

**TEESDALE PARTNERSHIP (LSP)**

**THEMATIC GROUP LEAD MEMBER REPORT FORM**

<b>THEMATIC GROUP/ LEAD MEMBER</b>	<b>DATES COVERED IN REPORT:</b>
<b>Economy and Tourism Group Lead Member: Cllr J Fergus</b>	<b>April to May – prepared for Executive Committee 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2008</b>
<b>MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES ACHIEVED THIS PERIOD:</b>	
<p>The second Sustainable Community Strategy for Teesdale 2021: Working Together for Teesdale was launched at the Partnership AGM Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2008. The challenge now for all of the theme groups is the delivery of their action plans to achieve the strategic outcomes identified in the strategy.</p> <p>For the Economic Group, this evidence based strategy has already influenced the joint bid with North Pennines AONB which was submitted for New Leader via the Economy and Tourism Group. Two consultation events were held in April, in Barnard Castle and Stanhope. The focus of the events was to consult on the draft North Pennine Dales Leader Local Development Strategy and to encourage representation from the private, community and public sector to sign up to the Local Action Group which will administer the fund. The Leader Development Strategy focuses on four key themes; land and landscapes, sustainable Dales’ communities, green tourism and lives and livelihoods. The final strategy was delivered to ONE on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 for consideration.</p> <p>Rural enterprises will have an extra source of support for their plans to grow and develop – thanks to two new Business Link Account Managers with a specific focus on rural areas. The Rural Development Programme England (RDPE) with a potential budget of 1m for the rural areas of the North East is being piloted in the area and runs until end of March, 2009 (if successful extends to 2013). The scheme will support diversification of land based sector and the development of rural based micro enterprises. Eligible sectors are retail, manufacturing, service, recreation, equestrian, creative and renewables. The fund is accessible via the Rural Account Managers / North East England Investment Centre. Details of the scheme and contact telephones are available via Maggie Wilson 696231</p>	
<b>MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES TO BE ACHIEVED NEXT PERIOD:</b>	
Pursue the New Leader application and the development of a Local Action Group.	
<b>ISSUES AND EXCEPTIONS THIS PERIOD:</b>	
None	

**Signed (Lead Member)..... Date.....**