

## **REPORT TO FORMARTINE AREA COMMITTEE – 12 SEPTEMBER 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 Formartine Partnership (FP),**
- 1.2 Note the progress made on the Action Plan for 2017/2018 and the Service Level Agreement 2017/2018, and**
- 1.3 Note the publication of FP'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, delegated to the Head of Economic Development to sign off 2017/2018 SLA and subsequently 2018/2020, and annual monitoring to be undertaken by Economic Development.
- 2.10 The annual monitoring of FP has been completed.
- 2.11 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 at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.12 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 Implications and Risk**

- 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 if 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 The following risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: Budget Pressures; Working with other organisations (e.g. supply chains, outsourcing and partnership working). No risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level.

4.5 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 respectfully.

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

Report prepared by Reid Hutchison, Community Development Co-ordinator  
Date 21 August 2017

## Appendix 1

**Aberdeenshire**

COUNCIL



INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

### **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL AND FORMARTINE PARTNERSHIP**

#### **1 Scope**

This agreement establishes the scope of work of the Formartine Partnership and the relationship with Economic Development and the Area Manager (Formartine) 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 Formartine Partnership for 1 year.

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

Working closely with Economic Development and the Area Manager, Formartine 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 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 Formartine Community Planning Group.
- (vii) To support and be an active participant in the Formartine Community Planning Forums.
- (viii) Positively promote equality of opportunity for the whole population of Formartine. 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.
- (x) To support and administer on behalf of the Area Committee the approved schemes, Towns and Villages Enhancement Grant and the 'Formartine in Bloom' and 'Beginning to Blossom' competitions.

#### **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.

#### **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 Formartine 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 03/05/2017

Signed on Behalf of Formartine Partnership

Date 19/04/2017

**Formartine Partnership**  
**Rural Partnership Action Plan April 2017 — March 2018**

Key Actions	SLA actions	Anticipated Community	Actual Outcomes
Formartine Partnership (FP) will support Udny Green Hall, Community Hub Committee to strengthen the Hall constitution as a SCIO and source funding for a feasibility study to evidence need for and construct this pioneering rural Health and Social Care Integration (H&SC1) Community Hub.	1,2	Group will become a SCIO and identify potential clientele thus building group's capacity and enhancing Hall sustainability by providing activities for H&SC1 target groups; Increase in activities for local community; Improvement in health and wellbeing of community and Hall users.	
FP will support Auchterless Residents Association SCIO to prioritise and progress projects identified in their 2015 Community Action Plan: Community Centre; Central car park and Playing field with playpark.	1,2	Enhancement of Group's sustainability and capacity; Advancement of identified community facilities and activities and Improvement of its health and wellbeing.	
FP will support the new Rothienorman Community Hall Committee to progress the design and funding of a brand new Community Hall;	1, 2	Group will become a SCIO and needs to enhance its sustainability and capacity; increase facilities and activities for recently enlarged community and Improve community health & wellbeing.	
FP will support the Methlick Beaton Hall Committee to improve the Hall's energy efficiency.	1, 2	Enhance Group's capacity and hall's sustainability by making it cheaper to run; Enhance facilities and activities for local community by making hall more comfortable and attractive to use and Improve community health & wellbeing.	
FP will provide a local advice service to new groups and existing groups such as Ellon Meadows Sports Centre, Ythan Biodiversity Volunteers' INNS project and Turriff Men's Shed, who are seeking to develop community assets and facilities, including guidance on organisational structures, governance and funding. In particular, while doing this, FP will look for potential opportunities to develop, provide advice to and support new and existing Social Enterprises.	3, 2, 1	Enhance Groups' sustainability and capacity; Enhance facilities and activities for local communities and Improve community health and wellbeing.	

FP will facilitate ongoing Community Action Plans for Meldrum, Bourtie and Daviot Community Council and Tarves Community Council/Tarves Community Trust by completing the analysis and reporting on already completed community Engagements.	4	Provide a community assessment and identify strengths, concerns and aspirations of the community. In Tarves it will evidence support for the new Community café /meeting room.	
FP will facilitate new Community Action Plans requested by Fyvie & District Amenities Committee and Udney Community Council/Udney Community Trust by organising the community engagements and analysing and reporting their results.	4	Provide a community assessment and identify its strengths, concerns and aspirations. Fyvie is a new survey, Udney is an update to report on achievements and identify current issues.	
FP will be an active partner in realising the 2016-19 Formartine Community Plan actions, particularly related to Priority 1: Stronger Empowered Communities; Priority 3: Tackling Inequalities and Priority 4: Transport and connectivity. It is the lead actor on Ythan Trail.	5, 6, 7	Continued development of a successful local Community Plan.	
FP will facilitate the two way flow of information between the Third sector, Communities and Public authorities by being an active partner in Formartine Community Planning Group, including their Forums and Making it Real process; Formartine Community Learning Partnerships; Formartine Community Council Forum and Aberdeenshire Third Sector Strategy Group. Our Chair will continue to represent Aberdeenshire Rural Partnership Federation on Aberdeenshire Community Planning Board.	6, 5,7	Facilitate two way flow of information between Third sector, Communities and Public authorities.	
On behalf of the Area Committee, FP will organise Formartine in Bloom (FiB), a competition for Formartine Settlements, and administer the Town and Village Enhancement Fund.	10, 8, 1	CED promoted; Enhanced appearance of our settlements; Strengthened community and intergenerational involvement; Community cohesion and pride enhanced.	
FP will advertise and manage the Formartine Floral Trail, a circular tour around the FiB displays, which publicises both the Formartine Area and voluntary community action.	1	Enhancement of local tourism and the rural economy; Increased Health and Wellbeing- linked to our <i>Walking in Formartine</i> guides.	