



REPORT TO BANFF AND BUCHAN AREA COMMITTEE – 19 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 Banffshire Partnership (BP).

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 BP'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, delegate 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 BP 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 as 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. Future years' budget finances are only indicative at this stage but the principle and intention should allow groups some further degree of assurance and certainty to plan for future activities.

Stephen Archer
Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Reid Hutchison, Community Development Co-ordinator
Date 24 August 2017

Appendix 1

Aberdeenshire

COUNCIL



INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL AND BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

1 Scope

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

3 Definition of Service

Working closely with Economic Development and the Area Manager, Banffshire 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 Banff & Buchan Community Planning Group.
- (vii) To support and be an active participant in the Banff & Buchan Community Planning Forums.
- (viii) Positively promote equality of opportunity for the whole population of Banff & Buchan. Where the opportunity arises work with 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.

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 the Rural 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 17/04/2017

Signed on Behalf of the Banffshire Partnership

Date 01/04/2017

Rural Partnership Action Plan April 2017 — March 2018

Key Actions	SLA actions	Anticipated Community	Actual Outcomes
<p>An organisation we plan to support, that has been set up as a result of the community action planning process is Aberchirder Men's Shed group.</p>	<p>1,2,8</p>	<p>Successful establishment of the group fulfilling its objectives and building capacity so that the group becomes long-term sustainable, both in terms of annual revenue requirement, and an adequate number of volunteers, with correct skills, to run the activities planned.</p>	
<p>During 2017/18 Community action plans should be completed for Portsoy and District Community Council and Invercaim Community Council.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Community organisations motivated and supported to take forward projects prioritised by the community.</p>	
<p>Direct engagement by BPL with communities that have requested support in developing a community action plan include Whitehills and District Community Council, Cornhill Community Council and New Aberdour, Tyrie and Pennan Community Council</p>	<p>1.2,4</p>	<p>Community organisations motivated and supported to take forward projects prioritised by the community.</p>	
<p>Groups will be supported by BPL to build inclusive and sustainable projects. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandend Amenities Council following it's reformation in September 2016. • Tyrie & Boyndlie Community Hall looking at future role of the group to meet current needs of the community • Scottish Traditional Boat Festival to sustain employment of an admin/marketing officer • Portsoy Salmon Bothy to improve access to the building for disabled visitors • RAF Banff Trust to improve access to recently asset-transferred buildings. • Portsoy District Community Association's CAT application and conversion to a SCIO 	<p>1,2,3</p>	<p>Sustainable groups and projects started and /or enhanced. These would include community activities and services, making existing facilities available to a wider cross section of the community and economic enhancement and job creation.</p>	

<p>Advice provided by BPL on sources of funding to community groups, ongoing examples of which include Aberchirder Men's Shed Group, Sandend Amenities Council and Portsoy Community Church. BPL is proactively involved with LEADER and NESFLAG projects.</p>	<p>1, 2</p>	<p>Sustainable projects started or completed by these groups. All these groups will be helped towards ability to self-generate on-going revenue funding, and to have in place sufficient volunteers with adequate skills, to maintain a programme of activities for the benefit of their communities.</p>	
<p>BPL has led or is a partner on a number of actions in the 2016-19 Banff and Buchan Local Community Plan.</p>	<p>5,6</p>	<p>Successful delivery of elements of the local Community Plan: e.g. communities more engaged in local decision making, third sector better connected, expand demand-responsive transport.</p>	
<p>BPL will continue to work with partner organisations and support agencies including AVA to develop their presence in Banff and Buchan. BPL is an active member of the Local Community Planning Group and chairs it when required.</p>	<p>5,6</p>	<p>Advance the delivery of outcomes of the Local Community Planning Group: e.g. people supported to actively engage in their communities, protect individuals and families from harm through alcohol or drugs.</p>	
<p>Work with groups to positively promote equality of opportunity for the local population specifically in helping to establish The Bridge Recovery Cafe. This organisation works as a self-help body for individuals in Recovery, or family members of those suffering from addictions.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>Successful establishment of the group as an independent body. Members anticipate: less chance of re-addiction, less breakdown of family units, less recourse to criminal activity.</p>	
<p>Work with New Aberdour Community Council/Boyndie village hall to investigate potential funding sources for a restoration project. Be available to help community groups that come forward throughout the year with requests for advice or assistance to address unforeseen problems or opportunities that have arisen.</p>	<p>1,2,3</p>	<p>Secure funding to carry out the project. Problems resolved or projects completed by community groups</p>	

<p>Work with Aberchirder Community Association and Alvah & Forglan Community Council to investigate establishing a body to administer community benefit from a proposed new wind turbine development.</p> <p>Assist Whitehills and Portsoy CCs with their aspirations to develop new websites aimed at improving communication</p>	<p>1,2,3</p>	<p>Administration body successfully set up, with a remit and capacity either to directly deliver projects within their communities, or to support/encourage via grant funding, other community groups engaged in community projects.</p> <p>Websites completed</p>	
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