

LEVELLING UP

Unleashing the potential
of the rural economy



CONTACTS

For more information on the CLA's report *Levelling up: Unleashing the potential of the rural economy* published in September 2021, contact:

Jonathan Roberts, Director of External Affairs
Tel: 07810 304006
Email: jonathan.roberts@cla.org.uk

Rosie Nagle, Public Affairs Adviser
Tel: 07792 097145
Email: rosie.nagle@cla.org.uk

CLA, 16 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PQ
Tel: 020 7235 0511
Fax: 020 7235 4696
Email: mail@cla.org.uk
www.cla.org.uk

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THE CLA

Founded in 1907, the CLA is the membership organisation for owners of land, property and businesses in rural England and Wales. We exist to champion, protect and enhance our rural economy, environment and way of life.

Our aim is to unlock the potential of the rural economy by promoting innovative ideas to a national audience and providing practical support to members. We do this so our members can feed the country, create jobs and prosperity, invest in communities and protect the environment for future generations.

Together, CLA members own and manage around half the rural land in England and Wales and more than 250 different types of businesses. The work they undertake in the best interests of the land has a positive effect on wildlife and the natural environment, and their diverse and successful businesses are the heart of rural communities.

The CLA's formal, incorporated name is the Country Land and Business Association Limited, and its registered office is at 16 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PQ.

Support the CLA Rural Powerhouse campaign

The CLA's Rural Powerhouse campaign has already received widespread support from across the political divide, and from communities across the country.

If you back our campaign, write to the Prime Minister or other Government Ministers asking them to implement the policies described in this CLA publication.

For further information, and to discuss how else you can support our campaign, contact externalaffairs@cla.org.uk

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A close-up view of a tractor's operator's station. The image shows a hand on a joystick controller with directional buttons and 'AG' and 'AR' labels. Above the joystick is a large touchscreen displaying a 3D field layout with a blue highlighted area. To the right, there's a 'Techneat Rate Control' panel with buttons for 'CAL', 'AUX', 'S1', and 'S2'. Below that is a 'HEADLAND' control box with 'CLOSED', 'OPEN', 'ON', and 'OFF' settings. The background shows a green field through the tractor's window.

The countryside is not just a source of food and pleasure, it can be an economic powerhouse in its own right.

INTRODUCTION

Farmers fed the nation through lockdown. Now, having emerged from the worst of Covid-19, landowners are once again helping the country get back on its feet.

Even before coronavirus, the rural economy was 18% less productive than the national average. Closing that gap would add an estimated £43bn to the economy, creating hundreds of thousands of skilled jobs in communities everywhere. This would be on top of the £261bn the rural economy already contributes to national Gross Value Added (GVA).

There are multiple reasons for the countryside's lower productivity. Poor digital connectivity, an outdated planning system, unnecessary bureaucracy, and persistent underinvestment in skills and infrastructure have resulted in fewer opportunities for those living in rural areas.

The CLA's Rural Powerhouse campaign is designed to unleash the potential of the rural economy. But we know there is no silver bullet. In this publication – *Levelling up: Unleashing the potential of the rural economy* – we highlight a number of policies we believe will help level up the economy; some of them require investment, others simply require changes in Government processes. But none of this can be delivered without political will.

For many years these issues have been pushed to the bottom of the Government's in-tray. But we argue that at this crucial – perhaps defining – moment, every worker and every community is needed, and now is the time to look afresh at the countryside not just as a source of food and pleasure, but as an economic powerhouse in its own right.

The means to deliver

There can be no doubt of Defra's commitment to the countryside. We work closely with officials and Ministers and know them to be passionate, diligent and conscientious.

But at present Government's ways of working are too siloed to be capable of fulfilling the economic potential of rural Britain.

Many of the ideas in this publication, and indeed many other policies promoted by the CLA and other similarly-minded organisations, are not in the remit of just one Whitehall department. Too often therefore, good ideas, perhaps transformative ideas, fall between the cracks.

The only way rural communities can be levelled up is with the focus of a cross-departmental, Ministerial-led committee pulling together the resources and efforts of teams across Whitehall.

