Connecting the Leeds City Region to its urban/rural fringes

'Investing in the future by working together for a sustainable and competitive region'

Friday 8th April 2011
Leeds Metropolitan University

Sustainable URBAN FRINGES
S U R F

The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme
Investing in the future by working together for a sustainable and competitive region

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Centre for Urban Development & Environmental Management

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Introduction

This is the report of the conference, sponsored jointly by Bradford MDC and Leeds Metropolitan University (Centre for Urban Development and Environmental Management), held in Leeds on 8th April 2011. Entitled "Connecting the Leeds City Region to its urban/rural fringes", the intention was to bring a diverse range of stakeholders together to discuss how the spaces beyond the urban within the Leeds City Region might be considered within the context of new agendas emerging from the Coalition Government. Acting as a catalyst to the conference was a multinational project that Bradford MDC and LMU are contributing to. This project is sponsored by the European Union and entitled Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF). It is a response to an increasingly acknowledged awareness across Europe that the "forgotten" assets and communities of the urban hinterland which surrounds the core towns and cities are frequently overlooked in city region planning and development during the pursuit of such as housing expansion and economic competitiveness.

This conference provided an opportunity for assessment and discussion of the potential for local community agendas, the urban fringe areas and the city region's interests to be mutually developed. Attendees included local authority practitioners, planning and economic development professionals, District Councillors, Parish Councillors, business leaders, land owners, NGO's and researchers. Interest in the topic was indicated by the fact that a full capacity of more than 80 people attended the conference and many more registrations had to be declined.

The conference was the first of two that are planned, the purpose of the second being to reflect on changing opportunities, constraints and influences on the Leeds City Region urban/rural fringes after a further year into the lifetime of the current Government. The second conference will be held in Leeds on 26th April 2012.

City Regions and the Urban/Rural fringe context

Winds of change

In October 2010 the Government Local Growth Plan announced that Leeds City Region had been shortlisted to develop one of 24 Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs), and businesses within it had the chance to access a new £1.4bn regional growth fund. It also announced that the LEP will be "free to develop strategic planning frameworks to address economic development and infrastructure issues which relate to economic geography". The Growth Plan signalled more, however, heralding "a new approach to local growth, (intended to shift) power away from central Government to local communities, citizens and independent providers. This means recognising that where drivers of growth are local, decisions should be made locally." Pursuing this theme further, the Growth Plan emphasised that it was important that the characteristics of the rural economy and its contribution to national growth be recognised … (particularly) in the eight core city-regions, which include Leeds.

To support this came confirmation of a reformed planning system and a remodelled governance framework, encapsulated in large part by the new draft Localism Bill. Almost immediately following the May 2010 UK general election the Government stated its intention to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies, one of the key elements of the previous Government's planning framework. At the same time Government has defined explicit roles for city region LEPs and for neighbourhoods and parish councils. Planning issues which affect communities often span traditional administrative borders and LEPs are entrusted in part to take on a vital role of working with neighbourhoods and local authorities to foster sustainable economic growth, whilst local authorities now have a duty to cooperate with each other. LEPs will therefore be free to work with partner planning authorities to develop strategic planning, which the local authority-produced local development plans then respond to, whilst communities will be centre-stage in the process by being able to create neighbourhood plans. These are intended to give local communities greater flexibility and freedoms to undertake more development than set out in the local authority plan. Such Neighbourhood Development Plans will therefore integrate with, but add to, the wider development plan for the area and will set out policies in relation to the development and use of land in relation to a particular localised community.

In other words, the work of the Leeds LEP and the future trajectory of the Leeds City Region will be influenced by, firstly, the vast bulk of non-major infrastructure planning taking place at the local level, through neighbourhoods, individual planning authorities and groups of authorities collaborating across boundaries but dependant upon the effectiveness of the right people, groups and communities in sharing information and co-operating to make the best decision for their areas within and across localities.

Learning from the past

The above is set against a background which pre-dates the current changes in planning, governance and economic development policy and suggests both that rural delivery and rural "proofing" have not been generally as effective as they should be and that rural assets

and communities have not, historically, been sufficiently recognised in a wider context for their strategic worth. This is evidenced by such as DEFRA research which found that for rural (including that which we might call 'the urban fringe') delivery to be co-ordinated and effectively delivered, organisations need to have a heightened awareness of the workings of the other players in the delivery landscape. Part of the role of strategies is to determine the best direction for delivery and allow delivery agents to be aware of and work towards that common destination. However, where delivery agents were not aware of an overall strategy this co-ordination did not take place, and delivery suffered accordingly. For the example of planning, further research looked at the extent that parish plans were being integrated into local and regional public service and planning policies and found that there has historically been little recognition, by both local authorities and mainstream service providers, of the widespread advantages that parish plans can provide.

It is therefore transparently in the interests of all stakeholders within a city region to subscribe to mutually supportive plans and actions if they are to progress at all levels, from the LEP to the local authority to the neighbourhood or parish community.

The notion of value in the Urban Fringe

Given the above context, this conference was intended as a timely contribution to the on-going debate about the notion of city regions, their governance, functionality, realistic aspirations and their communities. In particular, it sought to dispel the all too common assumption that city regions in the UK are defined overwhelmingly by a series of interconnecting urban areas and the activities that take place within urban confines. It reminds us that there is a key dimension to all city regions which at one and the same time helps to: define the character and marketability of the region; provides many of the ecosystem services that urban areas depend upon; is a home to the agricultural industry that is so vital to urban sustainability; supports a significant and very self aware population; hosts vital and dynamic commercial enterprises and services; relieves the pressure on precious flora and fauna; and delivers recreational and health benefits to urban populations that are of almost incalculable value. This dimension is the urban/rural fringe. This is the green on the map, and the small villages and towns contained within it, that one can describe, depending on your perspective, as either cementing together the various urban centres of city regions or keeping them distinct and differentiated.

The Leeds City Region (LCR) and its urban fringe

The LCR Partnership was selected in 2009 to become one of only two pilot city regions to be given greater powers and control over funding for areas such as regeneration and housing, innovation and skills, and support to local businesses to help them to adapt to changing economic circumstances. Importantly, the LCR Partnership has recognised that in order to ensure that the city region functions as a single economic space there is an imperative to enhance linkage between the urban and non-urban communities and to tailor policy solutions to ensure that they meet the needs of both. To this end there is a need to recognise the area's rural or ex-urban offer, and to ensure that future strategy is rural-

proofed. To put it another way, there is an imperative to create a level playing field between urban and ex-urban areas across the city region, for the LCR partners to play an active role in strengthening sustainable rural and urban fringe communities, and for those communities to reciprocate by contributing to the success and sustainability of the LCR.

A Sustainable Urban Fringe

The urban fringe, both in the UK and Europe more widely, is an area that has historically been overlooked and undervalued, much of it unplanned and the victim of happenstance, but always having the capacity to turn up jewels for those who seek them. However, in recent times, as the focus of creating "competitive" places in a globalised context has increasingly settled upon developing alliances of place and function within a city region scale, there has been a little more attention given to an appreciation of the assets of the urban fringes and to how to release their potential. This has been recognised and made manifest in a series of projects funded by, and working across, the European Union. One such project is the aforementioned SURF, which brings together partners and experts from across the North Sea Region to exchange information and develop a common approach towards the sustainability of urban fringe areas.

