

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 31 AUGUST 2021**

**RURAL COMMUNITIES TESTING CHANGE FUND**

**REPORT BY ALISON SMITH, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

**ABSTRACT**

This Report asks members to note that a bid has been submitted by Angus Council on behalf of an interim Rural Steering Group to access funding from the Scottish Government Rural Communities Testing Change Fund and seeks approval for Angus Council to act as Accountable Body for the period of the fund to 31 March 2022 and delegates authority to Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth to accept the grant offer.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee

- (i) note that a bid was submitted by Angus Council on behalf of an interim Rural Steering Group to access funding from the Scottish Government Rural Communities Testing Change (RCTC) Fund.
- (ii) approves Angus Council acting as Accountable Body for the period of the fund to 31 March 2022.
- (iii) delegates authority to **Interim Director of** Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth to accept the grant offer
- (iv) notes that a decision to continue or not beyond 31 March 2022 as Accountable Body for Tranche 2 of the Fund will be the subject of a future report.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COUNCIL AND ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN**

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan 2017-2030

- Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit:
- Our communities are safe, secure and vibrant:
- Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services.

And to the Angus Council Plan 2021-2024 priorities of

- Angus to be a go-to place for business
- To maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities
- Our communities to be strong, resilient and led by citizens

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Angus Council acted as Accountable Body for the Angus LEADER Programme since 2014 until the programme closed on 31 March 2021. We also employed the Programme staff. Currently Angus Council continue to undertake the Accountable Body overseeing final claim payments, audit and programme closure.
- 3.2 With the closure of the LEADER programme, £3m funding was confirmed in the Scottish Government Budget 2021 to test new ways to support and deliver on community-led local development (CLLD) in Scotland.
- 3.3 The funding is available for the current 2021/22 financial year and is not a new fund in itself. It must be used to pilot new approaches to CLLD and the lessons learnt will inform any future funding.

- 3.4 It is proposed that the funding will be delivered in two tranches. As part of the first tranche of funding, there are two funding streams being made available to Local Action Groups (LAGs). This will allow LAGs to build on the positive [legacy](#) of LEADER while using their experience to properly innovate and test change. In areas where the Local Action Group no longer have delivery staff in place, Scottish Government have agreed to work with Accountable Bodies to ensure that every area has access to this funding.
- 3.5 The first tranche of the RCTC fund has been ringfenced for use by Local Action Groups supported by LAG staff where they have been retained for this purpose. In Angus we no longer have staff in post.
- 3.6 Key to the funding is the requirement to properly 'test change': to plan and carry out new and innovative approaches and observe and measure the results to inform any future CLLD funding. In testing change, the lessons learnt from failure can be as valid as success.
- 3.7 These tests of change have to look at how to better align community based activity to meet community priorities – and to ensure these really are whole community priorities that recognise and respond to particular and distinct local opportunities and challenges.
- 3.8 Projects must demonstrate that they advance inclusion, equality and diversity.
- 3.9 Projects delivered must also support at least one overarching Scottish Government priority from the list below;
- Young Person's Guarantee, Green Skills & Fair Work
  - [Rural Movement](#) & Scottish Rural Parliament outcomes
  - Covid recovery
  - [Community wealth building](#)
  - Local democracy and governance, community empowerment
  - Wellbeing Economy
  - Inclusive growth (includes Community-Led Tourism)
  - Net Zero & Climate Emergency
  - The [National Islands Plan](#) and Island Communities Impact Assessments
  - National Planning Framework
- 3.10 Projects must be completed by the end of the current financial year i.e. 31 March 2022.
- 3.11 The funding cannot be used to subsidise existing projects which require additional funding.
- 3.12 The tests of change could include:
- new approaches as a result of learning from the [evaluation of LEADER](#), e.g.;
    - Projects that support community-led tourism and infrastructure
    - Projects that take an innovative approach to community land ownership or community asset ownership/mapping
    - Co-operation and learning exchange projects
  - changes needed to address a new post EU funding landscape, taking on board the feedback from LEADER on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund;
  - new approaches to supporting capacity building in local communities to engage on wider, national policy issues; and
  - new approaches to bring more diverse, 'lesser heard' voices into community decision-making (including young people).

