

**KENT AND MEDWAY
RURAL SOCIAL & COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP**

**DEFRA Rural Social & Community
Programme**

**BUSINESS CASE FOR KENT AND
MEDWAY**

30 NOVEMBER 2005

**DEFRA Rural Social & Community Programme - Business case
for Kent and Medway**

CONTENTS

Executive summary: priorities for Kent & Medway

SECTION 1 – BACKGROUND

- 1 Introduction and task setting**
- 2 Use of RSCP funding**
 - 2.1 Aims**
 - 2.2 Principles**
 - 2.3 Applying the funding**
 - 2.4 The scope of the programme**
 - 2.5 Business case format**
 - 2.6 Good practice issues**
- 3 Background to the business case**
 - 3.1 Lead body & Partners**
 - 3.2 Eligibility**
 - 3.3 How the Kent and Medway Rural Social & Community Partnership meets GOSE/DEFRA principles**
 - 3.4 Consultation**

SECTION 2 – THE BUSINESS CASE FOR KENT AND MEDWAY

- 4 Existing rural community capacity building and social inclusion elements**
- 5 The case for funding and delivery**
 - 5.1 Agreed priorities, needs, LAA outcomes and links to strategic frameworks or partnerships**
 - 5.2 Proposed actions, beneficiaries, costs and proposed methods of delivery**
 - 5.3 Funding breakdown and performance indicators**
- 6 Further information to support the business case**
- 7 Signatories**

SECTION 3 – APPENDICES

- 8 Appendices: A – time table and work plan**
 - B – Partners details and details of individuals and organisations involved in consultation**
 - C – Supporting evidence & bibliography – links to data, publications, etc**
 - D – Acknowledgements**
 - E - Glossary of terms (jargon buster!)**

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: PRIORITIES FOR KENT & MEDWAY SUB REGION

The Kent and Medway sub-region is extensive – geographically, demographically, economically, rurally – and diverse in the extreme. The needs of the socially excluded in the rural areas of Kent and Medway are equally extensive, and there are a multitude of issues to be addressed in order to meet these requirements. The DEFRA Rural Social and Communities Programme is one way of directing support such that it can meet these needs – *when and where it matters*.

The business case that follows illustrates the work that is being carried out to help meet the needs of people in the sub-region's rural parts, but also shows how very fragile some of that essential work is.

In producing this business case, the Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership makes the following recommendations for the priorities of work in the sub-region's rural communities:

1. Help for rural communities seeking to provide affordable housing for local people
2. Help for rural communities to prepare Parish plans and community assessments to articulate their needs and aspirations and to ultimately find solutions to their problems
3. Help for young people in rural communities to counter isolation and combat social exclusion
4. Help for the prevention of social exclusion for all residents within rural communities by the provision of support to local shops, post offices and other essential facilities to prevent closure
5. Help for rural communities to encourage the provision of services for older people
6. Help for local communities to help themselves through the provision of small grants

SECTION 1 – BACKGROUND

1 INTRODUCTION

This paper presents a draft business case for funding under the new DEFRA Rural Social and Community Programme and is for submission to Government Office of the South East (GOSE) in support of the case for Kent and Medway. This draft version has been distributed to members of the Rural Social and Community Partnership and the community of wider stakeholders in Kent and Medway. Mindful of guidance received from GOSE, this paper sets out the format in which the Kent and Medway business cases for support from April 2006 to 31 March 2008 should be presented and, where known, the criteria by which GOSE will assess it.

2 Use of RSCP Funding

2.1 Aims

The programme aims to provide VCS organisations and the communities they serve with the means to respond to local priorities and to mesh these resources with other activities where appropriate. The specific aims of the programme are:

- To enhance the community capacity building and entrepreneurial capability of rural communities so that these communities can work together to shape their own future
- To help socially excluded individuals in rural communities improve their life chances
- To develop the capacity of the VCS, and of the town and parish council sector, to reinforce the delivery of the first two aims

2.2 Principles

Government Office requires that the sub-regional business case for support for Kent and Medway accords with the priorities of the DEFRA RSCP and DEFRA's principles of delivery. These can be summarised as:

- The need to ensure that the programme contributes to the delivery of DEFRA's overarching goal of delivering sustainable rural communities, in accordance with the Regional Delivery Frameworks and DEFRA's Rural Funding Review
- The importance of building the capacity of the VCS and Parish councils to deliver
- The importance of developing and reinforcing partnerships at sub-regional (defined in this context as Kent and Medway)
- Building on existing partnerships wherever possible to ensure activities are as close as possible to the communities and individuals that are to be supported. In particular, to build on work already being done by consortia under the current DEFRA / Home Office Change Up programme and through other local partnerships

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

- The need to provide flexibility at sub-regional level, so that partners can identify priorities and mechanisms based on evidence of need
- The importance of engagement of local authorities and other statutory bodies in order to maximise the potential synergies around community leadership, community development and tackling social exclusion

2.3 Applying the funding (*the issues our business case must address*)

The DEFRA RSCP is a three year funding programme that commenced on 1st April 2005 – although the business case in hand that we have been asked to prepare is to cover the latter two years of the programme from 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2008. It is aimed at providing revenue funding to:

- Help communities and their service providers to identify and agree ways of tackling local need
- Build community capacity
- Encourage wider partnership working within the sector
- Stimulate partnership development with local authorities, LSPs, and sub-regional partnerships engaged in economic development, housing provision and regeneration
- Tackle social exclusion
- Facilitate the work of the VCS and Parish Council sectors
- Encourage a range of rural social enterprises
- Add value to the full range of support available to the VCS
- Complement wider local support at local level
- Kick-start initiatives to deliver local solutions rather than fund the on-going delivery of services

2.4 The scope of the programme

The DEFRA RSCP is intended to be flexible so that sub-regional partnerships can fund projects that meet local needs and make the best use of local resources. Some examples of the types of activity that could be considered under this programme include:

- Tackling social exclusion
- Affordable rural housing
- Parish / community planning
- Making use of village halls / co-location of services
- Community development work
- Learning opportunities
- Building on other public sector funding programmes (like Change Up)
- Making the most of volunteers
- Encouraging social enterprises

2.5 Business case format

In developing a business case, the assumptions are that the Partnership will:

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

- Provide evidence - by using existing evidence to identify the problems the plan seeks to tackle
- Address need – the plan should include some targeting of areas for the purposes of tackling the causes of rural social exclusion. Coverage, rather than targeting, is more important for measures within the plan aimed at community capacity building
- Balance – the RSCP is for both addressing the causes of rural social exclusion and for community capacity building. Some of each will need to be included, though the balance will depend on the evidence that is applicable within Kent and Medway
- Spread – measures to tackle rural social exclusion should be clearly linked to addressing one or more of the following:
 - Poor educational attainment
 - Pockets of economic inactivity
 - Inequalities in health
 - Homelessness, especially families living in temporary accommodation
- Contribution – the measures in the plan must make a measurable contribution to the RSCP's objectives
- Funding must be the appropriate solution – the plan must demonstrate that funding is necessary, either in terms of building capacity or supporting projects
- Additionality – the programme must deliver something that would not happen otherwise
- Duplication – the plan should avoid duplication of effort within the sub-region
- Support for other measures – where appropriate, the plan must support other VCS interventions

