

RURAL, SERVICES NETWORK

SPARSE MEMBERSHIP



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Delivering services to rural areas requires you to think differently, to find innovative solutions to service delivery and to challenge the status quo. This has become even more difficult in the austerity years amid reducing budgets and increasing demands on services.

The Rural Services Network is the national champion for rural services, ensuring that people in rural areas have a strong voice. We are fighting for a fair deal for rural communities to maintain their social and economic viability for the benefit of the nation as a whole.

We include over 130 local authorities in addition to over 170 rural service provider organisations and a Community Group of over 10,000 Parish Councils and Community Organisations.

Our network will help you to understand the issues facing your area and communities by joining up in networking, representation and highlighting areas of best practice.

Perhaps the main benefit to joining the RSN, is that together we have a stronger voice for our rural areas, we work to benefit you and your communities.

By being part of the Rural Services Network – Sparse Membership, you will have access to a wide range of support and information to help you find the answers you need....here are just 15 of the key services you can take part in and receive for your membership, providing excellent value for money.

- 1 Financial Lobbying in Government about the cost of delivering services in rural areas – we specialise in this work and have made significant gains for local authorities in recent years.
- 2 A weekly Rural Bulletin newsletter, a round up of rural news stories, research, analysis and key information from RSN to support you in your work.
- 3 Representation of rural issues and challenges in Westminster at the Rural Services All Party Parliamentary Group.
- 4 A monthly funding digest which provides a wide range of grant opportunities and funding that is available to organisations and community groups that may be suitable for your authority or community groups that you work with.
- 5 Compilation of monthly Government Consultations of potential interest to RSN members.
- 6 Discounted access to the National Rural Conference held in association with CCRI. A popular event in the rural calendar this brings together Members, Officers and representatives of rural organisations and the rural business community to debate topics of rural interest and hear from expert speakers.
- 7 Invitation to four meetings a year bringing together members to share best practice, cooperate on rural campaigns and find out about key rural issues.
- 8 Invitation to 7 free Regional Seminars / Networking events hosted at locations around the country each focusing on a separate issue relating to rural communities for example Rural Economy, Rural Housing and Rural Health.
- 9 An economic Barometer providing information on key economic indicators in your local authority area providing a picture of your local economy compared to other rural areas.
- 10 A performance profiling service which enables local authorities to compare their performance in key indicators against other similar rural authorities.
- 11 Member Insights – An area of our website which includes a wide range of rural statistics where member authorities will be able to search for the analyses and data that define their areas.
- 12 Access to research and reports provided by Rural England CIC, a research organisation who provide research into rural life including the Bi-Annual Examination of Rural Services and their operation throughout England.
- 13 Through your Sparse membership, you receive free membership of the Rural Health and Care Alliance which is a partnership between the National Centre for Rural Health and Care and the RSN.
- 14 Best practice calls for evidence across rural local Authorities and a compilation of results.
- 15 Neighbourhood Planning Evidence Base for all the parishes within your local authority area.

If you would like further information
about the Rural Services Network
or to join please contact us:

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