

## RURAL FAIR SHARES CAMPAIGN: ACTION PLAN 2013/14

### JANUARY

#### Public Health Duties

29<sup>th</sup> Wrote to County and Unitary members seeking volunteers to collect rural/urban service cost data.

### FEBRUARY

#### Key Parliamentary Dates/Statements

4<sup>th</sup> CLG Questions.

11<sup>th</sup> Back Bench Debate.

13<sup>th</sup> Final Settlement Debate.

14<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> RECESS

#### Local Government Finance Generally

Graham Stuart to request meeting with Minister. Possible Agenda:-

1. The evidence referred to by the Minister
2. Closing the grant funding gap between urban and rural areas by 10 percentage points by 2020 (and therefore not freezing the grant distribution system to 2020)
3. Explicit use of the urban/rural definitions in all analysis of all government grant distribution and monitoring
4. Agreement to monitor urban and rural benefit from the Business Rate Retention scheme and distribution of the New Homes Bonus.

Calculate cost of closing the gap by 10% by 2020.

Final Settlement analysis by cash, per head, per dwelling and by authority class.

#### Public Health Duties

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5<sup>th</sup> Accepted place on Defra research project Steering Group. [NB this is a DoH project which Defra are involved with. It relates to Health Funding generally and may not cover the funding of the new Public Health duties falling to Local Government. DoH will decide if the RSN is to be on the Steering Group – not heard anything more as at 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2013)]

## **MARCH**

5<sup>th</sup> APPG on Final Settlement

6<sup>th</sup> Presentation to LGA Rural Commission

18<sup>th</sup> Main Member Group Meeting

26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> **RECESS**

End of March – Four Year Revenue Estimates Review (RA forms) – analysis of RA forms between 2009/10 to 2012/13 showing individual annual analyses for each authority as well as a four year trend analysis across all expenditure heads.

## **APRIL**

1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> **RECESS**

Survey all Members regarding

- (1) frontline service cuts 2013/14 and planned 2014/15 (augmented by RA Form analysis)
- (2) Use of balances to support revenue services 2013/14 and planned 2014/15
- (3) “Cost” of Council Tax Support to Councils
- (4) Take up of CT Freeze Grant
- (5) Application of New Homes Bonus.

## **MAY**

13<sup>th</sup>. Dan Bates met DCLG Officials to seek agreement on the basis of calculation(s) for rural v urban funding analyses

21<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> **RECESS**

## **JUNE**

1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> **RECESS**

5<sup>th</sup> MPs (and RSN) Meeting with Minister (Brandon Lewis)

## **JULY**

4<sup>th</sup> Rural Unitaries group (within SPARSE-Rural) formed

8<sup>th</sup> Rural Fair Shares Group meets

15<sup>th</sup> Main Group Meeting

Distribute Parliamentary Constituency Petition to members

Draft questions for members requesting them for use at Party Conferences

18<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> **RECESS**

25<sup>th</sup> DCLG issues Consultations on:-  
Distribution of settlement funding  
New Homes Bonus Top Slice  
Using Capital Receipts to invest in Service  
Revised Prospectus on Rates Pooling

24<sup>th</sup> EFRA Select Committee publishes its report which is very supportive of our case. Both the Chairman & Chief Executive gave evidence to the Select Committee.  
Press Release issued  
Write to ACRA re data being collected to inform discussion of sparsity costs re New Public Health duties

## **AUGUST**

1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> **RECESS**

Request voluntary contribution of £500 from members for new fighting fund  
Monitor members “take up” of the Parliamentary Petition and distribute best practice examples  
Issue Press Release on DCLG Consultation – conduct several radio interviews  
Prepare and Distribute:-  
Briefing Note to Members  
Briefing Note to MPs  
Graphs and analysis to support the Briefing Notes  
Draft Consultation responses (Main & New Homes Bonus)  
Draft Member Response Templates (Main & New Homes Bonus)  
Issue of changes to GP Practice funding raised by Scarborough BC.  
Correspondence with Defra – put the matter before APPG in January

## **SEPTEMBER**

1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> **RECESS**

4<sup>th</sup> LGA Rural Conference (Warwick)  
Continue monitoring re Parliamentary Petition  
15<sup>th</sup> RSN Executive Meeting  
19<sup>th</sup> New Homes Bonus Consultation Closes  
24<sup>th</sup> Capital Receipts Consultation Closes  
13<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> **PARTY CONFERENCES** (MPs to lobby Ministers)  
14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Liberal Democrats (Glasgow)  
22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Labour (Brighton)  
29<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> October Conservative (Manchester)  
30<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Petition closes  
Revenue Estimates analysis for 2013/14 – updating of four year model to incorporate 2013/14 as fifth year

In year rates analysis – precise composition to be determined.

## **OCTOBER**

1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> **PARTY CONFERENCES**

2nd DCLG Main Consultation closes

MPs commence campaign within Parliament – to last up to issue of DCLG final settlement - through use of Backbench debate, Parliamentary Questions, Early day Motions, Adjournment Debates etc. Prepare any further analysis required by Rural Fair Shares Group

18<sup>th</sup> Rural Health Conference Exeter

Annual State of the Rural Public Services Report

## **NOVEMBER**

12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> **RECESS**

18<sup>th</sup> RSN Main Group Meeting (AGM)

## **DECEMBER**

Final 2014/15 & 2015/16 Settlement Consultation?

Analysis of Final settlement proposal and distribute to MPs and Members

Issue Press Release

19<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> **RECESS**

Revenue Outturn analysis for 2012/13

## **JANUARY 2014**

1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> **RECESS**

MPs use Parliamentary processes (including Final Settlement Debate) if necessary

## **FEBRUARY**

Final Settlement 2014/15

## **2014/15**

First monitoring of “impact” of Business Rates Retention Scheme (rural v urban analysis). Monitoring to be undertaken in respect of urban v rural comparison of the following unfenced funding streams in terms of cash plus reviewing pounds per head, pounds per property and spending power :-

RSG (Formula Grant)

Business Rate Retention

Council Tax

New Homes Bonus (to include comparison of what was lost through the top slice and gained back through the reward).

General Grants such as ESSSA

**April** – Annual Revenue Estimates Review (RA forms) – analysis of RA forms for each authority including trend analysis across all expenditure heads. TO INCLUDE FIRST ANALYSIS OF NEW PUBLIC HEALTH DUTIES FUNDING/OUTPUTS