

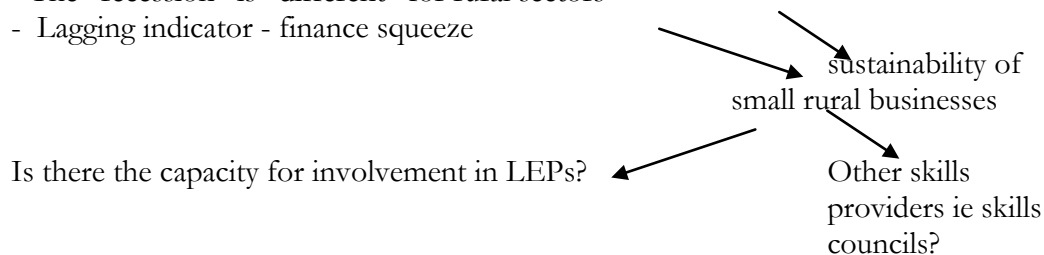
Meeting on 9th November 2010

Results from Discussion Group 2 -

1. *How can a distinctive case be made for the challenges facing rural areas in terms of the recession and its aftermath?*

**Points Raised:**

- Make a “case” to whom? - Has the “case” not already been made?
- The rural economy has distinctive issues ie connectivity
- It is well researched but may need reframing / restate?
- The “recession” is “different” for rural sectors
- Lagging indicator - finance squeeze



2. *What special approaches / solutions could be developed to address the economic challenges facing rural areas?*

- New Model (decentralisation) FE led? But have existing drivers.
- Are some new incentives needed?
- Should we have innovators / niche - encourage?
- Should there be a shift from “agencies” to “institutions”?
- LAs to create business environment /c limate - tactical v strategic
- Maintaining the rural voice in LEP process
- Communicate interlinked nature of the rural economy - distinctive
- LEP is not only route -\_other ways ie RDPE held elsewhere?

No money or leverage for big business within Central Government

- Theme approach not economical / geographical as defined by the LEPs
- ER / NY partnership is interesting, rather than Hull centric?
- Bridge Tolls!!
- Rural / Urban divide - ie broadband - leading to market failure at a national level?

*3. What examples of good practice in a rural context do you have of recession-busting activity?*

- Strong network development in place - locally designed and sector led - thematic as well as geographic
- Need to look outside Yorkshire
- Needs to be sustained / longevity - look at funding - subscription / legacy?
- Strong local authorities, joint voice and understanding on rural issues
- New organisational models - mutuality and trusts.