



# THE RURAL BULLETIN

Exclusively brought to you by the Rural Services Network



RURAL  
SERVICES  
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



[National Rural Conference is launched!](#)



[Rural groups demand guarantees over rural 4G](#)



[Safety concerns with bus drivers working long hours](#)



[Strategy needed to protect rural buses](#)



[Post Office funding crisis revealed](#)



[Potential £1 billion boost for recycling scheme](#)



[Rural 4G proposals need guarantees for consumers and businesses](#)



[Crowdfunding campaign launches to tackle Holiday Hunger this summer](#)



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



Bookings are open for our National Rural Conference in association with CCRI at the University of Gloucestershire in Cheltenham.

Taking place on 3rd & 4th September this year, it features a host of expert speakers on the subject of Creating

Vibrant Rural Communities.

Sponsored for the second year running by the Post Office, the keynote speaker the Rt Hon Lord Foster of Bath was the Chairman of the House of Lords Select Committee on the Rural Economy who recently published their recommendations for the Rural Economy. The National Rural Conference also benefits this year from IED accreditation.

To find out more [click here](#)



### [New inquiry: Rural broadband and digital only services](#)

**Less than two weeks remaining for submissions**

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee is launching an inquiry into Rural broadband and digital only services.

Broadband, mobile infrastructure and access to digital services remain a central issue for rural communities.

The EFRA Committee intends to hold a short inquiry, following up on its 2014-15 inquiry into [Rural broadband and digital-only services](#), to examine the government's current proposals and delivery of digital connectivity to rural areas.

The Committee is seeking written evidence by 24 June, [click here](#) to read more about the questions they are seeking to address.



**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'](#)
- [Summary of the 'Rural England – A different place demands a different strategy' event](#)

[demands a different strategy' event](#)



A quarterly bulletin facilitated by your membership of the **Rural Services Network** highlighting a selection of current rural economic development news, issues and opportunities.

Just some of the information included in [this edition](#) - we update you on the National Rural Strategy campaign, provide details on the impact home workers in rural areas, detail a model produced by the Economist Intelligent Unit which promotes rural

development, provide information on a digital connectivity portal for local authorities.



In this edition of [Hinterland](#):

A reluctantly growing rural workforce, Cornish town seeks GP, food prices on the brink of an October revolution (in a bad way), should libraries “stick to their knitting”? an exciting devolved adventure in Banking and the burgeoning of eccentricity stimulated by a festival near you!! [Read on...](#)

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



**Finally...**we are pleased to announce the launch of our National Rural Conference in September 2019! We are open for bookings and more information can be found in the conference section of this Bulletin or at [this link](#)

We have joined forces with the **Country Land and Business Association (CLA)** which runs the **#4GForAll** campaign, **Countryside Alliance**, **National Farmers Union (NFU)**, and **Which?**,

## LATEST RESEARCH & COMMENTARY



[‘Working at scale’ – what do Primary Care Networks mean for rural communities?](#)

Since April 2019 individual GP practices have been able to establish or join PCNs covering populations of between 30,000 and 50,000. What are PCNs and what do they mean for rural areas?

*Jessica Sellick investigates.*

- Read the full article [here](#)

to write to DCMS to share the four tests for ensuring mobile operator-led proposals guarantee the best outcomes for rural consumers. Read [more here](#)

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Bookings are still available for our North Eastern Regional Seminar/Networking event kindly hosted by Durham Council. It focuses on Sustainable Communities and is on 28th June. Please contact [events@sparse.gov.uk](mailto:events@sparse.gov.uk) for more details. Places are free for RSN members.

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The RSN is sponsored by **First** 



### [Apprenticeships – training people for \(rural\) jobs of the future?](#)

What are apprenticeships, how does the current system work and what needs to be done to ensure more are on offer in rural areas?

*Jessica Sellick investigates.*

- Read the full article [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](#)

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### **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

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**EVENTS & MEETINGS**

**BECOME A MEMBER**



RURAL  
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**RSN PRIORITIES**

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