



THE RURAL BULLETIN

Exclusively brought to you by the Rural Services Network



RURAL
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NETWORK

THE RURAL SERVICES NETWORK

The National Champion for Rural Services, ensuring people in rural areas have a strong voice

This Rural Bulletin is published by the Rural Services Network and brings you a round up of our existing publications in one place! Get the latest rural news, read our current rural commentary in the Hinterland, focus in on our weekly Spotlight special feature and check out what we've been up to this week at RSN HQ!

If you have any comments on the Rural Bulletin, please contact us [here](#).

LATEST RURAL NEWS



[Budget plans for broadband](#)



[Record surge in takeaways](#)



[Councils could generate £320 billion](#)



[Campaigners warn of threat to countryside](#)



[The future of farming and the countryside](#)



[Protect Your Farm, Protect Yourself](#)



[Survey uncovers rural isolation/loneliness](#)



[Fund for rural broadband withdrawn](#)



[Rural Related Politics - An RSN weekly review](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON VULNERABILITY FUEL POVERTY EDITION



Welcome to the latest [Spotlight on Fuel Poverty](#) - brought to you by the **Rural Services Network** and the **Rural England CIC** in association with **Calor**.

Limited options for fuel in rural localities – many of which lack mains gas – make efficient fuel use and insulation particularly important for countryside communities.

In addition, rural residents face the challenges of lower average wages, an ageing population and

single-skin, solid wall or non-cavity wall properties.

The **Rural Services Network** believes the national picture must not mask this extra rural dimension.



In [Hinterland](#) this week:

The Budget takes on significant prominence in Hinterland this week, with a number of stories which speak positively to rural communities. We

have the dark side in terms of the contribution of Universal Credit to rough sleepers in Market Town and the lack of a wide perspective in the planning of rail infrastructure. And Finally we have a call to people to take on angling before it sinks without trace. [Read on...](#)

WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK AT RSN HQ!

We've been watching the **Budget** with interest this week to see if there are any specifics which will benefit rural communities. Our Chief Executive Graham Biggs and Chair Cllr Motley along with other rural organisations at the Treasury last week to meet with Liz Truss MP to discuss rural issues and the rural economy.

As this bulletin goes to print, we've just seen the announcement of **£650M grant funding for social care** but our big question is how this will be allocated? Rural areas have a growing, ageing population and it costs more to deliver social care in rural areas.

We've published **3 new analyses** in our Observatory this week, [Local Area Migration Indicators](#), [Jobseekers Allowance](#) and [Model-](#)

LATEST RESEARCH & COMMENTARY



[How can we “think rural” in public procurement?](#)

Jessica Sellick investigates

Public procurement is the process by which public organisations buy and rent services or functions rather than provide them internally.

If the over-riding requirement is that all public procurement must be based on value-for-money

[based Estimates of Unemployment](#). This information is available at a local authority level and provides comparisons of how local areas are performing.

All this information and more can be accessed [here](#)

and achieved through competition (unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary); how can we ensure procurement has a positive impact on rural communities?

[Read more...](#)

The RSN is sponsored by **First** 



The **latest** edition of the **Funding Digest** can be viewed [here](#)
Looking for funding for your local project or community group? This monthly bulletin includes links to various sources of grant funding that you may be able to access!



Read the **latest RSN suggested draft responses** for key rural consultations and view the latest Government Consultations that may be relevant to rural communities [here](#)



The Rural Observatory - provides analysis, facts, figures and commentary impacting upon rural communities
Visit the Rural Observatory [here](#)



Find out about our campaign for fairer funding for rural areas [here](#)
This includes our work on the Local Government Finance Settlement

EVENTS & MEETINGS

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RSN PRIORITIES

Public Sector Funding, Barriers to Access, Future of Rural Areas, Health and Wellbeing



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