RURAL ROOTS
A Local Development Strategy for East Durham 2008 - 2013

Prepared by Jo Laverick, Liz Charles & Russell Hayward

Durham Rural Community Council gratefully acknowledges the assistance of everyone who has played a part in the production of this Local Development Strategy

LEADER is being delivered through the Rural Development Programme for England 2007 - 2013 with the support and assistance of:
Foreword

Rural Roots, the LEADER Local Development Strategy for East Durham, offers an exciting opportunity for the rural communities of East Durham to capitalise on their many assets to stimulate economic and community development.

The overall **Aim** of the Strategy is:

‘To implement a programme of community-led sustainable rural development, producing economic, social and environmental improvements and benefits for the rural communities across the defined territory of East Durham’.

The whole programme will be underpinned by the principles of sustainable development as defined by the UK Sustainable Development Strategy. The **Strategic Themes** are taken from the North East Implementation Plan (NEIP) which sets out how the Rural Development Programme for England (2007-2013) will be delivered in the North East region. The five themes are:

- Micro-enterprise development
- Natural and cultural assets
- Bioenergy
- Sustainable communities
- Sustainable farming and forestry.

Some emerging **Local Priorities** for East Durham have been identified, and will form the basis for future planning, development and implementation of the Strategy under the guidance of the Local Action Group.

East Durham tends to be known more for its high levels of deprivation than its many assets, but communities say they want more control and influence in improving the quality of life and economic performance of their localities. The LEADER approach and this Strategy offer a structure with a clear framework of community-led sustainable and integrated rural development, working to complement and add value to regional policies and local Community Strategies. This is a chance for East Durham to shine, and for its strongest asset, the people who live and work there, to come forward with ideas and dreams so that LEADER can enable vision to become reality. That this is possible has been demonstrated by the breadth of the ideas that came out of a stakeholder consultation, held to inform the writing of this Strategy. There can be no doubt that a LEADER programme will make a big difference to this sometimes forgotten rural landscape.
Figure 1: The East Durham LEADER area
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1. Appropriateness of the partnership

Local Action Group

In this section the recruitment and composition of the shadow Local Action Group (LAG) is described and the proposed structure of the Partnership is explained.

Communities in East Durham have no previous experience of the LEADER approach. A number of partnerships and networks exist in the area, established in response to various policy and funding streams. For the main part, they are focused on specific issues and/or sectors within the community.

Establishing a Local Action Group for East Durham is therefore a new approach. It necessitates some development time to allow for inclusive and wide representation, and to identify and foster a balanced set of skills, experience and participation, particularly from the previously identified ‘missing’ sectors.

East Durham LEADER will be a brand new partnership, and will present opportunities for innovative approaches to rural development in East Durham. During the consultation phase it became clear that for most people, this was their first introduction to LEADER. Nevertheless a considerable amount of enthusiasm was expressed, when the approach was explained prior to and as part of a Stakeholder Workshop held in early April 2008. Due to the newness of the approach and the need to build capacity and offer maximum opportunities for inclusion, it is proposed to include a 12-18 month ‘Development Phase’ in the Strategy. The LAG that is appointed now will be known as the ‘Shadow LAG’ during this period. It will take time to broaden its membership to ensure maximum diversity of skills and experience, sector representation, age, gender, and geography.

The Role of the LAG

The Shadow LAG will have a clear role to establish protocols and develop its membership. This process will develop over the first 12-18 months of activity. The emphasis in this period will therefore focus on consultation, training, networking (with other LEADER areas) and identifying relevant support networks to develop the LEADER themes and mentor project development.

As the LAG develops more detailed terms of reference and a stronger membership, it is anticipated that they will adopt a clear ‘modus operandi’ for working with hard to reach sectors. The LAG will develop and sustain a strong strategic overview of theme and project development, consolidating their relationships with community networks / partnerships, and with other LEADER areas in the region.

The roles of the LAG are necessarily wide ranging and diverse. It is therefore critical to ensure that LAG members are well supported and advised, and have a clearly set out plan of action, to which they are all committed. Day to day support for the LAG will be provided by a full time paid worker (Manager), together with the services of an
Administrator, who will provide a secretariat and financial reporting role. The staff will be employed on behalf of the LAG by the lead body, which will be Durham Rural Community Council (DRCC). Further details about the roles of the staff and lead body, and their relationship to the LAG can be found under the ‘Structure of the Partnership’ section on p17.

The LAG will elect its own Chair from the membership on an annual basis. The lead body will assist the LAG in drawing up detailed Terms of Reference, setting out individual roles and responsibilities. Figure 2 below sets out priority roles for the Shadow LAG and the eventual full LAG. Naturally some roles overlap and duplicate because they are essential requirements throughout the LEADER programme. However the table attempts to illustrate how the priorities for LAG roles will evolve.

Figure 2: Priority roles for the Shadow LAG & full LAG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shadow LAG roles</th>
<th>LAG roles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish &amp; agree Terms of Reference</td>
<td>Monitoring and ensuring operation of Terms of Reference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design and implement communications to promote LEADER within the area.</td>
<td>Induction, mentoring and training for new LAG members.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design and management of protocols for project development, selection and appraisal</td>
<td>Sustaining a suite of communications with communities, stakeholders, partners, agencies and funders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commission and undertake consultation with:</td>
<td>Publishing and promoting good practice in the area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young people</td>
<td>Management of project application, appraisal and selection procedures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land based businesses</td>
<td>Monitoring finances and making recommendations for funding allocations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Micro enterprises</td>
<td>Supporting and championing themes and projects into mainstream funding arenas where relevant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town and Parish Councils</td>
<td>Managing and overseeing commissioned work, research and evaluation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify and take part in relevant networking and training opportunities with other LAGs in the region.</td>
<td>Operating support groups (sub groups) and/or specialist networks to mentor and support communities in project design and development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Establish and promote funding opportunities for project development, feasibility studies and small starter initiatives.</td>
<td>Provision of support and guidance for LEADER project staff.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take strategic responsibility for managing the direction and delivery of the programme, in line with the agreed LDS objectives.</td>
<td>Ensure principles of equality, diversity and sustainability underpin all LAG activity and are integral to LEADER projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steer and direct the activities of the LAG and staff in the interests of effective delivery of the LDS objectives.</td>
<td>Reviewing action plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsibility for overseeing performance management and monitoring.</td>
<td>Annual review of local priorities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providing first annual report on progress, outcomes and detailed action plans for forthcoming years.</td>
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Membership details

The rationale for recruitment of the Shadow LAG was to target key stakeholders with the relevant skills and networks to reach deeper into the community and contribute to the broadening of the membership.

The chosen methodology was through networking, starting with some key contacts in the public sector with strong networks in the East Durham area (e.g. Business Link, Durham County Council, and Natural England) that then passed on more detailed local information. The result is a fairly well balanced group with all sectors represented and a good geographical spread.

Figure 3 below sets out the names and contact details for members of the East Durham Shadow LAG, together with brief details (where available) to highlight the experience and interests that they bring to the Shadow LAG.

Details are presented in 3 categories for ease of reference - public sector, private sector, & third sector (comprising voluntary / community sectors & social enterprise).

Figure 3: Membership of the Shadow LAG

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Niall Benson</td>
<td>Durham County Council</td>
<td>Environment (Heritage Coast)</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>County Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Durham</td>
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<td>DH1 5UG</td>
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Representing the Durham Heritage Coast Partnership, Niall is charged with delivering the adopted management plan. This includes objectives covering the protection and enhancement of landscape quality, nature conservation, access and participation. Locally he is also Vice Chair of the Environment Implementation Group of the Local Strategic Partnership, and Vice Chair of the Pride in Easington initiative. He has a good knowledge of the special characteristics of the Magnesian Limestone area, and its cultural history and heritage. He represents the Heritage Coast Partnership at regional & national levels as well as ensuring a local presence.

Ken Bradshaw

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ken Bradshaw</td>
<td>Durham City Council</td>
<td>17 Claypath</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Durham City Co.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Durham DH1 1RH</td>
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Ken is Funding Officer for the City of Durham Council. One of his roles is to maximize external funding into the region. There are five wards in Durham as part of the LEADER bid and he has knowledge and skills in working with many of the community and voluntary groups there, alongside colleagues from the Community Development team. As a member of the Shadow LAG he can offer support to projects as they develop using his knowledge of community and social enterprise.
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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Catesby</td>
<td>Durham County Council</td>
<td>Chief Executive’s Office County Hall Durham DH1 5UG</td>
<td>Public</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Victoria works for the Secretariat of County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP), providing secretariat support to the Partnership’s Rural Advisory Group. A key function of this group is to provide rural proofing support and advice to the partnership. In this role, Victoria gathers local rural knowledge and information which she then feeds back to the CDEP to help shape and inform policy. As a member of the East Durham LEADER LAG, she will seek to join up LEADER activity with broader strategic regional and sub regional strategies. She will simultaneously develop a better understanding of new and innovative methods of delivery in rural east Durham.

| Ken Payne          | Seaton with Slingley Parish Council    | Brightwater Stotfold Farm Seaton Village Seaham SR7 0NE | Public |

Ken has been a resident of Seaham and Seaton for more than 30 years. He has worked as a Rural Development Worker for Durham Rural Community Council. More recently he has been Chief Executive of a County Durham based charitable housing association for 10 years, and a private sector and social housing consultant for 18 years. He is a Parish Councillor, school governor, and treasurer at St Mary’s Church, Seaham. Ken is also the author of works on equality and diversity, tenant involvement in housing service delivery, and resident involvement in planning.

| John Price         | Hetton Town Council                   | Hetton Town Council The Hetton Centre Welfare Road Hetton-le-Hole DH5 9NE | Public |

John has had a 35 years career in local government, for many years specialising in leisure provision and large scale event management. More recently he has been Clerk to the Council. Hetton Town Council is the only Parish Council within the City of Sunderland, and as such strives to be recognised and needs to be working in partnership with many organisations, and community groups.

| David Ritchie      | Seaton with Slingley Parish Council   | Field Bank House Dalton le Dale Co. Durham SR7 8QT | Public |

David has been an elected member of Seaton with Slingley Parish Council for 24 years. He is a recently retired Assistant Head Teacher of a special school in Sunderland (33 years experience). He is currently a Director / Trustee of a specialist training organisation in Sunderland that prepares young people and adults with difficulties for employment.
**Kathryn Smith**  
Name: Kathryn Smith  
Organisation: Neighbourhood Mgm’t Pathfinder  
Address: Health Works Paradise Lane Easington Colliery SR8 3EX  
Sector: Public  

Kathryn’s role as Community Involvement Officer includes attending all local resident association, community and multi-agency meetings. This enables residents to express their concerns and facilitates their involvement in regeneration projects. She has extensive experience of working with young people, organising community projects and team building exercises to help raise aspirations. This includes an award winning youth group, the ‘Colliery CrimeBusters’. Kathryn was born and brought up in Easington, and previously worked as a Community Housing Officer in the area. She has built up strong relations with like minded agencies and has an excellent knowledge of the area.

**Andrew Sowerby**  
Name: Andrew Sowerby  
Organisation: Pittington Parish Council  
Address: 21 Plantation Avenue Littletow Pittington DH6 1PY  
Sector: Public  

Andrew is the chairman of Pittington Parish Council and also the North East regional leader of the Cultural Diversity Network for Barclays Bank. He has been a Parish Councillor and the Chairman since May 2007. From being elected to the Council he has undertaken a full policy review updating all of the Council’s governing documents. At the beginning of 2008, Pittington Parish Council started the process of writing a Parish Plan, with the future goal of obtaining Quality Parish Status. Prior to being elected to the Council, Andrew formed Littletow Residents Association. In the past Andrew has been involved with setting up the Houghton Racecourse Community Access Point. This is a community based organisation managed by local people for local people, providing education, training, employment & volunteer opportunities, using community development practices & principles.

**Nicol Trueman**  
Name: Nicol Trueman  
Organisation: Sunderland City Council  
Address: Sunderland City Council Room 2.83 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN  
Sector: Public  

Nicol is Area Regeneration Officer covering Copt Hill and Hetton wards at Sunderland City Council. A function of her post is to action & implement the Local Area Action Plans, in conjunction with the City of Sunderland Local Area Agreement and Strategy. For the past 4 years she has been based in both wards working in community development; this experience has given her a real feel for the needs, attitudes and priorities of the area.

**Tom Whellans**  
Name: Tom Whellans  
Organisation: Durham County Council Community Development Team  
Address: Rivergreen Centre Aykley Heads Durham DH1 5TS  
Sector: Public  

Tom has held the position of Community Development Officer for East Durham, within Durham County Council, for a period of five years. His role is to encourage and promote community involvement and participation through a range of community engagement approaches. The role also includes ensuring that County Councillors are effectively supported in their community leadership roles. He has developed extensive working relationships with a wide range of partners from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors, in developing local initiatives that address identified issues.
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<tr>
<td>Adam White</td>
<td>Easington District Council</td>
<td>Easington District Council Offices&lt;br&gt;Seaside Lane&lt;br&gt;Easington&lt;br&gt;Co Durham SR8 3TN</td>
<td>Public</td>
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Adam works within the Regeneration and Partnerships Unit at the District of Easington Council. His job function is to co-ordinate and support the development of new and existing social enterprises. He has over 10 years experience of working with and supporting the voluntary sector (8 years within Co Durham). He has developed a number of transferable skills that he can bring to the LAG; these include business planning/fundraising experience, project management knowledge, and experience of working within the business support sector.

| Louise Sams      | County Durham Tourism Partnership | Rivergreen Centre<br>Aykley Heads<br>Durham DH1 5TS | Private |

Louise has extensive knowledge of the whole of County Durham and a particular knowledge of the East Durham area. She was involved in the Interim Steering Group for the Magnesian Limestone Partnership. The purpose of the County Durham Tourism Partnership (CDTP) is to provide strategic added value to tourism activity in the county, and leadership to the public and private sectors on the visitor economy. The company also performs the destination management function for the county.

| Andrew Thompson  | A&D Thompson (Farmer)           | Embleton Old Hall<br>Hurworth Burn<br>Wingate<br>Co Durham TS28 5NU | Private |

Andrew is a farmer based near Sedgefield, a member of the National Farmers Union and the spokesperson for the North East Region (all of Yorkshire northwards) on tenancy issues. He runs an operation composting 18,000 tonnes of garden and vegetable material only. He was on the board of the Durham Co-operative Development Association, and in the last 2 years has completed the ‘common purpose course’ for the Durham region.

| Rebekah Watson   | NECC                          | Aykley Heads Business Centre<br>Aykley Heads<br>Durham DH1 5TS | Private |

Rebekah is a Policy Adviser at the North East Chamber of Commerce (NECC). The membership-based company provides support to over 4,000 businesses throughout the North East, working on a diverse range of issues. The policy team is split geographically, and Rebekah’s area is County Durham. Also involved with the Magnesian Limestone project, NECC is keen to support initiatives that bring funding, jobs and enhance the regions villages, towns and cities. NECC offers key links to the region’s business community.
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>William Weightman</td>
<td>County Wise Leisure Ltd</td>
<td>Estate Office Old Burdon Seaham Stoneygate Lane Houghton-le-Hole DH5 8JG</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet Blackburn</td>
<td>Bowburn &amp; Parkhill Partnership</td>
<td>10 Grange Park Crescent Bowburn Co Durham DH6 5BW</td>
<td>Third</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Brown</td>
<td>ELCAP</td>
<td>Brickgarth Easington Lane</td>
<td>Third</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Campbell</td>
<td>The Prince’s Trust</td>
<td>Unit 10 Enterprise House Kingsway North Team Valley Trading Estate Gateshead NE11 0SR</td>
<td>Third</td>
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</table>

William is a farmer who has diversified into education provision on his farm.

