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Essex News : Rural Development Programme and LEADER Update

The National Delivery Framework for LEADER has now been published, offering guidance about the 2015-20 programme. Rural areas will be defined at 'output area' level, and a list of 'hub towns' which may also be included has been compiled; in Essex the listed hub towns are Halstead, Harwich, Maldon, Walton-on-the-Naze and Witham. Defra have requested indicative maps of LEADER areas should have a maximum population of 150,000.

Essex Rural Partnership: Special Leader Meeting Friday 13th June 2014

Please come along and help shape the future of LEADER activity in Essex

Further details to follow. Please save the date.

RCCE is co-ordinating the development of an '**Essex Rivers Local Action Group (LAG)**', which has received support from Defra to prepare a Local Development Strategy. The Essex Rivers LAG will seek to cover a large part of the county, with a draft map including parts of Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Colchester, Maldon and Rochford.

Other parts of the county also have potential to benefit. **Eastern Plateau LAG**, which worked on the Essex/Herts border previously, is looking to receive further funding and intends to include some of Epping Forest District this time, as well as Uttlesford.

Two new LAGs are also being initiated across the Essex/Suffolk border. **Wool Towns LAG** will include parts of Braintree and Colchester, whilst a **Heritage Coast LAG** is hoping to include all of rural Tendring. If all 4 LAGs are successful, at least part of 9 of the 14 districts in Essex would be covered.

All of these LAGs, new and transitioning will be required to write a Local Development Strategy for submission to Defra at the beginning of September. There will be various consultation events taking place over the next few months, the first of which will be a special ERP meeting on 13th June.

This newsletter is produced and sent by Rural Community Council of Essex on behalf of the Essex Rural Partnership. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter in future please email info@essexruralpartnership.org.uk with 'unsubscribe' as the email subject.

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