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# Devolution – What does it mean for Rural England?

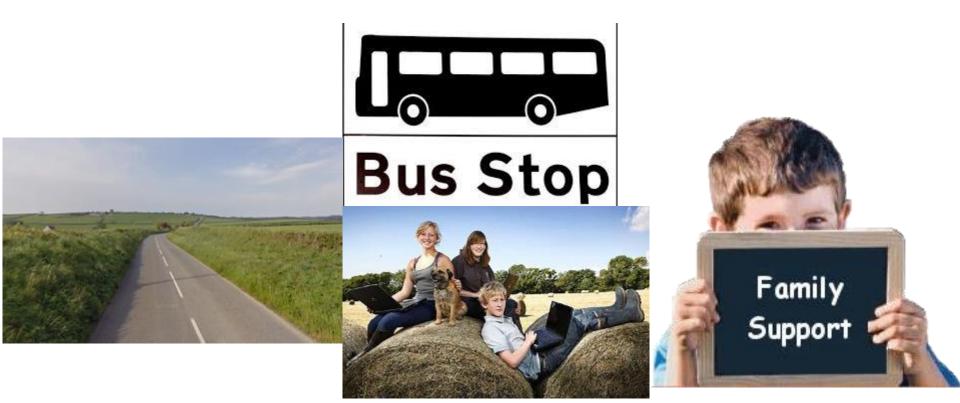
## A DCN perspective Cllr Neil Clarke,

DCN Chairman & Leader Rushcliffe Borough Council



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#### Tackling the key rural issues: Isolation:







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Other key rural issues:

- Skills and employment;
- Cost of housing;
- Pressure on community assets (shops, pubs, meeting places);
- Use of rural areas as dormitories.





#### County & district services are complementary

- troubled families
- housing
- culture
- health & social care









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Give Peace a chance!

- Non-Metropolitan Commission acknowledged role of rural economy to national growth
- 56% GVA outside metropolitan centres
- Rural areas economic pioneers but we need to do more







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#### Supporting growth Overcoming barriers to infrastructure investment





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#### **Funding rural services**



Government needs to shift fo focus from cities & ntly rebalance.

Otherwise services in rural England risk 'falling off the edge' – CIPFA/LGA Independent Finance Commission 2015



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