Janet has had a lifetime in education, and is currently working with children who have special needs. Over the last four years she has been a committed secretary of the Bowburn & Parkhill Community Partnership. The organisation was born out of the regeneration of the village of Bowburn, a semi-rural area on the edge of Durham City. Janet has striven to gain the very best outcome for the local area and has recently become a member of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Community Network, with an interest in transport.

Susan is Project Manager for Easington Lane Community Access Point … ‘Providing Life Changing Opportunities for Local People’. She has managed this project for the past two years. The principal aim of the project is to promote and create regeneration opportunities in the area, and to deliver services to local people. These include training, well-being, community transport, social activities, childcare, youth work and family activities. She has developed many successful partnerships and has secured both capital and revenue funding to develop services.

Simon is Programme Manager (Business) for The Prince’s Trust. He has been in post for almost nine years during which time he has managed the Trust’s Business Start-up Programme throughout Durham and Northumberland. This supports young people into enterprise in both urban and rural settings. He has previous experience of LEADER+ in both North Northumberland (as a LAG and PAG member and beneficiary) and North Pennines (as LAG and PCG member). He understands the structure of LEADER, how it fits with existing provision and the difference its ‘bottom-up’ approach makes to communities. The Prince’s Trust has assisted various incarnations of LEADER over the years, mostly with targeted outputs (namely young people), but also more broadly in terms of the enterprise agenda and young people and progression.
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<tr>
<td>Liz Charles</td>
<td>Durham Rural Community Council (Lead Body)</td>
<td>Park House Station Road Lanchester DH7 0EX</td>
<td>Third</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Fishwick</td>
<td>Horden &amp; Easington Colliery Regeneration Partnership</td>
<td>C/O Easington Social Welfare Centre Seaside Lane South Easington Colliery SR8 3PL</td>
<td>Third</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Ford</td>
<td>Groundwork East Durham</td>
<td>Seaton Holme Hall Walk Easington Peterlee SR8 3BS</td>
<td>Third</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rona Hardy</td>
<td>Shotton Partnership 2000 Ltd</td>
<td>3 Friar Street Shotton DH6 2HT</td>
<td>Third</td>
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Liz will co-ordinate the role of DRCC within the LAG, bringing expertise and support from other areas of the organisation. These include community planning, support for community buildings, and community health initiatives. Liz also brings her own experience of Community Supported Agriculture schemes and access to research networks via Newcastle University. The wider role of DRCC as lead body for East Durham LEADER is described in more detail in section four.

Michael is the Project Manager for Horden and Easington Colliery Regeneration Partnerships. These are independent community groups working for the regeneration of the two communities, by building community capacity and working together; improving the environment and community facilities; and improving opportunities in training and employment. Michael has knowledge of the history, heritage and current environment of Horden and Easington Colliery on the East Durham Coast. He also brings experience of running a growing community organisation.

John is Operations Manager for Groundwork Trust (East Durham and Hartlepool), developing and managing programmes of activity and projects, in conjunction with community and landscape teams. He works in partnership with statutory and community organisations. This involves attending many strategic and local regeneration partnerships. The aim is to support the development and implementation of key policies and strategies, to further the economic development of communities across the area. He is a co-opted member of the board of East Durham Trust. He has 18 years experience of housing and regeneration within deprived communities across the North East and a degree in Housing Studies. For eight years he co-ordinated area based regeneration programmes funded from the Single Regeneration Budget programme via One North East.

Rona is the former Chairperson (now employed part time) of Shotton Partnership 2000 Ltd which is run by volunteers who live in the village. The aim of the Partnership is to improve the quality of life for the residents of the village including health, vocational training, housing, environment and community facilities. She is an active board member of East Durham Trust since it was founded and she is a representative on the Economic, Liveability Local Strategic Partnership Executive, Pride in Easington, and the Strategic Funding groups.
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<tr>
<td>Gloria Hird</td>
<td>Wheatley Hill Community Association</td>
<td>Wheatley Hill Community Centre Stephens Terrace Wheatley Hill DH6 3JS</td>
<td>Third</td>
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</table>

Gloria is a qualified social worker with a business background. She has worked in the Voluntary & Community Sector for 5 years, as the Centre Manager at Wheatley Hill Community Association in Easington District, and across County Durham. During this time three major capital projects and two revenue projects have been successfully delivered, and an innovative and entrepreneurial approach to service delivery developed. Gloria strongly believes in engaging with the local community, partnership working, social inclusion and improving the quality of people's lives.

| Debbie Lamb       | Development Trusts Association NE | 74 Medomsley Road, Consett Co Durham DH8 5HP | Third  |

Debbie has been the Regional Development Manager for the Development Trusts Association (DTA) for six years. The DTA supports a learning network for members, provides advice and information (primarily on community enterprise and development of property assets), and lobbies at national and regional levels around enterprise and assets. The DTA has two members in the LEADER area and has gained local knowledge from work with those trusts. Debbie’s interests are in community economic development, keeping services local, and potential tie-ins between farming and the local community to keep food local. She is also interested in supporting ways in which the community can get involved in renewable energy production, both to benefit the environment and to earn money which can be used for community benefit.

| Mrs D N Liversidg | Haswell & Haswell Plough Partnership | Manor House Haswell County Durham DH6 2AG | Third  |

Biographical information awaited at the time of publication

| Alan Liversidg    | Haswell & Haswell Plough Partnership | Manor House Haswell County Durham DH6 2AG | Third  |

Biographical information awaited at the time of publication

| Les Oliver        | Trimdon Joint Partnership           | Trimdon Parish Council c/o The Junior School Trimdon Village TS29 6JU | Third  |

Les is parish clerk at Trimdon, and chairs a social and economic regeneration charity in the village called Trimdon 2000 Ltd. He is also a member of the joint Trimdons Regeneration Trust, chair of governors at Trimdon Junior School, and has been clerk to the governors at Bishop Auckland College for 10 years. Les has worked in local government since leaving school, including 33 years with Durham County Council. He has 25 years experience as parish clerk in other areas of the county.
Denis Rooney
National Trust
Durham National Trust Manager
Whitelea Farm
Easington SR8 3UX
Third

Denis was appointed as Warden for the Durham Coast in 1991, with the remit of improving environmental quality, access and landscape with local community involvement. This is a role he has continued to fulfil as Property Manager. Denis was the National Trust representative on the Turning The Tide Partnership and currently with the Heritage Coast Partnership. He also represents the National Trust on various local partnerships dealing with regeneration and health.

Shirley Wardle
Aim High Network
1 Palmer Road
South West Industrial Estate
Peterlee SR8 2HU
Third

Shirley manages the day to day running of the Aim High Network. This brings together the existing outreach services in Easington District so that a more efficient and effective service can be offered to residents of the area. This helps residents to raise their aspirations, and take their first steps towards accessing learning, gaining employment or starting their own enterprise. Shirley has skills and experience in administration, event organisation, communication, networking, marketing and ICT. Shirley has lived in Durham for most of her life. She ran a county-wide (rural areas only) project before working for Aim High.

**Figure 4: Membership of LAG by sector and administrative district**

Figure 4 above shows a breakdown of LAG membership by sector and administrative area; whilst the map below highlights the geographical spread of LAG members across the LEADER area.
Groups that have been poorly represented in previous LEADER programmes (young people, land-based enterprises, and the private sector) were targeted in the recruitment process. Some success was achieved; however this work is still ongoing and will form part of the remit of the Shadow LAG. Contact was made with the Children’s Board, and although they were unable to send a representative to the Workshop, they are keen to get involved. It is anticipated that work to encourage involvement of young people will be commissioned as part of the development phase.
Structure of the Partnership

The LAG will not be established as a constituted body. Although this may change in future years as the LAG builds its capacity and resources, it is not appropriate or realistic to constitute at this stage. The priority for the LAG is to grow into the programme, and to ensure that the LEADER approach can be successfully delivered for the benefit of communities in East Durham.

DRCC has the legal and constitutional structure to enable it to act as lead body. As such, DRCC will provide a secretariat, employ and manage staff resources, and handle financial accountability on behalf of the LAG. In turn, the LAG will have strategic responsibility for setting the direction and work priorities for staff and the LEADER programme. Responsibility for day to day staff support, including line management, training, support, payroll, pensions, insurance etc will rest with DRCC.

The LEADER workshop at Wheatley Hill attracted 35 enthusiastic delegates

Figure 6 on p18 illustrates how we anticipate the relationships between the LAG, the staff and the lead body to work. It is anticipated that the Shadow LAG will design and adopt detailed Terms of Reference that will provide the policy framework for communications, roles and responsibilities. The details will be developed in the context of the LAG structure set out in this Local Development Strategy (LDS). Further information about roles and responsibilities of the LAG can be found in section four under ‘separation of duties.’
Figure 6: East Durham LEADER — proposed partnership structure

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
- Finance

DURHAM RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
- Lead body
- Employ & manage LEADER staff
- Financial accountability
- Monitoring and reporting
- Secretariat

REGIONAL APPRAISAL PANEL
- Panel to be determined

NEW LEADER LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG) FOR EAST DURHAM
- Strategic responsibility for delivery of Local Development Strategy
- Networking
- Training
- Project Appraisals
- Monitoring
- Development
- Research and evaluation

REGIONAL & NATIONAL
- Local action groups
- LEADER Networks

RDPE DELIVERY PARTNERS
- Forestry Commission
- Natural England
- One NorthEast

LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS
- Community
- CDALC
- County Council
- Local Area Agreement
- Magline Partnership
- Private Sector

MANAGER / ANIMATEUR
Programme management, support for LAG, supporting networks

ADMINISTRATOR
Finance, reporting, monitoring

COMMUNITY PLANNING

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

BUSINESS

YOUNG PEOPLE & ENTERPRISE

WORKING GROUPS / PROJECT DEVELOPMENT NETWORKS
An initial Terms of Reference, effectively forming a set of ground rules for the Shadow LAG, has been drafted from information produced at the Stakeholder Workshop. This is provided below, and will be modified & developed by the Shadow LAG.

**Figure 7: Draft Terms of Reference for the Shadow LAG**

1. The LAG will be comprised of stakeholders from the public, private and community sectors. Public Sector membership is limited to a maximum of 50% of the total LAG.

2. The LAG will seek to be as diverse as possible with a mix of gender, age, socio-economic background, experience, knowledge & skills.

3. The Shadow LAG will develop & expand during the first 12-18 months, broadening its membership, increasing its diversity, and building skills.

4. The LAG will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Local Development Strategy by using local knowledge and networks to encourage the emergence of innovative local development projects.

5. The LAG will seek to support and build capacity of rural communities and relevant sector interests to encourage their involvement in the programme.

6. Some of the initial development work may be commissioned to LAG members, where it targets hard to reach sectors (e.g. young people, small businesses, and land based business sector). A priority area for development will be the inclusion of under-represented groups.

7. The LAG will develop relationships with other LEADER groups in the region and nationally to learn from their experience and areas of good practice and innovation.

8. The LAG will develop relationships with other funding, support, economic development streams that are active in the area of benefit to ensure added value and synergy.

9. The LAG will encourage, support and / or commission research and evaluation for themes, projects, and the LEADER process, where it is beneficial for the area; contributing to their own learning and wider learning within the region.

10. The LAG will be responsible for making decisions about allocating project funding based on the LEADER criteria, and local priorities as laid out in the Local Development Strategy.

11. The LAG will ensure an open and clear process for project selection.

12. LAG members will receive support & advice from the Lead Body to ensure compliance with EU regulations.

13. The LAG will help to share good practice arising out of the LEADER programme.

14. The LAG will promote equality at all levels and stages of the programme and will not allow discrimination on grounds of gender, race, religion, faith, disability, age, or sexual orientation.
**Equal opportunities**

One of the reasons for including a Development Phase in the strategy is to ensure that access to the programme is maximised. It also allows time for capacity building and support for sectors that might not be as well prepared as others to submit projects. Such positive action to promote inclusiveness will be a core feature of the programme. A statement of non-discrimination is included in the draft Terms of Reference (Figure 7, p19) to demonstrate a commitment to non-discriminatory practices; this will be monitored.

Further, the LDS has been structured to enable strong engagement in the LEADER process from its inception. Traditional models of economic regeneration have previously had minimal impact on the daily lives of people who live and work in the area. This is one of the reasons for proposing the LEADER approach for East Durham.

LEADER provides an opportunity to bring a more balanced approach between top down and bottom up models of regeneration. This increases opportunities for all, allowing regeneration to begin with where people feel themselves to be. It builds for them, setting targets that are realistic, meaningful and therefore have potential for longer-term sustainability.

**Evidence of Support**

Contact details and Letters of Support for this proposal from LAG members can be found in Appendix 4 from p85.

