

RURAL FAIR SHARES CAMPAIGN: ACTION PLAN 2013/14

JANUARY

Public Health Duties

29th Wrote to County and Unitary members seeking volunteers to collect rural/urban service cost data.

FEBRUARY

Key Parliamentary Dates/Statements

4th CLG Questions.

11th Back Bench Debate.

13th Final Settlement Debate.

14th/25th RECESS

Local Government Finance Generally

Graham Stuart to request meeting with Minister. Possible Agenda :-

1. The evidence referred to by the Minister
2. Closing the grant funding gap between urban and rural areas by 10 percentage points by 2020 (and therefore not freezing the grant distribution system to 2020)
3. Explicit use of the urban/rural definitions in all analysis of all government grant distribution and monitoring
4. Agreement to monitor urban and rural benefit from the Business Rate Retention scheme and distribution of the New Homes Bonus.

Calculate cost of closing the gap by 10% by 2020.

Final Settlement analysis by cash, per head, per dwelling and by authority class.

Public Health Duties

5th Accepted place on Defra research project Steering Group.[NB this is a DoH project which Defra are involved with. It relates to Health Funding generally and may not cover the funding of the new Public Health duties falling to Local Government. DoH will decide if the RSN is to be on the Steering Group]

MARCH

5th APPG on Final Settlement

6th Presentation to LGA Rural Commission

18th Main Member Group Meeting

26th – 3st **RECESS**

End of March – Four Year Revenue Estimates Review (RA forms) – analysis of RA forms between 2009/10 to 2012/13 showing individual annual analyses for each authority as well as a four year trend analysis across all expenditure heads.

APRIL

1st – 15th **RECESS**

Survey all Members regarding

- (1) frontline service cuts 2013/14 and planned 2014/15 (augmented by RA Form analysis)
- (2) use of balances to support revenue services 2013/14 and planned 2014/15
- (3) “cost” of Council Tax Support to Councils
- (4) take up of CT Freeze Grant
- (5) application of New Homes Bonus.

MAY

13th. Dan Bates met DCLG Officials to seek agreement on the basis of calculation(s) for rural v urban funding analyses

21st – 31st **RECESS**

JUNE

1st – 3rd **RECESS**

5th MPs (and RSN) Meeting with Minister (Brandon Lewis)

JULY

18th – 31st **RECESS**

AUGUST

1st – 31st **RECESS**

SEPTEMBER

1st – 2nd **RECESS**

13th – 30th **PARTY CONFERENCES**

Revenue Estimates analysis for 2013/14 – updating of four year model to incorporate 2013/14 as fifth year

In year rates analysis – precise composition to be determined.

OCTOBER

1st – 8th **PARTY CONFERENCES**

Annual State of the Rural Public Services Report

NOVEMBER

12th – 18th **RECESS**

DECEMBER

Settlement Consultation?

19th – 31st **RECESS**

Revenue Outturn analysis for 2012/13

JANUARY 2014

1st – 6th **RECESS**

FEBRUARY

Final Settlement 2014/15

2014/15

First monitoring of “impact” of Business Rates Retention Scheme (rural v urban analysis). Monitoring to be undertaken in respect of urban v rural comparison of the following unfenced funding streams in terms of cash plus reviewing pounds per head, pounds per property and spending power :-

RSG (Formula Grant)

Business Rate Retention

Council Tax

New Homes Bonus (to include comparison of what was lost through the top slice and gained back through the reward).

General Grants such as ESSSA

April – Annual Revenue Estimates Review (RA forms) – analysis of RA forms for each authority including trend analysis across all expenditure heads. TO INCLUDE FIRST ANALYSIS OF NEW PUBLIC HEALTH DUTIES FUNDING/OUTPUTS