



Rural Housing Partnership

Objective

Gloucestershire Rural Housing Partnership	A countywide partnership to facilitate the provision of affordable housing in the rural areas of Gloucestershire
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Detail

The Gloucestershire Rural Housing Partnership (GRHP) was formed in 2001 in response to directed Housing Corporation funding for rural housing. The partnership consists of the 4 rural local authorities in Gloucestershire, 6 local housing associations and [Gloucestershire Rural Community Council](#).

The GRHP is managed by a board with representation from the Rural Community Council, the Registered Providers (RPs), the Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) and the Local Authorities. At present, the Local Authorities and the RPs jointly fund the RHE post; this is felt to be worthwhile for the Local Authorities as they can lack the capacity to pursue rural exceptions site development due to the sometimes disproportionate amount of time that sites of this nature can take to bring forward. From the RP perspective, funding of the RHE, and membership of the GRHP can bring development opportunities.

The GRHP Charter outlines the principles for the partnership: It states that the GRHP will work together to provide quality, affordable, secure homes that enhance and benefit the wider rural community.

The partnership defines the role of the Rural Housing Enabler, and enabled funding from partners and agencies for the post of a Rural Housing Enabler, to be able to identify local housing need and bring forward opportunities for rural housing development.

The Partnership as a whole is important to ensure that a focus remains on rural affordable housing when Local Authorities and Registered Providers may be more focussed on the 'quick wins' of S.106 sites. It also acts as a forum for best practice and for networking in order to solve specific problems, thus maximising the capacity and knowledge of each organisation involved.

GRHP achieved 220 new dwellings in rural areas over its initial three year period, as well as ensuring that the properties were of a high standard of design and construction. 2006-2008 saw 240 affordable homes delivered in rural Gloucestershire.

Local authority partners: Stroud District Council; Tewkesbury Borough Council; Forest of Dean District Council; Cotswold District Council

[Partnership Agreement](#)

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