



**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: Monday 14th January 2019
Time: 11.15am 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 24th September 2018 to consider any relevant items.
(Appendix A - Starts on page 3)
- 3. Notes of the Main Meetings**
AGM held on 12th November 2018 to consider any relevant items
(Appendix B - Starts on page 8)
- 4. To consider any items arising from the Social Care and Health Group and AGM of 12th November 2018**
(Appendix C - Starts on page 12)
- 5. RSN Budget 2018/19, 2019/20**
To consider the attached papers.
(Appendix D - Starts on page 16)
- 6. Report to the Executive on Advertisements in the Rural Bulletin**
(Appendix E - Starts on page 22)
- 7. A Call for Evidence Through the Bulletin Service**
(Appendix F - Starts on page 24)

Providing a voice for rural communities and service providers

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8. Dates and Venues for Meetings in 2019

(Appendix G - Starts on page 28)

9. Provisional Settlement – Verbal Report

10. Future Arrangements with Pixel Financial Management

11. Draft response to both Business Rates Retention and Needs and Resources Consultation

(to follow)

12. Rural Strategy Campaign – Verbal Report

13. Regional Meetings Update

Region	Date	Subject	Venue
West Midlands	18.02.19	Rural Economy	Stafford BC confirmed
South West	21.03.19	Rural Housing	East Devon contacted
South East	29.04.19	Vulnerability	Sevenoaks confirmed
North East	15 – 17 May 2019	Sustainable Communities	Durham contacted
East Midlands	08.07.19	Rural Health & Wellbeing	David contacting Cambridgeshire
North West	07.10.19	Delivering Local Services Differently	Lancashire contacted
Yorkshire	09.12.19	Barriers to Access – Connectivity & Rural Transport	North Yorkshire contacted

14. Membership report update

15. SORS Report by Rural England

16. Update on recruitment to RHCA

(Appendix H - Starts on page 30)

17. APPG Interim Report on Social Care

18. Topics and report on the Rural Conference 2019

19. Any Other Business

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MINUTES OF THE SPARSE RURAL AND RURAL SERVICES NETWORK EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RURAL SERVICES PARTNERSHIP LTD MEETING, MONDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2018 HELD AT THE SOROPTOMISTS, NO 63 BAYSWATER ROAD, LONDON

Present: - Cllr Cecilia Motley (Chairman) Cllr Philip Sanders, Cllr Robert Heseltine, Cllr Peter Thornton, Cllr Sue Sanderson, Cllr Peter Stevens, Revd Richard Kirlew

Officers: - Graham Biggs MBE (Chief Executive), David Inman (Director), Kerry Booth, Jon Turner

Apologies: - John Birtwistle – Head of Policy, UK Bus; Cllr Kevin Beaty – Eden District Council; Cllr Rob Waltham – North Lincolnshire Council; Cllr Roger Phillips – Herefordshire Council

1. Notes of Previous Executive Meeting – 22nd May 2018.

Agreed as a correct record.

2. Notes of the Main Meeting – 25th of June 2018

Agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising:-

- A. Rural Services APPG:- the one that was the second part of the enquiry into Social Care had been inquorate. This was discussed. Some members said they would be writing to their MPs about the situation. For the next meeting it was agreed MPs would be specifically targeted.
- B. People and Places Board arrangements - a verbal report was received. There were a significant number of the Board's membership from RSN member authorities. It had been agreed with the LGA that in future the RSN's Chief Executive would be sent the Board's meeting papers in advance of meetings. This would enable the RSN to brief members from RSN member authorities on any issues and submit comment direct to the LGA

3. Composition of the Executive: -

- (1) The new Vice Chair for the NE Region, Cllr Trevor Thorne - Northumberland County Council would be contacted.
- (2) Anna Price from the Rural Small Business Awards to be offered a place as a Director of the Rural Services Partnership (agreed unanimously by RSP Directors present) and to be on the RSN's Executive representing small business.
- (3) To facilitate involvement it was agreed that the September meeting would be arranged around the Conference and the May meeting would be a core membership present at a meeting and a phone conferenced one for others
- (4) The new Policy Director John Turner was formally introduced. He was added to the Executive listings.

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

A verbal report was given by Graham Biggs on this matter.

PIXEL had concluded the first phase of the joint commission from the RSN & CCN aimed at demonstrating the rural premium cost penalty. The study had concentrated on Refuse Collection but as a "Proof of Concept" for other services. Dan Bates had presented a summary at 2 workshop sessions at the conference. This first phase report had been discussed with MHCLG Officials and those discussions went well.

It is intended to finish the work on waste collection in North Yorkshire. This could lead to working with them to look at Waste Disposal which would provide a traversal proxy for both upper and lower tier. MHCLG were interested in us being able to demonstrate where we think that dispersal, traversal and remoteness applied to other services but seem to accept that this might have to include more anecdotal work - the intention here then would be to look to build upon the more statistically sound work (which establishes a proxy for traversal) but to supplement this with case studies in other areas - we could build upon the NY domiciliary work quoted by CCN for example.

Developing some case study work on non - provision and unmet need will be considered.

Once the report is finalised a meeting of the Rural Fair Share Group of MPs will be convened to ensure they remain fully briefed

5. Partnership between RSN and the National Centre for Rural Health and Care: Rural Health and Care Alliance.

Graham Biggs detailed the initiative and members also received a written report. The National Centre was happy with the Heads of Terms which RSN had suggested and matters would proceed as detailed in that document.