In just one example relevant to the Leeds City Region, a common theme from the SURF project is about releasing the capacity of communities to define and contribute to their own quality of life, but in so doing to relate to adjacent community aspirations, to create synergies in a wider urban fringe context, and thereby providing a recognisable and essential support to the integrated resources and delivery mechanisms of the city regions. Historically, in the UK this is an unconventional view of the UF and its communities. Parish Plans and the higher-level strategies designed to raise the steam in the economic powerhouse of a city region have rarely been explicitly regarded as bedfellows, for example. They are not, however, rival approaches. They both function at different spatial scales but have the same aspirations and adherence to principles of sustainability. Nevertheless, both the last New Labour Government and the present Coalition Government have used the rhetoric and practice of "Localism" to fuel a "new" way of working to sustain regeneration and development and the role of localism has been given strategic as well as neighbourhood weight. This implies that communities and other stakeholders in the urban fringe, including those with regional influence, need to connect both horizontally and vertically in the wider decision making processes affecting their own, their district, and their city region future, and stakeholders and decision-makers need to be able to find common ground to address some key questions amongst which are the following:

- Can we identify explicit urban fringe characteristics and requirements?

- What are the current and future relationships of urban and rural functions?

- What are the determinants of change in the urban fringe and where might conflicts of interest be identified?

- How can transition be managed and resourced?

- Who are the key public, private and community stakeholders in the urban fringe, and what structures/techniques of governance and engagement will enable their interests to be aired?

- What are the local/regional/national/global policy priorities that need to be taken account of in the visioning and practice of planning and managing urban fringe futures?

- What are the most appropriate scales at which to manage different aspects of sustainable urban fringes?

The above, and other insights emanating from the SURF project, encouraged the SURF partners to examine the functioning of urban fringes in a city region context through four main themes. These themes tend to be complementary and overlapping but they allow for core activities, policies and strategies, stakeholders and institutions to be engaged with and studied. The themes were therefore adapted as the framework for the Leeds conference and are:

- Competitiveness and economic development

- Green space and green infrastructure

- Spatial planning

- Governance and community engagement

Taken together, the aforementioned context and the four themes determined an agenda for the conference as follows:

Session 1

Opening of the Conference
Chair, Tony Pexton (Chair of the Rural Affairs Forum)

The City Region and the importance of its Urban/Rural fringes
Joe Ravetz (Co-Director for the Centre of Urban & Regional Ecology, University of Manchester)

The Leeds City Region 'Progress so far'
Sally Hinton (Strategy Manager, Leeds City Region)

The importance of the 'green bits'
Pam Warhurst (Chair Pennine Prospects; Chair of the Forestry Commission)

Session 2

Workshop sessions – parallel workshops on **'Making the urban/rural fringes work'**
      Workshop 1 – **Economic Development & the urban/rural fringes**
      Facilitator – Prof John Shutt (Leeds Met University)
      Workshop 2 – **The sustainable City Region & the role of Green Infrastructure.**
      Facilitator – Chris Marshall (Natural England)

Workshop feedback

Session 3

Localised Planning in context – Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) project, Bradford
Dave Melling (Rural Programmes Coordinator, Bradford Council)

Locally effective Governance of the urban/rural fringe 'The Challenge'
Sheena Spence and John Dunford (Yorkshire Local Council Association)

Workshop sessions: parallel sessions on **'Making the urban/rural fringes work'**
      Workshop 1 - **Localism and local authorities.**
      Facilitator - Ivan Annibal (Rose Regeneration)
      Workshop 2 – **Engaging & empowering the UF community.**
      Facilitator - Mick McLoughlin (Leeds Metropolitan University)

Workshop feedback

Closing discussions – Speakers panel

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Opening of the Conference

Tony Pexton (Rural Affairs Forum)

Tony Pexton welcomed all delegates and set the context for the day ahead. He described the urban rural fringe as an old issue now set within the new context of the city region. Following the abolition of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), the regional scale is of decreasing importance. Their replacement, the Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs) lead to an increasing importance of the city region (CR) scale.

Rural issues are being kept on the Government's agenda through the conversation between rural affairs forums and the Government. It's important that rural needs and their policy solutions are understood. Rural areas are often below the radar, and there is a danger that the emphasis on economic development through the LEP could mean that they continue to be so. As such it's important that the message of how they contribute to economic activity, and also issues such as climate change, is communicated. Funding cuts will also have an impact so it's important that rural issues are linked in.

The City Region and the importance of its Urban/Rural Fringes

Joe Ravetz (Centre of Urban & Regional Ecology, University of Manchester)

Joe started by setting the wider context of the rural urban city region. The LCR is a rural and urban region centred on Leeds. The boundaries can be fluid but are defined through a centring in Leeds in relation to its links to its hinterland, based upon a range of criteria, for example commuting distance travelled. The CR can be examined and mapped through different types of data for example house prices, unemployment levels and ecological areas. Examining the CR is not unique to a Leeds or UK context but links more widely to European trends of expanding and shrinking cities, with population shifts as people move around Europe, resulting in a decline in the East and subsequent expansion in the West.

This leads to problems that the city region needs to face of:

- Urban sprawl

- Divided community

- Wasted assets

- High carbon economy

- Vulnerability and dependency

Joe went on to discuss the resultant dynamics of change in the urban fringe. Firstly the interrelated impacts of urban expansion were considered, including the responses to change and the resultant counter effects. These can be categorised under infrastructure, services, housing, employment, economy, and population.

Secondly, peri-urban land-use relationships were examined. It is important to recognise that cities are not expanding into previously unused areas but must instead acknowledge the ways they operate in relation to other places. This changes the way of seeing the CR; rather than just a receptacle it is instead a living thing with complex relationships. Links happen between each of the different elements and operate both ways, for example:

- Urban to peri-urban – housing and commercial development, health and education facilities, transport infrastructure, leisure and tourism

- Peri-urban to urban – access to services, employment and markets

- Peri-urban to rural – leisure & tourism, land-based employment, ecosystem services – social cultural functions

- Rural to peri-urban – ecosystem services – providing functions: farming, forestry, minerals, energy, water. Supporting functions: flood retention, soil stability, climate moderation.

Thirdly, structural forces that impact on the peri-urban were considered. Land use is shaped by multi-scalar structural dynamics. These range from the global to the local dynamics, and also from the public to the private foci. For example if an airport expands

