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# 1. Foreword

This newly published edition of the Angus Rural Strategy is the culmination of a great deal of planning and preparation by both the Angus Community Planning Partnership and Angus Rural Partnership (ARP). The content demonstrates the depth and breadth of rural community affairs in Angus and Tayside and shows us the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. For ARP it is important to note that – within the Strategy - we will be looking at developing the ARP role, remit and membership, to better reflect the changing times in rural life.

Angus Rural Partnership – ARP - has been involved in community development and rural affairs for more than a decade. Members of ARP are drawn from a wide range of statutory bodies and community organisations who, over the years, have contributed to the development of rural activity in Angus and the wider region of Tayside. As a community sector ‘voice’ on Angus Rural Partnership I have been involved with it – as partner and, latterly as Convenor – since 1997 and can testify to its members’ unique contribution to our rural and remote communities.

I commend the Angus Rural Strategy to you as a working document. Its content shows how partnership working has developed and grown in Angus and the surrounding region. It also heralds interesting times ahead for those of us who live and work in this beautiful part of Scotland; whether in rural communities, lively burghs or any of the many villages.

Mai Hearne  
Convenor  
Angus Rural Partnership  
January 7<sup>th</sup> 2008

## 2. Acknowledgements

The efforts of partners and communities in the production of this Angus Rural Strategy are gratefully acknowledged.

## 3. Introduction

Rural areas are complex in their make-up; issues and services are interrelated and no aspect can be viewed in isolation. In these diverse communities, access to services, isolation, fuel poverty and unemployment are but a few of the potential hurdles people face and often one has an impact on another.

Contemporary rural development is greatly influenced by change, such as the introduction of new technologies, the involvement of rural communities in conservation, globalisation of food production and marketing and modernisation of public services. In addition, growing consumerism, government policies supportive of community-based natural resource management and revised terms-of-trade for agricultural produce contribute to the melting pot of priorities.

In recent times, significant developments in public sector policy and the way in which services are developed and targeted, have revised the blueprint for delivery. The introduction of Community Planning, through The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and the inception of the Angus Community Planning Partnership, has been pivotal to partnership provision of best value services to the community. In addition, this legislation has presented a duty on partners to *genuinely engage* with people and communities in the public service decisions that affect them.

This new Rural Strategy for Angus recognises that the rural agenda cuts across a wide range of policies for which rural implications are many, in terms of people and the land. Specifically, the provision of transport linking people to services, the promotion of investment in local facilities such as village halls and post offices and support for young people are examples of the multi-disciplinary challenges that must be tackled.

It is important that the Angus Rural Strategy and its implementation reflects an integrated partnership approach, in order that rural areas develop in a sustainable manner – economically, socially and environmentally. This means making a commitment to ascertain and understand the true state of our rural communities by the use of data collection and identification of suitable indicators, as well as ensuring existing services and activities are ‘rural proofed’. In addition, understanding where local priorities fit within a regional, national, European and Global context is essential. This knowledge will encourage awareness of sources of funding, which may be drawn

down to a local level for projects and services.

The Angus Community Plan 2007-12 sets out a long-term vision:

‘Angus will be a place where a first class quality of life for all can be enjoyed in vibrant towns and pleasant villages set in attractive and productive countryside. The area will be dynamic and outward looking, contributing to the culture, environment and economy of Scotland.’

The Angus Community Planning Partnership has, over a number of years, been working to achieve this vision. The Community Plan sets out in detail the next steps that require to be taken to make the partnership’s vision a reality and contained within it are six priorities for action, namely demographics; sustainability; new business growth; young people; alcohol and community engagement. These priorities are picked up throughout this document.

Critically, this new Angus Rural Strategy, for the years 2007-12, mirrors the format of the Angus Community Plan in its principles, themes and priorities. This emphasises and underlines community planning as the key mechanism by which sustainable rural development can be achieved.

In drawing out the key elements of the rural agenda in Angus, this strategy sets out the rural context from an EU, National and local perspective. It goes on to highlight cross cutting policy issues, before focusing on individual elements that make up rural Angus. In relating those to the overarching Community Plan, they are then identified within the context of the Community Plan principles and themes. Finally, the challenges of action, implementation, monitoring and evaluation are detailed in turn.

This strategy is for everyone with an interest in rural Angus – individuals, communities, public, private and voluntary section organisations. It has been developed with considerable input from these perspectives and aims to highlight what we know are the key issues for rural Angus, what we know are the challenges for communities and for service delivery and how we might go about achieving progress. This not only involves integration of and attention to rural considerations in other plans and policies, but also seeks to deliver additional priorities, with the recognition that in rural areas, there is much activity that takes place out with formal Community Planning arrangements. It is therefore important that through the Strategy, those activities are identified and supported wherever possible.

## 4. Guiding Principles

In working towards the sustainable development of rural Angus, it is our commitment to:

- Facilitate effective communication and engagement between local communities, voluntary, private and public sector partners, thereby encouraging local communities to play an active part in the development of their area. We will use the National Standards for Community Engagement as a tool to help us achieve this.
- Continue to share information and knowledge, working in partnership to collect and manage rural data that will inform the way in which services are designed and delivered.
- Promote rural proofing of new policies and strategies i.e. take into account specific needs and challenges associated with rurality.
- Encourage all partners to use and support local facilities and businesses, such as village halls, for meetings and events, wherever possible.

## 5. Policy Context

### 5.1 EU

#### **Rural Development Regulation 2007-2013**

The new EU Rural Development Regulation (1698/2005) provides the EU regulatory framework for supporting rural development between 2007 and 2013. It emphasises the need for a strategic approach to the development of Rural Development Programmes and consists of three Axes for delivery.

Axis 1: Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry by supporting the priorities of knowledge transfer, modernisation, innovation and quality in the food chain and on priority sectors for investment in physical and human capital.

Axis 2: Improving the environment and the countryside by supporting land management; and,

Axis 3: Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification and growth of economic activity.

There is also a fourth Axis that uses the LEADER mechanism by which to deliver a locally driven approach to innovation and development, administered by local partnerships.

The Rural Development Regulation proposes:

- Simplified funding arrangements (including structural funds)
- New EU and member state strategies feeding into new regional plans
- Re-designation of less favoured areas (LFAs)
- A bigger role for LEADER arrangements (a European Community Initiative for assisting rural communities in improving the quality of life and economic prosperity in their local area)
- EU-wide sharing of best practice

#### **European Structural Funds Programmes 2007-2013**

The new Structural Funds Programmes for 2007-2013 in Scotland are now in place and include the delivery of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) in the Lowlands and Uplands Scotland (LUPS) area.

Local authorities have always played a key part in the design, management and delivery of Structural Funds, identifying local priorities, developing partnerships and encouraging inter-agency working and have a proven track record of delivering projects on time and on budget. In addition the role of Community Planning is highlighted in the new programmes and this is welcomed as it ensures that local needs and priorities are identified.

Priority 4 of the ERDF LUPS programme is focused on Rural Development. Angus Community Planning Partnership is committed to contributing positively to the development of projects which could result in European funding and support for rural Angus.

## **5.2 National**

### **Scotland Rural Development Programme 2007-13**

The 2007-2013 Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) sets out a plan for delivering support to rural areas under the new EU Rural Development Regulation (1698/2005). It will guide the use of European Union (EU) funds and other resources for rural development and forms part of a UK National Strategy Plan. The SRDP is expected to be put before the European Commission in January of 2008 before coming to the Scottish Parliament for confirmation. It is a package of funding worth £1.6bn over six years and is targeted at addressing economic and social goals as well as environmental measures.

The programme is outcome-focused and plans to help deliver on the Scottish Government's Healthier and Smarter objectives as well as strengthening rural communities. The SRDP combines a wide range of formerly separate schemes, including the LEADER programme to offer options aimed at supporting farming, forestry and primary processing sectors, rural enterprise and business development, diversification, rural tourism and rural community development.

The new element of SRDP is Rural Development Contracts – Rural Priorities which will be open to all individuals and groups in rural areas. Projects will have to fit with national priorities and also regional priorities being finalised by the eleven Regional Priorities Assessment Committees (RPACs) across Scotland. The regional priorities and goals will link to the five key SRDP outcomes of;

- improving business viability
- enhancing biodiversity and the landscape
- improving water quality
- tackling climate change
- supporting thriving rural communities

The LEADER programme will be administered and delivered at a local level through Local Action Groups (LAGs). Business Plans and Strategies have been submitted to the Scottish Government and approval is expected in Spring 2008, thereafter allowing LAGs to accept applications from April.

This strategy acknowledges the framework provided by the previous Scottish Rural Development Programme 2000-2006 and anticipates the challenges and opportunities that new Scottish Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 will offer. Further detail, in terms of responding to these challenges and opportunities, can be found in the section 'Cross cutting issues' on page 16.

## **Rural Scotland**

The Scottish Government defines Rural Scotland as, "relating to countryside and settlements of 3000 population or less".

The following information provides additional background:

- Approximately one million people, 19% of Scotland's total population, live in rural areas.
- Since 1981, rural populations have increased by 2%.
- Areas that have experienced significant population increases have done so because of the quality of life on offer and their ability to diversify economically.
- More people now live and work in rural areas without being part of the agricultural economy.
- Changes in the age structure of the rural population have implications for the provision of local services. In particular, the loss of young adults, an ageing population and differences in the socio-economic make-up of rural areas threatens the vibrancy and viability of some rural communities.

- Low population densities, travel distances and isolation can make effective engagement and consultation in rural areas particularly difficult.

