




# Unfair Funding for rural areas



**The Rural Services Network is fighting for a fair deal for rural communities, in all public sector funding**

youtube.com/watch?v=zxsxLuF-ZDc

rural services network



Rural rebellion: MPs demand fairer funding

Rural Services Network  
7 subscribers

257 views 10 Nov 2013


MORE than 100 petitions calling for fairer rural funding have been presented by MPs to the government.

The cross-party group of MPs formally presented petitions from 119 rural constituencies to the government on Monday (4 November).

It is thought to have been one of the largest such petitions ever gathered. The documents will now be passed to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

youtube.com/watch?v=KGcuVLRW2M

rural services network



Rural MPs push government for fairer funding

Rural Services Network  
7 subscribers

294 views 9 years ago

MPs press the case for a fairer funding settlement for rural local authorities during a House of Commons debate on Thursday, 10 October 2013.

Show more

The Rural Services Network has been campaigning for fair funding for local authorities for a number of years, supporting MPs with information and statistics to understand the approach of Government to rural areas.

# Rural Facts



**Urban areas get 38% more in Government Funded Spending Power than rural areas.**

Urban areas in 2023/2024 will receive some 38% (£135) per head in Government Funded Spending Power more than their rural counterparts



# Rural Residents pay on average £110 per head more in Council Tax

Rural residents will pay on average, 20% (£110) per head **more** in Council Tax than their urban counterparts due to receiving less Government Grant

## Rural residents :

- pay **more**,
- receive **fewer** services and,
- earn **less** than those in urban areas

**The cost of living is higher in rural areas**

# Result of unfair funding...

RURAL



Funding allocated per head to predominantly Rural areas



URBAN



Funding allocated per head to predominantly Urban areas

Rural Councils get less Government Grant than Urban Councils



Statutory Services have to be funded by Councils and those services are also more underfunded in rural areas



The impact is that there are **MUCH LESS** funds for rural councils to spend on essential but discretionary services

**RURAL**  
Shire Counties

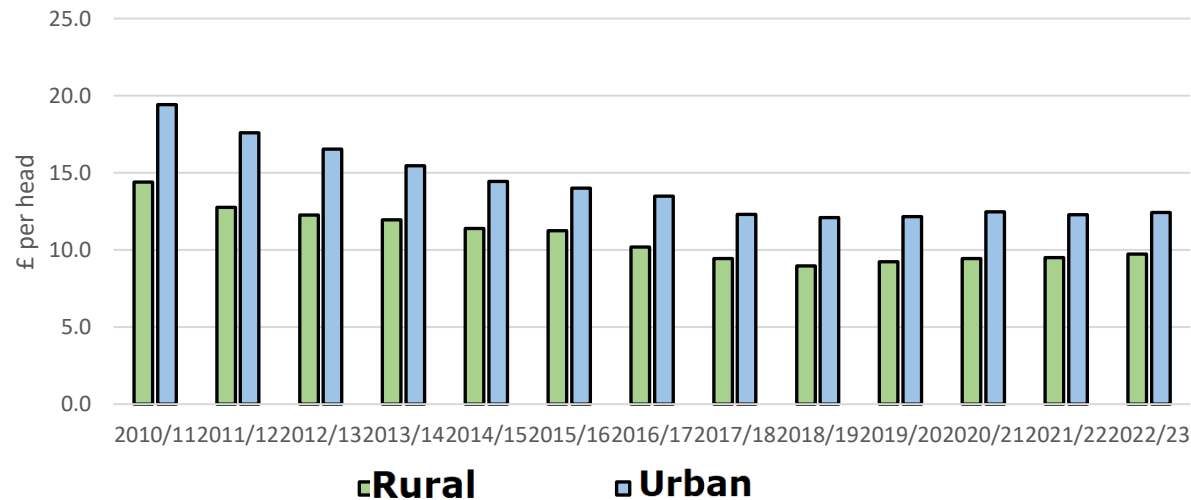
**URBAN**  
Shire Counties



2022/23

+23%

Library service - overall average



**LIBRARY SERVICES**  
Discretionary Spend Comparison

Again we can see that rural authorities can spend much less per head...





# RECREATION & SPORT

## Discretionary Spend Comparison



The percentage difference between urban & rural shire district local authority budgeted spend is...

