

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

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**1.0 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Members in regard to the arrangements which are being made for the inaugural meeting of Scotland's first Rural Parliament, which will be held in Oban during 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report.

**3.0 DETAIL**

- 3.1 The first meeting of the Scottish Rural Parliament Local Liaison Group took place on 27th January 2014 and at that time a request was made for the Corran Halls to be made available free of charge. Community Services were consulted on this and a report went to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee on 12th February, the Committee agreed to support the event by making the Corran Halls or any other venue available to the organisers free of charge for the duration of the event.

- 3.2 Scottish Rural Action is currently in the process of engaging with communities/groups/and individuals all over rural Scotland to ensure involvement, discussion and debate is taking place prior to the event. This will provide the key themes for discussion at the event in November. To date the response has highlighted the following issues:

- Economic Issues – assisting businesses start up and grow
- Transport
- Access to Services
- Fuel Poverty – homes/cars
- Child Welfare
- Community Capacity
- Climate Change
- Providing suitable housing
- Planning Legislation

- 3.3 Around 400 people will gather for the three day event, which will include a gathering on the Thursday night to welcome participants and outline the programme for the event and report on how the themes/ideas have emerged. On the Friday participants will have the opportunity to engage in workshops and debates or take part in visits to local projects relative to the programme agenda. This will be followed by a formal dinner and entertainment in the Corran Halls.

The final day will be a plenary session to reach agreement over the Rural Manifesto and the presentation of this to a Minister.

- 3.4 Officers from Customer and Community Services continue to attend the Local Liaison Group meetings held in Oban along with representatives from BID 4Oban, Atlantis Leisure, Argyll Voluntary Action and the Community Council.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Scotland's first Rural Parliament will take place in Oban during 6 – 8 November 2014. The Corran Halls along with Atlantis Leisure are being used as the main 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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