The current approach to rural policies in Scotland is set out in 'Rural Scotland - A New Approach', which identifies high-level outcomes to guide rural policy development and delivery across the Scottish Government. Rural Scotland should:

- Be integral to Scotland's success, dynamic in harnessing its traditional strengths and with an appetite for change;
- Provide opportunities for young people so that they do not have to leave rural areas to progress;
- Offer a high quality of life to all its citizens, with access to quality services; and,
- Sustain and make the most of its natural and cultural heritage.

It also emphasises the contribution of many policy areas to the achievement of these outcomes and provides a framework to ensure that the needs of rural areas are properly reflected in policy development.

Scotland's major land uses are central to the Executive's vision for rural development. 'A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture: Next Steps' sets out objectives for a prosperous farming industry based on strong environmental performance, high animal health and welfare standards and an integral role in rural development. This strategy includes the concept of Land Management Contracts (LMCs), which have been further advanced since the reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

'The Scottish Forest Strategy' (2006) emphasises the role of woodlands in the economy, the natural environment, public enjoyment and local communities. 'The Biodiversity Strategy for Scotland' maps a 25-year framework of action to conserve and enhance biodiversity for the health and well being of people in Scotland, including an Implementation Plan for rural biodiversity.

Promoting a strong and sustainable economy is critical. 'Smart Successful Scotland' provides a strategic direction for the Enterprise Network in Scotland based on business growth and improving skills. It is underpinned by the 'Framework for Economic Development in Scotland', which provides

our overarching economic development strategy in which economic development can complement environmental stewardship.

Complimenting this Economic Framework is The National Planning Framework for Scotland, which guides the spatial development of Scotland to 2025. It sets out a vision of Scotland in which other plans and programmes can share and to which they can contribute. It highlights the importance of place and identifies priorities for investment in strategic infrastructure to enable each part of the country to play to its strengths in building a Scotland that is competitive, fair and sustainable. Furthermore, The Planning etc. (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament at the end of 2005. The aim of the Bill is to establish a new planning system that is quicker and more efficient, with community involvement at its heart.

Another national policy instrument that has and continues to drive development in rural areas is the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, which has created a framework for responsible access to land and inland water. These rights encourage visitors to the many beautiful and remote parts of Scotland. The rights and responsibilities of land managers and those exercising access rights are set out in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, also approved by parliament. In addition, the Act has provided legislative rights for rural and crofting communities to buy land in their area.

Rural Scotland is facing new challenges in achieving a sustainable future. 'Changing Our Ways: The Scottish Climate Change Programme' was published in early 2006 and sits alongside the Scottish Government's Sustainable Development Strategy, 'Choosing Our Future', which was launched in November 2005 under a shared UK Framework for Sustainable Development. The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that agriculture and forestry play a key role in mitigating climate change and that 'food miles' are reduced through a greater proportion of Scottish products being processed and marketed locally.

The Energy Review (2006) has reiterated the four principle objectives within energy policy: Carbon reduction, security of supply, reducing costs and reducing fuel poverty. The Scottish Climate Change Programme has committed to producing 1m tonnes of woodfuel by 2015. In addition the Green Jobs strategy estimates that 2000 sustainable local jobs can be created by the use of wood alternatives as fuel.

Other environmental challenges, including minimising diffuse pollution, were highlighted in the 'Custodians of Change' report in 2002. The EU Water Framework Directive will place considerable pressure on the land-use sector to meet water quality objectives.

Nationally 'Delivering for Health' (Health Scotland 2006) highlights the need to equip the health service to encourage and secure health improvement and 'wellness' within all our communities. A National Communities Task Force has been set up to drive forward the work on tackling health inequalities including rural access outlined in 'Improving Scotland's Health: The Challenge' (Scottish Government 2004). Angus Community Health Partnership is committed to the principles of improving health through equity, participation, enabling and sustainability of a range of local innovative health opportunities currently being introduced.

Legislation relating to transport provision in Scotland in recent years, has focused on the delivery of strategic Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) (2005 Transport (Scotland) Act). The Act outlines the co-ordination of national and regional transport strategies, enabling a national concessionary travel scheme. Rural participation in developing strategies and contributing to RTPs is critical, to ensure that rural needs are considered in a regional context.

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 was introduced with the primary objective of improving the condition and quality of private sector housing in Scotland. Extending local authorities power in dealing with the repair and improvement of private housing, also enabled homeowners to access advice and assistance to secure grants, as well as subsidised and standard loans to carry out repair and improvement work. The Act also empowers tenants to enforce repair standards through a new Private Rented Housing Panel and provides private rented sector tenants with a right to adapt a property to meet the needs of their disabilities. The Act further increases the rights of owners of mobile homes who rent their pitches.

Under 'Homes For Scotland's People: A Scottish Housing Policy Statement', the Scottish Government sets out a challenge to transform housing in Scotland by raising the quality of the homes in which people live, building strong, sustainable communities and ensuring that an affordable home is within everyone's reach. It goes on to specify the ways in which this can be achieved, all of which are of paramount importance to rural areas:

- Enough housing of the right type in the right place
- Quality homes for those who rent
- Opportunity for those who want to own their own homes
- Help for those who need it and assistance to avoid homelessness
- Strong, safe and attractive communities

### **Closing the Opportunity Gap Target H - Rural Services Priority Areas**

The Scottish Government initiative, 'Closing the Opportunity Gap', is aimed at increasing prosperity and quality of life for communities in Scotland, making sure that they remain viable and allowing

the people living in them the same opportunities as people living elsewhere in Scotland. The strategy includes the following as a key objective:

- To improve access to high quality services for the most disadvantaged groups and individuals in rural communities.

Inbuilt in this initiative is the Rural Services Priority Areas programme, which focuses on identification and delivery of improvements to rural services in 22 designated Rural Service Priority Areas (RSPAs) across Scotland. An area to the west and south of Brechin in Angus was included and Angus Community Planning Partnership has developed and implemented its plan for this area, following the award of a one-off sum of £100,000 to achieve agreed targets.

Following consultation with the community and partner organisations, four areas of activity have been agreed and are underway:

- Demand Responsive Dial-a- Ride Transport Provision (DRT)  
This provision is designed to support those who, for whatever reason, have limited access to transport and may then be excluded from employment, shopping, medical or leisure activities as a result.
- Sports and Enhanced Play Facilities in the Community (SP)  
By consulting with the community and designing suitable facilities, young people in the area will have appropriate access to a place or places for recreation that they have helped create to meet their needs.
- Neighbourhood Recycling Points (NRP)  
Installation of a number of NRP units in the RSPA will allow access to recycling services for those in or near settlements who do not have access to transport and may encourage those who do not currently recycle to consider it.
- Energy Efficiency and Healthy Living - Saving Money and Protecting the Environment (E&H)  
Improving the efficiency of energy use, identifying specific energy needs, supporting routes out of fuel poverty and influencing health and quality of life, will make a significant difference to those in the RSPA.

## **5.3 Local**

### **Angus Rural Partnership and a new Rural Strategy**

A Rural Strategy for Tayside was prepared in 1995 and was subsequently adopted by Angus Rural Partnership. Established in 1996, Angus Rural Partnership is comprised of representation from public sector agencies and voluntary organisations in Angus, all with an interest in rural development. As the Angus Community Planning Partnership's rural "think-tank", Angus Rural Partnership has a key role in raising awareness of rural issues amongst stakeholders, facilitating rural development within the community and ensuring rural interests are fed into the wider community planning process.

More recently and in recognition of developments since then, the Angus Community Plan Progress Report and Review 2004/05 recommended that a new Rural Strategy for Angus be prepared. Fortunately, a rural focus and associated activities in Angus have existed for many years and there is a wealth of knowledge and expertise on which to build. A strong commitment to partnership working is evident and as part of the Angus Community Planning Partnership, Angus Rural Partnership is ideally placed to develop, support, promote and implement this strategy.

### **Local Community Planning**

In terms of local Community Planning, engagement with rural communities, particularly in the Sidlaw/Newtyle and Angus Glens areas, has taken a number of forms. Community meetings and seminars have been held, focusing on the identification of local priorities that have subsequently been fed into the development of the new Community Plan. As is often the case in rural areas, representation at these events, from communities right across this wide geographic area, was high and the level of interest was encouraging.

Local priorities for the Community Plan include:

- Improve roads and signage
- Improve Facilities/Activities for Young People
- Improve Access to Services, including transport
- Bring together community representatives and public bodies to improve communication
- Access to funding – short and long term

At the most recent of these events, the Angus Glens Seminar, more than sixty officers from partner organisations, local workers, representatives from local businesses and from community and voluntary organisations came together to discuss local issues. The agenda was determined by those attending, by using guidance from the National Standards for Community Engagement as a means to engage prior to the event itself.

## **Establishment of the Cairngorms National Park**

Following The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, the Cairngorms National Park was formed in 2003. It stretches from Grantown-on-Spey to the heads of the Angus Glens, from Ballater to Dalwhinnie and Drumochter including much of the Laggan area in the southwest and a large area of the Glen Livet estate and the Strathdon/Glen Buchat area.

The Cairngorms National Park has a large mountain range at its heart with diverse communities around it. It is home to 16,000 people and 25% of Britain's threatened species. It includes unique mountainous areas of wild land, moorlands, forests, rivers, lochs and glens. Sites designated as of importance to natural heritage take up 39% of the land area – two thirds of these are of Europe-wide importance.

Scottish National Parks differ from many other national parks around the world as they have a social and economic development aim alongside the aims of conservation, understanding and enjoyment of the countryside. This is an explicit recognition of those who live and work in the park.