### 2. Coherence of the area

This section describes the characteristics of the geographical area covered by this LEADER Strategy. It demonstrates the coherence of the area and the need for the innovative and community led approach of LEADER. Quantitative data has been drawn from a range of sources, supplemented (where applicable) by qualitative ‘local knowledge of the patch’. This was captured during a LEADER Workshop involving 35 delegates from the public, private and third sectors, held in Wheatley Hill on 3 April 2008.

**Coverage area**

The proposed East Durham LEADER area comprises 30 wards extending across 296 square kilometres (114 square miles). It covers Easington District, parts of Durham City and Sedgefield Districts (all County Durham), and two wards from the City of Sunderland. The area is compact and neatly defined, being bounded by the A1 motorway in the west and the North Sea to the east. The Tyne & Wear and Tees Valley conurbations (‘City Regions’) lie to the immediate north and south respectively. Figure 1 (p4) contains an outline map of the LEADER area, showing both Ward and Parish Boundaries. A comprehensive Ordnance Survey® map of the area, overlain with ward boundaries is provided electronically to effectively ‘sit inside the back cover’.
The assessment panel raised concerns at the Expression of Interest stage, about the apparent urban / rural dissection of the area. Section 2 (p5) of the ‘Guidance for groups preparing Local Development Strategies’ states that only rural areas are eligible for LEADER funding. However it does not explicitly state how ‘rural’ should be defined. Of course, this has long been a contentious issue leading to the adoption of differing definitions over time, including a 10,000 population threshold, above which settlements were defined as Urban. For the purposes of this Local Development Strategy we have used ‘The Rural Definition’ developed by Defra, ONS, ODPM, Welsh Assembly & the Countryside Agency in 2004. At the time of writing, One NorthEast was seeking clarification as to the suitability of this measure for LEADER purposes.

Figure 8: Tier 1 (rural) and Tier 2 (urban wards)
It is important to note that the inter-play between the more densely populated areas of East Durham and the smaller rural settlements is critical in terms of service access and delivery. Large Town Councils are a typical characteristic of the area. They tend to be located in areas of higher population but serve a wider area, extending to, and including a number of much smaller and more rural settlements. The Town Councils draw their precepts from the area as a whole and the smaller settlements benefit from the greater level of local resource that is generated through the Town Councils. Communities living and working in East Durham do not separate along population lines.

In an effort to allay the concerns of the assessment panel, we have undertaken research to determine which settlements will be appropriate for LEADER funding. Figure 8 (p21) shows the LEADER area subdivided between rural and urban wards. The areas shaded white on the map comprises 17 wards (listed in Figure 9 below) that are classified as rural according to the 2004 definition. These ‘Tier 1’ wards extend across 239 square kilometres (92 square miles). They have a resident population of 74,900 who will be the prime beneficiaries of LEADER funding.

**Figure 9: Tier 1 rural wards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward name (2003 boundaries)</th>
<th>Population (2001 census)</th>
<th>Location (district or unitary Authority)</th>
<th>Parish / Town Council areas covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bishop Middleham &amp; Cornforth</td>
<td>3745</td>
<td>Sedgefield</td>
<td>Bishop Middleham, Cornforth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackhall</td>
<td>5355</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Monk Hesleden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassop-cum-Quarrington</td>
<td>5587</td>
<td>City of Durham</td>
<td>Cassop-cum-Quarrington, Croxdale and Hett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coxhoe</td>
<td>5539</td>
<td>City of Durham</td>
<td>Coxhoe, Kelloe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easington Colliery</td>
<td>4957</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Easington Colliery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easington Village &amp; South Hetton</td>
<td>5141</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Easington Village, Hawthorn, South Hetton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishburn &amp; Old Trimdon</td>
<td>5467</td>
<td>Sedgefield</td>
<td>Fishburn, Part of Trimdon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haswell &amp; Shotton</td>
<td>5873</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Haswell, Shotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hutton Henry</td>
<td>1789</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Castle Eden, Hutton Henry, Nesbitt, Sheraton with Hulum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murton East</td>
<td>3648</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Dalton-le-Dale, Part of Murton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murton West</td>
<td>3597</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Part of Murton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Trimdon &amp; Trimdon Grange</td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>Sedgefield</td>
<td>Part of Trimdon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The remaining 13 wards shaded yellow on the map are technically classified as Urban according to the 2004 criteria, and cover the principal centres of population, including Hetton, Peterlee & Seaham. These ‘Tier 2’ wards (listed in Figure 10 below) have a resident population of 75281, extending across 57 square kilometres (22 square miles).

However, it should be noted that the Horden wards, with a combined population of 8526 would be defined as rural using the 10,000 threshold. The settlement shares many of the characteristics of ‘rural’ settlements such as Murton, has an active Town Council, well established Third Sector, and is home to the Acumen Trust, a successful and well respected Social Enterprise.

**Figure 10: Tier 2 urban wards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward name (2003 boundaries)</th>
<th>Population (2001 census)</th>
<th>Location (district or unitary authority)</th>
<th>Parish / Town Council areas covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acre Rigg</td>
<td>4117</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Peterlee Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copt Hill (formerly Eppleton)</td>
<td>12218</td>
<td>City of Sunderland</td>
<td>Parts of Houghton le Houghton le Spring and Hetton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawdon</td>
<td>5476</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Seaham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dene House</td>
<td>3806</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Peterlee Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dene Side</td>
<td>5593</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Part of Dalton-le-Dale, Part of Seaham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eden Hill</td>
<td>4189</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Peterlee Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hetton</td>
<td>11222</td>
<td>City of Sunderland</td>
<td>Peterlee Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horden North</td>
<td>4976</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Part of Horden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horden South</td>
<td>3550</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Part of Horden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howletch</td>
<td>3846</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Peterlee Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passfield</td>
<td>5901</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Peterlee Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seaham Harbour</td>
<td>5284</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Part of Seaham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seaham North</td>
<td>5103</td>
<td>Easington</td>
<td>Part of Seaham, Seaton-with-Slingley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>75281</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Source:</strong> Corporate Research Information, Durham County Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 17 ‘Tier 1’ rural wards display a high level of homogeneity, and have sufficient critical mass to form a coherent LEADER area in their own right. However we have chosen to also include the remaining 13 ‘Tier 2’ wards within the proposed LEADER area. This is on the basis that they add value to the initiative. As previously stated, they are important to the viability and sustainability of the smaller settlements. Further, to exclude these wards could fragment the cohesiveness of the area.

The Tier 2 wards include landscape and communities with distinctive rural characteristics, which are important contributory factors to the cohesiveness of delivery of LEADER in the area. All of these wards sit within the identified Magnesian Limestone area. Specific examples include Horden (North and South), which borders the designated Heritage Coast area, and Copt Hill & Hetton (Sunderland), which are fringed by the Great North Forest and contain a number of farms and land based businesses within their boundaries.

These more urban communities provide key services for the surrounding rural areas, including healthcare, transportation hubs, further education, administration and a wider retail offer. They contain a broad range of community organisations and buildings that are well placed to deliver LEADER funded capacity building initiatives that primarily benefit rural residents.

**Landscape / geography and character of the area**

Around 90% of the proposed LEADER area sits within the Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau (Mag-Lime) Joint Character Area. This is a gently undulating, low level upland area that dips gently southwards and eastwards towards the North Sea coast. It extends from Newton Aycliffe, near Darlington north-eastwards to South Shields; almost 67% of the Plateau lies within the proposed LEADER area boundary. Figure 11 (page 25) shows the location and extent of the proposed LEADER area in relation to the Joint Character Areas.

1Joint Character Areas (JCA) are used to classify landscapes with broadly similar characteristics. Originally developed by the Countryside Commission & English Nature (now Natural England) they are widely used to support Defra initiatives. The Magnesian Limestone Plateau is one of 25 JCAs in the north-east region. Source: Countryside Commission (1998) Countryside Character Volume 1: North East Countryside Commission, Cheltenham
A prominent west-facing limestone escarpment marks the western edge of the Plateau, forming a series of valleys and steep bluffs that overlook the lowland valley of the River Wear. The eastern coastal strip is equally dramatic, characterised by yellow limestone cliffs, and steeply sided wooden valleys known as ‘Denes’. The entire stretch from Sunderland to Hartlepool has been designated as Heritage Coast, in
recognition of its outstanding landscape value. The area also contains several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI’s) including Castle Eden Dene.

Castle Eden Dene, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest

Woodland cover is generally sparse, restricted to small stretches along the coastal ‘Denes’ and occasional broadleaved woods found within parkland and country estates. The Great North Forest fringes the northernmost reaches of the proposed LEADER area, using woodland as a regeneration tool to improve landscape and recreation for local residents and visitors alike.

The remaining 10% of the proposed LEADER area comprises a narrow strip along the western edge, forming part of the Tyne & Wear Lowlands Joint Character area (see note¹, p24). This is an undulating landscape, with sparse woodland cover, incised by the valley of the River Wear and its tributaries.

Natural and man-made characteristics have combined to give the proposed LEADER area its distinctive and coherent character. Extractive industries have been, and remain significant to the area, although it is quarrying rather than coal-mining that is now the driving force. The workings of both current and disused quarries are widely visible; by contrast the scars of past coal-mining activity remain, although they are much less visible following restorative work. Arable and pastoral agriculture remains another highly visible activity throughout the proposed LEADER area, although numbers working in the industry now account for only a small percentage of total employment, in line with national trends.
Contrasting views of the East Durham Landscape: Quarrying near Bowburn, Hurworth Burn Reservoir, and rural isolation near Hesleden

Settlement patterns reflect the past development trajectory of the area. Traditional villages remain with characteristic stone built houses clustered around a central village green. For the most part however, settlements take the form of brick built terraces, often back to back, that sprang up from the Nineteenth Century to house local colliery workers.

To the north and east, settlements have grown larger and more densely populated reflecting their growing importance as dormitory settlements for the nearby Tyne & Wear ‘city region’. Peterlee is a post-war addition to the east Durham landscape, and sits apart in character from the rest of the area. Across the rural Tier 1 wards, and particularly inland, settlements tend to be sparsely situated and insular, reflecting the ‘cradle to grave’ culture of reliance that the mining industry engendered.

A landscape of contrasts: traditional village green at Hett & ex-colliery housing at Blackhall
**Administrative boundaries**

The proposed LEADER area currently straddles five administrative boundaries, covered by Durham County Council, Durham City, Easington & Sedgefield District Councils, and City of Sunderland Council. With effect from April 2009, local government reorganisation will result in the abolition of the current two tier structure, leading to the emergence of a single unitary authority covering the whole of County Durham.

Officers from four out of five current authorities have been involved in the consultation process for this bid, and are supportive of our proposals. They are fully committed to working with other public, private and voluntary sector partners to extract maximum benefit for the local community.

We do not envisage administrative boundaries and structures creating any difficulties. Officers and members of the current Durham County Council possess significant experience of the LEADER process, having been actively involved with earlier LEADER funding rounds in the North Pennines. The two Sunderland wards share common interests and face similar challenges to their counterparts across the county boundary. We believe there will be opportunities to share good practice and collaborate on project development in the urban / rural fringe that straddles the northern edge of the proposed LEADER area. The involvement of City of Sunderland Council also helps to strengthen the links of the rural hinterland into the nascent ‘city region’ agenda.

**The Magnesian Limestone Natural Area Partnership**

There are significant emerging opportunities for the East Durham LEADER Partnership to collaborate with the fledgling ‘Magnesian Limestone Natural Area Partnership’ (Mag-Lime Partnership) on capacity building initiatives, project development and delivery. The Mag-Lime Partnership has been spearheaded by Natural England and Durham County Council, with the support and active participation of public, private and community sector stakeholders from across the area. The partnership’s vision is ‘working together in a landscape-scale Partnership to make a positive difference to quality of life and to the unique natural environment of the Magnesian Limestone area’. In broad terms, this translates into three aims:

- To champion and co-ordinate informed, participative and integrated action on the environment across a broad range of sectors.
- To deliver environment-led actions that achieve social and economic benefits.
- To work with communities connected to the natural area to help shape a landscape that reflects their needs.

There is scope to achieve real synergy between the two partnerships. As outlined above, there is a significant overlap both in terms of geography, and in our respective aims. The Mag-Lime partnership also intends to support other initiatives operating within its sphere of influence and, at least in the early stages of development, there
may be some commonality of membership. It is important to remember that the two partnerships are distinctive, with different funding streams, design, and methods of decision-making. However LEADER and Mag-Line complement each other, and have the potential to add value that exceeds the sum of the parts.

**Population**

As outlined earlier, the combined population of the proposed LEADER area is 150,181\(^1\), marginally exceeding the preferred threshold. Using the 2004 ‘Rural Definition’ this divides into 74,900 for the Tier 1 (rural wards) and 75,281 for the Tier 2 (urban wards). Population density averages 507 per square kilometre across the entire area, however this is distorted by significantly higher population densities in the larger urban settlements including Hetton, Peterlee and Seaham. Across the rural Tier 1 wards, the population density averages 313 per square kilometre.

**What gives the area coherence?**

The wards that make up the proposed LEADER area are very much ‘communities in transition’, struggling to come to terms with the decline of the Durham coalfield, that has left behind a legacy of economic and social deprivation. Only brief details are provided here, as these factors are covered in more depth in the landscape / geography section (above), and the economic underperformance section (below):

- More than 90% of the area sits within the ‘Magnesian Limestone’ plateau.
- Arable and pastoral farming remains the dominant land use away from the main settlements, although numbers employed are now modest.
- Quarrying remains a significant activity across the area through to the present day.
- Coal-mining was the dominant industry throughout this area for more than 100 years until the 1990s. Its legacy can be seen in dispersed settlements of terraced houses built to provide accommodation for colliery workers and their families.
- Distinctive community buildings e.g. Miner’s Welfare Halls, and shared social networks / pastimes e.g. allotments, pigeon racing etc.
- Below average earnings levels for male and female employees.
- Below average business start-up rates.
- Social problems more commonly associated with deprived urban areas including educational under-attainment, drug abuse, health problems, and high levels of teenage pregnancy.

\(^1\) Based on 2001 census data obtained from Corporate Research Information, Durham County Council
The need for a LEADER Approach

This area is ideally placed to benefit from a LEADER approach. Although East Durham has witnessed significant and welcome investment through major infrastructure projects e.g. new roads, business parks etc, anecdotal evidence suggests that the benefits of top down investment have yet to benefit local people.