2.6 Good practice issues

The way in which the outcomes / suggestions within the business case are made will have major implications on both the amount of work that is funded under the RSCP within the sub-region and for the way that work is carried out. The Rural Social and Community Partnership undertakes to agree a consensus of understanding that:

1. In spite of the implicit recognition that all work suggested within the scope of this business case is valuable, evidence based and of great importance to Kent and Medway's rural communities, the RSCP is a programme that has a cash-limited fund and that additional monies outside the programme's scope may need to be sought if the eventual settlement for the sub-region falls short of the requests contained within this business case
2. That priorities for work within the Kent and Medway sub-region will be prioritised within the plan according to consensus where possible, and by majority verdict if this is not possible
3. That Partners will endeavour to accept the opportunities and boundaries of the RSCP
4. That Partners will strive to contribute towards a consensual agreement and work towards the 'greater good' within the scope of the RSCP context, setting aside where possible organisational competition

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

5. Final details on funding available to Kent and Medway under the RSCP will be confirmed once GOSE have agreed the final business case by 16th January 2006
6. Whilst Partners will not be expected to 'sponsor' particular suggestions in the business case, they will agree to contribute evidence or research finding that are within their ownership which will assist in the strengthening of the overall business case

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

3 Background to the business case

3.1 Lead body and Partners

The Rural Social and Community Partnership for Kent and Medway has been created to develop a business case for the DEFRA RSCP (October 2005 to January 2006) and to oversee / directly deliver the programme once in operation (April 2006 to 31 March 2008). The partnership met for the first time on 10th October 2005 and consists of key stakeholders representing:

- Action with Communities in Rural Kent (the rural community council for Kent and Medway) as organising and lead body
- Kent County Council
- Medway Council
- Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
- Dover District Council
- Swale Borough Council
- Kent Association of Parish Councils
- Individual Parish Councils
- Kent Community Foundation
- Age Concern England
- Hyde Housing Association
- Voluntary Action West Kent (formerly West Kent CVS)
- VICK (Voluntary Infrastructure Consortium Kent - incorporating within its executive steering group: Swale CVS, VAWK, North West Kent CVS, Mid & SE Kent CVS, East Kent CVS, North West Kent Racial Equality Council, Kent Council for Voluntary Youth Service, Kent CAN, Action with Communities in Rural Kent and Maidstone Volunteer Bureau, Sevenoaks Volunteer Centre and Whitstable Volunteer Centre who jointly represent all 18 Volunteer Centres in Kent)

Full details of all Partners are included within Appendix B.

The Partnership is keen that the work of the group and the RSCP is closely linked to other existing work in the sector and in Kent. As a consequence, it was agreed that the Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership should sit as a distinct sub-group of the Voluntary Infrastructure Consortium Kent (VICK – leading the Change Up work in Kent) and be closely allied and linked to the Change Up work. This is both desirable for 'joining up' thinking and work, and also serves to fulfil some of the fundamental criteria of the new DEFRA programme. This proposition was put to the VICK Executive at its meeting on 1st November, and was ratified by unanimous verdict of that group.

With its strategic position both in terms of rural and wider work (including Change Up) and geographical spread (covering both Kent and Medway), Partners agreed and endorsed that Action with Communities in Rural Kent (the rural community council for Kent and Medway) will lead the partnership and be the accountable body for partnership facilitation funding

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

3.2 Eligibility

Applicants for funding under the RSCP must exist for public benefit rather than private profit, and may include parish councils, VCS organisations or social enterprises and must:

- Not be able to dispose of their assets for private gain
- Have some non-executive (unpaid) members on their board or management committee (that is, unpaid for their role on the committee, but could still be employees)
- Have project outcomes in England

All of the Partners of the Kent and Medway Rural Social & Community Partnership share these characteristics, and the Partnership therefore fulfils the eligibility criteria established by DEFRA and GOSE

3.3 How the Kent and Medway Rural Social & Community Partnership meets GOSE/DEFRA principles

A sub-regional partnership should be fully inclusive and representative of the community it serves. Similarly, membership of the sub-regional partnership should be determined by the extent to which potential members are practically engaged in addressing the needs of those living in rural areas. The Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership fulfils these criteria, but simultaneously recognises the need to network and consult with those bodies who are less directly and actively engaged with rural communities including those organisations that work with black and minority ethnic communities. The Partnership will share and invite comment on the draft business case through consultation with the wider community.

3.4 Consultation

Before the launch of the new DEFRA RSCP consultation period in the summer of 2005, extensive consultation within the community of rural stakeholders across Kent and Medway had already taken place over the preceding two years. Although this early consultation was not linked directly to the RSCP *per se*, one of the net outcomes of this process for the Kent & Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership was that stakeholders throughout the sub-region had already begun to articulate their issues and concerns and to vocalise their desire for grass roots action and community collaboration.

This proved to be invaluable to members of the Kent & Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership when seeking views on the content of the RSCP business case for the sub-region – and indeed invaluable in terms of creating the Partnership itself. Details of the consultation specifically for the purposes of agreeing the RSCP business case for Kent and Medway are contained within the appendices to this document.

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

Risk factor: The Partnership recognises that the very short timescale in which to complete the draft business case for submission to GOSE will restrict the depth of consultation possible within the region in advance of the first submission date of 30th November 2005 – a period which will not allow for consultation under Compact compliant principles. This is an externally imposed timetable outside the influence of the Partnership.

SECTION 2 – THE BUSINESS CASE FOR KENT AND MEDWAY

4 Existing rural community capacity building and social inclusion elements

This section sets out to describe what rural community capacity building and social inclusion work within Kent and Medway's rural communities already exists.

It should be noted that significant numbers of these projects end shortly.

