



**AGENDA FOR SPARSE RURAL AND RURAL SERVICE
NETWORK
EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RURAL
SERVICES PARTNERSHIP LTD MEETING**

Venue:- No 63 Bayswater Road, London W2 3PH
Date: Tuesday 22nd May 2018
Time: 11.30am to 2.30pm

Please note change of venue - this meeting will take place at No 63 Bayswater Road, London W2 3PH

Visitor information and a link to the map for the venue can be found below:

[No 63 Bayswater Road Travel information](#)

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Notes of the Previous Meeting

Held on 28th March 2018 to consider any relevant items.
(Appendix A)

3. Notes of the Main Meeting

Rural Assembly Sub SIG meetings held on 9th April 2018 to consider any relevant items.
(Appendix B)

4. To consider any items arising from the Social Care and Health Group meeting held on 9th April 2018

(Appendix C)

5. Membership and a report on response to request for extra levy

(1) Report on RSN/CCN discussions with MHCLG officials on requirement for additional evidence and Fair Funding Review

(2) Meeting with Rural Fair Share Group

Providing a voice for rural communities and service providers

David Inman, Director Kilworthy Park, Tavistock, Devon PL19 0BZ
Tel: 01822 813693
www.rsonline.org.uk email: admin@sparse.gov.uk twitter: @rsonline

6. Joint RSN/CCN commission from Pixel re Additional Evidence Required by MHCLG

7. Verbal report on the work of the Rural Services APPG

8. Rural Conference – progress report

9. RSN Budget 2017/18, 2018/19 & 2019/20

To consider the attached papers.
(Appendix D)

10. Rural Panel and Rural Sounding Boards - Verbal Report

11. Regional Meetings Update

Region	Date	Subject	Venue	Date for Agenda	Notes
North East	25 th May	Future of Rural Areas Priority - Economy	Durham County Council	4 th May	Agenda sent 20.04.18
East Midlands	9 th July	Future of Rural Areas Priority – Affordable Rural Housing	Huntingdonshire Council Confirmed	15 th June	
North West	8 th Oct	Barriers to Access Priority – Broadband, Connectivity & Transport	Lancashire Council Confirmed	14 th Sept	Community Transport Consultation may be out and still live
Yorkshire	10 th Dec	Health & Wellbeing Priority – Adult Social Care & Fuel Poverty	Harrogate Council NB – waiting to see if venue will waive fee	16 th Nov	Green Paper should be out on Social Care plus Jane's report for Rural England

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- 12. LGA Post-Brexit Commission – Analysis of copy of responses received from RSN members** (Appendix E)
- 13. RSN Statement on GDPR**
(Appendix F)
- 14. Any Other Business**

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David Inman, Director Kilworthy Park, Tavistock, Devon PL19 0BZ
Tel: 01822 813693

www.rsnonline.org.uk email: admin@sparse.gov.uk twitter: @rsnonline

MINUTES OF THE SPARSE RURAL AND RURAL SERVICES NETWORK EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RURAL SERVICES PARTNERSHIP LTD MEETING, WEDNESDAY 28th MARCH 2018 HELD AT THE SOROPTOMISTS, LONDON

Present: - Cllr Cecilia Motley (Chair), Cllr Robert Heseltine (First Vice Chair Yorkshire), Cllr Philip Sanders (Vice Chair – County 1), Cllr Roger Philips (Vice Chair – Midlands), Cllr Derrick Haley (Vice Chair – Without Portfolio), Cllr Peter Stevens (Vice Chair – East), Cllr Gill Heath – Vice Chair (County 2), John Birtwistle (First Group), Revd Richard Kirlew (RSP Chair - Community),

Officers: - Graham Biggs MBE (Chief Executive), David Inman (Director)

- 1. Apologies:** - Cllr Peter Thornton (Vice Chair – Without Portfolio), Cllr Adam Paynter (Vice Chair South West), Cllr Sue Sanderson (Vice Chair – Without Portfolio), Cllr Kevin Beaty (Vice Chair – North), Andy Dean (Assistant Director)

- 2. Notes of Previous Executive Meeting – 15th January 2018**

Agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

- (a) Philip Dunne MP and Rebecca Pow MP had been elected as Co-Chairs of the Rural Services APPG.
- (b) Fire & Rescue Group – A meeting had been held in Gateshead in relation to this. It had been decided to:
 - (i) To have its meeting at the end of every LGA Fire Conference
 - (ii) To proceed with an agenda making the case for a better deal for rural Fire & Rescue Services as part of the government's current Fair Funding Review and in respect of any new formula specific for Fire & Rescue Services
- (c) New Website – A lot of work was being undertaken in the Tavistock office to establish a new RSN website. It was hoped the new website would be “live” in mid-April. Richard Inman was thanked for all his hard work.