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)\(^1\) Data for 2007 paints a gloomy picture. Easington District for example ranks in 7\(^{th}\) place nationally on extent, average score and average rank (average score - 8\(^{th}\) in 2004; other placings unchanged). This picture of continued underperformance is mirrored in the remaining East Durham LEADER wards outside Easington. Figure 12 illustrates the IMD performance across the area in 2007.

**Figure 12:** IMD performance across the LEADER wards in 2007

\(^1\) The Index of Multiple Deprivation measures levels of deprivation using data from seven domains - income, employment, health and disability, education, skills & training, barriers to housing & services, the living environment and crime. The mapping data supplied here has been adapted from information provided in the Local Authority Area Profiles, November 2007, prepared by Government Office North East. These provide district specific data covering Durham City, Easington, Sedgefield & Sunderland.
East Durham represents a rural area coming to terms with long term post industrial decline. The need for support and interventions to stimulate economic growth and social cohesion has been acknowledged over many years via a variety of regeneration initiatives; most of these have been focused on built infrastructure or specific target areas e.g. skills or employment. Although some initiatives have targeted community engagement, there has been little opportunity for community led activity. Resources for community engagement have largely been in the control of the public sector.

However, this area of County Durham has a particularly strong characteristic of localised self help, in common with many rural areas in the region. The LEADER model has the potential to build upon this strength, and provide an incentive for harnessing local assets in a wider and more strategic approach to local development.

The fact that high levels of deprivation still exist in the former coalfield areas is evidence to support the assertion that the ‘top-down’ approach to regeneration has not always produced the anticipated results. This is not restricted to East Durham as was concluded in a study on Coalfields Regeneration in 2000:

“There is a growing recognition that existing top-down formal sector approaches and their related policies and programmes have not led to successful regeneration of the coalfields to date. ... Persistent problems and experiences of economic inactivity, poverty and related problems continue to characterise these places.” (Bennett et al, 2000)

The Bennett et al study suggests that an alternative approach of more community led, ‘bottom-up’ development, properly supported by policy and funding, may be a more useful tool for regeneration. LEADER provides an exciting opportunity for a sustained effort at community led rural development in an area blighted by post-industrial decline.

The LEADER Workshop gathered a wealth of information from an enthusiastic and committed audience

The LEADER Workshop in Wheatley Hill on 3 April 2008, provided a forum for local stakeholders to identify the area’s key assets, and consider opportunities for communities to build on some of the more localised initiatives. Delegates were invited to undertake a three part exercise, involving:

I. Identification of Assets (Human, Social, Environmental, Physical, and Economic)
II. Exploration and identification of issues, weaknesses, gaps
III. Proposals for project ideas to address some of the issues using the identified assets

The Workshop produced a wealth of local knowledge and an indication of potential projects to be developed. Figure 13 below summarises the area's main assets. Key issues are covered in the next section entitled ‘Economic Underperformance’. Project themes are outlined in Section 3, and covered in more depth in Appendix 2 (from p74).

Figure 13: East Durham LEADER - mapping local assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS (Summary)</th>
<th>Human</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Physical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive attitudes (e.g. resilience, ‘can do’, local pride, caring, passionate)</td>
<td>Many community groups and associations</td>
<td>Good road &amp; rail transport links</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptability/ability to change</td>
<td>Aim High Network</td>
<td>Rights of Way network</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of volunteering</td>
<td>East Durham Trust</td>
<td>Allotments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprising young people</td>
<td>Groundwork Trust</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close, stable communities / community spirit</td>
<td>Excellence Cluster School Networks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong sporting and musical traditions</td>
<td>Sporting clubs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience of previous European Union (EU) funding via Urban II</td>
<td>Young people’s activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health initiatives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bridleways Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brass bands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agricultural history &amp; culture</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coal mining history</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cross boundary working (Heritage Coast &amp; Urban II)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parish Councils</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural / urban interface</td>
<td>Magnificent distinctive landscape - coast, rivers, denes, attractive villages</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Centres / Museums / Listed buildings</td>
<td>Recycling projects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Development land</td>
<td>Nature Reserves / SSSIs e.g. Castle Eden Dene</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>New housing / affordable housing</td>
<td>Heritage sites</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports facilities / Children’s playgrounds</td>
<td>Rainton Meadows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Centres</td>
<td>Rights of Way network / cycle paths</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Coast</td>
<td>Magnesian Limestone Grasslands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade II and III agricultural land</td>
<td>Great North Forest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Transport</td>
<td>Coastal path</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seaham Harbour</td>
<td>Rare species and habitats</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eco schools</td>
<td>Clean air and blue flag beaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seaham Hall</td>
<td>Wind turbines</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open spaces / village greens / parish land</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pick your own farm</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Woodland Trust land</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ellemore Woods (new 250 acre planting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>Economic</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business Link (Seaham) / North East Chamber of Commerce (NECC) / Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) / Confederation of British Industry (CBI)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seaham Hall (luxury boutique hotel)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Centres of population (= good local markets)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Development Trusts Association support</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Brownfield land</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Acumen Community Interest Development Trust (Acumen)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business Parks / Industrial Estates</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strategic positioning</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equine businesses (&amp; associated support businesses)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C2C Cycle route</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Local shops</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dalton Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flexible workforce</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
This exercise demonstrated that the area possesses some very strong assets that delegates often felt passionately about. There is evidence of strong communities, with many examples of positive attitudes and resilience in the face of hardship. One delegate, experienced in working with young people in the area, commented on the relative willingness of this group to become involved in entrepreneurial activities. However he also thought this might be the result of frustration at the lack of alternative opportunities. There is a diverse and active voluntary and community sector, sometimes hampered by lack of access to funds, but with a long tradition of self-help. There are strong historical cultural traditions that tend to bind communities together, and provide a strong sense of identity and place. Some success in addressing long-standing employment problems had been achieved by the innovative approaches of Acumen and the Aim High Network.

As outlined earlier, East Durham is well placed geographically with good rail and major road links (A1/A19). The urban centres of population offer potential local market opportunities. There are some unique features and attractions in the area including Seaham Hall, Seaham Harbour, the Magnesian Limestone grasslands, and the Heritage Coast. The recent rise in the number of equine and related businesses was noted by several delegates, although this growth has highlighted a deficiency in bridleway provision that is causing some concern.

**Economic underperformance**

Regrettably, East Durham is better known for the quite severe economic, social and health problems that continue to be experienced across the area. Delegates were asked to consider the key issues (challenges) facing the proposed LEADER area; these were then ranked under a series of headings. Figure 14 (p35) presents the issues in tabular format supported where appropriate by recent statistical evidence.
### Figure 14: Economic underperformance in East Durham

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Workshop feedback</th>
<th>Supporting evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Demography</strong></td>
<td>Lack of inward migration to rural areas</td>
<td>Population levels across the UK have risen in recent years. This is mirrored in County Durham, which has seen its population increase by 1.3% between 2001 - 2005(^1) reversing a previous pattern of decline. In contrast Easington District’s population has continued to decline, falling 8.2% between 1981 - 2004, with a further small year on year decrease in 2005(^1). This trend is projected to continue through to 2026(^2), particularly in more inland rural areas, away from the A19 corridor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ageing population</td>
<td></td>
<td>61.3% of Easington District’s total population is of working age (63.2% County Durham; 66.1% England). People aged 65+ account for 17% of the total population (County Durham 16%; England 15.9%). Although the differences are not significant, economic development practitioners note the need to reverse the pattern of out migration by retaining more young people and working age families within the area(^1).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transport</strong></td>
<td>Low car ownership</td>
<td>Car ownership levels are significantly lower across much of the LEADER area. In Easington District, 42.8% of the rural population did not have access to a car or van in 2001(^3) (Rural North East 13.6%; England 26.8%). Data for Durham City(^2) (29.5% without car or van) is distorted by the inclusion of city centre wards; the rural picture is likely to mirror the situation in Easington. In Copt Hill &amp; Hetton (Sunderland), over 40% do not have access to a car or van(^4).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor public transport &amp; lack of information</td>
<td>Data for public transport provision is not readily available, although the frequency of services linking rural communities to the main urban service centres e.g. Peterlee, Seaham, Durham City and Sunderland is likely to be better than for counterparts in more upland areas of West Durham. Anecdotal evidence emerging from Durham Rural Community Council’s Community Planning work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road infrastructure / poor maintenance</td>
<td>suggests a problem with connectivity between smaller settlements away from the main transport corridors. Initial data from Hetton's Town Plan seems to confirm this viewpoint, although detailed analysis will not be completed until after the LEADER strategy submission date. Comments about poor road maintenance often feature prominently in community planning questionnaires. East Durham has benefited from significant investment in improved road infrastructure in recent years e.g. Seaham link road, however away from the main north-south arterial corridors, the network is less well developed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>High levels of poor health &amp; depression</td>
<td>Statistical evidence strongly supports this feedback. Analysis of 2001 census data(^1) suggests that 33.4% of the population were experiencing limiting long term illness in Easington District. The picture is similar in Copt Hill and Hetton Wards (Sunderland) where 17.3% of residents report their general health is not good (North East 12.3%)(^4). Data from Easington District is a good barometer for the LEADER area; this suggests that 28.3% of the adult population is economically inactive, (County Durham 20%; England 17.1%)(^1). 11.1% of the working age population were claiming incapacity and severe disablement allowance across Easington District in 2006 (County Durham 7.3%; England 4.2%). Mental and behavioural factors, coupled with respiratory / circulatory illnesses account for the majority of claims. Past industrial legacy and poor diet are a factor; however 45% of claimants in Easington District fall within the 25-49 age band. Since most of the mines closed before these individuals reached working age, their illnesses reflect a lack of opportunity and hope in the post-industrial era. 85% of claimants have been receiving benefits for 2+ years (County Durham 80%; England 77%)(^1).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poor diet, lack of fresh produce &amp; lack of education (cookery)</strong></td>
<td>During 2003-2005, deaths linked to circulatory diseases ranged from 130 per 100000 population in Easington District to 138 per 100000 in Sedgefield (North East 109 per 100000; Great Britain 90 per 100000). Cancer related deaths were measured at 146 per 100000 in Easington &amp; Sedgefield Districts (North East 136 per 100000; Great Britain 119 per 100000). Contributory factors include depression and a sense of hopelessness felt by many residents in ex-mining communities. Below average household income and above average numbers of one parent families are also factors (see below). From 2001-2003, teenage pregnancies averaged 60 per 1000 in the 15-17 age group in Easington District (North East 51 per 1000; Great Britain 42 per 1000).</td>
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</table>
| **Housing** | **Poor housing stock**  
**Lack of investment** | Statistical data confirms a rising pattern of local authority owned dwellings that are failing to meet the decent homes standard. In Easington District, 71.1% of homes failed to meet the standard in 2003/04, rising to 74.6% by 2006/07. The pattern is similar in Durham City district (42.9% in 2003/04, rising to 60.8% by 2006/07). Changes to the assessment standard may have increased the challenge facing local authorities. Affordability hasn’t previously been a problem, however recent evidence (prior to the onset of the 2007/2008 ‘credit crunch’) points to changing trends. Average prices in Haswell & Shotton are estimated to have risen 134% (to £109499) between 2000 and 2005, potentially excluding first-time buyers and families on low incomes from the market. This trend may reflect incomers priced out of neighbouring markets exploring more affordable property options. It is bad news for local people, many on low incomes, who are reliant on a rented sector that is not yet meeting the decent homes challenge |
<p>| <strong>Employment/</strong> | <strong>Need for more people focused</strong> | Self-employment rates across the LEADER area are well below sub- |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business</th>
<th>business support &amp; business networks for new businesses &amp; young people</th>
<th>regional and national averages. In Easington District self-employment was 7% in 2001 (County Durham 9%; England 12%)(^1). Efforts are being made to encourage higher levels of self employment through the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) and other programmes, however lack the results to date appear mixed. VAT registered new business start ups in Easington District increased by 9.5% between 2001-2005 (County Durham was similar and well ahead of the 1.4% national decline(^1)). Information about survival rates is conflicting and only covers the first year of operation which is not necessarily an accurate guide; East Durham Business Service report that in 2006/2007, 85% of new starts survived their first year. There is a lack of data available for micro-businesses, yet this is a sector that offers real potential for rural areas in the future. It is also impossible to quantify the importance of the hidden economy.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low start-up rates</td>
<td>Lack of collateral for investment</td>
<td>Business density rates overall sit well below sub-regional and national trends at 16.2% per 1000 adult population (County Durham 23.6%; England 38.2%)(^1). General employment trends paint an interesting picture of the LEADER area. Extrapolating data from Easington District, it is clear that the ratio of jobs relative to the working age population is below average, at 0.53 (North East 0.7; Great Britain 0.83)(^1). 7% growth in employment over the past 5 years has exceeded both sub-regional and national averages, due in large measure to the development of new business parks along the A19 corridor. The picture in more remote rural parts of the LEADER area is likely to be less encouraging. Many new jobs have been filled by people from outside the area, reflecting the ongoing mismatch between</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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\(^1\) Regional and sub-regional levels are not provided, however Durham is close to the average for the region.
the old industry skills of local people and the differing needs of a new breed of employer.

Manual and low skilled work predominates across much of the LEADER area. In 2006, 31.6% of the adult working population were engaged in this type of work (North East 21.2%; Great Britain 18.7%). Employment levels in Managerial & Professional work were below the national average in 2006, at 25.5% in Easington District (North East 36.7%; Great Britain 42.3%).

Unemployment remains proportionately higher than sub-regional and national averages (2.7% in 2007). However the differences are not significant, especially by comparison to long term illness / disability trends referred to above.

