

Consultation on Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) 2014 – 2020

Stage 2: Final Proposals

Supporting Annexes

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ANNEX A: TABLE 2 - SRDP 2014 - 2020 POLICY DEVELOPMENT: KEY MILESTONES

TASK	REVISED DEADLINE
Scotland RD financial allocation determined	December 2013 (estimated for consultation)
Financial allocations per priority	December 2013 (based on estimate for consultation)
Environmental Impact Assessment consultation launched	December 2013/January 2014
RD Regulation agreed	December 2013 (political agreement reached)
Delivery structure framework (includes final approach to PA)	January 2014
UK PA (including Scottish chapter) sent to European Commission	February 2014
Targeting (2nd stage complete)	March 2014
Option design (2nd stage complete)	March 2014
Produce stage 2 consultation response	Spring 2014
Ex-ante & SEA complete	Spring 2014
SG approval of SRDP	Spring 2014
Formal submission of SRDP	Spring 2014
EC SRDP approval (EC has 6 months to approve)	Autumn 2014
Legislation approved	Autumn/winter 2014
Open to applications	January 2015

These dates are subject to the timetable in Europe for finalising the regulations and their approval of the SRDP.

**ANNEX B: RURAL DEVELOPMENT ARTICLES PROPOSED TO BE USED FOR
THE SRDP 2014 - 2020**

RDR article	Rationale - link to RDR priorities & SWOT analysis (given in annex B of stage 1 consultation http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00421248.pdf)	List of options	Delivered through
Article 15 - Knowledge transfer and information actions	RDR PRIORITY 1 particularly opportunities to better integrate training & skills, build on success of monitor farms and target knowledge transfer.	Workshops, training courses, coaching, workshops, demonstration activities, benchmarking, information actions and farm visits	Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Scheme (section 15)
Article 16 – Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services	RDR PRIORITY particularly improved co-ordination and integration of advisory services.	A dedicated advice helpline, web guidance, publications, one to one bespoke advice, generic advice programme, Integrated Land Management Plans, delivery of Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Fund and accreditation of advisers.	It is proposed to set up an advisory hub to deal with all aspects of advice, knowledge transfer and customer interface (section 16)
Article 18 – Investments in physical assets	RDR PRIORITY 2 particularly support for new entrants, encouraging investment in rural businesses, and supporting key industries of farming and food, which both contribute to the rural economy. RDR PRIORITY 3 Support for livestock sectors to make a bigger contribution to economy, continue Scotland’s high animal health and welfare standards. Develop infrastructure and capability in the food and drink sector.	20% increase in grant rate for eligible young farmers/new entrants. Support for in tangible and in tangible investments.	Crofting and Small Farm Support Scheme (section 8), Forestry Grant Scheme (section 10), Food and Drink Support (section 13)
Article 20 – farm and business	RDR PRIORITY 2 particularly support for new entrants, encouraging	Support for young farmers, and non-agricultural activities in rural areas.	New Entrants Scheme (section 7), Crofting and Small Farm

development	investment in rural businesses and build on agri-tourism developments. RDR PRIORITY 6 particularly create and maintain vibrant rural communities, improve economic growth and employment opportunities, improve access to finance for small businesses.	Grant scheme for new entrants with a grant available for up to €70,000.	Support Scheme (section 8), Small Rural Business Support Scheme (section 12).
Article 21 – Basic services and village renewal in rural areas	RDR PRIORITY 6 particularly potential to create and maintain vibrant rural communities, scope to enhance broadband coverage.	Article 21 – Basic services and village renewal in rural areas	Most of the actions under this article will be delivered through LEADER under the Local Development Strategies. However we will use this article to take forward investments in broadband.
Article 22 – Investments in forest area development and improvement of viability of forests	RDR PRIORITY 4 Opportunities to i. better integrate forestry and & agriculture sectors ii. Encourage a range of woodland types for biodiversity and environmental benefits RDR PRIORITY 5 encourage new woodland to help tackle greenhouse gas emissions and implement woodland removal policy RDR PRIORITY 6 Opportunities to deliver social and economic benefits through underpinning a sustainable forest products industry	This is an overarching article for the forestry articles 23,24,25,26,27	Forestry Grant Scheme (section 10)
Article 23 – Afforestation and creation of woodland	RDR PRIORITY 4 Opportunities to i. better integrate forestry and & agriculture sectors ii. Encourage a range of woodland types for biodiversity and	Nine Woodland Creation Options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conifer • Diverse Conifer • Broadleaves • Native Scots pine • Native broadleaved 	Forestry Grant Scheme (section 10)

	<p>environmental benefits</p> <p>RDR PRIORITY 5 encourage new woodland to help tackle greenhouse gas emissions and implement woodland removal policy</p> <p>RDR PRIORITY 6 Opportunities to deliver social and economic benefits through underpinning a sustainable forest products industry</p>	<p>(W4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native broadleaved other NVC • Native low density (new) • Small or farm woodland • Northern & Western Isles <p>Other Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Contribution for woodland creation in Central Scotland (new) • Tree shelters (new) and fencing • Improved stock SS (VP) • Bracken Contribution for productive options (new) • Support for Community Woodland 	
Article 24 – Establishment of agroforestry systems	RDR PRIORITY 4 particularly opportunities to better integrate forestry and & agriculture sectors	One Agroforestry Option (new) agroforestry	Forestry Grant Scheme (section 10)
Article 25 – Prevention and restoration of damage to forests	RDR PRIORITY 4 Chance to promote pest and disease management to restore and enhance woodland ecosystems	Four Tree Health Options (new) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agents' services • preventative non-routine silvicultural interventions or the targeted application of approved pesticides • sanitation felling/killing/removal of relevant tree or host species; • replacement planting 	Forestry Grant Scheme (section 10)
Article 26 – Investments improving the resilience and environment	RDR PRIORITY 4 Encourage woodland management to restore and enhance woodland ecosystems	Eight Woodland Improvement Grants Options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term forest planning • Long term forest 	Forestry Grant Scheme (section 10)

al value of forest ecosystems		<p>planning (Renewed Plans) (new)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing deer impact • Woodland habitats and Species • Non- woodland habitat and species • Restructuring regeneration • Natural regeneration for new woodlands (new) <p>Woodlands in and around towns (new)</p>	
Article 27 – Investments in new forestry technologies and in processing and marketing of forest products	RDR PRIORITY 6 Opportunities to deliver economic benefits through local forest products	<p>Three Process and Marketing Grants options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of the small scale premium softwood and hardwood processing sector • small scale equipment for small undermanaged woods • Equipment for steep ground harvesting 	Forestry Grant Scheme (section 10)
Article 29 – Agri-env-climate	RDR priorities 4 & 5. Particularly, “To halt the decline in biodiversity, improve the resilience of ecosystems and the condition of designated sites and address the negative impacts of land abandonment and decreased management in HNV areas. Improve quality of water and soils and contribute to natural flood management,” and, “the protection of soil carbon sinks”.	A list of proposed options can be found at annex C.	Agri-Environment-Climate Scheme (section 9)
Article 30 – Organic farming	RDR Priorities 4 & 5. Particularly “To involve more people in managing the environment at landscape scale. To halt the decline in biodiversity, improve the	<p>A list of proposed options can be found at annex C. These include two organic options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Conversion • Organic Maintenance 	Agri-Environment-Climate Scheme (section 9)

	resilience of ecosystems and improve the quality of water and soils” and, “Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote nutrient management”.		
Article 31 – Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive (FWD) payments	Priority 4 particularly, “To involve more people and communities in managing the environment at landscape scale. To halt the decline in biodiversity, improve the resilience of ecosystems and the condition of designated sites ...[and to].. Improve quality of water	A list of proposed options can be found at annex C.	Agri-Environment-Climate Scheme (section 9)
Article 32 – payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints Article 33 – Designation of areas facing natural and other specific constraints	RDR PRIORITY 6 particularly to help address the threat of depopulation and opportunity to improve economic growth and employment opportunities and create and maintain vibrant rural communities. RDR PRIORITY 4 SWOT particularly to reduce the threat of land abandonment, particularly in HNV areas.	Less Favoured Area support	Less Favoured Area Support Scheme (section 6)
Article 35 – Forest Environmental and climate services and forest conservation	RDR PRIORITY 4 Encourage woodland management to restore and enhance woodland for biodiversity and environmental benefits, RDR PRIORITY 6 Local opportunities for public access and recreational pursuits	Six Sustainable Management of Forests Options Native woodlands LISS Public Access Public Access WIAT (new) Livestock removal Woodland grazing	Forestry Grant Scheme (section 10)
Article 36 – Co-operation	RDR PRIORITY 3, 4, and 6 Provide support to projects that will sustain a wide range of projects bringing about environmental and economic benefits.	Organisation costs including for facilitation, reports and animation for new projects. Co-operative forestry	Support for Co-operative Action (section 11) Crofting and Small Farms Scheme (section 8) Food and Drink

	Enhance the national reputation for food and drink, targeting priority catchment areas and natural flood management. Utilise the natural environment and heritage and improve economic growth and employment opportunities	projects. such as water quality improvement in priority catchment areas; and the removal of invasive non-native species	Support (section 13) Forestry Grant Scheme (section 10) Agri Environment-Climate Scheme (section 9) KTIF (linked) (section 15)
Article 44 – LEADER	It is a requirement of the RDR for a minimum of 5% of the SRDP funds LEADER. However, this support fits under RDR Priority 6 particularly resourceful and resilient businesses and communities; and the chance to create and maintain vibrant rural communities.	The LEADER approach is a rural development tool for building and enabling social, economic, environmental and cultural capital through the implementation of Local Development Strategies.	LEADER (section 14)
Article 55 – National Rural Network	The establishment of the National Rural Network will be mandatory. It will support delivery across all the RDR priorities, although the focus of the annual work programme will vary each year in response to need.	n/a	Scottish Rural Network (section 17)

Rural Development Regulation Articles proposed not to be used

It is proposed that the articles below are not used in the SRDP 2014 – 2020. The analysis of the stage 1 consultation showed that there was little/no support among respondents for these to be regarded as priorities. Therefore, these are not viewed as priority areas for investment, or could be addressed through other mechanisms, particularly as resources will be limited.