- 3. Notes of the Main SPARSE Rural Sub SIG Meeting – 29th January 2018**

Agreed as a correct record.

- 4. To consider any items arising from the Rural Economy Group meeting**

Agreed as a correct record.

- 5. Notes from first Regional Meeting/Seminar**

Noted. Those who had attended either of the first two agreed that they had been successful and welcomed by the participants.

- 6. Proposal to introduce a voluntary contribution into the subscriptions for 2018/19 to facilitate additional cost research relating to rural areas suggested by MCCLG**

Graham Biggs detailed the position following discussion with the Minister for Local Government, Rishi Sunak MP, and with DCLG officials.

It was clear that the Minister and MCCLG were, quite unexpectedly, looking for updating of the rurality case involving further research. Sounding had been made and the likely cost of a detailed research brief was £30,000 to £35,000. This sum was far greater than the £8.5k allocation which was currently budgeted and was allocated to the Fair Funding Review/Business Rates Retention proposals, generally. The only way for such detailed work to be undertaken would be for a call for voluntary contributions to be made. This could be incorporated into the annual charge invoices which were due to go out shortly at a voluntary contribution of £350 per Sparse Rural authority. It would then be for Sparse Rural members either to pay the invoiced amount or to ask for a revised invoice removing the contribution.

The Executive discussed the situation in very considerable detail. It was very much appreciated that it was difficult asking for additional money even if it is a relatively small amount at this stage but there was no other alternative if the campaign was to move forward and the apparent gains achieved so far turned into increased funding for member authorities.

The Executive agreed without opposition against to proceed with the call for voluntary contributions across all members in the Sparse Rural grouping.

7. Initial analysis of Health/Care Group Questionnaire re Priorities

The questionnaire results suggested rural areas were being poorly serviced with regard to preventative and early intervention measures and the sustainability of care markets in rural areas. These were major concerns that seemed to revolve around access to facilities and ease of transport.

This matter was on the agenda for the Health & Care Group meeting on 9th April.

8. Draft Data Sheet

A draft was circulated and agreed by the Executive. This would be sent out to all members as part of the services provided by the RSN.

9. Consideration of a Local Plan Data Service on a charged for basis

The previous meeting had asked whether it was possible to introduce a discretionary service which would be available at extra charge. Officers had been asked to investigate whether a local plan statistical service could be created. After consideration they felt that only the neighbourhood service to parishes had potential and this was already given gratis.

A possible alternative was around economic data. It was decided to discuss this on the 22nd May.

10. RSN Draft Evidence to Communities and Health Joint Select Committee Inquiry – Adult Social Care Funding

The paper submitted was formally agreed by the Executive. It was on the Agenda for the Health & Care Group on 9th April

11. RSN response to Needs Review consultation

Again, this paper which had been sent in in accordance with the consultation deadline was attached to the agenda formally agreed.

12. Rural Conference 2018: Draft programme

Members considered the draft put before them. They preferred the evening session to continue at the Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham and decided on a conference fee of £200 for members and £250 for non-members with early bird discount rates

13. RSN Budget 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20

Graham Biggs took members through the budgets in relation to the 3 financial years. These were approved

14. Vacancy for Vice Chair (North East)

The Executive considered this item in respect of the new regional meetings. It was felt it would be helpful to have a dedicated regional chair for the North East. It was agreed the Corporate Director would approach Northumberland and Durham to see if a councillor would come forward.

Derrick Haley announced that he would be standing down as a Vice Chair at the November AGM and, in the meantime, he would appoint a Deputy. Derrick was warmly thanked for his contributions to the Executives work over the years.

15. Report on the Communication Strategy and exploration of available options

It was decided this matter would form a major agenda item for the 22nd May meeting.

16. Discussion re Brexit – Latest position with Rural Brexit Roundtable Group

It had not been possible to achieve a co-ordinated approach to rural Brexit issues as the consensus was for individual actions whilst remaining in contact and continuing to share information etc.

Accordingly, it was agreed that the Rural Services Network, as the national champion for rural services, would, in that role, try to ensure that rural areas had a strong voice post Brexit, by producing a Rural Strategy (with evidence to support the proposals) seeking outcomes that provided social economic and environmental viability. Brian Wilson was asked to further develop the template considered by the Roundtable meeting which would be subject to wide consultation.

17. Industrial Strategy RSN position reflecting on Brexit Roundtable and Rural Economy meeting.

The proposed Rural Strategy referred to in Minute 16 above would address this issue

18. Rural Vulnerability Day Update

The Director reported that this had been successful. Some 80 people had attended. It was felt that it had demonstrated that such a day would be welcomed on an annual basis at Westminster, allowing it to be held again next January as a Rural England event.

Out of the day a Rural MPs group looking specifically at rural vulnerability issues had emerged. Some 40 MPs had agreed to join this group and a first meeting was planned for June.

