

## **Rural Services Network**

### **Kerry Booth**

### **Assistant Chief Executive**

## **Rural Services Network**

The Rural Services Network is the national champion for rural services, ensuring that people in rural areas have a strong voice.

We are fighting for a fair deal for rural communities to maintain their social and economic viability for the benefit of the nation as a whole.



#### Thank you to all the organisations who have supported us this year

**Sparse and Rural Assembly members:** 

Sparse and Rural Assembly members:								
Allerdale bureugh deutett	ASHFORD.	BABERGH SOUTH SUIFOLK	OSTON Brough course	Braintree District Council	Breckland	Cherwell	Cheshire East	Subject Contract
Allerdale	Ashford	Babergh	Boston	Braintree	Breckland	Cherwell	Cheshire East	Chichester
Copeland	CORNWALL COUNCIL	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL	CRAVEN	County Council		DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL	DERBYSHIRE County Council	
Copeland	Cornwall	Cotswold	Craven	Cumbria	Daventry	Derbyshire Dales	Derbyshire	Devon
dorsetforyou	Durham county Counce	East Cambridgeshire District Council www.sakturite.gov.it	Devon		East Lindsey	Er Sant	EAST RIDING	East Sussex County Council
Dorset	Durham	East Cambridgeshire	East Devon	East Hertfordshire	East Lindsey	East Northants	East Riding of Yorkshire	East Sussex
-Eden District Council	Essex County Council	Folkestone & Hythe	Forest Heath	Forest of Dean	HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL	County Council	DISTRICT OF HARBOROUGH	Harrogate
Eden	Essex	Folkestone & Hythe	Forest Heath	Forest of Dean	Hambleton	Hampshire	Harborough	Harrogate
Herefordshire Council	Horsham District Council	Huntingdonshire	ISLE of WIGHT	King's Lyin & Ki	Lancashire	Leicestershire County Council	Leures District Council	Lichfield district Jeourneil
Herefordshire	Horsham	Huntingdonshire	Isle of Wight	King's Lynn & West Norfolk	Lancashire	Leicestershire	Lewes	Lichfield
Lincolnshire	Malvern Hills District Council	Melton Borough Council	MENDIP		Mid Suffolk	MID SUSSEX	New Forest	NEWARK & SHERWOOD
LincoInshire	Malvern Hills	Melton	Mendip	Mid Devon	Mid Suffolk	Mid Sussex	New Forest	Newark and Sherwood
County Council	northdevon	Morth Dorset	North Kesteven			North	North Warwickshine Berough Council	NorthWest
Norfolk	North Devon	North Dorset	North Kesteven	North Lincolnshire	North Norfolk	North Somerset	North Warwickshire	North West Leicestershire
North Yorkshire County Council	Northampsonshire County Council	Northumberland	Nottinghamshire County Council	Purbeck	Ribble Valley Borough Council	RICHMONDSHIRE	Rother	RUGBY
North Yorkshire	Northamptonshire	Northumberland	Nottinghamshire	Purbeck	Ribble Valley	Richmondshire	Rother	Rugby
W Rutland	RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL		Sedgemoor	SELBY	Sevenoaks	₩ Shropshire		
Rutland	Ryedale	Scarborough	Sedgemoor	Selby	Sevenoaks	Shropshire	Somerset	South Cambs
South Derbyshire District Council	South Hams		OG ST DIVITING CONCERNING	LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL	South Norfolk	South Northamptonshire Council	South Daferdshire District Cound	
South Derbyshire	South Hams	South Holland	South Kesteven	South Lakeland	South Norfolk	South Northants	South Oxon	South Somerset
South Staffordshire Council	St Edmundsbury	80% Stafford	Staffordshire County Council	(3)	STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL	Suffolk County Council	Anna State and State	Tandridge District Council
South Staffordshire	St Edmundsbury	Stafford	Staffordshire	Stratford-on- Avon	Stroud	Suffolk	Suffolk Coastal	Tandridge
<b>☆</b>	Teignbridge	Te w k es bury Borough Council		Tunbridge Wells Becough Council	Sucon Distance of	of White Horse Object Carel	Warwickshire County Council	Waveney
Taunton Deane	Teignbridge	Tewkesbury	Torridge	Tunbridge Wells	Uttlesford	Vale of White Horse	Warwickshire	Waveney
Wealden	West Devon Brough		West-Lindsey	WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL	WEST SOMERSET	west sussex county council	worcestershire	DISTRICT COUNCIL good services, good wake
Wealden	West Devon	West Dorset	West Lindsey	West Oxon	West Somerset	West Sussex	Worcestershire	Wychavon