# INCREASING

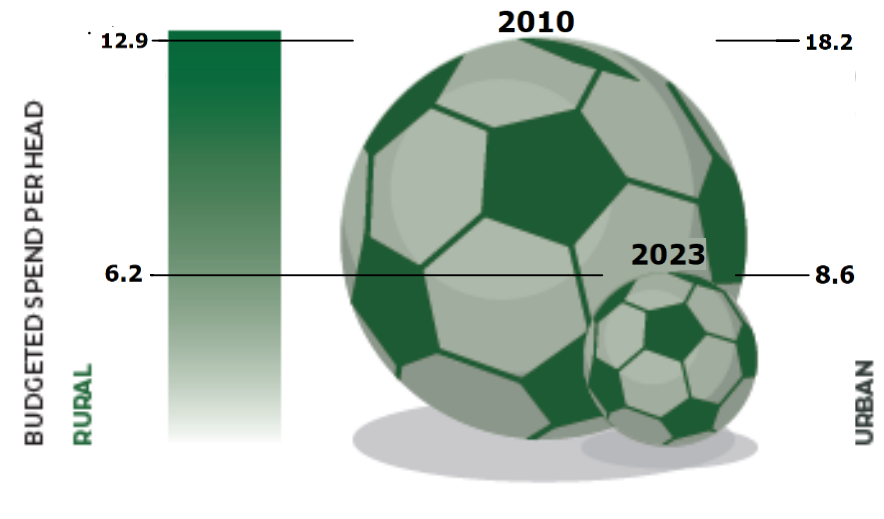
2010/11

2022/23



28%  
difference

45%  
difference



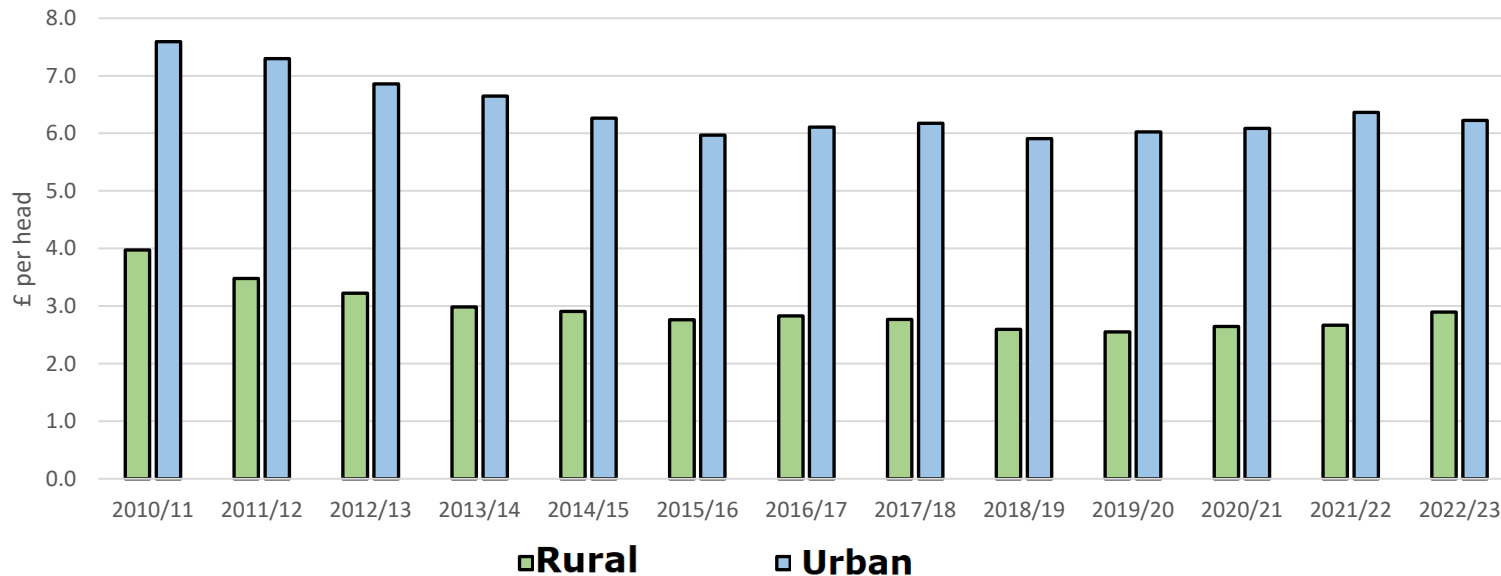
# CULTURE

## Discretionary Spend Comparison



### Rural authorities have less to spend...

Urban residents get more spent on Cultural Services than rural. For Shire Districts this spending gap is over 100% greater than for rural Shire Districts



