

**SCOTTISH RURAL PARLIAMENT
INAUGURAL MEETING – OBAN 2014**

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 In August 2013, the Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead announced Scottish Government backing for the first meeting of a Scottish Rural Parliament, to take place in 2014. The management group with responsibility for taking this forward has formed a company called Scottish Rural Action, with the sole purpose of developing and organising Scotland's first Rural Parliament, which will be held in Oban during November.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 to note that the Scottish Rural Parliament will take place in Oban in November 2014.
- 2.2 to consider supporting the event by making the Corran Halls available to the organisers free of charge for the duration of the event.
- 2.3 to note that officers will attend the Scottish Rural Parliament Liaison Working Group and report back to Members.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 Scottish Rural Action has been established as an independent organisation charged by the Scottish Government to deliver the Inaugural Scottish Rural Parliament and build the foundations for a longer term rural movement.
- 3.2 The Rural Parliament is not a formal part of government, nor is it a parliament in the sense of a legislative or decision making body. It is a process of involvement and debate between the people of rural Scotland and policy makers to enable better understanding, improved policy and action to address rural issues. It is a process which takes place over a two year period, culminating in a high profile event, the Rural Parliament. Outcomes from this event will be monitored and further developed in the period between Rural Parliaments.
- 3.3 An initial meeting of the Scottish Rural Parliament Working Group took place on 27th January to discuss venues for the event which will run over three days during November. A request was made for the Corran Halls to be made available free of charge and Community Services have been consulted on this and are supportive of this request. Further meetings are scheduled which officers will attend and report back to Members.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Scotland's first Rural Parliament will take place in Oban during November 2014. An initial meeting of the Scottish Rural Parliament Working Group has taken place and identified the Corran Halls along with Atlantis Leisure as suitable venues to host the event. Officers will continue to attend the Scottish Rural Parliament Liaison meetings and report back to Members.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy – None
- 5.2 Financial – Loss of income
- 5.3 Legal - None
- 5.4 HR - None
- 5.5 Equalities – None
- 5.6 Risk – None
- 5.7 Customer Service – None

6.0 APPENDICES

None

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