19. Regional Meetings Update

Two meetings had been held to date in the West Midlands and the South West. It was felt that with longer notice the events might be even more successful in future years. Those attending had on the whole valued involvement nearer their "patch".

It had been decided that both the West Midlands and the South West would share a common theme. This would be about looking to identify and promote stronger and more rurally orientated health indicators. This would mean some member involvement in vetting this particular topic through email communications between the annual meetings.

20. Peers Group Update (Verbal Report)

Again, a successful event with Peers wishing to be engaged on rural issues and also by inclusion in APPG meetings.

21. Any Other Business

Transport:

John Birtwistle detailed discussions he had had. This would, lead to a slot for the main meeting in June. Further work would be undertaken in this regard over the coming weeks.

22. Date of Next Meeting

This was changed from 11th June and will now be held on **Tuesday 22nd May**.

Note of last SPARSE Rural Special Interest Group meeting

Title: Rural Services Network Special Interest Group

- Rural Assembly Meeting

Date: Monday 9 April 2018

Venue: Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note.

Rural Assembly Meeting 12.30 – 3.00pm

Item	Decisions and actions
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1 Apologies for absence

Members noted apologies for this part of the meeting. A list is included at the end of the minutes.

2 Minutes of the last Rural Assembly meeting and RSN AGM 20th November, 2017

Cllr Cecilia Motley (Chair), RSN, asked members to approve the minutes of the last meeting. These were agreed as a true record.

3 Minutes of the last Executive meeting – 28th March 2018

The minutes had not been circulated and will be available in due course.

4 A Community Banking Initiative: Presentation by Comoola Tree Ltd

Mr Biggs introduced representatives from Comoola Tree Ltd, Mr Jeffrey Payne, Professor Alan Braithwaite and Emeritus Professor Tony Davies.

The group received a presentation which outlined the ways in which the company proposes to use radical innovations to reverse rural decline and deprivation. They outlined the kind of work they do to enable benefits to rural communities via better accessibility to services such as banking. Their role is primarily as facilitator to support all the mechanisms available and in place, to enable successful community initiatives in a more commercial and effective way.

Members noted stakeholders currently involved and the offers and services

available via Comoola to enable social cohesion and to help bring communities together.

Members were informed of the benefits from a commercial prospective and in terms of career prospects. Profits generated would be returned to the community.

Members comments included:

- Integration between the post office and banking would be useful – but noted that limitations on opening hours was an issue. Mr Payne reminded the group that with their model, accessibility was 24 hours a day;
- They raised issues about the viability of the proposals generally, especially given the cost of keeping hubs consistently open.;
- Although they agreed that community ownership was an incentive to do well, there were still concerns about realistic expectations for communities to actually be able to retrieve the cost of their initial investment;
- They noted that profits made should go to support the most vulnerable, particularly the elderly and to provide facilities and career prospects for the young.

Mr Biggs thanked the speakers for their presentation and agreed to discuss the prospect of taking forward their offer later on with the group.

Further to the presentation, the SIG discussed the proposals and raised several concerns. Mr Biggs suggested that he pass their details onto others who may be interested and wish to broker further discussion, it would be up to them if they wish to take conversation forward. It needs to be clear that it is **not** endorsed by the group. Members generally felt that, without a working example, it was difficult to not be sceptical at this point, but agreed that these kind of initiatives should be considered *at least* as a duty to their communities.

The presentation is circulated with these minutes.

5 Regional Meetings/Seminars

The group had discussed these earlier on in the agenda.

6 Brexit Related

Mr Biggs outlined the outcome of the third meeting of the Rural Brexit round table and the position of the different organisations, as part of it. It became clear that members were reluctant to put any money or resources into the subject and that it was not possible to obtain agreement that lobbying would be done as partners. It was however agreed, that the meeting was very positive in that it was very open and enabled sharing of ideas and joint issues.

Everyone was concerned that issues affecting rural communities as opposed to specific sectors, would not get much attention at all. Mr Biggs had put forward the idea of a rural strategy template as part of the SIG's remit.

Members discussed issues around current spending and how this might change in the future.

Mr Biggs reminded the group of the questionnaire sent out by the LGA Brexit

commission which members had been asked to fill out. There had been very few responses and they were informed that a letter would be sent out as a reminder to engage in the future.

Recommendation: That the group agree work be taken forward in continuing with the rural strategy as part of the SIG's remit.

Members agreed the recommendation.

7 Rural Vulnerability Day and Parliamentary Group

Mr David Inman, RSN, summarised the background and the purpose in setting up the rural vulnerability day. It was clear that rural MPs found it very informative and an interesting event and members noted that attendance had been very good.

Rural England would be taking forward other events.
Members asked that the names of the MPs be shared if possible so that they can be directly lobbied.

