

# NEFRAN Rural Business Conference 2016

Chaired by Antony Braithwaite, Chair of NEFRAN

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, Kirkley Hall Northumberland

	<b>Morning Session</b>
9:30am – 10:00am	<b>Registration and refreshments</b>
10:00am -10:10am	<b>Welcome &amp; overview from NEFRAN -</b> Antony Braithwaite Chair of NEFRAN
10:10am – 10:20am	<b>The EU referendum result and what it means for the countryside -</b> Guy Opperman MP, Hexham Constituency
10:20am - 10:45am	<b>Headline findings from DEFRA evaluation of the RGN pilot -</b> John Nolan, SQW consultants
10:45am – 10:50am	<b>Report on the ongoing study of the impact of the RGN pilot programme –</b> Ian Merrell Newcastle University
<b>10:50am – 11:00am</b>	<b>Refreshment break</b>
11:00am – 11:30am	<b>Workshop 1: “How can we create an effective rural business support mechanism in the North East to generate economic growth?”</b> - Facilitated by Colin Bell, Business Growth Director, North East Local Enterprise Partnership
11:00am – 11:30am	<b>Workshop 2: “How can rural networks best influence rural development funding streams and take as much advantage of these opportunities as possible?”</b> - Facilitated by Terry Carroll, Chair of the Northumberland Uplands LEADER Local Action Group
11:00am – 11:30am	<b>Workshop 3: “What are the challenges facing rural businesses at present and how can these be tackled?”</b> - Facilitated by Dinah Jackson, Programme Manager, North East Local Enterprise Partnership
11:40am – 11:55am	<b>Rural Connect –</b> Andy Dean, Chief Executive of Community Action Northumberland and Rural Connect Facilitator
11:55am – 12:15pm	<b>Workshops feedback –</b> Tony Gates, Chief Executive of Northumberland National Park
<b>12:15pm – 1:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>

	<b>Afternoon Session</b>
1:00pm - 1:15pm	<b>Devolution and the North East Rural Economy</b> – Rob Strettle, Senior Economic Policy Officer Northumberland County Council
1:15pm - 1:45pm	<b>Key note speaker Lord Donald Curry of Kirkharle CBE</b> – “Key issues facing the rural economy”
1:45pm - 2:00pm	<b>Case Study : The Sill and impact on the wider rural economy</b> – Sarah Glynn, Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre Manager
2:00pm – 2:15pm	<b>The current Rural Business Support scene</b> - Julie Bullen, RGN Implementation Officer
2:15pm – 2:20pm	<b>Next steps and opening of the networking event</b> – Antony Braithwaite Chair of NEFRAN
<b>2:20pm – 2:30pm</b>	<b>Refreshment break</b>
2:30pm	<b>Tour of Kirkley Hub</b> (open invite to all)
2:30pm – 4:00pm	<b>Meet the funders and representatives from the North East Business Support Community – Networking Event</b>
4:00pm	<b>Conference close</b>

**Thank you for attending the NEFRAN Rural Business Conference 2016.**

We hope that you found the conference informative and worthwhile.