

RURAL BOARD MEETING
Friday 19 February 2010: 11.00 until 14.30
GOSE Offices, Guildford, Surrey

MINUTES

Present:

The Board

Paul Bettison - Chairman
Alan Betts – Forestry Commission
Andrew Bowles – Chairman Rural Forum for the South East
Andy Brown – English Heritage
Geoff Butler – representing business and CB1
Pam Doodles – Wealden District Council
Chris Edwards – Natural England (representing Alan Law)
Ray Ellis – Hampshire County Council
Shaun Leavey – Sustainable Farming and Food Board
Jeremy Leggett – South East Rural Community Councils
Anne Morrison – National Health Authorities
Oona Muirhead – SEEDA (representing Keith Mitchell)

Working Group

Hannah Bussey – GOSE
Valerie Carter – SEEDA
Jacinta Thorley – South East Rural Community Councils

Apologies:

Chris Corrigan
Keith Mitchell
Alan Law
Toby Wilson

Item 1: Welcome; Minutes

1.1 The Chairman welcomed the guests attending the Board meeting, particularly Anne Morrison who is standing in for Mike Daly for the time being

1.2 The minutes of the previous Board meeting held on 11 December 2009 were agreed as correct.

1.3 However the Rural Research Partnership made an offer to Board members that they might be able to help research issues and asked the Board for ideas for future work. No-one has yet responded.

1.4 All other matters arising are on the Board agenda

Item 2: Rural Forum

2.1 Andrew Bowles presented his report from the last Rural Forum meeting held on 2 February 2010. The full minutes of this meeting are attached as Annex 1.

Andrew reported:

Attendance at the Forum increases with every meeting. At the last one there were 34 members from a good cross section of Local Authorities and other rural partners from the region. We are still hoping to get better representation from Health, Police and Emergency services and are working on this.

Matters covered in the meeting were :-

1. An update on the work of the Board.
2. A presentation on Recognising Rural Interests within Integrated Rural Strategies from the CRC . This is a tool the CRC have developed to help organisations to rural proof emerging Integrated Regional Strategies. It could possibly be a helpful document, but there is no capacity within the CRC to support regions to use it. It outlines all the rural elements which should be in an Integrated Regional Strategy and suggests rural proofing measures.
The strategy for getting Regional Partnership Boards to recognize the need to consider rural elements for inclusion in the revised Regional Strategies and so use the tool was a little more hazy.
3. The Forum input to the Defra national review of the Regional Rural Forums. Defra is interested in the model we are using in the South East and the 'scrutiny of rural delivery' role which is becoming a major element of the Forums work. At the moment we do not yet know what Defra will want from the Forums in future or what funding may be available after March 31.
4. The Forum had invited both Dan Norris the Minister for Environment & Rural Affairs and Richard Benyon the Conservative Shadow Minister for Rural Affairs to attend the Forum and present what they thought their vision for rural areas would be in any new Parliament. Dan Norris was unable to attend, but Richard Benyon gave an informative presentation and stayed to answer members challenging questions and observations on the Conservative proposals.
5. Jeremy Leggett talked to the Forum about the narrative developed through the Rural Board which will accompany the Rural Evidence base. Members were enthusiastic about the narrative and agreed to take it back to their local LSPs and county Fora for discussion and endorsement. They felt that if this was obtained it would give greater credibility to the document. They also felt that the document would be useful at a local level. Some members offered to help provide information to further populate the data.
6. Going forward, as part of their scrutiny role the Forum intend to invite various regional bodies to attend their meetings to demonstrate how they are addressing rural in their delivery frameworks – or not.

2.2 Discussion:

- Questions about how did the Commission for Rural Communities link with the work of the Board (the CRC had attended the Rural Forum). The CRC will be a statutory consultee on Integrated Regional Strategies, will make sure they are properly rural-proofed and the Board may have to provide evidence. An example put forward highlighted that there are rural areas which have no broadband and any policy to provide laptops for deprived families has no relevance and that policy has certainly not been rural proofed. It was suggested that the narrative and associated evidence statement, to be discussed later, would be a useful tool to use.

- We must make sure that we understand our respective roles. The Rural Forum provides scrutiny at local level but the Board has a more strategic role.

Item 3

(a) Influencing Leaders

3.1 Both Paul Bettison and Andrew Bowles had attended the last meeting of South East England Councils (SEEC) and Andrew had raised the issue on the potential role of the Rural Board with the chair, Paul Carter. He put the proposition that SEEC should use the Board and the Forum as one of the official sub-groups and provide administrative support for them. SEEC agreed to come back on this but no firm offers were made.