The Cairngorms National Park Authority is principally an enabling and facilitating body rather than a regulatory body. Through The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, it is charged with:

- Conserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage of the area
- Promoting sustainable use of the natural resources of the area
- Promoting understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public
- Promoting sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities

A quarter of Angus' population live in small rural settlements, some of which are contained within the boundary of the Cairngorms National Park and many of which lie in areas that are gateways to the Park. Angus Community Planning Partnership is committed to working closely with the Cairngorms National Park Authority to identify ways in which the development of those settlements and delivery of public services to those communities, can be improved and achieved in a sustainable manner.

## **6. Cross Cutting Issues**

### **6.1 Responding to the Scottish Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 and delivery of associated funding**

Responding to the outcomes of the Scotland Rural Development Plan 2007-2013, especially in relation to the administration and delivery of LEADER funding, entails being strategically prepared, to ensure that Angus is best placed to benefit from geographic and organisational arrangements.

It is important that in seeking to enhance, maintain and preserve the social, environmental and economic fabric of our rural communities, this Rural Development Programme builds on success and sustainable activities, rather than merely focusing on 'bridging the gaps'.

The proposed measures and activities have far reaching implications for community and voluntary groups, rural local authorities and Community Planning Partnerships, the organisations best placed to deliver in this respect. Therefore, it is imperative that issues relating to local knowledge, processes and organisation are tackled in close consultation/partnership with all relevant parties from the earliest stage.

Angus Rural Partnership will continue its commitment to participating in this process, monitoring developments, working with partners and responding appropriately.

### **6.2 Angus in the City Region**

Community Planning Partners in Angus recognise the importance of the City Region dynamics when considering community planning arrangements for the Angus area. In addition, successful cities benefit from dynamic rural towns in their hinterland. These rural towns can contribute to mutually supportive business environments in particular, with collaboration to attract modern business growth a prime example of the opportunities available.

The Angus Rural Partnership is clear that what Angus provides, within the City Region, relates to the quality of life that people enjoy in Angus. Angus, with its towns and villages, coastal attributes and rural hinterland, makes up an environment that is second to none and offers many opportunities for the wider economic benefit of the City Region. This is mainly due to the fact that Angus is a good place to live with vibrant communities, quality education and excellent housing opportunities. It is recognised within Angus that many people will choose to live in Angus and work in Dundee.

Angus has a lot to contribute to the economic future of the City Region outside of providing a skilled labour pool. A key feature of our economic vision for Angus relates to sustainability and economic growth focused on the natural environment. Angus is well placed to grow its own economy in these areas, contributing to the success of the wider City Region area

A further benefit of City Region working relates to the tourism industry and clearly Angus has a lot to offer with regard to tourism. Particular strengths in this area include golf, with the famous Carnoustie golf course, a spectacular coastal front stretching from Monifieth to Montrose and the Angus Glens, providing ample opportunity for sporting activity, as well as links to the Cairngorms National Park.

An important consideration in planning at the City Region level relates to transport. A new Transport Partnership that will address transport issues for the City Region area in relation to bus, rail and air transport has been formed and will help to enable the development of effective transport links. However, here in Angus, it is important to ensure that Angus transport links complement the wider City Region arrangements. Clearly, if people are to live in Angus but work and / or study elsewhere, then transport links need to provide appropriate access to the main economic centres in Scotland.

### **6.3 Rural Policy Development and Research**

In developing rural policy recommendations and responses over recent years, Angus Rural Partnership has identified priorities for action at a local level, as well as opportunities to participate in wider initiatives. Following are a number of particularly important areas of work on which the Partnership will focus and support in the coming months and years.

- **Rural classification and collection of data**

Across Scotland, differing tools and classifications are used to determine the characteristics of rural areas. Those differences can skew the true picture, as can sources in which the data collected is inadequate or incomplete. However, the advancement of technology now provides an opportunity to revisit data collection methods and techniques and work with partners to share information and subsequent analysis.

- **SCVO Rural Network**

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations is currently considering the inception of a

network of rural practitioners from the voluntary sector across Scotland. This network could seek to provide a central point for the sharing of information, case studies, issues, data and opinion and may prove to be a useful tool for Community Planning Partners in their efforts to engage with the rural agenda as seen by the voluntary sector.

- **Carnegie Commission for Rural Community Development: Rural Action Research Project**

The purpose of this project is to demonstrate and pilot cost-effective community-led solutions, with a shift in focus from reactive, short-term grant-giving, to supporting programmes that will make a real and sustained difference in people's lives. In this research, key issues and concerns relating to sustainable rural community development across 5 nations (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland) have been identified and acknowledgement of the findings is paramount.

Current funding is widely recognised by practitioners as unsustainable for fragile rural communities, supporting short-term initiatives with less than comprehensive coverage. In addition, where there is a lower proportion of community bodies (and/or more or less partnership working in local service delivery agencies) to draw down funding such as this, whole areas of rural Scotland are at risk of disadvantage.

- **Scottish Academy for Rural Policy**

UHI PolicyWeb have been commissioned to lead and co-ordinate an examination of the feasibility of establishing, on a long-term basis, a Scottish Academy of Rural Policy (SARP).

SARP is seen as an academy built on 'distributed excellence', drawing on the best Scottish (and non-Scottish) expertise on the wide range of policies impacting on rural and remote parts of Scotland. The expertise of UHI in developing 'connectivity not centralisation' is seen as central to this idea of an inclusive networked organisation. Although social science led, it aims to be inter-disciplinary and to draw on local, national and international knowledge. The vision of 'rural policy' is cross-sectoral, including policies which have particular economic and social impacts on different kinds of rural area. These impacts have consequences for agriculture, forestry and fishing and also health, education, culture, migration, planning, housing, transport, regional policy, renewable energy and the environment. It seeks to 'join up' people working in these different fields from academia, policy and practice and to facilitate links with similar groups working in other countries. In these ways it aims to build capacities inside and outside academic institutions and to create new agendas. It aims at independence, high standards and providing open public domain access to core knowledge and information.

# 7. Rural Angus

## 7.1 Agriculture

### *Background*

Angus has a diverse agricultural base, due to the geology and climate of the region. Good quality agricultural land, which is below 150m above sea level, covers most of the area. Much of this is designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ), resulting in constraints on farmers and land managers in terms of the amount and timing of applications of nitrogen-based fertilizers and manures.

Crops grown in lowland Angus include cereals (barley, wheat and oats), oilseed rape, potatoes, soft fruits such as strawberries, raspberries and blackcurrants and vegetables such as carrots, cauliflower and broccoli. There are very few dairy farms in the area and most livestock in the lowland areas are beef cattle and sheep, with pigs and chickens being produced to a lesser extent.

In the lower areas of the Glens, arable cropping is in many cases no longer viable, resulting in areas of predominantly livestock farming, where many produce store animals, which are sold to be finished in other areas. The upper Glens areas tend to feature far more extensive farming of livestock, with income from shooting and stalking forming a substantial part of the farm business.

As is the case in many areas of Scotland, there has been a gradual decline in the number of staff employed on farms in the area, mainly due to mechanisation. This has obvious impacts on the number of people living in rural Angus. Furthermore, increasing numbers of seasonal migrant workers bring other pressures and opportunities to the agricultural sector and rural Angus as a whole (see 8.3 Demographics).

### *Issues and recommendations*

The restructuring of the agricultural sector and changes arising from the implementation of CAP Reform (i.e. Single Farm Payment), have resulted in a period of instability and change. Actions that would allow increased mobility within the sector (e.g. retirement schemes and particularly co-ordinated provision of training) are important.

In addition, encouragement given to developing, rather than innovating projects, promoting diversification that enhances Scotland's competitive advantage as well as supporting farming families, should be a priority. In terms of product support, farmers need assistance to maximise their contribution to the food industry by adding value to their products/services through increased

co-operation. Locally, this means supporting Angus Farmers Markets and the increasing number of local farmers selling produce direct to the consumer, as well as the promotion of eating local produce, whether in the home, school or workplace.

A review of public procurement policies would also assist the farming community. This would more closely reflect the EU Strategic Guidelines for resources devoted to Axis 1 of the Scottish Rural Development Programme, whilst also further addressing the challenges facing rural Scotland.

There is increased pressure on some areas of agriculture in Angus due to the water abstraction licences now required for irrigation. Irrigation is vital for important crops in the area, such as vegetables and soft fruit and support for farmers in application and adaptation is recommended.

## 7.2 Communities

### *Background*

- Rural Classification

The Scottish Government has developed a classification in an attempt to define degrees of rurality. Overall, rural areas are defined as settlements with a population of less than 3,000. Within this definition, *remote rural* areas are those with a greater than 30-minute drive time to the nearest settlement with a population of greater than 10,000. Similarly, *accessible rural* areas are those with a 30-minute or less drive time to the nearest settlement with a population of greater than 10,000. Urban areas are considered as settlements with more than 10,000 population.

This classification places Arbroath, Forfar, Montrose and Carnoustie in the urban category. Subsequently, Brechin, Kirriemuir and Monifieth are considered accessible small towns, with the remaining rural settlements classified as accessible or remote. On this basis, 26.5% of the Angus population live out with the main settlements and in rural areas, compared to a Scottish average of 18.8%.

