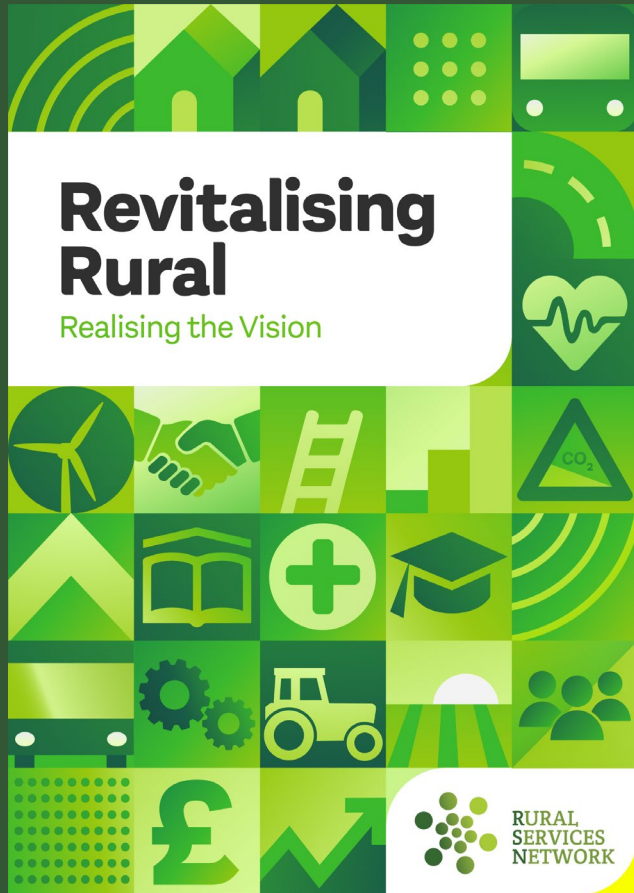




Welcome to a Special Meeting of the RSN and Richard Swinford

Department for Digital, Culture,
Media and Sport





Revitalising Rural Campaign Launched 1st March 2021



RSN asks of Government on Digital Connectivity



Broadband USO

- Govt should direct Ofcom to review and upgrade the broadband USO which at 10Mbps is out of date and inadequate
- Costs passed on to consumers seeking a USO connection must be reasonable. This would level the playing field for rural residents and businesses until gigabit-capable connectivity can be rolled out.



Gigabit Capable Connectivity

- Government should work urgently with the telecoms industry to resolve any capacity issues and to bring forward the remainder of the £5 billion investment
- All rural areas need a clear timetable for when they will receive gigabit-capable connectivity and remote areas with the worst connectivity should be first in line for that public investment.

RSN asks of Government on Digital Connectivity



Mobile Networks

- Shared Rural Network initiative, is helpful, if not a total solution. Delivery of this initiative must be carefully and transparently monitored by Ofcom, to ensure that network providers are on track to meet their objectives and targets.
- Government should announce some further rural trials to pilot 5G connectivity



Digital Skills and Inclusion

- Government should announce a fully funded Digital Inclusion Programme, so no citizens (rural or otherwise) are left behind due to their lack of online skills or their inability to pay for basic equipment and connection charges.