Membership of the Alliance would normally be at a subscription of £500 a year. Membership would run from 1st of January to 1st of January.

The Centre and the intended accompanying Alliance would be formally launched in the House of Commons on the 16th of October. Jon Turner and Bethan Aldridge would be working to seek a significant number of members of the Alliance over the coming months.

6. Time for a Rural Strategy

The latest draft of this was presented. The draft would be amended to accord with a wide range of representations which had been received.

It was agreed

- (A) to include paragraphs on the position relating to rural schools where Cumbria would assist with the drafting.
- (B) the rural proofing section would be beefed up And based on the recent legislation in Northern Ireland upon which a presentation had been made to the Conference

7. Communication Strategy Update.

Kerry Booth presented a full report.

Members noted the communication strategy review and the recent changes that have taken place with the revised rsonline website and Rural Bulletin. The changes were warmly welcomed and congratulations given to all involved

It was agreed that RSN would develop its social media with a regular campaign of awareness raising on rural issues and statistics.

Members approved the RSN Meeting Schedule for 2019 and the proposed subjects for consideration for the seminar and meetings.

It was noted that for the Executive in 2019 there would be 3 meetings plus one more based upon by teleconference. One of the meeting dates may be moved to be held at the end of the conference to save Members travelling and additional time.

At a further item in the meeting it was agreed to include an additional seminar in the SE of the country on the subject of Vulnerability.

8. RSP Recruitment

The Policy Director Jon Turner presented a full report as well as the Papers (F) and (FF) in the report.

Members congratulated Jon on the progress that has been made in the past 5 months with some twenty five new RSP members having been gained.

The meeting was supportive of the 'sector groupings' and the engagement of potential private sector organisations who deliver services in rural England. An "ethical framework" had been prepared for commercial organisations would be circulated to Executive members for comment.

Members endorsed Jon's recommendation that the financial threshold should be introduced, including an Individual Membership of c£90+VAT.

Members were supportive of the idea that RSP members should be encouraged to participate in both the National Rural Conference and Regional Seminars.

They were also supportive of Richard Kirlew's suggestion that faith groups should be encouraged to join the Partnership.

9. Rural Vulnerability

(A) Suggested Revised Priorities Document.

The new document including Rural Vulnerability as a cross-cutting issue was formally agreed subject to tidying around the wording in the current - document to avoid any duplication.

(B) Report on the topic of 'Rural Vulnerability'.

The Corporate Director presented his report.

A full discussion took place on the way people in rural areas were increasingly coming under more and more pressure from the situation relating to rural services. This together with a rural population that was statistically getting older was creating considerable difficulties for many people. Discussion took place about terminology and approach but it was concluded that the approach suggested was the correct one as the situation was in danger of affecting the continued sustainability of rural areas was in need of being described and detailed.

It was decided that:-

- (A) Rural Vulnerability should be accepted as a cross cutting issue in respect of the RSN priorities.
- (B) A specific section relating to Rural Vulnerability should be included in the RSN website as time permitted.
- (C) A regional seminar and meeting should in future be held in the South East and the schedule would be altered accordingly. The first of these meetings would seek to cover the issues around the topic. Consideration would be also be given to the topic being considered in next year's North West event due to be held in October 2019.
- (D) A new Vulnerability Grouping within the RSP of the most appropriate RSP members would be established. Meetings held would be grouped with other London meetings to avoid additional expense.

10. Separate RSP Meetings

The meeting received a joint report from the Corporate and the Policy Directors. It was agreed to hold two separate RSP meetings from 2019. It was hoped the meetings to be held in April and November every year could be held on the days following the RSN meetings to allow any necessary dovetailing of Agendas and to avoid further travelling expenses.

11. RSN Budget 2018-19, 2019-20

Graham Biggs updated members on the position. Although this was currently satisfactory there were a list of members who had not paid and they all would have to be chased.

A separate report regarding the charging structure for 2019-20 and following years was discussed.

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) The previously agreed policy of increasing contributions to reflect reductions in membership income be rescinded forthwith. There was
- (2) In lieu of the policy referred to in (1) above an annual inflationary increase of 2% be included across all charges with effect from 1st April, 2019.

12. Rural Conference 2018

A verbal report was given on the event held over two days in early September. Attendance had been up on 2017 and it was felt the Conference had been a very successful one which had been generally well received by those who had attended.

The event would be staged in 2019 and in future the event would be titled the National Rural Conference.

13. House of Lords Select Committee on the Rural Economy

An update report for information was given. Graham Biggs had been invited to give evidence on 16th October.

Regional Meetings Update

These continued to be well received and attendances had been encouraging. The last two in the North West and Yorkshire would be held on the 8th of October and the 10th of December respectively.

Any Other Business

A. Draft Agriculture Bill

There no provision relating to funding Rural Development and Rural Community issues (including LEADER type activity) in the current drafting. This could be an omission if these matters were not be empowered elsewhere. In Wales a different pattern had emerged. The Chief Executive would make enquiries, and if necessary make representations – including in response to the EFRA Select Committee's Call for Evidence closing on 6th October and report back at the November AGM.

NB It was subsequently determined that the Government had the power referred to in other legislation affecting England

B. Request to have a Special Offer in the RSN Bulletin

The Chief Executive reported on a request that had been made but which was not likely to go further because of failure to agree terms. The meeting agreed with the stance that had been taken by officers. The officers were asked to present a report on the position and the principles involved to the next meeting.

