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Our Ref: HH/VC/Cover letter for mail out

8 April 2008

Dear Colleague

### **Rural Economy Scrutiny Review**

Enclosed are the findings and calls for action contained in the report of the Assembly's latest scrutiny review on the **Rural Economy in Yorkshire and Humber**.

Making sure we have sustainable rural communities by ensuring economic prosperity and diversity is essential. With more than 86% of the Yorkshire and Humber region classified as rural, the success of the rural economy is integral to the success of the region as a whole.

This review has considered Yorkshire Forward's economic development activities in rural communities, and assessed whether Yorkshire Forward and its partners are creating the right conditions for rurally based businesses to exist and thrive.

With ten recommendations for future action, the Scrutiny Board has identified a number of ways to make the rural economy stronger. The importance of the new Business Support programme, the role that Local Authorities, sub-regional Rural Partnerships and community based organisations play and the need for policy-makers to take into account rural needs are all key drivers to ensuring the continued growth of our rural economy.

Many thanks if you contributed to this review. Input from partners and stakeholders in the region is essential to making the most of the money being invested in the region and highlighting any changes we need to make.

For up to date information on regional scrutiny please visit our website pages at [www.yhassembly.gov.uk](http://www.yhassembly.gov.uk) or alternatively you can contact the scrutiny team on [scrutiny@yhassembly.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@yhassembly.gov.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Chair of Scrutiny Board