



EEDA's Commitment to Rural Skills

Regenerating Rural Communities by Focusing on Skills Conference

1st March 2006

Pat Holtom, Board Member, EEDA

The vision for the East of England...

...is for 'a leading economy, founded on our world-class knowledge base and the creativity and enterprise of our people, in order to improve the quality of life of all who live and work here.'

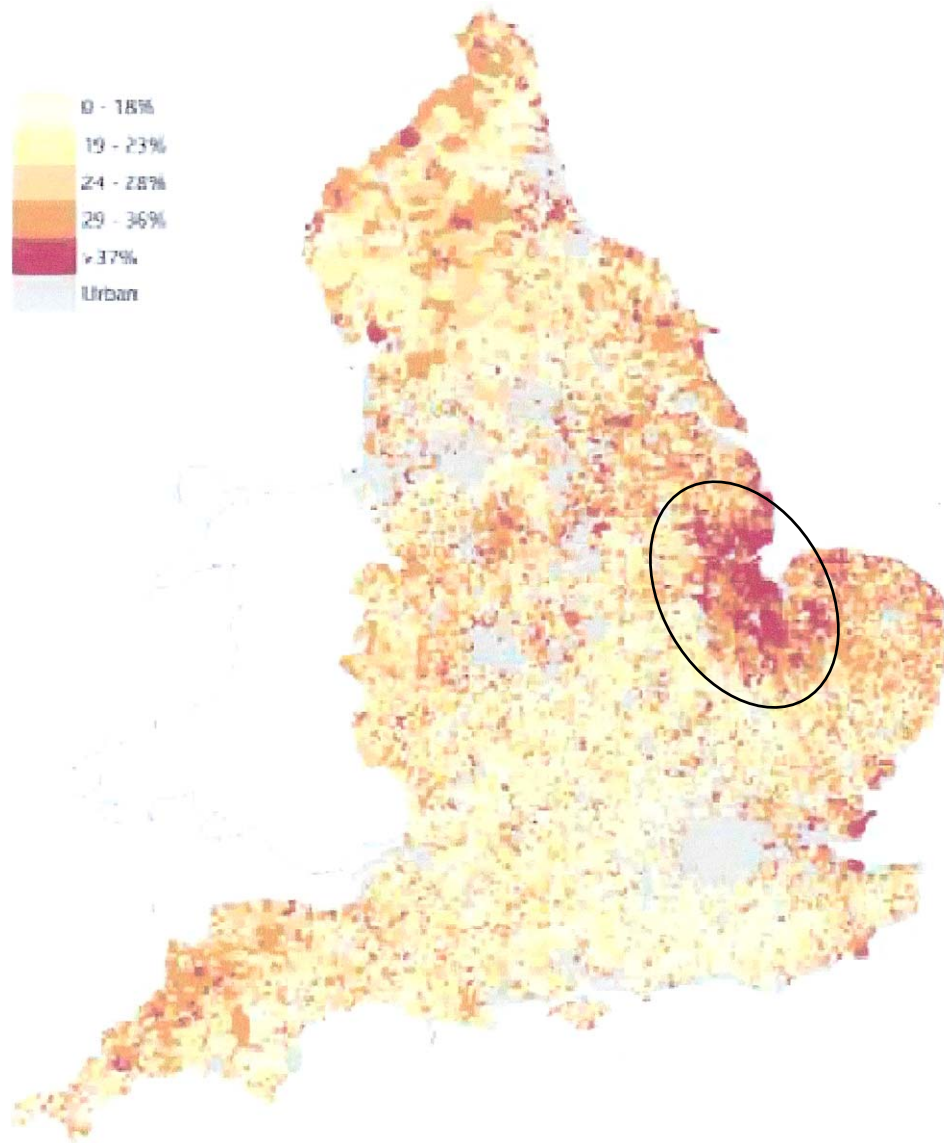


Figure: The proportion of adults with no qualifications 2001 (Countryside Agency State of the Countryside 2004 figure 7.5)

RDA roles in economic development

An EEDA perspective

- | | | |
|---|-------|----------------------|
| 1. Set & shape direction | | strategic navigator |
| 2. Influence behaviour | | advocate |
| | | convenor |
| | | expert |
| | | innovator |
| 3. Do the right things and do them well | | commissioner |
| | | delivery manager |
| | | competence & quality |

EEDA in context

- EEDA one of nine Regional Development Agencies in England, with EMDA being its counterpart
- ‘Single pot’ of funding in recent years – more flexibility to spend budget on regional priorities
- This budget flexibility allows RDAs to experiment and support change
- However, most public sector expenditure is delivered by others and RDAs thus must use their budgets to lever other expenditure
- Regional Skills and Competitiveness Partnership (RSCP)

Eight strategic goals

a skills base that can support a world-class economy

growing competitiveness, productivity and entrepreneurship

global leadership in developing and realising innovation in science, technology and research

high quality places to work, live and visit

social inclusion and broad participation in the regional economy

making the most from the development of international gateways and national and regional transport corridors

a leading information society

an exemplar for the efficient use of resources

EEDA Corporate Plan

- EEDA contribution to RES goals
- Rural and skills both cross-cutting
- Core products
 - Business Support
 - Investing in Communities
 - Enterprise Hubs
 - Regional Renaissance
- Regional and sub-regional partnerships and local delivery

Rural Skills Initiatives

EEDA has backed many previous rural skills initiatives, including:

- Food processing via the two current ESF funded projects run by Poultec/Otley College and Food East
- Agricultural Development in the Eastern Region (ADER) project
- Fens Rural Pathfinder pilots
- Sustainable Farming and Food Projects

Rural Skills Initiatives

Looking forward, EEDA is keen to build on these project successes by using its own resources in conjunction with others to drive forward future work

EEDA is currently working up proposals for the region's ERDP2 programme which will contain measures on skills specifically for the rural economy

Big wins

Exciting new developments:

- College of West Anglia – new campuses at Kings Lynn and March and a satellite centre in Wsibech;
- University College Suffolk;
- Southend Campus in the Thames Gateway;
- University developments in Peterborough

Partnership approach and local delivery

- Key to how EEDA delivers
- Rural proof delivery at local and sub-regional level
- Work with SREPs and liC partnerships
- Mature relationships between key players
- Clarity

Our challenge!