3.2 SEEC seemed content with what the Board is doing but SEEC still has to agree its own funding formula and until all councils have agreed this nothing much can happen. Whilst this is a barrier to progress it will still be pursued by Paul and Andrew.

3.3 The forthcoming election will impact on SEEC funding and it is realised that whatever party ends up in power the public sector will face very substantial cuts

3.4 Discussion

- The function of the Rural Board and SEEC is not just about funding – it is about what the Board has to offer. Whilst Paul Carter had expressed good support for what the Board is doing it is still early days for SEEC themselves.
- We must be very clear first on our rural priorities if we want to influence others effectively and have very clear messages
- We know the 6 ‘think pieces’ identified by the South East Partnership Board (SEPB) and some of the workshops have already started. The Board needs to know how to feed into these specific work-streams
- We should expect all activities in the region be tested against the impacts on rural areas. All local authorities have accepted this as a principle and we should be looking at actions that are taking place, and the Rural Forum and the Rural Board at local and more strategic level are best placed to do this. Our work so far – the narrative with evidence, the broadband and affordable housing reports should be used to help this.

Actions agreed:

The Board agree to a twin track approach

- Paul Bettison and Andrew Bowles continue to pursue the case with SEEC on the potential role and the work of the Board: Paul and Andrew go to SEEC and request time for a formal presentation on the work of the Board. This work is urgent as the SEEC Plenary Session is 25 March
- Work to influence SEPB. Valerie Carter to send out a reminder on the 6 ‘think pieces’
- Paul Bettison, Andrew Bowles, Jeremy Leggett, Toby Wilson (or Andy Brown) and Geoff Butler to prepare the work for this twin track approach and organise the influencing process

(b) Agreement on the Narrative

3.5 The Chairman and all the Board members thanked Jeremy Leggett for his work on the narrative, his dedication to getting it completed and for his enthusiasm.

3.6 The Board had already looked at the narrative and most had been involved in its preparation with Jeremy. It was now time to approve it and use it. It was decided not to change the nature of the narrative as it was succinct and said things clearly. Many Board members congratulated Jeremy on the narrative and the Board as a whole felt it was good now to start using the text immediately. It is a live document and will be reviewed from time to time.

3.7 The Forum has already seen the narrative and were very enthusiastic about it and wanted to get it out to all their stakeholders.

3.8 One alteration and two additions to the text were agreed – use a percentage figure on homes as it would paint a clearer picture than just a number; and add two sentences – one about the natural environment and one about the potential high growth companies in the land based sector rather than just refer to the small GVA contribution.

3.9 The 'so what' section was felt to be critical and be used as well but it needed to be shortened and sharpened up.

Actions agreed:

- The narrative has been approved by the Board
- Jeremy Leggett, Shaun Leavey and Chris Edwards would sort out the minor alterations and additions to the text
- The final draft be sent to all Board members with the minutes
- The text then be used to influence through the twin-tack approach to SEEC and SEPB

Item 4

Affordable Housing

4.1 Pam referred to the report she had tabled at the last Board meeting and the discussions that followed. She has now prepared a Key Issues Paper (sent out with the Board papers) which identified 3 major topics: blockages in delivery of affordable housing; lack of relationships between local and national targets and funding mechanisms that need to changes.

4.2 She also highlighted the following:

- The problem of the lack of land held by local authorities.
- Hardly any affordable housing was being built at a time when the demand is greater than ever.
- Local people still do not believe there is a strong need for affordable housing

4.3 Discussion

- Landowners will still release land as long as it stays available – long term rentable or leased property is more suitable
- Need fiscal incentives for landowners to release land
- Need to look at the work being undertaken by CCB and the University of Reading
- Need to publicise the findings of this work by Pam – it needs to be understood by the Partnership Board and local authorities – it should form part of any presentation to SEEC and SEPB

Actions agreed:

- The Board should now use the findings of this work to influence SEEC and SEPB as soon as possible
- Pam Doodles would ask Wealden District Council to prepare the necessary publicity and timetable for using it
- Pam Doodles will also take the findings to SPARSE

Item 5

Broadband

5.1 Andrew Bowles reported that the Broadband work was now waiting for a decision by Defra who were analysing the areas in the regions which do not have broadband. It was due at the end of December but not expected now until end of February.

