



## **INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE - 9 MAY 2013**

### **UPDATE ON ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2012 -13**

#### **1 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1.1 Endorse the Economic Development Strategy 2011-16 Action Plan progress for year 2012-13 outlined in Appendix 1.**
- 1.2 Endorse the information on the distribution of funds from the Support for Aberdeenshire Business Scheme and the Aberdeenshire Asset Fund for Communities outlined in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.**

#### **2. Discussion**

- 2.1 Economic Development Strategy 2011-16 Action Plan progress 2012-13.**  
On 18 August 2011 the Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC) approved the Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development Strategy 2011 – 2016 (Item 11). This Strategy sets out the work to be carried out by the Economic Development service and other services in the Council over the period 2011 to 2016. The Strategy states that the Council will focus effort on the priority industries of energy, food and drink, tourism, agriculture and fisheries. It also sets out priorities for strategic change under the headings of Energetica, Enterprise and Communities.
- 2.2** On 15 March 2012 ISC approved the Strategy Action Plan (Item 11) and this paper reports on the delivery of that Action Plan after the first year.
- 2.3** The progress of delivery of the Economic Development Strategy Action Plan against targets is given in Appendix 1. Only those actions with target dates that have passed and annual targets are listed in the Appendix.
- 2.4** Since approval of the Action Plan Economic Development staff have also been involved in the delivery of “100 day Pledge” projects, the Placemaking Programme and a nationally recognised Broadband project.
- 2.5** Most targets have been met and where not, an attempt has been made to say when the target will be met or, for annual targets, whether the target will be achieved next year.
- 2.6 Support for Aberdeenshire Business Scheme 2012-13**  
In May of each year a report is presented to ISC on the funds distributed by Economic Development schemes in the previous year. This information on distribution of funds will now be incorporated into this report and is given in Appendix 2.

- 2.7 Table 1 in Appendix 2 gives a breakdown of the SAB grants and loans awarded in the year 2012-13 by Council Area. The SAB scheme in 2012-13 assisted 33 businesses and helped to create 61.5 jobs and safeguard 21 jobs. The funding from the SAB Scheme helped to lever in £1,186,174 from other sources to the developments being carried out by the businesses. Table 2 in Appendix 2 shows how the funds were distributed by industry sector. Most of the businesses assisted are in the, food and drink, manufacturing and energy/ engineering industries.
- 2.8 **Aberdeenshire Asset Fund for Communities (AAFC)**  
AAFC was available in 2012-13 to community groups in Aberdeenshire to develop an asset or service that would give groups a new, ongoing income. The creation of this fund was approved by Infrastructure Services Committee on 17 March 2011 (Item 18) when Members agreed to fund it for one year. On 31 May 2012 (Item 28) ISC agreed to fund this Scheme for another year using £50,000 from the Regeneration budget. Appendix 3 shows the distribution of the Fund in 2012-13. There is no identified budget for this Fund in 2013-14.
- 2.9 The Head of Finance and the Monitoring Officer within Corporate Services have been consulted and their comments incorporated into this report.

### **3. Equalities, Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 3.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the recommendation (to endorse activity in 2012-13) has no differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.
- 3.2 The funding for delivery of the Action Plan comes mainly from the Economic Development budget, page 99, and other Council budgets are also used in the delivery of this Strategy as are external funds such as European funds. The cash requirement for the SAB loan financing is met from an element within the Council's borrowing.

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5 April 2013

## Appendix 1

### ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2011-16 ACTION PLAN PROGRESS – Actions with target dates in the future are not listed below.