Note of last SPARSE Rural Special Interest Group meeting

Title: Rural Services Network Special Interest Group

AGM Meetings:

- **SPARSE Rural Sub SIG**
- **Rural Services Partnership Limited**
- **Rural Services Network**

Date: Monday 12 November 2018

Venue: The Westminster Archives

Item	Decisions and actions
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1 Appointment of Chairman for the ensuing year (to also be the Chair of the SPARSE-Rural sub-sig)

Nominations for the existing Chair to continue in her position were accepted without opposition.

Cecilia expressed her gratitude to SPARSE Members for their confidence in her position as Chairman and to the officers for all their efforts.

2 Apologies for absence

The Chair noted apologies for the meeting as listed on the Appendix.

3 Note of the Previous Meeting

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed.

4 Appointment of Vice Chairmen for the ensuing year (to also be the Vice-Chairmen of the SPARSE-Rural sub-sig)

It was moved that, in addition to the existing members willing to continue in office, Cllr Mark Whittington, Lincolnshire County Council, and Councillor Jeremy Savage, South Norfolk Council, be appointed as Vice-Chairmen of SPARSE for the year. This was agreed by members.

The Chairman expressed her gratitude to Cllr Robert Heseltine for his support as First Vice-Chairman.

5 IF DEEMED NECESSARY AND BENEFICIAL. To appoint a Chair and Vice Chair(s) of the RURAL ASSEMBLY SUB-SIG

It was agreed that there would not be a separate Chair for the Rural Assembly Sub-Sig.

6 CONSTITUTION: SUGGESTED CHANGES TO REFLECT EVENTS SINCE LAST REVIEWED SHOWN IN TRACKING (Attachment 2)

Graham Biggs, Chief Executive of the Rural Services Network, introduced the attachment detailing suggested changes to the constitution.

Members agreed the suggested changes to the constitution subject to the ballot procedures currently in force in the constitution.

7 NEXT MEETING: Next RSN AGM to be held on Monday 11th November 2019

Members agreed to move the date of the next RSN AGM to be held on 18 November 2019, as the previous proposed date was on Armistice day.

8 Minutes of the last full meeting – 9th April 2018

The minutes of the last full meeting, 9 April 2018, were agreed.

9 RURAL CRIME SURVEY 2018: Presentation by Julia Mulligan PCC North Yorkshire and Chair of the National Rural Crime Network

Julia Mulligan, PCC North Yorkshire and Chair of the National Rural Crime Network, gave a presentation on the Rural Crime Survey for 2018. Julia explained they had 20,252 responses, including nearly 4 thousand business owners, and that 50 per cent of responders were aged 55-75. Key findings from the responses to the survey included:

- County lines had continued to be a growing issue in rural areas.
- That the perception of policing in rural areas had worsened in recent years, an 11 per cent drop in people who think the police are doing a good job in their rural community since the 2015 survey.
- That for the most part rural communities think that crime is worsening.
- The issue of fly tipping was also raised often.
- There was a significant sense that a lot of rural crime was organised.
- That the financial impact on rural residents has gone up by 13 per cent in recent years.
- The survey results also indicated rural communities feel they are not understood.

As a result of the Rural Crime Survey, the National Rural Crime Network has proposed a number of recommendations which Julia highlighted:

- It was evident more had to be done to understand rural crime and the impact.
- More work needs to be done to counter organised crime in rural areas.
- Additional help was needed for residents around crime prevention.

- The need to ensure victims of fly tipping are not left to pay the price of others actions. This was emphasised as a major issue, as the only crime where the victim has to pay for the clear up.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were raised;

- Views were expressed that policing in rural areas had been struggling in its interactions with traveller communities.
- It was highlighted that “county lines” was now designated as a national threat and that policing was starting to get to grips with the issue, in particular the importance of police forces sharing information was emphasised.
- A view was expressed that a further look into scams would be necessary.
- A concern was raised that the changing nature of crime had been taking more police officers off the streets and focusing on online crime.
- It was emphasised rural policing was at a disadvantage and that this needed to be addressed.

The Chair thanked Julia for her presentation – a copy of Julia’s slides is attached to these minutes.

10 To approve (with or without amendment) the RSN Draft Rural Strategy Template(Presentation by Graham Biggs)

Graham Biggs outlined the RSN Draft Rural Strategy Template (copy of slides attached to these minutes) that had been developed and asked the RSN AGM to approve and agree the draft subject to some changes to reflect the recent Budget.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were raised;

- The importance of parity in the availability of mental health services between rural and urban areas.
- Including mention of the ACRE network on page 59 of the strategy was suggested.
- The importance of affordable housing in rural areas was emphasised.
- A new Affordable Housing Commission chaired by Lord Best has been established with funding from the Nationwide Foundation.

The RSN AGM was very supportive and approved and adopted the RSN Draft Rural Strategy Template , with the inclusion, as appropriate, of suggestions from RSN AGM members.

11 Membership (Constitutional Requirement)

Members noted the membership report from David Inman, Corporate Director. He raised that the number of organisations in membership was decreasing.

Graham Biggs also raised that they were looking to engage in more commercial activities in response to the decrease in income coming from membership fees.

Members noted the update.

12 Member Contributions

Graham Biggs introduced this item as a recommendation from the RSN executive. He

brought Members' attention to the schedule attached to the report which set out the current charging level for current member authorities be increased by two per cent p.a. to reflect inflationary increases in costs. This would require rescinding the existing formula in paragraph 1.2.

The RSN AGM agreed and approved the Executive's recommendations for the level of member contributions from 2019/20 onwards.