5.2 The RDPE money is also still not clear about how it can be used

5.3 SEEDA are also looking at some good examples of tackling market failure in other regions – eg Yorkshire Forward and are preparing an options paper for the region – the Board will be engaged on the options as soon as they are developed.

5.4 However we have strong conviction to see this work through. We know a lot already and should take a risk now and get publicity for our findings

- we need to say broadband in the rural areas of the region is not adequate
- we need to say it now
- we are already the 21st worst European region for broadband

Actions agreed:

- Andrew Bowles and Jacinta Thorley prepare publicity statement that 'our rural areas will be crippled for decades unless action is taken' and get this message out now

Item 6

Future Actions to be taken by the Board

6.1 A lot of activities for the Board have already been agreed above: the twin track influencing approach; the publicity of our two reports so far.

6.2 The Chairman then asked if the narrative, and reports so far met the expectations of Board members. The responses included the following

- Are we doing enough about delivering actions, for instance on affordable housing, beyond just raising awareness
- We should be working to influencing the Housing and Communities Agency (HCA)
- The Board were clear in the beginning about the work needed to be done and the Board so far has carried out the tasks that were set but the Board is not giving clear instructions on what should be done now – we cannot go much further with SEEC or SEPB without these. After this mornings debate we should find it easier to do this. The narrative gives us a clear opportunity now

- We should be using the press to highlight the results of our work - immediately
- The Board has not been able to challenge the work of member organisations. As example cited was that the changes in SEEDA were not debated by the Board as part of a consultation process. The outcome of these changes was giving rise to real concerns over any future support to land-based industries. Shaun Leavey outlined the case he was putting to SEEDA to support 4 specific land-based sub-sectors – fruit' glasshouse; ornamentals and trade into London and he asked the Board to support this case. The new policy report Food 2030 from Defra gives added strength to the need to support land-based industries.
- There was concern over support generally to rural based businesses and would mainstreaming really work
- The Board should be more involved with cultural and heritage issues

6.3 It was suggested that the Board should subject itself to a peer review process at the end of the year

Actions agreed:

- Paul Bettison to write to the SEEDA Chairman copied the Chief Executive supporting the land-based case. Shaun Leavey and Jeremy Leggett to help Paul draft the letter immediately
- Revive the priority on sustainable consumption – Board members send in ideas on how to pursue this in time for the September Board meeting
- Andy Brown and Chris Edwards look at what the Board could do to influence on heritage and culture and report back in September

Item 7

Future Financial support for the Board

7.1 We are in a really difficult position – we cannot operate on 'air' – without some administrative support the Board will fold. There have been no offers from any of the Board member organisations to offer staff or time to do this. All requests for financial support in order to employ someone have met with a resounding no (except for SEEDA who have offered £10K as well as the Chair's costs).

7.2 If we value the role of the Board and really want to influence decisions makers then we must find a solution or the September Board meeting will be the last. The Board cannot operate without a secretariat. If we do not value ourselves we stand no chance of influencing others. Yet we are now in a position with narrative, evidence and reports to start the influencing process and make things happen.

7.3 We recognise that we are probably unique in England in having a formal Rural Board as well as a Rural Forum. We should value the way we have been set up and our independence

7.4 We know that some Rural Forums are well supported with staff and funding.

Actions agreed:

- Must have a solution to the question of providing administrative support to the Board – all Board members send in their offers and ideas to the Working Group
- Hannah Bussey send round a short report on how other rural forums, and other more

strategic groups of delivery bodies are supported in other regions

Item 8

AOB

8.1 Pam Doodes highlighted a new report on the review of people killed or seriously injured on rural roads which can be found on:
<http://www.wealden.gov.uk/moderngov/Published/C00000500/M00002924/AI00025829/RoadSafetyReviewReportFinal24122009.docA.ps.pdf#search=%22Sharing%20Responsibility%22>