<p><b>1. Energy</b>  <u>Objective:</u> To anchor the oil and gas sector to the north east serving the UK Continental Shelf and the international industry.  <u>Objective:</u> To ensure Aberdeenshire is a location of choice for Renewable Energy businesses in order to contribute the low carbon economy aspirations of the area.  <u>Objective:</u> To support local communities in becoming more self sufficient and sustainable through the benefits of community renewable energy schemes.</p>	
Actions	Timeframe
<p><b>2. Identify new business opportunities and communicate these through industry trade bodies.</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> Pass on three new energy business opportunities to Aberdeenshire businesses each year.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Opportunities for carbon importation passed to Peterhead Port Authority. The Garrad Hassan study, part funded by Aberdeenshire Council, has identified opportunities for businesses involved in the oil and gas supply chain to gain work in offshore renewables. More than 12 business opportunities passed on to Aberdeenshire biomass installers by officer advising on renewable energy. An Inverurie business gained a large LED lighting contract through Council activity.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>4. Increase uptake by continued promotion of financial benefits of renewable technologies across all sectors.</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> Increased installed capacity measured in biennial survey of biomass boilers commissioned (first survey will report in February 2012 with baseline data).</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> This first Survey identified that the baseline figure for installed capacity stands at 20 MW.</p>	Biennial target
<p><b>9. Promote community heat, wind and hydro energy projects.</b></p>	

Actions	Timeframe
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Three communities a year establish projects claiming Feed in Tariffs or Renewable Heat Incentives.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>Progress:</b> Glenbuchat Village Hall and the Hay Memorial Hall, Cornhill have completed projects and two other similar projects are awaiting construction. These projects were using ground source heat pumps so Feed in Tariffs and Renewable Heat Incentives were not received.</p>	
<p><b>10. Improve the knowledge base of those advising community groups on renewable projects.</b></p>	
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Two training courses delivered per year to Council officers to help speed up process for applicants.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>Progress:</b> This has not happened instead three officers are working to draw up a guidance for communities on how to deal with wind energy developers especially on the issue of income to communities from wind developments. The training will take place in 2013-14.</p>	

<p><b>2. Food and Drink</b> Objective: To ensure Aberdeenshire is the recognised major contributor to a Scotland which is known as the “Land of Food and Drink” due to the industry working together, pooling resources and sharing best practice.</p>	
Actions	Timeframe
<p><b>1 Provide support to businesses on market and product development to achieve long-term sustainable growth.</b></p>	
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Four seminars/ training events provided per year to increase knowledge and market awareness within local food and drink businesses.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>Progress:</b> Grampian Food Forum has provided training on “Social Media”, “How to make the most from entering awards” and “Innovation and Packaging”. A “How to Meet the Buyer” session was also held at an ASDA awareness event.</p>	

Actions	Timeframe
<p><b>2 Support growth through collaborative working, skills development and added value.</b>  <b>Measure of success:</b> Six additional businesses participate for the first time in Grampian Food Forum activities.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Six additional businesses have participated for the first time in GFF events in the past year.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>3 Encourage and develop a culture of innovation through supporting activities such as Innovation Awards</b>  <b>Measure of success:</b> 10 new food and drink related products launched by Aberdeenshire businesses each year.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Over 60 new products have been entered for the Grampian Food Innovation Awards this year.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>4 Promote local, high quality produce within the tourism sector</b>  <b>Measure of success:</b> At least one additional new trading relationship between local businesses arising from each Grampian Food Forum Dining Club event (three per annum).</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> New trading relationships have been formed at each GFF Dining Club event (3 per annum) as reported by participating companies.</p>	Annual target

<p><b>3. Tourism</b>  <b>Objective:</b> To promote Aberdeen City and Shire as a key tourism destination in Scotland and improve the visitor experience by strengthening and supporting the tourism industry.</p>	
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<p><b>1 Develop a new industry led Area Tourism Strategy</b>  <b>Measure of success:</b> Strategy launched in 2012.  <b>Progress:</b> The Area Tourism Strategy was launched in February 2013. ISC adopted it on 14 March 2013.</p>	Sept 2012
<p><b>2 Support the further development of the Royal Deeside and Cairngorms and the Banffshire Coast Destination Management Organisations.</b>  <b>Measure of success:</b> Self sufficient DMOs that are building industry leadership, initiating product development and improving the customer experience, with increased visitor numbers year on year to their area.  <b>Progress:</b> Both DMO organisations are now led by local activists and both have secured funding for the next two years. Deeside and Cairngorms DMO had 86 paid up members in 2012-13 and the Banffshire Coast DMO had 98 paid up members in 2012-13.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>5 Maximise the opportunities brought about by new international golf development</b>  <b>Measure of success:</b> Re-launched golf guide to Aberdeen City and Shire and in 3-4 key languages</p>	January 2013
<p><b>Progress:</b> VisitScotland publishes a golf brochure for the whole of Scotland and online golf guide for each region including Aberdeenshire. In 2012-13 a study was carried out into the development of golf tourism in Aberdeen City and Shire and as a result a workshop will be held on 12 May 2013 with the industry on "The future of Golf Tourism I Aberdeen City and Shire".</p>	
<p><b>6 Support the Aberdeenshire film office in creating creative industry opportunities.</b></p>	

