

SCOTLAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

LEADER 2007 – 2013

RURAL ABERDEENSHIRE

LOCAL ACTION GROUP

PARTNERSHIP DETAILS

21 August 2007



SECTION A: PARTNERSHIP DETAILS

1. Local Action Group Name

Rural Aberdeenshire Local Action Group (LAG)

2. Contact Details

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3. Partnership Details

The composition of the Rural Aberdeenshire LAG partnership is detailed in Appendix 1.

The Rural Aberdeenshire LAG membership aims to reflect a wide range of rural interests, comprising an equal mix of public and private sector representatives.

Rural interests include economic development, enterprise, communities, forestry, environment, tourism, the voluntary sector, rural partnerships, community councils within the LAG area, farming and rural businesses, and both rural women and youth groups.

Approximately half of the LAG partners are also members of Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership, development of which has been based on agencies and groups working together across Aberdeenshire for a sustainable economic, environmental and social future for the communities in Aberdeenshire.

LAG membership includes two of the three members of the “On the Ground” family. It is intended to develop and maintain close communication between the Rural Aberdeenshire LAG and the Regional Project Assessment Committee (RPAC), to provide integration across the Scotland Rural Development Programme.

Links are also in place between the Rural Aberdeenshire LAG and neighbouring LAGs comprising Tayside, Moray and the Cairngorms National Park LAG, with a view to sharing best practice and enabling cross LAG co-operation and synergy.

4. LAG Area

In establishing the Rural Aberdeenshire LAG, the aim is to create a LAG footprint that will encompass rural communities across the region, from the upland and rural hinterland areas in the west to the lowland and coastal areas in the north, east and south of Aberdeenshire.

The underpinning synergy of the areas across the region is the vision for vibrant, inclusive, rural communities, combined with sustainable environmental credentials, in terms of resource use, energy efficiency, landscape and biodiversity, against a backdrop of economically viable rural businesses and rural services.

The Rural Aberdeenshire LAG area is estimated to be around 4,700 sq km, or around 1,800 sq miles. The overall population density across Aberdeenshire is 37 per sq km, reflecting the rural nature of the region. Population density varies across the LAG area, from 12 persons per square kilometre in Marr in the west of the LAG area to 77 in the more populated areas, such as Garioch.

Traditionally, the LAG area has been economically dependent upon the primary sector including agriculture, forestry and in the coastal communities, fishing. The statistics relative to the primary sector industries demonstrate a reduction in these industries, in terms of employment and numbers of active businesses. There is also economic activity generated through processing activities related to the primary sector. More recently, emphasis is being given to new opportunities through renewable energy and biomass developments, but the development of such initiatives is in its infancy.

Tourism is also important economically for communities throughout the area. For example, boat festivals in the coastal areas and highland games in the rural hinterland contribute not only to the local economy, but to the well being of the rural communities where events take place. The LAG area has strong heritage and links to cultural activities such as music, literary and creative art.

In terms of rural services across the LAG area, there has been a sharp decline in key services such as shops, post offices, petrol stations, primary schools, and doctors' surgeries. In some areas, the decline in these services has been around 34% since 1981.

Challenges facing the social and economic fabric of the area include decline in traditional industries, access to facilities and services, distance to markets, housing pressures and rural transport.

Opportunities include diversification within rural industries, ICT technology enabling rural business development, emerging industries, such as renewable energy and a developing tourism sector. There is a real need however, to encourage more local processing of primary products to serve local communities.

The overarching Community Planning Themes of Community Wellbeing, Jobs and the Economy, Lifelong Learning and Sustainable Environment are core to the partnership and establishment of the Rural Aberdeenshire LAG.

5. Population of the Area

The population of Aberdeenshire is approximately 236,000. There are five settlements with populations greater than 10,000 and three settlements in Aberdeenshire with population between 5,000 and 10,000.

It is estimated the Aberdeenshire population in the Marr area within the Cairngorms National Park is 3,500.

The LAG area, as proposed, encompasses communities and rural areas across Aberdeenshire, excluding the Marr area within the CNP and settlements greater than 5,000.

A map of the Rural Aberdeenshire LAG Area is provided in Appendix 2.

The population within the Rural Aberdeenshire LAG, as described in above paragraph, is estimated at approximately 147,000. Further detail of the LAG population and settlements is provided in Appendix 3.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1: Composition of the Rural Aberdeenshire Local Action Group

Appendix 2: Map of Rural Aberdeenshire LAG Area

Appendix 3: Population of Rural Aberdeenshire LAG Area

Appendix 1: Composition of the Rural Aberdeenshire Local Action Group (TBC)