8.2 Reminder that the next Board meeting is to be held on 21 May 2010 at GOSE offices

Meeting ended at 14.30

ANNEX 1
Minutes of the Rural Forum held



Minutes

2nd February 2010

10.30 – 15.00

at

The Gascoigne Room, the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London SE1

www.ujclub.co.uk

Attendees:-

David Ashcroft – Hampshire Rural Forum
Cherry Aston – Buckinghamshire Rural Affairs Group
Ian Bailey
Cllr Christine Bateson
Richard Benyon – MP Shadow Minister for the Environment, Fisheries & Food
Cllr Andrew Bowles – Chair & representing Swale LSP
Hannah Bussey – GOSE
Valerie Carter – SEEDA
Chris Chaney – Surrey Rural Partnership
Richard Clarke – South East Protected Landscapes
Elaine Cooke – West Berkshire LSP
Edward Dawson – Hampshire Rural Forum
Cllr Rosemary Doyle – Canterbury City Council
Angela Gilmour – SERCC
Liz Harrison – Kent Rural Board
Mary Hill - SERCC
Michael Hunt – Buckinghamshire Community Action/Bucks Strategic Partnership
Adam Lavis – Commission for Rural Communities
Ian Leake – Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Jeremy Leggett – Action in Rural Sussex
Tim Parry – Community Council for Berkshire
Roger Paterson – West Sussex Rural Forum
Jan Phillips – Milton Keynes Council
Dean Robson – West Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership
Paulina Stockell – Maidstone LSP
Tom Stuart – Wealdon District Council
Michael Sydney – Surrey County Council
Glyn Thomas – The SE Rural Community Councils
Jacinta Thorley – SERCC
Cllr Sylvia Tidy – East Sussex LSP
Linda Watson – Oxfordshire Rural Forum
Cllr Mark Worrall – Tonbridge & Malling LSP
Ron Weeden – Tunbridge Wells LSP
Andrew Wickham – Kent Rural Board

Apologies:-

John Brownscombe – IoW
Julian Carrington, Community Planning Manager Horsham District Council
Cllr Hugh Fitzwilliams – Bracknell Forest LSP
John Heggadon, Wokingham Borough SP representative
Keith Harrison and Nigel Whitburn – Action with Communities in Rural Kent
Cllr Maureen Holding, New Forest LSP
Bryn Morgan – Waverley Strategic Partnership
Mark Pearson – Surrey Strategic Partnership
Nicholas Rose – Chiltern Community Partnership
Catherine Smith – Medway LSP
Marilyn Smuland – CA Hampshire,
David Stokes – Kent County Council
Cllr Garry Wall – Mid Sussex District Council
Warren Whyte, Aylesbury Vale LSP

- 1. Welcome: Minutes of last meeting -Andrew Bowles: Chair & Leader of Swale Borough Council** – The Chair read out the list of apologies received for this meeting and welcomed the new members:- David Ashcroft, Ron Weeden, Ian Bailey Tom Stuart and Adam Lavis on behalf of the Commission for Rural Communities. The Minutes of the RFSE meeting held on 17th November were reviewed and approved as a true record and will be published on the www.rfse.org.uk website together with the documentation and presentations from today's event.

Matters arising were as follows:-

Rural Board Minutes and Link to the RFSE Website – VC reported that the SEEDA website had been updated and she would ensure that the link had been added and that the latest documentation for the Rural Board had been uploaded.

The Link to the SE Partnership from the RFSE website - has been added, together with the Presentations from the November Meeting.

Future Support to the Rural Forum and Rural Board – The Chair was initiating discussions with the Leader of the SE Councils and the Rural Board on the future funding support for the Rural Forum and Board.

Data Analysis– SERCC has been in discussion with county Data Analysts to illustrate the value of the Oxfordshire Consultants for Social Inclusion's research.

Mainstreaming Report – to date only one of the RFSE members had actively used the report in discussion about rural provision at the local level.

Top 10 SE Facts – The CRC have disaggregated some of the data for the SE and JT hopes to have a draft document for the Forum to review at the next meeting.

- 2. Update on Rural Board activity - Andrew Bowles/Hannah Bussey, GOSE** – The Chair expressed his grateful thanks to Hannah Bussey for pulling together a synopsis of the many meetings they had attended since November.
Rural Housing - At the last Board Meeting there was a very informative presentation on Rural Affordable Housing by Pam Doodles, the Leader of Wealden District Council, outlining the many initiatives that have been developed following on from the Matthew Taylor Report. However the SE is still not meeting their delivery targets for affordable rural housing. Elizabeth Cartwright, Chair of the Housing and Regeneration Board of the SE England Partnership Board will be attending the next Rural Partnership meeting. The SE-Partnership Board would like to have a feature on rural housing delivery, on their website, to include some examples of good practice where homes are being delivered in the region but if possible would like examples other than the

usual ones. They are particularly looking for examples of where housing has added value to a village through provision of home/ work units, shops etc. Please can members contact Jane Lawrence directly at the SE Partnership Board at the following email address: JaneLawrence@se-partnershipboard.org.uk?

