

Committee: Economic Development

Subject: Regeneration of Rural Areas - An assessment of the themes in the Rural White Paper

Conference Organiser: INLOGOV

Venue: Birmingham

Conference Fee: £175

Date(s): 13 June 1996

Recommendation: Vice-Chair, one other member and one official

The Regeneration of Our Rural Areas An Assessment of some of the Themes in the Rural White Paper

"This White Paper is about a living and working countryside. It recognises the stresses and strains of widespread change but it never forgets those distinctive qualities whose preservation is a continuing commitment in a country which values the rural way of life."

Rural White Paper

"We have set three broad objectives for rural policy:

- *economic renewal, to ensure a wide range of job opportunities*
- *social and democratic renewal, to strengthen rural communities*
- *the protection and enhancement of the countryside environment"*

Labour Policy Paper

"It is a question of maintaining the pattern of rural settlements inherited from the past - not with the aim of preservation but rather of development, within the framework of a forward-looking strategy, corresponding to present day needs, and with autonomous development as its goal."

Franz Fischler, Member of the European Commission

The white paper 'Rural England' has been generally welcomed for its policies, but criticised because it does not identify resources to achieve them. Similar thoughts have been expressed by the Labour Party, and by the European Union.

This seminar will review some of the key themes, with speakers from ACRE - the charity which campaigns to give rural people a greater say in their future; from MAFF (concentrating on diversification and related funding opportunities) from a rural TEC, and a rural housing project and community comment.

It concludes with two case studies from councils which are implementing dynamic economic, and community development programmes in rural areas.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

- 9.30 Coffee, registration
- 10.15 Welcome, Introduction -
Key Themes for the day
- 10.40 Creating Employment in the
Countryside
Les Roberts, Director, ACRE
- 11.15 Discussion and Questions
- 11.40 Making Best use of Resources
to Diversify out of Agriculture
**Roy Dart, Senior Policy
Adviser, Ministry of
Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food**
- 12.10 Discussion and Questions
- 12.30 Lunch
- 1.30 Business Support and Training
in Rural Areas
**Stephen Jury, Chief
Executive, Shropshire TEC**
- 2.00 Discussion
- 2.15 Housing Regeneration and Local
Initiative in the Countryside
**Diana Farrow, Wiltshire
Rural Housing Association
and Wiltshire Rural
Community Council**
- 2.45 Discussion
- 3.00 Tea
- 3.15 Case Studies
Local Partnerships in South
Herefordshire
**Adrian Marshall, Economic
Development Officer, South
Herefordshire DC**
Community Involvement in North
Lincolnshire
**Gwen Swinburn, Economic
Development Officer, North
Lincolnshire Council**
- 4.00 Discussion and Questions
- 4.30 Seminar End

FEE

The fee for the seminar will be £175 per person to include refreshments, lunch and all documentation.

BOOKINGS

Bookings are subject to availability and should be made on the attached form as soon as possible, preferably before Monday 13 May 1996.

This information is being circulated to:

- **Leader of the Council**
(2 copies to be passed on to interested Councillors)
- **Chief Executives**
- **Director of Planning**
- **Officers responsible for Economic Development**
- **Director of Housing**
- **Chief Executives of TECs, LECs, Business Links and principal Enterprise Agencies and Rural Community Councils**

Venue:

Birmingham