Actions	Timeframe
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Increased use of Aberdeen City and Shire locations for filming as a result of contacts and assistance through the Film Office – target of four productions per annum assisted.</p>	Annual Target
<p><b>Progress:</b> More than eight film productions helped this year including “Whistle My Lad”, a short feature film, and promotional material.</p>	
<p><b>8 Assist with promoting the whole Moray and Banffshire Coast with Moray partners to attract visitors travelling from the west.</b></p>	March 2013
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Launch of a specific promotion campaign as part of 9 below.</p>	
<p><b>Progress:</b> Discussions have taken place on joint Aberdeenshire/Moray tourism initiatives specifically on extending the “Whisky Trail” into Aberdeenshire. Also a joint project between Moray Council and the Banffshire Coast Destination Marketing Organisation is gathering information for a Harbour Trail.</p>	
<p><b>9 Market and promote the Area, its natural heritage and culture to target audiences in conjunction with VisitScotland.</b></p>	Dec 2012
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Launch of a ‘Discover/ Explore Aberdeenshire’ marketing initiative</p>	
<p><b>Progress:</b> VisitScotland produced the area guide titled “Explore, Aberdeen City and Shire”. In addition the Council has funded VisitScotland to produce seasonal guides and carry out local destination campaigns.</p>	
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Two themed marketing campaigns per year to the target markets (currently Norway and Germany) promoting Aberdeenshire.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>Progress:</b> The Council has funded VisitScotland to deliver international campaigns in 2012-13 aimed at Norway and Germany. Under another project a service specialist has been employed in Germany to work on an Aberdeenshire campaign to attract German visitors to take advantage of the new air routes from Frankfurt.</p>	
<p><b>10 Work with the industry to provide the support and infrastructure in order to grow the industry and improve the quality and increase the variety of accommodation in Aberdeenshire</b></p>	March 2013
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Create a scheme to improve visitor accommodation in Aberdeenshire.</p>	

Actions	Timeframe
<p><b>Progress:</b> This action has not been achieved. It was considered under 100 Day Pledge but the funding was over too short a period to deliver a scheme involving building and planning permissions. A review of options will be carried out further.</p>	

<p><b>4. Fishing</b>  <u>Objective:</u> Work with partners to develop and promote a more sustainable fisheries industry to enhance resilience of the sector and its dependent communities.</p>
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Actions	Timeframe
<p><b>2 Ensure Aberdeenshire ports continue to be the major European ports for quality seafood supplying national and international markets</b>  <b>Measure of success:</b> Peterhead retains its status as the largest white fish port in Europe, with Fraserburgh retaining its position as the largest langoustines landing port in the UK.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>Progress:</b> Ports support: Council has contributed to the recently formed NE Whitefish Supplies Forum to improve supply chain relationships between the catching and processing sector and has facilitated discussions between the Forum, the City Council and Scottish Enterprise to assist city based processors who source their fish from Peterhead. City based fish processors are vital to the future of Peterhead fish market by maintaining high levels of competition for fish (and in turn generating better financial returns for fishermen). The number of skilled fish filleters working in Aberdeenshire is now less than 400 and is a constraint to growth. The Council has also engaged with industry and other partners to identify sources of support for fish filleting and other training. The council has advised and supported Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners financially in their efforts to improve the electricity supply to the harbour area and to look at alternative sources of income.</p>	
<p><b>3 Assist the sector in accessing European funding.</b>  <b>Measure of success:</b> Three fisheries businesses and two fisheries programmes receive European funding</p>	Annual target

