



RURAL SERVICES PARTNER GROUP INAUGURAL MEETING

Tuesday 9th of April 2019

13.00 - 15.30 p.m.

Venue: - 63, Bayswater Road, London. The premises are a few doors down from the Lancaster Gate Tube Station walking towards Bayswater

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Election of the Vice Chair of the Group
3. The organisation formally flows from a not for profit company RSP Ltd. The current Directors are Cecilia Motley, (RSN), Rev Richard Kirlew RSN Community, Graham Biggs, David Inman, Jon Birtwistle, (Transport), Stuart Horne (Business), Anna Price (Business). Extra Directors are always welcome, particularly if they represent areas of operation not already covered! The Company only formally meets in the autumn with a view to agreeing its budget and having its required AGM. RSP members have to been invited to Rural Assembly meetings. It is felt as the RSP membership grows there is benefit in pulling together Partners twice a year
4. It is suggested a sub group of the RSP is constitutes as an operating arm of the limited company. The suggestion is that this is referred to as the Rural Services Partner Group. It is

perhaps appropriate to have a Protocol covering the operation of the new Group. A draft document is attached for the consideration of the meeting. (Attachment 'B')

5. (a) To receive a note from Jon Turner, RSN Policy Director on the possible remits of the Group. (Attachment 'C')
(b) To formally agree the remit of the Group
6. Feedback from the RSN Health and Care Meeting and the meeting of the RSN Rural Assembly held on the previous day. Report by Graham Biggs
7. Feedback from the meeting of the Rural Vulnerability Panel Meeting held on the morning of the meeting. Report by David Inman
8. The Call for A Rural Strategy- The role for the Rural Services Partnership in relation to this initiative. Report by Graham Biggs
9. Housing in Rural Areas- what is it realistic to be asking for? Presentation by Henry Lee, Hastoe Housing Group
10. Emma Gould – Alzheimer's UK Presentation on their work from a rural perspective
11. Public Transport in Rural Areas where do we go from here? Presentation by John Birtwistle of First Bus
12. Rural England CIC – the work of this Group - Graham Biggs who is the Secretary of the Group will report
13. (a) The National Rural Conference 3rd/4th September in Cheltenham. Conference details this year. Verbal report
(b) The RSN 7 Regional Seminars - Brief Report
14. Any Other Business



Rural Services Network Operational Diagram

	PARLIAMENTARY	LOCAL AUTHORITY	PARTNER	COMMUNITY
Rural Funding Group of MPs	•	•	•	•
Rural Vulnerability Group	•	•	•	•
*APPG - Rural Issues	•	•	•	•
House of Lords Rural Panel	•	•	•	•
Sparse Rural		•		
Rural Assembly		•		
Rural Social Care & Health Grp		•	•	
Rural Economy Grp		•	•	
7 Regional Seminars/Meetings		•	•	
Rural Services Partnership			•	
Rural Services Partner Grp			•	
RSP Vulnerability Panel			•	
Rural Health and Care Alliance		•	•	
The National Rural Conference	•	•	•	•
The Rural Bulletin	•	•	•	•
The Rural Panel				•
Rural Community Grp		•		•
Rural Sounding Boards		•		•
The Funding Digest		•	•	•

* APPG - All Party Parliamentary Group

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK



RURAL SERVICES PARTNER GROUP GROUP PROTOCOL

The registered Company Articles and Memorandum of the Rural Services Partnership Ltd are in the event of any conflict of interpretation of any action or advise to have priority to the following Rural Services Partner Group Protocol terms.

THE RURAL SERVICES PARTNER MEETINGS

- 1.1 The Rural Services Partner Group is a sub group of the limited company the Rural Services Partnership Ltd. The Rural Services Partnership Ltd is in turn part of the Rural Services Network (hereinafter called 'the RSN')
- 1.2 Rural Services Partner Group members are also members of the Rural Services Partnership Ltd (herein after referred to as RSP Ltd).and have the right to attend its AGM and meetings of the Rural Assembly of the RSN and its AGM i and shall receive agendas for such meetings from the RSN secretariat
- 1.2 It has been decided that the Rural Services Partner members (hereinafter called 'The Partner Group' shall also be given the opportunity to meet independently themselves on two occasions a year, normally in April and November, to undertake such business as is contained on the Partner Group meeting agendas.
- 1.3 All Partner Group members shall be entitled to attend such meetings and to ask for items to go on the agenda for meetings as they would wish.
- 1.4 Each member organisation/partner shall be entitled to be represented at these meetings by up to two people from their organisation.