Area / District	Programme / Activity	Provider / Funder (current time)	Beneficiaries	Duration (taken to mean commencement of specific project where applicable)
Kent and Medway wide	Rural Housing Enabler Programme	Action with Communities in Rural Kent Funded by DEFRA/GOSE, (formerly the Countryside Agency) and in partnership with housing associations and local authorities	Families and individuals, rural communities which lack affordable housing, parish councils, housing associations, plus local authorities.	Programme now in its 7 th year. (Funding for the current RHE programme ends on 31 March 2006 and funding for the continuation of this work is sought from the RSCP)
Kent and Medway wide	Parish Plans / Community Assessments	Action with Communities in Rural Kent Funded by DEFRA/GOSE, formerly the Countryside Agency	Parish councils, rural communities, community based organisations	Current programme to fund new and recently started parish plans - April 2005 to March 2006. Previous years - parish plans / community assessment / village design statement work (Funding for the current programme ends on 31 March 2006)

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

				and funding for the continuation of this work is sought from the RSCP)
Kent and Medway wide – eligibility criteria for selection of towns established by funder	Kent Rural Towns Programme Community assessment work and grants for projects	Action with Communities in Rural Kent in conjunction with KCC Funded by SEEDA & KCC	Rural towns and hinterland villages, community based organisations	Re-Established in 2004 Original project from 2001 - 2003
Kent and Medway wide	Social inclusion and community development work	Action with Communities in Rural Kent Funded by DEFRA, GOSE (formerly Countryside Agency)	Rural communities at risk of or experiencing social exclusion, particularly young people within rural communities	Current programme started in May 2002, ongoing. (Funding for the current programme ends on 31 March 2006 and funding for the continuation of this work is sought from the RSCP)
Kent and Medway wide	Community halls advisor	Action with Communities in Rural Kent Funded by KCC, DEFRA, GOSE (formerly Countryside Agency)	Community organisations, community halls committees, wider rural community	Ongoing
Kent and Medway wide	Rural Transport Partnerships	Action with Communities in Rural Kent Funded by SEEDA, local authorities,	Community organisations, local authorities, local people	(Officers appointed September 2001 and April 2002
Kent and Medway wide	Community rail partnership	Action with Communities in Rural Kent Funded by SEEDA, local authorities	Community organisations, local authorities, local people	Officer appointed Feb 2004
Kent and	Rural shops	Action with	Rural shops and	Since 2000

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

Medway wide	advisor	Communities in Rural Kent Funded by a variety of means, including KCC, Business Link, local authorities	businesses, post offices, multi-purpose facilities, parish councils, wider community, especially those who are most likely to suffer from social exclusion	
Kent and Medway wide	Kent Association of Rural Retailers	Action with Communities in Rural Kent Funded by a variety of means, including Business Link, KCC, commercial sector	Rural shops and businesses, post offices, multi-purpose facilities, parish councils, wider community, especially those who are most likely to suffer from social exclusion	Since 2001
Mid-Kent	LEADER + programme	Community organisations facilitated by Kent County Council Funded by SEEDA, DEFRA, ERDP	Rural communities within Mid Kent area	Ends 2008
Kent and Medway wide	Training & information programme for Parish Councils	Kent Association of Parish Councils	Parishes within Kent and Medway, Parish Councils, communities and individuals	Ongoing, Quality Parish Scheme training added in 2003
Kent wide	Community Initiatives in Rural Kent (CIRK)	Kent County Council & administered by Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Rural community organisations	ongoing
Kent and Medway wide	Funding for VCS groups, including young people	Kent Community Foundation	Community organisations	2001

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

	through the Local Network Fund, Community Champions, and Sport Relief			
Kent and Medway wide		Age Concern England	33 branches of Age Concern throughout Kent and Medway, all of whom provide services for older people	
Kent wide	Change Up consortium – VICK	Home Office, DEFRA	VCS organisations, including infrastructure and front line groups, plus statutory sector	DEFRA 'early spend' commenced in 2004, absorbed into mainstream Change Up programme late 2004 / early 2005, ongoing in this LIDP development task until 31 March 2006, then implementation phase 2006-2008
Medway	Change Up Consortium – VIC Medway	Home Office	VCS organisations, including infrastructure and front line groups, plus statutory sector	Mainstream Change Up programme commenced late 2004 / early 2005, ongoing in this LIDP development task until 31 March 2006, then implementation phase 2006-2008
Kent and Medway wide	District/Borough projects	Contributions from some Districts	Rural Housing Enabler programme, rural transport initiatives, community halls work	
Medway	Medway rural	Partnership	Rural	Rural action plan

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

	<p>action plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MERIT rural transport initiative • Rural Youth Development Project <p>Support for rural communities in capacity building, project development and delivery</p>	<p>working using council resources, and external funding. Partners include ACRK, CA, parish councils and wider rural communities.</p> <p>Department for Transport supports MERIT project.</p> <p>SEEDA supports rural youth project.</p> <p>CA supported Hoo community planning work</p>	<p>communities in Medway</p>	<p>adopted 2004, with ongoing development work.</p> <p>MERIT DfT funded 2004-07</p> <p>Rural youth project SEEDA funded 2005-08.</p>
South Kent (Shepway and West Ashford)	Community Action South Kent	Shepway + partners - Funded by Single Regeneration Budget	Individuals and Communities in Rural South Kent – 21 community projects	2001-2006
Kent wide	Rural Revival	Funded by ESF and KCC	Disadvantaged and excluded groups	
Shepway / Dover	Rural officer	Mid & SE Kent CVS - National Lottery funded	Rural officer supporting VCS organisations	
Hawkinge	Community engagement work	Hawkinge Neighbourhood Management Partnership	Support within the community	
Kent Downs	Community support	Kent Downs AONB	Support including village design statements and grants for community action	
Dover /	Community	White Cliffs /	Build capacity of	

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

Romney Marsh	capacity building to improve the environment	Romney Marsh Countryside Project	individuals and communities to improve their environment & deal with social exclusion	
Shepway	Home Start rural service	Home Start has lottery funding for this service	Support for families with young children (pre-school age)	
New Romney / Romney Marsh	Marsh Forward - Market town development	Marsh Forward	Market town development trust	
Shepway	Volunteer Centre Rural outreach service	Shepway VC – lottery funding	Rural outreach service for the Shepway area	
Romney Marsh	Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh	CARM – lottery funded	Tackling social exclusion amongst older people and those suffering from mental illness	
Shepway & Dover	Countryside Communities	Lottery and DEFRA	Targeted at areas of deprivation to revitalise communities	Ends March 2007

Partners are aware that there may be some other locality-based and time-limited projects taking place.

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

The case for funding and delivery

5.1 Agreed priorities, needs, LAA outcomes and links to strategic frameworks or partnerships

Within the framework suggested by GOSE, this section deals with the agreed priorities, needs, LAA outcomes and links to strategic frameworks or partnerships within the Kent and Medway sub-region (and includes details on why any new activities are a priority and how any new activities will be more beneficial than existing activities/programmes). The priorities and rankings relate to:

- Evidence of need within Kent and Medway
- the outcome of consultation on the new DEFRA RSCP with key stakeholders within Kent and Medway
- 'fit' within the spirit, context and intent of the RSCP

Priority number (and ranking if required - High, Medium, Low)	Description and agreed priority	Evidence of need (with reference to source & relevant findings)	LAA linkages (<u>main</u> block / <u>main</u> target outcomes)	Links to strategic frameworks and partnerships
1. HIGH	The provision of affordable housing in rural communities	<p>Local housing needs surveys over the last 7 years show that there is still a high need for local affordable homes, particularly in the more wealthy locations of the county which makes housing out of the reach of most younger people and those on lower incomes.</p> <p>Annual surveys on 23% of the 311 parishes in Kent show a need for local needs housing in their community. (Kent RCC/ Rural Kent,1998 -2005)</p> <p>This is a unique service</p>	<p><u>Block 3: Healthier Communities and older people</u></p> <p>17: to improve Kent residents' access to homes of excellent quality, in the right place, at the right time, and at the right cost</p> <p>18: to promote independent living for all</p>	<p>Regional Housing Boards / Regional Housing Strategies</p> <p>District Councils (which are the planning authorities for outcomes of this work), KCC</p> <p>Future planning & funding decisions will be based on local housing needs assessments.</p> <p>Planning policy allows 100%</p>

