

REPORT FROM THE RSN EXECUTIVE TO THE RSN AGM:

21st NOVEMBER 2016

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Executive held a Blue Sky Day on Monday 26th September taking an overview of where the organisation had reached and mapping out the challenges now facing both RSN and rural areas generally over the next few years. Here is our report and recommendations to the AGM.

In addition to addressing issues relating to the future sustainability of RSN as an organisation, our recommendations seek to map potential ways forward that might appeal to both existing and potential members as we steer the organisation through what are certain to be challenging times for every sector.

The reports/discussion documents considered by the Executive are available in full on the website.

The Executive considered the following issues in a full, broad ranging meeting

- a. **Sustainability**- how does the RSN cope with elements of voluntary work in the organisation disappearing as future personnel changes occur? (Two of our lead officers currently between them contribute some £50k worth of voluntary unpaid time p.a)

If the organisation as a whole is to be sustainable it has to have a financial plan that deals with this. The Executive has considered what the subscription pattern should be in changing circumstances. To take full account of this situation alone suggests there will be a need for an annual increase in the overall budget in the region of £50k by the end of a five year period.

- b. **Equitable Authority Contributions** - Given evolving new structures in local government what should our operating budget be and what would be a fair division in terms of 'contribution' of that target sum for the ever differing forms of members?
- c. **Cycle of Meetings** - As the Grant Settlement situation moves to a Business Rate and Council Tax based finance system- and assuming financial provision will remain at the core of our services - what is the cycle of meetings that best meets members' needs and represent the considerations of member authorities and those of rural areas in England?

- d. **Future Services** - What services would RSN member authorities find of most value in this fast changing local government world? How can we change ourselves to make us stronger? This also requires a future detailed operational examination following the key decisions arising from this Report. However, this Report considers the financial remit and a suggested vulnerability service at this point as they flow directly from our meeting considerations.

For convenience, we have constructed our report and recommendations under the following broad headings, although we recognise that some of the issues cross these groupings:-

- **PART 1: RSN – Strategically important for the future sustainability of the organisation.**
- **PART 2: NEW RSN ACTIVITIES – Strategically Important to England’s Rural Areas & Communities in a post BREXIT world.**
- **PART 3: RSN OPERATIONAL ISSUE CONSEQUENT ON PARTS 1 AND 2.**

Before moving on to the specific recommendations we set out below the background and context which has led us to make this report and recommendations.

CONTEXT

Extract from the keynote speech made by Professor Tony Travers on Brexit - Rural Conference, Cheltenham 7th September 2016 (full transcript available on the website).

“Let’s put it this way, unless the rural voice is strong, it won’t be heard. And the lobby has to be one that will have to work more powerfully now than ever before because trade associations working for, let’s say, the car industry, will be, and rightly, working very hard. But the rural lobby is a different thing and has generally existed for different purposes. What it hasn’t traditionally been about, and I stand corrected in a room of people who know more about this than me, is thinking about the terms of Britain’s relationship with the rest of the world in terms of rural economies. It has been about issues to do with the countryside or small schools or rural bus services, but not about what economy and what package of deals made by the UK Government would be the best one for the rural economy - and that will have to be altered quickly, as the car industry, cities, Scotland, Wales will definitely ...Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are all going to have a place at the table in the negotiations, but other interests won’t. The LGA will be consulted, but the LGA itself is a club representing all sorts of different interests...”

“The whole purpose of leaving the EU, I thought, was to get sovereignty back to Westminster, that’s the major democratic purpose, so I think a lot of it will have to be voted through by Westminster and MP’s will not vote through things that are bad for rural interests, the car industry, Scotland, you name it. When it comes to it, they will vote in blocks and against cross parties where necessary to get what they want. County Councils Network, I made this point when we were talking before we started, effectively stopped acadamisation. It was Conservative leaders of County Councils who put their foot down, worked with Conservatives in Parliament... it was a very interesting piece of politics, to break the Government’s authority. We have seen from that how Local Government using its MP’s can change things. ...I do think it will come down to a more parliamentary solution. It was a referendum sure, a yes no vote, but nothing in Britain is ever black or white, a or b, for very long”.

BACHGROUND OVERALL SITUATION

The Executive considers that the RSN is now the only organisation left in a position to seek to bring together the rural voice at the national level both by direct working and through initiatives it undertakes.

There is no Rural Advocate, or Commission for Rural Communities anymore. The Regional Rural Forums, Action for Market Towns are all gone. There is no longer even a Rural Commission inside the LGA. There are, of course, many strong particular rural interests like the CLA, the NFU, CPRE, the Countryside Alliance, ACRE, and Plunkett, but they are all very sector-specific and the issues of concern to them relate to their particular activity. None of them can deal with rural governance or rural service issues in the round as they affect rural communities - whether those services are provided by the public, private, or voluntary/not for profit sectors. The RSN fills a very significant gap in that regard that has opened up over recent years.