To level up the rural economy, the CLA recommends the Government implements the following policies:

1. make the VAT cut for tourism businesses permanent;
2. help land managers to create a profitable and sustainable farming sector;
3. create Rural Business Units;
4. invest in green skills and green jobs;
5. deliver a fully connected countryside;
6. introduce tax reliefs that help rural businesses;
7. deliver a planning regime that works for the countryside;
8. align VAT on house renovation and repair with new build; and
9. upgrade electricity grids in rural areas.

At the CLA, we look forward to working with officials, MPs and Ministers so that we can help them unleash the potential of the rural economy.



A permanent VAT cut to 5% for tourism businesses would lead to an increase in demand and more jobs being created.

VACANCIES

1. VAT CUT FOR TOURISM BUSINESSES

Covid-19 has devastated rural tourism businesses – whose revenues fell by over £40bn¹ in 2020 as a result of Government control.

The rise of cheap package holidays abroad has meant that pre-Covid many of us had fallen out of the habit of holidaying in the UK. There is, at present, an opportunity for British domestic tourism businesses to remind the population of the beauty, convenience and lower carbon footprint of taking a holiday closer to home.

The Chancellor's decision to temporarily cut VAT for tourism businesses was welcome, but successive lockdowns crippled the industry's ability to capitalise on the change. And there is every chance that post-Covid lower prices abroad will lure people again.

The Government should **make the current VAT cut from 20% to 5% for tourism enterprises permanent**, adding up to £4.5bn to the economy over a 10-year period. This would allow UK tourism businesses to compete with popular European destinations, including Greece (13% VAT), France (10% VAT) and Spain (10% VAT). It would also enable tourism businesses in the UK to lower their prices to the public – leading to an increase in demand and more jobs being created.

CLA recommendation

The CLA calls on the Government to make the current VAT cut from 20% to 5% for tourism enterprises permanent.

1. Visit Britain: 2020 Domestic tourism forecast <https://www.visitbritain.org/2020-tourism-forecast>

A vibrant field of purple and yellow wildflowers under a blue sky with white clouds. The foreground is filled with tall, green stems topped with purple thistle-like flowers and smaller yellow blossoms. The background shows a vast field of similar flowers stretching to the horizon under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

If farming is to
continue, it must
be profitable and
environmentally
sustainable.

2. A PROFITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING SECTOR

Farming has been left relatively unscathed by Covid-19, but the introduction of a new Agriculture Act 2020 and the new trade agreements following Brexit will have profound effects on farming businesses in England and Wales. In England the transition period from the old Common Agricultural Policy starts in 2021 with the phasing out of direct payments and the introduction of schemes and pilots for the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme. In Wales, similar changes are expected from 2024. These changes will have a major impact on the farming sector and will expose the low profitability of many farming enterprises.

If farming is to continue, it must be profitable and environmentally sustainable. Covid-19 has shown the value of domestic production for food security, high safety and welfare standards, and the role of farming in our landscapes.

Transforming the farming sector needs actions in a number of areas, many of which are being addressed in the Defra Agricultural Transition Plan (ATP) and the Welsh Government Sustainable Farming programme which include schemes to support efficient and productive farming, improved practices to protect and enhance the environment, and an advice programme to help some businesses with the transition.

The ATP is welcome, but there is more that should be done. For example:

1. **provide greater clarity on individual schemes** and how they relate to each other, to allow farmers to plan their future business with confidence;
2. **continue incentivising businesses to invest** in plant or machinery **by keeping the Annual Investment Allowance at £1m** beyond 31 December 2021;

3. **extend the tax relief** for research, development and innovation to unincorporated businesses, which most farms are;
4. **increase investment in skills and training** – digital, business, technical and environmental;
5. **address market failure in the supply chain** to ensure farmers are paid a fair price through new robust legislation;
6. **encourage market-focused investment** to meet the opportunities of the bioeconomy by
 - supporting market development for farm output in domestic and global markets;
 - providing market rules, verification standards and governance for the development of private sector environmental markets including carbon and biodiversity net gain; and
 - developing a farm woodland economy through tree planting on farms and encouraging sustainable woodland management by nurturing niche local markets for wood-fuel biomass for heating hard-to-insulate off-gas rural properties.