RDR article	Rationale for not using
Article 17 – Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs	Not an essential priority given the limited funds and as it provides a market benefit. There was limited support for use of this article in the stage 1 consultation. However, we are considering how the assessment process will take account of quality assurance schemes to ensure membership of them is given due recognition given the level of reassurance this gives assessors.
Article 19 – restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and catastrophic events and introduction of appropriate prevention actions	This is not in current programme, and received little/no support in the stage 1 consultation. In addition the stakeholder Rural Economy Working Group were uncertain about whether measures under this article were needed at all, but some could see merit in retaining it for funding flood prevention and other ‘resilience’ type activity.
Article 28 – Setting up of producer groups	This is not in the current programme and there was limited support for use of this article in the stage 1 consultation. Therefore this is not seen as a priority given the limited funds.
Article 34 – Animal welfare	Uptake of previous animal welfare options was limited, as was support for this article in the stage 1 consultation. Improvements in animal welfare will be progressed through individual schemes where appropriate e.g. KTIF and Advisory Service, and potentially through improvements to working practices and processes enabled through the wide range of support we are providing to agriculture.
Article 37 – Risk management	These are not in the current programme, and received little/no support in the stage 1 consultation. In addition the stakeholder Rural Economy Working Group felt that these three articles weren’t priority areas for investment.
Article 38 – Crop, animal and plant insurance	
Article 40 – Income stabilisation tool	
Article 39 – Mutual funds for animal and plant diseases and environmental incidents	Not in current programme and we see no need to use this at present. This received little/no support in the stage 1 consultation.

ANNEX C: AGRI-ENVIRONMENT-CLIMATE SCHEME OPTIONS

Provisional list for consultation

Annual Recurrent List

No.	OPTION	Summary of option
	ARABLE	
1	Wild Bird Seed for Farmland Birds	To benefit farmland birds. Spring sown crops with low-input management will support wild flowers and provide grubs and insects for farmland birds during the summer. During the winter, the crop will provide both cover and seed for wild birds. Available only on land which is not rough grazing.
2	Forage brassica crops for farmland birds	To benefit farmland birds. Forage brassica crops with low-input management will support native plants and provide grubs and insects for farmland birds. During the winter, the crop will also provide valuable cover for wild birds. Available only on land which is not rough grazing.
3	Unharvested conservation Headlands for wildlife	To benefit wildlife by leaving headlands in arable fields free of herbicides and insecticides, and leaving the crop unharvested in the ground over the winter. On headlands where these are on land growing a spring or autumn-sown cereal crop.
4	Retention of winter stubbles for wildlife	To benefit wildlife by retaining stubbles from a cereal crop over the winter. This will allow a varied mixture of plants to develop, providing feeding and cover for insects, birds and small mammals. Available on land sown to cereals.
5	Stubbles followed by green manure in an arable rotation	To retain stubbles following harvest, and then establish a green manure. This option covers the whole cropping year and will provide food and cover for birds, pollinating insects, and other invertebrates. Land sown to cereals is eligible.
6	Beetle banks	To benefit a variety of valuable insects such as beetles, spiders and bumblebees by providing tussocky grassy strips to overwinter within large arable fields. Available on land in an arable rotation with an existing or created beetlebank.
7	Cropped machair	To maintain a traditional agricultural practice which benefits a wide range of flowers, farmland birds and important insects such as bumblebees. Available on ploughable machair or land in fallow from a legacy contract.

GRASSLAND HABITATS

8	Managed grassland and wetland habitats (includes species rich)	To benefit a wide range of plants, birds, invertebrates (such as Pearl-bordered fritillary, Northern Brown Argus, Marsh Fritillary and the Great Yellow Bumblebee) and amphibians (such as Great Crested newt) on a range of grassland and wet grassland habitats by maintaining appropriate grazing regimes. On land which predominantly comprises or is a patchwork or mosaic of species-rich grassland and/or wetland.
9	Grazed grassland for waders	To benefit ground nesting birds when they are nesting in grazed pasture, particularly waders such as lapwing and curlew. Available on grassland which is not rough grazing.
10	Grazed grassland for corncrakes	To benefit corncrakes by providing tall vegetation in spring and throughout the summer to encourage them to nest and raise broods successfully. Available on grassland which contains clumps of tall plants such as iris, nettles, meadowsweet, cow parsley, hogweed, reed

sweetgrass, common reed and butterbur.

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| 11 | Management of cover for corncrakes | To benefit corncrakes by providing them with suitable habitat to breed successfully. Available on grassland that contains clumps of suitable tall vegetation such as iris, nettles, cow parsley or managed rush. Also on arable or improved grassland where suitable cover for corncrakes can be created. |
| 12 | Grazed grassland for chough | To benefit chough by providing suitable areas for foraging throughout the year. This Option will provide short cropped grassland, which has not been treated with Avermectin-based products. Grassland must be grazed for all of part of the year by cattle. |
| 13 | Managing rough grassland for hen harriers | To benefit hen harriers by providing suitable areas for their prey. Management will create a dense cover of grass and other plants which will encourage voles and other small mammals. Available on land within 2 km of known hen harrier nest sites. |
| 14 | Mown grassland for waders and wildlife | To benefit ground nesting birds, particularly waders such as lapwing and curlew. Extensively managing hay and silage fields will reduce the risk of damage to birds, their eggs and fledglings from field operations. Leaving an area uncut will also provide cover for the birds. Hares and other small mammals will also benefit. |
| 15 | Mown grassland for corn-buntings | To protect corn buntings by supporting the extensive management of hay and silage fields. This Option will establish areas of undisturbed cover suitable for Corn Buntings to nest and raise broods. Available on grassland which is not rough grazing. |
| 16 | Mown grassland for corncrakes | To benefit corncrake by supporting the extensive management of hay and silage fields. Delaying mowing and will reduce the risk of causing damage from field operations to the birds, their eggs and fledglings. Leaving an area uncut will also provide cover for the birds. |
| 17 | Mown grassland for chough | To benefit chough by providing suitable areas for the birds to forage. Chough require areas of short grazed grassland to access the insects they feed upon. Delaying shutting off silage or hay fields and cutting them later maximises the amount of spring-grazed pasture for feeding chicks and then provides later aftermath for the fledglings. |

WATER, BOGS AND FENS

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| 18 | Management of lowland raised bogs | To benefit the condition of lowland raised bogs and lowland intermediate bogs by supporting appropriate management and grazing. Ditch blocking and scrub control are supported as capital items. |
| 19 | Buffer areas for lowland raised bogs and fens | To benefit lowland raised bogs specifically and to help restore their condition by appropriate management of the land immediately adjacent to the bog. |
| 20 | Converting arable at risk of flooding or erosion to grassland | To benefit soils, water quality, biodiversity and climate change by converting areas within arable fields that are prone to flooding, run-off and/or soil erosion to low-input grassland. |
| 21 | Spring cropping | To improve water quality. Changing from winter to spring cropping in high risk areas improves water quality by reducing soil erosion and the loss of nutrients. |

22	Soil and/or Cultivation Management	To improve water and soil quality, with measures including soil testing, coupled with a fertiliser recommendation system, and Tramline management by roughening the soil within the tramline helps control run-off, soil erosion and the loss of nutrients from fields.
23	Water margins and semi-natural riparian areas	To protect water margins from erosion and reduce diffuse pollution, encouraging the development of waterside vegetation that stabilises the banks, enhances biodiversity and contributes to habitat networks.
24	Arable buffers	To protect watercourses and improve water quality on arable land within priority catchments by slowing the flow of water run-off and intercepting pollutants. Also to provide and connect habitat for wildlife. These areas can be strips beside watercourses, within fields or corners of fields.
25	Restoration of intertidal habitats	To benefit natural flood management in specific areas to contribute to flood risk management
26	Flood plain management	To create and maintain a mosaic of wash lands and dry lands by allowing the watercourse to overflow onto its natural flood plain.

