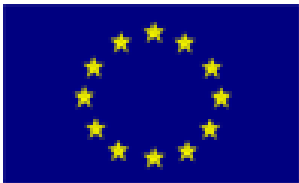


Rural Development Programme for England 2007-2013 (RDPE)

The Leader approach: progress to date and challenges ahead

Amanda Desmond



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas



Structure of Presentation

- Overview of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).
- Delivery of the RDPE.
- Leader approach within RDPE.



Overview of the RDPE

- Pillar II of the Common Agricultural Policy.
- Seven year programme 2007-2013.
- Jointly funded by Defra and EU (approx £3.9bn).
- Of this just over 10% to both Axis 1 and Axis 3.
- Leader approach is very different to predecessor(s)



Programme Structure

Axis 1

*Improving
competitiveness of the
agricultural and
forestry sector*

Axis 2

*Improving the
environment
and the
countryside*

Axis 3

*Quality of life in
rural areas and
diversification of the
rural economy*

**Innovation,
knowledge transfer,
adding value**

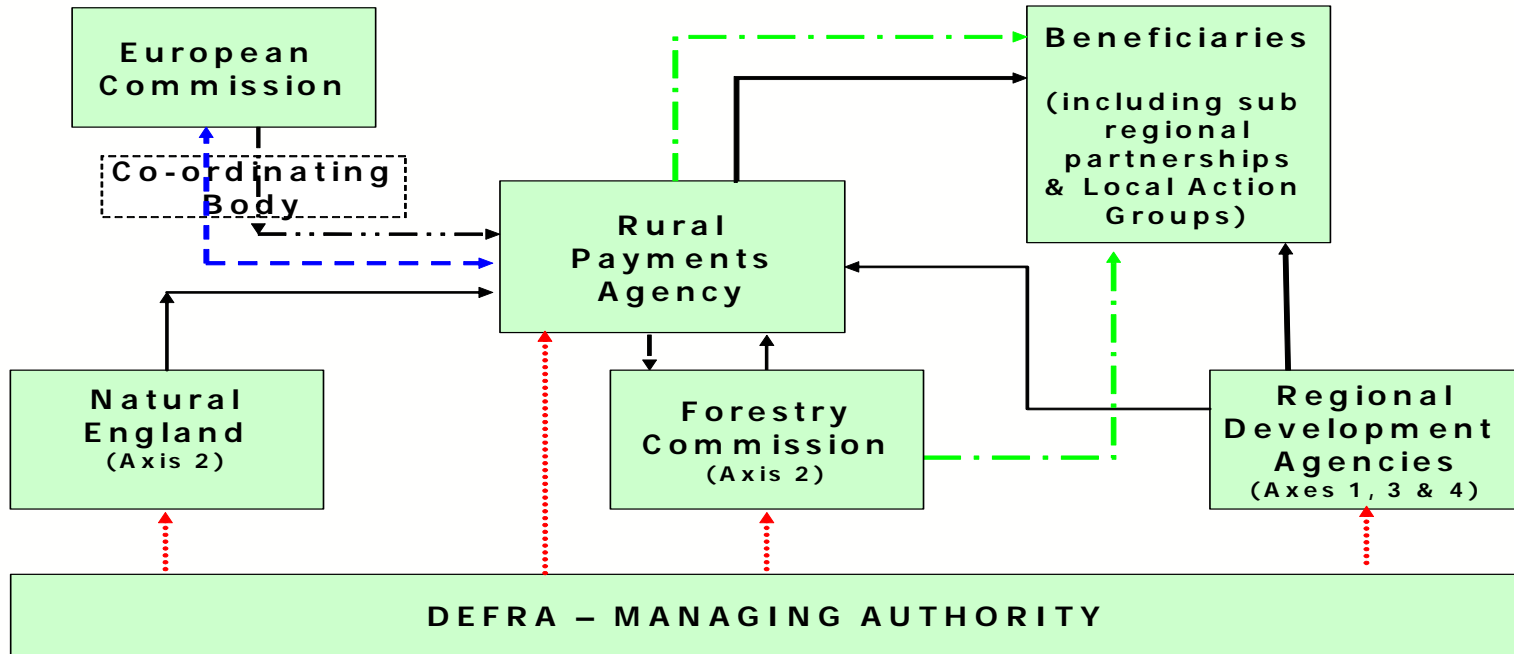
**Landscape,
environment,
biodiversity, forestry**

**Diversification,
enterprise, tourism,
community support**

Axis 4: Leader (minimum 5% of EU expenditure)

RDPE – A complex delivery structure

RDPE Delivery Structure Summary



Key:

- ⋯→ Governance and Oversight
- - -> Claim for reimbursement of Community contribution.
- · - · -> Reimbursement of Community contribution.
- > Processing of applications and claims
- > Compliance inspections
- · - · -> Payment of public expenditure to beneficiaries.



Delivery through partner organisations



Agri-environment schemes;
Energy Crops Scheme



Social and economic
investment; management of
the Leader approach



Woodland support
schemes



Axis 1 – Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

- Training
- Modernisation
- Adding value to products
- Cooperation: new products, processes and technologies

Includes a targeted livestock package

- Energy Crops Scheme



Axis 3 - Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

- Farm diversification
- Rural micro-businesses
- Sustainable tourism
- Basic services
- Village renewal and development
- Rural Heritage



Leader approach within RDPE

- An approach to delivery – **not** a separate Programme.
- Bottom-up, community-lead approach to delivery of the Programme.
- Focus on delivery against Axis 1 and 3 programme measures and objectives.
- Incorporates learning from previous rounds of Leader.



Achievements so far

- 65 Local Action Groups now approved and operating.
- Spend is now taking place - £4.9m.