Actions	Timeframe
<p>each year.</p>	
<p><b>Progress:</b> 19 processing businesses in Aberdeenshire have been assisted in obtaining new quality standards funded by European Fisheries Fund – Axis 3. The Maximising Value Programme and Market Development Programme were also run with EFF funding. The Council supported these Programmes.</p>	
<p><b>4 Lobby on issues of importance to the Aberdeenshire industry.</b></p>	Annual target
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> The Council lobbies successfully on at least two issues of importance to the Aberdeenshire industry each year.</p>	
<p><b>Progress:</b> Lobbied on the Blue Whiting Quota swap and on the control regulation on fish box weights.</p>	
<p><b>5 Lead the Aberdeenshire European Fisheries Fund Axis 4 Fund to enhance coastal communities and their economies.</b></p>	Annual target till Dec. 2013
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Assist 15 economic development projects per annum to draw down the full allocation of AEFF.</p>	
<p><b>Progress:</b> Ten economic development projects have been funded by the AEFF – Axis 4 Fund this year. The Fund took longer to gain applications than predicted. The target is likely to be met next year.</p>	
<p><b>6 Act to mitigate the negative impacts of the new Common Fisheries Policy on the north east industry.</b></p>	Annual target
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Sustained landing values at Peterhead and Fraserburgh ports.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Council funded an IT platform to supply advance landings information to improve the supply chain.</p>	

<b>5. Agriculture and Forestry</b>	
Objective: To assist the agricultural, forestry and timber industries develop innovative and collaborative approaches in order to maximise their ability to exploit market opportunities to underpin their long term viability.	
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<p><b>1 Promote development of locally owned biomass projects.</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> Minimum 20% year on year increase in use of locally produced wood fuel from a current (2011) level of 6000 tonnes.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> In Aberdeenshire informal research from four major biomass suppliers supports a consumption figure of greater than 20,000 tonnes in 2012-13.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>2 Assist the sector in accessing European funding</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> Grampian rural businesses continue to access over 20% of Scottish Rural Development Programme budget per annum.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Grampian rural businesses still access over 20% of SRDP budget per annum.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>3 Assist rural businesses to recover more value from co-products.</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> Year on year increase in number of businesses involved in value recovery from process industry co-products.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Under the aim to assist businesses in value recovery from meat process industry co-products the Council has offered its help to Scotbeef Inverurie to install energy-from-waste systems as well as assisting with the restructuring of their business. This has been a challenging year for meat processors with much consolidation in the industry.</p>	Annual Target
<p><b>5 Offer business support for diversification and added value.</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> Six land-based businesses per annum supported on diversification projects.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> The Council has helped three farming businesses to install grain drying facilities using farmers'</p>	Annual target

Actions	Timeframe
own wood fuel. The Council has also supported the Aberdeenshire Farmers and Community Markets Association over the past year which has assisted around 12 farm based businesses to market their own produce.	
<b>6 Lobby on issues of importance to Aberdeenshire farming and forestry industries.</b>	
<b>Measure of success:</b> Carry out lobbying activity to ensure Aberdeenshire interests are represented in order to sustain increased income in the land-based sector.	Annual target
<b>Progress:</b> Lobbied the Scottish Funding Council to allocate more training and education resource in Aberdeenshire for the land based sector.	

**TABLE 2 - ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR STRATEGIC CHANGE**

<p><b>6. Energetica</b> <b>Objective:</b> Work with partners to deliver Energetica as a low carbon global energy hub that is home to talented people that are attracted by a stimulating, attractive and creative environment.</p>	
Actions	Timeframe
<b>3 Gain acceptance and implementation of the Energetica Design Guidance by developers and stakeholders.</b>	Annual target
<b>Measure of success:</b> Two developments started each year clearly incorporating the Energetica Design Guidance.	
<b>Progress:</b> Not achieved. Unlikely to be achieved if guidance not enforced. A Planning Masterplan for Peterhead is being drawn up at present mainly for the gateway into Peterhead.	
<p><b>5 Work with British Airports Authority Aberdeen to continue to improve airport infrastructure and international connectivity</b></p>	
<b>Measure of success:</b> One joint promotion campaign per year with BAA Aberdeen on the strategic location	Annual target

Actions	Timeframe
of the Airport within Energetica.	
<b>Progress:</b> An Energetica article was produced for the Aberdeen International Airport magazine, Upbeat.	

**7. Enterprise**  
**Objective:** To ensure Aberdeenshire is known as a supportive business environment that nurtures home grown businesses, promotes investment and attracts and welcomes talented people and innovative businesses.

