

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE and MEMBERSHIP OF THE RURAL COMMUNITY BUILDINGS NETWORK**

### **1. The aims of the Rural Community Buildings Network will be to:**

- Improve communications between member organisations on matters that affect rural community buildings.
- Share information and best practice with each other and all other like minded groups.
- Advise on means to improve information and services including funding sources.
- Provide a unified voice to advise on and influence central and local government policy, consultations and plans, and to be consulted on new policy initiatives by government.

### **2. Membership of the Rural Community Buildings Network**

- The Network will comprise, initially, of representatives of each of the following organisations:
  - Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)
  - Church of England
  - County Association of Local Clerks (CALC)
  - Development Trust Association
  - Girlguiding UK
  - Local Government Association
  - Methodist Church of Great Britain
  - National Association of Local Councils (NALC)
  - National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI)
  - National Village Halls Forum (NVHF)
  - Quakers – Society of Friends
  - Royal British Legion
  - Scouts Association
  - Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)
  - United Reformed Church
- Other organisations may join, at the invitation of the Network.
- Defra will act as an advisor to the Network.

### **3. Chair and Secretariat**

- The Network will be organised and run by member organisations with a rotating chair so as to ensure equal and fair involvement of all.
- Defra will provide secretariat support for two years from the date of the Network's first meeting.

### **4. Service Standards**

- Defra will set up meetings and provide administrative support for two years from the date of the Network's first meeting.
- During this time Defra will cover the costs of the Network including room hire, travel expenses, stationery, refreshments and buffet lunch.

### **5. Frequency of meetings**

- Meetings of the Network will be held twice yearly (spring and autumn) at a location to be agreed by delegates.

### **6. Lifespan of the Network**

- The Network will be evaluated in 2008.