13 Budget 2018/19 and 2019/20 (Constitutional Requirement)

Members noted the current budget report and approved the estimates for 2019/20.

14 Rural Conference 2018

Kerry Booth, Assistant Chief Executive, introduced the item on the Rural Conference 2018.

She highlighted the following information;

- Feedback had been broadly positive.
- Officers had started to plan the conference for next year.
- Officers were looking to replicate the exhibitors and sponsors that were achieved this year to assist with the cost of running the event.
- In response to a query Kerry informed the AGM that the negative feedback she had received was around poor lighting, poor heating and a preference for more breaks over the course of the day.

The RSN AGM noted the update from Kerry Booth.

15 Sounding Board Survey

Kerry Booth introduced an update on the Sounding Board Survey on Access to Cash.

The survey had shown that there many concerns amongst rural residents in regards to having access to banks, ATMs and post offices and the impact of a lack of access to these services on smaller rural economies. Kerry emphasised that there continued to be real concerns for elderly and disabled rural residents. Responses were still being received and a report will be issued in due course.

The RSN AGM noted the update on the Sounding Board Survey.

16 Meeting Dates for 2019

Members noted meeting dates for 2019. Subject to the change noted earlier in the meeting

17 Any Other Business

Graham Biggs brought Members' attention to the review of designated landscapes.

There was no other business.

Note of last RURAL SERVICES NETWORK Special Interest Group meeting

Title: Rural Services Network Special Interest Group

- Rural Social Care & Health Group Meeting

Date: Monday 12th November 2018

Venue: City of Westminster Archives Centre, 10 St Ann's Street, London SW1P 2DE

Attendance

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

Rural Social Care & Health Group Meeting 11am – 12.30pm

Item	Decisions and actions
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1 Apologies for Absence

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 9th April 2018

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and noted.

It was reported that on the 16th October at Westminster the National Launch of the National Centre for Rural Health and Care had taken place together with the launch of its accompanying Rural Health and Care Alliance (RHCA).

The RHCA was a partnership between the National Centre and the RSN. Due to its involvement in this new initiative, the RSN had achieved free membership of this Alliance for SPARSE Rural members of RSN with Rural Assembly categorised members only having to contribute an additional £150 (+ VAT) per annum instead of the usual £500 per annum fee. Existing RSP members also get this free if they are non-commercial organisations but full members who have a specific interest in a rural health issues,

3 Items from various discussions – District Direct Pilot Scheme Review 11th September 2017 – 31st March 2018.

There was continuing work which had arisen from this pilot review and the Districts in East Anglia had been very pleased with it.

It was regarded as a strong case study and those involved recommended the work

done and the outcomes achieved.

4 The Minutes of the North West Regional Meeting held on the 8th October were noted.

It was felt by members that the Regional Meetings, all of which had reasonable attendances had been very successful.

5 Presentation by Cllr Lee Chapman, Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and Housing – Shropshire Council on the Use of Assisted Health and Social Care Technology to help deliver services in Shropshire.

(Cllr Chapman presented in place of Andy Begley, Director of Adult Services, Shropshire Council and Co Chair of the West Midlands ADASS)

Cllr Chapman gave a comprehensive and particularly useful presentation on initiatives which were being taken in Shropshire. He also answered a range of questions very fully. The presentation slides are attached to these Minutes.

The meeting felt the presentation was a very informative one and asked that it be recorded that they felt that for Authorities not able to be in attendance, going through these presentation notes would be very useful.

Particular points of interest were as follows:

1. Special discretionary payment allowing early action had proved to save the Authority money in the longer term.
2. Shropshire had been a Hospital Discharge Telecare Pilot which had been used originally in Eastbourne. They had adapted this scheme and now employed it across the whole of Shropshire. It involved a telecare alarm from the point of hospital discharge aiding in preventing bed blocking and the higher costs of other schemes.
3. The Broseley Project, trialling the use of 'consumer technology' such as Amazon Echo, had been employed and it had produced interesting and useful outcomes. It seemed to establish a good recipe for social inclusion of older people suffering from isolation.
4. A Nursing & Residential Beds commissioning project had been developed for mapping of the anticipated demand of domiciliary care. It allowed a system of tracking and monitoring of provider vacancies and was able to be linked to billing software.
5. The system Shropshire had employed linked Fire Service routine inspection work and lists from G.P. Practices. The Authority now used three pieces of relevant data.
 - The age of people in certain areas
 - The number of potential cases
 - The thermal efficiency of property
6. There was a need to link the vulnerable, the needs of Health and Social Care and the availability of voluntary community care.
7. The Authority wherever possible looked for joint commissioning. It had found benefits by the establishment of a trade Organisation SPIC.
8. The Authority had won awards for its two carers in a car scheme which had allowed for more flexibility in care to be achieved than normal more rigid

arrangements through the traditional sleeping nights' arrangements dedicated night care.

On average the twosome team covered some 5 to 10 visits in a night. It was now in place over 5 market towns and it was known that 24 placements with the ensuing dependency had been avoided.

9. A scheme incentivising providers had proved successful. Delays occasioned by rurality had been reduced. Providers serving urban areas had also been given special parking permits to assist their visit patterns.

10. Independent Care Assessors.

The Council had introduced a system of Independent Care Assessors to support discharge from hospital to care homes. It had been so successful it was now being extended to the neighbouring Telford & Wrekin area as well. It would soon be applicable to 100% of the homes across Shropshire. Working with Westminster University it was based on measuring provision and the persons specific needs and avoiding unnecessary vacancies. Shropshire was also setting up a system of GP Champions seeking to get ahead of medical conditions. It was hoped more additional money would become available for Social Prescribing.