CLA recommendations

The CLA calls on the Government to invest in the creation of a profitable and sustainable farming sector by, for example:

1. promoting easy to understand individual schemes to allow farmers to plan with confidence;
2. keeping the Annual Investment Allowance at £1m beyond 31 December 2021, to incentivise investment in plant or machinery;
3. extending the tax relief for research, development and innovation to unincorporated businesses;
4. increasing investment in skills and training, to include digital, business, technical and environmental;
5. addressing market failure in the supply chain with robust legislation;
6. encouraging market-focussed investment in the bioeconomy.



Many farmers consider diversifying their businesses to be a commercial necessity.

3. RURAL BUSINESS UNITS

Farmers take great pride in producing food for the nation and beyond. But with continued uncertainty in the agricultural sector, many consider diversifying their businesses to be a commercial necessity.

CLA members run over 250 different types of businesses in rural areas – these include rental accommodation, renewable energy, tourism, added-value food production and commercial lettings. Further opportunities lie ahead, including investing in delivering the Government’s objectives such as climate change mitigation and increasing biodiversity. This is to be welcomed. With many rural areas suffering from underemployment, encouraging diversification will encourage job opportunities for a wider group of people, helping to support local economies and strengthen communities.

Currently, the different elements of a diversified business must be reported separately in the business tax returns, despite being part of a single business. This creates additional burdens for farmers; a lack of clarity around how to apportion business costs between different aspects of the business means many will have to incur the cost of an accountant to do this for them. Under future quarterly Making Tax Digital for Income Tax obligations, a quarterly analysis of overhead costs would become necessary as would multiple updates for each business activity. For example, through CLA research one accountant advised that the additional accountancy cost to a diversified business of Making Tax Digital for Income Tax would be an average of £2,570 per year. This figure would be in addition to the cost of new Making Tax Digital software, any new computer hardware required to run compliant software, and the cost to the business of time spent on tax administration.

To avoid this additional business burden and help deliver national goals, we recommend that **the Government should adjust tax rules to allow diversified rural businesses to choose to be treated for tax purposes as a single Rural Business Unit** – recognising it may not suit everyone’s business model. For those who elect to be treated this way, it would allow greater freedom of investment within rural businesses, leading to better productivity and more tax paid to the Exchequer, more income available for environmental activities, and more jobs. The administration of this system would also be much less complex and time-consuming, and should result in appreciable cost savings, both for HM Revenue and Customs and for rural businesses. Over the long term, we would expect this proposal to be at least cost-neutral.

CLA recommendation

The CLA calls on the Government to adjust tax rules to allow diversified rural businesses to choose to be treated as a single Rural Business Unit for tax purposes.

4. GREEN SKILLS AND GREEN JOBS

Investing in a green economic transition will lead to more jobs created, as we strive to green our electricity supply, electrify our transportation system and clean up our manufacturing sector. Some of these jobs will be located in rural areas, but an often-overlooked element of greening the economy will definitely be rural. The way land in the countryside is managed offers a unique opportunity to boost the economy and deliver on the Government's environmental ambitions.

There is scope to manage land specifically for environmental outcomes. Increasingly land managers understand that they are responsible for much of the nation's natural capital assets – the soil, grasslands, woods and water courses that provide us with clean water, and thriving wildlife – and can sequester and store carbon to help reach net zero. Properly valuing and investing in the management of these environmental assets could transform our countryside – creating a thriving and green countryside and boosting the rural economy at the same time.

Research shows that investing in green projects, such as restoring peatlands or creating woodlands, could create jobs while improving the environment. These jobs would involve new approaches to land management, as well as using new technologies to plan, implement and monitor environmental projects. Ancillary jobs in technology, advice, green tourism and environmental education and markets would also follow.

Developing environmental markets to encourage private investment in natural capital would help create these jobs, meet the Government's environmental targets and put the UK at the forefront of innovative new ways of delivering environmental land management.

To do this the CLA recommends the Government implements the following range of measures.