The imperative of Brexit (both pre and post 2020), in many ways now forces our hand. Somebody has to attempt to co-ordinate the overall rural argument. In doing so it has to be able to present a validly formed consensus view, supported by evidence, from the collective voice of rural interests, incorporating, as far as possible, the views of rural people and rural areas generally. Thanks to the elected mandate of its member authorities RSN has the democratic legitimacy to offer to do this. If rural areas do not seek common voice then, as Tony Travers put it “... **unless the rural voice is strong, it won’t be heard. And the lobby has to be one that will have to work more powerfully now than ever before because trade associations working for let’s say the car industry, will be, and rightly, working very hard**”. Looking post 2020, as the EU has always been more supportive of rural initiatives than Westminster has been, it’s highly likely rural areas will generally receive even less governmental support than they do at the moment unless the rural voice can successfully make itself heard.

PART 1: RSN – Strategically important for the future sustainability of the organisation.

1.1 OUR FIRST PRIORITY - SUSTAINABILITY

Unashamedly, the first priority for us is that we find a formula of costs and services to members which allows RSN to survive and progress as the public sector world gets tougher and as the organisation's personnel changes.

Put quite bluntly if the RSN cannot be sustained all that we presently do and propose to do will not happen and national rural arguments will fail to be researched, collated and advanced or heard. Rural areas will be the losers

1.2 MEMBERSHIP AND EQUITABLE AUTHORITY CONTRIBUTIONS

We have to change the way we charge authorities. At the moment we mostly charge all authorities the same amount.

'Subscriptions' are now, however, regarded as a form of perk and are cut by hard pressed authorities on that basis. No longer should our income be considered as a subscription. It has to be re-framed as an annual investment into an authority's rural areas to allow argument of the rural case applicable to every local authority area to be made. Thus if all authorities throughout England which should support the RSN as they have rural areas within their boundaries become members, the individual cost as recommended consequently reduces. Conversely it has to increase if authorities which are current members are not prepared to continue to give support. (Section 3 and Recommendation 8 below refer)

We need to achieve a balance in that charge between authorities with smaller and larger rural populations. Otherwise as authorities are forced by the economics of austerity to become larger and larger operative units we will be left with much lower overall income. Thus part of the basis for the RSN charge should be an amount per head of rural population across an authority's area (with the remainder being a flat rate fixed sum).

If the RSN is to argue all rural disadvantage/anomalies across all services the future charge will need to reflect that. A slight overall increase will be needed to cover the increased number of bases being covered.

No longer can the organisation and its members rely on voluntary input. It cannot continue to rely on Chief Officers putting in circa £50k p.a of unpaid work. (In addition the element for which they are remunerated is far from the going rate.) At some stage they will wish to retire and the position will then certainly change. The budget will, over the coming 5 years, need to be increased gradually to reflect that if the organisation is to survive. Experience shows us that if we are to have real impact in relation to rural issues we will need a budget in the region of £350k a year.

RECOMMENDATION ONE

In order to address the issues facing the organisation as described above, the future level of charge for RSN membership be as set out in Appendix A attached commencing on the 1st April 2017

1.3 COMPARISON STATISTICS

The Executive believes the RSN needs to undertake a constant examination of key statistics (beyond RSG per head) to show how rural is under-supported across the board and to track what progress is being made. This major plank of the argument for our existence has to be continually demonstrated in a forceful and very prominent exposition of the facts in clear tabular form.

We have made a start on this and an example of such a table is given in **Appendix B**.

In future we believe the RSN needs to seek to expand the present Financial Service so that it also comments on other areas of public sector financial work. This has to be THE hand to play as RSG and an Annual Settlement fade. We consider it right to seek if we can develop some home expertise with a nominated lead “officer” per area. Funding areas such as **Police, Fire, Health, Public Health, Transport, and Schools** should be included, although we must be careful not to duplicate the work of others. This work should fall into the Sparse Rural side of the organisation (and of course it’s Sub Groups).

The above is aimed at developing the essential message that the rural resident gets unfair funding allocations and therefore a below par service package across the spectrum and that matters left unchecked would undoubtedly deteriorate further. We acknowledge that the RSN should not be seen as always concentrating on “the negatives” but nevertheless feel that we need a much broader and deeper range of current data available to us to aid our representative work.

RECOMMENDATION TWO

- (a) That as part of both the future representational role of the RSN and the services from the RSN to individual member authorities a suggested compendium of key rural statistics be developed and maintained.**
- (b) That we seek to develop some home expertise with a nominated lead “officer” per area for funding areas like Police, Fire, Health, Public Health, Transport, and Schools (which should fall into the Sparse Rural side of the organisation and its Sub Groups).**

1.4 WESTMINSTER

The Executive is absolutely certain that the RSN's relationship with Parliamentarians is paramount. We need to alter our emphasis at Westminster to seek to campaign much harder across a broader base.

