



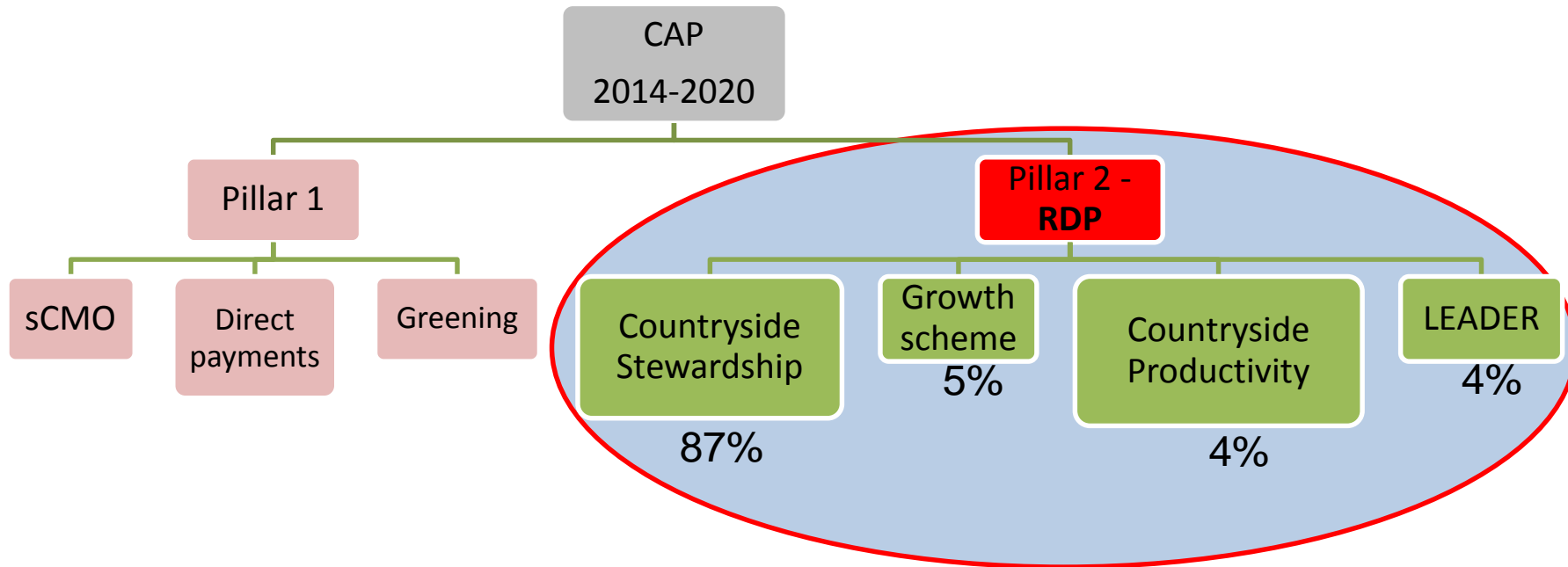
Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## **Rural Development Programme for England - LEADER: 2015 - 2020**

**FARNET – implementing CLLD across the  
ESI funds – 9-10 December 2015**

**David Wilford** – Head of RDPE Network, LEADER &  
Rural Communities Team, Defra

# Rural Development Programme for England



- £3.0 bn on the **environment**

- new environmental land management scheme
- integrating agri-environment and forestry offers
- helping meet water, biodiversity, soil objectives
- more connected habitats

# LEADER in the next RDPE - overview

## Overview

- 5% of EAFRD budget
- Adopting a more nationally consistent approach (policy & delivery)
- 80 LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) - covering 85% of rural England
- 70% of groups are open for business – majority will open before year end
- Will increase support for jobs and growth in rural areas – Ministerial priority.
- Envisage 70% of projects directly supporting the rural economy, with the remaining 30% all needing to make an contribution.
- Six priority policy areas and related measures (see next slide)
- Complimentary between LEP/LEADER activity - both in selection process and now going forward

# LEADER Policy Priorities (2014 – 2020) & predicted % spend\* (\* based on LAG forecasts)

Support for increasing farm productivity	17%
Support for micro and small enterprises and farm diversification	37%
Support for rural tourism	22%
Provision of rural services	7%
Support for cultural and heritage activity	9%
Support for increasing forestry productivity	8%

# Transition from old to new Programme

1. A **nationally consistent approach to both policy and delivery** – addressing audit and structural issues arising from previous programme, so:

- National Delivery Framework (NDF) – used by groups to write their Local Development Strategies
- National consistent selection criteria
- Handbook for applicants – can be personalised by LAGs but provides consistent information to all applicants regardless of where they are in England
- National Operational Manual – internal procedures for LAGs incl. selection and assessment of projects

2. **Process and timeline** - although England is one of the first countries to get LEADER up and running - this has been a long, intense and resource heavy process. (see next slide)

## TIMELINE

### 2013

End of 2007-2013 Programme

### 2014

Jan → Transitional funding (*for existing*) and preparatory support (*for new*) - £2.5m – to support capacity building

April Publication of National Delivery Framework/ start of application process

June Indicative budget allocations - to help frame Local Development Strategy (LDS)

