



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

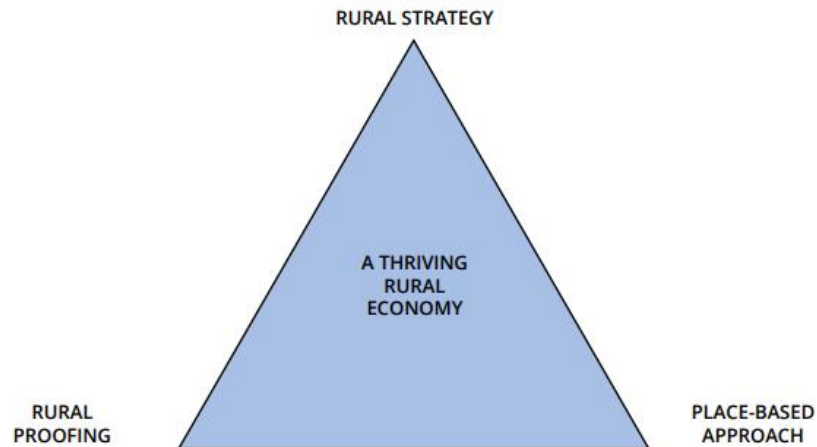
Essex Rural Partnership Tuesday 15 October 2019

Rural Policy

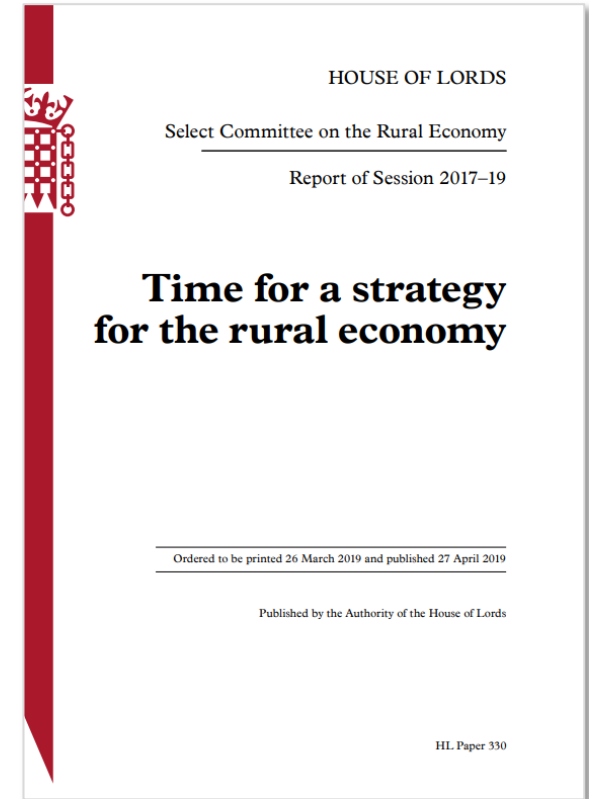
Tim Goodship, Head of Rural Policy, Defra

House of Lords Rural Economy report

- a ‘comprehensive’ **rural strategy** at national level complemented by local rural strategies (a ‘place-based approach’);
- a comprehensive ‘**rethink and reform**’ for rural **proofing**;
- an **annual report** to Parliament on performance against the strategy and rural proofing.

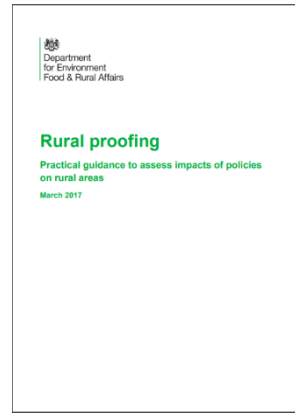


- Government’s response submitted July 2019 and debate in House of Lords held on 8 October.



