



Welcome to RSN Seminar Rural Connectivity

22nd February 2023



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

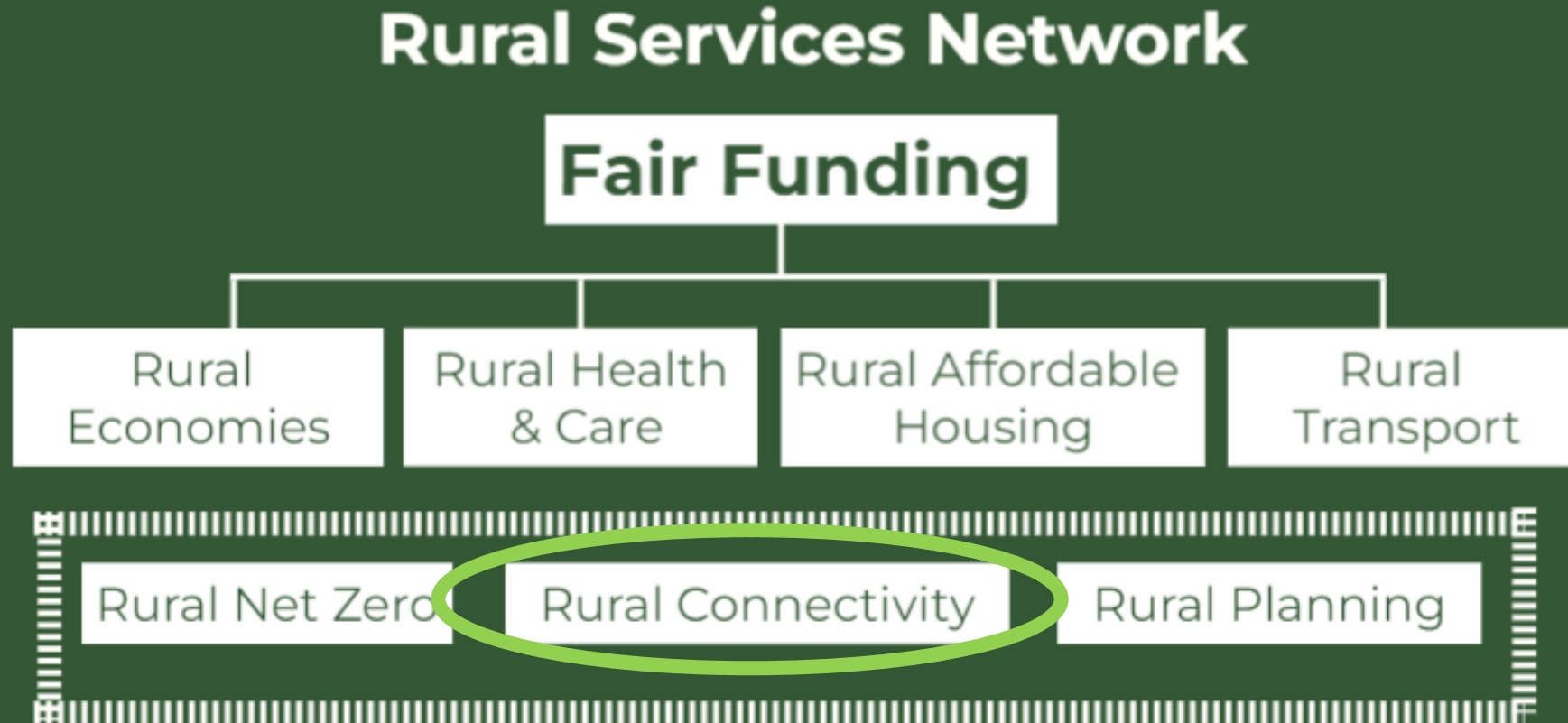
Wednesday 29/11/2023
11 am - 1 pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

Seminars are free to
member
organisations of the
Rural Services
Network.

Book your place at our
seminar programme
for 2023

Priority Areas for the Rural Services Network



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

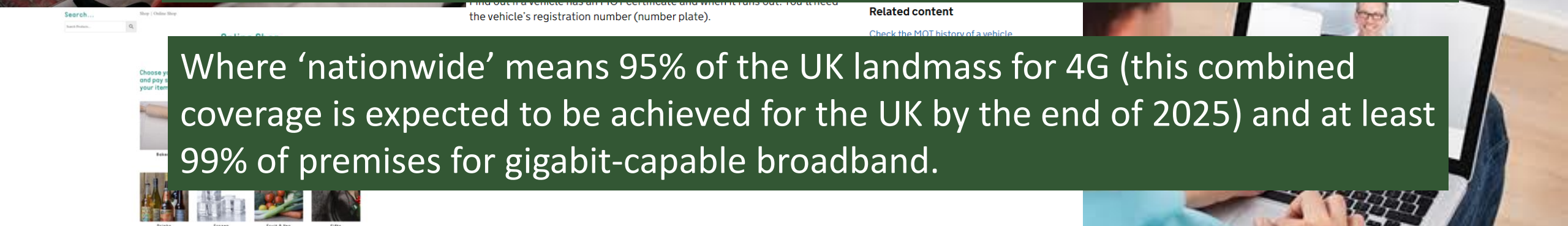




**We want a fairer
distribution of
national resources
to rural areas and
for more nuanced
national policies
that reflect rural
circumstances.**