UPLAND & MOORLAND MANAGEMENT

27	Moorland management	To support the implementation of a plan for the management of moorland with a view to maintaining, or where necessary improving their environmental condition. A payment is made for a basic level of management specified by the plan. This can be augmented by support for more specialised management to meet specific environmental objectives.
28	Lowland and coastal heath	To benefit the habitats and species associated with eligible heathland, including Coastal heath, serpentine heath, special interest heath and lowland heath.
29	Stock Disposal	To maintain or improve the condition of moorland by reducing the number of sheep.
30	Away or off-wintering sheep	To improve the condition of moorland by away or off-wintering sheep.
31	Summer Cattle Grazing	To maintain or improve the quality of the moorland habitat by grazing with cattle during the summer.
32	Management of tall herb vegetation	To restore, maintain or enhance the condition and extent of tall herb habitats.
33	Collaborative upland habitat management plan	To support the facilitated preparation of a collaborative upland habitat management plan on designated sites; specifically to support collaboration.
34	Predator control	To protect ground-nesting birds such as waders, capercaillie and black grouse, which are vulnerable to predation, through the control of crows, foxes, stoats and weasels.

WOODLAND

- 35 Ancient Woodland pasture To benefit ancient woodland pasture by maintaining veteran trees and encouraging an appropriate pattern of regeneration by managing grazing of the open pasture beneath the trees. The option must be undertaken in conjunction with a suitable grassland management option or the lowland and coastal heath option.
- 36 Managing scrub of particular conservation value To benefit native scrub and shrubs by supporting appropriate grazing and management. Restricting or removing grazing pressure at certain times of the year will help maintain a balance between native scrub and shrubs and open areas. This will also benefit the associated flora and fauna, help protect soils and store carbon
- 37 Hedgerow restoration and management To benefit wildlife by maintaining and managing hedges as a wildlife habitat and as a feature in the landscape which helps connect habitats and helps wildlife to move easily from one habitat to another.

CROFTING

- 38 Cattle Management on Small Units To encourage small units to keep cattle of traditional or native breeds on in-bye land. These breeds are better adapted to thrive on land with coarser vegetation and in colder, wetter conditions. The option must be undertaken in conjunction with the option Conservation Management for Small Units.
- 39 Conservation management for small units To maintain and enhance the distinctive landscape and wildlife of crofting communities and small scale farming systems by encouraging traditional livestock husbandry and cropping on in-bye land.

ORGANICS

- 40 Conversion To convert to organic farming methods and to encourage the expansion of organic production in Scotland in order to deliver environmental benefits. Beneficiaries must be registered with an approved Organic Certification Body for the full length of the contract.
- 41 Maintenance To maintain organic farming methods and to encourage the continued expansion of organic production in Scotland in order to deliver environmental benefits. Beneficiaries must be registered with an approved Organic Certification Body for the full length of the contract.

Standard Cost Capital Items

Primary treatment of bracken
Follow up treatment of bracken
Heather Restoration
Heather swiping in black grouse core areas
Heather track creation
Muirburn and heather cutting
Supplementary food provision for raptors – hen harriers/golden eagles
Habitat Grazing Management
Open range deer management to enhance the natural heritage
Peat dam
Ditch blocking with plastic piling dams – small/medium/large
Underdrain (or culvert) breaking
Matting to prevent damage to bogs
Reinforced dams on bogs
Move/realign ditches in buffer areas adjacent to bogs
Manual eradication of rhododendron on agricultural land – light/medium/difficult
Mechanised eradication of rhododendron on agricultural land - light/medium/difficult
Eradication of scrub- light/medium/heavy
Removal from site of scrub- light/medium/heavy
Follow up treatment for scrub control
INNS – Plant control – Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam
Stock fence
Enhancing/modifying a stock fence (in black grouse and capercaillie core areas)
Upgrading stock to deer fence
Scare or temporary fencing
Rabbit proofing- existing or new stock/deer fence
Deer fence
Enhancing/modifying a deer fence (in black grouse and capercaillie core areas)
Conversion of deer fence to stock fence (in black grouse and capercaillie core areas)
Fence removal
Gate for stock fence
Gate for deer fence
Kissing gate/self-closing gate for non-vehicular access
Stile
Water gates
Post and rail fence
Building/restoring drystone or flagstone dykes
Provision of water troughs to replace traditional watering points
Installation of water supply pipe to water trough or pasture pump
Water trough pump: cattle operated pasture or nose pump
Sand blow fencing
Planting of dune grasses

Small scale tree and shrub planting (on a site not exceeding 0.25ha)
Planting or re-planting of hedge
Coppicing of hedge
Laying of hedge
Vole guard/small tree protector
Grassland creation either for plant diversity or for invertebrates
Grassland restoration
Creation of cover for corncrakes
Creation of grassland for hen harriers
Creation of grass margin
Creation of beetle bank
Management of rush Pasture
Stock bridge for habitat management
Creation or restoration of pond
Wader scrapes
Creation of wetland
Chough nest shelters
Use of seaweed as a fertiliser on cropped machair

Water Quality Capital Items

STEADING BASED OPTIONS
Roof drainage
Underground clean water drainage
Roofing of storage/handling areas
Slurry storage covers
Concrete apron remediation
Underground drainage pipework
Surface drainage interception
Slurry storage Above ground Tanks
Slurry transfer pump
Slurry Reception Tanks
Slurry storage Lined Lagoons
Constructed Farm Wetland
Swales
Retention Pond
Concrete bunded area
Biobed
Biofilter
Drip trays/portable bunds

FIELD BASED OPTIONS
Subsoiling tramlines
Slurry application (contractor)
Soil testing
Fencing
Alternative Watering i Abstraction ii Pumped with Solar iii Pumped with external power supply iv Stock powered v Water Powered vi Gravity Supplied vii Mains supplied Trough connection
Field Bases (troughs and gates)
Field Gate Relocation
Livestock field access tracks
Livestock Crossings
Sediment Traps and Bunds i – Bunds ii – Swales iii – Retention Ponds iv – Constructed Wetland v – In ditch Wetlands

ANNEX D: LEADER LOCAL ACTION GROUP CONTACTS

<p>Aberdeenshire *</p> <p>Martin Brebner Martin.brebner@aberdeenshire.gov.uk 01224 665 225</p> <p><i>*north and south</i></p>	<p>Angus</p> <p>Alison Smith smithaj@angus.gov.uk 01307 473222</p>
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Names, areas and contact details may be subject to change.

ANNEX E: PARTIAL BUSINESS AND REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Title of Proposal

Scotland Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020

1. Purpose and intended effect

1.1 Background

The current Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) has run from 2008 and will end on 31 December 2013. The EC have produced draft proposals for the next Rural Development Regulation (RDR) which will cover the period 2014 – 2020. Therefore, this is not a new policy initiative, but a replacement for the current SRDP which will allow leverage of investment into our rural areas. The SRDP will deliver towards EU objectives, but will be tailored to meet the needs and priorities of Scotland.

2.2 Objective

Scotland's rural areas cover 95% of the country and it is important that these, often remote and fragile areas are supported to deliver the benefits outlined at 1.3 below. The Scottish Government provides financial support for these areas (currently used to match fund the SRDP), however, the EU RDR allows us to access EU funds for additional investment in our rural economy.

In order to meet the requirements of the EC RDR (which is to be finalised in Europe) we must prepare an SRDP which sets out how support for rural development will be planned and implemented. Therefore the objective is to meet the requirements of the EC regulations to enable us to leverage further support for rural land managers, businesses and communities through providing various grants and funding streams. This will help deliver towards a range of priorities – both EU objectives for rural development, and SG priorities as identified through a SWOT analysis exercise. Annex A shows how these objectives and SG priorities are clearly linked to the National Performance Framework.

1.3 Rationale for Government intervention

The rationale for government intervention is based on public goods (for, example environmental benefits that would not be provided if left to the market) and market failure (for example small businesses unable to afford the high information and transaction costs associated with innovation if left to the market.)

The SRDP will allow SG to access EU funding to support Scotland's rural areas – which cover 95% of the country. Funding helps us meet our environmental aims, and makes our rural communities a more sustainable and attractive place to live. Agriculture is an important element of the Scottish economy with 17% of people in remote rural areas directly

employed in agriculture, forestry & fishing, contributing £3bn to the turnover of our Food & Drink Industry. Public subsidy plays a vital role in ensuring continuity in supply of Scottish produce, environmental benefits and the delivery of wider public benefits.

Without government intervention, the social and environmental benefits that are realised through rural development funding would not result. Rural land would be less well managed, with the potential for land to be abandoned and the quality of our natural environment to decline. Furthermore, the agriculture sector makes a significant contribution to our greenhouse gas emissions and therefore interventions which help support the reduction of emissions will contribute to meeting our climate change targets. The support for rural businesses and communities is crucial in helping these fragile areas survive.

2. Consultation

A communications plan is in place for development of the SRDP 2014 – 2020.

2.1 Within Government

Extensive consultation is being undertaken throughout the design of the SRDP proposals – both for policy developments and delivery implications. Key policy leads throughout Scottish Government have been involved in the development of the SRDP 2014 – 2020, along with senior management. In addition to SG, other public sector consultees include Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, National Parks and Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

Consultation within Government and the management approval process takes place through regular meetings of the SRDP 2014 Reference Group, the Service Design Committee and the CAP Strategic Board.

