

## **REPORT TO KINCARDINE AND MEARNS AREA COMMITTEE – 22 AUGUST 2017**

### **RURAL PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017 AND FUNDING 2017/2018 AND 2018/2020**

#### **1 Recommendations**

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- 1.1 Note and support the continuing development of the Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP).**
- 1.2 Note the progress made on the Action Plan for 2017/2018 and the Service Level Agreement 2017/2018.**
- 1.3 Note the publication of KDP's Annual Report 2016/2017 on Ward Pages.**

#### **2 Background / Discussion**

- 2.1 On 13 March 2014 the Infrastructure Services Committee (item 11) agreed a Rural Partnership budget of £206,000 per annum for three years, 2014/2017. It was agreed that each area would receive £34,333 for distribution to the Rural Partnership within their area.
- 2.2 In addition to the budget in paragraph 2.1 Area Managers have an additional £3,000 to distribute to Rural Partnerships in their area.
- 2.3 These were combined to provide an annual Service Level Agreement (SLA) of £37,433 per annum.
- 2.4 On 31 March 2017 the three year SLA came to an end.
- 2.5 The annual report of activity and outcomes for this period has been filed in Ward Pages.
- 2.6 On 18 August 2016 (item 10) Infrastructure Services Committee asked officers to commence discussions in developing an SLA between Aberdeenshire Council and the Rural Partnerships for years 2017/2020 and to bring this back to Committee for approval along with the proposed distribution of funds to the Rural Partnerships.
- 2.7 The Aberdeenshire Council and Rural Partnership approach is viewed nationally and locally as a highly innovative and unique solution to building local community economic development capacity and delivery. One of the earliest examples of true community empowerment. Rural Partnerships are consequently seen as necessary, contributing partners, not just by the Council but also with other Community Planning Partners, communities and community groups they service. This has been demonstrated by the work the Partnership has done on behalf of

the Health and Social Care Partnership and their support and participation in the LEADER Local Action Group in South Aberdeenshire.

- 2.8 Without the Partnership's contribution across the area, the level of successful community activity, as highlighted within the Annual Report, would be considerably reduced and the workload for officers increased. It cannot be emphasised enough how important the Partnership is to the continuing social and economic development of the communities in the area.
- 2.9 On 2 February 2017 the Infrastructure Services Committee (item 13) agreed the Rural Partnership budget and distribution for 2017/2018, agreed that the annual sign off be delegated to the Head of Economic Development and agreed that annual monitoring be undertaken by Economic Development.
- 2.10 Rural partnerships are now required to provide an Annual Action Plan as part of the SLA. The SLA and the Action Plan for 2017/2018 is provided as Appendix 1.
- 2.11 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

### **3 Scheme of Governance**

- 3.1 The Committee is able to take a decision on this item in terms of Section B.1.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to considering, commenting on and making recommendations on any matter or policy which impacts their Area.

### **4 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications**

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the report is to inform committee on performance and there will be no differential impact, as a result of the report, on people with protected characteristics.
- 4.2 The management of this budget is undertaken within existing staff resources.
- 4.3 The £206,000 of Rural Partnership Funding for year 2017/2018 will be met from the Economic Development budget 2017/2018 page 60, line 17 "Support to Rural Partnership". The £3,000 will be met from the Area Manager – Infrastructure Services Budget page, line 13 "Area Partnerships".
- 4.4 As part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, the service has identified a budget for the Rural Partnership in the years 2018/19 and 2019/20, which is £195,700 and £185,400 respectively.

**Stephen Archer**  
**Director of Infrastructure Services**

## Appendix 1



### **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL AND KINCARDINESHIRE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP**

#### **1 Scope**

This agreement establishes the scope of work of the Kincardineshire Development Partnership and the relationship with Economic Development and the Area Manager (Kincardine & Mearns) of Aberdeenshire Council.

#### **2 Background**

Rural partnerships have played a key role in developing and engaging communities in their areas. To ensure that development opportunities and engagement continues and to facilitate the development of the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership, it has been agreed that £37,333 per year (£34,333 Economic Development and £3,000 Area Manager Funding) will be allocated to support the development and activities of the Kincardineshire Development Partnership for 1 year.

#### **3 Definition of Service**

Working closely with Economic Development and the Area Manager, Kincardineshire Development Partnership will:

- (i) Promote Community Economic Development by helping additional groups throughout their area with information, implementation, and community engagement, to build inclusive/sustainable projects.
  - (ii) Provide a local advice service to groups seeking to develop community assets and facilities. This should include options for organisational structures, governance, funding along with other areas required to help realise opportunities in their communities.
  - (iii) Provide enterprise and administration advice to social/community enterprises seeking to develop economic opportunities.
  - (iv) Develop and support Community Action Plans and other appropriate processes for engagement of communities.
  - (v) Identify and implement ways to help communities understand issues around community planning and budget allocation. Together with
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partner staff, they will seek innovative funding and management solutions to overcome challenges.