6. APPG Rural Services Inquiry into Adult Social Care Funding in the Rural Context.

Graham Biggs gave a full presentation on developments to date. The proceedings had involved the new National Centre for Rural Health and Care as a joint secretariat for this project. Papers from the APPGs meetings were attached to the Agenda and hopefully these give member Authorities a detailed insight into proceedings to date. The work on this would be ongoing with further meetings on this topic planned as the Governments promised Green Paper emerged.

Members were asked to furnish RSN with case studies from any aspect on this topic. Even if there was a query as to the relevance of these case studies members were asked to provide them in any event.

Some members present did feel that the one Nurse per Nursing Home role created a disadvantageous cost to the running of Nursing Homes in rural areas which because of the sparse population could be relatively small in any event. This it was felt constituted a threat to the continuance of many rural Nursing Homes, threatening their closure. It was felt special arrangements for rural areas needed to be considered.

7. Summary Report on 'Rural Workforce Issues in Health Care'.

This Agenda item (Appendix 6) was considered. It would form part of the jigsaw of evidence going to the APPG informing its intended report.

8. Any Other Business

The next meeting of this Group would take place on Monday 8th April 2019.

Appendix A

- The attendance list for the Rural Health and Social Care meeting and the RSN AGM can be found [here](#)
- The apologies list for the Rural Health and Social Care meeting and the RSN AGM can be found [here](#)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									Appendix D
2									
3		2ND JANUARY, 2019							
4		RSN (INCOME & EXPENDITURE) 2018/19 AND							
5		ACTUAL TO END DECEMBER 2018							
6		WITH ESTIMATE 2019/20					ACTUAL TO	ESTIMATE	ESTIMATE
7						END DEC 18	18/19	2019/20	
8		INCOME				£	£	£	
9									
10		DEBTORS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR (NET OF VAT)							
11		SPARSE/Rural Assembly held by NKDC at year end					3000	5345	
12		SPARSE Rural Assembly Outstanding NK)						0	
13		RHA - Website Contribs.					300	300	
14		RSP Subscriptions						495	
15		Coastal Communities Alliance (Gross)							
16		CCN re Bexit Roundtable					381	381	
17		SPARSE Rural/Rural Assembly					275557	302094	310204
18		Ditto Held by NKDC at Month End					16939		
19		RSN Extra £350Levy					34650	34650	
20		Extra Levy held by NKDC at month end					2200		
21		RSP					12055	13524	17850
22		Commercial Partner First Group Buses					10000	10000	10000
23		Income from Rural Housing Group					7417	7417	7664
24		Income from Fire & Rescue Group					3170	3865	3865
25		FIRE GROUP LEVY RE SPARSITY EVIDENCE					6000	6000	
26		OTHER INCOME							
27		Rural Conference Income					14738		
28		Rural Conference Surplus						7709	7000

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
29							ACTUAL TO	ESTIMATE	ESTIMATE
30							END DEC 18	18/19	19/20
31							£	£	£
32		Recharges to Rural England Back Office Support £1200)					700	1400	1428
33		RE recharge re Elec NW Commission						1100	1100
34		RE recharge re Southern Water Commission						1000	1000
35		EE/Other Sponsorship						5000	5000
36		Coastal Communities Alliance Gross)					2179	4358	4358
37		RHCA - Fee Income					1760		4567
38		RNCA Expenditure Reimbursement					5000	8883	18000
39		RE Website Maintenance						2241	2286
40		Miscellaneous (BT)					979	979	
41		Contras					1905	169	
42		VAT							
43		VAT Refund					1290		
44		VAT Received					13196		
45		TOTAL INCOME					413416	416910	394322
46									
47									

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
48							ACTUAL TO	EST	EST
49							END DEC 18	2018/19	2019/20
50		EXPENDITURE					£	£	£
51		VAT Paid on Goods & Services					14257		
52		VAT Paid to HMRC					160		
53		General Provision for Inflation							2200
54		NET WAGES & CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES							
55		Corporate Management				DI,GB,AD, 1 JT, 100% KB 80%	95290	139587	128601
56		Finance/Performance and Data Analysis				, DW, 100%,	17898	30045	30045
57		Communications (incl Seminars)				RoseR,RCM	26766	38528	37261
58		Administrative and Technical Support				AD3, RI, WI,WC,BA, MB 100%	33245	50358	49213
59		Research and Monitoring				BW, 100%	6325	9850	10575
60		Economic Development Service				AD5 100%	3901	5201	5100
61		Coastal Communities Contract					1825	3650	3650
62		Rural Communities Housing Group				AD2 100%	5072	6763	6630
63		Employee Deductions					19571		
64		Less March 19 Employee Deductions						-2411	
65		Provision for Inflation on Contracts (2% p.a.)							3480
66		PAYE - Employers NIC (11 mths)					7300	10494	10494
67		PAYE ADMIN (Accountants)					189	252	252
68		NEST PENSIONS Employer contrib					1671	2382	3840
69		OTHER EXPENDITURE							
70		Rural Fair Shares Campaign etc.					3378	8500	8500
71		Pixell Financial Service (core Annual Service)					3500	8500	8500
72		SPEND FROM 2018/19 £350 VOL CONTRIB						22000	
73		Conferences/Seminars							