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Assembly	members:							
BARNSLEY	Bassetlaw	Bath & North East Somerset Council	Blaby District Douncil	Bromsgrove District Council www.borespro.e.prost	Calderdale	canterbury city council	Chorley	YORK
Barnsley	Bassetlaw	Bath and North East Somerset	Blaby	Bromsgrove	Calderdale	Canterbury	Chorley	City of York
Gateshead	Gedling	G GUILDFORD	Hischer & Boworth Borough Council	LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL Printing City Court County (Dir	OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Solfingii	Sunderland City Council
Gateshead	Gedling	Guildford	Hinckley & Bosworth	Lancaster	Oxfordshire	Rotherham	Solihull	Sunderland
	Telford & Wrekin	what WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL	WOKINGHAM BORDUGH COUNCIL	WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCEL				
Surrey	Telford and Wrekin	Warwick	Wokingham	Wycombe				
<b>Rural Serv</b> i	ices Partne	ership Mem	bers:					
ABBRECON RISE CONSULTING	acre	Action Hompshire	AGE	Alzheimer's Society Utity Stream	apse Massachter Contact	SAN CHE MOLANO	A STE R	BASC
Abingdon Risk Consulting	ACRE	Action Hampshire	Age Concern	Alzheimer's Society	APSE	Arts Council England	Aster Group	BASC
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Broadacre	Bromford	Bus Users UK	C.CO	CAfS	Calor Ltd	Campaign For Better Transport	Chichester in Partnership	Cirencester Housing
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Citizens Advice	Connexus	Cornwall Rural Housing	Countryside Alliance	Dartmoor National Park	Dispensing Doctors'Association	Eden Housing Association	English Rural Housing	Exmoor National Park
EAST YORKSHIRE	thew inspiring women	First 🎁	Gigaclear Under Fire Stractured	Hastoe	Housing I al Plus Group	Institute of Economic Economic Economic Economic Economic Economic Economic Economic Economic Economic Economic Economic Economic Economic		karbon homes
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Landex (x 52 colleges)	Lincs Rural Housing Association	Living Memories C.I.C	Locality	Midlands Rural Housing	National Association of Local Councils	National Housing Federation	National Pensioners Convention	NFU (National Farmers Union)
Fire and Rescue	Inttl Presenting Sectioned ats	Confordshire Association of Local Councils	outside the bax	Plunkett Foundation	POST	C pub is the hub	Royal Mail	Rural Cultural Forum
Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service	NRTF (National Rural Touring Forum)	OALC	Outside the Box	Plunkett Foundation	Post Office	Pub is the Hub	Royal Mail	Rural Cultural Forum
Sterforme Deanery Rural Chaptaincy	Fre and Resear Barcon	Ø	SOUTH DEVION RURAL	South Holland Rural Action Zone	<b>T</b> sovereign	Stafford and Eard Houses	Errel Commercity	HE- <u>RIBEAT</u>
Sherborne Deanery Rural Chaplaincy	Shropshire and Wrekin Fire & Rescue	Shropshire Rural Housing Association	South Devon Rural Housing	South Holland Rural Action Zone	Sovereign	Stafford and Rural Homes	Tees Valley Rural Community Council	The Community Heartbeat Trust
The Wrekin Housing Trust		UK YOUTH	WHITE HORSE	yarl <mark>in</mark> gton				
The Wrekin Housing Trust	Trent & Dove Housing	UK Youth	White Horse Housing	Yarlington Housing Group				



#### The RSN Member organisations for 2019

## Our priorities

- Public Sector Funding
- Barriers to Access
- Future of Rural Areas
- Health and Wellbeing

 Rural Vulnerability is also recognised as a cross cutting theme



#### Details of the seven regional seminars are listed below:

REGION - West Midlands DATE - 18/02/19 SUBJECT - Rural Economy VENUE - Stafford Borough Council

REGION - South East DATE - 29/04/19 SUBJECT - Rural Vulnerability VENUE - Sevenoaks District Council

REGION - East Midlands DATE - 08/07/19 SUBJECT - Rural Health and Wellbeing VENUE - West Suffolk REGION - South West DATE - 21/03/19 SUBJECT - Rural Housing VENUE - East Devon

REGION - North East DATE - May 2019 SUBJECT - Sustainable Rural Communities VENUE - TBC

REGION -North West DATE - 07/10/19 SUBJECT - Delivering local Services differently VENUE - Lancaster

REGION - Yorkshire & the Humber DATE - 9/12/19 SUBJECT - Barriers to access – connectivity and rural transport VENUE - Hambleton



Regional Seminars / Networking events

## **RURAL SERVICES NETWORK**

• We provide Local Authorities and Rural Service Providers with wide range of services which depending on type of membership can include:

Fairer Funding Campaign Work	Weekly Rural Bulletin Newsletter	Spotlight newsletters on Health, Older People, Young People
Individual Financial Analysis for Local Authorities	Funding Digest newsletter highlighting funding opportunities	Rural Housing Alliance and joint rural housing work
Performance Analysis for Local Authorities	Free Regional Seminar/Meeting programme at venues around the country	Rural Best Practice Library
Neighbourhood Planning Evidence Base	Discounted Annual Rural Conference	Rural Observatory



## **RECENT INITIATIVES**

 Rural Health and Care Alliance

 'It's Time for a Rural Strategy' Campaign



### Time for a Rural Strategy

"Rural Communities are frequently overlooked in a policy environment dominated by urban thinking and policy concerns. This often means communities either miss out on the benefits or experience unintended consequences from policies which are poorly thought-through from a rural perspective."

