

The Rural Challenge

Achieving sustainable rural
communities for the 21st Century

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Summary of Key Propositions

- 1 Creating and maintaining **sustainable rural communities**
- 2 Meeting the **affordable housing** needs of rural communities
- 3 Building **thriving communities**
- 4 Delivering **great local services**
- 5 **Flourishing market towns**
- 6 **Empowering communities**

1 Creating and maintaining sustainable rural communities

1.1 Effective **local plans and strategies** – based on a real understanding of rural issues

1.2 Clear **national policy messages**

1.3 **Community-led** initiatives

2 Meeting the affordable housing needs of rural communities

- 2.1 /2.2 `Community Right To Build` : **Planning policies support community-led schemes**, including associated elements such as workspace, community facilities etc and which meet sensible criteria
- 2.4 Options to deliver `**intermediate**` affordable housing
- 2.5. Greater freedom for **LA financial management**
- 2.6 Support and incentives for **landowners**
- 2.7 Rule out vexatious / trivial `**Village Green**` applications !
- 2.8 Rural –proof **sustainability standards**

3 Building thriving communities

- 3.1/ 2/3 Rural –proof **Local Economic Partnerships** , **business support services** and approaches to **employment and enterprise**
- 3.4 Provide appropriate rural **sites and premises**
- 3.5 /6 /7 Support and enable **home working**
- 3.8 Deliver high standard **broadband** access
- 3.9 Permit acceptable **renewable energy** schemes in the countryside

4 Delivering great local services

- 4.1/2/3/4 Rural-proof **CSR spending impacts**, small area data, and **Service Obligations** etc
- 4.5/10 **Right to Bid** to cover a flexible range of service provision (eg extensions, `like for like`, partial)
- 4.6/7/8 **Deliver wide range of flexible services** via post offices (eg financial), shared outlets, mobiles and e-services
- 4.9 **Connect rural communities** more effectively to wider transport networks, via innovative community-based solutions

5 Flourishing market towns

5.1 New development should take a **`whole community`** approach` and ensure long-term management of **green infrastructure**

5.2 **Involve the local community !**

5.3 Deliver **help and advice**

6 Empowering communities

6.1/2 Adopt, support and build local capacity for **community-led planning** as best practice for delivering the `Big Society`

6.3 Key role for **Parish/Town Councils**

6.4 Ensure **visible benefits from new development**