



RDPE: Delivering success through local action
3rd and 4th February 2010
Dunchurch Park Hotel and Conference Centre

Participants' response to Amanda Desmond's summary of key messages

Following on from Amanda's summing up of the key messages that she had taken from the day, participants fed back the following comments:-

- The Leader approach can help with delivery across all 3 axes, even if it cannot access funding directly from axis 2
- Small grants are needed but LAGs do not have the capacity to process small grants
- What do we want from our LAGs - the softer elements of capacity building and community developments or a lean, mean grant pumping machine? There needs to be clarity on this
- RDPE stifles innovation and risk taking because of the processes involved
- It is too early to evaluate LAGs and delivery through the Leader approach, as some LAGs have only just got going
- There is a danger that history is repeating itself; what is needed is more transparency and open discussion between LAGs, Defra and the RDAs regarding the follow of funding and spend, e.g. funds are being committed faster than Defra perceive them to be
- LAGs need more staff on the ground to do the job properly, i.e. deliver according to the fundamental principles of Leader, e.g. capacity building, local focus etc.
- The Impact of Leader research is at risk of setting itself up to fail if it simply looks at the economic outcomes of the Leader approach, i.e. Leader is about much more. What are we evaluating in Leader and what do we want to achieve by it?



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