

## Countryside COP Uniting Rural Communities to Tackle Climate Change Rural Services Network

### Recommendations

#### Rural Transport

- Future transport options for rural areas should educate people on their carbon footprint and **encourage a modal shift away from reliance on private car** to alternative sustainable options
- **Reduce the need to travel** – with improved rural connectivity, maintenance of local services and sustainable communities
- **Major sustained investment by government is needed** to make rural public transport useful and convenient to use and affordable. People need to be able to rely on it as a feasible option for accessing employment, skills and services.
- Although rural areas will not achieve same volumes as urban areas, for example in passenger numbers, or people who can access schemes, they are still vital to ensure that rural areas can access services, employment and skills and need investment.

#### Rural Energy Efficiency in Homes

- **Grants for rural areas** need to be aligned to rural needs and circumstances
- Government must provide Decarbonisation Funding which could help with re-skilling the local labour force
- **Decarbonisation as part of the planning process** – to ensure that measures are incorporate not just for new homes but extensions too. New homes should not only be affordable but affordable to maintain too with low fuel bills.
- **Community Energy Solutions** to benefit from economies of scale

#### Additional Information

The Rural Services Network Revitalising Rural Campaign is asking for a fairer distribution of national resources to rural areas and more nuanced national policies.

The full campaign can be accessed at [www.rsonline.org.uk/revitalising-rural](http://www.rsonline.org.uk/revitalising-rural)

The individual chapters set out a number of asks of Government.

- The chapter on [Rural Transport](#) can be accessed at here.
- The chapter on [Decarbonising Rural Communities](#) can be accessed at here.
- The chapter on [Rural Housing](#) can be accessed at here

**Providing a voice for rural communities and service providers**

#### Rural Services Network

Kilworthy Park, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 0BZ

Tel: 01822 851370

[www.rsonline.org.uk](http://www.rsonline.org.uk) email: [events@sparse.gov.uk](mailto:events@sparse.gov.uk) twitter: [@rsonline](https://twitter.com/rsonline)