

Executive Report on Development of Networks

Our Vision of networking

To be the 'definitive' source of support and advice to rural authorities with officers from all areas of work accessing and interacting with the network.

Where do we want to be?

We want to provide a service that supports rural local authority members in their quest to provide more efficient, effective services to local communities. The reality of dealing with consistent budget cuts can prove challenging and finding innovative solutions to service delivery is difficult when you also have reduced resources to do so.

Development of e-networks to date

We are currently using the Knowledge Hub which was established originally by the Local Government Association. We have a closed group on the hub which is only available to local authorities which are members of Sparse.

This group has evolved from being a subject specific grouping based around Environmental Health Officers to being an overall Rural Services Network e-network and includes Finance Officers to enable discussion on the Local Government Finance Settlement.

Benefits of this approach to networking

- Innovate with colleagues from other rural authorities
- Officers are able to share best practice and ideas
- Save time and resources by networking electronically
- Cross Silo Working

Next steps to develop RSN Networking

1) Further development of e-network

- Planning
- Waste and Recycling
- Economic Development
- Council Tax and Benefits

2) Development of virtual working groups

Explore feasibility of virtual working groups on specific topic areas to share learning and experience of specific areas of work