

# SPARSE Rural

Rural funding:

Our current call to Government in  
respect of Northumberland



**SPARSE Rural** as an organisation defends the rural interest and argues about the Sparsity Allowance in the Local Government funding formulae.

As part of our Fairer Funding Campaign we have identified that, on average, the urban resident receives 50% more funding than the rural resident. We are pressing for this gap to be reduced by 10 percentage points.

To assist in achieving this, we have suggested in our response to the Business Rates Consultation the following changes:

- An increase in the Environmental, Protection and Cultural Services (EPCS) district sparsity indicator by 50% to be offset by a reduction in the density formula. Density would still be about 4 times larger than sparsity in the formula
- The reinstatement of the EPCS county sparsity indicator removed in 2003-4, offset by reducing the density indicator by about one quarter
- The doubling of the existing discretionary Older Peoples PSS sparsity adjustment from 1% of total funding to reflect the very real costs of delivering domiciliary services in remote communities

If government implemented these suggestions **Northumberland** would benefit immediately by **£2,986,249 per year**