### Youth

| Lack of employment opportunities | Data analysis by Easington District Council indicates that in November 2006, 14% of 16 - 18 year olds were not in education or employment (County Durham 11.3%). Job Seekers Allowance data (October 2007) for the same geographical area indicates that 45.2% of claimants were aged between 18 - 24 (North East 34.4%; Great Britain 30.3%). |
| Lack of youth workers | No statistical evidence available |
| Lack of venues and activities | No statistical evidence available |
| Lack of education | This is reflected in below average education attainment. In 2006, 46.3% of students achieved 5 GCSE’s A* to C in Easington District, a picture likely to be mirrored across most of the other LEADER wards (Durham LEA 56.6%; North East 57.3%; and England 58.5%). Results for Maths, English & Science are below regional and national averages, although the rate of improvement between 1997 - 2006 has been above average. |

### VCS

<p>| Lack of sustainable funding | These anecdotal trends are widely recognised, and accord with |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Shortage of volunteers</strong></th>
<th>Durham Rural Community Council’s own experience and that of our counterparts across the Voluntary and Community Sector. This has been clearly identified through research carried out through One Voice Network. We have been unable to identify appropriate statistical data to confirm the views of Workshop delegates.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Need for more recognition</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Need for more commissioning from public sector</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Tourism

| Lack of accommodation | County Durham Tourism Partnership (CDTP) provided the following comments that accord with the views expressed by delegates at the recent LEADER Workshop. |
| Lack of restaurants | For visitors from outside the region, East Durham can be a challenging concept to communicate. Across County Durham, many existing visitors have a short stay and low spend. 92% are day visitors, yet the remaining 8% who stay overnight contribute 44% of the income to the sub regional economy. |
| Lack of entertainment | There may be opportunities to promote green tourism across the LEADER area. Green tourism, as well as becoming an increasingly important visitor motivator which protects the environment, also has a positive economic impact on individual businesses. However, many more established destinations are already competing on the green tourism ticket. Much work needs to be done to establish awareness of East Durham as a destination, enabling the area to compete with more popular tourism honey pots. |
| Poor image | Improving the quality of the tourism experience will be a key factor moving forward. Quality is an important issue which increasingly becomes a critical factor for visitors and a basis on which many destinations now compete with others. If tourism is to develop and thrive in the LEADER area, the destination needs to increase the number of businesses participating in recognised quality schemes which potential visitors can relate to. Examples include Quality in Tourism Accommodation Grading Schemes, Visitor Attraction Quality Accreditation Scheme, Green Tourism Business Scheme, and |
| No performance venue | |
A Taste of Durham (a pilot scheme to promote the quality of restaurants across Durham).

| Training | Low levels of education & employment | The 2006 Annual Population Survey\(^1\) reported that 14.7% of the working age population in Easington District held qualifications equivalent to NVQ4 or higher in 2006 (North East 22.7%; Great Britain 27.4%). Meanwhile 17.6% of Easington District residents held no qualifications (North East 14.3%; Great Britain 13.8%). These figures are at odds with 2001 Census data indicating that 44.6% of Easington residents had no recognised qualifications. Comparative data for Sedgefield District indicated that 37.4% held no qualifications. Meanwhile in Easington Lane (Hetton), 55.5% of residents aged 16-64 hold no qualifications\(^4\), reinforcing that ward’s position in the top 10 most deprived wards nationally for Education, Skills & Training (2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation).

There is clearly a need to raise education and skills levels across the proposed LEADER area, to boost future economic performance. The 2003 Skills for Life Survey for example, estimated that 20% of Easington District’s adult population needed help with entry level 1 - 3 literacy and numeracy skills (County Durham 15%; England 16%).

Although no statistical information was identified in relation to parenting skills, the numbers of lone parents exceed the county and national average at 11% (County Durham 10%; England 9.5%)\(^1\). 57.6% of lone parents were not working in 2001 (County Durham 51%; England 50%), reflecting the difficulty and cost of securing childcare. This hinders efforts to boost employment and skills levels within the local population.

Economic inactivity rates in Easington District were recorded at 46% in the 2001 Census (County Durham 40%; England 34%). Although the position is believed to have improved over the subsequent five years, over 11000 working age adults are classified... |

Low density agricultural jobs can’t replace industrial jobs lost | Economic inactivity rates in Easington District were recorded at 46% in the 2001 Census (County Durham 40%; England 34%). Although the position is believed to have improved over the subsequent five years, over 11000 working age adults are classified... |
Easington District Council’s 2007 State of the Economy Report points to a clear mismatch between the modern skills needed by local employers, and the old industry skills of local working age residents. This is accentuating the problem of worklessness and economic inactivity, with newly created jobs often being filled by outsiders. Concerns have also been raised about the significant numbers of poorly qualified young people leaving school, who then find difficulty securing employment. In November 2006, 14% of 16-18 year olds were not in education or employment (County Durham 11.3%)<sup>1</sup>.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity Building</th>
<th>History of paternalism (mining)</th>
<th>These accord with Durham Rural Community Council’s extensive experience and knowledge of rural County Durham. No suitable statistical evidence is available to support the qualitative assessment of Workshop delegates.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of trust in communities to take the lead</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Low levels of confidence</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of diversity &amp; employment opportunities in agricultural sector</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental</th>
<th>Anti-social behaviour</th>
<th>This fits with Durham Rural Community Council’s experience and knowledge of County Durham. No suitable statistical evidence is available to support the qualitative assessment of Workshop delegates.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste Land</td>
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<td></td>
<td>No Green Infrastructure Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of conservation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lack of bridleways</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Derelict buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poorly maintained community buildings</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Low appreciation of outdoor environment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<p>| Services | 17% of Durham City residents, 22% of Sedgefield residents and 31% of Easington District residents live within 2km of a bank (North East 44.7%). Cashpoint access within 2km is typically in excess of 90%; this is important given the lack of ready access to transport, although it’s unclear whether these machines are free at the point |
| Loss of village schools | of use or subject to a fee. | Post Office coverage has traditionally been reasonable, with almost 100% living within 2km of a facility in 2004, however coverage will have deteriorated as a result of recent closures. This will have had a detrimental effect given the high level of benefits claimants across the LEADER area, compounded by difficulties accessing transport. |
| ‘Wayfinding’ information (not just highway signage) poor |  | Health cover is generally good; 76% of residents in Easington live within 2km of a surgery (North-East 52%). Headline statistics mask variations at the local level. Across Sedgefield District only 43% of residents live within 2km of a surgery (North East 52%). |
| Broadband ‘black holes’ |  | Almost 100% of primary schoolchildren live within 2km of school (North East 89%). Secondary schooling fares a little worse; 66% of Durham City children live within 4km of school, rising to 91% in Easington District. |
| Statutory sector don’t trust community groups to work alone |  | No further information |
| Social | Fear of crime | Fear of crime is not supported by hard statistical data. Figures for burglary, vehicle crime and robbery each declined during the period 2002 - 2007, although at a slower rate than the North East region. Recorded burglary was 15.1 per 1000 households (North East 20; England 20.7) in 2002/2003, declining to 12.1 per 1000 (North East 11.3, England 13.4) by 2006/2007². It is unclear if the |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug/alcohol culture</th>
<th>problem is perception linked to anti-social behaviour, or whether crime is going unreported. District level data was unavailable, however across County Durham, there was a 36% increase in patients receiving treatment between 2004/2005 and 2005/2006(^2). Sunderland City Council report that alcohol related disorder together with heroin and crack drug use in Hetton and Copt Hill exceed the city average(^4).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High level of sickness/benefits</td>
<td>See comments in health section above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor parenting</td>
<td>No information available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No performance venue</td>
<td>See tourism section above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racism</td>
<td>No statistical data available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous</strong></td>
<td><strong>Weekly earnings across much of the proposed LEADER area were estimated to be 76% of the national average, and 85% of the North East average in April 2007. Gross weekly earnings in Easington were £393 for males and £303 for females (North East £440 males and £336 female; Great Britain £491 males and £388 females). Hourly pay rates are similarly unfavourable(^2).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to finance</td>
<td><strong>Anecdotal evidence from our work across the area gives credence to these comments, although we have been unable to locate supporting statistical data.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of community action</td>
<td>No data available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More joined up working needed</td>
<td>No data available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t publicise success</td>
<td>No data available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Businesses gravitate towards urban areas | No data available

Notes
NB. It is difficult to extrapolate trends from district-wide data for Durham City & Sedgefield, due to the influence of dominant settlements located outside the LEADER area boundaries. However given the homogeneous nature of the rural LEADERwards, and IMD data highlighted in Figure 12 (p30), we can be confident that trends evident in Easington District data will be replicated across the LEADER area.

Data sources
3. Analysis & Performance Team (Date not provided) Census 2001 and Access to Services Focus on Rural Areas for Durham City, Easington, Sedgefield, Sunderland Government Office North East, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
5. Rob Macmillan (2008) A Shape of Things to Come. Reviewing County Durham’s Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure, Centre for Regional Economic & Social Research, Sheffield Hallam University
The issues (weaknesses, gaps) identified are characteristic of post-industrial and ex-coalfield areas in general - poor health, below average skills and educational attainment, and low levels of economic activity. This is linked to some of the social issues mentioned such as drug and alcohol abuse and anti-social behaviour. Also evident in some of the comments is a frustration at the lack of trust placed in communities by the public sector to run their own affairs and find their own solutions.

Given the context it is surprising, but certainly encouraging, that the amount of information generated by the Asset Mapping exercise far exceeded that of the problems and issues. There is an indication here that East Durham has a wealth of untapped and undercapitalised assets with the potential to generate quality of life benefits for residents and visitors alike.

East Durham is well served with allotments, providing excellent opportunities to promote the local food agenda, and encourage healthy eating. The area ranks amongst the top 10 on the IMD rankings for poor health and disabilities.
3. Quality of the proposed Local Development Strategy

The Strategy: what it will do?

This section explains how the wider community has been engaged in the production of this Strategy, and specifically how the sectors identified as ‘missing’ in previous LEADER programmes have been and will be engaged. The Aim, Strategic Themes and Local Priorities are set out, and some potential activities that fit within these parameters are offered. Finally, it explains how the Strategy contributes to other regional and local plans, including the Regional Economic Strategy.

Engaging with the community

As a community based organisation, DRCC has had long standing contacts with some sections of the community in East Durham. This has been primarily as a result of support work for community planning and village halls, together with other, more strategic work at the county and regional level. A number of these contacts were engaged in discussions prior to submission of the initial Expression of Interest. This was with a particular view to harnessing local networks and making stronger links with the small business community, land based businesses and young people. For the production of the Local Development Strategy, views were sought from a far wider range of stakeholders at a Workshop held in Wheatley Hill Community Centre.

What can LEADER do for East Durham? Delegates capturing East Durham’s assets at the Wheatley Hill workshop on 3 April 2008

In order to include as broad a range of community and sectoral interests as possible, contact was initially made with a small number of key stakeholders who had local knowledge and strong networks in the area. These included several officers from Durham County Council, Easington District Council, Groundwork East Durham, Business Link, The Princes Trust, and Natural England. Most individuals were then contacted by telephone or in writing to discuss the proposal for a LEADER programme in East Durham.
For many people, this was their first contact with LEADER and it was therefore important to allow adequate time for explanation and discussion. As a result of this process, a total of 76 people were invited to attend the Workshop, of whom 35 were able to attend. Some of those who were unable to be present at the event have nevertheless signed up to be a member of the LAG.

The aims of the consultation were to present an introduction to LEADER and the proposal for a programme in East Durham. It also gave delegates an opportunity to share ideas and knowledge which could become part of the Local Development Strategy. This was achieved through a facilitated participatory process enabling everyone to contribute. A copy of the Workshop programme is provided in Appendix 3 (p 84).

There was a deliberate attempt to demonstrate the ethos of LEADER by using methods that enabled everyone to be fully involved, and not just the more confident delegates. Following the introductory plenary, three sessions enabled delegates to:

I. Identify the assets of the proposed area (Human, Social, Physical, Economic, Environmental and Physical).

II. Consider and identify the issues, weaknesses and gaps.

III. Suggest projects, either brand new or already in development, that might address some of the issues, and if possible identify what assets would be used.

The results of the Workshop produced some high quality local information to complement the statistical data, and also provided valuable information which forms the basis of the section on potential activity in this Strategy.

Throughout the development of the LDS, two members of staff from DRCC have been closely involved in the consultation process for the new ‘Mag-Lime Natural Area Partnership’ being developed across a similar geography. The Partnership is still in the formative stages, but it is expected that LEADER will continue to have a close
involvement in its development. The purpose of this partnership is environment-led regeneration, to include social and economic benefits. Collaborative working at this early stage has allowed us to use the outputs from the Mag-Lime consultation in considering the potential activity in our Strategy.

Ongoing community engagement will be a key element of the East Durham LEADER programme. During the 12-18 months development phase of the Strategy it will be a priority for the LAG to strengthen its diversity so that there are people with a wide range of backgrounds and experience.

We expect to attract people with differing educational levels, diverse employments and incomes, a broad range of skills, a good spread of age and gender, as well as a balanced sectoral composition. This will enable the LAG to have access to many different networks in the community, both formal and informal. This will form the basis of good community engagement as people can be contacted personally and at the place where they are based. We will not be asking LAG members to ‘represent’ a particular sector, as the validity of this claim is often open to question. Rather we are asking people to bring along the totality of their professional and personal experiences of living and working in the area, and to allow the diversity of these to reflect the wider community. In addition to this approach, there will be periodic public events during the life of the programme, to disseminate information, and for ongoing consultation.

Engaging with the ‘missing’ sectors

The evaluation of LEADER activities in the North East region undertaken by the Countryside & Community Research Unit (CCRU) at the University of Gloucestershire (2006)\(^1\) noted that LEADER is able to nurture projects and build confidence among actors who have often not hitherto engaged in collective publicly funded projects (p38). However it also reported that there were some key gaps, notably amongst young people, businesses, agriculture and the socially excluded (p72).

Efforts have already been made in respect of land-based businesses and young people. The LDS has been designed to provide a development phase for the LAG, and for supporting, mentoring and developing sustainable projects. As part of the development phase, funding allocations have been set against:

a. Commissioning organisations / individuals with strong local networks, and who are already engaged with these sectors. They will consult with and mentor closer involvement with the LAG, and provide support for the development of emerging themes and projects.

b. Feasibility and technical support for project development.

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\(^1\) The Rural Development Company & Countryside and Community Research Unit, (2006) *Evaluation of LEADER activities within the North East region for One NorthEast University of Gloucestershire & The Rural Development Company*
c. Research, specifically in areas where sectors are working with significant economic, social and/or demographic change, to help with the LAG’s and other LEADER areas’ understanding about how delivery works in those areas.

a. Land Based Sector and Businesses

Five land-based businesses were invited to attend the Workshop event, of which only one farmer was able to attend. Another was obliged to send apologies at the last minute due to staff shortages. This illustrates some of the practical difficulties for small businesses in becoming involved in wider initiatives. It highlights a case for developing a range of consultation methodologies that are sympathetic to the cultures that are at play in the differing sectors.