- Geography

Angus, with a population of around 109,000 covers a diverse geographic area of 2,200 square kilometres. Approximately half of this land mass is upland, rising from the Grampian foothills into a mountain area reaching its maximum height at Glas Maol (1068m). This area is dissected by “the Glens of Angus” the northern tips of which encroach into the Cairngorms National Park making Angus the southern gateway to the Park. This upland area has a very sparse population concentrated within the Glens, which, with the exception of Glen Isla, have no through roads. The

economy of the Glens is largely land based, although a number of businesses have grown to accommodate tourism, particularly in Glen Isla. The Forestry Commission Scotland car park at the head of Glen Doll caters for around 70,000 visitors per annum, who access the mountain footpath networks crossing the Grampians to Braemar and Ballater and enter the Caenlochan National Nature Reserve, famous for its rare alpine flora and fauna.

To the south and east of the Grampian foothills lies the fertile Strathmore valley, which runs from Laurencekirk (Aberdeenshire) in the north-east to Perth (Perth & Kinross) in the south-west. Within Angus, the towns of Kirriemuir, Forfar and Brechin developed as market towns to serve agriculture but also developed as manufacturing centres and in the case of Forfar, as an administrative centre.

The Strathmore valley is divided from coastal Angus by the Sidlaw Hills. The coastal strip from Monifieth up to Easthaven contains 40% of the grade one agricultural land in Scotland. The Angus coastline is extremely varied with cliffs, coves and some first class beaches as well as some of the best shore and sea fishing in the country. The towns of Monifieth, Carnoustie, Arbroath and Montrose lie on the coast.

Immediately to the south-west of Angus lies Dundee, Scotland's fourth largest city and Aberdeen, Perth, St Andrews and Stirling all lie within an hour's drive of the area.

#### *Issues and recommendations*

- Health

The health of people who live in rural areas is greatly affected by access to services and support (see Social Inclusion page 36). Whether this is in terms of young people and their parents, or the older members of the population, social exclusion can contribute to a decline in physical and mental health. Care in the community, outreach provision of associated care and access to centralised services in terms of transport, are all key challenges in terms of health provision.

The priorities for health improvement in Angus are obesity, physical activity, alcohol and long-term health conditions. Current health promotion activity includes active schools initiatives and promoting the benefits of exercise through events such as the Glens Walking Festival. The Angus wide 'Focus on Alcohol' project aims to address the harmful effects of alcohol on communities and has commissioned Tayside Council on Alcohol to explore ways of improving rural access to alcohol services. Developments in IT and projects such as the 50+ Group demonstrate the health benefits to those who are socially excluded.

The Partnership aims to roll out the long-term condition management programmes for diabetes, lung and heart disease. It will also focus on 'one-stop-shop' services and the use of tele-care. Improving transport is also a priority.

- Housing

Local issues and priorities, which are detailed in the Local Housing Strategy, include:

- Support for the private rented sector through the provision of grants from Communities Scotland to bring back into occupation empty properties. The Strategic Housing Team commissioned research into empty homes has been completed and enables us to understand needs. A local housing needs assessment at a sub HMA level, focused on Brechin, Arbroath and Montrose, helps us to have a better understanding of need in different areas. The research identified specific needs for elderly people and households that include people with disabilities who require specific adaptations.
- One of the main objectives of the LHS is to ensure a high standard of housing and related services across all tenures. To achieve this objective Angus Council is working on the modernisation of the housing stock and working with Housing Associations in order to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standards (SHQS) by 2015.
- Around half of Angus' population live in rural or semi-rural communities. Older people in these areas can feel socially isolated, which can cause anxiety and can add to pressure on family and carers. Angus Council Community Alarm Service provides peace of mind, security and tele-care to around 700 older people in rural Angus. Angus Council now plans to develop this service further to create a "virtual" sheltered housing scheme in South Angus, bringing some of the benefits of traditional sheltered housing. This development will make use of videophones to enable "face to face" social interaction between "residents," as well as "virtual visits" and visual "wellbeing" checks by care and support staff. "Residents" will be supported through a peripatetic warden service and transport links to enable participation in shared activities. In addition, where distance makes support from family and carers difficult, or the older person feels isolated from their families, a videophone would be offered to the family member or carer to enable the added reassurance of visual communication.
- To encourage and support sustainable communities, Angus Council has implemented a tenant participation scheme, which encourages community-led projects.

- Transport

The provision of public transport services in rural areas to meet the requirements of a dispersed population with complex and varying transport requirements is a significant challenge. Nonetheless, in recent years much has been done to improve public transport to the rural

communities of Angus.

The Scottish Government has, since 1998, provided Rural Transport Grants for new and improved bus services. This funding has enabled the introduction and enhancement of services across Angus and these services now form an integral part of the local transport network. Angus Council itself has in recent years significantly increased its expenditure on contracted local bus service provision and this has enabled operation, for example, of shoppers' services on additional days of the week and the introduction of new facilities.

In addition, improved use has been made of existing transport provision with the closer integration of school and local bus service transport. School transport contracts operated by vehicles of 16 passenger seats or more are now registered to operate as local bus services, thereby making them available to the general public and widening travel opportunities.

Recently, more flexible contracts have been sought for transport provision in some rural areas, for example shoppers' services to Forfar from the Noranside, Fern and Tannadice areas are pre-bookable and only operate on demand. Similar demand responsive services are provided in the evenings in the Glamis, Charleston and Westmuir areas; these are only two examples, many more services operate on request and on demand. Further demand responsive services are currently running in the Rural Services Priority Area to the west and south of Brechin, which is funded by the Scottish Government.

It is important that the public know which transport services are available and to that end Angus Council adopted in 2005 its Public Transport Information Strategy which seeks to improve public transport publicity provision and sets out an implementation plan for the next 10 years. This Strategy includes improvements designed to make timetable information easier to understand and more accessible, including timetable information provision in all communities and the further development of roadside, web and other forms of information provision.

New initiatives and funding will be pursued to further develop public transport provision in rural Angus and consultation is on-going with the public to identify their transport requirements.

Angus Council will work closely with TACTRAN (Tayside and Central Regional Transport Partnership) to identify regional transport strategies which address the travel needs of the rural population in order to enable rural communities to access services not only within Angus but on a regional and national basis.

- Community Safety

Fortunately, there have been few major policing issues raised in rural areas of Angus in recent times. This may be partly due to the number of local police officers dealing with crimes, offences and community safety issues, who regularly liaise with local partners, such as the Angus Ranger Service and Forestry Commission Scotland, in order to forge local links and share information. Initiatives in road safety for children, groups and communities are one of the ways in which local officers engage with the community.

In addition, specific crime prevention advice is available for those in rural communities. Information on security of buildings, livestock, fuel tanks, fire raising, vandalism, firearms and ammunition and wildlife crime are among topics covered.

During 2005, Tayside Police and the Post Office launched an initiative to provide joint services. At Newtyle Post Office in Angus and Birnam Post Office in Perthshire, a number of police administrative services are facilitated for the convenience of the public. Police officers still patrol these areas and carry out their duties as normal.

Over recent years there has been a large increase in the number of foreign students and visitors, particularly from Eastern European countries, coming to the Tayside area seeking seasonal work. Many locate in the rural areas of Angus and Tayside Police recognise that some aspects of Scottish Law and safety advice is not familiar to visitors. A booklet has been produced in four languages; English; Russian; Polish and Czech, providing visitors with information in relation to numerous subjects including road safety, personal security and fire safety.

Tayside Police and other partner agencies in Angus have also developed a new "Welcome Pack" for foreign workers visiting the area. As well as safety advice from the police and the fire service, the pack includes health advice and information about the local culture and facilities available. A list of useful contacts is contained and the pack will be reproduced and updated in a number of different languages.

- Basic Facilities

Whilst rural Angus exhibits considerable diversity, many rural communities are peripheral to service centres and are characterised by a low and sparse population. Such conditions mean that basic services such as post offices, shops and community facilities become difficult to access and are often difficult to maintain. This is particularly relevant when more people from rural settlements travel to the towns and cities to work and may access basic services there instead of at home.

These communities are generally reliant on a narrow employment base (principally agriculture) and

any further decline in the viability of the primary sector may threaten their sustainability, leading to greater population loss and thereby further increasing fragility.

- Public Services and Funding

The diverse economic, social and environmental issues facing rural Angus inevitably puts strains on public sector resource allocation, particularly since public expectations have risen through the Community Planning process. The fact that the area is neither urban nor remote rural in nature and that while concentrations of deprivation exist, they are relatively small in population, make it difficult to attract external resources given current EU, National and Non Elected Public Bodies (NEPB's) priorities.

The dispersed nature of the population also makes it difficult to maintain effective services and infrastructure such as water supply and treatment, transport and electricity networks. When existing supply thresholds rise or fall it can be difficult to justify new or continuing investment. Economies of scale are not as achievable as they are in more urban environments, however, these difficulties must be tackled when fuel poverty becomes even more of a critical issue for rural areas. The ever-increasing unit cost of fossil fuels, coupled with high transportation costs, only strengthens the need for alternative approaches, which includes investment in renewable technologies and local generation and supply of energy.

There are significant pressures on the "Public Purse," citizens expect and demand high standards of service provision but preferably at no additional cost. The Governments (EU, UK and Scotland) expect and demand "Best Value" (asking for cost savings) whilst adding new legislative or regulative burden. As a result, financial, short-term expediency is often adopted as a means of resolving a problem or achieving compliance.

- Community Development and Engagement

It is equally important that rural areas are not just viewed, or promoted, as a niche proposition. Healthy rural communities value their history, culture and environment. They have a pride in their identity and use it to enhance quality of life, which offers benefits to residents and visitors alike and aids in the development of new economic activities. These communities require sustained support and investment in order to thrive.

