



Welcome to RSN Meeting

Campaigns and Updates

17th April 2023



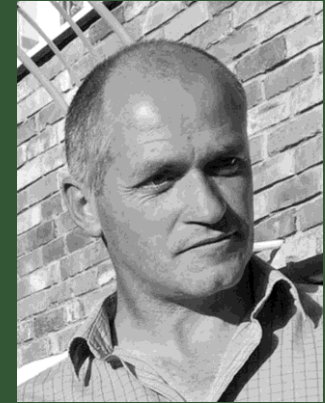
Our Team



Cllr Roger Phillips
Chair



Cllr Peter Thornton
Deputy Chair



Nik Harwood
Chair of Rural
Services Partnership



Kerry Booth
Chief Executive



Nadine Trout
Assistant Chief
Executive



Dan Worth
Finance &
Research Analyst

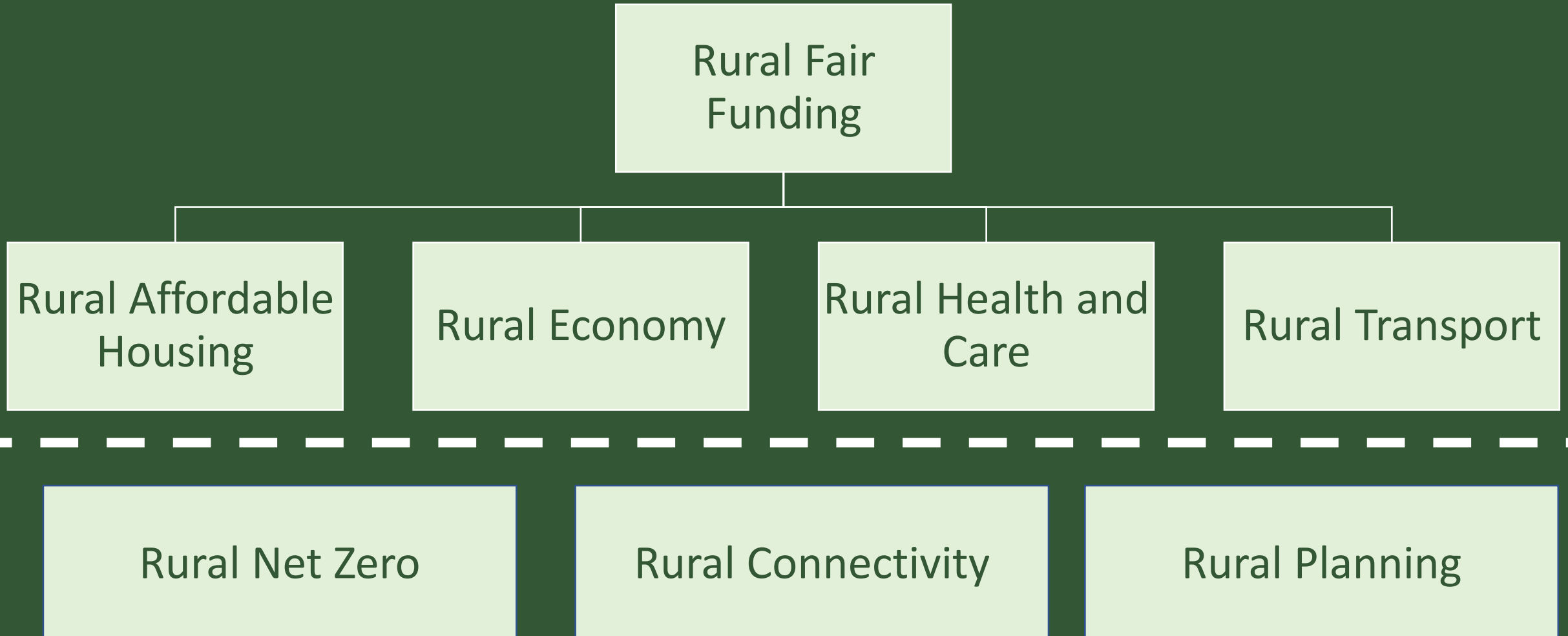


Richard Inman
Membership
Manager



Bethan Aldridge
Events &
Parliamentary Lead

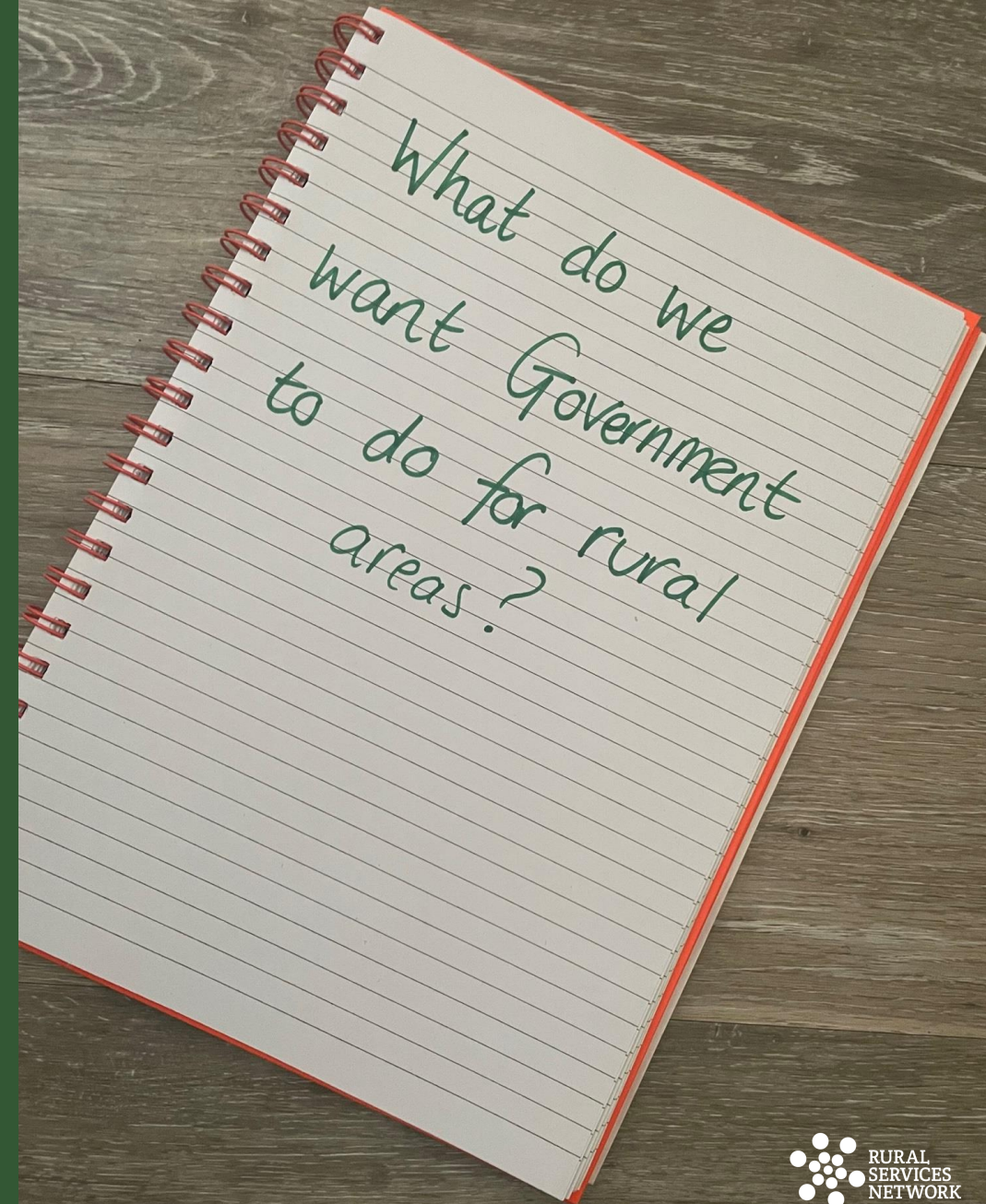
Priority Areas for the Rural Services Network



**Election time is
looming...**



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



The Rural Services Network is fighting for a fair deal for rural communities, in all public sector funding



Rural Facts



Urban areas get 38% more in Government Funded Spending Power than rural areas.

Urban areas in 2023/2024 will receive some 38% (£135) per head in Government Funded Spending Power more than their rural counterparts



Rural Residents pay on average £110 per head more in Council Tax

Rural residents will pay on average, 20% (£110) per head **more** in Council Tax than their urban counterparts due to receiving less Government Grant

We want proper recognition in funding formulae and other funding sources of rural service delivery challenges and costs





Rural Economy

We want business support and infrastructure which reaches rural areas – so the rural economy can grow and create quality jobs



Pragmatix report found that rural areas were most in need of levelling up

Productivity in rural areas is 19% lower than the national average

Workplace based earnings are lower in predominantly rural areas

The Rural Economy is categorised by a large proportion of SME and Sole Traders

What do we want for our rural economy to thrive?

- We want metrics used to devise strategies or programmes for growth to reflect disadvantage in rural economies within regions
- We want decision making and resources to be devolved to local areas as far as possible, creating flexibility for tailored solutions to meet local needs
- We want a support programme for rural businesses and community entrepreneurs
- National Programmes should fully reflect the full range of costs in providing support across rural areas

Access to Rural Health and Care

This is essential
to the social
and economic
wellbeing of
rural areas





Demographics:
Rural areas have an ageing population which places additional demands on rural services

Funding:
Public health allocations for 23/24 show urban councils receiving 57% per head more than rural counterparts

Public Transport: 51% of rural residents are unable to reach a hospital in under one hour

What do we want for our rural health and social care services?

