

Rural England CIC

- A briefing statement



What is the Rural England CIC?

Rural England is a Community Interest Company. It is a not for dividend organisation with any surpluses re-invested in meeting the Company's Objectives. It is registered with Companies House and is VAT Registered.

What is the purpose of Rural England?

To build the strength and resilience of rural England by helping to inform and engender better rural policy making.

How does Rural England achieve its purpose?

- by encouraging informed debate
- by providing independent research and evidence
- by supporting informed information exchange
- by building a network that draws together all those who seek to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of rural England.

What is the prime focus of Rural England?

The prime focus of the company is on research to further the understanding of issues affecting people, businesses and communities in rural areas of England that will provide objective evidence to influence policy and policymakers.

Who are Rural England's target audiences?

These include government departments, MPs, the Rural Coalition and the extensive networks of our stakeholders.

Who are Rural England's stakeholders?

The Board of Rural England is advised by a wide ranging Stakeholder Group consisting of the following 42 organisations/individuals (as at 31/03/17):

- Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE)
- Age UK
- Arthur Rank Centre
- Big Lottery Fund
- British Youth Council
- Calor Gas Ltd
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Child Poverty Action Group
- Citizen's Advice Bureau - Rural Issues Group
- Countryside Alliance
- Countryside and Community Research Institute, University of Gloucestershire
- Country Land and Business Association

- Farming Community Network
- Federation of Small Businesses
- First Group plc
- Local Enterprise Partnerships
- Local Government Information Unit
- Locality
- National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- National Association of Voluntary and Community Associations
- National Association of Local Councils
- National Farmers Union
- National Federation of Women's Institutes
- National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs
- National Parks England
- National Trust
- Plunkett Foundation
- Prince's Countryside Fund
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
- Rural Services Network
- Town and Country Planning Association
- University of Cumbria
- University of Plymouth
- UK Youth
- Women in Rural Enterprise
- Lord Cameron of Dillington
- Former commissioners / officers from the Commission for Rural Communities:
 - Professor Sheena Asthana
 - Margaret Clark CBE
 - Alison McLean OBE
 - Sue Prince OBE, DL
 - Professor Mark Shucksmith
 - Professor Michael Winter OBE

What work has Rural England achieved out so far?

1. State of Rural Services Report – launched in the House of Commons in 2017.
2. Rural Vulnerability as Affecting Older People Report – published in 2016.
3. Quarterly bulletins published under a “Vulnerability Service” – covering the subjects of Transport, Fuel Poverty and Broadband.
4. Rural Infographic produced containing key rural statistics and data.
5. Website developed – all publications available free to download (www.ruralengland.org).