Sept Deadline for submission of LDS applications - 87 applications received  
Detailed assessment (incl. National Panel chaired by CEO of Paying Agency)

Nov Preliminary announcement of selected groups (subject to appeal)

### 2015

Feb Final announcement of No. of groups/final budget

Feb → Legal contracting/ suite of training/ set up checks

Oct National LEADER launch event  
LAGs starting to be open for business

# LEADER 2014 -2020: coverage

## Population

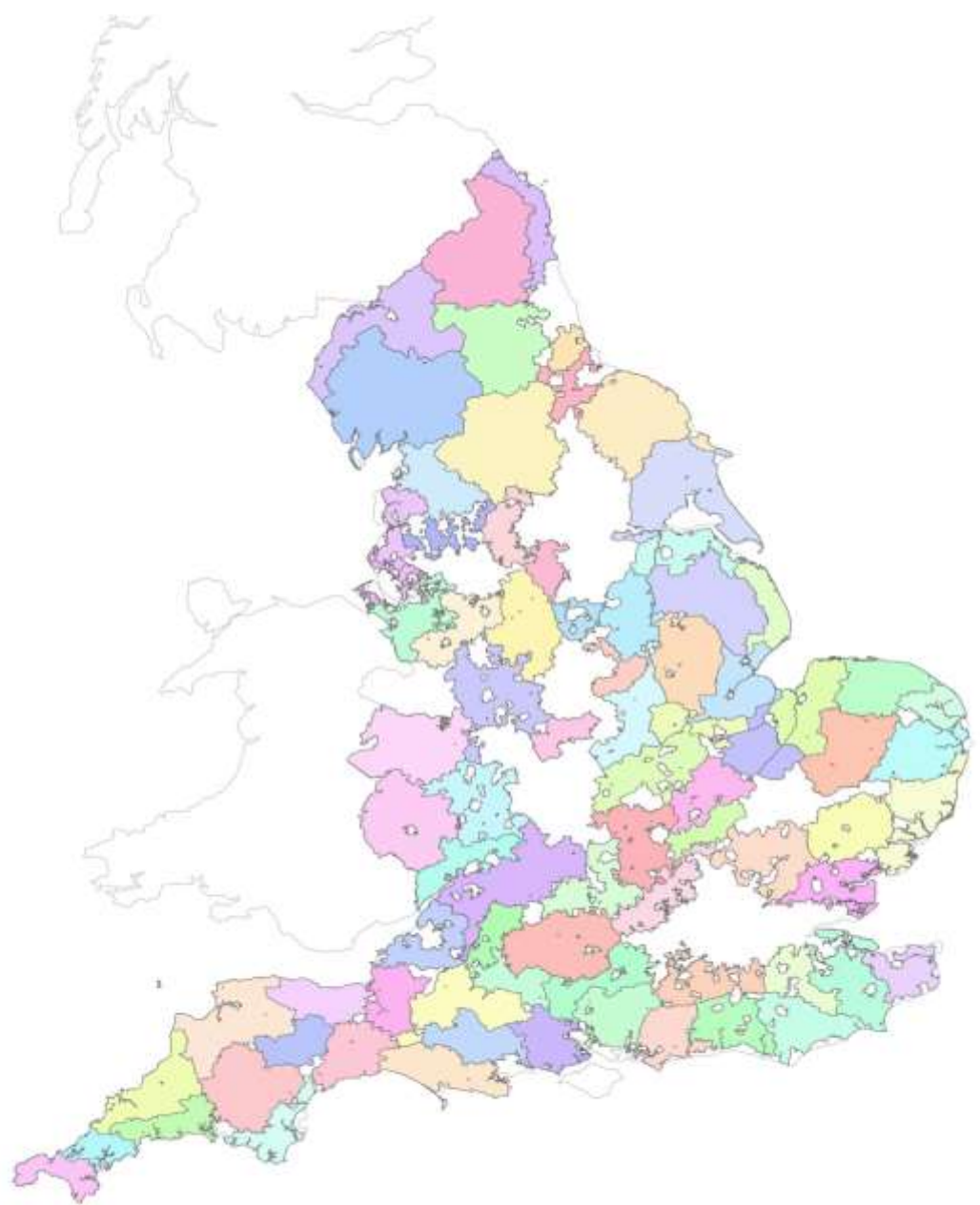
- LEADER now covers **85%** of England's rural population
- This is **29%** more rural people than the previous programme
- Overall the eligible area for LEADER covers around 10 million people\* (rural population and other eligible areas)

(\* provisional data)

## Area

- land area covered now accounts for **80%** of England
- This compares with **60%** in the previous programme.

# Approved LEADER groups for RDPE 2014-2020



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# Community-led Local Development (CLLD)

- CLLD will be incorporated into ERDF and ESF operational programmes
- In line with EU guidance it will adopt a bottom-up approach in identifying both development needs and locally led solutions
- Integrated multi fund approach at local level involving ERDF and ESF within a Local Development Strategy
- CLLD will be run through Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas in 2016
- It will complement (not displace) LEADER/FLAGs - but this relationship still needs to be worked through



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