

**County Durham Economic Partnership
Rural Advisory Group
09:30, Thursday, 24 May 2007
Grosvenor House**

MINUTES

1. Attendees

Phil Hughes (Chair)	Ignite
John Banks (Secretariat)	CDEP
Joanne Willey (Secretariat)	CDEP
Catherine Grezo	Durham County Council
Sue Berresford	Teesdale District Council
Jo Laverick	Durham RCC
Kate Culverhouse	Groundwork West Durham
Ingo Schuder	Natural England

Apologies

Glynn Bateman	Natural England
Angus Collingwood-Cameron	CLA Northeast
Christine Caine	Job Centre Plus
Peter Richards	Groundwork East Durham

2. Declarations of interest, if any – If partners are aware of a private or personal conflict of interest in relation to any items on the Agenda, this should be disclosed at this stage or when the conflict of interest arises during consideration of an item in accordance with the Partnership's Conflict of Interest Procedures.

None Declared.

Items for decision:

None

Items for information:

3. Introductions

Phil Hughes introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the first Rural Advisory Group. Partners were invited to introduce themselves.

4. Rural Policy & Strategy Environment (paper attached)

Phil introduced the paper. A discussion took place about the group having an influencing role rather than just being a discussion group. John Banks asked partners to contact him regarding any changes to the paper.

5. Rural Advisory Group Terms of Reference (paper attached)

John introduced the paper. Partners felt that if this group was going to have any influence, then it needed to be changed from an advisory group to a working group. It was noted that the Board had already agreed this group's remit and any changes would need to be presented to the Officer Delegated group followed by the Board.

6. Current Workstreams

John circulated a list detailing what projects are currently running in the rural areas through the working groups within the CDEP. It was requested that a list of projects in the development stage to also be circulated to the group.

ACTION: Secretariat

There was questioning under the Economic Regeneration Working Group list of rural activity. Durham City Vision Phase III and Chester-le-Street – Are these on the rural agenda? Seaham North Dock – it was noted it should be 'Gare' instead of 'Dock'. It was identified that Bishop Auckland had not been included on the list. John agreed to send Catherine Grezo and Steve Bhowmick a copy of the Stanhope Retail Distinctiveness Action Plan (SRDAP).

ACTION: Secretariat

John informed the group that there was some money left over from past rural initiatives for this group to use. John agreed to get some exact figures and report back to the next meeting.

ACTION: Secretariat

7. Draft Work Programme (discussion)

A list of discussion points was suggested for future meetings. John Banks agreed to produce a draft copy of this and circulate at the next meeting.

ACTION: Secretariat

8. Any other business

No other business was discussed.

9. Forward programmes of meetings - all meetings start at 9:30

- Bi-monthly for the first 3 meetings following inauguration
- Thursday 19 July 2007 – TBC
- Friday 21 September 2007 – TBC
- Thursday 22 November 2007 – TBC