1. **Support baseline data collection and standardised environmental and carbon accounting metrics** so that we understand our starting point and can measure progress towards our goals.
2. **Combine the UK's expertise in financial services and world-leading environmental policy** so that the UK becomes a world leader in carbon and environmental markets and green finance, presenting a vision for this at COP26.
3. Ensure that public policy, such as the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes, biodiversity net gain and Nature Recovery Networks **allow for combined public and private investment** to the environment and the countryside.
4. **Invest in pilots on the ground**, helping nature-based projects become investible and seed funding for private environmental investment. £100 million investment over the next four years in 10-12 pilot projects would leverage match-funding of at least £100 million of private investment.
5. Build on the work of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures and the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures by making companies report on their impact on the natural environment as well as climate change, to **incentivise greener investment and production**.

CLA recommendations

The CLA calls on the Government to invest in green skills and green jobs by:

1. supporting baseline data collection and standardised environmental and carbon accounting metrics;
2. combining the UK's expertise in financial services and world-leading environmental policy;
3. ensuring that public policy allows for combined public and private investment to the environment and the countryside;
4. investing in pilot schemes to help nature-based projects become investible and secure seed funding for private environmental investment;
5. building on the work of task forces to incentivise greener investment and production.



For rural business owners and workers to succeed, 21st century digital connectivity is of paramount importance.

5. A FULLY CONNECTED COUNTRYSIDE

In 2020, an opinion poll conducted by Survation for the CLA showed that Covid-19 has made 44% of those living in London more likely to want to move to the countryside, particularly given the increase in homeworking. Indeed, numerous opinion polls have suggested that a rural location is increasingly attractive for businesses and workers alike.

This reversal in trends suggests that living in the city is no longer considered necessary to fulfil one's career potential. But for these businesses and workers to succeed, 21st century digital connectivity is of paramount importance.

Nearly half a million homes (496,000) and around 125,000 businesses in rural areas have poor or slow broadband. By improving connectivity in rural areas, we can unleash economic potential, while preserving the health of communities. In areas blighted by deprivation, we can create jobs, and make rural living viable for the young families who urgently need it. According to a 2018 report, unlocking the digital potential for rural businesses across the UK could increase GVA by between £12bn and £26bn per year and increase turnover by between £15bn to £34bn per year.²

In addition to personal communications and e-commerce, mobile data connectivity is also needed for in-field innovation using remote and mobile sensors and drone-mounted technology. Yet at the moment, Ofcom figures show 4G indoor coverage as 86% in urban areas vs 46% in rural areas.³

2. <https://ruralengland.org/unlocking-the-digital-potential-of-rural-areas-research/#:~:text=Unlocking%20the%20digital%20potential%20of%20rural%20areas%20across%20the%20UK,estimates%20produced%20by%20this%20research.&text=It%20is%20equally%20notable%20that,made%20use%20of%20online%20sales.>

3. Ofcom: Connected Nations 2020

To bridge the gap and realise the opportunities from broadband and mobile connectivity, the CLA has consistently argued for universal coverage where everyone, irrespective of where they live or work, has access to an affordable and effective connection.

Whilst Government may have accepted the principle of this strategy through Project Gigabit, the decision in the 2020 Spending Review to only use £1.2bn of the available £5bn fund means that it is paying lip service to ensuring that rural and urban areas are connected at the same time. It is fundamental that all available resources are allocated by 2025. The introduction of a Shared Rural Network for mobile connectivity, if effectively implemented, will significantly improve 4G access over the next five years and set up the right framework for the wider deployment of 5G in rural areas.

