

# Achieving sustainable development in rural areas:

**A positive response to the climate change agenda**


Commission for  
Rural Communities  
Tackling rural disadvantage



Sound analysis, inspiring ideas, effective delivery



# The big idea!

- ***"Does policy (at whatever level) work towards the creation and maintenance of genuinely sustainable communities in rural areas in the face of equally genuine concerns regarding climate change and the need to mitigate against the effects of this and adapt to its potential impacts?"***
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**The proposal seeks to address the emerging issue in the UK of:**

**"an unholy alliance between urban development and rural preservationist elites"**

**Prof. M. Shucksmith  
(2007)**

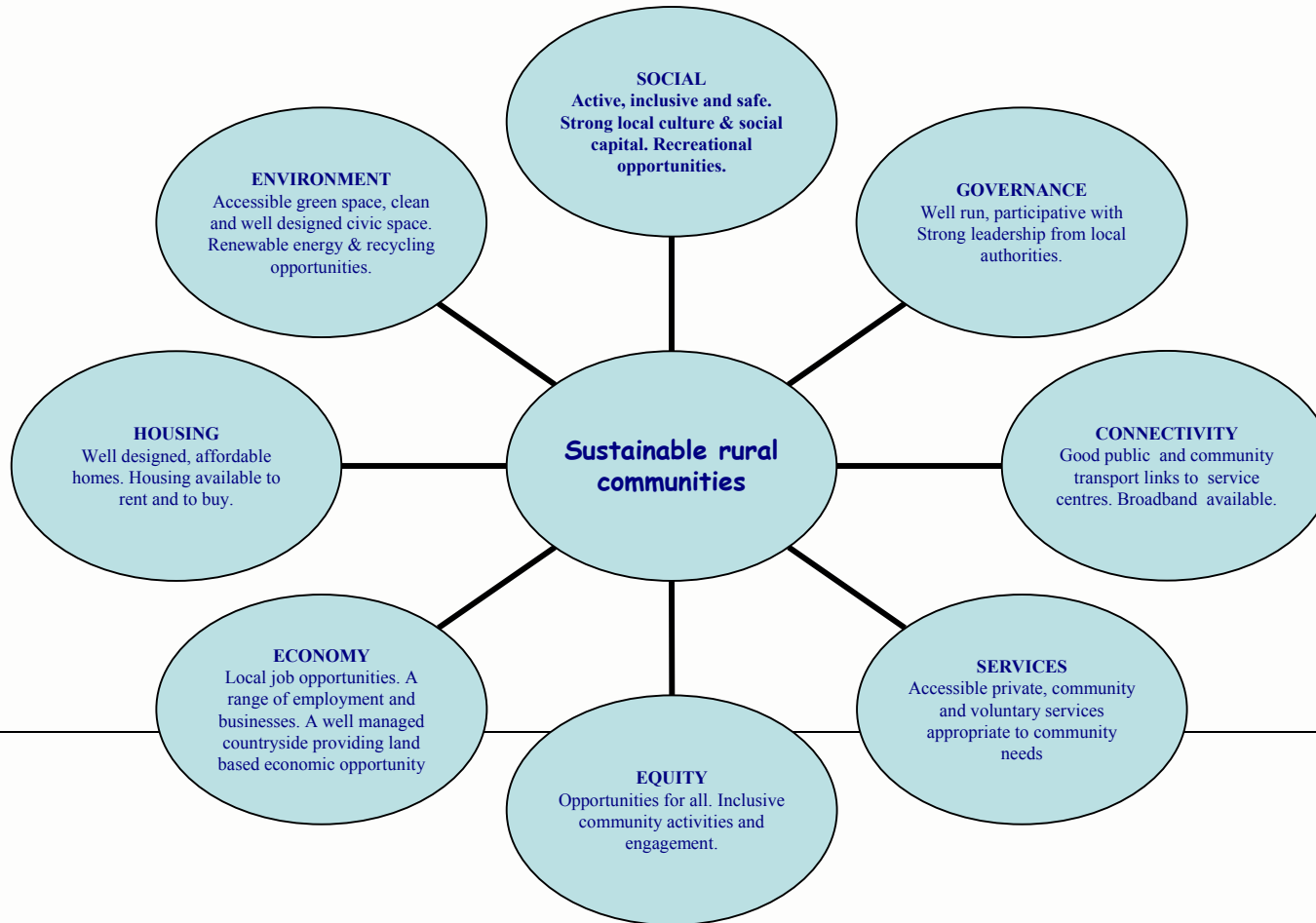




# Key research questions

- Does policy and practice in relation to rural England demonstrate 'buy in' to the concepts of sustainable development and sustainable communities?
- Is there an analysis and understanding of the full range of sustainable development, sustainable communities and climate change issues as they manifest themselves in rural areas?
- Are these issues treated as part of a single process - i.e. how can we meet social economic and environmental needs of our rural communities in ways that tackle and respond to climate change?
- Is there recognition and response to the interdependencies that exist between rural and urban areas?

