

Purpose and Respective Roles

The Rural Board and the Rural Forum provide two separate but complimentary functions. The Rural Board is the small, strategic, decision making body which addresses the rural needs of the region by shaping policy, and underpinning and monitoring delivery of activity. The Rural Forum is the wider body of local networks which provides the 'grass roots' evidence to the Rural Board, about the effectiveness of policy and delivery and supports mainstreaming of rural issues at the local level.

SOUTH EAST RURAL BOARD

1. LEADERSHIP

Act as Rural Champions for the region. Provide visible and proactive strategic leadership and engagement at all levels, shaping rural policy and making sure delivery happens

2. POLICY MAKING

Understand the needs of the SE through analysis and futures work, so as to:

- Develop region-wide priorities and policies in a SE Rural Strategy and Action Plan
- Prepare a plan of action to mainstream rural issues
- Influence national policy

3. POLICY AND DELIVERY REVIEW

Act as Watchdog/monitor so as to:

- Understand the impact of the SE Rural Strategy and Action Plan; challenge what is happening; identify what is working or not; thereby improving accountability for delivery
- Prepare report to Regional and Rural Ministers on the Region's performance
- Attend quarterly ministerial meeting with the Rural Forum for the South East

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKS

Achieve the above through:

- Proactively communicating rural leadership messages
- Owning and encouraging networks within business, community, regional bodies, and local government sectors
- Commissioning work from the Rural Forum for the SE and others

RURAL FORUM FOR THE SOUTH EAST

1. LEADERSHIP

Act as champions for local rural 'mainstreaming' and provide visible and proactive leadership at all levels by capturing and articulating the voice of "grass roots" rural stakeholders.

2. POLICY MAKING

Understand the needs of the SE through local knowledge and best practice, so as to:

- Develop common consensus on policy issues and advise the Rural Board in its policy-making
- Review rural proofing of sub-regional/local policy and delivery, based on best practice
- Offer support for mainstreaming rural issues through LAA's

3. POLICY AND DELIVERY REVIEW

Develop common local consensus on the impact of policy and delivery so as to:

- Input into the Rural Board reviews
- Provide local evidence on the reality of rural delivery and areas needing improvement to feed into impact report for the Regional and Rural Ministers
- Attend quarterly meetings with the Rural Minister

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKS

Achieve the above through:

- Taking back clear messages to local stakeholders from the Rural Board and vice versa, and establishing and promoting best practice examples
- Developing and maintaining direct links to Local Strategic Partnerships, LAA Boards, County Fora and Rural Community Councils.
- Carrying out and/or commissioning specific work for the Rural Board and others
- Holding an annual conference