Despite this, two farmers have joined the LAG, and it will be imperative for the LAG to adopt a flexible approach with convenient times to meet, that helps to accommodate them. There are another two land-based businesses that were unable to attend but who remain interested. These initial contacts will be built upon and a wider network of land-based businesses brought into the programme over time. The newly appointed Specialist Advisers, located within Business Link, will also be drawn upon to assist in developing stronger linkages and consultation frameworks with this sector.

b. Young People

Contact was made with various organisations who work directly with young people in the area; these include the Children’s Board, Groundwork, The Princes Trust, Easington District Council and Wheatley Hill Community Association. Drawing on their expertise and local networks, specific work will be commissioned in the development phase. This will animate the involvement of young people, and generate more effective means of engagement for this group. Specifically, it should enable them to take part in the development of the programme, as well as bringing forward potential initiatives.

As the programme progresses, the LAG will be responsible for identifying other excluded groups and taking positive action to encourage and support their involvement. DRCC’s experience with its ethos based on community development principles, and with many years of supporting community involvement, suggests that this should be one of the strengths of this LEADER Programme.

**Identifying potential activity**

The overall aim of this LEADER programme is to:

‘Implement a programme of community-led sustainable rural development, producing economic, social and environmental improvements and benefits for the rural communities across the defined territory of East Durham’.
The strategic themes and objectives for the programme are to be found in the North East Implementation Plan (NEIP) for the RDPE\(^1\). The Local Development Strategy will adopt the themes and objectives set out in the NEIP as the framework for developing activities with relevant partners. The LEADER approach will be applied to the way projects are developed and delivered. The strategic themes and objectives from the NEIP are summarised below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATEGIC THEME</th>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Micro-enterprise development</strong></td>
<td>To encourage entrepreneurial activity in rural North East England, both within and outside of traditional land based industries with the objectives of:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                                          | • Increasing business start ups  
• Strengthening existing businesses  
• Improving the sustainability of rural businesses  
• Creating markets for rural business products and services |
| **Natural & Cultural Assets**            | To conserve, manage and enhance the Natural and Built Historic Environment of our countryside to the benefit of local communities / businesses and visitors now and into the future, with the objectives of:                                   |
|                                          | • Supporting land management regimes which balance production with the needs of the landscape, habitat, heritage, biodiversity and geodiversity through maintaining, restoring and enhancing these assets;  
• Opening up access and creating recreation opportunities in new areas of the landscape and enhancing existing access provision; and  
• Natural and heritage resource protection through reducing environmental impact. |
| **Bioenergy**                            | To increase the production and use of biomass and biofuels in the North East region with the objectives of:                                                                                                 |
|                                          | • Developing the commercial user market for biofuels;  
• Developing the market for biomass products;  
• Developing the biomass supply chain infrastructure; and |

The local priorities for the programme will be finally agreed by the Shadow LAG during the early stages of the development phase of the programme. Learning from the experience of previous LEADER programmes, they will be reviewed annually to allow for flexibility in response to changing circumstances.

As the evaluation of previous LEADER programmes in the North East points out “new policy issues could emerge at national level, where LEADER, through its support of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustainable Communities</th>
<th>To support rural communities in tackling social disadvantage, through creating the conditions for growth to sustain viable communities with the objectives of:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Creating the conditions for innovative rural service design;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Strengthening rural communities through promoting social cohesion and community engagement;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improving quality of life and equity in rural areas;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Using environmental, cultural and historic heritage assets to enhance quality of life and economic opportunity for rural communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustainable Farming &amp; Forestry</th>
<th>To support the development of farming and forestry supply chain businesses, in order to create a more effective farming and forestry sector, with the objectives of:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Increasing the competitiveness of farming and forestry industries through responsiveness to market signals and shifts in demand;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Creating a farming sector focused on the market, successfully producing food and non food crops in a more efficient way;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Greater collaboration and co-operation within supply chains;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Farm businesses accessing new markets and producing new added value products such as renewable energy products, non-food crops and high value food products; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Woodland managers and forestry supply chain businesses accessing new markets and developing business opportunities associated with woodland and quality forest products.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
innovative actions, could play a piloting role.” (CCRU 2006 - see p27 for reference). The emerging local priorities (from desk-top study and consultation) are as follows:

- Raising economic participation and entrepreneurial activity;
- Realising the economic potential of the wealth of assets identified in the area;
- Projects and ways of working that contribute to combating and mitigating climate change;
- Improving health and opportunities for more healthy lifestyles;
- Providing appropriate training and support to underpin above priorities.

**Project proposals**

As part of the stakeholder consultation process, delegates at the Workshop in April were invited to suggest potential projects that:

- Address some of the identified issues
- Demonstrate how identified local assets can be harnessed.

The full list (including more details about the project ideas outlined in Figure 15 below) can be found at Appendix 2 (p74). From this information, an outline list of potential activities that might be developed and considered in the earlier stages of the LEADER programme has been produced. It should be noted that these ideas are at different stages of development; some will take considerable time to mature, before they are ready to be considered for delivery.

This should not be regarded as an indisputable list of early projects, or a list that excludes other ideas that might subsequently come forward. However it contains some promising ideas, illustrating how the assets of the area might be harnessed and developed to meet the objectives of the programme.

**Figure 15: Potential project ideas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT IDEA</th>
<th>REASON FOR INCLUDING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local wood pellet distribution network</td>
<td>Links to strategic themes of Bioenergy and Micro Enterprise Development; links to local priorities of climate change, using local assets, and entrepreneurial activity. Subject to confirmation of interest by Premier Waste.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Business Directory</td>
<td>Links to strategic theme of Sustainable Communities &amp; to local priorities of raising economic participation and using local assets. Builds on a pilot project, and will foster increased networking and collaboration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Grant Scheme</td>
<td>This idea cuts across all themes and priorities. It will aid capacity building in the early stages of the programme, and help to support the involvement of smaller groups, who might then</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
go on to develop larger projects. It may also help to fund feasibility studies.

| A network of bridleways for East Durham | The need for additional bridleways was raised by several delegates, and was also identified as a potential project by the Mag-Lime consultation. It links to the strategic theme of Tourism and Recreation, and to the local priority of health. Supporting a proposal for exploratory work may be considered. |
| Green Infrastructure Strategy | This was also strongly supported by the Mag-Lime consultation. It may provide useful information to help with the selection and ‘strategic fit’ of some project proposals, including the bridleways network proposal. It links to the local priority of health and will support all of the strategic themes. |
| Young people renovating derelict homes in the area | Links to the strategic themes of Micro Enterprise Development and Sustainable Communities; links to the local priorities of entrepreneurial activity, using local assets, and providing training & support. Young people are identified as one of the ‘missing sectors’. |
| Environmental grazing, adding value, and producing local food for local people | Links to the strategic themes of Micro Enterprise Development & Natural & Cultural Assets; links to local priorities of entrepreneurial activity, using local assets, climate change, and health. The idea for this project is already fairly well developed. |
| Improvements to Rainton Meadows Visitor Centre | Rainton Meadows is the Headquarters of Durham Wildlife Trust, and is an environmental and educational resource for the area. Links to the strategic themes of Natural & Cultural Assets and Tourism & Recreation; links to local priorities of training and using local assets. |
| MAGical Wildlife Project | Links to strategic themes of Natural & Cultural Assets, and Tourism & Recreation. Links to local priorities of health, training, and using local assets. |
| Limestone escarpment environmental conservation area and picnic site | Links to strategic theme of Tourism & Recreation, and to local priorities of health and using local assets. This project is currently being planned. |

1 The Rural Development Company & Countryside and Community Research Unit, (2006) Evaluation of LEADER activities within the North East region for One NorthEast University of Gloucestershire & The Rural Development Company
Other activities identified through the Mag-Lime consultation process have the potential to fit into the LEADER programme. In addition to the two projects mentioned in Figure 15 above, the following suggestions should also be pursued further with the new Partnership:

- Disability Access on nature conservation sites
- Walking the way to health scheme / green exercise
- Improving access and rights of way, to enhance small business opportunities and improve health
- Local food initiative
- Environmental education
- Environmental volunteering / training
- Multi-user access survey (including equine).

Cycling, walking and the equine industry offer excellent development potential

**Links with regional and local programmes of activity**

The local priorities that have been identified to date clearly link to the following sub regional strategies:

- Local Area Agreement (LAA) - in particular, the emerging local priorities that underpin the LAA principles of Place Shaping, Gap Narrowing, Equal and Inclusive, Sustainability and Aspirations. Further information about particular linkages to LAA Indicators can be found in Appendix 1, from p70.
- The Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI)
- County Durham Area Tourism Partnership (CDTP)
- Local Employment Growth Initiative (LEGI)

Linkages and strategic fit between LEADER priorities and sub regional / regional strategies are covered in more detail in Appendix 1, from p70.
4. Financial and administrative capacity

Please note that some of the details provided in this section are subject to further guidance (awaited) from One NorthEast, regarding funding, accountability, relationships and responsibilities. This is to ensure that LDS proposals meet EU requirements. The information provided here is therefore a guide (or framework), showing how the LAG may potentially operate. This is also the case for funding allocations. As yet there are no clear indications concerning funding levels available for individual LEADER areas, and we continue to await further details about eligible and ineligible sources of match funding.

This section sets out governance and accountability arrangements for the LAG. It provides background information about DRCC, as the lead body for this LDS, together with the organisation’s credentials for managing the process and finances. Anticipated allocations of resources within the programme are described. It also illustrates the process for separating duties for project appraisals and approvals, in the interests of objectivity and impartiality.

**Governance arrangements**

The LAG for East Durham LEADER will not be a constituted partnership, in the first instance. The priority for the LAG will be to establish a strong and effective local network, able to support and bring forward effective, robust projects and schemes of activity from the community.

As a partnership with a diverse range of members (including private, public and community sector representation), moves to constitute within the first two years of operation may divert energies into establishing process to sustain a legal entity. There is also a risk that constitutional responsibilities may discourage individuals from participating, during the early stages of formation and development.

Nonetheless, it is imperative that LAG members are committed to having a robust and accountable framework for all of their operations, and that they have a well established and supportive ‘back office’ resource service.

The East Durham LAG will therefore be supported by DRCC, which, as a partner in the programme, will provide a function as lead body. This means that DRCC will have legal responsibility to act on behalf of the LAG in the following key roles:

- Staff employment and support.
- Administration and management of resources.
- Financial accountability for LEADER funding.
- Co-ordination of reports and monitoring.
- Advice and guidance with respect to managing process and accountability.

The LAG will have the following key roles:
- Provision of support, and steering the work of the staff.
- Strategic planning and decision making.
- Strategic direction of the work of the LAG to deliver the LDS.
- Monitoring and responding to outcomes of the work as it progresses.
- Monitoring and approving funding allocations and spend.
- Mentoring and supporting project development.
- Decisions about project approvals.

DRCC and the LAG will agree and sign Terms of Reference as an early priority, setting out responsibilities, lines of communication and accountability. Figure 7 on p19 provides an outline structure.

**Durham Rural Community Council (DRCC) - organisation, experience and principles**

This section describes the background and experience of DRCC, in terms of our capacity to act as lead / accountable body for LEADER in East Durham.

DRCC has been working with communities across County Durham for seventy three years. We are a registered charity, and a company limited by guarantee. Governance is provided by a Board of Trustees, drawn from our membership. They are responsible for strategic management and the accountability of DRCC to our members and stakeholders.

Our finances are managed strategically by our Board of Trustees. Day to day management is undertaken by a sub group of the Board, working with the Director and Senior Staff. DRCC appoints external Auditors on an annual basis. We publish full audited accounts every year as part of our Annual General Meeting with Stakeholders; these are filed with Companies House and the Charities Commission.

Delivery of a range of community focused services is undertaken by a team of highly experienced staff, led by an Executive Director, who reports to the Board and stakeholders on a regular basis. We currently employ twenty members of staff.

DRCC works with both geographical communities, and communities of interest. Fundamentally, wherever we are working, our approach is underpinned by the principles of community development. This provides us with a framework for how we engage with our partners, our funders and communities. These principles include:

- Sustainable development, through the integration of economic, social, environmental and cultural opportunities.
- Bottom up development, coming from within and shaped by local people.
- Effective partnerships, created between local communities, charities, public agencies and private business.
- Consultation and reporting back.
- Long term involvement to make a difference.
**Provision ofSimilar Contracts**

Within DRCC, we have a bank of skills, experience and local knowledge that we apply at every level of our work. We have successfully delivered Service Level Agreements, contracts, programmes of activity, and projects with and for:

- Community groups and VCS (voluntary and community sector) organisations
- Parish and Town Councils
- Government Departments (including Defra, Department of Communities & Local Government, and the former Department of Trade & Industry)
- Regional agencies, including Government Office North East, and One NorthEast
- Non-departmental Public Bodies (NDPB) including Capacity Builders (through the Change Up initiative) and Natural England.
- Charities (including Big Lottery Fund, Carnegie, Community Foundations, the Northern Rock Foundation, and Plunkett)

DRCC has a long track record of fostering and supporting local initiatives until they are ready to operate as sustainable and dynamic agencies in their own right. As an infrastructure agency within the VCS, we specialise in developing local initiatives for the provision of services for communities. We ensure that they have the capacity to sustain their activities as organisations in their own right.

Initiatives in County Durham developed through DRCC, and subsequently supported to become constituted organisations in their own right include:

- County Durham Foundation (grant distribution and management)
- Teesdale Village Halls Consortium
- UTASS (Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Service)
- 2D (a CVS and volunteer bureau, covering Teesdale and Wear Valley)

DRCC has been the accountable body for One Voice Network (operating on behalf of all VCS organisations in County Durham) for ten years. We are currently working with (and as part of) the OVN, to constitute and establish a stronger framework for tackling the modernisation issues that the VCS across County Durham are taking on board.

We apply our experience in community development to work with traditionally ‘hard to reach groups’, particularly with respect to community led planning, which forms a large part of our current working portfolio. Particular groups of potentially disadvantaged people that we support include:

- Elderly people
- Young people
- Individuals living in remote communities
- Socially isolated residents
- Minority groups e.g. travellers
Separation of Duties

The LAG will develop close links with projects as part of their role to support and develop new initiatives across East Durham. As key stakeholders, it is inevitable that some LAG members may have direct individual or organisational interests in evolving projects.

