

Rural Services Network - Seminar and Local Forum Programme



RSN (with support from Knight Frank) has developed a seminar and forum programme, which is free of charge to members.

The events are intended to help councils and Rural Services Partnership members overcome some of the issues that they face in delivering existing services. In response to popular demand last year's programme has been widened with a regional flavour.

In addition to speakers there will be a structured opportunity at each event for regional networking and discussion on current rural issues. Notwithstanding the regional component events are all open to all RSN members.

The RSN would particularly welcome participation by Senior Members and Officers from Principal Councils and Public Service delivery bodies to assist us in identifying their current concerns and the needs of our members.



The Programme-

(all events will also include a topical debate session.)

SERVICES

This event will explore good practice and opportunities for innovation and partnership around the rural service delivery agenda.

13 September – University of Lincoln

Key Note Dr Gary Bosworth (host) – Rural estates, service delivery and the scope for partnership with local authorities

Tony McArdle CEO - Lincolnshire County Council
- National pilot on families with complex needs

James Derounian - University of Gloucestershire
- The potential for Town and Parish Councils to deliver more services

Jan Sensier – Executive Director (East Midlands Councils) - Networking opportunities around local authority rural service delivery in the East Midlands

ECONOMY

This event will concentrate on the unfolding of the new economic development agenda and key issues around intervening successfully in rural economies. Speakers include:

10 November – Suffolk County Council Ipswich

Key Note Professor Joyce Liddle (Nottingham Trent University) - The new economic development landscape, LEPs, Localism et al

Chris Starkie - New Anglia LEP - progress over the first year

Dr David Wood – Rural Action East - Rural deprivation, challenges and opportunities

HOUSING

This event will cover best practice and latest trends around rural housing and fuel poverty. Speakers include:

10 January 2012 – University of Gloucestershire (Cheltenham)

Host James Derounian

Key Note Matt Dodd Homes and Community Agency (HCA) – Latest challenges in rural affordable housing delivery

Holly Simms - (Calor) – The Fuel Poverty Project

Jo Lavis – Rural Housing Solutions

UPLANDS

This event will provide an opportunity to discuss and network around the unique challenges and issues facing upland communities

22 Feb 2012 – University of Cumbria (Ambleside)

Key Note Dr Lois Mansfield - Whole valley planning: the next 50 years

Will Rawling and Dorothy Wilkinson (Cumbria Farmer Network) – Supporting rural farming communities

Final speaker to be announced

BROADBAND

Building on the hugely popular RSN Broadband event in 2010, this event will look at challenges and opportunities faced by rural communities in the context of the broadband agenda one year on.

6 March 2012 – East Riding Council Beverley

Malcolm Corbett – Independent Networks Cooperative Association (INCA)

Guy Jarvis – NextGenus

Daniel Heery – Alston Cybermoor

ENVIRONMENT

There have been major organizational and policy changes within the environmental agenda for local authorities and public bodies and this event will provide an opportunity to explore their different guises

8 May 2012 – Exeter

Host Professor Michael Winter

Rob Fish - Eco systems services and the Environment White Paper

Stuart Barr - Transition Towns and Sustainable Development

Mike Kelly - Localism and Planning

LOCALISM

At the point of going to press the Localism Bill is still working its way through Parliament, the Big Society, Localism and some of its more detailed key features such as the Right to Build and the Right to Run have stimulated huge debate within the public sector, this event provides an opportunity to get to the heart of the issues

12 June 2012 – University of Newcastle

Keynote - Professor Mark Shucksmith – Localism

Robin Wiles (Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council) – the Newcastle Partnership and Big Society

Lorraine O'Donnell – Assistant Chief Executive – Durham Council

Key Information

All Seminars and Local Forums run from 10.30am – 4.00pm

Spaces have unfortunately to be limited to 50 participants per session

For further information and to reserve your place, please contact Wendy Cooper at the RSN by email wendy.cooper@sparse.gov.uk or telephone 01822 813693