

# SHORT LIFE WORKING GROUP ON POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

## Consideration of Rural Issues within Other Local Authorities

### Briefing note

#### Introduction

During discussions at the Short Life Working group on Political Management Arrangements held on 22 December 2022 members acknowledged the unique nature of Argyll and Bute, specifically the importance of the rural economy and its economic development. While the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee has responsibility for these areas it was felt that there would be value in developing enhanced arrangements to consider more rural issues.

This short briefing note outlines the arrangements that other Authorities have in place to consider rural issues.

#### Highland ([LINK](#))

All 7 Strategic Committees have responsibility to 'consider the impact of decisions on communities, specifically taking into consideration the issues of equality, poverty and rurality.'

#### Western Isles ([LINK](#))

The Sustainable Development Committee has the responsibility for the conservation and enhancement of the countryside and the provision of amenities and facilities within the countryside and the conservation of the fauna and flora of the area and the promotion of the general industrial, commercial, environmental, fishing and crofting development of the area.

Western Isles also have a Fisheries and Crofting Joint Consultative Committees which are tasked with advising the Council in its consideration of all matters pertaining to the conservation and development of the fishing and crofting industries.

#### Aberdeenshire Council ([LINK](#))

No specific reference to 'rural economy' but has a Sustainability Committee which promotes awareness of the need for sustainability within the Council and wider community of Aberdeenshire.

#### Dumfries and Galloway Council ([LINK](#))

No specific reference to 'rural economy' but has Economy and Resources Committee that acts as the reporting Committee for People and Transformation, Economy and Development, and the Assessor and Electoral Registration.

#### Scottish Borders Council ([LINK](#))

Executive committee has responsibility for providing strategic leadership and vision for Economic Development, developing and overseeing the delivery of economic development plans. No specific reference to 'rural economy'.

#### South Ayrshire Council ([LINK](#))

Seven members of the Leadership Panel from the Administration parties have been allocated a special area of responsibility (Portfolio), of which Economy and Culture Portfolio is one. No specific reference to 'rural economy'.

### **South Lanarkshire** ([LINK](#))

Has a Rural Task Force, which has the responsibility for, among other things, to:

- identify and drive forward new rural development initiatives as part of an agreed 4 year Rural Task Force (RTF) Action Plan in support of the recently approved SLRP rural strategy.
- undertake regular reviews of the distinctive economic, environmental, cultural and other needs of rural South Lanarkshire.
- advise the Executive Committee of any special measures which may be necessary or desirable to meet such needs and to promote the interests of rural communities.

### **Perth and Kinross** ([LINK](#))

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee exercises the functions of the Council in relation to economic development, no other reference to 'rural economy'.