Thriving rural communities rely heavily on the in-kind and financial support of businesses to the surrounding area and to the vital contribution from the voluntary sector, both at a local and national level. Recognition should be given to the inter-relationship of business and community in rural areas and support adapted accordingly. Voluntary activity in rural areas is often informal in nature

and rural communities need access to financial support that is currently limited to groups with charitable status only.

Geographical factors and diverse community identities within a locality may preclude utilisation of recognised engagement mechanisms such as local partnerships. Therefore, task-based approaches, such as community commissioning, action research or adaptive management techniques, may be considered – communities doing their own development. These activities enhance the opportunity for the community to work with the community planning partners and play a central role in the delivery of service improvements, whilst also providing an opportunity to engage by 'hot topic' or ongoing issue. In any situation, open and active networks across all sectors are a critical success factor.

- Information and Communications Technology

Information and communications technology (ICT) provision and access to training and support for communities, businesses and voluntary organisations now provides a means by which active communication and commerce can become more accessible. However, issues of infrastructure, cost and investment continue to present challenges. The benefits of investing in digital communications in rural areas are many, not least in terms of economic opportunity and in attempting to address the challenge of local outreach service provision, the use of ICT is becoming an innovative contender.

A further benefit of investment in ICT relates to the current loss of young people from rural areas, which is often due to lack of employment opportunities and service provision. If provision can indeed assist in business growth and diversification, there is the potential for new jobs and alternative employment or self-employment opportunities. Inbuilt in this is the need for a renewed focus on the promotion of an entrepreneurial culture amongst young people, who are physically and emotionally linked with the areas in which they grow up. This attachment can result in real, innovative ideas for development in the area and it is important that an outlet for these ideas, along with entrepreneurial support, is available in schools and the community.

## **7.3 Demographics**

### *Background*

In Angus, the latest population projections indicate an overall fall in the Angus population of 4% in the period up to 2024. The structure of the population is also changing significantly, with the main trend being towards greater numbers of older people.

Demographic change has been recognised as a major issue by the UK government and to successfully address related issues, there is a requirement for national and local government to work together to identify new ways of delivering services across the public and private sectors. In particular, the challenges of an ageing population will raise major resource issues in relation to pensions and healthcare services.

#### *Issues and recommendations*

There are some difficult decisions to be made in relation to responding to the demographic changes in Angus to ensure that the quality of life is maintained and enhanced. These include ensuring appropriate housing is available, ensuring that the staffing needs for the growing care sector are included in workforce planning, continuing to support the emerging migrant workforce, particularly with language skills, whilst finding ways in which to retain young people in the area. In addition, there is a need to understand migration patterns and projections and their importance to the Angus economy and social make-up.

Since the accession of Eastern European countries to the European Union, Angus has witnessed a significant increase in the number of migrant workers. In addition to the many thousands of now permanent residents, an estimated 2000 seasonal workers come to Angus farms and associated industries in the summer months. As a result, a project focusing on the identification and mapping of European migrant community networks was initiated in December 2007. This exercise, coupled with information derived from a housing needs assessment for migrant workers will help to inform future policy developments in this area.

## **7.4 Economy**

### *Background*

Economic activity in Angus is diverse, with traditional industries such as agriculture and fishing still very important. Angus has some of the best quality agricultural land in Scotland and agriculture is vital to the health, prosperity and diversity of life for, not only rural inhabitants, but also for those who pass through or visit the countryside. A healthy agricultural industry provides fresh local produce, a demand for local skills and employment and an attractive, varied landscape which visitors can enjoy.

Successful land management provides the best conditions for abundant wildlife, which also attracts visitors to the estates in the uplands for deer stalking, shooting, fresh water fishing, climbing and hill walking. All of these pursuits play a significant role in the rural economy of these rural areas.

The coastal waters off Angus provide significant bird watching, sea angling and other recreational facilities with a varied coastline, including a recently developed marina at Arbroath. Although the fishing industry has contracted hugely over the recent years, life in the small fishing communities is still inextricably linked to the sea.

Whilst traditional industries are still very important, other industries such as manufacturing are proportionally more significant than at the national level. Health services, retail, distribution and catering are also well represented.

New industries contribute towards the Angus economy, including the oil industry, digital media and textiles. Tourism is a key economic sector for rural Angus, with the natural landscape and heritage offering a unique insight into the county. Angus Rural Partnership has been involved in a partnership project called the Angus Glens Walking Festival, which was first held in 2003. The aim of the project is to raise the profile of the Angus Glens as a visitor destination.

The sporting estates in upland Angus and salmon fishing in the River Esk, which is one of the best salmon rivers in Scotland and designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), contribute greatly to the Angus economy.

#### Employment

Angus has a high dependence on public sector jobs and retains a sizeable manufacturing employment sector. While growth in service jobs has been significant, it has not followed Scottish trends, with very little growth in the finance and business sector. As might be expected for a rural area, Angus continues to have higher than average employment levels in the primary sector, particularly agriculture. CAP reforms are anticipated to have negative impacts on agricultural and related incomes in Angus. It is estimated that Angus only achieves around 13% of the tourism income that comes into Tayside and given VisitScotland's target of 50% growth in tourism within the next ten years there must be scope for tourism growth in Angus.

#### Workforce

Overall, Angus has a lower percentage of people with no qualifications than Scotland as a whole. There is a strong tradition towards further rather than higher education and this must at least in part be due to the nature of employment available in Angus. Only 7% of employees in Angus are educated to degree level (compared with 13% in Scotland), while 18.8% of the Angus working age population are educated to Group 4 qualification level. A better fit between the workforce and the jobs available in Angus will reduce the need for out-migration particularly in younger age groups.

### *Issues and recommendations*

It is critical to recognise that rural Scotland is a workplace, as well being as a dormitory for urban populations and a destination for recreation activities for residents and visitors alike. There is a great need for conservation of the landscape and emphasis on the potential for rural areas in developing quality products and services.

Angus is at risk of being marginalised from EU, UK and Scottish government economic policy as it is regarded as neither remote rural nor urban and therefore falls between two of the main planks of focus for structural fund support. Issues of a falling and ageing population, high employment in declining sectors and relatively low numbers of new start businesses, point to a need for structural reform of the economy. However, based on current and historical indicators of need, it is unlikely that Angus will qualify for significant external support to achieve such change. To counter this likely lack of external support, Angus needs to adopt an approach towards economic development which co-ordinates public and private investment to:

- Utilise the natural geophysical, biological and environmental strengths of the area without adverse impact.
- Support individuals to achieve their potential and to contribute, socially, environmentally and economically.
- Support healthy, safe and caring communities through economic prosperity; and
- Encourage a prosperous and sustainable economy which supports rewarding job opportunities in viable businesses

Unlike the A9 corridor or Royal Deeside, Angus is not a high profile tourism destination but as a microcosm of Scotland offering Upland National Park, productive countryside, attractive coastal scenery, towns with a strong cultural history and significant activity based opportunities, it has scope to improve its share of tourism income. The same applies to food and drink; the Angus share of employment in this sector is significantly below that of the neighbouring authorities of Perth & Kinross and Aberdeenshire but as one of the most agriculturally productive areas of Scotland there is opportunity to add value and to take advantage in growth trends associated with buying local produce and healthier diets. Efforts to widen the employment base should be concentrated on energy, green tourism and the food and drink sectors.

Volunteering and the Social Economy offer alternative business employment models that encourage a social ethos, greater community engagement and are not for profit. The Social Economy is not well developed in Angus and presents significant opportunities, particularly for the economically inactive.

Whilst Angus has a relatively high level of self-employment this is largely due to employment in agriculture and construction. There is a low rate of new-start businesses in Angus in keeping with many rural areas. A more entrepreneurial attitude needs to be fostered particularly amongst the young and in women in rural areas and the “green” revolution presents huge opportunities for new business models.

The potential for renewables and green business development in Angus is increasingly significant, with potential financial support being available from various funds, including the Scottish Rural Development Programme 2007-2012, LEADER, European Regional Development Fund and the European North Sea Territorial Cooperation Programme. Possible development in this sector is reinforced in the draft Angus Economic Development Strategy, which reflects the requirement for sustainable development and recognises that a policy of economic growth based on increased consumption, particularly of non-renewables, is unsustainable. The core principle of the draft strategy is to move Angus towards achieving sustainable development, a strong endorsement of potential renewable energy and green business development in Angus.

The agricultural sector in Angus has a strong arable tradition, particularly in the coastal lowlands and Vale of Strathmore. This presents potential for renewable supply alternatives; for example, plant based industrial products as alternatives to oil based plastics. Renewable energy development is becoming increasingly important as issues of climate change and demand for non-renewables in emerging economies such as China and India continue to impact on supply and government policy.

Angus, with its mix of small urban settlements and large rural hinterland faces a diverse range of economic, social and environmental issues. For example, issues facing the Glens of Angus are very different from those facing the burghs, the Sidlaws or the coast. As a result, the draft strategy calls for greater engagement between Angus Economic Development Partnership and Community Planning Partnerships to identify how agreed actions could be tailored to suit the needs of particular communities.

Green business decisions will also offer opportunities for economic development in Angus, for example, sourcing products locally and collaboration between local businesses, thereby reducing supply chains where practicable in the context of carbon counting or food miles. Angus is well placed to take advantage of this, through encouraging local food supply and consumption through farmers markets, rural shop networks, local branding and the development of farm shops attached to existing businesses.

## 7.5 Forestry

### *Background*

The National Inventory of Woodland and Trees: Scotland – Tayside Region report, details that afforestation in Scotland jumped from 20,000ha during the period from 1941 – 1950, when 6% of Scotland was covered in woodland, to 120,000ha at its peak during the period from 1971 – 1980, when 12% of Scotland was covered in woodland. This has now tailed off to the 20,000ha /10 year period since 1991 when we reached 17% of Scotland covered with woodland. The main species planted during these years of afforestation was Sitka Spruce, which now forms the main harvested species for Scotland as a whole.