Going forward we envisage three very active groupings of Parliamentarians:

- (a) Rural Fair Share Group of MPs in the Commons which has shown how successful these groups can be.
- (b) A Rural Issues Group to take up and campaign on rural issues as they arise allied to the Rural Services APPG which would meet at least twice a year.
- (c) A Grouping of Rural Peers operating in the House of Lords. (we would need to work this up)

The Issues Group would give a strong base for MPs' arguments about the need for rural support in a post Brexit world.

All these would, as indicated, be backed up by the present APPG which might meet less frequently (all APPGs must meet at least twice a year under Parliamentary rules).

RECOMMENDATION THREE

We recommend particular parliamentary emphasis on running the three groups of parliamentarians and peers referred to above in addition to the APPG.

1.5 SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON RURAL VULNERABILITY - RURAL ASSEMBLY informed by Rural England research and RSP Working Groups input.

The Executive is recommending a new "Rural Vulnerability Initiative" - possibly working alongside the Rural England Community Interest Company - as part of the RSN spread of Activities.

Over the past ten years rural residents have seen, amongst others, the following decline in local services:-

- A worrying percentage of local Doctors Surgeries have closed.
- Village pubs and shops have significantly reduced.

- Local Bus Services are reducing.
- The percentage of people over 65 living in rural areas has increased by over 4% and now will comprise towards one in four of the rural population (while in predominantly urban areas that increase has been 0.9% and only one in six of the population falls into that age range). By 2039, one third of the rural population is likely to be over 65.
- The internet revolution which has been of benefit to many people in England has, in rural areas, been marred by poor telecommunication and broadband provision. It is clear that the countryside will always struggle behind technological advancement nationally due to lack of commercial economies of scale.

In our view this is a massive rural problem that will grow more acute over the coming years. The Executive considers that it is vital that as a rural organisation championing the rural cause, the RSN gives full consideration to both the problem of rural vulnerability and initiatives that can be taken to assist. If the membership agrees this will be developed for further detailed consideration following discussion with other key partners.

RECOMMENDATION FOUR

That the membership agrees:

- (i) that it is vital, that as a rural organisation championing the rural cause, the RSN gives full consideration to both the problem of “Vulnerability” in the rural context and about initiatives that can be taken to assist; and**
- (ii) that this be developed for further detailed consideration following discussion with other key partners.**

PART 2: NEW RSN ACTIVITIES – Strategically Important to England’s Rural Areas & Communities in a post BREXIT world.

2.1 BREXIT

Britain’s departure from the European Union and where and how matters proceed, together with the outcomes arising from that move are absolutely key factors in relation to the future economic, and social, position in which rural areas will be placed.

Therefore we are making a firm recommendation in this area which we hope to take forward immediately.

RECOMMENDATION FIVE

That the RSN, with its democratically representational legitimacy, seeks to bring together key rural voices from across all sectors to develop a position statement and collective voice about the requirements of rural areas to fulfil their full economic and social potential for the benefit of the UK as a whole, in relation to both:-

(a) the period to 2020 as the terms of the UK’s withdrawal from membership of the EU are negotiated; and

(b) post 2020.

2.2 DEVELOPING A STRONG COHESIVE RURAL VOICE

We want to ensure that each Sounding Board and the Rural Panel (hopefully funded through Rural England’s operation) comprise each at least some 300 people.