In the period from **2010 to 2023**

this equates to:

**URBAN** per head  
**£130.80**



**RURAL** per head  
**£76.00**



# **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

## Discretionary Spend Comparison

In **2022/23** planned expenditure on **PUBLIC TRANSPORT** per resident is **OVER 5X MORE IN** predominantly **URBAN AREAS**



# URBAN

## Total Discretionary Spend

Urban authorities are able to spend considerably more per head than those in rural areas

In looking at the latest figures for 2022/2023 their spend is almost

**DOUBLE**  
per head!



Rural areas are *disadvantaged* by public funding allocations for core services and economic growth that work against them.

To close the *productivity gap* between the rural and urban economy, support is needed to build an infrastructure that creates *better paid* and *more secure* jobs.

Students from rural areas often face **little** or **no realistic choice** of Further Education providers and courses due to poor public transport links.



The scarcity of rural transport options strikes at the heart of *rural disadvantage*, impacting people's access to *employment, education* and *training, health* and *vital services*

It is a key driver of *rural isolation* and *loneliness*

# CATHY SAYS

“One of the biggest problems I encountered after I started working is the fact that rural transport finishes too early in the evening. Sometimes I would be allocated long shifts that usually end at 9.30 p.m, or even later, and of course most of the buses in Wellington finish before 9 p.m which means quite often, cycling/walking in the dark is the only option for me around that time of the day.”





# CATHY SAYS

**When I lived on the outskirts of Wellington with my friend in the midst of COVID, the internet there was bad to a point that only one of us could be online at a time. My friend and I both had to attend online schooling at the same time of the day, for quite a long time. As a result, one of us always had to miss the lessons during the day and catch up on work, until extremely late at night and this did not do my mental health any good.**



# NHS Funding

- No simple pounds per head assessments are available
- Nuffield Trust report on behalf of the National Centre for Rural Health and Care on “A rapid review of the impact of rurality on the cost of delivering healthcare” concluded that:

***“these adjustments (for rurality) may not be compensating enough to avoid some rural Trusts facing increased difficulties”***



# NHS Funding continued

- The Nuffield Trust report also showed that the 7 NHS Trusts with “unavoidable small sites” on average had:
  - **Longer** waiting times
  - **Longer** lengths of stay
  - More **delayed** transfers of care
  - **Higher** unit costs
  - **Worse** financial positions
  - 6 of the 7 of these Trusts ended 2017/18 in **deficit** amounting to **over £¼ billion**
  - These **7 Trusts account** for 3% of all Trusts but **23% of the overall deficit** for Trusts

# Pressures facing rural health care services



## Workforce

- Recruitment and retention difficulties
- Higher overall staff costs



## Distance

- Higher travel costs
- Unproductive staff time when travelling



## Size

- Scale of fixed costs, for example safe staffing-level guidelines
- Difficulties in realising economies of scale



## Access to resources

- Some resources are more expensive or difficult to access, for example telecommunications, training and consultancy

# Examples of rural health impacts due to under resourcing in rural areas

Impact	Rural v Urban
Alcohol specific conditions in under 18s*	30% higher
Mental health admissions in under 18s*	3% higher
Self harm hospital admissions for 10-24 year olds*	8% higher
Looked after children 5-16 year olds*	15% higher
Ambulance response times**	Over 4 minutes slower
Stroke mortality rates *	4% higher
Informal care provision***	6% higher
Type 2 diabetes*	18% higher
Sources: * <a href="#">Public Health England Public Health Profiles</a> ** <a href="#">BBC News 2019</a> *** <a href="#">Census 2011</a>	



**Greater Digital Adoption in rural areas could add between £12-26 billion to the UK economy every year**

**Rural areas need access to digital skills training and support to help enable the rural economy to achieve its full potential**

# Government investment in rural councils for Rural Services Delivery Centres

£689 Million for the most sparsely populated rural councils in last 10 years



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