

## UK RURAL POLICY AND PRACTITIONERS GROUP

### RESEARCH AND POLICY PRIORITIES: UPDATE, AUGUST 2012

Note: where the organisation name is in green the information is from their 2011 response.

#### A) The five social or economic priorities for rural areas over the next couple of years:

<p>Scottish Agricultural College</p>	<p>CAP reform and its wider impacts.</p> <p>Community resilience, including volunteering and asset ownership.</p> <p>Accessibility, including broadband, mobile coverage and transport fuel costs.</p> <p>The characteristics and performance of rural businesses and economies.</p> <p>Towns and rural Scotland.</p>
<p>Arthur Rank Centre</p>	<p>Affordable housing.</p> <p>Provision of services.</p> <p>Access to ICT including broadband.</p> <p>Jobs and support for the unemployed.</p> <p>Transport.</p>
<p>Countryside Alliance</p>	<p>Food and farming (supporting farming).</p> <p>Outdoor education, so children understand the countryside.</p> <p>Access to services, especially broadband and post offices/ financial services.</p>
<p>Church of Wales</p>	<p>Agriculture and the phasing out of subsidies.</p> <p>Decline of deep rural communities.</p> <p>Regenerating key rural industries (tourism, agriculture, fishing).</p>
<p>Commission for Rural Communities</p>	<p>Affordable housing.</p> <p>Transport.</p> <p>Fuel poverty.</p> <p>Broadband.</p> <p>Opportunities for young people.</p>
<p>Carnegie UK Trust</p>	<p>Supporting community activists and practitioners (see the <a href="http://www.fieryspirits.com">www.fieryspirits.com</a> community of practice).</p> <p>Developing community land trusts (see 'proof of concept' document <a href="http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/2012/proof-">http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/2012/proof-</a></p>

	<p><a href="#">of-concept--community-land-trusts</a>).</p> <p>How rural policy develops – to assess progress since the Commission for Rural Community Development report in 2007 (results due later in 2012).</p>
Age UK	<p>A strategic (and rural proofed) policy approach to an ageing population.</p> <p>Investment in rolling out a targeted approach to rural isolation.</p>
Plunkett Foundation	<p>Saving and creating local services through community ownership.</p> <p>Building local food networks.</p>
Federation of Small Businesses	<p>Creating sustainable rural communities, with services and affordable housing.</p> <p>Generating economic growth through planning reform and small business rate relief.</p> <p>Improving business access to markets through sufficient broadband and better transport links.</p>
Rural Services Network	<p>Monitoring the impact of austerity cuts on rural public services and securing a fairer deal on funding for them.</p> <p>Providing affordable housing to meet local community needs.</p> <p>Improving the coverage of fast broadband.</p> <p>Reducing fuel poverty within rural communities.</p> <p>Monitoring the work and impact of LEPs in the most rural areas.</p>