near a heritage site, who wins? Different interests need to be reconciled between, for example, expansion with economic benefits and dog walking with social benefits.
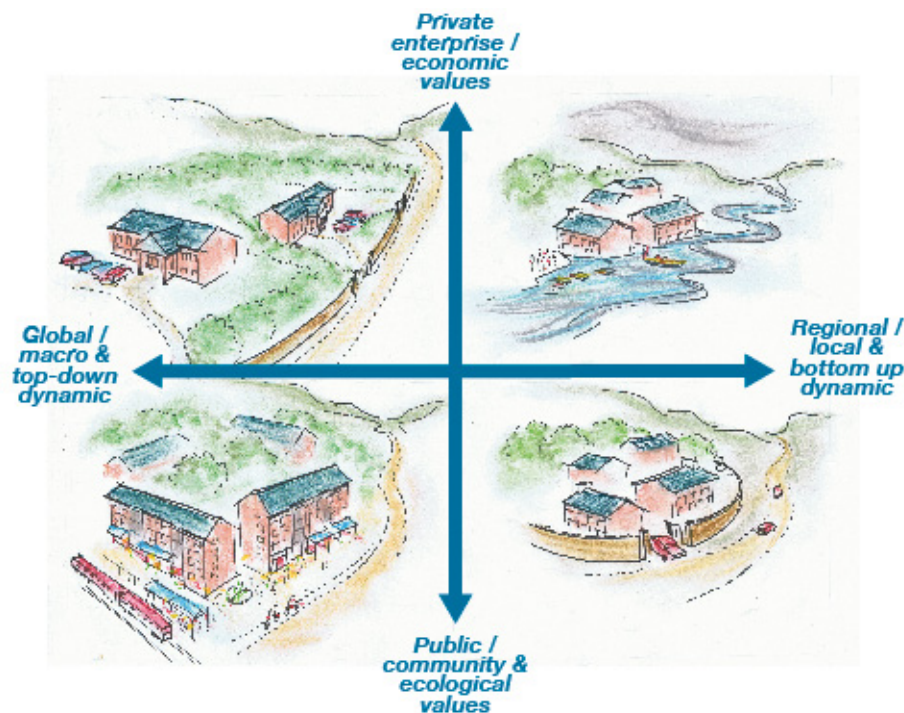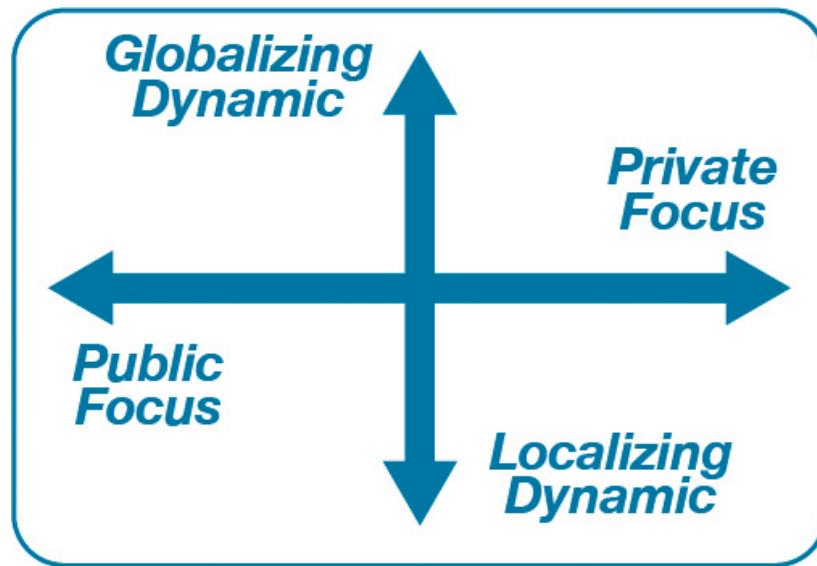

Figure 1 Peri-urban land use relationships

Lastly the transition and restructuring processes and their responses in terms of resilience, adaptation and innovation were considered. Structural changes such as globalisation, economic restructuring, socio-cultural change, and governance fragmentation and liberalisation all impact on the peri-urban fringe. This leads to transition and restructuring processes such as rural transition towards a more multi-functional landscape, peri-urban transition to respond to global systems of production and consumption, and urban restructuring to respond to the demands of a 21st century economy. The responses focus on resilience, adaptation and innovation such as governance innovation and capacity building, developing business innovation and the skills base, increasing community cohesion, and environmental resilience and adaptation.

Joe went on to look at a 'view from the future' in terms of where we are headed. This focused on four scenarios, within the private/public and local/global dynamics.

A1 is the high growth scenario. Here there is rapid economic growth and new technologies. There is a globalised culture alongside traditional country crafts. This leads to the peri-urban being segmented by value and status. There are contrasting trends with outdoor living as a high tech, high value activity, so large estates are converted into privatised country parks. There is also some withdrawal from outdoors into sealed buildings in gated communities, with next generation play stations for work and leisure.

A2 is the self reliance scenario. Here there is high population growth but slower economic growth and technological change. Extreme water events, rapid climate impacts, flooding and rises in drought all impact in this scenario. Vulnerable areas are also the poorest with social tensions. The main growth area is insurance and litigation. The peri-urban area is fragmented, with a weak planning system and reliant on a stagnant private sector for investment.

B1 is the sustainability scenario. There is a global approach to sustainable development. Economic development is balanced with resource efficiency, social equity and environmental protection. Peak oil leads to rapid rises in energy prices with many social and economic effects. For peri-urban areas high energy prices change spatial structures. Tele-working is encouraged but more people return to big cities and the rural areas decline.

B2 is the fragmentation scenario. Europe sees a fragmentation of society in terms of age, ethnicity and there is international distrust. Cities are divided on ethnic/cultural grounds with increased in-migration of the working age population. Large parts of the Pennines are acquired by international property companies who create live/work clusters enabled by advanced IT. Peri-urban areas become 'peri-society' areas.

Joe then went on to address the policies and governance issues that lead in these different directions. It is important to identify how different parts relate to one another. All different places have different development agendas, so a connected joined up view of things can feed in different policy assessments that feed into the wider picture; spatial, governance, economic, social and environmental aspects all impact on the peri-urban. With the new

coalition Government agenda it is important to consider what different policies mean for the peri-urban areas. There are different types of CR models, such as the entrepreneurial CR, the partnership CR and the effective CR. It is important to consider how to make things happen when public resources are scarce. To do so it is worth considering alternative types of value and finance.

The conference Chair thanked Joe for his presentation and reflected that there are a number of challenges that need to be take account of in policy making. This provided a good background that highlighted issues, which whilst not necessarily new, are important challenges that we can hope to get some answers to through this conference.

The Leeds City Region 'Progress so far'

Sally Hinton (Leeds City Region)

Sally Hinton presented progress so far on the development of the Leeds City Region (LCR). The LCR centres on Leeds and includes local authorities within the Leeds travel to work area. It is a functional economic area with a population of 3 million, over 103,000 businesses, and an economy of £52 billion which represents 5% of UK GDP.
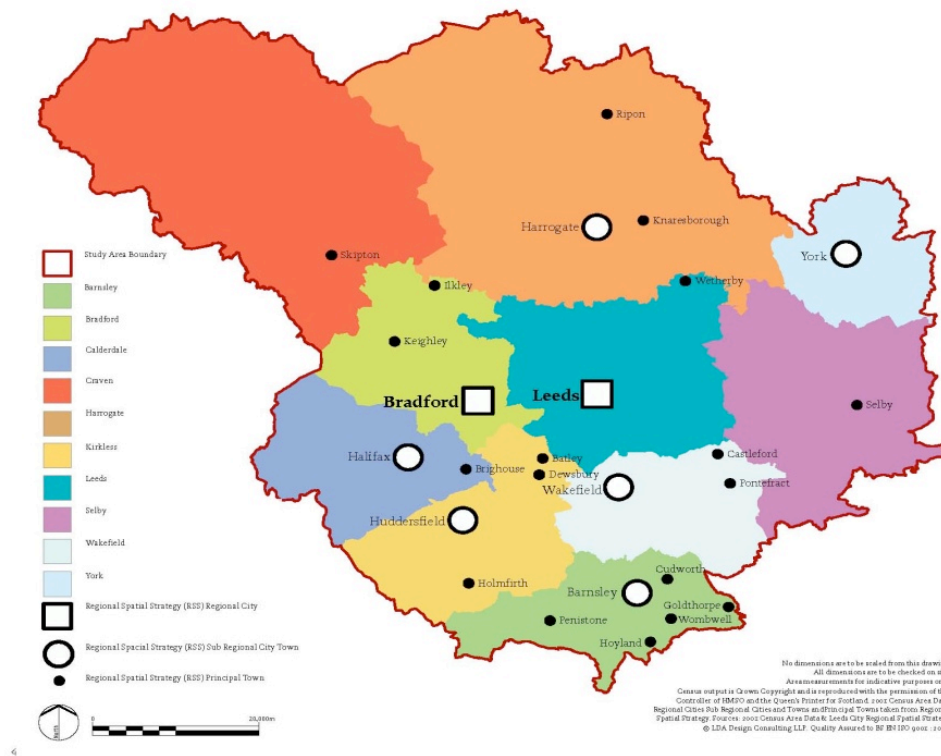
Figure 3 The Leeds City Region