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
74		Rural Conference 2018					6159		
75		Rural Conference Drinks Reception					962	962	1000
76		Regional Meetings/Seminars					896	1200	1800
77							ACTUAL TO	EST	EST
78							END DEC 18	2018/19	2019/20
79							£	£	£
80		Service Level Agreements							
81		Rural Housing Group (RHG)					782	1000	1200
82		RHG Website Maint					918	1224	1224
83		RE Website Maint					1530	2040	2040
84		Rural England CIC to re-charge)					1654		
85		Rural Inglnd CIC transfer of part of First Group Support					7000	7000	7000
86		APPG/Rural Issues Group Costs					905	1200	1200
87		Parlia Rural Vulnerability Group						500	500
88		RHCA Direct					4530		
89		RHCA Share of Subscription Income							
90		Business Expenses							
91		Website Upgrade					650	650	
92		Travel and Subsistence					18851	22500	23000
93		Print, Stat,e mail, phone & Broadband@					2841	3800	3600
94		Meeting Room Hire					623	1000	1000
95		Website and Data Base software etc					3573	4500	4500
96		Rent of Office & Associated Costs					3562	5061	8000
97		Accountancy Fees					531	800	800
98		NKDC Services						2345	2345
99		Companies House Fees					13	13	13
100		Bank Charges					70	90	90
101		IT Equipment &Support & Other Capital					255	600	700
102		Insurance					55	650	650
103		Corporation Tax							300

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
104		Membership of Rural Coalition						250	250
105									
106							ACTUAL TO	EST	EST
107							END DEC 18	2018/19	2019/20
108							£	£	£
109		ARREARS - PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR							
110		Regional Meetings/Seminars					450	450	
111		Contract for Service (ADMIN)					1660	1660	
112		Communications					500	500	
113		Extra Media by RCM					963	963	
114		Rose Regeneration					2000	2000	
115		Lexington Communications Contract							1741
116		PIXELL					21958	21958	12650
117		Research Costs					11420	11420	3250
118		RSN Online arrears					4523	4523	
119		RHA website Maint					300	300	
120		Travel and Subsistence arrears					823	823	700
121		Printing, Phone and Stationery (arrears)					9	9	
122		Office Costs					286	2000	
123		Data base etc (arrears)					433	433	
124		TOTAL EXPENDITURE					342033	438123	387894
125									
126									
127		TOTAL INCOME						416910	394322
128		LESS TOTAL EXP						-438123	-387894
129		DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IN YEAR INC & EXP						-21213	4662
130		ADD GEN BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD						25875	5208
131		BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD						4662	9870
132									

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
133									
134									

Subject: Report to the Executive on Advertisements in the Rural Bulletin.

1. We have perhaps set a precedent with the decision to allow EE and BT to advertise on a monthly basis in the Bulletin. It is appearing at this time as if we will be proceeding with these companies in relation to this matter.
2. This brief report promised at the last Executive meeting looks at how much of this is turned to a policy
3. We do feel that for the next few months we should see whether there is any reaction to the publication taking advertisements. If so we will notify Executive members of them.
4. Should that not be the case our views are as follows:-
 - (A) It seems to be the right policy to require any company wishing to advertise to become members of the RSP (if they are not already members). The message should be only RSP members can advertise.
 - (B) The amount achieved from BT (£5000) looks to be the target figure we should look for a once a month advert assuming a year.
5. Should we be pro- active in looking for revenue from advertising? Elsewhere on the agenda we will report on the withdrawals situation. It is clear austerity is now occasioning pressure from member withdrawal. Achieving a further advertising deal appears to us to be necessary.
6. At this stage we would suggest we look for just the single deal. Having an advertisement every week we feel cheapens the Bulletin a bit and also results in the advertisement itself maybe having less impact - maybe impacting on the chance of obtaining fresh adverts in the future.

We would welcome the views of the Executive.

The Rural Bulletin

RURAL VOICE; RURAL VIEW; A CALL FOR EVIDENCE SYSTEM -

Calls for Evidence; Calls for Information; Calls for Action;

THE INTENTION

The intention is to show that we can give the rural areas of England, dispersed as they are, a clear networked voice providing views on issues, on best practise and on concerns. However that voice can only be given to the rural areas in which the Local Authorities support us by being in membership of RSN as it can only be in those areas where their Parishes given our rules of operation, that their local organisations and in some cases their residents can feature as a part of our network.

THE SUGGESTED SERVICE

It is suggested this service would take place approximately monthly. It would be delivered by one of 3 ways depending on the topic:-

- (a) By a request contained within the weekly Bulletin.
- (b) If it related to a specific Group of people by an e mail out to the members of RSN who were on our records and who engaged in that particular area of activity.
- (c) If it is an issue affecting the wider group we would e mail out to all in that wider grouping i.e. the Community Group or it is such an important issue that it affects everyone we would addition to running it in the bulletin send out a special e mail to everyone receiving our service. This however it is anticipated only happen very occasionally. In cases of this importance we would probably make these an official RSN Call for Evidence.

We would seek to use as far was possible some distinctive characteristics to differentiate and underline this particular service whether it went out through the Bulletin or by e mail (when our options would relate to wording).

We would simply be passing on the request for information/evidence requested by the member or organisation concerned asking for replies back to go them with RSN being copied in so that we can, as we wish, monitor response. Any distribution would be limited to a maximum twelve 'issues' a year.

We see the service as being as having two applications:-

A. THE PROPOSED GENERAL SERVICE

The service would be available free to all members –

(1) We as RSN would make use of it for our own work and obviously RSP would be involved in that.

