

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

Telephone 08459 335577
Email helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Website www.defra.gov.uk



Elizabeth Truss MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: MC262989

7th March 2012

From Richard Benyon MP
Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries

Dear Liz

Thank you for your letter of 23 February to Jim Paice about the Rural Growth Network pilot competition. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The selection process for the Rural Growth Network pilot competition was open to all local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships and applications are being assessed against the criteria that we published in the application guidance. We will seek the best fit of pilots, taking into account the range of models being proposed and the resources available, and seeking to achieve a balance across the pilot group in terms of type of rural area and rural economic activity.

I am delighted that you are supportive of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership becoming a Rural Growth Network pilot. However, you will appreciate that in order to maintain a fair and transparent process I am unable to enter into discussions regarding specific applications.

Yours ever
Richard

RICHARD BENYON MP