- Address the need for an urgent workforce strategy to aid recruitment and retention across all health and care services
- Ensure that proposals designed to tackle core drivers of disparities in health outcomes are rural proofed
- Ensure that the whole range of extra costs of delivery services in rural areas (and not just travel costs) are accurately reflected in all funding formulae including public health, social care and the NHS

Ultimately we want an understanding of the distinctive health and care needs in rural areas and a way to deliver services to meet those needs



Rural Affordable Housing

Communities should be able to access housing they can afford to be able to live and work in rural areas.

Access to genuinely affordable housing must be addressed to help enable rural economic growth



In 2021, Lower quartile house price in rural areas was 9.2 times average earnings for those working in those areas, compared with 8 times in pred. urbans areas (Excl London)

According to analysis of official statistics, rough sleeping in rural areas shot up 24% in just one year.

Rural local authorities are receiving 65% less in funding per capita through the Homelessness Prevention Grant than urban areas, who are themselves chronically underfunded.

What do we want for rural housing?

- Rural proof planning policy changes which may be introduced to ensure they help and support (and not inadvertently hinder) provision of affordable housing in rural areas
- Introduce and fund an ambitious target for the number of new genuinely affordable homes in rural areas
- Address distinct aspects of homelessness in a rural context
- Fund a programme of support for rural housing enablers in each rural housing authority

Rural Transport

Address the transport deficit across rural areas

It is vital to enable rural communities to access healthcare, employment, training and services



In 2022/23 planned expenditure on **PUBLIC TRANSPORT** per resident is **OVER 5X MORE IN** predominantly **URBAN AREAS**

High dependency on private car

Provision of rural bus services is generally in decline

Implications of growth in electric vehicles needs consideration and planning in rural areas



What do we want for rural transport?

- Ensure the National Bus Strategy has objectives for rural provision
- Develop evidence based Future of Transport Rural Bus Policy that places duty on and allocates funding to local authorities to provide socially necessary rural buses
- Create larger Community Transport funding pot sustained over a large period of time

Rural Net Zero

Rural areas should not be left behind in the transition to net zero

They should be able to contribute towards the country's transition to net zero and be able to seize opportunities such as the growth in green economy





The fuel poverty gap in rural areas is an astronomical £956 compared to the lowest fuel poverty gap at £223 in London.

53% of rural properties are off gas grid network – huge implications for rural communities if Government moves these properties to heat pump systems 10 years ahead of those on gas

Reliance on car and lack of public transport options has implications for rural communities and their spend on fuel costs

What do we want for rural net zero?

- Commit to equitable treatment of rural residents and businesses in the transition from fossil fuel heating in off gas grid areas and the costs arising in rural areas
- Address the fact that in rural areas, the infrastructure is often less robust
- Ensure that economic growth programmes include explicit objectives to support low carbon and net zero growth, including grant funding and specialist advice to help rural businesses reduce their carbon footprint

Rural Connectivity

Connectivity is an essential infrastructure for all areas, and a keystone for rural economies and community wellbeing





Rural Connectivity

- Gigabit-capable broadband is available to 76% of urban residential premises, compared to only 37% of rural premises.
- 40,000 premises in England are without access to a decent broadband service from either a fixed or wireless network
- There remain significant issues with mobile connectivity in rural premises. Some 28% of those in England are premises where it is not possible to make an indoor phone call on all four of the mobile networks (EE, O2, Three and Vodaphone).
- Similarly, it is not possible to get an indoor 4G connection on all four networks at a majority (51%) of rural premises

What do we want for rural connectivity?

- Take action to address the issues facing hard and very hard to reach areas for broadband technology and release funding already allocated
- Instruct Ofcom to review and upgrade the broadband USO (10mbps is out of date!)
- Bring forward national targets for the roll out of Gigabit broadband networks in rural area

What happens next?

- We will be talking to you about all of our asks

1. Rural Net Zero

Wednesday 25/01/2023

11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

2. Rural Connectivity

Wednesday 22/02/2023

11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

3. Rural Fair Funding

Wednesday 29/03/2023

11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

4. Rural Economy

Wednesday 26/04/2023

11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

5. Rural Transport

Wednesday 17/05/2023

11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

6. Rural Affordable Housing

Wednesday 28/06/2023

11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

7. Rural Planning

Wednesday 25/10/2023

11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

8. Rural Health and Care

Wednesday 29/11/2023

11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

The seminar
programme is
available to RSN
members free of
charge

All Party Parliamentary Group for Rural Services



Derek Thomas MP



Phillip Dunne MP



Rob Butler MP



Rosie Duffield MP



Helen Morgan MP



Selaine Saxby MP



Julian Sturdy MP



Lord Carrington