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

				affordable housing on a rural exceptions site policy approach
2. HIGH	<p>Parish Plans and Community Assessments</p> <p>Kent Rural Towns Health Check work</p>	<p>Parish plan / community assessments work to date – parish plans/community assessments are completed or underway in 18% of towns and parishes, with further demand demonstrated by 27% of parishes interested in developing a parish plan/community assessment within the next 2 years and beyond” (Rural Kent, 2005)</p> <p>Parish Plans act as a catalyst for action and as a starting point for a whole range of community capacity building that follows, including highlighting concerns over wide ranging local issues like rural schools, housing needs, transport and social inclusion</p> <p>Rural Towns officer funded by SEEDA and KCC - five towns have identified need for Rural Town Health Check in 2006/7</p>	<p><u>Block 2: Safer & Stronger Communities</u></p> <p>13: to increase the capacity of local communities so that people are empowered to participate in local decision making and delivery of services</p>	<p>Community Plans and community strategies give commitment to include priorities set out in parish plans and community assessments.</p> <p>Parish plans can influence Local Development Frameworks and Community Plans.</p>
3. HIGH	<p>Social inclusion work with young people</p>	<p>Of the 67 districts in the GOSE area 7 districts in Kent and Medway rank in the lowest 17 districts under the Index of Multiple Deprivation (Kent RCC, 2003). Significant variations exist across Kent in terms of age, health and deprivation (Kent County Council, 2005). Action with</p>	<p><u>Block 1: Children and young people</u></p> <p>7: to improve participation & engagement by all children and young people in youth, cultural and</p>	<p>Community Plans / Community Strategies</p> <p>Community safety strategies</p> <p>Home Office Neighbourhood renewal Unit</p>

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

		<p>Communities in Rural Kent has focussed its work on social inclusion geographically in the most excluded of these areas - including Shepway, Dover and Swale - and towards building capacity and accessing funding for many local projects and a small number of higher profile projects, including Gypsy Traveller, Youth Council, pub clubs and other youth activities projects.</p> <p>Action with Communities in Rural Kent is uniquely placed as the body to facilitate this kind of partnership working</p>	<p>community activities 6: to increase the number of young people who have the skills and vocational qualifications for work <u>(AND Block 2: Safer & Stronger Communities)</u></p>	<p>Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships</p> <p>Every Child Matters</p>
4. HIGH	The prevention of social exclusion by provision of support to create sustainable rural shops and businesses	<p>Kent Association for Rural Retailers' 2004/2005 report (KARR, 2005) on shops within rural Kent & Medway at risk of closure identified 25% at immediate risk and 50% likely to close within two years at current level of trading.</p> <p>This is a unique service provided by KARR / Action with Communities in Rural Kent to support fragile rural economies and services to prevent or minimise social exclusion.</p>	<p><u>Block 2: Safer & Stronger Communities</u> 8: to develop the economic prosperity of Kent 15: to promote independence through employment for those who are able to work</p>	<p>Regional Economic Development Agency (SEEDA)</p> <p>Kent Prospects – the economic and regeneration framework for Kent</p>
5. HIGH / MEDIUM	<u>Pilot programme</u> to address issues of social exclusion among older people living in rural areas	<p>Discussions with statutory sector and VCS organisations identify paucity of service provision for older people in rural areas – compounded by lack of transport and other community facilities. These findings are backed by</p>	<p><u>Block 3: Healthier Communities and older people</u> 16: to promote and improve the health of Kent's</p>	<p>Community Plans / Community Strategies</p> <p>Community safety strategies</p> <p>Home Office</p>

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

		cross sector research (Age Concern, 2004) (Commission for Rural Communities 2005). As the demographic trend is both towards longer life and an ageing population (KCC, 2005), this is an issue that must be addressed now. Pilot could include well-being services and develop different models of service provision in rural areas.	residents & reduce health inequalities by addressing variations in health across the county	Neighbourhood renewal Unit Local authorities, Primary Care Trusts
6. MEDIUM / HIGH	Kent Rural Action – a small grants scheme to enable seed corn funding, local flexibility and support of rural community based organisations to build capacity and tackle social exclusion	Every community that wishes to provide services or facilities for residents to address issues of social exclusion or to build capacity within the community from the bottom upwards identifies lack of pump priming money to 'get things under way'. It is suggested that the focus of the small grants programme is to support communities in their development and commitment to the work suggested in the RSCP – affordable housing, parish planning, tackling social exclusion, supporting sustainable rural facilities, and other community capacity building measures. This proposal follows the principles set out in the Rural Strategy (DEFRA, 2004)	<u>Block 2: Safer & Stronger Communities</u> 13: to increase the capacity of local communities so that people are empowered to participate in local decision making and delivery of services	Change Up / Capacity Builders (Home Office / DEFRA) Kent LIDP Medway LIDP

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

5.2 Proposed actions, beneficiaries, costs and proposed methods of delivery

No:	Action (giving name & brief description of action or project)	Beneficiaries (groups or area)	Whole Cost of project during 2006 - 2007	Amount requested from RSCP to support project during 06/07	Total project cost: 2006 - 2008	Total request from RSCP: 2006 - 2008	Method of delivery (who, using what resources – e.g. RSCP/LAA pool and / or other funds)	Risks and counter strategy (anticipated challenges and how to address them)
1	Provision of affordable rural housing within Kent and Medway's rural towns and villages by continuation and expansion of Rural Housing Enabler work – including rural housing needs surveys, liaison with parish councils, housing associations, planners and local	Individuals in villages and rural communities throughout Kent and Medway, also local businesses, shops, POs and the general rural economy. Schools and public transport. (target for extended RHE programme: 40 housing needs surveys to be carried out 2006-2008)	£95,400	£79,400	£189,600	£157,600	To be delivered by Rural Housing Enablers working through Action with Communities in Rural Kent. Funded by RSCP/housing associations/local authorities	Demand for affordable rural housing and need for housing needs surveys outstrips capacity to deliver. Extend and expand programme Seek additional external funding Target / limit support to those communities that have the most severe lack of affordable rural housing