(2) Additionally the following organisations would be invited to become "Participants" using the service on weeks when they wished. They are organisations we work closely with already like- RHA, RCN, RHCA , Rural England CIC, and its Stakeholders and Supporters; Members of the Rural Coalition (most of which are RSN members in their own right). We would also hope to engage as such Participants bodies like DEFRA, MHCLG, BEISS, English Nature, Ofgem, Ofwat, Ofcom, OfBus, the House of Commons Select Committees, and the House of Lords Committees, all relevant All Party Parliamentary Groups, and the National Trust in relation to rural issues. These "Participants" would need to be regularly encouraged to use the service. Experience shows that this is necessary and we need to build a reminder system in to the work specification for the service. (We have been doing some of this call for evidence work anyway, when requested by the body concerned – which has been fairly infrequent, as we have not to date promoted this as an extensive standalone service.

It is suggested the service to these " Participants " would also be free so that as we clearly need to make the point that we cannot guarantee responses or the level of them so there can be no misunderstanding. **From our viewpoint the prime driver here is that a system exists for rural people to be kept informed and consulted and to comment as and when they wish.**

N.B. This system would not apply to formal consultation exercises which would continue to be dealt with through the Opportunities Bulletin which is issued as a bulletin extra one a month.

The following might be asked if they had "evidence" (as appropriate, and in the case of non-RSN members, if they had agreed to participate :-

Groups of people if the issue is topic specific
RSN Members and their involved individuals
RSN Community Members and Individuals
RSP Members and involved individuals
Rural England Directors, Stakeholders, Sponsors, and Supporters
Rural Housing Alliance Members and individuals
Rural Health & Care Alliance/National Centre for Rural Health & Care
Rural Crime Network Members and individuals,
Rural Small Business Members and individuals
UK Youth officers and groups
The National Federation of Young Farmers officers and groups.

Where appropriate the Sounding Boards of the Rural Services Network and the Rural Panel being established by the CCRI of the University of Gloucestershire may be employed if it was considered this might assist the process. A fee may be applicable in these circumstances.

B. THE RESEARCH SERVICE

This would be available to all Universities in England undertaking courses involving any form of rural interest.

I do think that we could use our strong network to the benefit of students and others who are doing research etc around rural issues.

We could give suitable researchers the opportunity to use the Call for System in (1) assisting initial research and writing a brief for a grant- (2) Written support in any applications for grant funding in some appropriate cases (3) If they get grant approval which leads to research- further calls for evidence as they require them (4) Assisting Dissemination (as the grant bodies will require) through our systems of the research findings. We would leave ourselves a discretion not to take allow our system to be used if we did not think the research had a service or community aspect that was relevant to the Network.

In both (3) and (4) it should be possible for the grant to cover a fee - negotiated as part of the bid preparation -we could charge at that stage of the process. Prior agreement to this would be a condition of the system being used for (1) and (2) above.

It would mean we would be seen to be playing an increasingly fulcrum rural affairs to the enhancement of our overall value

We are the organisation with the biggest Network by a long way- if people can charge expenses in their grant if successful what's to stop us setting up a little industry and getting in the middle of a fair number of these from academia. Clearly we will have to run a fair number of number (1) s and will only be getting paid when they reach number stage (3) and (4)but it could become a steady source of income.

(If we are operating this system it could just be that through such wide university contact Rural England CIC were nudged into a research package or two which would be no bad thing either.)

It is believed the service would go out either directly or by onward distribution to in excess of some 50,000 people living or involved with the many rural areas across England. This would constitute its major "selling point". Our network is by some way the largest across the rural areas of England and for that reason alone every new e mail address we achieve is a bonus

It is suggested that as a main and very important part of the service pages would where possible be will be fairly extensive mapping of the areas who will both be able to take advantage of the service by the posting a request and of course the areas from which information is being sought. I suggest we similarly where possible show different colour the areas not in membership. The point needs to be made in the text that it is the authorities in membership who benefits from this service and the rural areas of non - participating authorities suffer because of the non- participation of their authority in the RSN.

It is hoped that this can also be shown to be a clear factor in membership retention as well.

HOW SUCH A SERVICE MIGHT BE OPERATED

1. Clearly by making this service far more extensive there is a cost that has to be borne. I recognise that this will not be able to be taken on board by Richard if we are not to harm his other work. There would be a need for extra staffing and therefore accompanying resource input.

2. Measuring this extra resource and its cost is always difficult as it of course dependent on the success and take up of the offer. It is perhaps best to assume maybe that we have might need 12 'editions' a year, one a month. Some will be single requests; some will contain more than the one request.

3. It will require someone with the necessary IT, publication and website skills and we might guess at c3k a year?? This clearly won't necessarily be London prices but I do think it's a basis to start talking to people ? locally. To that cost as said earlier needs to be added the administration cost of periodic contact with the 'participants' to ensure they are constantly aware of the availability of the system and how it works. The point needs to be made in the invitation material to the foreseen 'participants' that we cannot guarantee a 'call' will obtain responses. It gives only the opportunity for people to canvass for views from a reasonably wide cross section of people living or involved with rural communities.

4. This is maybe a product where it might be possible to look for sponsorship. It maybe has some commercial appeal. If operating finance is a difficulty I do think it has 'membership' value. Right now I think we need something like this as one of the new angles to try to avoid the organisation withering further over the coming difficult years. Given those circumstances I would be prepared to see a trade off against some of my monthly remuneration to move this forward if that proved absolutely necessary.

