



**Meeting of THE RURAL ASSEMBLY Sub SIG
(incorporating SPARSE Rural Members, Rural Assembly Members and
the Rural Services Partnership Meeting)**

**Venue:- Westminster Suite, Local Government House, Smith Square, London
SW1P 3HZ**

Date: Monday 13th July 2015

Time: 12.30 pm to 3.00 pm

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes** of the last Rural Assembly meeting – 13th April 2015
(Attachment 1)
3. **Minutes** of the last Executive meeting – 22nd June 2015
(Attachment 2)
4. **Budget 2015/16 and 2016/17**
Budget report for 2015/16 and 2016/17 (Attachment 3)
5. **Postal Services across rural areas of England**
A presentation by Jenny Hall and James Mitchell of the Royal Mail.
6. We have invited Neil Parish, the newly elected Chair of the EFRA Select Committee, to address the meeting and we hope the date will be convenient for him.
7. **Housing in Rural Areas.**
A presentation on this crucial topic involving its current issues.
8. **Election Manifestos**
To consider the Manifestos of the Conservative Party and how they reflect aspirations detailed in the RSN manifesto. (Brian Wilson to report)
(Attachments 4 and 5)
9. **Buses Bill.**
Providing a voice for rural communities and service providers



To discuss this intended legislation

10. Devolution.

To have a general discussion on the position as it currently stands.

[LGA Devolution Report](#)

11. Rural Services Network Events

a) The Rural Conference 8th and 9th September

The conference will this year be at South Gloucestershire University, on the Park Campus at Cheltenham. We have widened out the event from last year with two pre conference seminars on English Devolution and Fairer Funding on the afternoon of the 8th of September and the main conference now with a slightly cheaper fee all day on the 9th of September. We need (and deserve!) support. If you have not booked please seek to do so now. Here is the link to the Conference page to assist.

<http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/rsn-rural-conference-2015/rsn-rural-conference-2015>

b) The Rural Health Conference.

"Challenging Times - A New Dimension?"

This will now take place in the winter months of 15/16.

The conference speakers include national commentators and leading health professionals presenting on the current issues and challenges in relation to rural health.

Duncan Selbie, CEO of Public Health England is the keynote speaker addressing the particular challenges of effective public health promotion to rural populations. Other presentations include Transforming End of Life Care in Rural Communities; Technology enabled Care Services in rural areas; a case study in excellent integrated Housing, Health and Social Care; and the innovative work of the Cumbria Rural Health Forum. A series of interactive workshops will also be staged to show case excellent practice in various rural health related fields.

Sarah Wollaston MP, recently re-elected as Chair of the Health Select Committee has been agreed to chair our conference. Sarah's immense experience both as a former GP and through her Committee's examination of the critical issues facing the NHS, will provide delegates with an unequalled insight in to the current challenges across the sector.

A new programme and booking details will shortly be published on the RSN website. Places will be limited and early booking is advised.

Link to programme and booking details:

[Providing a voice for rural communities and service providers](#)

David Inman, Director Kilworthy Park, Tavistock, Devon PL19 0BZ

Tel: 01822 813693

www.rsnonline.org.uk email: admin@sparse.gov.uk twitter: @rsnonline



<http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/rural-health-conference-2015/rural-health-conference-2015>

Places are limited to 100 and early booking is advised. The delegate fee is £125 plus VAT to include lunch and refreshments. This fee will also provide a year's membership to the Rural Health Network which facilitates the sharing of best practice. Booking enquiries should be addressed to the Rural Services Network on 01822 813693 or email: events@sparse.gov.uk.

c) 2015-16 Rural Services Network Seminar Programme

Graham Biggs to report.

(Attachment 6 – Draft Seminar Programme)

d) Rural Housing Conference

The event was held on the 9th of July in the House of Lords. 75 people attended. Andy Dean to report.

12. Rural Sounding Board

To receive the results of the recent Principal Council and Parish Council Sounding Boards on the foreseen Rural Priorities for the New Government.

(Attachment 7)

13. Rural England Group

Andy Dean to report on the progress with this group as it continues its quest to reintroduce independent rural research and monitoring .

14. Report on the RSP Service Groups

- (a) Housing
- (b) Health
- (c) Crime
- (d) Fire
- (e) Transport

15. Any Other Business

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