# Conceptualising a sustainable rural community

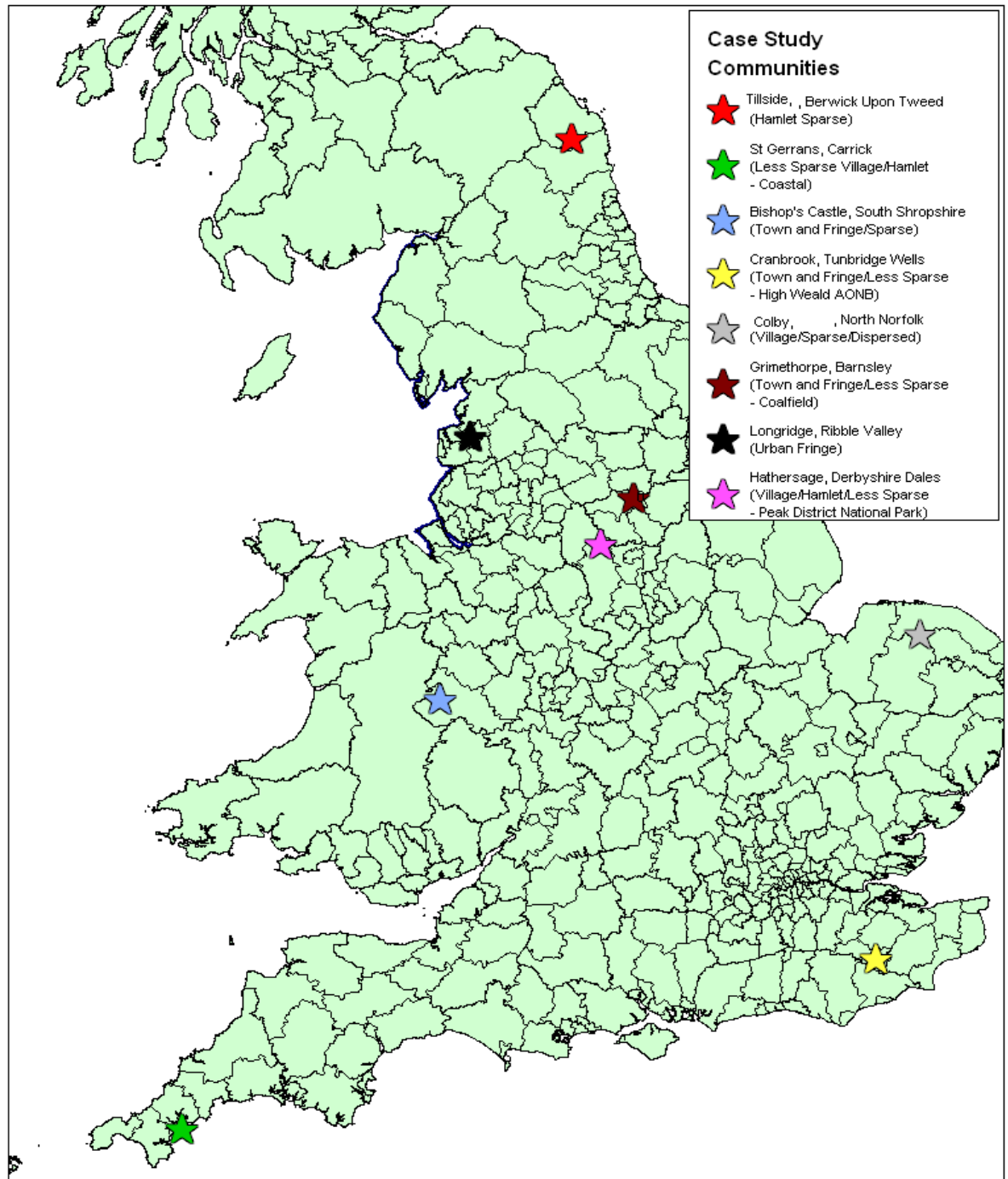




# The UK case studies

- Bishop's Castle, Shropshire
- Colby, Norfolk
- Cranbrook, Kent
- Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire
- Hathersage, Derbyshire
- Longridge, Lancashire
- St. Gerrans, Cornwall
- Tillside, Northumberland









# Key findings

- **Regional strategies supportive but too broad to provide detailed guidance for communities.**
- **Local Development Frameworks treat rural different to urban.**
- **Little connectivity with sustainable development/climate change principles at the local level.**
- **There is a clear need for rurally sensitive evidence – policy based on assumption at present.**
- **Policies fail to recognise interdependency between urban and rural..**
- **The need for consistency - ensuring climate change objectives are met in rural areas.**
- **Stronger engagement required with Local Strategic Partnerships.**



# Key outcomes

- **The UK analysis/The Netherlands comparison.**
- **The Evaluation Checklist.**
- **Roadtesting the checklist – CLG/CRC?**