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

	authorities, site identification and rural exceptions policies							
2	Provision of funding and guidance to develop parish plans and community assessments through continuation and extension of existing programme, including Rural Towns Health Checks within rural communities across Kent and Medway	Rural towns, villages and rural communities throughout Kent and Medway (target for extended programme: 34 parish plans /10 Rural Town Health Checks / community assessments to be started or carried out 2006-2008)	£121,000	£91,000	£242,000	£182,000	Action with Communities in Rural Kent with support from Kent Association of Parish Councils. Funded by RSCP – both the programme and start up / development funding available to parishes who are undertaking parish plans and Health Checks	Demand for funding and guidance to develop community assessments outstrips capacity to deliver. Extend and expand programme Seek additional external funding Target / limit support to those communities most at risk of social exclusion
3	Programme to address issues of social exclusion among young people living in rural areas who have poor access to	Community development worker to work with young people within rural communities that are identified as "at	£45,700	£45,700	£92,850	£92,850	Action with Communities in Rural Kent to build on existing community development expertise, in conjunction with a range of local partner organisations from	Demand for services outstrips capacity to deliver. Extend and expand programme Seek additional external funding Target / limit support

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

	services, facilities and transport	risk" of social exclusion through parish plans or other processes					within the community and local authorities Funded by RSCP, possibly seek local authority funding within specific areas	to those communities where young people are most at risk of social exclusion
4	Programme to address social exclusion through the support of rural shops and businesses that are at risk of closure through the provision of business support and training packages	People who are at risk of social exclusion within rural communities by the loss of local facilities (shops, post offices, pubs, community halls) Identified by research/ development of early warning system / parish plans / community assessments	£23,000	£20,000	£46,000	£40,000	Action with Communities in Rural Kent in conjunction with Kent Association of Rural Retailers Funded by RSCP, Business Link Kent, SEEDA, local authorities	Demand for services outstrips capacity to deliver. Extend and expand programme Seek additional external funding Target / limit support to those communities where people are most at risk of social exclusion through the loss of local facilities
5	Pilot programme to address issues of social exclusion among older people living in rural areas who have	Older people within rural communities that are identified as "at risk" of social exclusion through parish plans or other	£ nil	£ nil	£100,000 (estimate)	£51,000	Action with Communities in Rural Kent in partnership with Age Concern England and appropriate branches of Age Concern from Kent and Medway area plus local	Pilot programme is likely to evidence extensive need for improvement to services for older people at risk of social exclusion within rural communities Demand for services

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

	poor access to services, facilities and transport	processes Pilot to identify one or two areas for initial research and delivery					authorities to form project partnership Pilot funded by RSCP, Age Concern England, local authorities, Future Builders England	outstrips capacity to deliver. Negotiation with local authorities and Primary Care Trusts over the development of services to meet the needs of socially excluded older people within rural communities Extend and expand programme Seek additional external funding Target support to those communities where older people are most at risk of social exclusion
6	Kent Rural Action - small grants scheme to enable seed corn funding, local flexibility and support of community based organisations to build capacity for local action to	To build capacity within rural communities and / or increase ability to meet the needs of socially excluded residents locally	£30,000	£30,000	£60,000	£60,000	Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership members, including Action with Communities in Rural Kent, KAPC, Kent Community Foundation, KCC and local authorities. Funded by RSCP, pooling of KCC Rural Revival funding	Demand for grant aid is likely to exceed fund available. Link to / develop co-terminosity with other programmes – Rural Revival & Rural Towns scheme

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

	and address social exclusion						scheme , aspects of Kent Rural Towns scheme, local authorities	
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Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

Summary: The table below summarises the costs of the priority projects for the 2006/2007 financial year and the request from RSCP for 06/07, plus the whole project costs over the 2006/2008 financial years and the total request from the RSCP across both financial years.

Project	Whole project cost 06/07	Request from RSCP 06/07	Whole project cost: 06/08	Request from RSCP 06/08
1: Rural Housing Enabler	£95,400	£79,400	£189,600	£157,600
2: Parish Plans / Community Assessments / Market Town health Checks	£121,000	£91,000	£242,000	£182,000
3: Social exclusion: young people	£45,700	£45,700	£92,850	£92,850
4: Social exclusion: community facilities, shops and post offices	£23,000	£20,000	£46,000	£40,000
5: Social exclusion: Pilot programme with older people	£ nil	£ nil	£100,000 (estimate for pilot)	£51,000
6: Kent Rural Action - small grants scheme	£30,000	£30,000	£60,000	£60,000
<u>TOTALS:</u>	<u>£315,100</u>	<u>£266,100</u>	<u>£730,450</u>	<u>£583,450</u>

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

5.3 Funding breakdown* and performance indicators

Priority number	Action & breakdown of funding requirement* (how much, when, the preferred timing for funding provision)	Indicators – how will outputs and outcomes be measured?
1	<p>Rural Housing Enabler programme When: April 2006 to 31 March 2008 Demand for this service is huge. An additional Rural Housing Enabler post is required to meet the need in Kent and Medway How much: Rural Housing Enabler £45,700 per annum x 2 (£185,600 over 2 years) Plus: Recruitment of additional RHE £4,000</p> <p>Other funding: Matched funding cannot be guaranteed, but support towards this programme also comes from Districts and Housing associations at the current time (c£16,000 in 05/06)</p>	<p>Number of presentations to communities / parish councils – 50 (over 2 years) Number of housing needs surveys Undertaken – 40 (over 2 years) Number of local need housing schemes in design / planning / development – 30 (over 2 years) Number of people accessing affordable rural housing in Kent and Medway - ? long lead time... <u>Outcome:</u> Improving the quality of life for potential residents</p>
2	<p>Parish Plan / Community Assessments When: April 2006 to 31 March 2008 How much Contribution towards cost of developing the plans @ £3,000 per parish (average) based on 12 parish plans per annum (£72,000 over 2 years) Plus: There is a huge need for this essential service to communities, and current capacity of the service must be increased to meet the need. Additional part-time (0.6 FTE) Rural Officer post @ £30,000 per annum (£60,000 over 2 years) Plus: Rural Town Health Checks 5 x Health Checks p.a. at £5,000 each (£50,000 over 2 years)</p> <p>Other funding: As part of SLA with DEFRA, circa £30,000 per annum is received by Action with Communities in Rural Kent to support the cost of the Rural Officer post 3 days per week</p>	<p>Number of parish plans started 34 Number of parish plans completed % of parishes undergoing parish plans % of parish plans progressing action plans Rural Towns Health Checks – 5 per year (10 over 2 years) <u>Outcome:</u> Increase knowledge of the benefits of undertaking a Parish Plan / Community Assessment / Market Town Health Check; Increased volunteering</p>
3	<p>Community development work to tackle social exclusion among young people</p>	<p>Identification of communities most at risk of social</p>

