

Y&H Rural Framework

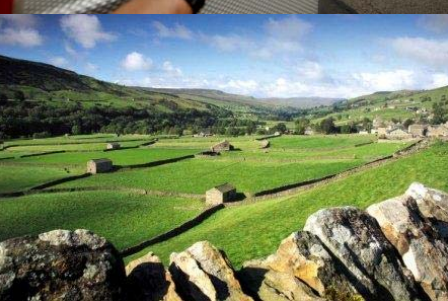
Hazel Thomas

Y&H Rural Framework Acting Steering Group Chair
Countryside Agency Regional Director



Background

- Lord Haskins Review of Government's Rural Service Delivery
- Gov't's Rural Strategy 2004 published in response (Modernising Rural Delivery Programme)
- Regions asked to develop the arrangements to prioritise and co-ordinate activity, funding and delivery, leading to a plan that sets out the priorities for action to ensure these are targeted where needed at local level across the region, thus securing sustainable development outcomes.



Rural Strategy 2004 “Headlines”

- **Economic and Social Regeneration:** supporting enterprise across rural England, but targeting resources at greatest areas of need
- **Social Justice for All:** tackling rural social exclusion wherever it occurs and providing fair access to services and opportunities for all rural people
- **Enhancing the Value of the Countryside:** protecting the natural environment for this and future generations



Rural Strategy 2004 Outcomes

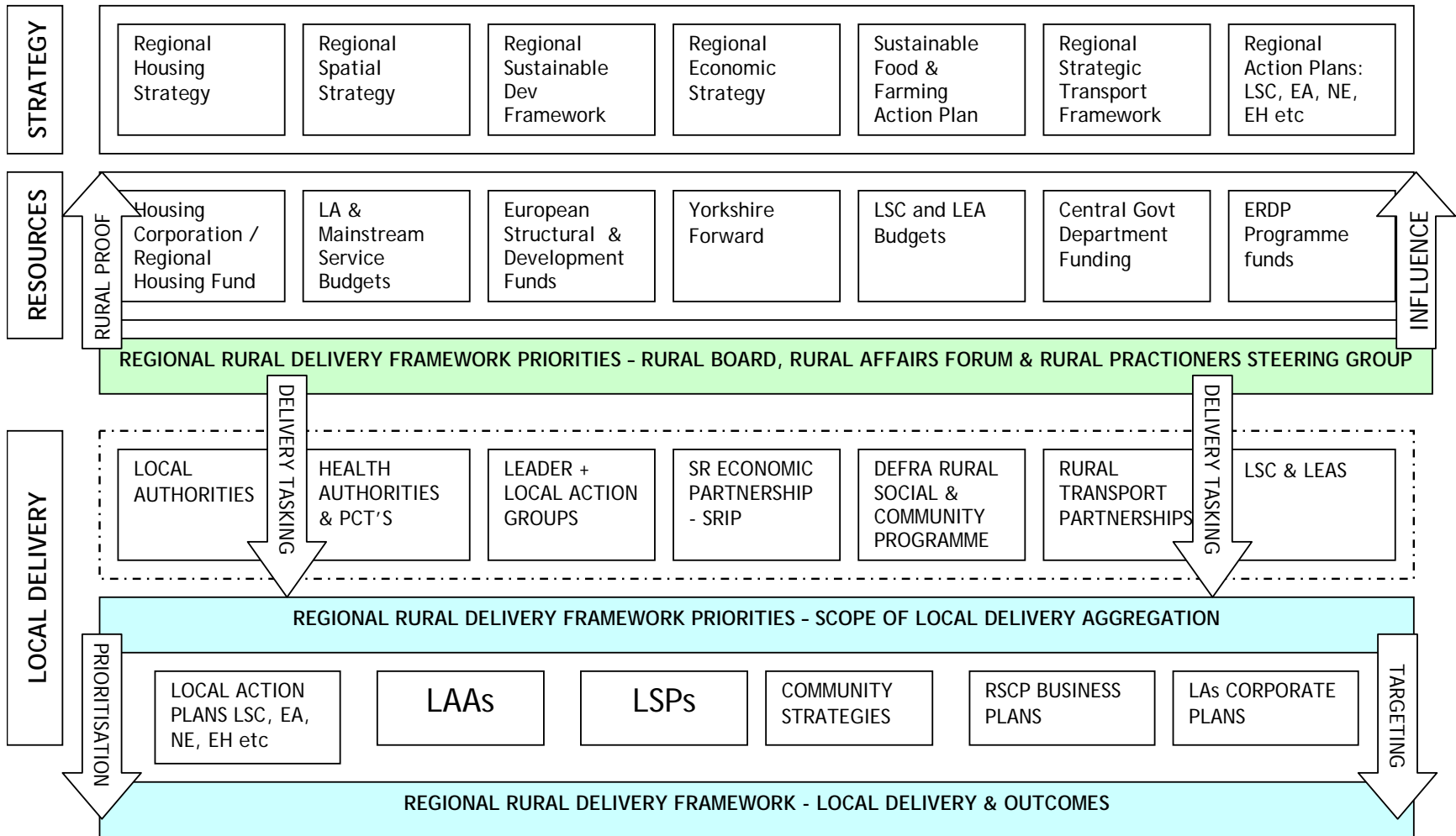
- “Framework” to agree regional evidence based priorities and facilitate joint working amongst partners
- Devolution of decision making on rural programmes and funds
- Local Authority led Pathfinder to foster innovation at the local level
- Streamlining of rural funding schemes
- Creation of *Natural England*



