

## TEMPLATE LETTER TO BE USED TO SEND TO YOUR LOCAL MP

Dear *Insert MP Name*

I am writing to you to express my frustration with the Settlement for Local Government Finance. Rural areas have suffered from years of underfunding.

Analysis by the Rural Services Network shows that the provisional settlement for 2024/2025 will mean that:

- Urban Councils receive 37% MORE in Government Funded Spending Power per head than Rural Councils
- As a result of years of underfunding rural councils have had to raise council tax to balance the books, and now, rural residents will pay on average 20% MORE than urban residents in Council Tax per head.

This situation is unfair and the Government needs to take action. I urge you to contact the Minister at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on behalf of your constituents to get a fairer deal for rural communities.

This link will tell you more about the Rural Services Network Fair Funding campaign.

### Rural Services Network campaign

The Government changed the funding formula for Local Authorities in 2013 following a consultation and an acceptance by the Government that it cost more to deliver services in rural areas. The majority of the changes made have not flowed through to rural councils as the funding mechanism was frozen in place.

We are asking the Government to 'unfreeze' the damping process and let rural councils receive the money they are due.

In times of reducing public expenditure, it is more, rather than less, important to distribute the available resources between different areas fairly.

Yours sincerely