The examples above must address a need which is not currently met by other existing funds, for example the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund, Capital Regeneration fund etc. The funding will not support projects of the type that are tried and tested through previous LEADER funding, unless it can be demonstrated that there is further innovation in the approach being put forward.

#### 4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Stream 1 of this funding – Local Action Group Innovation Fund – opened on 5 July 2021. A fund of £1million is to be allocated equally across participating LAGs, to help the LAGs build local capacity and trial new ways of working. Where LAGs cannot make full use of their allocated budget, money will be reallocated as priorities emerge.

- 4.2 An Outline Proposal was required from interested Local Action Group areas by 23 July 2021 confirming the ability to meet the 4 core criteria. These bids were co-produced with local community members and public sector representatives. The final bids were required to be submitted by 13 August 2021.
- 4.3 We have been advised by Scottish Government that £35,000 has been awarded to be used in Angus.
- 4.3 Stream 2 – Local Action Group Challenge Fund offers additional funding of £400,000 and has also been made available as part of the first tranche of the Rural Communities Testing Change Fund for allocation via a bidding and assessment process.
- 4.5 Bids of up to £75k are welcomed. Applicants are encouraged to only apply for what they need as this will allow the fund to support as many different groups as possible.
- 4.6 Applications opened **on 5 July** and closed on 13 August 2021. Applicants will be advised of the outcome no later than 3 September 2021.
- 4.7 Given Angus had successfully closed its Programme and spent its allocation of funding, the LEADER staff were no longer in post and the Local Action Group had been disbanded.
- 4.8 However Scottish Government were keen to ensure Angus was not penalised for its success and were open to a new Steering Group (which includes some previous Local Action Group members) submitting bids for Angus for both Stream 1 and Stream 2.
- 4.9 Given the experience of Angus Council as Accountable Body and understanding of the financial and monitoring requirements, the Scottish Government and the Steering Group are keen that Angus Council continues as Accountable Body for Stream 1 while the Group consider the most appropriate governance and structure to deliver Stream 2 if successful.

## **5. PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to agree that Angus Council assume the Accountable Body role for Stream 1 until 31 March 2022. This will include receiving receipt of the £35,000 and overseeing payments and monitoring of the funds on behalf of the Steering Group.
- 5.2 The funding will be used to contract external support/resources to engage with rural communities and identify potential Test of Change projects to be delivered through Stream 2 if successful.
- 5.3 The Steering Group has committed to increasing membership to enhance the skills and expertise of the group and to undertake work to determine the most suitable governance and delivery mechanism structure to deliver Stream 2 projects should the bid submitted in August be successful.
- 5.4 In addition the Committee is asked to agree that acceptance of the grant offer for Stream 1 is delegated to Interim Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth
- 5.5 Should there be an ask of Angus Council to continue as Accountable Body beyond 31 March 2022 this will be the subject of a further committee report.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The grant to be received on behalf of the Steering Group is £35,000.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of the report.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** ALISON SMITH, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

**EMAIL DETAILS:** [Communities@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Communities@angus.gov.uk)



## Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

### Step 1

**Name of Proposal** (includes e. g. budget savings, committee reports, strategies, policies, procedures, service reviews, functions):

Rural Communities Testing Change Fund

### Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment

NO

**(A)** If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

(i) It does not impact on people

Yes

(ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics

No

(iii) It is for information only

No

(iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year

Yes

(v) It is technical

Yes

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

**(B)** If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment

Yes

Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment

Yes

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

### Step 3

(i)Lead Directorate/Service: Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

This Report asks members to note that a bid has been submitted by Angus Council on behalf of an interim Rural Steering Group to access funding from the Scottish Government Rural Communities Testing Change Fund and seeks approval for Angus Council if successful to act as Accountable Body for the period of the fund to 31 March 2022 and delegates authority to Angus council to accept the grant offer if successful. This is not statutory but the impact on our rural communities would be significant.

(iii)What is the aim of the proposal? Please give full details.

This proposal aims to lever in funding to support rural communities

(iv)Is it a new proposal?      No      Please indicate      OR

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function?