Aberdeenshire Council *

Scottish Enterprise Grampian *

Communities Scotland *

Forestry Commission Scotland

Scottish Natural Heritage

VisitScotland

Aberdeenshire Community Councils *

Aberdeenshire Councils for Voluntary Service *

Aberdeenshire Local Rural Partnerships *

Scottish Women's Rural Institute

Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs

National Farmers Union Scotland


Scottish Rural Property & Business Association

Federation of Small Businesses

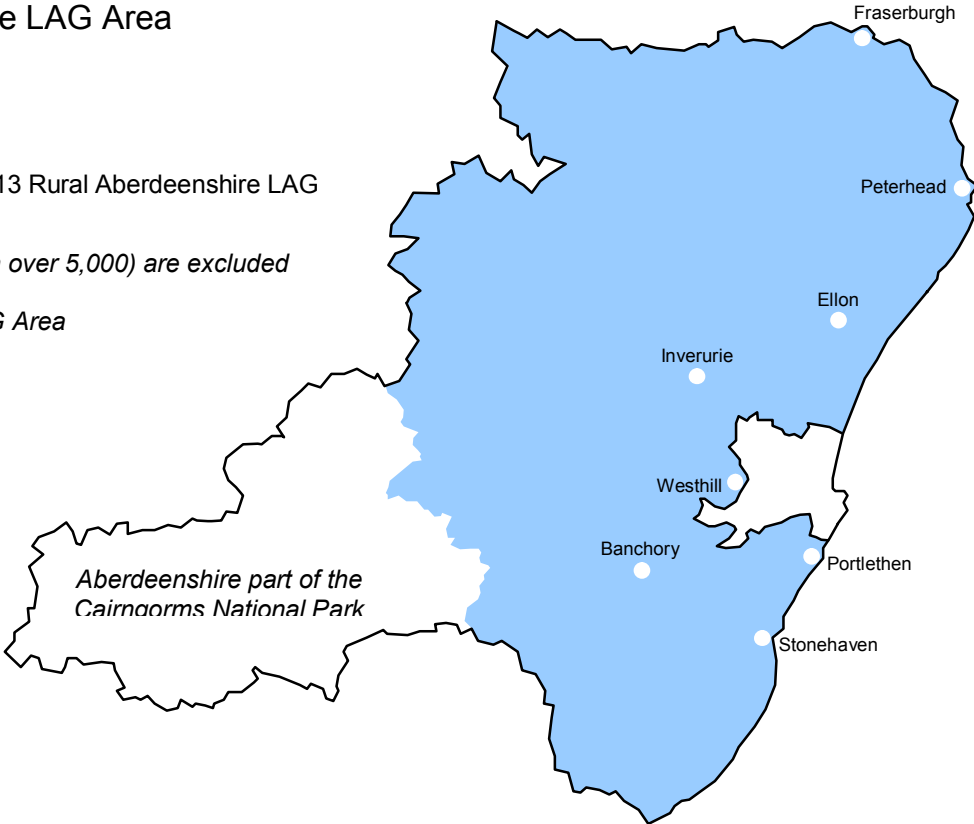
*Denotes Community Planning Partnership Member

Appendix 2
LEADER 2007-2013
Rural Aberdeenshire LAG Area

LEADER 2007-2013
Rural Aberdeenshire LAG Area

 LEADER 2007-2013 Rural Aberdeenshire LAG Area

Towns shown (population over 5,000) are excluded from the Rural Aberdeenshire LAG Area



Appendix 3: Population of Rural Aberdeenshire LAG Area

Aberdeenshire Population & Major Settlements

Data Source: Aberdeenshire Council: Small Area Population Estimates and Forecasts

Aberdeenshire		2006	
Total Population		236,260	Fig A
Administrative Areas Major Settlements > 10,000			
		2006	
Banff & Buchan	Fraserburgh	11,972	
Buchan	Peterhead	17,673	
Formartine	None greater than 10,000		
Garioch	Inverurie	11,495	
	Westhill	10,252	
Marr	None greater than 10,000		
Kincardine & Mearns	Stonehaven	10,731	
Total Population in Settlements > 10,000		62,123	Fig B
Administrative Areas Accessible Rural Settlements 5,000 - 10,000			
		2006	
Formartine	Ellon	9,683	
Marr	Banchory	6,533	
Kincardine & Mearns	Portlethen	6,646	
Total Population in Settlements 5,000 to 10,000		22,862	Fig C
Estimated Population in Marr within the Cairngorms National Park (est. 2001 census)		3,550	Fig D
Total Rural Population excluding Figures B, C and D		147,725	
Estimated Total Population in the Rural Aberdeenshire LAG Area		147,725	

GROS Population Estimates for 2006

2006 forecasts figures based on 2005 Estimates produced by Aberdeenshire Council.

Settlements & Population in the Rural Aberdeenshire LAG Area		2006
Banff and Buchan	Aberchirder	1,103
	Banff	3,831
	Cairnbulg/Inverallochy	1,334
	Gardenstown	753
	Macduff	3,744
	Portsoy	1,678
	Rosehearty	1,169
	Sandhaven	770
	Whitehills	1,004
	Buchan	Boddam
Crimond		785
Cruden Bay		1,596
Fetterangus		425
Hatton of Cruden		805
Longside		821
Maud		777
Mintlaw		2,632
New Deer		616
New Pitsligo		1,033
St Combs		676
St Fergus		608
Strichen		956
Stuartfield		711
Formartine		Balmedie
	Cuminestown	432
	Fyvie	473
	Newburgh	1,352
	Oldmeldrum	2,187
	Pitmedden	1,396
	Potterton	945
	Rothienorman	572
	Tarves	868
	Turriff	4,575
Garioch	Blackburn	2,080
	Insch	1,757
	Kemnay	3,707
	Kintore	3,302
	Newmachar	2,320
Marr	Aboyne	2,200
	Alford	2,208
	Huntly	4,312
	Tarland	535
	Torphins	1,108
Kincardine and Mearns	Drumoak	814
	Gourdon	602
	Inverbervie	2,006
	Johnshaven	608
	Laurencekirk	2,155
	Newtonhill	3,014
	St Cyrus	1,034
	Remainder of Rural Aberdeenshire LAG Area	70,102
Total Population	147,725	