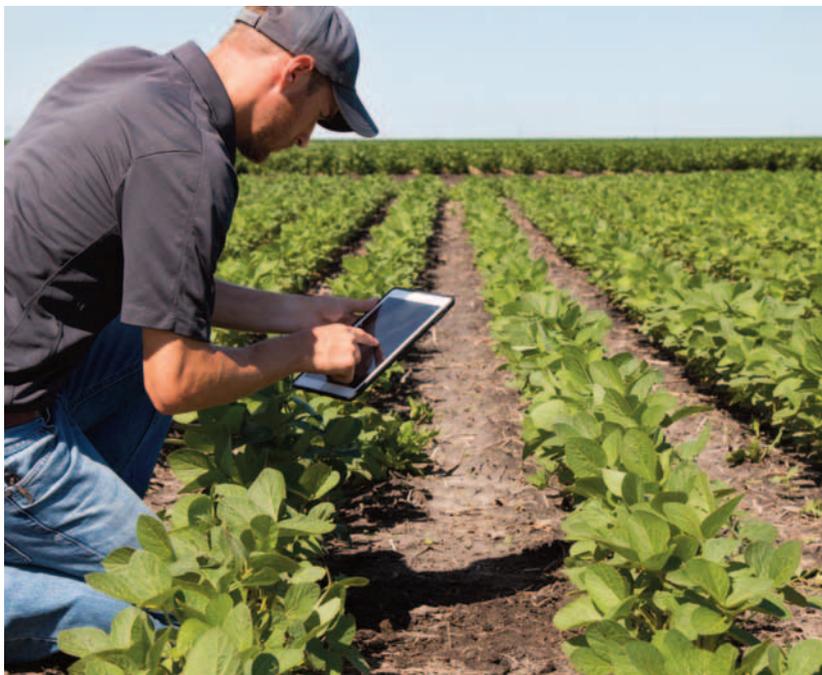
What rural businesses now need, and what the CLA will keep campaigning for, is a clear policy framework for delivery. This means, among other things, the Government:

1. using all the funds available to ensure that delivery targets can be met, with **interim targets** placed on broadband and mobile phone operators, to avoid improvements being back-ended;
2. securing the **civil engineering capacity needed**;
3. implementing the **increased permitted development rights** which have been the subject of recent consultations in England, which would encourage accelerated rollout; and
4. introducing a **legal obligation on network operators to deliver “Rural Roaming”** (i.e. allowing a signal to pass from one operator’s network to another) if they fail to implement the Shared Rural Network swiftly and meet their interim milestones.

CLA recommendations

The CLA calls on the Government to deliver a fully connected countryside by:

1. using all of the funds available and introducing interim targets on broadband and mobile phone operators;
2. securing the civil engineering capacity needed;
3. implementing the increased permitted development rights to encourage accelerated rollout;
4. introducing a legal obligation on network operators to deliver “Rural Roaming”.



A man and a woman are walking across a wooden bridge with blue metal railings over a stream. The man is wearing a plaid shirt and a red backpack, and the woman is wearing a white t-shirt. They are both smiling. In the background, there is a wooden building, a wooden fence, and a lush green landscape with tall grass and flowers.

Defra figures show that tourism on its own accounts for 15% of jobs in rural areas.

6. TAX RELIEFS FOR RURAL BUSINESSES

Throughout repeated lockdowns, many rural businesses - particularly in tourism, hospitality and retail - had to shut down overnight with restricted opportunities for income on re-opening due to capacity constraints. Whilst businesses are now allowed to trade, they are still often operating significantly beneath capacity.

These sectors are large employers – Defra figures⁴ show that tourism on its own accounts for 15% of jobs in rural areas. In the short term, businesses, the banks and other investors need clarity over what support will be available to protect the productive capacity in these sectors. This will also encourage commercial tenants to keep premises, and commercial landlords to go ahead with investment and maintenance.

To bring this about, the CLA is calling for the Government to implement the following proposals to help rural businesses.

1. **The extension of Small Business Rate Relief so that it can apply to more than one property** (hereditament) providing the total rateable value is below the ceilings. The ceiling for the taper needs to be increased from £15,000 to £20,000. Small Business Rate Relief remains an important and much-needed relief that assists small businesses to get established.
2. **An increase in the time taken to levy Empty Property Relief to 12 months.** Empty Property Relief still hits too many landlords hard, particularly in rural areas where often it can take longer to fill vacant premises, and such a short period of relief acts as a disincentive for further investment in employment space. The current relief is limited to three or six months depending on the use, but this should be increased to twelve months unless where major repairs are required.