Yes Please indicate: Review of current management responsibilities

#### **Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?**

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees	Yes
Job Applicants	No
Service users	Yes
Members of the public	Yes

#### **Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:**

**Internal data** (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).

As part of this proposal a lot of work has been done with local communities to ensure their views are part of the wider service planning. We have also through the Local Action Group (LAG) engaged with local partners and statutory organisations. Key documents underpinning this work include:-

Community Plan Annual Performance Report –

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/angus\\_community\\_plan\\_annual\\_performance\\_report\\_20192020](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/angus_community_plan_annual_performance_report_20192020)

Income from Employment assessment -

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/delivery\\_on\\_key\\_priorities/reducing\\_child\\_poverty?page\\_id=863](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/delivery_on_key_priorities/reducing_child_poverty?page_id=863)

Cost of Living Assessment –

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/delivery\\_on\\_key\\_priorities/reducing\\_child\\_poverty?page\\_id=864](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/delivery_on_key_priorities/reducing_child_poverty?page_id=864)

Income from Social security benefits Assessment –

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/delivery\\_on\\_key\\_priorities/reducing\\_child\\_poverty?page\\_id=865](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/delivery_on_key_priorities/reducing_child_poverty?page_id=865)

Regional Skills Assessment -

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/community\\_empowerment/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_angus/delivery\\_on\\_key\\_priorities/reducing\\_child\\_poverty](https://www.angus.gov.uk/community_empowerment/planning_for_the_future/planning_for_the_future_of_angus/delivery_on_key_priorities/reducing_child_poverty)

**Internal consultation** (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

Service Design sessions have been held which will form the new approach to service planning which flagged up rural challenges and how we address them. The Council Plan also highlights how we as a Council have an aspiration to our communities as part of the Strategy on a Page.

Angus Council Plan –

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/council\\_information/plans\\_policies\\_and\\_strategies/council\\_plan\\_2019\\_2024](https://www.angus.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/plans_policies_and_strategies/council_plan_2019_2024)

**External data** (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

SRUC Rural Report - <https://www.sruc.ac.uk/research/facilities-capabilities/rural-policy-centre/rural-policy-centre-research-analysis/rural-report/>

Scottish agriculture: economic reports <https://www.gov.scot/collections/economic-report-on-scottish-agriculture/>

Joseph Rowntree Reporting - [https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/budget-2018-tackling-rising-tide-work-poverty?gclid=Cj0KCQjwsLWDBhCmARIsAPSL3\\_1VRhxE\\_JK9B5rkQS7pYj-Ph5yBhW-Hiltfl1NEHAWsdujLnqBNPH0aAjuEEALw\\_wcB](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/budget-2018-tackling-rising-tide-work-poverty?gclid=Cj0KCQjwsLWDBhCmARIsAPSL3_1VRhxE_JK9B5rkQS7pYj-Ph5yBhW-Hiltfl1NEHAWsdujLnqBNPH0aAjuEEALw_wcB)

**External consultation** (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils).

Citizens Survey: Forms the basis of our local consultation due to COVID restrictions – <https://www.angus.gov.uk/sites/angus-cms/files/2020-06/Info%20Report%20Citizens%20Survey%20Schedule%201.pdf>

Covid-19 Rural Reference Group Report <https://www.sra.scot/our-work/research-publications>

Hard Edges session – <https://angushousingblog.wordpress.com/2019/09/30/smoothing-the-hard-edges-community-event-in-arbroath/>

**Other** (general information as appropriate).

Angus Council acted as Accountable Body for the Angus LEADER Programme since 2014 until the programme closed on 31 March 2021. We also employed the Programme staff. Currently Angus Council continue to undertake the Accountable Body overseeing final claim payments, audit and programme closure.

With the closure of the LEADER programme, £3m funding was confirmed in the Scottish Government Budget 2021 to test new ways to support and deliver on community-led local development (CLLD) in Scotland.

