



## Service Agreement

### 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 across England.
- 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.
- **Area Working.**  
The pattern of local area Market Town meetings is mixed across England. The group could explore this to see if there is any improvement in areas where meetings / joint working is not taking place currently and look at how liaison can take place between this national facing group and existing area arrangements.

### Services Focused on Vulnerable People

- **Young People.**  
To facilitate work in key areas such as vulnerable people in rural areas, members are encouraged to nominate a representative interested in young people in your area, who may be contacted to gather specific feedback through various consultations throughout the year to support national campaigning.
- **The Elderly.**  
To facilitate work in key areas such as vulnerable people in rural areas, members are encouraged to nominate a representative interested in older people in your area, who may be contacted to gather specific feedback through various consultations throughout the year to support national campaigning.

### Economic Development

- **Facilitating Member Networking on a National Economic Level.**  
Through more joint working, networking, seeking solutions and improvement with the overall goal of tackling most relevant rural challenges.
- **Working with the National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise (NICRE).**  
Annually NICRE will address Councillor Representatives about their work. This session will include exploring whether the RMTG can contribute to work research produced by NICRE.

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

Rural Services Network

Kilworthy Park, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 0BZ

Tel: 01822 851370

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- **Area Profiles.**
- An Area Profile of your Principal County/Unitary Council issued once a year setting out key statistics in relation to your rural area. This will help to give the overall picture of your local area; help plan services and understand local issues.

## Information & Involvement

- **A Weekly Rural RSN Bulletin** which includes Rural News, Member Insight, Economic Profiling, Spotlights on Economy & Housing, Hinterland, Analysis & Commentary Pieces, 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) Roundup Newsletter** – a quarterly newsletter specifically for the RMTG members, highlighting the latest relevant policy developments, showcasing useful good practice examples, 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.)

## RMTG Meetings & Joint Working

- **Meetings.**  
There will be **two yearly RMTG Meetings**, aimed at elected RMTG representatives, dedicated for best practice sharing, networking, and group discussions on most relevant rural topics. We will also hold **one yearly RMTG Clerks Advisory Panel Meeting**, aimed at RMTG clerks and dedicated for best practice sharing, networking, and group discussions on most relevant rural topics. We are also considering a possible annual meeting on Charter and Market Promotion.
- **Free Access to the full annual RSN Seminar Programme.** We run 9 seminars throughout the year and access is open to any RMTG Councillor Member - not just the nominated member. (Please note we welcome up to two delegates per member authority.)
- Members of the RMTG will be able to purchase discounted access to sessions at the **National Rural Conference** subject to places being available.

## Good Practice & Joint Working

- **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.

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- We will operate an **Information Exchange**, a special, private online RMTG Facebook group to facilitate regular best practice and information between members on the most relevant topics.
- **Engagement and direct involvement in RSN Campaigns.**

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