2. The Meetings

- 2.1 The Partner Group will hold two meetings a year one of which will be in November on the same day as the AGM of the Rural Services Partnership Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as the AGM).
- 2.3 The Partner Group may decide to recommend to the AGM to have additional meetings and sub group meetings as it considers expedient to undertake its business and if agreeable to the AGM, and the Executive of the RSN, such meetings will be placed in the Calendar of Meetings of the RSN

3. Structure of the Partner Group and Membership at Meetings

- 3.1 The Partner Group is made up by a range of organisations in membership of RSP Ltd who are not themselves principal local authorities, but are engaged in serving English rural communities or who are local councils or who are rural community organisations or are national organisations with an interest in rural areas in England
- 3.2 The Meetings shall comprise the representatives of these member organisations who attend
- 3.3 The Meeting will be quorate provided three or more member organisations are in attendance at any one time.

4. Voting at Meetings

- 4.1 Each Rural Services Partner Group organisation represented at a Partner Group meeting shall be entitled to cast one vote at all Meetings on occasions when it is decided to proceed by vote and a decision is not reached by consensus (which will be usual practice).
- 4.2 In the case of an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have the casting vote.

5. Office Holders

- 5.1 The Chair and Vice Chair of RSP Ltd will be the Chair and Vice Chair of these Meetings. If the Chair is not present at a Partner Group meeting the Vice Chair shall preside. If neither the Chair or Vice Chair are present another RSP Director shall preside or if none of those persons are present the meeting shall appoint a Chair for that meeting from amongst its members present and eligible to vote.
- 5.2 All RSP Ltd Directors are members of the RSN Executive.
- 5.3 The Chairman of the Partner Group (and in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman or Chairman of a meeting) will have the following responsibilities:
 - (a) To promote The Group as a whole;
 - (b) To preside over meetings so that its business can be carried out efficiently; and
 - (c) To ensure meetings are a forum for the debate of matters of common interest.
- 5.4 The Partner Group shall have the right - should they consider the balance of whole operation of RSP Ltd warrants it - to make recommendations to the AGM for additional Directors for RSP Ltd from their membership to be appointed.

6. The Executive

- 6.1 The Partner Group shall have no Executive of its own but will be represented in terms of strategic and emergency decisions through the RSN procedures applying to the RSN Executive and the Directors of RSP Limited.

7. Responsibility for Action

- 7.1 The Partner Group will speak for all its member organisations. It cannot, however, commit its individual member organisations to any particular course of action or to support or not support any particular policy position.

8. Meetings of the Partner Group and Other Sub Groups

8.1 Meetings of The Partner Group and any other Sub Groups shall be held on such days and at such places as may be decided by the RSN Executive or Officers.

8.2 The RSN Corporate Director shall ensure:

(a) Not less than twenty-eight clear days before each ordinary meeting, and not less than two months before the Annual Meeting there shall be posted on rsnonline.org.uk a notice stating the date, time and place of the meeting; and

(b) Not less than ten working days before the meeting send to each Member organisation by email an agenda specifying the business to be transacted.

9. Nominated Officers and Staff

9.1 Staff for the group shall be the appointed officers of the RSN who shall be responsible for all administrative and the actioning of all executive matters.

9.2 The Group may ask Group Members to provide advisors to support the Partner Group and RSN work programme as necessary including financial and strategic service advisers.

10. Finance

10.1 The subscription and service charge for membership of The Group for each year commencing on the 1st of April shall be at rates to be determined from time to time by the AGM of RSP Ltd but the Group shall be entitled to make recommendations to the said AGM on such matters.