Action: RSN to contact MPs who had agreed to be members of a Rural Vulnerability Group of MPs to request whether their attendance can be disclosed to colleagues in the first instance.

8 Government Consultation on National Planning Policy Framework

Members noted the current position on the preparation of a response to the consultation. A draft RSN response would be circulated.

9 Budget Report

Members noted the current position with the budget Members noted the report.

10 Affordable Housing Sounding Board Survey March 2018

Mr Biggs outlined the outcome of the survey which showed that provision of affordable housing is a real issue among all rural areas. Members referred to the exemption of holiday lets from paying any business rates or council tax.

11 Rural Services Network Annual Rural Conference

Members were given an outline of the agenda for both days with much of the focus on relevant workshops.

Confirmed speakers included Tony Travers and Lord Gardiner.

12 Report on the RSP Service Groups/ Network Bodies

The group received updates from the various groups which covered current work and meetings on issues including health, housing, fire and crime in rural

communities.

Members noted dates of upcoming conferences and events.

Concerns were noted on current issues around changes to the location and accessibility to court services which lead to subsequent additional costs to police commissioners.

Members also noted updates on meetings with APPG and Rural England.

13 Any Other Business

There was no other business and the meeting was closed.

Name	Organisation
Graham Biggs	RSN
David Inman	RSN
Cllr Cecilia Motley, Chair	RSN
Andy Dean	RSN
Chris Cowcher, Community Manager	ACRE
Cllr Neil Butters	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Mark Whittington	Lincolnshire Council
Heidi Turnbull, Economic Development Officer	Maldon District Council
Cllr Robert Heseltine	North Yorkshire County Council
Revd Richard Kirlew	Sherborne Deanery Rural Chaplaincy
Cllr Gwilym Butler	Shropshire Council
Cllr Peter Thornton	South Lakeland District Council
Cllr Gill Heath	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Peter Stevens	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Cllr Owen Bierley	West Lindsey District Council
Frances Bolding	Suffolk County Council
Malcolm Leeding	Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils
Cllr Peter Wild	Chichester District Council
Cllr Cameron Clark	Sevenoaks District Council
Sue Sanderson	Cumbria County Council

Note of last SPARSE Rural Special Interest Group meeting

Title:	Rural Services Network Special Interest Group <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural Social Care & Health Group Meeting
Date:	Monday 9 April 2018
Venue:	Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note.

Rural Social Care & Health Group Meeting 11am – 12pm

Item	Decisions and actions
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1	Apologies for Absence
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Members noted apologies for the meeting. A full list can be found at the back of the minutes.

2	Minutes of the last Rural Social Care and Health Group 20.11.17
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The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3	Long Term funding of Adult Social Care Inquiry
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Graham Biggs, RSN, outlined the current situation with regard to long term funding of Adult Social Care. Members noted the response from RSN on the consultation and specifically on what it considers is currently wrong with the regime – especially from the rural perspective. Members comments on the proposed government green paper included:

- The response was good and concentrated on rural areas and their particular challenges;
- The potential for employment opportunities for working age adults and their careers with disabilities living in rural environments should be included in future papers and members were invited to submit any evidence to RSN to be included in further responses;
- Members were concerned about what the green paper would include and whether it would just refer to funding, therefore all avenues need to be prepared for;
- Realistic expectations of what can be achieved in extreme rural areas need to be addressed and radical thinking is necessary;
- Money needs to be used constructively. Thought has to be given as to the management of issues and would be best done at a local level;
- It is vital that early intervention and prevention is stressed as a key to enable better and more efficient use of resources and improvements in the lives of

residents;

- Members referred to local interventions used within their own areas and agreed that sharing of best practice and ideas would be most useful;
- Members agreed that empowering communities to take responsibility for caring in their own environments should be considered, although some felt that is was not a viable option without appropriate government funding;
- Members felt that communities were best placed to input on housing and planning issues such as where care homes etc. be placed – central government must address this issue and consider allowing them to make decisions;

Members were concerned about urbanisation of funding formulas but were assured that rural MPs were determined to keep these issues on the agenda to ensure a fair distribution of funding. They noted future meetings planned between RSN and the Rural Fair Share Group of MPs to further discuss these points.

The group compared how fair funding for rural communities is achieved in other countries. Members suggested creation of a care package model specific for Rural Services might be a way forward in the future, however agreed that this might be a way off. They agreed opportunities to come up with a radical idea for self-caring of relations and neighbours and to make it cost effective.

The group agreed that there is currently a lack of awareness among the rural community. Mr Biggs notified members that points raised in the response would be publicised via various channels in due course. The focus at the moment must be on the fair distribution of funding although members felt that planning and sustainability need to be included in any response at a later point.

