



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
LONDON

Press Release

For immediate publication

STATE OF THE CITIES: URBAN RENAISSANCE IS NOT HALTING THE EXODUS

Despite the Government's claims today that England's cities are improving as places to live and work, Londoners are still abandoning city life at an overall rate of over 100,000 per year[1], suggesting that Government policies are not hitting the mark.

This is CPRE London's[2] reaction to the publication today of the Government's 'State of the Cities' report[3], which assesses progress and performance of English cities since the publication of the Urban White Paper[4] in 2000.

Nigel Kersey, Director of CPRE's London Region said:

'While any progress is welcomed, quality of life issues are still driving people out of cities in huge numbers. Real success would mean that cities offer the housing, jobs, schools and environment that people need. This is especially important for families with young children. The evidence is that policies are not biting where they need to.'

'Urban out-migration creates enormous pressure for housing, roads and other development which eats into the countryside and creates commuting misery for millions. It's driven very largely by negative factors such as a poor urban environment, poor quality schools and a lack of good quality family housing. Government initiatives to improve our cities need to be aimed directly at those issues that are driving people out.'

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The Campaign to Protect Rural England exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

- [1] The latest figures from the Office for national Statistics show that, in the year ending December 2004, 243,900 moved out of London to the rest of the UK, whereas only 155,100 people moved in the opposite direction. The net movement in that year was therefore 105,100 people leaving London.

NHSCR Inter-regional migration movements within the UK, in the year ending DECEMBER 2004:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D9095.xls>

- [2] CPRE London is the London Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. CPRE exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. We promote positive solutions for the long-term future of the countryside to ensure change values its natural and built environment. Our Patron is Her Majesty The Queen. We have 59,000 supporters, a branch in every county, nine regional groups, over 200 local groups and a national office in London. CPRE is a powerful combination of effective local action and strong national campaigning. Our President is Sir Max Hastings

- [3] *State of the English Cities* is an independent report published today by the Government. See ODPM press release 'England's cities: best opportunity for 100 years to join Europe's elite' at:

<http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882>

- [4] '*Our Towns and Cities: the Future*'. 2000.