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

	<p>When: April 2006 to 31 March 2008</p> <p>How much : Community development worker £45,700 per annum (£92,850 over 2 years)</p>	<p>exclusion</p> <p>Number of young people engaged in community led solutions</p> <p>Number of educational events</p> <p>Number of information events</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> The risk of social exclusion among young people and other groups within rural communities is reduced</p>
4	<p>Prevention of social exclusion and marginalisation through the support of rural shops, post offices and other facilities</p> <p>When: April 2006 to 31 March 2008</p> <p>How much: Rural Shops Advisor £20,000 per annum (£40,000 over 2 years)</p> <p>Production of information & training materials and investigation of rural social enterprise opportunities</p> <p>Other funding: in 2005.2006, £3,000 was received from KCC to assist with this work, plus additional contributions from Business Link Kent</p>	<p>Identification of communities that are most at risk of social exclusion</p> <p>Identification of rural shops, post offices & other facilities most at risk of closure</p> <p>Number of rural shops, post offices & other facilities engaged in programme</p> <p>Number of information sessions provided for rural shop owners</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> risk of social exclusion within rural communities is reduced by support geared at maintaining the rural service & facility offer</p>
5	<p>Pilot programme focusing on addressing social exclusion issues among older people within two target areas.</p> <p>When: April 2007 to 31 March 2008</p> <p>How much: Estimated £51,000 for one year pilot (including recruitment / secondment of staff member/s) requested from RSCP.</p> <p>Other funding: additional funding for this pilot project would need to be sourced, most likely from the Future Builders England programme, but a range of potential opportunities including exploring corporate sponsorship / partnering. Estimated total cost of pilot project for one year is £100,000.</p>	<p>Identification of two appropriate pilot areas</p> <p>Establishment of base line of existing service provision for older people within pilot areas.</p> <p>Consultation events with older people, carers, statutory & VCS agencies to canvas opinion</p> <p>Pilot programmes designed and tested</p> <p>Results and feedback from pilot programmes</p> <p>Sharing of methodologies, outcomes etc</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> establishment of a</p>

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

		model for provision of services to older people in rural areas that could, if successful in pilot stage, be replicated elsewhere
6	<p>Kent Rural Action - Small grants scheme to offer pump priming support for community capacity building and to assist communities to start to address locally identified social exclusion issues</p> <p>When: April 2006 to 31 March 2008</p> <p>How much: £30,000 per annum (£60,000 over 2 years)</p> <p>It is suggested that the focus of the small grants programme is to support communities in their development and commitment to the work suggested in the RSCP – affordable housing, parish planning, tackling social exclusion, supporting sustainable rural facilities, and other community capacity building measures.</p>	<p>Development & administration of small grants programme</p> <p>Number of applicants for small grants for community capacity building</p> <p>Number of applicants for small grants for addressing local social exclusion issues</p> <p>Number of applications that have been generated as direct outcome of parish plan / community assessment / market town health check</p> <p>Number of communities receiving pump priming grants</p> <p><u>Outcome:</u> Seed corn funding for development of local initiatives to address community capacity building and / or social exclusion issues</p>

*** Costs within this section are prepared on the compact compliant basis of "full cost recovery" for work and projects undertaken. Full cost recovery includes the salary of the post holder/s and their associated on costs, subsistence and travel, plus the appropriate proportion of management and support staff time and the cost of overheads required by the delivery organisation.**

The basis of costings are as follows:

Basic salary

+ On costs

+ Travel & subsistence

+ overheads (stationery, phone calls, pc, printers, photocopier, office rental, utilities etc)

+ proportionate cost of management and support staff to support post holder/s

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

6 Further information to support the business case

6.1 The inclusion of the RSCP into the LAA within Kent and Medway

The Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership would like to constructively suggest an action plan for the integration of the RSCP funding into the LAA. Our view is that the DEFRA Rural Social and Community Programme funds should be directed to the lead body of the partnership that will initially develop, present and deliver the business case. Whilst we see the longer term good sense of joined-up funding arrangements through LAA or other mechanism once arrangements are fully in place, Kent and Medway does present a special case for a transitional arrangement to allow:

- 1) Both Kent and Medway to be covered by an LAA
- 2) Appropriate representation within LAA development and delivery mechanism to be established for the VCS

Change Up funding for 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 will not be via the LAA and this should equally be applied to the DEFRA Rural Social and Community Programme. This contemporary policy precedent has been established in response to concern over VCS ownership of the programme, the potential for 'drowning out' against larger funding streams, co-operation across localities and being short-term investment. However, where the DEFRA Rural Social and Community Programme objectives and targets corresponded to the LAA then the Kent and Medway Rural and Social Community Partnership and lead delivery partner/s would align those targets and objectives to the LAA to ensure a consistent approach and these alignments have been stated within the business case.

This aspect of the proposed programme RSCP raised the most concern for the Partnership. The concerns are as follows:

- 1) The current position in Kent is that Kent County Council is a pilot area for Local Area Agreements and has an LAA in place and operating from 1st April 2005. The Medway unitary authority is not yet covered by an LAA and will not be until 2007. This provides a real problem for any funding that would come via an LAA, whereby part of the area in which the money is to be invested sits outside the proposed mechanism to do so.
- 2) The voluntary and community sector has been engaged to a degree in the development of the Kent LAA. However more engagement is crucial in order to develop and deliver the programme effectively and to have parity of esteem and equal voice within the LAA framework.
- 3) The RSCP is not ring fenced for rural use, and we have great concern that without this safeguard and without rural VCS representation within the LAA the funding could be used by the LAA for other purposes and there is significant risk of loss of rural focus.

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

- 4) Whilst we are very pleased that the proposed programme recognises the value and impact of work by Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, the RSCP funding is not designated as a VCS-specific fund.
- 5) Proposals for the LAA must take a three-year perspective whereas those for the RSCP business case must have a two-year perspective. This causes a problem for setting outcome targets where it is proposed that, in effect, those for the RSCP will be incorporated in the targets for the LAA
- 6) There is a possibility that the rural VCS may lose the opportunity to deliver services, including existing ones. This will result in the loss of funding leverage that the rural VCS presently provides and which makes a significant contribution to rural programmes, rural capacity building and rural social inclusion. It will also mean that highly valuable expertise, for example in rural and community development, are lost to the programme and to rural areas generally.

6.2 Funding for the RSCP in the Kent and Medway sub-region

Given the understanding that the sums of money likely to be involved at a county level are relatively modest, the Partnership feels that the method of allocation for the Kent and Medway sub-region should take account of demographic and socio-economic factors, as well as the scale of potential partnerships to be serviced, in order to more closely relate allocation to need. There are substantial pockets of deprivation within Kent and Medway. Concurrently, there are a large number of local authorities within Kent and Medway (12 districts, Kent County Council, Medway Unitary Authority) and therefore a similarly large number of local authority partnerships (14), not to mention over 300 Parish Councils, nine Primary Care Trusts and others beside in the statutory sector who have an important role to play in work in rural areas.

The original DEFRA consultation document did not make clear whether different methods of calculation were to be used on a regional (SE) and local basis (Kent and Medway), and this might be a way of ensuring that local needs within a region could be met. We have some concerns about consistency of the suggested principles, if applied to allocating resources between sub regions

While we do not expect special treatment for the rural areas of the South East, we do expect them to be dealt with fairly as regards the distribution of RSCP funding across England. Our constant experience is that this region receives less than a fair or reasonable share of national funding as it is perceived to be affluent.