#### **Step 6: Evidence Gaps.**

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold?      Yes

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

A geographic breakdown of poverty linked to our population's ethnic breakdown  
Equalities programmes delivered within a health setting

**Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups?** Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

**Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.**

A lot of work has been done to ensure that people are put at the centre of all the work we do. Sessions were held throughout the Council with these themes:-

- Continuing to care for our people (citizens and colleagues)
- Acknowledging our core role is to serve
- Working more collaboratively across the organisation and with partners, to best serve our public
- Developing our culture of honesty and integrity to build trust
- Demonstrating and operating with respect for others
- Treating people fairly and with equity

Age



**Impact**

Positive - Additional investments will support the priorities – To reduce poverty, improve mental health and wellbeing and Improve accessibility and connectivity.

Disability

**Impact**

Positive - Additional engagement on access to services will support those with disabilities

Gender reassignment

**Impact**

Positive – Greater alignment of services will support those undergoing gender reassignment

Marriage and Civil Partnership

**Impact**

No impact

Pregnancy/Maternity

**Impact**

Positive – Specific actions within the action plan focus on ensuring those entitled to benefits and baby boxes etc have access

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

**Impact**

Neutral – all actions are available and accessible to all residents of Angus

Religion or Belief

**Impact**

Neutral – all actions are available and accessible to all residents of Angus

Sex

**Impact**

Positive - Covid has impacted more on women, being in low paid jobs etc, so action to encourage more employment opportunities and services in rural areas should benefit communities of interest.

Sexual orientation

**Impact**

Neutral – all actions are available and accessible to all residents of Angus

## **Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected**

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

A big part of the rural engagement has included the Angus Voices pilot. The Voice of Families in our rural areas is an ongoing project to design services to meet the needs of our communities ensuring that those directly affected by poverty had a say in the new services being designed. This was done using the existing LEADER rural development programme network in partnership with local people.

Priority Groups - Some types of households with children are known to be at a particularly high risk of poverty. These include households with single parents, three or more children, disabled household members, of a minority ethnic background, with a child aged under one, or a mother aged under 25. These groups do not cover everyone at higher risk of poverty, but taken together, they cover the majority of households with children that are in poverty. These groups were part of the Listening events held.

There is a lot of potential to explore projects through this funding and coordinate existing programmes/outcomes more effectively. Some complimentary projects which will help build on the existing pipeline of projects includes:-

Participatory Budgeting - Participatory Budgeting is a significant tool that can enhance and strengthen democratic participation and community development, based on the involvement of citizens in the identification of priority needs. Through it, investments can be made by governments that fit with key societal priorities and boost development at the local level. In Angus we want participatory budget to focus on communication between community organizations, to work collectively to improve local management and achieve a better redistribution of resources, citizen participation, and political transparency.

20 minute neighbourhood/Place based programmes – Engaging with local communities to determine what would improve their quality of life is key and a big part of the Angus CLLD thinking. Complimenting the work done on Child Poverty there are a number of projects being explored focusing on transport, access to outdoor learning and access to key services within our rural areas.

## **Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?**

The completion of the LEADER programme and Monitoring and evaluation report will form a solid base for any new projects identified so that new and innovative projects are explored but that also lessons are learned from projects that are in the same arena.

Having a continuous review process will ensure that any negative implications are highlighted and addressed.

The logic models and processes built for the LEADER programme will be utilised for any new project funding that is awarded to the group however new evaluation methods will be explored for example social pinpoint (an online consultation tool) or storybooks which give a clear picture of what has been achieved.

**Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.**

The Leader Legacy report highlights the work done by the community group to date and can be viewed at <https://angusleader.co.uk/portfolio/angus-leader-lag-legacy-study-and-report/>

**Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?**

Plans are required to be presented to the Scottish Government by local authorities and NHS Health boards, but we know that solving poverty requires collaborative working across a range of partnerships. This plan should be read in conjunction with Every Child, Every Chance, The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22, which was published on 29 March 2018 at [www.gov.scot/everychild](http://www.gov.scot/everychild)

**Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?**

Angus has strong networks, partnerships and international collaborations however the area through COVID -19 has experienced increased levels of deprivation and challenge. Existing networks are now engaging with communities through listening events and peer support networks however there is a need to increase the engagement with rural communities where there are additional challenges but also potential opportunities for innovation, stronger community development and testing new ways of working.

