

## **National Council of Rural Advisers – Agenda Paper**

1. The National Council of Rural Advisers (NCRA) was established by the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity in June 2017.
2. The National Council has been asked to:
  - a. Provide advice on the potential implications of Scotland leaving the EU as part of the UK, and
  - b. Make recommendations on future policy and support, with the aim of ensuring a vibrant, sustainable and productive rural economy to Scottish Ministers.
3. The National Council will develop an interim report on the implications of Brexit by the end of November 2017 with their final report - detailing recommendations on future policy and support – to be published in late spring 2018.
4. There are 14 members of the National Council. They have been appointed on the basis of their expertise and knowledge of the rural economy gained from living and working in Scotland's rural communities rather than as representatives of their own sectors. Lorne Crerar and Alison Milne are Co-chairs of the National Council.
5. The NCRA met formally for the first time on 20<sup>th</sup> September where they:
  - a. Explored how they wanted to engage expertise in specific areas to inform their discussions; and
  - b. Started to identify their future plan of work.
6. The next meeting of the National Council is on the 27<sup>th</sup> October where they will undertake a scoping/horizon scanning exercise to aid the development of their thinking.
7. To contribute to the development of their advice it is essential that the NCRA engage with the full breadth of expertise available in the rural economy. To kick start this process Mr Ewing wrote to over 200 key rural stakeholders in July 2017 inviting them to submit their views and evidence to the National Council. The National Council maintains an 'open door' policy for any organisation or group wishing to submit relevant views and evidence for consideration by the Council.