Rural Angus has a long tradition of estate and farm woodland, of mainly pine and larch, but Tayside as a whole has 45% of woodland under Sitka Spruce. The main types of woodland in Angus range from large-scale post World War II conifer plantations in the Angus Glens, mixed private estate woods such as at Glamis, Airlie and Kinnordy and small-scale mixed lowland woods around the better quality farmland. The Glens also contain some important semi-natural birch woodland remnants which form the basis of an extended Forest Habitat Network.

New woodland creation has dropped considerably in Angus over the last few years due to a variety of reasons, including sporting preference for land use in the Glens and the uncertainty over CAP reform in the foothills and lowlands. Average new woodland creation over the last 10 years has been around 60 hectares per annum. The Scottish Forestry Strategy (2006) has a vision of 25% woodland cover by the year 2050 which is equivalent to around 12,000 hectares of new woodland per annum across Scotland. For Angus to make an equitable contribution over the same period (i.e. 25% woodland cover in Angus) this would require around 55,500 hectares compared to around 21,500 hectares at present. In order to achieve this, new woodland creation would need to reach 750-800 hectares every year between 2007 and 2050.

### *Issues and Recommendations*

Trees, woods and forests make up around 10% of land cover in Angus. This compares with a figure of 17% for Scotland as a whole. The Forestry Commission Scotland has estimated that there are 53,814 tonnes of woodfuel immediately available in the Tay Forest District area, with a market value of £2.9 million, which could potentially support 50 jobs in the rural economy. This excludes the potential from brash or any woodland under 2ha in size. It is clear that this represents an under-utilised resource that could benefit the local economy and job creation. Nearly all of this resource is to be found in the private sector suppliers and work will have to be done to help them find new markets.

There is approximately £60m of investment in the forestry sector in Angus every year. This goes into industries including wood processing, timber haulage, pulp manufacturing and general forest management. Wood processing in particular has benefited from the maturing of plantations from the 1980s to present day, meaning that the wood harvest in Angus will reach approximately 10,000,000m<sup>3</sup> by 2020. This presents significant opportunities for existing and new businesses in rural Angus and could potentially have a significant impact on climate change initiatives in the area.

Timber processing takes place at sawmills around Kirriemuir whilst some timber, mainly small roundwood, has been exported from Montrose. Timber prices, after years of being depressed are recovering strongly due mainly to increased demand for fuelwood for the domestic market, increased international competition for Scandinavian and Baltic timber and the relative strength of the £ against the euro.

Timber haulage on rural roads can be a problem locally in Angus, particularly in the Glens. Angus Council participates fully in the Stirling & Tayside Timber Transport Group to ensure that good liaison is maintained between the forest sector and local roads authorities.

The Millennium Forest in Angus continues to be a success as an attractive resource for conservation and recreation initiatives. This development has resulted in 54 new woodlands, totalling 189,000 trees covering 92 hectares across Angus. The ongoing maintenance and development of these assets will provide opportunities for growth in niche markets with links to conservation work and recreational opportunities in Angus.

Woodlands are important in providing local recreational opportunities around the towns and villages of Angus. Caddam Wood at Kirriemuir is one of the best examples. Further opportunities exist in other areas of rural Angus for expansion of forestry in general and the use of it for recreation. Various Scottish Government policy initiatives offer opportunities in Angus including;

- encouraging sustainable development options - new woodlands for carbon sequestration, woodfuel and the use of home-grown timber for building and construction;
- social inclusion and well-being - community woodlands, the National Forest Land Scheme and Forests for Health;
- biodiversity - Forest Habitat Networks;
- wealth generation - adding-value locally and forest tourism

Forestry in Angus is currently governed through the Tayside Indicative Forestry Strategy (IFS)

which was incorporated into the Dundee and Angus Structure Plan in 2002. Recent developments in forestry and the wider rural sector, through the Scottish Forestry Strategy (2006) and the Scottish Rural Development Programme (2007) have implications for all aspects of rural development. As a result, Angus Council and the Forestry Commission Scotland are considering how this important area can be managed through a dedicated Framework, which seeks to draw these various developments and their associated policies together.

This Framework will support and complement similar neighbouring strategic forestry documents including the Forest and Woodland Strategy being produced by Perth and Kinross Council, the Urban Woodland Strategy in Dundee, and the Cairngorms Forestry and Woodland Framework. The Framework will also take account of other key regional documents and strategies such as the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the Eastern Lowlands Forest Habitat Network guidance.

The production of this Framework will allow partner agencies within Angus to work with a coherent strategy, containing specific objectives, which tie together the various policies and initiatives now pertinent in the forestry sector. In addition, this process will allow for the targeted use of existing resources and acquisition of further resources to invest in specific forestry and woodland initiatives, which will be identified in the Framework itself.

## **7.6 Natural Environment**

### *Background*

Angus can be divided into two geographic areas for the purposes of this document: the Lowlands (including the coast) and the Glens. These areas each have their own identity resulting from the interaction of geology, landforms, landscapes, wildlife and land use.

The Lowlands are characterised by a low coastline backed by broad, flat farmed carse land, leading up to the sharply defined steep sides of the major geological fault lines in the north and west. Sea level change has had impacts upon the area over a long period, as shown by the extent of the carse and raised beaches. There is a great variety in the coastline as a result, giving rise to a rich variety of wildlife and valued landscapes.

The highest population and development densities are located around the burgh towns of Kirriemuir, Brechin, Montrose and Forfar and particularly along the coast around Arbroath, Carnoustie and Monifieth; the Firth of Tay is also of prime commercial importance.

Key issues in the lowlands and along the coast are:

- Addressing and accommodating the impacts of future sea level rise;
- Using Integrated Catchment Management to bring together all users of river systems to improve management of river basins
- Addressing the impacts of agricultural intensification and changes in modern husbandry
- Improving urban edge design in landscape terms and accommodating and managing greenspace for recreational use and biodiversity.

The Glens form a transition between the intensively farmed agricultural lowlands to the south and the Cairngorms to the north. They have a distinctive and much valued character of their own. Each glen has its own special character, but all retain a high cover of semi-natural habitats and landforms, some of which are of national and international importance. The range of habitats includes the largely unmodified rivers and tributaries; native woodland; one of the most important areas of heather moorland in Scotland and smaller areas of grassland and standing fresh water.

The majority of the resident population live in the settlements distributed in a linear pattern along the bottoms of the glens, although there are also individual homes dotted around the landscape, many of which are traditional in design. The population has a relatively high dependence upon the exploitation of the semi-natural habitats for its economic wellbeing, e.g. through forestry, grouse and deer management, fishing and agriculture. Many also make their living from tourists and day visitors.

Key issues in the Glens are:

- Greater awareness of the implications of management of rivers and protection of their high quality for wildlife and recreation
- Greater awareness of the opportunities of woodland for multi-benefit forestry and conserving and enhancing native woodland;
- Greater awareness of the importance of moorland in terms of its bird life and the management of grazing levels.

## **8 Angus Community Plan 2007-2012 Core Principles**

Three principles underpin the work of community planning in Angus and the Angus Rural Partnership, they are:

- Sustainability
- Social Inclusion
- Active Citizenship

### **8.1 Sustainability**

The Angus Rural Strategy supports the Scottish Government Sustainable Development Strategy, 'Choosing Our Future', which was launched in November 2005 under a shared UK Framework for Sustainable Development. This framework expresses the goal of sustainable development as enabling all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

The Scottish Government states that this goal will be pursued in an integrated way, through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well being. Inherent in this must be protection and enhancement of the physical and natural environment, using resources and energy as efficiently as possible.

In addition, the promotion of a clear understanding of and commitment to, sustainable development is a priority. This will enable all people to contribute to the overall goal through their individual decisions at a local level.

A set of shared principles form the basis for sustainable development policy in the UK.

These are:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

For a policy to be sustainable, it must respect all five principles.

The UK priorities for immediate action are:

- Sustainable consumption and production

- Climate change and energy
- Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
- Sustainable communities

Specific reference to sustainable development for local authorities and public sector agencies exists as part of Best Value, arising from the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. There is still the question of how this fits within the community planning process and of its importance in a rural context.

Church and Young describe community planning as 'mainstreaming Local Agenda 21' or local sustainable development activities (LA21). In reality, both policy agendas share common aims as defined by Lucas et al (2003):

- Improve well-being/quality of life in local areas
- Integrate local delivery activity
- Involve local communities in decision making
- Develop a vision for the local area
- Work in partnership with other agencies

The contemporary reality is that there are now two key messages to communicate - sustainable development *and* community planning. To achieve truly sustainable communities, one cannot exist without the other.

In Angus, *sustainable community planning* is the essence of the new Community Plan and this reflects a sustained effort by partners and local communities to build the principles of sustainable development into daily activities and overarching priorities.

The "Sustainable Newtyle" project started in 1999 and carried out in collaboration with various partners, was an early attempt by Angus Rural Partnership to raise awareness of sustainable development and develop indicators.

Angus Rural Partnership acknowledges that achieving sustainable rural development necessitates an integrated approach to service provision and policy development that encompasses a wide range of interrelated priorities.