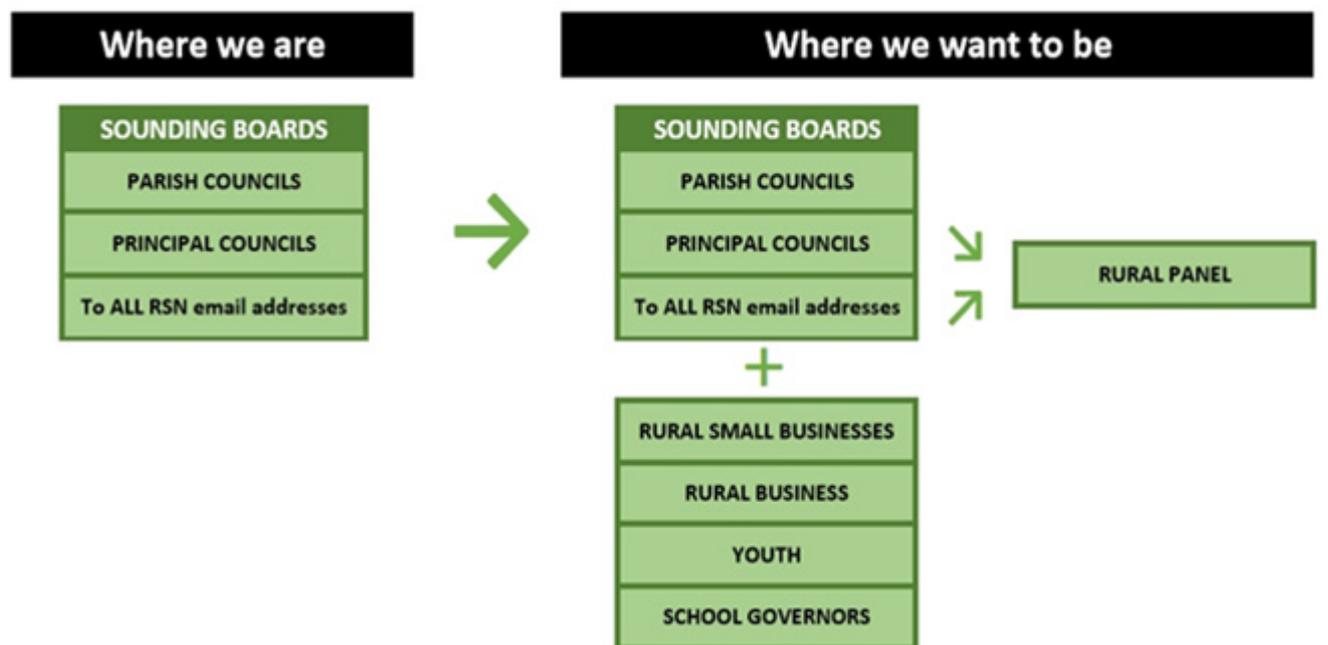
This should materially expand the mechanisms we can employ to substantiate that we ourselves are expressing ‘THE rural view’.

We recommend the following:-

RECOMMENDATION SIX

(A) SOUNDING BOARDS AND A RURAL PANEL

It is recommended that we expand our consultative processes as follows.



2.3 HARNESSING COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT FOR RURAL CONCERNS AND INPERATIVES.

The Executive considers that there is a need to achieve a process (possibly a biennial 'Rural Meeting') that enables comment on, and expands on the expressed views from the rural sounding boards and panel beyond the RSN's own discrete mechanisms.

At the present time practically all of the rural views expressed come from individual bodies and therefore lack any 'united' voice. For example, the RSN's rural financial work is not endorsed by any wider forum because no such forum exists. When we move to Brexit considerations there won't automatically be a process involving the public/wider rural community to support those groups most affected. Important rural stances that are relatively non-controversial in a rural context don't get supported because no central forum or process exists.

If we look at the Sounding Boards and intended Panel above, they constitute a useful device to establish what appears to be the consensus view, however we feel, this does not quite meet the need identified by Professor Tony Travers. This seems to require a system which can underpin and articulate the essential rural messages from public consultative processes. We suggest this should be some sort of 'Meeting' or 'Forum' sitting outside RSN. This could potentially be initiated once every two years and will obviously have to run on a very small budget.

Any such system also clearly needs to work in tandem with the Rural Coalition.

Many of RSN's existing elements could feed into such a process and "Meeting".

- (a) We plan sounding boards and (with Rural England) a rural panel to feed in consensus views.
- (b) We have the largest rural e-mail distribution list.
- (c) We use that list already to canvas views and on occasions to seek evidence.
- (d) We already run an Annual Rural Conference which this 'event' could be happily positioned adjacent to.
- (e) We have in the Rural Assembly a body which could do much of the initial questionnaire development.

However to have credibility we suggest it would perhaps need the support of the Universities with the greatest interest in rural matters in the Country as well as other Rural organisations like Acre and Plunkett and the Parish organisation 'NALC'.

We would recommend that such a system needs to be in place by 2019 when discussion on the successor systems from the EU are likely to rise to the top of the agenda.

The decision about the constituent groups to be represented at such a 'Meeting' is of course vital. Clearly Principal and Parish/Town Councillors in RSN membership are important but so are Youth Representatives, School representatives, Landowners, Farmers, LEPS, and Small Businesses. Who is invited and how a balance achieved for such a meeting is obviously a discussion point.

This all needs discussion with interested parties but as an Executive we would like to see the following emerging.

- A fulcrum role for the RSN's Rural Assembly at particular stages of the process.
- Our e-network being used for general consultation to 'backbone' the process (further enhancing the value of our network)

- Our Sounding Boards and any Rural Panel outcomes being employed to gauge rural opinion and to inform the agenda items for the event.
- A block of at least 15% of the attendees at the event being reserved for Local Authority representatives.

RECOMMENDATION SEVEN

We recommend we discuss the concept of some form of biennial Rural Meeting with the organisations detailed above and report back in due course.