1<sup>st</sup> March – RSN call on Government to develop a Rural Strategy



## What do we want?

"If rural communities are to be sustainable, the Government must seize this opportunity to work with communities to produce *a long-term*, **funded rural strategy** which recognises the contribution rural areas make and have the potential to make to the wellbeing and prosperity of the nation as a whole."



## Why do we need a Rural Strategy





## Could add

- High average household incomes
- Low Incomes earned in the rural economy
- Numbers of SME's and Self Employed
- Low Expectations?
- Outflow of young people
- Resilience and strength of Community Support
- Volunteer overload



## Nationally seven key topic areas

- 1. A thriving rural economy
- 2. A digitally connected countryside
- 3. A place everyone can get around
- 4. An affordable place to live
- 5. A fair deal on health and social care
- 6. A settlement to support local action
- 7. A rural-proofed policy framework



## A thriving rural economy

- Reducing the productivity gap;
- Helping rural businesses (especially SMEs) to grow locally;
- Supporting further diversification, especially into high value-added sectors;
- Sustaining high streets and their businesses in rural towns; and
- Creating better paid and more secure jobs.



## A digitally connected countryside

- Extending broadband networks to those premises still missing out;
- Future proofing broadband policy, so rural areas do not fall behind again
- Capitalising on the benefits from the roll out of superfast networks;
- Addressing issues with mobile network coverage (including 4G).



## A place everyone can get around

- Reversing the widespread decline in rural bus service provision;
- Making bus services a more attractive option for rural travellers;
- Providing sustained support for complementary community transport schemes;
- Ensuring future transport innovations will benefit rural communities.



## An affordable place to live

- Bringing forward development sites at a price suited to affordable housing;
- Making sure such homes are and remain genuinely affordable;
- Planning new housing in ways which attract community support;
- Ensuring the funding model for affordable house building adds up.



## A place to learn and grow

- Sustaining schools with small (or fluctuating) pupil numbers;
- Managing school budgets when operating costs are high;
- Recruiting and retaining teaching and support staff;
- Finding appropriate models for school collaboration.



## A settlement to support local action

- Ensuring that local authorities retain the capacity to serve their rural communities;
- Boosting the capacity of parish and town councils to bring about local solutions;
- Recruiting and retaining volunteers with sufficient time and the right skills;
- Providing the support infrastructure to facilitate community action in more areas.



## A fair deal on health and social care

Rural communities, like communities everywhere, need access to high quality healthcare and some require extra support from social care services.

By 2039, nearly half of all households in rural areas will contain people aged 65 or over. In 17/18 rural residents funded 76% of the cost of adult social care through Council Tax compared to 53% in urban



# A fair deal on health and social care

- Ensuring that patients can get to secondary and tertiary health services;
- Delivering quality primary health care locally within rural settings;
- Making sure social care reaches those who need it in remote locations;
- Benefitting rural clients through improved health and social care integration.
- Staff recruitment and retention in rural areas



# A fair deal on health and social care

-what would make a difference?

- A fair allocation of funding to rural areas
- A rural proofed model for health care delivery
- A stronger focus on filing vacancies
- A joined up approach to health and social care
- A housing policy ready for an ageing population



## House of Lords Select Committee on Rural Economy

- Chaired by Lord Foster of Bath
- Report published 27 April 19 with a large number of recommendations for Government
- Received evidence from number of key rural organisations – including the RSN -Parliamentarians and communities
- Government has now published its response



## Lord Foster of Bath:

"Rural communities and the economies in them have been ignored and underrated for too long. We must act now to reverse this trend, but we can no longer allow the clear inequalities between the urban and rural to continue unchecked. A rural strategy would address challenges and realise potential in struggling and under-performing areas, and allow vibrant and thriving areas to develop further. Doing nothing is not an option."



## What was the Government's response?

- Some positive elements:
- "Over the coming months, the government will expand on its strategic vision and set out how, working across departments and working with stakeholders, it is putting in place a range of measures to ensure that rural areas continue to thrive.
- The Government will work to improve rural proofing and DEFRA will publish an annual report on rural proofing
- The Government is reviewing Local Authority funding and has proposed including an Area Cost Adjustment to capture sparsity costs.



## Government response to House of Lords Report

#### BUT....

- The Government believes that rather than a distinct Rural Strategy, it is best to 'embed an appreciation of rural issues at all levels of delivery'- rather than "risk rural areas being placed in a silo through having a single rural strategy"
- It mentions that the 'UK Shared Prosperity Fund will allocate funding to those places with the greatest need'...will rural areas with their scattered geography fit into these categories?
- Government doesn't want to 'interfere' in other agencies or organisations responsibilities to force them to be proactive about rural areas and issues



## Government response to House of Lords Report

- Defra will establish a Rural Affairs Board to support and steer work on rural proofing
- 'Final decisions are due to be made following the Spending Review – appears numerous times!!!



### Thank you for listening

www.rsnonline.org.uk



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