## **8.2 Social Inclusion**

Social inclusion is often difficult to define. In this context, social inclusion refers to a person's ability to participate in key functions. Within rural areas, the loss of some local services is a

particular problem. Angus Rural Partnership has carried out a Survey of Rural Facilities on a biennial basis, collating information showing the access that people living and working in rural areas have to a wide range of public, private and voluntary services and whether the availability of these services is increasing or in decline. Over the period of this survey and particularly in the past five years, there has been a decline in some of the basic rural facilities in Angus.

It is important to make the distinction between types of services delivery and investment and subsidy in terms of service provision in rural areas. Services of entitlement, such as education or waste management, are provided similarly to those offered in urban areas but often require subsidy due to greater economic cost of delivery. However, services can also be provided as a result of market failure, for example outreach ICT tuition or demand responsive transport. The decision to provide and invest or not, in a service of market failure can impact greatly on the prosperity, health and well being of a community.

In addition, it can be argued that for services such as transport in rural areas, it is investment and not just subsidy that is required in order to enable rural communities to access services of both entitlement and market failure, where access has traditionally been the main barrier.

### **8.3 Active Citizenship**

‘Active Citizenship implies the active involvement and participation of citizens in the affairs that concern them as both individuals and as members of the wider society.’

(Angus Community Planning Partnership, Active Citizenship Strategy, 2003)

Practically, this means engaging with local communities and encouraging them to become involved in local issues. It is important for citizens to feel encouraged and supported to enable them to participate and to influence decisions at a local level, by supporting and giving adequate resources for community development activities.

As set out in Angus Community Planning Partnership’s Active Citizenship Strategy (2003), active citizenship encompasses any or all of the following: -

- Participation in the political, community and social spheres
- Engagement by citizens in the shaping of policy
- Links to democratic governance i.e. decision making processes that affect wider society
- Social responsibility towards others/on behalf of others
- Enjoying rights and fulfilling responsibilities
- Rights and Responsibilities of business organisations as corporate citizens

- Activity to promote the general well being of the community.

Angus Rural Partnership has facilitated community engagement initiatives such as 'Sustainable Newtyle' and Westmuir Community Futures (2004). However, it recognises that engaging rural communities in community planning is a complex challenge and there is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution.

In Scotland, the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, as a statutory instrument, provides a framework and guidance from which to seek genuine community engagement through the community planning process. General conditions for success contained within the guidance include commitment to, communication with and support for communities, coupled with the recognition that research and identification of key issues in a particular area is essential.

For rural areas, where needs are diverse and local communities may be hard to reach, particular considerations must be taken into account. These include understanding the nature of community, assessment of the geography and identity of an area and utilisation of task-based approaches, where the community work with the community planning partners and play a central role in the delivery of service improvements in the area.

Much policy literature tends to assume that community involvement happens spontaneously. In reality, specific development processes are needed, firstly to foster a high level of general community activity and secondly to link that activity and awareness with local development processes. Engagement is most successful when it is approached on a local community's own terms, where priorities are sensitised to the needs and concerns of both communities of interest and of place and there is increased capacity to take on more proactive roles in addressing local needs and concerns.

Additionally, partner agencies should consider their own structure and assess resource provision for delivery at a local level, as well as communication methods and links into the wider community planning process.

It is important throughout this learning process to recognise the wide range of ongoing work with rural communities. For those involved in the formal community planning process, ensuring that experiences and knowledge gained are communicated from the bottom up and via all staff involved is vital.

The potential benefits associated with effective engagement with rural communities are many.

Building the capacity and confidence of communities to enable them to positively contribute to the development of local plans and indeed, become active in their delivery, is a realistic target and one that could also seek to strengthen communication links and networks that exist between the community and voluntary organisations and the public sector.

In relation to the Audit Scotland report on Community Planning, a number of key recommendations emerged both for national and Community Planning Partnership consideration. Specifically, Audit Scotland has recommended that Community Planning Partnership's should ensure that community engagement becomes more sustained and systematic across partners and champion the use of the National Standards for Community Engagement

## 9 Key Themes

Four themes underpin the work of community planning in Angus, they are:

- Economy
- Lifelong Learning
- Healthy, Safe and Caring Communities
- The Environment

In this section, each theme and associated rural priorities arising from the previous section on rural Angus are listed in turn. Thereafter, cross cutting actions encompassing one or more of these themes are detailed.

### 9.1 Economy

AIM

To encourage the development of a prosperous and sustainable economy which supports rewarding job opportunities in viable businesses and pays regard to maintaining the quality of environment.

Future focus for development in rural Angus should include: -

- Prioritised support for a viable and sustainable primary sector, such as farming, fishing and forestry, providing for the needs of the local population and the service sector
- Encouraged diversification and mobility for agricultural and rural businesses in order to strengthen and sustain the economy
- Support for emerging industries in renewable energy production and consumption
- Prepare for potential vulnerability to key activities as a result of non-renewable energy shortages and rising costs
- Provision for new development in appropriate locations to encourage people to live and work in rural communities
- Targeted intervention to encourage appropriate businesses to locate in suitable rural areas (including the provision of technology infrastructure and services and a holistic approach to developing certain sectors, e.g. food tourism) in order to improve job prospects, particularly for younger age groups
- Provision of technology infrastructure and services, whilst considering access, cost, training and usage, to rural communities
- Encourage and facilitate small business *start-up* and *growth* including women-owned businesses and social enterprises – locally financed where possible
- Promote an entrepreneurial culture in schools and communities

- Develop measures to support competitiveness and local food supply as well as consumption. This may include farmers markets, rural shop networks, direct sales, farm shops and supplying schools, hospitals and local authority nursing homes
- Support tourism and heritage initiatives e.g. Angus Glens Walking Festival, including emerging markets such as active sports, green tourism etc.
- Support land management schemes
- Support Community Right-To-Buy schemes such as the National Forest Land Scheme

## 9.2 Lifelong Learning

### AIM

To provide first class education and training opportunities for all.

Future focus for development in rural Angus should include:

- Support for improvement in the skills of the rural population to meet demands for new, existing and diversifying businesses
- Support for the provision of work based training, 'on-line learning', land based learning and distance learning
- Provision of specific outreach ICT learning opportunities for communities
- Placing value on the history, culture and environment of rural places; encouraging a pride in identity, to enhance the quality of life and develop new economic activities
- Encourage citizens to be knowledgeable, responsible, socially conscious and environmentally aware
- Support for Community Learning and Development
  - With Adults
  - With Young People
  - Capacity Building
- Continue provision of a comprehensive information, guidance and referral service for individuals of all ages to meet their broad guidance needs.

## 9.3 Healthy, Safe and Caring Communities

### AIMS

To improve the health of the community, promote the development of primary health based provision; and to maintain a safe environment for all people in Angus.

To improve the social well-being of the community and promote the development of preventative child care services.

To develop opportunities for people living in rural areas to participate in and enjoy an active lifestyle that will allow them to contribute to their own health and to that of their community

Future focus for development in rural Angus should include:

### **Community Care and Health**

- Support for investment in rural health care provision and innovative delivery of all services to rural communities
- Promoting equity of access to services across Angus, with particular support for vulnerable citizens through, for example, Choose Life and Angus Women's Aid
- Develop accessibility of rural alcohol services through utilising, for example, the Focus on Alcohol Angus project and Tayside Council on Alcohol Rural Outreach Worker. This will allow for the development of targeted interventions in rural communities.
- Develop services to better support carers in rural areas
- Promote the availability and consumption of locally produced, healthy, fresh food and thereby create informed choice
- Promote and educate in terms of the importance of health and well being in communities, which are often isolated or hard to reach. This is particularly important where levels of unemployment are high, opportunities are few and social exclusion is likely
- Increase the provision of health advice and support for young people
- Provision of health related activities and support for existing projects such as the Angus Glens Walking Festival
- Highlighting the excellent quality of life rural areas can offer

### **Transport**

- Ensure on-going and increased support for rural public transport, which addresses locally identified needs and demands for improved accessibility to other services, while reducing dependence on the private car for all journeys
- Work towards improving road safety and quality in rural areas
- Promote and facilitate partnership working between those involved in the delivery of transport services in rural areas
- Promote awareness of existing transport services being delivered in Angus
- Work with partners to improve the quality of signage to, from and within rural areas

### **Housing**

- Improvement in the quality, quantity, accessibility and affordability of housing of all categories, including 'virtual' sheltered housing in rural areas
- Focus on the redevelopment of vacant public and privately owned rural properties as a means of delivering a variety of housing options for local people, including sheltered and low cost

housing

- Work in partnership with RSL's and Developers to ensure that where housing is developed, sustainable design, production techniques and materials are used
- Encourage inclusion of community facilities such as play areas in new rural housing developments
- Introduce measures to reduce fuel poverty in private rented, social and local authority accommodation (see support for emerging industries above)
- Work with local employers, community partners and migrant workers to identify housing requirements in rural areas

### **Services**

- Support for investment in and maintenance of basic services at a local level (e.g. primary school, shop, post office, petrol outlet, GP surgery)
- Consideration of 'one-stop-shops' and mobile facilities as a means of service delivery
- Improvement in access to services by focusing on transport needs (see above) and identifying accessibility issues such as venue, timing, communication mode, childcare etc.
- Promote shared use of public sector facilities in rural areas
- Promote the use of community facilities and services by public sector agencies when holding meetings and events

### **Safety**

- Promote anti-crime schemes (e.g. Neighbourhood Watch, SmartWater, Farm Watch, Crimestoppers) in rural communities
- Support the co-location of police services and community facilities

### **Rural Community Development**

- Recognise and support the differing levels of rural community development in existence and avoid a blanket solution to cover all issues
- Cognisance of ongoing research and activity 'on the ground' in rural areas and consideration of outcomes
- A voluntary sector that is valued and supported as a large volume of the activity in rural areas is undertaken and/or coordinated by the voluntary sector and volunteers
- Build capacity and social capital - resulting in a strong voice for rural communities
- Actively seek additional funding opportunities for rural communities from SRDP and other funds concerned with rural community development
- Support communities and voluntary organisations in their applications for relevant funding
- Encourage open and active networks with links across NGO's, business and public sector and good links with the outside world
- Encourage representation on public partnerships from rural communities

## 9.4 The Environment

AIM

To secure an excellent quality of environment across Angus.