Action: RFSE Members to send examples of Good Practice in Rural Housing Delivery to the SE Partnership Board. SERCC to check she has access to the case studies prepared by the SERCC Rural Housing Enablers.

Rural Evidence Base - Jeremy Leggett, CEO of Action in Rural Sussex will give an update on the Rural Evidence Base at Agenda Item no 6.

Rural Broadband – The research on this subject, lead by the Chair is continuing and we are trying to capture all the examples of good practice clarity to which the RDPE programme could support the role out of access to Rural Broadband. The Forum will also respond to the Next Generation Fund consultation from BIS.

- 3. Recognising Rural Interests within integrated Rural Strategies – Adam Lavis, Senior Policy Adviser, Rural Governance, Commission for Rural Communities –** The CRC, as a support mechanism to embedding rural in future legislation, have produced a briefing paper which was circulated to all organisations with an input to the Regional Strategies at the end of January. The CRC feel that this report will be a useful tool to aid organisations to rural proof emerging Integrated Regional Strategies.

AL outlined specific rural proofing measures for Regional Strategies such as:-

- Production of statements of impact and delivery to rural communities within Regional Strategy Implementation Plans and Monitoring Reports.
- Direct representation of a rural voice on RRAs and Examination in Public Panels, including making full use of RDA Rural Board members and having rural voices on the Leaders' Board.
- Identifying a rural advocate within Regional Strategy drafting teams.
- Inclusion of rural proofing within the Sustainability Appraisal process.
- Identifying a rural voice within the Sustainability Appraisal team.
- Securing and identifying rural champions working in the key sectors engaged with Regional Strategies, including health, education and skills, transport, climate change and the business community.

AL stressed that Regional Strategies need to acknowledge the important linkages and interdependencies that exist between urban and rural economies and how rural communities can help with behavioural change on a Low Carbon Economy. The presentation also explored the challenges to service provision in rural areas, the high cost of the provision of healthcare, education and dispersed base of businesses outside of market towns, the lack of local support outlets, low pay and the increasing demand for Rural Affordable Housing which is key to maintaining the viability and vibrancy of rural communities. CLG have projected a further 35% growth in the rural population by 2031 with the average rural house costing 7.1 times the average annual rural household income (HM Land registry 2009). The document suggests Rural Housing targets should be reflected in Regional Strategies and linked to Housing Needs Assessments and Community Led Plans. The New Planning Policy Statement 4 aims to “Raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas by promoting, thriving inclusive and locally distinctive rural communities...” AL summed up by discussing the complex issues for Next Generation Access for rural SMEs needing access to Broadband for business and e-learning and the access by an ageing population and the increasing range of services offered “on line”. The presentation was included in the delegate packs, together with the full report which includes a list of CRC contacts who can offer further information on areas

of interest. The Chair thanked AL for a very informative overview and RFSE members were invited to comment.

Members asked if the CRC had the resource to support each region in the use of this document. "AL replied that the focus of CRC work is national and they do not have a regional focus or capacity to directly support regional or local work on regional strategies. However, as a specific consultation body for regional strategies, they hope that the document they have produced will assist and support local discussion and engagement."

Members agreed that the SE Plan is very urban focused and the "examination in public" had scant regard for the input on from rural advocates. Some members had been on the Rural Advisory Group for the previous Regional Spatial Strategy, but in spite of all their work and input, the final document gave very little regard to rural needs. JT suggested that since the role of the RFSE is to be the Rural Champion, RFSE, members should use the report to enhance the emerging evidence base and actively advocate for rural proofing of the Integrated Regional Strategy. This could also raise the profile of the Forum with the new SE Partnership Board. Members expressed the view that the use of the word 'sustainable' was a disadvantage as it was interpreted by different people in different ways. It should be replaced with 'living, working' communities as reflected in the Taylor Report - AL agreed to take these comments back to colleagues and the Rural Coalition

<http://www.acre.org.uk/DOCUMENTS/Rural%20Coalition/The%20Future%20is%20Rural%20Too.pdf>

Action: SERCC to circulate information on the Rural Coalition & add the presentation and report to the www.rfse.org.uk website – Action AG

4. **RFSE Input to Defra Review of Rural Forums** –the SERCC CEO explained that Rural Affairs Forum are very diverse and Defra is undertaking a review of the RAFs across the country, to ascertain how they may go forward in the future. A copy of the review questionnaire was included in the pack and members were asked to complete the documentation prior to lunch.

