



RSN working with **inac** in support of Rural Market Towns

## THE SERVICES WE WILL PROVIDE:

### Information & Involvement

- **A Weekly Rural RSN Bulletin** which includes Rural News, Economic Profiling, Spotlights on Economy & Housing, Hinterland, Week in Parliament – Politics Roundup and more.
- **A Monthly RSN Funding Digest & Government Consultations** – with funding and grant opportunities, along with relevant Government Consultations related to rural areas.
- **A Rural/Market Town Group (RMTG) Newsletter** – specific newsletter every other month ('Market Town Round Up') highlighting latest relevant policy developments, showcasing useful member good practice examples, net zero information, and signposting members to relevant initiatives and funding opportunities.
- **Involvement in the RSN Consultation Programme** – this includes responding to Government Consultations, White Papers, Calls for Evidence and Select Committee Inquiries. In addition, the Group will help to develop the rural voice at a national level to ensure rural are properly represented. This would be in the form of our own surveys, calls for evidence and case studies. Some surveys will be on the most important topics that were highlighted by RMTG. (Various times throughout the year.)
- **Information will be provided to the RMTG about the RSN Fair Funding Campaign and the implications for rural service delivery.**
- **Engagement and involvement in RSN Campaigns.**
- **A group logo for the RMTG so that you can promote your RMTG membership on your own website.**

### RMTG Meetings and Joint Working

- **RMTG Elected Councillor Meetings** – There will be a meeting for RMTG elected representatives twice a year, dedicated for best practice sharing, networking, and group discussions on most relevant rural topics. The Clerks Advisory Panel will also be invited to the Autumn meeting.
- **RMTG Clerks Advisory Panel Meeting** – once a year a meeting for RMTG clerks dedicated for best practice sharing, networking, and group discussions on most relevant rural topics. Meetings of the **RMTG Officer Steering Group** will occur as required or requested and we will aim to widen the geographical representation of this group.
- **Free Access to the full annual RSN Seminar Programme.** We run 8 seminars throughout the year and access is open to any Councillor Member - not just the nominated member. (There is a maximum of two bookings per Town or Parish Council)
- Members of the RMTG will be able to purchase discounted access to sessions at the **National Rural Conference** subject to places being available.
- **Information Exchange** – A dedicated RMTG Facebook group is available to facilitate information exchange between member organisations.

## **Town Promotion**

- Promotion to relevant national organisations and policy makers of the importance of members Market and Rural Towns. Their history, their traditions, their markets, and their facilities are important features of the rural economies.
- Support an increased national profile of market towns.
- Work to persuade government that Market Towns are hub centres that provide key services to a wide rural hinterland area and therefore towns in rural areas should not be discounted from being eligible for specific funding pots because of their size.
- Link to your Town or Parish Council website through your logo on the RMTG area of the RSN website.

## **Services Focused on Vulnerable People**

- We would like the organisations of the RMTG to nominate a Councillor or staff member with a particular interest in the following topics, ideally a different contact for both. We would contact this person to consult specifically on that subject matter to support national campaigning.
  - Young People
  - Older People

## **Economic Development**

- **Facilitating Member Networking on a National Economic Level** – through more joint working, networking with the goal of tackling most relevant rural challenges, seeking solutions and improvement.
- **Working with the National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise (NICRE).** Annually the Centre will address Councillor Representatives about their work. This session will include exploring whether the RMTG can contribute to work and research of the National Centre.
- **Area Profiles** – an Area Profile of your Principal County/Unitary Council issued once a year setting out key statistics in relation to the rural area. This will help to give the overall picture of their local area to help plan services and understand local issues.
- Encourage Government to collect statistics at the most appropriate level so that rural disadvantage is not hidden.

## **Good Practice**

- **RMTG Good Practice** – collecting, signposting, and informing members on good practice, relevant learning material on key policy areas, delivery challenges and opportunities for rural/market towns. We will operate an Information Exchange to allow members to do this across a series of areas.