The city region has a holistic approach that considers the area as a whole with a focus on how the rural, urban and fringe areas work together rather than separately. The rural areas are seen as an important part of the LCR, with a 'rural offer' that is an important element to attracting investment to the LCR. Other policies are 'rural–proofed' with consideration given to how they will work within the differing circumstances of the rural, urban and fringe areas. Sally highlighted that in terms of the LCR decision-making process, rural local authorities have the same voting rights as urban local authorities on the Leader's Board.

The LCR has a number of different workstreams covering:

- Housing and Regeneration
- Innovation
- Transport
- Skills and Employment
- Local Carbon

The LCR is a high level strategic partnership, with any decisions being made at the most appropriate level to the issue. Where there is a need for decisions to be made at a strategic level (for example cross boundary transport ticketing or flooding alleviation), the LCR works together to develop the most sensible approach for all partners. The current LCR Partnership consists of a joint committee of local authorities, to create the environment,

place and connectivity for business growth and the LEP board, a private-public partnership, which aims to unlock the growth potential of business and enterprise.

Sally gave four examples of priorities within the LCR that relate directly to the rural areas. Firstly, housing demand concentrated in the rural areas leads to property prices as high as those in the South East, creating problems in those areas. Secondly, the regeneration of former coal mining areas in the south of the city region has been a recent focus, although funding is now decreasing. Thirdly, business innovation and employment in rural areas is key to the overall economic growth of LCR, with 40% of job growth in the CR coming from Craven, Harrogate and Selby LA areas. Lastly Green Infrastructure is a key cross cutting work programme that seeks to use green space in the LCR to promote sustainable growth and development, adapt to climate change, increase well being and improve biodiversity.

However Sally emphasised that we are now in a period of change following the election of the coalition Government in 2010. At a national level the Commission for Rural Communities has been replaced by the Rural Communities Policy Unit. The Rural Development Programme is undergoing changes, with ministerial priorities shifting towards the competitiveness of farming, rural broadband provision, rural tourism and support for the uplands. Alongside this are other changes that impact on rural issues, such as the Localism Bill shifting power to local communities, reduced overall levels of public spending, and a change in planning powers with locally based Neighbourhood Plans being proposed. Nationally there has been the abolition of the Regional Development Agencies and associated staffing and budget provision, and their replacement with non-statutory Local Enterprise Partnerships, with no direct budgets.   The full impact on the LCR has yet to be seen, however initial implications are that there are fewer available funding streams, a need to review priorities and there will be closer working with the private sector with a shift from public/private towards private/public partnerships.

The key private/public partnership in the region is the LCR LEP. The LEP's ambition is to become:

> *'A world-leading example of a sustainable economy that balances economic growth with a high quality of life, and lowers carbon emission, becoming the natural alternative to London for investors'*

The LEP has recently appointed its chair and board and is currently working on its priorities. Rural issues have been considered, but the LEP does not have a formal position on this. It may be that this element is structured, either through a separate rural advocate or through one of the LAs. They are interested in research into rural businesses as drivers for the LCR economy. Whilst not an RDA replacement, as it does not have the same level of resources or staffing, there is significant energy and goodwill currently going in to its development.

The Chair stated that it was encouraging to see what is happening in a large economically active CR and how the rural areas are being taken into account in this. He recognised that the ground rules had changed with the introduction of the LEP and there was a need to work to make sure that the whole region was taken into account, rather than a separation between rural and urban.

The importance of the 'green bits'

Pam Warhurst (Chair of Pennine Prospects)

Pam spoke about the need for the urban/rural divide to be overcome, with organisations instead working on a holistic vision, drawing on her experience as chair of Pennine Prospects. She described a need to stop working in silos and instead focus on what the rural areas can do for the urban and how to work together towards a shared vision.

In terms of the current funding situation, Pam stated that, "There's nothing like having no dosh to make you really creative". She referred to her experience at Pennine Prospects where they had limited access to 'funny money' due to not being a specifically designated area, such as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but stated that this led to the need to think innovatively and develop good partnerships with people who had a genuine interest in the area.

Pennine Prospects is a rural development agency which works across the South Pennines, an area that cuts across different regions. This leads to difficulties where people don't communicate across those boundaries or are in competition with one another. As such it's important to look at places more holistically. However this is an area that is important to the millions of people that live around it and the hundreds of thousands that live within it.

Pam drew on her experience to outline the huge functional opportunities that green spaces have to offer. The South Pennines includes upland areas that provide recreational

opportunities, particularly important with a shift to more people staying in the UK for their holidays. It is also an area well connected by canals, rivers, railways and roads. There are also food related opportunities both through locally based initiatives, such as Incredible Edible Todmorden and also in using the entrepreneurial potential of people living in the landscape to increase business opportunities.   The area also performs environmental functions including the provision of clean water, carbon capture and species preservation. It has also been a test-bed for developing more sustainable and liveable places, for example through a community run and owned co-op and the aforementioned Incredible Edible project.

In order for initiatives to work in a place it is essential that are specific to that place and relate to clear understanding of that place.   Pam gave the example of flooding in Leeds and Sheffield which led the RDA to take in interest in the uplands, which had previously not been the case. It should not need something to go wrong in order that the urban understands the role of the rural in its existences. The green spaces can be described as providing a natural life support function.

There needs to be recognition of the interconnectivity of the urban and the rural. It is important to areas such as the South Pennines that the needs and desires of the people of Leeds are taken into consideration. The landscape does not just belong to the people that live there, but also the people who live in the urban areas, such as Leeds, that the rural area relates to. It is important that there is a discussion that leads to a collective vision of what is wanted from the area. For example, a rural green space can be used for carbon storage functions through the planting of trees. However covering the entire area in trees would impact upon the functionality the area provides in terms of recreation. It is important that there is a discussion as to where the balance lies between the different interests.

In conclusion, Pam described how both rural and urban spaces are about life and living. Whilst the urban may provide iconic buildings the rural provides great landscapes. Both need to relate to one another in order to provide shared, holistic outcomes. The rural needs to make the case for why it is important to the urban area.

The conference Chair thanked Pam for her *tour de force*. It illustrated what can be done if we think about communities of interest as well as communities as we usually see them.

