



‘Leader: Now and the Future’

14-15 November 2011
Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham

This event has been shaped by Local Action Groups (LAGs), those organisations that work with them, and Defra. The event aims to:

- a. Exchange ideas, experience and information to practically assist the continued delivery of RDPE through the Leader approach and maximise the opportunities for rural areas and their communities;
- b. Provide an update on the remainder of the RDPE programme and an opportunity to input into the development of post-2013 thinking around the next Rural Development Regulation;
- c. Provide the opportunity to discuss the different approaches and models that have been developed by LAGs to manage remaining delivery; communications activity; and capture and assess the benefits of their activity to their rural areas.

Monday 14 November (Optional)

18.30 **Pre-dinner networking activity**

19.30 **Welcome and Network Dinner**

21.00 **Share a Leader Project – ‘1-minute wonder’**

Your ‘1 minute’ to give people a flavour of the sorts of projects that have been funded through the Leader approach.

Tuesday 15 November

08.30 **Registration and tea/coffee on arrival**

09.15 **Welcome and Introduction**

09.20 **A LAGs-eye View – Progress to Date and Opportunities Ahead**

Two LAGs reflect on the Leader approach, their experiences to date and opportunities for the remainder of the programme.

09.40 **The Leader Approach – Now through to 2013**

09.50 **Demonstrating the Impact of the Leader Approach**

Overview and table discussions around demonstrating the tangible and intangible benefits and drawbacks of the Leader approach.

10.30 **Update on the New RDPE Offer for Axis 1 and 3**

10.40 **Question and Answer Opportunity**



The European Agricultural
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areas

10.55 **Introduction to the Workshops**

11.00 **Refreshments and fringe activities**

11.20 **Workshops:**

Workshop 1 - LAG Promotion

Hear about and share the approaches that you have taken to spread the positive news about your LAG, your funding still available, and counteract recent negative messages.

Workshop 2 - Role of LAGs Beyond Committing Project Funding

For those LAGs needing to manage future funding expectations, prioritise applications and inspire and animate the ongoing commitment and role of LAG members, once all their funding has been allocated.

Workshop 3 – Releasing the Added Value from Projects Funded via the Leader Approach

Explore how LAGs can maximise their role as custodians of local rural development, rather than just funding agents, through encouraging projects to build on unexpected added value and ensuring that lessons are learnt for broader benefit.

Workshop 4 - Geodatabase

Find out more about the Geodatabase reporting system, how it works and how you can use it to support your financial management and reporting.

Note: Not more than 20 participants per workshop, to enable genuine discussion and information sharing.

12.20 **Networking lunch and fringe activities**

13.20 **Workshops repeated**

14.20 **Reconvene and brief report back from the workshops**

15.00 **Refreshments and fringe activities**

15.20 **Future of Leader within the next Rural Development Regulation**

Update on the future of Leader post-2013 and table discussions to feed in your views.

16.20 **Conclusions from the Day and Next Steps**

“On the fringe” Activity - Over refreshments and lunch, share your ideas around:

- a) The ‘Washing-line’ – Share your ‘top tips’ for delivery
- b) ‘Network 2012-13 Action Plan’ corner – What would you like to see the Network doing for you next year?
- c) Information exchange area – Bring along your display materials, leaflets etc to share and browse others;
- d) Canvassing for training and support needs – What are your training and support needs going forward?
- e) Questions boards – to capture any questions, queries that you have not had an opportunity to ask!