



# Devolution – What does it mean for Rural England?

## A DCN perspective

Cllr Neil Clarke,  
DCN Chairman & Leader  
Rushcliffe Borough Council

# District Councils' Network

## The one voice of district councils in the LGA

Close to people, focused on place



## Tackling the key rural issues: Isolation:



**Bus Stop**





## Other key rural issues:

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

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## County & district services are complementary

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







## 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





## Funding rural services



Government needs to shift focus from cities & urban areas to rural areas and rebalance.

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





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**Joint Statement**

**Devolution, Growth and Public Sector Reform: County & District Collaboration**

***As we enter a new Parliament the CCN and DCN want to make a bold and united statement on English Devolution.***

During the past five years we have witnessed substantial, but unfinished, progress on localism and devolution. There is now a political consensus and broad commitment from the new Conservative Government that devolution within England has the potential to rebalance our economy, deliver better public services and revitalise our democracy.

A comprehensive and bold devolution settlement for England must reach all four corners of the nation, beyond Westminster, to empower local communities. As we look ahead to the first Queens Speech of the Parliament the Government now has the opportunity to deliver fully on its devolution and localism credentials.

The last five years has demonstrated that the urban and rural economies represented by our members continue to be the largest contributors to national growth and to the Treasury. Without the additional value generated by our economies, the recovery would simply not

# FINDING COMMON GROUND – DISTRICT AND COUNTY COLLABORATION