In the interests of objectivity and accountability, it is therefore important to ensure a clear route for project design, appraisal and approval, that separates responsibilities in the decision making process.

The guidelines for groups preparing Local Development Strategies sets out a potential structure for how some of this process may be managed; it is dependent on contributions of time and expertise from LEADER groups across the region. The East Durham LAG supports this proposal in principle, subject to negotiation, and agreement to a regional panel approach from other LEADER areas.

DRCC has a number of staff who are experienced and trained in project appraisal at all levels. This is reinforced by relevant experience within the LAG partnership. An audit of individuals with appropriate experience / training in project appraisal can be supplied, as part of a co-ordinated approach to the establishment of a regional panel.

Figure 16, (p60) illustrates potential roles and responsibilities through the project development and approval process.

Types of Funding

The LDS has been drafted to provide some resources for development. Specifically, we have identified five funding streams to facilitate development that are separate to the main grants / projects funding stream. Figure 17 (p61) provides a summary of anticipated allocations and costs.

1. Activities:

The Staff and Administration budget includes an allocation for activities. This is largely intended to meet the costs of conferences, events, venues and meetings. In addition, it provides resources to help community organisations / groups, and Parish / Town Councils undertake and deliver Community Plans. This resource will help to pay for consultation costs, data analysis and assistance with printing and distribution.

It is intended that groups with projects evolving from the Community Planning process will gain access to project funding through either the small grants scheme, or the main grants programme. Responsibility for use of this budget will rest with the LEADER Manager, under guidance from the LAG.
Figure 16: East Durham LEADER project development, appraisal & approval pathway

LAG PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GROUPS
Monitoring and developing projects

LEADER PROJECT STAFF
Developing and supporting projects in line with Local Development Strategy (LDS)

PROJECT SPONSORS
Bringing eligible projects to the Local Advisory Group (LAG)

EAST DURHAM LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)
Projects referred to LAG for outline approval
- Strategic fit with LDS
- Eligibility
- Deliverability
- Sustainability

Minuted in-principle approvals and comments to RAP

APPROVE

REGIONAL APPRAISAL PANEL (RAP)
Full project appraisal

LAG PROJECT SUB-GROUP
Final decision (NB Members with declared interests will not be allowed in this group)

REJECT

RAP RECOMMENDATIONS & COMMENTS TO LAG

PROJECT SPONSORS
Provide monitoring and progress reports to Regional Development Agency (RDA) & LAG

RDA / DURHAM RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Issue formal offer letter to project sponsors

REJECTED PROJECTS REFERRED BACK FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OR REJECTION
Figure 17: East Durham LEADER - proposed costs

As budgets and costings are still subject to negotiation with One NorthEast, this page has been removed
2. Networking

The development budget includes an allocation for networking. This funding will allow LAG members, project sponsors and stakeholders to participate in networking activity with other LEADER areas. This will be at regional and, hopefully national levels, with the objective of sharing learning, building and piloting co-operation on project development and strengthening networks. Activities will include facilitation of networking (setting up contacts, arranging events, activities etc), travel, conferencing and workshops. It may also help with hosting networking activities. In the event of a regional network being established, some of this resource may be allocated into a shared facilitation budget. Decisions about allocation and accountability will rest with the LAG.

3. Commissioning / engagement

It is anticipated that this allocation within the development budget will focus on activity during the first 2/3 years of the LEADER programme. The resource is intended to be used for commissioning specific, targeted pieces of work with ‘hard to reach’ groups. These may include the land based sector, young people, and small businesses. Specific working groups within the LAG will assist ‘hard to reach’ groups to better engage with LEADER, and to design / bring forward initiatives under the LDS. Stakeholder groups and organisations with specific skills and networks to target hard to reach groups, will be commissioned via the LAG to deliver the consultation and development work that will be required. The outlines for commissioning the work will be treated as projects, and will be subject to the same appraisal and approval process that applies to mainstream projects.

4. Project Development Fund

A delegated small grants resource to help with project development is planned. This will provide the LAG with the opportunity to approve small levels of funding quickly (maximum grant ceiling of £5K). The fund as a whole will be established as a mainstream project, and subject to the standard approval and appraisal process. Once established, DRCC (as lead body) will administer and manage the grants on behalf of the LAG. An alternative option in future years (subject to consultation and negotiation) may be to commission County Durham Foundation to manage delegated grant schemes on behalf of the LAG. A system for local applications and approvals, which meets all audit requirements, will be developed when the fund is established. The Project Development Fund may be used to buy in technical specialisms, undertake feasibility studies, and support specific, project linked learning needs (including networking and collaboration).

5. Small Grants Scheme

A further delegated resource, established in the same way as the Project Development Fund, will provide small grants for community initiatives emerging from Community Plans. The objective is to build confidence and capacity at grass roots level with an
accessible fund that can add value to local resources. Match funding from project sponsors will be a requirement of both the Project Development Fund and the Small Grants Scheme.

5. Fit with national programme objectives

This section addresses how the LDS will contribute towards the overall national objectives for the RDPE, which are:
- Making agriculture and forestry more competitive and sustainable (Axis 1)
- Enhancing the environment and the countryside (Axis 2)
- Enhancing opportunity in rural areas (Axis 3)

As the LEADER approach (Axis 4) cuts across all of the programme priorities, this section illustrates how the LEADER delivery model will foster sustainable local activity. This LDS can help to support delivery of LDS objectives by:

1. Harnessing local intelligence to make things happen.
2. Creating and developing a strong local network with a wide range of skills and experience linked to strategic objectives (business, land based sector, local governance, VCS, communities, networks, specialist infrastructure support services).
3. Opportunities for creative thinking (through networking and collaboration), innovation, piloting new ideas, and collaboration with other areas and interests.
4. Focused research and feasibility studies on specific issues, to inform development opportunities and to underpin project development.
5. Sustainable actions (through local ownership and fit of actions within a co-ordinated framework of activity).

The East Durham Leader LDS has adopted the six key themes and linked objectives set out in the North East Implementation Plan (NEIP); these have been designed as a regional approach to delivery of the national objectives. At a local level, this LDS will contribute through two types of activity:

1. Local project development, and initiatives using LEADER resources for pump priming, developing, testing, piloting and networking.
2. Strategic signposting and development i.e. working closely with regional agencies (Forestry Commission, Natural England, One NorthEast) to refer relevant projects/initiatives for specialist support where and when appropriate. The LDS will also help to building appropriate partnerships that can support and sustain initiatives in the target area e.g. the Mag-Lime Natural Area Partnership.
It is envisaged that the early stages (years 1 - 3) will have an emphasis on developing, ‘hot housing’ and piloting new initiatives. Experience suggests that these may be relatively small scale and localised in the first part of the programme. However as the confidence and experience of the LAG and associated project sponsors develops, more focused and ambitious projects are likely to emerge, with a stronger strategic fit and higher level impacts. By this stage in the programme, it is envisaged that the LAG will be referring projects according to their strategic fit within the three axes.

Specifically, the LDS will contribute towards delivery of the national programme objectives by:

- Harnessing sectoral interests (forestry, land based businesses) in the process of project development and design; providing linkages; funding and brokerage of specialist support and technical assistance to address sustainability, and help foster competitive business led approaches.

- Developing collaborative approaches to green infrastructure, by bringing together common interests (Parish Councils and green spaces, communities and healthy living, tourism and environmental enhancement), in order to add value to the environment as a whole.

- Building cohesion and capacity within the community networks in the area, enabling increased engagement in the delivery of local solutions to local problems.

Specific examples of potential contributory activities are provided in Appendix 2 (p74) which outlines suggested project ideas. Local consultation highlighted a perception that the area remains dominated by the public sector. Communities (and young people in particular) would like more opportunities to manage resources and run their own initiatives.

Further information about the strategic fit with Regional and Sub Regional priorities is provided in Appendix 1 (p70).

### 6. Integration of sustainable development principles

The East Durham Leader programme, embracing community engagement and the initiatives that emerge from it, is firmly rooted in, and underpinned by a commitment to the principles of sustainable development. These are defined by the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (HM Government, 2005) as:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy, just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly
The goal of sustainable development ‘... is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations.’ (HM Government, 2005)\(^1\).

The north east regional development sustainability framework (Integrated Regional Framework or IRF) states that:

‘Sustainable development in the North East means working together to achieve the best possible quality of life for the people of our region, now and in the future, while taking full responsibility for our decisions and actions and considering the possible effects those actions have locally, regionally, nationally and globally.’ (Sustaine, 2008, p5)\(^2\).

This Local Development Strategy and the more detailed plans that emerge from it will be tested against the sustainability appraisal tool from the IRF. The East Durham LEADER programme has considerable synergy with the objectives of the IRF and will seek to contribute to their achievement.

### 7. Commitment to integration across the objectives of the three axes

Section 5 outlined how the East Durham LDS will contribute towards national programme objectives, which have been set firmly within the context of the three axes. Further details can also be found in Appendix 1 (p70), where the fit for LEADER activity against regional and sub regional activity is also identified against the three Axes of the RDPE.

We envisage the LDS being a catalyst for deliverable activities across all three axes. The development stage of the LAG and the consultation process which has shaped this LDS, have already triggered a range of consultations and discussions with the Forestry Commission, Natural England and One NorthEast. Specific examples of this include:

- Close involvement with Natural England and associated partners in the development of the Magnesian Limestone Natural Area Partnership, to help achieve synergy with LEADER and add value. Work to date has helped to bring a community focused element into the early Mag-Lime consultation.
- Consulting on the design of delivery of the Sustainable Communities theme for the RDPE, and adopting a similar model to the LEADER approach elsewhere in the region.
- Picking up linkages with the Forestry Commission and One NorthEast on options for project development and drawing in specialist business advice services.

8. Commitment to co-operation

This LDS has been drafted with a strong theme of co-operation running through it, clearly evidenced in section 4, which sets out proposals for a networking budget.

The LEADER approach is new to East Durham and the LAG is inexperienced. The ethos of the LEADER approach is rooted firmly in shared learning and collaboration. It is therefore essential to the success of this LDS that the LAG is able to build networks and collaborative working with other LEADER areas and LAGs. This is particularly important for the following reasons:

- Drawing on the experiences of more mature LAGs in respect of process, responsibilities and management, so that lessons learned previously in other areas can be adopted in East Durham.
- Stimulation of ideas and opportunities by looking at good practice and sharing experience from other areas and projects.
- Encouraging strategic thinking and developing creative solutions for local issues.
- Picking up and working on opportunities for shared resources (business networks, project collaboration etc)
Collaboration with other areas may necessarily be focused on the development of the LAG in the first year, but will trigger further opportunities for project sponsors as confidence and capacity grows.

In the first instance, co-operation may be focused at regional level, but there remains an opportunity to engage with other LEADER areas in the UK, given shared intelligence through LEADER networks.

Collaborative or shared working at a wider level can be time consuming and a drain on local resources to both build and sustain. In previous LEADER Programmes, this sort of activity was supported through national and regional networks, which provided LAGs with good practice examples, relevant research, opportunities to conference and visit projects, and develop co-operation between projects.

The networking budget (referred to in section 4) has been designed to facilitate shared activities between the LAG and other areas. This can be achieved through local activity and approaches to other areas, using the resource to cover expenses, travel and hosting arrangements when relevant. Alternatively, the budget may potentially work as a contribution to a regional resource, to which other LAGs may also contribute. The objective will be to fund a small service at regional level, providing a brokering resource for all the North East LAGs to co-operate and share opportunities as and when relevant and appropriate. The feasibility of this option is however subject to negotiation and consultation with One NorthEast and other LEADER LAGs.

9. Regional fit

Sections 3, 5 and 7 outline in some detail how the LDS will contribute towards delivery of the objectives of all three axes as outlined in the NEIP.

Section 3 also describes how the themes and objectives in the NEIP have been adopted as the strategic framework for the activities that this programme will deliver. Appendix 1 (p70) contains a matrix illustrating the linkages between strategic objectives set out in the regional and sub regional strategies, and this LDS.

The sub regional strategies addressed comprise:

- Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI)
- County Durham Local Area Agreement (NB. The Sustainable Communities Strategy for County Durham is still being developed. The strategic aims are therefore incorporated into the LAA target framework).
- County Durham Tourism Partnership (CDTP)
- Local Employment Growth Initiative (LEGI)

Regional strategies addressed comprise the:

- Regional Economic Strategy (RES)
- Regional Employment Framework (REF)
10. Integrated delivery

Detailed proposals addressing options for budget management and potential for shared delivery are not feasible at this stage. This is because guidance on delivery and governance arrangements is still awaited (see Section 4).

Further information explaining how the delivery approach for the LDS will be integrated is included in the following sections:

Section 3: Quality of the local strategy (includes links with regional and local programmes of activity).
Section 4: Financial and administrative capacity (includes types of funding)
Section 5: Fit with national programme objectives
Section 8: Commitment to co-operation

We regard the key themes of sustainability, equality of opportunity, co-operation and integration as cross cutting through all elements of the programme; they underpin the approach and set the framework for engagement, delivery and longer term development. Integration of delivery should therefore be assumed as a pre-requisite for the programme.

Given that this will be a regional programme, targeting distinct local territories, there remains significant opportunity to further explore options for aligning resources more effectively. We intend that these opportunities should be negotiated; however this cannot be achieved without further guidance on governance responsibilities from One NorthEast.

