

## REPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 21 JUNE 2018

### FOOD AND DRINK ACTIVITY BUDGET

#### 1 Recommendations

##### **The Committee is recommended to:**

- 1.1 Endorse the work undertaken to support the food and drink sector in Aberdeenshire.
- 1.2 Approve a contribution of £47,805 in 2018/19 by Aberdeenshire Council towards total project costs for Food and Drink Activity of £172,935 undertaken by Opportunity North East, as set out in section 3.1.

#### 2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 Opportunity North East (ONE) was established in 2015 as a private sector led body, focused on ensuring a sustainable economic future for north-east Scotland. ONE aims to broaden and strengthen the region's economy by investing in and accelerating the delivery of projects of scale and impact through five Sector Boards: 1) ONE Oil, Gas & Energy; 2) ONE Food, Drink & Agriculture (includes fisheries); 3) ONE Life Sciences; 4) Tourism – ONE support is via Visit Aberdeenshire; 5) ONE Digital & Entrepreneurship
- 2.2 ONE's focus is on investment and action to stimulate economic growth, safeguard jobs and create new employment opportunities over the medium to long term. It provides co-funding and resources to develop and bring forward high-impact projects that support the growth of these key sectors in partnership with the public and private sectors
- 2.3 Food, Drink, Agriculture and Fisheries is one of the key themes of ONE and is also one of Aberdeenshire Council's key industries which we support. The Head of Economic Development and Protective Services is a member of the ONE Food and Drink and Agricultural Board. Work on this sector, which Aberdeenshire Council contributes to, has included research into investment opportunities for the North East's milk 'field', Business Growth Programmes (BGP1 and BGP2) to support companies meet their ambition, a study on the development of the Taste of Grampian Food and Drink Festival and a Food and Tourism Project. Grampian Food Forum has now been fully integrated into the work of the ONE Food and Drink and Agricultural Board and the Forum work is now promoted as the 'North East Scotland Food and Drink Network Events'. The Grampian Food Forum Innovation Awards is now known as the 'North East Scotland Food and Drink Awards'.
- 2.4 The Aberdeenshire Council post of Industry Support Executive (Food and Drink) has been seconded to ONE for a period of three years ending 6 July 2019 and is central to the support of the food and drink sector. Aberdeenshire Council remains responsible for the post holder's salary and on costs with ONE covering business expenses. Scotland Food and Drink have jointly

funded a new post with ONE to promote the wider national opportunities and benefits of being part of Scotland Food and Drink, and to bring more NE companies to national and international markets.

### 3 Proposed Expenditure 2018-19

3.1 The proposed expenditure to support the food and drink industry in 2018-19 is as follows;

	2018/19 Aberdeenshire Council Contribution	Total Project Cost
North East Scotland Food and Drink Network Events	£8,725	£23,450
North East Scotland Food and Drink Awards	£17,180	£77,060
Business Growth Programme 2	£20,400	£64,000
Business Growth Programme 1 Follow-On Support	£1,500	£8,425
<b>Total</b>	<b>£47,805</b>	<b>£172,935</b>

3.2 The activity undertaken by ONE in 2018-19 to support the food & drink, will be along similar lines to previous years. Reviews of activity are undertaken throughout the year and improvements introduced as appropriate.

3.3 Other than the Aberdeenshire Council contribution, the total project costs will be met by matching contributions from ONE, ticket sales and sponsorship for the North East Scotland Food and Drink Network and North East Scotland Food and Drink Awards and contributions from participating companies in the Business Growth Programmes.

3.4 The Aberdeenshire Council contribution will be met from Marketing and Task Forces and Regional Economic Strategy budgets. Outcomes from these activities will be reported to the Committee as part of the annual Economic Development Action Plan report

### 4 Scheme of Governance

4.1 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section F1.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the approval of resources to support Economic Development.

### 5 Implications and Risk

5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required because as the recommendations do not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

5.2 There are no staffing or budget implications arising from the content of this Bulletin.

5.3 A Town Centre Impact Assessment is not required because there will be no unique impact as a result of this Bulletin on Town Centres.

**Stephen Archer, Director of Infrastructure Services**

Report prepared by Alistair Reid, Team Manager - Industry Sectors, Date 24 May 2018