- **Policy makers recognising new opportunities for growth in rural communities.**
- **Rural communities actively contribute to climate change objectives....**



# The Evaluation Checklist

- ✓ Allows for communities and LSPs/Local Authorities to analyse and challenge their own contribution towards climate change/sustainable community objectives:
  - **Well run?** *With effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership.*
  - **Well connected?** *With good transport services and communication linking people to jobs, schools, health and other services.*
  - **Fair for everyone?** *Including those in other communities, now and in the future.*
  - **Environmentally sensitive?** *Providing places for people which are considerate of the environment*

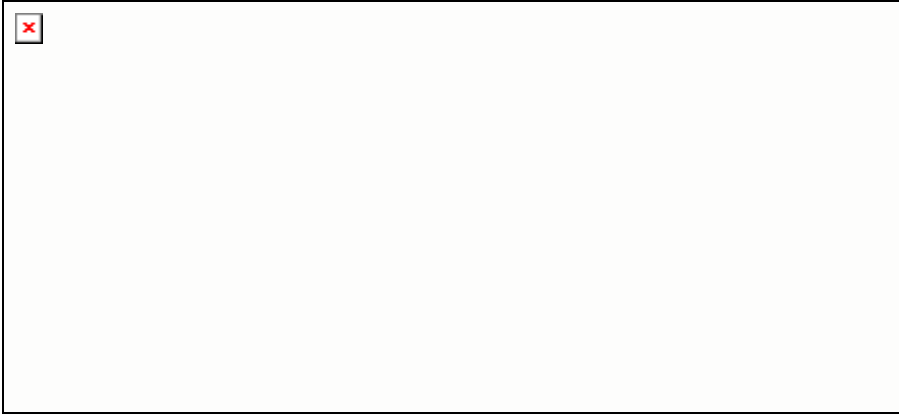




# How will it be used??

- To encourage policy makers on the one hand to provide new opportunities for growth in rural areas; and
- encouraging communities on the other hand to ensure that growth is sustainable and contributes to mitigating the effects of, or adapting to, climate change.





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