Rural proofing

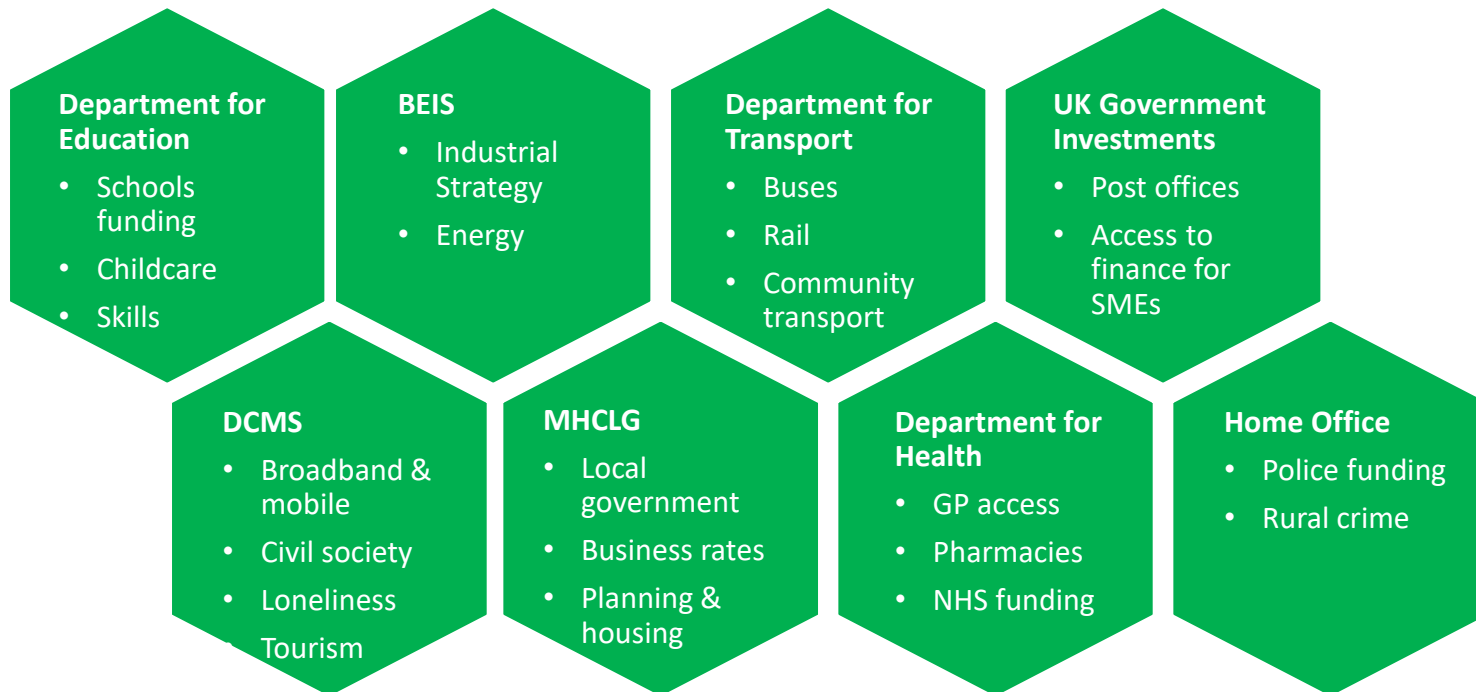
- Rural proofing is assessing what might affect outcomes in rural areas and adjusting policies or delivery when appropriate and practicable.
- Rural proofing is the responsibility of all departments.
- Revised rural proofing guidance was published in April 2017.
- Defra maintains an evidence base (e.g. Statistical Digest of Rural England), has established an panel of academic experts to advise on research and has published a statement of rural research priorities.
- The Defra Rural Policy team works with departments' priority policies.
- There are nominated rural proofing leads in each department to help oversee, advise on and promote rural proofing.
- Defra has set up a Rural Affairs Board to steer work on rural proofing.
- Defra will publish an annual report on rural proofing.



