



Rural Communities Seminar

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

26th March 2025



The background of the slide features several stacks of gold coins. The stacks are arranged in a row, with the tallest stack on the left and shorter stacks to its right. The coins are highly reflective, showing bright highlights and deep shadows. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color, possibly a wall or a window, which makes the coins stand out.

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

**PARLIAMENT
STREET SW1**

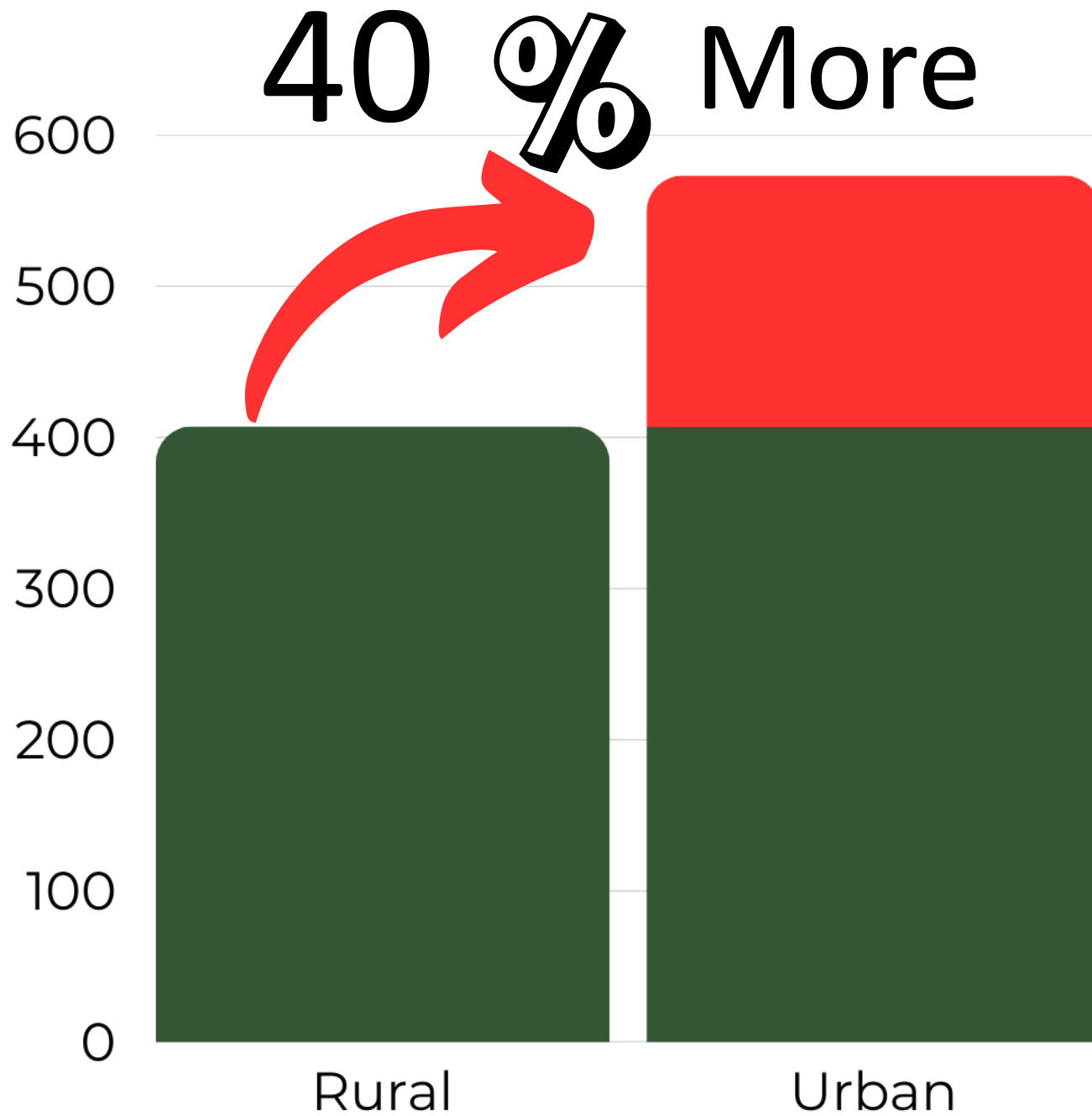


**WHITEHALL
SW1**



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

**The RSN also
campaign for
rural focused
policy in key
areas
impacting rural
communities**



Government Funded Spending Power in urban Councils is **40% MORE** per head than in predominantly Rural Councils for 25-26

Urban budget to spend
double that
of rural on discretionary
services

Rural Discretionary
Spend







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



Bank closures will affect 'the most vulnerable'



GOOGLE | Across the country, more than 130 Lloyds, Halifax and Bank of Scotland branches are set to close.