2.2 Public Consultation

Partial – Consultation with key stakeholders has been an integral part of the development of the SRDP. Two stakeholder events have been undertaken (March and October 2012) In addition eight stakeholder working groups were established in April 2012 to inform development of certain aspects of the SRDP, and regular meetings are held with key stakeholders.

Two public consultations will be issued. The first ran through May and June 2013 and outlined the broad priorities and principles. This included a series of 14 information roadshows which attracted over 500 attendees. A second consultation was launched in late 2013 with final proposals. The BRIA will form part of the second consultation.

We will consider carefully the results of both consultations which will help to inform the final shape of the new programme.

2.3 Business

Which businesses have you had face-to-face discussions with?

Since March 2012 we have worked with stakeholders on our plans for the next SRDP. These have included organisations that represent businesses that will use the SRDP e.g. National Farmers Union for Scotland, Scottish Land and Estates, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), HIE, Scottish Enterprise.

A consultation on initial proposals ran from 1 May to 30 June. This included a series of 14 roadshows around the country, over 500 people attended, the majority of those represented businesses that will be able to access support under the SRDP. Further discussions will take place throughout the second consultation.

The main business groups are also represented on the current Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) e.g. NFU Scotland, Land and Estates and CONFOR.

3. Options

3.1 Option 1 – do nothing

Under this option there is no SRDP for 2014 - 2020.

The SRDP is necessary to access EU funding of (in the current programme €679.2m) to support the further development of rural Scotland, it also provides State Aid approval for the funding. Without this funding there will be a significant reduction in the resources available to support rural Scotland. There will be some on-going commitments entered into under the SRDP 2007 – 2013 so we would hope that these would continue to deliver some benefits for the duration of the contract, but it is unlikely that new contracts would be issued. In addition, without an SRDP in place, we would not have EU State Aid approval to make payments, and would have to seek separate approval. There is a high risk that we would not receive State Aid approval from the EU, as we would not be meeting their Rural Development requirements of producing an RDP. Therefore, the 'do nothing' option would not be acceptable, either to Ministers, the EU or key stakeholders and is considered for comparative purposes rather than reality.

3.2 Option 2 – Introduce a new SRDP to meet requirements of EC regulation

The aim is to deliver an SRDP that meets EC requirements and audit standards. The advantages of this option over option 1 is that it would allow for a range of schemes that allow businesses and communities to receive financial assistance in return for delivery of economic, social and environmental benefits. This must be done in line with EC requirements as stated in the RDR. Therefore, there are no non-regulatory options to implement the RDR, however it is not intended to gold plate or go unnecessarily beyond legal requirements.

At this stage the exact details of the new SRDP are still being considered, however this option can be split into two sub-options:

2(a) National Delivery – priorities, targets and budgets set and managed at a national level. Some regional delivery will be used for administrative purposes e.g. regional assessment, and approval of applications up to a certain threshold, following clear guidance. Higher value applications would be considered nationally.

2(b) Full Regional Delivery - priorities, targets and budgets set and managed at a regional level. All aspects of the SRDP decision making would be managed at a regional level with data being aggregated at a national level.

3.3 Sectors and groups affected

The following have been identified:

- Potential applicants/beneficiaries including farming businesses, forestry businesses, food processing businesses and businesses in the wider rural economy, and community and voluntary organisations.
- Local and regional authorities
- Trade and business organisations
- Economic and social partners
- Stakeholder organisations and NGOs, including
 - National Farmers Union Scotland
 - Environment LINK
 - The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
 - Scottish Enterprise
 - HIE
 - Highlands & Island Agricultural Support Group
 - Scottish Land and Estates
 - Scottish Crofting Federation
 - Quality Meat Scotland
 - CONFOR
 - Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations

- Senior management through the CAP Strategic Board;
- The Cabinet Secretary and Minister
- The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Minister for Environment
- The wider Scottish Cabinet – particularly Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth, and the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs.
- The Rural Affairs and Climate Change Committee and wider Scottish Parliament.
- Key policy areas including European Structural Funds Division; Food, Drink and Rural Communities Division; Agricultural & Rural Development Division; Natural Resources Division; Tourism and Major Events Division; Forestry Commission Scotland; SNH; Historic Scotland; Tourism
- SEARS partners

- RPID (audit and competence, area office staff, finance, IT)
- Customers not represented by the organisations above

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the SRDP to consider the impacts of the SRDP of those in equality groups. A Strategic Environmental Assessment is also underway to consider the environmental impact of the SRDP.

3.4 Benefits

Option 1

On-going contracts would continue to deliver some benefits for the duration of the commitment, providing State Aid approval was received. However, there is a risk these benefits may not be sustained if there is not the potential for further funding to continue and/or expand on the work done to date e.g. environmental benefits delivered through a contract from the SRDP 2007-2013 may be lost if there is no funding to continue or enhance the environmental actions taken to date.

Option 2

Benefits will be delivery of further funds to support rural Scotland, and therefore deliver public benefits through the outcomes as identified by the EC and SG (as outlined in objectives above) which include economic, environmental and social benefits.

The full budget is not yet known for the SRDP 2014 - 2020, although it is likely to be reduced (in real terms). The current SRDP will have delivered some £1.2bn when the programme closes on 31 December 2013. A summary of what has been delivered by the current schemes give an indication of what could be possible under a future SRDP:

- £65.5m annually to around 11,500 farms and crofts under the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme.
- Rural Priorities
- Fourteen Rural Priorities funding rounds have been held over five years as well as continuous approval for specific Agri-Environment and forestry projects - approving 9,049, contracts have been agreed worth over £613 million. This includes over £167 million to support business development, over £377 million for agri-environment and forestry and almost £68 million to support rural enterprise and rural communities.
 - Forestry Challenge Funds were launched during 2009 with over £5 million of funds allocated to 124 different projects.
 - Skills Development Scheme - 53 projects with funding of £5 million.
 - Starting in 2008 and operated on a non-competitive basis the Land Managers Options scheme has paid out £30 million in support to 11,466 participants.
 - Over £5.7m to almost 2,000 projects under the Crofting Counties Agricultural Grant Scheme.
 - Food Processing, Marketing and Co-operation has made 175 awards

totalling £47m supporting investment of £163m and expecting to safeguard or create about 8,500 jobs.

- LEADER - over 2,200 projects awarded with over £63m committed.

Overlapping regulations that already affect organisations and individuals are being identified and considered through the Red Tape Review. This is a joint industry-agency working group to consider how to reduce the red tape associated with farming, fulfilling a Scottish Government commitment to look at how best to help farmers free up time for farming by further reducing on-farm inspections and bureaucracy.

These benefits would apply across options 2(a) and 2(b), however, with option 2(b) there is a risk that benefits would not apply consistently across Scotland due to regional differences in targets and budgets. There is also a risk that best value for public money is not delivered under 2(b), as without national oversight of priorities (as identified by the SWOT analysis) it will be difficult to target these Scotland-wide issues.

3.5 Costs

Option 1

Despite this being a 'do nothing' option there would be costs to the SG associated as commitments entered into under the SRDP 2007-2013 can last a number of years so there are on-going financial costs (assuming State Aid approval was granted). If there were no SRDP 2014 – 2020 then we would not be able to access EU funds for these commitments so they would have to be paid solely from SG resources. This would also have resource costs for staff and IT to manage, audit and monitor these on-going contracts. However, once these contracts are completed, and if there were no new SG funding these costs would cease.

There would be limited costs to businesses, except for those with on-going contracts who would have to ensure they are compliant with the schemes.

There would also be an economic, social and environmental cost to this option. Without on-going support for projects to support rural Scotland we would expect to see a lack of investment in rural businesses and communities, a potential decline in environmental outcomes such as biodiversity, water quality and businesses becoming unviable, land abandonment and potential rural depopulation which would have a knock-on impact across rural Scotland, not just for the types of business that the SRDP could support.

There is a high risk that legal and political commitments would not be met e.g. management of designated sites, biodiversity targets, forestry targets, supporting of Scotland's key growth sectors

(particularly tourism and food & drink).

Option 2

The SRDP is part funded by the SG so there are financial implications in implementing the SRDP. The current SRDP has delivered some 1.2bn funding, this is roughly split 50:50 between EU funding, and domestic funding. There are also resource implications for the actual delivery of the grant schemes, however as this SRDP would follow on from the previous, these costs have been built into forecasts and forward planning.

There will be some costs to businesses applying for financial assistance for the application process. If an application is successful, businesses will incur any agreed costs for carrying out the project (not all schemes offer to cover 100% of the costs) and the costs of ensuring they are compliant with the schemes.

We aim to streamline and improve the application process, and advice available to applicants for the next SRDP which should reduce the costs to both the businesses and the public sector in comparison to the SRDP 2007 – 2013.

These costs would apply across options 2(a) and 2(b), there is a risk that option 2(a) may duplicate administration in each region so incur higher public sector costs.

3.6 Costs and benefits: unintended side effects

There may be unintended consequences of the new programme. Possible negative effects are:

- A lower number of applications than expected meaning the benefits are not delivered;
- High expectations amongst beneficiaries but a lack of funding meaning they cannot be funded;
- Difficulties in distributing the funds even when applicants are successful (delays may be one source of difficulty); and
- Changes in the legislation or in the amount of funds to be distributed between 2014 and 2020.

