



Rural and Farming Network

February 2014

News from Defra

- Internal staff changes
 - Sara Eppel replaced by Karen Lepper
- Focus on completing existing activities
- Ministers busy promoting food and drink exports
- RDP development – anticipated approval end March
- EFRA Select Committee looking at broadband

News from Defra

- Biosecurity Action Plan successes
 - reducing risk of TB spread
 - Containing Avian Influenza outbreaks
- Proposed research: links between Tourism & Transport
- GE and Purdah – announcements before end March
 - Including guidance for new CAP

Dan Rogerson MP

- RFN review – keen to show value
- CAP – guidance development
- RDP – development of programme
- Superfast BB – 95% reach
- Leader - high success rate
- TB
- Milk Prices

Issues from the floor

- Water
- SFP disputes process
- Digital by default
- ACRE funding
- Mobile coverage

RFN Review

- Preparation for post-election
- Intention to show value
- Interviews undertaken, including stakeholders

Rural Proofing Review

Rural proofing is about:

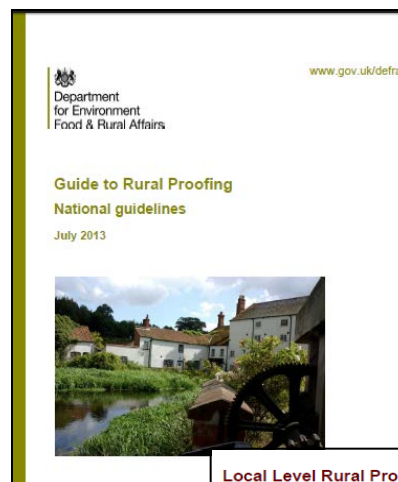
- Looking at rural England positively – sustainable, solutions focussed, communities - unlocking rural growth potential
- Retaining a focus on fair, efficient and affordable outcomes
- Routine, open and evidenced based discussion of rural dimensions
- Ultimately – our end game is mainstreaming



The Rural Proofing Review – assessing rural dimensions within OGDs approaches

The review assessed the extent to which Government Departments are:

- Identifying the rural impacts within their policy responsibilities;
- Gathering and utilising evidence on rural opportunities and need in their policy-making;
- Engaging with Rural Stakeholders; and
- Reporting on their assessment of rural needs and interests in policy design and decision taking.



Local Level Rural Proofing
Resource #2: Rural proofing in practice
July 2012

Rural proofing in practice
This is the second of a small suite of local level rural proofing resources, which aim to meet practitioners' calls for access to better information on how to design and deliver publicly funded services in rural areas. The papers have been produced as outputs from a research project undertaken by Rural Innovation. The project was funded by the Rural Communities Policy Unit in Defra and carried out in association with the organisations whose logos appear below.

The first of the resources¹ provides a short explanation of why rural proofing is a valuable approach to embed in the design, commissioning and delivery of local services. This second 'Insights' document identifies key drivers behind the emerging policy context for rural proofing and showcases a set of common principles and strategies which have been found to underpin the successful design, commissioning and delivery of services in rural areas. Their application is illustrated using a few real world examples.

Figure One: Principles in Practice

A slide pack² is also available for anyone who prefers to view the information in that format or who wishes to share or present it to others.

The information in this document can be applied by anyone who is involved with local service design and delivery, whether from the public, private or civil society sectors, and whether that involvement is strategic or focused on implementation.

¹ Resource #1: What is rural proofing and what are the benefits?
² Resource #3: Rural proofing in practice

Logos: GCN, Church of England, defra, NALC, etc.

Rural Proofing Review

- Good awareness at senior levels
- Differing applications across Government
- Defra workshops proving successful
- Rural issues NOT routinely considered

Rural Proofing Review

- Recommendations
 - Use of classifications to be improved
 - More interdepartmental working
 - More workshops
 - More communication re rural proofing
 - Defra Ministers to work with Cabinet Office
 - Defra to work more strategically
 - Mainstreaming of rural proofing in Government
- What can be done locally?

Leader Update

- £138 million
- More nationally consistent approach
- 87 applications received
- Mix of old and new areas
- Significant increase in area and population coverage
- Awaiting formal adoption of RDPE and contracting
- Handbook and Ops guidance
- Leader Exchange Group
- Proposals for co-operation