Y&H Rural Framework

“The overall aim of the Y&H Rural Framework is to direct action that addresses the inefficiencies of current governance and delivery structures, ensuring the region make the best use of available resources”

Yorkshire and The Humber Rural Framework 'Sphere of Influence'





Y&H Rural Framework: Regional Response

- Steering Group of regional partners and stakeholders
- Working Group of key organisations
- Set up to become part of 'Advancing Together' Strategic Framework
- Sub-regional Local Authority representatives
- Partner-led Task and Finish incl. Local Authority reps



10 Regional Rural Priorities

“Economic and Social Regeneration”

- **Rural Business Development** - Encourage enterprise and innovation within new and established rural businesses, and to provide a co-ordinated support infrastructure that helps them adapt to change.
- **Employment, Education and Skills Training** - Develop and encourage participation in quality learning opportunities, and to support rural businesses in workforce development.
- **Market Towns** - Support market towns as hubs for the rural economy and as service centres, providing locally based employment opportunities.
- **Sustainable Tourism** – Develop, manage and promote rural Yorkshire and The Humber as a high quality 'sustainable tourism' destination.



10 Regional Rural Priorities



“Social Justice for All”

- **Access to Services** - Ensure that rural communities are characterised by high levels of inclusion and equitable access to quality services recognising demographic trends.
- **Rural Transport** - Understand and addresses transport needs in rural areas through private, public and voluntary sector provision, to promote rural regeneration and tackle social exclusion.
- **Rural Housing** - Understand and address housing need in rural areas, recognising and tackling issues of fuel poverty.
- **Rural Communities** - To promote social cohesion, encourage and support the engagement of rural communities and the active roles that they can play.





10 Regional Rural Priorities

“Enhancing the Value of our Countryside”

- **The Natural Environment** - Conserve and enhance the region’s rural biodiversity, its distinctiveness, and the quality of its natural and built environment.
- **A ‘functional landscape’** - Development draws on and sustains the natural, cultural and built heritage of the region’s rural areas.



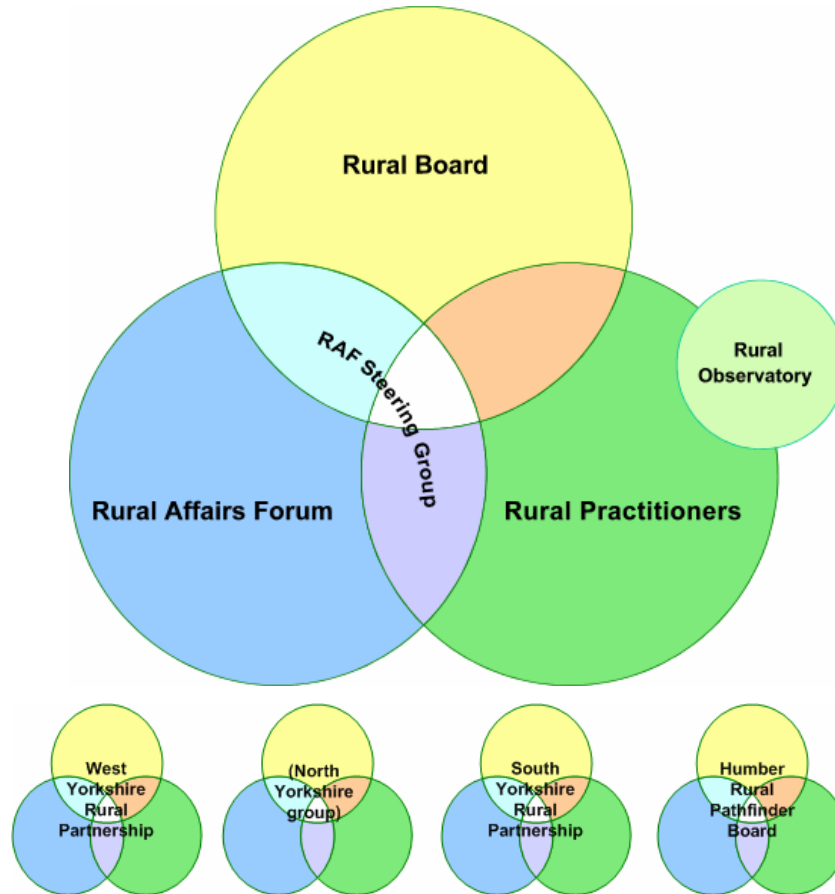


Achieved so far...

- Developed, published and launched Regional Rural Evidence Base Report with Partners
- Agreed a 'Vision' and 10 'Rural Priorities' through extensive consultation
- Strategic Input into Regional Strategy Reviews (RHS, RES, RSS, RSDF) embedding 'rural' in investment planning
- Partner-led development of 'Agenda for Action' to help deliver rural priorities
- Support for devolution of funding and programme design to rural sub-regional partnership arrangements
- Refreshed regional rural governance arrangements



Better Rural Governance



- Simplification
- Customer Focus
- Rural Evidence
- Outward Influence
- Devolution



Future challenges

- Submission of Y&H Rural Framework to Defra in April – need to ensure achieves potential
- Supporting a sub-regional approach
- Natural England integration
- Local Area Agreements
- City Regions
- Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13