Jo Lonsdale | **James Robinson**
BBC News North East and Cumbria | Local Democracy Reporting Service

3 February 2025 · 12 Comments

Politicians say the closure of a number of banks in rural towns will "hit the most vulnerable hardest".

The Northumberland towns of Hexham, all losing branches of either Lloyds, Hat

Gordon Stewart, Conservative councillor, many people are dreading because not the internet."

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Santander to close almost a quarter of UK branches

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Post Office could close 115 branches with jobs at risk



Lora Jones & Emma Simpson
Business reporter & Business correspondent, BBC News

12 November 2024
Updated 13 November 2024

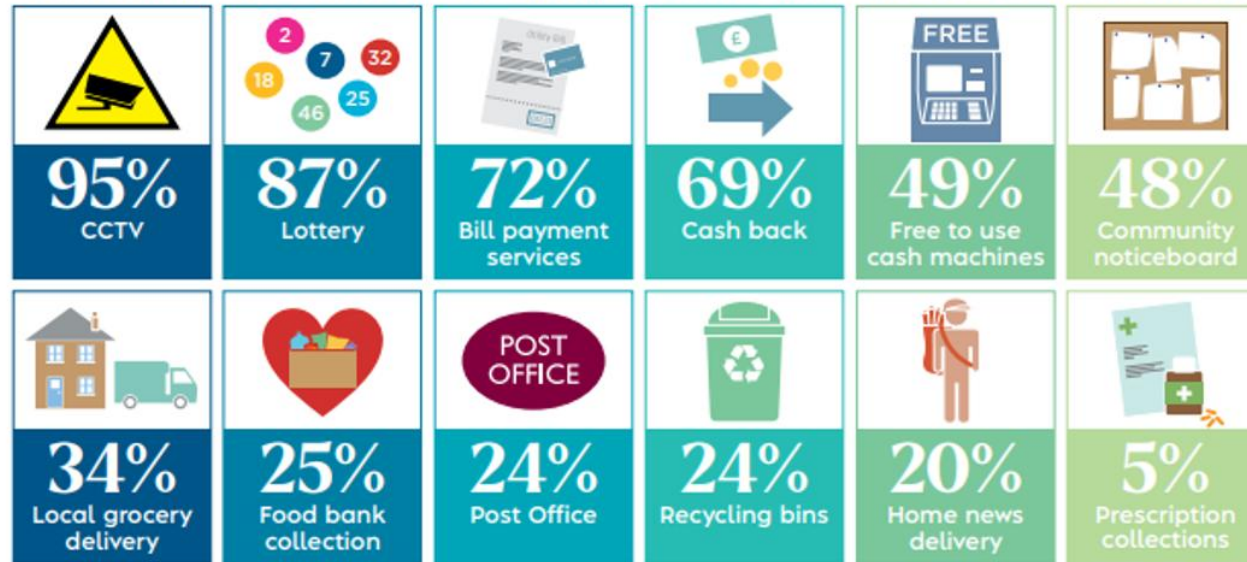


Campaigning for a fair deal for rural communities



Rural shops generated £17.1bn in sales and over £3.8bn in GVA over the last year

The percentage of rural stores in the convenience sector that provide each service is as follows:



Source: ACE/Lumina Intelligence 2022/2023

Source: Rural Shop Report 2024, Association of Convenience Stores

Press release

£2 billion new investment to support biggest boost in social and affordable housebuilding in a generation

Hard working families to get safe and secure homes as Chancellor announces £2 billion injection of new grant funding to deliver up to 18,000 new social and affordable homes.

From: [HM Treasury](#), [The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP](#) and [The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP](#)

Published 25 March 2025



- Landmark announcement part of Plan for Change to deliver security for working people by growing the economy and building 1.5 million homes.
- £2 billion of new funding will only support development on sites that will deliver in this Parliament, getting spades in the ground quickly to build homes in places such as Manchester and Liverpool.

We need the right homes, in the right places, of the right tenure, with the right access to services and infrastructure to enable our rural communities to thrive.