Actions	Target Date
<p><b>3 Assist Small and Medium Enterprises to access more loan and equity funding</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> Creation of a package so that businesses have alternative sources of credit and/or equity.</p>	Nov 2012
<p><b>Progress:</b> Work is on-going to bring more equity funding within the reach of Aberdeenshire businesses. A report will go to the Policy and Resources on this subject in June. This action is behind schedule.</p>	
<p><b>4 Assist individual businesses in the target industries with business advice, operational support, export advice and attendance at trade shows</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> 100 businesses per annum receive business advice. 2 seminars per annum for advisors.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>Progress:</b> Over 100 businesses have received business advice from Economic Development staff and through Council funded seminars. This is in addition to Business Gateway work. Council business advisers attended seminars on family businesses and social return on investment. The new Business Gateway contract was awarded and delivery started on 1st October 2012. Business Gateway assisted 529 new businesses to start up in Aberdeenshire in 2012-13.</p>	
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Launch revised SAB Scheme that will lead to 30 jobs being created and 60 jobs safeguarded per annum.</p>	Annual target

Actions	Target Date
<p><b>Progress:</b> The Council's Support for Aberdeenshire Business (SAB) scheme has awarded 34 businesses loans and/or grants this year. This has led to 61 jobs being created and 21 safeguarded. See Appendix 2 for summary of support given to businesses through the SAB scheme in 2012-13.</p>	
<p><b>6 Assist with the delivery of a modern planning system.</b></p>	
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Time taken to determine planning applications will be perceptively improved.</p>	March 2013
<p><b>Progress:</b> Planning and ICT staff are working on a new Business Support System so that the whole planning process will be paperless. The aim is to have applications from agents and clients on-line by the end of 2013.</p>	
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Economic Development Strategy aspirations are reflected in the Strategic Development Plan.</p>	Dec 2012
<p><b>Progress:</b> Energetica is now part of the Strategic Development Plan. Additional high quality business space is demanded by the plan and high speed broadband is given priority. All these are important economic development aims.</p>	
<p><b>7 Consider using the Prudential Code to assist businesses through leasing and building agreements.</b></p>	
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Launch of new policy to make clear to businesses the process the Council will take in assessing applications for purchase/new build leaseback.</p>	August 2012
<p><b>Progress:</b> A new Estates Strategy is being drawn up by the Property service outlining how and when the service will be able to assist businesses with new build and property purchase projects. Economic Development and Estates are working together to bring at least 20 jobs to south Aberdeenshire through a new-build leaseback deal with a business.</p>	
<p><b>8 Ensure a supply of serviced industrial locations and business centres in the area.</b></p>	
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> Production of prioritised list of potential business developments providing a preferred option and a fall back option.</p>	June 2012

Actions	Target Date
<p><b>Progress:</b> Estates are building units in Macduff and bringing more serviced land into use in Fraserburgh and Peterhead.</p>	
<p><b>9 Consult the leaders of the manufacturing sectors to identify their needs.</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> Report to be presented to Committee on needs of this sector and closer links to industry established through dialogue.</p>	<p>December 2012</p>
<p><b>Progress:</b> A programme of company visits is now in place and information is being gathered. A report will be presented to ISC on 5 December 2013 on the comments from manufacturers. The most frequently raised issues to date are: 1) transportation infrastructure 2) access to skilled people 3) time taken for planning applications to be decided.</p>	
<p><b>10 Work with partners to deliver an integrated and efficient transport system.</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> Council playing full part in delivery of NESTRANS Strategy and Local Transport Strategy.</p>	<p>Annual target</p>
<p><b>Progress:</b> Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum worked to get AWPR and Balmedie to Tipperary section cleared for construction. Also lobbied for the Third Don Crossing.</p>	

