

## PUBLICATIONS

- Weekly Rural News Bulletin, emailed to over 20,000 subscribers. **50**
- Rural Funding Digest newsletters highlighting hundreds of funding and grant opportunities for rural communities. **12**
- Rural Beacon Publications, sending information directly to nominated Members of Local Councils in membership. **4**
- Spotlight publications on Rural Services Partnership members, sharing best practice and news on these key issues. **4**
- Rural Economy Spotlight publications highlighting current rural economic development news. **4**
- Rural Housing Spotlight publications produced in partnership with the Rural Housing Alliance. **4**
- Monthly Casebook publication service for members of the Rural Health and Care Alliance. **12**



**Bringing Together over 500 Members**

## RURAL LENS

We have reviewed Government Strategies and White Papers through a 'Rural Lens' to determine the real impact for rural areas.

This work has included consideration of:

- The Government's Wireless Infrastructure Strategy 
- Rural England Prosperity Fund Prospects and Funding Formula
- An Independent Review of Net Zero
- DEFRA's Rural Proofing Report



## THE 2023 NATIONAL RURAL CONFERENCE



The 2023 conference heard from a range of political figures including the Chair of the APPG for Rural Services, Derek Thomas MP; the Government's Rural Connectivity Champion, Simon Fell MP, Transport Lead for the Rural Services APPG, Selaine Saxby; and DEFRA Minister Lord Benyon.

**"The RSN Annual conference is excellent, it brings together a wide range of speakers focusing specifically on rural issues in a way that other conferences simply can't do."**

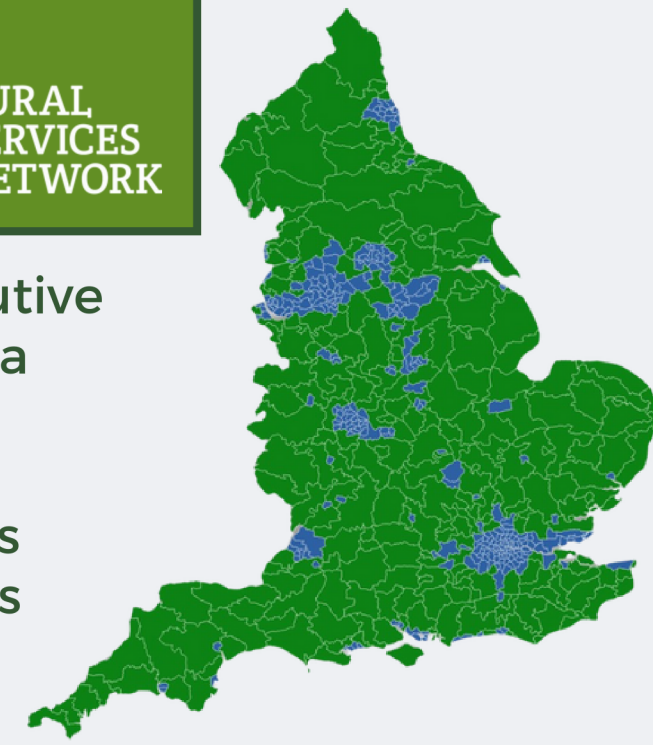
- 4 Days 
- 7 Sessions 
- 26 Speakers
- 496 Delegates
- 115 Organisations

**WINNING THE RURAL VOTE**  
A ROADMAP TO RURAL SUCCESS



2023/2024

**WE REPRESENTED YOU NATIONALLY**



In January 2024, Councillor Roger Phillips, RSN Chair and Kerry Booth, RSN Chief Executive Launched the **Winning the Rural Vote** campaign in Parliament. We have put together a series of asks which we want to see the political parties adopt in their manifestos.

40% of constituencies are rooted in rural regions. As a general election approaches, this serves as a reminder of the power and potential of the rural vote in shaping the nation's future.

[www.rsnonline.org.uk/winning-the-rural-vote](http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/winning-the-rural-vote)



**GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS RESPONDED TO:**

- ✓ Technical consultation on the Infrastructure Levy
- ✓ Registration scheme for short-term lets in England
- ✓ Major Conditions Strategy
- ✓ Permitted Development Rights
- ✓ Proposed amendments to the Boiler Upgrade Scheme Regulations
- ✓ Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: Reforms to national planning policy
- ✓ House of Lords Select Committee, Communication & Digital Committee Inquiry into Digital Exclusion and Cost of Living - call for evidence
- ✓ Local Government Finance
- ✓ Improving Broadband for very hard to reach premises
- ✓ Universal Broadband Obligation (USO)



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT**

The Rural Services Delivery Grant for 2024-2025 has been increased by **£15 Million** to **£110 Million**. We continue to campaign to see the principle extended to all rural authorities. We will continue champion the needs of rural communities, campaigning for fairer rural funding.

**APPG FOR RURAL SERVICES**

RSN provides the Secretariat for the APPG for Rural Services. The group came together 3 times in 2023 to promote debate on the provision of rural services. Meetings focused on: Off Gas Grid rural properties, Rural Transport and Rural Fair Funding



**REPRESENTING OUR MEMBERS IN WIDER GROUPS**

RSN is part of the Rural Coalition, a group of 13 national organisations.



RSN are members of the Board of Directors of the National Centre for Rural Health and Care.



RSN is on the Executive Board of the National Rural Crime Network.



RSN is represented on the Rural Impact Forum, a group set up by DEFRA.



RSN has joined the National Alliance for Cultural Services along with other key partner organisations.



RSN is part of the Rural Homelessness Coalition.



**RESEARCH**

The RSN has been part of research in to key issues for rural communities, to enable us to present evidence to Government of the impact of their policies and decision making. Research in 2023 covered Rural Homelessness and Rural Cost of Living.