



Rural Services Network

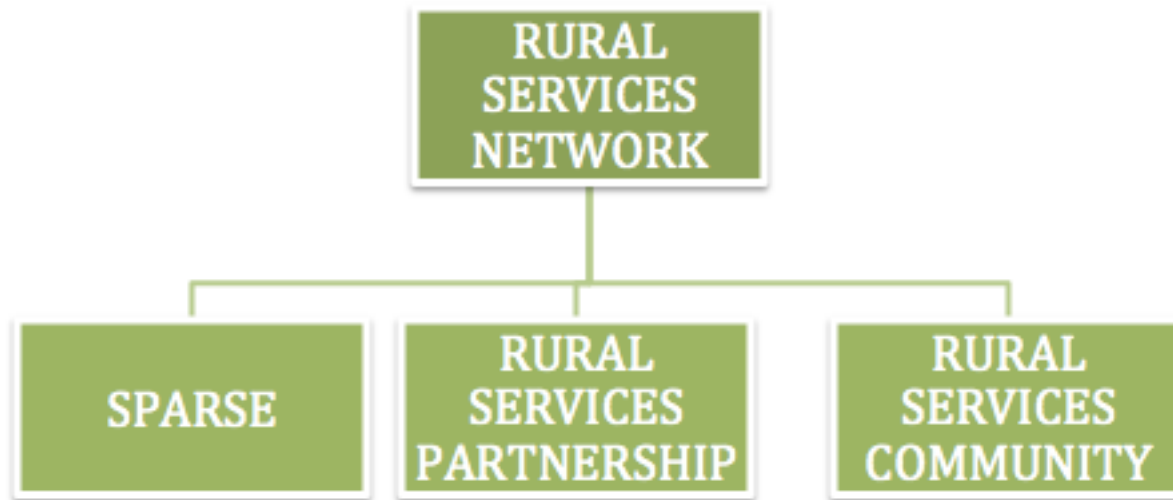
Finance Seminars

January 2014

Our mission is to provide a voice for rural communities and services

- **Representing** the case for a better deal for rural service provision
- **Exchanging** useful and relevant information
- **Developing and sharing** best practice

How wide is our network?



This is a grouping of over 110 of the most rural county, district and unitary councils in England (as identified by Government through their Predominately Rural and Significant Rural Council Classifications).

This includes over 100 of service providers, customer bodies and national rural organisations. It includes the Rural Crime Network, Rural Health Network and organisations representing Fire, Housing, Business, Transport and community organisations

This includes over 10,000 locality organisations such as Parish Councils, Schools and local rural Chamber of Commerce.



News digest

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Local Authority pages

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Allerdale



Photo supplied courtesy of the Council

Working for our part of Rural England with the Rural Services Network

| Local Communities "Link" Service | Fairer Funding | Performance Profiling | Financial Analysis | Economic Intelligence | Observatory |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | <p>Location: North West Population: 96,300 (Mid-year estimate 2012) Interesting fact: William Wordsworth attended the same school in Cockermouth as Fletcher Christian</p> | | | | |
| Cumbria | <p>Allerdale is a member of the Rural Services Network and falls under the branch of our service called SPARSE Rural. A list of all the SPARSE Rural members (from the Predominantly Rural Councils) can be found here.</p> | | | | |

Allerdale Information

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|---|--|--|
| Phone number (01900) 702702 | Website www.allerdale.gov.uk | Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) Cumbria |
| Frequency of elections Every 4 years | Number of councillors 55 | Political composition Labour - 28 Conservative - 12 Independent - 11 None - 4 |
| MPs Penrith and The Border - Rory Stewart (Conservative)** Workington - Tony Cunningham (Labour)** Copeland - Jamie Reed (Labour) | Decision making structure Leader and a Cabinet | Population change One Year Population Change -200 (0.21%) Ten Year Population Change + 500 (0.53%) |
| Police Authority Cumbria Police Authority | Fire Service Cumbria Fire and Rescue | Health Authority North West Strategic Health Authority |
| Area 125,780 Hectares | Super Sparsity Indicator 0.1815 | Audited by Northern Region (Audit Commission) |
| Rural Classification (Birbeck) Predominantly Rural (Rural 80) | Population by Area- (Density) 0.75 people per hectare | Number of Parishes 60 |
| Number of Parish Meetings 1 | Number of Parish Councils 52 | Number of Town Councils 7 |
| Average house price £157,574 (April - June 2013) | Outsourced Services Refuse - FOCSA Leisure - Carlisle Leisure | Average age of population 43.1 (2011 Census data) |
| Main Towns Aspatria, Cokermouth, Maryport, Keswick, Silloth, Wigton, Workington | Unemployment rate 3.2% (JSA claimants for December 2012) | Current Council Tax (amount reported is the amount received by the Council - no other services are included) 2010/2011 Council Tax - £144.17 2011/2012 Council Tax - £144.17 2012/2013 Council Tax - £148.35 2013/2014 Council Tax - £151.17 |
| Percentage of households which are second homes/holiday accommodation 2.76% (Department for Communities and Local Government, October 2012) | Percentage of population who have reported they are in very good health 44.5% (2011 Census data) | Percentage of employed people who have less than 2km to travel to work 38% |

Our work includes...

- My Council – individual page for each council with range of statistical information
- Rural News Stories
- Rural Research and Commentary
- Observatory – wide range of rural statistical analysis to help decision making and influence policy decisions
- Performance Analysis – benchmarking of rural authorities with similar authorities
- Networking – online e-forums for local authority officers to share best practice / ideas and information
- Economic Profiling Service – An analysis of key statistics to provide a picture of the rural economy
- All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural issues
- UK Policy and Practitioners Group

.....and of course the Fairer Funding Campaign!

Welcome to the Finance Seminar

Responding to Consultation on Local Government Finance Settlement

- Urge all rural local authorities to respond individually
- Need positive answers to the question about agreeing with rural areas funding to counteract urban authorities who may disagree with this
- RSN will provide local authorities with suggested response
- RSN also responding on behalf of rural authorities:

Principles of response

- In its 2012 formula review the Government acknowledged that it costs more to deliver services in rural areas
- It made clear its intention to do something about the issue and made changes to the Relative Needs Formulae of several services for the 13/14 settlement
- In practice, the vast majority of the gains due were lost because of damping and other changes
- By incorporating ESSSA into the formula for 2014/15 and 2015/16 as proposed in the Provisional settlement the Government has found the means and the willingness to direct additional funding to rural areas outside the machinations of damping. However, the amount at just £9.5M is woefully inadequate
- We therefore call on the Government to honour its commitment to all rural authorities and let them receive in cash terms the extra funding its own formulae say they should receive and of which they have been starved for the past decade, and more

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK

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