PART 3: RSN OPERATIONAL ISSUE CONSEQUENT ON PARTS 1 AND 2.

3.1 THE ESSENTIAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT MESSAGE

The financial future for local authorities is changing for all principal local authorities as the revenue support grant regime is proposed to give way to one driven by business rates (and Council Tax).

- Even in a business rate system the old financial arguments will never disappear as they come from the world involving needs assessment and formulae. They will be as relevant as they have been since 1974. Periodic reviews will take place, arguments will be presented and government will be required to make decisions that will please some and infuriate others. We have to be at the centre of this work. RSN as Sparse Rural is the only organisation able to represent “rural” in these **financially** based arguments.
- Authorities need to see growth across their areas - particularly business rate growth as they will be allowed to retain this income (or at least some of it). The mass of green countryside in their areas with limited potential in this context due to poor services, environmental designations, restricted grant opportunities, difficult demographics and second rate technology, is not an inviting prospect to many businesses. RSN need to be with those authorities fighting all the issues involved to make sure respectable growth can be achieved in authorities’ rural areas in some ways (or there is proper recognition of these issues in the Business Rates re-distribution processes). These **economic and social** arguments involving the RSN’s Rural Assembly work will be equally as vital to ‘rural councils’ as our direct financial work. There are, by our calculation, 240 authorities with such a rural interest who will very significantly benefit through our work, representing to them a massive

beneficial multiplier of the annual cost of our services to them through this work alone.

Our importance to many authorities will, therefore, actually be doubling as a result of the move to a business rate regime.

The Executive firmly believes the RSN needs to do all it possibly can to get all these 240 authorities involved working as a whole if rural arguments are to prevail to the extent we would wish so that a level playing field can be achieved. Those who shy away from involvement simply sell both themselves and all other rural authorities short by large amounts simply to save a very small sum.

RECOMMENDATION EIGHT

The list of the authorities which are not in current membership and which we hope can be persuaded into assisting us to the extent shown is attached as Appendix 'D' with the level of charge recommended set out therein. Obviously if this new income can be brought in under the new charging system now recommended the charges to individual members would reduce as the overall operational resource would have expanded.

3.2 ANNUAL MEETINGS TIMETABLE

The Executive considers that this should alter to reflect both our own new initiatives and the new Business Rate Retention system.

The Executive suggests 4 meetings a year to allow detailed financial and rural issue debate over individual days. This should strengthen the Rural Assembly which will then be perceived as being the independent entity intended when it was created in place of the LGA's former Rural Commission. We would also timetable the proposed Rural Social Care and Health Group so that it runs parallel with proceedings on other London days.

RECOMMENDATION NINE

That a revised timetable of meetings as outlined below be approved:-

January - **Sparse Rural** 12 to 3pm: The Chair of the Parliamentary Rural Fair Share Group be invited to this Meeting.

April - **Rural Assembly** 12 to 3pm: (Preceded by a Meeting of the Social Care & Health Group at 11 a.m.) Seek to involve Chair of the EFRA Select Committee and the Chair of the Rural Issues Parliamentary Group.

July - **Sparse Rural** 12 to 3pm: (LEPS and Mayors to be invited?). The Minister for Business Development to be invited to this meeting.

(Sept - Conference in Cheltenham)

November - **AGM Rural Service Network and Rural Assembly Day** 12 to 3pm: A DEFRA Minister would be invited to this meeting. (Preceded by a Meeting of the Social Care & Health Group at 11 a.m.)

Backed up by four Rural Seminars held in varying regional locations throughout the year

Each Rural Assembly meeting would receive a Sounding Board report and consider a topic for the next one

Each meeting would consider whether they wished to write to a Minister on a topic and what press release they wished to focus upon

3.3 COMMUNICATIONS

The Executive will, at its next meeting consider a “Communications Strategy” for the RSN and its operations as we consider this to be of vital importance to future success.

CONCLUSION

The Executive presents nine recommendations about how we might stabilise and then shape the Rural Services Network so that it can continue to play a vital role for all the rural areas of England over the coming decades.

In addition the Executive has presented the best options as we see them of harnessing and hopefully establishing rural opinion in a radical way at a really critical time.

I commend the Report and its Recommendations.