Session 2

Workshop sessions – parallel workshops on 'Making the urban/rural fringes work'

Workshop 1 – Economic Development & the urban/rural fringes
Facilitator – Prof John Shutt (Leeds Met University)

Workshop 2 – The sustainable City Region & the role of Green Infrastructure.
Facilitator – Chris Marshall (Natural England)

Workshop feedback

Economic development and the urban/rural fringes workshop

Led by John Shutt (Leeds Metropolitan University)

Professor John Shutt introduced the bigger picture for city regions from the EU position on global competitiveness down to the city scale. The main source of funds for economic development across the Yorkshire region has been the RDA, Yorkshire Forward (YF), which had promoted new industrial development and jobs since 1998. YF had a programme of developing new sectors, such as 'knowledge economy' jobs in advanced manufacturing and operated its investment programme sub-regionally within the LCR. Much of their funding came from the EU through regional funds to secure 'balanced competitiveness' and 'cohesion' across the EU.

The abolition of the RDAs including Yorkshire Forward by the new Coalition Government creates major problems for economic development in the region which continues to underperform despite all the recent investment. The Government funds for the English regions for economic development are disappearing to be partially replaced by the new Regional Growth Fund (RGF). However this is not regional but controlled from London and worth only a third of the previous budget for RDAs. In addition it is not clear how the EU funds previously channelled through the RDAs will now be managed or whether there will be any capacity remaining at regional or lower levels to bid for and manage EU funds. The

ability of the region to respond to current economic challenges by promoting growth is therefore severely compromised.

The new mechanism which partially provides some sub-regional economic development capacity is the Local Enterprise Partnership, which the Leeds City Region partnership successfully bid for. This has a 16 member board, with 8 business representatives and 8 local councillors, which can bid for resources to London from the RGF. However, aside from this, the LEP has no resources except what local councils and businesses will subscribe, which is so far very limited.

Overall there is now very little strategic capacity left to think in a joined-up way about the future of the region or its city regions as local councils continue to cut back staff, central Government regeneration funds and RDA funds shrink or disappear and the regional plans for economic development and spatial planning are abolished.

This raises many questions for what is possible for urban fringes in the Leeds City Region. If the economic development infrastructure in England is being largely abolished is there anything that urban fringe areas can do to respond?

The wider workshop discussion focused around rural perspectives, reflecting the delegates' interests and on more local scales than the city region level. Reflecting the public spending cuts, as with the RDAs, the England Rural Development Programme for enterprise and job creation, managed by the RDAs, is also being abolished. Rural development agencies are being closed and the conference heard that the Business Links service for England, which is a national network of specialist small enterprise advisors in the regions, is due to be downgraded and replaced by a website and telephone service. In Calderdale, for example, Business Link currently supports about 100 businesses and loss of support for them will threaten future job creation there.

It was pointed out that the SURF programme was set up to explore how the urban fringe could help make cities more competitive, rather than to focus on rural concerns, understandable though this was for delegates. The EU itself has little interest in the urban fringe, but some interest in cities and their regions as drivers of EU competitiveness. Interreg funds for projects such as SURF are provided with this emphasis in mind and there are other programmes for exploring rural policy issues. The CR was seen by SURF as a sensible spatial scale to enable both rural interests and urban interests to combine to mutual economic benefit. This combination could be seen as helping the EU more widely to achieve global competitiveness because CRs with their urban fringes were seen as potential drivers of competitiveness.

Suggestions were made about making the new LEP responsive to local concerns, e.g. some way to get parishes represented collectively. This might be possible through a sub-committee of the LEP in future with the Local Councils Association. Suggestions were also made that more rural areas will miss out on some new programmes like the national apprenticeship. This was because they were too small individually but collectively they could organise something. However with Business Links shrinking this is difficult to organise.

Some very local schemes were continuing and it was worth supporting their efforts, e.g. the Whoyano network in the Haworth area who were negotiating with owners of empty mills to convert them into work spaces for new enterprises needing cheap space to help them get established. This showed how local knowledge and networks could harness local enthusiasm to promote business and jobs.

This raises a general problem for local economies in the urban fringe, with the pressure from developers and land owners to convert employment land in local plans into housing uses. Most remaining mill buildings have been converted to housing use and even land allocated for future employment is under constant pressure for conversion to more profitable housing use. Local planning officers often have great difficulty preventing the loss of employment and enterprise land through change of use for house building.

Related to this is the problem of keeping young people in the urban fringe where house prices are so high because growth in commuting has raised the price of rural housing well beyond young people's reach. The most dynamic sector of the population is being priced out by the workings of the housing market. A suggestion that planners were to blame for creating dormitory towns was discussed. It was pointed out that market forces made it difficult for planners to create affordable housing.

Urban fringes have an advantage in attracting a mobile IT-literate population who don't need to work in the cities to run their businesses. They can live in attractive rural surroundings, so some ways to attract these businesses would be helpful to the UF. A linked suggestion was that as jobs grow in urban fringe locations (business parks and so on) more housing provided nearby would reduce commuting and contribute to city region sustainability. There was some discussion of housing development, covered in other workshops.

It was argued that major housing development needed to be located where good public transport links exist (for sustainability and to guard against future fuel price rises) and would also need substantial investment in infrastructure such as sewage works. This implied a strategic and joined-up planning process and it was not yet clear how this would be provided following Government changes.

Overall the workshop noted the strong challenges created by the new limited arrangements for urban fringe economic development and saw some hope in the very local initiatives helping compensate for the loss of wider strategic capacity. There was a strong feeling the urban fringe areas need joined-up thinking which saw the relationship between the changing economy, housing supply and cost, transport and access and property development pressures and planned accordingly.

Summary points fed back to the wider conference from the workshop were:

- We are in a period of change and there are new funds to take account of. It is important to think about what to bid into the fund for e.g. rural enterprise, high tech skills

- There is a need to know from LEP board how to action things. It is not clear at the moment how it is structured. The LEP bid had to be worked up quickly and

capacity is reducing all the time with public sector cuts. The options for, as an example, Otley can be considered, but who takes the lead? If it is to be the private sector, who and how should the bid be constructed?

- How do big projects link to local economic priorities? There needs to be a dialogue about priorities. Whilst there is a Localism Bill, this will take time to implement and in the meantime organisations need to get into gear.

The sustainable City Region and the role of Green Infrastructure workshop

Led by Chris Marshall (Natural England)

Chris started off by outlining the CR context. The LCR is very diverse with ten local authorities including national parks, remote rural areas and urban areas. As such it has a mix of urban and rural elements with some parts that already benefit from rural elements and others that are not connected to the rural. Chris linked this to the CR's work on a GI strategy that seeks to lead to more connectivity between these elements. The CR has developed a GI strategy with 4 key foci:

- Economy

- Climate change

- Health

- Biodiversity

These foci are represented through a range of different priorities, illustrated in the diagram below, that cut across different policy agendas, for example economic growth, health and biodiversity

Green Infra-structure

- Supporting economic growth.
- Enhancing land and property values
- Supporting labour productivity
- Enhancing quality of Place
- Providing tourism assets.
- Providing space for biodiversity
- Aiding climate change adaptation.
- Aiding flood and water management.
- Products from the land.
- Supporting health and well-being.
- Recreation and leisure opportunity

Figure 4 GI Priorities

The focus recently has been on GI 'paying its way' through food production, flood alleviation, health, tranquillity, carbon capture etc. However there is also a lot of untapped potential to GI, for example in getting inner city kids out of urban areas and experiencing more of the space around them.

