

**ABERDEEN CITY  
COUNCIL**

**ABERDEENSHIRE  
COUNCIL**

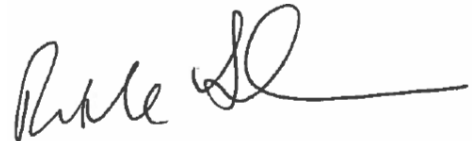
**MORAY  
COUNCIL**

**ANGUS  
COUNCIL**

**NORTH EAST SCOTLAND AGRICULTURE ADVISORY GROUP**

**WEDNESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY, 2016, at 10.00 A.M.**

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the NORTH EAST SCOTLAND AGRICULTURE ADVISORY GROUP will be held in COMMITTEE ROOM NO.5, WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, on WEDNESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY, 2016 at 10.00 A.M.



Date: 25 January, 2016

Director of Business Services  
Aberdeenshire Council  
on behalf of North East  
Scotland Agriculture Advisory Group

To: Aberdeenshire Council:  
Councillors: W Howatson (Chair), S Duncan, K Farquhar, A Norrie, H Partridge, L Pirie and D Stewart.

Aberdeen City Council:  
Councillors: J Corall, R Grant, G Lawrence and J Morrison.

Moray Council:  
Councillors: G Alexander and G Coull.

Angus Council:  
Councillors: L Devine, J Gaul, D Lumgar and B Myles.

<b>Contact Person:-</b>	<b>Victoria McCaskill</b>
	<b>Tel: 01224 665103</b>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>Victoria.McCaskill@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</b>

## **B U S I N E S S**

1. Welcome, Introductions and Declarations of Interest
2. Minute of Meeting of 18 November, 2015
3. Presentation of Findings of Land-based Study by Peter Cook and the Study Team
4. Arrangements for Publication and Dissemination of Study
5. Any Other Business
6. Dates of Future Meetings
  - Wednesday 1 June, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. in Woodhill House, Aberdeen
  - Wednesday 23 November, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Woodhill House, Aberdeen

## **PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY – GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS**

### **What is the duty?**

In making decisions on the attached reports, Members are reminded of their legal duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:-

- (i) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- (ii) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (iii) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The “protected characteristics” under the legislation are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; and (in relation to point (i) above only) marriage and civil partnership.

### **How can Members discharge the duty?**

To ‘have due regard’ means that in making decisions, Members must consciously consider the need to do the three things set out above. This requires a conscious approach and state of mind. The duty must influence the final decision.

However, it is not a duty to achieve a particular result (e.g. to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination or to promote good relations between persons of different racial groups). It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve these goals.

How much regard is ‘due’ will depend upon the circumstances and in particular on the relevance of the needs to the decision in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact that a decision may have on people with protected characteristics, the higher the regard required by the duty.

### **What does this mean for Committee/Full Council decisions?**

Members are directed to the section in reports headed ‘Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications’. This will indicate whether or not an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals and, if so, what the outcome of that assessment is.

An EIA will be appended to a report where it is likely that the action recommended in the report could have a differential impact (either positive or negative) upon people from different protected groups. The report author will have assessed whether or not an EIA is required. If one is not required, the report author will explain why that is.

Where an EIA is provided, Members should consider its contents and take those into account when reaching their decision. Members should also be satisfied that the assessment is sufficiently robust and that they have enough of an understanding of the issues to be able to discharge their legal duty satisfactorily.

For more detailed guidance please refer to the following link:-  
[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded\\_files/EqualityAct/psed\\_technical\\_guidance\\_scotland.doc](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/EqualityAct/psed_technical_guidance_scotland.doc)

## NORTH EAST SCOTLAND AGRICULTURE ADVISORY GROUP

COMMITTEE ROOM 5, WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER, 2015

- Present:** **Aberdeenshire Council** – Councillors W Howatson (Chair), A Duncan, K Farquhar, A Norrie and D Stewart  
**Aberdeen City Council** – Councillors J Corall, R Grant and J Morrison  
**Angus Council** – Cllr L Devine  
**Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce** – I Bonavino  
**Forestry Commission Scotland** – J Nott  
**James Hutton Institute / University of Aberdeen** – J Hopkins, D Roberts, L-A Sutherland and K Thomson  
**LANTRA** – K Patrick  
**RSPB** – Y Stephen  
**SAC Consulting** – E Johnston  
**SAOS** – J Booth  
**Scottish Enterprise** – G Ford  
**Scottish Land and Estates** – D Fyffe  
**Strutt & Parker** – D Newcombe
- Officers:** D McDonald, Industry Support Executive (Rural & Maritime) and V McCaskill, Committee Officer, both Aberdeenshire Council.
- Apologies:** Councillors H Partridge and L Pirie, Aberdeenshire Council; Councillor J Gaul, Angus Council; G Stewart, AIC; J Farquhar, ConFor; J Mitchell, Clydesdale Bank; C Adam and L Paterson, NFUS; D Smart, Strutt & Parker; P Smith, Visit Scotland.

### 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee Officer welcomed everyone present to the meeting. Members were asked if they had interests to declare. No declarations of interest were intimated.

### 2. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR

In light of recent changes to the membership of the Group, members were asked to consider the appointment of the Chair going forward. It was **agreed** unanimously that Cllr Howatson would continue in the role of Chair.

### 3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 3 JUNE 2015

The Minute of Meeting of 3 June, 2015, was circulated and **approved** as a correct record.

### 4. MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF 16 SEPTEMBER 2015

The Minute of Special Meeting of 16 September, 2015, was circulated and **approved** as a correct record.

### 5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT FINAL REPORT ON NORTH EAST SCOTLAND LAND-BASED STUDY

The Chair introduced Peter Cook, Deb Roberts and Jim Booth to the Group and invited them to give their presentation on the draft report on the North East Scotland Land-Based Study.

The presentation covered key areas from the study, including: the current position of the land-based sectors; farm level change; agri processing, marketing and input supply; medium term changes; future policy context; SWOT analysis for the North East Land-Based Sectors; and long term changes to 2030. The presentation also outlined the conclusions which had been reached based on the study findings.

During discussion, members asked questions on a number of topics, including: contract farming; figures relating to livestock; the ability of local butchers to source meat from local abattoirs; where meat was packaged; and the impact of the Land Reform Bill.

Following on from the presentation, a discussion document was circulated and members gave feedback on the recommendations outlined.

Thereafter, it was **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the content of the presentation,
- (2) that officers would find out where meat was packaged for the discount supermarkets, Aldi and Lidl, and pass this information to members.

The Chair thanked the presenters for a very comprehensive and informative presentation and acknowledged that a huge amount of detailed work had been undertaken.

#### **6. NEXT STEPS (INCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF STUDY FINDINGS)**

It was advised that the timescale for the publication of the report and dissemination of the study findings, would be published in January.

#### **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No items were raised.

#### **8. PROPOSED DATES FOR 2016 MEETINGS**

The following meeting schedule for 2016 was **agreed** by the Group:

- Wednesday 3 February, 2016, at Woodhill House, Aberdeen, at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday 1 June, 2016, at Woodhill House, Aberdeen, at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday 23 November, 2016, at Woodhill House, Aberdeen at 10:00 a.m.