CECILIA MOTLEY

CHAIR RURAL SERVICES NETWORK

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE RSN EXECUTIVE

	Sub 2016/17, £	2017/18 Sub	2018/19 Sub	2019/22 Sub	2020/21 Sub	2021/22) Sub based on rural population (after £1500 contribution), £:	
Allerdale	2145	2279	2529	2683	2855	3000	
Ashford	1850	1849	1961	2030	2107	2196	
Aylesbury Vale	998	0	0	0	0	0	
Babergh	2145	2170	2386	2518	2666	2835	
Barnsley	495	515	535	555	575	595	
Bath and North East Somerset	499	519	539	559	579	599	
Bassetlaw	499	515	535	555	575	595	
Blaby	495	515	535	555	575	595	
Boston	1850	1688	1749	1786	1827	1875	
Bradford	495	515	535	555	575	595	
Braintree	2145	2256	2499	2648	2815	3000	
Breckland	2145	2554	2893	3000	3000	3000	
Broadland	499	0	0	0	0	0	
Bromsgrove	495	515	535	555	575	595	
Buckinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Calderdale	495	515	535	555	575	595	
Canterbury	495	515	535	555	575	595	
Cherwell	499	519	539	559	579	599	
Cheshire East	2145	3844	4599	5061	5579	6000	
Cheshire West and Chester	2145	2894	3342	3617	3925	4278	
Chichester	2145	2088	2278	2394	2523	2672	
Chorley	495	515	535	555	575	595	
York	495	515	535	555	575	595	
Cornwall	7645	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	
Cotswold	2145	2169	2385	2517	2664	2834	
Craven	2145	1886	2011	2087	2172	2270	
Cumbria	2145	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	
Dartford	495	515	535	555	575	595	
Daventry	2145	2092	2282	2399	2529	2679	

Derbyshire	495	519	539	559	579	599
Derbyshire Dales	2145	2074	2259	2372	2499	2644
Devon	2145	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Dorset	1800	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Dover	998	0	0	0	0	0
County Durham	6335	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000
East Cambridgeshire	2145	2177	2395	2528	2677	2849
East Devon	2145	2291	2546	2702	2877	3000
East Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Hertfordshire	1850	1828	1933	1998	2070	2153
East Lindsey	2145	2601	2956	3000	3000	3000
East Northamptonshire	2145	1904	2034	2114	2203	2306
East Riding of Yorkshire	3537	4737	5779	6000	6000	6000
East Sussex	1850	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Eden	2145	1924	2061	2145	2238	2346
Essex	1800	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Fenland	2145	2037	2209	2315	2434	2570
Forest Heath	2145	1982	2138	2233	2339	2462
Forest of Dean	2145	2131	2334	2458	2598	2758
Gateshead	495	515	535	555	575	595
Gedling	495	515	535	555	575	595
Guildford	495	515	535	555	575	595
Hambleton	2145	2220	2451	2593	2752	2935
Hampshire	1850	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Harborough	2145	2148	2357	2485	2628	2792
Harrogate	1850	2051	2229	2337	2459	2599
Herefordshire, County of	2919	3449	4076	4460	4890	5384
Hinckley and Bosworth	499	519	539	559	579	599
Horsham	2145	2142	2349	2475	2617	2779
Huntingdonshire	499	519	539	559	579	599
Isle of Wight	2145	3733	4451	4892	5385	5950
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	2145	2289	2542	2698	2872	3000
Lancashire	1800	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000

Lancaster	495	515	535	555	575	595
Leicestershire	1800	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Lewes	2145	1820	1923	1986	2057	2138
Lichfield	1800	1740	1817	1864	1917	1978
Lincolnshire	2145	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Maldon	2145	1998	2158	2256	2366	2492
Malvern Hills	2145	1816	1917	1980	2049	2129
Melton	2145	1907	2038	2118	2208	2311
Mendip	2145	2382	2666	2840	3000	3000
Mid Devon	2145	2128	2330	2454	2592	2751
Mid Suffolk	2145	2265	2511	2662	2830	3000
Mid Sussex	499	519	539	559	579	599
New Forest	1800	2145	2353	2480	2623	2786
Norfolk	2145	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Northamptonshire	1800	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
North Devon	2145	2001	2162	2261	2372	2499
North Dorset	2145	2054	2232	2341	2463	2604
North Lincolnshire	2735	2734	3131	3374	3647	3959
North Norfolk	2145	2320	2583	2745	2926	3000
North Somerset	2145	2772	3182	3433	3713	4036
North Warwickshire	2145	1960	2108	2199	2301	2417
North West Leicestershire	2145	1938	2079	2165	2262	2373
North Yorkshire	2145	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Northumberland	5491	5116	6000	6000	6000	6000
Nottinghamshire	1800	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Purbeck	2145	1804	1902	1962	2029	2106
Redcar and Cleveland	495	515	535	555	575	595
Ribble Valley	2145	1929	2067	2151	2246	2355
Richmondshire	2145	1920	2055	2137	2230	2336
Rother	2145	1883	2006	2082	2166	2263
Rotherham	495	515	535	555	575	595
Rugby	1850	1696	1759	1798	1841	1890
Rutland	2491	2103	2298	2417	2550	2703