On the other hand, possible positive side effects could be:

- Examples of an increased awareness of environmental issues – some become environmental enthusiasts following participation;
- Leverage of environmental benefits – rather than funding of unlinked environmental schemes, it is recognised that joining up and formation of wildlife corridors can be very important and facilitated by an awareness of what other previous support there has been in an area; and
- Economic multiplier effects – it is recognised that investment into rural areas has spin-off effects on local areas. This is not unintended, but there may be ways of increasing these effects through encouraging farmers to use local contractors.

4. Scottish Firms Impact Test

Detail the results of your face-to-face interviews.

We intend to carry our face-to-face meetings with businesses in the winter during the second consultation. This may be done through stakeholder events or individual meetings.

4.1 Competition Assessment

The SRDP provides support to land managers, rural businesses and rural communities through various funding streams. This support is available throughout the EU so should not give any unfair disadvantage. Indeed one of the main objectives of the EU Rural Development Programme is to enhance the competitiveness of all types of agriculture and to support farm viability. Consequently, the interventions of the programme should have a positive impact on competition.

Impact on small businesses – The proposal does not automatically place additional burdens on businesses. If they choose to access funding they will have to meet the associated criteria, however the design of the programme will allow schemes to be more accessible to smaller businesses, and better targeted and supported.

The SRDP 2014 is not a new policy initiative, but a replacement for the current SRDP. While the SRDP 2014 aims to make improvements including simplification, more effective targeting and ensuring verifiability, it is not expected for there to be wholesale change in the funding availability.

4.2 Test run of business forms

New forms will be introduced and it is intended to test run them, further details will be given at final BRIA stage.

5. Legal Aid Impact Test

The Civil Law Division have confirmed that there will be no significant impact to the legal aid fund.

6. Enforcement, sanctions and monitoring

Grants are delivered, enforced and monitored by delivery partners (RPID, SNH, FCS). Sanction for non-compliance is dictated by European regulations and clearly laid out in guidance.

There will be on-going monitoring of the programme, with the Scottish Government required to provide Annual Implementation Reports to the EC.

It is proposed that the SRDP will have a PMC which, according to the RDR, should "the performance of the rural development programme and the effectiveness of its implementation" i.e. the design and delivery of the SRDP". The PMC in conjunction with the Managing Authority, which is the Rural Directorate, oversees the effective implementation of the programme.

7. Implementation and delivery plan

The SRDP 2014 – 2020 will be implemented by key delivery partners (SG RPID, SNH, FCS). It is proposed that implementation builds on the delivery mechanisms from the SRDP 2007 – 2013, albeit simplified and improved where feedback and experience show this is necessary. This is part of the Futures Programme being developed by RPID and its delivery partners.

The new SRDP will be open to applications in January 2015 and will run until 2020, although there will be on-going contracts which will last beyond 2020.

7.1 Post-implementation review

The SRDP programme document will include an Evaluation Plan which sets out how the Scottish Government will monitor and evaluate the programme. This includes details on what measures will be used to assess the success of the programme and how data on these measures will be collected.

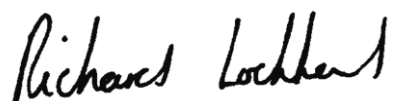
8. Summary and recommendation

8.1 Summary costs and benefits table

This section will be completed for the final BRIA once the options have been confirmed through consultation.

Declaration and publication

I have read the impact assessment and I am satisfied that, given the available evidence, it represents a reasonable view of the likely costs, benefits and impact of the leading options. I am satisfied that business impact will be assessed with the support of businesses in Scotland.

Signed:A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Lochhead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.**Date: 21/11/2013****RICHARD LOCHHEAD MSP**

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment

Scottish Government Contact point:

SRDP 2014 - 2020

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BRIA ANNEX A – LINK BETWEEN RDR PRIORITIES, SG PRIORITIES AND THE NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

RDR PRIORITY 1: Fostering knowledge transfer & innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas

Relevant National Outcomes

We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our [research and innovation](#).

We realise our full economic potential with more and better [employment opportunities](#) for our people.

PRIORITIES

Continue skills development, areas for development include Continuous Personal Development, **higher level and management skills**, and **more on line and innovative learning** for rural and remote areas.

Develop and expand **monitor farms**.

Improved **co-ordination and integration of advisory services** providing increased level of market penetration of **knowledge transfer and advice**.

Increase focus of skills training on **entrepreneurship and innovation** along with **business management** practices.

Delivering **improved economic benefits** to Scottish rural communities through **stronger linkages to research and technology** and **broader take up of technology** and **best management practice**.

Relevant National Indicators

[Improve knowledge exchange from university research](#)

[Improve the skill profile of the population](#)

[Increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work](#)

[Increase the proportion of graduates in positive destinations](#)

RDR PRIORITY 2: Enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability

Relevant National Outcomes:

We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.

We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.

We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.

PRIORITIES

- Support targeted at business development focussed on delivering on economic viability, improved efficiency, climate change mitigation and environmental improvement.
- Investing in implementation and knowledge transfer to ensure Scotland's agriculture sector
- Support new entrants and generation renewal.
- Build on agri-tourism developments.

Relevant National Indicators

[Improve the skill profile of the population](#)

[Improve knowledge exchange from university research](#)

[Increase the number of businesses](#)

[Increase the proportion of young people in learning, training or work](#)

[Increase research and development spending](#)

RDR PRIORITY 3: Promoting food chain organisation and risk management in agriculture

Relevant National Outcomes:

We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.

We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.

PRIORITIES

- Improve co-operation in the food and drink sector, and shorten supply chains.
- Continue to develop the reputation of Scotland as a land of food and drink.
- Support farm risk management.
- Continue Scotland's strong reputation for high health and animal welfare standards.

Relevant National Indicators

[Increase the number of businesses](#)

[Increase exports](#)

[Improve Scotland's reputation](#)

National Food and Drink Policy for Scotland

RDR PRIORITY 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry (with a focus on biodiversity, Natura sites, HNV farming and forestry, the state of European landscapes, water management and soil management).

Relevant National Outcomes:

We value and enjoy our built and natural [environment](#) and protect it and enhance it for future generations.

We reduce the local and global [environmental impact](#) of our consumption and production.

PRIORITIES

- **To involve more people and communities in managing the environment at a landscape/catchment scale** e.g. through collaboration between land managers to enhance landscapes, manage designated sites, manage catchments, and improve deer management.
- **To halt the decline in biodiversity by targeting** actions on vulnerable species and habitats (including woodland)
- **To improve the resilience of ecosystems in the face of changing climate and management practices** through the application of the ecosystems approach to land management decisions. This is particularly relevant to peatland areas, improving habitat connectivity in more intensively managed areas and the management of priority water catchments.
- **To improve the condition of designated sites**
- **To improve the quality of water and soils and contribute to natural flood management**
- **To limit the spread and impact of invasive non-native species**
- **To maintain the high environmental quality of new afforestation schemes**, while maximising their potential to mitigate the impacts of man-made greenhouse gas emissions.
- To address the **negative environmental impacts of land abandonment and decreased management in HNV** areas
- To ensure that P2 interventions complement and build on any **greening** measures introduced under P1

Relevant National Indicators

[Reduce overall ecological footprint](#)

[Improve the state of Scotland's Historic Buildings, monuments and environment](#)

[Increase the proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors per week](#)

[Biodiversity: increase the index of abundance of terrestrial breeding birds](#)

[Increase to 95% the proportion of protected nature sites in favourable condition](#)

[Increase the percentage of adults who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live](#)

RDR PRIORITY 5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors

Relevant National Outcomes:

We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.

PRIORITIES

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Support for renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives.
- Improved carbon sequestration through protection of soil carbon sinks and woodland creation.
- Improve business resource efficiency, recycling and waste prevention and management, through advice, support and capital funding.
- Nutrient management, particularly nitrogen efficiency

Relevant National Indicators

[Reduce Scotland's carbon footprint](#)

[Reduce waste generated](#)

[Increase renewable electricity production](#)

RDR PRIORITY 6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

Relevant National Outcomes:

We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.

We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.

We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.

PRIORITIES

- Rural business start-up and investments.
- Food and drink
- Tourism
- Broadband infrastructure investment
- Outdoor recreation e.g. playparks
- Community projects
- Village services and facilities e.g. village halls

Relevant National Indicators

[Increase the number of businesses](#)

[Increase exports](#)

[Improve digital infrastructure](#)

[Improve the state of Scotland's historic sites](#)

[Increase people's use of Scotland's outdoors](#)

[Improve people's perceptions of their neighbourhood](#)

ANNEX F: EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Title of policy/ practice/ strategy/ legislation etc.	Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP)	
Minister	Richard Lochhead	
Lead official	David Barnes	
Officials involved in the EQIA	name	team
	Matthew Cormack	ARD
	Angela Morgan	RESAS
	Liz Hawkins	RESAS
Directorate:	Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities	
Division: Team	Agriculture and Rural Development	
Is this new policy or revision to an existing policy?	Revision to existing policy	

Screening

Policy Aim

The SRDP sets Scottish Ministers' goals for sustainable rural development and the types of support that will be available to help achieve these goals over the seven years of the new programming period 2014-20 using European Union funds - particularly the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) - and co-funding from the Scottish Government.