**B) Research / analysis being undertaken by organisations on the rural evidence base:**

Scottish Agricultural College	<p>CAP reform, agricultural competitiveness and biodiversity impacts.  <a href="http://www.sac.ac.uk/ruralpolicycentre/pubs/supporttoagriculture/">http://www.sac.ac.uk/ruralpolicycentre/pubs/supporttoagriculture/</a></p> <p>Low carbon rural Scotland and renewable energy  <a href="http://www.sac.ac.uk/ruralpolicycentre/pubs/changinenvironment/">http://www.sac.ac.uk/ruralpolicycentre/pubs/changinenvironment/</a></p> <p>Rural Scotland in Focus Report 2012  <a href="http://www.sac.ac.uk/info/120336/thriving_communities/466/2012_rural_scotland_in_focus_report">http://www.sac.ac.uk/info/120336/thriving_communities/466/2012_rural_scotland_in_focus_report</a></p> <p>Rural Parliaments  <a href="http://www.sac.ac.uk/ruralpolicycentre/pubs/thrivingcommunitiespublications/ruralparliaments/">http://www.sac.ac.uk/ruralpolicycentre/pubs/thrivingcommunitiespublications/ruralparliaments/</a></p> <p>Recent rural policy development in England and Scotland</p>
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	<a href="http://www.sac.ac.uk/ruralpolicycentre/pubs/thrivingcommunitiespublications/ruralpolicy/">http://www.sac.ac.uk/ruralpolicycentre/pubs/thrivingcommunitiespublications/ruralpolicy/</a>
Countryside Alliance	<p>Outdoor education – debunking health and safety myths.</p> <p>Viability of a Government backed Post Bank.</p> <p>Use of mobile broadband.</p> <p>Government food procurement policy.</p>
Church of Wales	Communities in danger: a study of deep rural places (ongoing).
Commission for Rural Communities	<p>Barriers to education, employment and training for young people in rural areas (published July 2012). <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/crc/barriers-to-education-employment-and-training-for-young-people-in-rural-areas/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/crc/barriers-to-education-employment-and-training-for-young-people-in-rural-areas/</a></p> <p>Recognising rural interests within Local Enterprise Partnerships – call for evidence. <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/crc/how-are-rural-interests-being-recognised-within-local-enterprise-partnerships/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/crc/how-are-rural-interests-being-recognised-within-local-enterprise-partnerships/</a></p> <p>Rural micro-businesses – what makes them thrive in a challenging economic environment? (publication expected November 2012).</p> <p>Rural impacts of welfare and housing reforms (published May 2012). <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/crc/?page_id=17127&amp;preview=true">http://www.defra.gov.uk/crc/?page_id=17127&amp;preview=true</a></p> <p>Variations in access to social care for vulnerable older people in rural England (published June 2012). <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/crc/variations-in-access-to-social-care/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/crc/variations-in-access-to-social-care/</a></p> <p>Social isolation among older people in rural areas (publication expected September 2012).</p>
Carnegie UK Trust	<p>Community ownership of land – a study exploring its impacts (published March 2012. London event planned this Summer). <a href="http://www.theislandsbooktrust.com/store/books/from-the-low-tide-of-the-sea-to-the-highest-mountain-top">http://www.theislandsbooktrust.com/store/books/from-the-low-tide-of-the-sea-to-the-highest-mountain-top</a></p> <p>Evaluation of Rural Housing Burdens (report and policy summary published December 2011). <a href="http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/getattachment/66ebd0ba-7fec-4872-b97c-b25bcf200412/The-Effectiveness-of-Rural-Housing-Burdens.aspx">http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/getattachment/66ebd0ba-7fec-4872-b97c-b25bcf200412/The-Effectiveness-of-Rural-Housing-Burdens.aspx</a></p> <p>Survey of rural development networks (report published March 2012). <a href="http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/getattachment/4063ad9f-18b4-4a89-843c-4f102d07461c/Rural-Development-Networks---Full-Report.aspx">http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/getattachment/4063ad9f-18b4-4a89-843c-4f102d07461c/Rural-Development-Networks---Full-Report.aspx</a></p> <p>Involvement of young people in managing community assets (event scheduled for June 2012).</p>
Age UK	Inputting to the CRC social isolation study (see above).

Plunkett Foundation	<p>Review of rural social enterprise in England (report published December 2011).  <a href="http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&amp;Module=More&amp;Location=None&amp;Completed=0&amp;ProjectID=17308">http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&amp;Module=More&amp;Location=None&amp;Completed=0&amp;ProjectID=17308</a></p> <p>Social enterprises as influencers of behaviour (ongoing).</p> <p>Annual survey of community owned village shops (ongoing).</p> <p>Resilience of community owned shops in hard times (ongoing).</p> <p>Community owned broadband (jointly with Carnegie UK Trust – ongoing).</p> <p>Economic impact of local food (ongoing).</p>
Federation of Small Businesses	<p>The missing links – revitalising our rural economy (published May 2012)  <a href="http://www.fsb.org.uk/frontpage/assets/rural_report_web_final_proof.pdf">http://www.fsb.org.uk/frontpage/assets/rural_report_web_final_proof.pdf</a></p>
Rural Services Network	<p>Costs of providing services in rural areas – to inform local government funding discussions (published August 2011).  <a href="http://www.rsonline.org.uk/images/stories/Major%20Documents/LGF-sparse-rural-report-august-2011.pdf">http://www.rsonline.org.uk/images/stories/Major%20Documents/LGF-sparse-rural-report-august-2011.pdf</a></p> <p>State of rural public services 2011 report, setting out recent trends and delivery impacts (published November 2011).  <a href="http://www.rsonline.org.uk/images/stories/Major%20Documents/stateofruralservices-2011.pdf">http://www.rsonline.org.uk/images/stories/Major%20Documents/stateofruralservices-2011.pdf</a></p> <p>Neighbourhood planning: what do rural communities think? – results of a RSN survey (published December 2011).  <a href="http://www.rsonline.org.uk/community/communities-welcome-neighbourhood-planning">http://www.rsonline.org.uk/community/communities-welcome-neighbourhood-planning</a></p> <p>Analysis of strategic/action plans for the 15 LEPs with the largest rural areas (expected to start soon).</p> <p>Development of good rural practice material, initially on library services, fuel poverty and older people’s wellbeing (being published in stages).  <a href="http://www.rsonline.org.uk/news/best-practice">http://www.rsonline.org.uk/news/best-practice</a></p>