<p><b>8. Communities</b>  <u>Objective:</u> Promote Aberdeenshire as an area where residents, businesses and social enterprises are encouraged and assisted to make their communities self sufficient and where there are opportunities for all.</p>	
Actions	Timeframe
<p><b>1 Initiate an Aberdeenshire Town Centres Plan of Action to strengthen the economic base of towns</b>  <b>Measure of success:</b> Production of Plan of Action for 4 town centres in greatest risk as shown by the Town Centre Health Checks.  <b>Progress:</b> A brief for a study into the improvement of the town centres of Banff, Macduff, Fraserburgh and Peterhead has been drawn up by Economic Development staff as part of the “100 Day Pledge” project titled “Town Centre Improvements”. This project is being carried out with the Area Managers in Buchan and Banff and Buchan.  <b>Measure of success:</b> Tool box of town centre improvement initiatives launched for use by communities and business associations.  <b>Progress:</b> A Town Centre Plan of Action, Tool Box, has not been drawn up as staff are concentrating on the regeneration work at present. This action should be completed by September 2013.  <b>Measure of success:</b> Carry out review of Business Improvement Districts (BIDS) which leads to a clear recommendation on participation, or not, approved by Infrastructure Committee.  <b>Progress:</b> Staff have kept in touch with the development of BIDs in other areas and will carry out a review of BIDs when the Regeneration Strategy work moves to the operational stage.</p>	<p>May 2012</p> <p>December 2012</p> <p>December 2012</p>
<p><b>2 Deliver the Council’s Framework for Regeneration for the Strategic Priority Areas, especially in the towns of Banff, Macduff, Peterhead and Fraserburgh.</b>  <b>Measure of success:</b> Delivery of one project of scale and impact in each Regeneration area per year.</p>	<p>Annual target</p>

Actions	Timeframe
<p><b>Progress:</b> All 2012-13 funding has been allocated but not all spent. The funding allocated in 2012-13 was for town centre improvements and industrial property projects. The focus of the new Regeneration Strategy 2013-18 will be on one community although all of Aberdeenshire will still benefit from Economic Development on-going work. Officers have been round all the Area Committees to get feedback on this new way of concentrating the regeneration effort and the change has been approved by Councillors. A paper is being presented to ISC on 9 May 2013 with the new Draft Regeneration Strategy and Action Themes.</p>	
<p><b>3 Assist community groups and social enterprises in taking over assets and services from the Council.</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> Two assets per annum with community economic development focus successfully transferred to the community.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>Progress:</b> In 2012-13 the Council assisted three groups to carry out feasibility studies into taking over assets for their community. In addition 2012 saw community groups take over management of nearly all the Council's caravan parks.</p>	
<p><b>4 Further develop the network of Rural Partnerships to cover the whole of Aberdeenshire and ensure they are recognised and used by the Scottish Government, community economic development groups, Council and other bodies.</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> Garioch Partnership is established and assisting in project delivery by March 2012.</p>	June 2012
<p><b>Progress:</b> Garioch Partnership launched in December 2012.</p>	
<p><b>5 Work with all the Council Services to ensure that Rural Partnerships are contractors of choice when undertaking work within communities.</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> Rural partnerships carryout two contracts per area per annum for the Council.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>Progress:</b> The Council helped the Rural Partnerships to create a leaflet and web site to publicise the work that they are able to carry out. This publicity was aimed at the different services in the Council.</p>	

Actions	Timeframe
<p><b>7 Lobby to ensure the next European Structural Funds Programme 2014-2020 will benefit Aberdeenshire.</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> Two Council projects per annum gain European Social Fund or European Regional Development Fund financial support.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Staff are working to ensure that the next round of European Structural Funds benefits Aberdeenshire. The transportation project Green Corridors gained funding in 2012-13 and additional funds were gained for the existing European Regional Development Fund project on Tourism and the existing European Social Fund project Work4You.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>8 Create a single unit within the Council to lead on employability work which will focus on reducing the number of people on benefit in Aberdeenshire.</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> The Council will assist in the employment prospects of 500 individuals per annum.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> A short life group has been set up to look at the merits of creating an employability hub. This will not be a physical hub but an Employability Co-ordinator post has been created to draw together the different employability activity in the Council. In the past year the Working for Families team has assisted the employment prospects of 310 individuals through job clubs, courses, work experience and sector based work academies.</p>	Annual target
<p><b>9 Develop the resources to draw down external funds for the Council and communities.</b></p> <p><b>Measure of success:</b> External funding review undertaken with clear recommendations on the focus and targets for attracting external funding.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> As a first stage a review has taken place this year on the drawdown of EU funding by the Council and other organisations in the area and on the other work carried out by the European Unit. This review will inform discussions on the future work carried out by the Unit. A facility called Grantnet is attached to the Council website. This gives information to community groups on sources of funding and is jointly funded by Economic Development and Education. One of the tasks that</p>	March 2013