The SRDP 2014-20 is a seven year programme of assistance delivering social, economic and environmental benefits across rural Scotland. It follows on from a previous SRDP which ran from 2007 – 2013. Similar types of activities will be funded under the 2014 – 2020 Programme, which means the lessons learned and experience gained through the current Programme can be built upon.

There are six key EU priorities for the new programme:

- Fostering knowledge transfer, co-operation and innovation;
- Enhancing competitiveness, promoting innovative technologies and sustainable management of forests;
- Promoting food chain organisation & risk management;
- Restoring, preserving & enhancing ecosystems;
- Promoting resource efficiency & transition to low carbon economy;

- Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development.

These priorities are also priorities for the Scottish Government and there are clear links to the National Performance Framework.

The new SRDP will primarily support the following National Outcomes:

- We value and enjoy our built and natural [environment](#) and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
- We reduce the local and global [environmental impact](#) of our consumption and production.
- We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing [business in Europe](#).
- We realise our full economic potential with more and better [employment opportunities](#) for our people.
- We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our [research and innovation](#).
- We live in well-designed, [sustainable places](#) where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.
- We have strong, [resilient and supportive communities](#) where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.

Who will it affect?

Although the programme will primarily benefit farmers, foresters and other land managers, wider society will also be influenced by the provision or maintenance of employment in farming, forestry and food and drink related industries. Many schemes also enhance the environment which may again be of benefit to the wellbeing of wider society by increasing biodiversity in local areas and widening access to the countryside.

What might prevent the desired outcomes being achieved?

- Poor financial or policy settlement from Europe/UK Government.
- Economic downturn and knock on effect to the amount of available national funding.
- The delay in introducing the SRDP causing a gap in funding in some areas. Draft European legislation for transition has been produced which will allow some key elements of the Programme to continue in 2014. However, it is expected that the full programme will be in place for January 2015.
- Poor market conditions for certain sectors or industries.

- Inclement weather affecting biodiversity projects and farming productivity.
- Poor schemes design which means less funding goes into job creation, environmental access or social development projects. Ineffective communication which means funding is concentrated on a few informed stakeholders.

Stage 1: Framing

Results of framing exercise

An equalities review was undertaken by Rural Science and Analysis Unit (RESAS) to identify the key data sources and literature available with a view to consider the different challenges and opportunities for equalities groups living in rural Scotland. The full report will be available on the Scottish Government website in due course but the key findings are summarised below.

The key findings were:

1. Lack of Evidence – The review used the best available evidence but found that for some of the equalities groups contemporary research is scarce.
2. Demographics – The rural population is slightly older than the urban population. There are problems with out-migration of young people from rural, and especially remote rural areas in Scotland due to lack of educational and employment opportunities and affordable housing.
3. Disability – There is a lower proportion of disabled people in rural areas than in urban areas, although there is a higher proportion of disabled people living in remote small towns.
4. Diversity - There is less diversity in rural areas in terms of race and religion. There is a slightly lower proportion of the population in rural Scotland identifying as gay lesbian or bisexual although the validity of sexual orientation data is limited.
5. Gender - There is some evidence to suggest that women’s contribution to the economy in rural areas may be particularly undervalued due to some of the work being underpaid or unpaid as helper spouses to farmers, hoteliers etc. There are 5 farm businesses run by males for every 1 run by a female (EU Farm Structure Survey, 2010).
6. Transport – There is a high reliance on the car to access key services in rural areas, where the affordability and availability of public transport can be problematic. While relevant to all rural inhabitants, infrequent, unreliable public transport can particularly impact on the elderly, younger people, and disabled people.
7. Housing – Lack of affordable housing is a problem in some rural areas but particularly affects young people and migrant workers. There is also a scarcity of suitable housing for the elderly and the disabled particularly in remote rural areas.
8. Employment – Generally employment rates are higher in rural areas than in urban areas but this varies considerably for different equality groups and between different local authorities.
9. Education - Access to skills and training is thought to be lower in some parts of rural Scotland.
10. Health – Survey evidence shows that self- assessed general health is better than in urban areas and life expectancies for both men and women are higher in rural Scotland. However, there is evidence to suggest that accessing healthcare services can be difficult in some rural areas (particularly remote rural areas).

11. Mental Health and Stigma – Some evidence that accessing mental health services can be challenging in some rural areas. Where they do exist accessing such services can be difficult in close knit communities due to lack of anonymity. Similar difficulties arise when accessing drug and alcohol addiction services, counselling and sexual health services.

Views from the first SRDP Consultation

The policy was also informed through the inclusion of a question on equalities issues in the first consultation on the SRDP which ended in June 2013. Stakeholders were asked to raise equality issues which in their view could be addressed through the SRDP. Around 52 responses were received addressing equalities issues (38% of all responses). Issues raised included general comments around the need to address the 'older white male' bias in the rural economy; the need for a wide consultation with a full range of communities; the need for equalities issues to be addressed in the subsequent process design; and the need for better monitoring of the impact on equalities groups. More specific comments included: the need to encourage younger people into farming; the need to tackle the lower levels of economic activity amongst women; to increase IT skills so that people can access services more easily; and to ensure that the new programme is easily accessible to all (for instance for those with impaired vision, dyslexia and for whom English is a second language). As part of the development of the programme a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) is being carried out which will consider how, through implementation of the SRDP, we can promote actions to reduce inequalities and avoid discrimination.

Responding to the first consultation

It is worth mentioning that some of the equalities issues raised by stakeholders in the first consultation cannot be addressed solely by the SRDP. However, we have outlined below how we propose to tackle some of the issues raised in the first consultation and also illustrate some of the ways in which the proposed schemes may assist:

Older white male bias:

Current statistics suggest that land managers are predominantly male; from the larger farms there are five male farm business owners to every one female. Land managers also tend to be older, the average age is 57 and increasing each year. Much of this is the result of broader structural and cultural issues around land and land based business ownership in Scotland. Various reforms (such as the land reform agenda) are being discussed which may help to change this, but it will take time. In addition, it is hoped that the new entrants' scheme will help in addressing the age imbalance in farming.

Consultation with a full range of communities:

Both consultations have been widely advertised and we will make particular efforts to draw the second consultation to the attention of diverse community groups and consider any feedback received.

Equalities issues in process design and monitoring:

As the document shows we have simplified the process as much as possible within the EU Regulations in order to encourage a broad spectrum of applicants. We will also ask grant applicants to complete equalities information which we will use to identify gaps and think about innovative ways of targeting appropriate grants. We are also considering including equalities criteria in the assessment process for grants.

Encouraging young people into farming:

As section 7 details we are making substantial attempts to assist young people into farming through the new entrants' scheme. We will monitor applicants to this scheme to see if they reflect the population and identify ways to target specific groups if necessary.

Lower levels of economic activity amongst women:

Many aspects of the SRDP will lead to job creation. As part of the evaluation we will consider the ratio of jobs to males and females and are considering having specific assessment criteria related to this.

Increasing IT skills so that people can access services more easily:

Increasing digital access is a broad Scottish Government objective. Where it is seen to be a local priority it will be possible to use LEADER funding to pay for digital access and training projects in local areas. The RPID website is also being completely overhauled to make it more customer friendly and encourage a wide range of applicants.

Additional equalities considerations in new schemes

LEADER:

All members of rural communities will also have an opportunity to access funding through the LEADER mechanism which is again a key part of the new (though still draft) RDR. The aim of LEADER is to increase the capacity of local rural community and business networks to build knowledge and skills, and encourage innovation and co-operation in order to tackle local development objectives.

Equalities must be considered when Local Development Strategies are being drawn up, which will inform how LEADER funding is used locally. Examples of areas where LEADER currently support and can continue to support equality groups are:

Age

- Elderly - LEADER support has helped vulnerable older people living in rural areas to maintain their independence and to have better health and wellbeing.
- Young – LEADER funding has provided opportunities to improve fitness and health and contribute to a better understanding of positive lifestyle choices amongst young people. Also, disadvantaged young people have been provided with opportunities to learn skills and gain qualifications which will improve their future prospects.
- Nurseries – Funding has been provided for a wraparound day care facility for 1-5 year olds and the development of a community owned and managed childcare facility.

Disability

- Improved access and the provision of new services and activities to support deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind adults and children. Projects have also been funded which incorporate disabled access and training for volunteer drivers to assist access for vulnerable and disabled users.

Race

- Funding has been provided for support and information services for migrant workers, enabling individuals to develop their language and other skills while translation services have helped to facilitate active citizenship and integration.

Sexual orientation

- LEADER funding has supported outreach projects which aim to engage lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in rural areas, promote visibility of LGBT people and deliver positive, relevant messages about inclusion and respect.

It is envisaged that LEADER funding under the new SRDP will continue to support these types of projects benefitting equalities groups in rural areas in Scotland.

