

# Rural Matters

Modernising Rural Delivery in Yorkshire and The Humber

September 05



Welcome back from the summer holidays to the fifth issue of Rural Matters, the monthly Modernising Rural Delivery update for the Yorkshire and The Humber (Y&H) region. Rural Matters took a short break in August so this is the September issue.

## NEWS

### Rural Social and Community Programme Consultation Seminars

To coincide with the release of the consultation paper for Defra's new Rural Social and Community Programme on 21<sup>st</sup> July, the Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber (GOYH) have held a series of consultation seminars in each sub-region.

The new Programme stems from Defra's Rural Strategy, published July 2004, a major theme of which is to move delivery closer to rural communities, devolving decisions about how programme funds are spent to the regional and sub-regional levels. There is £8 million worth of funding available nationally per annum which Defra will allocate to each region via the Government Office, who will then allocate this sub-regionally. The Programme will run from April 2006 to 2008.

The specific aims of the programme are to:

- 1) Enhance the community capacity building capability of rural communities so that those communities can work together to shape their own future.
- 2) Help socially excluded individuals in rural communities improve their life chances and;
- 3) Develop the capacity of the voluntary and community sector, and of the town and parish council sector, to reinforce the delivery of the first two aims.

The seminars were aimed at stakeholders in the voluntary and community sector, local authorities and others involved in commissioning services for rural communities. They were very useful in outlining and stimulating responses to the new Programme's proposals, discussing sub-regional priorities and how the programme should be taken forward in the sub-region. Feedback from the seminars, which will be posted on the [GOYH website](#), will be helpful in developing sub-regional partnerships and business plans setting out how the funds can be best used to benefit rural communities.

The consultation paper can be viewed on the [Defra website](#), which also sets out how formal responses can be made by the deadline of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2005.



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[Y&H Rural Framework Website](#)

# Progress – Y&H Rural Framework

## Mapping the Delivery of Rural Priorities

Since the July issue of Rural Matters work on rural priority mapping has progressed with task and finish groups being established for each of the ten Y&H Rural Framework priorities.

In achieving the aims of Modernising Rural Delivery (MRD) each group has been asked to consider four questions in relation to their priority:

1. What activity is already underway that delivers the priority?
2. How does this delivery currently take account of the principles of MRD?
3. How could delivery be improved to better demonstrate the principles of MRD?

4. What are the constraints/barriers to any suggested improvements?

The ten task and finish groups are coming together on 7<sup>th</sup> September to share the work done to date. This meeting has been organised to ensure full and effective integration across the priorities and promote the future integration of thought, partnership working and implementation.

Findings from the event will be reported back to the Steering Group at their next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September for endorsement before wider consultation is undertaken later this year. Further details will follow in the next issue of Rural Matters.

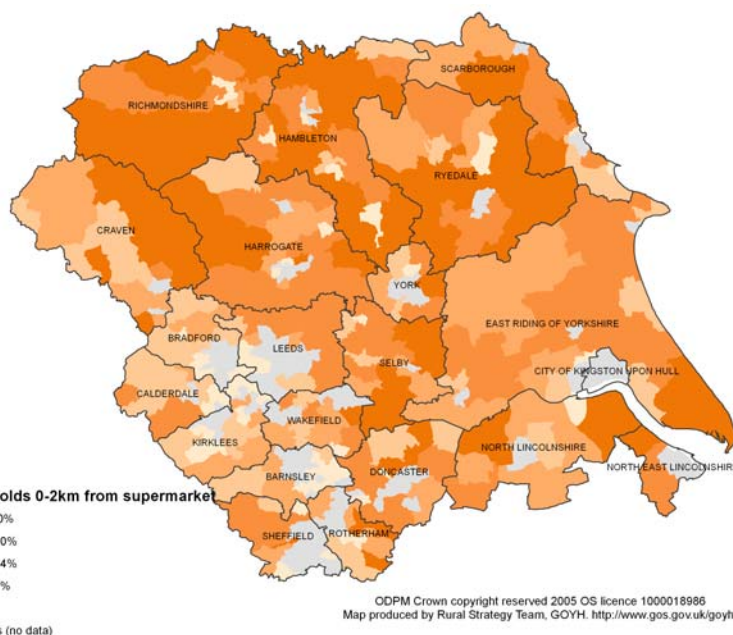
## Inequality is a Rural Issue

GOYH is challenging the traditional view that inequality is an urban issue and has conducted its own research to show that many of the region's rural communities are severely disadvantaged in comparison to the cities and towns. Results show that disadvantage, usually associated with levels of income, unemployment, poor health and educational attainment, is not limited to material prosperity. A range of factors affecting rural communities can prevent residents participating fully in society.

The new Commission for Rural Communities (CRC), recognises that, saying: 'While low income may be a key characteristic, disadvantage also relates to other factors such as the affordability of housing, the availability of transport and the ability to access services'.

Traditional measures - summarised in the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation - suggest that disadvantage is predominantly an urban issue with 29% of the urban population of Yorkshire and The Humber living in the region's most deprived areas yet only 4% of the region's rural population living in similarly deprived areas.

The CRC annually measures the ease of access to services by rural households. Data for just one of these services (% of households within 2 km of a supermarket or convenience store) shows that only 43% of the region's rural residents live within 2 km of this service. The worst supermarket access is found in rural parts of North East Lincolnshire where only 8% of households have this service within 2 km.



Measurement of inequality is not enough: the next step is to take action to create a more equal society. The Yorkshire and The Humber Rural Framework has identified ten key issues, and is now seeking to channel existing initiatives and create targeted actions to tackle these issues.

For further information, please visit the GOYH website at <http://www.goyh.gov.uk/>.