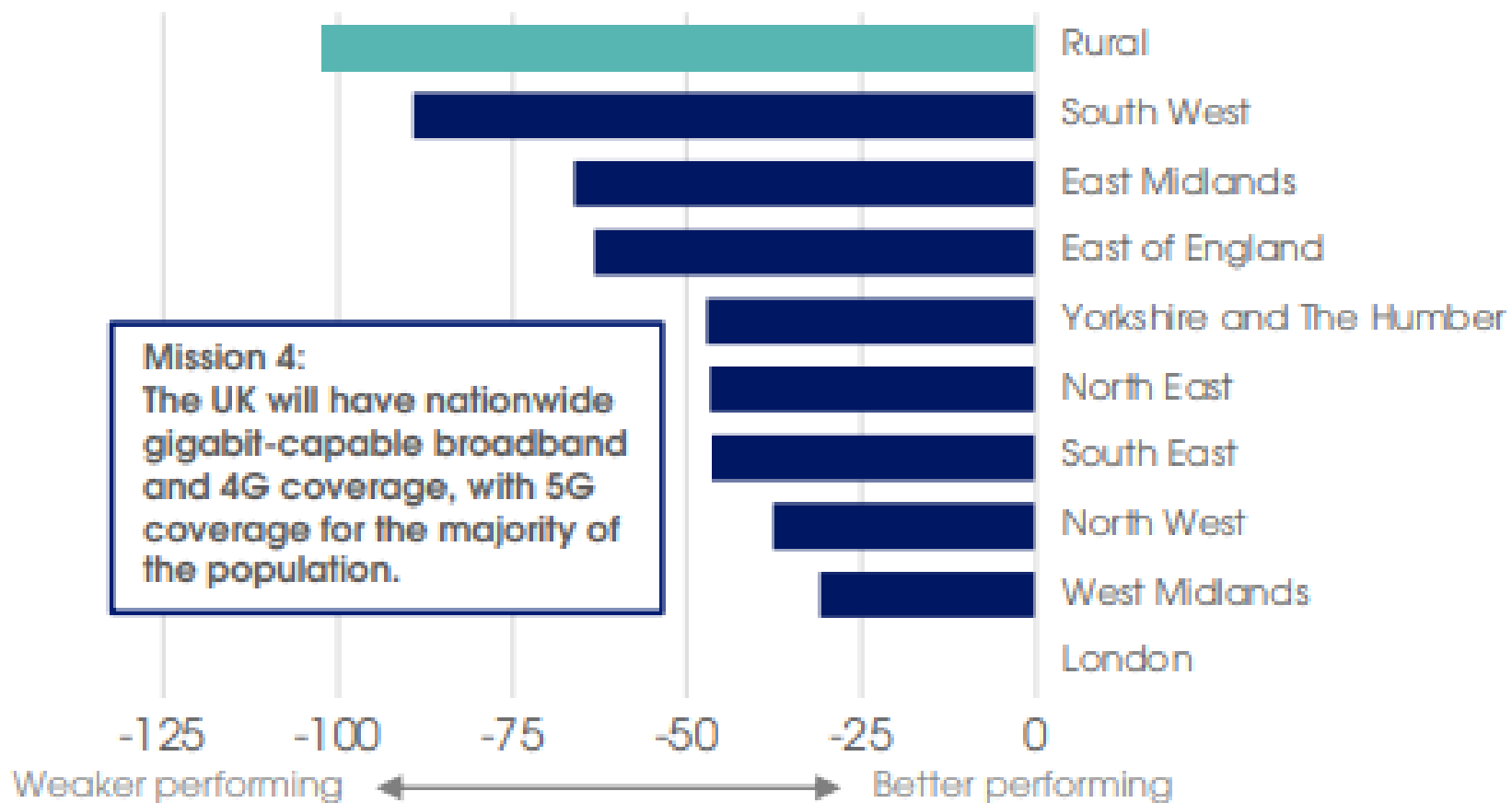


Mission 4: By 2030, the UK will have nationwide* gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.



Where 'nationwide' means 95% of the UK landmass for 4G (this combined coverage is expected to be achieved for the UK by the end of 2025) and at least 99% of premises for gigabit-capable broadband.

Average rating of Mission 4 headline metrics Regions, England



If England's rural communities were treated as a distinct region, their need for levelling up would be greater than any other – based on Government's own headline metrics

What is happening to improve rural connectivity?

