

Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)



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East of England Development Agency (EEDA)

Other funding available via EEDA

- Proof of Market (was Proof of Concept) £5K to £20K @ up to 60% to test idea feasibility
- GBI – Grants for Business Investment £10K to £2M @ 10 to 20% funding rate
- ERDF - £100M available to 2013 under the EU “Competitiveness and Employment” objective – favours non-profit-making and carbon friendly projects - non-farming so complements RDPE
- Small loans for business, £500 to £50K

Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)

- Joined up Rural Development Programme
- 2007 – 2013 (£65M in total)
- Jointly funded by EU and UK to:
 - Safeguard and enhance the rural environment and countryside
 - Foster competitive and sustainable businesses
 - Assist the development of thriving rural communities

RDPE axes (themes)

Axis 1 - Improving competitiveness of farming and forestry sectors (EEDA)

Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside (NE and FC)

Axis 3 - Rural quality of life and diversification of the rural economy (EEDA)

Axis 4 – local action group approach (LAG's)

Regional Implementation Plan Themes

- 1 Business efficiency
- 2 New markets and products
- 3 New businesses and enterprises in the rural economy
- 4 Resource protection
- 5 Conservation of the natural and built historic environment
- 6 Access and recreation
- 7 Rural community capacity

How can I find out more?

- Prospectus available on EEDA website
www.eeda.org.uk/rdpe
- Facilitation guidance and support available – contact details on final slide
- Detailed requirements and links to regulations are set out in the prospectus

15 projects funded to date



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Landskills East

- Landskills East is a partnership of twenty-six organisations who have now started delivering a comprehensive skills programme across the region – 270 courses approved so far!
- A significant proportion of the project is dedicated to management skills for this three year period of activity
- Emphasis on being demand-led: customers ask for courses which are then designed for them



Renewable energy



- EEDA will liaise closely with Renewables East
- Woodfuel East is now up and running
- State Aids position for Biogas projects has now been resolved – now we can progress
- RDPE funds are limited, so EEDA will carefully focus support for Biogas and other projects

Shared reservoirs

- Water availability is perhaps the single biggest issue jeopardising our ability to produce food in this region in the future
- RDPE is funding winter storage reservoirs which are shared resources for groups of farmers
- Three projects have started and another four are due to be constructed next year
- RDPE is keen to fund more reservoir projects

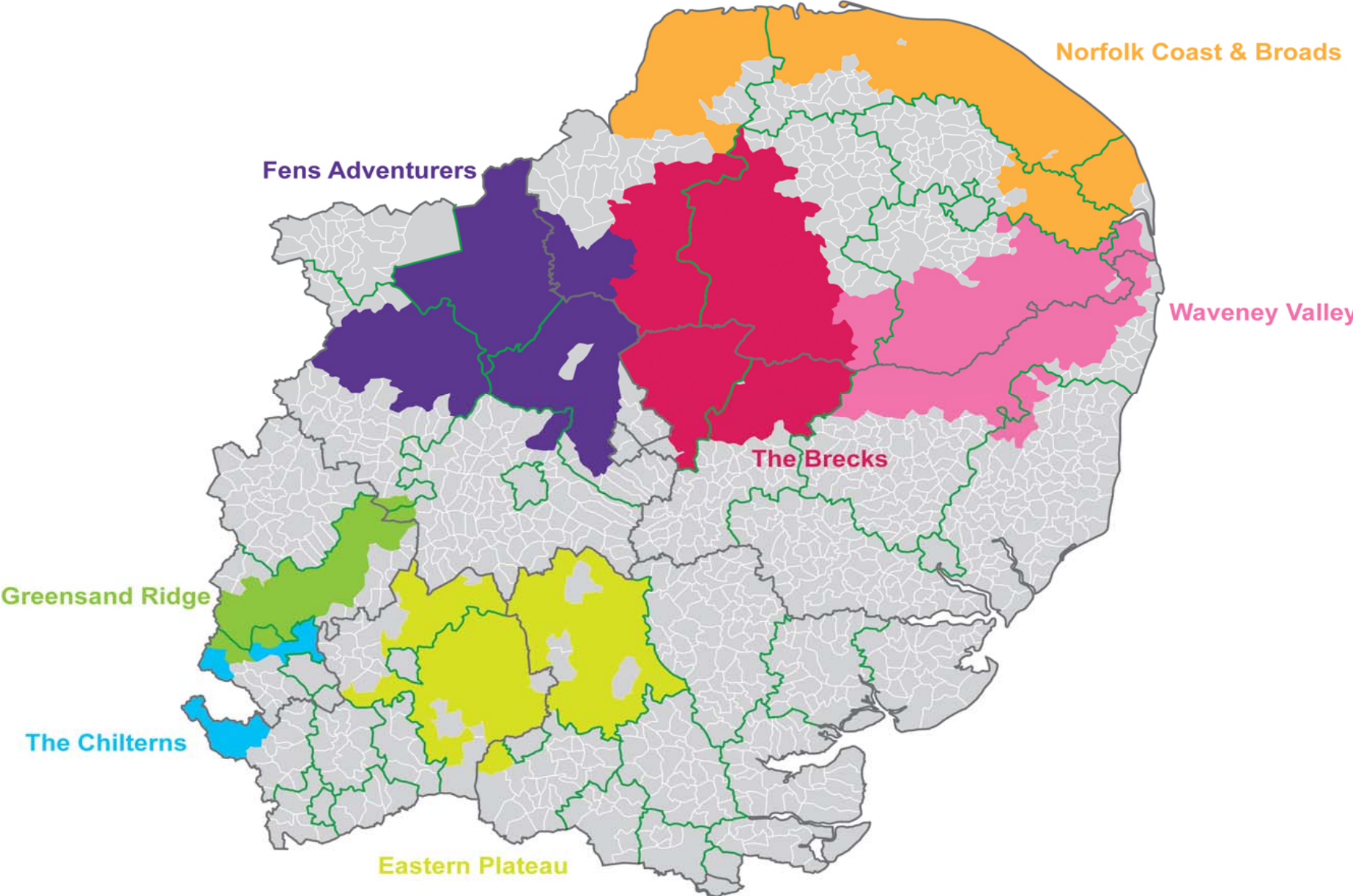
What are LAG's?

- A community based 'bottom up' approach that provides opportunities for local communities to identify their needs and devise appropriate, sustainable solutions
- An integrated element of the Rural Development Programme (£21M of the £65M)
- An approach to delivery NOT a separate Programme

LAG requirements

- Area based with a well defined boundary
- Involve local public-private partnerships - at least 50% non-public sector
- Bottom up approach with decision making power for LAGs
- Local Development Strategy must be representative of broad section of local economy
- Programme should support innovative approaches and co-operation between LAGs

RDPE Local Action Groups



Future development areas

- Greater emphasis on Axis 3 – rural quality of life and diversification of the rural economy
- Simplified application process for smaller awards
- Area working teams now being placed by EEDA
- Need to work in concert with Local Authorities on initiatives
- For example - Haven Gateway meeting in December

Contact details



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Useful links



RDPE pages on EEDA website:

<http://www.eeda.org.uk/rdpe/>

RDPE Q & A on Defra website

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/rdpe/qa.htm>

Questions and answers



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