However, it is the polarity between the 'haves and have nots' that makes being disadvantaged in the Kent and Medway sub-region even more challenging.

To take just one example, there is an acute shortage of affordable rural housing in Kent and Medway, coupled with the high costs of rural housing in the region where prices far exceed both the national average and the average wage. This single fact means that young people,

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

key workers and families on low incomes within rural communities within the sub-region have little chance of being able to afford to purchase their own homes, and the stock of affordable housing in rural areas needs substantial expansion to meet this need. The consequences of lack of affordable housing within rural areas are dire; community balance is at risk of being lost, and with that balance inevitably go services and facilities such as schools and shops. Without these facilities and services, social exclusion starts to grip... and so on. The Rural Housing Enabler programme aims to address this most fundamental issue to ensure the sustainability and vibrancy of rural towns and villages.

The RSCP consultation document stated that the aim of the RSCP is 'to help rural communities shape and enhance their own futures'. This should apply to rural communities in Kent and Medway as much as it does to rural communities in other regions.

Parish Plans

The parishes in rural Medway did not have experience of community assessments, and there has been a lower level of rural development activities in this area. Joint training and promotion of parish plans by Action with Communities in Rural Kent, the Countryside Agency and Medway Council has resulted in parishes getting involved in local community plans for the first time. This would not have happened without the proactive support of the rural officer from Action with Communities in Rural Kent. For parishes without any experience of such work, the idea of a parish plan is very daunting, and the support of key rural officers is essential in bringing new parishes into this work. Otherwise there is a pattern of better skilled rural residents producing plans.

Rural Strategy Manager, Medway Council

Parish Plans can assist in highlighting some of the serious issues faced by Kent and Medway's rural residents:

Concern has been expressed that there is little mention of the vital importance of schools, particularly Primary Schools, to rural communities. Many communities have already lost their shops and other facilities and the local school is all that remains at the heart of a village.

Councillor, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

7 Signed on behalf of the Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership for the Kent and Medway sub region

Name: *Katy Jackson*

Position: Chief Executive

Organisation: Action with Communities in Rural Kent

On behalf of: Kent & Medway Rural Social and Communities Partnership

Date: 30th November 2005

SECTION 3 – APPENDICES

APPENDIX A - Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership timetable for business case

Stage	Date
Consultation responses to DEFRA Rural Social and Community Programme	To be concluded by 13 th October 2005 (achieved)
Inaugural meeting of Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership	10 th October 2005 (achieved)
Agreement of Voluntary Infrastructure Consortium Kent to the Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership's request to work as a distinct sub-group of VICK (Change Up)	1 st November 2005 (achieved)
Meeting of Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership to consider first draft of RSCP business case	9 th November 2005 (achieved)
Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community partnership to offer draft business case out to consultation within wider community of stakeholders	To start week commencing 14 th November 2005 (achieved)
Final date to receive responses to consultation on first draft business case from wider community of stakeholders	28 th November 2005 (achieved)
Meeting of Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership to consider responses to consultation on first draft of RSCP business case and to include these responses within 'first cut' business case for GOSE	29 th November 2005 (achieved)
Submission of 'first cut' business case to GOSE	30 th November 2005 (achieved)
Partnership to engage in dialogue with GOSE over final business case	To be concluded by 16 th January 2006

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

Background to agreeing the business case - Development, process and consultation

Using the format suggested by GOSE, this section sets out to describe how the business case has been developed and how agreements have been achieved.

Meetings: date & type	Who attended
<p>Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership, 10th October 2005 at Lenham Community Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent County Council • Medway Council • Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council • Detling Parish Council • Bredhurst Parish Council • Kent Community Foundation • Age Concern England • VICK (Voluntary Infrastructure Consortium Kent) • Action with Communities in Rural Kent (the rural community council for Kent and Medway) as organising and lead body <p>Apologies received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Association of Parish Councils • Voluntary Action West Kent (formerly West Kent CVS) • Hyde Housing Association • Swale BC • Dover DC
<p>Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership, 9th November 2005 at Lenham Community Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Community Foundation • Kent Association of Parish Councils • Medway Council • Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council • Voluntary Action West Kent • Action with Communities in Rural Kent • Swale Borough Council • VICK <p>Apologies received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyde Housing Association • Bredhurst Parish Council • Detling Parish Council • Age Concern England • Kent County Council
<p>Kent and Medway Rural Social & Community Partnership to consider 'first cut' draft business case following responses from</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Community Foundation • Medway Council • Voluntary Action West Kent • Kent County Council

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

<p>electronic and postal consultation 29th November 2005 at Lenham Community Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action with Communities in Rural Kent • VICK <p>Apologies received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyde Housing Association • Bredhurst Parish Council • Detling Parish Council • Age Concern England • Swale BC • Kent Association of Parish Councils

Consultation: Date & type	Who attended or responded
<p>Consultation event on DEFRA's new Rural Social & Community Programme 23rd June 2005 at Lenham</p>	<p>Members and guests of Action with Communities in Rural Kent, plus speakers from DEFRA, SEEDA and GOSE (full list of delegates attached below in Appendix B)</p>
<p>Consultation event on DEFRA's new Rural Social & Community Programme 28th September 2005 at Harrietsham</p>	<p>Key stakeholders at event organised and hosted by Action with Communities in Rural Kent, with speakers from GOSE and Kent Association of Parish Councils (full list of delegates attached below in Appendix B)</p>
<p>Electronic / postal consultation with wider stakeholder group week commencing 14th November 2005, with responses required by 28th November 2005 for inclusion into draft business case</p>	<p>Approximately 60 copies of the draft business case were sent out to stakeholders (in hard copy), and others were sent electronically. The document was also available during the consultation period on the Action with Communities in Rural Kent web site: www.ruralkent.org.uk</p> <p>Responses to the consultation draft business case were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOSE • KCC x 3 • Westwell Parish Council • Tonbridge & Malling BC • Medway Council • Shepway DC
<p>Co-ordination of inclusion of responses from wider consultation into 'first cut' draft business case</p>	<p>ACTION: to be compiled by Action with Communities in Rural Kent and included within draft business case for submission to GOSE by 30th November 2005</p>

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

Appendix B –Partners and lists of attendees at consultation events

Members of Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| • Kent County Council: | Tony Atkinson |
| • Medway Council: | Catherine Smith |
| • Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council: | Janet Sergison |
| • Bredhurst Parish Council | Suresh Khanna |
| • Detling Parish Council | Gavin McLaggan |
| • Kent Community Foundation | Simon macLachlan |
| • Age Concern England | Ron Watkins |
| • VICK (Voluntary Infrastructure Consortium Kent) | Caroline Shaw |
| • Action with Communities in Rural Kent | Katy Jackson |
| | Richard Backhouse |
| | Alan Rogers |
| | Miranda Hayes |
| • Kent Association of Parish Councils | Rodney Williamson |
| • Voluntary Action West Kent | John Asseter |
| • Hyde Housing Association | Janine Allen |
| • Swale BC | Kirsty Gaunt |
| • Dover DC | Suzy Tigwell |

