



Independent

NORTH EAST RURAL AFFAIRS FORUM

Championing the interests of rural communities

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Background

In Rural Strategy 2004, the Government announced that end customers should have “a clear voice in strategic decision-making”, and that this could be achieved through a strengthening of the Regional Rural Affairs Forums.

In response, in 2005 the North East Rural Affairs Forum restructured itself to address changing needs and to become *an independent Forum championing the interests of rural communities in the North East*.

Aim of the Forum

The North East Rural Affairs Forum aims to speak up for rural communities and influence the delivery and development of rural policy in the northeast.

Objectives of the Forum

To have a positive impact on rural delivery by contributing to the rural proofing and influencing the development of regional and national policies by the Forum;

acting as a sounding board for Government Office and its key delivery partners, ensuring an appropriate consideration of rural needs and interests is taken into account at the design stage of policies and strategies;

contributing to the development and monitoring of the regional rural delivery framework, assessing its effectiveness and scrutinising selected activities and organisations;

drawing on its assessment of delivery and opinion gathered from local communities, feed back customer views on Government Office and its partners' rural delivery activities and speak out for rural communities;

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North East Rural Affairs Forum
Citygate Gallowgate Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4WH
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Chair: David Stewart
Vice Chair: Ian Brown
Sec/Coordinator: Yvonne Greenlay



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knowing or identifying the particular characteristics and needs of northeast rural communities by initiating research and influencing the research programmes of Government Office and its partners;

contributing to the development of an evidence-based understanding of the key issues facing the rural area of the North East and rural England more widely, by contributing to studies (e.g. CRC) and responding to regional and national consultations.

To be the recognised rural voice of the region by the Forum;

bringing together regularly a group of individuals selected because of their personal experiences of and links with a variety of rural interests, issues and service delivery;

developing a productive dialogue between Forum members and drawing on their contacts within wider rural social and business communities;

representing the region's rural interests to the principal policy and delivery agencies affecting rural life in the region, including Government Departments, Government Office for the North East, the Commission for Rural Communities, Natural England, One North East, North East Regional Assembly and others.

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