11. Engagement with ‘missing’ sectors

Please refer to section 3 (p49) where this is covered in more detail from under the heading ‘engaging with the missing sectors’.
## Appendices

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<th>Page</th>
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<td>2. Potential project ideas</td>
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<td>3. Workshop programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detailed map of the LEADER area</td>
<td>Inside back cover</td>
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</table>
### Appendix 1: East Durham LEADER - sub-regional and regional policies strategic fit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUB REGIONAL STRATEGIES</th>
<th>RELEVANT KEY OBJECTIVES &amp; INDICATORS</th>
<th>AXIS</th>
<th>LEADER FIT</th>
<th>NOTE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Durham LAA:</td>
<td>• Health &amp; Well Being</td>
<td>3:</td>
<td>Priority themes comprise micro enterprise development, bio-energy, sustainable communities.</td>
<td>LEADER will have a strong ethos of training, skills development and confidence building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles:</td>
<td>• Achieve</td>
<td></td>
<td>LEADER will contribute towards delivery of the following LAA indicators:</td>
<td>Access issues will be audited and acted upon via the community led planning element of the programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place Shaping</td>
<td>• Physical Place</td>
<td></td>
<td>• People progressing from support to training, education, employment</td>
<td>Impacts and responses to climate change (business and community) to be addressed via LEADER.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap Narrowing</td>
<td>• Positive Contribution</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Young people into training, education, employment</td>
<td>Engagement strategies will generate volunteering and the LEADER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equal &amp;Inclusive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Access to services and facilities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainability Aspirations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Recycling and composting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Bio Energy / adapting to climate change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• % of people influencing decisions in locality</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Participation in regular volunteering</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Initiative</td>
<td>Target communities or approach</td>
<td>Social &amp; Economic Benefits</td>
<td>LEADER Model and Local Influencing</td>
<td></td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI)</td>
<td>Targeted communities in Shotton and Bowburn. Bottom up community engagement in economic development.</td>
<td>Similar model to LEADER approach. LEADER will build on work previously developed, sharing experiences with the communities involved.</td>
<td>Shotton &amp; Bowburn are both located within the LEADER target area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Durham Tourism Partnership (CDTP)</td>
<td>Building strategic links on tourism development across the county and region.</td>
<td>Projects benefiting tourism and the environment to be addressed under the strategic theme &amp; objective covering natural and cultural assets.</td>
<td>LEADER will work closely with CDTP and networks in other LEADER areas to consult on, and bring forward projects which meet shared objectives.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Local Employment Growth Initiative (LEGI)      | • Develop a coherent start up network  
• Engaging with potential entrepreneurs in ‘hard to reach’ groups  
• Transforming the enterprise culture  
• Improving access to workspace  
• Supporting sustainable growth and reducing the failure rate of locally owned businesses in deprived areas. | 1 & 3: Training, advice, diversification, micro enterprise support  
LEADER will be targeting micro enterprises and the land based sector via the priority theme covering micro enterprise development. | The programme will draw on some of the hard to reach groups (including micro enterprises and young people). Diversification for the land based sector will be addressed (workspace), support for business. |
| Regional Economic Strategy (RES) | Business - entrepreneurship, sector support.  
| People - skills development, economic inclusion, social enterprise  
| Place - sustainable communities, green infrastructure, coastal development | 1, 2 & 3: Training, use of advisory services, micro enterprise support, improve & develop infrastructure | Leader Priority Themes: Micro Enterprise Development, Natural & Cultural assets, Sustainable Communities.  
| • Tackling worklessness  
| • Re-engaging the wider community & increasing economic participation  
| • Investing in quality of place  
| • Helping tackle deprivation & increase participation  
| • Realising the economic potential of the cultural, natural and heritage environment. | LEADER’s focus on engagement of community and business will underpin aims to foster entrepreneurship and build skills.  
| The networking and partnership approach will generate local ownership and build on ‘people and place’ agendas in particular.  
| Shared skills will help support enterprising initiatives, and the breadth of the partnership will provide a strong forum for signposting individuals and businesses into mainstream |
| Regional Employability Framework (REF) | • Improve the focus and impact of current resources for employability (people & money)  
• A more co-ordinated & coherent service for employers & individuals | 3: Socio-economic | Consultation with micro businesses and the land based sector to audit work force development opportunity & needs.  
Consultation with young people to audit access and information needs to employment / business advice | A perception identified locally that young people are increasingly entrepreneurial in face of lack of specialist support (see workshop outcomes).  
The LEADER model will target ‘hard to reach’ groups and feed intelligence gathered into mainstream support services. |
### Appendix 2: East Durham LEADER potential project ideas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDEA</th>
<th>WHAT NEEDS IS IT ADDRESSING?</th>
<th>WHAT ASSETS IS IT BUILDING ON?</th>
<th>WHAT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT IS IT AT?</th>
<th>THEME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Regular networking meetings - suggested by members</td>
<td>Bringing people together to ‘help’ the area and residents share information, develop projects, identify gaps.</td>
<td>Aim High Network Happening now but could be expanded to meet the needs of LEADER network</td>
<td>Sust. Comm.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Local Business Directory</td>
<td>Letting people know what local services are in their village</td>
<td>First draft completed in Shotton.</td>
<td>Piloted in Shotton to be updated in 2009 could be spread to other areas.</td>
<td>Sust. Comm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Small grant scheme.</td>
<td>Quick access to small amounts of funding for local groups.</td>
<td>Shotton already delivers a small grant through PCT. CEDI project just ended.</td>
<td>Ready to implement if funding was available</td>
<td>Sust. Comm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Explore the hidden treasure in our district to promote tourism</td>
<td>Economic benefit</td>
<td>Coast to Coast - Haswell to Hart, Denes</td>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Show building with sustainable power and heating</td>
<td>Show possibilities for 'greener' policies</td>
<td>Use of community asset</td>
<td>Brand new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Limestone escarpment development and picnic site</td>
<td>Social and educational</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Development of a large scale mining museum</td>
<td>Bringing employment to the area, Promoting mining heritage, Development of tourist attraction</td>
<td>Wheatley Hill Heritage Centre</td>
<td>Brand new</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>systems</td>
<td>needing to travel around East Durham Help people to access employment opportunities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td><strong>Research and development for a new way to build housing units in factory type environment - not just the timber frame approach.</strong></td>
<td>Creating substantial manufacturing opportunities for the East Durham workforce that will replace the major employer of the past.</td>
<td>The house building industry in England has not changed for centuries but because of climate change building energy efficient, high quality, homes in a facility that does not get affected by the vagaries of the weather could become a massive industry for the future.</td>
<td>Brand new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td><strong>Holiday Village</strong></td>
<td>The lack of hotel, bed and breakfast, caravan parks and</td>
<td>Tourism - seaside and countryside appreciation.</td>
<td>Brand new</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>campsites in East Durham.</th>
<th>The Woodlands Trust is making a bridleway near Haswell but if there were more bridleways, linked into a network, they could be accessed at various locations. This would reduce horse traffic using the roads to a minimum and reducing accidents on the roads.</th>
<th>Brand new</th>
<th>Tourism/Rec.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>17. A network of bridleways for East Durham</strong></td>
<td>More ‘horse’ traffic is using our roads most of which are narrow country style C or B class roads. Horses and riders are being injured as will other road users.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>18. County renewable energy</strong></td>
<td>Climate change</td>
<td>CORE in skills renewable energy products - Teesdale Village Halls put at Core</td>
<td>Ready to implement if funding was available</td>
<td>Ready to implement if funding was available</td>
<td>Bio energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>19. Farming apprenticeships</strong></td>
<td>Providing a future for the countryside</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sust farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20. Develop holidays in equestrian based at farms</strong></td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>Existing businesses</td>
<td>Brand new</td>
<td>Brand new</td>
<td>Tourism/Rec.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>22. Local food produce - encourage businesses to sign up to and participate</strong></td>
<td>Tourism, economic, health, environment, community sustainability</td>
<td>Enhance and market Durham’s local quality food produce</td>
<td>Being planned and developed Seed funding in</td>
<td>Being planned and developed Seed funding in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in ‘Taste of Durham’</td>
<td>23. <strong>Accommodation providers in area sign up to formal accreditation schemes</strong></td>
<td>place to develop, providers will need to pay in the future to take part</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tourism, economy, raising profile of destination</td>
<td>Durham will be seen as a quality destination. County Durham Tourism Partnership can only maintain quality accredited accommodation.</td>
<td>This is a national accreditation scheme that providers have to pay to and sign up to. It is a case of getting providers to formally sign up to these.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>24. <strong>Inform young people of the benefits of further education.</strong> Building links with Durham University open days to uni, inform young people not only about the courses, benefits, but also the social side of university.</td>
<td>Community and education</td>
<td>Not sure if any links are in place already.</td>
<td>Brand new</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. <strong>Keep village centres vibrant - links with local industry and especially food.</strong></td>
<td>Villages need a minimum of services to survive - bus, pub, post office, doctors’ surgery, school. Climate change says keep things local but trend is otherwise.</td>
<td>Village centre already have services - positive approach - less bureaucratic services. ??? ??? planning which hinders local</td>
<td>Some communities already doing this - others not started.</td>
<td>Sust. Comm.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Farmers need local markets to make agriculture viable. | people in implementation. |
---|---|---|
26. **Agricultural diversification** - Product brand - quality mark. Product/food development linked to local population - food miles reduction | Agricultural/??? Sector diversification and enhancement. | Large scale agri businesses Population diversity Existing distribution networks Current political/social agenda Share good practice between LEADER initiatives | Brand new Sust. Farming |
27. **Community assets - ownership of property by local communities.** In particular to explore community anchor organisations which can regenerate and transform communities in particular local village centres. | Community empowerment. Gives local people a genuine stake in local community - some economic power. Currently power too centralised in Durham County Council - do not trust or devolve to local communities. | Strong community spirit - lost if hard line goes on - using them to transform villages. Learn from examples where it works e.g. Ibstock local multiple effect, Wooler High Street etc. Property prices are generally reasonable so easy to get assets. | Community assets - local community orgs. Acquiring property which earns money to invest in local communities. Sust. Comm. |
28. **Green Infrastructure Strategy** | Strategic view on connectivity or non motorised transport links and green spaces/area of native conservation interest. | Established network of rights of way Protected native conservation areas | Being planned and developed Nat. & Cult. Assets Tourism/Rec Sust farming |
<p>| | | | |</p>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29. <strong>Young people renovating derelict homes in the area.</strong> Learning vocational skills (bricklaying, plumbing, joinery, etc.) then renting them at low cost.</td>
<td>Skills/derelict properties/improving environment, raises aspirations or young people, skill acquisition.</td>
<td>Training organisations in the area</td>
<td>Brand new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. <strong>East Durham Young Entrepreneurs Challenge</strong> (Dragons Den style programme - persuade Tyne Tees to film it) Where young people from East Durham take their business ideas to panel of experts - big prise for winner!</td>
<td>1. Low levels of aspiration/life expectancy in youth 2. Lack of entrepreneurship 3. Low level of business start up 4. Relates to micro-enterprise development, RDPE theme</td>
<td>1 Uses secondary schools in the region to promote 2 Uses TTV 3 Tony Blair to champion the programme</td>
<td>Brand new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Micro Bus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. <strong>Local wood pellet distribution network</strong></td>
<td>Relates to Bio-energy RDPE theme  Addresses fuel ??? and climate change  Will create opportunities for micro-enterprises and new jobs  Builds on existing local business (Premier Waste Wood Pellet Production)</td>
<td>Builds on successful local business (Premier Waste, Coxhoe - or whatever they are now called)  Builds on tradition/culture of using solid fuel and provides new work for coal merchants.</td>
<td>Being planned and developed  Next stage is to discuss with Premier Waste and Pellet local business (perhaps REFA) involved as merchant. If this looks positive business plan will need to be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Micro Bus. Bio energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Environmental grazing, adding value, and producing local food for local people.</td>
<td>A simple way of distributing the lamb to the consumer........maybe using existing food co-ops? A central accountable administration system to run bank account and take orders etc. Access to / ability to run a good sheep dog. Continued support of land managers of environmental sites e.g. wildlife trusts and local authorities A little more market research, straw polls show good interest and probable uptake What good things or assets that already exist can this build upon? Conservation grazing project already in place.</td>
<td>A conservation grazing co-operative already in place Proposed new slaughter and processing facility in region to slaughter and box lamb. Ready supply of Hill lamb from the regions hill farmers High population density / possible customers near to grazing sites to see benefits of environmental grazing and where the product comes from Local people have a history of saving Christmas money through year same principal would apply</td>
<td>Model being planned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
per year. Note supermarket prices for lamb chops are often above £10 per kg. Profits would be reinvested locally into environmental grazing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>33. Feasibility on a scheme in the Eden Hill Ward which is an Environmental/Cultural/Tourism/Sports Project including an SSSI site.</th>
<th>Eden Hill is the 21st poorest ward in the country. This scheme would continue to address the issues of regeneration increasing local pride, improving facilities, environmental improvements etc including an SSSI site.</th>
<th>The Sports Facility, Youth Provision, and SSSI site already exist. The Town Council owns all the land.</th>
<th>Initial planning stages</th>
<th>Tourism/Rec. Nat &amp; Cult Assets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>34. Peterlee as a hub for a Farmers’ Market</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>New idea</th>
<th>Sust. farming</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**A suggestion** - Need to top slice all regional ‘new leader’ funds to organise a network to facilitate groups to develop strong projects.

Project sustainability and visibility.
Appendix 3: East Durham LEADER Workshop Programme

LEADER for East Durham?
A Workshop at Wheatley Hill Community Centre
Thursday April 3rd 2008 10am – 4pm

PROGRAMME

10.00 Welcome & Introductions
10.05 Getting to know you
10.25 What is LEADER? – An interview with Jo Laverick, Executive Director DRCC
10.40 LEADER in East Durham – where are we now? Liz Charles, DRCC
10.50 The view from a Local Action Group (LAG) member Peter Kempsey (member of North Pennines “LEADER +” LAG)
11.05 Panel - any questions?
11.20 Break - & then it’s over to you for the rest of the day.
11.30 Assets of the Area – your views on what are the physical, environmental, economic, human & social assets
12.30 Lunch
13.15 Walkaround
13.25 Issues – your views on what is missing, weaknesses
14.00 The Future – current and emergent projects, aspirations, ideas
15.00 Draft Terms of Reference for the LAG/Draft Key Objectives for the Local Development Strategy
15.50 Summing up – Jo Laverick

There should be a slip on your chair to make an expression of interest to be a member of the Shadow Local Action Group (LAG). This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in shaping the first stage of the LEADER programme should it get accepted. PLEASE HAND IN TO LIZ CHARLES OR MAUREEN THOMAS TODAY.
Appendix 4: East Durham LEADER – Letters of Support

Letters of support from 25 organisations and individuals were included in the original Local Development Strategy submission to One NorthEast. Details have been removed from this version as the letters contained addresses and signatures.

Ward Map

The large ward map has been removed to reduce the file size, in order to make the document easier to download. Details of the wards included within the East Durham LEADER area are detailed in Section 2 of this Local Development Strategy.