Chris raised questions about who the urban fringe was for. There are opportunities and challenges in terms of community engagement and working with other sectors such as health and business. A key challenge is deciding which priorities count, for example a housing development rather than investment to retain GI. GI can help sell houses and increase their value and as such it appeals to housing developers.

Workshop members discussed the issues relating to GI and housing development. A mechanism is needed to plan for GI in advance rather than being reactive once housing has been built. Section 106 was seen as resulting in a reactive approach to GI. The community needs to 'get ahead' of planners if they are to have an input. Neighbourhood plans offer some potential for this. However wealthier neighbourhoods with time on their hands are more likely to benefit than deprived areas.

It was stated that the designations of brownfield and Greenfield land needs challenging. Brownfield land in the UF still has amenity value in terms of wildlife.

The group discussed that different neighbourhoods have different priorities, e.g. Holbeck focuses on its links to city centre, whilst Craven is more interest in small scale changes sought such as areas of woodland and allotments. A problem that participants felt had not been explored much is the poverty in rural areas through energy inefficient housing, older properties with older inhabitants and how existing infrastructure could be greened. Also

transport is an issue in rural areas – Lotherton Hall have used 106 money to put into small scale transport.

The Localism agenda was also discussed. It was identified that areas not all geographically delineated, for example there are communities of disabled people, faith communities, mountain bike communities. Questions were raised about how best to meet needs of those who don't have advocacy of their own. How can localism agenda ensure people's needs are being met fairly?

It was acknowledged that the strategic, regional level is important for linking up areas , but a danger that it will be lost if the focus is exclusively on local areas.

Summary points fed back to the wider conference from the workshop were:

•   The need to get GI embedded in LA policies at the start. This is starting to happen but more progress needs to be made.

•   How to get developers to deliver affordable housing

•   The pressure on the green belt and the urban fringe for more housing, and how to get the local community to accept new housing that delivers benefits for the local community. If local communities object this could be on the basis of insufficient GI.

•   The focus of rural communities on small scale improvements

•   The difficulty within inner city communities of making sure that the new neighbourhood plans are really owned by the community. Who comes forward to work on these plans and are they representative of the community? May be better to recognise communities of interest are not geographically defined.

Session 3

Localised Planning in context – Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) project, Bradford
Dave Melling (Rural Programmes Coordinator, Bradford Council)

Locally effective Governance of the urban/rural fringe 'The Challenge'
Sheena Spence and John Dunford (Yorkshire Local Council Association)

Localised Planning in context

Dave Melling (SURF - Rural Programmes Coordinator, Bradford MD council)

Dave started off by examining the terminology used in the SURF project. The project was initially focusing on sustainable rural fringes, but was changed to urban fringes to reflect EU priorities. Dave raised the question of what is the urban fringe, the rural fringe or just the rural and stated that whilst these terms may sound similar they mean different things to different people.

Dave drew attention to the need for the rural fringe to innovatively develop in a sustainable way and gave the example of the Dutch experience were the local authority has the power to purchase land in the rural fringe to sell on to the private sector for appropriate development. In return the development supports the financial viability of the local authority as an ongoing catalyst to managing the urban fringe.

The theme of the Bradford element of the SURF programme is governance and spatial planning. This focuses on how the local community/neighbourhood can understand the wider context and use it in their economic development, and on the flipside how those working regionally can understand the impact of the rural and effect that their policies can have on rural areas. Dave described a need to 'rural-proof' the CR and ensure that the LEP continue to consider and develop the relationship between the urban and the rural.

The example of Haworth was given in the context of local planning. This is a place that looks on a map to be a tiny dot, but this apparent insignificance is exceeded by its reputation. Haworth is the biggest produced of military braid in the world, is on the popular tourist attraction of the Keighley-Worth Valley railway and was home to the Brontes. There is a population of 7,000, with a diverse range of people including tenant farmers. In addition it is a rural playground for people from the nearby rural areas.

Haworth wanted an action plan that moved beyond issues such as dog dirt to look more strategically at issues such as housing and employment. Led by the parish council, the Haworth action planning process focused on a number of questions:

- How does the village work? How are the needs of the different residents balanced?

- How does the village relate to the LA and understand the CR?

- How can the parish council work with the local community? And how can the local community work with the Parish Plan?

- What are the different stakeholders' understandings of the rural fringe? What filters do they apply when they think of Haworth? – for example a place for tourists or locals?

There were people from a range of organisations involved in the action planning process, including the parish council, the CR team, Yorkshire Forward and business. Activities included the running of workshops and events to gather information from different stakeholders. The parish plan is now being successfully implemented. More information is

available through the Sustaining the City Region's Urban Fringe: Towards better Parish Plans in Bradford report available on the SURF website.

Dave then reflected on the Haworth action planning process a year on, summarising his key observations:

- The strategic policy context is always changing and as such it is hard to keep up with unless you're being paid to. Often engagement with wider policy depends on where there is money to pay for a particular organisation to engage with a particular issue, but this does not then reflect the wider policy in totality.

- Partnerships and alliances are hard to keep focused and motivated, especially when dealing with difficult and complex issues.

- It is hard to make sure everyone is included – some people felt they had no knowledge of the parish plan despite there being lots of community involvement.

- Parish plans are not frequently received by the council where there is a focus on actions rather than plans.

- Rural communities often miss out of discussions that affect their future. As the communities are small it is not always cost effective to work with them. There is a need to think about and improve that.

- Communities should be involved in reviewing plans and awareness should be raised in communities and at district council. Views should be known and taken on board.

- More sectors of the community should be involved in the development of the parish plan.

- Plans should include realistic and achievable actions rather than just a wish list that can't be delivered.

- Communities should be able to take a lead on aspects of the plan, e.g. business leaders should be doing the economic plan. Involvement at this level can then influence planning at a larger scale, for example at LA level.

Dave reflected on more widely on the governance and spatial planning part of the SURF project. Elements that have been achieved include:

- Workshops on rural business development and the planning system

- Workshops to make local people more aware of rural issues and opportunities

- The production on a rural economy paper that has been used within the Bradford strategy

- The Local Housing Investment Plan includes rural housing issues within it for the first time

- The project has been able to invest time and help the city region to understand how the rural works. This has enabled a stronger remit focusing on rural issues within the CR team.

However the project still has more it would like to do, such as:

- Support the business network in developing their vision and economic action plan

- Increase positive working relationships between people

- Work with the CR LEP to make sure that the rural perspective is included

- Support Haworth parish council in the ongoing process of reviewing and adapting plans according to the changing strategic context

The conference Chair said it was disappointing that many for the points raised by Dave had not been resolved before, particularly in relation to gaps and silos. However it is good to see it is happening now.

Local effective governance of the urban/rural fringe 'The Challenge'

Sheena Spence and John Dunford (Yorkshire Local Councils Association)

Sheena and John brought a local parish council's perspective aiming to address how parish councils and the city region (CR) can work together. Sheena introduced the session by linking parish councils to the current Government localism agenda, where the role of parish councils is included albeit under the guise of terms such as local or neighbourhood council to move away from ecclesiastical connotations. Parish councils can be both urban and rural and more parish councils are currently being created.

When engaging at a local level it is important to address questions such as what a neighbourhood is and what a community is. A neighbourhood can be a single parish or a number of parishes, whilst a community can be geographical or also based around an interest group. It is important to consider ideas of a sense of place or localities, and the areas that people feel are their neighbourhood. This then creates complexity in terms of how the CR can engage with the community.