Shared Rural Network

The Shared Rural Network (SRN) is transforming mobile coverage, countrywide. The project was developed by the UK's four mobile network operators (MNOs) with support from Government. The programme will make 4G mobile broadband available to 95% of the UK. The operators expect this will extend mobile coverage to an additional 280,000 premises and for people in cars on an additional 16,000km of the UK's roads, boosting productivity and investment in rural areas.

The project consists of MNOs investing to extend their coverage by upgrading their existing networks, working together on shared infrastructure and building new sites, with new government-funded masts being built to target areas with no mobile coverage from any operator. Through its work, the SRN will increase the parts of the UK that get a mobile service from all operators from 66% to 84%, improving consumer choice.

Each of the MNOs' individual networks will cover 90% of the UK, enabling rural businesses and communities to thrive.

Mobile UK

The Case for Local Authority Digital Champions > Summary

Mobile UK is calling on the UK Government to fund the creation of a regional network of Digital Champions to coordinate and prioritise digital connectivity and address digital exclusion as part of its levelling up agenda.



This report seeks to highlight how Digital Champions, funded by central government, put in place to coordinate local authorities' digital strategies and relationships with the industry, can have hugely positive outcomes in the smooth deployment of mobile networks and in building more effective relationships both within councils and with telecommunications providers.

The full report, [Building Mobile Britain: The Case for Local Authority Digital Champions](#), is available to download/read here.

Project Gigabit


- Govt flagship £5 Billion programme to enable hard to reach communities to access lightning fast – gigabit capable, broadband
 - However Govt has only announced £1.2 Billion of funding for period 21/22 – 24/25
- Very Hard to Reach Premises
 - Consultation closed March 21 - results promised ‘very soon’

Press release

Major broadband rollout for Cumbria begins as part of £100 million plan to connect thousands of rural premises

Work has started to connect tens of thousands of people living and working in rural Cumbria to lightning-fast broadband thanks to more than £100 million of government investment.

From: [Building Digital UK, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, Julia Lopez MP, and The Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP](#)
Published 30 November 2022



- Around 60,000 rural premises to benefit from lightning-fast broadband following £108 million government contract award, delivered by Fibrus
- Will benefit hard-to-reach towns and businesses across the county, from Grassmere to Gilsland and Buttermere to Beckenmet
- Satellite broadband trial launched in the Lake District under plans to connect highly remote areas

Press release

Better broadband for rural Northumberland under government's Project Gigabit

More than 3,750 rural premises in North Northumberland will gain access to faster and more reliable broadband after a multi-million pound contract was awarded under the government's Project Gigabit scheme.

From: [Building Digital UK](#)
Published 20 October 2022




- UK Government awards £7.3 million contract to upgrade broadband for more than 3,750 hard-to-reach North Northumberland premises
- GoFibre to build lightning-fast gigabit-capable connections more than twenty times faster than 'superfast'
- Made possible via Project Gigabit, the government's £5 billion plan to boost broadband across the UK

Press release

Major broadband rollout for Cornwall with £36 million awarded to Wildanet to connect thousands of rural premises

Thousands of people in rural Cornwall will get access to lightning-fast broadband after local supplier Wildanet was awarded £36 million from the government to roll out new connections.

From: [Building Digital UK, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, Julia Lopez MP, and The Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP](#)
Published 19 January 2023




- Contracts for local provider Wildanet will deliver lightning-fast broadband in South West and Mid Cornwall
- Move is part of the government's £5 billion Project Gigabit and will see up to 19,250 hard-to-reach homes and businesses connected
- 200 jobs to be created in a further economic boost for the region

Press release

Better broadband for rural Teesdale under Project Gigabit

UK Government awards £6.6 million contract to upgrade broadband for more than 4,000 hard-to-reach Teesdale premises

From: [Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, Building Digital UK, and Julia Lopez MP](#)
Published 29 September 2022



- GoFibre to build lightning-fast gigabit-capable connections more than twenty times faster than 'superfast'
- Made possible via Project Gigabit, the government's £5 billion plan to boost broadband across the UK

Levelling Up

MISSION 1



By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing

CLICK HERE TO VIEW YOUR COUNCILS MISSION 1 PROFILE

MISSION 3



By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing

CLICK HERE TO VIEW YOUR COUNCILS MISSION 3 PROFILE

MISSION 4



By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW YOUR COUNCILS MISSION 4 PROFILE

RURAL LENS REVIEW



Levelling Up White Paper

CRITIQUE: Overarching rural issues, plus actions proposed by the RSN

Published March 2022



Click [here](#) to view our full levelling up analysis



And finally



Rural Households Survey on the Cost of Living



Do you live in a rural area and are you feeling the pinch?

The Rural Services Network and the Rural Issues Group of Citizens Advice are jointly running a survey to understand more about rural household budgets at, what is, a very difficult time for many.

Research commissioned by the RSN last year shows rural areas are suffering more acutely from the rise in the cost of living. Results from the survey will help us to engage more effectively with Government Departments, MPs and other policy makers.

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Rural_Households_Cost-of-Living



Scan the QR code to
access the survey
and tell us your views

The survey closes on 31 March 2023

