

Rural Services Network - SPARSE

Q: What do you get for your membership?

A: Your very own dedicated Rural Office

Our mission is to provide a voice for rural service providers and rural communities

Represent the case for a better deal for rural service provision

WE WILL:

Lobby through the Fairer Funding Campaign working towards a better deal for rural areas
Represent your interests at an All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services and at the Rural Coalition
Provide Interactive Financial Analysis reports (3 per year) using RO/RA financial data comparing you against other rural authorities. New for 2013-14 – An Executive Summary highlighting key trends and information
Administer the UK Rural Policy and Practitioner Group – a group sharing rural policy experiences in different parts of the UK, enhancing learning of rural issues

Exchange useful and relevant information

WE PROVIDE:

3 seminars which focus on rural issues and help practitioners and community representatives overcome the challenges they face delivering services or living in rural areas
A comprehensive website providing a range of news, research and information for rural areas including local authority specific pages with information personal to you.
3 Full Member Meetings providing member authorities the opportunity to hear key rural messages and share their experiences delivering services in rural areas
Monthly Opportunities e-Bulletin setting out funding opportunities and rural consultations
Quarterly Interactive Performance Reports using key indicators to enable you to compare your performance against other similar rural areas – An Executive Summary highlighting key trends and areas of best practice will be included in the 2013-14 reports
We will build on expertise of Rural England panel to provide key research into issues and challenges affecting rural communities.
The Annual State of Public Services Report
Neighbourhood Planning evidence base for parishes and community groups
A Rural Observatory providing a range of statistics and analysis
A Quarterly Economic Barometer showing how well rural areas are performing
An Annual Rural Vulnerability Index for rural areas

Develop and share best practice

WE PROVIDE:

An e-network, enabling information sharing and exchange online between officers at rural authorities
Case studies on areas of best practice in service delivery in rural communities
A twitter account promoting links to key stories
Hinterland – a weekly e-newsletter commenting on issues for rural communities
Digest – a weekly e-newsletter of rural news stories and research
A Rural Sounding Board – a quarterly survey of rural Councillors focusing on key rural issues and challenges
Rural Vulnerability Service- roundup of information on Broadband, Rural Transport and Fuel Poverty