- (vi) Ensure and facilitate a two way flow of information relating to the needs and priorities of voluntary sector partners, wider community contacts, Aberdeenshire Council, Community Planning Partners, Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action and the Kincardine & Mearns Community Planning Group.
- (vii) To support and be an active participant in the Kincardine & Mearns Community Planning Forums.
- (viii) Positively promote equality of opportunity for the whole population of Kincardine & Mearns. Where the opportunity arises work within groups with protected characteristics to help them achieve positive impacts. Provide evidence of the work undertaken and the positive impacts achieved in your annual reporting and monitoring arrangements.
- (ix) Provide an agreed annual action/work plan for the year ahead indicating the outcomes and key milestones that the partnerships will support and facilitate with communities and community/social enterprises.

#### **4 Finances**

- (i) At the Infrastructure Services Committee on 2 February 2017, a £34,333 award was approved subject to the conditions of this Service Level Agreement and an agreed Annual Action Plan. The £3,000 Area Manager element is also covered within this agreement.  
This agreement is intended to last for 1 year, with a further 2 years to be agreed subject to available budget.
  - (ii) The Economic Development element will be paid as follows:-  
The first payment will be made following the signing of the Agreement during the first quarter. Thereafter payments will be made on:
    - 1 July 2017
    - 1 October 2017
    - 1 January 2018
  - (iii) The Council reserves the right to deduct any debts which may be due prior to making any further payments.
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**5 Monitoring and Reporting**

- (i) Economic Development will undertake an annual monitoring visit, which will incorporate a review of activity, evidence of expenditure, annual action plans and future plans.
- (ii) An annual report will be provided by Kincardineshire Development Partnership to Economic Development by 31 May 2018. This report will be used as an update to the Local Community Planning Group, Infrastructure Services Committee and the Area Committee annually.
- (iii) To host an annual round table discussion with the Area Committee, Area Manager and Economic Development to provide an update of developments in the area.
- (iv) Aberdeenshire Council's procedures on "Following the public pound" will underpin any reporting requirements.
- (v) The rural partnership undertakes to allow any Authorised Officer of the Council, or its designated agents, access to the books of account and other records for the purpose of confirming the accuracy, validity and completeness of information provided in relation to this agreement.

**6 Terms of Agreement**

This agreement will commence on 1 April 2017 and will expire on the 31 March 2018.

Signed on Behalf of Aberdeenshire Council

Date 10/4/17

Signed on Behalf of Kincardineshire Development Partnership

Date 30/3/17

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| <p>Newtonhill, Stonehaven and Catterline. Progress will be driven by the communities but we will support the process and activities to be undertaken. As of April 2017, these communities are at various stages of this process from initial approach, first consultation activity, wider engagement to action planning.</p>  |                      | <p>Drumoak Church and community group development, a £3.5 million project to create a self-sustainable community space.<br/>In addition to:<br/>Greater knowledge and understanding of community need;<br/>Communities feeling empowered and part of the decision-making process; Communities having an appetite for change and understand they can make the difference; Wider community consultation encouraging social inclusion</p>  |  |
| <p>Support newly formed "Our Mearns Tourism Association" to enable the delivery of their strategic plan to create an Arts, Cultural Tourism Destination of the Mearns area. Governance support to establish organisation as a Social Enterprise. Funding secured to develop and promote brand. Work towards securing funding to appoint Tourism Coordinator/Project Worker. Strong links and partnerships developed with bodies such as VisitAberdeenshire, Visit Scotland and World Host</p> | <p>(1), (2), (3)</p> | <p>The Association is positioned to offer sustainable development to the area. It can apply to core values of community education, recognition of local talent, authenticity of projects and protection of heritage. However, the bigger picture provides benefit to the wider community. Through effective planning, partnerships and promotion the area can take advantage of greater economic activity such as job creation, business growth, new business and agricultural diversity. This in turn can boost local infrastructure and amenities. For example, exploring the use of Augmented Reality and Geo technologies to promote the area may attract investment in the digital infrastructure badly needed in this area.<br/>Engagement with additional groups and organisations. Communities feel empowered</p> |  |
| <p>KDP Community Cash - Hold a number of participatory budgeting/funding events offering mikro grants.</p>  | <p>(1), (2), (5)</p> |   |  |





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| <p>Supporting the ethos of the Community Empowerment Bill, an exercise in live time democracy and introduces the concepts of participatory budgeting and citizenship. We will continue to explore ways to continue this programme of events as one means of identifying areas for support.</p> |            |  |
| <p>Continue to develop positive relationships with relevant Partner organisations.</p>   | <p>(6)</p> | <p>and part of a decision-making process. The building of Social Cohesion as communities learn about groups and projects in their area. Strengthened relationship developing with the Rural partnership to provide wider support and facilitation.</p> <p>Greater knowledge and understanding of Partner Groups and of KDP by Partner Groups. Partnership working, collaboration on projects and shared intelligence</p> |