



Meeting on 9th November 2010

Results from Discussion Group 4 -

“Total Place is not about trying to deliver a single percentage or number on efficiency savings. It is an approach to improve value for money, where agencies work together better through collaboration and local leadership.”

Rt. Hon. Alistair Darling MP, HM Treasury, April 2010

“I actually quite like the idea [of place-based budgets], the idea of one stop shops, single portals, service villages and the idea of using local authorities to be the facilitator, the organiser, the cheer leader, if you like, to bring these things together.”

Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP, Dept Communities and Local Government, July 2010

Comment in relation to new government agendas and the needs / opportunities in rural areas.

Points raised -

- What scale? What is a “place”?
- The issues haven’t changed, ideology and transition of power may have changed but the players haven’t.
- There is a role for all - but need to avoid duplication.
- Greater need for openness and true partnership working.
- Greater need for honesty and transparency.
- Knowledge and expertise of differing service sectors underpins the delivery of those services.
- Less capacity - therefore more important to identify key resources available and key partner strengths to work together.
- The RAFs are a cost-effective means of communicating the rural voice.
- Are the local authorities the “right” organisations to lead, and if so are they good enough?