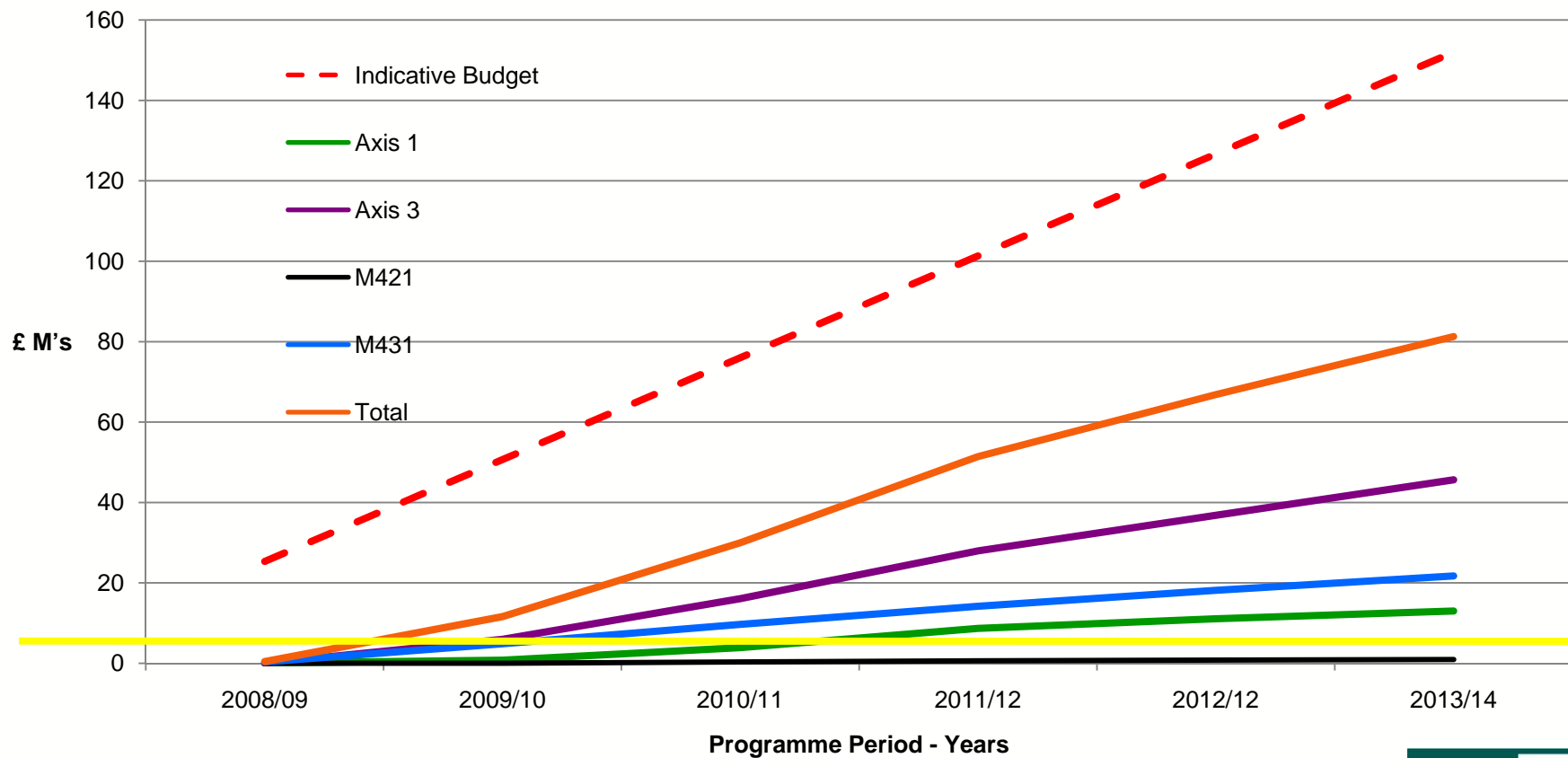


Level of Leader activity



defra

Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs



RDPE Research

- Mid Term Evaluation
- Impact of Leader approach



Mid Term Evaluation (MTE)

1.

- Background and focus
 - Requirement to assess the effectiveness of the RDPE.
 - To examine: the balance of resources between the axes and measures, the utilisation of resources, the results achieved .
- Purpose
 - Source of evidence
 - Inform thinking about possible modifications within the current programming period.
 - Contribute to future planning.



- Progress
 - Currently out to tender: 22 Jan – 04 March
 - Link to tender information is
<https://defra.bravosolution.co.uk>
 - Then click on “current opportunities”.
- Timetable
 - MTE Report - December 2010.
- Scope
 - Potentially, all areas of the RDPE.



Impact of Leader Approach

- Background
 - Focus of evaluation work to date.
 - Limited evaluation evidence on the impact of Leader.
- Focus
 - To understand the impact of Leader, particularly economic impact.
 - To provide advice and guidance on good practice and improving impacts.
 - To draw conclusions and make recommendations.



Impact of Leader Approach

- Methodology
 - Telephone and online survey. Looking at 2000 – 2009.
- Timetable
 - Detailed time schedule not yet finalised.
 - Approximately 15 weeks.
 - Contact with stakeholders starting in late February.
- Involvement of LAGs
 - To include those involved in Leader and RDPE at regional and local levels



Challenges Ahead

- ✓ Need to increase rate of activity and spend.
 - Half way through the programme period.
- ✓ Learn from others experience.
- ✓ Share solutions, replicate good ideas.
- ✓ Focus on outputs and outcomes.
- ✓ Ensure that the benefits are realised by rural business and communities.
- ✓ Make the most of this opportunity – Enjoy it!

