

# Transforming places: changing lives



A framework for regeneration

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# What we are considering today...

- Outline of the consultation paper.
- The YHRAF perspective.
  - What is rural regeneration?
  - What should regeneration deliver in rural areas?
  - Where should regeneration activity be targeted?
  - How do rural areas serve the regional agenda?
- Key questions to raise...and to answer.

# Transforming places: changing lives

- Sets out what government wants to be different about regeneration.
- Argues that regeneration needs to be defined by the outcomes it achieves, not the process.
- Sets out a common approach to targeting regeneration investment.
- Proposes how changes may impact upon how agencies work in future – with delegation to regional/local levels.

# Regeneration – what it is and why government invests in it.

*“...regeneration is a set of activities that reverse economic, social and physical decline in areas where market forces will not do this without support from government...”*

- *Secure long term change*
- *Improve places*
- *Foster ambition and unlock potential*
- *Help target mainstream government services*
- *Deliver sustainable development*
- *Create more equal communities*

# What should regeneration deliver?

- Regeneration needs to be tightly focused on improving economic outcomes in deprived areas.
- **3 priority outcomes for government:**
  - ∅ improving economic performance in deprived areas.
  - ∅ improving rates of work and enterprise in deprived areas.
  - ∅ creating sustainable places where people want to live, work and invest.

# Proposing a typology of regeneration activity

A successful regeneration strategy will often include 3 key elements:

- Ø Improving the physical environment.
- Ø Improving the prospects for people.
- Ø Improving the wider economy.



***.....SO FAR, SO GOOD!***

# The response from the Rural Affairs Forum



- **The YHRAF wishes to send a detailed response to the proposals:**
  - *Has the consultation paper been adequately rural proofed?*
  - *Will the framework enable regeneration investment to be co-ordinated and prioritised in a way which meets the needs of rural Y&H?*
- **In other words...**
  - *Does it work for our rural areas and communities?*
  - *What difference will it actually make to people's lives in the rural communities of our Region?*

# Has Rural Proofing taken place?

- Does the Consultation Paper consider whether the proposed strategy is likely to have a different impact in rural areas, because of particular identified rural circumstances? – (*PERHAPS*)
- Has a proper impact assessment been undertaken because of the significant effects that can be anticipated? (*NO EVIDENCE*)
- Has the proposed policy/strategy been adjusted or propose solutions that meet rural needs and circumstances? (*PROBABLY NOT*)

# What is regeneration in a rural context? Is it any different?

*“...Economic performance (of rural areas) can be held back or promoted by the extent to which all individuals have the opportunity to contribute...”*

- In rural areas individuals may be held back by:
  - ∅ Lack of access to a wide range of employment opportunities;
  - ∅ Lack of access to training, skills development;
  - ∅ Limits to infrastructure enabling economic opportunity;
  - ∅ Low wage economies;
  - ∅ Lack of access to affordable homes.
  - ∅ Lack of choice.

# What should regeneration deliver for rural areas?

- **Working communities:**
  - Broadband availability.
  - Workspace provision.
  - Training and Skills.
  - Economic Diversification.

# What should regeneration deliver for rural areas?

- **Sustainable communities:**
  - Accessible greenspace and recreational facilities.
  - Affordable housing – rented and owned.
  - Key service delivery and accessibility.
  - Resilience to climate change.

# What should regeneration deliver for rural areas?

- **Cohesive communities:**
  - Narrowing the gap between the haves (commuters, incomers, retired, 2<sup>nd</sup> homers) and have nots (indigenous, hidden poverty)
  - Creating opportunity for individuals to stay and contribute to economic performance of rural areas.
  - Creating a higher quality/higher wage economy.
  - Addressing key rural issues e.g. fuel poverty, access to public transport.

# Where should regeneration be targeted in rural areas?



- How can we identify deprived areas in rural Y&H – “regeneration maps”?
  - Coalfield areas of South and West Yorkshire?
  - Upland areas of the Pennines and North York Moors?
  - Areas beyond City Regional boundaries?
  - Places experiencing IMD defined decline – some market towns, coalfields, coastal communities?
- All about indicators – IMD is not sufficient to enable fine grain analysis. Is the agenda fundamentally about people or places?

# How can rural areas contribute to regional regeneration?

- What services do rural areas and rural communities provide which can contribute to the wider well-being of the Region?
  - Recreation.
  - Tourism.
  - Adapting to climate change.
  - Quality of life and the attractiveness of the Region to investors, entrepreneurs, graduates... "the knowledge economy".

# Key Questions to address?



1. What is rural regeneration and how is it distinctive?
2. What will be different for rural communities as a result of the framework?
3. How will we measure deprivation in rural communities?
4. How will we measure progress? What are our KPIs?
5. Can rural communities compete within this framework?
6. Will the framework provide equitable treatment for rural areas?
7. How will agencies charged with responsibility for this agenda respond?

# ECOTECH

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