Scottish National Rural Network:

The Scottish National Rural Network has run events and project visits under the 2007-13 programme on a range of topics that have included 'young, gifted and rural', 'services for old people' and 'care farming'. Networking activity will continue to be inclusive under the next programme and the Rural Network can help facilitate the participation of vulnerable groups and individuals in rural development. A 'Thematic Working' approach has been proposed for 2014 - 2020. Thematic Working Groups bring people together in small groups around specific, focused areas of interest to analyse the issues, explore ideas and identify solutions. The themes will be selected in due course, but we expect that vulnerable groups and the challenges they face living and working in rural areas will be considered as a potential theme(s) for future work.

We hope to encourage representatives from different ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups to become members of the Rural Network and we are proposing to establish an Advisory Board which may include representatives from these groups.

Rural Priorities Scheme/Forestry Grants:

Access through the development of paths and improved signage has been supported through the Rural Priorities Scheme and under Forestry Grants. This has included support for all access paths allowing access for disabled people into the countryside and woodlands.

Food, Processing and Marketing Grant Scheme:

Under the current programme applicants have to provide information in relation to meeting the obligations of an employer, such as;

- Demonstrate that they have considered equal opportunities in the design of the project (e.g. for women, ethnic minorities or people with disabilities).
- Meet obligations as an employer under the appropriate equal opportunities legislation (such as The Equal Opportunities Act 1984 and 1995, The Equal Pay Act 1970 and the Sex Discrimination Acts 1975 and 1986).

Extent/Level of EQIA required

The EQIA is based on evidence provided in the equalities review. It is also based on stakeholder consultation and examples of projects that have been funded through the 2007 – 2013 SRDP (we expect many of the same types of projects to be funded in the new Programme).

Under article 73 of the draft RDR the Managing Authority (in this case the Scottish Government) is given responsibility for managing and implementing the programme in an efficient, effective and correct way, including under subsection (1)(i):

“ensuring publicity for the programme, including through the National Rural Network, by informing potential beneficiaries, professional organisations, the economic and social partners, bodies involved in promoting equality between men and women, and the non-governmental organisations concerned, including environmental organisations, of the possibilities offered by the programme and the rules for gaining access to programme funding as well as by informing beneficiaries of the Union contribution and the general public on the role played by the Union in the programme.”

No other protected characteristic is mentioned in the EU RDR. However this EQIA has been developed so that the programme will comply with relevant Community policy on all seven protected characteristics, and in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

Any land manager, farmer, crofter, forester can apply for grants which may be paid out where relevant eligibility criteria is met. Communities too can access funding through LEADER which is the main fund directly able to address some of the problems identified in the research e.g.

Moray Reach Out - a registered Social Enterprise which provides work based training opportunities for adults with learning disabilities living in Moray.

Interloch Bute Rural Transport - a rural transport service providing assisted transport to the residents of the island of Bute. This is a door to door service for people who, for example, either through location, sickness, poverty or disability cannot access public transport.

Community Development of Elderly Services in Arran - part of the Arran component of the ‘Reshaping care for older people’ work currently being implemented as part of a Scottish Government initiative. It aims to improve services for the growing number of older people on Arran, to enable them to continue living independently in their own homes for longer.

Stage 2: Data and evidence gathering, involvement and consultation

Characteristic ¹	Evidence gathered and Strength/quality of evidence	Source	Gaps identified and action taken
Age	There are a higher proportion of elderly people living in rural areas than in urban areas in Scotland. In remote rural areas over a fifth of the population are aged over 65. This compares to 17% in accessible rural areas and 16% in the rest of	Scottish Government, 2012	New small area Census data will be available in 2013/14 New monitoring data to be developed as part of the new

¹ Refer to Definitions of Protected Characteristics document for information on the characteristics

	<p>Scotland.</p> <p>These numbers are projected to increase even further as Scotland's population ages, with some rural areas, such as Aberdeenshire, Shetland and Orkney forecast to see large increases in this age cohort over the next 20 years.</p> <p>This ageing of the population provides significant challenges for the future provision of care and other services for the elderly population, particularly in remote rural areas.</p> <p>The lack of public transport facilities in some rural areas can be problematic for the elderly, particularly in accessing medical facilities and social activities, thus contributing to social isolation.</p> <p>There are a lower proportion of young people residing in rural areas than in urban areas in Scotland. Around 17% of 16-34 year olds live in remote rural areas, 19% of 16-34 live in accessible rural areas, compared with 26% for the rest of Scotland.</p> <p>From 2011 to 2012 all age groups in Scotland have either seen a small increase or no change in their employment rate, except for the 16-24 age group, which saw a decrease over this period.</p> <p>Low employment rates can be exacerbated for</p>	<p>Skerratt et al, 2012</p> <p>Scottish Government, 2009</p> <p>SCVO, 2008; Scottish Government, 2009</p> <p>Scottish Government, 2012</p> <p>Statistics from the Annual Population Survey 2012</p> <p>Cartmel and Furlong,</p>	<p>programme</p> <p>Input from relevant stakeholder groups through the SRDP consultation</p>
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	<p>young people in some rural areas by the limited opportunities for them to access training or to upgrade their skills</p> <p>Out-migration of young people from rural areas is a particular problem contributing to both depopulation and imbalance in the age structure.</p> <p>Evidence suggests that a lack of educational and employment opportunities along with lack of affordable housing are strong push factors in the outward migration of young people from some rural areas.</p>	<p>2000</p> <p>Jamieson and Groves, 2008</p>	
Disability	<p>In 2011, 24.29% of the rural population reported having a disability or long term limiting illness compared with 25.81% in urban areas.</p> <p>Disabled people are much less likely than non-disabled people to be economically active. UK labour market statistics (2011) reveal that just over half of all disabled people (55%), were active in the labour market, compared to 85% for those without a disability.</p> <p>However, there is evidence to suggest that some areas with the highest rates of employment among the disabled in Scotland are rural areas such as Orkney and Shetland Islands.</p> <p>The literature identifies difficulties in accessing medical services in some rural areas. These difficulties can be exacerbated for individuals with a disability, and in particular those experiencing</p>	<p>Scottish Household Survey, 2011</p> <p>Scottish Executive, 2004, Riddell et al, 2005</p> <p>Apr-Jun 2011 Labour Force Survey</p> <p>Bondi, 2009; Nicholson, 2008</p>	<p>New small area Census data will be available in 2013/14</p> <p>New monitoring data to be developed as part of the new programme</p> <p>Input from relevant stakeholder groups through the SRDP consultation</p>

	<p>mental health difficulties.</p> <p>There are still areas in rural Scotland where lack of easily assessable and affordable public transport acts as a significant barrier to disabled people in accessing services.</p> <p>Analysis of the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2010 reveals that the majority of people in Scotland are in strong agreement to the principle of ensuring equal access for disabled people.</p>	<p>Scottish Executive, 2004</p> <p>Ormston et al, 2011</p>	
<p>Gender (including pregnancy and maternity)</p>	<p>In some rural areas women continue to face problems of low pay, little job flexibility, poor job security and career progression.</p> <p>There is evidence to suggest that women struggle to enter into education and employment in some rural areas due to lack of accessible, affordable childcare and limited public transport.</p> <p>Women's contribution to the economy in rural areas may be particularly undervalued due to some of the work being underpaid or unpaid as helper spouses to farmers, hoteliers etc.</p> <p>Both men and women in rural Scotland have higher life expectancies than the national average. However, accessing healthcare services, particularly mental health services can be problematic in parts of Scotland. This may have a greater implication for men as the highest rates of suicide are amongst men, with some rural parts of Scotland recording higher than average male suicide rates.</p>	<p>UHI Policyweb, 2006</p> <p>Pavis et al, 2000 SWC 2012</p> <p>Scottish Executive, 2001</p> <p>Boyle et al, 2005; Mcloone, 2003,</p>	<p>New small area Census data will be available in 2013/14</p> <p>New monitoring data to be developed as part of the new programme</p> <p>Input from relevant stakeholder groups through the SRDP consultation</p>

	For women in particular, assessing support for domestic abuse or post natal depression can be difficult in rural communities. The available evidence on rural poverty suggests that rural women are one of the groups most at risk of poverty		
Gender reassignment	There was no research available on gender reassignment and for the purposes of this EQIA should be read in context of Sexual Orientation.	None available	
Sexual orientation	<p>Figures from the Scottish Household suggest that the number of people identifying themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual is 1% in Scotland and around 0.5% in rural Scotland. However, no information at all is collected in the census on respondent's sexuality and overall information in relation to the LGBT population in Scotland is limited.</p> <p>Some small scale research studies have been conducted in rural Scotland and the findings from these studies suggest that the experience of being LGBT in rural Scotland is different and more difficult than in an urban setting.</p> <p>Overall, there has been a significant reduction in the levels of prejudice directed towards gays and lesbians in Scotland over the last decade.</p>	<p>Scottish Household Survey 2011</p> <p>Stonewall study conducted on behalf of the EHRC (2009)</p> <p>Scottish Social Attitudes Survey</p>	<p>A question on sexual orientation has recently been included in the Scottish Household Survey</p> <p>Input from relevant stakeholder groups through the SRDP consultation</p>
Race	<p>There are relatively small numbers of ethnic minorities residing in rural Scotland.</p> <p>However, it is thought that EU enlargement has</p>	<p>Scottish Census, 2001</p> <p>De Lima, 2009</p>	<p>New small area Census data will be available in 2013/14</p> <p>New monitoring data to be developed as part of the new</p>