The Government have recently brought in new powers in relation to neighbourhood plans. Within this new context it is important to consider how different plans at different scales fit together. Rather than neighbourhood plans focusing just on the parochial issues, some may want to look more strategically and as such have the potential to make a good contribution to the CR. It was noted that whilst not all parishes may want to produce a neighbourhood plan, if they don't do so there will be an assumption that people are happy with higher level plans.

Sheena drew on previous experience as evidence of the ability of local community bodies to input into higher level decision-making. Parish representatives have been active on the Rural Affairs Forum and the regional assembly and have been able to successfully feed in to both. The ways in which parishes are represented is important as it is a way of hearing a grass roots voice. Parishes have an in depth knowledge of their communities so partnerships need them in order to respond to community needs.

In order to ensure effective community planning it is important to make sure that whilst the parish council should take a lead in local planning, they should make sure they are giving the community the opportunity to get involved. This might involve training for local people as they need support in developing a plan that responds to wider plans.

Parishes can be represented in the plan making process and it is important that their role is not forgotten. These plans should then not just be put in the shelf. They have to be used and effective in order to feed into the wider processes.

John brought his direct experience of having worked as part of the group who developed the Heptonstall local plan. Heptonstall is a small village, where the writers Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes are buried. The village does not want to become just a tourist destination and does not see itself as another Haworth. The village also contains a concert hall with popular events which contributes to parking issues. There is a move in the village towards

increasing growing opportunities as most people don't have gardens so this would require the provision of a community facility utilising the surrounding land.

The process started 5/6 years ago through Heptonstall Forward, a local community organisation, and included some parish representation. The end result of the process was the publication of local plan. Progress is reported on so that anyone in the village can keep informed. Some successes have included affordable housing with liaison with the local housing association leading to some sheltered accommodation provision. The group are now working on their 2nd plan.

For a parish plan it is important to start from the bottom up. John's experience was that there were different views from different parts of the community, in the case of Heptonstall between the village itself and the hinterlands. It was important to go to the people to get their views rather than wait for them to come to you. The group also used a questionnaire which achieved a 30% response rate.

The parish plan timescales meant it was published prior to the LDF and the group have also since discovered the CR plans. The area is also on the fringe of another CR so needs to balance these priorities. The need to respond to the different scales of plan making does cause problems. John stated that the problem for villages was that everything should start from the grass roots and move upwards, but the worry is that instead everything will come back down from the top level.

The conference Chair said that this raised questions around how a parish works with those bodies around it and what a community or neighbourhood is. It is important to consider and look for how things develop in relation to joined up governance.

Workshop sessions: parallel sessions on making the urban/rural fringes work

Workshop 1 - Localism and local authorities.
Facilitator - Ivan Annibal (Rose Regeneration)

Workshop 2 – Engaging & empowering the UF community.
Facilitator - Mick McLoughlin (Leeds Metropolitan University)

Workshop feedback

Closing discussions – Speakers panel

Localism and local authorities workshop

Led by Ivan Annibal (Rose Regeneration)

Ivan focused the session by introducing the Localism Bill and the Government's Big Society agenda. Ivan is a campaigner for rural local authorities through the Rural Services Network and outlined the major impact the contents of the Localism Bill will have for rural local authorities in particular.

In essence the Localism Bill aims to devolve more powers to the local level and especially local people.

Key points for local authorities are:

• Ability to save local service facilities

• Local referendums (i.e. veto local council tax)

• Financial Autonomy for local authorities and communities

• New trusts can be created to provide homes

Local Authorities will have the duty to maintain a list of local assets and the bill starts from the assumption that communities want to do something with those assets, which is sometimes the case. The Voluntary and Community Sector will have the right to challenge local authorities to run a service. This is especially important for rural LA's where services cost more to deliver.

At the moment there is a 5% involvement clause to trigger a petition or a parish poll. This right will be widened through local referenda and it will mean that local authorities will need to take the outcome of those into account in decision making.

There will be scope to set community budgets from 2013 which could follow a similar format to the currently piloted participatory budgeting. Neighbourhood Plans will be introduced which will allow local communities to get involved and challenge local planning decisions, in line with national planning policy.

The Localism Bill had its 2nd reading in parliament on 17th Jan 2011 and went through several committee stages in January till March and will have its third and final reading in May 2011. The bill will become effective law not before 2013 and so will not be available to support the Big Society ambitions of the Government before that.

Workshop participants then went on to discuss the wider implications for this context. It was stated that there will be a new dimension through the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Parishes and Town Council's to become involved in. However participants mentioned that the third sector would not be covered in disputes e.g. for the NDP by the Local Ombudsman. They also mentioned that the third sector would need to spend money

on professional support for planning issues in order to help them putting a detailed planning instrument together.

The group discussed whether the Government had defined what NDP's would look like and how they would be put together. It was then outlined that at this stage with the National Planning Frameworks still to be agreed and the Localism Bill still to go through parliament that NDP's are not defined yet and that there is a lot of flexibility in its interpretation at this stage.

Rural Action Yorkshire mentioned that there is a loss of Community and Voluntary Sector support for community led planning due to the budget cuts affecting the sector. Community led plans and planning would be difficult as sources of funding have dried up with Awards for All seen as the only feasible route which could support of role of community funding advisors. Questions were raised around who is to fill the capacity gap in terms of community planning support for.

Parish precepts were mentioned as a way to overcome the funding gap as they could be used for services such as professional planning advice for Neighbourhood Plans. Concerns were raised as to whether the use of Parish precepts for planning purposes could be declared as a kind of double taxation.

Clarity was sought as well about the function of the Neighbourhood Plans. There was speculation as to whether there should be zoning or land use plans or wider spatial planning documents including local amenities.

Participants raised a number of questions and concerns.

- Who will be responsible for potential conflict mediation within the community and how does that relate to the direction of travel towards localism manifested in Neighbourhood plans. There is a danger of NIMBYism impacting on the process.

- Concern was raised as to how plans would work and develop in rural areas especially as the OECD classifies none of England as rural so DEFRA create for England a separate Rural Urban definition.

- Will the Localism Bill create spatial plans through the backdoor to create lots of integrated plans?

- Could NDP's overrule Local Development Frameworks (LDF) to stop development?

- How will LDF's work with existing Parish Plans regarding local evidence and align housing needs with economic growth appropriately.

- Will the Localism Bill and especially Neighbourhood plans trip over defaults of conflict of interest with themes like Tourism Development or more generally economic growth.

- LA's could be levering in money by setting business rates which could be contra LEP direction.

Summary points fed back to the wider conference from the workshop were:

- It is of note that there has not been a green paper or consultation for something as fundamental as the Localism Bill. As such there is complexity and unintended outcomes that will have an impact

- Parishes are important but it is important to think about how their plans are underpinned

- There is less and less money available

- There is a danger of double taxation, e.g. the community manage a local asset but council tax doesn't change

- There is a need to think differently about community development. Parishes do not always represent communities. Things need hammering out within the community before they are written down. There may be a role for a community broker.

- There is a need to work differently in order to engage with the community, for example by going to places the community are and working at evenings and weekends.