4 To consider the results of the RSN internal consultation - priorities for the group

The group agreed that the responses to the questions posed were in determining the issues to be prioritised in future RSN work

5 Regional Meetings / Seminars

David Inman updated members on the outcome of the two Regional Meetings/Seminars held to date. On a practical level, members noted the need for evidence – one way of doing this is to provide evidence on the amount of miles carers and medical staff - as well as patients – need to travel.

Mr Biggs suggested that members put forward case studies of examples of these difficulties and include additional cost and incidents of trauma related to the difficulties.

6 Any other business

There was no other business and the meeting was closed.

Name	Organisation
Graham Biggs	RSN
David Inman	RSN
Cllr Cecilia Motley, Chair	RSN
Andy Dean	RSN
Chris Cowcher, Community Manager	ACRE
Cllr Neil Butters	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Cllr Mark Whittington	Lincolnshire Council
Heidi Turnbull, Economic Development Officer	Maldon District Council
Cllr Robert Heseltine	North Yorkshire County Council
Revd Richard Kirlew	Sherborne Deanery Rural Chaplaincy
Cllr Gwilym Butler	Shropshire Council
Cllr Peter Thornton	South Lakeland District Council
Cllr Gill Heath	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Peter Stevens	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Cllr Owen Bierley	West Lindsey District Council
Frances Bolding	Suffolk County Council
Malcolm Leeding	Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils
Cllr Peter Wild	Chichester District Council
Cllr Cameron Clark	Sevenoaks District Council
Sue Sanderson	Cumbria County Council

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
2	RSN (INCOME & EXPENDITURE) 2018/19 AND							
3	ACTUAL TO 31ST MARCH 2018 AND							
4						ACTUAL	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL TO
5						END 2017/18	18/19	END APRIL 18
6	INCOME					£	£	
7								
8	VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS BALANCE B/FWD							
9	DEBTORS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR (NET OF VAT)							
10	SPARSE/Rural Assembly held by NKDC at year end					2873	5345	3000
11	SPARSE Rural Assembly Outstanding NK)					745	2645	
12	RHA - Website Contribs.						300	300
13	RSP Subscriptions					990		
14	Rural Crime Network					5918		
15	Rural Health Conference					175		
16	Coastal Communities Alliance (Gross)					1037		
17	CCN re Bexit Roundtable						381	
18	Rural England Website Re-charge						2241	
19	SPARSE Rural/Rural Assembly					269267	303344	
20	Ditto Held by NKDC at Month End							79245
21	RSN Extra £350Levy							
22	Extra Levy held by NKDC at month end							6300
23	RSP					9679	9170	3610
24	Commercial Partner First Group Buses					10000	10000	
25	Income from Rural Housing Group					6895	8135	4190
26	Income from Fire & Rescue Group					1985	1390	
27	OTHER INCOME							
28	Conferences/Seminars					9427		
29	Rural Conference Income							
30	Rural Conference Surplus						4000	
31	Assumed additional Income Generated						4500	

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
32	Service Level Agreements							
33	Recharges ro Rural Crime Network (5 months 17/18)					4063		

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
34						ACTUAL	ESTIMATE	ACTUAL TO
35						END 2017/18	18/19	END APRIL 18
36						£	£	
37	Contras re RCN@					1895		
38	Recharges to Rural England Back Office Support £1200)					1200	1400	
39	RE recharge re Amazon Contract					3500		
40	RE recharge re Elec NW Commission					1375	1100	
41	Coastal Communities Alliance Gross)					4150	4358	
42	Contributions to RHA Website Development/Maintenance					3280		
43	Miscellaneous							
44	Contras					15089		27
45	VAT							
46	VAT Refund					10983		
47	VAT Received					10996		1620
48	TOTAL INCOME					375522	358309	98292

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
49						ACTUAL	EST	ACTUAL TO
50						END FIN YEAR	2018/19	END APRIL 18
51	EXPENDITURE					£	£	£
52	VAT Paid on Goods & Services					18255		1021
53	VAT Paid to HMRC					178		
54	General Provision for Inflation							
55	NET WAGES & CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES							
56	Corporate Management				DI,GB,AD, JT, 100% KB 40%	74531	109283	8060
57	Finance/Performance and Data Analysis				, DW, 100%, KB 20%	29456	30045	2092
58	Communications (incl Seminars)				RoseR,RCM,,AD3 100%	6503	8530	127
59	Additional Comms Activity by RCM					4003	5763	
60	Administrative and Technical Support				RI, WI,WC,BA,MB 100%	53902	55349	4107
61	Research and Monitoring				BW, JH, 100%	10238	8950	
62	Service Group Networking				KB40%	8432	8601	703
63	Economic Development Service				AD5 100%	5100	5100	425
64	Coastal Communities Contract					3650	3650	
65	Rural Communities Housing Group				AD2 100%	6630	6630	553
66	Rural Transport Group				AD6 100%	2040	2040	170
67	Less March 19 Employee Deductions						-2146	
68	Provision for Inflation on Contracts (2% p.a.)							
69	PAYE - Employers NIC (11 mths)						8269	
70	PAYE ADMIN (Accountants)						252	
71	Employers Contrib to Pensions (11 mths)						2533	
72	OTHER EXPENDITURE							
73	Budget for Brexit Project					1421		
74	Rural Fair Shares Campaign etc.					9646	7500	
75	Pixell Financial Service (core Annual Service)						8500	
76	Fair Shares and Other Campaign Media Relations						2000	
77	SPEND FROM VOL CONTRIBS (BUSINESS RATES)					8500		

