

## **A simple guide to RSN online spreadsheets – The Relative Cost of Rural Living**

The Relative Cost of Rural Living is an analysis that simply ranks five of the most significant financial constraints that households face, and plots them alongside the local authority area's ranked rurality. It does not account for the relative sizes of each measure, but does provide an indicator of how the financial pressures experienced in rural communities do add up to a combined constraint on household budgets.

The closer to the perimeter of the pentagon the line lies, the higher the ranking in that measure, and so a polygon that sits closely to the outside perimeter of the pentagon shows a local authority area that in comparison to other authorities has higher costs and lower income.

Additionally, the rankings for each individual financial constraint have been combined to form an overall ranking for Relative Cost of Living.

The spreadsheet uses drop down lists to select a local authority or rural/urban category of interest, and then an identical list to select another authority or category to act as a comparator. All other elements of the spreadsheet then update automatically to reflect the choices made. The rural/urban categories providing averages are:

R80 – Rural 80

R50 – Rural 50

SR – Significant Rural

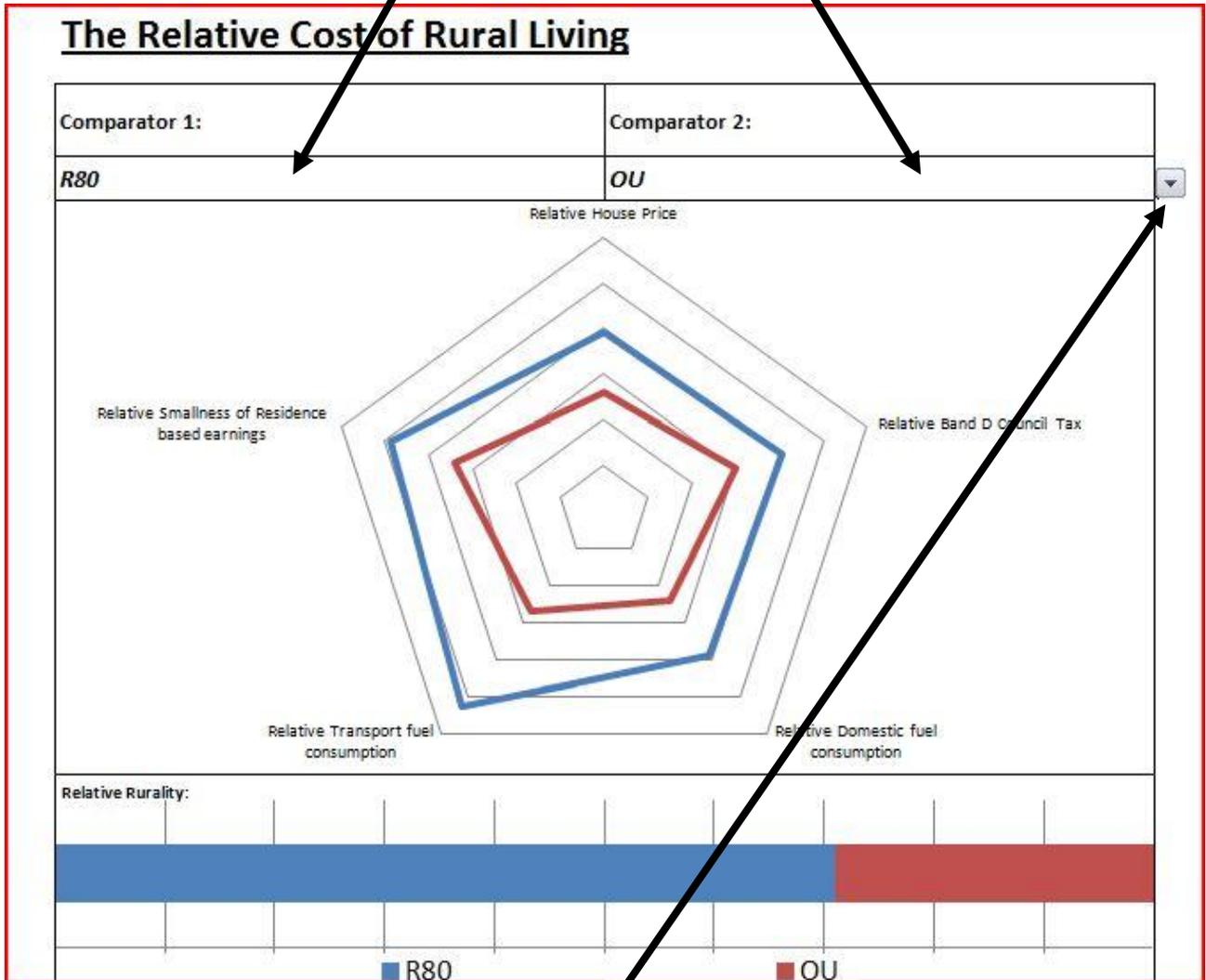
LU – Large Urban

OU – Other Urban

MU – Major Urban

To make your selection from either list, please follow these instructions:

Select either of these cells. Once the cell is selected, a grey square with a blue triangle will appear to the right of the cell.



Clicking on the grey square will provide the list of options available to select from. The full list of options can be seen using the scroll bar to the side of the list. Use the mouse pointer to select the option of interest.

The data sources used in preparing this analysis are:

House Prices – BBC (information based on figures provided by the Land Registry of England and Wales), September 2012

Band D Council Tax – [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk), 2009-10

Domestic/Transport fuel consumption per head – Department of Energy & Climate Change, Total sub-national final energy consumption 2009 + Census 2011 Usual Residents Population

Residence Based Earnings – [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk), annual survey of hours and earnings average over 2010, 2011 & 2012

I hope this helps. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact

[dan.worth@sparse.gov.uk](mailto:dan.worth@sparse.gov.uk)