Future focus for development in rural Angus should include;

- Continue to adopt sustainable development principles - 'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' and encourage sustainable proofing of development activities
- Support the Angus Community Planning Partnership's Climate Change Declaration
- Support and promote the protection and enhancement of the countryside including valued landscapes, the natural, built and historic environment and biodiversity
- Seek innovative ways in which the natural environment can be utilised to benefit rural areas, for example, the development of renewable technologies and industries, the promotion of green tourism and sustainable food production and consumption
- Promotion of the Outdoor Access Code
- Address the impacts of agricultural intensification and changes in modern husbandry
- Allow freshwater systems to function naturally wherever possible
- Improve the natural heritage of farmed land to improve biodiversity, increase landscape diversity and expand woodlands
- Maintain the extent and diversity of moorland habitats, including heathland, blanket bog and scrub and the animal communities dependent upon them
- Promote multi-purpose management of the forest resource, with emphasis on maintaining and enhancing the native woodland, while increasing the natural heritage value of non-native woods
- Promote the creation of a network of access opportunities in the wider countryside and ensure that open space in and around settlements incorporates access and opportunities, linked to the countryside
- Ensure that new developments fit into the landscape and enhance biodiversity e.g. using open space to create places of value to landscape and wildlife

## 9.5 Cross Cutting actions

There are a number of other relevant issues, which are cross-cutting and need to be addressed.

The main issues include;

- Promotion of rural needs within a city region context, encouraging greater investment in the regeneration of accessible rural areas, as well as improved transport links
- Participate in and influence where possible, the formulation of EU and National Rural

Development programmes, with a particular focus on funding opportunities

- Introduce the 'rural proofing' of partners' local policies and plans
- Develop additional rural indicators on the basis of improved data collection, with the use of technology and national statistics
- Continue to work with the Cairngorms National Park Authority to develop and deliver plans for the Park and thus, rural Angus
- Support the analysis of migration patterns and their impacts on the social economy of rural Angus. Participate in resulting workforce planning.
- Participate in and contribute to the development of national rural networks and research, utilising appropriate findings to shape future activities in Angus
- Work with partners to support and advise migrant workers in rural areas, in terms of safety, legal issues, healthcare, childcare, learning and other services

## 10. Implementation and the role of Angus Rural Partnership

Critical success factors in the implementation of this strategy include the commitment and cooperation of partners and integration of expertise and experience without duplication. We must build on what has already been achieved in rural Angus.

However, the challenge of marrying national, regional and local priorities, with resources and the organisational structure and provision of partner agencies is not to be taken lightly. In addition, development that is community focused and inclusive must include ongoing rural engagement that is featured in projects not originally part of the community planning structure. It is essential that staff involved in community planning and those involved in supporting community-led initiatives, develop and retain communication links to feed into the wider community planning process.

Recently, a variety of projects, activities and policy responses undertaken in Angus, have helped to establish a foundation of knowledge and opinion on which the new strategy has been constructed and will be delivered. These include:

- Scottish Government Rural Services Priority Areas project
- Rural policy responses including:
  - Carnegie Commission contributions
  - Priorities for Scottish rural policy
  - Policy and Funding in the UK and Ireland: Scottish Update
  - Engaging rural communities in community planning
  - Sustainable development and Best Value
  - Scottish Government Inquiry into Rural Development
  - SRDP focus groups and consultation papers
  - Review of Scottish Digital Inclusion Policy
  - Rural post office provision
  - Out of School Care in rural areas
  - Evaluation of the Rural Gateway website
- Angus Glens Seminar including use of the National Standards for Community Engagement
- Sidlaw/Newtyle Community Network Forum
- Cairngorms National Park Authority; building links with those working in the park area to ensure that Angus is included in activities and decision making and contributing to the Cairngorms National Park Plan consultation

Angus Community Planning Partnership is the primary group with which delivery of this strategy is charged. It is the role of this group to identify, advise, support and provide, in relation to rural priorities.

From a wider perspective, actions in this strategy are the responsibility of everyone with an interest in rural Angus – individuals, communities, public, private and voluntary sector organisations. For this reason, the Angus Community Planning Partnership have asked that the future role, remit and membership of the Angus Rural Partnership be the subject of further consideration.

## **11. Monitoring and Evaluation**

This plan is focused on specific actions to address rural needs and priorities. It contains the detail that Angus community planning partners have signed up to deliver and clear outcomes with target dates are set against them. It is a plan that holds all partners to account and new, innovative performance management arrangements will ensure that we deliver against our stated actions between now and 2012.

Much of this work will be driven forward and implemented through the Angus Community Planning Partnership's subject-based partnership groups. This 2007-2012 Angus Rural Strategy sets out our agenda in an open and transparent way. The aim of this document is to provide clarity about our priorities and specific details of how and when we aim to achieve them. Ongoing performance management reporting will demonstrate progress towards each of our strategic aims.

## Appendix 1 Action Plan

1. Action	2. Corporate Objective	3. Resources	4. Target Date	5. Success Criteria (including key milestones)	6. Authorising Officer	7. Lead Officer	7a. Monitoring & Evaluation	8. Strategic Links
Set up Strategic Team of key partners in Rural Economy	EC Priority 6	Partner Staff Time	31/12/08	Strategic Team established	Bill Strachan	Lee Haxton	ACPP	
Strategic Team develops Project Plan	EC Priority 6	Partner Staff Time	31/03/10	Project Plan produced	David Valentine	Neil Prentice	ACPP	
Mapping of existing levels of engagement between public sector, land owners and farm businesses	EC Priority 6	Partner Staff Time	30/06/08	Mapping report produced	Bill Strachan	Lee Haxton	ACPP	
Series of farm and estate visits established for relevant public sector officers	EC Priority 6	Partner Staff Time	31/03/09	Quarterly visits established	Steven Wilson	Prue Dowie	ACPP & Economic Development	
Develop partnership plan to maximise access for young people to CNP facilities	IMS Priority 1	Partner Staff Time	31/03/09	Production of Plan	Tom Davidson	Maggie Sherrit	ACPP & CNPA	
Organise events promoting renewable energy use in rural Angus.	LL Priority 1	Partner Staff Time	31/03/09	Events held	Neil Prentice	Prue Dowie	ACPP	
Rural actions in Housing Strategy reported to ACPP	HSCC Priority 2	Partner Staff Time	31/03/12	Actions reported	Kenneth Stephen	Delilah Zidi	ACPP	Angus Housing Strategy

Rural issues inputed into Local Housing Strategy Review (2009)	HSCC Priority 2	Partner Staff Time	31/12/12	Information inputed	Kenneth Stephen	Delilah Zidi	ACPP	
Produce partnership plan on safeguarding Post Office service in rural Angus	IMS Priority 1	Partner Staff Time	31/12/08	Plan produced	Bill Strachan	Lee Haxton	Postwatch Scotland, ACPP	
Consult with partners and stakeholders on increased use of local facilities and produce recommendations	IMS Priority 4	Partner Staff Time	31/03/09	Consultation process completed and recommendations presented to partnership	Bill Strachan	Lee Haxton	ACPP	
Develop and introduce new Community Planning arrangements in rural Angus	IMS Priority 3	Partner Staff Time	31/12/10	New Community Planning arrangements introduced in Sidlaw/Newtyle and the Angus Glens.	Vivien Smith	Lee Haxton	ACPP	
Review rural transport issues in relation to access to services and present recommendations to Partnership	ENV Priority 4	Partner Staff Time	31/12/09	Review complete and recommendations presented	George Chree	Lesley Millar	ACPP, P&T, Angus Transport Forum	
Map existing leisure and recreation opportunities for young people in rural areas	IMS Priority 3	Partner Staff Time	31/12/08	Mapping exercise complete	Alistair Wilson	Ron Johnston	ACPP	
Raise awareness and promote rural alcohol services	HSCC Priority 4	Partner Staff Time	31/12/08	Communities receive information on Tayside Council on Alcohol services	Hazel Robertson	Eileen McArthur	ACPP, SW&H, HSCCP	

The Focus on Alcohol Angus project to explore alcohol related action within the communities of the Angus Glens and Sidlaw / Newtyle	HSCC Priority 4	To be Identified	31/03/09	New initiatives progressed	Hazel Robertson	Eileen McArthur	ACPP, DAAT, HSCCP, Care Group Strategies	Integrated CS Plan
Review existing strategies for the development of care services to identify any gaps in services in rural areas	HSCC Priority 3	Partner Staff Time	31/03/09	Identification of gaps in services relating to rurality in Angus	Tim Armstrong	Hazel Robertson	CCHEG, Care Group Strategies	Integrated CS Plan
Produce Woodland and Forestry Framework for Angus	ENV Priority 2	Partner Staff Time	31/12/08	Framework produced	George Chree	Gordon Pyper	ACPP	
Management and Monitoring of Angus RSPA	IMS Priority 1	Partner Staff Time	31/03/08	Monitoring process completed	Bill Strachan	Lee Haxton	ACPP, Scottish Government	

## Appendix 2 Bibliography and Related Policies and Plans

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