Rural Policy

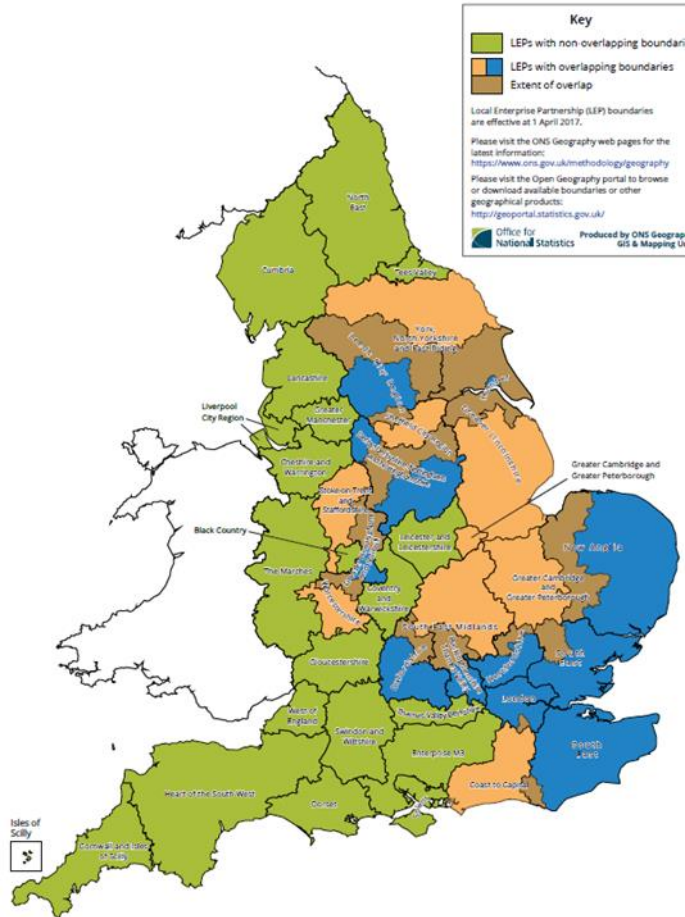
Our aim is to create a rural economy that works for everyone, contributing to national productivity, prosperity and wellbeing.

We work with other departments so they take account of the needs of rural businesses and rural communities.



Local industrial strategies

England: Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)¹, 2017



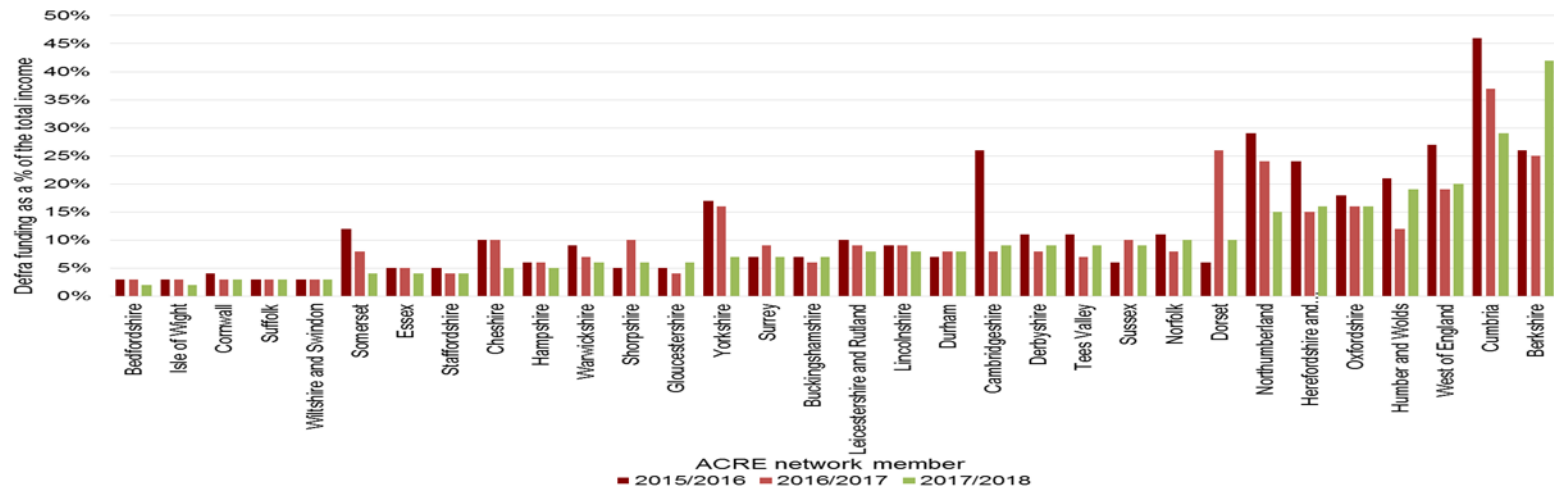
Develop the evidence base on the local rural economy including key characteristics, competitive advantages and barriers to growth.

