

CCRI 2010 Policy Conference



Conflict or Consensus? The Next Decade of Rural Policy

One-day event to be held 19 October 2010 at the Queens Hotel, Cheltenham

The CCRI is delighted to announce its 2010 Policy Conference. **Conflict or Consensus? The Next Decade of Rural Policy** offers an exciting new format in the form of four on-line seminars, which will set the scene for the conference discussions by providing background information and a briefing on the latest research.

The next decade promises to bring many challenges and innovations in rural policy making as societal debates about the future use of land, climate change, demographic trends and the threat of resource 'peaks' come together. Against the backdrop of coalition government in the UK and financial retrenchment at all levels of government from the EU down, this conference looks forward to the likely consequences of these flows for the future of rural policy.

Given the diversity of influences and factors in these discussions the day will be broken down into four themes:

Land and its uses - given the projections about the need for increased food production, the possible use of land to produce biofuels and other industrial products, whilst at the very least conserving wildlife populations the pressure on rural land would appear to be becoming acute. This theme will address these challenges and the ways in which policy can balance these often conflicting demands.

Future of food - in dialogue with the debate above, questions of food policy face a number of challenges in the wake of concerns about food security at national and regional levels. Whilst what can be considered a sustainable diet is being re-framed in terms of the carbon footprint and resource use in tension with food that speaks of the production rooted in a place and values. This theme will consider how these questions may influence rural areas.

Communities in transition - rural communities are aging at a faster rate than the urban ones, whilst many of the new migrants working in rural areas come from other parts of the European Union. Faced with questions of the sustainability of settlements and lifestyles predicated on cheap energy, the potential for cherished landscapes being transformed by the discussions above and climate change, rural communities are facing changes across a broad array of issues from demographic shifts to patterns of mobility.

Science, technology and rural life - recent years have seen a range of controversies that have brought into question the role of science in informing rural policy making. Increasingly the science that underpins decision making - climate change, animal diseases, land management - is being contested. All of the debates above are informed by these tensions, this theme will address whether there can be a way of finding consensus about these topics.

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CONFERENCE DETAILS

The conference aims to bring together policy makers, rural stakeholders and academics, with keynote speakers and ample time for discussion.

Venue:

Queens Hotel, The Promenade,
Cheltenham GL50 1NN

Schedule:

This conference will be preceded by four on-line seminars that will set the scene for the discussions by providing background information and a briefing on the latest research.

21 September 2010

Webinar 13:00 – 14:00GMT

Topic: 'Land and its uses'

28 September 2010

Webinar 13:00 – 14:00GMT

Topic: 'Future of Food'

5 October 2010

Webinar 13:00 – 14:00GMT

Topic: 'Communities in transition'

12 October 2010

Webinar 13:00 – 14:00GMT

Topic: 'Science, technology and rural life'

19 October 2010

ALL DAY POLICY CONFERENCE AT QUEENS
HOTEL, CHELTENHAM

SPEAKERS

There will be several prominent key speakers to facilitate stimulating topical debate. Confirmed speakers currently include:

Kate Braithwaite, MBE

Director of the Carnegie Rural Community
Development Programme

Dr Matt Lobley

Assistant Director of Centre for Rural Policy
Research, University of Exeter

Professor Philip Lowe

Duke of Northumberland Professor of
Rural Economy and Director of Rural
Economy & Land Use Programme,
Centre for Rural Economy,
University of Newcastle

Professor Terry Marsden

Professor of Environmental Policy and Planning
& Co-director of the Economic and Social
Research Council's Research Centre for Business
Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and
Society.

Mark Robins

RSPB Regional Policy Officer

Richard Wakeford

Director General, Rural Futures,
Scottish Government & Chair,
OECD Rural Working Party

HOW TO BOOK

The conference fee is **£100**, including lunch and refreshments.

You can book your place online

www.ccri.ac.uk/events/policyconference2010.htm

If you require an invoice, or have any queries, please email
ccri@glos.ac.uk or telephone Bekki Griffiths on **+44 (0)1242 714122**

Please visit

www.ccri.ac.uk/events/policyconference2010.htm

to find out the latest news of speakers and other information.