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
78	SPEND FROM 2018/19 £350 VOL CONTRIB							
79	Conferences/Seminars							
80	Rural Conference 2018					9329		330
81	Rural Conference Drinks Reception					1300	1000	
82	Seminar Costs					972		
83	Regional Meetings/Seminars					404	2000	
84						ACTUAL	EST	ACTUAL TO
85						END FIN YEAR	2018/19	END APRIL 18
86						£	£	£
87	Service Level Agreements							
88	RCN -CONTRAS @					1425		
89	Rural Housing Group (RHG)					955	1000	121
90	RHG Website Maint					345	1224	102
91	RE Website Maint						2040	170
92	Rural England CIC to re-charge)					786		
93	Rural Inland CIC transfer of part of First Group Support					7000	7000	
94	APPG/Rural Issues Group Costs					487	500	200
95	Parlia Rural Vulnerability Group					199	500	
96	Rural England/Vulnerability Service Contrib					3000	3000	
97	Business Expenses							
98	RSN Online etc.					13569	18239	
99	Database Update (media contrcts)							
100	Website Upgrade					4750	250	
101	Ongoing Website Updates							
102	Travel and Subsistence					20765	17500	2381
103	Print, Stat,e mail, phone & Broadband@					5549	4000	307
104	Meeting Room Hire					3618	1000	110
105	Website and Data Base software etc					3757	3000	843
106	Rent of Devon Office & Associated Costs					5119	7800	

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
107	Accountancy Fees					740	800	59
108	NKDC Services						2525	
109	Companies House Fees					13	13	
110	Bank Charges					78	90	7
111	IT Equipment & Support & Other Capital					1701	1000	
112	Insurance					597	650	55
113	Corporation Tax							
114	Membership of Rural Coalition					250	250	
115	Refunds of Overpayments/ Contras@					13693		
116								
117						ACTUAL	EST	ACTUAL TO
118						END FIN YEAR	2018/19	END APRIL 18
119						£	£	£
120	ARREARS - PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR							
121	Regional Meetings/Seminars						450	450
122	Rural Housing Alliance					792		
123	NKDC						2345	
124	Contract for Service (ADMIN)					1775	1660	1660
125	Contracts for Service (CORP MAN)					1100		
126	Communications					500	500	
127	Extra Media by RCM						313	
128	Rose Regeneration					333	2000	2000
129	Seminar Costs					71		
130	PIXELL					5203	15000	
131	B Wilson Arrears					3525		
132	RSN Online arrears					9874	4523	
133	RHA website Maint						300	300
134	Travel and Subsistence arrears					1281	699	699
135	Printing, Phone and Stationery (arrears)						13	9

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
136	Office Costs					3424	7681	
137	Data base etc (arrears)					1130	500	
138	Rural England					8		
139	TOTAL EXPENDITURE					371902	382214	27061
140								
141								
142	TOTAL INCOME					375522	358309	
143	LESS TOTAL EXP					-371902	-382214	
144	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IN YEAR INC & EXP					3620	-23905	
145	ADD GEN BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD					13755	25875	
146	ADD RESERVE BALANCE B/FWD					8500		
147	BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD					25875	1970	
148								
149								
150								

Post-Brexit England Commission – Call for Evidence

On 28 February 2018, the Local Government Association (LGA) launched a call for evidence from non-metropolitan areas to feed into its Post-Brexit England Commission. The extract below sets out the background to the call for evidence.

On 29 March 2019, in just over a year's time, the United Kingdom is scheduled to withdraw from the European Union. While the terms of Britain's departure and indeed its future relationship with the remaining EU27 continue to be subject to detailed negotiations, it is clear that preparations for Brexit and its implications are likely to dominate the legislative and political agenda for much of the next decade.

However, while Brexit will present a range of risks and opportunities, it is crucial to recognise that, whatever the shape of the final deal, the country will face a number of significant long-standing challenges such as flat-lining productivity, rising intergenerational inequality and unevenly distributed demographic change. And because the combination of these challenges will impact each part of the country differently, it is clear that national top-down solutions will not work; they can only be effectively addressed at the local level.