4. Statistical Digest of Rural England 2021

3. **The introduction of a new relief for diversifying agricultural business.** This would give a tapered relief over the first four years of a new agricultural business; this will help to de-risk and encourage diversification and restructuring of agricultural businesses whilst enabling new non-agricultural businesses to become established.

CLA recommendations

The CLA calls on the Government to introduce tax reliefs that will specifically help rural businesses by:

1. extending the Small Business Rate Relief so that it can apply to more than one property (hereditament) providing the total rateable value is below the ceilings;
2. extending Empty Property Relief to 12 months;
3. introducing a new relief for diversifying agricultural business.

7. A PLANNING REGIME FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE

Without a planning regime that works for the countryside, the potential of the rural economy will never be realised. Only significant reform will do.

It is absolutely right to ensure elements of the rural environment are protected by the planning system, but the countryside is not a museum; rural poverty will only be eased and opportunity only created if we allow landowners to invest in their communities.

Time and again we hear of farmers wanting to convert old barns into new office blocks, only to be held back by a dated planning system.

Indeed, it is so hard to navigate that, at great cost, many businesses simply give up trying to find a way to work within its restrictions and abandon development projects altogether. It is an increasingly common view that the criteria for businesses to follow in their applications are excessive, creating the need for endless discussions between applicant and authority.

The upfront cost associated with making a planning application, and the significant risk of an unsuccessful outcome, are hindering potential rural economic development. This cannot be overstated. One planning application for the redevelopment of a site in a market town required £1 million in upfront costs for supporting evidence, and was ultimately refused.

And this is to say nothing of the time it takes to receive planning permission. One CLA member spent 20 years navigating the planning system in order to convert listed farm buildings into the kind of commercial office spaces that would encourage entrepreneurs to find a home for their business in the countryside.

The Covid-19 crisis has made the costs and delays associated with the planning system even less acceptable. Now, we desperately

need a well-funded, efficient regime designed to encourage economic development in rural areas. **The needs of the rural economy should be a higher priority in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and there must be greater use of “permission in principle” rules** for proposals with demonstrable economic benefit. Pubs that have closed due to a lack of viability should be given permitted development rights to allow for change of use, providing immediate economic benefit.

CLA recommendations

The CLA calls on the Government to deliver a well-funded, efficient planning regime designed to encourage economic development in rural areas by:

1. giving the needs of the rural economy a higher priority in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
2. encouraging greater use of “permission in principle” rules.



Rural landowners can play a major role in providing housing to help sustain their communities for future generations.

8. VAT ON HOUSING

The UK's housing crisis continues – and has become normalised. Historically, rural landowners have played a major role in providing housing to help sustain their communities for future generations. Many could repair and renovate existing buildings to provide new accommodation – but at present they are discouraged from doing so by the tax system.

VAT is currently charged at 20% on repair and maintenance and at 5% on qualifying conversion/adaptation work to buildings. In contrast, VAT is charged at zero rate on the construction and first sale or lease of new buildings. This incentivises demolishing existing buildings and building new ones over regenerative development, which would be less carbon-intensive.

The Cut the VAT campaign commissioned research by Experian in 2015 to quantify the impact of reducing the rate of VAT on the labour element of residential repairs and maintenance from 20% to 5% (over the 5-year period from 2015 to 2020) across the UK. It was estimated to generate an economic stimulus of £15bn over the 5-year period to 2020 at a cost of £6.6bn over the same period.

However, the UK no longer needs to comply with EU VAT rules, and the Government now has full control over what goods and services qualify for zero and reduced rates. **We propose renovation and repair costs to be zero rated alongside new builds.**

This proposal would encourage the re-use of existing buildings, providing more homes to help meet the Government's target and deliver wider development to stimulate the economy. It would also encourage homeowners wanting to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

Notable benefits of this proposed policy would include:

- **42,000 extra full-time equivalent construction jobs and 53,000 jobs in the wider economy** by the end of the period (with the majority starting in the first year);
- extra expenditure of around **£1bn on energy efficient measures**.
- up to 92,000 homes benefiting from retrofitting energy efficient measures over the 5-year period; and
- reducing the competitive advantage of the estimated £10bn informal economy in construction would **help support compliance with building regulations, planning law, health and safety legislation, as well as additional tax collection** from the sector in terms of income tax and national insurance contributions.