As part of the regional working Community Wealth Building is being explored as a way of encouraging increased participation in service design therefore using this model will allow for rural citizens to input/participate and highlight through the 4 projects how much more sustainable rural living can be with a different approach to service design linked to community empowerment. The initial LEADER programme had started to develop this prior to COVID -19 and there is greater willingness now through community activists, community councils and local people.

**Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY**

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

**Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?**

As part of the report we have created a profile which underpins the rural development work. Key statistics include:-

We investigated the degree to which additionality had been created via LEADER rural development funding. The responses indicated that LEADER was responsible for creating significant additionality. Over 56% of responses indicated that in the absence of LEADER funding their project would not have taken place at all whilst there was a significant evidence to suggest LEADER funding made the project better, or happened

sooner and on a bigger scale than with otherwise have been the case. Other statistics include

- Data for the period 2019/20 highlights an increase in poverty across Scotland. In Angus there have been increases in workless households, unemployment and referrals for food banks. This is often worse in rural areas.
- In Angus the new Housing Strategy aims to support local people and puts poverty at the heart of key actions. Health is a priority of the rural programme and creating 20-minute neighbourhoods to keep people in their homes longer.
- In Scotland, around 7 in 10 children living in poverty live in a household where at least one adult is working, and 10% of children are living in persistent poverty.
- 60% of projects were intended to develop community assets and facilities. Through this work a number of projects have been identified to improve opportunities.
- Around half of respondents to a recent survey were aimed at strengthening the local economy and half were also about building community capacity. Only 11% related to improvement of connectivity.

**Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.**

A geographic breakdown of poverty linked to our population's ethnic breakdown – Through ongoing engagement work we will aim to increase opportunities to engage with this group.

Equalities programmes delivered within a health setting – new indicators are being embedded into NHS monitoring to capture the information required for Report 4 and onwards.

**Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings? Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from Covid-19.**

**Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.**

**Low and/or No Wealth** (e.g. those with enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.

**Impact**

Positive Impact – Due to the nature of this request there will be a positive impact on those with low or no wealth in rural areas as it includes interventions to maximise income through the drivers of poverty.

**Material Deprivation** (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

### **Impact**

Positive Impact – Due to the nature of this request there will be a positive impact on those with material deprivation as it includes interventions to maximise income through the drivers of poverty, specifically around increasing income from employment, social security benefits and in kind.

**Area Deprivation** (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport).

### **Impact**

Positive Impact – Due to the nature of this request there will be a positive impact on those experiencing rural deprived due to the area they live as it includes interventions to maximise income through the drivers of poverty, specifically around increasing income from employment, social security benefits and in kind.

**Socio-economic Background** i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

### **Impact**

Positive Impact – Due to the nature of this request there will be a positive impact on those with challenges to their background as it includes interventions to maximise income through the drivers of poverty, specifically around increasing income from employment, social security benefits and in kind.

### **Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.**

Please see the Child Poverty Local Action Report action plan as it outlines a series of activity to reduce rural disadvantage/inequalities <http://bit.ly/2T4V26l>

### **Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?**

The funding is available for the current 2021/22 financial year and is not a new fund in itself. It must be used to pilot new approaches to CLLD and the lessons learnt will inform any future funding.

It is proposed that the funding will be delivered in two tranches. As part of the first tranche of funding, there are two funding streams being made available to Local Action Groups (LAGs). This will allow LAGs to build on the positive legacy of LEADER while using their experience to properly innovate and test change. In areas where the Local Action Group no longer have delivery staff in place, Scottish Government have agreed to work with Accountable Bodies to ensure that every area has access to this funding.

The first tranche of the RCTC fund has been ringfenced for use by Local Action Groups supported by LAG staff where they have been retained for this purpose. In Angus we no longer have staff in post.

Key to the funding is the requirement to properly 'test change': to plan and carry out new and innovative approaches and observe and measure the results to inform any future CLLD funding. In testing change, the lessons learnt from failure can be as valid as success.

### **Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?**

The Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment will be published alongside the Report on the Angus Council Website, LEADER Angus Website and available on request in a variety of formats as required.

**Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation.** Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Shelley Hague, Interim Service Leader Policy and Partnerships

Reviewed by: Alison Smith, Interim Director Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth

Approved by: Mark Armstrong, Deputy Chief Executive

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.

---

---