Non-Metropolitan England¹ makes up 62 per cent of England's population, provides 56 per cent of England's Gross Value Added and between 2010 and 2015 increased its GVA per head by 13 per cent, double the rate of growth of London.² Yet despite being the economic backbone of the country, thus far the Government has proved unwilling to devolve significant power beyond a select number of city-regions.

The Local Government Association's People and Places Board, the body responsible for representing non-metropolitan councils in England, believes that the time is now right to reassert the case for devolution to non-metropolitan England and to consider in detail what local powers and resources will be required if we are to achieve the best possible outcomes for communities and businesses across the country.

Set out below are some of the key areas the Post-Brexit England Commission will explore, with examples of where the LGA believe local councils in non-metropolitan areas can make a real difference in helping to deliver:

- improved productivity and increased inclusive growth;
- a better skilled workforce;
- more effective employment services;
- better transport and digital infrastructure;
- more and better housing;
- increased exports and foreign direct investment; and,
- tailored public services that meet the specific needs of deeply rural areas.

LGA, February 2018 <https://www.local.gov.uk/devoforall>

A number of members of the Rural Services Network (RSN) responded to this call for evidence. The key elements of these responses are summarised below.

Improved productivity and increased inclusive growth

- Strong support for the joint commitment between local authorities and LEPs with a number of examples outlined where this works in practice.
- Real opportunity exists for the UK to review and adopt a policy for food and farming which regulates and supports the agricultural sector effectively, and which is tailored to the UK's unique farming landscapes.
- The agricultural and food sectors are very important but rural economies are very diverse and should not be pigeon holed as just about farming and the environment.
- Similarly, the prevalence of small businesses and self employment reflects a wide variety of activities including high growth and innovation. A simplistic view of such enterprises as 'lifestyle businesses' is incorrect.
- Small amounts of funding can have a significant impact and funding programmes need to be able to be responsive to such a variety of business activity in terms of sector and business size.
- There is a requirement for good quality, coordinated business support to make the most of rural economic opportunities.
- Disappearing EU funding, coupled with the continuation of local government cuts, will have a massive impact on the level of support and creation of new assets to promote business growth; this may have impacts on productivity, job creation, turnover etc. Many local authorities rely on current EU funded programmes to deliver support to local businesses (revenue and capital.) There is a real risk that the current benefits and economic impact of these investments will be lost if new programmes do not effectively replace them.
- Brexit presents an opportunity to devise policy objectives that better-reflect England's economic circumstances than the structural funds have allowed. Local decision making, local accountability and local flexibility will be key elements of any successful new programme.
- Some call for single-pot investment programmes that can achieve a holistic approach to economic development that is efficient and inclusive and has maximum impact.
- Measurement of impact by outputs should shift to one by outcomes to avoid distorting the apparent value for money of grant in rural areas.
- Broadband, digital and mobile connectivity are critical issues for rural areas, their productivity and growth.

A better skilled workforce

- Some rural areas have the highest aggregate exposure to structural labour market risks – migrant labour supply, automation of manual jobs and skills base – often caused by high concentrations of jobs in food production and the tourism/hospitality sector where wages are low.

- Shortfalls in workers is already being reported and production of some crops is at risk. Farmers and food producers say there are not enough workers available to meet current needs.
- Government plans to invest in research and development to increase farm productivity is welcomed.
- Many rural areas have high concentrations of jobs in manufacturing which is particularly vulnerable to changes in global trading terms.
- Numbers of people in rural areas are often insufficient to justify college and other training provision. Coupled with transport difficulties (particularly in no car or one car households) the availability of appropriate training is a major concern.

More effective employment services

- Transport to jobcentres and jobs/training is a major issue for many people out of work.
- Centralisation of employment services has made accessibility from rural communities even more difficult leading to real problems.
- Key issue is the numbers of people affected in rural areas tend to be small and geographically spread out making it expensive for providers to deliver support.

Better transport and digital infrastructure

- Broadband and digital connectivity is seen as fundamental to economic growth in rural areas. This point is reinforced in all the submissions made.
- Superfast broadband and mobile infrastructure needs to cover all areas not just urban settlements.
- Road and rail improvements and resilience are key as is radically improved provision of public transport to and from rural areas. An over reliance on the car puts certain employment locations out of the reach of many rural settlements. Dealing with this properly will help inclusive growth.

More and better housing

- Any shift in population trends (e.g. reductions in the number of migrant workers) might have an impact on housing demand. Keen to work with the LGA and others on understanding these shifts in greater detail.
- Development of new homes will require a substantial investment by developers and it will require a qualified workforce. Should there be a significant reduction in non-UK construction workers this will impact on the ability to achieve housing targets.
- Truly affordable homes are needed for local people and for workers.