Engaging and empowering the Urban Fringe Community

Led by Mick Mcloughlin (Leeds Metropolitan University)

Mick started the session by characterising the LCR as a large area with many rural areas. There are many different spatial communities and communities of interest with different capacities and agendas. There is a context of decreasing resources for community engagement. Planning Aid, an organisation that focuses on community involvement has lost its funding and is currently in demise. The cuts also saw the end of the market and renaissance town initiatives.

It is important to have discussion with areas as to what the key issues in the area are. It is important to consider how and who these discussions take place with. There are some innovative ways of community consultation that can be explored, such as virtual consultation. This provides potential as way to link together urbanites and rural dwellers. It was noted that cooperation is important. Governance also needs consideration, such as who should lead community planning. The Localism Bill is leading to local groups being in the driving seat in the future

Mick raised questions as to whether we can change the status quo. With the increase in localism it is important to consider how we can navigate between localism and NIMBYism. Attention also needs to be paid to whether all communities will be empowered or just certain ones.

The workshop group went on to discuss a range of issues.

Firstly, participants recognised the difficulty in engaging with all of the community. An example was given of farmers who are important as they own and manage the green bits as well as producing food. However they are difficult to get hold of due to their work demands. As such it is important to go to where they are at the right time. It is also important to be flexible in approach and have drop in surgery type meetings rather than more formal structured meetings.

The group then discussed issues with the structure of parish councils. There is a tendency to talk about local things that they have control over rather than discussing the more strategic issues. It is important to clarify the scope of the work they can be involved in.

It was noted that neighbourhood forums are relevant to but tend to be dominated by certain individuals. It is important to make sure they represent the residents that are acting on behalf of. Parish Councils have the power to raise a precept whilst Neighbourhood Forums are unable to do this at the moment. It was raised as a matter of concern that under the Localism Bill the numbers required to set up a local group is worryingly small. However this is changing picture and it will be of interest to see how it develops.

The group discussed that consultation events can be problematic in terms of getting a sufficient turn out. Better results are often found by going the place where people are, for example the supermarket, rather than expecting them to come to you. Other examples included using existing meetings such as business network meetings and asking for a slot there. It was noted that there was always a danger of consultation fatigue so it is important to be aware of this and make sure the subject is interesting.

Another way on engaging with the community is to find an individual who can galvanise the community locally. Sometimes there is a 'community champion' who lives and works in the area who will take on this role. However the disadvantage of this is that is can sometimes become dominated by someone with an alternative agenda. Training for facilitation is an important help with this.

A participant stated there was a need to make representation to the LEP leaders as they are not engaging with the community in Craven area

Summary points fed back to the wider conference from the workshop were:

- There is potential for parish councils to be implemented as democratic grass roots bodies leading on community planning

- There is a question mark over the legitimacy of neighbourhood forums in community planning – there do not require many people so are not necessarily representative and can easily be hijacked by development interests

- In order to engage with communities, it is important to go out to the community and hold events in their own settings

- New technology, for example social networking is important and holds potential

- Capacity building is needed for the neighbourhood planning role in parish councils

- Localism Bill isn't clear – there is a need to wait and see what the implications of it are.

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Question Time
Tony Pexton (Rural Affairs Forum)

The day concluded with an open session in which a number of issues were raised and discussed.

It was felt that there was a need for a further event in order to build a relationship between participants with a rural focus and the LEP and LCR boards (a second conference will be held on 26th April, 2012 in Leeds).

Steve Littlewood (Leeds Metropolitan University) stated that the unknown of how the Localism Bill would be implemented at a local level had started to dominate discussions. He asked whether local neighbourhoods were going to equip themselves to understand what is happening at the CR and LA level. A focus on a few main issues and then lots of smaller actions at a local level should be the driver.

Sheena Spence (Yorkshire Local Councils Association) raised the issues of horizontal two way working. There is a problem that many parish councils are not aware of the CR. Work needs to be undertaken to get the information to them and start to look at how they can be involved.

John Dunford (Yorkshire Local Councils Association) added to this that parish councils understand local authorities but had not been made aware of CRs. He raised the question how people are meant to be aware of bodies like this that are not elected. He questioned how people could be informed and stated that they are not interested if the body is not elected.

Chris Marshall (Natural England) stated that CRs don't exist everywhere and that they were unique to the north and come from the Northern Way initiative. There are however LEPs everywhere.

Ivan Annibal (Rose Regeneration) made the distinction between the experience of the 'North' and the 'South' with a boundary in a line between Hull and Bristol. Everything to the south of this line is driven by London. He stated that people often struggle to see what a CR is and that often people are not comfortable with large scale powerful bodies and unsure how they can influence them. It is often hard for parishes to make that link.

Joe Ravetz (Centre of Urban & Regional Ecology, University of Manchester) outlined two future scenarios. One where legislation comes in and everyone signs up to it. The other, which he saw as more likely, where the CR scale is actually a dead duck. The CR does not exist in many places and the LEP has no resources. This scale could be a huge diversion and distraction from the real issues. We are currently in a period of chaos so it is important to look for the opportunities in the ashes of what used to be the planning system. There are some opportunities in the Localism Bill and the growth agenda. In terms of structure, local Government is being done away with in favour of entrepreneurialism. The best thing parish plans can do is to try and work with what is going on.

John Dunford (Yorkshire Local Councils Association) felt that the terminology is problematic. West Riding regional area, or West Yorkshire regional area would go down better. Why not the Leeds/Bradford city region? If there was a more generic name people would accept it more, as some people in the LCR have not been to Leeds.

Dave Melling (SURF, Bradford MD council) stated that there is a role for local people to act as advocates for their community. That might be through the parish council or through something else.

Tony Pexton (Rural Affairs Forum) closed the conference by reiterating that silo thinking has to go. Instead, in the current environment, we all have to be working together and thinking innovatively.

Glossary of Terms

CR	City Region
DEFRA	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs
EU	European Union
GI	Green Infrastructure
LCR	Leeds City Region
LDF	Local Development Framework
LEP	Local Economic Partnership
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan
NIMBY	Literally 'Not in my back yard'. Used to refer to the phenomenon of local opposition to development.
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RDA	Regional Development Agency
RGF	Regional Growth Fund
UF	Urban Fringe
YF	Yorkshire Forward (the now abolished RDA for the region)

Links

Bradford MDC	**http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/**
CUDEM	**http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/as/cudem/**
CURE	**http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/research/cure/**
Haworth Parish Plan	**http://www.haworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/HaworthpcParishplan.htm**
Heptonstall Local Plan	**http://heptonstall.org/mambo/index.php?option=com_content&task=category&sectionid=24&id=41&Itemid=71**
Incredible Edible	**http://www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk/**
Leeds City Region	**http://www.leedscityregion.gov.uk/**
Leeds LEP	**http://www.leedscityregion.gov.uk/LEP.htm**
Natural England	**http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/**
Pennine Prospects	**http://www.pennineprospects.co.uk/**
Rose Regeneration	**http://www.roseregeneration.co.uk/**
Rural Communities Policy Unit	**http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/communities/**
SURF	**http://www.sustainablefringes.eu/home/home.asp**
Whoyano	**http://www.whoyano.co.uk/**
Yorkshire and Humber Rural Affairs Forum	**http://www.yhraf.org.uk/**
Yorkshire Local Councils Association	**http://www.yorkshirelca.gov.uk/Core/Yorkshire-Local-Councils-Associations/Pages/Default.aspx**

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