Members of VICK Executive Group (Change Up)

- Mid & SE Kent CVS
- East Kent CVS
- Swale CVS
- North West Kent CVS
- Voluntary Action West Kent
- North West Kent REC
- Sevenoaks Volunteer Centre
- Shepway Volunteer Centre
- Maidstone Volunteer Bureau
- Action with Communities in Rural Kent
- Kent CAN
- Kent Association of Voluntary Youth Services
- Kent County Council

Attendees at Consultation events:

23rd June 2005 at Lenham - Consultation event on DEFRA's new Rural Social & Community Programme

Action with Communities in Rural Kent (Trustee)	Richard Andrews
Action with Communities in Rural Kent (Trustee)	Ron Butcher

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

Action with Communities in Rural Kent (Trustee)	Janis Cresswell
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Donna Dunbar
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Miranda Hayes
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Katy Jackson
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Trevor Skelton
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Becky Williams
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Natalie Fowkes
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Victoria Lawson
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Jenny Bradbury
Action with Communities in Rural Kent (Trustee)	Susan Levett
Action with Communities in Rural Kent (Trustee)	Ruth Pascoe
Action with Communities in Rural Kent (Trustee)	Jim Williams
Action with Communities in Rural Kent (Chair)	Pearl Anderson
Aldington Village Hall	Richard Fraser
Aldington Village Hall	Barry Hume
Bethersden Parish Council	Tony Bryan
Bethersden Parish Council	Representative
Borden Parish Council	Mike Baldock
Bredhurst Parish Council	Mrs V Jones
Capel Parish Council	Bill Grant
Chart Sutton Parish Council	Cllr Sandra Clayton
Chart Sutton Parish Council	Cllr Mike Fitzgerald
Chilham Environment Protection Society	Helen Kirwan
Chilham Parish Council	Alan Baker
DEFRA	Stephen Cane - speaker
DEFRA	Pacian Andrews - speaker
Detling Parish Council	Dr Gavin McGlaggan
Eastry Parish Council	Sheila Smith
Edenbridge Town Council	M J Downing
GOSE	Mike Gilks
GOSE	Stuart Lloyd - speaker
Gravesham Borough Council	Cllr Marven
Harrietsham and Lenham Parish Council	Janetta Sams
Harrietsham and Lenham Parish Council	Tom Sams
Individual Member	Jennie Hinton
Individual Member	Bob Scruton
Kent Association of Parish Councils (Trustee)	Dennis Andrews
Kent Association of Parish Councils	Rodney Williamson – panel member
Kent County Council	Tony Atkinson
Kent County Council	Sue Beer
Kent County Council (Rural Revival)	Kevin Wiles
Maidstone Borough Council	Jim Boot
Medway Council	Catherine Smith
Meopham Parish Council	Cllr William Fisher
Mid and South Kent CVS	John Asseter
Pluckley Parish Council	Ann Murray

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

Rural Development Service (DEFRA)	Mr Chris Harvey
Sandwich Town Council	Cllr Phil Scott
SEEDA	Valerie Carter – speaker
Shepherdswell & Coldred PC (Trustee)	P A Mummary
Swalecliffe and Chestfield WI	Mrs Vera Synock
The Farleighs WI	Mrs L Marcer
The Farleighs WI	Mrs J Wiltshire
Underriver Village Hall	Jim Owlett
Westwell Parish Council	Christine Drury
Woodchurch Memorial Hall	Mr John Hart
Woodchurch Memorial Hall	Mrs Barbara Lambourne
West Kent Federation of WIs	Deborah Harding

28th September 2005 Defra Social and Community Programme Consultation event

ABC Cultural Services	Charlotte Gant
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Pearl Anderson
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Richard Backhouse
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Mike Barkway
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Sue Beer
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Ron Butcher
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Donna Dunbar
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Miranda Hayes
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Katy Jackson
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Victoria Lawson
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Simon macLachlan
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Dr Alan Rogers
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Nigel Whitburn
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Becky Williams
Aylesford Parish Council	Derek Kings
Bredhurst Parish Council	Major Suresh Khanna
Chart Sutton Parish Council	Mrs Ann Rollinson
Coxheath Parish Council	John Hughes
Detling Parish Council	Dr Gavin McGlaggan
Detling Parish Council	Dr Robin Grimble
Dover District Council	Alex Skerten
GOSE	Crispin Davies
GOSE	Chris Drew

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

GOSE	Yvette Ortel
Hyde Housing	Janine Allen
KAPC	Dennis Andrews
KAPC	Rodney Williamson
Kent County Council	Tony Atkinson
Kent Council for Voluntary Youth Service	Richard Eason
Kent Farmline	John Mason
Kent Police	Inspector Mark Harrison
Medway Council	Catherine Smith
Swale Borough Council	Kirsty Gaunt
Swale CVS	Sarah Williams
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	Janet Sergison
Westwell Parish Council	Susan Wood
Facilitator	Roger Staker

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

Appendix C – Supporting evidence & bibliography – links to data, publications, etc

Age Concern England, 2004 "Ageing and the Countryside" Conference Report

Commission for Rural Communities, 2005 "Taking forward our study on Rural Disadvantage"

defra, 2004 "Rural Strategy, Annex D - Executive Summary of Rural Funding Streams Report"

Kent Association for Rural Retailers, 2005 "Kent Rural Retail Survey"

KCC, 2005 "Kent: the unique local challenges". Report to members 3//11/05

Kent Community Foundation "Supporting Local Communities: the role of Kent Community Foundation" 2001

Kent County Council, 2005 "Accessibility Strategy for Kent"

Kent County Council & Action with Communities in Rural Kent, 2005 "Rural Opinion Survey"

Kent RCC, 2003 "Social Exclusion in Rural Kent"

Kent RCC/ Rural Kent, 1998 -2005 "Rural Housing Needs Surveys"

Rural Kent, 2005 "Community Assessments Data Base"

Appendix D – Acknowledgements

Thanks to all who assisted in the compiling of the business case for Kent and Medway, including members of the Kent & Medway Rural Social and Communities Partnership, all who responded to the consultation, attended consultation events or who provided information, and to the staff of Action with Communities in Rural Kent.

Kent and Medway Rural Social and Community Partnership

Appendix E - Glossary of terms (jargon buster!)

VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector
GOSE	Government Office for the South East
DEFRA	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
RSCP	Rural Social and Community Programme
VICK	Voluntary Infrastructure Consortium Kent
LAA	Local Area Agreement
LIDP	Local Infrastructure Development Plan
ESF	European Social Fund
KCC	Kent County Council
LA	Local Authority
PCT	Primary Care Trust
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CVS	Council for Voluntary Service
VC	Volunteer Centre
REC	Racial Equality Council
SEEDA	South East England Development Agency