	<p>impacted on the racial mix of communities, including rural ones in Scotland. Forthcoming statistics from the 2011 Census will help confirm if this is the case.</p> <p>The available research suggests that ethnic minorities' experience of rurality in Scotland is complex. On the one hand the difficulties they experience are similar to the general rural population (i.e. in accessing services) but they also experience similar difficulties as ethnic minorities in urban areas, such as racism.</p> <p>Evidence suggests that many ethnic minorities are engaged in semi-skilled and unskilled work, for which they are overqualified. Research undertaken on migrant labour in rural Scotland revealed that many migrants face barriers in accessing services; in particular, affordable accommodation and English language provision.</p> <p>Evidence suggests that in some rural areas in Scotland it can be difficult for racism to be acknowledged let alone addressed.</p>	<p>De Lima, 2001</p> <p>Jentsch et al, 2007</p> <p>De Lima, 2006</p>	<p>programme</p> <p>Input from relevant stakeholder groups through the SRDP consultation</p>
<p>Religion or belief</p>	<p>There are larger numbers of people identifying themselves as Church of Scotland residing in rural areas than in urban areas. Conversely, there are fewer Roman Catholics in rural areas than in urban areas. The proportion of respondents identifying themselves as 'other Christian' is larger in rural Scotland. Overall, there are more individuals identifying themselves as non-Christian residing in urban areas. However, the actual numbers involved</p>	<p>Scottish Household Survey 2011</p>	<p>New small area Census data will be available in 2013/14</p> <p>Input from relevant stakeholder groups through the SRDP consultation</p>

	<p>are very small as collectively; all the non-Christian groups account for less than 2% of the Scottish population.</p> <p>The small numbers of non-Christian groups in Scotland makes analysis problematic, particularly when trying to examine these groups individually.</p> <p>There is a dearth of research on religion and belief in Scotland. This is particularly the case in a rural context. Much of the available information is from the Census 2001 and as such is quite dated. Forthcoming statistics from Census 2011 will provide more up to date information.</p>		
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Stage 3: Assessing the impacts and identifying opportunities to promote equality

Funding provided through the SRDP is vital in sustaining rural communities and maintaining populations in rural and remote areas of Scotland. Many of the schemes (such as LFASS, New Entrants, Crofting and Small Farms Support Scheme, Small Rural Business Scheme) provide targeted support which ensures fair distribution of funds in rural areas. In addition, LFASS is currently being reviewed to ensure that funding is appropriately targeted to those on constrained land.

Equalities must be considered when Local Development Strategies (which will inform local LEADER funding) are being drawn up. LEADER, the SRN and the Advisory Service in particular are all aspects of the SRDP that have the potential to support all equality groups if they come forward.

Further, as discussed above, as a result of funding provided by the Rural Priorities Scheme and Forestry Grants, access to the countryside has been improved for all. Improved signage and access paths have been particularly beneficial to disabled people. It is envisaged that funding will continue for these types of initiatives under the new Programme.

Finally, through developing our proposals the SG is also considering scoring for some schemes, and the potential for this to be used to support equalities groups is also being considered.

Do you think that the policy impacts on people because of their age?

Age	Positive	Negative	None	Reasons for your decision
Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation			X	The award of contract is based on certain eligibility criteria being met and the strength of the proposal. The eligibility criteria relate to land rather than personal factors.
Advancing equality of opportunity	X			Support for your farmers and new entrants is a priority for the Scottish Government; we do not believe that there should be an age threshold. However the European RDR states that support for young farmers is only available to those that are 40 years or younger. While the Advisory Services, which is funded in part by the SRDP, will cover all aspects of advice and knowledge

				<p>transfer, it will specifically offer specialist advice to new entrants including the possibility of a mentoring service.</p> <p>Other options proposed to help young people include assistance to facilitate the establishment of young farmers setting up in business for the first time through dedicated support in pursuance of an agreed business plan. Also, enhanced grant payments for capital investment in physical assets.</p> <p>LEADER programme offers opportunity for older people to become involved in their communities' action groups, to develop projects that will be of benefit to older people and/or to benefit from such projects.</p> <p>LEADER funding of community transport projects benefits particular groups including the elderly, many of whom do not have access to a car.</p> <p>LEADER funding can support projects that are specifically targeted at young people (i.e. sports and other activities) and also provides support to young people to learn new skills and gain qualifications.</p>
Promoting good relations among and between different age groups			X	The award of contract is based on certain eligibility criteria being met and the strength of the proposal.

Do you think that the policy impacts disabled people?

Disability	Positive	Negative	None	Reasons for your decision
Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation			X	The award of contract is based on certain eligibility criteria being met and the strength of the proposal. There is nothing in the criteria that would prevent someone with a disability applying, although many of the schemes are farm and forestry related requiring physical work which may reduce uptake from disabled people.
Advancing equality of opportunity	X			Funding through LEADER can be used for a variety of reasons including non-statutory community transport and IT initiatives which can potentially benefit disabled people Measures promoted to improve access, paths etc will make the countryside more accessible for disabled people
Promoting good relations among and between disabled and non-disabled people			X	

Do you think that the policy impacts on men and women in different ways?

Sex (including pregnancy and maternity)	Positive	Negative	None	Reasons for your decision
Eliminating unlawful discrimination			X	The award of contract is based on certain eligibility criteria being met and the strength of the proposal.
Advancing equality of opportunity	X			LEADER can be used to fund childcare facilities which will then support parents/guardians (particularly women) back into the workplace.

				Projects that support diversification into non-agricultural activities often provide opportunities for other family members particularly woman and younger people.
Promoting good relations between men and women			X	

Do you think your policy impacts on transsexual people?

Gender reassignment	Positive	Negative	None	Reasons for your decision
Eliminating unlawful discrimination			X	The award of contract is based on certain eligibility criteria being met and the strength of the proposal. There is no reason to believe that the policy will have a detrimental impact on transsexual people.
Advancing equality of opportunity			X	
Promoting good relations			X	

Do you think that the policy impacts on people because of their sexual orientation?

Sexual orientation	Positive	Negative	None	Reasons for your decision
Eliminating unlawful discrimination			X	The award of contract is based on certain eligibility criteria being met and the strength of the proposal. There is no reason to believe that the policy will have a detrimental impact due to sexual orientation.
Advancing equality of opportunity	X			LEADER can support equalities groups, including those related to sexual orientation, in the community.
Promoting good relations	X			There is the potential for local projects to use LEADER funding to undertake awareness strategies or good relations campaigns.

Do you think the policy impacts on people on the grounds of their race?

Race	Positive	Negative	None	Reasons for your decision
Eliminating unlawful discrimination			X	The award of contract is based on certain eligibility criteria being met and the strength of the proposal There is no reason to believe that the policy will have a detrimental impact due to race. However many schemes are for land managers and access to land is difficult.
Advancing equality of opportunity	X			Funding through LEADER can be used to enhance community integration particularly through the provision of English language classes to ethnic minorities.
Promoting good race relations	X			As above

Do you think the policy impacts on people because of their religion or belief?

Religion or belief	Positive	Negative	None	Reasons for your decision
Eliminating unlawful discrimination			X	The award of contract is based on certain eligibility criteria being met and the strength of the proposal. There is no reason to believe that the policy will have a detrimental impact due to religion.
Advancing equality of opportunity			X	
Promoting good relations			X	

Stage 4: Decision making and monitoring

Identifying and establishing any required mitigating action

Have positive or negative impacts been identified for any of the equality groups?	YES
Is the policy directly or indirectly discriminatory under the Equality Act 2010 ² ?	No
If the policy is indirectly discriminatory, how is it justified under the relevant legislation?	N/A
If not justified, what mitigating action will be undertaken?	N/A

Describing how Equality Impact analysis has shaped the policy making process

There is no need to amend the policy as it is non-discriminatory and the programme is being developed in line with European and UK equalities legislation. Although this EQIA has identified, on the limited research that exists problems faced by equalities groups the new programme will have no negative effect on these groups. On the contrary the programme will fund a wide range of projects which should benefit everyone in rural Scotland. Examples of the types of project which can be funded are set out in the stage 1 Framing section.

Monitoring and Review

The monitoring and evaluation framework developed for the SRDP will collect information on the age and gender of the schemes beneficiaries. We are currently considering the addition of disability into this framework.

² See EQIA – Setting the Scene for further information on the legislation.

Stage 5 - Authorisation of EQIA

Please confirm that:

- This Equality Impact Assessment has informed the development of this policy:

Yes

No

- Opportunities to promote equality in respect of age, disability, sex (including pregnancy and maternity), gender reassignment, sexual orientation, race and religion or belief have been considered, i.e:
 - Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation;
 - Removing or minimising any barriers and/or disadvantages;
 - Taking steps which assist with promoting equality and meeting people's different needs;
 - Encouraging participation (e.g. in public life)
 - Fostering good relations, tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

Yes

No

Declaration

I am satisfied with the equality impact assessment that has been undertaken for the Scotland Rural Development Programme 2014-20 and give my authorisation for the results of this assessment to be published on the Scottish Government's website.

Name: David Barnes

Position: Deputy Director

Authorisation date: November 2013