

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND AGRICULTURE ADVISORY GROUP REPORT – 28 APRIL 2021

RURAL FORUM PROPOSAL FOR NEXT MEETING OF NESAAG

1 Reason for report

- 1.1 To consult NESAAG Members

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Group considers and decides whether the next meeting of NESAAG should take the form of a Rural Forum**

3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

- 3.1 For the purposes of future agenda planning.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 One of the recommendations of the 2008 study 'Agriculture in Aberdeenshire' was that NESAAG hosts a biennial 'Rural Forum' in which selected members provide brief synopses of current issues affecting their sector. Previous 'Fora' have been held every 2-3 years since July 2010, typically featuring primary production (arable and livestock), processing and trade sectors, forestry and timber industries, renewable energy, the environment, education, research, banking and legal/regulation, all in relation to the land-based economy in NE Scotland.
- 4.2 In 2016, NESAAG published 'Facing the Future' a highly detailed analysis of the wider land-based sector in Angus, Moray and Aberdeenshire. The report was compiled by a team led by Peter Cook and Recommendation no 1 – Leadership and the role of NESAAG – suggested that NESAAG should maintain its commitment to Rural Forum biennial reviews of the NE land-based sectors. <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/facingthefuture/>
- 4.3 The last NESAAG Rural Forum was held on 19 September 2018. The event scheduled for autumn 2020 was deferred due to the CV-19 pandemic. With a Rural Forum event now overdue, members are invited to consider whether they wish one to be arranged for the next meeting (15 Sept) or the final meeting of 2021 (24 Nov), the preferred format (virtual or face-to-face, which may have a bearing on timing) and whether members would be willing to present an update for their own sector. Suggestions would be welcome on elements of the land-based economy which have not featured in previous events.
- 4.4 The format for the NESAAG Rural Forum typically comprises ten presentations, each lasting around ten minutes with a further five minutes for discussion, concluding with a summary by Peter Cook. An earlier than usual

start time of 09.30 would be required in order to allow for a short break at 11.00 and to close the meeting at 12.45.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

5.1 The following Council priorities are relevant to this report

- Support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful economy
- Protect our special environment including tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions

5.2 The table below indicates whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			x
Staffing			x
Equalities			x
Fairer Scotland Duty			x
Town Centre First			x
Sustainability			x
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			x

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