1. **Comparative rural-urban analysis** of key metrics;
 - Productivity (turnover/worker), jobs and wages
 - Business and population demography
 - Journey times to nearest employment centre / services
 - Measures of deprivation
2. Demonstrate understanding local needs and identify opportunities for growth based on consumer, technological and regulatory trends and **competitive advantages of the local area**, including through thorough consultation with rural businesses, communities and organisations.
3. Assess whether rural areas may have more acute or different **barriers to growth** such as accessibility, connectivity, demographic change, housing and access to skills.
4. Evaluate the **role of different settlement types** such as market towns.
5. **Explore inclusive growth** and what this means in a rural context, such as differences between worker and resident based income measures and the role of community-led development.
6. Consider economic opportunities relating to land use and Natural Capital.

Defra and the ACRE network

Defra (and its predecessors) has provided funding for the ACRE Network since its formation in 1987. Funding in 2019/20 is around £1.8 million

| Work Programme Priority | % of total spent |
|--|------------------|
| Rural Life Opportunities | 27.6% |
| Social Infrastructure | 27.3% |
| Housing and planning | 14.8% |
| Business support and social enterprise development | 13.6% |
| Rural Transport | 9.9% |
| Digital infrastructure | 2.9% |
| Digital skills and inclusion | 2.8% |
| Renewable energy generation | 1.2% |
| TOTAL | 100% |



Loneliness



 HM Government

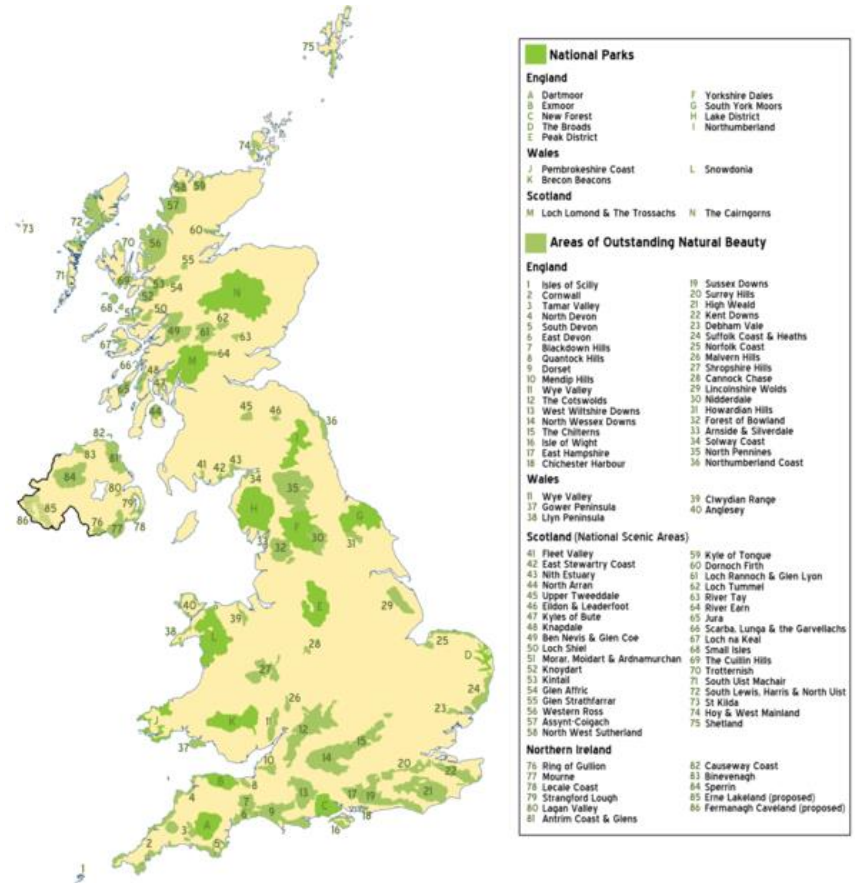
A connected society
A strategy for tackling loneliness –
laying the foundations for change