Increased exports and foreign direct investment

- A recent study of the longitudinal small business survey by Rural Enterprise UK (part of Newcastle University Centre for Rural Economy) showed that rural businesses are more likely to export and more likely to produce products which are 'export ready'. Of those that do export, around 35 per cent of the average turnover comes from exports. However, some of the main barriers are around e-commerce, marketing and regulation. Similarly there are areas of concern from businesses whose 'made in the UK' product requires input from the EU.

- Export support tends to focus on getting companies out to visit new markets, where really it should be focusing on helping companies be able to adapt their product to the needs of different markets.

Tailored public services that meet the specific needs of deeply rural areas

- Fundamental importance of broadband, digital and mobile connectivity.
- The predominance of small businesses in rural areas is frequently not provided for in national and regional funding and support service provision.
- Ageing population is changing to both the labour force and the nature of work. This impacts on rural areas more than urban areas.
- Access to funding is key to rural businesses and the withdrawal of RDPE funding will have a significant impact. Similar funding programmes tailored to working with large numbers of small businesses will be imperative if we want to see continued job creation from a diverse range of SMEs.
- The health and social care sector is particularly likely to be affected as a consequence of Brexit. Whilst the proportion of EU nationals taking on jobs in the NHS in some areas has risen, the number of those leaving has also increased creating a significant concern for the post Brexit period.

LEP views

A number of rural LEPs are collaborating in order to identify Brexit implications to the rural economy and to inform discussions as they take place on the shape of the planned UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Identified common challenges can be grouped into four areas:

- **Workforce:** In particular a dependency on migrant labour. This is not restricted to agriculture.
- **Future Funding:** This includes the role of rural in the Industrial Strategy and the Shared Prosperity Fund, and ensuring the model is rural proofed. LEPs are committed to ensuring that the contribution of the rural economy is fully understood.
- **Rural Productivity :** The need to drive productivity in rural areas
- **Rural Delivery:** Understanding the additional challenges of delivering in rural areas, both from a service and a business support perspective.

EU legislation

A raft of legislation and regulation will be affected by Brexit and changes need to be monitored in detail. This includes trade agreements, environmental legislation, procurement, data protection, employment & equality, clay & waste regulation, bathing water quality and many more.



Rural Services Network General Data Protection Regulations

The Rural Services Network (RSN) has considered the General Data Protection Regulations and the data that it holds to ensure that it meets the requirement of the updated Regulations.

We process a range of personal data according to different lawful basis as follows:

We process the following details under the basis of the performance of a **Legal CONTRACT**:

- Name
- Organisation
- Job Role
- Telephone number
- Email address

Our services to Local Authorities, Public Sector Organisations and Businesses which receive our services as Members of the Rural Services Partnership Ltd are delivered predominantly through electronic means. If we did not maintain the above details of our customers, we would not be able to fulfil the terms of the contract that we hold with them.

These details are not shared with any other customers or contacts and are maintained solely for the purposes of fulfilling the contract requirements.

In addition to our databases, these details are also maintained in a third -party software system, provided by Mailchimp.

Every electronic newsletter or other Mailchimp distributed material contains a link for the organisation, or an individual within that organisation who receives some or all of our services, to unsubscribe from the list that we maintain and it clearly states who it is from and the contact details of our organisation.

We process the following details of Parish/Town Councils under the basis of a **LEGITIMATE INTERESTS**:

- Name
- Organisation
- Job Role
- Telephone number
- Email address

By virtue of their Principal Local Authorities membership of RSN, the Parish/Town Council is classed as a community member authority of the RSN and receives services through electronic means from the RSN.

These details are not shared with any other customers or contacts and are maintained solely for the purposes of fulfilling the contract requirements.

The information that they receive is of benefit to their role as Parish/Town Councils or Councillors and can include for example details of grants available and key rural news stories.

Every electronic newsletter, or other Mailchimp distributed material, contains a link for the organisation, or an individual within that organisation who receives some or all of our services, to unsubscribe from the list that we maintain and clearly states who it is from and the contact details of our organisation.

In addition to our databases, these details are also maintained in a third party software system, provided by Mailchimp.

We process the following details of individuals under the legal basis of **CONSENT**

- Name
- Organisation
- Job Role
- Telephone number
- Email address

Every electronic newsletter, or mailchimp distributed product contains a link for the organisation to unsubscribe from the list that we maintain and clearly states who it is from and the contact details of our organisation.

In addition to our databases, these details are maintained in a third party software system, provided by Mailchimp.

These details are not shared with any other customers or contacts and are maintained solely for the purposes of fulfilling the contract requirements.

Subject Access Requests

We will consider all Subject Access Requests provided they are made in writing. We will comply with all requests within one month of receiving the request

We may charge for requests that are manifestly unfounded or excessive.

Any queries in relation to Subject Access Requests should be made in writing to the Chief Executive, Rural Services Network, Kilworthy Park, Tavistock, PL19 0BZ

May 2018