



# THE RURAL BULLETIN

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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



[Council leader argues for fairer rural funding](#)



[Council tax rises highest in rural areas](#)



[Ofcom confirms rural broadband as 2019 priority](#)



[Mobile companies 'share' to improve rural signal](#)



[Government invests in rural bus service](#)



[Rural schools desperately need help](#)



[Citizens' Panel encourage a rural community voice](#)



[Government urged to produce new rural strategy](#)



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



On 1st March, the Rural Services Network launched a campaign calling on the Government to develop a Rural Strategy.

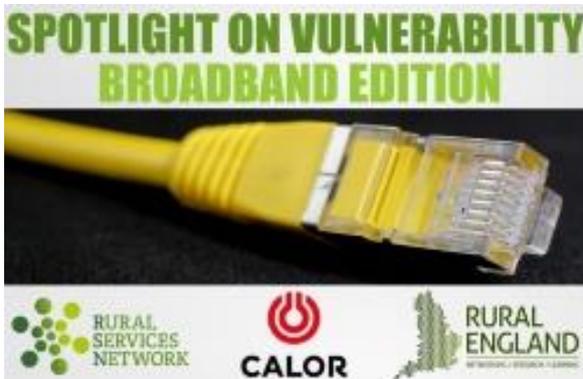
We are asking members to support this call by signing a petition [here](#)

Additional Information:

- [Further details about the campaign](#)

- [Supporters of the campaign](#)

- [RSN template report 'Time for a Rural Strategy'](#)



Welcome to the latest [Spotlight on Vulnerability - Broadband Edition](#). This service is brought to you by the Rural Services Network and the Rural England CIC in association with Calor.

The Spotlight on Vulnerability service aims to disseminate information about three key rural issues: fuel poverty, broadband and rural transport.

[This newsletter](#) focuses on the availability of broadband across rural areas.



In [Hinterland](#) this week:

Challenges facing older people as poverty increases, delays to: HS2 and a strange bedfellow adult social care, the perils of being an old childless

individual, farmers becoming “speechless” when it gets to naming their land and is Brexit really to blame for a feared shortage of forest giraffes?!! [Read on...](#)

## WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK AT RSN HQ!

We have the first meeting of the wider **Rural Services Partner Group** in London on April 9th which will discuss some key issues affecting rural service providers such as rural housing, rural transport and a presentation from the Alzheimers Society. All Rural Services Partner

## LATEST RESEARCH & COMMENTARY



[Developing a theory of change: mapping out the “missing \[rural\]”](#)

organisations are welcome to attend, please see your emails for more information.

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In the coming months the **RSN Observatory section** will be changing with the provision of **Observatory - Member Insights**, where our member authorities will be able to search for the analyses and data that define their areas. The latest analysis can now be found for: [Widening Participation in Higher Education \(2006/07 to 2016/17\)](#), currently sitting in the Observatory Learning, Skills & Education section [HERE](#)

As the Member Insights section takes shape, further details of the analyses available will be advertised here in What's New, so keep checking back for more information.

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[Performance - Planning Turnaround](#)  
Within the **Performance Benchmarking section** the Planning Turnaround analysis has been updated to December 2018. These analyses can be accessed [HERE](#) and provide benchmarking on speed of decisions for 'major', 'minor' and 'other' development types. [Local Planning - Authority performance](#)  
A supplementary planning performance analysis that presents data showing the speed and quality of decisions made over a two year period can be found [HERE](#)

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Finally don't forget our call for a Rural Strategy, click [this link](#) to add your name to the call.

The RSN is sponsored by **First** 

## ["middle" or \(re\)describing a process?](#)

A 'theory of change' involves people coming together to think about the difference that they want to make (and with whom), the context within which they work and what activities they need to undertake to lead to this positive change. But does a theory of change have a transformative effect on community projects or is it retrospective in leading us to reflect on what we're already doing? Jessica Sellick investigates.

- Read the full article [here](#)



## [The Brexit vote in rural communities](#)

There's a **new podcast available from Carole Walker.**

This episode, is titled '*The Brexit vote in rural communities*' and features George Freeman, MP for Mid-Norfolk and a former minister, who details why so many people in rural communities voted for Brexit and are in despair at the endless bickering over the decision to leave the EU

[Access the podcast here](#)



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### RURAL FUNDING DIGEST

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!



### GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

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](#)



### RURAL OBSERVATORY

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



### FAIRER FUNDING

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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