Ryedale	2145	1918	2052	2135	2227	2333
Scarborough	2145	1880	2002	2077	2161	2257
Sedgemoor	2145	2092	2282	2399	2530	2680
Selby	1800	2158	2369	2499	2644	2811
Sevenoaks	2145	2157	2369	2499	2644	2810
Shepway	1850	1835	1943	2010	2084	2168
Shropshire	5150	5201	6000	6000	6000	6000
Solihull	495	515	535	555	575	595
Somerset	2145	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
South Cambridgeshire	2145	2419	2715	2896	3000	3000
South Derbyshire	499	519	539	559	579	599
South Hams	2145	2125	2326	2450	2588	2746
South Holland	2145	1958	2105	2195	2296	2412
South Kesteven	2145	2226	2460	2603	2764	2948
South Lakeland	2145	2337	2606	2771	2956	3000
South Norfolk	2145	2369	2648	2819	3000	3000
South Northamptonshire	2145	2186	2406	2541	2693	2866
South Oxfordshire	2145	2521	2850	3000	3000	3000
South Somerset	2145	2432	2732	2916	3000	3000
South Staffordshire	500	520	540	560	580	600
St Edmundsbury	2145	2051	2228	2336	2458	2597
Stafford	1850	1956	2103	2193	2294	2409
Staffordshire	2145	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Stratford-On-Avon	2145	2470	2782	2974	3000	3000
Stroud	2145	1883	2006	2081	2166	2263
Suffolk Coastal	2145	2191	2414	2550	2703	2878
Suffolk	2145	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Surrey	495	515	535	555	575	595
Sunderland	495	515	535	555	575	595
Swindon	495	515	535	555	575	595
Tandridge	499	519	539	559	579	599
Taunton Deane	1850	1868	1986	2059	2140	2233
Teignbridge	2145	2204	2431	2570	2725	2904

Telford and Wrekin	495	515	535	555	575	595
Tendring	495	515	535	555	575	595
Tewkesbury	2145	1852	1965	2034	2112	2201
Torridge	2145	2015	2181	2283	2397	2527
Tunbridge Wells	1850	1873	1992	2066	2148	2243
Uttlesford	2145	2141	2348	2474	2616	2778
Vale of White Horse	1800	2052	2230	2339	2461	2601
Wakefield	495	515	535	555	575	595
Waveney	499	519	539	559	579	599
Warwick	495	515	535	555	575	595
Warwickshire	495	515	535	555	575	595
Wealden	2145	2517	2845	3000	3000	3000
Wellingborough	495	0	0	0	0	0
West Berkshire	1800	0	0	0	0	0
West Devon	2145	1932	2072	2157	2252	2362
West Dorset	2145	2255	2498	2647	2814	3000
West Lindsey	2145	2217	2447	2589	2747	2928
West Oxfordshire	2145	2346	2618	2785	2972	3000
West Somerset	2145	1780	1870	1925	1987	2058
West Sussex	1800	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
Winchester	4290	0	0	0	0	0
Worcestershire	499	515	535	555	575	595
Wychavon	2145	2425	2722	2904	3000	3000
Wycombe	495	515	535	555	575	595
Wyre Forest	300	0	0	0	0	0
	269358	281854	303730	315606	327482	339358

Money allocated in general grant assistance to Local Government by Government per head of population £ in urban areas £ in rural areas.

2014/15 Government Funded Non Ring-fenced Spending power per head

Predominantly Urban received £155.33 more than Predominantly Rural

2015/16 Government Funded Non Ring-fenced Spending power per head

Predominantly Urban received £128.78 more than Predominantly Rural

Money paid in Council Tax per head

2014/15 Council Tax per head

Predominantly Urban paid £79.96 less than Predominantly Rural

2015/16 Council Tax per head

Predominantly Urban paid £80.58 less than Predominantly Rural

Number of social housing starts nationally. Number of social housing starts in rural areas, number of starts in urban areas.

In 2012-13 the rate of local authority/housing association permanent dwellings completed in England per 1000 households were:

Major Urban 1.3

Rural-50 1.1

Rural-80 1.1

Average wage of people working in rural areas against that of people living in urban areas.

Workplace based median gross annual earnings, (£), 2013

Predominantly Urban £24,500

Predominantly Rural £19,900

Percentage of residents who have a bus or train service within half a mile of

their home.

Bus availability indicator (2012):

49% of rural villages, hamlets & isolated dwellings where the nearest bus stop is within a 13 minute walk and has a service at least once an hour

86% of rural town and fringe dwellings where the nearest bus stop is within a 13 minute walk and has a service at least once an hour

96% urban dwellings where the nearest bus stop is within a 13 minute walk and has a service at least once an hour

Housing Affordability Ratios

Ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile workplace-based earnings (2012)

Predominantly urban 7.1

Predominantly rural 7.9

APPENDIX 'C' - Future Directions Report.