CLA recommendation

The CLA calls on the Government to encourage the repair and renovation of existing buildings to provide new accommodation by reducing VAT to zero for renovation and repair costs.



Renewable energy generation projects in rural areas would create green recovery jobs and local grid resilience.

9. ELECTRICITY GRIDS IN RURAL AREAS

The disproportionate costs and delays in getting new or upgraded electric grid connections need to be addressed now to avoid yet another divide which could hold back the economy (and air quality improvements) in rural areas. Renewable energy generation projects in rural areas would create green recovery jobs and local grid resilience, but many projects with planning permission get shelved due to grid connection availability and cost.

Given the projected sharp rise in the number of electric vehicles (EVs) over the next decade, action is urgently needed: if the perception takes hold that there is nowhere to charge up electric cars, economic activity across many sectors will be sucked out of rural areas. This would have a debilitating effect on the investments in rural workspace, retail and tourism infrastructure of recent decades. The Government roll out of the £500m Rapid Charging Scheme to equip motorway and A-road networks with charging points will, unfortunately, not help rural areas.

The Government should require **network operators to plan ahead of need** for electrification of vehicles and heating, **encourage localised power generation** and storage in order to **future-proof weak rural grids**, and ensure connections and upgrades can be provided at reasonable cost. Network operators should also be required to **engage early on with power project developers to negotiate workable and affordable connections rather than quote at “arm’s length”**. We also urge the Government to create a funding model for the rural grid network that shares costs between the public and private sectors, using a similar approach to the telecommunications Shared Rural Network. OFGEM’s work on how to address the often prohibitively high grid connection costs will constitute a useful input.

Furthermore, **the Government must increase funding and widen eligibility of spend under EV charging points grant schemes to include necessary electricity upgrades.** This is needed to enable the full range of rurally-based businesses to pre-emptively install charging points in order to retain trade and grow. Distribution Network Operators need to be engaged in planning for this to ensure resilience of local grid networks as a demand for additional connections will rise sharply. Synergies with possible decentralised power generation and battery storage need to be part of their planning.

Electric network

- Costs are currently difficult to estimate. Learning from the rollout of digital connectivity, they could run into billions of pounds. However, this investment needs to start now to enable the decarbonisation of heat and the move to EVs. Therefore, we are calling for an initial investment of £1bn over the next Spending Review.
- Benefits include enormous potential for cost-effective renewable energy from rural areas if connection charges are lower, leading to direct jobs in the energy sector in the short term, and reduced carbon emissions.

Electric vehicle charging

- There are around 550,000 rural businesses in England. If eligibility of spend was widened under the Workplace Charging Scheme (which currently offers £350 towards the costs of an electric vehicle chargepoint), to also allow associated power connection upgrade costs up to £2,000 per property, then assuming a 50% uptake over the next three years, this would equate to £550m over the Spending Review period.

- A fast-tracked rollout of EV chargepoints in rural areas will create new jobs in assessment and installation, and safeguard rural jobs and economic activity across all sectors, and particularly in rural tourism, retail and leisure activities. It will help reduce carbon emissions and particulates emissions.

CLA recommendations

The CLA calls on the Government to upgrade electric grids in rural areas by:

1. creating a funding model for the rural grid network that shares cost between public and private sectors, akin to the Shared Rural Network;
2. fast-tracking the rollout of EV chargepoints in rural areas;
3. localising power generation and storage in order to future-proof weak rural grids.



CONTACTS

For more information on the CLA's report *Levelling up: Unleashing the potential of the rural economy* published in September 2021, contact:

Jonathan Roberts, Director of External Affairs
Tel: 07810 304006
Email: jonathan.roberts@cla.org.uk

Rosie Nagle, Public Affairs Adviser
Tel: 07792 097145
Email: rosie.nagle@cla.org.uk

CLA, 16 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PQ
Tel: 020 7235 0511
Fax: 020 7235 4696
Email: mail@cla.org.uk
www.cla.org.uk

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LEVELLING UP

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