Action: The 19 Review Questionnaire's completed by delegates will be submitted to Defra by the Secretariat.

5. **The Conservative Vision and Policy for Rural England - Richard Benyon – MP for Newbury & Shadow Minister for Environment, Fisheries & Wildlife** – The Chair thanked the MP for taking the time to be with us today and explained that the Labour MP Dan Norris had also been invited this meeting but had been unable to attend.

Richard Benyon covered the elements of the Conservative Rural Action Plan which can be viewed at: -

<http://www.conservatives.com/Campaigns/~media/Files/Downloadable%20Files/rural-action-leaflet.ashx>

It provoked a lively debate among Forum Members who gave the Shadow Minister a strong vote of thanks for his attendance and informative presentation.

6. **The Rural South East – Perspective from the Rural Board – Jeremy Leggett, CEO Action in Rural Sussex** – The Rural Board was re-launched 18 months ago

and set up to ensure that “Rural” was included in strategic policies. The Rural Board set up four main priorities:-

1. To support the provision of Affordable Housing in Rural Areas
2. To produce a really good rural SE evidence base
3. Access to Rural Broadband issue.
4. Linking the land based industries with health and quality of life.

Members of the Board were given responsibilities to lead on these priorities. Pam Doodes the Leader of Wealden District Council took on the lead for Affordable Rural Housing, Andrew Bowles is the lead on Rural Broadband. JL is the Lead on the evidence base. The Health priority is still being structured. JL made the point that all this work is being undertaken with very limited support funding or resources.

JL was tasked with writing a narrative of the key issues and contributions made by the rural areas of the SE region. A copy of the narrative was included in the delegate packs. The list of data still required can be found at the end of the document. The data has been continuously revised and JL is working with SEEDA and GOSE to draw down data to plug the gaps.

The narrative has been drafted from the assumption that the Regional decision makers tend to see the world through urban eyes and they do not consider the contribution of, or challenges for rural areas. It sets out key rural issues in the SE and the contribution rural makes to the region and then looks at the data to see if it supports the narrative or would challenge or change it. It should eventually provide a robust narrative and evidence base, which the Rural Board and Forum can use in influencing the development of regional policies with the political parties.

JL outlined the narrative highlighting the main points and asked that:-

- The Forum members to take the narrative back to their County Rural Partnerships and Strategic Partnerships for discussion. JL asked for formal endorsement and ratification from this local level which would provide great credibility to the document.
- If there is a rural GVA figure for the Region? It would make a big difference to have it – KCC have this figure for Kent, which is published on the Kent Rural Board website. It was calculated using the Experian model which could be replicated.
- The Forum to offer any hard evidence they might have, that the Rural SE is losing services faster than other regions. AL suggested that the CRC might be able to help with this.

VC praised the work that has been done to date. GOSE feel that this is an ideal time to circulate the document to feed into the Local Development strategies – to ensure both bottom up and top down influence. Cllr Sylvia Tidy can help with the SE Strategic Health Authority evidence but not for Hampshire as they are part of a different region. The Local Strategic Partnerships need to clarify the link between local disadvantage and the role and value of networks in addressing it.

Action : RFSE members to discuss the narrative with their County Rural and Strategic Partnerships and respond to JL – Jeremy.leggett@ruralsussex.org.uk

JL to discuss the GVA Figure with KCC.

RFSE Members & CRC to provide evidence of loss of services in the SE

7. **Top 10 SE Facts** – The CRC have disaggregated some of the data for the SE and JT hopes to have a draft document for the Forum to look at for the next meeting.

Action: SERCC to produce Top 10 SE Facts for the meeting on 11th May 2010

8. AOB

- **Actions & Agenda for the meeting on 11th May 2010**
 - Broadband Report
 - Review of Northwest area perspective
- **Actions & Agenda for the meeting on 15h September 2010**
 - Health Services and Rural Health – Cllr Sylvia Tidy to co-ordinate

- **Dates for the 2010 Rural Forum SE Meetings to be held from 10.30 to 15.00 in central London :-**

11th May 2010 – Dexter House
15th September 2010
23rd November 2010

ANNEX 2

The Agreed Narrative from the Board meeting 19 February 2010

Will follow as soon as the agreed amendments have been made