10.2. The cost of attendance, travel and subsistence in connection with meetings of The Group shall be met by the member or officer's own organisation

11. Resignation of Member Authorities

11.1 Any Partner Organisation wishing to terminate its membership of the Partner Group and RSP Ltd shall give not less than twelve months' notice, in writing, to the Corporate Director. It is considered helpful for financial monitoring and accountability purposes if such notice expires on 31 March in any year.

12. Dissolution

12.1 A motion for dissolution of The Partner Group must be notified in advance as an agenda item for the RSP Ltd Annual Meeting.

12.2 A motion for dissolution shall require a formal majority of at least two-thirds of members present with at least two-thirds of such organisations represented at the meeting.

13. Amendment to the Protocol.

- 13.1 The Partner Group shall have power to recommend to RSP Ltd Directors to allow an amendment of this Protocol:
- (a) Provided that the motion is not in conflict with the Memorandum and Articles of the Rural Service Partnership Ltd.
 - (b) Provided that a motion in favour of each such amendment shall be passed by at least two thirds of members present and if necessary, through the following additional procedures:
 - (c) Where two thirds of those present vote for an amendment but less than two thirds of Member Organisations are present, then the amendment shall be put to a postal ballot of the membership. The amendment shall be carried if it receives the support of at least two thirds of the ballot papers returned.

14. Urgent Decisions

- 14.1 The Chairman in consultation with the Vice-Chairman may take a decision which is a matter of urgency which is specific to The Partner Group and is not delegated to the Officers. However, the decision may only be taken:
- (i) if it is not practical to convene a quorate meeting of the RSP Ltd Directors or to consult them by e mail ballot; and
 - (ii) if the Chairman of The Partner Group agrees that the decision is a matter of urgency.
- 14.2 The reasons why it is not practical to convene a quorate meeting of the Executive and the consent of the Chairman to the decision being taken as a matter of urgency must be noted on the record of the decision. Following the decision, the Chairman will provide a full report to the next meeting of the Group and to the RSP Ltd Directors explaining the decision, the reason for it and why the decision was treated as a matter of urgency.

Appendix B

The remit of The Rural Services Partner Group Meetings

The Rural Services Partner Group is a sub group of the limited company the Rural Services Partnership Ltd. The Rural Services Partnership Ltd is in turn part of the Rural Services Network (hereinafter called 'the RSN')

Why join the Rural Services Partner Group (RSPG)

To lobby and campaign as the only national champion for rural service providers, for a fair deal for rural communities and to maintain and enhance their social economic wellbeing and viability.

Why the need for RSPG meetings in general?

To sustain the existing membership, which currently includes nearly 175 organisations.

To grow the membership. This is of particular importance with the on-going austerity cuts being placed on LAs. The RSN membership is experiencing financial pressures and resulting in the potential loss of members. The growth of the RSPG may help, in some way, to compensate for this in the short to medium terms.

To provide a service that is current and topical and ensure the role of the RSPG compliments the RSN local authority membership.

To ensure RSPG members are an equal and integral part of the RSN both now and in the future.

To ensure that the membership is diverse and representative of the many private and third sector organisations that reflect a modern and diverse rural society, in particular those which support vulnerable people and communities in rural England.

The current membership- in addition to a number of general rural interest groups - represents the following sectors:

Health and Wellbeing - Carers organisations, mental health and social care.

Older People – similar organisation to Age UK.

Young People - small and national youth organisation such as UK Youth, Northampton Youth Association.

Other Community Organisations – Local Councils (NALC), ACRE Network, Faith Groups, Arts, Rural Media, Community Support & Development Organisations

Rural Businesses Support Networks – The NFU, Rural Business Group, Forum of Private Business and NM Group

Commercial Transport Operators – commercial operators both large and small

Professional Services – legal practices, planning and land-use consultants, architects and master planners and land agents

Housing Providers - over 20 rural housing providers

Education & Skills – over 60 colleges and universities providing training and research

Broadband Providers – currently working with 3 three national partners.