Actions	Timeframe
<p>rural partnerships are funded to carry out is to advise community groups on sources of funding.</p>	
<p><b>10 Assist with the development of the social enterprise sector.</b> <b>Measure of success:</b> Assist four social enterprises per annum to become established or to grow.</p>	<p>Annual target</p>
<p><b>Progress:</b> The Council assists the development of the Social Enterprise sector through the rural partnerships and also through direct support. In 2012-13 nine social enterprises were financially supported through Economic Development schemes.</p>	
<p><b>11 The Council will work with private and social landlords and other strategic partners to maximise community benefits through community clauses in contracts.</b></p>	
<p><b>Measure of success:</b> The inclusion of community clauses in Council tender briefs becoming the norm leading to the employment of young people and the creation of training places.</p>	<p>December 2012</p>
<p><b>Progress:</b> The Council is now regularly inserting community clauses in capital contracts thereby getting contractors to create training places and apprenticeships.</p>	

Table 1

Appendix 2

**SUPPORT FOR ABERDEENSHIRE BUSINESS SCHEME  
SUPPORT APPROVED 2012-13**

<b>AREA</b>	<b>NO. OF BUSINESSES ASSISTED</b>	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT £</b>	<b>OTHER FUNDING LEVERED IN £</b>
<b>Banff and Buchan</b>			
Grants	3	9,796	28,337
Loans	1	6,000	
<b>Buchan</b>			
Grants	7	33,890	49,880
Loans	0	0	
<b>Formartine</b>			
Grants	3	11,333	11,333
Loans	0	0	
<b>Garioch</b>			
Grants	7	48,322	392,371
Loans	0	0	
<b>Kincardine and Mearns</b>			
Grants	8	76,697	664,428
Loans	0	0	
<b>Marr</b>			
Grants	5	16,013	39,825
Loans	1	9,000	
<b>Total</b>			
<b>Grants</b>	<b>33 *</b>	<b>196,051</b>	<b>1,186,174</b>
<b>Loans</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15,000</b>	

**34 businesses were assisted as one business was awarded a loan and a grant.**

Table 2

**BUSINESSES RECEIVING SAB ASSISTANCE BY INDUSTRY**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>2010-1011</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
<b>Engineering</b>	5	8	4
<b>Business Services</b>		1	3
<b>Tourism</b>	7	12	4
<b>Renewables</b>			
<b>Recycling</b>	1	1	
<b>Energy</b>	6	5	4
<b>Food and Drink</b>	7	10	6
<b>Community Economic Development</b>	1		
<b>Rural Shop</b>	5	2	4
<b>Social Services</b>			
<b>Software/Technology</b>	2	2	2
<b>Training</b>			1
<b>Textiles</b>			1
<b>Manufacturing</b>	2	2	5
<b>Craft</b>	4		
<b>Sports</b>			
<b>Building and trades</b>	1		
<b>Fishing, Agriculture and Forestry</b>		1	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>34</b>

Appendix 3

**Aberdeenshire Community Asset Fund Awards 2012-13**

<b>Projects</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Buchan Dial a Bus</b> For a business plan and options appraisal to help the organisation progress a prospective acquisition of the local garage in Maud.	8,400
<b>Buchanhaven Heritage Society</b> To allow the group to engage consultants to produce a business plan and assist with a funding strategy towards re-development of the old Buchanhaven School.	3,000
<b>Friends of Midmar Inn</b> To assist the group with production of a business plan, funding strategy and study visits to existing community owned pubs.	10,000
<b>Tarland Development Group</b> To purchase polly-tunnels and equipment towards creation of a social enterprise community garden project.	10,000
<b>Oyne Community Association (Archaeolink)</b> To assist the group with a potential community asset transfer of part of Archaeolink site through engaging consultants to produce a business plan.	4,995
<b>Crichie Community Inn</b> To allow the group to undertake a commercial valuation of the local pub with a view to purchasing this as a community owned pub.	1,050
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,445</b>