

RURAL ENGLAND – PROJECT PIPELINE

The list below is the updated project pipeline (or potential pipeline) list as it stands on 24th June 2021. It may evolve further by the date of the Stakeholders' meeting. Since the last version of this document, we have published the Rural Net Zero report, progressed the State of Rural Services 2021 project and made progress with the Rural Vulnerability research. Both the follow up to the Rural Proofing for Health Toolkit and the proposed project with NRTF face challenges to get them underway.

Project: Rural Proofing for Health Toolkit

Client: Cirican, National Centre for Rural Health & Care and Rural England CIC

Description: To produce an up-to-date online toolkit which local health and social care commissioners and delivery partnerships can use to take account of rural needs and circumstances in their strategies, plans and projects. Recent work has been with Cirican members to promote a training/facilitation offer on rural proofing to the health sector.

Research by: Current phase is a partnership between Cirican, NCRHC and Rural England.

Status: Two Cirican members have received local offers to work with the project and some NHS Education funding is provisionally available. However, other Cirican members have found local willingness, but not whilst pandemic pressures are still high. If it proceeds this project should generate a small income for Rural England.

Likelihood of proceeding: follow-on phase is in the balance 5 / 10

Project: Rural Net Zero Inquiry

Client: Calor as main client plus English Rural Housing Association and National Housing Federation

Description: To explore the implications for rural communities and businesses arising from policy and practice to move the country towards its statutory target of becoming net zero by 2050. This considered both opportunities and concerns. The project focussed on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, housing and energy generation.

Research by: RE oversight, with research by associates Mickledore consultants

Status: Final report being launched at Rural Vulnerability Day on 24th June 2021

Likelihood of proceeding: completed

Project: Rural Vulnerability Research project

Client: Utilities on the Rural Vulnerability Research Panel established by RE plus Defra match-funding

Description: To explore rural issues or the rural dimension to issues for vulnerable customers served by utility companies (gas, electricity and water). In particular, this should gather first-hand experience and stories from vulnerable customers of such customers. It may have findings about one or two upcoming policy developments e.g. SMART metering.

Research by: RE oversight, with CCRI delivering the project (alongside a Defra project, to make fieldwork efficient)

Status: Project ongoing with an extended timescale, seeking to achieve more interviews.

Progress is due to be discussed with the funders in early July, when a decision will be taken whether to move on to report writing.

Likelihood of proceeding: ongoing

Project: State of Rural Services 2021

Client: Rural England CIC

Description: to explore the impact of Covid-19 and restrictions on the provision of services in rural areas, not least whether it has led to or sped up certain trends. This involves use of the Rural Panel for a survey and makes use of evidence that has been produced by member organisations of the RE Stakeholders Group.

Research by: RE led and mostly RE time. CCRI are managing the Rural Panel survey and RSN are surveying their Market Towns Group.

Status: Project started in January 2021 and is on track. Existing evidence sources have largely now been reviewed and written up. The Rural Panel survey has completed and is being analysed. The RSN survey is live. The aim is to have a final report later in 2021.

Likelihood of proceeding: ongoing

Project: Impact of Rural Touring Arts on Loneliness, Isolation and Wellbeing

Client: National Rural Touring Forum

Description: NRTF approached us to develop guidance that rural touring arts schemes can use to measure impact in terms of loneliness, isolation and wellbeing (including for social prescribing). Also, a quick/small project to produce an extra output from earlier research.

Research by: small project by RE. Larger project would need associate input (from who to be decided).

Status: Small project completed and signed off. NRTF have agreed the brief for the larger project, but we await news about their efforts to raise the necessary funding.

Likelihood of proceeding: larger project 5 / 10

BW, June 2021