What can the meetings offer in terms of tangible outcomes/benefits?

To seek to provide members with an opportunity to inform the RSN's rural policy documents at an early stage, including, through the RSN, those prepared by Rural England, The Rural Coalition and other RSN Partner Organisations. These could include The State of the Rural Services Reports and the Template Rural Strategy.

Members could act as a 'rural sounding board' and inform current rural trends and their implications for rural service providers and users. This approach will create a real opportunity to dovetail with the work of RE, they could act as a 'Rural Research Sounding Board'.

Provide opportunities for members to have some ownership of the RSPG process:

- To provide RSPG members with an opportunity to inform topics and campaigns for better rural services at a national and regional level. This, via the RSN which provides the Secretariat, could be through the operation of the Rural Services APPG.
- Through a series of topical sub groups, RSPG members could consider in more detail and make representations that might seek to inform the topical sub groups, in particular the provision of better services for vulnerable groups and individuals. Groups include:
 - Rural Housing (The Rural Housing Alliance)
 - Rural Health (The Rural Health & Care Alliance and The National Centre for Rural Health & Care)
 - Rural Vulnerability Group (RSN Social Care and Health Group)
 - Rural Economy Group (RSN Rural Economy Group)
 - Rural policing through representation on the Executive of the National Rural Crime Network

To encourage members to engage on rural issues and provide a consensus, a 'rural voice', which could be achieved by informing the RSN 'Rural Sounding Boards' and 'Calls for Evidence'. The RSN Sounding Board programme for 2019 includes: The Rural Economy, Impacts of cuts on local services and vulnerability Health and Social Care.

To provide Networking and Best Practice opportunities and seek members' views on the topics that could be included in the workshops and presentations for the National Rural Conference and the Regional Seminars, in particular those that are relevant to the region.

To provide an opportunity to engage with LA colleagues at the Rural Assembly meetings twice a year in London to engage in discussions about current rural issues and opportunities and to learn from each other through sharing best practice and networking.



Hastoe

- Specialist rural housing association (7,500 homes from Cornwall to Norfolk).





Rural Housing Alliance



- A group of housing associations that develop and manage rural affordable homes
- Best practice and good ideas, advocate need for more affordable homes and provide unified voice on key issues.
- Works with RSN and NHF





Housing Policy

- Jan 2018 – Labour Social Housing Green Paper
- March 2018 – National Planning Policy Framework
- August 2018 – Social Housing Green Paper



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

A new deal for
social housing





Example: Entry Level Exception Sites

- Policy in draft NPPF in 2018. Potential to undermine rural exception sites.
- Respondents in most groups expressed concerns about the potential for the policy to undermine rural exception sites, which supports in perpetuity housing and local need. Concerns were raised about the proportion of market housing allowed on entry-level exception sites and the potential reduction in affordable homes delivered, by making entry-level exception sites more attractive to developers than rural exception sites.
- Final Gov't policy listened to rural concerns.

Higher Energy Efficiency Standards

- Rural Fuel Poverty is higher (14% vs 11%) and gap is higher at (£726 vs £353)
- Campaign for higher energy efficiency standards for new-builds eg: Passivhaus
- **Opportunity:** Future Homes Standard for 2025
- Meeting Lord Deben from CCC.





Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission

- Gov't Commission to
 - i) promote better style and design of homes
 - ii) increase community consent
 - iii) make planning work to support better design
- **Opportunity:** Rural Beauty Workshop in 11 April
- Inviting Commissioners to scheme openings
- Call for Evidence launched 3 April





Planning Reforms

- NPPF states no affordable housing on sites 10 homes or smaller (84% rural developments are small).
- Small exemption for rural but this should be wider



- Groups like Shelter and NHF campaigning on Land Compensation Act 1961.
- Hastoe contributing to Shelter book of essays on land values.



Rural Housing Manifesto



NATIONAL
HOUSING
FEDERATION

RHA
Rural Housing Alliance

Hastoe
Group



Get in touch

- hlee@hastoe.com
- Have a tour
- Come to a scheme opening