INVOLVEMENT WITH RSN

Rules of Operation:

1. If receiving Rural Services Delivery Grant (RSDG) – Sparse Rural Fee is usually at (£2145 or £1850)
2. If not receiving RSDG and over 130 rural output area suggest - £500 Rural Assembly Fee
3. If less than 130 rural output areas – 1p per rural resident and an Associate member basis.
4. No involvement if less than 20 rural output areas or less than 3000 rural residents. *Isles of Scilly apart.

No:	Authority	Number of Rural Output Areas	Rural Population	Hoped for Contribution £
1	Amber Valley	79	23,764	237
2	Arun	85	25,666	256
3	Barrow	80	22,773	227
4	Basingstoke & Deane	148	45,289	500
5	Bedford	151	51,735	500
6	Blackburn	23	6,860	68
7	Bolsover	115	36,155	361
8	Bracknell Forest	9	23,340	233
9	Brentwood	68	21,0121	210
10	Brighton & Hove	5	5,589	55
11	Broadland	201	61,205	500
12	Bromley	12	3,490	34
13	Bromsgrove	63	19,914	199
14	Buckinghamshire	547	165,740	500
15	Bury	12	5,089	50
16	Cannock Chase	34	10,644	106
17	Carlisle	93	29,161	1,850
18	Chelmsford	104	33,617	336
19	Cherwell	132	44,530	500
20	Chiltern	289	25,966	500
21	Colchester	169	52,381	500
22	Corby	16	4,445	44
23	Dacorum	65	19,086	190
24	Darlington	44	13,173	131
25	Doncaster	135	42,705	500
26	East Dorset	72	21,054	500

Excluded any authority with less than 20 rural outputs areas or less than 3,000 rural inhabitants

No:	Authority	Number of Rural Output Areas	Rural Population	Hoped for Contribution £
27	East Hampshire	133	42,229	500
28	East Staffs	83	26,258	262
29	Eastleigh	40	12,201	122
30	Epping Forest	114	34,407	344
31	Fylde	54	15,944	159
32	Gloucestershire	605	177,017	500
33	Great Yarmouth	118	33,849	338
34	Gravesham	61	19,498	194
35	Hart	87	28,580	285
36	Hertsmere	48	15,161	151
37	Hertfordshire	420	128,584	500
38	High Peak	98	27,903	279
39	Hillingdon	25	7,563	75
40	Hydburn	27	7,616	76
41	Isle of Scilly*	9	2,280	500
42	Kent	1,300	405,100	500
43	Kettering	64	19,485	194
44	Kirklees	151	49,661	500
45	Leeds	146	43,035	500
46	Maidstone	141	44,700	500
47	Mansfield	44	13,738	137
48	Medway	91	29,375	23
49	Milton Keynes	75	29,406	294
50	Mole Valley	73	22,002	220
51	Newcastle-on-Tyne	21	5,733	57
52	Newcastle-Under-Lyme	22	29,375	293
53	NE Derbyshire	68	20,193	201
54	NE Lincs	51	16,060	160
55	N Herts	79	23,156	231
56	North Tyneside	32	8,584	85
57	Pendle	43	12,416	124
58	Peterborough	70	22,142	221
59	Preston	27	8,170	81
60	Reigate & Banstead	22	7,061	70
61	Rochford	37	11,669	116
62	Rossendale	11	3,559	35

Excluded any authority with less than 20 rural outputs areas or less than 3,000 rural inhabitants

No:	Authority	Number of Rural Output Areas	Rural Population	Hoped for Contribution £
63	Rotherham	91	25,919	259
64	Rushcliffe	207	64,443	500
65	Sefton	14	3,966	39
66	Sheffield	32	9,603	96
67	South Bucks	67	21,613	216
68	South Glos	113	34,715	347
69	St Albans	41	13,640	136
70	St Helens	33	9,818	98
71	Staffs M	102	31,573	2,145
72	Stockton-on-Tees	24	7,719	77
73	Surrey Heath	46	14,481	144
74	Swale	102	33,684	336
75	Test Valley	141	42,512	500
76	Thanet	32	9,086	90
77	Three Rivers	15	4,735	47
78	Thurrock	65	20,160	201
79	Tonbridge & Malling	130	43,556	435
80	Warrington	75	25,541	255
81	Waverley	108	34,241	500
82	Welwyn & Hatfield	43	13,261	132
83	West Berks	181	57,472	500
84	West Lanes	135	42,408	500
85	Weymouth & Portland	45	12,962	129
86	Wigan	40	11,740	117
87	Wiltshire	729	230,049	6,000
88	Winchester	210	68,696	2,145
88	Windsor & M	51	15,094	150
89	Wokingham	90	27,773	277
90	Wyre	103	32,033	320
91	Wyre Forest	69	20,966	209

Excluded any authority with less than 20 rural outputs areas or less than 3,000 rural inhabitants