



Delivering for Rural

Unlocking Rural Prosperity

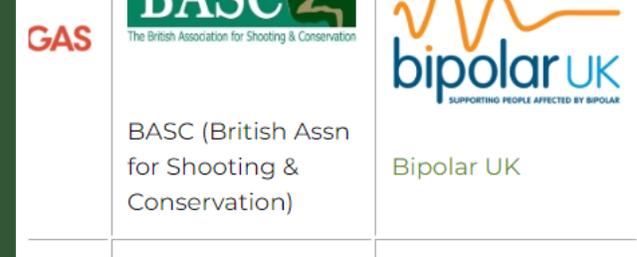
Rural Services Network

**Kerry Booth, Chief Executive
Rural Services Network
August 2024**





We are a membership body with over 500 organisations all with an interest in delivering services in rural areas



A national voice campaigning for rural issues

Fairer Funding

The RSN is fighting for a fair deal for rural communities in order to maintain their social and economic viability for the benefit of the nation as a whole.





**We want a fairer
distribution of
national resources
to rural areas and
for more nuanced
national policies
that reflect rural
circumstances.**



RURAL
PLANNING



RURAL
ECONOMIES



RURAL
TRANSPORT



RURAL
CONNECTIVITY



RURAL
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING

FAIR
FUNDING

Delivering for Rural

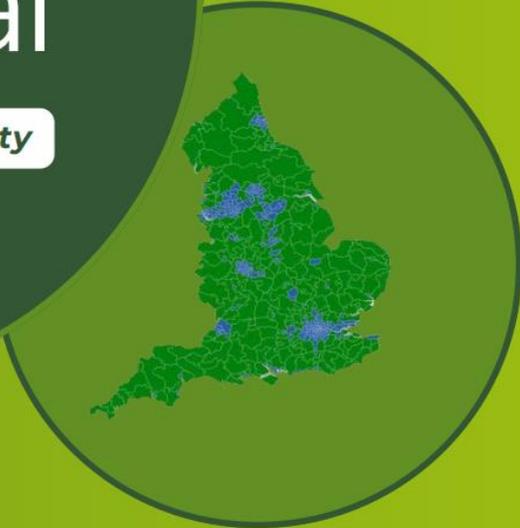
Unlocking Rural Prosperity



RURAL
NET ZERO



RURAL
HEALTH &
CARE



Campaigning for a fair deal for rural communities



36%

Urban areas will receive 36% more in Government Funded Spending Power per head than Rural in 2024-2025

Urban local authorities will receive some 36% (£141.71) MORE in Government Funded Spending Power per head compared to rural authorities in 2024 /2025



20%

Rural Residents will pay on average 20% more per head in Council Tax

Rural residents will pay, on average, 20% (£112.33) MORE per head in Council Tax than their urban counterparts due to receiving less government grant in 2024/2025

Discretionary Services

Urban budget to spend double that of rural on discretionary services

Rural Discretionary Spend





Delivering for Rural



RURAL CONNECTIVITY:

Rural voters need good connectivity so that rural communities and businesses are not left behind.



FAIR FUNDING:

Rural voters need fairly funded public services, reflecting the additional costs of delivering in rural areas.



RURAL ECONOMIES:

Rural voters need more support to build a thriving rural economy



RURAL PLANNING:

Rural voters need policies which enable them to become vibrant sustainable communities.



RURAL NET ZERO:

Rural voters need to be prioritised in Net Zero policy which addresses the specific challenges they face.



RURAL HEALTH & CARE:

Rural voters need accessible health and care services.



RURAL TRANSPORT:

Rural voters need a mix of transport solutions so they can access services, employment and reduce isolation.



RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

Rural voters need access to suitable housing to create vibrant and sustainable communities.



Campaigning for a fair deal for rural communities



Rural Fair Funding

Public services should be fairly funded with the additional costs of delivering in sparsely populated areas recognised



Rural Affordable Housing

Deliver a rural housing strategy stating how new housing will be delivered to meet rural communities needs. Introduce and fund an ambitious annual target for genuinely affordable rural homes and deliver this through a dedicated rural affordable housing funding programme.



Rural Access to Health and Care

Address the lack of understanding of the distinctive health and care needs of rural areas to deliver services that are suited to the specific needs of rural places.



Rural Transport

Deliver an evidence-based Future of Rural Mobility Strategy that acknowledges that buses are essential infrastructure and places a duty on (and allocates funding to) Local Authorities to provide socially necessary rural buses.



Rural Economies

Protect rural communities by ensuring that the metrics used to devise strategies or programmes for growth (including skills) are not based on 'one-size-fits-all' thinking but reflect disadvantage in rural economies within regions.



Rural Net Zero

Deliver a fair Energy Strategy which address the specific issues of rural areas. This means, pausing the move to phase out the replacement of fossil fuel heating in off grid homes by 2026 and stopping a 'heat pump first' approach to replacements. Instead, there should be a technology-neutral approach, so individuals can choose the most appropriate and suitable technology to their needs and requirements



Rural Connectivity

Deliver Project Gigabit in rural areas as a matter of urgency by prioritising the hard and very hard to reach areas



Rural Planning

Protect rural voices in community engagement around planning. Whilst digital might always be the preferred choice, poor connectivity in rural areas means many voices are being lost.

Kerry Booth

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Campaigning for a fair deal for rural communities