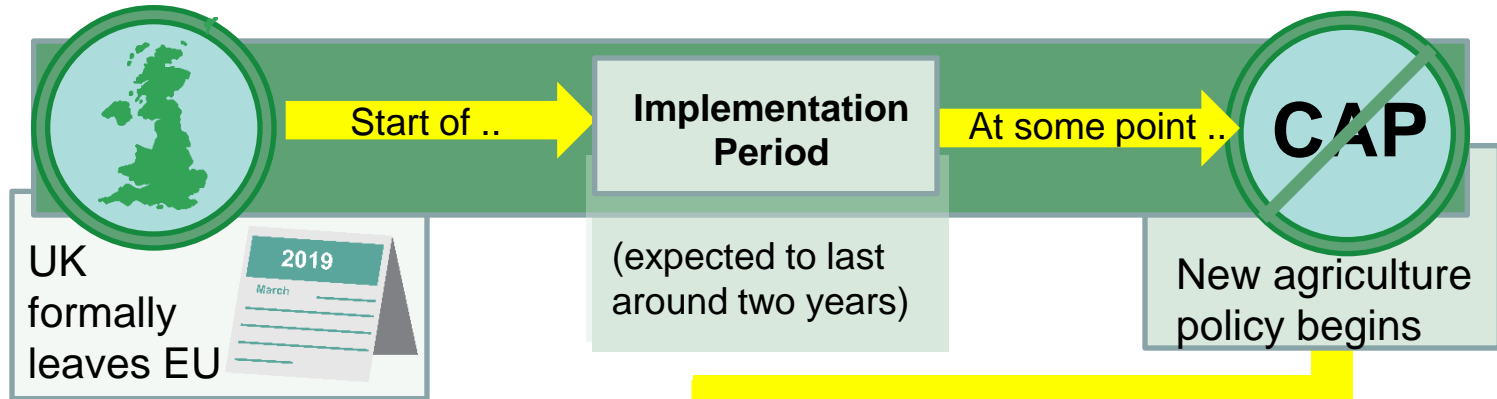
- Loneliness reflected in ACRE priorities for 2019/20.
- The Building Connections Fund is supporting rural projects.
- Defra will continue to support community infrastructure and community action.
- £3m village halls grant improvement fund launched in April.
- Defra runs a rural stakeholder forum to advise and support the work of government departments and help with local communication of initiatives and good practice.

Glover review: National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Beauty

- Current legislation is National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are areas of land designated solely for the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty – Dedham Vale.
- Glover report focused on five areas:
 - Landscapes alive for nature and beauty
 - Landscapes for everyone
 - Living in landscapes
 - More special places
 - New ways of working
- Its main recommendation was for a National Landscapes Services.
- Other recommendations included:
 - A new National Landscapes Housing Association
 - A new approach to coordinating public transport and more sustainable ways of accessing national landscapes



Moving away from the Common Agricultural Policy



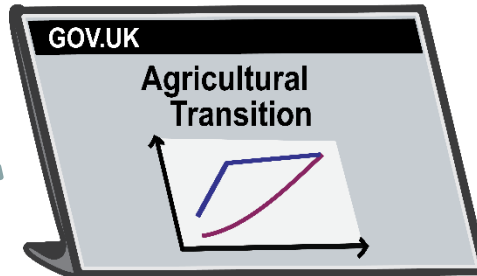
UK formally leaves EU



(expected to last around two years)

New agriculture policy begins

Leading to the.....



Direct Payments will be phased down

Productivity measures will be funded

New environmental land management and animal welfare schemes will be introduced

Designed to make our offering clear and therefore help farmers prepare for change

Environment Bill

The Environment Bill is one of the key vehicles for delivering the bold vision set out in the 25 Year Environment Bill. It will:

- Legally oblige policymakers to have due regard to the policy statement on environmental principles when choosing policy options.
- Set legally binding targets in four areas: air quality; waste and resource efficiency; water and nature.
- Create a new independent domestic watchdog, the Office of Environmental Protection.
- Introduce mandatory biodiversity net gain.
- Give local authorities improved and increased powers to take more effective action to tackle environmental challenges in local areas.



A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to
Improve the Environment





Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Questions

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