FORESEEN ADVANTAGES OF THE SERVICE

1. This is a 'formalisation' of a service we have been offering. It is hoped that by approaching it in this particular way both the use of the service and the appreciation of the value of it will widen very considerably. It is hoped that consequentially the value attributed to the Network itself may, if we play this right, also very much increase.

2. I do think this will this is probably the most obvious step we can take to demonstrate 'what we are all about' as a network and how we seek to represent rural people and communities and their views. Too often I think we have had to resort to descriptive long lists that somehow fail either to be properly read or which just get overlooked. It would in my opinion be less easy to ignore an organisation obviously promoting such a service.

2019 Draft Schedule of Rural Services Network Meetings and Seminars

Date & time	What	Location	Subjects to be covered
14.01.19	Executive Meeting	Bayswater Road London	Priority work areas for 2019
28.01.19	Rural Economy	LGA, London	Rural Economy
	Sparse Meeting	LGA, London	Local Government Funding
18.02.19	Regional Seminar	West Midlands Regional Seminar	Rural Economy
21.03.19	Regional Seminar	South West Regional Meeting	Rural Housing
08.04.19	Rural Social Care & Health Meeting	LGA, London	Rural Health & Social Care
	Rural Assembly Meeting	LGA, London	Barriers to Access – Connectivity/broadband
09.04.19	RSP Vulnerability Board RSP Meeting	London	
29.04.19	Regional Seminar	South East Regional Meeting	Vulnerability
15 th – 17 th May?	Regional Seminar	North East Regional Meeting	Sustainable communities
20.05.19	Executive	Bayswater Road London	Membership of the RSN
24.06.19	Rural Economy	LGA, London	Rural Economy
	Sparse Meeting	LGA, London	Local Government Funding
08.07.19	Regional Seminar	East Midlands Regional Meeting	Rural Health and Wellbeing
03.09.19 Or 04.09.19	Executive	Cheltenham	Parliamentary Work
03&04.09.19	Rural Conference	Cheltenham	Creating Vibrant Communities
07.10.19	Regional Seminar	North West Regional	Delivering Local Services Differently

Appendix G

		Meeting	
18.11.19	Rural Social Care & Health Meeting	LGA, London	Rural Health & Social Care
	RSN AGM	LGA, London	Future of Rural Areas – Housing/Planning/Village Services/Neighbourhood Planning
19.11.19	RSP Vulnerability Board RSP Meeting	London	
09.12.19	Regional Seminar	Yorkshire Regional Meeting	Barriers to Access – Connectivity and rural transport

Report to the RSN Executive

14th January 2019

Membership Recruitment Report for the Rural Health & Care Alliance

Background

Since the successful launch of the National Centre for Rural Health & Care on the 16th October 2018, the Rural Health & Care Alliance (RHCA) in consultation with Ivan Annibal of the National Centre for Rural Health & Care (NC) has undertaken a detailed review of the potential rural health bodies who could benefit from the services of the NC and the Rural Services Network (RSN).

The initial approach has focused on those health organisations which deliver services in the remoter parts of rural England. They include -Health Trusts, CCGs, Acute Hospital Trusts and other academic, private sector and third sector organisations which specialise in the delivery of rural health and care services.

Since the commencement of the recruitment programme in late October, the Alliance has developed an informative website that has significantly raised the profile of the Centre and its work. The marketing brochure has also proved to be a valuable tool in the promotion of the Alliance and the Centre.

Recruitment Status to beginning of January 2019.

Since the commencement of the recruitment process at the end of October 2018, in the region of 330 organisations have been contacted. These include:

60 - NHS Trusts, CCGs and Acute Hospital Trusts

140 - RSN SPARSE and Rural Assembly Authorities

92 Rural Services Partnership organisations – which includes non-local authority organisations

30 other interested health organisations

The engagement has been by email, telephone conference calls and face-to-face meetings.

Membership Status early January 2019

Organisations who have paid

Organisation	Amount
Lincs Co-operative	£500
Shropshire Council	£500
Supporting In Minds (Scotland)	£250
	£1,250

Organisations who have committed and in the process of being invoiced

Organisation	Amount
CSW Group Ltd	£500
Cornwall Partnership	£500
Cornwall Rural Community Council	£250
Health Education England (Midlands & East)	£500
HBV Villages Ltd	£500
Northern Devon Health Care NHS Trust	£500
NHS North Cumbria CCG	£500

Parkinson's UK	£500
Lincolnshire County Council	£500
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	£500
Dispensing Doctors' Association	£500
Chester University	£500
Bristol Ventures	£500
Dr Rigler	£125
Herefordshire and Worcestershire STP	£500
Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust	£500
Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust Foundation Trust	£500
Norfolk and Waveney Sustainability and Transformation Partnership	£500
Young Somerset	£250
	£8,625

Organisations who have expressed an interest and are in negotiation with the Alliance

North and South Norfolk CCGs
The Patients Association
Home Instead
Alcohol Research UK
NCVO
Silver Line
Newcastle Uni (Dementia Innovation Hub)
Wales NHS (Rural Health & Care Wales)
Medilink East Midlands
University of Keele
CEO LIVES (Charity) large
University of Central Lancashire
University of Birmingham
Linkage Trust (Charity)
NHS Confederation
Digital Algorithms
The Royal College of GPs
Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
The Nursing Directorate NHS England

In conclusion

In total 23 health related organisations from the public, private and third sector have joined the Alliance.

Total projected income **£9,875**

Total income thus far **£1,250**