

Key Issues

- How are rural communities being affected?
- How can they be supported?
- Conference could link into the following issues:
 - Enterprise – what will happen to entrepreneurship? Will risky start up businesses be able to borrow to develop ideas?
 - Housing- link to fuel, insulating older houses, mortgage disaster
 - Fuel Poverty
 - Communities
 - Plus
 - Food
 - Tourism
 - Environment

Purpose of the Conference

- To assess the impact of the downturn in the economy on rural communities by identifying the key issues that they will be facing.
- To work closely with key regional partners to support initiatives that will help alleviate the full impact.
- To provide core Government Departments with information that will aid them to develop policy.

Outcomes of the Conference

- To gain a full understanding by all delegates of the integral issues that the rural communities will be facing
- To offer solutions through development of task groups linking closely with, when appropriate, to existing bodies and groups.
- To challenge central government on the direction of policy and funding if not deemed to be appropriate for the region.

Venue

Lavenham Village Hall

